

THEME 14: EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

14.1 EARLY DUNEDIN SCHOOLS

Until the New Zealand Constitution Act 1852, education was a mix of private enterprise, community self-help, and public subscription, as the Wakefield settlement schemes (See **Theme 2: 2.4**, page 24) were left to fend for themselves. Until the establishment of the Otago Provincial Council, Dunedin's schools were run by community, church or private organisations. The Provincial Council, in turn, set up the Otago Education Board in 1856 and bore the responsibility for public schooling in the region. After the cessation of the Regional Council and the passing of the *Education Act* (1877), education became the responsibility of central government, although it continued to be managed at a local level through the Otago Education Board.

A school was constructed in 1849 adjoining the Presbyterian Church on Lower High Street. Classes were initially taught by William Blackie, who resigned through ill health after two years. The surprising indifference of the early settlement to education was noted by Doctor Thomas Hocken in his *Contributions to the Early History of New Zealand (Otago)*. A further school was established by 1854 but the authorities were concerned that the combined attendance of around 100 pupils was considerably less than the expected number as there were 270 school age children in the settlement. This problem was particularly critical in rural areas of Dunedin. In 1858 it was reported that two children out of 22 were attending Green Island School, a situation that was put down to the demands of harvest time. [EDUCATION BOARD: *Otago Witness*, Issue 333, 17 April 1858, Page 4]. At the same time, however, other schools were overcrowded, leading to pressure being placed on the Education Board to enlarge existing schools in North East Valley and Green Island and construct new ones at Waikouaiti, North East Harbour and Port Chalmers. Population growth following the gold rush placed further demands on the system and the Education Board was faced with adding two further schools in middle and south Dunedin in 1863. Demand for resources led to much public wrangling with local

communities petitioning the Board for the establishment of District schools. The establishment of smaller 'side schools' enabled the authorities to satisfy some of this demand and to buy time. The funding situation facing some schools became perilous as income was a mix of Government grants and local subscriptions which varied, dependent on economic conditions. Buildings were constantly in need of repairs and extension. Distance and poor roads were a major difficulty for pupils in the outer suburban areas.

Each Education Board had its own architects who superintended the designing and building of schools and teachers' residences. Many early Dunedin school buildings were designed by Henry Frederic Hardy, who was secretary and architect to the public schools committee of the Otago Provincial Council. He was the architect of the main buildings at North East Valley and North Dunedin schools, Port Chalmers High School and rector's house and the North Taieri, Port Chalmers, and Otakaia public schools. These were all individual plans built in a variety of materials, including stone and wood. The Education Board later developed a more modular approach to school buildings, using more or less standard plans. Examples of these timber schoolhouses can be seen in situ at Ajax Street in Port Chalmers, where there is also a corrugated steel urinal block, and in a deteriorated state at Outram Glen. Another has been moved to the Taieri Historical Society Museum at Outram. The extensive rebuilding programme of the post-war era saw the arguably long overdue demolition of the Hardy-era Provincial Council school buildings and their replacement with standardised Education Board buildings. Private and church run schools continued on an independent path with Ted McCoy's (and later McCoy and Wixon's) work for the Catholic Church maintaining a high standard of design. McCoy's austere concrete St Pauls High School was followed by his extension of Otago Boys' High in the 1970s. Names of individual schools are contained in a guide to Otago Education Board Schools published in 1985.



Figure 142: Arthur Street School

Arthur Street School is Dunedin's longest established school, having already been established on the *Phillip Laing* by James Blackie. The first school building adjacent to the church was later called the Beach School and shifted to the corner of Tennyson Street and York Place in 1864, taking the name Middle School. In 1877 it was relocated to its present site in Arthur Street. The school was rebuilt again in the mid 1960s.



Figure 143: Waikouaiti schoolhouse in 2009

Waikouaiti School: A site in Beach Street was offered to the community by Johnny Jones in 1857 and the school was opened in 1860 with Francis Franks as teacher. The current Waikouaiti Primary School in Malloch Street opened in 1870 and the Beach Street classroom was moved to the new site in 1872. The school house continued to house teachers until 1880 and was then rented to various people, before being sold in around 1950.

14.2 NATIVE SCHOOLS

Hoani Weteri (John Wesley) Korako, a cousin of the chiefs, Karetai and Taiaroa, built a school and chapel on family land at Otakou in the early 1840s where both Kai Tahu and European children were taught. The spectacle of apparently 'destitute' Maori gathering in centre of the town led to the formation of 'A Society for elevation of the physical, social and moral conditions of the Maori', led by Captain William Cargill. A public collection was held and the Provincial Council pressured to provide a school and a teacher for Kai Tahu children at the Peninsula. The school was built upon the arrival of the first teacher, Mr Baker, in 1861. However, he was drowned shortly afterwards and the school did not open until 1869, when it was established as a Native School, funded by the Native Department. There was certainly a need, as it was estimated in 1865 that only 22 Maori children were enrolled in school throughout the whole colony. (McGeorge, page 1).

The Native School system in New Zealand was extensively reformed by Dunedin educationalist, James Pope, who was appointed Inspector of Native Schools in January 1880. Pope published a '*Native Schools Code*' which established a standard curriculum, system of examination and classification for Native School teachers. Lessons were conducted in English, although Maori might be employed in the junior classes, if necessary.

14.3 DUNEDIN KINDERGARTEN ASSOCIATION

The Dunedin Kindergarten Association was formed in 1889 to provide free kindergartens for the poor. The first kindergarten was established in the Walker Street Mission Hall (now Carroll Street) and began with a roll of 14 children, mainly from the poverty stricken families of the notorious Walker Street area. Doctor Kerry Bethell's research into the early history of the kindergarten shows a diverse range of motivations for the provision of pre-school education. Advocacy for kindergartens was linked to other efforts to improve education for young women, including access to university study. Links were also apparent with the women's

suffrage movement. Instrumental in establishing the kindergarten movement in New Zealand was Rachel Reynolds, who advocated for a girls' high school in Dunedin and for the admission of women to the University of Otago. Reynolds was also involved with the Otago Benevolent Institution, Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Tailoresses' Union. Sara Cohen, wife of Liberal Jewish newspaper editor, Mark Cohen, (responsible for establishing the Dunedin Public Library), also worked in support of the Dunedin Kindergarten Association. Lavinia Jane Kelsey became involved with the Froebel Society while in England and became the first secretary of the Dunedin Free Kindergarten Association in 1889. The Yaralla Kindergarten in North Dunedin was later renamed in recognition of her efforts.

14.4 OTAGO INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

The need for reformatories to provide education and trade skills for destitute and deserted children was a further unfortunate effect of social change in Dunedin following the gold rush. The Otago Industrial School at Lookout Point, Caversham, was the first of its type in New Zealand and was open to any needy child in the colony. There were 44 boys and girls at the School in its first year of operation in 1869. Many had been rescued from lives of 'vice, infamy and crime' and a number of children were taken from brothels. Children who had been held at the Benevolent Institute under the *Neglected and Criminal Children Act* were handed over to the care of the Industrial School. The school was staffed by a Master, Matron, one male and two female attendants. The first Master was a police sergeant, Mr Briton and his wife was the Matron. The school was initially managed through the Police Department of the Otago Provincial Council. The Otago Industrial School closed in 1927 and reopened as the Dunedin Boys' Receiving Home on the same site. This remained in operation until 1991.

14.5 CHILDREN'S INSTITUTIONS

The Elliot Street Home at 40 Elliot Street, Andersons Bay, began as the Boys' Probation Home from 1921 to about 1928. It then became the Dunedin Girls' Receiving Home, companion institution to the Dunedin Boys' Receiving Home at Lookout Point, described above. It was taken over from the Education Department by the Department of Social Welfare and provided remand facilities and short term training for girls aged 10 to 17 years. The home closed in 1989, but reopened in 1991 as a new mixed-sex home. The site also housed an administration block and Highcliff High School. Other Dunedin institutions for children include St Mary's Orphanage, Dunedin (1883-1933); Anglican Memorial Home for Boys, Vauxhall, Dunedin (1918-1972); Children's Rest Home/Dunkley Children's Temporary Homes (c.1918-1944); St Vincent de Paul Orphanage for Girls, Dunedin (1898-1955); St Joseph's Boys' Home (1920-1982); Presbyterian Orphanage and Children's Home, Dunedin (1907-1929); Presbyterian Boys' Home/Hostel, Dunedin (1907-1921); Glendining Home/Glendining Complex, Dunedin (1913-1991); Nisbet Home, Dunedin (1920-1928); Anderson's Bay Orphanage and Day School (1919-1941); the Young Women's Industrial Home, Dunedin (1912-1937).

14.6 OTAGO BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL

The provision of universal education was an aim of the Otago settlement founders but one which took many years to expedite. Tenders were called in 1862 for the construction of a boys' high school and the contract was given to John Currie for the sum of £2133. The building was a somewhat grandiose conception with a temple portico in reference to Thomas Hamilton's Royal High School in Edinburgh. While the major elevation was impressively faced with Tasmanian sandstone, the interior spaces were, reportedly, poorly laid out. Plans were prepared by the Otago Provincial Council Engineer assisted by the young Edward Armson. It was later extended by David Ross. The building was located on Bell Hill above the Dowling Street ridge on a prominent but narrow site allowing no room for playing fields.



Figure 144: Otago Boys' High School

The Rector's accommodation and the later boarders' rooms were equally cramped. The School was opened in 1863, an event made sombre following the death of the school's Rector, the Reverend Campbell, his wife and his children in the sinking of the *Pride of the Yarra* in Otago Harbour. In 1885 the school [B007] was moved to a site closer to the Town Belt and a new building designed by R. A. Lawson (Fig. 145).

14.7 OTAGO GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

The proposal to establish a high school for girls was brought to the Provincial Council in 1864 by Learmonth Dalrymple. An earlier article in the *Otago Daily Times*, possibly by Julius Vogel, promoted a 'companion institution' for girls following the opening of the Otago Boys' High School in 1863. Dalrymple embarked on a determined campaign, enlisting the support of Major J. L. C. Richardson, speaker of the Otago Provincial Council and with his support a 'Ladies' memorial' was presented to the Council which proposed a school for "the middle and wealthier classes of the colony". Dalrymple and her Dunedin women supporters wrote close to 800 letters in support of the girls' school.

An education commission, chaired by the Reverend D. M. Stuart and including nine provincial council members, recommended in 1870 that a



Figure 145: The second Otago Girl's High School building designed by Edmund Anscombe.

"girls' seminary" be opened in the south wing of the Boys' High School, used at that point as the Rector's accommodation. Considerable debate arose over the wisdom of splitting the future high school in two and placing them at such a distance from each other but Ross' extensions to the building provided major improvements to the appearance and function of the combined school. Even so, conditions at the Girls' High were far from ideal and classes were split between the school and a drill shed some distance away. Tensions between the teaching staff and the Education Board and its High School Committee reached a pitch in 1877 with the resignation of the entire teaching staff of the Girls' High. It was recommended that the resignations of the Girls' High teachers be accepted and all staff members who had not resigned, apart from the Principal, Mrs Burns, were given six months' notice.

Otago Girls' High School took over the old Boys' High building in 1885 when the boys' classes were moved to R. A. Lawson's new school in Arthur Street. The building was demolished and replaced by a new school designed by Edmund Anscombe (Fig. 146) [B587] and opened in 1909. This was an early Anscombe project, carried out soon after his return to New Zealand from North America. It is a sensitively detailed building in red brick collegiate Tudor style and its design remedied many of the defects of the earlier building.



Figure 146: University of Otago buildings.

circa 1900

14.8 UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO

The University of Otago was established by the Otago Provincial Council in 1869. Preparations began with the endowment of land when 100,000 acres were set aside to provide funds for higher education. Degrees were available in the Arts, Medicine, Law and Music. Reverend Thomas Burns was proclaimed the first Chancellor, but he died before the University was officially opened on 5 July 1871. The University initially occupied the Post Office building designed by Mason and Clayton in the Exchange. There it was joined by the incipient Otago Museum. Significant changes were made to Mason's building but there was no scope for expansion and a design competition for a new building on the present site was announced. This was won by Maxwell Bury under the title 'To B or not to B'. The first stage of his scheme was opened in 1878 And is now known as the Clock Tower Block [B599] Bury's design was loosely related to George Gilbert Scott's Glasgow University building but avoids Scott's more conservative, formal symmetries. It was extended by Louis Salmond and Edmund Anscombe, in stages, up until 1922, forming a narrow quadrangle on the tight site between the banks of the Leith and Leith Street, which ran behind the main group of buildings Including the Geology Block [B598], Marama Hall [B600], the School of Mines [B601]

and Allan Hall and Archway [B602]. The first section to be completed on the former Botanical Gardens site was the Chemical Department. The Oliver Wing was completed in 1914 with two new classrooms added to the rear of Bury's building. The Physiology Department was designed by Louis Salmond in related style (Fig. 147)

The pair of professorial houses [B546] at the northern edge of the site were also part of Bury's competition entry and were completed in 1878. They were constructed in red brick with contrasting bands of black and white. Newspaper accounts described the buildings as 'coarse' and they were later covered with a Moeraki gravel pebble dash render.

Otago Medical School: The University established a full medical course in 1885, which enabled doctors to complete their training in New Zealand. The Medical School was based on the Edinburgh model and developed a strong reputation for research, which continues to the present day. Dean, Sir Charles Hercus, established the Medical Research Council in 1937, which provides funding for bio-medical research. The final building in the Great King Street block, a 1940s modernist design by Miller, White and Dunn, is named after him. The first of the Medical School buildings was designed by Mason and Wales in 1915. The Scott Building was joined by Anscombe's large and impressive new Medical School [B244] in 1925 with the run of red brick buildings completed in the South Block (Hercus Building). This set of buildings links with Anscombe's replacement Dental School (1925) and in mass, but not in style, the third dental school by the Government Architect's Office/Ian Reynolds.

Dental School: The first Dental School was built facing Union Street on the opposite bank of the Leith with plans supplied by Louis Salmond in 1906. It was later enlarged by Edmund Anscombe and now houses the University Staff Club [B603]. A replacement for this building was opened on Great King Street, closer to the Medical School, and in turn replaced by the current building designed by Ian Reynolds of the Government Architects Department. This impressive curtain walled modernist building was opened in 1960 and continues to polarise opinion in Dunedin about the 'fit' of modern design into a largely revivalist built environment.

Campus expansion in the 1960s: Plans to extend the campus diagonally to link these buildings with the Union Street/Castle Street axis were superseded, in 1964, by a new plan from the Ministry of Works devised by John Blake-Kelly who was appointed Assistant Government Architect in 1959. The Blake-Kelly plan retained Bury's buildings and some of Anscombe's but extended the campus to the west and south with a Corbusean grid plan of slab form towers, connected by aerial walkways. Much of this plan was realised in the later 1960s beginning with Mason and Wales' Arts 1 (Burns Building) in 1969 and culminating in McCoy and Wixon's imposing Arts 2 (Hocken, now Richardson Building) in 1980. New science blocks were designed by the Ministry of Works and a consortium of Dunedin engineers and architects. Recent major additions to the campus include the Information Services Building replacing the central library and the realignment of the University's major cross axis to St David Street.



Figure 147: Otago School of Art building, Moray Place. (Two storeyed building behind construction site)

14.9 OTAGO SCHOOL OF ART

New Zealand's first art school was opened in Dunedin with the appointment of David Conn Hutton in 1870. Following the University into the Post Office, the school used two large rooms in Mason's building but moved, in 1874, to the newly completed Normal School building in

Moray Place (Fig. 148). The school sought affiliation with the South Kensington School of Science, London, and was renamed the Otago School of Art and Design in 1894. The school was absorbed into King Edward Technical College in 1920. Significant artists who taught at the school include Hutton and members of his family, Robert Hawcridge, A. H. O'Keeffe, W. A. Allen and R. N. Field. The school relocated in 1937 to a purpose built building in Albany Street, where it remains.



Figure 148: King Edward Technical College

14.10 DUNEDIN TECHNICAL SCHOOL

The Otago Polytechnic descends from the Dunedin Technical School, established in 1889 to provide instruction through evening classes for workers. It began offering day classes in 1909 for secondary school pupils and changed to the King Edward Technical College [B578] in 1914, when it moved into a substantial red brick building in Albert Street (now Stuart St) designed by Harry Mandeno (Fig 149). As well as conducting secondary classes, King Edward Technical College was the main provider of education in Otago for apprentices, technicians and professionals. In major restructuring in 1966 the institution was split into Logan Park High School and Otago Polytechnic. The major expansion of its campus in the 1970s and 1980s was designed largely by Allingham Harrison and Partners, with later buildings by Lindsay Gillies.

14.11 DUNEDIN COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

The Dunedin Teachers' College, known in its early years as the Training College, was established in 1876 to provide academic training for schoolteachers. It offered the first such course in New Zealand and developed its programmes alongside the University of Otago, which began its own education degree courses in 1905. It began by educating primary school teachers and later expanded to secondary school teacher training. The College began as the Training Department of the Otago Normal School which was located in the northwest section of Moray Place and which also housed the School of Art. The building was designed by David Ross and cost the major sum of £8000.

[THE NORMAL SCHOOL: *Otago Witness*, Issue 1261, 29 January 1876, Page 9].