



# Huinga School

**Toko Rd, Huinga**

**1903**

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<b>Use:</b>	None	<b>Historic Value:</b>	1 out of 5
<b>Materials:</b>	Timber, iron	<b>Architectural Value:</b>	1 out of 4
<b>NZHPT Registered:</b>	Not registered	<b>Technical Value:</b>	- out of 2
<b>Legal Description:</b>	Pt Sec 19 Blk VIII Ngaere SD - Huinga School	<b>Symbolic Value:</b>	- out of 3
		<b>Rarity Value:</b>	- out of 2
		<b>Townscape Value:</b>	1 out of 2
		<b>Group Value:</b>	- out of 2
		<b>Overall Heritage Value:</b>	<b>3 out of 20</b>



Raupuha School started on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 1902, in the lean-to room of the Burgess family cottage. The total roll was 14: made up of seven boys and seven girls from four different families, who were taught in the 10 ft x 10 ft room by their teacher, the young Miss Ida Adamson.

After a few weeks, the roll grew to be too large for the room, and so the school was moved into the Wool Room of the Marfell woolshed.

The need for an actual school building was quickly realised, and with the generous donation of land from A. and E. Bayly, a school was built. The official Raupuha School was opened on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 1903, with a roll of 24 pupils.

The school was prosperous, and with more settler families moving into the district for the dairy farming, the settlement grew, and the school roll continued to grow. By the next year, during World War I, the school roll went up to 57. The School Board was kept busy, having meetings on nights were there was a full moon, so that the members would have enough light to travel home safely.

Many improvements and modifications have been made on the school over the years. In 1914 a teacher's residence was built, meaning the teacher no longer had to board at various houses around the district. A library was established in the school in 1924, although it was not until 1983 that an actual building was made for the library – with a total cost of \$13,340. 1926 saw the start of the grounds being improved, with an area for a football field being leveled. In 1927 this was furthered - a concrete square for games was added, lawns and concrete paths were laid, and hedges, shade trees and shrubbery were planted. During the 1950s a new tennis court was completed, a deep well bore was drilled, and the school swimming pools were opened.



The name Raupuha means sow thistle, or wild cabbage. This was the name given to the district, but when dairying started, the name was changed to Huingaere or Huinga for short, which means “extensive swamps”. The school obviously wanted their name to reflect the district, and consequently a proposal on 25 July 1923 to change the name to “Huinga School” was successful.

During World War II, in accordance with Home Defence recommendations, the children's learning consisted of digging silt trenches under teacher supervision. There is little doubt that they minded – no mathematics, and sweets as rewards for hard work!

Proposals to consolidate with Toko School came up twice in two years. In 1949 this proposal was defeated 24:14 by the board, and in 1950, when there had been growing transport difficulties; it was defeated 43:35. This shows the strong sense of pride that the community had in the school, and the importance it held for many families in the district.

In 1966, the largest change that Huinga School was to see was started. A new site was surveyed for the school, as it was felt that the roll was now too large for the old building. By June the following year, a working bee was able to be held to prepare the grounds, and by 1968 the new school building was officially opened. The cost of the new school was \$27,485.40. The roll two years later stood at 62 and so approval was given for a third classroom to operate (and a third teacher to be employed). This re-locatable classroom was however removed by 1973, because the roll had decreased to 53. Not wanting to waste this space, the old teacher's cottage was moved to where the classroom was, and it became the library resource room.

Although the Huinga community had earlier resisted consolidation with Toko, by the end of 1991 the school roll was down to 21, and the community decided it would be best if the school closed. The Ministry agreed to the proposed conditions set out by Huinga, and so, in January 1992, the Huinga School pupils started to bus to Toko.

## **Bibliography**

*Huinga District Centennial*

*Huinga 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee*

Church, Ian; *The Stratford Inheritance*, The Heritage Press (1990) p55