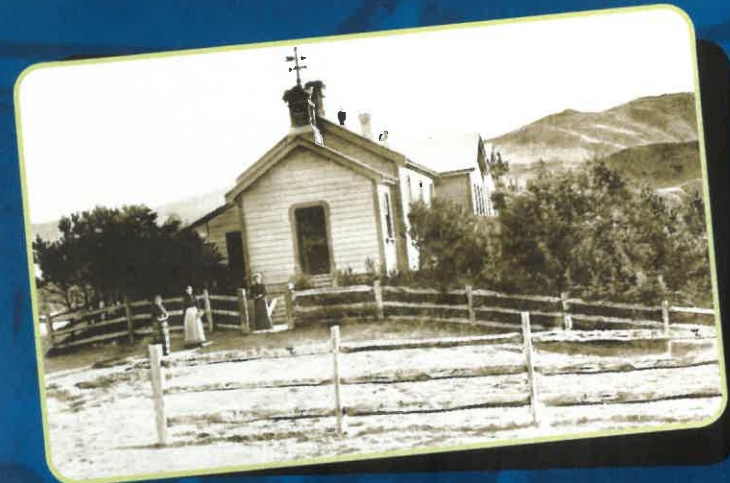




Ridgway School  
75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee



# Then and Now



Ridgway School

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*Design & Layout courtesy of*



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## Table of Contents

From the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees	3
From the Principal	4
Origins and Development of Ridgway School	5
Early Educational Organisation and School Boundaries	11
Then and Now	13
From Discipline to Behaviour Management	13
Roll	15
Ethnicity	15
Gender	17
Sports	18
Playground and Playground Games	19
Health	27
Arts	31
School Reviews	33
Visits, Picnics and Camps	34
Community and Fundraising	35
School Fairs and Galas	36
Special Events	37
Miscellaneous	38
From the Deputy and Assistant Principals (2004)	40
Shirley Porteous	40
Bev Rutherford	41
Head Teachers and Principals	43
Sources of Information	43



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Thanks also to the many people who have given freely of their memories and photographs of Ridgway. Their names are included in the 'Sources of Information' section at the back of this booklet. In particular thanks to the Ridgway staff for their openness and willing help with this project.

Vivienne Pincott and Brian Budd have found sponsorship for the production of this booklet, without which you would not be reading it! Thanks to them and to the Trust House Charitable Trust, Masterton and to the Phoenix Trust for their much appreciated support. Thanks also to the Alexander Turnbull Library for the use of the early images of The Ridgeway road.

Lastly, thanks to my family for their patience and good-natured support while I buried myself in writing and editorial work.

*Sue Riddle  
Chairperson  
Ridgway School Board of Trustees  
2004*



## From the Chairperson of the Board

We have a great deal to celebrate on the occasion of Ridgway School's 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee!

Ridgway has not only survived through often tough times of increasing demands for self-governance and fiscal management, but has flourished. Concrete measures of this include a very recent Education Review Office Report (which is exceptional in its positive feedback for Ridgway's management and teaching programmes while also pointing to possible direction for future development) and the new B and C blocks, upgraded A area, the library extension, the new ICT suite, the paved courtyard, the new adventure playground, flying fox and sandpit for the juniors.

Ridgway School has from the outset been a community centred school. Parents have always contributed to the school actively at all levels. Structures have changed but the community's spirit of involvement has been outstanding and continues to be a tangible feature of life at Ridgway. This flows directly into the 'sense of belonging' which is so often expressed by Ridgway children, and which was recently noted by ERO. Even more notably, Ridgway constantly reaches out to its broader community, contributing environmentally, financially, culturally and socially to the health and wellbeing of its community as a whole.

I cannot think of a better model for our children to learn within and hope that Ridgway continues to offer its special bank of memories to many more generations of children in the area.



*Sue Riddle  
Chairperson  
Ridgway School Board of Trustees*



## From the Principal

The presence of a school at The Ridgeway for 75 years is a cause for celebration. In 1929, as now, the hopes and dreams of parents are bound up in the education of their children. Having a local school to educate local children through their childhood has been a continuing source of pride and focus for the community. As this history reveals, the early school had little in the way of facilities or teaching material and I am in awe of the courage and commitment of the teachers who persevered to educate the communities youngest students over that period.

I came to Ridgway School from Auckland, in April 2000 and walked into the beginning of the building of three new classrooms and the administration upgrade ... a very exciting and challenging task. The school has seen a number of changes over the past four years with new buildings, an upgrade to the administration area and the library, a new courtyard, and staffing changes.

Throughout all the changes, the staff has maintained their focus on making steady improvements in children's learning. Professional development for all teachers over the past four years has been in literacy -- both reading and writing. The results, particularly in reading, have been very pleasing. There has been a consistent effort to improve children's numeracy skills throughout the school and, once again, we have been very pleased with our students' achievements.

My greatest satisfaction over the four years I have been at the school has been in getting to know the children and their families and in building a positive and caring climate for students, parents and staff.

I congratulate the staff, especially Shirley Porteous and Beverley Rutherford, for their dedicated efforts in working together as a team and commitment to achieving excellent results for the children at Ridgway.



Danae Heinz  
Principal  
Ridgway School



## Origins and Development of Ridgway School

This year Ridgway School proudly celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. But a look back over time further reveals a history of education in the area dating back over 120 years and that the current school is the third school building to have existed in the vicinity, each school reflecting the growing region's increasing educational demands.

### Vogeltown Public School, 1883 - 1898

The original little one roomed school of the usual design, was built by Mr S Corrigan and situated on ground on what is now Mornington Road, directly in front of the current Vogelhorn Hall. It was opened on a very wet Monday morning, 3 September 1883, the sole teacher being Miss Ada R. Warren. There was desk accommodation in the schoolroom for 34 children, but only nine students turned up on the first day. By the end of the year the roll stood at 24.



The original Brooklyn School and its teachers, Misses Browne, Fitchett and Kenny, c. 1890's (Fitchett Collection, Alexander Turnbull Library)

At that time the district was very sparsely inhabited, Mornington Road, Vennell Street, The Ridgway and everything south was just farmland and Vogeltown School served the needs of the entire Brooklyn community. Access to the school was up from Ohiro Road via Butt and Clarence Streets, or from the farm tracks that ran along the hillsides to Brooklyn village. In May



1887, with the roll having increased to over 40, Emily Brown took over as Head Teacher, with one pupil teacher, Emmie Meek, giving her assistance. A second classroom was added on in 1889 and two years later, with a roll of over 100, the school was extended

A view from the top of Farnham St looking north up The Ridgeway towards the school site. The bare earth of the 'bank' beneath the school, can be clearly seen.





again and another trainee teacher (Miss Jessie Fitchett) allocated to assist Miss Brown. The Cyclopedia of New Zealand, published in 1897, records Vogelstown School as having 190 children, "the majority coming from Brooklyn. The Headmistress is assisted by two certified teachers, and a pupil-teacher".

With the three classrooms now bursting at the seams it was decided to move the school to new premises in Brooklyn in 1898, because it was in a more central position. At the School's final Annual general Meeting in April 1898 about 40 householders were present. "On the school register there are 176 names. The teaching staff has worked hard, and the results of the examinations have been satisfactory". Mr Ashton Fitchett was sincerely thanked for his seven years of service as the School Secretary. Vogelstown School was removed during the winter and the new Brooklyn School was opened on 4 October 1898.

And so, after fifteen years, the first chapter of education in the Mornington and Vogelstown area was ended. Children now had to walk, cart or tram the distance to Brooklyn twice each day. The first decade of the twentieth century also saw rapid development of the region. In 1904 the South Wellington Land Company purchased farmland between Mornington and Owhiro Bay to subdivide for housing. 'Mornington Estate', comprising of 57 allotments, was opened up four years later, accessed by a newly installed tram line that ran from Berhampore, via Farnham Street (originally called Main Street), to Brooklyn and down into the city.

The result of the steady population growth saw increasing pressure being put on Brooklyn School and in 1920 correspondence commenced between the Brooklyn School Committee and the Education Board over the siting of a side school to reduce pressure. On 16 February 1921, on the motion of Mr Wright, the Education Board "resolved that the nucleus of a new school to serve children up to Standard two be erected on the Mornington Site."



The old 'Removeable School' – originally at the Ridgway site, moved into position at Ahiaruhe 1929

### MORNINGTON SIDE SCHOOL

The site they had in mind was on Vogelstown Park, then bordered to the north by a steep embankment and gully (Mornington Road was not built until 1922, then called the 'New Road'), to the south and west by falling hillside and to the east by the Ridgway Road. On the 21 December "The Evans Bay Timber Company" wrote to the Education Board informing them of completion of a portable school for Mornington. Total Cost was £575.



On 6 February 1922 the Mornington-Brooklyn Side School opened, 13 children enrolling on that first day. Mrs B Look was appointed sole teacher and lessons began the next day. The school's close proximity to surrounding farmland caused some initial problems with stock wandering and open field drains posing health issues. In August a water meter was put in because cattle had been seen to turn the school's outside tap on, and thus waste water! By 1925 the roll was still small at 35. Earlier in the year an outbreak of infantile paralysis had delayed the start of the school year until April, and continuing work had to be done on keeping the grounds clear of gorse and bushes. By October 1926 the class number stood at 49 and Mrs Look notified the Board that the single schoolroom was overcrowded, and an arrangement was made with the small Baptist Church across the road to rent facilities for two classes at 12 shillings and sixpence per week. With the obvious need for more space the Education Board applied to the Department for a grant in order to build a new, three-room school, after having been assured that 150 children would be immediately available to attend the new school when it was erected.

In the meantime the juggling continued. 1927's school year start saw Standard 3 being retained at the side school instead of going to Brooklyn (who were having similar problems). Thirty-four children had their classes in the Baptist Sunday School room, and 25 primers were left in the schoolroom. Mrs Look wrote that the "infant school is now very crowded, there being no room for children to move about."

Today, local resident Margaret Carter, aged 92, can still remember her years at Mornington School: "When I came up to live in Mornington [1917] there were only about 12 houses altogether. It was all hills going down to Island Bay and a big flat piece of land and our one room Mornington School. A Mrs Look used to teach us. A lovely lady. Above that was a deep gully with a row of pine trees where the Ridgway School is today." [abridged]

Finally in May 1927 the erection of a new school was authorised, and a grant of £2,985 was approved. It had taken a mere seven years for the region's second school to outgrow itself and the way was now clear for Ridgway School to proceed.

### RIDGWAY SCHOOL

Plans for a three-classroom schoolhouse were drawn up, the floor area being 254 sq metres. Construction of the school being awarded to Haslett and Newberry for the sum of £2,501 and the building permit was applied for on 2 March 1928.

The words "School in future to be known as Ridgway School" appear in the school Log, sealed with the date 27<sup>th</sup> May 1929.



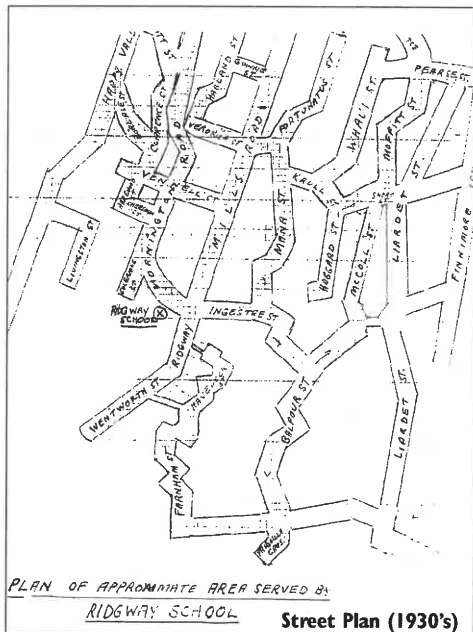
### To 'e' OR NOT TO 'e'?

The new school was originally intended to be called either Mornington or Vogeltown School, after its predecessors but, after quite some discussion, it was finally decided to call the new school 'Ridgway', spelt without the 'e'. Even today it is not known why this name was chosen, but there are three possible explanations:

1. 'Ridgeway' is good example of a toponym, where the word literally describes its location. Another early suggestion for the school name was 'Aratau', which translated also means Ridgeway.
2. The school was named after an immigrant ship, the 'Martha Ridgway', which first brought settlers to Wellington in November 1840. Built in Liverpool expressly for passenger trade by her owners the Ridgway family, this splendid 621-ton sailing ship was later wrecked in Torres Strait, but not before carrying many hundreds of immigrants to New Zealand.
3. The street and school was named after a member, or members of the Ridgway family who were early settlers in both Wellington (Isaac Ridgway) and the Wairarapa (James Ridgway). Both men were local identities, and the Wairarapa connection is interesting. James Ridgway purchased a ten-acre block of land in Carterton about 1857. He

died in 1888 and the land was broken up for housing by his family. The Ridgway Cottage still remains on the side of Carterton's High St, opposite is Brooklyn Road and near by is the small settlement of Ahiaruhe where the unwanted transportable Side School from the lower field was taken to become Ahiaruhe School. Mrs Carter claims the school was named after a Lord Ridgway, but who he was is unknown.

A recent (2004) title search at the Wellington Land Transfer Office yielded nothing when the 'e' was used in 'The Ridgeway'. When the search was done again with the 'e' removed – the original title was found. The original title shows the road spelt without the 'e' – 105 The Ridgway (c. 1920). Other early plans

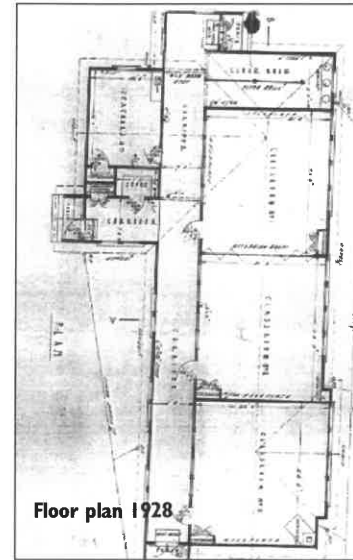


and drawings also show the road without the 'e'. This suggests that at some point the Council inserted the 'e' and it has stuck (although it has caused confusion ever since). We have not yet identified when the 'e' first crept in.

It appears most likely that the name was chosen because of a connection with some Ridgway individual and also because the name particularly suited the area's location. Today road signs are spelt with the 'e' and when school name signs were put up in 2003 a young lad was heard to remark: "Ha some school, they can't even spell their own name correctly"!

### RIDGWAY – THE NEW SCHOOL:

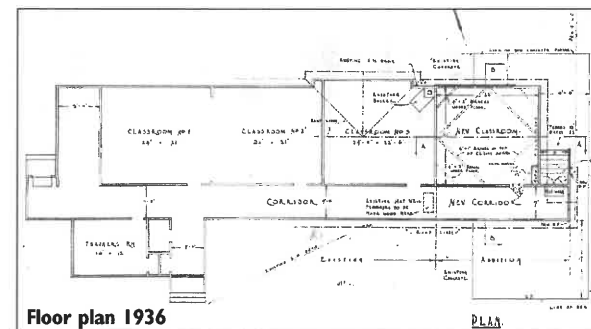
The new school buildings were completed by September 1928 and on 2 February 1929 the old Mornington School ceased to be a side school to Brooklyn, and the new school kicked off with a staff of three and 87 children, Mr J.F.C. Hiddlestone being the acting Headmaster. In May, the Education Board complied with the request for the school to be called Ridgway, and on the 27<sup>th</sup> of the same month the school reopened after the first term holidays with Mr W.S. Bowie as head teacher, Miss Paul (infant mistress) and Miss Parker (assistant mistress). The first School Committee was: Mr J.M. Russell (Chairman), Mr G.H. Weir (Secretary), Mrs E. Metcalfe, and Messrs J. Staples, R.R. Bennett, R.D. Haymes and T.J. Kelly.



Ridgway School was officially opened on 29 July by the Minister of Education Mr Atmore, and local M.P. Mr Wright. The children sang the customary song and were duly granted the following day off school. Seventy five years later local resident Norah Swan, recalling her

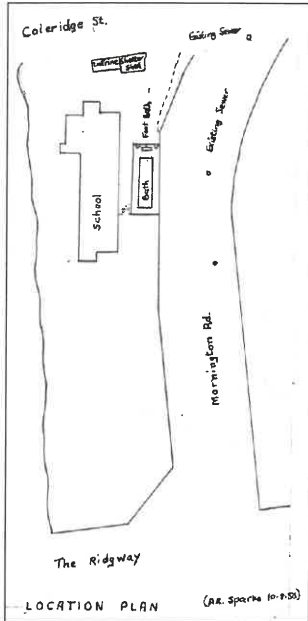
childhood memories, remembered the schools first headmaster, Bill Bowie, as being a disciplinarian: "He had a long cane with a brass knob on the end and he would rap you over the knuckles and crack the skin."

When the school opened on 4 February 1930, 122 children





enrolled, and for the next few years class numbers steadily increased. In 1931 further surrounding land was subdivided for housing (the 'Ridgway extension') and again school numbers started to become a problem (although some pressure was relieved when St Bernard's Catholic School opened Taft Street in February 1935).



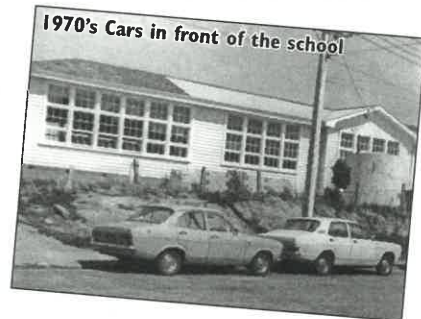
Site plan 1950

On 27 March 1936 council permission was granted for Mr A. King to construct a fourth classroom by extending the south east end of the building out 43 sq. metres (the school entry originally being at the opposite end to where it is today) at an estimated cost of £480. Once occupied the school roll numbered 139, split between four teachers: Mr Jackson (who had replaced Mr Bowie as Head Teacher, Standards 5 & 6) – 32; Mr Maciver (Standards 3 & 4) – 29; Miss Coster (Standards 1 & 2) – 41, and Miss Hughes (Primers 1-4) – 37. Vogelmorn Park of course continued to be used as the school's playing field, as it still does today, and Mr Jackson records it in his log on 30 April 1938 that the ground was played on by two non-school soccer teams on the Saturday.

During the war years Ridgway School's roll hovered around 110, but it was decided to 'decapitate' and on 4 February 1946 the school opened without standards five and six, which dropped numbers below 100 for the first time since the opening year. An honours board was completed by the end of 1947 to remember those from the school fallen or decorated during WW2.

During the summer break of 1950-51 a 12 x 5 metre in-ground unheated swimming pool was constructed by Lloyd & McKenzie directly in front of the school block on the Mornington Road side. Later some thought was made to covering the pool in but it was not done and the pool was eventually removed in the late 1980's.

As Ridgway continued to grow further alterations and additions were constructed. In December 1966 B.B. Edginton started building work, this comprised of a new classroom, separate Boiler-room, new toilets, head teacher's room and bookstore. Two years later a single garage was built in the southeast corner of the school grounds and a new porch was made over the northwest entrance. Two re-locatable classrooms were put in for the current C Block area in



1970's Cars in front of the school



1968 and 1974. In 1979 Field and Hall completed extensive additions to the main building, adding the main entrance and administration block onto the Southeast end, and building the current Library. Modifications were also made to classroom layout and new toilet areas were completed. The total cost was \$209,000.



Looking west from the Ridgway entrance. This grassy field has now all but disappeared. White pre-fabs have been replaced with more modern versions.

When Ridgway School celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October much will have changed from how the school looked and felt when it opened in 1929. And yet with sufficient left of the original school building and grounds (which have barely changed at all), we would like to think that the present school has retained at least some of the character and feel that it had when it opened all those years ago.

## Early Educational Organisation and School Boundaries:

Education in New Zealand was organised initially privately, by Province and then by Central Government, then by an Education Board, next a Department of Education and now the Ministry of Education.

- 1860's There were 12 provinces. Education was provided privately often by churches and private schools.
  - 1876 Provinces abolished.
  - 1877 Education Act passed. Twelve District Education Boards formed. Wellington Education Board now included the Manawatu and the Wairarapa.
  - 1883 Vogeltown School set up by the Wellington Education Board – it was probably one of New Zealand's earliest Public Schools.
- Householders elected School Committees who in turn elected the Education Board.
- The Education Boards distributed capitation Grants.



Boundaries were set for the Vogeltown School District (December)

Northern Boundary – margin set by city limits.

Eastern Boundary – margin set by Wellington City in the North  
Kilbirnie in the South

Western Boundary – margin set by Karori

Southern Boundary – margin set by Cook Strait.

This meant that children came from all over Wellington to attend Vogeltown School.

- 1895 New boundaries established for Vogeltown School district. The area included Wellington City, Thorndon, a bit of Newtown and Te Aro. Boundaries started at Point Jerningham, went up Mount Victoria, moved west including some of Newtown and then north to Te Aro.
- 1922 Mornington – Brooklyn Side School in business. Mr. Bethell offered land for a right of way to give children from Vogeltown (and perhaps further afield) access to the school. This became Ingestre Street.
- 1930's By the mid to late 1930's a Plan of the approximate area served by Ridgway School shows the areas up to Connaught Terrace, Liardet St, Farnham St and Priscilla Cresc and across to Happy Valley Road.



The old 'Removeable School' at Ahiaruhe – looking a little more sad towards the end of the 20th century



## Then and Now

This is in no way an exhaustive or fully representative account of Ridgway through the years. Rather it uses snippets from the school written archives, photos and people's memories, to create a sometimes quirky montage, of the way in which Ridgway life has eddied around selected themes.

### FROM DISCIPLINE TO BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT:

This is an area of school life that has changed dramatically for children, as the following comments reflect.

- 1894 Education Board did not see any need for a truant officer for Vogeltown School
- 1895 The Chairman of the Education Board was authorised to arrange for a soldier of the Permanent Royal Artillery to teach 'Drill' at Vogeltown School.
- 1930's "...he (the head teacher) was a World War I veteran and used to march around the classroom with his cane held at shoulder height. If anyone was talking he brought his cane down hard on their knuckles. For any more serious misdemeanour – it was six of the best (on your outstretched hand). The more daring subjects would snatch their hands away and the cane would hit the desk! We were punished hard for what today would be very trivial matters – no theft or anything."

The school and Tennis club were focal points of the community and if anyone stepped out of line the whole community knew about it, and

Standards 1, 2 and 3  
in March 1931







you suffered the shame from everybody. It was quite a regular thing for me. Most of it was harmless fun. I remember one Guy Fawkes time – someone put some crackers inside the furnace drum and lit them. There was a great string of bangs – no explosion and they didn't blow the place up or anything. I got six for that – it was usually six. We always got it on the hand though – only secondary school pupils got caned on the backside."

1950's "I don't remember them ever using the strap at Ridgway. We mostly had lady teachers. We were kept in after school – nothing too dramatic. I can't remember doing any lines at Ridgway. I got told off for talking in class. Most of the kids were pretty well behaved – nothing really bad happened. I think that in those days a lot of parents did a lot of disciplining of kids, they were pretty strict. A lot of disciplining happened in the home, whereas these days perhaps that is not the case as much."

"There was a good spirit amongst the children – we knew quite a few of them from living near them."

1990's "We got put in time out by the office. I used to go and sit there for fun!" "Then there was 'THE WALL' – the spot where the concrete walls was cut – we were sent out there for time out. It was for talking too much, swearing, and throwing things in class. For stealing – parents were called in. One time I remember someone stole heaps of things from the desks and wrote all over them and I think they got pretty serious treatment. I think maybe one boy was expelled while I was there – but we didn't really know anything about it."

2000's "Throughout the School we have the three R's. They are obvious in every classroom and in the hallways. They are almost like Ridgway's mantra – "At Ridgway we are Respectful, Responsible and Reliable." The teachers reinforce the 3 R's in the classroom and in the playground. If we get into minor trouble we are put into memory training. This means you miss out on your playtime and have to write paragraphs about what you did and the options you have for better behaviour. Sometimes I have written apology letters to the people concerned as well as apologising verbally."

"If worse things happen parents are involved and I think for really serious things kids are stood down or suspended."



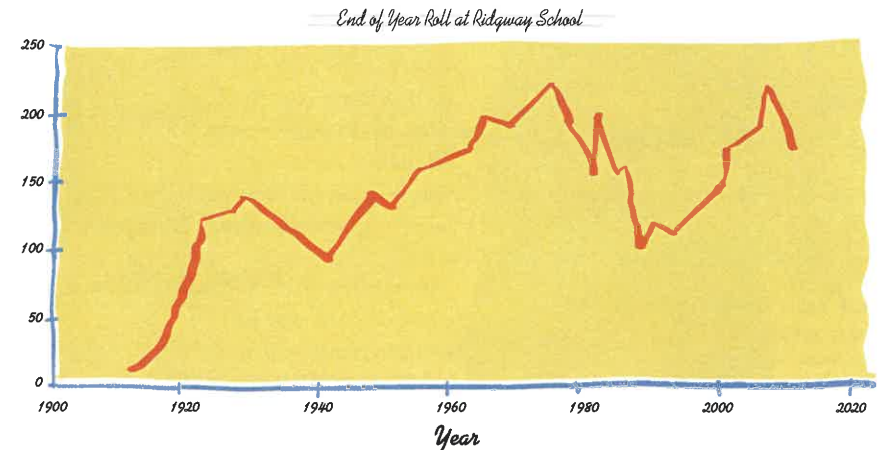
**ROLL:**

The school roll has always been a matter of great interest and speculation.

1965 Roll predictions were that the school roll would grow to 400 by 1975.

1995 –7 Recapitation of Ridgway School - turned the school from a Primary School to a Full Primary School (Years 1 – 8). Rolls during this period peaked at 220.

The following graph gives a clear picture of how Ridgway's Roll has grown and fluctuated over time.



**ETHNICITY:**

The ethnic picture at Ridgway has changed dramatically through the years. The following comments and pie graphs give some insight into these changes.

1930's "I remember there being one Maori boy at school. Everyone wanted to be his friend – he had such a nice nature. I don't remember any Indian or Chinese people then."

1950's "There was one Samoan family who lived in Mana St. I can't remember any Maori, Indian or Chinese people – one boy was Dutch."

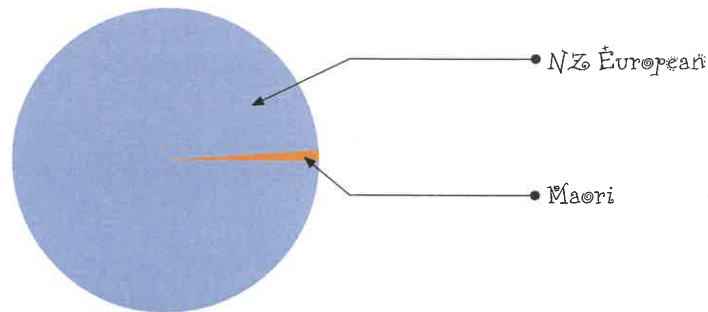


**Diverse cultures in School Performance, 1990's**

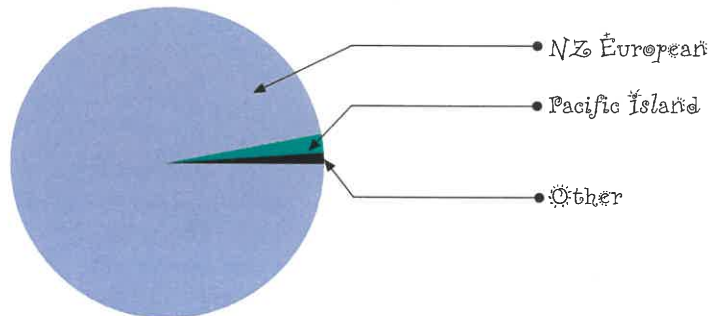


### CHANGES IN ETHNICITY OF CHILDREN AT RIDGWAY SCHOOL

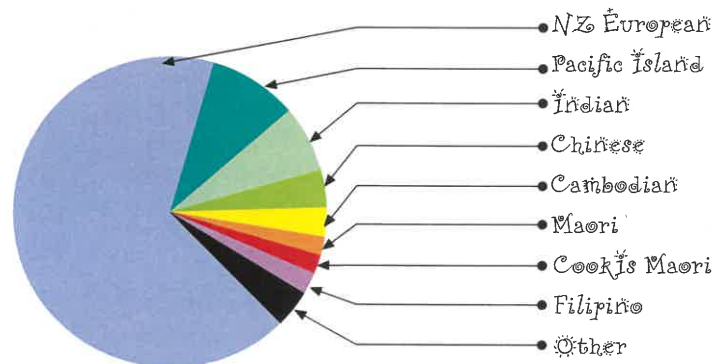
*Ethnicity at Ridgway School 1935*



*Ethnicity at Ridgway School 1955*



*Ethnicity at Ridgway School 2004*



### GENDER:

The following comments trace some changes in gender issues over the years.

- 1893 "a female teacher started at 80 pounds a year whereas a male teacher started at 100 pounds per year"
- 1930's "The boys and girls were in separate classes. The boys toilets were way outside – back by the fence where the old shed was – gee it was cold running out there in the rain in winter. The girls toilets were closer to the school"

1950's "Our classes were mixed, but the sports teams were not."

"In the photos of the time – some of the girls had uniforms and so did some of the boys. I can't work out why?"



**Standards 1 and 2 in 1956 showing some children in uniform and some are not.**

1964 Sewing

"This year Mrs. Read and Mrs. Gear have taken our sewing. The Standard 3 girls made first a shoe bag with a variety of stitches on the front. Then they made a tray cloth with cross stitches on it and now they are doing an apron. The Std 4 girls began by making an apron for their mothers, then tray cloths with two flower designs in two of the corners and finally our Intermediate cooking aprons. Some of the girls who got further ahead than the others then began sewing Dutch dolls on duster bags."

1990's "There were always way less girls than boys in my class. By the time I got to year 8 there were 8 girls, so we were a really close knit bunch. I don't remember the girls getting into trouble much. It was mostly the boys who did."

"Our sports teams were mixed – except for netball for the girls."

"Boys and girls were treated pretty much the same – any separation, like for desk groups was out of personal choice."

"Boys and girls toilets were separate – but next to classrooms or in the hall."



2004 "We (Years 8 and 9) do technology at Mt Cook School. Our classes are mixed and we get the chance to make some cool things. I have made a tuku tuku panel, a comic switch using plastics and electronics, a beanie (a head hugging, winter hat), a cushion and a furry football in sewing and a big wooden sword in woodwork. We have done lots of cooking which we love because we get to eat it. We really look forward to those technology classes." Senior Ridgway Boy

**SPORTS:**

These comments provide glimpses of sporting life at Ridgway through the years.

- 1930's "Boys played rugby and cricket. Our rugby jerseys were grey and green. Girls played basketball – outside."
- 1950's: "Boys played rugby and cricket and the girls played netball."
- 1960's: Girls played softball and basketball and the boys played rugby and cricket. Girls wore gym frocks made by parents, for basketball and 'rompers' and blouses for softball. Boys' sports uniforms looked much like today's.

**Athletic Sports**

"In February of 1962 we had Athletic Sports at Athletic Park. The Standards 1 to 4 entered in them. The weather was cloudy and threatening to rain. It started at approximately 10.00 am.

There were lots of things to buy for lunch. There was ice cream, coca-cola, hot dogs and lots of other things too. There were lots of events. They were organised in age groups. There was running, skipping, basketball relays, tennis ball relays, and a running relay. Ridgway did some of the relays differently and we had to be told how to do them. Even so we came first and sometimes second so we didn't think we did too badly. The athletic sports finished about 3pm. When it was all over we went home instead of going back to school."

1970's: Summer sport – Boys played cricket and girls played softball (2 Girls teams, and 2 Boys teams).

1980's: Hockey was the strongest sport at Ridgway – It was always played at lunchtimes by both boys and girls. There are still several ex-Ridgway pupils who are playing high level representative hockey in the Wellington Region. I think that was due to Doug Shepherd's (Principal's) coaching and interest."



Doug Shepherd with one of his Hockey teams.



1990's: "In P.E. we played 'Cat and Mouse' and 'Octopus'"

"The main school sports were Hockey and Touch Rugby – we had mixed teams. Netball was introduced later for girls and I remember that we joined up with St Bernard's School and did really well that season. There was also a Flipperball team – but I never did that."

2000's: "We do 'Fitness' for 10 – 15 minutes most mornings, at school if it is fine. Sometimes during 'Fitness' we play 'Capture', 'K.O.', 'Octopus', 'Capture the Flag' or other games the teacher chooses. We also have a P.E. programme, which is fun. We play sports like Ripper Rugby, Volleyball, Uni-Hockey, Soccer, Basketball and Netball."

School photos for 2000 show teams for Touch Rugby (5 teams), Netball (2 teams), Waterpolo, Flipperball and Hockey.

"In 2004 our mixed Hockey teams have been particularly strong – with the junior team winning 17 out of 20 games (including beating the Ridway seniors) and the senior team winning 18 out of 20 games."

Ridgway children compete for places in the Southern Zones and Interzones Competitions as well as in athletics, cross country and swimming.

**PLAYGROUND AND PLAYGROUND GAMES:**

The playground is a crucial part of school life. Here are some tidbits about Ridgway's play areas.

1922 The attention of the committee was drawn to stock wandering on the playground and to the fact that an open drain ran through the same.

July. Water meter put in school grounds. Cattle that wander in have been seen to turn on the tap and consequently waste water!

Three members of the Ratepayer's Association planted pine trees in the school grounds. Children warned to avoid meddling with them.

1930's: "The bottom field, used to be a hill. Relief workers carved it out using hand tools during the bad days of the Depression. I remember it being all hard and stony. We used to spend hours down there playing on the bank, tunneling



Children enjoying the bottom field





and shifting earth and probably hurling a few rocks. It hurt if you fell on the stony slopes. It didn't stop us though - we could slide on our bottoms all the way down from the edge of the field to the Masonic Clubrooms on Owhiro Bay Rd."

In 2003 a group of local boys tested out whether getting down to the clubrooms from the bottom field, behind the cricket pitch, was still possible. They report that it was hard going with lots of scrub and gorse. They found a clearing half way down, a manhole cover and a big brick chimney. They had to walk down a stream for some way before they came out above the clubrooms. The whole adventure took a couple of hours. They emerged onto Owhiro Bay Road looking very muddy, but extremely pleased with themselves.

The corner dairy was a Butcher's shop and the shed just behind it was a little tuck shop, where we used to get our pies. They were good pies!

1950's: "We had a grassed playing field (where B block is now situated) concrete paving and netball courts. For bigger events we used Vogelmorn Park. We also had the swimming pool (opened 1951). It might have been in summer, but my memories of the pool are that we had to go in, and it was mighty cold with lots of chlorine. We didn't have goggles in those days. I didn't think it was much fun."

The dressing sheds for the pool were finally completed in 1960. It is unclear what the arrangements, for children changing were, in the preceding decade!

"There was some playground equipment - made of galvanised pipes."

"Girls used to play hopscotch a lot."

"Kingston was all farmland - mostly sheep. We used to run over it to get to Island Bay and Houghton Bay. The farmer used to shoot dogs though - if anyone's domestic dog went over there it used to get potted!"

1951: School swimming pool opened.

1955: In 1955 the flagpole had to be resited, and the school committee made a novel but typically "Ridgway" suggestion to the Education Board. In reply - "In the circumstances it would appear undesirable to re-instate the flagpole in view of the fact that, on the occasions required, the flag is invariably hung inside the school building on account of the high winds which prevail in your district."



1960: Mr. Gear complained of horses on the school park. Mr. Churchill asked the Prog. Assoc. if this practice was allowed. The Prog. Assoc. said they would keep an eye on the horses.

1962: "During the last school holidays, children were allowed to come along to the school in the mornings and have a swim. .... The boys swam from 10 till half past and the girls swam from half past ten till 11 o'clock. The children enjoyed it very much."

"During the first term some of the children learnt to swim. Many boys and girls went to the Boys Institute, and learnt to swim during the winter. In the first term swimming was taken during school time and each class had half an hour in the water."

1963: "Paddertennis was re-introduced this term after a number of years, and is most popular. There is sufficient room for 4 courts, although only 2 have been marked out. Several dozen used tennis balls have been donated by the Vogelmorn Tennis Club and Mr. Kaayk has made the school 4 bats."

1973: 4 Kowhai trees planted in grounds by Cubs.

1975: No advice from Periodic Detention Centre re cutting of school hedges.

1975: Adventure Playground (Old) completion date - Opening 8th November

### Swimming Pool

Chlorination, maintenance, water levels and monitoring absorbed considerable Committee attention.

Very little swimming weather this year. January Swimming - The use of the school pool by the older children in the district was discussed. It was agreed that generally, mothers could not control these children and that the older children spoiled things for the younger children and for these reasons the older children should not be allowed to participate. It was agreed that next year consideration be given to the setting aside of a period for older children, perhaps on a trial basis.

1980's: "We had the old galvanised jungle gym (monkey bars). We used to do all the usual things on them - swing, hang upside down, turn somersaults etc."

"There was a lovely bright mural inside



The old monkey bars.





the shelter shed – a rainbow and a sun. the shed had bench seats all around it and we played lots of games in there. The one I remember was “Mother May I?”

“The girls used to play with elastics – jumping games, and there was a craze for about two years of stilts – again mainly amongst the girls. The Old Adventure Playground was used all the time for a game called ‘Families’ - we thought of it as a fort.”

“We had the swimming pool then – we had to go in and it was freezing cold – not great for skinny kids! We were allowed to get out early though.”

1990’s: “I remember one game we played all the time as small kids – Witches, Cats and Children. People played certain characters and there was a lot of inclusion and exclusion.”

“I used to like staying inside – but there was a rule that after 10 minutes inside we had to go out if the weather was ok.”

“At lunchtimes the boys played Hockey and Touch Rugby – but the girls had to be very brave if they wanted to join in.”

“They reduced the height of the Old Adventure Playground – it was much better when it was higher.”

1998: New Adventure Playground Opened by the Honourable Annette King. This was a wonderful moment for everyone.

2000’s: “Water fight days were the best! Wheels days were quite fun too.”

“I think the younger kids use the Old Adventure playground for imaginary, role playing type games.”

“At one point we all played long games of Tag, using the New Adventure Playground. Some kids were awesome at moving fast through the playground and could jump from big heights to tag someone.”

“Some of the crazes have been Crazybones, Beyblades, Pokemon Cards, Yu Gi Oh Cards, Gel Bracelets.”

“We played Bull Tag and Crocodile on the Old Adventure Playground.”

“It was sad when they cut the old pine tree next to B block down. We used to love climbing and playing in it.



1990 Book Week characters in front of the old pine tree.



Children taking part in a celebration of cultures at Ridgway.



Dancesplash



A area Productions (late 1990's)







Ridgway School in 1979

The netball courts in 1979



Play Equipment 1979



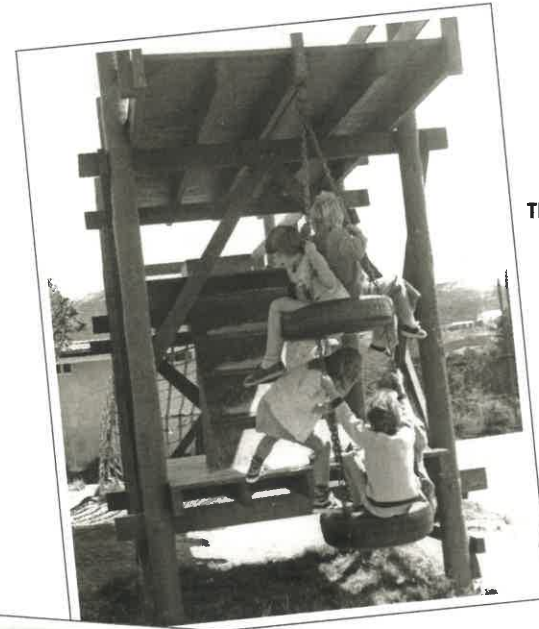
The top field in the early 1990's.



Shifting bark for the New Adventure Playground, 1996.



Courtyard



The 'Old' Adventure Playground



The 'New' Adventure Playground





Painted faces, School Fair



Ridgway School Jubilee 1979



'Ready to Roll' Production at Wellington High School (2003)

School Fair 1996



Entrance



Library



A Area



I used to jump from it down the bank and slide down to the bottom field. It was good not to get caught!"

2002: Courtyard Opened by the Honourable Annette King, Minister of Health (our Member of Parliament).

2004: New Sandpit area built for juniors. Shelter shed upgraded.

75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Celebrations – Labour Weekend.

Ridgway School and Community, Jubilee Tree Planting Project. Plant 24 perimeter trees around Vogelmorn Park to provide shade and shelter for children and community, and to provide a habitat for native birds.

Cairn built over time capsule buried in corner of playground near B block. First rocks laid by oldest and youngest pupils. All families present invited to lay down a rock. Two kowhai trees planted by Annette King and the Mayor, Kerry Prendergast to mark the occasion.

### HEALTH:

These comments not only highlight shifts in disease patterns but also changes in perceptions of and health practices over the years.

1920's: School seemed to be closed at 1pm frequently, if the weather was cold or 'severe', or influenza or whooping cough affected sufficient children. The school also closed for Anzac Day, King's Birthday, Sports Days, and the day after inspector's visits and to enable the children to visit the Warship "Repulse".

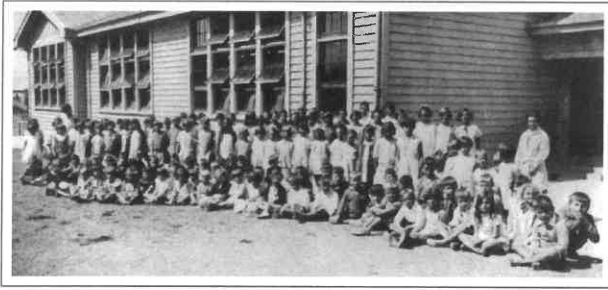
1922: School closed on Dec 19<sup>th</sup> 1924 for the summer holidays – but did not open again until April 15<sup>th</sup> 1925 owing to an epidemic of infantile paralysis (4 months of summer holidays!)

This week the teachers began making cocoa for children who had lunch at school. Cocoa, sugar and condensed milk being supplied by the committee and to be continued over winter.

1926: Eyes and hearing tested by Nurse Willis. Doctor and nurse visited – left iodine pills for various children – to be given at the rate of one a week. 14 children absent through illness – 5 have scarlet fever. School disinfected.

1927: Mumps prevalent – accounts for low attendance

1930's: The Depression 1939 – 45. "Abnormal times." "During the last



Ridgway School and children 1930

month of this term soup was provided and made by Mrs. Bennett, so that children coming to school any distance and staying to lunch could have the benefit of hot soup. Some of the children seem to be suffering from lack of proper food. Many of the parents are working on relief."

"Daily milk was introduced during the Depression. They were hard years. Coates and Forbes were instrumental in introducing the Milk in Schools scheme – they were strongly aligned to the Party backed by farmers. I always wondered if that scheme really lined the farmer's pockets."

"I remember a child dying of scarlet fever, and one from brain fever – meningitis I guess. Another boy very sadly died after a fall – just caught the wrong way. It affected the whole community for a long time."

"Schools are closed today as a result of infantile paralysis (poliomyelitis) in Otago – (14 December 1936)". The school closed early for the Christmas holiday and did not open again until 1 March 1937.

1935 "Owing to the hot weather the Board decided (that) schools were to carry on during the morning sessions only ...9.30 – 12.30." The scheme lasted from Feb 5 – 25, but Mr. Bowie did observe that it "...has an unsettling effect on the children." No doubt, though, Bill Bowie's boys were sad to see it end.

1942 Attendance low due to measles.

1947 November 28. "School closed as from today due to the outbreak of infantile paralysis (poliomyelitis) in the North Island." Again classes did not resume until March of the following year and the August holiday of the following year was extended for two weeks for the same reason.

1950's "We used to get the small bottles of milk everyday – were they half pints? The crates used to be left out in the sun and the milk often tasted as if it was just going off!"

"Flu was common. Polio shots were introduced. First you had the

injection and then some time later the drink. We had a boy who was really unlucky and had to wear heavy leg irons to be able to walk – due to Polio."

1957 "This year polio vaccination of 5 – 10 year old pupils took place."

1960's "Over the winter term, thanks to the willing efforts of many parents, a hot cocoa drink was provided for the children during morning break. The small weekly charge made, covered the costs of materials used and the scheme was very successful."

"In September, a second, well attended parent's evening was held at which 2 psychologists from the Education Department, talked to parents about the qualities of a normal healthy child. The range of behaviour found to be quite normal was sufficiently wide for all parents to leave a very enjoyable evening in a contented if not actually complacent frame of mind."

#### Safety Wardens

"A Safety Warden has a very important job. We have on duty a pair every day. We go out in the morning from 8.30 to 9.00. We take the primers out at 7 minutes to 12 and stay out there for a quarter of an hour. Then we go on again from 12.45 till 1.00. We take the primers out again at 25 past 2.00 and go on duty again at 3.00 p.m. The children of Ridgway School would like to thank the safety wardens for the time they put into their job. They go out in all weathers." (Note: In 2004 this job is called Road Patrol and the kids still go out in all weathers!)

1970's: Concerned Parents Association – ref Sex Education in Schools; After discussion we agreed to recommend to Home and School to re-run films every two years or so; parents to be involved.

Inward mail from Concerned Parents Association Christchurch – enclosed is a copy of a contraceptive comic for circulation.

Speech Therapist to visit.

Mrs. Willis (nurse?) reported that 'Children in Separation' might be offered either a film evening, for larger audiences, or smaller group discussion evenings – no discussion at this meeting. See whether Home and School feel parents generally would be interested in this topic.

Human Development discussion – evening of 11<sup>th</sup> November 1974.





Sewers blocked – plumber phoned – will arrive 8.15 am.

Sign – ‘No Riding of Bikes in School Grounds’ – (discussion ongoing for several months).

Pies – Up to 80 each Monday.

1975: Hot Chocolate scheme in operation satisfactorily.

1976: Boys on roof collecting tennis balls – suggest barbed wire on roofs.

Vandalism – monitored and discussed at almost every School Committee meeting.

1980’s: “I remember our vaccination programmes were run through Berhampore.”

1990’s: “When they brought in the rule that we had to wear hats outside – we were scandalised! But it was probably quite sensible.”

“We had 11 year old shots – MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) and tetanus and a Polio sip. We had eyes and ears tested when we were 5-6 years old.”

“We went down to the ‘murder house’ (the old Dental School in Willis St.) for dental checks. Then the building was sold and the Mobile Dental Caravan came to school.”

“The Life Education Caravan – painted with ‘Harold the Giraffe’ also came to school. We really looked forward to that. They changed what they taught every year – but it was to do with how not to smoke or drink alcohol. They also had cool video cartoons of bad germs and nicotine.”

“The epilepsy lady came every year to talk to us – that got a bit boring after you had heard it a couple of times.”

“We also really looked forward to the DARE programme, which was run by a policeman called Rob. It was mainly about drug education, but I remember doing a cool project about our selves throughout our schooling and what we imagined for ourselves in the future.”

“Meningitis vaccinations were introduced in the mid 1990’s as a one-off programme. We took our children down to Newtown School where the local depot had been set up. A nationwide inoculation scheme has been approved in 2004 and will be rolled out nationwide, starting with areas most affected.”

2000’s: “The senior kids have a whole unit of adolescence, puberty, relationships and hygiene. The parents are invited to an evening with the teacher about the unit and there are booklets given out for both kids and parents.”

“The peer mediation programme is quite cool. It gets kids to solve their own problems while problems are small. It teaches you to listen too. There is quite a lot of role playing, but sometimes I wish it were more fun.”

“I think that there are quite a lot of kids with Asthma at school, I can remember several people falling and breaking arms, one of my friend’s has allergies and I know a kid with Diabetes. It seems like some people get bad flu in winter – but generally they only have a couple of days off – occasionally a whole week. Oh and people seem to be talking a lot about obesity these days, too.”

**ARTS:**

1922 Permission given to the school’s Ratepayers Association to place a piano in the school, provided space permitted and that it should be taken out if found to be in the way.

December. Concert held after school. Parents invited to attend. Every child contributed at least one item.

1950’s: “We used to celebrate the end of the year with a Pantomime down at Vogelmorn Hall”.

**1960’s Folk Dancing Display**

On the 6th October a display of folk dancing by all the children in all classes was held in the school grounds. It was put on for the

**The Little Red Hen with wonderful backdrop – A area**



parents. The day was fine but rather windy. Everything went well. Standards 2, 3 and 4 first did ‘Lady Goes Round the Lady’, ‘Brown Eyed Mary’ and ‘Hinky Dinky’. Next the infants did their five dances. Standards 1 and 2 did three dances and then Standards 3 and 4 finished with ‘Red River Valley’, ‘Oh Susannah’ and ‘Coming Round the Mountain’. After the dancing was over there was a cake stall for the ladies.

Outside the children were supplied with



ice-blocks and orange drinks. We all went home feeling the display had been a great success.

**Fancy Dress Parade**

Prizes were given out for Infants Section, Most Original Costumes, Advertisement Section, TV, film or Book Character Section, Children from Other Lands Section and the Decorated Vehicle Section.

Typically a school concert, sports afternoon and sometimes an end-of-year party were held in the third term.

1970's: Concert and Christmas Function – 7th December – teacher's participation essential.

1975: Wellington Song Festival – Ridgway good contribution – otherwise the performance was too lengthy.

Activities and Clubs – School Choir, Woodwork, Music and Movement, Drama Club, Maori Club.

1979: "The trend begun in those early days, for the fairs, and the picnics to be hugely successful, and for the school concerts to be packed to capacity, has continued to the present time. Anyone fortunate enough to attend the 1976 concert in the Vogelmorn Hall can only wonder at the strength of the community spirit, which has seen Ridgway through 50 hectic years.

1980's: "I don't remember painting much – I wasn't really into that. But I think there were the usual sorts of things on the walls."

"I remember we had some wonderful productions – 'Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat', 'La Bamba' and 'The Circus'.

1990's: "I always felt I would have liked a lot more Art – a more organised programme. As smaller kids we used those school journals and performed the plays in them at Assembly – read out the parts. As we got older we could volunteer to make up a dance or a play for Assemblies. In my Form 2 year we had the first big Ridgway School Production. I enjoyed being a part of that – I think some of the Form 2 kids found it a bit hard to promote Ridgway that much – but overall it was a great experience."

"Walking into the A area under Helene Carrol's artistic influence was like walking into a visual feast, always something new and wonderful to see. I remember especially the long face drawings inspired by Picasso done in black, white and yellow tones, the Pacific display, and the dye

wash drawings in brilliant colours. I'm sure many of those works have found permanent places on the walls at home."

**Mural painted by senior Ridgway pupils 2003**



2000's: "I've found the art teaching really good at Ridgway. In the junior school we had free choice and there were always at least two options to choose from. Later on I liked it when Mr. Dullabh started helping us with techniques."

"We have participated in Artsplash most years for 10 – 12 years. We also used to go to the Southern Zones Music Festivals in the late '80's. We took part in the Suzanne Prentice concert, which I think the children still remember. We joined with St Bernard's and Brooklyn last year for a Junior Music Festival and this year we did Dancesplash as well."

"We have two pianos, the best one is in the A area. In 1995 we bought five guitars, which made six available. The ministry provides very good musical resources (hardware, CDs, tapes and scores) which is a great backup for all."

"Singing and recorder have always been strong at Ridgway. We have had recorder groups and concerts, instrumental groups, guitar, drums and piano classes offered. Parents have often taken recorder classes, two who come to mind are Dale Anderson and Liz Willis. We have also had Polynesian and Kapa Haka groups."

**SCHOOL REVIEWS AND CURRICULUM:**

There have been many changes in the process of reviewing a school. One might wonder whether the days of a few pithy comments from a single inspector did not represent the essence of simplicity!

1925 Have received report from Inspector, Mr. Burns. "Very good control. The pupils are happy and industrious. The general quality of the work in Stds 1 & 2 is good. Something more might be done in the way of getting every child to take part in retelling stories. Knowledge of number facts, very good. Standard 1 did not do very well in spelling. Primer 4, children of varying attainments, methods on right lines. In using the phonic method of teaching reading it is advisable not to



employ the names of the letters at all. Miss Lawton, probationer, has very good power of control and gives promise of becoming a successful teacher."

1933 Mr. Stubbs, and recently appointed Chief Inspector for the district Mr. Macaskill, inspected the school. Mr. McCaskill expressed himself as being quite satisfied with the progress made.

1962 **Religious Instruction**

"On Wednesday Mrs. Lambert comes to take Religious Instruction in Standard 1. Mr. Davies takes Mr. Coates class while Mr. Morrison takes Mrs. Reinhold's class. To begin the lesson we sing a chorus. After that we sit down and she tells us a story about missionaries or God. When she has told the story she teaches us a bible verse before we colour our activity books in."

1974 It was decided to offer SPELD the use of a classroom after school hours for the purposes of teaching remedial reading.

1975 Bible in Schools begins 23 November.

1975 "Inspectors visited the school this week. One inspector new to the district commented on the lively nature of the children at the school. They were pleased with the high standard of the reading at the school and generally impressed with the school."

2000's These days the school, parents and the community receive comprehensive feedback about their school from the Education Review Office. In 2004 a team of five people from ERO spent a week at Ridgway during which they conducted a rigorous process which involved interviewing. The Board of Tustees, senior management, children, perusal of all records, and classroom observation. The national emphasis of the previous review round had been on compliance issues, whereas this time it was on curriculum delivery. The full report (available from the school or ERO's website: [www.ero.govt.nz](http://www.ero.govt.nz)) is 10 pages with appendices. ERO's letter 'To the Parents and Community of Ridgway School', and Ridgway's current 'School Statement' are appended.

**VISITS, PICNICS AND CAMPS:**

It is clear from looking through Ridgway's photos, minutes books and logs that Ridgway children and their parents have, over the years enjoyed a variety of picnics, outings and camps.



Visits have been made to The Milk Department, Brooklyn Fire Station, Central Fire Station, Makara Primary School, Martinborough, Masterton, Nelson, The Botanical Gardens, The Carter Observatory, Nairn St. Cottage, visiting ships, The Airport, The Maritime Museum, The National Museum, Te Pa Pa, King's Theatre, Kaitoke Regional Park, Staglands, Wellington Zoo, The Island Bay Marine Center, Mount Kau Kau Summit, Days Bay, Scorching Bay and Rimutaka Forest Park, The Hutt Park Racecourse to name a few.

Camps have been held for the children at school, Palm Grove, Kiwi Ranch in Kaitoke, and Ngatiawa.

1925 District picnic held in school grounds. A very enjoyable time was spent from two o'clock till six. Toys and sweets were given to each child. Races held and prizes given.

1962 **The School Picnic**

"The school picnic was held at Scorching Bay. We got to the picnic by hired bus. The weather was fine and warm. We played softball and cricket and all our mothers and fathers joined in. We left for Scorching bay at 9 o'clock and returned home at 4 o'clock. We had stilt races and running races. We had two swims – one in the morning and one in the afternoon. We had special times for swimming. We had a swim for half an hour and then had soft drinks. We thought it was warm. After the swim we had a lolly scramble and a tug – of – war. Everybody got handfuls of lollies before they went home."



**COMMUNITY AND FUNDRAISING:**

There has, obviously, been a strong tradition of community involvement and fundraising at Ridgway.

This is borne out in that over the past six years 1999 – 2004 our best estimate is that the school community has raised approximately \$156,000.00. Wow! This is an amazing figure for a small community like ours, and that is just the hard cash. It does not speak of the thousands of hours of commitment and contribution, of all sorts, at every level, from many people – too many to name. A heartfelt Thank You to you all! Ridgway would not be the school it is without you.





Structures have changed from a strong 'Home and Schools Committee' to the 'Parent Community Association' to a current trial of a Community Facilitator at Board level, who is responsible for planning and facilitating teams along project management lines.

However overall, as Mr. H.D. Graham put it in 1979 "At Ridgway keenness has always been the keynote."

### SCHOOL FAIRS AND GALAS:

Over the years Ridgway's Fairs and Galas have provided opportunities for the entire school community to come together and showcase the school to the wider community.

At times fairs have been run annually and during other periods biannually or as required. Photos show bouncy castles, sweets and cake stalls, toffee apples, cafés, international food stalls, garden stalls, musicians, bumper cars, ponies, coconut shies, fortune tellers, clothes, jumble, jams, crafts etc.

Who can forget Sally McShane's baskets of Greek lemon cake, Jane Howley's great fair on a picture perfect day, or the year Charlie Asprey organised an army of people and Harley Davidsons. I can still hear the roar of them pulling up and then leaving en masse.

We also remember Angela Southam's Twilight Gala with its mellow ambience and people sharing good company, scrumptious food and lovely music. Then of course there was Nicky Read and Sue Graaffand's gorgeous Gala, which was a hive of activity on a windy day. People sat enjoying the entertainment, chatting and eating in the courtyard, again accompanied by a low roar – this time from spins around the block in the fast, white Dream Machine (complete with racing driver).

Other Fundraisers have included the famous 'Indian Evening' with Urmila Morar and the Indian Community's awesome food, Indian Dancing and tabala (drums). Lorna Harvey still gets asked when we will be doing another one! In addition there have been Quiz Evenings, Jumble Sales, Film Evenings (oft eventful), Calendars, Cooking Evenings, Parliamentary Debates amongst many others.

There have also been events held just for fun. The Hangi in 2003 provided some learning opportunities, but more importantly, left me with memories of all the children preparing food, cutting vegetables and learning about how to lay a hangi. A clear image of children chanting songs, their faces lit up in the firelight with the excitement of seeing the hangi lifted, comes to mind. These are precious images that are imprinted forever.

These events have created deep bonds, have allowed Ridgway to celebrate its identity and to share this with the broader community. They have helped the school to grow,



have fostered community awareness and provided shared memories, thus promoting a strong sense of belonging for the whole community.

### SPECIAL EVENTS:

- 1883 Sept 3 - Vogeltown School opens on site directly in front of Vogelhorn Hall.
- 1898 School moved to Brooklyn School site, opened October 4.
- 1922 Feb 6 - Mornington Side School opened on Mornington (Vogelmorn Park) site.
- 1925 May 11 - School closed owing to the death of Mr. Massey, Prime Minister.  
May 14 – School closed for funeral.
- 1926 Facilities for 2 classrooms rented in the Baptist Sunday School Rooms – over the road from the park.
- 1927 Feb 1 - School resumed after 6-week holiday. 13 new pupils entered. Standard 3 retained. 34 children at Baptist Sunday School and 25 Primers left in schoolroom.
- 1928 The new school buildings opened – Primers moved into them. The transportable side school went to the Wairarapa to become the Ahiaruhe School.
- 1929 Feb 2 - The school ceased to be a Side school to Brooklyn.  
May 27 - School re-opened after the school holidays and was – "in future to be known as Ridgway School."  
Jul 29 - Official Opening of Ridgway School by Mr. Atmore, The Honourable Minister of Education. Children granted a holiday the following day.
- 1940 28-29 March – Two days set aside out of respect for death of Prime Minister Mr. M.J. Savage.
- 1963 11 February – "49 Std 3-4 children attended a sports function at Athletic Park on the occasion of the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elisabeth and The Duke of Edinburgh."
- 1969 July - Ridgway children very excited about the moon landing and produced some impressive stories, handwriting and pictures to mark the occasion.





“On July 17<sup>th</sup> three astronauts went to the moon. When the men got to the moon they took pictures and walked on the moon. They also got moon rock. When they got back to America they had to stay in isolation to see if they had any germs. They talked to President Nixon by telephone. Then they went home.”

- 1974 Two children were nominated Knights of the Road, met the Mayor and took a flight over Wellington and down to Christchurch.
- 1979 Ridgway School and Vogelmorn Tennis Club – 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee.
- 2004 Ridgway School and Vogelmorn Tennis Club – 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

- 1884 Education Board – Twelve pounds for Vogeltown School shelter shed.
- 1894 Education Board – Vogeltown School to be provided with an additional tank for roof.
- Miss Browne’s request for an increase in salary denied.
- 1922 It was drawn to the attention of the committee that the notices to drivers and cyclists were necessary at the regulation distance from the school, especially on account of the school on the northern side. (Some things remain the same).
- 1930’s “Ridgway School was always known as ‘the poor school’ – out beyond the tarsealed road. I think there was a perception that it was the country cousin of Brooklyn School. But I think we had the better grounds.”
- 1948 Ridgway School got its first phone. Before this phone calls were made from the corner shop!
- 1954 60 bags of coke (for furnace) have been ordered by Mr. Churchill. This is approximately one year’s supply.
- It was decided to treat piano for borer. Mr. Churchill to purchase treatment bomb for this purpose.
- Treatment bomb procured but it is now too late to effect a cure this summer. Treatment deferred till next summer.
- 1972 November - School a polling place for elections. (This carries on today, 2004).

“It might be quite easily overlooked that Ridgway school has, as a

public institution, provided the residents of Mornington, Vogeltown and (more recently) Kingston with a social hub. From the earliest days there were Euchre and 500 evenings, political meetings and every three years or so, a polling booth. For decades Ridgway’s non-working hours allowed a number of Sunday Schools to have a base and during the war years the school buildings were utilised by the Home Guard. The Red Cross and Civil Defence have also employed the school’s facilities as have countless sports teams.”

Inward Mail – From Post Office Savings Bank in Schools Scheme – thanked Ridgway School for support of the scheme (2,183 schools belonged), which encouraged thrift in young people.

- 1972 Vogelmorn Hall – Booked for Monday night Housie evenings.
- 1974 Request Council to remove 2 tins of ash each week. Extra tins to be taken to tip.
- 1975 Three quarters of a ton of telephone books stored.



Mr Dullabh and children, 2004



### FROM THE DEPUTY AND ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS:

Here are some reflections on the school, from two very special people, who have contributed inspiring leadership while at Ridgway.

*Thoughts from Shirley Porteous*

*(Deputy Principal, Teacher at Ridgway since 2001)*

#### Special Needs:

Things have changed a great deal in the way in which special needs are perceived and managed within schools. I guess we have all heard stories of kids in the past whose needs were not fully identified and who were in fact isolated, bullied, stigmatised and even punished because they were in some way different. Before about the 1930's – 40's children were held at the age level of their academic performance. The idea of 'social promotion' or staying with your social age group within schools was a radical and positive move.

Today we have moved further, from a curriculum centered approach to an holistic child centered one, which means that a child's specific learning needs are targeted and managed in an integrated way, which takes their social and emotional development into account.

In 2001 – we began to train our Teacher Aides in a variety of programmes, which support children in reading, writing and maths. From Mondays to Thursdays the children get a mixture of in class and one to one tuition.

#### Extension and Enrichment Opportunities:

The need to recognise and provide for particular talents and strengths has received a lot of press in the past few years. Ridgway has always offered some opportunities – but in the last 2 years we have had the benefit of having teacher time allocated specifically to extension and small group tuition in areas such as Thinking Skills, Technology, Writing, Maths and Arts. We have tried to share this resource around wisely so that a variety of children have benefited.



'Ready to Roll' (2003) again.

#### Productions:

Performances have always been a vital part of life at Ridgway, and there have been many wonderful, colourful events.

Over the past couple of years we have focused on giving our senior students experience of participating in large-scale productions. We decided to make use of the fabulous facilities at Wellington High School. This meant that everything was scaled up – rehearsals, the stage, the hall, the audience and we used advanced sound and lighting equipment. Teachers injected some gifted choreography, music and dance into the mix (who can forget Rebekah Whyte's Samoan drumming?). The art, design and costuming were also awesome. We worked hard to promote an inclusive atmosphere, so that each child had their moment to shine. We have had a lot of fun, the team spirit has been amazing and has, I hope, given the children, their families and the school, pride and good memories.

*Thoughts from Bev Rutherford*

*(Assistant Principal, and teacher at Ridgway since 1992)*

#### Discipline and Behaviour Management:

Ridgway has always had a reputation for strong behaviour management and for providing positive child role models. In the past 15 years or so, several children, who have been in trouble have arrived at Ridgway in the hope that a new start in an environment where their reputation has not proceeded them, would provide a way forward. These children presented challenges for all staff, not only the classroom teacher, as playtimes and lunch times served as a catalyst for misdemeanours. Time spent at Ridgway has been beneficial for these children, providing an oasis during what was often a very troubled period in their lives.

#### Curriculum and Education:

My arrival at Ridgway School coincided with the introduction of Tomorrow's Schools and the middle of the period when the new curricula were being introduced, in 1992. Before this I had not taught for 15 years so the teaching environment I came back to was totally different from the one I had left, with many changes still happening. Gone were the days of the developmental time and the 'centres of interest' thematic approach that used to bless all infant classrooms for the first part of the day. This was an exciting and very interesting time to be coming back into the profession. There were new procedures and resources for teaching literacy and maths, (B.S.M.) and new assessment procedures e.g. Running Records for reading assessment. Reading Recovery had been introduced and has been a part of the reading programme as long as I have been associated with the school. All these changes tightened the teaching focus and allowed for much more targeting of teaching, to the specific needs of the children.



**Arts:**

I have seen many 'shows' performed by the children at Ridgway. The first I saw when our child, Louise, had just started, and it was a very ambitious project for a school that went up to Year 6 – 'Joseph and his Technicolour Dream Coat'. There was a small orchestra in the corner of Vogelmorn Hall to accompany the singing, resplendent costumes, (especially Joseph's coat, which is still in the A area) and, at home, Louise singing endlessly, "I closed my eyes, drew back the curtain etc." I was most impressed. There followed several more over the next few years until I was producing them myself.



The first, I think was a Christmas production called 'The Littlest Star'. Then there have been 'Mandy's Garden', 'the Little Red Hen', and 'The three Billy Goat's Gruff' and so it goes on.

Occasionally we have had a staff member who has been specially gifted in the visual arts and Helene Carrol motivated the children in her class to produce some magnificent work; beautifully creative subjects, vivid colour combinations, strong lines and all the other features that make for eye-catching pieces of work.

**Sport:**

During the years that Doug Shepherd was principal here, he promoted a game that he enjoyed immensely – hockey. Interest among the children was high and he was frequently to be seen at playtimes and lunchtimes, in his shirt sleeves, rushing about the bottom field playing games of hockey with the children, coming into the staffroom when the bell rang, wiping copious amounts of sweat off his brow with his handkerchief.

**Special Events:**

Ever since I can remember the year has started off with a picnic. This was held at Scorching Bay for many years and recently has been at the Rimutaka Forest Park.

For many years the school held an annual Gala on the night of the 5th of November. This was accompanied by a fireworks display with the fireworks being provided by the families and a team of intrepid fathers letting them off. Inevitably, given the time of year, the wind was howling and rain threatened, but the display was very much enjoyed. The last year that Guy Fawkes was celebrated in this way was the year a group of ex-pupils had their own little fireworks display at the edge of the bottom field and their sky rockets set fire to the bank below the field! So, that was the end of that!

## Head Teachers / Principals

May 1929 – July 1936	Mr. W. S. Bowie
July 1936 – Feb 1942	Mr. P.M. Jackson
Aril 1942 – Dec 1943	Mr. G.C. Smith
Feb 1944 – May 1948	Mr. P. Williams
May 1948 – Jul 1948	Mr. A.W. Torrie
Jul 1948 – Aug 1952	Mr. W. F. Vietmeyer
Sept 1952 – May 1958	Miss R. Cattanach
May 1958 – Aug 1952	Mr. G. Graham
Sept 1962 – Dec 1962	Mr. M. Coates (Acting)
Feb 1963 – May 1978	Mr. L.G.A. Pearson
May 1978 – Aug 1982	Miss Barbara B. Harford
Aug 1982 – Dec 1982	Miss Hilary Capper (Acting)
Feb 1983 – Aug 1986	Miss Jean Packman
Feb 1987 – May 1987	Miss Jill Stanley (Acting)
May 1987 – May 1989	Miss Jill Burdett
May 1989 – Dec 1989	Ms Heather Young (Acting)
Feb 1990 – May 1990	Ms Laura McKinley (Acting)
May 1990 – Mar 2000	Mr. Doug Shepherd
April 2000	Mrs. Danae Heinz.

## Sources of Information

### ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT OF RIDGWAY SCHOOL

- Ridgway School, including "A Bit of History" fact sheet (H.D. Graham, 1979)
- Brooklyn Library: Local history collection, "History of Brooklyn School", 1999 Brooklyn Historical Calendar





- Cyclopedia of New Zealand, Vol. 1, Wellington, 1897.
- *Evening Post* 26 April 1898.
- Wellington City Archives
- Wairarapa Archives.
- National Library of New Zealand
- Mrs Margaret Carter

### EARLY EDUCATIONAL ORGANISATION AND BOUNDARIES

- Dr Ashton Fitchett

### THEN AND NOW

- **People:**  
Dr Ashton Fitchett, Don Langley, John Morrison, Heather Packer, Neil Langley, Heather McClintock, Emma Sloper, Raewyn Simonsen, Ellie Stewart, Tom MacDiarmid, Matthew MacDiarmid, Liam Sear-Budd, Lorna Harvey, Maree Gordon, Bev Rutherford, Shirley Porteous, Danae Heinz, Jill Burdett, Jean Packman.
- School Log Books
- School Committee Records
- 1962 –5, *Ridgway School Magazine*
- 1969, **Children's Moon Landing Project Work** (Supplied by Joyce Fielder – ex Ridgway teacher)
- 1979, **The Golden Years**, H.D. Graham.
- 2004, **Confirmed Education Review Report, Ridgway School**, Education Review Office, Wellington
- 1999, **Brooklyn Historical Calendar**, Brooklyn Library
- Alexander Turnbull Library



## Appendix 1

2 September 2004

### TO THE PARENTS AND COMMUNITY OF RIDGWAY SCHOOL

These are the findings of the Education Review Office's latest report on Ridgway School.

Ridgway School is situated in Morningson, Wellington and provides primary education from years 1 to 8. Most students live in the local community and are from a wide variety of cultural backgrounds. The atmosphere is warm, welcoming and friendly. Students are encouraged to mix with all age groups and this is actively fostered through buddy or peer-support programmes for junior and senior year groups. Findings from a recent community survey show that parents appreciate the supportive and caring school culture and that students share a sense of belonging.

The school's earlier reporting history with ERO identified a number of concerns likely to pose risks to student achievement. The 2001 report evaluated progress made by the Board of Trustees in strengthening strategies and systems required for the smooth operation of the school. This ERO report acknowledges the contribution of the principal in continuing to build a robust governance and management framework.

Substantial property development is evident since 2001. Recent remodelling and refurbishment of the administration block, some classrooms, the library and computer-suite have considerably enhanced the school's appearance and function. One classroom is set aside for a variety of curriculum activities, withdrawal groups and assemblies. The newly paved courtyard and landscaped grounds add to the overall presentation of the school. Together with the large, adjacent park, the property provides well for the implementation of a balanced programme for the eight primary years.

Good use is made of the facilities and resources in daily programmes. Teachers have participated in a three-year training contract to upskill themselves in using information and communications technologies (ICTs) as teaching and learning tools. Learning activities include opportunities to find and present information in a variety of ways, including ICTs and the performing arts. Many aspects of classroom or school operation involve community members. Parents are trained as tutors of reading and provide valuable assistance in other ways.

Students are encouraged to be responsible, independent learners and to take pride





in their work. Most students settle to activities readily and are able to work with good levels of cooperation and independence. Classrooms have an industrious and productive tone. The school-wide focus on courtesies, as defined in the school values and rules, and teacher modelling of desirable behaviours and attitudes, has been a major factor in fostering a positive school environment.

This report evaluates the quality of literacy programmes across the school and the teaching of speaking for students in year 4. It also investigates the effectiveness of the school's strategies for raising Māori student achievement, and aspects of health and safety. The findings highlight many positive features of the learning environment and identify some areas for improving consistency in the quality of planning, assessment and implementation of teaching strategies. The board has welcomed these findings and has written recommendations that target the school's next development steps.

### *Future Action*

ERO is confident that the board of trustees can manage the school in the interests of the students and the Crown and bring about the improvements outlined in this report.

Therefore ERO will review the school again as part of the regular review cycle.

### *Review Coverage*

ERO reviews do not cover every aspect of school performance and each ERO report may cover different issues. The aim is to provide information on aspects that are central to student achievement and useful to this school.

If you would like a copy of the full report, please contact the school or see the ERO website, <http://www.ero.govt.nz>.

SIGNED

Lane Mohi

Area Manager

for Chief Review Officer



## Appendix 2



Ridgway School

*School Statement July 2004*

### **Introduction**

Our vision is to provide a safe, caring, positive learning environment delivering excellence in education for all. We aim to develop caring, confident, self-reliant young people in a challenging and safe environment.

We recognize and value the individual needs of each child, seek to nurture their personal and social growth and foster their sense of belonging within a vibrant and supportive community.

Our goal is to improve the learning achievement of all children. We provide each child with a strong foundation in literacy and numeracy and our curriculum provides enrichment in the arts, sport and culture.

We value :

- ♦ the diversity of our community
- ♦ teamwork, sharing and community spirit
- ♦ the development of strength of character
- ♦ honesty, empathy and fairness
- ♦ respect, responsibility and reliability
- ♦ the pursuit of personal excellence.

### **Location & Context**

The school is situated in Mornington, 10 minutes from the central city at the top of a ridge with views of the wind-turbine to the northwest and the Pacific Ocean to the south. Our children enjoy access to the big field on adjacent Vogelmorn Park, two adventure playgrounds and the school is surrounded by native plantings. The school's recent major building programme and the newly refurbished library have resulted in an attractive, user-friendly facility. Bright murals, at the entrance and around the school, welcome people to the school and provide a showcase for the children's creativity. The school is well served by bus routes into the city, Newtown and Island Bay.

A multi-cultural school, with fifteen nationalities, Ridgway School offers education from Years 1 – 8. Parents indicated, in a recent survey, their appreciation of the caring attitudes displayed to one another, by children throughout the school. They were especially pleased with the way senior students interacted with and assisted younger children. Ridgway is seen as a friendly, welcoming place, where children have a sense of belonging. Parents also commented favourably on the well-ordered and industrious atmosphere which permeates the school.

Since the last ERO review (December 2000) the school has demonstrated that it has closed the gaps in key curriculum areas - reading, maths and spelling, while lifting academic and behavioural standards across the school.

### **Summary of self review results / significant achievements**

Programmes have been implemented for special needs students, at both ends of the spectrum,



that have resulted in significant gains for all students involved.

School-wide assessment and analysis of data in reading, maths, spelling and handwriting resulted in a comprehensive Community Report that was shared with parents in December of last year.

The information gained was the basis for the Analysis of Variance report.

#### **Analysis of student achievement**

Our greatest success has been in reading, with 90 – 100% of children in classes from Year 3 – Year 8 reading at, or above, their CA (chronological age). For those children who have achieved in this area, the focus in 2004 is shifting to improving their research skills.

Our results in spelling show that 75 – 79% of students from Years 3 – 8 are spelling at or above their CA.

In Maths during 2003 :

- ♦ Year 3 – 8 concentrated on basic facts. Addition and Subtraction
- ♦ Year 3 began learning multiplication 2x, 5x, 10x
- ♦ Year 4 added in the next group of multiplication 3x, 4x
- ♦ Year 6 – 8 included a focus on Multiplication and Division facts
- ♦ Teaching/ learning/ testing was on-going throughout the year.

Our results indicated that substantial improvement occurred in accuracy in years 4 – 6 and that, by the end of Year 6, most students knew their multiplication facts.

Over the past three years, the standard of handwriting within the school has been significantly improved.

This is an on-going school-wide goal, to maintain and/ or improve the quality of student's handwriting.

#### **Progress of our Maori & Pacific Island students.**

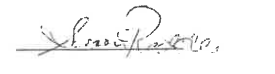
Our Maori and Pacific Island students are monitored closely and their achievements are well represented in these figures. Where any students are demonstrating difficulty in literacy or numeracy/ special programmes, e.g. : Precision Teaching, Rainbow Reading and Paired Writing are put in place to lift children's performance and consequently their self esteem, .

#### **Providing a safe environment**

It is extremely pleasing to note, the 37% reduction in antisocial behaviour in Terms 1 & 2 of this year, as shown by the greatly reduced number of incidents recorded in the Withdrawal Book, compared with the same time last year. Parents have expressed their satisfaction with the way in which all of these incidents have been dealt with. They support the strongly established "listening culture" within the school, where teachers are committed to listening to and responding to children's concerns.

By continuing to improve in standards of behaviour and academic achievement, we have shown that we have come a long way towards achieving our school's vision to provide a safe, caring, positive learning environment, delivering excellence in education for all.

  
Danae Heinz, Principal

  
Susan Riddle, Chairperson