Considering the data of scrapbooks compiled by three teachers during the years 1940s-1980s

Helen May
Professor of Education, University of Otago

N.Z. Kindergarten Conference

Remits dealing with various aspects of pre-school education such as equipment, salaries and study leave, will be discussed at one of the sessions of the annual Dominion executive meeting of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Teachers Association which will be held at the Wellington Training Centre on August 22, 23 and 24.

The Minister of Education, Mr Tennent, will meet the F. Varcoe, of Dunedin.

The executive members during the conference are planing the session.

The conference will be opened by Helen May, professor of education, University of Otago, and also from Dunedin will be the honorary secretary, M. Cochrane (Hamilton).

From the Auckland district will come the vice-president, Miss M. Patrick, Miss V. Hughes and Miss A. Troed. Also attending will be Miss J. Ross (Hamilton), Miss E. Neilson (Taupo), Miss Salter (New Plymouth), Miss N. Jones (Wanganui), Mrs McEwan and Miss J. Gardiner (Wellington), Miss G. Moorhouse (Blenheim), Misses E. Millen and M. Dalton (Christchurch), Miss H. McCalman (Timaru), Miss M. F. Gallagher (Nacimp), and Miss A. Johnson, who is studying at Canterbury.

NZARE Conference, University of Otago, 26-28 November 2013
Miss Elizabeth Stewart Hamilton

Trained: 1930-31
Director Pre-School Educational Centre 1941-1945
Principal DFKA 1946-1967 (retired)

b. c.1912-13
d. 1995

Miss Phyllis Varcoe

Trained: Primary 1939-40; Kindergarten 1944
Principal DFKA 1968-74
Senior lecturer Dunedin TC 1975-86 (retired)

Current Life Member of Dunedin Kindergartens
b. c.1922

Miss Margaret Just

Trained: 1937-38
Director Pre School Educational Centre (Helen Deem) 1951-1978 (retired)

b. 1920 d. 2009
4 of 18 scrapbooks 1940s-1980s

E. S. Hamilton scrapbooks (9) DKA ARC-0512, HC; M. Just scrapbooks (2) DKA 88-153/2 HC; P. Varcoe Scrapbooks (7) Private collection
Scrapbooks are the bane of archival processes, conservation practices, and of librarians in general, as the books bulge grossly with acidic tape, material objects, and loose pages. For the cultural historian, scrapbooks represent, in their unregulated messiness, a mountain of interpretive challenges. The creators of scrapbooks disordered the world around them and reordered it on the pages of their own book...

1997-2013

Snippets of stories about the contribution of Hamilton, Just and Varcoe to Kindergarten had featured in various books.

Interview with P. Varcoe, 1994
Interview with M. Just, 1994.
People, places and play in the ‘child gardens’ of Dunedin
Dunedin Kindergartens - Mana Manaaki Puawai O Otepoti
125 years old

1. Germanic origins
   1830s-1870s
2. The ‘Devil’s Half Acre’ in Dunedin
   1880s-1900s
3. Patronage and purpose
   1910s-1930s
4. Healthy alliances
   1940s-1950s
5. Recognition and growth
   1950-1960s
6. Scrapbook stories
   1940s-1970s
7. Changing times
   1970s-1990s
8. Curriculum and culture
   1990s-2010s
9. Roller coaster of change
   2000s-2010s
10. Peoples places and programmes at 125 years old
1850s-1930s
Cameras in the hands of children, 2010s
Misses Hamilton, Just and Varcoe

• Mid century careers
• Single women
• Kindergarten as a life long professional career
• International experience, scholarships, fellowships, personal travel
• Careers mainly within the DFKA
• Followed each other into positions: PEC, Principal
• Led experiments in new pedagogy and programmes
• Forged national professional links
• Cautiously entered the political
Some scrapbook themes

- Biography
- Expansion of kindergarten
- Plunket kindergarten alliance
- Career for girls
- Kindergarten Teachers Association
- Changing times
American Child Psychology
New Zealand Teacher Finds Unique School

With new and interesting ideas from American on child psychology, Miss Stewart Hamilton, director of the Wellington South Free Kindergarten, recently returned to Wellington from a two years' absence abroad.

After an enjoyable tour of England, Scotland and parts of the Continent, Miss Hamilton spent a year studying at the London University under Dr. Susan Isaacs, an eminent authority on child education. After her year of study, she went to America to observe the latest practical methods in nursery schools.

An innovation in Chicago was the incorporating of the nursery and junior schools. The fundamental idea was to give children of the ages of 3, 4 and 5 direct contact with very young children. In many cases the American family consisted of an only child, who knew little or nothing of the habits of the modern nursery. It is for these children

Subjects include carpentry, weaving in a specially equipped room with miniature looms; finger-painting, a form of expression with the finger and specially prepared paint as the medium; paste printing on fabrics or paper; clay modelling; reading and studying of selected books and pictures; fancy dress designing; dressing dolls, for which ideas are drawn from a complete set of dolls of all national, masonic, artistic, for which the students are equipped with step instruments and specially designed tools.

A rigid rule of the school bars all visitors. People interested in the work are invited to see the school after six o'clock when the children have been dismissed. A moving picture of the classes in action is shown. Miss Pepper reasons that intruders spoil the atmosphere as children are apt to pantomime if given a suitable audience. The only person other than Mrs. Ford, a frequent and much loved visitor, to enter the school is the charwoman, who has proved her women's understanding of the children and is therefore welcome to change.

Of the school's success there is very little doubt. Miss Pepper is inundated with requests to lecture on child psychology all over the States. Through the summer holidays she visits refresher camps and summer schools imparting her knowledge to other teachers.

It is Miss Hamilton's earnest wish that through the medium of the Free Kindergartens some of the enlightened methods will be introduced to Wellington children.

By Blue Domino

Miss Stewart Hamilton: “I have come back to the Domino with fresh ideas and enthusiasm for nursery work.”

The children's interest in this country is mainly due to their love of nature, and the demands made by the schools for new ideas in the preparation of the nursery school. In fact, a few cases of children have been known to enter the Wellington school in Blackie, which is the home of this

New Venture.

DUNEDIN gains by Wellingtom’s loss in the person of Stewart Hamilton, who has been director of the New York Free Kindergarten since her return to New Zealand from overseas. This clever girl is to direct an educational venture new to New Zealand, and it is to have charge of a new pre-school educational centre to be opened in one of the cottages in the grounds of the Trust King-Harris Hospital at Anderson’s Bay. This centre which will be attended all year by children from two to five years, will boast a link between Karitane and kindergarten training for the teachers. Miss Hamilton, who left Wellington last week, received her early kindergarten training here, afterwards going to London and specializing in child development at London University under Dr. Susan Isaacs, with practical training and a lesson at the “tall” McPherson School at Dunedin, besides doing work in girls' dues.
‘Looking forward in Pre-School Education.’

1946 National Kindergarten Conference
Growth and expansion
Kindergarten is Opened in English Avenue

THE PRESIDENT of
THE DUNEDIN FREE KINDERGARTEN ASSOCIATION
requests the pleasure of the company of

Miss A. Hamilton

at the official opening of the new
MORNINGTON KINDERGARTEN
95 English Avenue

by

THE MATOESS, MRS. T. R. S. SIDEY,

MONDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER, 1961,
at 2.30 p.m.

R.S.V.P. to:-
The Secretary,
P.O. Box 497,
DUNEDIN

OR Phone 78-230

by
Tuesday, 5 September.
Joint Plunket- Kindergarten venture initiated by Dr Helen Deem

- Pre-School Educational Centre and opened 1941 with E.S. Hamilton as Director and Dr Helen Deem as Medical Officer of Plunket
- 1955 purpose built designed centre opened and named Helen Deem Centre (after the death of Dr Deem). M. Just Director
- Influence of international nursery school models
- Training centre for karitane and kindergarten teachers
- Health- education alliance
- Plunket routines and progressive freedoms
Dr Helen Deem
Healthy habits
Work Is Play At The ‘Kindy’

Would You Like To Teach In One?

If you would, and you are really fond of little children, you’ll be happy and interested in your work. A kindergarten teacher has a considerable amount of responsibility, for the pre-school age, is many hours, the most important in a child’s life. But she has the satisfaction of knowing that she is helping children to be contented, cooperative people and good citizens. And as a mother of the future, she, herself, receives an excellent training through her work in the kindergarten. In the meantime, she is rewarded with adequate holidays and salary.

How You Train

Applicants for training must be 18 years of age, have a minimum of three years practical experience, and have passed the entrance examinations. From the Department of Education, Wellington, Christchurch.

Before starting her training, the student must sign a declaration stating her intention to continue in the field of kindergarten teaching for at least three years, and to receive instruction in kindergarten teaching and supervising for a minimum of four years.

In addition to the regular subjects, the student will be required to study the following:


Free Kindergarten Association has been established to provide opportunities for kindergarten teachers to meet and exchange ideas.

At the training college, the student will receive a salary of £20 per week. The student will be responsible for the care of two young children, who will be under her supervision.

At the end of the training period, the student will be offered a position at one of the kindergarten centres.

Graduation Ceremony for Kindergarten Students

Miss V. A. Haywood, president of the Dunedin Free Kindergarten Association, welcomed about 200 representatives of the association to the graduation ceremony in the Tabor Hall, Monday night.

On behalf of the association, Miss Haywood congratulated the graduates for their success in the training programme and expressed the hope that they would continue to work with dedication in the field of kindergarten education. She also thanked all those who had contributed to the success of the training programme.

Crucial Step

The crucial step in the development of a kindergarten is the training of the teachers. The Dunedin Free Kindergarten Association is committed to providing high-quality training for its graduates. By ensuring that kindergarten teachers are well-prepared, we are helping to ensure the success of the kindergarten system in Dunedin.
Student group c. 1950s (above) and 1940s

Graduates with Miss Hamilton 1958 (above) and 1940s
1947: Art and PE – Dunedin Teachers College – crafts on display at Kindergarten College
1960s students with Miss Varcoe
A School Of Twist

"Come on, baby, let's do the twist," says the song, and 4-year-olds at the Mornington Kindergarten have taken the message to heart.

Little Glenda Jarvis (front left) did the twist with the former Miss New Zealand, Leone Main, when she was teaching the dance in Dunedin earlier this year.

Janine Rose (front centre) is a Yorkshire lass who is returning to England in August. She picked up the dance by watching a twist film and also doubles with a toy guitar to imitate actress Hayley Mills singing "Let's Get Together."

Without encouragement from the staff ("we didn't know how to do the dance," said kindergarten director, Miss R. Phillips), the girls began impromptu demonstrations to other children, who soon picked up the movements.

Soon the children were asking for twist music on the piano, and the dance became a regular activity.

When a Daily Times reporter called, the novice class had just ended some strenuous gyrations and gave the floor to the veterans and their best followers mainly girls.

The group was soon twisting at speed, performing many of the more professional variations of the dance, sinking to the floor and rising up again, still twisting—faces showing intense concentration and delight, oblivious of a photographer near at hand.

ODT, June 26, 1962

Changing Times

NZ's first male kindergarten teacher, 1975

MR DAVID CARMICHAEL, who yesterday graduated as New Zealand's first male kindergarten teacher. Mr Carmichael was presented with his diploma at a ceremony for Dunedin Teachers College graduates in the Town Hall. Mr Carmichael was for three years a lecturer at the Kindergarten Teachers College when it was an independent institution.
Kindergarten Anniversary:

MANY VISITORS FOR CELEBRATIONS

Many visitors from all parts of the country will be in Dunedin this week for the 75th anniversary celebrations of the Dunedin Free Kindergarten Association.

And a sign of the times (1960s) P. Varcoe Scrapbook
Establishing a union for kindergarten teachers

DELEGATES AND OFFICERS of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Teachers' Association from the four main centres who are in the city for their first annual conference. Left to right: Miss E. S. Hamilton (Dunedin), Dominion president; Miss E. Hopkins (Auckland), Mrs B. Nicholls (Wellington), Miss E. Miller (Christchurch), and Miss J. Stewart (Dunedin).
DELEGATES TO CONFERENCE

THREE OF THE DELEGATES who will attend the Free Kindergarten Teachers' Association executive conference in Wellington which starts today. From left they are Mrs. V. Hudson, a delegate from the Auckland branch, Miss M. M. Patmore, vice-president of the national executive, and representing the Auckland branch, and the national executive president, Miss P. M. Varcoe, of Dunedin.

Kindergarten Teachers’
Three-day Meeting

Delegates from all parts of New Zealand have arrived in Wellington for the Kindergarten Teachers' Dominion executive conference which starts today.

The 16 delegates have come from Auckland, Palmerston North, Whanganui, Wellington, Hokitika, Hanley and Timaru. Today they will be addressed by the president of the national executive, Miss P. M. Varcoe of Dunedin. Tomorrow afternoon the conference will be addressed by Mr. A. E. Campbell, assistant director of education.

Summer School

As the first summer school held at Lincoln College in January of this year was an undoubted success, plans are well advanced for a similar school to be held at Massey College, Palmerston North, from January 29 to 32.

Four awards of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Teachers’ Association post-graduate bursaries were made this year to Mrs. B. Cowan who is studying at Auckland University, Miss J. E. Doolan and Miss J. J. Owen, who are at Victoria University, and Miss P. Varcoe at Otago.

During the year the third newsletter was distributed to members. The branch associations are increasing their activities, and reports will be presented at the meeting. This is the first time the executive has met for three instead of two days. Results dealing with salaries, appointments, the functioning of kindergartens, professional status, and reports from sub-committees will be discussed.

Kindergarten Conference Off To Brick Start

The first day of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Teachers’ Association executive conference got away in a brisk start yesterday with a discussion on the bursaries for students' university study.

Each year four £25 bursaries are made available for kindergarten teachers to enable them to attend lectures at university. They are awarded to the most suitably qualified applicants. The selection committee considers will benefit from the higher education which they receive in the university study.

The Dominion president, Miss P. M. Varcoe, who herself has been awarded these bursary awards, feels that the applicants must have had a thorough grounding in kindergarten teaching in order to be selected for the bursary.

FUNCTION OF THE KINDERGARTEN IN THE COMMUNITY

While New Zealand’s population has increased, families have become smaller, the president of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Teachers' Association, Miss P. M. Varcoe, of Dunedin, told the Dominion executive conference in Wellington yesterday.

Changes in the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Teachers' Association executive conference caused this year a fair amount of discussion.

“Many children live in crowded homes and need the kind of care and attention that the kindergarten can provide,” the president said.

“Democracy education must be such as it is in terms of what it may become, and the realization of creative possibilities in each person must be our major effort. We shall succeed if we give every child the same opportunity to learn and be free—a programme which makes our total society an educational enterprise.”

“We must translate the full meaning of our traditions into realities in kindergarten and community.”

Education System

Education is a lifelong goal that has no end. It must be continuous with life and provide for the individual. The kindergarten is the starting point for the child's education. The kindergarten teacher is the key figure in the child's early development.

“The work of the kindergarten teacher is to make the world safe for the child. Through the work of the kindergarten teacher, the child learns to live in a safe, secure, and loving environment. The kindergarten teacher is responsible for the child's emotional, social, and physical well-being.”

c.1960 P. Varcoe scrapbooks

NZFKTA

Link with professional development and an annual national inservice course
Other themes

• Jubilees and annual calendar celebrations
• Good ideas
• Belonging to Dunedin’s education community
• Being a kindergartener – nationally
• Keeping abreast of ECE internationally
In summary: ‘order’ and ‘disorder’

- Insights outside of the official archive documents
- Longevity of the collection
- Utilitarian rather than works of art
- Intimacy of the Dunedin kindergarten community
- Players in the local education scene and the national ECE scene
- Exclusion of wider ece services and changing landscape of ECE