



FOR THE CHILDREN

A HISTORY OF THE AUCKLAND
KINDERGARTEN ASSOCIATION
1908 – 2016

BY TANIA MACE

igniting minds
Hei Whakahihiko Hinengaro

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Tania Mace

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A HISTORY OF THE AKA

INTRODUCTION

The Auckland Kindergarten Association (AKA) has a proud history of providing quality early childhood education for the children of Auckland for well over 100 years. The kindergarten network grew from small beginnings, averaging one kindergarten per year until the early twenty-first century. It has adapted to changing times and altered circumstances throughout its history, but always held the high standards that make it a leader in early childhood education. The story of the AKA is shaped by many factors, stretching right back to the roots of Froebel's Kindergarten principles more than two centuries ago.

A HISTORY OF THE AKA

THE PRE-KINDERGARTEN ERA IN NEW ZEALAND

Examples of early childhood care and education services in nineteenth century New Zealand were relatively uncommon. There were church missionary infant schools in Northland providing early childhood education for local Māori and missionaries the 1830s,¹ apparently based on British infant schools of the day. These had been established by social reformers in early nineteenth century Britain to cater for the children of factory workers and the urban poor, taking in children as young as one. Books were published on the subject by British social reformers and educators, including Samuel Wilderspin, and appear to have arrived in New Zealand with the missionaries.²

The missionary era did not last long in New Zealand, and within a few decades the missions and their infant schools were all but gone. The increasing number of settlers brought different beliefs from their homeland about the care and education of young children with them.

Nannies were entrusted with the children of well-off parents, while church and charitable organisations ran a few orphanages and crèches, mainly in the larger towns and cities. Some private individuals took in babies and small children and cared for them in return for a small fee. But for the most part, the care and education of young children came under the mother's domain and happened in the family home.³

For young children, the emphasis was on care. Education, it was generally considered, began when they first attended school, or when they received lessons in reading, writing and arithmetic from family members, a governess or some other teacher. Education in the early colonial era was not universal, and there wasn't a compulsory education system until the 1870s.⁴

However, just as the national system was developing, new ideas on the education of younger children were reaching New Zealand's shores.

FROEBEL'S KINDERGARTEN

The ideas of German educator Friedrich Froebel had a strong influence on the development of early childhood education in New Zealand. They were also taken up with particular enthusiasm in Australia and the United States, where social reformers developed an independent kindergarten movement.⁵

Froebel developed his theory of early childhood education in the nineteenth century, following on from thinkers who challenged notions of childhood care and education in seventeenth and early eighteenth century Europe. The Enlightenment witnessed the discovery of new cultures in other parts of the world that shook-up beliefs about civilisation, education and childhood.⁶ Thinkers like Jean Jacques Rousseau rejected the idea that children are born sinful and require strict discipline to constrain their wayward nature.⁷ Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi (who met Friedrich Froebel in 1805) championed the reformative powers of sympathetic education for the

poor. These influences shaped Froebel's philosophy, which embodied the notion of child-centred education with free play and discovery as integral to childhood learning.⁸

Froebel taught in several schools, and came to the conclusion that childhood has three developmental phases: infancy, early childhood and childhood. He became particularly interested in early childhood, seeing it as a transition period between home and school. He argued that children in this age group needed more than the home environment offered, but still weren't ready for the world of school. Froebel saw crèches and infant schools in his native Prussia who were concerned with caring rather than educating, and infant schools focussed on rote learning. Early childhood, he argued, is a time when children need the freedom to explore and discover within a stimulating and safe environment.⁹

In 1837 Froebel put his ideas on early childhood education into practice, opening a 'child nurture and activity institute' in Blankenburg. Three years later he coined the term kindergarten (child's garden)¹⁰ and developed the environment, activities and equipment that would be replicated elsewhere in the years to come. Children enjoyed indoor and outdoor space where gardening, songs, nature study and games took place. He also developed a series of toys and equipment (known as 'gifts' or 'occupations') intended to stimulate and educate, which were given to children in sequence. They ranged from a soft knitted ball and wooden geometric shapes, through to craft and sewing materials.¹¹ The key idea was children learning through play, and the activities allowing each child to develop physically, mentally and spiritually.¹²

The kindergarten idea spread in Germany. Froebel launched a kindergarten training course in 1849, the first to provide women with professional training in early childhood education.¹³ He saw women as the most appropriate teachers for young children.¹⁴

But events would soon conspire to halt the progress of the kindergarten movement. The late 1840s were a time of considerable political upheaval in Prussia and the surrounding German states, and this had a major effect on the kindergarten movement in its homeland. Kindertagens emphasised self-directed exploration and play and appealed to liberal minded parents. The failed revolution of 1848-1849 resulted in punitive measures against liberal organisations. Kindertagens were forcibly closed by the government in 1851 and didn't reopen for nearly a decade. Froebel's death in 1852 was another severe blow to the kindergarten movement.¹⁵ He died after a brief illness at the age of 70.

With Froebel gone and the kindertagens closed, there was little to keep Froebel's followers in Germany. An exodus of trained teachers and liberal Germans whose children had attended kindertagens led to the international expansion of the movement.¹⁶

Bertha Ronge, a German refugee who'd completed Froebel's training course, opened a kindergarten in London as early as 1851. Three years later Ronge's kindergarten was on public view as part of an international education exhibition, featuring a demonstration of Froebel's 'gifts'. Froebel's friend Berthe von Marenholz-Bulow began a tour of Europe to promote the kindergarten concept in 1854. She continued this work until her death four decades later. Meanwhile, Froebel's second wife, Louise, published his writings in *Pedagogics of the Kindergarten*, and spent the rest of her life promoting his vision.¹⁷

The efforts of these devoted women quickly bore fruit. The first kindergarten opened in the United States in 1854. The concept expanded exponentially over the coming years in Europe, the colonies and the Far East.¹⁸

The Froebel Society formed in the mid-1870s to train teachers and register kindertagens.¹⁹

But the adoption of Froebel's ideas varied. While many kindertagens were opened and operated in full accordance with his educational philosophy, some existing institutions tried co-opting cherry-picked ideas, often with limited success.²⁰

Froebellian ideas had a significant effect on art, architecture and design in the twentieth century, an era noted for its development of abstract design. At kindergarten, children were given the freedom to represent the world as they saw it. And kindergarten education is credited with influencing the adult work of leading twentieth century artists and designers including Frank Lloyd Wright, Le Corbusier and Wassily Kandinsky.²¹

EARLY KINDERGARTENS IN NEW ZEALAND

Froebel's ideas came to New Zealand at a time when the country was developing a national education system. The existing ad hoc provincial system meant access to schooling was still far from universal.²² The 1877 Education Act provided free compulsory education for Pakeha children aged between seven and thirteen who lived within two miles of a school.²³ Children aged between five and seven were provided with free non-compulsory education.²⁴ Articles explaining Froebel's ideas appeared in the press at this time, sparking the interest of educationalists and social reformers.²⁵

The early state school system engaged with Froebellian ideas to a limited extent. While compulsory schooling didn't begin until age seven, it was common practice to send younger children to state schools. Children under seven made up a quarter of pupils in 1879, many of them under five.²⁶ The school day must have been difficult and monotonous for them. Gradually the idea of children beginning school on their fifth birthday took hold, although there was no official directive regarding this.²⁷

By the late 1870s a few schools were incorporating the word "kindergarten" into their descriptions of teaching, because they provided brief periods when children played with Froebel's gifts and sang during breaks in their otherwise conventional schooling.²⁸

The Auckland City Schools Committee made a brief foray into kindergarten teaching in 1883, hiring Harriet Moreton 'a successful teacher ... [with] a knowledge of kindergarten system' to introduce kindergarten training at the Wellesley Street School as an experiment.²⁹ Opened six years earlier with a roll of 480, and growing ever since, it's difficult to see how kindergarten methods might have been applied by just one teacher.³⁰ It was perhaps an attempt to fit watered down kindergarten ideas into what were highly structured and understaffed New Zealand state schools.

One of the first institutions credited with embodying Froebel's teachings successfully was the Normal School associated with the Christchurch Training College. The principal, CC Howard, had some knowledge of Froebel's work,³¹ and a trained kindergarten teacher from England, Amelia Crowley, was employed by the local Education Board to establish a kindergarten at the school in the 1870s. Catering for children aged 3 to 7, it was a short-lived venture that ended in 1880 because of budgetary restraints.³²

Many private schools advertised the presence of kindergarten departments from the 1880s, while others ran preparatory schools that catered for young children.³³ Philosophies appear to vary. For example, in 1882 Madame Libri from Paris opened her preparatory school for children aged three to eight in Symonds Street, Auckland, and the advertisement claimed:

*'Combining instruction with recreation, the kindergarten system of Frobel (sic) is the only method by which very young children can acquire a knowledge of English, Arithmetic, Reading, Writing, Drawing, Arrangement of Form and Colour, Modelling, Natural History and Geography ... Conversational French, Music ... Calisthenics and Needlework. Frequent short intervals for play will be given.'*³⁴

In some instances, the word "kindergarten" appears to be nothing more than a byword for 'education aimed at young children'.

Others seemed to have a better understanding of the Froebel's kindergarten concept, and saw it as a potential saviour for impoverished children. By the 1880s it was clear that the new settler

society created in New Zealand still carried over some ills of the old country. While more fluid social structures allowed many to get ahead, misfortune could cast even the most hardworking family into the depths of poverty. Poor families became an increasingly visible part of the largest urban areas, crowding together in the older parts of the cities where cheap, rundown housing was available.

The kindergarten concept appealed to philanthropists and social reformers who saw the education of young children as a way to interrupt the seemingly inevitable process of wretched poor children becoming wretched poor adults, who go on to create the next impoverished generation.³⁵

Social reformers established a kindergarten in Dunedin in 1889, long accepted as the first free kindergarten in New Zealand. However, evidence suggests kindergartens that were free to the poor were established earlier in Auckland.³⁶ In 1887 Anne Ward, wife of Chief Justice Dudley Ward and member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), was advocating for:

*'kindergarten schools for the neglected children who presently swarm the streets.'*³⁷

Ward thought the kindergarten could help the work of the WCTU because:

*'by getting hold of the young children they would in time get the mothers to their side in temperance matters.'*³⁸

Ward gave public lectures on the topic and set about establishing a free kindergarten 'for any poor child that would come'.³⁹ The former Free Library building in High Street was secured by June 1887, and children were invited to attend a 'GRAND JUBILEE DINNER of roast beef and plum pudding' on Jubilee Day, 21 June 1887.⁴⁰ The Jubilee Kindergarten opened its doors soon after, and by September the 170 children on the roll were being educated, and also fed, clothed and given medical checks.⁴¹ The *New Zealand Herald* reported on the work of the kindergarten and the children who attended:

*'What better work can be done in any community than in saving the little ones, many of whom have drawn nothing from their mother's breasts but diluted gin, and who have in many cases the misfortune to call by the name of mother or father the thief, the law-breaker, and the dissolute.'*⁴²

Records show the Auckland West Kindergarten and Crèche opened in 1888 in Howe Street, and appeared to have some association with the Jubilee Kindergarten.⁴³ However, the Auckland West Kindergarten closed in 1894 due to falling rolls, and the Jubilee Kindergarten closed 1899 due to financial troubles.⁴⁴

A number of private kindergartens were established in Auckland during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, some by people who went on to play a leading role in the establishment of the Auckland Kindergarten Association.

THE ESTABLISHMENT AND EARLY YEARS OF THE AKA

A meeting of people interested in kindergartens gathered at the fine home of successful Auckland businessman Leo Myers and his American wife Martha, a former journalist, on 15th September 1908. Edward Brooke-Smith spoke of the shortage of kindergarten teachers and suggested that an association be formed to:

*'act as a centre of K.G. work in Auckland, to arrange for the appointment of a competent trainer for students and to be a responsible organisation for the granting of Diplomas of efficiency for students.'*⁴⁵

A committee was formed comprising of Charles Tunks, Edward and Winifred Brooke-Smith, William and Rika Coleman, Alexander and Agnes Ferguson, Martha and Leo Myers, Gerald and

Sophia O'Halloran, Emma Kealy, Catherine Myers, E A (Annie) Robertson, Mrs Smeeton, A Bachelder and Carlton Hay.⁴⁶

They started by looking into the number of children wishing to attend a new kindergarten, and how many young women might be interested in undertaking kindergarten teacher training. The committee met several times and discussed forming an organisation. Invitations were sent to people recommended by the committee, and they made important decisions on the aims and structure of the proposed Auckland Kindergarten Association.⁴⁷

On a spring afternoon in late October 1908, the invited guests gathered at St Marks Church hall, home of the Remuera Kindergarten. The crowd saw the children's work, and Martha Myers spoke about the concept and the advantages that the kindergarten teaching profession offered to young women. She stressed the role of the kindergarten in creating useful, hardworking and happy citizens of the future.⁴⁸ She said:

*'Education in its highest sense, means the evolution of the whole human being; not merely the training of the intellect. It means the development of character as the only sound working basis for Right Living Starting with the principle that progress is development, Froebel proved that development comes only by use, that faculties, like muscles, weaken and decay if unexercised To make the child an industrious adult we must direct him to use his hand, his eye, his brain in harmonious occupation when he is young. Given this opportunity in his plastic and formative years, the desire and the ability grow and develop. And this applies not only to the work of the hands, but to every function of head and heart. Not only to industry, but to kindness and courtesy, honesty and sincerity, to the whole human development.'*⁴⁹

Myers' address was followed by a speech from Minister of Education George Fowlds, who promised a conditional government subsidy for kindergartens. The chairperson of the meeting, Charles Tunks, proposed the formation of the Auckland Kindergarten Association. The new body formed and elected a council. Lemuel John Bagnall, chairperson of the Auckland Education Board became president, with Martha Myers and Reverend William Beatty as vice-presidents. The inaugural treasurer was Gerald O'Halloran, with Annie Robertson and Edward Brooke-Smith as secretaries. Rika Coleman, Agnes Ferguson, Emma Kealy, Kate McCosh Clark, Emily Nathan, A Bachelder, Carlton Hay, W G Rathbone, Charles Tunks and Dr McDowell made up the remaining council members.⁵⁰

Although this was a new venture, the early AKA council included a number of people with considerable experience in establishing and running kindergartens, including Martha Myers, Emma Kealy and Jane Oliphant. Others had family associations with the Remuera Kindergarten, and some members of the AKA Council knew each other through their work with other charitable organisations. Many of them would have known each other through society events, as we know their names appeared in the guest lists of Government House balls and other entertainments. [See Appendix – Family and social connections].

Some council members, such as Reverend William Beatty, Charles Tunks and Gerald O'Halloran, were connected through their involvement with the Anglican Church. However, as a secular charitable organisation, the AKA had a particular appeal to the Jewish Myers, Nathan and Coleman women. While their Christian counterparts in Auckland society could involve themselves in the many church-based organisations, these women were precluded from direct involvement. And the Jewish charitable organisations in Auckland at the time were limited in scope. The AKA provided an opportunity to contribute to wider society, increase social standing and strengthen connections. For the Myers women, whose wealth came from the family brewing firm, public involvement with charitable causes offered an opportunity to counter the negative associations that their links with the industry brought with it. This was a time when the fight against "the demon drink" was taken up with enthusiasm by organisations including the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and support for prohibition was nearing its peak.⁵¹

It's also apparent that, while the men on the Council had an opportunity to play other important roles in local and national life through their work, for the female council members, charitable organisations like the AKA were one of the few ways to be involved in a public world from which they were otherwise largely excluded. The AKA actively encouraged women's participation. The original constitution required two vice-presidents and two secretaries, one of each sex, and that the non-office bearing council members consist of five men and five women. The president and treasurer could be either, but for many years these positions were held exclusively by men.⁵²

The original constitution of the AKA had the following aims:

*'To become a centre of co-operative action for arranging for the opening of Kindergartens in Auckland'*⁵³

*'To provide the necessary organisation for the training of students as teachers'*⁵⁴

*'To grant diplomas of efficiency to teachers'*⁵⁵

*'To prepare the way for the establishment of Free Kindergartens.'*⁵⁶

The aims of the organisation reflected the concerns of social reformers of the day. Demographic changes led to a renewed focus on the education and welfare of children, particularly those of the poor. In New Zealand, the birth rate dropped by 31% between 1882 and 1902.⁵⁷ Increasing employment opportunities resulted in women marrying later and having fewer children. This coincided with an upswing in the numbers of women practicing birth control, most commonly in the middle classes.⁵⁸

A moral panic flared up over the low birth rate in the early years of the twentieth century. With relatively fewer children being born, minimising further losses through infant mortality was seen as essential. The concern for infant welfare led to the establishment of the Plunket Society (originally known as the Society for the Promotion of Health of Women and Children) in 1907. Motherhood took on a new importance, with mothers seen as responsible for the health and wellbeing of the next generation.⁵⁹

While improving the physical health of infants was a laudable aim, there were other concerns for social reformers. A greater proportion of babies were being born to poor parents, and the implications were discussed in the local press.⁶⁰ In 1900 the Auckland Star noted that:

*'Amongst the poor large families may be said to be the rule: but amongst those that are in the best position to train and educate their offspring the birth rate is continually diminishing.'*⁶¹

The feeling was that not caring for and educating children from poor families would result in a 'degraded society', an alarming prospect for middle class social leaders. They believed education was part of the solution, and the new generation could be taught to be worthy citizens, abandoning the 'lazy, thriftless, depraved habits' that the public associated with the poor.⁶²

As Martha Myers reportedly said:

*'Slum children were inevitable ... in a community where there were the idle and the thriftless the degraded and "wasters" ... some [children] were destined to be thrown out into the streets, noisome back yards, or shut up in dirty kitchens, either wilfully neglected or left while father or mother were out at work.'*⁶³

But Myers felt that these children could be rescued from the fate of their parents. She wrote:

'By the provision of instructive toys the development of an appreciation of flowers and colours, training in melody, and numerous other ways, the children are made useful and intelligent, truthful, moral, decent and self-respecting Auckland is a growing

*city, with many neglected children, whose school is the street and whose playground the gutter. It is for these children we want free kindergartens.*⁶⁴

The other key aim of the AKA was the training of kindergarten teachers, because the lack of suitably trained staff was a major impediment to the expansion of the local kindergarten movement. There were few opportunities for kindergarten teacher training in New Zealand at this time, and none in Auckland.⁶⁵

Women were already well represented amongst the school teaching profession with female primary school teachers outnumbering male by a significant margin.⁶⁶ Teaching young children was seen as a vocation in tune with the mothering role, and therefore considered natural for women. This was galvanised by a state primary education system that increasingly differentiated the type of education girls received to prepare them for future roles as wives and mothers.⁶⁷ Kindergarten teaching fitted with these ideas, making it an appropriate and respectable form of employment for women before marriage.⁶⁸ A kindergarten teaching qualification could provide unmarried teaching staff for today, and exemplary wives and mothers for tomorrow. This view was espoused by the AKA in their 1913 Annual Report:

*'Kindergarten training helps to make a woman broader and more sympathetic in her outlook upon life. She learns to look upon education as the life-building process which continues throughout life, and her close association with little children develops such qualities as sincerity, patience, and insight in a marked degree, and fits her to be an ideal wife and mother should she become a home-maker, and under any circumstances makes her a more helpful woman than if she had not had the training.'*⁶⁹

But not all girls were considered suitable for kindergarten teacher training. Martha Myers clearly felt that kindergarten teacher trainees should be drawn from the same social class as the AKA council, and she saw it as preferable to the other employment options open to women at the time. She said of kindergarten teaching:

*'To educated girls from refined homes – and it is only these who are fitted to take the Kindergarten course – girls who want a real interest in life, a pursuit that will broaden and brighten their minds and characters, and keep them occupied, and hence happy ... prove a remunerative profession, if needed, and a profession of charm and dignity. It should make a popular appeal to all thinking parents who desire to give their girls a profession of a high order, far better and more congenial to their womanhood than typewriting, stenography, shop or tea-room.'*⁷⁰

With a view to providing kindergarten training, the AKA wrote to the Auckland Education Board in November 1908 to seek assistance in establishing a training course:

'[Skills] such as singing, drawing, nature study, physiology, methods of teaching, history of education &c (sic) can only be acquired from lectures. Now these subjects form part of the curriculum of the Training College, and it is hoped by the Council of the Association that arrangements can be made under which their students may attend the lectures.'

*In addition, however, to the above subjects there are special branches connected with the Froebel system that can only be taught by one who has graduated in a Kindergarten Training Institution and there will, therefore, be the necessity for the services of such a Trainer in the College if the introduction of the Froebel system into Auckland is to be carried out in a manner to compare favourably with the work done in other cities in Australia, Europe and America.'*⁷¹

The AKA had strong allies in important places. Minister of Education, George Fowlds, spoke warmly about the kindergarten movement at the founding meeting of the AKA. Herbert Milnes, Principal of the Auckland Training College gave considerable time to assist Miss E F Brooke-

Smith and Mary A A Cooper, directors of the Remuera and Epsom kindergartens, to develop a syllabus for the AKA kindergarten teacher training course.⁷²

In February 1909, the AKA advertised its new training course in the *Auckland Star*:

*'The course for Students begins this week, including practical work under trained Kindergartners and Lectures at the Training College.'*⁷³

Soon, the AKA had six kindergarten teacher trainees, but the fledgling course was not yet fully developed. The lack of a specifically trained kindergarten teacher providing lectures for the students led to an inevitable gap in the students' theoretical knowledge.⁷⁴

While supportive of the AKA, the Auckland Education Board had overspent its budget and could not afford to employ a kindergarten teacher to deliver the necessary lectures. JC Bagnall, as president of the AKA and member of the Auckland Education Board, was well placed to help resolve the issue. He intimated to the board that the AKA was prepared to provide part of the cost of hiring a suitable teacher, and a proposal was sent to Education Minister Fowlds, supported by the Auckland Education Board.⁷⁵

As well as approving the training appointment, the Education Department also allowed a kindergarten class to be established at the adjoining Normal School. It was felt that trainees at the college would become better teachers if they could observe kindergarten methods.⁷⁶

While this development was further evidence that the value of kindergarten methods were getting official acceptance, it did not directly benefit the AKA.⁷⁷ The Department of Education made the proviso that lectures provided to AKA trainees be paid for by the AKA and delivered after hours. It was at this point that the AKA decided to hire their own kindergarten trainer. The trainees who had rather prematurely been allowed to attend lectures at the college since February 1909, were suddenly left without.⁷⁸

The AKA was no doubt disappointed at this turn of events, and was under pressure to hire a suitable teacher. Soon, the organisation secured the services of Margaret E Gibson, a graduate of the National Froebel Union of Great Britain, where she gained the Higher Certificate, the more advanced of the two qualifications offered by the institution.⁷⁹ Despite her qualifications and eight years' experience teaching and training kindergarten teachers, Gibson attended the Roslyn Gardens Training College in Sydney to 'study the conditions under which the Free Kindergartens are conducted in Australia' before taking up her role with the AKA.⁸⁰

It's likely that 1909 was a difficult year for the few kindergarten teacher trainees who enrolled in the AKA teacher training course, but things were about to get better. Gibson's arrival was imminent, and attention was given to creating a kindergarten that fulfilled the dual roles of free kindergarten services for the poor, and the education of teacher trainees.

The work of raising funds and securing other assistance for the establishment of a kindergarten of this kind had begun in 1908 when the AKA formed. The Association invited the public to join for a 21 shilling fee, and in just over a year, the AKA attracted 64 members. The coffers increased with a £100 grant from the trustees of the Auckland West Kindergarten, which closed in the late nineteenth century, and a number of fundraising events undertaken by AKA members. These included a play entitled "A Woman's Affair", written by Alexander Ferguson, husband of AKA council member Agnes Ferguson (who played one of the characters). The entertainment was performed by the Full Moon Club and raised £50.⁸¹ Government assistance was promised after a deputation from the AKA council met with Minister of Education George Fowlds in July 1909. There was a grant that gave free kindergartens an annual government subsidy of £2 per child, as long as the same amount was raised by the Association.⁸²

But all of this amounted to less than the estimated £350 to £400 per annum needed to pay for a kindergarten teacher and establish a dual-role kindergarten.⁸³ Undeterred, the AKA sought a site. Initially either Grey Street (now known as Greys Avenue) or Freemans Bay were

considered as appropriate locations, but by October 1909 Freemans Bay had become the favoured site.⁸⁴

Lower Freemans Bay was one of the worst places to live in Auckland at the time. The industrial foreshore was cluttered with sheds, timber stacks and factories that belched foul air into the environment, while the gasworks and city destructor added to the level of pollution. The roads were poorly formed and quickly became muddy and rutted after rain, and the housing stock was predominantly cheaply built, poorly maintained, and overcrowded. It was also an area associated with prostitution and other criminal behaviour. The neighbourhood was inhabited by people who, because of their straitened finances, were unable to escape to the more desirable parts of the city.⁸⁵ The line between subsistence and want was often a narrow one. The loss of a male breadwinner through unemployment, illness or desertion could spell disaster for fragile family economies. While able bodied men could leave town in search of work, women encumbered with children had fewer choices and found themselves stuck where they were. Employment options for mothers were limited, and the need to work had an impact on the care and attention they could give their children. Furthermore, children could be required to help sustain the family through scavenging or other work.⁸⁶

With these children in mind, AKA council members Myers, Oliphant and McDowell wrote to the Auckland City Council seeking the lease of a suitable site, and suggesting that one of the allotments skirting the newly formed Victoria Park would do well.⁸⁷ Myers stressed the benefits the kindergarten would have for the city:

*'the work is essentially of a civic nature, in that it aims at moulding good citizens, and should commend itself to the hearty co-operation of the city fathers.'*⁸⁸

While the response from the Auckland City Council was initially positive, it had no suitable allotments in the area, and referred the AKA to the Auckland Harbour Board.⁸⁹ By late 1909 the Auckland Harbour Board had granted the AKA a 21-year lease of a site fronting Victoria Street West (then known as Patterson Street) for their kindergarten.⁹⁰

While the parkside location sounded idyllic, it was still in the middle of unappealing surroundings. The new kindergarten would be neighboured by a residential property to the east and an iron and brass foundry to the west, with a variety of industrial concerns in the near vicinity.⁹¹ One Aucklander referred to Victoria Park as "Eczema Park" at this time, due to:

*'the blotches and excrescences with which its exterior is adorned. Smithies, smoke, and grime to the right of them, gasworks, clay bank, coke tip to the left of them; timber stacks rusty iron shed, unsightliness in front of them – horribly they go, the ignoble sixteen acres.'*⁹²

But importantly, the neediest children lived in these unappealing surroundings, and the presence of an open space, however compromised by the industrial activity around it, was still no doubt welcomed by the children of Freemans Bay.

With the site secured, the AKA pushed forward with procuring funding for their kindergarten building. In early 1910, AKA secretary Edward Brooke-Smith wrote to the aging wealthy Auckland businessman and philanthropist, Sir John Logan Campbell, to seek financial assistance. Campbell's wealth increased significantly in the early twentieth century, and he and his wife Emma focussed much of their benevolence in Sir John's last years on helping young children from deprived backgrounds, something that would have been well known to the members of the AKA council when the following letter was written:⁹³

'Dear Sir John,

Appreciating the wide generosity of your charitable interests and the deep love for Auckland which you have so handsomely evidenced in your great gift to the people, I would like to enlist your sympathies in the scheme for a Free Kindergarten.

The enclosed newspaper account of the work will explain the present position of the Auckland Kindergarten Association.

Its scope is far reaching, being not merely philanthropic but deeply ethical and civic in its ideals.

In England, America and Australia, the establishment of Free Kindergartens - today the warp and weft of the educational fabric - has proven the most admirable and thorough medium for social reform. To quote: "The best way of ridding the State of criminals is to stop raising them."

Sincerely trust that the worth and nobility of the Kindergarten scheme above referred to will appeal to your wisdom and generosity.⁹⁴

The response from Campbell was extremely generous. He and Lady Campbell provided not only the cost of the entire building, around £1,500, but also supplied the architectural plans as well as the furniture and equipment.⁹⁵

This was marvellous for such a new kindergarten association. While free kindergartens had been established in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century in the main centres, these all appear to have been housed in rented halls. Campbell's gift provided the AKA with the means to rapidly build the first purpose-built, free kindergarten in the country.⁹⁶

Campbell took charge of the project, employing architect Charles Le Neve Arnold to design the kindergarten. Campbell had an interest in building design and had, in his younger years, become something of an amateur architect, designing alterations to his home, Logan Bank, in 1869 and preparing the initial design for his later home, Kilbryde, in 1878. Arnold had been working as an architect in Auckland since 1885, and in the early years of the twentieth century he developed a working relationship with Campbell when he was appointed architect to the Cornwall Park Trust Board. Arnold designed the ante-park at Cornwall Park that was completed in 1906.⁹⁷

Arnold consulted with Miss Gibson and the AKA council to develop plans for a two-storey brick and tile kindergarten building.⁹⁸ Soon, the long-established building firm JJ Holland had work underway.⁹⁹

In the meantime, the Auckland City Council granted the AKA the use of the lower floor of the Victoria Park cricket pavilion, a room measuring 30 feet by 26 feet (9 meters by 8 meters), as a temporary kindergarten.¹⁰⁰ In preparation for the ensuing academic year, the AKA advertised that Miss Gibson would be available to meet intending trainee kindergarten teachers at Alameda, the residence of Martha Myers, in Symonds Street.¹⁰¹

In mid-February the AKA opened its first free kindergarten, equipped with Froebel's gifts imported from San Francisco and locally made furniture of an appropriate size.¹⁰² The kindergarten operated between the hours of 9.30am and 12.30, and with a few exceptions, catered for three and four year olds.¹⁰³ The children enjoyed 'gifts, plasticine, paper folding, weaving, wool-work, sand tray, blocks ... games were played stories told and songs sung'.¹⁰⁴ The lawn in front of the pavilion was used for lunch and free play.¹⁰⁵ By mid-September there were nearly 30 children in attendance.¹⁰⁶

The daily routine of the kindergarten children was highly structured, with just fifteen minutes scheduled for free play.¹⁰⁷ This contrasted with the Froebellian origins of the kindergarten, where teacher led activities were a lesser part of the kindergarten day, and free play dominated.¹⁰⁸ The AKA was not alone in having a highly-structured programme, which appeared to be the norm in other New Zealand kindergartens at the time.¹⁰⁹

Gibson was assisted in her morning kindergarten teaching duties by AKA diploma students. In 1910 she had twelve students, who each assisted in teaching for a term at the Freemans Bay

free kindergarten and the private Remuera and Epsom kindergartens.¹¹⁰ Afternoons were spent on furthering theoretical and practical knowledge under Gibson's charge. Gibson's lectures included: 'Nature Study, Child Study, Hygiene, History of Education with special reference to Comenius, Pestalozzi, Rousseau, Froebel and Herbart, kindergarten principles and methods, and the relation of those methods to public school methods.'¹¹¹ From 1911, students were permitted to attend drawing and singing classes at the training college on Saturday mornings.¹¹²

While the Victoria Park cricket pavilion served a useful purpose, undoubted the children went through the doors of their new premises for the first time on Monday 10 October 1910 with great excitement that.¹¹³ Nine days later, the building was officially opened at a well-attended ceremony hosted by AKA president L.J. Bagnall, who had been elected Mayor of Auckland just a few months earlier.¹¹⁴ Speeches were made by the chief inspector of the Auckland Education Board, J K Mulgan, and AKA council members Bagnall, Myers and McDowell.¹¹⁵

At the conclusion of the ceremony Campbell handed the key to Bagnall and declared the building open, saying:

*'Long may it remain so, and may the children be destined to go forth as well-ordered and worthy citizens of the land – the ripened fruit of the free kindergarten.'*¹¹⁶

The kindergarten building featured a large main room, with smaller rooms for teaching small groups. There was a principal's room, staffroom and kitchen.¹¹⁷ Photographs taken of the kindergarten around the time reveal a delightfully decorated interior with walls painted with botanical motifs and a rhyme beginning 'In the morning sow thy seed'.¹¹⁸

By the close of 1910, much had been achieved. The AKA now had tangible results, and the organisation was keen to open more kindergartens.

FURTHER PROGRESS

The success of the Campbell Free Kindergarten did much to promote the AKA, and this early success was used to good advantage in gaining further financial support for the organisation. And financial support was certainly needed. Having been given their first kindergarten by Campbell, the AKA was keen to set up its second kindergarten in Newmarket, another significant area of industry, with many workers living nearby.¹¹⁹ Its establishment couldn't have been more different from that of the Campbell Free Kindergarten. As there was no wealthy benefactor for Newmarket, like most free kindergartens in New Zealand at the time, it set up in a rented space that was far from ideal for the purpose. The kindergarten opened in the cramped Foresters Hall, located in Kingdon Street (then known as King Street) between the railway and the tram lines, in June 1912. The government provided around half the cost of furnishing and equipping the kindergarten and, once inspected, the £2 capitation grant was approved.¹²⁰

In 1913 government inspector Gill reported that he was:

*'pleased with the management of the kindergartens generally, and the pains taken by the staffs of all of them to make their teaching effective. The control was good, the children were bright, interested, and natural, and were being taught lessons of obedience, mutual helpfulness, and consideration for others without which a social system is impossible.'*¹²¹

With the obvious success of the first two kindergartens, and the clear need for more free kindergartens for the poor, the AKA continued its work in the poorer areas of the city.

In 1913 another kindergarten was established with the help of the kind people of the St James Church Men's Bible Club, who offered the use of their church hall in upper Freemans Bay to the

AKA, free of charge. Before long, sixteen children were enrolled, and the work of the kindergarten began.¹²²

This rapid expansion of kindergarten services was made possible through the dedication of the Ladies Committees, who were responsible for raising funds and overseeing the running of the kindergartens. The Ladies Committees were made up of well-to-do members of society, and their fundraising efforts in the early years reflected their social status. They held garden fetes and other social functions, often hosted in the homes of committee members or their families. They were attended by the social set and were frequently reported on in the social pages of the local newspapers.¹²³

Mothers of the kindergarten children were also involved in fundraising efforts from early on, something that may have surprised those not familiar with the realities of kindergartens at the time. Indeed, mothers using kindergartens were often portrayed in the press as lacking the time or inclination to adequately care for their children, who were saved by the kindergarten from a life spent on the streets.

While the representation of the parents in local papers was often far from flattering, reports from kindergarten teachers show mothers in a far more positive light. In 1914 Miss Cruikshank, director (head teacher) of St James Kindergarten (now known as Grey Lynn), noted approvingly:

*'Mother's meetings have been held at intervals, the mothers showing much interest and attending in large numbers, some bringing plants for the garden to show their gratitude.'*¹²⁴

These club meetings were part of Froebel's model, where kindergarten teachers played a role in educating mothers. The aim of these clubs was spelled out in the 1913 AKA Annual Report:

*'A woman needs much to make her an ideal mother – knowledge of a wide and varied kind, foresight and firmness of will, and the infinite patience that springs from love and understanding; yet most women leave this all to chance; they trust to that great and wonderful thing, the mother's natural instinct, and sometimes it carries them far, sometimes it does not, and every year the nation pays its toll of baby lives, which could have been saved if the mothers had more knowledge and understanding of child nature, mental, moral and physical.'*¹²⁵

Mothers not only learnt from the kindergarten teachers but were also treated to talks from other experts in the field of child rearing, including Plunket nurses and doctors.¹²⁶ The mother's clubs also helped the Ladies Committees to raise funds for the kindergartens, though this was not their primary purpose.¹²⁷

Despite the hard work of committee women and the AKA council, kindergarten finances were lean, and a further expansion of services stalled in 1913. That year an appeal was made to open a free kindergarten in Ponsonby, but financial constraints meant it was not possible for the Association to accede to this request.¹²⁸ While the capitation and equipment grants from the government were a considerable help to the AKA, more money had to be found to provide teachers' salaries, kindergarten rents and mortgages.¹²⁹ While the prospect of further kindergartens being opened in the near future seemed negligible, the AKA once again found itself in the fortunate position of being gifted a kindergarten.

Myers Park Kindergarten, sited within the recreation ground that bore its name, was gifted to the AKA by Arthur Myers, brother and brother in law of AKA foundation council members Rika Coleman and Martha Myers. The AKA had wanted to open a kindergarten in this vicinity for a long time, and Arthur Myers' gift made this a reality. This kindergarten would be different, incorporating services and features absent from other kindergartens.

Myers was Auckland's newest park, having been transformed from 'an odiferous (sic) slum covered with old worn out wooden cottages, occupied in many instances by rather disreputable people', into a pleasant haven in the city centre.¹³⁰ Arthur Myers was a proponent of the town planning movement that emerged in early twentieth century New Zealand, that sought to improve not only physical surroundings, but also the health, prosperity and character of the people.¹³¹ In 1911 Arthur Myers said:

*'we must aspire to something more than a few fine streets and public buildings, a few beautiful parks, and a few well-laid-out residential quarters of the wealthier classes; we must look for a city in even the poorest quarters of which men and women can make their homes and bring up their children without detriment to their self-respect, their happiness, or their health of body and mind.'*¹³²

The town planning movement had a lot in common with the kindergarten movement, and both sought to reform society, with the poorer sectors having the most to gain.

Myers Park had initially been the brainchild of Mayor of Auckland CJ Parr. Arthur Myers, who served as Mayor between 1905 and 1909, promoted the development of a neighbouring area, that included the newly erected Auckland Town Hall, into a civic centre. He quickly got behind the park project, seeing it as a stepping stone toward the proposed development of the civic centre.¹³³ In 1913 he purchased an eight-acre triangle of land between Queen and Grey Streets (Grey Street is now known as Greys Avenue) from 25 separate owners. The formation of the park required the removal of fourteen run-down dwellings, and promised to become a showpiece of town planning.¹³⁴

The locale had already attracted the attention of social reformers. Sir John Logan Campbell provided funds for a building on the western side of the site to rehouse the crèche established by the Order of the Good Shepherd in 1906, to care for the children of working mothers.¹³⁵ Unlike neighbouring parks that were designed for sport and other leisure activities, Myers wanted this park to benefit inner city children.¹³⁶ Myers funded the construction of a children's playground in the valley of the park, staffed by a supervisor, making it the first supervised public playground in Auckland. This followed the lead of social reformers in America who established supervised public playgrounds for children in working class areas.¹³⁷

Myers initially suggested transforming a house already on the park site into a kindergarten, which he offered to equip.¹³⁸ However, the AKA found the building unsuitable for the purpose.¹³⁹ In December 1914, while development of the park was in progress, Myers announced his gift of a purpose-built free kindergarten building at the AKA diploma award ceremony.¹⁴⁰

Myers Park was to be by far the largest of the kindergarten buildings erected by, and for, the AKA. The design was aesthetically pleasing and well detailed. Just as Campbell had arranged for the planning and construction of the first AKA kindergarten, Myers took the lead in arranging for the design and erection of the Myers Kindergarten, engaging the architectural firm Chilwell and Trevithick to prepare plans for the building.¹⁴¹

At this time, links between the AKA and the Auckland Training College were being strengthened. Recently enacted training college regulations allowed for a special class to be established, but there was no space available at the Auckland Training College. College principal Herbert Milnes, a great supporter of work of the AKA, persuaded Myers to add a second storey to the kindergarten building to accommodate the special class. Here, children whose development lagged behind that of their peers by two to three years would be educated, with teaching focussed on manual, rather than intellectual, development. This was a time when it was considered that such children should be educated separately from other children. It would be the first class of its kind in the country.¹⁴²

The development of the Myers Kindergarten provided much publicity for the good work of the AKA. A large crowd attended a special ceremony for laying the foundation stone by Mayor of Auckland James Gunson on 3 December 1915.¹⁴³ The press reported on this and the general progress of the building.¹⁴⁴ Being in the centre of the city, it was also highly visible to the general public.

On 15 November 1916, the kindergarten was officially opened, although it had operated for a few weeks already.¹⁴⁵ The opening ceremony was a grand affair with Arthur Fuljambe, Governor of New Zealand and Earl of Liverpool, opening the building with a silver and greenstone key given to him by Arthur Myers. The Mayor of Auckland, James Gunson, officiated and the event was attended by a considerable number of dignitaries, and despite the wet weather members of the public attended in large numbers. When a deluge of rain forced proceedings inside, both floors were crammed with people.¹⁴⁶

Those attending heard several speakers, including Arthur Myers, who referred to the great importance of kindergartens:

*'The child of to-day was the citizen of to-morrow, and the great wastage of our manhood that was now going on made it necessary to give all the more to motherhood and childhood. On economic grounds alone it was sound policy to do everything that was possible for the future citizens of the Empire.'*¹⁴⁷

Myers Kindergarten was now the jewel in the AKA crown. Built at a cost of £5,673, the building featured a large circle room downstairs with adjoining sandpit room, and classrooms. Upstairs there was a large room with smaller rooms off it and balconies that opened up to provide the perceived health giving benefits of fresh air and sunshine, providing a perfect home for the school for the children with intellectual disabilities.¹⁴⁸ Auckland Training College staff used kindergarten methods to teach these children.¹⁴⁹ In 1921, a class for the deaf was established, as a branch of the Sumner School for the Deaf in Christchurch.¹⁵⁰

At the opening of the kindergarten Rev. William Beatty referred to the progressive attitude taken in the provision of a special education:

*'[He] expressed pleasure that the provision had been made for backward children. The country that did most for the unfit and deficient exhibited the noblest of national characteristics. Such institutions were capable of counteracting hereditary or other defects to an extent that a generation ago was not considered possible.'*¹⁵¹

The kindergartens were running well. Newmarket Kindergarten moved to a permanent home in 1913, when a cottage was purchased in Eden Street and altered to suit its new purpose.¹⁵² However, St James was hampered by being the only AKA kindergarten operating from rented premises, and attention turned to building a permanent home for this kindergarten. In 1915 the Ladies Committee of St James began raising funds for purpose-built premises.¹⁵³ A site near the St James Church was purchased in 1917, but building was halted due to the war.¹⁵⁴ The progress of the project was hampered by a number of factors, and the kindergarten was forced to move twice in the meantime. Eventually it was decided that Grey Lynn, a residential area that was home to many workers and their families, provided a more suitable location for the new kindergarten. In 1924 the children and staff moved into their new building in Home Street.¹⁵⁵ The timber structure was simple and relatively modest compared with the grand edifices of the Campbell and Myers funded builds, and it had taken much longer to realise.

The stalling of progress during the First World War and the years immediately following was inevitable, but the AKA was not as badly affected by the war as many other bodies. While many businesses and organisations coped with numerous young men leaving to enlist, the AKA, with its entirely female teaching staff and students, remained relatively untouched. But there were still losses. In mid-October 1917, the AKA received the sad news that Lieut Herbert Milnes, former vice-president and member of the AKA council and principal of the Auckland

Training College, had been killed in action at Passchendale.¹⁵⁶ Upon hearing the news of his passing Edward Brooke-Smith, secretary of the AKA wrote:

*'his hearty interest in the institution and wise counsel helped very materially to increase any success achieved by it for the benefit of the smallest members of the community. His was a life that could ill be spared, and I am sure that I am voicing the feelings of all the members of the Association and of the teachers and students when I say that his death is a real loss and grief to us all.'*¹⁵⁷

But there were other wartime distractions, including a debate over whether the name kindergarten should be dispensed with. The First World War raised anti-German sentiment, and many things of German origin were renamed including German sausage, German biscuits and German shepherds which became Belgian sausage, Belgian biscuits and Alsations respectively. But the word kindergarten was not so easily done away with. Alice Hopkinson, who had taken over from Miss Gibson as kindergarten trainer for the AKA, argued for the name to be retained:

*'[The kindergarten system] has been established for 70 years, and the name has surely become universal and cosmopolitan. Froebel by his life and works showed himself to be a man of high character, and possessed of lofty ideals. If there had been more men of his type at the head of affairs in Germany, there would have been no great war in Europe to-day.'*¹⁵⁸

The name kindergarten was here to stay.

There was a significant interruption in the work of the AKA soon after the close of the war, when all kindergartens closed early at the end of 1918 due to the influenza epidemic. In the days before immunisation against life threatening childhood illnesses, kindergartens were frequently closed to halt the spread of contagious diseases including polio (infantile paralysis), whooping cough, measles, chicken pox and influenza.¹⁵⁹ Myers Kindergarten was even used as a temporary hospital during the 1918 influenza epidemic.¹⁶⁰

The health of the children was a focus of the Association from the outset, and the organisation was fortunate in having AKA council member Dr McDowell to serve as honorary medical officer in the early years.¹⁶¹ Medical examinations of the kindergarten children were later carried out by other doctors, including Dr Mary Wilson of the Health Department in the 1920s.¹⁶²

By the early 1920s the AKA finances were on a sounder financial footing than in the previous decade, and there was scope for the work of the Association to extend. With St James relocating to its new home in 1924, attention turned to establishing new kindergartens. In May 1925, the AKA:

*'hoped that during the present year a band of ladies would be formed willing to undertake the opening and supervision of another free kindergarten in one of the more populous parts of Auckland.'*¹⁶³

Meanwhile, Newmarket Kindergarten found itself in the fortunate position of having spare cash, and decided to spur on the extension work by offering the AKA a £100 grant toward the initial expenses of a new kindergarten. The AKA welcomed this gift and set up a committee to visit localities where a need existed.¹⁶⁴

Four new kindergartens opened between 1925 and 1929, doubling the number of free kindergartens available to the children of Auckland. The first was located in the relatively distant suburb of Onehunga, where a dedicated committee was established. The kindergarten opened within just a few months, on 9 November 1925.¹⁶⁵ Ponsonby followed at the beginning of 1926, with Sunbeams in Eden Terrace opening in 1927, and Otahuhu in 1928.¹⁶⁶

A number of AKA council and kindergarten committee members who offered their skills and experience to the new kindergarten committees were pivotal. The Ponsonby Kindergarten

received considerable assistance from 'loaned' members from the other kindergarten committees who formed the core of the Ponsonby committee for the first year. In addition, Ponsonby received the considerable sum of £175 from the Campbell, Newmarket, St James and Myers kindergarten Ladies Committees.¹⁶⁷

It appears that the Otahuhu Kindergarten was established with much less direct help from the other kindergarten Ladies Committees, probably because of the relatively distant location. A public meeting was held at Otahuhu in April 1928, with AKA president George Brownlee presiding. Also present were AKA vice president Mrs E Milsom and acting principal Margaret Slingsby Newman. Brownlee addressed the meeting, explaining the aims of the kindergarten movement and the methods of organisation. Attendees decided to proceed with forming a committee to establish a local kindergarten.¹⁶⁸ The kindergartens that followed in the coming decades were created in a similar fashion, with local people forming establishment committees that were advised and assisted by the AKA.

All the kindergartens opened in the 1920s followed the pattern of Newmarket and St James, occupying rented halls before gaining permanent homes.¹⁶⁹ This was the only way that communities could meet the immediate needs of local families. Once a kindergarten was up and running and showing its worth, it was easier to get financial support from the community for a permanent home. While the St James and Newmarket kindergartens occupied sites purchased for the purpose, subsequent purpose-built kindergartens occupied sites not owned by the AKA, which decreased initial costs. The support of local councils, through which most kindergarten sites were leased at a peppercorn rental, meant that they appeared to have secure tenure. All kindergartens would make their beginnings this way over the next few decades.

A focus on attracting more kindergarten teacher trainees came with the expansion of kindergarten services in the 1920s. The AKA appealed for more young women to enter the field in 1925:

*'The Auckland Kindergarten Association has had a very busy year, and is now planning an extension to the movement that necessitates a call for additional students for training ... more teachers will be required, and also ... there will be more positions for students when they have finished their course of training.'*¹⁷⁰

The AKA noted that students could expect to find positions in free kindergartens, but also in:

*'private kindergartens, which in these days of domestic difficulty are highly appreciated by the mothers of small children.'*¹⁷¹

For the wealthy, domestic servants were increasingly hard to come by. Employment opportunities had expanded for women, many of whom wished to avoid the long working hours and low pay associated with domestic service.¹⁷² This had implications for the day to day lives of well-heeled mothers, who no doubt welcomed the opportunity to send their children to kindergarten for both personal and educative reasons.¹⁷³

But there was still a significant need for the extension of free kindergartens which the *New Zealand Herald* described as:

*'a veritable boon to overworked mothers in the poorer districts, relieving their anxiety as to the welfare of their little ones while they themselves are engaged in work away from home.'*¹⁷⁴

It is interesting to note the emphasis on the needs of mothers, rather than rescuing and education of children, which dominated earlier pleas for kindergarten support. While the image of the blameless child of the neglectful, gin-swilling parent had done much to elicit support for the Auckland free kindergarten movement in its early years, the scope now moved beyond the most deprived areas of the city, and was entering the more 'respectable' working class suburbs.

In 1929 the AKA celebrated its coming of age. It reflected on what had been achieved over the previous 21 years, but also looked to the future. The president, J Stanton, noted that:

*'while we may look with some pride upon the achievements of our twenty-one years of existence the Council feels that the work is only in its infancy and that both in its nature and extent there will be great development in Kindergarten work in the near future.'*¹⁷⁵

TOUGH TIMES

While the 1920s were years of progress for the AKA, the 1930s brought significant challenges. The economic depression that gripped the western world through much of that decade had a major impact on the AKA's plan for expansion of free kindergartens.

By 1930, government subsidies amounted to 40% of the cost of running the kindergartens, and the AKA was more reliant on this source of funding than it had been in earlier years.¹⁷⁶ The Association managed to accumulate £10,000 with the intention of opening new kindergartens, including one at Pt Chevalier, where the use of a suitable hall had been secured. However, Depression conditions resulted in cuts to government budgets. The Pt Chevalier establishment committee was advised that no new applications for government financial aid would be entertained. Sadly for the children of Pt Chevalier, this meant that the project was shelved. While this was bad news, worse was soon to come.¹⁷⁷

Without warning in December 1931, the government announced the cessation of financial support for free kindergartens throughout the country. This was terrible news for the AKA and the hundreds of children attending their eight kindergartens.¹⁷⁸

A well-attended public meeting was held at the Auckland Chamber of Commerce in February 1932, at which the AKA vice president H G Cousins said:

*'the total withdrawal of capitation grants, implying the severe crippling, if not the total disablement of the associations work, is a measure altogether too sudden and too severe in consideration of the value of the national function it performs.'*¹⁷⁹

The meeting resolved to ask the Minister to reconsider the matter.¹⁸⁰ Similar meetings were held by the other kindergarten associations and a pleading campaign was subsequently organised, supported by many kindred organisations. Petitions with a total of 34,000 signatories were presented to the government.¹⁸¹

In early March, Cousins travelled to Wellington to join a large deputation to see Prime Minister G W Forbes, Minister of Finance W Downie Stewart and Minister of Education R Masters. Present was the Leader of the Opposition H E Holland, along with a number of MPs, representatives from kindergarten associations in six centres, as well as members of sympathetic organisations. The kindergarten associations stated that they were prepared to survive on half the amount of government funding that they had received previously. Cousins argued that:

*'Just as the Government subsidised fertilisers in order to maintain production, so should it subsidise a service which was creating an asset in the children.'*¹⁸²

The Minister of Education haughtily countered Cousins' fertiliser argument stating that:

*'the farmers produced 98 per cent of the exportable wealth of the country, and if they were not assisted there would be no education system.'*¹⁸³

In addition, the AKA was criticised for not first using the considerable reserve funds that the organisation had squirreled away to pay for the establishment of new kindergartens. The thousands of signatories to the petitions in support of the kindergarten movement also came under fire. It was suggested that if each signatory donated a small sum, the kindergartens would not be short of money.¹⁸⁴

At the AKA annual general meeting, the president spoke of the commitment of the AKA Ladies Committees in the face of the impending financial crisis:

*'the ladies of the various kindergartens have promised to carry on until the end of the year, which, I think, is heroic.'*¹⁸⁵

With no change in the government's position, the Ladies Committees continued their daunting task.

Further funding cuts to the education budget at the end of 1932 threatened to increase the workload of the AKA. School rolls reduced when the government raised the school entry age from five to six, resulting in parents of five year olds requesting that their children be allowed to remain at kindergarten for an additional year.¹⁸⁶ The kindergartens saw that the government was adding insult to injury, and was not keen to take on any extra burden.¹⁸⁷

In light of the budget cuts, the government approved a license to hold a lottery (known as an Art Union) for the benefit of 'a number of institutions whose finances have become straightened (sic) by the depression'.¹⁸⁸ The New Zealand Free Kindergarten Association, of which the AKA was a member, would receive half the proceeds.¹⁸⁹ A further Art Union lottery followed in 1934 and this income source considerably eased the way forward for the AKA, providing the Association with £3,353 over a three year period.¹⁹⁰ This amounted to around two thirds of the sum they would have received from the government if the subsidies had continued.¹⁹¹

Some kindergartens were fortunate in receiving bequests at this time, with the Campbell and Ponsonby Kindergartens being gifted funds from the estates of Catherine Smith and T E Smith.¹⁹² Meanwhile various Ladies Committees took to fundraising with renewed vigour.¹⁹³

With public support so desperately needed, the AKA sought to raise its profile through a charming film that recorded the daily activities of the kindergarten children. Each of the eight kindergartens featured showed the children engaged in a variety of activities ranging from patriotic saluting of the flag, to eurhythmics, flower picking, playing on a climbing frame, and scrubbing hands clean with great enthusiasm, before being walked home with linked hands by the kindergarten teacher.¹⁹⁴

Fortunately, the survival of the kindergartens was assured when subsidies were reintroduced following the election of the first Labour government in 1935. The AKA had weathered the storm, but there were still concerns over the extent of the government funding. The state provided £2/8 per child so long as the Association raised £1 for every 15 shillings provided in subsidies. In reality, this fundraising task was beyond the AKA, and in 1935 the full subsidy could not be claimed.¹⁹⁵ The AKA council was of the opinion that a much larger grant was needed to continue the work in a satisfactory manner.¹⁹⁶ Over the coming years the existing relationship between preschool education providers and the government would be re-examined, as would the funding structures and content of the kindergarten day.

In 1937 the kindergarten movement celebrated the centenary of the founding of the first kindergarten. A celebration was held at Myers Kindergarten, where the children dressed up in the national costume of various countries where kindergartens had been established including:

*'a shy little America, Egypt in a violet veil, a solemn Russia all in white, a pretty, grass-skirted Hawaii, Africa in a red-checked frock and with a charcoal face, and a diminutive China in a purple silk robe.'*¹⁹⁷

While Froebel's legacy was honoured, it was also a time when new ideas came into the field of early childhood education. Froebel was the central influence on education provided at AKA kindergartens, but the influence of other leading early childhood educators was also felt. As early as 1915, the Campbell Free Kindergarten was incorporating some of the equipment and ideas developed by leading Italian educator Maria Montessori.¹⁹⁸ This was likely due to the influence of Margaret Slingsby Newman of the Auckland Training College, who visited Maria

Montessori in Rome in 1911 as part of an extensive tour of Europe and America.¹⁹⁹ Other ideas came from visiting early childhood educators, or local educators who took trips overseas. The AKA attended periodic national kindergarten conferences, where new ideas were discussed. The daily activities of kindergarten children changed over time as the early childhood field developed further.

A TIME OF GROWTH

The election of the first Labour government in 1935 brought many expectations with it. The party promised to deliver social, economic and political reforms that would lead to a better future.²⁰⁰ As it developed the welfare state, the government involved itself in many aspects of society that previous governments had little concern with, and the early childhood education sector was no exception.

Auckland experienced huge suburban growth from the late 1930s, and with it came the need for kindergartens in new areas. In 1937 the Labour government began a massive state housing programme to arrest the shortage that gripped the nation. From its inception and until 1949, when Labour was voted out of office, some 30,000 state houses were built in New Zealand, with Auckland (as the country's largest city) having a proportionately high number.²⁰¹ In addition, houses were built privately using finance provided by the government through the State Advances Corporation. This work was continued by successive governments, and in the space of a few short decades the landscape of Auckland was utterly changed.

While the Second World War brought labour and materials shortages that hampered the building industry as a whole, the AKA expanded its services by utilising existing halls and other buildings. This allowed the AKA to meet the needs of more children, at a time when many of their mothers struggled to cope with the demands of singlehandedly running a household, and fulfilling the role of both parents while their husbands were away serving their country.

The AKA kindergarten network grew with dizzying speed, opening nine kindergartens during the Second World War.²⁰² The organisation grew to become the dominant free kindergarten association in New Zealand. In 1944 there were 49 free kindergartens in New Zealand, attended by 3.4% of all three and four year olds.²⁰³ The AKA ran 19 of these and catered for around a third of all children attending kindergarten.²⁰⁴

In many ways, the AKA was less affected by the war than other organisations. While businesses and organisations suffered when men in their employ headed off to the war, the AKA with its female staff, encountered far less disruption. Two AKA council members, Kenneth B Myers and WH Fortune, served in the war. Major Myers received an MBE for his services, while Lieutenant-Colonel Fortune served in the Pacific.²⁰⁵ Two staff also left to serve their country, Jean Chandler, director of the Onehunga Kindergarten served in Egypt with the Red Cross Voluntary Aid Detachment and Valerie Guppy, co-director of Pt Chevalier Kindergarten, joined the Women's Royal New Zealand Naval Service.²⁰⁶

Kindergartens were affected in other ways. With many men gone, there were increasing opportunities for women to undertake paid employment, particularly in factories. Ponsonby Kindergarten extended its hours to cater for working mothers in response to this.²⁰⁷

However, the employment of mothers with small children during the war proved to be a contentious issue for the AKA. In 1943, the Education Department requested that the Association convert some of its kindergartens into day nurseries to cater for the children of women employed in essential industries. The department offered to provide the cost of additional staff and building alterations. The same appeal was made to the Wellington Free Kindergarten Association, which acceded to the request. However, the AKA had serious concerns about this. AKA president JAC Allum said:

*'It is most undesirable that mothers of young children should be diverted from the primary task of looking after their families. They should be employed in industry only as a last resort.'*²⁰⁸

Others argued that providing day nurseries would encourage mothers to neglect their domestic duties in favour of factory work, which offered 'phenomenal wages to women.'²⁰⁹ The AKA was also concerned about the loss of kindergarten services resulting from the conversion to day nurseries. They elected to reject the proposal, causing a considerable backlash from women's organisations and mothers who wanted the opportunity to work.²¹⁰

While it may seem surprising that the AKA took this stance considering that the Ponsonby Kindergarten had adapted its hours to suit the needs of mothers who wished to work in factories, the changes made there appear to have been made by the Ponsonby Kindergarten teachers, rather than the AKA council.²¹¹

But the AKA was prepared to help mothers in need in other ways. Many women in sole charge of their families had the added burden of taking responsibility for matters that were normally handled by their husbands. A key problem for these women was the lack of casual childcare. Constance Colegrove, Principal of the AKA kindergarten training centre noted the many requests made to her for occasional childminding.²¹² While the AKA was not prepared to offer a casual childcare service, they did assist the playcentres that were established in Auckland to meet this need.

In 1944, a playcentre opened in Remuera, with others soon following. Playcentres offered a flexible and cooperative form of childcare for mothers, based on the free play movement championed by influential British educator Susan Issacs.²¹³ Initially the emphasis was more on childcare than education for preschoolers, with a roster of mothers providing most of the labour. The AKA supported the fledgling organisation by providing a trained kindergarten teacher to supervise the playcentres. However, this was ultimately unsustainable, and the playcentre movement later developed a programme training parents to provide the necessary supervision.²¹⁴

The early Auckland playcentres were fortunate to receive assistance from the AKA, as one of the notable effects of the war was the dwindling supply of trained kindergarten teachers, no doubt partly caused by the other employment opportunities that opened up for women at the time. In 1940 there were just nine students, five juniors and four seniors, in training.²¹⁵ The Association was lucky to have a dedicated old friend visiting to encourage young women to undertake kindergarten training. Martha Myers had been living abroad since 1912, but had made several return visits to New Zealand in the following years.²¹⁶ She remained a strong supporter of the kindergarten movement and kept in touch with the progress of the AKA. In December 1940, Martha Myers spoke to the pupils of St Cuthbert's College and Diocesan School about kindergarten teaching as a career, in an effort to attract new trainees.²¹⁷

Fortunately the government stepped in at this point to ease the way for prospective kindergarten teacher trainees, providing the first allowances to students in 1941.²¹⁸ This no doubt affected the numbers of young women who could afford to enter training, because seven seniors and six juniors undertook training in 1942.²¹⁹ Student numbers increased in 1943 when the number of student allowances for Auckland increased to twenty, rising to thirty in 1946, before being extended further in 1947, and 1950 when it reached 55.²²⁰ But there was no guarantee that all students would complete the course. 1944 began with 23 students, three attending without the aid of a student allowance. However, by the end of the year, one student had died after a brief illness and four had left for health or personal reasons.²²¹

By 1945 the dearth of trained staff was hindering the expansion of the AKA network of kindergartens. Colegrove noted:

*'Requests for more Kindergartens are constantly being received, which can only be met when more trained Staff is available.'*²²²

But even when there were sufficient teachers to open new kindergartens, the resignation of a teacher could leave a kindergarten in a desperate situation. And it was inevitable that some teachers did not stay in the profession for long. This was noted by Minister of Education, Mr Algie who said to the AKA students:

*'I would like to find a way to keep you in the services of the kindergarten movement a bit longer than you are in the habit of staying The arrow of Cupid has a special poison for you people.'*²²³

The profession was virtually the sole preserve of unmarried women at this time. Although there was an expectation that teachers would resign upon their marriage, we know there were several married women employed by the AKA as teachers in the 1940s.²²⁴ No doubt these women completed their training when they were single, as married women were not eligible to undertake kindergarten teacher training until 1961.²²⁵

While the student allowances granted to kindergarten trainees opened up the profession to a wider range of young women, kindergarten teaching retained its identity as a vocation that was more concerned with service to others than personal pecuniary gain. In 1943 Colegrove wrote:

*'There are many avenues of service open to young people to-day, but there is not one more important than the care of the nation's children. For this only the best one has to give is good enough, but the giving of one's best is bound to reflect its radiance upon one's own character, and upon those around one.'*²²⁶

Auckland was one of only four centres of kindergarten training in New Zealand, and with both private and free kindergartens expanding in numbers, there were many employment opportunities for trained kindergarten teachers.²²⁷ AKA graduates were evidently well thought of in other parts of the country. The secretary of the Hastings Free Kindergarten Association wrote to Colegrove in the hope of employing another AKA trained teacher:

*'We like the Auckland trained girls, they bring such a happy atmosphere to their work.'*²²⁸

With increasing numbers of students, the AKA needed to do something about enlarging the space available for teacher training. Colegrove noted that the 'Student Training Department has been the Cinderella.'²²⁹ Having operated from part of the ground floor of the Myers Kindergarten building since 1916, the training centre was given space upstairs in 1944. Alterations included the glazing of a balcony and the formation of a principal's office, but the training school outgrew its additional accommodation two years later when student numbers again expanded.²³⁰ So the rest of the upstairs space (which had been occupied by the Hard of Hearing League) was converted for the purpose.²³¹

Despite the challenges the war brought with it, the AKA achieved a great deal. By the close of the Second World War, AKA kindergartens were located in areas that were well connected with the city. Suburbs serviced by tram routes, railway lines and ferry routes saw significant suburban expansion as workers moved to locales that let them commute to city workplaces. There were kindergartens in Onehunga, Otahuhu and Papatoetoe along the southern railway line, and Avondale and Mt Albert on the western line. Trams linked the city with Ponsonby, Pt Chevalier, Grey Lynn and Mt Albert, while ferries plied the Waitemata connecting with the seaside locales of Northcote, Birkenhead and Devonport, all of which had kindergartens.

Auckland's continued growth over the coming decades saw kindergartens spread across the city. The fact it was easier to establish, staff and populate kindergartens in densely settled urban areas than in more sparsely inhabited rural areas, meant Auckland consistently provided the highest number in the country.

The government continued to support the establishment of kindergartens. Although they engaged with the playcentre movement, the kindergarten model of preschool education was clearly the government's preference.²³²

However, the Labour government was not prepared to stick with the status quo without first investigating the alternatives. They commissioned a report on preschool education in 1945.²³³ Its author, CL Bailey, was a Lecturer in Education at Victoria University, who had visited AKA kindergartens two years earlier.²³⁴ The resulting Report of the Consultative Committee into Preschool Education was released in 1947. One of the report's key recommendations was the establishment of a state preschool education service that would absorb all the existing kindergartens and playcentres run by voluntary organisations. This would see the demise of the AKA.²³⁵ While government control of the sector had been contemplated by members of the AKA and others in the early days of the Association, once it developed into a well-functioning and successful organisation, it was unwilling to relinquish its hard-won empire of kindergartens.²³⁶

While the report recommended changes to the way that kindergartens were administered, it was highly supportive of the kindergarten as an institution.²³⁷ In the end, just a few of the report's recommendations were enacted. One of the changes was the replacement of capitation grants with more generous funding to pay teacher's salaries, and with this came a government requirement that kindergartens keep minimum compulsory hours. This saw kindergartens adding two afternoon sessions a week to the existing five morning sessions. In many kindergartens, the afternoon sessions were attended by a separate group of children, but in some suburban kindergartens the same children attended morning and afternoon, allowing their mothers enough time to travel to the city if needed.²³⁸

The report also recommended adopting standards of kindergarten building design and layout, based on kindergartens both here and overseas.²³⁹ Standard plans were drawn up by the Department of Education, and although kindergarten associations could draw up their own, they needed government approval to qualify for state assistance. The standards of the day required two playrooms for kindergartens catering for 40 children, and three for those with 60 children.²⁴⁰

Around the same time, the Department of Education opened an Auckland branch, allowing closer contact between the department and the AKA.²⁴¹ The election of a National government in 1949 scuttled the implementation of further recommendations from the consultative committee's report, and the new government seemed content to leave the kindergarten associations to carry on largely as they had before, though within closer government oversight.²⁴²

While the 1949 election saw changes in Parliament, there were also personnel changes within the AKA. Constance Colegrove retired from her position as principal of the AKA training centre at the end of 1949, after 25 years' service. She was a popular and devoted teacher who inspired many hundreds of students. She saw the AKA grow from four kindergartens and a staff of nine to reach 24 kindergartens with 61 staff catering for 1,500 children.²⁴³

Colegrove not only saw the growth of AKA's kindergarten network, she was an integral part of the evolution of the kindergarten movement in New Zealand. During her time as principal of the AKA training centre she travelled abroad on a number of occasions to study preschool education. This included a lengthy stay in Washington, USA in 1935 when she studied at Columbia University under leading free play proponent Patti Smith Hill.²⁴⁴ Over time, free play would increasingly replace structured, teacher-led activities as the mainstay of the kindergarten day.²⁴⁵ This had effects on kindergarten architecture. Early purpose-built AKA kindergartens featured a large circle room where all the children could gather, and separate smaller rooms for structured activities. This form gradually gave way to a more open plan layout, with children free to move from one activity to another as they wished.²⁴⁶

Though many new kindergartens opened, there were some setbacks along the way. A number of kindergartens closed when the rented halls they occupied were required for other purposes. Sites for permanent kindergartens, and the money to build them, could take several years to secure. Sometimes alternative temporary premises were found, allowing the kindergarten to remain open. This happened in the case of the Onehunga Kindergarten which temporarily moved into a nearby hall in 1942, when their original building was requisitioned for war purposes.²⁴⁷ Other kindergartens did not fare so well. Otahuhu Kindergarten closed in 1947 when it had to relinquish its rented premises, and the children of Otahuhu had to wait until 1956 to attend a local kindergarten again.²⁴⁸

The growth of the AKA kindergarten network in the late 1940s and early 50s was aided by a broader range of fundraising and activities that not only filled the coffers, but also raised the public profile of the AKA. There were street appeals and community chest appeals, but by far the most high-profile of the fundraising ventures were the floral fetes held at the Auckland Town Hall on five occasions between 1945 and 1964. These events featured a variety of attractions including a model kindergarten, mystery envelopes, refreshment stalls and musical entertainment, but the central feature was the massive floral carpet that adorned the floor of the Town Hall. The first floral fete was held in April 1945. The *Auckland Star* described the carpet of over two million living flowers that measured 42 feet by 32 feet (13 meters by 10 meters):²⁴⁹

'The design represents a garden with trees lifting to the sky. Next to the edging of leaves is a deep border of scarlet dahlias, into which are woven at intervals frogs fashioned out of nasturtium leaves sparkling with drops of water, and with protruding white dahlia eyes. There are also geese made out of pampas grass, giving the illusion of feathers, pixies, rabbits and mushrooms.

*A profusion of gold, yellow and bronze dahlias and marigolds is broken at intervals by slim tree trunks, fashioned out of bark, whose foliage of green hydrangeas lifts into a central square of blue hydrangeas, representing the sky. A crescent moon and southern cross, made of gold flowers, completes the beautiful effect.*²⁵⁰

This was Auckland's first floral carpet display, inspired it seems by events held in Sydney. The carpets were the result of much hard work by volunteers, who arranged flowers that had been gifted from city parks and private gardens. Each flower was pressed into a base of damp sand, an arduous task which took many hours.²⁵¹

The public response to these events was incredible, with more than 30,000 people visiting the 1947 floral fete.²⁵² Financially, they were successful, each raising £2,000 - £3,000. In addition, the street day appeals (held until 1958) and the community chest appeals (that began in the 1950s) raised significant sums for the Association, although required considerably less effort on the part of the AKA than the floral fetes.²⁵³ However, the income derived from these events was dwarfed by the money that came from individual kindergarten fundraising events, AKA subscriptions and general donations. The greatest benefit from the high-profile events was the publicity that the AKA gained.

In 1958 the AKA celebrated its Golden Jubilee with a series of events including a debutante ball at the Town Hall in April, and a special entertainment for 600 children in June. A fashion parade at the Auckland Art Gallery featured kindergarten committee members as models and was connected with the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union conference hosted that year by the AKA.²⁵⁴

SUBURBAN EXPANSION AND THE SPREAD OF THE AKA

Many people put their plans on hold due to the Second World War and its housing shortages. Once building began again in earnest, they could get married and start families. The post war baby boom saw the population of Auckland grow dramatically.

This was also a time when the government looked to Britain, Europe and the Pacific Islands for immigrants to address the labour shortage that threatened to slow economic growth.²⁵⁵ Most immigrants headed for the cities, with Auckland taking many new arrivals, particularly from the Pacific Islands. There was also considerable internal migration as rural New Zealanders moved to the cities, with rural Māori drawn to urban areas in significant numbers.²⁵⁶

Many young families with small children settled in the new, fast-growing suburbs, built on former farm land. The population rapidly swamped community services set up to serve, what had been, the previous scattered population. There might be a small church and school, but no kindergartens. In addition, new immigrants were unevenly spread, leading to the formation of suburban populations with differing needs. And while new suburbs needed kindergartens, so too did many longer established residential neighbourhoods. It was not easy to meet the needs of all the communities that wanted kindergartens.

The opening of the Auckland Harbour Bridge in 1959 led to a boom in housing construction on Auckland's North Shore. It attracted a disproportionate number of British immigrants who wanted the opportunity of buying homes in pleasant seaside locations, something out of reach for most in their homeland. These new residents joined a predominantly Pakeha population base that grew dramatically.²⁵⁷

The first AKA kindergartens established on the North Shore were in coastal areas, dating from the time when the city was accessed by the ferries that plied the stretch of water between the northern and southern shores of the Waitemata Harbour. After the Auckland Harbour Bridge was opened, settlement spread into the North Shore hinterland and consolidated along the coastline, and the demand for kindergartens increased. The number of AKA kindergartens on the North Shore doubled from the end of the Second World War until the 1970s, with many more following in the 1970s and 80s as the population grew exponentially.²⁵⁸

Another area of major growth in the post war era was South Auckland, where state and private sector houses were built in large numbers. The mass state housing developments at Otara and Mangere in the 1950s, 60s and 70s created a dense population. As more Māori and Pasifika migrants arrived, they began to outnumber the Pakeha population in parts of South Auckland. Changes in government policy saw state housing become the preserve of poorer sectors of society. Places including Otara and Mangere became economically deprived neighbourhoods, where many Māori and Pasifika families settled.²⁵⁹ Other parts of South Auckland developed into areas that were more mixed economically and socially, and where residential growth was less dramatic.

Auckland's eastern suburbs became more densely settled in the 1960s, followed by significant population growth in West Auckland in the 1970s. Each area of Auckland developed its own particular identity, and the community-based AKA kindergartens that set up were able to reflect the growing diversity across the city.

Along with the expansion of kindergartens in the post war era came a rise in the numbers of teacher trainees. At the same time, the government increased the demand for qualified teachers by stipulating that all kindergarten directors (head teachers) needed to be qualified before their kindergarten could gain state funding.²⁶⁰ While the AKA was keen to train more teachers, the number that could be accepted was limited by a state imposed quota system. The situation was exacerbated by periods when the government refused to approve subsidies for new kindergartens until all teacher vacancies throughout the country were filled.²⁶¹ This

was immensely frustrating for the communities that had to delay the opening of new kindergartens, and for Owairaka Kindergarten which closed in 1956 due to a lack of staff.²⁶²

The teacher training accommodation at Myers Kindergarten was inadequate by the mid-1950s, so the AKA looked for alternative premises and lobbied the government for financial support.²⁶³ In 1958 the government purchased the palatial former home of Charles Nathan in Arney Road, Remuera to serve as the AKA-run kindergarten teacher training college. The college opened in the third term of 1958.²⁶⁴ Anne Vette had recently completed her kindergarten teacher training and helped Sybil Myers, wife of AKA President Geoffrey E Myers and daughter-in-law of Martha Myers, to move some things into the new training college. She recalled it being:

'one of the loveliest homes and gardens in NZ. The rooms were gracious and lofty'.²⁶⁵

As well as concentrating on their studies, the students at the new training centre enjoyed a range of activities, giving them a richer social life than before. Students had played sport and staged plays and other entertainments for many years, but new events in 1958 included a welcome barbeque, followed by dancing on the tennis court, and a weekend inter-college sporting tournament.²⁶⁶

In 1958 the government granted funds for the employment of a supervising director for the AKA. This allowed the training staff to concentrate on teaching, freeing them from the responsibility of overseeing and supporting the work of kindergartens.²⁶⁷ At this time the college staff consisted of the principal, Fay Cawkwell, who was aided by assistant principal Miss J Burt, and supervisor of students Miss L Rothbury.²⁶⁸

There were recruitment drives to help attract students suited to training and working in the kindergarten sector during the 1960s.²⁶⁹ The AKA continued to receive ample applicants for training despite the profession's relatively poor pay. In 1961 it was noted that:

The kindergarten teacher's salary is a miserable pittance A girl in an ordinary office job can earn £545 a year at the end of two years. After two years' training a kindergarten teacher, if under 21 receives only £390.²⁷⁰

Over the coming years kindergarten teachers sought to improve the status of their profession as well as the remuneration and training they received.

MEETING THE NEEDS OF CHANGING SUBURBS

The opening of many new kindergartens through the 1950s and 60s was a cause for celebration for the AKA, but there was evidence of decline at the long-established kindergartens in and near the city.

Newmarket Kindergarten closed its doors in 1953, after serving the community for 41 years. The expansion of industry in the area led to a decline in rolls to the extent that it was decided to close the kindergarten.²⁷¹ Sunbeams Kindergarten in Eden Terrace suffered the same fate in 1957.²⁷² Other central suburbs retained their residential character, but the population was changing and this affected the kindergartens.

While families moved to shiny new parts of the city, the older suburbs close to the city were changing. The central suburbs to the west of the city offered centrally located cheap rental housing. Māori and Pasifika people flocked to Freeman's Bay, Ponsonby and Grey Lynn and this had a significant effect on the kindergartens in these areas. While attendance in other parts of the city remained steady, in the inner west suburbs numbers dwindled. While there were plenty of children of kindergarten age, it was not always easy to get them there.

However, some teachers went to extraordinary lengths to enrol children. Una Tunnicliffe (nee Snelling), who taught at St James Kindergarten (Grey Lynn) in 1963, recalled picking up children from the local fruit shop and taking them to kindergarten on her way to work.²⁷³

Part of the problem was that the growing Pasifika population had no experience of kindergartens in their home countries, and couldn't see why they should attend.²⁷⁴ These central city kindergartens faced falling rolls and also struggled to raise sufficient funding to maintain their buildings.

Teaching children who lacked English language skills was also a challenge. In 1967 an extra teacher was added to the staff of St James Kindergarten (Grey Lynn) and Ponsonby kindergartens, while at Logan Campbell Kindergarten (Freemans Bay) the roll was reduced to 30 to help cope with the numbers of non-English speaking children.²⁷⁵

There was now a seemingly insatiable demand for kindergartens. The baby boomers were having children, causing a demographic spike, and waiting lists became a significant concern. At this time, there were more three and four year olds on waiting lists than those attending AKA kindergartens, with most children not gaining entry until they were four.²⁷⁶ In 1970 two kindergartens with substantial waiting lists, Henderson and Otahuhu, were involved in a pilot scheme. Additional children were admitted to kindergarten in the afternoon and an extra staff member employed.²⁷⁷ Fifteen establishment committees were busily raising funds to build new kindergartens.²⁷⁸

Meanwhile children with other specific needs also joined kindergartens. In 1964, three small groups of hearing impaired children began attending Myers, New Lynn and Henderson kindergartens in the company of a trained teacher for the deaf.²⁷⁹ Other small groups of children with special needs would join AKA kindergartens the following decade, including children with physical disabilities.²⁸⁰

While the AKA expanded its services to meet the needs of greater numbers of children, there were also changes occurring within the kindergarten teaching profession. The net had widened considerably since the days when kindergarten teaching was the sole preserve of respectable, single, middle class women. The teacher shortages of the 1960s saw married women accepted as trainees, and kindergarten teachers were more likely to stay in the profession for longer. This had implications for the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Teachers Association (NZFKTA later known as the KTA), established in the 1950s to represent kindergarten teachers.²⁸¹

Compared with other female-dominated industries, including clothing workers and cleaners, kindergarten teachers were slow to unionise. This was probably partly because of the sectors of society that kindergarten teachers had traditionally come from, and the dispersed nature of the kindergarten workforce. It was easier to unionise workforces that congregated in large numbers in a single workplace. The philanthropic nature of the early kindergarten movement, and its identity as a suitable employment option for middle class women prior to marriage, also hindered the development of a unionised labour force. The early years of the NZFKTA saw it focus meekly on issues surrounding teacher training, implicitly accepting the low status and pay rates as part of the kindergarten teacher's lot.²⁸²

Emboldened by the feminist movement and bolstered by a membership that was numerically large, the scope of Kindergarten Teachers Association (KTA) activities broadened considerably in the 1970s, focussing more on wages and employment conditions.²⁸³ The image of the genteel, uncomplaining kindergarten teacher became a thing of the past and younger, more radical teachers took control.²⁸⁴ This heralded the beginning of a changing relationship between the AKA, its teachers, and their union.

Meanwhile the newly-built kindergartens were evolving to become more open plan and flexible in their design, reflecting changes in teaching practice that now encompassed a more free-flowing, child-led programme.

While some used standard plans drawn up by the Auckland Education Board, many AKA kindergartens were designed by private architects, often because the Education Board architects were too busy to undertake the site planning and supervision. Some notable

architectural firms undertook design work for the AKA at this time. During the 1950s, Gummer and Ford designed the kindergarten at New Lynn, Rigby Mullan were responsible for Blockhouse Bay Kindergarten, while Massey Beatson Rix-Trott and Carter designed Mission Bay Kindergarten. During the 1950s and 60s a number of kindergartens, including Belmont-Bayswater, Glen Eden, Milford, Oranga, Glen Innes (then known as Sunbeams) and Sylvia Park (then known as Mt Wellington) were designed by Group Architects and former members of this firm, James Hackshaw, Ivan Juriss and Bill Wilson, who were working on their own or in architectural partnerships in the 1960s. Known for designs that were simple, unpretentious and economic, these firms and architects were a good fit for the kindergarten sector.²⁸⁵

Through the 1960s and early 1970s, other architects, including Gerald J Elliot and Associates and Tibor Donner, undertook some design work for the AKA, but the lion's share of the AKA kindergartens dating from the 1970s were by the firms Sargent Smith and Partners, and Graham and Keys Architects. Designs that were particularly successful in terms of cost and practicality were utilised repeatedly, with Sargent Smith and Partners basing the Mangere North West (Mangere Bridge) and Idlewild (Mangere West) buildings on the design of Yendarra Kindergarten. Similarly, Graham and Keys reused the design of Te Atatu South Kindergarten at Bucklands Beach, Cascades, Lincoln North (Rathgar), Massey and Mt Albert.²⁸⁶ While there was some standardisation in the design of these kindergartens, unique designs that reflected the kindergarten community were also employed in other locations. Graham and Keys incorporated the form of an upturned canoe, referencing the culture of the predominantly Polynesian kindergarten community, in the design of Birdwood Kindergarten.²⁸⁷

WHO GETS TO KINDERGARTEN

In 1970 the government embarked on a Committee of Inquiry into preschool education, the first such report since the Bailey Inquiry of 1947.²⁸⁸ At this time, a third of all children attended some form of preschool, with 311 kindergartens nationwide catering for 24,389 children. Those that didn't attend were seen as disadvantaged.²⁸⁹ The government was concerned that not every child had the opportunity to attend preschool education, and that their previous hands-off approach led to preschools being located predominantly in middle class areas.²⁹⁰ The question of "who gets to preschool" was raised.²⁹¹

While the AKA welcomed the inquiry, the Association was disappointed to find that it was not given adequate opportunity to voice its concerns. Because it was a local rather than a national organisation, the AKA was denied the chance to provide an oral submission.²⁹² Once the report was released the AKA again sought to have its views considered. They prepared their own special report advocating measures that would rapidly increase the number of preschool education services, plus the necessary support, through the appointment of additional supervising head teachers (later known as senior teachers and then professional services managers).²⁹³ The AKA council tried to present the report directly to the Minister, but it was ultimately lumped in with the rest of the remits.²⁹⁴

In the end, the new Labour government adopted recommendations from the Committee of Inquiry that would strengthen existing kindergartens and promote the establishment of new ones. Kindergarten building subsidies doubled, teacher salaries and training improved, and building sites made available for new kindergartens. But it was not only kindergartens that would benefit. Building subsidies and the provision of land extended to playcentres.²⁹⁵ Up until then the government had seen kindergartens as the preferred model of early childhood education, so this new support for playcentre represented a clear official recognition of the value of this form of preschool education.²⁹⁶

One of the big changes for the AKA was the abrupt closure of the Arney Road kindergarten training college in 1974. Various reports recommended that state colleges should take over kindergarten teacher training. The Arney Road facility was struggling to cope with increasing

numbers of students by the early 1970s, and the government decided it was time to integrate kindergarten teacher training into the state-run Auckland Training College. This was a traumatic time for teaching staff and students alike, and it paved the way for other changes in kindergarten teacher training later in the decade.²⁹⁷

The government also reorganised other aspects of its support for the kindergarten sector. 1974 funding increases came in the form of a \$2 sessional grant for kindergarten committees, and an administration grant paid to the kindergarten associations to help manage the kindergartens under their control. This provided similar help to that received by state school committees, and it undoubtedly reduced the burden of fundraising.²⁹⁸

Other changes saw the Auckland Education Board take over the maintenance of kindergarten buildings, funded by a maintenance grant from the government. With an ageing stock, maintenance was becoming more difficult.²⁹⁹ The Auckland Education Board also took over responsibility for the construction of new kindergartens.³⁰⁰

Meanwhile the AKA got on with running existing kindergartens and opening new ones, utilising whatever support was available.

Despite the efforts of the AKA, services for Māori were still woefully inadequate. This disparity was addressed in David Barney's 1975 book *Who Gets to Preschool* which highlighted the inequality of opportunity amongst New Zealand children. He argued that while New Zealand had high rates of preschool participation by international standards, the spread of participation was very uneven. By 1973, 46% of 3 and 4 year olds were attending some form of preschool nationally, but economically deprived neighbourhoods were less likely to have preschools, and language and cultural barriers could be a further block to participation.³⁰¹

The traditional model of founding a kindergarten through establishment committees worked for many Auckland communities, but the government recognised that not all areas had the raw ingredients required to raise the necessary funds. These tended to be poor areas that already lacked adequate early childhood education facilities, and the government was keen to provide extra support so that the children of these communities could benefit from kindergarten education.

In the early 1970s the Māori and Island Affairs Department provided funding for Kingsdene Kindergarten in Mangere and Yendarra Kindergarten in Otara, because of the large proportion of Māori and Pasifika children in these areas, and the lack of preschool services.³⁰² Otara was recognised as an area of particular need where special government assistance was required, and to this end the government provided the full cost of building the Clydemore and Sandbrook kindergartens, which opened in the mid-1970s.³⁰³ Further special assistance kindergartens followed, and the government sought to improve the availability of kindergartens by setting aside land on new school sites, or within existing school sites.³⁰⁴

While the special assistance was welcomed, running these kindergartens proved problematic. Kindergartens established after considerable fundraising efforts by locals tended to have a strong connection with their communities. Local people were both willing and able to ensure that it ran well. In contrast, some of these new kindergartens were established with little or no community participation, and found it hard to gain the necessary local support.³⁰⁵

In the first half of the 1970s the AKA opened 20 kindergartens, bringing the total to 68. Rising building costs saw the government raise the building subsidy to \$4 for every \$1 raised by the community. Despite this, there were still more children on waiting lists than attending kindergartens. The AKA planned a massive expansion, with 45 further kindergartens proposed. However, access to suitable sites was becoming a stumbling block for the Association, one that would continue to hinder progress well into the future.³⁰⁶

In 1975 an Educational Development Conference saw some 6,000 people attend meetings throughout the country to debate the future direction of education. One of the results of the conference was the recommendation that early childhood education be available to all children.³⁰⁷

But there was a difference between availability and participation. Robin Houlker (nee Howe) described some of the difficulties in engaging Pasifika families, who had no experience of kindergartens in their home countries, and often had a poor command of English. She and a fellow teacher knocked on doors to try to get children to the local kindergarten:

*'often people in the house were asleep during the day cause (sic) they worked at night ... but the children were there, but the parents were really, really shy ... they didn't understand why they needed to come.'*³⁰⁸

Even for those families that did send their children, shyness and a lack of understanding of what they were about, could also hinder the participation of parents in the wider work of the kindergarten.

Over the years, kindergarten committees had evolved from the Ladies Committees, made up of well-to-do women who took to running kindergartens as part of their charitable activities for the children of those less well-off, to committees comprised of kindergarten parents.

A few kindergartens were unable to find people prepared to volunteer to serve on committees, and the AKA had to make alternative arrangements. Even if there were volunteers, sometimes there was a shortage of the skills needed. Kindergarten teacher Dorothy Gascoigne recalled that Kingsdene Kindergarten had a good committee, but had difficulty finding someone to volunteer for the positions of secretary and treasurer. Eventually one of the fathers volunteered to be treasurer but he lacked the skills necessary. Gascoigne recalled:

*'I wrote out a cheque and when he went to sign it he brought out a pencil. I said "You can't sign a cheque with a pencil". Then he admitted he'd never seen a cheque.'*³⁰⁹

As Anne Meade noted, not all parents are "joiners", and those that are tend to be well educated and well-off.³¹⁰ However, Ron Crawford recalled some parents breaking this mould, such as a very shy Polynesian woman who became much more confident and outgoing from her experience of serving on a kindergarten committee.³¹¹

The AKA did its best to support kindergarten committee members, running workshops for new members and providing other support where needed. Periodic meetings of the chairpersons of each kindergarten and establishment committee within a particular area was instigated in the late 1960s.³¹² These area meetings helped form useful relationships between neighbouring kindergartens and establishment committees.³¹³ Marj Fogarty and Denise Iversen recalled a number of benefits, such as organising joint fundraisers and giving surplus equipment to kindergartens that needed it. Special fundraising events were also organised to benefit struggling kindergartens.³¹⁴

While the move to area meetings was helpful for the kindergarten committees, the AKA council also went through a number of changes. The growth of the AKA kindergarten network in the post war era had led to a huge increase in the numbers of people on the AKA council. In the early days, the council had been made up of a number of elected representatives, along with two representatives of each kindergarten committee. When the AKA had just a few kindergartens, the council was not overly large, but with the proliferation of kindergartens came increasing numbers of council members. By 1951 the council numbered an unwieldy 61 members and a decision was made to reduce the number of kindergarten committee representatives from two to one.³¹⁵ But the council was still large and it grew to 57 in 1970, when the constitution was reviewed. At this time the executive of the council, elected at the AGM and containing some of the most experienced council members, did most of the work.

Under the new constitution the AKA region was divided into four areas, later growing to five, with the kindergarten committees of each area electing two members to represent them on the council, which reduced the number of council members by more than half.³¹⁶ Meanwhile professional matters were dealt with by an education committee, made up of a number of AKA council members along with people from outside organisations including the University of Auckland, Department of Education and Auckland Teachers Training College.³¹⁷ Other subcommittees were established to deal with sites and establishment, and finance and policy.³¹⁸ The expansion of AKA kindergartens also saw a need for increased support staff within head office.³¹⁹

As well as establishing and maintaining AKA kindergartens, the organisation was willing to help other bodies that sought to expand the availability of early childhood education. The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) noted the lack of preschool services in West Auckland and applied for funding from the National Child Health Research Foundation to establish a mobile preschool unit to serve the area. The project received funding from a Telethon to purchase a van and equipment, and the government agreed to fund the teacher's salaries. The mobile preschool visited numerous halls and community centres, and ran kindergarten sessions. The committee that established and ran the preschool included AKA representatives, and the organisation also assisted by employing the teachers. Funding issues saw the demise of the mobile preschool unit in the early 1990s, but by that stage the unit had served many families who would not otherwise have accessed preschool education services. Some of these families went on to form establishment committees for permanent kindergartens in their areas.³²⁰

By 1982 the AKA was operating 85 kindergartens catering for 6,210 children. The opening of so many new kindergartens saw waiting lists fall and children were able to enter kindergarten at a younger age.³²¹

STRIVING TO STAY AFLOAT ON AN EVER-CHANGING SEA

The mid 1980s heralded an era of change that would continue through into the new millennium. The Labour government elected in 1984 sought to reform the state sector, taking lessons from the private sector in the hope of gaining greater efficiency. Government departments were restructured and the economy deregulated. All of this would have significant flow-on effects for the AKA, often in unexpected ways.³²²

The future of kindergartens looked bright when Minister of Education Russell Marshall stated that:

*'kindergarten teachers should probably be paid professors' salaries and professors should get kindergarten teachers' salaries ... [to] give a truer reflection of the educational impact of each group'.*³²³

Kindergarten teachers were hopeful that this attitude would result in them receiving pay parity with primary school teachers, something that the KTA had tried to achieve since the 1970s. However, this did not happen, and in 1982 frustrated kindergarten teachers held their first national stop work, something unthinkable just a couple of decades earlier, and the struggle would continue for many years.³²⁴

From the mid-1980s the government brought in an array of changes that pulled the kindergarten sector into a closer relationship with the government. For many years, the AKA had been assisted in its initial set-up work by government finance. Now the relationship was changing to one where assistance carried increased intervention in the way that kindergartens operated. The government was keen to make sure that its investment in kindergartens was providing the type of service it expected.

A major administrative change at government level resulted in oversight of the childcare sector being transferred from the Department of Social Welfare, to join the preschool education sector

within the Department of Education.³²⁵ This change paved the way for the development of a plethora of services providing both education and care for preschoolers over the coming decades.

New Zealand was one of only a few countries to merge the government administration of childcare and preschool education, and this change prompted changes in teacher training. In 1988 a three-year early childhood qualification launched, replacing the one-year childcare training course and two-year kindergarten teacher training course. Kindergarten teachers no longer had their own specialised teacher qualification. They now undertook a course which covered the care of babies and other subjects that had not been studied by kindergarten teacher trainees before.³²⁶

The AKA welcomed the new training qualification noting that it:

*'signifies a major change in the direction of early childhood education and is a culmination of many years' work by the K.T.A. in conjunction with the Kindergarten Union and the Department of Education. This move further acknowledges the importance of early childhood within the education sector and the need for quality training for all who work with young children.'*³²⁷

At this time, kindergarten teachers were the most qualified and highest paid workers within the new early childhood sector, while workers in other parts of the sector were increasingly aware of how far they lagged behind.³²⁸ Over the coming years early childhood workers in other parts of the sector saw significant improvements to their pay and conditions, while the KTA continued to fight hard for them and the wider Early Childhood Education (ECE) sector.

The upgrading of the early childhood qualification created a mood of optimism and the expectation that additional government funding would be provided, but the AKA was disappointed to find that financial support from the state remained largely static. In 1987 AKA president M Iversen noted:

*'We have been greatly encouraged over the last 2 years by statements from the Minister of Education affirming the Governments high priority to Pre-School Education – unfortunately financial allocations to pre-school, from the Education Vote remain minimal.'*³²⁹

Meanwhile, maintenance of kindergartens became a significant concern by 1987, and the AKA tried to wrest control of the funding and responsibility for maintenance from the Auckland Education Board, which had held this role since the 1970s.³³⁰ The AKA felt they could do a better job with the available funds, but it was noted that:

*'We have not convinced the Department or the Board of the viability of this system as yet.'*³³¹

The status quo would remain until late 1989.

The economic reforms of the mid-1980s affected the work of the kindergarten committees. The introduction of GST in 1985 put further pressures on kindergarten treasurers, who were now required to provide regular returns. To aid the kindergarten committees, the AKA ran several seminars on 'the implications and practicalities of handling GST'.³³² But even with this help the committees struggled. Just two years later it was noted that:

*'GST has been a nightmare for some Treasurers and has created a lot of extra work. We have looked at the various options and have resolved that Kindergartens will not register for GST – parent donations and fundraising will not be liable for GST. There is no financial advantage for Kindergartens to be registered.'*³³³

Meanwhile research became another responsibility of the AKA. The government was keen to see quantifiable results of state funding for education, and to this end they required the AKA to

undertake a research project. This resulted in an evaluation of the benefits of having a third teacher employed at kindergarten, something that the AKA had been working towards for years.³³⁴ Sadly, funding wasn't supplied to provide for all the additional teachers the AKA wanted, and by 1988 just half of the AKA kindergartens had a third teacher employed.³³⁵ The AKA began employing aides through the Department of Labour to ease the workloads of busy kindergarten teachers, but the Association was quick to point out that the aides would not replace trained kindergarten teachers:³³⁶

*'It should be clearly understood that the kindergarten aides are not going to usurp the professional responsibilities of our teachers, they are there to provide assistance with housekeeping tasks and other jobs that detract from the professional nature of the kindergarten teachers' responsibilities.'*³³⁷

Efforts were also made to improve other conditions of employment for kindergarten teachers. While the KTA ran refresher courses and other in-service training programmes to allow kindergarten staff to keep abreast of new developments, in 1985 a teacher-only day was instigated by the AKA to allow kindergarten teachers a full day each year for study.³³⁸

One of the issues that hindered the profession was the lack of a career path, particularly for those who wished to stay in teaching long term. With just two positions available (teacher and head teacher) kindergartens compared unfavourably with schools for those with ambition. A school teacher could advance to head of department, deputy principal and then on to principal, but for kindergarten teachers there were few places to go beyond head teacher.³³⁹ One further step on the career ladder for kindergarten teachers was the now growing senior teacher team. In 1988 the AKA had eight senior teachers who provided professional support for teaching staff. They covered not only the AKA kindergartens, but also those of three neighbouring kindergarten associations.³⁴⁰

Meanwhile the AKA continued to expand and made good progress in establishing kindergartens in areas of need. The 1984 annual report noted that two new kindergartens being built in West Auckland would do much to help the area, which held the national record for the longest waiting lists.³⁴¹ These kindergartens were just two of the fourteen opened by the Association in the 1980s.³⁴²

THE GATHERING STORM

While the mid-1980s had promised a bright future for the kindergarten sector, the mood quickly changed. During the late 1980s the government commissioned reports on the state of the education sector with a view to reform. One of these reports, *Education to be More* (also known as the Meade report after its author Anne Meade), focussed on early childhood education. The report acknowledged the benefits and importance of early childhood education and proposed a funding formula that would see more money being spent in the kindergarten sector.³⁴³ However, Treasury had a different view and the Labour government, now in its second term, was steering away from its traditional philosophy and headed in the direction of the new right. The share market crash of 1987 did nothing to help the situation.³⁴⁴

In 1989, AKA treasurer Lynton Campbell expressed his uncertainty about what the effect of the reforms would be:

*'It would seem that the possibilities range from little change to the existing system to a system of total responsibility and control at kindergarten level and the demise of a Kindergarten Association.'*³⁴⁵

The education reforms of the era saw the dissolution of the Department of Education and Auckland Education Board and the birth of the Ministry of Education in September 1989. This did nothing to allay the fears of the AKA council. The AKA annual report noted:

*'Speculation and confusion dogged every step and circumstance of the changeover from the old systems into the new. At the end of the year the new systems and personnel were far from 'in charge' of their various responsibilities Instead of dealing with two authorities we are now required to deal with seven; a Ministry of Education ... two Early Childhood Development Units, two Special Education Services and two Education Review Offices! In addition to these groups a number of organisations were developed to cover functions previously carried out by Department or Board personnel.'*³⁴⁶

THE BATTLE FOR SURVIVAL

Kindergartens had been something of a golden child, enjoying a level of state support that other early childhood education providers did not receive. Kindergartens had always had high standards, with fully qualified teachers and good child to teacher ratios. But the reforms of the 1990s threatened all of this, creating greater competition within the early childhood sector. A plethora of new requirements had to be met in order to elicit government funding. All kindergartens had to be licensed, meet minimum standards and have specific teacher child ratios.

Just getting the buildings to meet the required standards was a challenge. The AKA had over 100 kindergartens, ranging from Myers Kindergarten which operated from a grand brick edifice built in 1916, to Clydemore Kindergarten which occupied a very basic building. Considerable work was required on kindergarten buildings. A grace period was instituted, with provisional licenses granted for those that had not yet made the grade, so they could continue to operate while making the necessary changes. However, Laingholm Kindergarten, which had only been in operation since 1986, found that it was too small to cater for the 30 children who attended each session. Despite large waiting lists, the kindergarten was forced to reduce its roll to 25.³⁴⁷

Kindergartens needed considerable help in meeting new licensing requirements, and to this end the AKA contracted a draughtsman to prepare complying standard drawings and specifications as a resource for the kindergartens. This meant that if a kindergarten needed to upgrade its facilities to meet licensing requirements, there was a plan showing how it could be done.³⁴⁸

This sort of assistance was essential in an era when the government was increasingly dictating standards and practices in kindergartens. Through its history, the early childhood education sector had never been the subject of such intense scrutiny before.

While the government raised the bar, it failed to provide any funding to help the AKA meet the new standards. Discretionary grants for new buildings and building improvements, which had provided considerable assistance in the past, were unavailable. This was further compounded by a decrease in maintenance carried out by the Auckland Education Board in its dying months. The AKA inherited responsibility for the maintenance of its kindergartens, but struggled to finance the work.³⁴⁹

Meanwhile kindergarten communities were expected to prepare charters and management plans that set out the values and aspirations of the community. The AKA provided considerable assistance, and the charters no doubt helped kindergarten communities to distil their core values, but it was a lot of work.³⁵⁰ However, the process did help to engage parents in the work of kindergartens, and it was noted that there were only three kindergartens without active committees.³⁵¹

Just dealing with the changes that had happened was difficult enough, but in addition there were further government proposals for the AKA to worry about. The government considered, but later abandoned, the idea of selling, or charging market rents for Crown-owned land.³⁵² A substantial number of kindergartens had been built on Crown land supplied for the purpose, charging peppercorn rents. With the organisation already operating on a financial knife edge,

there was no possibility of paying market rents or securing alternative sites for kindergartens. The AKA was vulnerable on a number of fronts, and its future seemed far from assured.

Kindergartens grappling with new demands now needed more support from the AKA, which in turn was dealing with a tide of changes that challenged the viability of the organisation. One of the major concerns was the new staff ratio of 1 teacher to 15 children. Despite gaining third teachers in more than half of its kindergartens since the mid-1980s, 26 of the 96 kindergartens did not meet the new ratio. The AKA was appalled by the suggestion of filling gaps with compulsory rostered parent help. These kindergartens continued to operate for the time being with provisional licenses, but ultimately the teacher positions either needed to be filled, or 10 children would have to be removed from each session, thereby reducing the per capita funding grants. Ultimately, the AKA managed to fill the gaps with relievers until permanent teachers could be employed.³⁵³

The stalling of the already slow growth of the AKA kindergartens was also of grave concern. Kindergarten establishment committees had been struggling to keep up with rising building costs in their efforts to raise sufficient money to build a kindergarten. In 1990 just one new kindergarten was opened. The annual report stated:

*'It is of IMMENSE concern that we currently have 12 Establishment Committees (and many more areas that would meet the old criteria for building a new kindergarten), but no firm Government policies on how to build and staff new kindergartens.'*³⁵⁴

The education reforms also changed the way that kindergartens received their government funding. The effect of new funding provisions was uneven across the early childhood sector, with some providers gaining enormous increases in government funding to help them raise the quality of the care and education they provided. Some childcare centres with infants received many times their former level of funding, but for most providers, apart from kindergartens, funding increased around 50%.³⁵⁵ For the AKA it was initially unclear how the new funding regime would pan out. In the end the funding received fell well short of the levels recommended by the Meade Report:

*'Currently we are getting an hourly rate of \$2.87 net of GST \$2.55. Compare this with the "Meade Report" ("Education to be more Report of the Early Childhood Care and Education Working Group" 1988), which recommended ... that Bulk Funding be \$4.00 per hour "because it corresponds to the amount required to provide good-quality early childhood care and education across all services.'*³⁵⁶

Bulk funding presented a considerable headache for the AKA treasurer. Funding came in every four months based on estimated rolls, however, if the actual roll numbers were less, then the AKA had to reimburse the government the difference.³⁵⁷ He said:

'The management of Bulk Funding therefore has required skill in managing the maximising of entitlements, the control of expenditure to within the resources available, and the cash flow planning to ensure that funds are on hand to meet outgoings at all times and that funds held for future commitments are properly controlled.

*All personnel involved have passed a steep learning curve in dealing with the complexities and intricacies of Bulk Funding. This task will not be any simpler in the future.'*³⁵⁸

A NEW BROOM

The far-reaching changes that the government imposed in the 1990s required new things of the council and management, particularly in the area of financial management. This was something that quickly became apparent to Ron Crawford and Ken Knarston, who joined the AKA council in the early 1990s.

By 1993 bulk funding had plunged the AKA into deficit. One of the problems was that the funding levels were based on 1991 figures, but costs had risen since then.³⁵⁹

Furthermore, the AKA, along with other kindergarten associations, found itself at a financial disadvantage when pay rises were negotiated through the State Services Commission with the union. Because bulk funding for kindergartens was not tied to teachers' wages, negotiated pay rises did not translate into increased government funding.³⁶⁰ This differed from the primary and secondary school sector where pay rises were met by increases in bulk funding.³⁶¹

A member of the AKA council who was having trouble understanding the AKA accounts in the light of the new funding model, met local businessman Ken Knarston. She asked him to look at the accounts and explain what they meant:

'I said I think this organisation is either insolvent or very close to being insolvent'.³⁶²

The council member was horrified and asked Knarston if he would help the Association. He was duly elected onto the AKA council in 1993. The first meeting he attended revealed some of the problems with the way the organisation was being run:

'[It] started ... at 7 o'clock on a Tuesday evening, and at 1 o'clock on Wednesday morning it was adjourned till the next night ... and a lot of the stuff that was being discussed was outside of the role of that board in my opinion and a lot of it was repetitive.'³⁶³

Ron Crawford, who joined the council not long before Knarston, was also frustrated by the early meetings he attended:

'[I] didn't understand a lot of it, it took me a lot to get my head around it. I ... found it quite frustrating ... we never seemed to get through in any great depth our agendas'³⁶⁴

Meetings times changed to daytime and became shorter and more focussed.³⁶⁵

Crawford learnt a lot from then president Wendy Sharp in his first year on the council. She had a good understanding of the problems faced by the organisation, and the need for change. Similarly, Jan Jameson, who was appointed general manager under Sharp's presidency, quickly became aware of the dire financial situation the AKA was in.³⁶⁶ She was brought in as an agent of change and, as Knarston recalled, 'she had the acumen and the strength to do it.'³⁶⁷

While these people saw the need for radical change to save the organisation, not everyone was prepared to make the tough decisions required. Crawford remembers being told that the council should let the organisation collapse to force the government into funding it properly. He was horrified and believed that the government had no interest in saving a bankrupt organisation.³⁶⁸

The effects of bulk funding pitted the teachers and their union firmly against the AKA. The AKA was aware it needed to adapt to survive in this new economic climate, while the teachers fought any reduction in their employment conditions. The AKA found that it was the meat in the sandwich between the teachers, their union, and the government.

One of the major changes of the era was the increase in pupil teacher ratios. Most of the AKA kindergartens operated with a ratio of three teachers to 40 children, (around 1 teacher to 13 children), providing a better ratio than the 1 teacher to 20 children norm in the early 1980s.³⁶⁹ This lower ratio was a key aim of the AKA and the KTA for many years, and they had fought hard to negotiate for a third teacher in every kindergarten. In 1986 the government agreed to achieving this by the mid-1990s, but education reforms saw the scheme disbanded before it could fully come into effect.³⁷⁰

However, as the realities of bulk funding set in, it was clear that the lower ratio could not be maintained, and the AKA adopted a policy of full kindergartens with a 1:15 teacher child ratio.

Instead of having three teachers and 40 children per session, this would allow an increase to 45 per session. This saw an additional 484 children added to the AKA kindergarten rolls, a significant number at a time when waiting lists remained high.³⁷¹ Kindergarten terms also lengthened slightly to increase the amount of government funding that the AKA could access.³⁷²

These moves were extremely unpopular with kindergarten teachers, and to effect these changes, the AKA had to withdraw from the existing national employment contract and negotiate a new and separate one. This was no easy task, and it required the AKA to negotiate directly with the teacher's union rather than through the State Services Commission.³⁷³ Knarston recalled that 'it wasn't a fun time'.³⁷⁴ The teachers set up a telephone tree to lobby the council members. On one memorable night, Knarston's phone rang every 15 minutes from 6pm until well after midnight.³⁷⁵ The relationship between the AKA and the kindergarten teachers was strained, but AKA council members could also understand how the teachers felt. Ron Crawford recalled marching down Queen Street with the teacher's union over pay rates:

*'I walked down there because my hands were tied – we could only give them what we could give them. We were funded to a level and the government wasn't going to give us any more money.'*³⁷⁶

*'I agreed that they probably were underpaid but I still had the responsibility of not letting the Association fold.'*³⁷⁷

The growth of the ECE sector, brought more employment opportunities for early childhood teachers, but there was still a shortage of trained staff. This was a significant problem for the AKA, which insisted on having fully qualified staff teaching in kindergartens. Keeping the kindergartens fully staffed was a juggling act, particularly after the government introduced incentives in 1995 for other ECE providers to employ qualified staff.³⁷⁸ The AKA undertook a survey of teachers in 1996, to find ways to improve their job satisfaction and boost staff retention. That year saw the completion of the new single employer contract. The AKA Annual Report noted that:

'Auckland broke away from the collective contract in 1995 because we knew what a single kindergarten association [in] the South Island might pay its teacher would not necessarily be the best package for a teacher dealing with the conditions in Auckland.'

*'The AKA are now paying its teachers the same as primary school teachers – we have the highest paid kindergarten teachers in New Zealand. This would not have been possible without the single employer contract. We were also able to reward teachers with a cash bonus scheme for three terms as part of our retention programme.'*³⁷⁹

Pay parity with primary school teachers was an aim of the KTA, and the fight was carried on by successive unions representing kindergarten teachers.³⁸⁰ At the completion of the contract negotiations the AKA noted that 'the rifts of previous years were starting to mend'.³⁸¹ The AKA now had a more settled workforce and was attracting more applications for teacher vacancies.³⁸²

The changes to staffing ratios and contracts averted the financial crisis, but only just. In 1995 the AKA reported a surplus of \$46,286.³⁸³ This was a small sum for an organisation with an annual turnover in the millions, but it was a significant improvement on the substantial deficits of the early 1990s. President Ron Crawford wrote in the 1995 Annual Report:

*'We are still in a fragile position. Without a stable financial base we can't sustain our infrastructure or grow. It is of concern that maintenance was neglected for so long. This has placed unfair burdens on transient kindergarten committees faced with expensive building repairs involving tens of thousands of dollars. Council feels that this is unacceptable so we have allocated significant reserves to address this. But we must never get into the same position again.'*³⁸⁴

While the council had made tough and often unpopular decisions to ensure the survival of the organisation, it was clear there were other challenges on the road ahead. Jan Jameson, who served as general manager in the mid-1990s, came from a health background and knew that new government imposed health and safety regulations were on the way. She used her experience in the field to improve the safety of AKA playgrounds, so when the new rules came in, the effect on kindergartens was less dramatic.³⁸⁵

Jameson had seen the terrible effects of head injuries on young children first hand, and was determined to decrease the risk to kindergarten children. The AKA produced manuals to assist kindergartens with improving the safety of their playgrounds.³⁸⁶ However, there was resistance from some kindergarten communities. Many had worked hard to raise funds and held working bees to provide interesting and challenging playgrounds in their kindergartens.³⁸⁷ Within a short space of time the forts, zoomslides and flying foxes that had been a feature of kindergarten playgrounds for many years were all gone, and new soft fall areas and fencing installed.³⁸⁸

Because kindergartens needed much greater help from their parent organisation, the head office staff had to grow. This was a challenge when the AKA was struggling financially. Crawford recalls that at one stage there were about 11 staff, not nearly enough to manage over 100 kindergartens.³⁸⁹

There were also skills missing from the head office team. The financial crisis of the early 1990s meant the AKA couldn't pay for additional staff, and clearly financial advice was needed. Jameson was able to secure government funding to employ accountant Brian Yee on a short-term contract.³⁹⁰ He did a great deal of work setting up the financial records properly and making sure that things were done in a businesslike manner.³⁹¹ Jameson also contacted retired chartered accountant Ian Kendall to ask if he would be prepared to serve as AKA treasurer. Kendall agreed, and continued in this role for many years, providing valuable financial analysis and advice to the council.³⁹²

Considerable work was undertaken in 1997 to restructure the head office and improve processes. Two assistant general managers were appointed (responsible for operations and corporate services), along with a property manager, human resources manager and professional support managers. This provided a more structured management team, including a layer of middle management within the organisation.³⁹³ These changes paved the way to relieve kindergarten teachers and committees of numerous daunting responsibilities. Marketing, bookkeeping, payroll, professional advice, insurance and maintenance all gradually became the preserve of head office.³⁹⁴

The constitution, which had remained largely unchanged since 1970, was also overhauled at this time.³⁹⁵ The numbers of council members, and the make-up of the council changed significantly, allowing the organisation to move forward in a more businesslike manner.³⁹⁶ The 1990s saw the AKA move from being a parent-controlled voluntary organisation to being a big business. This was the only way forward for such a large organisation operating in an increasingly complex and competitive environment.³⁹⁷

However, it was not always easy to fill all the necessary positions. In 1997 the AKA found itself in the extraordinary situation of being without a general manager, following the resignation of Stephen Alexander. Ron Crawford, then president of the AKA council, filled the role of acting general manager for seven months.³⁹⁸

Just as the general managers provided their experience and skills to the AKA, so too did the council. Victoria Carter, who served as president and vice-president, was a well-connected member of Auckland society who used her contacts and influence for the benefit of the AKA. Crawford recalled that 'she opened a lot of doors' that wouldn't have been opened to him.³⁹⁹ This was illustrated by a lobbying trip that he and Carter went on. Crawford recalled:

*'so we're off to Wellington ... and she's organising it, and we saw 27 MPs in two days.'*⁴⁰⁰

But there were other ways that council members could help. Crawford, a painter and decorator by trade, and Knarston, a rest home proprietor, had a good understanding of property management. They collaborated with Jameson to work out what the building maintenance liability of the organisation was.⁴⁰¹ At the end of 1995 it was estimated that over a million dollars was required to attend to all maintenance issues in AKA kindergartens.⁴⁰² This was a large sum for an organisation that had only just regained an annual operating surplus. Part of the maintenance bill was paid through the surplus, but other help was needed, and this came through the ASB Charitable Trusts. Crawford noted that the AKA owes them a huge debt of gratitude:

*'They have been the backbone of saving the Auckland Kindergarten for a long time. The amount of money that they have put in to repair things and replace roofs and to upgrade is just amazing Without the ASB Charitable Trust we would have folded without any doubt at all.'*⁴⁰³

Kindergarten communities continued to provide much needed funds through donations and fundraising, and many of the smaller maintenance jobs continued to be carried out by parents, or paid for using funds raised by the kindergarten communities. However, by the late 1990s it was clear that fewer parents had the time and energy to attend to such tasks. There were now more families with two parents working. Added to this was the need to ensure that work was done properly, and that parents were not putting themselves at risk by undertaking work on kindergarten buildings.⁴⁰⁴

While some kindergartens raised substantial sums, others struggled. In the 1990s the AKA instigated an 'adopt a kindergarten' scheme, where struggling kindergartens were given materials or money by better-off kindergartens. There had always been good co-operation between kindergartens in this way, and it was fortunate that societal changes had not dampened this collegial spirit.⁴⁰⁵

In 1999 the AKA aimed to raise an additional \$3,000,000 per year to pay for upgrading kindergarten facilities. While most had substantial waiting lists, the AKA was aware that it was operating in a highly competitive market. Well over 1,000 new early childhood centres had opened since 1990, most located in Auckland. Government funding and fees allowed some private sector providers to have impressive facilities. The AKA needed to compete to survive.⁴⁰⁶

But funds to establish new kindergartens were hard to come by, and growth within the AKA network of kindergartens was slow. Few new kindergartens opened in the 1990s. Birkenhead Kindergarten, which opened in 1992, was built by the North Shore City Council, and Waitakere Kindergarten opened in 1993.⁴⁰⁷ Meanwhile Sandbrook Kindergarten in Otara, which had struggled since its opening in 1977, closed.⁴⁰⁸ Four more kindergartens opened in the 1990s - Eden-Epsom (now known as Epsom North) in 1995, Greenhithe and Wesley in 1996, and Sommerville in 1997.⁴⁰⁹ Most of these kindergartens were the result of unrelenting efforts by tenacious volunteers, started as far back as the 1980s. It was taking an average of eight years for an establishment committee to get to the point where they had a functioning kindergarten.⁴¹⁰

The 1990s also saw the development and implementation of the ECE curriculum 'Te Whāriki'. The AKA was represented on the working party that prepared the draft.⁴¹¹ Te Whāriki was adopted in all AKA kindergartens and is widely used throughout the ECE sector. Natalie MacKenzie, a New Zealand trained early childhood teacher who taught in British Nursery Schools in the mid-1990s, took a copy of Te Whāriki back to England and showed it to her colleagues. She recalled:

*'They thought we were amazing ... quite forward thinking.'*⁴¹²

Having survived the turmoil of the early 1990s the AKA was pleased to read the Education Review Office report that considered that kindergartens provided the best early childhood service.⁴¹³

MEETING THE NEEDS OF A CHANGING SOCIETY

A survey in 1994 found that around 12% of children attending AKA kindergartens were unable to communicate effectively in English. While some kindergartens might have few, if any, non-English speaking children, others had large numbers. One kindergarten had 28 languages represented.⁴¹⁴ In order to cater for the communication difficulties this entailed, the AKA sought to provide additional language resources, translations and interpreters where possible.⁴¹⁵ The kindergartens also welcomed special needs children, but were hampered by the lack of adequate special education service hours.⁴¹⁶

The AKA began producing regular newsletters in 1995, to better communicate with kindergarten communities. Meanwhile a sponsored glossy magazine *Kindergarten Kids*, produced by the AKA since 1993, was distributed throughout the country and helped to raise the profile of the AKA.⁴¹⁷ A new logo launched, and events including Kindergarten Awareness Week proceeded with renewed vigour.⁴¹⁸ The annual Teddy Bears' Picnic, inaugurated in 1983, continued to publicise the work of the AKA, which was now operating in an increasingly diverse early childhood landscape where it needed to stand out from the crowd.⁴¹⁹

The financial problems facing the AKA were increasingly ameliorated by funds raised through promotions and sponsorship from businesses and community events. In 1998 alone \$20,000 was raised through "Wiggles" concerts, while the Nestle Round the Bays fun run brought in \$50,000.⁴²⁰ Needless to say, these sums were immensely helpful.

The AKA established a subsidiary company in 1999 called Kindergarten New Zealand Ltd (KiNZ) to focus on fundraising.⁴²¹ The fact that KiNZ was one step removed from the AKA meant that it could involve itself in sponsorship and business ventures that wouldn't fit with the charitable status of the AKA.⁴²²

While the AKA largely stuck to its core business of providing sessional kindergartens for the children of Auckland, changes in some communities required a different response. In Auckland's inner city, Myers Kindergarten was struggling to attract enough children to keep this substantial operation going. The AKA found that while there was little demand for a sessional kindergarten in this part of the city, there was a call for all-day childcare. This concept was not entirely new to the AKA. Bairds Kindergarten opened in 1977, offering an experimental extended service from 9am until 3.30pm. The children were provided with a meal and a rest period during the day.⁴²³ In 1989, the AKA established the Kalmia Street Daycare Centre after the Auckland Education Board offered the use of a house within the grounds of Ellerslie Primary School. The building was found to be unsuitable for a kindergarten, and a survey revealed a demand for an all-day centre for the many parents who worked locally. It was opened in 1990 with the aim of providing an affordable day care service, while incorporating the principles of the kindergarten philosophy.⁴²⁴ The facility closed after a few years when the Education Department requested the return of the building.⁴²⁵

Plans for the establishment of an all-day centre in the Myers building were formulated, and KiNZ Myers Park opened for business on 4 March 2002. All profits from this and other KiNZ activities are channelled back to the AKA.⁴²⁶ Further KiNZ centres opened in Sandringham, East Tamaki and Mission Heights over the next decade.

While the AKA did well to survive the 1990s, the organisation found itself in deficit again in 2002. One of the causes was an increase in teacher's salaries, when kindergarten teachers were awarded pay parity with primary teachers. While the employers and the teachers union negotiated a salary package that gave AKA teachers the same pay as primary school teachers in

1996, this was only a temporary situation, and there was no undertaking for kindergarten teachers salaries to rise in line with those of primary school teachers.⁴²⁷ In 2000 the government took kindergarten teachers back into the state sector, meaning the State Services Commission was responsible for negotiating employment contracts for teachers with the teachers union.⁴²⁸

Pay parity was something that the AKA supported, but the resulting request for bulk funding to pay the difference was rejected by the government.⁴²⁹ This would be a continuing problem for the AKA, with incremental pay rises gradually coming into effect, but not being met by corresponding increases in government funding.⁴³⁰ This showed just how vulnerable the organisation was to decisions that were not of its making. From the late 1990s, low interest rates also significantly reduced the earnings from bequests and through the investment of bulk funds.⁴³¹

To survive, the AKA needed to maximise the funding structure that bulk funding brought with it. In 2003, kindergarten hours were altered from a total of 24 teaching hours per week to 26, the maximum hours for which the AKA could receive government funding. This brought a small but significant change in the working conditions for kindergarten teachers, allowing them less time for other work including planning, child assessments and meetings, and potentially affecting the quality of education they could provide.⁴³²

The 1990s was a decade of change within the sector, and the 2000s would bring more. There were reviews and changes to regulations and funding, making it virtually impossible to plan for the long term. The frustration was immense. In 2003 AKA president Jeremy Drummond wrote:

*'It is extremely difficult to maintain long term strategic planning in the face of so much uncertainty within the sector. Not only is there financial uncertainty from year to year from the Government's budget, but also in terms of proposed rules, policy and regulatory changes. At best, we are annual planning; reactive rather than proactive.'*⁴³³

But there were other positive moves. For many years, the AKA had lobbied government for additional funds to assist in the work of financially challenged kindergartens that have a high proportion of non-English speaking children, or are in economically deprived neighbourhoods. From the early 2000s thirty-six of these equity kindergartens received additional funding.⁴³⁴

While the AKA did well to maintain its standards in the face of difficult financial circumstances, the Association could not ignore the fact that rolls in some kindergartens were beginning to decline, mostly due to the growth in private all-day ECE centres. It was unreasonable to expect that the AKA could maintain the market share in what had become a much better funded and diverse arena. Furthermore, the government's strategic plan for the sector, *Pathways to the Future: Nga Huarahi Arataki 2002-2012*, sought to raise the standards across ECE. This included the requirement that all teachers (in teacher-led centres) be qualified and registered by 2012, or in the process of completing their qualifications.⁴³⁵ This removed a significant point of difference. All AKA teachers were qualified, and the private childcare and education sector had traditionally employed fewer qualified teachers. Attention turned to how the AKA could best respond to the changing needs of kindergarten communities, while still retaining core kindergarten values.

In 2006 the Education Amendment Act provided the AKA with the ability to more easily convert some of its kindergartens to day model services. While many kindergartens retained high waiting lists, a few had problems filling the available spaces. The AKA endeavoured to boost rolls, and its core charitable philosophy allowed it to continue to support these loss-making kindergartens. Investigations showed that many struggling kindergartens were in areas where changes in parents' employment meant that the sessional model was no longer meeting the predominant needs of the community. In 2006 the opening hours of Laingholm Kindergarten were altered to fit with school hours, though shorter sessional kindergarten hours were also

offered.⁴³⁶ This was the beginning of a gradual shift from sessional to kindergarten day model hours across AKA kindergartens in response to rapid social change.

While some communities embraced the change to the kindergarten day model, where children attended on chosen days for around four or six hour sessions, some parents mourned the loss of the sessional model with its division of afternoon sessions for the younger children and morning sessions for the older children. Others feared that the change to the day model would result in a higher age of entry.

The shift to the kindergarten day model also required changes to buildings. The sessional model allowed teachers to have a break between the morning and afternoon sessions, but with the day model, there was no child-free time for teachers in the middle of the day. Consequently, break-out spaces away from the children were now required. Some other facilities were upgraded to cater for larger numbers of staff and children.⁴³⁷

By 2003 there were clear signs that government support for the expansion of kindergarten services was lacking. The discretionary grants scheme for capital works that had provided partial funding for new kindergartens was now operating under criteria that favoured all-day centres. This forced the AKA to use financial reserves to build Summerland and Dannemora kindergartens, opening in 2002 and 2003 respectively. With the reserves gone, there appeared to be no prospect of building further kindergartens without government support.⁴³⁸

Funding from other sources became even more important in this economic climate, and to this end, a fundraising co-ordinator and support team were added to the head office staff. In 2003 they were responsible for putting together grant applications that raised around one million dollars for the AKA.⁴³⁹

The AKA continued to lobby government and sought to be part of working parties that could potentially influence government policy at grass roots level.⁴⁴⁰

AKA chief executive officer Tanya Harvey noted that this work was not undertaken solely to benefit the AKA:

*'we are always trying to again lift the standards throughout the sector so wherever we can get on a working group or a working party we do, and if it's not me it's somebody else from the office or we get other networks that we are associated with ... so that we can be at the base level with ministry policy rather than trying to deal with the outcome at the end so we have made some quite good gains with that.'*⁴⁴¹

Despite this engagement, the AKA continued to find itself disadvantaged by many government policies. When the government announced the 20 free ECE hours policy, the AKA was shocked to find that the level of government spending on the scheme would be so low.⁴⁴²

High operating costs for kindergartens in urban areas meant that the AKA, along with other associations operating in large cities, was financially disadvantaged under the policy. There was no distinction within the funding calculations between kindergarten associations in high cost urban areas and those in areas with lower overheads. However, some kindergartens associations did very well out of the arrangement and accumulated considerable surpluses.⁴⁴³

By the early 2000s, teachers at some kindergartens found it increasingly difficult to find parents to serve on committees. Treasurer support was introduced to help ease the burden, and some kindergartens were permitted to dispense with a committee and just nominate a parent to represent the kindergarten at the AGM. Parents in higher socio-economic areas often preferred to donate money rather than spend their time fundraising, so the need for committees declined.⁴⁴⁴ The introduction of 20 free ECE hours in 2007 also affected the committees. Parents were no longer so keen to volunteer as there was a perception that work from parents, particularly in fundraising was no longer needed.⁴⁴⁵ However, as Tanya Harvey noted, kindergartens don't need a committee to function effectively:

*'We've got our base requirements of what we need, which is that we have got a member for the association, but that also that you're engaging with your parents in some way shape or form ... so long as that's being met we've just let the kindergartens have the freedom to decide what's best for them.'*⁴⁴⁶

Given the choice, the AKA would rather have parents involved with their children at kindergarten than dealing with accounts and running working bees and sausage sizzles.⁴⁴⁷ Today, only a few of the AKA kindergartens have active committees.⁴⁴⁸

The demise of the kindergarten committee affected the make-up of the AKA board (formerly known as the council). For many years, kindergarten parents were a strong presence on the board, but this was changing. Even when parents did become board members, they frequently stayed for just a short time, leaving when their children started school and moving onto school boards.⁴⁴⁹ Ron Crawford and Jeremy Drummond are notable exceptions, both having come through kindergarten committees to serve on the board for nearly twenty years. Both learnt an enormous amount along the way, and together they represent the mix of common sense and skill needed on the board.⁴⁵⁰

The AKA is fortunate in having board members prepared to not only serve on the AKA board, but also on the board of the AKA subsidiary, KiNZ.⁴⁵¹ In recent years KiNZ has grown significantly, and now operates four all-day centres as well as providing advisory services to the ECE sector.

The Government is no longer prepared to fund the establishment of new kindergartens, preferring instead to support the development of all-day centres in areas of need. This meant no new kindergartens were opened by the AKA after 2003, but opportunities have opened up for KiNZ to develop new centres. The KiNZ centres operate on a different model to the kindergartens. Fees are charged and the centres are open for longer hours. KiNZ centres cater for a larger range of age groups, and there are fewer qualified staff. This model allows KiNZ to provide cost-effective and flexible services for families, while still retaining the core values of providing good quality, accessible early childhood education.

In 2008 the AKA celebrated its centenary. It had come a long way from its early beginnings to become the largest kindergarten association in New Zealand, with 107 kindergartens and three all day centres, employing 600 staff and catering for 14,000 children each year.⁴⁵²

STEERING A COURSE TO THE FUTURE

The AKA has always sought to respond thoughtfully to changes in community needs, and AKA playgroups have been a recent innovation. In 2014 the AKA's first playgroup was established at Kelston Girls College, with others following at Lincoln Heights, Panama Road, Hay Park and Glendene schools. These playgroups are all located within the grounds of low decile schools. Children up to the age of five and their parents or caregivers are welcomed. The government is supportive of playgroups as a way of increasing participation in ECE, and meeting the needs of communities that are not well served by other forms of ECE.⁴⁵³

Former AKA board member Jeremy Drummond reflected on the results of the many changes that have occurred across the ECE sector:

*'Isn't it wonderful for parents these days that there are so many options available for them: from people coming into your home to look after your children or you taking your children to somebody else's home where they are looked after in a small group - right through to Playcentre, Kindergarten. There have become so many more options for families to find something that's going to fit with their price range, their circumstances and all the rest of it. So in that sense, it's great.'*⁴⁵⁴

This vast array of early childhood education options created a need for a higher profile for the AKA, and in recent years marketing has been a focus of the organisation to help it succeed into the future. As Peter Pablecheque noted:

*'Years ago we would have been seen as the local community kindergarten that everyone supported ... now there's this highly competitive environment with corporate providers who have strong brands. As a consequence of this, the AKA have created a unified brand to replace over a hundred individual centre brands and we have a focus on building awareness and consideration.'*⁴⁵⁵

Until recently the AKA was the largest early childhood education provider in Auckland, and while its market share has declined, the AKA looks to the future with a positive attitude. Drummond noted:

*'It's still a bright future despite all the competition that's out there ... its bright because we are prepared to change and adapt, adopt other styles and see other opportunities out there that we can take advantage of.'*⁴⁵⁶

Today the AKA caters for around 6,058 children at its 107 kindergartens and five playgroups with four all-day centres run by its subsidiary KiNZ. The AKA is the largest kindergarten association in New Zealand and it retains a role of leadership within an increasingly diverse ECE landscape.⁴⁵⁷ Having survived and thrived for well over a century the AKA looks forward to serving the needs of children and their families for many years to come.

A HISTORY OF THE AKA KINDERGARTENS

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ANCHORAGE PARK KINDERGARTEN

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

The AKA assisted the situation by convincing the Education Department of the desirability of engaging a private architect for Anchorage Park and a number of other kindergartens at the same time. Towards the end of 1977 the government, wishing to stimulate the building industry, made funds available for building kindergartens, and the construction of Anchorage Park was completed by March the following year, at a cost of \$46,950.⁴⁵⁸ The building was designed by Graham and Keys Architects and built by Regal Homes Limited.⁴⁵⁹

Improvements were made to the kindergarten in 2005 with the installation of skylights and new heating. An outdoor covered deck was built and large trees removed from the garden.⁴⁶⁰

In July 2009 Anchorage Park Kindergarten extended its hours of operation from a sessional to a kindergarten day model to halt declining rolls.⁴⁶¹ The change involved alterations to the indoor and outdoor environments to suit the new operating structure.⁴⁶²

In 2013 a 10-week buddy reading scheme was established at Anchorage Park Kindergarten, where year three children from neighbouring Anchorage Park School read to kindergarten children once a week.⁴⁶³ In 2015 the kindergarten and neighbouring Anchorage Park School were runners up in the Prime Minister’s Education Excellence Awards for their work in easing the transition from kindergarten to school.⁴⁶⁴

AORERE KINDERGARTEN

A group known as the Aorere Community Kindergarten Establishment Committee met with the AKA in 1984, with a view to establishing a kindergarten in the area. The group raised funds and conducted a survey that revealed a need for this type of service. In 1984 a site on a recreation reserve was offered by Manukau City Council with a 30-year lease at \$10 per annum.⁴⁶⁵ With the site secured, work began on planning the kindergarten building. Designed by Graham and Keys Architects and erected by Border Construction Limited, at a cost of \$175,000, the kindergarten opened in 1989.⁴⁶⁶

The kindergarten extended its hours of operation in 2011, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁴⁶⁷ The Aorere Kindergarten building was subsequently identified as a leaky building, requiring a complete rebuild. It was relocated to temporary premises while this work was underway, and by early 2014 it was operating from its new building.⁴⁶⁸

AVONDALE KINDERGARTEN

Avondale Kindergarten was opened in the local Salvation Army Hall shortly after Easter, 1944, one of the five kindergartens opened by the AKA that year. However, adequate space in the hall was no longer available by 1946, and the free kindergarten closed at the end of the first term. The kindergarten continued on a paying basis in Victoria Hall, Rosebank Road, under Miss Keene, who had been an untrained assistant to the Avondale Kindergarten head teacher. In May 1950 Miss Keene departed, taking her equipment with her, and leaving a situation in

which an average of seventeen children per day were being cared for by one woman with no training and no equipment apart from a piano.

In 1949 the Department of Housing Construction agreed to transfer a section in Rosebank Road to the Department of Lands and Survey, which in turn vested the property in the Association. A new Avondale Free Kindergarten Association was formed in June 1950, and the kindergarten reopened in the Victoria Hall in 1951. The following year the church authorities made alterations to the hall which greatly improved conditions. In December 1956, the kindergarten moved into its new building in Rosebank Road.⁴⁶⁹

In 1980 the committee raised funds to build a sheltered play area which extended the play space available during wet weather.⁴⁷⁰

During the early 1990s the kindergarten experienced considerable problems with vandalism and theft, and the building showed signs of wear and tear.⁴⁷¹ These problems were addressed in a major maintenance upgrade of the kindergarten building in 1998.⁴⁷²

In 2005 the kindergarten was one of three preschools involved in a Unitec mathematics research project.⁴⁷³ Avondale kindergarten extended its hours of operation in 2009, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁴⁷⁴ The kindergarten recently received a Silver Enviroschools award.⁴⁷⁵

BAIRDS KINDERGARTEN

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

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

The scheme was no great novelty. Such a kindergarten, known as a Helen Deem Type kindergarten, already existed in Dunedin, but the Auckland office of the Department of Education, while backing the scheme, felt the need to refer the matter to a head office in Wellington for approval. Wellington was much less enthusiastic, pointing out that 'the department is not particularly keen ... if the Plunket rooms are going to reduce the quarter-acre kindergarten site available'. The department would not subsidise the Plunket portion of the building, and the Plunket Society would have to agree to the Association having title to the buildings.

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

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

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

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

It was proposed that the children attending Bairds Road be drawn predominantly from the immediate area of the Bairds Road school. A few places would be available for children from the greater Otara area, particularly for referrals from children with special needs. Twenty children would attend five mornings a week, and thirty would stay for the extended day. These would be provided with a meal and a period of rest. A number of places in the extended day would be available for children referred by various social and medical welfare services. The number of these children in the kindergarten at any one time would be flexible and dependent upon the type of social needs of the particular children and the ability of the staff to cope adequately.

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

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

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

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

The attitude of the Department of Education provided little comfort for the AKA. Early in 1977 the DoE wrote to the Association that 'on the matter of financing, the Department does not have a policy of providing written assurances of financial aid for any kindergarten.'

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

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

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

In March 1980 Bairds opened after an eight week closure at the beginning of the first term. During this time, arrangements were finalised for various changes to the building and staffing entitlement. Alterations which separated the laundry from the kitchen facilities were completed. A house mother was appointed, her main concern being the health of the children. She also had responsibility for ordering and purchasing food for meals. With efficient management and budgeting the food account stood in credit, and the need for a subsidy from the Save the Children Fund was eliminated. Roll numbers were reduced from fifty children per day to thirty-five, all children staying the extended day, from 8am to 3.30pm. During 1980 there were some difficulties in maintaining the roll at its maximum. A report by the supervising head teacher at the end of 1980 noted that: 'the changes implemented at the beginning of 1980 have opened the way for this scheme to be the success those involved in the planning hoped it would be.'⁴⁷⁶

The kindergarten had considerable problems with security and vandalism, and in 1983 the New Zealand Police crime prevention officer recommended the construction of a strong room within the kindergarten where valuables and food could be stored.⁴⁷⁷ Alterations to form the strong room were subsequently made at a cost of \$1437.⁴⁷⁸

During the early 1990s the operating hours of the kindergarten reverted to sessional to better meet the changing needs of the community. However, the kindergarten still struggled to provide materials and resources, and was frequently targeted by vandals.⁴⁷⁹

An Education Review Office inspection in early 2000 found that, while the children appeared happy, there were major concerns about the quality of the education provided and the safety of the dilapidated building. At this time the kindergarten teachers were being supported by a liaison officer appointed by the AKA to assist Bairds and three other kindergartens in the area.⁴⁸⁰

A major upgrade of the kindergarten was carried out in 2000 and 2001. The work included a new roof, fencing and gates, drainage improvements, and alterations to increase the amount of natural light in the building.⁴⁸¹

From 2003 the kindergarten took part in the City of Manukau Education Trusts Manukau family literacy programme. One of the results of the programme was the enhancement of relationships between the kindergarten, families and Bairds Primary School.⁴⁸² By mid-2005 it was noted that the education programme at the kindergarten had improved significantly.⁴⁸³

In 2010 Bairds Kindergarten extended its hours of operation, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model, a change that was welcomed by families.⁴⁸⁴

BAYVIEW KINDERGARTEN

An establishment committee formed in October 1975, and permission to prepare preliminary site and building plans was given by the Department of Education in February 1977. The Takapuna City Council made a grant of \$2,500 towards the cost of establishing Bayview Kindergarten in November 1977, and building was under way before the end of that year. The kindergarten cost a little over \$51,000 to construct, and opened in mid-1978.⁴⁸⁵

An adventure playground was erected at the kindergarten in 1987.⁴⁸⁶ By late 1999 the standard of education provided at the kindergarten was affected by disharmony amongst the staff, and tensions had spilled over into the parent committee. Within a year these matters had been resolved. The outdoor area was also upgraded at this time.⁴⁸⁷

In 2006 the kindergarten became part of a three-year Ministry of Education information and communication technology research project.⁴⁸⁸ Four years later Bayview was the first kindergarten to be awarded a Gold Healthy Heart Award by the Heart Foundation in recognition of efforts to promote healthy eating and physical activity at the kindergarten.⁴⁸⁹

Plans were subsequently made for the kindergarten to extend its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model. In order to provide the facilities needed for this change, the building was extensively renovated in 2013, with the kindergarten moving temporarily to the neighbouring school while the work was underway.⁴⁹⁰ Since mid-2013 the kindergarten has operated under the kindergarten day model.⁴⁹¹

BEACH HAVEN KINDERGARTEN (FORMERLY BIRKDALE)

An establishment committee was set up following an inaugural public interest meeting in May 1961. An interest-free loan of £500 from C.B. Inward saw fund-raising get off to a useful start, and in early 1962 a site in Puriri Road (later renamed Beach Haven Road) was obtained. The kindergarten, which cost £6,500 to construct, opened in August 1966.⁴⁹²

In 1982 a large pergola was added to the kindergarten and in the early 1990s the outdoor area was upgraded.⁴⁹³ Around 2000 alterations were carried out to the bathroom and playground in order to meet early childhood regulations.⁴⁹⁴ Later in the decade the office was extended.⁴⁹⁵

At the beginning of 2010 the kindergarten altered its hours of operation to the kindergarten day model.⁴⁹⁶ In 2013 the kindergarten was temporarily relocated to allow reconstruction of the building and playground on the Beach Haven Road site. At this time the name of the kindergarten was changed from Birkdale to Beach Haven.⁴⁹⁷

BELMONT BAYSWATER KINDERGARTEN

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

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

Because of the drainage problems a move to more suitable accommodation in the Presbyterian Hall was made in 1948, but by 1950 this too was proving inadequate, and a search began for yet another site. At the end of 1950 a site in a proposed subdivision in King Edward Avenue, Bayswater was set aside. However, work on the subdivision had not started by 1955, and in November of that year the Presbyterian Church gave notice that their hall would not be available for kindergarten use after June 1956. It became necessary to close the kindergarten at the end of 1955 anyway, because of the lack of a trained teacher.

In March 1958, after the Lands and Survey Department had completed a survey of the King Edwards Avenue subdivision, the site for a kindergarten was vested in the AKA. In 1959 plans for a kindergarten in King Edward Avenue (renamed Rosyth Street) were prepared, and in June 1960 the new kindergarten began operation. The cost of the building, including architect fees and site work, was £5,891.⁴⁹⁸

In 1996 an Education Review office report noted that the playground contained a number of features that did not comply with kindergarten safety standards. The playground was subsequently altered to improve safety, and the kitchen and bathroom areas were also upgraded at this time.⁴⁹⁹

Plans to improve the kindergarten building were formulated by mid-2008 with a view to undertake the work in stages.⁵⁰⁰ In 2015 the kindergarten extended its hours of operation, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁵⁰¹

BIRDWOOD KINDERGARTEN

In May 1984, a public meeting was held to consider the establishment of a preschool in the area. Those at the meeting were predominantly interested in having their children attend a kindergarten rather than a playgroup. A steering committee established at the meeting undertook a survey to provide information on how many preschool children were living in the area. The survey revealed a considerable unmet demand for preschool education.⁵⁰²

In 1985 a site adjoining Birdwood Primary School was set aside for the new kindergarten.⁵⁰³ The total cost of a kindergarten for the site was estimated at \$120,000, with the government prepared to provide \$95,000 if the establishment committee could raise the remaining \$25,000.⁵⁰⁴ This was a daunting task for the committee, who noted that many families had two mortgages and struggled to make ends meet, despite both parents working. The area was also home to many solo parents, and unemployment was a considerable problem. As a newly developed low cost residential area, the locale had few community facilities. The establishment committee sought special financial assistance for the kindergarten to ensure that it would be built sooner rather than later.⁵⁰⁵ The government agreed to fund 100% of the cost of the kindergarten and Graham and Keys Architects were engaged to draw up plans for the building. Because of the high proportion of Polynesian families in the area, the architects sought to

incorporate a “Polynesian flavour” with the shape of the building resembling an upturned canoe.⁵⁰⁶

The kindergarten was eventually built by B R Condon at a cost of \$204,000 and was completed in 1987.⁵⁰⁷ In 2006 the kindergarten was involved in a Unitec mathematics research project.⁵⁰⁸ The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2009, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁵⁰⁹ The building was upgraded in the early 2010s.⁵¹⁰

BIRKENHEAD KINDERGARTEN

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

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

In May 1954, the kindergarten moved to the All Saints Anglican Church Hall in Hauraki Road while renovations to the RSA Hall were carried out. In September the same year, the Anglican Church withdrew approval for the kindergarten remaining in its hall, and a move to the Victoria Hall in The Crescent was made.

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

In June 1956, the new kindergarten moved into its new building in Hammond Place. By 1973 Birkenhead was again having problems with the site. It lacked suitable access and was too close to the commercial area of Highbury.⁵¹¹ In 1979 the AKA was approached by a developer who was interested in acquiring the site for commercial purposes. The Association was keen to relocate the kindergarten and hoped to find a more suitable site nearby.⁵¹² However, nothing came of this.

The Birkenhead City Council approached the AKA in 1986 with a view to purchasing the kindergarten site so that plans for the redevelopment of the Highbury shopping centre could be progressed. The development plans included a new roading layout with a roundabout located on the kindergarten site. The Association was keen to relocate to a less congested site. The Birkenhead City Council offered the Association an alternative site in Mahara Avenue and had plans for a new kindergarten drawn up by Wilkins and Davies Construction Co.⁵¹³ In 1991 Birkenhead Kindergarten was rebuilt on its new site, the cost of the building being provided by the North Shore City Council.⁵¹⁴ It was opened the following year.⁵¹⁵ The kindergarten extended its hours of operation in 2013, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁵¹⁶

BLOCKHOUSE BAY KINDERGARTEN

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

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

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

In 1948 a site in Kinross Avenue was offered to the AKA for the Blockhouse Bay Kindergarten, but was found to be too small. The kindergarten committee located a suitable site in 1954, on land owned by the Auckland City Council. In 1955 the city council commenced development of this area, and in 1956 leased a property in Exminster Street to the Association for 42 years at a yearly rent of £1/1/-. By this time the old kindergarten site was proving unsatisfactory. The playground was soggy and unsuitable for outside play, and there were hygiene problems as well. Indeed, all of Blockhouse Bay had similar problems. The local Residents and Ratepayers Association lamented in October 1955 that Blockhouse Bay had 'no drainage and poor nightsoil collection, no footpaths and atrocious roads; no playing fields for children; no action on the city councils proposed development of block 76 for housing.' Block 76 included Exminster Street.

By December 1956 the section had been formally leased, and sketch plans for a new building drawn up. The new building was completed at the end of 1958, at a cost of a little over £6,000 and officially opened in March 1959.⁵¹⁷ The kindergarten was designed by Rigby-Mullan Architects.⁵¹⁸

In 1989 plans were drawn up for a verandah addition to provide increased sheltered play space.⁵¹⁹ A major maintenance upgrade was carried out in 1998.⁵²⁰ The kindergarten extended its hours of operation in 2013, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁵²¹

BOTANY DOWNS KINDERGARTEN

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

An establishment committee was formed in August 1974, and by early 1975 sufficient funds were raised to enable the committee to apply for a government subsidy. There were delays with this, but at the end of 1975 permission was granted for the preparation of building plans. The plans were completed and approved by the Department of Education, but in July 1976 the Botany Downs establishment committee was informed that its kindergarten had been deferred because of the need for economies in government expenditure. Furthermore, because of the large number of kindergartens the AKA wished to proceed with, a priority list had been drawn up and Botany Downs was declared low priority. There were loud protests from the establishment committee, and finally, at the end of 1976, permission was given for tenders to be called to build the new kindergarten. Recognition of Botany Downs as a grade 1

kindergarten took effect from October 1977.⁵²² The building was designed by Graham and Keys Architects and built by Batley Builders Limited.⁵²³

In the mid-1980s small windows were replaced with larger ones to allow more light and heat to enter the building.⁵²⁴ A verandah was added to the building in the late 1980s.⁵²⁵ In the early 1990s extensions were carried out and the outdoor area was redeveloped.⁵²⁶ The building was renovated around 2000 to provide better storage facilities and improved office, bathroom and kitchen spaces.⁵²⁷

In 2005 the kindergarten took part in an Educational Leadership Project that considered how information communication technology could be utilised to enhance learning. The following year, Botany Downs Kindergarten became part of a Ministry of Education centre of innovation research project focussed on inclusive practices. This saw the kindergarten equipped with communications technology and a meeting room to allow the kindergarten to share knowledge with the ECE sector and community.⁵²⁸ In the late-2000s the kindergarten was improved by the addition of skylights and new lighting, as well as a new bathroom and locker area.⁵²⁹

The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2013, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁵³⁰

BUCKLANDS BEACH KINDERGARTEN

This kindergarten was opened in February 1976. A site on Oliver Road was obtained from the Department of Education in 1973, and an establishment committee set up in the middle of that year. Finance was quickly raised, and authority to prepare preliminary site and sketch plans was given in September 1974. The kindergarten was constructed at a cost of a little over \$40,000.⁵³¹ It was built by Sheridan Units Limited and designed by Graham and Keys Architects. The design was based on the Te Atatu South Kindergarten which had been economical to build and provided a good kindergarten layout.⁵³²

In 1979 the kindergarten building was extended with the addition of a sheltered play area.⁵³³ The sandpit was enlarged in the early 1990s and new decking installed at a variety of heights.⁵³⁴ In the 2000s the outdoor area was redeveloped.⁵³⁵

The kindergarten extended its hours of operation in 2010, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model. In order to accommodate this change the building was upgraded, providing a larger indoor play area and an improved staff area.⁵³⁶

CASCADES KINDERGARTEN

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

Preliminary site and sketch plans were authorised in October 1974, and tenders were called for the construction of the kindergarten in June 1975. The building was completed, at a cost of a little over \$41,000, in time for activities to commence at the beginning of February 1976.⁵³⁷ It was built by Hirtzel Homes Limited to a design prepared by Graham and Keys Architects that was based on their design for the Te Atatu South Kindergarten, which had proved to be successful in terms of layout and cost.⁵³⁸

An adventure playground was completed in 1978.⁵³⁹ Further improvements were made to the playground around 2001.⁵⁴⁰ In the mid-2000s the kindergarten building was upgraded, with the storeroom and office being enlarged. Improvements to the covered outdoor area were also made at this time.⁵⁴¹

The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2010, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁵⁴² As part of this change, further improvements were made to the kindergarten building.⁵⁴³ In the early 2010s Cascades Kindergarten won a Bronze Enviroschools Reflection Award.⁵⁴⁴

CHELSEA KINDERGARTEN

In 1979 land for a preschool was set aside within the grounds of the planned Chelsea Primary School and the site was offered to the AKA.⁵⁴⁵ An establishment committee was formed at a public meeting in 1980 and within just a few months they had raised their share of the funds for a kindergarten.⁵⁴⁶ However the District Officer of ECE was concerned that there might be insufficient demand for the kindergarten, and asked the committee to undertake a survey to establish the level of need. Other ECE providers in this part of the North Shore were concerned that the establishment of a new kindergarten at Chelsea would adversely affect their rolls. The committee argued that there were 228 children who would be interested in attending. However, detailed analysis of the initial survey and subsequent surveys showed a much more modest demand, and the viability of the proposed kindergarten was called into question by the Department of Education.⁵⁴⁷ Frustrated by the lack of progress, the committee wrote to Jim McLay, Member of Parliament for Birkenhead, with their concerns:

*'The Committee has now raised \$18,097.00, \$7000 of which was donated by Chatsworth Estates Ltd. It is our concern that with lengthy delays and absolutely no idea of when the kindergarten may become reality, we fear that Chatsworth Estates may withdraw their support. Should this occur funds would be greatly reduced ... with the probability of no Committee to raise the necessary funds. The present committee would certainly disband.'*⁵⁴⁸

Further frustration would come for the establishment committee. A survey of families in the area carried out in 1983 confirmed that there was a more pressing need for kindergartens in the western part of the city, and Chelsea was moved down the priority list for government funding.⁵⁴⁹ By mid-1984 there appeared to be little hope of the kindergarten being built and Chatsworth Estates requested the return of their donated funds.⁵⁵⁰

However, a new survey conducted in 1985 showed that there was sufficient demand to support a grade 0 extended roll kindergarten, catering for 30 children in the morning session and 30 in the afternoon.⁵⁵¹ The establishment committee also presented Minister of Education Russell Marshall with a 700 signature petition supporting the erection of a kindergarten at Chelsea.⁵⁵²

Finally, in 1985 the Ministry of Education granted funding for the erection of Chelsea Kindergarten.⁵⁵³ The building was a "no frills" design based on the Auckland Education Board's Kerikeri and Oaktree kindergarten plans, with amendments to reduce the cost.⁵⁵⁴ Constructed by Rob Scott Limited at a cost of \$146,000, the kindergarten was officially opened in 1986.⁵⁵⁵ The following year a verandah was added to the building.⁵⁵⁶

Problems with the construction of the building became apparent in 1994 when it was found that part of the floor had sagged considerably. An inspection by the Building Research Association of New Zealand revealed that the problem was so serious that remedial work would be required over the summer break to enable the kindergarten to reopen in 1995. Costly repairs to the floor were undertaken utilising AKA funds loaned to the kindergarten committee, but the expense of replacing the vinyl floor covering, a requirement of health and safety regulations, proved prohibitive. The AKA and kindergarten committee requested that the Ministry of Education meet the cost of the repairs and replacement vinyl, arguing that the fault stemmed from inadequate supervision by the Auckland Education Board during the construction of the building.⁵⁵⁷ The Ministry of Education did not accept responsibility for the matter leaving the AKA and kindergarten committee to resolve the issue.⁵⁵⁸

Some building improvements were made in the mid-2000s, and in 2008 extensive alterations were carried out, requiring the closure of the building for several months while the work was undertaken.⁵⁵⁹ The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2013, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁵⁶⁰ As part of this change further improvements were made to the kindergarten building and playground.⁵⁶¹

CLYDEMORE KINDERGARTEN (NOW KINZ EAST TAMAKI)

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

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

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

In August 1977, a four-week survey of the children at Clydemore revealed a distressing situation. Attendance was affected by a number of factors. On very wet days there was an average of only thirteen children at each session. Many who attended kindergarten made the journey there with a brother or sister who was going to the adjoining school, but a lot of older children did not attend school on rainy days. Illnesses, of either the children attending the kindergarten or the children bringing them, reduced numbers. Lack of transport was a further incentive not to attend. Most of the children at Clydemore were in poor physical condition, due to bad nutrition, inadequate clothing and footwear, low-grade shelter (badly heated and unsanitary homes), and poor home supervision.⁵⁶²

The kindergarten had considerable problems with security with the building being broken into nine times in the space of a month in 1978. The Education Board assisted by temporarily loaning a portable burglar alarm and installing a wire barrier over the large window through which the burglars had gained access to the building.⁵⁶³

In 1983 the kindergarten suffered extensive fire damage. While repairs were underway the kindergarten operated from classrooms at the neighbouring school, before relocating to its former home in term 2 of 1983.⁵⁶⁴

At the end of 2005 it was decided to close the kindergarten, which had not been operating at full capacity and had a low level of financial support from families.⁵⁶⁵ The AKA received a discretionary grant to demolish the existing building and replace it with a new all day facility that would be known as KinZ East Tamaki.⁵⁶⁶

Memories of Clydemore Kindergarten by Dorothy Gascoigne:

*'I can remember the mothers used to bring their children and then would sit in the storeroom next to the teachers' office and socialise and have coffee and then take the children home. That's what they thought they were meant to do. At Clydemore we had our first male kindergarten teacher, Evan Audley from Australia ... for a lot of children it was wonderful to have a male teacher.'*⁵⁶⁷

COLWILL KINDERGARTEN (FORMERLY COLWILL ROAD)

An establishment committee for a kindergarten in the Massey area of West Auckland was formed in 1978. An application was made to the Department of Education for special assistance for this kindergarten, and was approved. This meant that the full cost of establishing the kindergarten was met from government funds, including the purchase of equipment. Tenders were called in December 1979, and the kindergarten began operating towards the end of 1980.⁵⁶⁸ The design of the building was based on the Auckland Education Board's Hawkes Bay plan, and it was built by the Dobson Construction Company at a cost of \$67,273.⁵⁶⁹

The kitchen and bathroom facilities at the kindergarten were upgraded around 2000, and in the mid-2000s significant improvements were made to the outdoor area.⁵⁷⁰ The kindergarten extended its operating hours in 2014, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁵⁷¹

DANNEMORA KINDERGARTEN

In mid-2001 an establishment committee was formed in Dannemora.⁵⁷² The Committee, headed by Karyn Graydon, was frustrated at their inability to get an undeveloped site in South Howick/East Tamaki, an area that was developing rapidly with an expected population of 60,000.⁵⁷³ By 2002 a site had been secured. The AKA provided considerable funding from past years' surpluses to get this much-needed kindergarten completed after an unsuccessful application for a discretionary grant from the Ministry of Education.⁵⁷⁴ The ASB Trusts also contributed to the cost. The kindergarten was finally opened in November 2003, and was the last kindergarten to be built by the AKA.⁵⁷⁵

In 2005 the teachers participated in an Educational Leadership Project to improve assessment practices.⁵⁷⁶ Dannemora Kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2014, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁵⁷⁷

DEVONPORT KINDERGARTEN (FORMERLY WAKATERE)

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

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

The new building, constructed at a cost of £5,400, was in use from February 1957. With the change in premises the name of the kindergarten was changed to Devonport Kindergarten. In October 1967 a fire destroyed the director's room, her cloakroom, and part of the toilet block. All the kindergarten records were destroyed. Temporary premises were found in the Rugby Hall until the damage was repaired.

In 1973-74 there was talk about either extending the existing kindergarten, or building a new one, and re-grading the kindergarten. The original scheme to build a new kindergarten came to nothing because there was no land available. As an alternative, a plan was drawn up to add

600 square feet (60 square metres) to the existing building. In May 1973, the Minister of Education said he was in favour of this, and that Devonport would be used as a pilot project for grade 2 kindergartens. Plans were amended to keep all interested parties happy. Then in March 1974 the Association decided not to support an application to Wellington for government approval because of opposition from the Kindergarten Teachers' Association. The AKA asked for a survey of all children in the Devonport area under the age of five. A meeting of interested parents in August 1974 narrowly voted in favour of continuing with the extension to the building. In September, the Association decided 'as a result of the figures obtained from the survey of the Devonport area' that it would present a case for a grade 2 kindergarten.

The Department of Education advised in March 1976 that Devonport could not be extended, partly because of the need to cut back government spending, but also because they felt it was unwise to gather together groups as large as 60 children. It did, however, suggest an extended roll scheme for Devonport, which would enable 105 children normally enrolled at a grade 2 kindergarten to attend, and would allow for the usual three, instead of two, fulltime trained teachers.

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

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

In early 1979 the long-term problem at the Devonport Kindergarten was solved when the building was relocated on the same site. It had slowly been sinking into an ash-filled quarry hole, and collapsing footings and foundations meant it subsided eight inches (20cm) in some places. After the building was moved it was completely renovated and redecorated. A new roof, new floor coverings, a completely remodelled and renovated kitchen, a new interior storage area, and a new coat of paint greatly improved the kindergarten, and substantially increased the building's life expectancy.⁵⁷⁸

Improvements were made to the building around 2000 with the extension of the deck area. By this stage plans were formulated to alter the interior of the building.⁵⁷⁹ During the summer of 2009-2010 the outdoor area of the kindergarten was extensively refurbished.⁵⁸⁰ Devonport Kindergarten has recently extended its hours of operation, moving from a sessional to kindergarten day model.⁵⁸¹

DON BUCK KINDERGARTEN

In 1978, land was made available on the Don Buck Primary School site for a kindergarten. September 1979 saw the formation of an establishment committee which began raising funds for the project. The establishment committee had raised \$13,000 by 1982, and were expected to raise a further \$17,000 to provide 20% of the cost of the kindergarten. Building prices had risen significantly in the time of the committee's existence, and they were finding their ability to raise funds was constantly being outstripped by rising costs.⁵⁸² In view of this difficulty, it was suggested that surplus Education Department relocatable classrooms be moved to the site to provide accommodation for the kindergarten. In 1983 two A9 type relocatable classrooms from St Leonards Primary School were provided, and plans were drawn up for their conversion to a kindergarten. This method of construction offered considerable savings, with the eventual budget for the work being \$93,000.⁵⁸³ The kindergarten was opened in 1984.⁵⁸⁴

Around the late 1990s the kindergarten rolls were reduced from 45 to 30 children per session.⁵⁸⁵ In 2006 the kindergarten was involved in a Unitec mathematics research project.⁵⁸⁶

During term 2 of 2008 the kindergarten was closed to allow substantial renovations of the building and playground. This work included the installation of a new kitchen and extending the building to provide an enlarged office and storage space.⁵⁸⁷ The following year the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁵⁸⁸

KINZ EAST TAMAKI (FORMERLY CLYDEMORE KINDERGARTEN)

This facility opened as a purpose-built facility in June 2007 on the site of the former Clydemore Kindergarten.⁵⁸⁹ As a KiNZ centre, it provides all day education and care for children ranging in age from infants to school age.⁵⁹⁰

ELLERSLIE KINDERGARTEN (FORMERLY CELTIC CRESCENT)

In 1976, the AKA held two public meetings to gauge the support for a kindergarten in Ellerslie. Only six people attended the first meeting, and twenty the second. An establishment committee was formed in 1978, and a donation of \$2,500 from the Penrose Rotary Club in early 1980 helped fundraising substantially. There was a setback in July 1980 however, when advice was received that government finance for 1980-81 was limited to funding for two buildings only, and Celtic Crescent had not been given sufficient priority to be included. However, site plan drawings were approved by the Department of Education early in 1981, and permission to call tenders was given. Celtic Crescent was included in the government's building stimulation programme for 1981, and the kindergarten opened in 1982.⁵⁹¹ The building was erected by M F Astley Limited at a cost of \$114,000. Rapidly rising building costs meant that the establishment committee had not raised their full share of the building costs by the time work was underway. The AKA was granted an \$8000 government loan to make up the shortfall.⁵⁹²

Around 1991, parents of the kindergarten developed the outdoor area, including the construction of a sandpit.⁵⁹³ The name of the kindergarten was changed in the early-2000s from Celtic Crescent to Ellerslie.⁵⁹⁴

In 2003 a \$50,000 playground, featuring a gazebo, play shop and climbing wall, was installed at the kindergarten. These improvements were funded through an ASB Trust grant coupled with money raised by kindergarten families.⁵⁹⁵ This was soon followed by improvements to the interior.⁵⁹⁶ In 2013 the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁵⁹⁷

EPSOM NORTH KINDERGARTEN (FORMERLY EDEN EPSOM)

In 1992 the Eden Epsom Community Trust gained a discretionary grant from the Ministry of Education to build a kindergarten, and Eden Epsom Kindergarten opened in 1995. Because this kindergarten was built by a community trust, it was available for use after hours by the wider community.⁵⁹⁸

In the early-2000s, there were improvements to extend the outdoor shaded area, and a few years later the whole outdoor area was redeveloped.⁵⁹⁹ The name of the kindergarten was recently changed to Epsom North, and in 2014 it extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁶⁰⁰

EPSOM SOUTH KINDERGARTEN (FORMERLY LADY COBHAM AND SELWYN)

This was one of five kindergartens opened by the AKA in 1944. Initially known as Selwyn Kindergarten, it opened in the St Andrews Church Hall, Epsom. In 1956 land was leased from the Auckland City Council for a new site, and in 1957 the new building in Aberfoyle Street, Epsom, was completed and officially opened by Lady Cobham, wife of former Governor General

Lord Cobham. The kindergarten was renamed in Lady Cobham's honour, and was one of only five Auckland Association kindergartens to be named after an individual.⁶⁰¹

The kindergarten was designed by Alleman Land and Verrall Architects and was built at a cost of £7652, with a third of the money coming from the kindergarten committee.⁶⁰²

By 1993 the kindergarten had built a large platform and boardwalks on the sloping site, and a comprehensive outdoor development plan was drawn up.⁶⁰³ Further development occurred around 2000 when a two-tier deck with storage underneath was erected, along with shelter awnings to extend the wet weather play space. The building was renovated soon afterwards, and further improvements were made to the outdoor area.⁶⁰⁴

In 2008 the kindergarten celebrated its 50th anniversary having been in its purpose-built kindergarten building for over half a century.⁶⁰⁵ The name recently changed to Epsom South, and in 2013 it extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁶⁰⁶

FARM COVE KINDERGARTEN (FORMERLY WHITEACRES)

An establishment committee was formed in March 1973, at a time when the kindergarten situation in the Pakuranga area was a desperate one. There were over 500 children on the waiting list at the one kindergarten operating there. In August 1973, a site on the Wakaaranga Primary School land was delineated for kindergarten purposes, and the Department of Education, recognising the urgent need for Pakuranga, promised to expedite proceedings as quickly as possible. In October 1973, the AKA received \$1000 from the Pakuranga Round Table for kindergarten work in the area, and half this amount went to the Whiteacres fund. Work on the new building began in July 1974, and Whiteacres Kindergarten started operating in February 1975.⁶⁰⁷ The building was erected by Sheridan Units Limited to a design by Sargent Smith and Partners Architects at a cost of \$41,000, with a \$2000 loan making up for the shortfall in funds raised by the establishment committee.⁶⁰⁸

In 2003 the outdoor area was upgraded, and this was soon followed by improvements to the kitchen and storage facilities. Plans for further building renovations to extend the office and covered outdoor area were later formulated, and by 2013 a major upgrade of the indoor and outdoor areas had been completed.⁶⁰⁹

In 2010 the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model. The name of the kindergarten was recently changed to Farm Cove.⁶¹⁰

FAVONA KINDERGARTEN

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

In April 1977 an application was made to the Department of Education for a third teacher at Favona. The government did not allow this for financial reasons and the AKA's Education Committee suggested reducing the roll at Favona until a third teacher was appointed. However, this brought a strong warning from the Department of Education that the move

would jeopardise government recognition of the kindergarten, which was necessary to ensure continued government financing. In July 1978 a further, and this time successful, application was made for a third teacher.⁶¹¹

Around 2000, the kitchen was refurbished and a new family room added. A staged development plan for the indoor and outdoor areas was formulated and improvements were made over the coming years as funds allowed.⁶¹²

In 2006 the kindergarten became part of a three-year Ministry of Education information communications technology research project.⁶¹³ In 2011 it was noted that, despite the kindergarten providing good quality preschool education, low rolls resulted in some two-year olds attending the afternoon sessions.⁶¹⁴ Later that year the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁶¹⁵

FERNDALE KINDERGARTEN (FORMERLY MT ALBERT)

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

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

In 1975 the Mt Albert Kindergarten Committee started raising funds for a new building on the grounds of Ferndale House, adjacent to the existing home, and at the end of 1978 an architect was authorised to proceed with drawings. During 1979 and 1980 there were town planning problems. The Lands and Survey Department held up progress while it considered whether to accept a 'local purposes' designation for the site, which was in a recreational zone. These difficulties were sorted out, but there was a further problem, this time concerning the lease from the Mt Albert Borough Council. It wasn't finally signed until January 1982.⁶¹⁶ The new kindergarten was erected the following year.⁶¹⁷

The kindergarten was designed by Fraser, Thomas, Gunman, Shaw and Partners and was built by Vonk Construction Limited at a cost of \$106,000. The design was based on a standard kindergarten plan, but adapted to complement Ferndale House and the wider site.⁶¹⁸ In 1984 the name of the kindergarten was changed from Mt Albert to Ferndale.⁶¹⁹

Around the late 1990s, substantial improvements were made to the playground, and in the early-2000s the interior was refurbished.⁶²⁰

In 2006 it was discovered that soil at the kindergarten was contaminated.⁶²¹ An extensive clean up followed that required the temporary closure of the kindergarten.⁶²² In 2008 the kindergarten celebrated its 65th anniversary and two years later was awarded a Good Citizens Award by the Eden/Albert Community Board.⁶²³ In 2013 the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁶²⁴ In preparation for this the kindergarten building was refurbished.⁶²⁵

FLAT BUSH KINDERGARTEN

This was one of three kindergartens opened in 1970. There was initial interest in a kindergarten in Otara in late 1964, when the Otara County Town Committee tried to create enthusiasm amongst the Otara residents for the establishment of a free kindergarten committee

in the area. The question was discussed at a meeting of the Town Committee in February 1965, at which representatives of the AKA were present. It was noted that a site in Bairds Road had already been vested in the Association, and five other sites set aside for preschool purposes. A donation of £500 from the Auckland Savings Bank was available, but the meeting felt that finance was still the real stumbling block. Most of the residents were trying to get established and were heavily committed to paying off their houses and furniture. There were only a few middle-aged people in the district who were reasonably affluent.

The Headmaster of the primary school in the Flat Bush Road area pointed out to the meeting that there were over 1000 preschool children in the immediate vicinity of his school, about 50% of them Maori. Various schemes and ideas were floated. It was suggested that it should be the government's responsibility to provide a preschool service, with the government erecting the building and its maintenance being undertaken by the local community. The Department of Education suggested that mobile classrooms be used, and converted into proper kindergartens later on. As a result of the meeting, an investigation committee was set up, to try and enlist more members and call a public meeting to ascertain the interests of the residents.

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

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

Flat Bush Kindergarten started operating in October 1970. Early in 1971 an application was made to the Department of Education for a third staff member. The application noted that many of the usual neighbourhood facilities were still lacking in the Flat Bush area, and that a great proportion of the population consisted of 'uprooted Freemans Bay residents'. It was further observed that the population was very mixed, with a high proportion of Maori and other Polynesian residents. Language and social problems were common, and the lack of language development and its effect on the children's future learning was a major concern. While the AKA was employing and paying a Samoan woman for a few hours daily to assist at the kindergarten and to interpret for some of the children, the need for a full time and permanent form of extra assistance was felt.

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

The scheme was adopted in October 1971, but then had to be deferred until February 1972 because no trained staff were available. Staffing now became a problem at Flat Bush. The AKA

wrote to the Department of Education in February 1972 stating its view that the situation at Flat Bush (and other similar kindergartens) was more demanding than the average kindergarten. The Association noted that teachers tended to shy away from applying for positions at Flat Bush, and suggested that some extra financial inducement should be offered in recognition of both the greater responsibilities and difficulties of travelling to the area from most parts of Auckland. The problem continued in 1973, and a further letter was sent to the Department of Education after one of the teachers resigned in June and two of the remaining staff had indicated they were resigning at the end of the year. The Department was not particularly sympathetic, but fortunately the beginning of 1974 saw new staff arrive.

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

Financial problems and a lack of parental involvement in the affairs of Flat Bush was a continuing problem. In 1975 for example, and again in 1977, the kindergarten was exempted from paying its \$200 building levy to the AKA, because it simply did not have the funds to do so. At the kindergarten's annual general meeting in March 1976, the chair pointed to the lack of support given by parents. By the end of 1976 the kindergarten committee had 'dwindled down to six active members', and the Association expressed its concern at the level of parent interest. By 1978 the situation had improved and a committee of fourteen was elected that year.⁶²⁶

Due to problems with vandalism it was suggested that a high fence be erected at the kindergarten, and a minor capital works grant was secured from the Department of Education for the purpose. However, the committee decided that the work should not proceed on the grounds that:

*'no matter what we put up the itinerant traffic will continue. At present they leap the fence with no difficulty and cause no particular damage, a higher fence would only cause the fence to be broken down but not stop the traffic.'*⁶²⁷

In 1988 plans were drawn up for a covered outdoor area adjoining the building to provide additional sheltered outdoor play space.⁶²⁸ In the early 1990s more challenging outdoor play equipment was installed.⁶²⁹ A major upgrade of the kindergarten was carried out in the late 1990s and this was followed by further improvements to the outdoor area.⁶³⁰ The roll of the kindergarten was increased from 30 children per session to 40 in the mid-2000s.⁶³¹ In 2011 the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁶³²

FREEMANS BAY KINDERGARTEN (FORMERLY CAMPBELL AND LOGAN CAMPBELL)

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

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

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

In 1957 the Campbell Kindergarten Committee started preparing plans for the restoration and alteration of the kindergarten, at a cost of between £5000 and £6000. The redevelopment of Freemans Bay began in early 1957. The possibility of the kindergarten site being in the way of, or at least very close to, the Harbour Bridge approaches, raised the question of whether a new site should be sought. The AKA was very fortunate that the Cornwall Park Trustees gave a grant of £4000 to the kindergarten, as this enabled its relocation on a site in Tahuna Street. The Auckland City Council agreed to lease the Tahuna Street site to the Association at a rent of one shilling per year, in return for the Auckland Harbour Board (which had made the original site available to the Association in 1910) making that site available to the City Council at a nominal rent for recreational purposes in conjunction with Victoria Park.

Tenders for the building were called in September 1959 and the new kindergarten began operation in June 1960. There were changes in the daily programme when the new building opened. Previously the kindergarten took 60 children every morning, and on two afternoons a week they were provided with a light meal and a rest period before going home at 2.30. A grade 1 kindergarten was established in the new building, with a nominal roll of 40 children in the morning and afternoon with no lunch or rest. At this point the name was officially changed from Campbell to Logan Campbell Free Kindergarten.

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

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

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

In 1978 a grant of \$1000 from the Sir John Logan Campbell Residuary Estate was received for improvements to the kindergarten's playground.⁶³³ Further improvements were made to the playground when a swing frame was installed in 1987.⁶³⁴ The outdoor area was redesigned around 1990, and in the mid-1990s the kitchen was modernised.⁶³⁵

In 2004 the kindergarten was renamed Freemans Bay to help new families locate the kindergarten more easily.⁶³⁶ Due to falling rolls the teaching team was reduced from three to two, with a corresponding reduction in the maximum children per session.⁶³⁷ The playground was rebuilt after it was discovered that the soil at the kindergarten was contaminated. This work was completed in 2006 and included the development of the entranceway as a memorial in recognition of the kindergarten being the first established by the AKA.⁶³⁸ The kindergarten celebrated its centenary in 2011 and two years later it extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁶³⁹

Memories of Freeman's Bay Kindergarten by Anne Vette c1960s:

'I remember clearly at Logan Campbell Kindergarten ... there was a purpose-built Committee Room where monthly meetings were held. Some well-dressed women, wives of successful business men from the City, would arrive in popular cars of the day to hold meetings to support the financial side of "Logan Campbell" (which was then in a very poor part of Auckland).'⁶⁴⁰

'Rose Hanak ... was Head Teacher there and I remember her helping with families. She would buy pyjamas for 4 to 5 year olds but buy them to fit 10 year olds because one pair would do for two children – the bottoms would come up to the boys' armpits and the tops come down to the girls' ankles.'

GLENDENE PLAYGROUP

Established in October 2016, this was the fifth playgroup set up by the AKA. The playgroup was established in partnership with Glendene School.⁶⁴¹

GLENDOWIE KINDERGARTEN

The Glendowie establishment committee affiliated with AKA in 1996.⁶⁴² The opening of this kindergarten was significantly delayed by difficulties in securing a site and getting permission to build. Having found a suitable site, the progress of the project was derailed by opposition from neighbours. After three years of fundraising to pay lawyer's fees during a protracted legal battle, the committee found that the ruling went against them.⁶⁴³ The project was finally able to progress when the Glendowie Primary School Board of Trustees approached the AKA with a proposal to build the kindergarten on the school site. Funds raised by the establishment committee were augmented by a donation of \$25,000 from Nestle Round the Bays, gifts of building materials and a discretionary grant from the Ministry of Education.⁶⁴⁴ The kindergarten finally opened in August 2000 with Judith Tizard cutting the ribbon at an official opening two months later.⁶⁴⁵

Within a few years of its opening improvements were made to the building and equipment.⁶⁴⁶ In 2013 the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁶⁴⁷

GLEN EDEN KINDERGARTEN

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

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

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

was opened in August 1956, at a cost of a little over £4000.⁶⁴⁸ The building was one of several kindergartens of the era designed by Group Architects.⁶⁴⁹

In 1977 a verandah was added to the building to increase the space that could be used during wet weather.⁶⁵⁰ Additions were made in 1985 that provided a new larger office space, while the existing office was converted into a storeroom.⁶⁵¹ In 1998 a major maintenance upgrade was undertaken at Glen Eden Kindergarten. This included a new climbing and play structure in the playground and substantial changes to the interior of the building, increasing the level of natural light and providing a more spacious indoor area.⁶⁵² In 2011 the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁶⁵³

GLEN EDEN WEST KINDERGARTEN (FORMERLY ROSIER ROAD)

In 1980 the AKA negotiated with the Glen Eden Borough Council for a kindergarten site. The local purpose reserve site in Kamara Road was considered suitable, but the Auckland Education Board suggested an alternative site within the grounds of Prospect School on Rosier Road.⁶⁵⁴ Not only was the Rosier Road site found to be more appropriate, but it also had a caretaker's house which could be altered to accommodate the kindergarten.⁶⁵⁵

Despite the waiting lists at neighbouring Glen Eden Kindergarten being the highest in the country for several years, funding for the kindergarten was not allocated until 1983. The relatively small size of the caretaker's house and its location in a shaded and windy position meant that the building needed to be relocated within the site and around 60 square metres of floor space added.⁶⁵⁶ Work was underway in March 1984 and subsequently completed by the contractors, Baker and Worthy, at a cost of \$85,000. This was considerably less than the sum required for a new kindergarten building at the time.⁶⁵⁷ It was one of three kindergartens opened by the AKA in 1984.⁶⁵⁸

In 1987 a verandah was erected across the front patio area.⁶⁵⁹ In 1999, safety improvements were made to the playground, and the toilet area was upgraded.⁶⁶⁰ An arson attack at the beginning of 2001 resulted in considerable damage. Within four months the building had been repaired and the kindergarten reopened.⁶⁶¹ In 2010 the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model and the building was upgraded.⁶⁶² Recently the name of the kindergarten was changed to Glen Eden West.

GLENFIELD KINDERGARTEN

Various sites were considered and rejected in the Glenfield area in 1957, but towards the end of the year a suitable site in Mayfield Road was vested in the AKA. While funds were raised for a free kindergarten, a private kindergarten was operated by the establishment committee. In 1961 the private kindergarten had a licence from the Child Welfare Department to cater for 43 children.

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

Tenders for the kindergarten building were called in July 1966, and Glenfield Kindergarten started operating in November 1967.⁶⁶³ The design was prepared by Gerald J Elliott and Associates, and the building work was carried out by Onehunga Construction Co at a cost of \$6600.⁶⁶⁴

A waiting list of children who wished to attend Glenfield totalled 185 in November 1967, and increased to 303 by May 1972. By October 1977 the list had grown even larger, and there was considerable agitation from Glenfield for an experimental extended roll to cope with the

situation. The opening of the Marlborough Kindergarten partially relieved the pressure at Glenfield.⁶⁶⁵

In 1984 plans for a covered area adjoining the building were approved.⁶⁶⁶ In 1993 the kindergarten community was focussed on seeking funding to upgrade the outdoor area.⁶⁶⁷ In 2000 it was noted that considerable improvements were needed for the kindergarten to meet licensing standards. In the early-2000s, improvement works began and in 2005 the first stage of a three-stage building upgrade was undertaken, providing improved office and resource room space. Further improvement work was carried out in 2009.⁶⁶⁸ In 2011 the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁶⁶⁹

GLEN INNES KINDERGARTEN (FORMERLY SUNBEAMS)

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

A survey of the child population in the Glen Innes area in 1960 showed that there were approximately 500 preschool children to be catered for, and in 1961 Glen Innes was placed on the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Unions' priority list for new kindergartens. At the end of 1961 the AKA made approximately £1200 from the defunct Sunbeams Kindergarten in Eden Terrace available to Glen Innes, and the Department of Education agreed that Glen Innes could be treated as a reopening of the old Sunbeams rather than a new kindergarten. This meant that recognition of the new Glen Innes building became automatic and the problems of waiting on the priority list and the government's 'period of consolidation' were avoided.

Tenders for the building were called in May 1962, and the kindergarten opened in February 1963.⁶⁷⁰ The building was designed by architect James Hackshaw and built by Dempsey Morton and Co.⁶⁷¹ The name of the kindergarten was changed from Sunbeams to Glen Innes in March 1975.⁶⁷²

In 2000 it was noted that the kindergarten did not meet licensing standards, but plans were in place to make improvements and the outdoor area was upgraded. Low rolls and attendance saw the kindergarten teaching staff reduced to two in the mid-2000s, with the roll dropping to a maximum of 30 children per session. In 2008 the kindergarten closed for a term while long awaited building renovations were carried out, significantly improving the office, kitchen and bathroom facilities.⁶⁷³ In 2011 the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁶⁷⁴

GREEN BAY KINDERGARTEN

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

By February 1969 the local establishment committee had raised over \$4200, and in that month Green Bay was placed on the Kindergarten Union's priority list. Tenders for the building of Green Bay were called in July 1970, and the kindergarten began operating in June 1971.⁶⁷⁵ The building was designed by architect T K Donner and built by Cedar Glen Limited.⁶⁷⁶

In 1975 a small piece of additional land was leased from the Waitemata City Council so that an adventure playground could be established.⁶⁷⁷ In 1978 a verandah extension was erected, and in 1985 internal alterations were carried out to increase the play area available to children and improve access to the kitchen.⁶⁷⁸

Around 2000 it was found that the kindergarten had been incorrectly licensed for 42 children, and the roll was subsequently reduced by attrition to 30 children per session. While the kindergarten committee and AKA initially planned to upgrade the kindergarten so that more children could be accommodated, these improvements were not carried out and the kindergarten continued with its teaching staff of two and limit of 30 children per session for many years. In the mid-2000s the kitchen was renovated and a new office added.⁶⁷⁹

In 2011 the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁶⁸⁰

GREENHITHE KINDERGARTEN

An establishment committee set up in Greenhithe in July 1987. They set to work raising funds for their kindergarten, holding numerous events including garden tours, sausage sizzles and home brew contests, raising \$250,000 over several years. This was supplemented by a grant from the AKA building fund of \$16,000. Local tradespeople and businesses provided much of the building material and labour at little or no cost, and the kindergarten finally opened in May 1995.⁶⁸¹

In 2006 the kindergarten became part of a three-year Ministry of Education information communications technology research project.⁶⁸² Margaret May, head teacher of Greenhithe Kindergarten, was awarded a CORE Education Fellowship in 2010.⁶⁸³ In 2013 the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁶⁸⁴

Memories of the establishment of Greenhithe Kindergarten by Denise Iversen:

*'We set up Greenhithe with a teacher called Margaret May and she became the driving force behind that Committee ... She was a parent as well as a teacher and it was through her hard work that they got the money together. Margaret applied for the Head Teacher position and won it, and has been involved with that kindergarten ever since. Every year, during her ten years on the Establishment Committee she organised an annual fundraiser, I think it was a make-your-own-beer competition and they always raised a lot of money for this.'*⁶⁸⁵

GREY LYNN KINDERGARTEN (FORMERLY ST JAMES)

This was the third kindergarten to be established by the AKA. It opened formally on 17 February 1913, admitting 43 children during the first week. The first director of the kindergarten was Miss Cruickshank.

The kindergarten was held in the St James Bible Class hall in Wellington Street, which was made available free of charge. This was not entirely suitable, and in 1917 a site in St James Street was secured at a cost of £650. Because of the war nothing was done immediately about constructing a suitable building on the site, but the kindergarten committee was ready to commence work on building by 1921, having put much effort into fundraising. Progress was delayed, however, by the refusal of the tenant to move! He had still not moved by the end of 1922, and by this time the kindergarten had to shift from Wellington Street. The Deacon's Board of the Beresford Street Congregational Church allowed the use of the Church Hall free of rent, and the committee was compelled to alter the name of the kindergarten to the St James Street Free Kindergarten.

Trouble continued to plague the kindergarten in 1924. The number of children attending was steadily declining, and it was necessary to look for a site further away in the direction of Grey Lynn. After a great deal of searching a section in Home Street was obtained for £350, and plans for a new building, to cost an estimated £1400, were drawn up. Another room had to be found to house the kindergarten temporarily, as the Beresford Street Church Committee could not let the kindergarten use their Sunday School room any longer. Hard work and

perseverance were eventually rewarded when, in July 1924, the new building in Home Street was completed. The cost of the building was £1185, half of which was paid by the government, the other half raised by the committee.

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

A sun porch was added in 1937, and up-to-date toilet facilities and a toy shed in 1941. By 1951 the grounds of the kindergarten were in a very unsatisfactory state. Piles of cut grass and debris littered the area, making it unsuitable for use by the children. The Secretary of the AKA wrote to the Mayor of Auckland (conveniently also the President of the Association) pointing out the state of the grounds, and the City Council agreed to level and sow the area with grass, and remove the accumulated rubbish, noting at the same time that 'it must be understood that it is not customary for the City Council to undertake these jobs'. Trees and shrubs were also planted.⁶⁸⁶ The outdoor play area was significantly expanded in 1952 when the adjoining rear section was purchased for the kindergarten.⁶⁸⁷

At the end of 1957 the rolls stood at 39 children in the morning and 34 in the afternoon, with no waiting list, so in early 1958, St James became a grade 1 kindergarten. The depressed nature of St James was further emphasised when an appeal was made to other kindergarten committees for funds to build up the equipment for the children. Thirteen kindergartens gave over £200. By mid-1965 the situation began to show signs of improvement. The supervising head teacher noted in a report that 'the whole tone of the kindergarten had improved tremendously and ... the mothers are taking an active interest.' The report commended the St James committee for its work in improving the conditions in the building.

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

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

The supervising head teacher's report on St James, dated September 1966, described a very sorry state. There were plumbing problems, a fence had collapsed, the wooden gate into the playground was broken and held together with wire, the floor in the corner of one of the playrooms had subsided, the French doors did not close properly, several window panes were missing and many windows did not latch properly as the frames were warped. There were insufficient towels for the children, insufficient provision was made for hygiene and first aid, and the equipment and play materials were not up to standard. A continually low bank balance over the previous few years meant that maintenance of the building and equipment had been lacking.

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

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

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

In 1972 the Association appealed to established kindergarten committees for funds to repair and upgrade St James to a limited standard, with a view to maintaining it for another ten years. \$2510 was donated for this purpose. An estimated \$3150 was needed, however, and appeals were made by the AKA to the Auckland Master Builders' Association, the Electrical Contractors' Association and Master Plumbers' Association for any assistance possible. There was a negative response from the electricians, but the Master Plumbers' Association offered free labour for the plumbing work. They also donated the plumbing materials. A further approach to the Education Department was successful. The department agreeing to pay a \$2 for \$1 subsidy on the costs involved in upgrading the kindergarten because of the unusual circumstances involved. The work was completed by early 1973. In 1975, \$780 was spent improving the drainage of the kindergarten site.

In August 1977, the Auckland Education Board advised the AKA that it considered St James had reached the end of its economic life, and recommended replacement within five years. Maintenance would cease in February 1982. A site on the Newton Central School site was sought in 1979, and approved in 1981. By then, staff were expressing considerable concern at the state of the kindergarten. It was noted that it was difficult to get cleaners at an affordable rate because of the large size of the building. Toilet smells were becoming 'appallingly bad', and the staff toilet had no window. Storage space in the outside shed was insufficient, and space inside the building was considered totally inadequate. The Association decided to determine the current market value of the property, with a view to selling and re-establishing on the Newton School site.⁶⁸⁸

The move to the Newton School site never happened, and in 1984 the kindergarten was renovated.⁶⁸⁹ Sadly, in 1990 a fire caused extensive damage to the kindergarten building and it was temporarily relocated to nearby Newton Central School while repairs were made.⁶⁹⁰ The outdoor environment of the kindergarten was gradually improved and upgrading of the bathroom facilities occurred in the 2000s.⁶⁹¹

In 2006 the kindergarten was awarded a Bronze Enviroschools Award and the following year was commended in the environmental education section of the Auckland Regional Council's Sustainable Environment Awards.⁶⁹² 2008 saw further success, with the kindergarten receiving

a Silver Enviroschools Award.⁶⁹³ In 2010 the kindergarten was awarded the Auckland Regional Council's Beyond Recycling Award and an Enviroschools Gold Award.⁶⁹⁴ St James Kindergarten celebrated its centenary in February 2013 and soon after it was renamed Grey Lynn Kindergarten. In 2014 the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁶⁹⁵

Memories of St James Kindergarten by Marj Fogarty and Denise Iversen:

*'The community had a great spirit and plenty of parents would come to help, but they were unwilling to take part in a more formal way. We had on our Council the most wonderful person who virtually ran the kindergarten on her own for many years. This was Edna Munro who was made a Life Member in recognition of her work with St James. Edna was the glue that kept this kindergarten together. Almost single handed she ran all the fund-raising, was mother help, adviser, mentor and greatly loved by the community. Joyce Williams was the Head Teacher, and she went to Night School for lessons in Samoan so she was better able to communicate. The kindergarten had many Polynesian families and was always a very happy place to be.'*⁶⁹⁶

HAEATA KINDERGARTEN (NOW SANDRINGHAM)

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

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

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

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

Haeata was also set back by committee dissensions. Toward the end of 1943 the kindergarten committee (or ladies' committee) set up a building committee. This was responsible for raising funds, but also seems to have been closely involved in clearing the Gribblehirst Park site for the new kindergarten. The building committee drew up a building plan which was unsuitable for the proposed site, and it was suggested by the treasurer of the building committee (who was also vice president of the AKA) that a subcommittee with power to act, be set up to deal with it. This subcommittee would bypass the ladies' committee 'to avoid wrangling as few ladies know much about plans'. The move was thwarted and the treasurer resigned, threatening to refund money donors had contributed towards the new kindergarten.

Redrawn plans and specifications for a new kindergarten were completed by September 1944, and an approach was made to the government for a subsidy of £2000. This was a considerable increase on the £700 requested in 1941. When the committee realised it did not have sufficient

on hand, the subsidy became unobtainable. The committee then searched unsuccessfully for disused military buildings, and in October 1945 was further discouraged when the Education Department advised that a condition applied to subsidies for kindergarten building was that the land on which the building was being erected had to be vested in the AKA or in the Crown. The Gribblehirst Park site was merely leased from the Mt Albert Borough Council for 42 years from September 1944, and at the end of the lease the borough council had the right to remove and convert to its own use all or any of the buildings on the land.

Haeata's troubles were not over until the very end of 1945. C.G. Macindoe donated a section in Kenneth Road, adjoining Gribblehirst Park, and a tender of £2674 for the erection of a kindergarten building was received. A new plan was necessary to suit this section, and in February 1946 the government announced a subsidy of £1337 for the erection of a building.

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

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

There were difficulties locating equipment sheds on the site, and in 1968 the Haeata committee suggested to the AKA that it was time to seek ways and means of providing a larger area. Amongst the committee's proposals were either uplifting and shifting the building to a larger site, or selling the existing building and site and building on a larger section. An application to the Mt Albert Borough Council for a site adjoining Gribblehirst Park and adjacent to Thanet Avenue was turned down in 1971. In early 1972 the Association sought to have Haeata transferred to the Edendale School site, but this came to nothing. At the end of 1972 the Department of Education approved the sale of both the land and building so that the kindergarten could be relocated in the grounds of the Mt Albert Primary School.⁶⁹⁷

The Haeata committee had accumulated \$7000 towards the cost of relocation, and the old kindergarten building was valued at \$14,900. A new kindergarten building was erected in the Mt Albert Primary School grounds, and named Morningside. Prior to the opening of the new Morningside Kindergarten it was suggested that the AKA should retain rather than sell the old Haeata Kindergarten building, and reopen it after some renovation as a grade 0 kindergarten (25 children per session). Although old, it was still in good order and required a minimum amount of work to bring it up to an acceptable level. The scheme was accepted by the Department of Education, and the former Haeata Kindergarten building reopened in February 1976 as Sandringham Kindergarten.⁶⁹⁸

For the subsequent history of Morningside and Sandringham Kindergartens, see the separate sections on these kindergartens.

HAY PARK PLAYGROUP

Established in March 2015, Hay Park Playgroup was the fourth playgroup set up by the AKA. The playgroup was established in partnership with Hay Park School in Mt Roskill.⁶⁹⁹

HENDERSON KINDERGARTEN

In 1953 the Henderson Borough Council leased a section in Station Road to the AKA at a peppercorn rent of £5 per year. A kindergarten building was constructed by the end of 1953, at

a cost of just over £6000, and the Henderson War Memorial Free Kindergarten started operating in April 1954.

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

A waiting list of 384 children at Henderson prompted the AKA to approach the Department of Education in July 1967 with a view to enlarging the existing Henderson building and grounds. The response from the department was negative, but a pilot scheme involving an extra roll of afternoon children and the employment of more staff operated from 1970-71. The scheme went some way towards reducing the size of the waiting list, although in March 1976 it still stood at 256. At this time the Department of Education suggested a reduced roll at Henderson, from 130 to 105 children, but retaining the existing three teachers. At the end of 1977 a steadily falling waiting list, and concern about the low number of hours available to the children attending Henderson, led to the extended roll scheme being phasing out.⁷⁰⁰

In 1979 a pergola was added to provide an outdoor shaded area for summer use.⁷⁰¹ By mid-1984, road noise had become a significant concern at the kindergarten. A scientific investigation into the noise levels was carried out, and it was decided that a sound proof fence was needed to improve the situation. However, the kindergarten committee did not have nearly enough money to build the fence and they sought assistance from the Education Department and the Henderson Borough Council. Additional funds were granted by the Education Department and the fence was built.⁷⁰²

In the early-2000s the outdoor area was upgraded to address playground safety concerns.⁷⁰³ The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2010, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁷⁰⁴

HIGHLAND PARK KINDERGARTEN

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

While the protracted negotiations for a site were being carried out, the local establishment committee had been actively raising money, and by August 1972 had a building fund of \$9000. The name Highland Park was adopted as the official name for this kindergarten in early 1973. Previously it had been known both as New Howick and Howick No. 2.

Permission from the Department of Education to proceed with working drawings was given in May 1973, and tenders were called in September. The construction of this building, costing just over \$35,000, was more expensive than the cost of other kindergartens at this time because, as the site was part of the community centre, the kindergarten had to be complementary to the other buildings and be built of brick.⁷⁰⁵ Designed by Sargent Smith and Partners, the building was erected by Sheridan Units Limited and opened in April 1974.⁷⁰⁶

In August 1975, the committee of Highland Park Kindergarten donated \$1000 to the Botany Downs Kindergarten establishment committee.⁷⁰⁷ In late 1975, approval was given for the erection of a sun cover and shed adjoining the building.⁷⁰⁸ Improvements were made with the addition of an adventure playground in 1987.⁷⁰⁹

Plans were in place for improvements to the outdoor area by mid-2000, and these were carried out over the next few years. The works included the construction of a deck and redevelopment of the playground.⁷¹⁰

In 2009 Highland Park Kindergarten extended its hours of operation from a sessional to a kindergarten day model to halt declining rolls.⁷¹¹ In 2010 the kindergarten completed a learning wisdom research project.⁷¹²

HILLSBOROUGH KINDERGARTEN

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

Towards the end of 1969 the Mt Roskill Borough Council offered the AKA part of the West Reserve for kindergarten purposes. Another part of the reserve had already been allotted to the Hillsborough Playcentre Committee. Having kindergartens and playcentres in close proximity was not generally favoured. However, the Association applied to the Department of Education for approval to negotiate with the Borough Council for a lease, as it felt there was no reason why both preschool organisations should not function efficiently in such a heavily populated area.

Initially the department was not prepared to sanction two preschool establishments close to each other, and insisted on the established ruling of no kindergartens within a mile of a playcentre. The department relented in December 1970, after the AKA and the playcentre organisation met and expressed their willingness to operate preschool facilities close together in areas such as Hillsborough, where sites were difficult to obtain.

There were objections from local residents, however, who took out an injunction concerning the use of reserve land for building purposes, and the Borough Council changed its mind about the proposal. The AKA then looked at sites in the grounds of Hillsborough School, in Carlton Street, and on railways land, but each proved to be unsuitable. The local kindergarten committee contacted estate agents to see what land was available, and were given a list of twelve sites. Unfortunately, none of them had, on its own, sufficient area for the project. Two adjoining sites each costing \$7000 were located, but the Department of Education was reluctant to consider them while reserve land was still available.

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

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

heard, the Association was offered an alternative site in Keith Hay Park by the Borough Council. This was gratefully accepted.

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

Tenders for the Hillsborough Kindergarten were called twice in 1974, as the first set of bids were considered too high. Permission from the Education Department to accept a tender was eventually received in March 1975, and the kindergarten opened in February 1976, at a cost of \$43,500.⁷¹³ The building was designed by Sargent Smith and Partners and built by Ivan Foote Limited.⁷¹⁴

A covered play area was added to the kindergarten in 1980.⁷¹⁵ By 1986 vandalism was a considerable problem at the kindergarten, with teachers frequently finding broken glass within the grounds. The kindergarten committee didn't have sufficient funds for a security fence to solve the problem, and appealed to the AKA for assistance. In 1987 the fence was built with the help of a minor capital works grant from the Department of Education.⁷¹⁶

Parts of the playground were upgraded in the early 1990s.⁷¹⁷ By the early-2000s, it was noted that the declining demand for the afternoon session threatened the future of kindergarten, and afternoon rolls were reduced from 45 to 30. This resulted in a reduction in staffing from 3 to 2.5.⁷¹⁸

In 2005 Hillsborough Kindergarten participated in a research project on assessment and health. Considerable improvements were made to the interior of the kindergarten through the mid to late-2000s, including upgrading of the kitchen, art and bathroom areas. Upgrading of the outdoor area followed in the early 2010s, including the construction of a covered outdoor space.⁷¹⁹

In 2013 the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁷²⁰ The kindergarten was temporarily relocated to allow substantial renovations to building and outdoor area to provide a more suitable environment for the new operating model.⁷²¹

HOBSONVILLE KINDERGARTEN

An establishment committee was set up in mid-1968, and in November 1970 the Waitemata County Council set aside a portion of the Trig Road Reserve (later Ryan Road) for kindergarten purposes. In May 1971, the Department of Education suggested establishing a grade 0 kindergarten, catering for 25 children in each of the morning and afternoon sessions, because of the small number of preschool children in the area.

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

In February 1977, the Department of Education authorised the preparation of preliminary site and sketch plans for extensions to Hobsonville, so that it would be converted to a grade 1 kindergarten, catering for 40 children each session. Tenders for the extensions were called in October 1977, an additional teacher was appointed in March 1978, and the numbers of children attending increased shortly afterwards.⁷²²

Improvements were made in 1981 when a covered play area was added to the building.⁷²³ Around 2000, the committee engaged an architect to draw up plans for renovating the interior of the kindergarten. This was acknowledged as a long-term project, and that the focus of fundraising should be for improving the outdoor environment. By 2005, the bathroom area was renovated and outdoor improvements had been made, including the provision of a pergola to provide additional sheltered play space.⁷²⁴ In 2013 the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁷²⁵

HOWICK KINDERGARTEN

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

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

By 1966 there was a waiting list of 300, and the Association gave permission for the kindergarten to give preference to children from Howick, Cockle Bay and Bucklands Beach.

An adventure playground was completed in 1969.⁷²⁶ Minor alterations funded by the committee were carried out in 1970, but the Department of Education was not pleased when it was revealed that their permission had not been sought.⁷²⁷ A plan for enlarging the kitchen was drawn up in 1975, and this time the Department of Education was consulted on the matter. It appears that the kitchen renovations were not carried out until 1982.⁷²⁸

Around 2000, a new office and disabled toilet were built using funds supplied by charitable organisations. Soon afterwards the outdoor area was completely redeveloped and monsoon blinds were installed to extend the play space available in wet weather. Further improvements were made to the outdoor environment through the late-2000s.⁷²⁹ In 2013 the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁷³⁰

KALMIA STREET DAYCARE (TRANSFERRED TO THE COMMUNITY)

The AKA established the Kalmia Street Daycare centre in 1990, after the Auckland Education Board offered the use of a house within the grounds of Ellerslie Primary School. The building was found to be unsuitable for a kindergarten, and a survey revealed demand for an all-day centre for the many parents who worked locally. The centre aimed to provide an affordable all-day care service incorporating the principles of the kindergarten philosophy.⁷³¹ The facility closed in January 1995 when the Ministry of Education required the return of the building.⁷³²

KAURI PARK KINDERGARTEN

An establishment committee was formed in February 1969, following a public meeting in Birkdale, and a site next to the Kauri Park School was obtained. The committee raised \$3750 by November 1970, and requested that Kauri Park be placed on the building priority list. This was done in May 1971, but tenders weren't called until August 1972. The building was constructed at a cost of just over \$30,000, and the first children to attend Kauri Park did so in November 1973.⁷³³

Just two years after it opened, Kauri Park Kindergarten had a substantial waiting list and a member of the kindergarten community wrote with her concerns that a further kindergarten should be erected in the area. The Minister of Education replied, stating that the AKA was actively seeking a further kindergarten site in the area, but that there had been a substantial

increase in requests for preschools, and there was only a limited amount of government funding available.⁷³⁴

An adventure playground was completed in 1976 but was later demolished as it was unsafe and, according to the Auckland Education Board, erected 'in a most untradesmanlike manner'.⁷³⁵

Improvements were made to the indoor and outdoor environment in the mid to late-2000s, and this work included making the playground more challenging for the children.⁷³⁶ In 2013 the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁷³⁷

KELSTON PLAYGROUP

Established in March 2014, Kelston Playgroup was the first playgroup set up by the AKA. The playgroup was founded in partnership with Kelston Girls' College.⁷³⁸

KINGSDENE KINDERGARTEN

An establishment committee was set up in late 1969 in the Mangere area, and a suitable site in Mascot Avenue was found. Because of the large number of Maori and Polynesian children in the area, special aid was received from the Department of Maori and Island Affairs in the financing of Kingsdene. Together with the \$3500 from the Department of Maori and Island Affairs went a grant of \$500 from the Auckland Savings Bank. Kingsdene started operating in September 1971.

In June 1973, the Crippled Children's Society submitted a proposal to the AKA for a preschool unit for physically disabled children. The first group attended Kingsdene from February 1974, for two hours each Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning.⁷³⁹

Vandalism quickly became a problem at the kindergarten, the storage shed was repeatedly broken into and equipment stolen. By March 1975 the shed was beyond repair and the AKA approached the government for a special grant to provide a garage for the kindergarten. The kindergarten committee provided a portion of the funds with the government providing the rest.⁷⁴⁰ Security was further improved with the installation of a burglar alarm in 1985.⁷⁴¹

The Fairfax First Books Literacy Scheme was launched at Kingsdene Kindergarten in June 2006 by Minister of Education Steve Maharey. The scheme aimed to provide 4500 children in low decile kindergartens with a book each term.⁷⁴²

In 2011 the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁷⁴³ Lil Bamber who taught at Kingsdene Kindergarten for 21 years, was bid a fond farewell in April 2012. Upon her departure, many former kindergarten children arrived with their children to say goodbye.⁷⁴⁴

KOTIRI KINDERGARTEN

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

The Kotiri Establishment Committee formed in August 1962, and by 1963 had raised the necessary money to proceed with building a kindergarten. There was some delay caused by the government's 'period of consolidation' policy, but approval was given to proceed with a building in May 1964. Tenders were called twice, as the first set of bids were considered too high. Kotiri began operating in August 1966.⁷⁴⁵ The building was designed by architect Robert McGowan and built by Stan Ash Builders Ltd.⁷⁴⁶

In 1979 a pergola was added to the kindergarten building to increase the amount of sheltered play space available.⁷⁴⁷ Internal alterations were carried out in 1985 to the store, office and kitchen areas.⁷⁴⁸ Two years later, a fort was erected in the playground.⁷⁴⁹

Improvements to upgrade and extend the building were carried out in the early-2000s.⁷⁵⁰ Kotiri Kindergarten celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2006, and five years later the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁷⁵¹

LAINGHOLM KINDERGARTEN

In 1979 the AKA was offered land for a kindergarten within a new intermediate school site in Laingholm.⁷⁵² A private kindergarten had just been established in temporary premises, and in June 1980 an establishment committee was formed at Laingholm to work towards replacing it with a free kindergarten.⁷⁵³ It soon became clear there were no immediate plans to develop the intermediate school, or the road that would provide access to the school site. This affected the viability of the site for a kindergarten.⁷⁵⁴ A number of alternative sites were considered, but for a variety of reasons including land instability, flooding, effluent disposal and objections from local residents, no further progress was made.⁷⁵⁵ In 1984 the AKA leased a site from the Waitemata City Council for a kindergarten in Lookout Drive.⁷⁵⁶ It was proposed that a building owned by the Anglican Church Trust be purchased, moved onto the site, and altered to suit its new purpose.⁷⁵⁷ In 1985 the building was purchased for \$42,000.⁷⁵⁸ However problems arose when planning objections were lodged, resulting in lengthy legal proceedings. Attention then turned to the proposed intermediate school site in Huia Road that had first been proposed in 1979. The Huia Road site was settled on, and in late 1985 the Ministry of Education granted funding for the project. The kindergarten was opened in 1986 and improvements were made to the playground the following year.⁷⁵⁹

Within a few years new licensing regulations were enacted and Laingholm Kindergarten was considered too small to accommodate the 30 children attending. The roll was temporarily reduced to 25 to allow the kindergarten to continue.⁷⁶⁰ The kindergarten was extended in 1993, paid for with a discretionary grant from the Ministry of Education.⁷⁶¹ Improvements to the outdoor area, including the construction of an adventure playground, were carried out at the kindergarten in the late 1990s.⁷⁶²

A decline in rolls led to the cancellation of the afternoon sessions in January 2005. The kindergarten now operated four-hour sessions five days a week.⁷⁶³ After consulting with the community in 2006, the opening hours of Laingholm Kindergarten were extended to fit with school hours, though shorter sessional kindergarten hours were also offered. The kindergarten was refurbished to meet the needs of the new operating model. The change in hours was in response to changing community needs associated with new parental employment patterns.⁷⁶⁴ This heralded the beginning of a gradual change in AKA kindergarten operating hours from a sessional to a kindergarten day model. In the early 2010s the kindergarten licence was altered from a maximum of 30 children to 40.⁷⁶⁵

LINCOLN HEIGHTS PLAYGROUP

Opened in mid-September 2014, Lincoln Heights Playgroup was the second playgroup set up by the AKA. The playgroup was established in partnership with Lincoln Heights School in Henderson.⁷⁶⁶

LINCOLN NORTH KINDERGARTEN (FORMERLY RATHGAR)

An establishment committee to raise funds for a kindergarten in the Henderson area was formed in June 1969, and in May 1970 the Henderson Borough Council gave permission to convert a house in Valley Road to a kindergarten. This was supposed to cover the two years needed while sufficient funds were raised for a new building. At the same time a lease was

signed with the Waitemata County Council for a site in Longburn Road. Rathgar was built with the financial assistance of a special grant from the Department of Maori and Island Affairs and opened in June 1975.⁷⁶⁷ The building was designed by Graham and Keys Architects and was similar to the Te Atatu South Kindergarten design.⁷⁶⁸

In 1980 a covered area was constructed adjoining the kindergarten building.⁷⁶⁹ By May 1980 the waiting list at Rathgar was considerable. A proposal was made to employ an additional teacher to operate a satellite kindergarten in an empty classroom at Pomaria Primary School.⁷⁷⁰ In 1981 the Pomaria satellite kindergarten welcomed its first children.⁷⁷¹

The bathroom facilities at the kindergarten were upgraded around 2000, and in the mid-2000s Rathgar Kindergarten was renamed Lincoln North. At this time the indoor and outdoor play areas were improved, providing a better flow between the two.⁷⁷² In 2011 the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁷⁷³ The building was upgraded and extended around this time.⁷⁷⁴

LYNFIELD KINDERGARTEN

In April 1975, the AKA obtained the lease of a site adjoining Halsey Drive School from the Mt Roskill Borough Council. An establishment committee formed in July 1975, and tenders for a new building were called at the end of 1976. Lynfield Kindergarten was constructed at a cost of nearly \$51,000 and opened in October 1977.⁷⁷⁵ The building was designed by Graham and Keys Architects and built by Batley Builders Limited.⁷⁷⁶

The kindergarten committee later erected a storage shed and made other alterations to the building. However, an inspection by Auckland Education Board found a number of faults in the work, and in 1983 remedial works were undertaken.⁷⁷⁷ In 1986 two new aluminium windows were installed in the building.⁷⁷⁸

The outdoor area was extensively upgraded in the early-2000s, and a number of improvements appear to have been made to the building at this time to meet regulatory standards. Further improvements were carried out to the indoor and outdoor environments in the late-2000s.⁷⁷⁹ In 2011 the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁷⁸⁰ Alterations were carried out to the interior of the building to suit the new operating model.⁷⁸¹

MANGAWHAI KINDERGARTEN

Originally established in 1986 as an independent kindergarten, Mangawhai Kindergarten opted to join the AKA in 2005.⁷⁸² The kindergarten had higher than normal staffing levels to allow adequate supervision of the large site, and to cater for the needs of children as young as two who attended.⁷⁸³ The outdoor play area was redeveloped in 2008 and the following year the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁷⁸⁴ A major renovation of the building was carried out around this time.⁷⁸⁵

MANGERE BRIDGE KINDERGARTEN (FORMERLY MANGERE NORTH WEST)

This was one of two kindergartens opened in the Mangere area early in 1975. A site adjacent to the North West Mangere Intermediate School was made available to the AKA in September 1969, and an establishment committee formed a year later. The Maori and Island Affairs Department made a grant of \$1,440 toward the costs of the kindergarten. It was built at a cost of nearly \$36,000 and opened in February 1975.⁷⁸⁶ The building was designed by Sargent Smith and Partners and was based on the Yendarra Kindergarten building design.⁷⁸⁷

In 1977 a shelter was built adjoining the kindergarten.⁷⁸⁸ In the early-2000s the outdoor area was upgraded and improvements were made to the building to meet minimum standards.⁷⁸⁹

In 2005, Mangere Bridge Kindergarten became part of a three year Ministry of Education centre of innovation research project focussed on the transition to school and early literacy development.⁷⁹⁰ Additions to the building to provide a new workspace for teachers and a community room were made to help with conducting research and disseminating the results.⁷⁹¹ The kindergarten published a book entitled *Crossing the Border: A Community Negotiates the Transition from Early Childhood to Primary School* in 2012. The book was based on the centre of innovation research into the 'buddy project' run at the kindergarten where 4-year-old kindergarten children were paired with 9-year-old school children from local schools. The older children spent an hour a week with the kindergarten children to help ease the transition to school.⁷⁹² Head teacher Carol Hartley's work was recognised when she won the National Excellence in Teaching Award for leadership in 2012.⁷⁹³ The kindergarten has since been involved in a research project to investigate how children learn in more than one language.⁷⁹⁴

In 2013 the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁷⁹⁵ The Mangere Bridge Kindergarten teaching team won the Education Focus prize at the Prime Minister's Education Excellence Awards in 2015 for their work in 'focussing on learner led pathways'.⁷⁹⁶

MANGERE WEST KINDERGARTEN (FORMERLY IDLEWILD)

In 1971, a site for a kindergarten was set aside at Idlewild Avenue, next door to Viscount Primary School.⁷⁹⁷ The AKA was given control of the site in 1972. A committee that was running a private kindergarten in Mangere expressed interest in forming an establishment committee, with the object of raising funds for a kindergarten at Idlewild Avenue.⁷⁹⁸ In 1973 plans were drawn up for the kindergarten by Sargent Smith and Partners, with the design based on the Yendarra and Mangere Bridge kindergartens. The kindergarten was built in 1974 by Stoddard Construction Limited at a cost of \$36,300.⁷⁹⁹ The Mangere area was recognised by the Department of Education as a high priority area for preschool services, and because of this the full cost of the basic equipment, rather than the usual subsidy, was provided by the department.⁸⁰⁰ The kindergarten opened in 1975.⁸⁰¹

A fire in 1977 saw the kindergarten close for four weeks while repairs were undertaken.⁸⁰² A pergola was added in 1980.⁸⁰³ Extensions were made to the outdoor area in the late 1990s. By the early-2000s, the kindergarten needed renovating and was struggling to retain equipment and materials (which were frequently taken home by the children). This hindered the standard of education provided. Significant improvements were subsequently made to the interior of the building and the playground. New resources were provided and the quality of the education at the kindergarten improved. The kindergarten roll dropped to 30 children per session in the early-2000s, but was increased back to 45 in 2005 when a third teacher was appointed.⁸⁰⁴

In 2013 the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁸⁰⁵ The name of the kindergarten was recently changed to Mangere West.

MARAETAI BEACHLANDS KINDERGARTEN

A small private kindergarten had operated from a local hall since 1983, and funds were raised locally for a purpose-built kindergarten.⁸⁰⁶ In 1991 the Maraetai Community Kindergarten Association set about planning for a kindergarten to be erected within the grounds of Maraetai Primary School.⁸⁰⁷ The local association was keen to proceed with building and had secured an \$80,000 grant from the government, but they were still \$40,000 short of the \$200,000 cost of the building. Because the site was Crown land, there were difficulties in raising loan finance on the property.⁸⁰⁸ Finally, in 1992, the issue was resolved with an additional discretionary grant of \$20,000 from the Ministry of Education. The kindergarten was built and was officially opened on 22 August 1992.⁸⁰⁹

In July 1993, the kindergarten opted to join the AKA.⁸¹⁰ The building was extended in 2008, providing an additional administration area and extended play space.⁸¹¹ Maraetai Beachlands kindergarten moved from a sessional to a kindergarten day model in 2014.⁸¹²

MARLBOROUGH KINDERGARTEN

This North Shore kindergarten opened in 1974. An establishment committee formed in June 1969, and in 1971 the AKA leased a site in Agincourt Street from the Waitemata City Council on which to build. Delays in construction occurred when the original tender prices were found to be too high, and modifications to the design of the kindergarten requested. Negotiations with the lowest tenderer took place after the modifications were made, but the price was still far in excess of the amount which could be approved for government subsidy. Further delays occurred when the Waitemata County Council unexpectedly decided to call for any objections to the erection of a kindergarten in Agincourt Street. The Department of Education was unable to let the construction work begin until March 1973.⁸¹³ The kindergarten, designed by Pepper and Dixon Architects, was built by Sloggett and Abplanalp at a cost of just over \$33,000.⁸¹⁴ Marlborough Kindergarten welcomed its first children in February 1974.⁸¹⁵

In 1986 it was noted that the kindergarten was very dark and the committee raised funds to provide awnings and perhaps a skylight.⁸¹⁶ A long awaited comprehensive upgrade and extension of the kindergarten was completed in the late-2000s.⁸¹⁷ In 2014 the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁸¹⁸

MASSEY KINDERGARTEN

A committee to raise funds was established towards the end of 1969. A site on a reserve was considered in November 1970, but nothing came of the proposal. It was not until mid-1973 that a site adjoining the Massey Primary School was agreed upon, and it was June 1974 before permission was given to call tenders. The new kindergarten, which cost a little over \$42,000 to construct, opened as a grade 1 kindergarten in May 1975.⁸¹⁹ The building was erected by B T Jordan and was designed by Graham and Keys Architects, based on the design of Te Atatu South Kindergarten.⁸²⁰

By October 1978 the waiting list at Massey Kindergarten was 300, nearly 200 of whom were more than three years old, and a successful application was made for a third teacher.⁸²¹ The following year a verandah was added to the building.⁸²² In 1987 plans were drawn up for a small extension to the kindergarten and the work was carried out in 1988.⁸²³

The early-2000s saw the outdoor environment redeveloped, an improvement that had been planned for many years. The building was also substantially upgraded at this time.⁸²⁴ In 2009 the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁸²⁵

MAYFIELD KINDERGARTEN

In 1983 the AKA sought to establish a kindergarten in two unused classrooms at Mayfield School in Otara.⁸²⁶ However, it turned out that only one classroom was available and there were no toilets nearby. The AKA proposed using the classroom and having a toilet block placed in the vicinity. This would allow the kindergarten to get underway with 20 children in each session, with a view to enlarging the kindergarten in the future, when a second classroom was made available.⁸²⁷ However, there were difficulties in getting another classroom allocated, and in September 1983 it was noted that the project was 'progressing at a similar rate to a snail on crutches'.⁸²⁸

The Auckland Education Board suggested moving two portable classrooms to the site to provide the necessary accommodation. A similar plan had been made for Don Buck Kindergarten in Massey.⁸²⁹ Two proposals were eventually considered, and in 1984 a single portable classroom

was sited on the school grounds and altered to fit its new purpose. The government approved special assistance funding for the kindergarten.⁸³⁰ Mayfield opened in 1984 as an extended roll kindergarten.⁸³¹

By mid-1987 the kindergarten was 'bursting at the seams' with high daily attendance and a large waiting list.⁸³² The AKA proposed that it be upgraded to allow more children to attend.⁸³³

Security became a significant issue in 1988 after a series of expensive burglaries. The insurance company advised that unless steel grills were installed over the windows, and metal plates and improved locks installed on the doors, the company might withdraw its theft cover. The kindergarten was not well resourced and was unable to pay the \$2700 needed for these improvements. The AKA appealed successfully to the Department of Education for funds for the purpose.⁸³⁴

By the mid-1990s the kindergarten was not performing well. The building was in a state of disrepair and considered unfit for purpose. There was also a lack of resources and a high turnover of staff. Things improved in 1996 when the kindergarten was refurbished.⁸³⁵

In 2001 a new kindergarten building was erected in Pearl Baker Drive to replace the prefabricated building that had housed the kindergarten since its opening. The new building was located on reserve land leased from the Manukau City Council. Funding for the project came through a discretionary grant from the Ministry of Education, with the ASB Charitable Trusts funding the development of the playground. The new kindergarten, which was officially opened by Prime Minister Helen Clark, catered for 45 children per session, an increase of 19 per session.⁸³⁶

In 2010 the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁸³⁷ The outdoor area was subsequently upgraded.⁸³⁸

MEADOWBANK KINDERGARTEN

This kindergarten opened in September 1949, and was the twenty-eighth opened by the AKA. It operated in the Community Hall, Meadowbank Road, until 1963, when a new building opened at 122 Meadowbank Road. However, the search for a permanent site for the Meadowbank Kindergarten began as early as 1951. In 1955 a site was transferred from the Housing Construction Division to the Department of Lands and Survey so that it could be vested in the Association.

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

Although a site had been vested in the AKA in 1955, nothing was done about building on it until 1961 because of doubts about its suitability. By 1961 the building fund stood at over £2000 and it was felt that a beginning should be made. However, the Department of Education refused to give permission for a permanent kindergarten because it was not convinced that minimum rolls could be maintained. Strong representations from the local committee, which pointed out the existing kindergarten already had a full roll plus a waiting list, and that a number of parents would not send their children to the existing kindergarten because of the unsatisfactory condition of the community hall, caused the department to change its mind. In October 1962 tenders were called for construction of the new building, which was officially opened in November 1963.⁸³⁹ The building was designed by architect Stephen A Jelich.⁸⁴⁰

In 1977 a small extension and internal alteration was carried out at the kindergarten. This provided a new store room and enlarged the size of the kitchen.⁸⁴¹ In 1981 a 75 square metre

unused part of the kindergarten site was sold by the Crown to a neighbouring property owner.⁸⁴²

Toilet facilities at the kindergarten were upgraded in the late 1990s and in the early-2000s building improvements were undertaken, providing increased storage space and improved office accommodation. In the late-2000s the outdoor environment was redeveloped.⁸⁴³

The kindergarten relocated to temporary premises for the final months of 2014 and the beginning of 2015 to allow renovations to the building.⁸⁴⁴ The kindergarten extended its opening hours at this time, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁸⁴⁵

Memories of Meadowbank Kindergarten by Anne Vette c1950s:

*'some of the children came by taxi across from Glen Innes and Glendowie (6 to a car and no seatbelts)! They were very different times – once a week we pinned donation envelopes onto their clothes at the back and next week a donation of between 5 and 10 shillings would come back and be posted into a donation box. On Friday afternoon the staff would open and record the child's donation in a Donation Book. Then the money would be checked and banked by the committee Treasurer late on the Friday.'*⁸⁴⁶

MCNAUGHTON KINDERGARTEN

An establishment committee formed in July 1975 to inaugurate a kindergarten at McNaughton Avenue School, Mangere. In September 1975 approval was given for special assistance to the kindergarten, meaning that government would cover the full cost of the building.⁸⁴⁷ Tenders for the building were called in 1976 and the kindergarten was completed and opened in June the following year.⁸⁴⁸

In August 1978 approval was given for a third teacher at McNaughton.⁸⁴⁹ In 1984 the AKA proposed extending the kindergarten grounds to take in an adjoining part of the Southern Cross School grounds, which would provide a sheltered area for outdoor play away from the prevailing wind. However, this did not go ahead due to problems with supervising children in the area.⁸⁵⁰

In 2009 the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁸⁵¹ Around this time the building was renovated and plans were approved for the redevelopment of the outdoor environment.⁸⁵²

MILFORD KINDERGARTEN

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

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

In 1956 a site in Pierce Road was leased from the Borough Council, and in 1958 tenders were called for a new kindergarten building.⁸⁵³ Milford Kindergarten reopened in its building in March 1959. The kindergarten was designed by Group Architects and built by J McAllister.⁸⁵⁴

In 1964 a roof was erected over the entrance landing at the kindergarten to provide additional sheltered space in winter and a shaded area in summer.⁸⁵⁵ In 1971 a small extension was made at the rear of the kindergarten building to provide an additional storeroom.⁸⁵⁶ Just four

years later internal alterations were carried out, turning the original storeroom into a book corner and upgrading and extending the kitchen.⁸⁵⁷ Further alterations followed in 1982 when two skylights were installed to bring additional natural light into the building.⁸⁵⁸

In the early-2000s the kindergarten committee began a process of upgrading the kindergarten, beginning with the refurbishment of the interior and then development of the outdoor environment.⁸⁵⁹ In 2011 the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁸⁶⁰

MISSION BAY KINDERGARTEN

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

In 1948 the AKA negotiated successfully for a site between Patteson and Atkin Avenues. In mid-1949 the kindergarten received notice to vacate the Methodist Hall at the end of the year, but the church authorities later agreed to allow the use of its building until a new kindergarten building was constructed. This proved to be a lengthy business, and tenders weren't called until the end of 1953.⁸⁶¹ The kindergarten was designed by Massey Beatson Rix-Trott and Carter Architects and was originally planned with three playrooms to accommodate 30 children per session. However, after the foundations had been poured the committee found that they were unable to raise sufficient funds for a kindergarten of this size. The building was then replanned with 2 playrooms to accommodate 20 children per session, with a sealed terrace being formed within the foundations for the third playroom.⁸⁶² The new kindergarten opened in 1955.⁸⁶³

In 1972 additional windows were installed at the both ends of the building to allow the teachers to better supervise children playing outside. The playground was also upgraded.⁸⁶⁴ In 1984 the roof of the kindergarten was extended to provide cover over the terrace.⁸⁶⁵

Around 2000 a covered verandah was added to the front of the kindergarten building to increase the covered play space. Improvements were also made to the playground.⁸⁶⁶

In 2005 the kindergarten celebrated its 50th anniversary and five years later it took part in an active sport pilot project.⁸⁶⁷ In 2010 the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model. Substantial additions were subsequently made to the building.⁸⁶⁸

Memories of Mission Bay Kindergarten by Lindsey Rea, daughter of Lindsey Rea, c1960s:

*'Mission Bay every year had a fundraising Ball that was held at St Helier's War Memorial Hall and mother was always involved with the Ball Committee. We always had a pre-Ball party at our house. Us kids decided we liked cashew nuts but we didn't like olives! We would go round picking out the bits of leftovers. After they would go out, we would drink the ginger ale that was left in the bottle! The Kindergarten Ball was always a highlight of our year as well as mother's.'*⁸⁶⁹

KINZ MISSION HEIGHTS

In 2009 Mission Heights Primary and Junior High Schools opened in Flat Bush with an adjoining site set aside for an early childhood education centre. The AKA received a \$1,300,000 discretionary grant from the Ministry of Education to build an all-day early childhood centre with the AKA providing a further \$300,000. KiNZ Mission Heights was opened in June 2010.⁸⁷⁰

MORNINGSIDE KINDERGARTEN

Morningside opened in 1975, and was built to replace Haeata in Sandringham. (see Haeata section for early history).⁸⁷¹ The new Morningside Kindergarten was designed by Sargent Smith and Partners and erected by Ivan Foote Limited.⁸⁷²

In 1976 a small strip of land was obtained from the Mt Albert Primary school so that an adventure playground could be constructed.⁸⁷³ In 1985 the verandah was extended to increase the size of the covered play area.⁸⁷⁴ A decade later the covered area between the indoor and outdoor play areas was enlarged.⁸⁷⁵

In 2006 a new playground was completed and officially opened by Prime Minister Helen Clark.⁸⁷⁶ Further development of the outdoor area continued until its completion in 2009.⁸⁷⁷ In 2010 the kindergarten was awarded a Good Citizens Award by the Eden/Albert Community Board for its commitment to recycling and sustainability.⁸⁷⁸ The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2013, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁸⁷⁹ Major renovations to the building are planned to make the building more suitable for the new operating model.⁸⁸⁰

MT ALBERT KINDERGARTEN (FORMERLY ST CHRISTOPHER'S AND MARK ROAD)

St Christopher's Kindergarten started as a grade 1 kindergarten in St Christopher's Hall, Margaret Avenue, Prince of Wales Estate, Mt Albert, in February 1949. At the end of 1949 the kindergarten moved to St Luke's Church Hall.

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

St Christopher's was re-graded in September 1969 as a grade 0 kindergarten. Early in 1972 the St Luke's vestry decided to sell the premises in which St Christopher's was housed. A St Christopher's Establishment Committee formed in March 1972 to work towards a permanent home for the kindergarten, and temporary accommodation was found in the Presbyterian Church Hall, Mt Albert Road. In April 1974, as no suitable site had been found, it was suggested that the establishment committee go into recess, but in September that year a site was made available by the Ministry of Works and Development in the grounds of the proposed Carrington Technical Institute. It was decided that St Christopher's should revert to a grade 1 kindergarten, and tenders for the new building were called in July 1975. Problems arose with the Mt Albert Borough Council over a building permit, and the new building didn't become operational until the beginning of the second term of 1976.⁸⁸¹ Graham and Keys Architects designed the building based on the Te Atatu South Kindergarten plan and it was built by Batley Builders.⁸⁸²

In June 1975, a small unit of the Crippled Children Society joined the kindergarten. This consisted of five children and one teacher.⁸⁸³

Plans were drawn up and approved in 1988 for a small porch addition to the front of the kindergarten, as this area was very exposed to the weather.⁸⁸⁴ In the early-2000s the kindergarten building was extended and improvements made to the interior environment. Upgrading of the playground and outdoor area followed.⁸⁸⁵ In 2004 the kindergarten was

renamed Mt Albert in an attempt to help new families locate it more easily.⁸⁸⁶ The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2009, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁸⁸⁷

MT EDEN KINDERGARTEN

This kindergarten opened in early 1980. The need for a kindergarten in Mt Eden was long established, and in 1971 the Mt Eden Borough Council approved, in principle, the use of a part of Taylors Park in Mont Le Grande Road for kindergarten purposes. After town planning hearings, the use of this site was disallowed by the Borough Council in 1974. A site in Milton Road was found, and it was secured after lengthy town planning objections. An establishment committee formed in June 1977, and in 1978 planning permission was received from the Department of Education. A grant of \$4300 was given by the Mt Eden Borough Council at the end of 1977, in recognition of the fact that Mt Eden was 'regretfully deficient in facilities of this nature'. The Rotaract Club of Newmarket generously donated \$1400. The kindergarten opened in February 1980.⁸⁸⁸ It was built by Batley Builders and designed by Graham Keys and Kerr Architects.⁸⁸⁹

A small extension was erected in 1985, enclosing in the north-east corner of the kindergarten.⁸⁹⁰ In 2007 the kindergarten was temporarily relocated to a nearby early childhood facility while soil remediation and redevelopment of the playground was carried out.⁸⁹¹

In 2010 the kindergarten was awarded a Good Citizens Award by the Eden/Albert Community Board.⁸⁹² The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2015, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁸⁹³

MT ROSKILL KINDERGARTEN (FORMERLY AKARANA AVENUE)

This kindergarten opened on 1 November 1943, but had to close temporarily in 1945. It had been flourishing, with 45 children on the roll and nearly twice that number on the waiting list, and met in the Methodist schoolroom, Kingston Street. When a new church hall was built, restrictions were imposed which made it impossible for the kindergarten to continue. In November 1945 the committee decided to close for a year and make efforts to acquire their own building. In 1948 a Presbyterian hall in Mt Albert Road was found to be suitable, and a small kindergarten started. The average roll for the first year of the reopening was 28 children in the morning and 16 in the afternoon. Work towards a building of their own was undertaken, and in 1951 part of the Mt Roskill Domain was obtained as a site. Plans for a new building were approved in January 1952, and the new kindergarten, built at a cost of £9000, was officially opened in May 1953.⁸⁹⁴

In 1976 the building was extended to provide additional office space.⁸⁹⁵ A major refurbishment of the kindergarten in 1995-96 was undertaken at a cost of \$150,000, and two years later a shed at the kindergarten was destroyed in a suspected arson attack.⁸⁹⁶ In the early-2000s the outdoor area was upgraded.⁸⁹⁷

In 2004 kindergarten teacher Lesley Pohio was named one of the top 20 teachers in New Zealand, receiving a regional award from the Australian Scholarship Group's National Excellence in Teaching Awards.⁸⁹⁸

An arson attack in 2007 badly damaged a deck at the kindergarten.⁸⁹⁹ The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2013, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁹⁰⁰

MURDOCH PARK KINDERGARTEN (FORMERLY PUHINUI)

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

While the establishment committee continued to operate the private one, they searched for a suitable site for a free kindergarten to replace it. A site was eventually found in Chestnut Road and purchased from the Anglican Church for £1500 at the end of 1966. The lease of the small adjoining strip of land from the Papatoetoe City Council to make up an area sufficient for kindergarten purposes was also negotiated. This was part of Murdoch Park.

Tenders for Puhinui Kindergarten were called in June 1968 and the kindergarten opened in July 1969 as a grade 1 kindergarten.⁹⁰¹ The building was designed by Gerald J Elliot and Associates and built by the Onehunga Timber Company.⁹⁰²

Early in 1971 the name of the kindergarten was changed to Murdoch Park, as it was felt that Puhinui was not an accurate description of the location. The private kindergarten continued its activity after the free kindergarten had been established.⁹⁰³

Shortly after opening the vinyl flooring of the kindergarten building deteriorated significantly, and it appears that uneven concrete under the flooring was at least partly to blame. To rectify the problem the vinyl was lifted, the concrete sanded and new flooring laid with the assistance of The Marley Company (who supplied the original flooring material).⁹⁰⁴

In 1988 improvements were made to the building providing a covered outdoor play area and alterations to the existing storeroom.⁹⁰⁵ In the mid-2000s the bathroom, office, kitchen and storage areas were upgraded. The outdoor environment was also substantially improved.⁹⁰⁶

The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2013, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁹⁰⁷

MYERS KINDERGARTEN (NOW KINZ MYERS PARK)

This was the fourth kindergarten to be opened by the AKA. The building, situated in Myers Park, was presented to the Association by the Hon. Arthur Myers, and the kindergarten was formally opened on 16 October 1916, though classes had begun a month before. The average roll for the third term of 1916 was 59, the average attendance 36. The first Director was Jessie Fendall, who transferred from Campbell Kindergarten.⁹⁰⁸

The grand brick edifice, designed by Chilwell and Trevithick Architects contained not only the kindergarten but also a special class run by the Auckland Training College, for children whose development lagged behind that of their peers by two to three years. It was the first class of its kind in the country.⁹⁰⁹

Monthly medical inspections for the children began in 1921. By 1927 the kindergarten had a staff of five. In 1954 the situation changed, and Myers faced the possibility of being downgraded to a grade 1 kindergarten. Active efforts to attract more children to the kindergarten were made, but for the year ending 31 May 1959 the average daily attendance was only 25 in the morning and 18 in the afternoon.⁹¹⁰

While the building could accommodate more kindergarten children, it was also housed kindergarten teacher trainees. They received their training in part of the ground floor of the Myers Kindergarten building from 1916, and also occupied part of the upstairs area after 1944, displacing the Hard of Hearing League that had formerly used the space.⁹¹¹ Rising numbers of kindergarten teacher trainees saw the training centre relocate to Remuera in 1958, though the Myers Kindergarten remained home to the head office staff for many decades to come.⁹¹²

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

In November 1971 Myers was approached by the Education Department to allow the establishment of a kindergarten group for five hearing impaired children and this proposal was approved.⁹¹³

There was a major refurbishment in 1995.⁹¹⁴ Insufficient demand for kindergarten services in the inner city led to the decision to close the kindergarten in 2001, and the following year it was reopened as an all-day childcare centre.⁹¹⁵ For the subsequent history of the Myers Park facility, see the separate section on KiNZ Myers Park.

Memories of Myers Kindergarten by Beryl Carr (nee Winstone) 1936:

*'At that time Myers was all open, no fence. We had to be watchful because often you would find some of the old drunkies sleeping underneath the trees. We had to be very careful about that.'*⁹¹⁶

KINZ MYERS PARK (FORMERLY KINZ IN THE PARK)

Due to falling rolls and community demand, plans for the establishment of an all-day centre in the Myers Kindergarten building were formulated. Renovations to the building were carried out to meet the needs of the longer operating hours and the three age groups that would attend the new centre. On 4 March 2002 KiNZ in the Park (later known as KiNZ Myers Park) was opened for business. All profits from this and other KiNZ activities are channelled back to the AKA.⁹¹⁷

Concerns over noise levels led to the ceiling being lowered around the late-2000s to quieten the indoor environment.⁹¹⁸ In 2012 KiNZ Myers Park took part in research with the University of Auckland looking at the care of children aged under 2.⁹¹⁹

Recently the head office staff vacated the Myers Park building, moving to more spacious premises in a neighbouring office building.

NEW LYNN KINDERGARTEN

Efforts to establish a kindergarten at New Lynn date back to 1942, when the New Lynn Borough Council established a Crèche Committee with the aim of establishing a local crèche and kindergarten to help mothers engaged in war work. The committee sought government assistance, but was advised by the Minister of Education that they should contact the AKA for help and advice.⁹²⁰ The use of St Thomas Church Hall was secured in 1945. The establishment committee raised £110 for the purpose, and volunteers spent their evenings making the building suitable for a kindergarten. Meanwhile the AKA applied to the Education Department for recognition of the kindergarten, to secure capitation grants.⁹²¹ In May 1946, the building was inspected, found to be suitable, and the kindergarten was opened.⁹²²

In July 1952, the kindergarten was told that it would have to vacate the hall by the end of the year as it was needed for parish purposes. In fact, the kindergarten continued to function in the hall until the end of 1953.

In August 1953, the New Lynn Borough Council put £900 from War Memorial funds towards the cost of establishing a new kindergarten, and agreed to lease out a section of land at a nominal rent of £1 per year. The kindergarten was to form part of a War Memorial Community Centre in New Lynn.⁹²³ The building was designed by Gummer and Ford Architects and work was underway on the building in late 1955. However, the New Lynn Borough Council decided that they wished to alter their plans for the War Memorial Community Centre and now needed the kindergarten site. They offered to lease a new site in Totara Avenue on the same terms as the War Memorial site, and pay for the building to be re-erected on its new site to its present state of completion.⁹²⁴ An agreement between the parties was reached in April 1956, and in November the kindergarten was re-opened in its new building.⁹²⁵

In 1964 a small group of hearing impaired children began attending the kindergarten with a teacher from the School for the Deaf.⁹²⁶ Internal alterations were carried out in 1975 to remove a wall separating the store room and kitchen to form a new larger kitchen.⁹²⁷ An extension was built to form a new storeroom for the kindergarten in 1980.⁹²⁸

The kindergarten was demolished in 2011 to make way for a road and rail development, but Waitakere City supplied an alternative site and funds for the erection of a new kindergarten.⁹²⁹ The new kindergarten opened in September 2011, and operates on the kindergarten day model.⁹³⁰

NEWMARKET KINDERGARTEN (NOW REMUERA)

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

At the end of 1953 Newmarket Kindergarten was closed, the committee taking responsibility for a new kindergarten in Wairoa Road, Remuera, to become known as Constance Colegrove (now known as Remuera).⁹³¹

NORTHCOTE KINDERGARTEN (FORMERLY ONEWA)

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

A section was purchased for the Onewa Kindergarten in Gordon Road in 1946, but the Association decided to sell it in 1952, when it was realised that the section was at the junction of two proposed traffic lanes to the Harbour Bridge. In 1953, an alternative site was secured in Nutsey Avenue.⁹³² A design for the kindergarten was drawn up by architect Muriel E Lamb, but the Education Department considered the floor plan to be unnecessarily generous and adding considerably to the cost. Eventually the establishment committee decided to engage Edward Pipe and Sargent Architects to prepare the plans.⁹³³ Tenders for the kindergarten building were called early in 1957, and when the new building was opened the following year, the name of the kindergarten was changed from Onewa to Northcote.⁹³⁴

By late 1973 the building was suffering from dampness problems caused by condensation within the roof space, resulting in damp patches in the ceiling. This was later rectified.⁹³⁵

A deck extension and interior renovations were carried out in the early 1990s. The late 1990s saw the kindergarten committee focus their attention on altering the building and grounds to meet licensing requirements.⁹³⁶ In 2009 further improvements were made to the building with additions and alterations providing an improved entrance, large office and new storage room.⁹³⁷

The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2013, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁹³⁸

NORTHCOTE CENTRAL KINDERGARTEN (FORMERLY NORTHBRIDGE)

In 1957 a site in College Road, Northcote, was set aside for a kindergarten. The Onepoto Free Kindergarten Establishment Committee formed in September 1966, and permission to prepare

preliminary site and sketch plans was given in December 1968. In April 1969, the establishment committee changed its name from Onepoto to Northbridge. Northbridge Kindergarten started operating in August 1971.⁹³⁹ The building was designed by architect TK Donner and built by Cedar Glen Limited.⁹⁴⁰

A covered play area was constructed to provide a sheltered outdoor play space in 1977.⁹⁴¹ At this time, defects were found in the construction of the building which required considerable remedial work over several years. An inspection by the Education Department found that there was movement in the entry screen wall due to a lack of reinforcing. The windows and roof were also found to be leaking.⁹⁴² Improvements were made to the storage facilities at the kindergarten in 1980, when a new storage room extension was built.⁹⁴³

In the late-2000s the kindergarten building was extended providing larger areas for the office, bathroom, storage and interior play space.⁹⁴⁴ The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2010, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁹⁴⁵ The name of the kindergarten recently changed to Northcote Central.

OMANA KINDERGARTEN

An establishment committee to proceed with a second kindergarten in Papatoetoe formed in October 1977. The AKA had begun investigations for a site two years earlier, and by April 1979 a site in Omana Road was confirmed and cleared all town planning procedures. Some doubts were expressed at the end of 1979 by the committee about the suitability of the site, there being relatively few children in the area, although a survey a few years previously had clearly indicated a need.⁹⁴⁶ The building design was a standard plan from the Hawkes Bay Education Board. As Auckland Education Board staff were too busy to prepare the site plan and supervise the project, the AKA engaged Fraser Thomas Gunman and Shaw Architects to undertake these tasks.⁹⁴⁷ Tenders for the building of the kindergarten were called in November 1980, and the new kindergarten, built at a cost of over \$100,000, opened in 1981.⁹⁴⁸

In 1987 an adventure playground was installed at the kindergarten, and the following year alterations were made to the building to form a covered outdoor play area, and remove an internal wall, thereby extending the playroom to take in the storeroom.⁹⁴⁹

During the 2000s substantial extensions and renovations were undertaken, providing new office and resource areas as well as improved bathroom facilities.⁹⁵⁰ The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2011, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁹⁵¹

ONEHUNGA KINDERGARTEN (FORMERLY CUTHBERT AND ONEHUNGA CUTHBERT)

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

The purchase of a site in Hill Street on which to erect a kindergarten was arranged in 1928, and the following year saw a concerted fundraising effort. The move was never made, however, and in 1942 the kindergarten had to leave the Coronation Hall as it was required for war purposes. A hall nearby was made available by the Onehunga Band Committee, and the local Borough Council assisted the kindergarten committee by moving a schoolroom, putting the new grounds in order, and erecting playing equipment.

On Anzac Day 1945 fire caused £200 worth of damage to the building and it had to be closed for a number of months. It was, however, adequately insured by the Council. An extra room was added in the playground in 1946. By 1947 a more suitable site was sought, and in early

1948 an agreement was reached on a site in Cameron Street. This followed a decision in 1940 that the Onehunga Centennial Memorial should take the form of a combined kindergarten-Plunket rooms. The new building was opened in 1957, and the kindergarten renamed Cuthbert Kindergarten after Ivy Marion Cuthbert, who was chairwoman of the Onehunga Kindergarten Committee for many years. The cost of the building was £6,882, of which £4,588 came from the government, and £1,000 from the Onehunga Borough Council.

An adventure playground was completed in 1971. In 1974 extensions were made to the storage area at the kindergarten. In October 1975, the local committee suggested changing the name of the kindergarten to Onehunga-Cuthbert, to emphasise the locality, but nothing came of that proposal.⁹⁵²

In 1979 an application was made for a third teacher to be appointed. The Pre-School Education Advisor, Elisabeth den Ouden commented that the population had changed significantly in recent years, with significant economic hardship and many children with speech and behaviour problems.⁹⁵³ An extension to provide further storage space was undertaken in 1979.⁹⁵⁴

In the mid-1990s the kindergarten was a target for vandals, a problem that was exacerbated by the kindergarten grounds being used by the public to access a neighbouring street. A path was built outside the kindergarten grounds to provide an alternative access route and this reduced the problem.⁹⁵⁵

2005 saw the kindergarten celebrate its 80th anniversary.⁹⁵⁶ In 2006 the kindergarten became part of a three-year Ministry of Education information communication technology research project.⁹⁵⁷ The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2014, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁹⁵⁸ It is now known as Onehunga Kindergarten.

Memories of Onehunga Kindergarten by Beryl Carr (nee Winstone) c1930s:

'I would catch the ferry and the tram out to Mt Smart corner and I'd have my rope with all the little knotted loops on this and would pick up about 20 or more children as we walked down Queen Street, Onehunga, right down to the bottom of it, nearly to the waterfront there. Each child held onto a knotted loop on the rope. Those little children used to be so happy walking'.⁹⁵⁹

ORAKEI KINDERGARTEN

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

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

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

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

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

After all these problems were sorted out, site work began January 1953, and in February 1954 Orakei Kindergarten opened as a grade 1 kindergarten.⁹⁶⁰

Work began on an adventure playground in 1967, incorporating a 'futuristic play structure ... looking more like an entry into a modern sculpture exhibition', designed by sculptor W L Craig Smith. The play equipment included slides, caves, and bowls that could be filled with water to form summer paddling pools. The playground, built by kindergarten parents, was the first of its kind in New Zealand. It was officially opened in 1969 by Mayor Robinson.⁹⁶¹

Alterations and additions were made to the kindergarten in 1974 to provide a store room and an enlarged kitchen.⁹⁶² The kindergarten ran into problems in 1983. The dilapidated state of the fence and gates allowed children to escape from the kindergarten into the streets, which needed urgent work to remedy the situation.⁹⁶³ In the 1990s a wide verandah was added to the kindergarten, providing an additional area of covered play space.⁹⁶⁴ Further improvements were made to the outdoor area around the late 1990s including the provision of a large deck.⁹⁶⁵

Orakei Kindergarten celebrated its half centenary in 2004 with a gala held on 5 November.⁹⁶⁶ The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2010, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁹⁶⁷ The kindergarten building was upgraded in 2013.⁹⁶⁸

ORANGA KINDERGARTEN

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

Permission to call tenders for the construction of a building on the new site was given in November 1957, and the new building was completed late in 1958.⁹⁶⁹ The kindergarten was designed by Group Architects and built by TMH Builders.⁹⁷⁰

A special unit to cater for hearing impaired children was set up at Oranga in 1979, replacing a similar unit at Takapuna.⁹⁷¹

In the early 1990s the toilets were upgraded and minor improvements were made to the interior environment. Substantial renovations to the outdoor area were undertaken in the early-2000s.⁹⁷²

In 2005, Oranga Kindergarten received a National Heart Foundation award for completing a healthy heart programme. The programme involved increasing physical activity and encouraging kindergarten families to embrace healthy alternatives to the pies, chips and biscuits previously found in the children's lunch boxes.⁹⁷³

The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2009, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁹⁷⁴

ORATIA KINDERGARTEN

This was one of five kindergartens opened in 1978. A site adjacent to the Oratia Primary School was obtained in 1975, and an establishment committee formed in April 1976. In late 1977, funds were released by government for the construction of several kindergartens in the Auckland area. The release of funds was designed specifically to stimulate the building industry, and was conditional on the kindergarten being completed by March 1978. So the construction of Oratia Kindergarten proceeded, at a total cost of a little over \$53,000.⁹⁷⁵ Graham and Keys Architects were responsible for the design and the building was erected by Batley Builders Limited.⁹⁷⁶

In 1979 a canopy was built at the front entrance of the kindergarten to provide shelter for those entering during wet weather.⁹⁷⁷ Five years later a shelter was built adjoining the north-west side of the kindergarten to provide an additional covered play space.⁹⁷⁸ The building was altered in 1988, enclosing the northern corner and front entrance porch of the building to increase the size of the internal play area.⁹⁷⁹

Deterioration in parts of the building was noted in 2000, and progressive upgrading of the kindergarten building and outdoor environment happened through the 2000s.⁹⁸⁰ The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2013, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁹⁸¹

OTAHUHU KINDERGARTEN

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

There was a move to temporary premises in Queen Street in early 1942, but wartime difficulties, and post war shortages of building materials, meant that by 1948 the premises occupied by the kindergarten, which was owned by the Otahuhu Borough Council, was taken over by the council at short notice for its own use. The kindergarten was consequently closed down.

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

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

A pilot scheme operated from 1970, involving an extra roll of afternoon children and the employment of more staff. The scheme was to promote greater language development and proved to be of value.⁹⁸² Two groups of 30 children attended two afternoons a week. Along with the morning roll of 40 children, the kindergarten catered for 100 children weekly.⁹⁸³ The increase in capacity meant that greater storage and kitchen space was needed, and in 1976 a storeroom addition was built and the existing storeroom space was incorporated into the kitchen.⁹⁸⁴

At the end of 1977 however, the government advised that the scheme was being phased out. The local committee objected, and the local Member wrote to the Minister of Education supporting the continuation of the scheme. The Minister replied that there was no need to continue the scheme at Otahuhu, and argued that the extra salaries being paid were not justified by the increased numbers of children attending. The AKA was unhappy with the Minister's response, stating that 'it is sad that economics take precedence over the needs of children'.⁹⁸⁵

In the mid-1980s the kindergarten was having trouble with security. A letter noted: 'Over the last 6 months of last year we had a group of 'street kids' living in and around the kindergarten grounds. This resulted in 3 burglaries and 1 case of vandalism.'⁹⁸⁶ Security lighting was installed to deter intruders.⁹⁸⁷ In 1986 the kindergarten was extensively damaged by fire. The kindergarten was given the use of a classroom at Otahuhu Intermediate while the fire damage was repaired.⁹⁸⁸

In 1999 the interior of the kindergarten was upgraded.⁹⁸⁹ Progressive improvements were made to the kindergarten environment through the 2000s.⁹⁹⁰ The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2010, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁹⁹¹ Further upgrading of the kindergarten occurred soon afterwards to better meet the needs of the new operating model.⁹⁹²

OTAHUHU CENTRAL KINDERGARTEN (FORMERLY FORT RICHARD ROAD)

The Fort Richard Road establishment committee affiliated with the AKA in 1996.⁹⁹³ The local Rotary Club fundraised to build the kindergarten as their Jubilee gift to the community, with the Auckland City Council assisting by providing the site. The Associate Minister of Education, Brian Donnelly, opened the kindergarten in 1997.⁹⁹⁴

The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2009, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.⁹⁹⁵ The kindergarten recently changed its name from Fort Richard Road to Otahuhu Central. There has also been a recent upgrade of the outdoor environment.⁹⁹⁶

OWAIRAKA KINDERGARTEN

The Owairaka Kindergarten Committee applied for affiliation to the AKA in August 1950, and a kindergarten opened in the Owairaka Baptist Hall, Richardson Road in April 1952. In 1954, a site off Richardson Road was obtained. The kindergarten was forced to close at the end of 1955 because of staff shortages, but reopened in the Baptist Church Hall, Owairaka Avenue, in February 1957.

In the meantime, progress was made with the drawing up of plans to modify a Keith Hay prefabricated building for kindergarten purposes. The initial plans were approved by the Department of Education in October 1957, tenders were called in April 1958, and the new building was in use by November the same year.⁹⁹⁷

In 1974 the building was enlarged slightly with the addition of a new storeroom and deck.⁹⁹⁸ Further improvements came in 1980 when a deck and pergola were erected at the kindergarten.⁹⁹⁹ Access to the building was improved in 1985 when additions were made to the

existing access ramp. This eased the way for the special needs group that attended the kindergarten.¹⁰⁰⁰

In 1999 the interior was upgraded, and in the mid-2000s work was undertaken to significantly improve the outdoor environment and flow between the indoor and outdoor areas.¹⁰⁰¹ The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2011, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹⁰⁰²

Memories of Owairaka Kindergarten by Eileen Bethell 1960s:

*'I remember at Owairaka one year when I was Chairwoman we had a fair. We worked on it the whole year. And on the day, which was a beautiful sunny Saturday, we had 82 parents and grandparents involved, not just coming, but actually involved. And I thought with a roll of 80 children, that's not bad ... because kindergarten, apart from Plunket, is the first educational situation children and parents go into. And it's giving them the pattern of community service, going on to serve on school committees. I thought that was a very good training ground for parents.'*¹⁰⁰³

PAKURANGA KINDERGARTEN

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

By February 1972 the waiting list at Pakuranga had grown to 612 children, making it the largest waiting list in New Zealand. In August 1972 the Minister of Education gave permission for more children to attend Pakuranga, and for the AKA to appoint an extra trained teacher to work five half days a week. A third full-time teacher replaced the part-time teacher in October 1974. The extended rolls scheme at Pakuranga was discontinued early in 1976, despite protests that, although waiting lists had reduced, most children were receiving only about one term of kindergarten experience before entering school. However, it was the Department of Education's view that extended rolls should not be seen as an acceptable way to reduce waiting lists on a permanent basis. Extended rolls were meant to be a temporary measure, bringing some relief while associations worked towards providing additional kindergarten facilities. In the time that the extended roll system operated at Pakuranga, two new kindergartens had opened in the area, and a third had reached the planning stage.¹⁰⁰⁴

In the early 1980s remedial work was undertaken at the kindergarten after subsidence in one corner of the building caused leaks and damage to the roof.¹⁰⁰⁵ The mid-1990s saw the adventure playground relocated to make way for a carparking area for the kindergarten. Significant improvements were made to the indoor and outdoor environments through the late 1990s. Interior changes included the conversion of the locker room into a play area, and enlarging the office and storage space.¹⁰⁰⁶ Progressive upgrading of the kindergarten playground continued through the 2000s.¹⁰⁰⁷

The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2013, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹⁰⁰⁸

PANAMA ROAD PLAYGROUP

Established in November 2014, Panama Road Playgroup was the third playgroup opened by the AKA. The playgroup was established in partnership with Panama Road School in Mt Wellington.¹⁰⁰⁹

PAPATOETOE KINDERGARTEN

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

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

By the middle of 1959 the kindergarten had a 22-month waiting list, but the shortage of trained teachers, together with a lack of government funds to provide subsidies on new buildings, made the provision of a second kindergarten virtually impossible.¹⁰¹⁰

In 1975 it was discovered that much of the floor of the building was rotting, resulting in the kindergarten being closed temporarily while urgent repairs were undertaken.¹⁰¹¹

In the early-2000s improvements were made to the outdoor environment. At this time the kindergarten was part of a changing community, and by the late-2000s most of the children attending had English as an additional language. The kindergarten teachers supported families and the community by providing a community room for English language classes. The kindergarten also employed language assistants who translated information for families who did not speak English.¹⁰¹² The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2014, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹⁰¹³

PARNELL KINDERGARTEN

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

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

After completing some landfilling, building on the new kindergarten began in early July 1978, and teaching started in February 1979.¹⁰¹⁴ The building was designed by Graham and Keys Architects and built by Regal Homes Limited.¹⁰¹⁵

Because of site difficulties, Parnell was the most expensive kindergarten built by the AKA to date, costing about \$65,000. In mid-February a crib retaining wall, some two metres high and twelve metres long on the boundary of the kindergarten property, collapsed after torrential rain.

Mud, water, and topsoil from the adjoining backyards cascaded down on one side of the kindergarten to a height of one metre.

The kindergarten closed for several weeks because of the potential danger of the large pile of mud and debris leaning heavily on the back of the building. The business of allocating responsibility for the collapsed wall, seeking compensation and setting about the task of cleaning up and repairing the wall dragged on for weeks. By June 1979, the retaining wall was restored with a much more dependable structure.¹⁰¹⁶

The northeast corner of the kindergarten was enclosed in 1984 to provide additional play space.¹⁰¹⁷ In the late 1990s, the outdoor area was redeveloped. This was followed in the early-2000s by improvements to the building, including upgrading of the kitchen and bathroom areas. In the late-2000s, the playground was significantly improved.¹⁰¹⁸ The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2013, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹⁰¹⁹

PIGEON MOUNTAIN KINDERGARTEN

This kindergarten was built in 1990 and opened the following year.¹⁰²⁰ In the mid-2000s improvements were made to the building providing better bathroom facilities.¹⁰²¹

In 2010, Pigeon Mountain Kindergarten completed an educational leadership programme 'Literacy in Mentoring' and a learning wisdom research project.¹⁰²² The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2013, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹⁰²³

PT CHEVALIER KINDERGARTEN

Peter Fraser, then Minister of Education, visited Point Chevalier in 1937 to help the AKA raise public interest in the establishment of a local kindergarten. The visit was successful, and by the following year the area had its own kindergarten operating in the Hallyburton Sports Club hall. Unfortunately, this became unavailable in 1945. The use of a section was acquired at a nominal rent and an army hut purchased for re-erection on the site, with voluntary labour from the children's fathers. The new building, which provided an attractive home for the kindergarten, opened in September 1946.

By 1970, it was becoming necessary to renovate parts of the kindergarten. The washroom, toilets, and cloakroom were repaired, and in 1973 a storeroom was built. The playground was resealed in 1974. In 1978 the AKA programmed a new building for Point Chevalier for some time after 1982, and the local committee decided to place ten percent of all its fundraising into a building account.¹⁰²⁴ The kindergarten moved from its site on the corner of Harbour View Road and Raymond Street to Pt Chevalier School in 1984, where a surplus three classroom block was converted for use as a kindergarten.¹⁰²⁵

In 1987, plans were drawn up for a verandah addition at the front of the kindergarten. The kindergarten committee raised some money for the work, but relied on getting a minor capital works grant from the Department of Education to provide the remaining funds. However, no funding was available from this source.¹⁰²⁶

While the location of the kindergarten on the Pt Chevalier School grounds was no doubt convenient for parents, the expansion of the school roll in the new millennium threatened the future of the kindergarten. Negotiations eventually resulted in a commitment from the school that the kindergarten could remain on the school site until an alternative location could be found.¹⁰²⁷

In late 2014 an agreement was reached whereby Pt Chevalier Kindergarten will relocate to a new purpose built facility on a new site within the Pt Chevalier community. This will allow the school to utilise the former kindergarten site. The new kindergarten building will be a multi-purpose community facility that is likely to include space for after school programmes, health services and parenting courses.¹⁰²⁸

The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2015, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹⁰²⁹

PT ENGLAND KINDERGARTEN

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

The kindergarten was established in what used to be a special classes block at the school. A prefabricated garage was placed on the site to house outdoor equipment. The total cost of the kindergarten, opened at the end of July 1975, was only a quarter of what was normal at the time.

In 1976, a supernumerary teacher was placed at Point England. At the beginning of 1977 however, because of the revised supernumerary scheme introduced by the Minister of Education, no supernumerary was allocated to Point England. The lack of a third teacher led to staffing problems and the AKA first applied for a third teacher, and then decided to appoint a supernumerary teacher itself. In August 1977, the Department of Education finally approved the appointment of a third teacher, subject to annual review.¹⁰³⁰ An adventure playground was erected at the kindergarten in 1980.¹⁰³¹

The kindergarten found itself unable to cover its basic expenses in the early 1990s. Economic deprivation in the area meant it was difficult to raise enough money through fundraising to meet operating costs. The kindergarten was assisted at this time by a loan from the AKA and a gift of money from another kindergarten. While these temporary measures were no doubt helpful, it appears that the precarious financial situation was not resolved until the kindergarten became eligible for equity funding.¹⁰³²

The kindergarten was substantially upgraded in 1996.¹⁰³³ Improvements were made to the outdoor environment through the early-2000s.¹⁰³⁴ The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2010, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹⁰³⁵

PONSONBY KINDERGARTEN

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

In 1937, the kindergarten moved into a building in Ponsonby Terrace, and in 1944 £534 was collected at a Queen Carnival to carry out additions and alterations to the building. A new kitchen was constructed, as the kindergarten provided midday meals for the children, and other improvements were made to the toilet facilities and the teacher's room. The midday meals scheme dated back to 1940, when the kindergarten became a day nursery when war conditions demanded that some mothers work in factories essential to the war effort. The beginnings of the scheme were limited. The scarcity of finance and cooking equipment, longer working hours for the staff, and some kind of domestic help in the kitchen, all had to be considered. However, there was a good response from the parents, and 47 out of the 50 children were attending for the full day within a month of the scheme starting. After two months an old gas stove, loaned by the Gas Company, was installed in the small kitchen, and a mother was

appointed to serve the food. At that stage it was not possible to give a full, balanced meal, but the children's sandwiches were supplemented with hot vegetable soup and a dessert.

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

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

The financial situation of the day nursery was precarious at times, as it was entirely dependent on the mothers' donations of three shillings per week to cover the food, cleaning and cooking expenses, and extra equipment. It's curious that in 1943, when the government asked the AKA whether it would be prepared to convert some of its kindergartens into day nurseries to assist the war effort, the Association did not highlight the work done at Ponsonby and replied that no such need existed.

Ponsonby wanted to continue the nursery at the end of the war, particularly to help mothers with large families and no domestic help, those with personal problems, war widows, and mothers with housing and similar difficulties. As well as the 60 children who attended the day nursery, there were another 50 on the waiting list. In April 1946, however, Ponsonby's finances were in a sorry state, with insufficient funds to pay the teachers. Most of the Ponsonby committee resigned at this point.

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

In 1950, Ponsonby was officially made a grade 2 kindergarten. There was a sufficiently high roll to justify a second assistant, but the kindergarten was in the happy position of having sufficient voluntary helpers not to need one.

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

By 1958, the committee was finding maintenance of their old building a considerable burden. It spent £400 on repairs and maintenance, and found fundraising difficult because of the location of the kindergarten. Much of the equipment needed replenishing or replacing. The committee felt that the population it served was, in general, neither as young, active, nor as prosperous as in other areas, and that most people were indifferent to the kindergarten, even though it operated as a Nursery School offering a social service greater than usually given by a kindergarten. They also noted that many of the mothers of the children found it necessary to work, and were therefore not available for fundraising activities. Nor were they able to contribute financially. Because of irregular hours and overtime many of the fathers were unavailable too.

In July 1959, the kindergarten was able to lease part of the site of the old Ponsonby School adjoining the kindergarten and a number of improvements were carried out. Early in the following year, faced with the loss of their Nissen hut and the basement of the Council Hall on the next section, both of which had been used for storage purposes for outdoor equipment and for beds for 60 children, the kindergarten erected a larger than usual equipment room.

Ponsonby Kindergarten held a meeting in April 1967 to consider its future. At the time Ponsonby was still a grade 2 kindergarten, with 60 children on the morning roll, some of whom remained for the midday dinner and sleep in the afternoon. Ponsonby had carried on with its existing programme of providing dinner and afternoon sleep since 1948, when most other kindergartens had started the double shift two days a week. Gwen Gilbert, who had been head teacher at Ponsonby since 1942, was due to retire, and it was felt that any changes should happen before that. Gwen Gilbert was in favour of changing to the usual grade 1 situation, with morning and afternoon rolls of 40 children and no provision for dinner or afternoon sleeping. The AKA felt that the need for the special services offered by Ponsonby Kindergarten had largely disappeared. They asked the Department of Education to allow a staff of three at Ponsonby (as already existed), to cope with the large non-European element, and after some discussion the department consented to the request.

There were continuing problems with maintenance. The building was very cold in winter, and a check in 1971 revealed that various sections of the electrical system were in a dangerous condition, and that the whole building needed rewiring. The previous year the floors had to be replaced, because they'd been sanded so many times it was simply not possible to sand them again. Part of the problem was that the kindergarten building was leased from the Auckland City Council, and the lease put the onus on the AKA to carry out all repairs and maintenance on the building, both externally and internally. In mid-1971, with the proposed redevelopment of the Freemans Bay area, the Association asked the council to consider a site for a new kindergarten building in the redevelopment scheme. By early 1972, the problems were getting worse. Because of corrosion, much of the plumbing system was ineffective and water was lying under the building. The spouting also required replacement.

Some help came from other kindergartens, but not from local authorities. The Mission Bay Kindergarten contributed £200 toward maintenance costs, and the Mill Crescent Kindergarten in Matamata also offered to help. However, an approach to the City Council for financial assistance to repair the plumbing was turned down. In 1976 the AKA granted Ponsonby an exemption from contributing the usual \$200 to its central Building Fund, on the condition that the sum was placed in a special fund for the maintenance of their kindergarten. This policy was continued in 1977, when Ponsonby became ineligible for maintenance repairs through the Education Board because their building was not vested in the AKA. In 1981, following negotiations with the Auckland City Council about changes to the lease and land titles for the kindergarten, it was designated 'local purposes (site for a kindergarten)', and the management and control of the site was vested in the Association. The lease with the council was terminated. This meant that Ponsonby became eligible for maintenance under the same scheme as all other kindergartens.¹⁰³⁶

Renovations were carried out at Ponsonby Kindergarten in 1983.¹⁰³⁷ In the mid-2000s the building was extended, providing more play space for children and an enlarged work space for teachers. Improvements were also made to the acoustics at this time.¹⁰³⁸

Ponsonby is the only AKA kindergarten to remain operating on the sessional model.¹⁰³⁹

PUKEKOHE KINDERGARTEN (TRANSFERRED TO PUKEKOHE ASSOCIATION)

A kindergarten was established in the Presbyterian Sunday school room at Seddon Street in 1946. It initially operated privately, because the services of a trained kindergarten teacher were unavailable, there being a significant shortage at the time. The following year the kindergarten was fortunate in being able to employ a trained teacher and the AKA applied for, and was granted, a government capitation subsidy. By mid-June 1947, there were 24 children attending and a strong committee had formed.¹⁰⁴⁰ However, by mid-1950 the trained teacher had resigned and the AKA was unable to find a replacement. Consequently, the kindergarten was unable to receive government funding and reverted to a private kindergarten until a trained

teacher was hired in 1953. By this stage the kindergarten was no longer part of the AKA and was operated by the Pukekohe Free Kindergarten Association.¹⁰⁴¹

RANUI KINDERGARTEN

In December 1977, the AKA purchased a 120 square metre transportable day care centre building for \$10,000. There was no government subsidy, and the money was provided by the Association, the Ranui community, other kindergarten committees, business houses, and various individuals. The Auckland Savings Bank and New Zealand Insurance both donated \$1000, and Universal Homes \$500. A site had been secured a month before, when a Playcentre Association site was transferred to the AKA. Ranui opened as a grade 0 kindergarten, in July 1978.¹⁰⁴²

There were very high waiting lists at Ranui by September 1984, and the AKA considered extending the roll from 25 children per session to 30. However, alterations were needed to both the building and playground to accommodate the additional children.¹⁰⁴³ It took quite some time to plan and finance the alterations, and they were finally completed in 1988. The kindergarten now had a new deck and the internal layout was altered to provide a larger playroom that was easier for the teachers to supervise. The following year the playground was extended, taking in part of the neighbouring school site.¹⁰⁴⁴

In 2003 the old prefab that had housed Ranui Kindergarten was replaced with a purpose-built kindergarten building at a cost of \$220,000. The work was partially funded through a government grant, with the remaining money coming from AKA reserves and organisations including the ASB Charitable Trust and the Waitakere Licensing Trust.¹⁰⁴⁵ The outdoor area was upgraded in the late-2000s.¹⁰⁴⁶

The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2013, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹⁰⁴⁷

Memories of Prime Minister Rob Muldoon at the opening of Ranui Kindergarten by Marj Fogarty and Denise Iversen:

*'On the great day, we had security people complete with sniffer dogs through the kindergarten, much to the enjoyment of the children. It was an evening function and all went extremely well with Mrs Muldoon particularly interested in a huge scrapbook prepared by the teachers and children for her. We also recall that while we were all eating and drinking inside, the security guys outside were being handed drinks through the toilet windows by Pat Cater who was the Area rep on the Council.'*¹⁰⁴⁸

REMUERA KINDERGARTEN (FORMERLY CONSTANCE COLEGROVE)

In October 1944, a deputation of Remuera residents waited on the Mayor of Auckland with a proposal that a site in Remuera Road be made available for a kindergarten. In 1947, the Department of Lands and Survey advised that part of the site, on the corner of Remuera and Wairau roads, could be used for this purpose. Protracted discussions between the AKA, the City Council and the Departments of Education and Lands and Survey followed, mainly because the Association felt the site on offer was not particularly suitable; the most desirable portion of the available land was being retained as a park. The Association didn't accept the site until 1953, apparently largely in response to the closure of Newmarket Kindergarten.

Tenders for the kindergarten building were called in March 1954, and Constance Colegrove Kindergarten opened in February 1955.¹⁰⁴⁹ The building was designed by architect C Ross McLean.¹⁰⁵⁰

An adventure playground was completed in 1967. The waiting list stood at 210 by this time, and the need for a new free kindergarten in the area was obvious. Constance Colegrove

Kindergarten donated \$600 toward an establishment fund for a kindergarten in St Luke's Church buildings. The kindergarten was reroofed in 1975, at a cost of \$5,800.¹⁰⁵¹

Minor additions were made to the storage facilities at the kindergarten in 1976.¹⁰⁵² Improvements were made to the natural lighting of the kindergarten in 1985 when skylights were installed.¹⁰⁵³ By mid-1988 the foundations on the southern wall were failing, causing considerable damage to the building, and required urgent and costly repairs.¹⁰⁵⁴

The office and staffroom accommodation was renovated during the early 1990s. By the mid-2000s, planning was underway to upgrade the outdoor environment, and this work was completed by 2011.¹⁰⁵⁵ The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2014, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹⁰⁵⁶ The kindergarten has recently been renamed Remuera.¹⁰⁵⁷

ROSKILL SOUTH KINDERGARTEN

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

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

Further problems arose concerning the placement of the kindergarten building on the site. The AKA, the Borough Council, the Regional Architect of the Education Department and the AKA's architect were all involved, and the matter was not resolved until the Association's president met with the Borough Council in October 1970.

By the time a tender was accepted for the new building in April 1971, a great deal of unpleasantness had arisen and the AKA recognised the need to reform the local committee, which had dwindled in number, and to get enthusiastic support for the project. Roskill South Kindergarten finally opened in February 1972.¹⁰⁵⁸ The building was designed by Gerald J Elliot and Associates.¹⁰⁵⁹

In 1977, the kindergarten operated an extended roll scheme to cater for additional children, but this was phased out during the first term of 1978.¹⁰⁶⁰ A lean-to addition was completed in 1980, providing a sheltered space for the carpentry table and room for additional storage.¹⁰⁶¹ Further improvements followed in 1988 when a roof extension was built to provide a covered play area.¹⁰⁶² In 1997, the old playground was removed and a new playground installed.¹⁰⁶³

The interior of Roskill South Kindergarten was upgraded in 2002. This work included improvements to the office space, kitchen and bathroom, as well as the addition of a visitors' room where teachers could share information with the community and other visitors.¹⁰⁶⁴ The following year the kindergarten was selected by the Ministry of Education as one of six centres of innovation where research into the use of information communication technology was undertaken over a three year period.¹⁰⁶⁵ In 2008, Head Teacher Karen Ramsey received an award at the National Excellence in Teaching and Leadership Awards.¹⁰⁶⁶ Around this time the playground was redeveloped and the kindergarten instigated a weekly "bush kindergarten"

where the children spent a session climbing trees, playing group games and learning about local flora and fauna in the bush reserve adjoining the kindergarten.¹⁰⁶⁷ Research into the use of iPads at kindergarten was conducted at Roskill South in 2012.¹⁰⁶⁸ The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2014, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹⁰⁶⁹

ST HELIERS KINDERGARTEN (FORMERLY ST HELIERS-GLENDOWIE)

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

£1400 had been raised for a kindergarten by September 1955, and sketch plans for a building prepared, but by February 1956 there were fresh problems in maintaining a local committee. A public meeting to elect a new committee was postponed because of insufficient attendance, but it became possible to form a committee in March.

Because of nationwide staffing problems, and the government's 'period of consolidation', permission from the Department of Education to start building St Heliers Kindergarten wasn't received until April 1959. Tenders were called early in 1960, but the Department of Education considered them all too high, and it was necessary to alter the proposed design of the building. Tenders were resubmitted in July 1960, and in September the department gave its permission to proceed with building. The kindergarten opened in November 1961. Elizabeth Tunks was appointed the first director, and held that position for eighteen years until 1978.¹⁰⁷⁰

By 1967 the waiting list for the kindergarten had grown to the extent that the committee wrote to the Department of Education asking if a site could be secured within a proposed primary school in Merton Road. However, no land was available.¹⁰⁷¹

The kindergarten developed a plan for improvements to the building and grounds in the mid-1990s. Both the indoor and outdoor environments were improved by 2001. The work included upgrading the kitchen, bathroom and administration facilities. By this stage the kindergarten was known as St Heliers, rather than St Heliers-Glendowie. Further improvements were made to the outdoor area around the early 2010s, providing a more physically challenging play area for the children.¹⁰⁷²

The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2013, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹⁰⁷³

Memories of St Heliers Kindergarten by Elizabeth Tunks c1960s:

*'Nada Foley ... was very good voluntary helper. Some of her grandchildren came to St. Heliers and after a tentative start she came too. She was a very good pianist and we had this marvellous piano music, sometimes for nearly two hours, with children coming and going throughout. She had a great ability to adapt her playing to whatever the child chose to do, so that if one was skipping she would instantly provide a tune to match from her wide repertoire. I don't know anyone else who could 'read' the children as she could.'*¹⁰⁷⁴

ST JOHNS KINDERGARTEN (FORMERLY TAMAKI)

An establishment committee set up in February 1971, and a site in Howard Hunter Avenue, Glen Innes, was vested in the AKA in early 1973. Permission to call tenders for a new building was given a year later. However, the local establishment committee was not at all enthusiastic

about the basic plan from which kindergartens were designed and built, and wrote to the Minister of Education urging him to prevent 'the erection in our area of a kindergarten which ... is grossly overpriced and badly designed.' At a special meeting of the Sites and Establishment Committee in June 1974, it was agreed that the St Johns committee could change their architects. The committee in their turn guaranteed that the plans produced by their own architects would meet all the requirements laid down by both the Department of Education and the AKA, that the building would be ready for occupation by February 1975, and that the complete project would cost less than \$32,000.

Tenders for the new building were called in September 1974, and St Johns, built at a final cost of \$42,000, began operating in May 1975. A private kindergarten opening at the same time in the nearby Trinity Presbyterian Church Hall saw St Johns start with smaller rolls than expected.¹⁰⁷⁵

A roof extension was added to the kindergarten in 1981 to provide an additional sheltered area.¹⁰⁷⁶ In the early-2000s the outdoor area was upgraded, and interior renovations to the kitchen and bathroom areas followed in the mid-2000s.¹⁰⁷⁷ Around this time the name of the kindergarten was changed from St Johns to Tamaki.¹⁰⁷⁸

The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2010, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹⁰⁷⁹ In 2011 the outdoor environment was redeveloped, and the following year the building was extended and improved to provide additional play space and better facilities for staff.¹⁰⁸⁰ The kindergarten changed its name again recently, reverting to the original St Johns.¹⁰⁸¹

SANDBROOK KINDERGARTEN (NOW CLOSED)

A site at Bairds Road Reserve, Manukau City, was leased to the AKA in 1975. Sandbrook was a Special Assistance Kindergarten, and initially had no functioning committee. The Association acted in a caretaker capacity. The kindergarten opened at the beginning of 1977, with a staff of three. A committee was established soon afterwards. Vandalism, and a general lack of local support, were major problems at Sandbrook.¹⁰⁸²

Changing community needs prompted the AKA to investigate altering the type of service offered at Sandbrook to the extended hours model offered at Bairds Kindergarten. However, nothing more came of this, and Sandbrook continued to operate as a standard sessional kindergarten.¹⁰⁸³ Due to continuing burglaries and vandalism a burglar alarm was installed at the kindergarten in 1985.¹⁰⁸⁴

In the mid-1980s neighbouring Sandbrook School was closed and a new school, Chapel Downs, was opened some distance away. The transfer of pupils to the new school had a major effect on the kindergarten, which relied on school aged pupils escorting their younger siblings. With the closure of Sandbrook School, the rolls fell dramatically, ultimately resulting in the closure of the kindergarten in 1994.¹⁰⁸⁵

SANDRINGHAM KINDERGARTEN

Sandringham Kindergarten was established in 1976 in the building formerly occupied by Haeata Kindergarten. Haeata was established in 1936 and moved to its new Kenneth Road building a decade later. By the late 1950s the small size of the building and site became a problem, and in 1968 consideration was given to moving the kindergarten to a larger site. In 1975, the kindergarten moved to a new building on a site within the grounds of Mt Albert Primary School and was renamed Morningside. Meanwhile the Haeata Kindergarten Committee suggested that old Haeata Kindergarten building could provide a useful venue for a kindergarten with a small roll. Improvements were made to the building, and in February 1976 it reopened as Sandringham Kindergarten with a roll of 25 children per session.¹⁰⁸⁶

By the mid-1990s it was clear that the layout of the kindergarten building, which had three separate play areas, and the dangerous state of the playground, was making it difficult for the teachers to adequately supervise the children and extend their learning. The kindergarten reopened in 1996 after a major rebuild that addressed these problems.¹⁰⁸⁷ The exterior environment was redeveloped in the mid-2000s with the extensive nature of the work requiring the temporary closure of the kindergarten.¹⁰⁸⁸ In 2010, the kindergarten was awarded a Good Citizens Award by the Eden/Albert Community Board.¹⁰⁸⁹ Sandringham Kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2014, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹⁰⁹⁰

KINZ SANDRINGHAM

In 2005 the AKA acquired a property adjoining Edendale Primary School that had housed a Kohanga Reo. The building was extensively upgraded to suit its new purpose as a KiNZ early learning centre to serve the local multi-cultural community. KiNZ Sandringham opened in March 2007.¹⁰⁹¹

SNELLS BEACH KINDERGARTEN

At the beginning of 2003 the Snells Beach Community Preschool joined the AKA, and their outdoor area was upgraded.¹⁰⁹² In 2007, the kindergarten won the Early Childhood Education Innovation Award at the North Harbour Sporting Excellence Awards for its work in promoting active movement at the kindergarten.¹⁰⁹³ The kindergarten building was extensively upgraded in the late-2000s with further work planned.¹⁰⁹⁴

The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2009, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model with subsequent alterations creating a more suitable environment for the new operating model.¹⁰⁹⁵

SOMERVILLE KINDERGARTEN

The final Somerville Establishment Committee formed in 1993, and three years later it affiliated with the AKA.¹⁰⁹⁶ Work began on the kindergarten after a discretionary grant of \$189,000 was received from the government.¹⁰⁹⁷ The kindergarten was officially opened by Manukau City Mayor Sir Barry Curtis in 1997. This was the culmination of a great deal of work from the establishment committee, with the kindergarten opening in half the average time it usually took.¹⁰⁹⁸ Three years after opening the kindergarten had one of the longest waiting lists in Auckland.¹⁰⁹⁹

In the early-2000s, canopies were erected over the deck to provide additional sheltered play space in wet weather.¹¹⁰⁰ The kindergarten building was reclad in 2011 to remedy the problems of this leaky building.¹¹⁰¹ Somerville Kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2013, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹¹⁰²

STURGES ROAD KINDERGARTEN

An establishment committee formed in May 1976. Early that year, a site in Sturges Road, Henderson, was reserved for a kindergarten, and sketch plans of the proposed building were approved in June of the following year. Sturges Road opened in May 1978 as a grade 1 kindergarten.¹¹⁰³ The building was designed by Graham and Keys Architects and built by Colin Moors Construction Limited. Sturges Road Kindergarten was one of a number of kindergartens that received government funding at this time to help stimulate the building industry.¹¹⁰⁴

In 1981 a porch was added to the front of the building, which was very exposed to prevailing winds. Further improvements were made in 1987, when a locker room addition was completed.¹¹⁰⁵ By the late 1980s car parking had become a considerable problem. An existing carpark on the opposite side of Sturges Road was inadequate, and there were safety concerns regarding pedestrians crossing what was now a busy road. A meeting attended by

representatives of the AKA, Waitemata City Council and Auckland Education Board was held at the kindergarten, and plans were devised for a new carpark to be constructed on part of the adjoining Western Heights School site. There were considerable delays with the project.¹¹⁰⁶

Around the early 1990s, the outdoor environment was upgraded.¹¹⁰⁷ Substantial improvement works were carried out in the mid-2000s to further enhance the outdoor environment, and the deck was covered with an archgola and awning to provide additional covered play space during wet weather.¹¹⁰⁸ The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2013, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹¹⁰⁹ A comprehensive redevelopment of the outdoor area was planned, but the work was delayed by a lack of funding.¹¹¹⁰

SUMMERLAND KINDERGARTEN

In 2001, Summerland Primary School in West Auckland provided land for a new kindergarten. With the assistance of the ASB Charitable Trust and financial reserves from the AKA, Summerland Kindergarten was completed in record time and was opened by Lynn Pillay, MP for Waitakere, in October 2002.¹¹¹¹

In the mid-2000s improvements were made to the outdoor area.¹¹¹² The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2013, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹¹¹³

SUNBEAMS KINDERGARTEN (NOW GLEN INNES)

This was the seventh kindergarten to be established by the AKA, and it opened on 1 February 1927, in St David's Hall, Virginia Avenue. By 1930, the kindergarten had the highest attendance for the year of any kindergarten in Auckland, and held this position until 1934. In 1937 plans for a new building were drawn up, and the promise of a government subsidy was obtained. The new building was opened in 1938, at a total cost (including the land) of £1604.

A playroom was built in the kindergarten grounds in 1942, giving much needed extra space, and enhancing the overall appearance of the kindergarten. Further space was created in 1945 when the veranda was roofed over and glassed in. By 1957 the lack of children of preschool age in the Eden Terrace area had caused Sunbeams' rolls to drop to the point where it appeared uneconomic to continue the kindergarten's operation.

At the end of 1957, it was reluctantly decided that the kindergarten should close, but it was hoped that Sunbeams could reopen at a later date in a new district. By the end of 1959, the equipment from Sunbeams had been distributed to other kindergartens or otherwise disposed of, and in 1961 the property was sold. A new Sunbeams, in Taniwha Street in the Glen Innes area opened in 1963.¹¹¹⁴ For the subsequent history of Sunbeams Kindergarten at Glen Innes, see the separate section on Glen Innes Kindergarten.

SUNNYSOOK KINDERGARTEN (FORMERLY BROADLANDS)

This kindergarten, in Sunnysook Road was one of five opened in 1971. An establishment committee set up in 1966, and in February 1969 the Waitemata County Council set aside a section of land to lease for kindergarten purposes. Shortly after, permission was granted to proceed with preliminary site and building plans. Tenders were called in 1970, and the kindergarten was constructed at a cost of \$20,000.¹¹¹⁵ The building was designed by architect TK Donner.¹¹¹⁶ The standard of work on the completed building was far from satisfactory, however. The AKA complained to the contractors for work not finished on time, instructions ignored, promises not kept and work left undone. Poor workmanship and omissions from the contract were also noted. The contracting firm went into liquidation at the end of 1971.¹¹¹⁷

In 1974 Broadlands Kindergarten was damaged by vandals who put a hose through the toilet window and left it running. Cleaners arrived to find the carpets saturated and resources damaged, resulting in the temporary closure of the kindergarten.¹¹¹⁸

In 1977 defects were found in the construction of the building. An inspection by the Education Department found there was movement in the entry screen wall due to a lack of reinforcing.¹¹¹⁹ In 1981 the verandah of the building was extended.¹¹²⁰ Improvements were made to the playground in 1987 with the installation of a series of platforms for climbing.¹¹²¹ In the mid-2000s extensive changes were made to the outdoor area and further improvements were undertaken in this area through the late-2000s.¹¹²²

In 2013 Broadlands Kindergarten was renamed Sunnynook. The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2014, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹¹²³

SUNNYVALE KINDERGARTEN

An establishment committee formed in 1969 in Sunnyvale, Henderson. A site on the Kaikoura Street Reserve was set aside by the Waitemata County Council in April 1970, and approved by the Department of Education in December the following year. Approval to call tenders was given in November 1974, and the new kindergarten, built at a cost of \$35,700, opened in April 1975.¹¹²⁴ The building was designed by Graham and Keys Architects and built by Batley Builders.¹¹²⁵

In 1978, a roof covering was erected between the storage shed and kindergarten.¹¹²⁶ Considerable work was undertaken to improve the kindergarten building in the early-2000s. A staged upgrade of the outdoor environment was carried out through the 2000s.¹¹²⁷ The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2011, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹¹²⁸

SYLVIA PARK KINDERGARTEN (FORMERLY MT WELLINGTON)

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

In November 1958, a private kindergarten with 19 children opened in a church hall. The idea was that this would operate until sufficient funds were raised for a free kindergarten. After protracted negotiations, a lease was signed in May 1965 with the Mt Wellington Borough Council for a site in Hamlin Road. Tenders for a kindergarten building were called in July 1966, but concern at the prices being tendered led to further delays and considerable frustration on the part of the local committee. Eventually, at the end of the year, permission was given to proceed with construction, and in November 1967, Mt Wellington gained government recognition as a grade 1 kindergarten. The private kindergarten closed at the end of the second term in 1967.¹¹²⁹ The kindergarten, designed by William Wilson and Ivan Juriss, was officially opened on 6 April 1968.¹¹³⁰

In 1981 additions were made to the kindergarten to provide a sun shelter.¹¹³¹ Substantial improvements were made to the playground in the 1990s. Interior renovations followed in the early-2000s providing a new kitchen, new windows, a media room, and improved lighting and heating. A staged upgrade of the exterior environment was carried out in the late-2000s and early 2010s.¹¹³²

The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2013, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹¹³³ The name of the kindergarten was changed around this time to Sylvia Park.¹¹³⁴

TAKAPUNA KINDERGARTEN

Takapuna Kindergarten opened in the Presbyterian Church Hall, Hall's Corner, Takapuna, in February 1944. As this hall was not available to the kindergarten in the afternoons, a move was made to the Gospel Hall in Jutland Road in 1948. In 1949 however, the kindergarten

received notice to quit the hall, and at the end of the first term another move was made, this time to the Takapuna Surf Club on The Strand. Attendance was now limited to 30 children. This hall was far from ideal, and a search began for a better site. In August 1952, a site in Hurstmere Road was vested in the AKA, and sketch plans for a building were approved in June 1954. Teaching in the new building began at the beginning of 1956.

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

In 1966, Connie Smith retired from her position as president of the Takapuna Kindergarten Committee after eighteen years in that position and 23 years on the committee. She accepted the position of patroness of the kindergarten.

In 1967 a preschool class for hearing impaired children was set up at Takapuna Kindergarten. This consisted of five children and a teacher, and the unit operated until 1979.

By 1971 the AKA felt that the growing city of Takapuna had engulfed the kindergarten site, by then in the heart of a busy shopping centre. A dangerous traffic situation had developed, and the kindergarten was sitting unsuitably on one of the most valuable pieces of land in Auckland. The Association acquired an option to purchase a suitable site in Bracken Avenue in October, and Ministerial approval came in May 1972. As the AKA had already contributed toward the cost of the original kindergarten building, the full cost of constructing the new one was met by the department. It was operational from the beginning of 1974, although the move to the new site was not without its trauma. Guidelines for action and decision-making were never clearly laid down and in the latter stages of the project, officers of the AKA, the Department of Education and architects were 'involved in much acrimonious discussion and time consuming enquires'.¹¹³⁵ The kindergarten was designed by Sargent Smith and Partners and built by Stoddard Construction Limited.¹¹³⁶

During the 1990s, work was undertaken to address a number of safety concerns and improve the practicality of the environment for children and staff.¹¹³⁷

In 2006 the kindergarten became part of a three-year Ministry of Education information communications technology research project and the kindergarten also received an Education Innovation Award at the North Harbour Sporting Excellence Awards.¹¹³⁸

The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2014, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹¹³⁹ Around this time the kindergarten was temporarily relocated to a local sports club during rebuilding.¹¹⁴⁰

Memories of Takapuna Kindergarten by Marj Fogarty c1950s:

'I had been on the Committee a year when Connie [Smith] dropped her bombshell and told me that not only she, but all the rest of the older people on the Committee were leaving. They felt that it was time for the younger generation with children at the Kindergarten to take their turn. ¹¹⁴¹ 'Connie told me she wanted me to be President (this was almost a royal command!), which was very flattering and totally terrifying. The first thing I had to organise, having been elected for a full two weeks, was a huge retirement luncheon for what was almost the whole retiring committee. The patron of the AKA at that time was Sir John Allum, so he came and also Jessie Neill who was the AKA Secretary. The luncheon was huge because of Connie's standing in the

*community, which meant half of Takapuna society had to be invited, including the local press who had a field day. My first public speech was at that gathering and I was absolutely petrified.*¹¹⁴²

TAUPAKI KINDERGARTEN

In 1979 a site within the grounds of Taupaki School was set aside for a preschool and the AKA took steps to have an establishment committee formed. However, progress appears to have been hampered by the setting up of a community facility in the former Taupaki School. The establishment committee was up and running by 1982, and negotiations were underway to secure an alternative site within the school grounds.¹¹⁴³ Community surveys showed a significant unmet demand for preschool services, but it was several years before there was a local kindergarten for the children to attend.¹¹⁴⁴ In 1985, the Auckland Education Board advised that they were unable to undertake the planning of the building, so the AKA engaged Graham and Keys architects to prepare the plans.¹¹⁴⁵ A triangular design was adopted as it provided good playground space and related well to the unusually shaped site.¹¹⁴⁶ In late 1985, the Minister of Education granted funding for the erection of the building.¹¹⁴⁷ Tenders were called in 1986 and B R Condon was awarded the contract.¹¹⁴⁸ The kindergarten opened later that year.¹¹⁴⁹

It was soon evident that noise was a considerable problem at the kindergarten, especially in wet weather when the children were all inside the building. Remedial measures were taken including installing awnings around the verandah to allow this area to be used in all weathers, and the installation of hessian boards, curtains and carpet inside to absorb some of the noise.¹¹⁵⁰ But there were also other problems. The septic tank system that was installed when the kindergarten was built proved unsuitable and frequently overflowed when there was heavy rain, sometimes resulting in the temporary closure of the building. Measures to alleviate the sewerage and drainage problems were undertaken, but the problem remained unsolved in early 1990.¹¹⁵¹

The kindergarten building was upgraded in the early-2000s, and plans were made to improve the outdoor environment, incorporating ideas that came from the children and parents. The redevelopment of the exterior environment happened in stages from the mid-2000s. Around the late-2000s the interior of the building was altered, providing additional indoor play space and a safer entrance.¹¹⁵²

The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2009, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹¹⁵³

TE ATATU PENINSULA KINDERGARTEN (FORMERLY TE ATATU NORTH)

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

Towards the end of 1962 a private kindergarten operating in a Te Atatu church hall was about to lose its accommodation, and was anxious to affiliate with the AKA. Nothing came of this.

In February 1965, the headmaster of Rutherford Primary School of Toru Street, M Schmidt, approached the AKA about the possibility of establishing a kindergarten in Te Atatu. A committee was set up, a bank account opened, and inquiries made for premises in which to open a private kindergarten, thereby securing the interest of parents. The Association supported the scheme and gave some practical assistance by approaching the Waitemata County Council for a site.

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

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

Meanwhile negotiations were concluded successfully between the AKA and the County Council to lease a kindergarten site in Harbour View Road. By early 1968, sufficient funds had been raised for the Te Atatu Kindergarten to be placed on the NZFKU's priority list for new kindergartens, and an architect was appointed to prepare plans and specifications. The new kindergarten was constructed in late 1969, at a cost of nearly \$18,000.¹¹⁵⁴ The building was designed by Gerald J Elliot and Associates and built by Cedar Glen Limited. It was officially opened on 27 June 1970.¹¹⁵⁵

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

1975 and 1976 saw a spate of burglaries at the kindergarten, resulting in an unsuccessful application to the Department of Education for a burglar alarm.¹¹⁵⁶ In 1978 the verandah of the kindergarten was extended.¹¹⁵⁷

During the 1990s, the kindergarten committee drew up plans for a new adventure playground. Around the turn of the millennium the kindergarten reduced its rolls from 41 children per session to 30. The name of the kindergarten changed at this time to Te Atatu Peninsula. Improvements were made to the kindergarten building in the early-2000s providing a new kitchen and adult bathroom. The outdoor environment was also upgraded.¹¹⁵⁸

The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2013, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹¹⁵⁹

TE ATATU SOUTH KINDERGARTEN

In October 1968, the Waitemata County Council advised the AKA that it was agreeable to establishing a kindergarten on the Divich Avenue Reserve. An establishment committee was formed, and the site approved by the Department of Education. Permission to call tenders for the building was given in August 1972, but delays occurred at the end of the year because of town planning objections to the scheme. Permission to go ahead with the scheme was received in February 1973, but the conditions laid down meant an extra \$3000-\$3500 was added to the costs. These costs related mainly to an access driveway, which had to meet county roading standards, and stormwater (which now had to go into a stormwater drain rather than into soak pits). There was considerable correspondence about who should pay the bill, especially for the access way, and it wasn't until November 1974, some sixteen months after the kindergarten opened, that the matter was resolved. The Department of Education gave a 2:1 subsidy.¹¹⁶⁰ The building was designed by Graham and Keys Architects and built by P Allen and Sons.¹¹⁶¹

In 1977, a shelter was built adjoining the building to provide additional play space during wet weather.¹¹⁶² In the late 1990s the building was upgraded, providing a new kitchen, safety glass, lighting and body wash facilities. The mid-2000s saw the afternoon roll reduced from 44 to 30. Stage one of a planned interior remodelling programme was completed at this time. The work included the provision of a large covered area that considerably extended the play space available during wet weather.¹¹⁶³

In 2008 the kindergarten received a Healthy Heart Award from the National Heart Foundation in recognition of the teachers' efforts to provide healthy food and activities for the children.¹¹⁶⁴ The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2010, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model. Upgrading work was undertaken around this time, and in 2013 a major refurbishment of the kindergarten building was completed. Improvements to the outdoor area followed.¹¹⁶⁵

TE ATATU VILLAGE KINDERGARTEN

In 1998 the Waitakere City Council provided a kindergarten site on the Kaumatua Reserve, Te Atatu. The kindergarten was officially opened by Waitakere City Mayor Bob Harvey at the beginning of 1999. The erection of the building was largely funded by the Jessie Neill Estate.¹¹⁶⁶

The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2014, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹¹⁶⁷

TITIRANGI KINDERGARTEN

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

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

The Playcentre Association was unhappy about the siting of the kindergarten near one of their units, but the Department of Education ruled that the kindergarten could proceed. Tenders were called in August 1972, and the kindergarten opened in April 1973.

After the winter of 1973 it was obvious there was a severe drainage problem at this kindergarten. In the middle of the winter the major portion of the outdoor play area was unusable. There were further problems in November, the kindergarten closed for a while when the sewage holding tank ceased to function, resulting in sewage running over the surface of the site. These problems resulting in the postponing and eventual cancellation, of the official opening ceremony at Titirangi. The drainage problem was finally solved in early-1976.¹¹⁶⁸

In 1984 a verandah was added to the building.¹¹⁶⁹ Around the turn of the millennium a four-stage building development plan began. The work included improved lighting, heating, storage and bathroom facilities, and a new kitchen. Through the late-2000s substantial upgrading of the environment was undertaken, focussing mainly on the outdoor area.¹¹⁷⁰

The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2013, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹¹⁷¹

WAIHEKE KINDERGARTEN

In 1983 the AKA was approached by a group of Waiheke Island residents who wanted to form an establishment committee. A community survey showed sufficient demand for a kindergarten, and planning got underway for the project. The AKA negotiated to use a site on a public reserve in Blackpool and they proposed to move a building from Otahuhu onto the site.¹¹⁷² However, it was ultimately decided to use the Otahuhu building to establish a kindergarten at Laingholm. As demand was high, the establishment committee began running

a private kindergarten in the Lions Club Hall two days each week, but the committee struggled financially with the twin tasks of running the private kindergarten and raising funds to establish a free one.¹¹⁷³ Meanwhile, additional land was purchased to add to the Waiheke High School site and land for a kindergarten was set aside, as this site was considered preferable to the reserve in Blackpool. Plans for the building were drawn up by local architect Gordon Smith and work finally got underway on the building in early 1987.¹¹⁷⁴ The kindergarten was opened later that year. The establishment committee struggled to raise the 1/5 share of the cost and the shortfall was ultimately met through a \$10,000 loan.¹¹⁷⁵

In 1989 an entrance archway was built by ceramic artist Valeska Campion with assistance from the kindergarten children and the wider community. The project was funded through a grant from the Northern Regional Arts Council.¹¹⁷⁶

The kindergarten playground was substantially upgraded at the turn of the millennium. The indoor area was reconfigured in the mid-2000s, providing a much brighter and more user-friendly environment. Through the second half of the 2000s there was a focus on upgrading the outdoor environment.¹¹⁷⁷

The kindergarten extended its opening hours in the early 2010s, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹¹⁷⁸ In tune with the environmentally friendly ethos of the Waiheke Kindergarten community, the teachers and children have focussed on environmental goals. In 2012 the kindergarten was awarded a bronze EnviroSchools award, and two years later received a silver EnviroSchools award.¹¹⁷⁹

WAITAKERE KINDERGARTEN

Waitakere Kindergarten opened in 1994. This was the realisation of eight years' hard work by a small core of dedicated people, called the Little Red Hens.¹¹⁸⁰

The outdoor environment was redeveloped through the mid-2000s.¹¹⁸¹ The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2010, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹¹⁸² In the early 2010s, the building was extended and upgraded to meet the needs of the new operating model.¹¹⁸³

WARKWORTH KINDERGARTEN (TRANSFERRED TO PLAYCENTRE ASSOCIATION)

The most northerly kindergarten in the AKA area, Warkworth opened in September 1944. The average roll for 1944 was 12. Because of accommodation difficulties and the lack of a trained teacher, it had to close in 1945. In 1947 much of the kindergarten equipment was sold. Interest in a kindergarten was maintained however, and in 1957 a new committee was formed and a private kindergarten established. The AKA, which had the funds of the original kindergarten in its keeping, was not prepared to see these funds transferred to a private kindergarten. On the advice of the Free Kindergarten Union the private kindergarten transformed itself into a Nursery Playcentre, and in 1966 the AKA agreed to transfer the funds from the old kindergarten to the Warkworth Playcentre.¹¹⁸⁴

WATERVIEW KINDERGARTEN

A committee was set up to raise funds for the establishment of a kindergarten in the Waterview area as early as 1944. They had raised £100 and had set up a private kindergarten in the Methodist Sunday School hall by early 1946, but they hoped to build a kindergarten on a site in the Waterview state housing area. By the time the government was prepared to set aside a site for the kindergarten in 1950, the kindergarten committee had disbanded. The site already had a brick building on it which was suitable for a small kindergarten catering for 25 children. While the AKA showed interest in the site, a shortage of trained kindergarten teachers meant there was little prospect of the kindergarten getting up and running.¹¹⁸⁵ It was noted that 'if this building is taken over ... there will be the ridiculous situation of a good building not being

used while other kindergartens are scrapping for accommodation.¹¹⁸⁶ In December 1950 the AKA was offered the site and building on condition that they paid a third of the cost, amounting to £451. They declined because there was no local committee and the price requested was prohibitive.¹¹⁸⁷

Here the matter dropped until 1984. By this stage the private kindergarten that had been established in the 1940s was operating, under considerable difficulty, from a church hall that was not suited for the purpose.¹¹⁸⁸ The organisers of the private kindergarten wanted to form an establishment committee to build a free kindergarten on the Waterview School site, and had the support of the principal and the AKA. However, uncertainty over future building plans at the school put the proposed site in jeopardy.¹¹⁸⁹ By late 1984, the existing private kindergarten was faced with closure due to the loss of the use of the church hall. Appeals to government ministers resulted in the kindergarten being given the use of a hall in Daventry Street by the Housing Corporation, where the private kindergarten could continue for two years while the establishment committee and AKA worked towards building a permanent free kindergarten.¹¹⁹⁰

An application was made for special assistance to build the new kindergarten on the grounds that Waterview was a low-income area with insufficient preschool facilities. Special assistance funding was granted in 1985, and a site within the Waterview School grounds was finally secured.¹¹⁹¹ Planning soon got underway with Graham and Keys engaged to prepare the plans for the building.¹¹⁹² The design referenced the 1930s school buildings, which had 'a certain charm, and solidity'.¹¹⁹³ Work was underway in late 1987, but the project did not run smoothly. There were problems with the quality of the workmanship and contractors falling behind schedule. These issues were subsequently remedied and the building was completed in 1988.¹¹⁹⁴

In 2000 the verandah was extended to provide additional sheltered play space. The outdoor area was substantially redeveloped in the mid-2000s.¹¹⁹⁵

By the late-2000s a planned major roading project led to a lengthy period of uncertainty for the kindergarten. Eventually it was rebuilt on an alternative site utilising funding supplied by the New Zealand Transport Authority.¹¹⁹⁶ The kindergarten moved to its new premises in late 2012, at which time it extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹¹⁹⁷

WELLSFORD KINDERGARTEN

Initially established as a private kindergarten by the Wellsford Kindergarten and Play Centre Committee in the early 1960s, the Wellsford Kindergarten looked for a site and government funding for a free kindergarten. By 1967, the newly incorporated Wellsford District Free Kindergarten Association had made considerable progress. A site was secured, plans drawn up by Sargent Smith and Partners, and a survey of the community showed sufficient demand for a free kindergarten in the area. A government subsidy was secured, and in 1968 work on the building was underway. The kindergarten opened at the beginning of 1969.¹¹⁹⁸

In 1990 the Wellsford Kindergarten Association merged with the AKA.¹¹⁹⁹ In 2005, the kindergarten was extensively renovated at a cost of \$150,000, with \$58,000 of this coming from an Auckland Savings Bank grant.¹²⁰⁰

In the early-2000s the interior of the kindergarten building was upgraded. At the beginning of 2007 the afternoon roll decreased from 41 to 30, with a consequent reduction in staffing. This change was in response to falling enrolments.¹²⁰¹ The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2009, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹²⁰² Through the mid-2000s and into the early 2010s a staged redevelopment of the outdoor area was undertaken. The kindergarten also established an orchard on adjoining land.¹²⁰³

In 2013, Wellsford Kindergarten teacher Elisabeth Greaves was awarded a Kiwibank Local Heroes Award in recognition of her 60 years teaching in kindergartens.¹²⁰⁴ There has been a recent upgrade of the kindergarten property.¹²⁰⁵

WESLEY KINDERGARTEN

Wesley Kindergarten was opened in 1995.¹²⁰⁶ In 2010 the kindergarten was awarded a Good Citizens Award by the Eden/Albert Community Board.¹²⁰⁷ The outdoor environment of the kindergarten was upgraded around 2010.¹²⁰⁸ The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2014, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹²⁰⁹

WESTLAKE KINDERGARTEN (FORMERLY WESTLAKE-FORREST HILL)

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

A meeting with the AKA decided that a private kindergarten would open, but the Association would investigate the possibility of finding a site for a free kindergarten itself. However, a suitable site wasn't found until the end of 1962, when the Waitemata County Council agreed to make land available in Maire's subdivision. The site was approved by the Department of Education in March 1963.

Plans and specifications for the new building were approved in July 1965, tenders were called in October, and the new kindergarten opened in August 1966.¹²¹⁰ The building was designed by Gerald J Elliott and Associates and built by the Onehunga Construction Company.¹²¹¹ The private kindergarten closed at the end of the first term in 1966.

In the mid-1970s the kindergarten experienced considerable flooding problems caused by water flowing down a hillside and collecting under the building. This made the wooden floor continually damp, and the floorboards warped. A new drainage system was laid down in 1977 at a cost of a little over \$2000.¹²¹²

A new covered deck was built at the kindergarten in 1987.¹²¹³ In the early 1990s, internal alterations were made to the kindergarten building, improving the office and staff areas. The playground was also upgraded. In the early-2000s the toilet and office areas were improved.¹²¹⁴

The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2013, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹²¹⁵ Alterations were carried out to the indoor and outdoor environments to meet the needs of the new operating model.¹²¹⁶ The name of the kindergarten was recently changed to Westlake.

WESTMERE KINDERGARTEN

Westmere Kindergarten opened in February 1952, in the St Cuthbert's Church Hall. There were initial problems with the afternoon roll, which at one stage stood at only two. When a kindergarten in Westmere was first suggested, it was believed that the number of children in the district would mean full morning and afternoon rolls, even though there was already a private kindergarten operating in the area. However, the free kindergarten opened with afternoon sessions on only two days of the week. Most mothers were reluctant, and since the morning session was full they used the private kindergarten instead. Efforts were made to increase the afternoon roll, which stood at only seven by the middle of December 1952. By the

end of February 1953 it had grown to 21, and in March 1953 Westmere was officially recognised by government for the payment of grants and subsidies.

Towards the end of 1955 a site was obtained off Leamington Road, and sketch and site plans were drawn by September 1956. In November, however, it was decided that a kindergarten placed on this site would have difficulties maintaining its rolls, and the decision was made to search for another site. A section in Garnet Road was secured for the AKA early in 1957. Permission to call tenders was given in September, and the new building came into use in October 1958.¹²¹⁷ The kindergarten was designed by Wilson Moodie and Gillespie Architects and built by Moodie and McKinnon.¹²¹⁸

At the end of 1957 falling rolls were again a problem at Westmere. The average afternoon roll for October was only 24, but by the end of the first term of 1958 this had dropped to 16. The average afternoon roll for the whole of 1958 was 25, but it picked up to 37 the following year, before falling back to 30 in 1960 and 28 in 1961.¹²¹⁹

In 1985 a verandah roof was built over the terrace.¹²²⁰ The office and carpet was damaged during a heavy storm in 1985 due to a blocked stormwater drain.¹²²¹ In 1996 the kindergarten was extensively renovated.¹²²² The outdoor environment was redeveloped around the late 1990s and further improvements were carried out in the late-2000s.¹²²³

The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2014, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹²²⁴

WHENUAPAI KINDERGARTEN (FORMERLY SUNDERLAND AND HOBSONVILLE NORTH)

In December 1976, the AKA wrote to the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union requesting that urgent consideration be given to the establishment of a grade 0 free kindergarten at Hobsonville Air Force Base. There was already a 90 metre preschool building there, set in a large attractive playground. The preschool building had been used by the Playcentre Association, but because that association and the local people had been unable to provide supervisors, the playcentre had closed in December 1976. The Air Force was prepared to upgrade its building to meet the AKA's requirements, and while the kindergarten would be primarily for the children of RNZAF personnel, the Air Force wanted a percentage of civilian children enrolled as well.

The NZFKU replied that it and the Department of Education had 'many misgivings about the kindergarten being established on the base, as experience in the past has not been happy when preschools have been established on services bases.' However, it was accepted that the kindergarten could be established, subject to the NZFKU getting agreement on seven points.

The Air Force agreed to most of these points. Although a formal lease of the site to the AKA was not acceptable to the Air Force, it saw no problems admitting non-military personnel on to the Base for kindergarten purposes. The Air Force asked, and the AKA concurred, that the number of non-military preschoolers be fixed at a maximum of six per session. This was to guarantee that the kindergarten would provide primarily for RNZAF dependents. The Department of Education was not prepared to accept the idea of a spilt roll, and by June 1977 the Air Force expressed its concern at the delay in proceedings. 'Seven months have now passed. If the Kindergarten Association cannot advise a final decision in the next calendar month, our request to establish a kindergarten on Hobsonville must lapse and some other form of preschool education facility will have to be established.'

Further discussions took place between the AKA and the Air Force, and agreement was reached to set up an advisory committee to supervise enrolments. This satisfied the Department of Education, and permission to proceed with the kindergarten was given in September 1977. The

Air Force immediately made \$1000 available for the purchase of equipment, and the kindergarten opened in November 1977.

In June 1979, the Air Force got approval in principle to allocate an area of land for a new kindergarten building. There were problems concerning the leasing of the land, a request for the lease from the Hobsonville office was mislaid within Defence Headquarters for 14 months! The AKA didn't receive a draft lease until March 1982.¹²²⁵ This new site was located within the off-base housing area at Hobsonville, as there were security concerns about locating the kindergarten within the defence perimeter. Planning got underway in 1984, with the Auckland Education Board initially proposing to relocate a Keith Hay Group building onto the site. This did not meet with approval from the AKA due to the high cost. The AKA requested they be allowed to engage a private architect to design a purpose-built kindergarten, which they felt could be erected for the \$80,000 budget. However, this request fell on deaf ears. The lease of an additional area of land was negotiated to provide a more generous site for the kindergarten, and finally in mid-February 1985, the Keith Hay building was delivered to the new kindergarten site. Alterations and site works were undertaken to make the building fit for its purpose, and the kindergarten moved into its new building in late 1985.¹²²⁶

While the kindergarten committee had plans to improve the kindergarten around the turn of the millennium, these were hampered by uncertainty over the long-term tenure of the kindergarten property. By the early-2000s there were plans to close the Hobsonville Air Force base, and the future of the kindergarten was unclear. While some improvements were made over the 2000s, these were limited in scope.¹²²⁷

In 2010 the kindergarten extended its opening hours, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹²²⁸ That year the kindergarten was given notice that it would have to vacate the defence land that it had occupied for many years, due to the sale of the site and surrounding land to the Hobsonville Land Company.¹²²⁹ In 2012 the kindergarten was relocated next to Whenuapai Primary School and was renamed Whenuapai.¹²³⁰

YENDARRA KINDERGARTEN

In 1964, several sites in Otara were set apart for preschool educational purposes. In mid-1970 a site adjacent to the Yendarra Primary School was designated for kindergarten use. An establishment committee was already in existence by this time. By June 1971 it was agreed that Yendarra should receive special aid from the Departments of Education and Maori and Island Affairs, and permission to proceed with the building was given.

The AKA quickly expressed its concern about the financing of Yendarra. In a letter to the Minister of Maori and Island Affairs it noted that his department was contributing \$3500, the Association was guaranteeing up to \$2000, and the local committee had gathered only \$700. The AKA observed that the local kindergarten was very slow in raising finance, and there was 'no confidence that it can raise the money that will be required'. The Association suggested that, unless money could be found from other sources, the project at Yendarra should not proceed.

The financial problems were solved by September 1971. The government agreed to pay two thirds of the cost, together with the grant of \$3500 from the Department of Maori and Island Affairs. Tenders were called toward the end of 1971, and one for nearly \$26,000 was accepted. A \$500 donation was made by the Auckland Savings Bank and the Maori and Island Affairs Department contribution had climbed to over \$7000.

The Yendarra Establishment Committee was disbanded at the end of 1971. Its financial abilities had been almost non-existent. \$500 was lost on a ball only 54 people attended, although 180 were catered for. 'The liquor bill was astronomical and it does not appear that much if any was returned,' lamented a report on the situation at Yendarra. Although goods were donated for

Christmas raffles, the committee members did not organise, sell or buy tickets. It was suggested that the prevailing attitude was that the kindergarten building had become a certainty, and it was up to the government to pay. A new committee was formed in February 1972.

Yendarra Kindergarten opened in July 1972.¹²³¹ The building was designed by Sargent Smith and Partners and was based on a Hawkes Bay Education Board plan. It was built by McKerras Brothers and was the most expensive kindergarten built in the Auckland region at that time.¹²³² An application for a third teacher was made in November the same year, but rejected by the Department of Education because of low attendance figures.

Early in 1973, at a meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee of the AKA, it was decided to disband the existing Yendarra committee. A report from the AKA's treasurer at the time indicated financial chaos. Donations and funds entered in the cost book but not banked amounted to over \$300. The financial records of the committee were a shambles. There were no records, for example, of the number of raffle books given to people to sell. Neither was there a record of the money raised from a fashion parade. On a number of occasions money had been banked with no record of where it came from. Proceeds from a petrol raffle were shown in the books to be \$165, but there was no indication of that money being banked.

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

In early 1974 approval was given for the appointment of a third teacher. This followed a renewed plea from the AKA, which pointed to special problems at Yendarra in dealing with 'particularly aggressive' children who showed 'little regard for adults, children or property'.

By mid-1975 the tide had turned. Yendarra reported a substantial bank balance and profitable fundraising activities. A Mothers' Club started, and employing a new cleaner and lawn mowing contractor greatly improved the appearance of the kindergarten.

Donations from other kindergartens totalling \$450 allowed the purchase of some new equipment toward the end of 1977. Over \$500 worth of theft and damage occurred following a break-in at the kindergarten in August 1978.¹²³³ Burglaries and damage by vandals was a continuing problem right through the rest of the 1970s and 1980s.¹²³⁴

In 2000 it was noted that the kindergarten was in a poor state of repair, and while the teachers worked hard to provide a good quality programme for the children, they were hampered by the state of the kindergarten and its lack of resources. The kindergarten received some financial assistance from another kindergarten at this time, but money for resources and improvements was hard to come by. In the early to mid-2000s funding was secured from a variety of sources and improvements were made to the playground and kindergarten building to address health and safety concerns.¹²³⁵

In 2003 the kindergarten benefitted from a Ministry of Education funded project to extend the participation of Pasifika children.¹²³⁶ Three years later Yendarra Kindergarten became part of a three-year Ministry of Education information communications technology research project.¹²³⁷ The kindergarten extended its opening hours in 2009, moving from a sessional to a kindergarten day model.¹²³⁸ The following year the kindergarten began its participation in the Manukau Family Literacy Programme.¹²³⁹

APPENDIX

Family and Social Connections

APPENDIX – FAMILY AND SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

Expertise and relationships of the members of the first AKA council

Rika Coleman (nee Myers) and her sister-in-law Martha Myers (nee Shainwald) played key roles in the establishment and running of the Auckland Private Kindergarten. It opened in 1898 and was run by a committee chaired by Catherine Myers (nee Ehrenfried), mother of Rika Coleman and mother-in-law of Martha Myers, with Martha Myers holding the roles of secretary and treasurer.¹²⁴⁰ Martha Myers evidently acquired some knowledge of kindergartens from San Francisco, where she lived prior to her marriage. While in New Zealand she wrote and spoke publicly about the value of kindergartens.¹²⁴¹

Emma Kealy (nee Liggins), wife of bookshop proprietor J W Kealy, trained as a kindergarten teacher in Sydney. She established the Froebel Kindergarten at Grafton in 1906, and the following year she offered a kindergarten teacher training course.¹²⁴²

Jane Oliphant had been involved in the kindergarten movement since the nineteenth century, and joined the AKA Council soon after its formation. The wife of lawyer Peter Oliphant, Jane was one of the founders of the Auckland West Kindergarten and Crèche, established in 1888.¹²⁴³

Others had family associations with the Remuera Kindergarten. The daughter of Edward Brooke-Smith, manager of Baldwin and Rayward patent agents, taught there. Martha Myers' daughter Rona and Annie Robertson's nieces, Eleanor and Ruth Robertson, attended the kindergarten.¹²⁴⁴

Some council members were connected through their involvement with the Anglican Church. Reverend William Beatty was the vicar of St Marks Church, where the Remuera Kindergarten operated from the church hall. Lawyer Charles Tunks knew Reverend Beatty through their membership of the standing committee of the Anglican Diocesan Synod.¹²⁴⁵ And fellow AKA council member Gerald O'Halloran junior, a chartered accountant, was on the vestry of St Mark's.¹²⁴⁶

Meanwhile other members of the AKA Council knew each other through their work with other charitable organisations. Both Tunks and Dr McDowell played key roles in the St John Ambulance.¹²⁴⁷

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- ¹⁰² *New Zealand Herald*, 25 January 1910, p.5 and 26 February 1910, p.9.
- ¹⁰³ The inspection report of 3 August 1910 reported that there were two children under three attending and three children over five who had been admitted because a doctor had certified that they were 'delicate and backward'. Pre-School Education – Kindergartens, Buildings, Site and Equipment Logan Campbell 1910-1960, BCDQ A739 1050 Box 1431 b 25/3, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, Inspection Report 3 August 1910.
- ¹⁰⁴ *Ibid.*, Inspection Report 3 August 1910.
- ¹⁰⁵ *Ibid.*, Inspection Report 3 August 1910 and *Weekly Graphic and New Zealand Mail*, 22 November 1911, pp.32-36.
- ¹⁰⁶ *New Zealand Herald*, 13 September 1910, p.4.
- ¹⁰⁷ Pre-School Education – Kindergartens, Buildings, Site and Equipment Logan Campbell 1910-1960, BCDQ A739 1050 Box 1431 b 25/3, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, Inspection Report 4 July 1911.
- ¹⁰⁸ Dudek, p.48.
- ¹⁰⁹ May, *The Discovery of Early Childhood*, pp.355-356 and Hughes, pp.49-52.
- ¹¹⁰ Pre-School Education – Kindergartens, Buildings, Site and Equipment Logan Campbell 1910-1960, BCDQ A739 1050 Box 1431 b 25/3, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, Inspection Report 3 August 1910.
- ¹¹¹ *Ibid.*, Inspection Report 4 July 1911.
- ¹¹² *Ibid.*, Inspection Report 4 July 1911.
- ¹¹³ *New Zealand Herald*, 14 October 1910, p.4.
- ¹¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 28 April 1910, p.4 and *Auckland Star*, 20 October 1910, p.9.
- ¹¹⁵ *Auckland Star*, 20 October 1910, p.9.
- ¹¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 20 October 1910, p.9.
- ¹¹⁷ Pre-School Education – Kindergartens, Buildings, Site and Equipment Logan Campbell 1910-1960, BCDQ A739 1050 Box 1431 b 25/3, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, Inspection Report 4 July 1911.

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- ¹¹⁸ Photograph of Campbell Free Kindergarten held at Auckland Museum Library, PH-NEG-A159.
- ¹¹⁹ Newmarket was home to a mixed population with a significant industrial and business area.
- ¹²⁰ Pre-school Education – Kindergartens, Buildings Site and Equipment Newmarket 1912-1953, BCDQ A739 1050 Box 1436a 25/3, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, 15 June 1912 and 9 August 1912.
- ¹²¹ Pre-School Education – Kindergartens, Buildings, Site and Equipment Logan Campbell 1910-1960, BCDQ A739 1050 Box 1431 b 25/3, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, Inspection Report 1913.
- ¹²² Mace, p.10.
- ¹²³ Ibid., p.10.
- ¹²⁴ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1914, NZMS 1275, Box 1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.17.
- ¹²⁵ Ibid., 1913, p.5.
- ¹²⁶ *Auckland Star*, 25 February 1911, p.11 and Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1926, NZMS 1275, Box 1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.16.
- ¹²⁷ Jumble sales appear to have been run by the Mothers Clubs.
- ¹²⁸ Brian Marshall, *A History of the Auckland Kindergarten Association*, Auckland, 1983, p.18.
- ¹²⁹ Ibid., p.18.
- ¹³⁰ Quoted in G. W. A. Bush, *Decently and In Order: The Centennial History of the Auckland City Council*, Auckland, 1971, p.171.
- ¹³¹ Julia Gatley, 'Jews, Breweries & National Efficiency in Early 20th Century Auckland', *Southern Crossings: Waka Whitiwhiti au Tonga: Proceedings for the Sixth Australian Urban History/Planning History Conference*, Auckland, 2002, p.266.
- ¹³² Ibid., p.267.
- ¹³³ Ibid., p.273 and Bush, pp.593-4.
- ¹³⁴ Gatley, 'Jews, Breweries & National Efficiency in Early 20th Century Auckland', p.273.
- ¹³⁵ The Campbell Crèche was opened in May 1911. *Auckland Star*, 16 May 1911, p.6.
- ¹³⁶ *New Zealand Herald*, 16 November 1916, p.7.
- ¹³⁷ Anene Cusins-Lewer and Julia Gatley, 'The 'Myers Park Experiment' (1913-1916) and its Legacy in Auckland', *Fabrications: The Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, Australia and New Zealand*, 12:1, 2002, p.64.
- ¹³⁸ *New Zealand Herald*, 13 October 1914, p.5 and *Auckland Star*, 14 October 1914, p.4.
- ¹³⁹ *New Zealand Herald*, 23 October 1914, p.4.
- ¹⁴⁰ Ibid., 18 December 1914, p.7.
- ¹⁴¹ Ibid., 4 August 1915, p.5.
- ¹⁴² At the time children were divided into one of five groups: normal, backward/dull, feeble-minded/moronic, imbecilic and idiotic. Gatley, 'Jews, Breweries & National Efficiency in Early 20th Century Auckland', p.276 and Shaw, p.52.
- ¹⁴³ *New Zealand Herald*, 24 December 1915, p.9.
- ¹⁴⁴ Ibid., 24 December 1915, p.9.
- ¹⁴⁵ Ibid., 18 October 1916, p.5.
- ¹⁴⁶ Ibid., 16 November 1916, p.7 and *Auckland Star*, 18 November 1916, p.16.
- ¹⁴⁷ *New Zealand Herald*, 16 November 1916, p.7.
- ¹⁴⁸ Ibid., 4 August 1915, p.5.
- ¹⁴⁹ Cumming, *Glorious Enterprise*, p.408 and Shaw, p.62.
- ¹⁵⁰ Cumming, *Glorious Enterprise*, p.488.
- ¹⁵¹ *New Zealand Herald*, 16 November 1916, p.7.
- ¹⁵² Marshall, p.98.
- ¹⁵³ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1915, NZMS 1275, Box 1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.19-20.
- ¹⁵⁴ Ibid., 1916, p.19.
- ¹⁵⁵ Mace, pp.14-18 and 20.
- ¹⁵⁶ Shaw, p.56 and *Auckland Star*, 15 October 1917, p.4.
- ¹⁵⁷ *Auckland Star*, 15 October 1917, p.4.
- ¹⁵⁸ *New Zealand Herald*, 19 February 1916, p.4.
- ¹⁵⁹ Marshall, p.23.
- ¹⁶⁰ Matthews and Matthews Architects, *Myers Park Kindergarten, 381 Queen Street, Auckland: Conservation Plan*, Auckland, 1998, p.17.
- ¹⁶¹ *Auckland Star*, 21 October 1918, p.4.

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- ¹⁶² *New Zealand Herald*, 16 December 1921, p.9 and Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1927, NZMS 1275, Box 1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, pp.7 and 20.
- ¹⁶³ *New Zealand Herald*, 1 May 1925, p.11.
- ¹⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, 1 May 1925, p.8.
- ¹⁶⁵ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report 1925, NZMS 1275, Box 1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.16 and *Auckland Star*, 8 September 1925, p.17.
- ¹⁶⁶ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report 1926, NZMS 1275, Box 13, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.18 and 1928, pp.22 and 28.
- ¹⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, 1926, p.18.
- ¹⁶⁸ *Ibid.* 1928, pp.22 and 23.
- ¹⁶⁹ Marshall, pp.16, 23, 74 and 117.
- ¹⁷⁰ *New Zealand Herald*, 7 December 1925, p.10.
- ¹⁷¹ *Ibid.*, 7 December 1925, p.10.
- ¹⁷² Frances Walsh, *Inside Stories: A History of the New Zealand Housewife 1890-1975*, Auckland, 2011, pp.262 and 268.
- ¹⁷³ May, *The Discovery of Early Childhood*, p.319.
- ¹⁷⁴ *New Zealand Herald*, 7 December 1925, p.10.
- ¹⁷⁵ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1928, NZMS 1275, Box 1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.8.
- ¹⁷⁶ Marshall, p.22.
- ¹⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, p.25.
- ¹⁷⁸ *Auckland Star*, 12 December 1931, p.15 and 27 April 1932, p.8.
- ¹⁷⁹ *Ibid.*, 3 February 1932, p.3.
- ¹⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, 3 February 1932, p.3.
- ¹⁸¹ Organisations including the Wellington Headmasters Association and the Pioneer Movement urged the minister to restore grants to kindergartens. *Auckland Star*, 3 February 1932, p.3 and 20 February 1932, p.13
- ¹⁸² *Evening Post*, 3 March 1932, p.12.
- ¹⁸³ *Ibid.*, 3 March 1932, p.12.
- ¹⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, 3 March 1932, p.12
- ¹⁸⁵ *Auckland Star*, 27 April 1932, p.8.
- ¹⁸⁶ Marshall, p.26.
- ¹⁸⁷ *Ibid.*, pp.26-7.
- ¹⁸⁸ These Art Unions were governed by the Gaming Act of 1908 and were the forerunner of the Golden Kiwi Lotteries. *Evening Post*, 26 September 1932, p.9.
- ¹⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, 26 September 1932, p.9.
- ¹⁹⁰ The AKA received from the Art Union £1315 in 1932, £808 in 1933 and £1230 in 1934. Marshall, p.27.
- ¹⁹¹ In 1931 the AKA received £1473 in government subsidies. *Ibid.*, p.25.
- ¹⁹² *Ibid.*, p.27.
- ¹⁹³ Marshall, p.27
- ¹⁹⁴ Fred Ambler, *Auckland's Free Kindergartens*, New Zealand Film Archive, F27219.
- ¹⁹⁵ *New Zealand Herald*, 28 April 1936, p.13.
- ¹⁹⁶ *Ibid.*, 28 April 1936, p.13.
- ¹⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, 25 September 1937, p.27.
- ¹⁹⁸ Pre-School Education – Kindergartens, Buildings, Site and Equipment Logan Campbell 1910-1960, BCDQ A739 1050 Box 1431 b 25/3, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, Inspection Report 1915.
- ¹⁹⁹ May, *The Discovery of Early Childhood*, p.267.
- ²⁰⁰ *Ibid.* p.344.
- ²⁰¹ The 30,000th house was opened in Christchurch on 17th September 1949. *Evening Post* Collection, Politics Housing 1949, Wellington Central Library, 14 September 1949.
- ²⁰² Birkenhead, Ferndale, Avondale, Selwyn (Lady Cobham), Mission Bay, Takapuna, Belmont-Bayswater, Devonport and Glen Eden were all opened during the war with Papatoetoe opening soon after peace was declared. Marshall, pp.64, 68, 69, 75, 80, 90, 94, 104 and 119.
- ²⁰³ Helen May, *Politics in the Playground: The World of Early Childhood in New Zealand*, 2nd Ed., Dunedin, 2009, p. 22.
- ²⁰⁴ In 1944 the average attendance at AKA kindergartens was 805 children, representing about a third of the 2301 children who attended kindergarten nationwide. Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report 1944, NZMS 1275, Box 1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.3 and May, *Politics in the Playground*, p.2.
- ²⁰⁵ Marshall, p.29 and *Evening Post*, 22 December 1944, p.6.

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- ²⁰⁶ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1942, NZMS 1275, Box 1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.4; *Evening Post*, 10 January 1944, p.6; *New Zealand Herald*, 9 March 1943, p.5.
- ²⁰⁷ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1940, NZMS 1275, Box 1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.5.
- ²⁰⁸ *Auckland Star*, 27 February 1943, p.3.
- ²⁰⁹ *Ibid.*, 27 February 1943, p.3.
- ²¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 27 February 1943, p.3; 12 March 1943, p.5; *New Zealand Herald*, 3 March 1943, p.2; 1 May 1943, p.4 and Deborah Montgomerie, *The Women's War: New Zealand Women 1939-1945*, Auckland, 2001, p.139.
- ²¹¹ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1940, NZMS 1275, Box 1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.5 and Marshall, pp.106-107.
- ²¹² *New Zealand Herald*, 5 May 1945, p.4.
- ²¹³ May, *The Discovery of Early Childhood*, p.340; *New Zealand Herald*, 13 October 1944, p.2; *Auckland Star*, 30 October 1945, p.8.
- ²¹⁴ Sue Stover, 'The Debate Continues: Adult Education in Playcentre', Sue Stover, ed., *Good Clean Fun: New Zealand's Playcentre Movement*, Auckland, 1998, p.47.
- ²¹⁵ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1940, NZMS 1275, Box 1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.4.
- ²¹⁶ *New Zealand Herald*, 21 June 1912, p.5 and *Auckland Star*, 3 March 1927, p.8.
- ²¹⁷ *New Zealand Herald*, 10 December 1940, p.13.
- ²¹⁸ Helen Downer, *Seventy Five Years of Free Kindergartens in New Zealand 1889-1964*, Rotorua, 1964, p.104.
- ²¹⁹ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1942, NZMS 1275, Box 1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.4.
- ²²⁰ *Ibid.*, 1944, p.4; 1945, p.3; 1946, p.3; 1950, p.5.
- ²²¹ *Ibid.*, 1944, p.4.
- ²²² *Ibid.*, 1944, p.6.
- ²²³ Auckland Kindergarten Association Scrapbook 1949-1958, NZMS 1275, Box 16, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, 5 July 1956.
- ²²⁴ For example, the Annual Report for 1945 mentions several married women who were employed as kindergarten teachers. Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1945, NZMS 1275, Box 1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, pp.6-7.
- ²²⁵ *Ibid.*, 1961, p.6.
- ²²⁶ *Ibid.*, 1942, p.5.
- ²²⁷ For example in 1940 four of the six graduates were employed at AKA kindergartens. *Ibid.*, 1940, p.4 and Downer, p.104.
- ²²⁸ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1940, NZMS 1275, Box 1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.4.
- ²²⁹ *Ibid.*, 1945, p.8.
- ²³⁰ *Ibid.*, 1944, p.5.
- ²³¹ *Ibid.*, 1946, p.4.
- ²³² In 1940 the government provided a subsidy on AKA subscriptions and donations and in 1942 the capitation grant was increased from £4 to £5. *Ibid.*, 1940, p.3; 1942, p.3 and May, *Politics in the Playground*, p.2.
- ²³³ Marshall, p.31.
- ²³⁴ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, NZMS 1275, Box 1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, 1943, p.4.
- ²³⁵ Marshall, p.32.
- ²³⁶ *Ibid.*, pp.31-3.
- ²³⁷ *Ibid.*, p.32.
- ²³⁸ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report 1948, NZMS 1275, Box 1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.2 and Marshall, p.33.
- ²³⁹ C.L. Bailey, *Pre-School Education: Report of the Consultative Committee on Pre-School Educational Services*, Wellington, 1947, pp.28-29.
- ²⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, pp.20 and 28-31 and Clement G.N. Hill, *Report of the Committee of Inquiry into Pre-School Education*, Wellington, 1971, p.12.
- ²⁴¹ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1948, NZMS 1275, Box 1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.3.
- ²⁴² May, *Politics in the Playground*, pp.398-399.

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- ²⁴³ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1950, NZMS 1275, Box 1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, pp.8-9.
- ²⁴⁴ May, *The Discovery of Early Childhood*, p.252.
- ²⁴⁵ May, *Politics in the Playground*, p.22.
- ²⁴⁶ During the 1950s and 60s several open plan kindergartens were designed for the AKA by Group Architects and Wilson and Juriss. Julia Gatley, ed., *Group Architects: Towards a New Zealand Architecture*, Auckland, 2010, pp.157-162.
- ²⁴⁷ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report 1942, NZMS 1275, Box 1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.5.
- ²⁴⁸ Ibid., 1955, p.6.
- ²⁴⁹ Ibid., 1945, p.4.
- ²⁵⁰ *Auckland Star*, 12 April 1945, p.7.
- ²⁵¹ Ibid., 12 April 1945, p.7.
- ²⁵² Marshall, p.36.
- ²⁵³ Ibid., pp.37 and 38.
- ²⁵⁴ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1958, NZMS 1275, Box 1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.6.
- ²⁵⁵ Sean Mallon, Kolokesa Mahina-Tuai and Damon Salesa, eds., *Tangata o le Moana: New Zealand and the People of the Pacific*, Wellington, 2012, p.182.
- ²⁵⁶ Malcolm McKinnon, ed., *New Zealand Historical Atlas*, Auckland, 1997, pp.91a and 91b.
- ²⁵⁷ *North Shore Heritage – Thematic Review Report*, compiled by Heritage Consultancy Services for Auckland Council, 1 July 2011, Auckland Council Document TR 2011/010, p.15.
- ²⁵⁸ Duncan, pp.30-36.
- ²⁵⁹ Gael Fergusson, *Building the New Zealand Dream*, Palmerston North, 1994, pp.200, 204, 248, 249 and 261.
- ²⁶⁰ May, *Politics in the Playground*, pp.18-19.
- ²⁶¹ Ibid., p.19.
- ²⁶² Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report 1956, NZMS 1275, Box 1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.5.
- ²⁶³ Ibid., 1956, p.7.
- ²⁶⁴ Ibid., 1959, p.6 and Memories of Anne Vette collected by Edwina Myers.
- ²⁶⁵ Memories of Anne Vette collected by Edwina Myers.
- ²⁶⁶ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1959, NZMS 1275, Box 1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.11.
- ²⁶⁷ Ibid., 1957, pp.6-7.
- ²⁶⁸ Ibid., 1958, p.5.
- ²⁶⁹ Ibid., 1962, p.7.
- ²⁷⁰ Auckland Kindergarten Association Scrapbook 1959-1971, NZMS 1275, Box 16, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, 6 October 1961.
- ²⁷¹ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1953, NZMS 1275, Box 1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.7.
- ²⁷² Ibid., 1957, p.5.
- ²⁷³ Mace, p.24.
- ²⁷⁴ Ibid., p.24.
- ²⁷⁵ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1967, NZMS 1275, Box 1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.13.
- ²⁷⁶ Ibid., 1971, p.4.
- ²⁷⁷ Ibid., 1970, p.6.
- ²⁷⁸ Ibid., 1971, p.4.
- ²⁷⁹ Ibid., 1964, p.14.
- ²⁸⁰ Ibid., 1974, p.11.
- ²⁸¹ Judith Duncan and Lee Rowe, 'Don't Be Too Polite Girls, Don't Be Too Polite: Kindergarten Teachers and Employment Contracts', *New Zealand Annual Review of Education*, Vol. 6, 1997, pp.161-2.
- ²⁸² Kate Clark, Helen Cook and Jean Pearson, *Two Models of Unionism in Early Childhood Education: The Kindergarten Teachers' Association and the Early Childhood Workers' Union*, Hamilton, 1983, p.4.
- ²⁸³ Jean Simpson, 'New Zealand Free Kindergarten Teachers' Association 1954-1990', Anne Else ed., *Women Together: A History of Women's Organisations in New Zealand*, Wellington, 1993, p.345.

²⁸⁴ May, *Politics in the Playground*, p.165.

²⁸⁵ For further information on these buildings see the section covering the individual history of the kindergartens. Julia Gatley, ed., *Group Architects: Towards a New Zealand Architecture*, Auckland, 2010, pp.157-158.

²⁸⁶ Tibor Donner was responsible for the design of Green Bay, Northcote Central (Northbridge) and Sunnynook (Broadlands) while Gerald J Elliot and Associates designed Glenfield, Roskill South, Westlake, Puhinui, Te Atatu Peninsula and Westlake. Sargent Smith and Partners designed Yendarra, Hillsborough, Farm Cove (Whiteacres), Highland Park, Takapuna, Morningside, Mangere Bridge (Mangere North West) and Mangere West (Idlewild). Graham and Keys designed Anchorage Park, Aorere, Birdwood, Botany Downs, Buckland Beach, Cascades, Lincoln North (Rathgar), Lynfield, Massey, Mt Albert, Mt Eden, Oratia, Parnell, Sturges Road, Sunnyside, and Taupaki. For further information on these buildings see the section covering the individual history of the kindergartens.

²⁸⁷ Pre School Education – Kindergartens – Buildings, site and equipment – Birdwood 1985-1989, BAKD A1277 1050 5 a 25/3, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, Report on Birdwood Kindergarten by Graham and Keys Registered Architects dated August 1986, p.2.

²⁸⁸ May, *Politics in the Playground*, p.109.

²⁸⁹ Ibid., pp.109 and 111.

²⁹⁰ Ibid., p.111.

²⁹¹ "Who Gets to Preschool" was the title of an influential book on preschool education in New Zealand by David Barney.

²⁹² Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1971, NZMS 1275, Box 1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.6.

²⁹³ Ibid., 1972, p.7.

²⁹⁴ Ibid., 1972, p.7.

²⁹⁵ May, *Politics in the Playground*, p.112.

²⁹⁶ Ibid., p.22.

²⁹⁷ Shaw, p.176 and memories of Joan Brockett collected by Edwina Myers.

²⁹⁸ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1974, NZMS 1275, Box 2, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.3.

²⁹⁹ Ibid., 1974, p.3.

³⁰⁰ Ibid., 1974, p.3.

³⁰¹ May, *Politics in the Playground*, p.112.

³⁰² Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1970, NZMS 1275, Box 1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.4; 1971, p.3.

³⁰³ Ibid. 1975, p.3; Marshall, pp.73 and 116.

³⁰⁴ Pre School Education – Free Kindergartens – Policy 1976-1989, BCDQ A739 25224 4286 a 25/2/1, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, 18 January 1974.

³⁰⁵ Marshall, pp.73, 89, 116-7 and 124-5; Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1976, NZMS 1275, Box 2, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.3.

³⁰⁶ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1975, NZMS 1275, Box 2, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.4 and Pre School Education – Free Kindergartens – Policy 1976-1989, BCDQ A739 25224 4286 a 25/2/1, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, 18 January 1974.

³⁰⁷ May, *Politics in the Playground*, p.112.

³⁰⁸ Robin Houliker Oral History Interview.

³⁰⁹ Memories of Dorothy Gascoigne collected by Edwina Myers.

³¹⁰ Anne Meade, *Public Participation in New Zealand Pre-School Education*, Wellington, 1981, p.91.

³¹¹ Ron Crawford Oral History Interview.

³¹² Previously meetings of the chairpersons of all the kindergarten committees throughout Auckland were held several times a year but these meetings had become unwieldy due to the growing numbers of kindergartens. Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1968, NZMS 1275, Box 1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.5.

³¹³ Ibid., 1969, p.5.

³¹⁴ Memories of Marj Fogarty and Denise Iversen collected by Edwina Myers.

³¹⁵ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1951, NZMS 1275, Box 1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, unpagged and 1953, unpagged.

³¹⁶ In 1971 there were 23 council members, less than half of the 1970 number of 57. Annual Report, 1970, p.2; 1971, p.2; Marshall, p.55; Memories of Eileen Bethell collected by Edwina Myers.

³¹⁷ Memories of Eileen Bethell collected by Edwina Myers.

³¹⁸ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1976, NZMS 1275, Box 2, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.4.

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- ³¹⁹ Ibid., 1978, p.4.
- ³²⁰ Sandra Coney, *Everygirl: A Social History of Women and the YWCA in Auckland 1885-1985*, Auckland, 1986, pp.273-274; Records of the Young Women's Christian Association, MS 95/22, Auckland War Memorial Museum Library, Box 7, Folder 1976-1977, undated submission for mobile preschool unit, undated *Auckland Star* newspaper clipping, 8 July 1977 and Box 8, Folder 1992, 18 May 1992 and personal communication with Robin Houlker.
- ³²¹ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1982, NZMS 1275, Box 2, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.6.
- ³²² May, *Politics in the Playground*, p.203.
- ³²³ Quoted in May, *Politics in the Playground*, p.205.
- ³²⁴ Helen May, *Twenty Years of Consenting Parties: The Politics of 'Working' and 'Teaching' in Childcare 1985-2005*, Wellington, 2005, pp.8 and 9.
- ³²⁵ Ibid., pp.205 and 206.
- ³²⁶ Ibid., p.207.
- ³²⁷ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1987, NZMS 1275, Box 2, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.6.
- ³²⁸ May, *Politics in the Playground*, p.226-7.
- ³²⁹ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1987, NZMS 1275, Box 2, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.4.
- ³³⁰ Ibid., 1987, p.5.
- ³³¹ Ibid. 1987, p.5.
- ³³² Ibid., 1986, p.6.
- ³³³ Auckland Kindergarten Association AGM Minutes, 1987, NZMS 1275, Box 12, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.6.
- ³³⁴ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1986, NZMS 1275, Box 2, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.7.
- ³³⁵ Ibid., 1988, p.3.
- ³³⁶ Ibid., 1983, p.3 and May, *Politics in the Playground*, p.167.
- ³³⁷ Auckland Kindergarten Association AGM Minutes, 1983, NZMS 1275, Box 12, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.3.
- ³³⁸ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1985, NZMS 1275, Box 2, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.7 and Hughes, p.48.
- ³³⁹ May, *Politics in the Playground*, pp.164-7
- ³⁴⁰ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1988, NZMS 1275, Box 2, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.7.
- ³⁴¹ Ibid., 1983, p.3.
- ³⁴² Duncan, p.35.
- ³⁴³ May, *Politics in the Playground*, p.210.
- ³⁴⁴ Ibid., p.209-11.
- ³⁴⁵ Auckland Kindergarten Association AGM Minutes, 1989, NZMS 1275, Box 12, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, unpagged.
- ³⁴⁶ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1989, NZMS 1275, Box 2, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.2.
- ³⁴⁷ Ibid., 1986, p.4 and 1991, p.15.
- ³⁴⁸ Ron Crawford Oral History Interview.
- ³⁴⁹ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1989, NZMS 1275, Box 2, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.3 and 1990, p.1.
- ³⁵⁰ Ibid., 1989, p.7.
- ³⁵¹ Auckland Kindergarten Association Draft Charter Management Plan, p.2, held with Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1990, NZMS 1275, Box 2, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries,.
- ³⁵² Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1991, NZMS 1275, Box 3, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.3.
- ³⁵³ Ibid., 1990, p.2; 1991, p.8 and 1992, p.17.
- ³⁵⁴ Ibid., 1990, p.4.
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- ³⁷³ Ken Knarston Oral History Interview and Claire Davison, 'Kindergartens and Their Removal from the State Sector Act', *New Zealand Annual Review of Education*, 7, 1998, pp.157 and 158.
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- ³⁷⁹ Ibid., 1996, p.5.
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- ³⁸⁵ Ron Crawford Oral History Interview.
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- ³⁸⁸ Natalie MacKenzie Oral History Interview.
- ³⁸⁹ Ian Kendall Oral History Interview.
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- ³⁹³ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1998, p.9 and Ron Crawford Oral History Interview.
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- ⁴⁸² Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 2003, NZMS 1275, Box 3, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.7.
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- ⁵⁰⁵ Ibid., 10 January 1986.
- ⁵⁰⁶ Ibid., 22 May 1986, 24 June 1986 and Report on Birdwood Kindergarten by Graham and Keys Registered Architects dated August 1986, p.2.
- ⁵⁰⁷ Ibid., 23 December 1986 and Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report 1987, NZMS 1275, Box 2, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, pp.4 and 6.
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- ⁵¹⁴ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1991, NZMS 1275, Box 3, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.15.
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- ⁶³⁴ Pre School Education – Kindergartens – Buildings, site and equipment – Logan Campbell Kindergarten 1961-1989, BAKD A1277 1050 38 e 25/3, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, 31 August 1987 and 24 September 1987.
- ⁶³⁵ ERO Report, Logan Campbell Kindergarten, 1991 and 1996.
- ⁶³⁶ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 2004, NZMS 1275, Box 3, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.7.
- ⁶³⁷ ERO Report, Logan Campbell Kindergarten, 2004.
- ⁶³⁸ Ibid., Freemans Bay Kindergarten, 2007, p.6.
- ⁶³⁹ Ibid., Freemans Bay Kindergarten, 2011 and 2014.
- ⁶⁴⁰ Anne Vette memories collected by Edwina Myers.
- ⁶⁴¹ <https://www.aka.org.nz/glendene-school-playgroup>
- ⁶⁴² Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1996, NZMS 1275, Box 3, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.22.
- ⁶⁴³ Ibid., 1996, p.7 and *New Zealand Herald*, 10 October 2000, Sec A, p.10

- ⁶⁴⁴ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report 1998, NZMS 1275, Box 3, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.7 and 1999, p.5.
- ⁶⁴⁵ Ibid., 1999, p.5 and *New Zealand Herald*, 10 October 2000, Sec A, p.10.
- ⁶⁴⁶ ERO Report, Glendowie Kindergarten, 2002 and 2005.
- ⁶⁴⁷ Information provided by AKA.
- ⁶⁴⁸ This part of the history of Glen Eden Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
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- ⁶⁵⁰ Ibid., 19 July 1977, 27 July 1977.
- ⁶⁵¹ Ibid., 11 January 1984 and 7 February 1985.
- ⁶⁵² Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1998, NZMS 1275, Box 3, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.7 and ERO Report, Glen Eden Kindergarten, 1999.
- ⁶⁵³ Information provided by AKA.
- ⁶⁵⁴ Pre School Education – Kindergartens – Buildings, site and equipment – Rosier Road 1980-1990, BAKD A1277 1050 28 a 25/3, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, 7 August 1980 and 28 August 1980.
- ⁶⁵⁵ Ibid., 30 October 1980, 1 May 1981 and 14 December 1981.
- ⁶⁵⁶ Ibid., undated notes for the Minister following correspondence dated 3 August 1983.
- ⁶⁵⁷ Ibid., 21 March 1984 and 9 October 1984,
- ⁶⁵⁸ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 2004, NZMS 1275, Box 3, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.4.
- ⁶⁵⁹ Pre School Education – Kindergartens – Buildings, site and equipment – Rosier Road 1980-1990, BAKD A1277 1050 28 a 25/3, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, 13 November 1987 and 18 December 1987.
- ⁶⁶⁰ ERO Report, Rosier Road Kindergarten, 2000.
- ⁶⁶¹ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 2001, NZMS 1275, Box 3, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.3.
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- ⁶⁶³ This part of the history of Glenfield Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
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- ⁶⁶⁷ ERO Report, Glenfield Kindergarten, 1993.
- ⁶⁶⁸ Ibid., Glenfield Kindergarten, 2000, 2003, 2006 and 2010.
- ⁶⁶⁹ Information provided by AKA.
- ⁶⁷⁰ This part of the history of Glen Innes Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
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- ⁶⁷² This part of the history of Glen Innes Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
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- ⁶⁷⁴ Information provided by AKA.
- ⁶⁷⁵ This part of the history of Green Bay Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
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- ⁶⁷⁷ This part of the history of Green Bay Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
- ⁶⁷⁸ Pre School Education – Kindergartens – Buildings, site and equipment – Green Bay 1967-1989, BAKD A1277 1050 44 a 25/3, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, 12 June 1978, 28 June 1978, 12 March 1985, 21 March 1985 and 16 April 1985.
- ⁶⁷⁹ ERO Reports, Green Bay Kindergarten, 2000, 2004 and 2007.
- ⁶⁸⁰ Information provided by AKA.

- ⁶⁸¹ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1995, NZMS 1275, Box 3, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.4.
- ⁶⁸² Ibid., 2006, p.5
- ⁶⁸³ Ibid., 2010, p.3.
- ⁶⁸⁴ Information provided by AKA.
- ⁶⁸⁵ Denise Iversen memories collected by Edwina Myers.
- ⁶⁸⁶ This part of the history of Grey Lynn Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
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- ⁶⁸⁸ This part of the history of Grey Lynn Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
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- ⁶⁹⁰ Mace, pp.35-6.
- ⁶⁹¹ ERO Report, St James Kindergarten, 2004.
- ⁶⁹² Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 2006, NZMS 1275, Box 3, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.5; 2007, p.5.
- ⁶⁹³ Ibid., 2008, p.7.
- ⁶⁹⁴ Ibid., 2010, p.2.
- ⁶⁹⁵ Information provided by AKA.
- ⁶⁹⁶ Marj Fogarty and Denise Iversen memories collected by Edwina Myers.
- ⁶⁹⁷ This part of the history of Haeata Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
- ⁶⁹⁸ Much of this part of the history of Haeata Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
- ⁶⁹⁹ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 2015, accessed online from Auckland Kindergarten Association website: <http://www.aka.org.nz/about/annual-reports>, p.6.
- ⁷⁰⁰ This part of the history of Henderson Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
- ⁷⁰¹ Pre School Education – Kindergartens – Buildings, site and equipment – Henderson Kindergarten 1950-1989, BAKD A1277 1050 44 c 25/3, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, 25 October 1979 and 25 November 1979.
- ⁷⁰² Ibid., 12 April 1984, 28 May 1984, 19 July 1984, 27 July 1984 and 13 August 1984.
- ⁷⁰³ ERO Report, Henderson Kindergarten, 2000 and 2004.
- ⁷⁰⁴ Information provided by AKA.
- ⁷⁰⁵ This part of the history of Highland Park Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
- ⁷⁰⁶ Pre School Education – Kindergartens – Buildings, site and equipment – Highland Park Kindergarten 1973-1989, BAKD A1277 1050 32 b 25/3, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, 17 October 1972 and 12 March 1974.
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- ⁷⁰⁹ Ibid., 19 May 1987, 12 June 1987 and 8 October 1987.
- ⁷¹⁰ ERO Report, Highland Park Kindergarten, 2000, 2004 and 2007.
- ⁷¹¹ *New Zealand Herald*, 27 January 2010.
- ⁷¹² Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 2010, NZMS 1275, Box 3, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.2.
- ⁷¹³ This part of the history of Hillsborough Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
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- ⁷¹⁵ Ibid., 12 December 1979 and 14 December 1979.
- ⁷¹⁶ Ibid., 20 November 1986, 14 January 1987 and 26 June 1987.
- ⁷¹⁷ ERO Report, Hillsborough Kindergarten, 1993.
- ⁷¹⁸ Ibid., Hillsborough Kindergarten, 2002 and 2006
- ⁷¹⁹ Ibid., Hillsborough Kindergarten, 2006 and 2009.

⁷²⁰ Information provided by AKA.

⁷²¹ ERO Report, Hillsborough Kindergarten, 2015.

⁷²² This part of the history of Hobsonville Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.

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⁷²⁴ ERO Report, Hobsonville Kindergarten, 2000 and 2005.

⁷²⁵ Information provided by AKA.

⁷²⁶ This part of the history of Howick Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.

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⁷²⁸ Ibid., 11 December 1975, 18 December 1975 and 15 November 1982.

⁷²⁹ ERO Report, Howick Kindergarten, 2000, 2004 and 2010.

⁷³⁰ Information provided by AKA.

⁷³¹ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report 1990, NZMS 1275, Box 2, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, pp.4 and 18.

⁷³² Ibid., 1994, p.15.

⁷³³ This part of the history of Kauri Park Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.

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⁷³⁷ Information provided by AKA.

⁷³⁸ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 2014, accessed online from Auckland Kindergarten Association website: <http://www.aka.org.nz/about/annual-reports>, p.3.

⁷³⁹ This part of the history of Kingsdene Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.

⁷⁴⁰ Pre School Education – Kindergartens – Buildings, site and equipment – Kingsdene Kindergarten 1965-1989, BAKD A1277 1050 39 b 25/3, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, 10 March 1975, 1 July 1975 and 2 September 1975.

⁷⁴¹ Ibid., 25 October 1985.

⁷⁴² *Auckland City Harbour News*, 9 June 2006, p.2.

⁷⁴³ Information provided by AKA.

⁷⁴⁴ *Manukau Courier*, 12 April 2012, p.2.

⁷⁴⁵ This part of the history of Kotiri Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.

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⁷⁴⁸ Ibid., 17 April 1985.

⁷⁴⁹ Ibid., 3 July 1987.

⁷⁵⁰ ERO Report, Kotiri Kindergarten, 2005.

⁷⁵¹ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 2006, NZMS 1275, Box 3, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.5 and information provided by AKA.

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⁷⁵⁴ Ibid., 15 August 1980 and 24 September 1980.

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⁷⁵⁶ Ibid., 9 May 1984.

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⁷⁵⁸ Ibid., 6 March 1985 and 13 March 1985.

⁷⁵⁹ Ibid., 29 May 1985 and 16 July 1985; Pre School Education – Kindergartens – Buildings, site and equipment – Laingholm Kindergarten 1986-1992, BAKD A1277 1050 39 c 25/3, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, 19 May 1987;

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⁷⁶⁰ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1991, NZMS 1275, Box 3, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.15.

⁷⁶¹ Ibid., 1993, p.12.

⁷⁶² ERO Report, Laingholm Kindergarten, 2001.

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⁷⁶⁴ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, NZMS 1275, Box 3, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, 2006, p.2 and ERO Report, Laingholm Kindergarten, 2008.

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⁷⁶⁶ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 2015, accessed online from Auckland Kindergarten Association website: <http://www.aka.org.nz/about/annual-reports>, p.6.

⁷⁶⁷ This part of the history of Lincoln North Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.

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⁷⁷⁰ Ibid., 12 May 1980.

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⁷⁷⁷ Ibid., 30 November 1982, 1 February 1983 and 8 February 1983.

⁷⁷⁸ Ibid., 11 November 1986 and 20 January 1987.

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⁷⁸² Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 2005, NZMS 1275, Box 3, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.6 and *Rodney Times*, 9 August 2005, p.19.

⁷⁸³ ERO Report, Mangawhai Kindergarten, 2006.

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⁷⁸⁶ This part of the history of Mangere Bridge Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.

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⁷⁹⁶ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 2015, accessed online from Auckland Kindergarten Association website: <http://www.aka.org.nz/about/annual-reports>, p.7.

⁷⁹⁷ Pre School Education – Kindergartens – Buildings, site and equipment – Idlewild 1971-1989, BAKD A1277 1050 35 a 25/3, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, 17 June 1971 and 6 August 1971.

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⁷⁹⁹ Ibid., 15 June 1973 and 11 October 1974 and Marshall, p.88.

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- ⁸⁰⁰ Ibid., 7 March 1975.
- ⁸⁰¹ Ibid., 2 October 1975.
- ⁸⁰² Ibid., 4 July 1977.
- ⁸⁰³ Ibid., 13 October 1980 and 17 October 1980.
- ⁸⁰⁴ ERO Report, Idlewild Kindergarten, 1996, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2006.
- ⁸⁰⁵ Information provided by AKA.
- ⁸⁰⁶ Pre School Education – Kindergartens – Buildings, site and equipment – Maraetai/Beachlands 1991-1992, BAKD A1277 1050 80 c 25/3, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, *Howick and Pakuranga Times*, 7 November 1991, p.5.
- ⁸⁰⁷ Ibid., 9 July 1991.
- ⁸⁰⁸ Ibid., *Howick and Pakuranga Times* newspaper clipping dated 7 November 1991, p.5 and 5 February 1992.
- ⁸⁰⁹ Ibid., 30 March 1992 and Invitation to opening of kindergarten 22 August 1992.
- ⁸¹⁰ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1993, NZMS 1275, Box 3, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.9.
- ⁸¹¹ ERO Report, Maraetai Beachlands Kindergarten, 2009.
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- ⁸³⁷ Information provided by AKA.
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- ⁸⁴⁶ Anne Vette memories collected by Edwina Myers.
- ⁸⁴⁷ This part of the history of McNaughton Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
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- ⁸⁴⁹ Marshall, p.92.
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- ⁸⁵⁵ Ibid., 21 February 1964 and 25 February 1964.
- ⁸⁵⁶ Ibid., 31 August 1971 and 16 September 1971.
- ⁸⁵⁷ Ibid., 19 August 1975 and attached plan, 26 September 1975.
- ⁸⁵⁸ Ibid., 6 May 1982 and 11 May 1982.
- ⁸⁵⁹ ERO Report, Milford Kindergarten, 2000, 2003 and 2006.
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- ⁸⁶⁴ Pre School Education – Kindergartens – Buildings, site and equipment – Mission Bay 1944-1989, BAKD A1277 1050 14 a 25/3, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, 20 September 1971, 6 October 1971 and 24 September 1972.
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- ⁸⁸¹ This part of the history of Mt Albert Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
- ⁸⁸² Pre School Education – Kindergartens – Buildings, site and equipment – St Christophers Free Kindergarten 1975-1989, BAKD A1277 1050 26 d 25/3, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, Report for the proposed kindergarten St Christopher's dated March 1975 and 5 March 1976.
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- ⁸⁸⁶ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 2004, NZMS 1275, Box 3, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.7.
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- ⁸⁸⁸ This part of the history of Mt Eden Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
- ⁸⁸⁹ Pre School Education – Kindergartens – Buildings, site and equipment – Mt Eden 1979-1989, BAKD A1277 1050 13 a 25/3, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, 1 November 1979.
- ⁸⁹⁰ Ibid., 17 June 1985 and 5 July 1985.
- ⁸⁹¹ ERO Report, Mt Eden Kindergarten, 2008.
- ⁸⁹² Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 2010, NZMS 1275, Box 3, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.2.
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- ⁸⁹⁶ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1995, NZMS 1275, Box 3, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.8; 1996, p.8 and *New Zealand Herald*, 17 May 1997, Sec A, p.7.
- ⁸⁹⁷ ERO Report, Akarana Kindergarten, 2004.
- ⁸⁹⁸ *New Zealand Herald*, 24 June 2004, Sec A, p.9.
- ⁸⁹⁹ Ibid., 19 November 2007, Sec A, p.3.
- ⁹⁰⁰ Information provided by AKA.
- ⁹⁰¹ This part of the history of Murdoch Park Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
- ⁹⁰² Pre School Education – Kindergartens – Buildings, site and equipment – Murdock (sic) Park 1961-1989, BAKD A1277 1050 42 c 25/3, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, Plans dated 24 May 1967 and 17 September 1968.
- ⁹⁰³ This part of the history of Murdoch Park Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
- ⁹⁰⁴ Pre School Education – Kindergartens – Buildings, site and equipment – Murdock (sic) Park 1961-1989, BAKD A1277 1050 42 c 25/3, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, 6 November 1972, 20 November 1972, 27 November 1972 and 28 November 1972.
- ⁹⁰⁵ Ibid., plans dated 28 July 1988, 30 September 1988 and 21 October 1988.
- ⁹⁰⁶ ERO Report, Murdoch Park Kindergarten, 2005 and 2007.
- ⁹⁰⁷ Information provided by AKA.
- ⁹⁰⁸ This part of the history of Myers Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
- ⁹⁰⁹ At the time children were divided into one of five groups: normal, backward/dull, feeble-minded/moronic, imbecilic and idiotic. Gately, 'Jews, Breweries & National Efficiency in Early 20th Century Auckland', p.276; Shaw, p.52; *New Zealand Herald*, 4 August 1915, p.5.
- ⁹¹⁰ This part of the history of Myers Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
- ⁹¹¹ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1944, NZMS 1275, Box 1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.5 and 1946, p.4.
- ⁹¹² Ibid., 1959, p.6

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- ⁹¹⁵ Ibid., 2000, p.7 and 2001, p.7.
- ⁹¹⁶ Beryl Carr memories collected by Edwina Myers.
- ⁹¹⁷ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 2001, NZMS 1275, Box 3, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.7 and ERO Report, KiNZ in the Park, 2003.
- ⁹¹⁸ ERO Report, KiNZ Myers Park, 2011.
- ⁹¹⁹ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 2012, NZMS 1275, Box 3, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.5 and 2013, accessed online from Auckland Kindergarten Association website: <http://www.aka.org.nz/about/annual-reports>, p.7.
- ⁹²⁰ Pre School Education – Kindergartens – Buildings, site and equipment – New Lynn 1942-1989, BAKD A1277 1050 42 b 25/3, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, 24 June 1942, 17 February 1944 and 17 March 1944.
- ⁹²¹ Ibid., 11 December 1945, 17 December 1945 and 4 February 1946.
- ⁹²² Ibid., 20 May 1946 and 22 May 1946.
- ⁹²³ This part of the history of New Lynn Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
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- ⁹²⁵ Ibid., 20 April 1956 and 20 November 1956.
- ⁹²⁶ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1964, NZMS 1275, Box 1, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.14.
- ⁹²⁷ Pre School Education – Kindergartens – Buildings, site and equipment – New Lynn 1942-1989, BAKD A1277 1050 42 b 25/3, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, 29 October 1975 and 10 December 1975.
- ⁹²⁸ Ibid., 10 July 1980.
- ⁹²⁹ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 2011, NZMS 1275, Box 3, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.2.
- ⁹³⁰ *Western Leader*, 15 September 2011, p.12.
- ⁹³¹ This part of the history of Newmarket Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
- ⁹³² This part of the history of Northcote Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
- ⁹³³ Pre School Education – Kindergartens – Buildings, site and equipment – Northcote Free Kindergarten 1937-1989, BAKD A1277 1050 43 b 25/3, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, 20 November 1953, 26 July 1955, 2 May 1956 and 5 October 1956.
- ⁹³⁴ This part of the history of Northcote Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
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- ⁹³⁶ ERO Report, Northcote Kindergarten, 1993 and 2000.
- ⁹³⁷ Ibid., Northcote Kindergarten, 2009.
- ⁹³⁸ Information provided by AKA.
- ⁹³⁹ This part of the history of Northcote Central Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
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- ⁹⁴¹ Ibid., 11 August 1977 and plans attached.
- ⁹⁴² Ibid., 26 August 1977, 29 September 1978, 18 August 1980 and 23 December 1980.
- ⁹⁴³ Ibid., 20 August 1980, 27 August 1980 and 2 September 1980.
- ⁹⁴⁴ ERO Report, Northbridge Kindergarten, 2009.
- ⁹⁴⁵ Information provided by AKA.
- ⁹⁴⁶ This part of the history of Omana Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
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- ⁹⁵⁰ ERO Report, Omana Kindergarten, 2003 and 2009.
- ⁹⁵¹ Information provided by AKA.
- ⁹⁵² This part of the history of Onehunga Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
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- ⁹⁵⁴ Ibid., 3 December 1979 and 14 December 1979.
- ⁹⁵⁵ ERO Report, Cuthbert Kindergarten, 1997.
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- ⁹⁵⁷ Ibid., 2006, p.5
- ⁹⁵⁸ Information provided by AKA.
- ⁹⁵⁹ Beryl Carr memories collected by Edwina Myers.
- ⁹⁶⁰ This part of the history of Orakei Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
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- ⁹⁶² Ibid., 14 August 1974, 16 August 1974 and 22 August 1974.
- ⁹⁶³ Ibid., 21 October 1983 and 26 May 1983.
- ⁹⁶⁴ ERO Report, Orakei Kindergarten, 1996.
- ⁹⁶⁵ Ibid., Orakei Kindergarten, 1996 and 2001.
- ⁹⁶⁶ *East and Bays Courier*, 6 October 2004, p.3.
- ⁹⁶⁷ Information provided by AKA.
- ⁹⁶⁸ ERO Report, Orakei Kindergarten, 2013.
- ⁹⁶⁹ This part of the history of Oranga Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
- ⁹⁷⁰ Pre School Education – Kindergartens – Buildings, site and equipment – Oranga Kindergarten 1948-1989, BAKD A1277 1050 77 a 25/3, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, 30 October 1957 and 11 March 1959.
- ⁹⁷¹ This part of the history of Oranga Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
- ⁹⁷² ERO Report, Oranga Kindergarten, 1993 and 2003.
- ⁹⁷³ *Auckland*, central edition, 2 March 2005, p.12
- ⁹⁷⁴ Information provided by AKA.
- ⁹⁷⁵ This part of the history of Oratia Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
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- ⁹⁷⁷ Ibid., 10 July 1979 and 19 July 1979.
- ⁹⁷⁸ Ibid., 13 June 1984, 18 June 1984 and 23 July 1984.
- ⁹⁷⁹ Ibid., 7 October 1987 and attached plans, 23 October 1987, 2 December 1987 and 21 December 1987.
- ⁹⁸⁰ ERO Report, Oratia Kindergarten, 2000, 2005, 2007 and 2011.
- ⁹⁸¹ Information provided by AKA.
- ⁹⁸² This part of the history of Otahuhu Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
- ⁹⁸³ Pre School Education – Kindergartens – Buildings, site and equipment – Otahuhu Free Kindergarten 1958-1988, BAKD A1277 1050 75 c 25/3, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, 7 October 1974.
- ⁹⁸⁴ Ibid., 29 October 1975 and attached plans, 3 November 1975, 10 December 1975 and 17 June 1976.
- ⁹⁸⁵ This part of the history of Otahuhu Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
- ⁹⁸⁶ A letter in the Archives New Zealand file (dated 18 March 1985).

- ⁹⁸⁷ Pre School Education – Kindergartens – Buildings, site and equipment – Otahuhu Free Kindergarten 1958-1988, BAKD A1277 1050 75 c 25/3, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, 18 March 1985.
- ⁹⁸⁸ Ibid., 10 June 1986 and 23 September 1986.
- ⁹⁸⁹ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1999, NZMS 1275, Box 3, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.6.
- ⁹⁹⁰ ERO Report, Otahuhu Kindergarten, 2005, 2008 and 2011.
- ⁹⁹¹ Information provided by AKA.
- ⁹⁹² ERO Report, Otahuhu Kindergarten, 2014.
- ⁹⁹³ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1996, NZMS 1275, Box 3, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.22.
- ⁹⁹⁴ Ibid., 1997, p.7.
- ⁹⁹⁵ Information provided by AKA.
- ⁹⁹⁶ ERO Report, Otahuhu Central Kindergarten, 2016.
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- ⁹⁹⁹ Ibid., 23 January 1980 with attached plans and 1 February 1980.
- ¹⁰⁰⁰ Ibid., 12 June 1985 and 1 July 1985.
- ¹⁰⁰¹ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1999, NZMS 1275, Box 3, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.6 and ERO Report, Owairaka Kindergarten, 2000, 2005 and 2008.
- ¹⁰⁰² Information provided by AKA.
- ¹⁰⁰³ Eileen Bethell memories collected by Edwina Myers.
- ¹⁰⁰⁴ This part of the history of Pakuranga Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
- ¹⁰⁰⁵ Pre School Education – Kindergartens – Buildings, site and equipment – Pakuranga 1965-1989, BAKD A1277 1050 66 a 25/3, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, 23 November 1979, 21 April 1980, 28 April 1980, 10 June 1980, 7 August 1980, 18 November 1980, 19 January 1981, 30 June 1982 and 22 July 1982.
- ¹⁰⁰⁶ ERO Report, Pakuranga Kindergarten, 1995 and 2001.
- ¹⁰⁰⁷ Ibid., Pakuranga Kindergarten, 2005, 2008 and 2011.
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- ¹⁰¹⁰ This part of the history of Papatoetoe Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
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- ¹⁰¹² ERO Report, Papatoetoe Kindergarten, 2000, 2006 and 2009.
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- ¹⁰²⁴ This part of the history of Pt Chevalier Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
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- ¹⁰²⁸ *Auckland City Harbour News*, 17 December 2014, p.1.
- ¹⁰²⁹ Information provided by AKA.
- ¹⁰³⁰ This part of the history of Point England Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
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- ¹⁰³³ Auckland Kindergarten Association Annual Report, 1996, NZMS 1275, Box 3, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland City Libraries, p.8.
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- ¹⁰³⁵ Information provided by AKA.
- ¹⁰³⁶ This part of the history of Ponsonby Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
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- ¹⁰⁴⁷ Information provided by AKA.
- ¹⁰⁴⁸ Marj Fogarty and Denise Iversen memories collected by Edwina Myers.
- ¹⁰⁴⁹ This part of the history of Remuera Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
- ¹⁰⁵⁰ Pre School Education – Kindergartens – Buildings, site and equipment – Constance Colegrove Kindergarten 1949-1989, BAKD A1277 1050 8 b 25/3, Archives New Zealand, Auckland, plan attached to correspondence dated 15 December 1953.
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- ¹⁰⁵⁸ This part of the history of Roskill South Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
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- ¹⁰⁷⁰ This part of the history of St Heliers Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
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- ¹⁰⁷² ERO Report, St Heliers Kindergarten, 1997, 2001, 2009, 2012 and 2015.
- ¹⁰⁷³ Information provided by AKA.
- ¹⁰⁷⁴ Elizabeth Tunks memories collected by Edwina Myers.
- ¹⁰⁷⁵ This part of the history of St Johns Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
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- ¹⁰⁷⁷ ERO Report, Tamaki Kindergarten, 2000, 2003 and 2006.
- ¹⁰⁷⁸ Ibid., Tamaki Kindergarten, 2006.
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- ¹⁰⁸² This part of the history of Sandbrook Kindergarten originally appeared in Brian Marshall's history of the AKA published in 1983 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of Brian Marshall.
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- ¹⁰⁹³ Ibid., 2007, p.5.
- ¹⁰⁹⁴ ERO Report, Snells Beach Kindergarten, 2009.
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	17 August 1898
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<i>Eastern Courier</i>	9 June 2010
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<i>Evening Post</i>	5 February 1897
	3 March 1932
	26 September 1932
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<i>Gulf News</i>	23 August 2012
	24 April 2014
<i>Hawkes Bay Herald</i>	18 March 1887
<i>Manukau Courier</i>	14 November 2005
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<i>Rodney Times</i>	28 June 2005
	29 January 2008
<i>Weekly Graphic and New Zealand Mail</i>	22 November 1911
<i>Western Leader</i>	31 July 2008
	15 September 2011
	3 April 2014
<i>Evening Post Collection, Wellington Central Library</i>	

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Ron Crawford, 6 March 2014

Jeremy Drummond, 6 March 2014

Tanya Harvey and Peter Pablecheque, 10 February 2014

Robin Houlker, 11 December 2012

Ian Kendall, 17 February 2014

Ken Knarston, 13 March 2014

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AKA MEMORIES COLLECTED BY EDWINA MYERS - HELD BY AKA

Eileen Bethell

Joan Brockett

Marj Fogarty and Denise Iversen

Dorothy Gascoigne

Lindsey Rea

Anne Vette

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