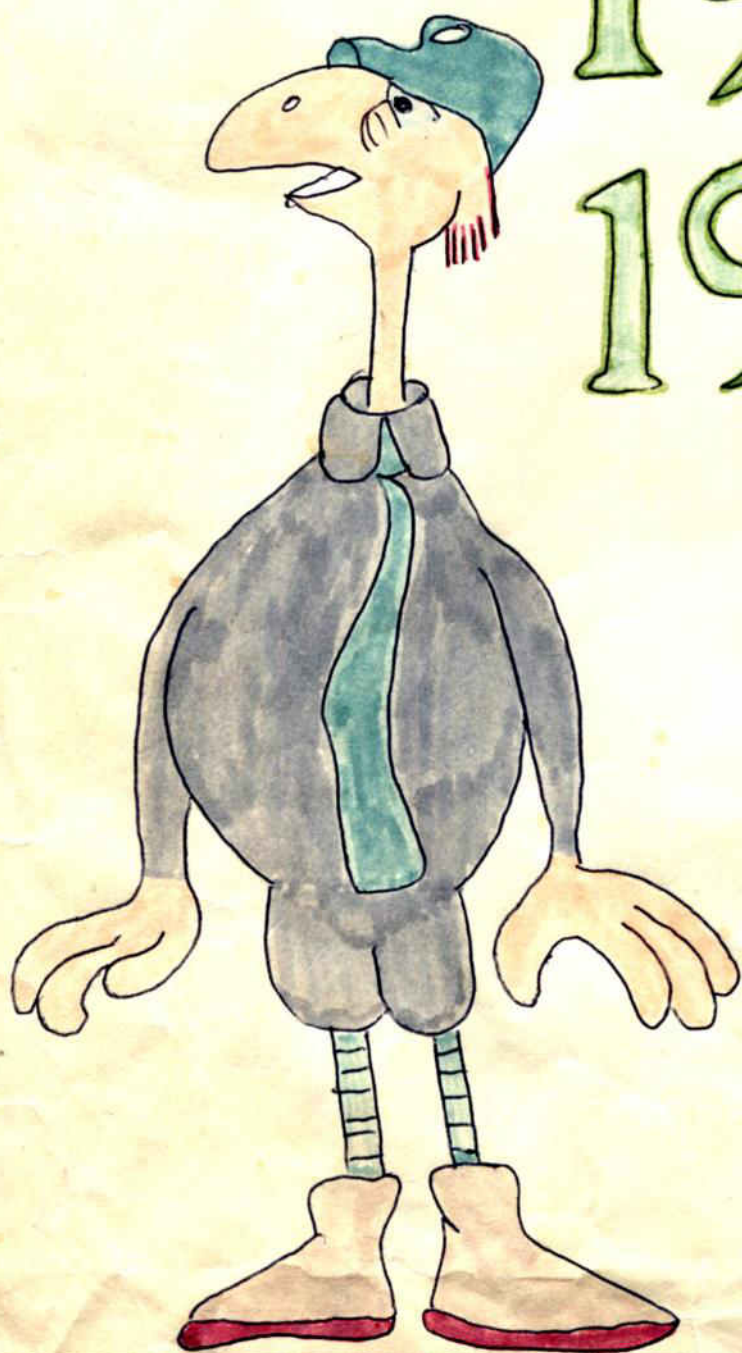


# Ngaruawahia High School 1963 - 1990



BY BARBARA PRATT

NGARUAWAHIA HIGH SCHOOL

1963 - 1990

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## NGARUAWAHIA HIGH SCHOOL

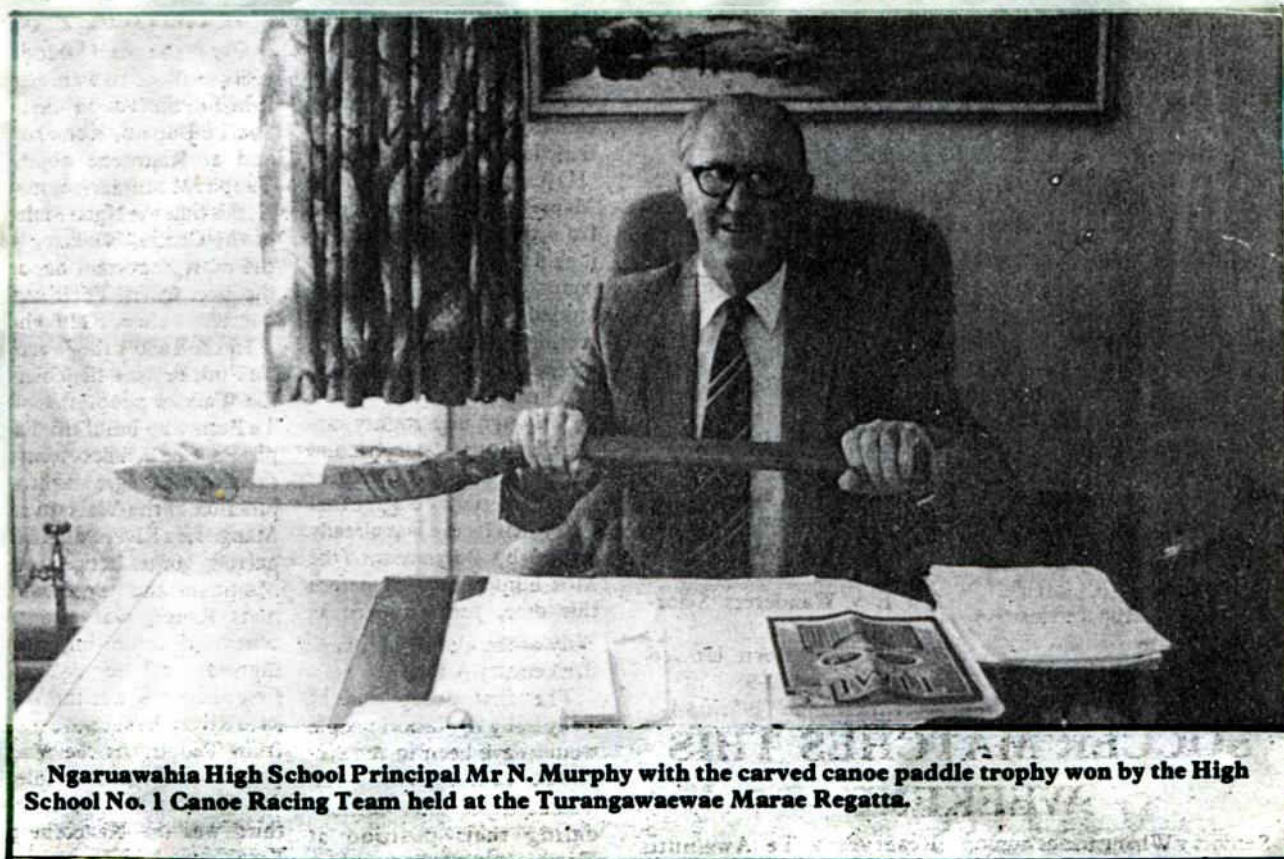
1963 - 1990

Many of the old identities of Ngaruawahia remember the packed buses as high school pupils from the district travelled into a Hamilton High School or College. There was little room left for workers.

So at the opening of the Waipa Primary School in 1958 a petition was put forward to provide a High School for 'Newcastle' Ngaruawahia.

As with many new ventures, it took many years and the time of many innovative people to get the wheels of progress into motion.

It was at the same time as the centennial celebrations, one hundred years to the day after General Cameron hoisted the British flag where the two rivers meet, that there came the end of an era and the beginning of another with the birth of the long awaited High School. So twenty-seven years ago in February 1963 all the planning for a New High School culminated in its opening with Mr E B Allison as its Principal.



**Ngaruawahia High School Principal Mr N. Murphy with the carved canoe paddle trophy won by the High School No. 1 Canoe Racing Team held at the Turangawaewae Marae Regatta.**

The Maori culture group has always been a special feature of the school. In 1978 the group participated with distinction in the International Youth Festival of Performing Arts in Aberdeen, Scotland, the famous Edinburgh Festival; - toured South West England; performed at Disneyland, Los Angeles and featured on BBC Television.

Then in 1986 the Maori Culture Group was first in the Central North Island Festival.

It was 12 years after the school's opening that Maori was introduced as a Language.

The first school magazine was printed in 1965 and Ngaruawahia High School has the special privilege of being the first High School in New Zealand to have a coloured covered magazine.

This magazine has always been a feature of the end of the year get togethers, where there are many laughs over what has happened during the year and over the cartoons of main events during the year. Many hours are spent by the editorial staff to get this yearly awaited magazine out on time.

In 1968 the school produced its first Musical Drama Production 'My Fair Pygmalion' and have continued to produce musicals every two years. This years production was called 'Night Shriek' which was adapted from the Shakespearian play 'Macbeth'.

The sixties was also the beginning of fundraising for a gymnasium which was opened in 1975. One of the raffles was that of a racehorse.

Also in 1975 there was a change in Principal's when Mr E B Allison retired as principal and Mr Murphy who had been teaching at the school since 1967 and had been Deputy Principal since 1969.

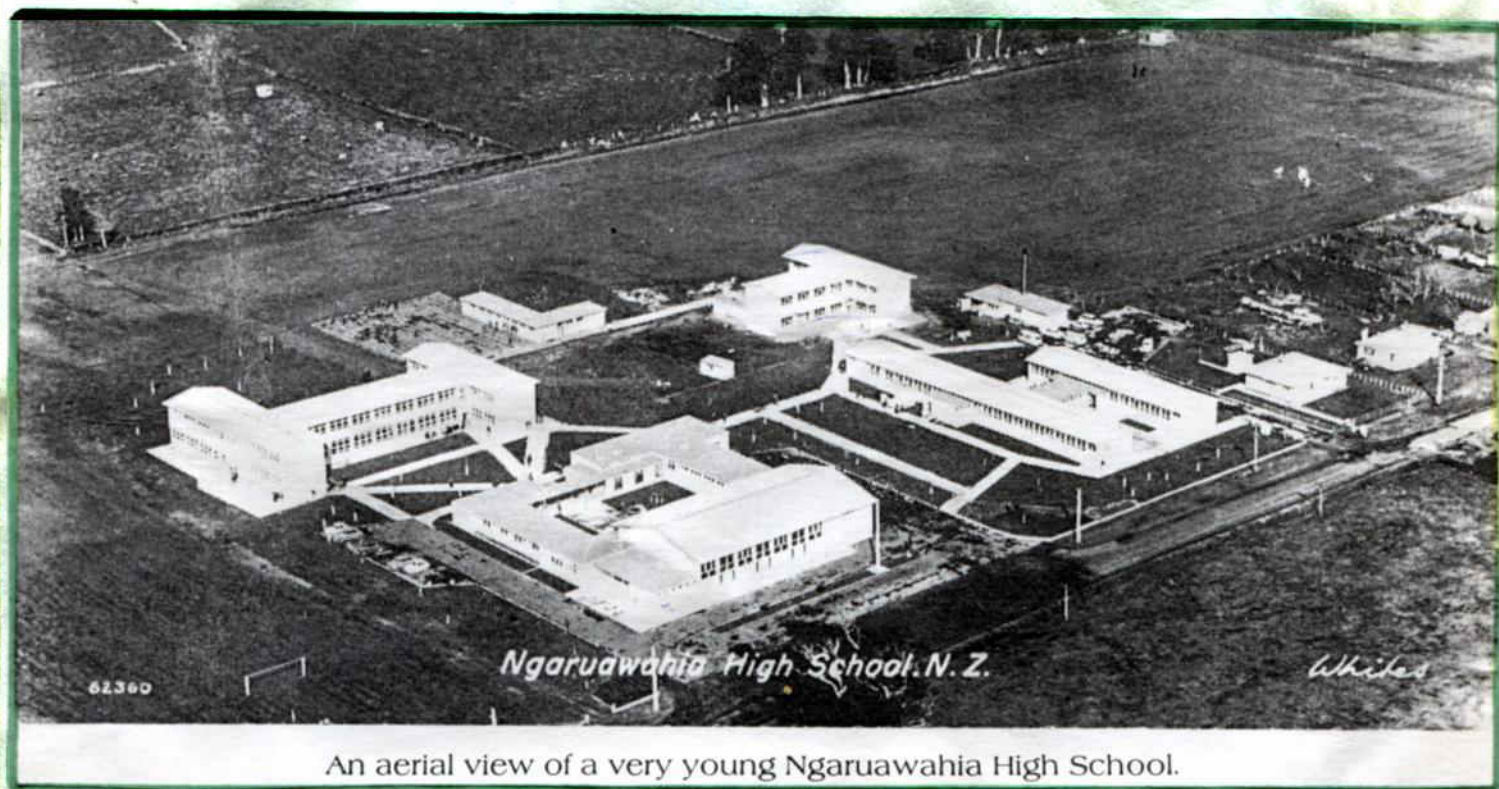
1978 saw the long awaited lecture room completed and this was followed in 1981 with the opening of the Sir Douglas Carter Library. This Library was originally planned so that it would be open to the public of Ngaruawahia but because of its distance from the centre of Town it was left as the school library and another opened in the main street of Ngaruawahia.

There have been 10 overseas trips from 1963 - 1984 two of which were the 1979 Rugby trip to Brisbane Boys college, this outstanding Team was coached by an ex-pupil, Chris Ginter, and the 1983 Malaysian Education Trip.

In 1983 was the 21 Anniversary of the schools opening. Many of the ex-pupils and staff were instrumental in organizing this reunion and found that many pupils they remember by nicknames or were married made it hard to contact them. The reunion committee had 15 months to organize the reunion, even though this seems like a long time, the committee in the last few weeks were wondering if they would get every thing done on time.

On November 1 1986 the Ngaruawahia Community Cadet Unit was started. This unit has been popular with students at the High School.

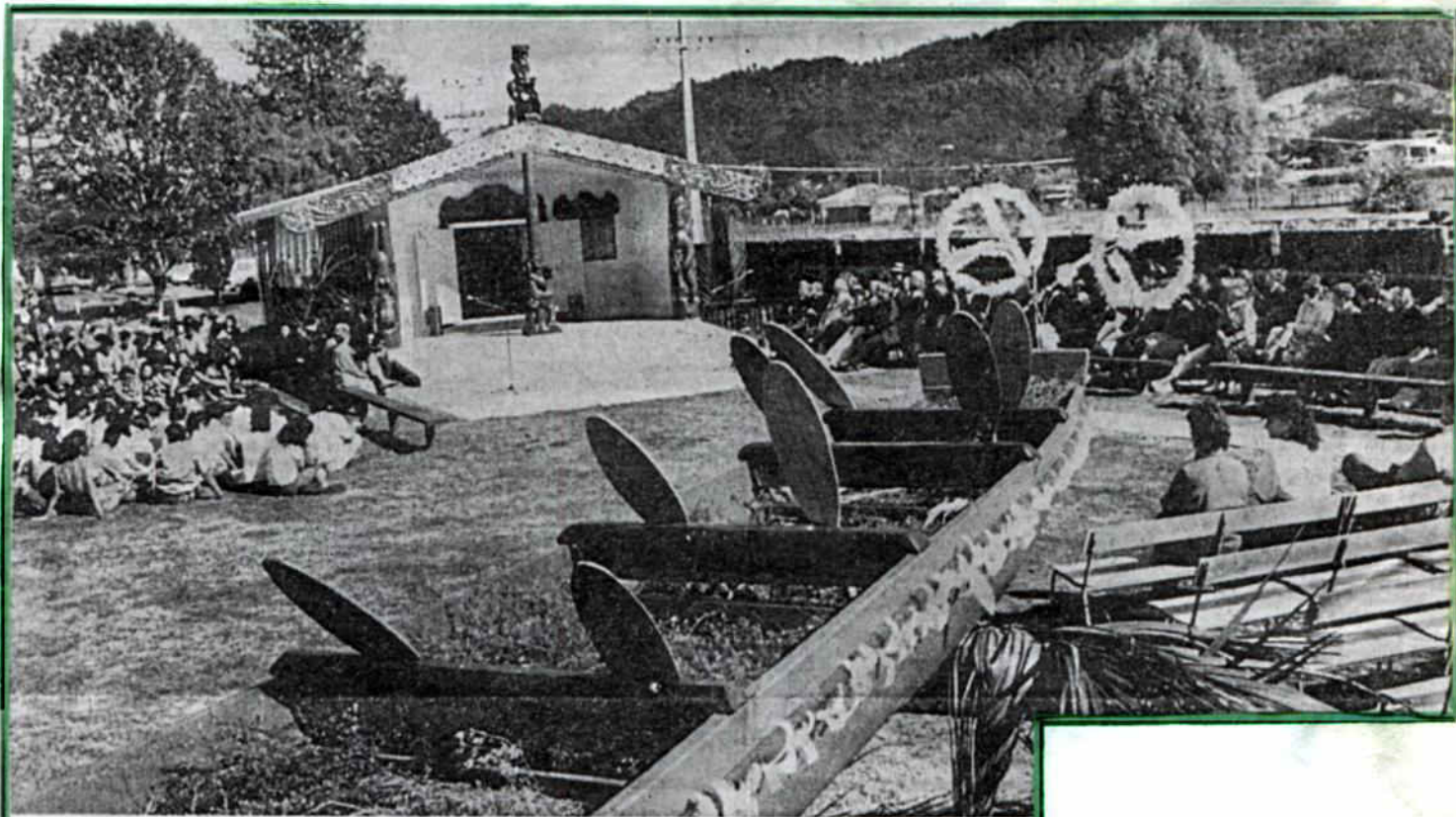
1987 was a very sad year for most students and staff as they watched D Block burn down to the ground. Teachers had to teach there class in temporary pre-fabs which were donated by other schools, whilst the new Cebus Block was being built.



An aerial view of a very young Ngaruawahia High School.

Ngaruawahia High School's Tehuingaongawai\* Marae was officially opened on Saturday 30 April 1988, after four years of fundraising and planning. This school marae is used by teachers and pupils, the school has a unique way of welcoming new staff and pupils into the school, which they do a powhiri to welcome them into the school, this commences outside the marae.

This marae is also available for outside groups to use as the school has always tried to include the community within its programme. Many adults attend evening classes at night and there are adults attending classes during the day.



NGARUAWAHIA HIGH SCHOOL'S new marae with the canoe built specially for the school, Kupenga (the net), in the foreground. RIGHT, Australian Aboriginal Affairs Minister Gerry Hand with the challenging stick, a rakau tapu, he accepted after being challenged on his arrival to the high school marae.

## School marae opens

Ngaruawahia High School's marae was officially opened on Saturday after four years of fundraising and planning.

Maori Affairs Minister Koro Wetere and Australian Aboriginal Affairs Minister Gerry Hand attended the opening ceremony. Mr Hand is in New Zealand to study ways of dealing with racial problems.

During the ceremony, Mr Hand stressed the similarity of Maori and Aboriginal cul-

ture. He said both cultures were rich and it was important to retain and strengthen them so they could be passed down through the generations.

School marae committee chairman Maurie Abraham, said planning for the \$70,000 marae began about four years ago. Money was raised through grants from the Internal Affairs and Education Departments, donations and fundraising.

All construction work was done by teachers and parents. The carvings and the murals inside the marae (a converted classroom) were the work of the Waipa Kokiri Arts Centre in Te Awamutu.

Another main feature is a canoe built for the school six years ago. It had been kept at Turangawaewae Marae while waiting for its new home, Mr Abraham said.

\*The school marae, built in memory of a teacher that died at school.

## INTERVIEW WITH MRS BARBARA LANDON

Mrs Landon attended Ngaruawahia High School as a foundation pupil in her forth form year. She went through to 2nd year fifth form, which was called five return, which students use to nick name five rejects. (1963-1965)

Below is a photo of Mrs Landon's foundation class (second row from front, eight from the left)



Below is a photo of Mrs Landon in the 5 Return class (second row, fourth from left)



Below is a photo of Mrs Landon in the orchestra (second row from front, fourth from left)



During her term at Ngaruawahia High School, she played the recorder in the school orchestra in 1965 also in that year was voted Deputy head girl. (Front row, second from left)



If Mrs Landon had not attended Ngaruawahia she may not have meet her future husband who was a class ahead of her and wouldn't have two daughters that attend Ngaruawahia High School.

Back in those days School socials were a lot like our school balls today. Below is a photo of Mrs Landon and friends at a school social. (Mrs Landon is the second from the right)



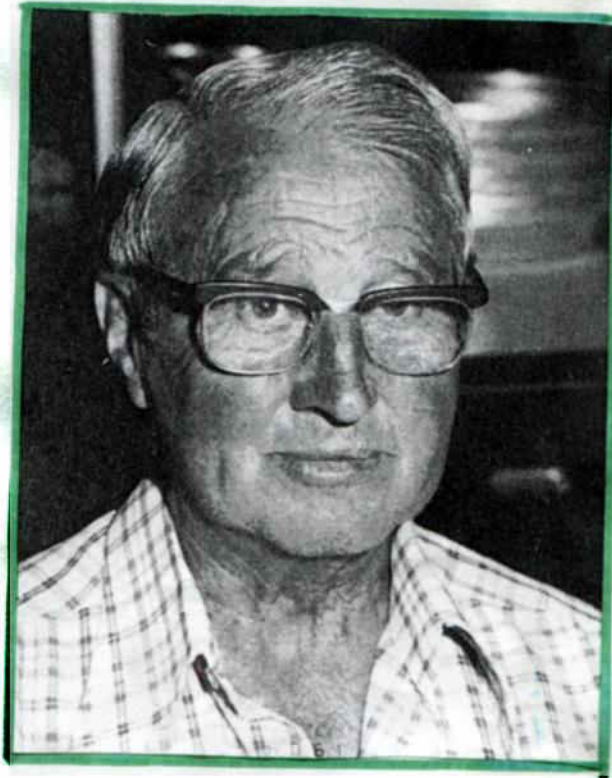
Barbara Landon explained how before there was a Ngaruawahia High School, she biked about three kilo metres to the end of her road, padlocked up her bike then caught a bus into Ngaruawahia where she and a lot of other students caught various buses, depending on the school they went to. She did this five days a week, a very tiring day for anyone. The buses were always full and business people were restricted to catch later or earlier buses because of the over crowded buses.

Mrs Landon is always involved in the organizing of the community, for which she is well known for. Barbara is one of the Committee members for which we can thank for the organization of the Ngaruawahia High School reunion in 1983. She is always willing to help with any fundraising for the school and community.

I was surprised when Mrs Landon said that up to 40 of the ex-pupils that she use to go to school with, had died before the reunion.

## THE THREE PRINCIPALS

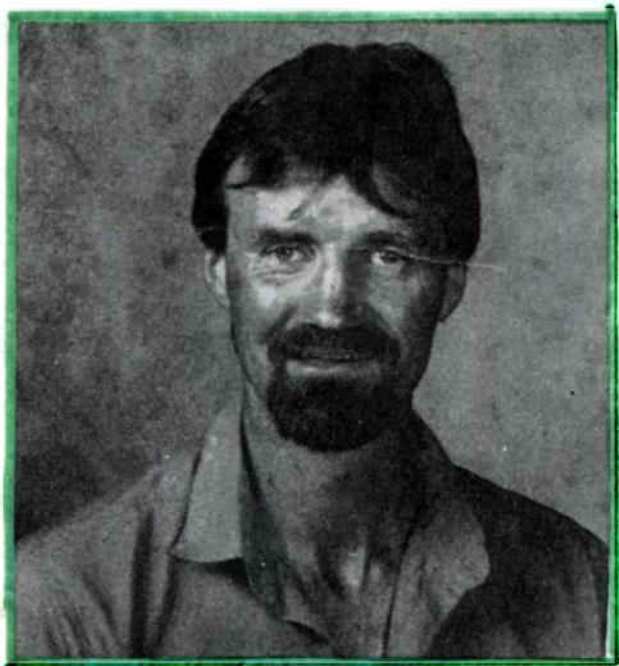
The first Principal appointed to Ngaruawahia High School was Mr E B Allison in 1963, he was principal for 12 years. Below is a picture of Mr E B Allison.



Mr Murphy was Ngaruawahia High Schools second Principal. He joined the teaching staff of Ngaruawahia High School in 1967 as head of English and Social Studies. He has qualifications to also teach History and Geography. In March 1969 he was appointed to Deputy Principal, then in May 1976 Principal. Mr Murphy held this position for 13 years until he retired in May 1988. Below is a picture of Mr Murphy.



Mr A J Cranshaw is Ngaruawahia High School's third principal since 1963, In May 1988 he officially became Principal. Mr Cranshaw previously held the position of Deputy Principal at Hillcrest High School where all the third formers knew him well and always could find him in the gym organizing Basketball games. Hillcrest High School were very unfortunate to loose such a fun guy. Below is a picture of Mr Cranshaw with a beard and another one in a dress.



NGARUAWAHIA HIGH SCHOOL 1963 - 1990

INTERVIEW WITH MR MacDONALD

- ① TRAINING 1963
- 1 When did you first start teaching? ② FIRST JOB... 1965.....
- 2 At what schools have you taught? HUNTLY WEST, KIMIHIA...  
TAUPIRI, BERNARD FERGUSON, NGARUAWAHIA, NGARUAWAHIA H.S.:
- 3 Why did you chose to teach at N H S? ① LIVED IN AREA...  
② CHANCE TO SPECIALISE... ③ KNEW SOME STAFF ALREADY.  
.....
- 4 What years have you taught at N H S? 1969-1990.....
- 5 What subject/s have you taught at this school? ENGLISH,  
SCIENCE, MATHS, PE, SOCIAL ST, TYPING, COMPUTERS, WORKBOOK, CRAFT, TECH DRAWING,  
ENGINEERING, ECONOMIC STUDIES, SOCCER.
- 6 How have you enjoyed working here as a teacher? .....  
: VARIETY OF "JOBS" ... APPROACHABLE STUDENTS .....  
: GREAT WORKING ENVIRONMENT, GOOD STAFF RELATIONS .....  
.....
- 7 Have you enjoyed working with N H S pupils? IN 95% OF  
: CASES, YES.....
- 8 If you had your time over again as a teacher at N H S,  
what changes would you make? ..NIL.....  
.....  
.....
- 9 What notable events have occurred during your term at  
N H S? ① CULTURE GROUP INVITATION TO UK, TO PERFORM...  
.. AT EDINBURGH, DISNEYLAND + HAWAII .....  
: ② FIRST STATE SCHOOL TO HAVE A COLOURED MAGAZINE COVER.  
.....

NGARUAWAHIA HIGH SCHOOL 1963 - 1990

INTERVIEW WITH MR Cranshaw

- 1 When did you first start teaching? ..... 1971
- 2 At what schools have you taught? ..... Aorere College  
WZ Services School, Singapore, James Cook H.S, Rosehill College  
Hillcrest H.S, Ngauruwhia H.S
- 3 Why did you chose to become Principal at N H S ? .....  
Promotion / Bi-racial population / size /  
Challenge.
- 5 What subject/s are you qualified to teach? ..... History /  
Geog. / S. Studies / English.
- 6 How have you enjoyed working here as Principal? .....  
Yes - Great most of the time  
Reasons - Good community. / students / staff
- 7 Have you enjoyed working with N H S pupils? ..... Yes.  
Very open + friendly
- 8 If you had your time over again as Principal of N H S,  
what changes would you make? ..... A few appointments  
- only 2 or 3 - Nothing really
- 9 What notable events have occurred during your term at  
N H S? .....
  - Development of Whanau System
  - Upgrading of Facilities
  - Improved organizational system
  - Acquisition of an improved  
teaching staff
  - School Charter
  - New B.O.T - Bi-racial.

29A Queen Street  
NGARUAWAHIA

1 October 1990

N J Murphy  
1032 River Road  
HAMILTON

Dear Mr Murphy

I am student at Ngaruawahia High School and am required to do a English research assignment on an aspect of our local community.

For my subject I have chosen to do Ngaruawahia High School and would be very grateful if you could assist me by filling in the questionnaire which you will find enclosed.

Thank you for your time and co-operation and I hope to be receiving your reply soon as it is needed urgently.

Yours sincerely

Barbara Pratt

Enc

# NGARUAWAHIA HIGH SCHOOL 1963 - 1990

## Questionnaire - Mr Murphy

- When did you first start teaching? *At Pukemiro Primary School in 1949, then travelled overseas to teach in London 1950.*
- At what schools have you taught? *Sandy Lane Secondary, Mitham, Surrey - 1 year  
Garth Secondary - Morden Surrey - 2 yrs - Returned to N.Z. in June 1950 selected as Teacher-in-charge  
for 18 orphan migrants; Relieving at Waikato Primary Schools including Ngaruawahia 1954-55*
- What years did you teach before you became Principal of N H S? *Appointed H.O.D. English & Social Studies Feb '67  
Deputy Principal March '69; Principal May '75*  
*Hamilton Technical H.S. 54-6  
New Fraser H.S. 55-6  
Fairfield C.B. 64;  
HOD English  
Tokoroa H.S.  
June 64 - Dec 66*
- Have you been Principal at any other schools? *No, except*  
*If so what schools? in 1950 before travelling overseas acted Principal for one term  
in both Glen Murray Primary & Whitcomb Primary*
- What subject/s are you qualified to teach? *English (M.A. in English Lit.)  
Social Studies, History & Geography (with degree)*
- How did you enjoy being Principal at N H S? *Very much enjoyed, but also very frustrating - I achieved greatly as HOD English (Note Library Resources) and Deputy Principal  
The 'hands-on' approach suited me at that stage of career also I had tremendous support  
As Principal I felt often 'let down' by some people*
- Did you enjoy working with N H S pupils/Staff? *Yes, wonderful young people to work with, always warm, friendly and most co-operative. Also during my time I was privileged to work with some outstanding young teachers, some of whom were ex-pupils*
- If you had your time over again as Principal of N H S, what changes would you make? *It was really outside my control at the time, although I was the catalyst in raising sufficient money to build the Gymnasium. I regret that it was not made large enough at the time to house a full size basketball court and the kitchen was unnecessary. Some teaching appointments that I made I later regretted while generally I had strong staff support.*
- What notable events occurred during your term at N H S?  
*Clearly, the most notable was the World Tour of the 1976 Maori Cultural Group to represent N.Z. and participate in an International Youth Festival of Performing Arts at Aberdeen, Scotland, but also performed with outstanding success in Disney Land London, Devon & Cornwall and Singapore.*  
*1968 School's first Musical Drama Production 'My Fair Pygmalion' - 1975 Maori Language introduced  
1979 Rugby Trip to Brisbane Div. College, outstanding Rugby team coached by ex-pupil, Chris Ginter now D.A. & Wesley, defeated most large Waikato schools including Hamilton Bays H.S. 1983 Malaysian Educational Fair  
1981 Sir Douglas Gair Library officially opened. 1986 Maori Cultural Group first in Central North Island Festival  
1987 JAPANESE LANGUAGE introduced*

1986 (Cont) Whanau Class introduced; Community (School) Cadet Unit introduced  
 May 1988. Mārae officially opened

10 Any other information that would be of interest?

Many talented young people have been educated at Nga. H.S. (see Honors Boards)  
 both Māori and European; a feature of the late 70's and thereafter was the sharp increase  
 in the success of Māori students in University Entrance & Sixth Form Cert. The school has always  
 been progressive in the implementation of educational policies i.e. French, German & Japanese language  
 successes, Overseas educational tours and sporting success. <sup>N.H.S.</sup> Teams always highly respected among the  
 Waikato Schools. Two notable individual successes: (1) Dale Timmins F6-7 won two National sec. school  
 Speech Contests in 1980 - korimako & Jaycees (2) Wendy Nazum F4 won in 1979 the  
 National TV Whiz Kid Contest (she is now in Gold Coast Queensland in TV, spike to her 3 week ago)  
 the facilities at the school are outstanding, many years of hard work by many <sup>(Mrs Middleton knows all about this)</sup>  
 people went into their provision. I am more in a position to appreciate these days, as a relieving teacher  
 in Hamilton, regrettably one of the realistic facts is the local people do not appreciate their  
 school, particularly those who have come in from elsewhere, they immediately denigrate (put down)  
 the school without any substantial knowledge.  
 THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION  
 Rumour, Myth and fantasy tends to belittle what is one of the best schools in the country for  
 its size.

I am sure you and other Sixth Formers will help overcome this  
 Very Best Wishes for Success in  
 your research.

Ring me any time PL. 553-738  
 I could add so much more.

Best of luck.

*[Signature]*  
 4/10/90

29A Queen Street  
NGARUAWAHIA

1 October 1990

E B Allison  
RD 2  
MORRINSVILLE

Dear Mr Allison

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Yours sincerely

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Enc

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Reunion Magazine - 1983

Ngaruawahia High School magazine - 1983  
- 1987  
- 1989

Interview with Mrs Landon - Foundation Pupil

Interview with Sandy MacDonald

Questionnaires from Principals

School Library - vertical files

School photo's and magazines from school office

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