

BOOKS FOR THE PLUMES OF RAUKURA



A CENTENARY HISTORY OF THE HARWOOD LIBRARY AT ROTORUA BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL 1922 – 2022

Kevin J. Lyall



Auckland War Memorial Museum

*Edward Earle Vaile, O.B.E.
1869 – 1956*

Chief Benefactor of the Harwood Library, 1927 – 1956.



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Title Page Photograph:

The front windows marking the position of the 1938 Library room on the second-floor of A Block. Kevin J. Lyall, 2009.

The Rotorua Boys' High School Centenary Histories Series
Volume 1, The Harwood Library 1922-2022.



The Empress's Plume: Rotorua's First High School

*This First Volume of the Rotorua Boys' High School Centenary Histories Series
is dedicated to:*

*Mrs. Winifred Emmerline Jagger (née McHardie), B.A. (N.Z.)
1891 – 1943*

Founder of the School Library at the Victoria Institute, 1922.

CONTENTS

Foreword.....	6
Introduction.....	7
A History of the Harwood Library.....	8-35
Librarians.....	36
Head Librarians.....	37-38
Appendices.....	39-40
Bibliography.....	41

FOREWORD

The Harwood Library has been privileged to be an important part of Rotorua Boys' High School life for one hundred years, and Kevin Lyall has given an account of the development and progress it has made in that time. Downstairs and upstairs, and now residing in a stand-alone building by beautiful old trees.

Only the users during those years can tell us how they felt the Library helped their education. Kevin states that it was once a great library in terms of the Vaile Collection and I'm sure it still provides a wonderful service, which means it serves its users well. It should provide depth to the curriculum, foster a love of learning and provide a happy and safe place.

Certainly in the sixteen years I walked through the doors, I felt it served its purpose. It was a time of great change, and the Library staff were able to help other secondary schools come to grips with these changes. The future of libraries is a fascinating topic. Now, at anytime and anywhere, vast knowledge can be accessed through the Internet. As Kevin mentions, we no longer need the latest *World Book* for our information!

And change is inevitable, but whatever the future holds, one thing is certain, the history (so far) of the Harwood Library is safely stored in this publication!

Mrs. Angela Geddes,
Librarian, 1987-2003.
December, 2021

INTRODUCTION

This is the first volume of my Rotorua Boys' High School Centenary Histories Series which will be published on the School Website during the 2020s. These volumes will commemorate and detail a number significant 100-year milestones in the early history of the development of Rotorua Boys' High School.

The first centenary milestone of the 2020s to commemorate is the establishment of a school library, officially known as the Harwood Library since 10 October, 1992, for the Secondary Department of the Rotorua District High School at the Victoria Institute in April, 1922.

From a foundation collection of twenty or so books 100 years ago to a peak holding of around 10,000 books in the mid-1980s, the Harwood Library has occupied an important and central role in the life of the School as the "storehouse of knowledge".

The Harwood Library was, until 1961, also a great school library. The Vaile Collection, which is an unmatched collection of nineteenth and early twentieth-century New Zealand-related books, was established for the School over a thirty-year period by the wealthy Auckland benefactor, E. Earle Vaile. This collection, which set the School apart in New Zealand in terms of books, has been on loan to the Rotorua Public Library for the past sixty-one years.

Furthermore, the Harwood Library is, after the role of Head Prefect, the School's second-oldest institution. It is, after the Rotorua Public Library, which was established in 1889, the second-oldest library in Rotorua and it is also the city's oldest school library.

In this history of the Harwood Library, I chart its evolution and development since 1922. From printed books and card catalogues to curated websites and online catalogues, the role of technology – and especially the Internet – in the modern-day library cannot be overstated. The Harwood Library has always embraced technological change in terms of its services and moved quickly to adapt with it.

Former Librarian, Mrs. Angela Geddes, remarks in her Foreword that only the users of the Harwood Library over the past 100 years can tell us how they felt it helped their education. As one such former user of the Library, I can say that it helped me immensely in my education at Rotorua Boys' High School. It fostered in me a love of learning, and it definitely provided me with a happy and safe place.

I hope that I have met Mrs. Geddes's expectation and have safely stored the history of the Harwood Library in this publication.

The next volume of my Centenary Histories Series will be published in 2024. It will mark the centenary of the School's move from the Victoria Institute to Pukeroa Hill in 1924.

Kevin J. Lyall,
School Historian.
March, 2022

A HISTORY OF THE HARWOOD LIBRARY 1922 – 2022



The Empress's Plume: Rotorua's First High School.

The Victoria Institute (centre) on Arawa Street from the old Post Office clock tower, c. 1920s. The School's original classroom is marked by the east-facing, open double-hung window at the rear of the building. The Family Court wing of the Rotorua Court House now occupies the site of the Victoria Institute.

The Harwood Library at Rotorua Boys' High School was established 100 years ago in April, 1922. It was founded by the School's fourth teacher, Miss Winifred E. McHardie, B.A. (N.Z.) (1891-1943), and the first twenty or so books given and purchased for it were originally stored in the School's classroom at the Victoria Institute on Arawa Street.

The Victoria Institute was Rotorua's most important nineteenth-century building. It was named after Her Majesty Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland and Empress of India, and commemorated her Diamond Jubilee of 1897. Built the year after her Jubilee it stood, from 1898 until its demolition in 1962, on the site of what is now the Family Court wing of the Rotorua Court House. It featured a neo-Classical façade and was, from 1898 until 1940, Rotorua's first public building. The Victoria Institute housed the first Rotorua Town Board and then its successors, the Public Library, the Museum, and, from 1914 until August, 1924, the Secondary Department of the Rotorua District High School. The Harwood Library thus had its beginnings in one of Rotorua's most historic and significant early buildings.

The Library itself had its beginning in the most traditional of New Zealand manners. When the new school year resumed in early 1922, the Head of the Secondary Department, McHardie, raised with her pupils the need of books for their education. This, perhaps, might appear to have been a puzzling thing to have done given that the secondary pupils were based in a room directly behind the Rotorua Public Library at the Victoria Institute. However, the pupils were not permitted to borrow books from or use the Public Library, so the School needed to establish its own library. To achieve this, McHardie asked the pupils to bring from home any old books

that were no longer wanted and to raise some money for the purchase of new books. The latter was done by holding a traditional New Zealand cake stall.

The pupils' cake stall took place in March, 1922. At this, home-made cakes, jams, sweets, and various other goods and items made by the pupils and their parents were sold. The sum of £5.15 (the equivalent of about \$525 in 2022) was raised. To this sum, the Rotorua Women's Club made an additional donation of £5 (\$510) and the Rotorua District High School Committee obtained a book subsidy of £10 (\$1,020) from the Auckland Education Board. It was with these funds that the School's first books were purchased 100 years ago.

The first twenty or so books purchased included: a set of encyclopaedias; dictionaries; an atlas; and volumes on geography, English grammar, French, the classics, Latin, history, and agriculture. These books formed a very solid and well-rounded foundation, and they officially established the School's first Library in April, 1922. The books were originally stored in the pupils' classroom at the Victoria Institute on shelves donated by the Public Library, and one of the pupils was designated to look after and keep a record of who borrowed them. This position later evolved into the role of Head Librarian, thus beginning the long tradition of having a Head Librarian and pupil librarians to help manage the Library – a tradition that continued for eighty-one years until 2003.



Harwood Collection, Rotorua Boys' High School Archives.

The old YMCA building (on the right) and the first Caretaker's house in their original positions on the Pukuatua Street site, 1938. The 1919 YMCA building had been transferred from Pukeroa Hill to the site in 1928.

By 1924 (ten years after the School's establishment in 1914), the secondary roll stood at fifty-three pupils. It had by then outgrown its original, small classroom in the Victoria Institute. In August of that year, the School Committee was able to rent from the Department of Health the former Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) building on Pukeroa Hill. The large wooden weatherboard building consisted of two rooms with a double-sided fireplace between them. It had been built in 1919, and it originally stood next to King George V Military Hospital (now Rotorua Public Hospital) on Pukeroa Hill. However, by the mid-1920s, the YMCA and Hospital were no longer using it and it was to there that the Secondary Department moved to in August, 1924. When the School re-opened at its present site on 9 February, 1928, the YMCA building was transferred to it from Pukeroa Hill later that year to accommodate the technical education classes. After T Block was opened in 1939, the building was then used for a variety of teaching purposes until it was finally demolished in 1966.

In mid-1926, the School Committee received notification from the Auckland Education Board that the Secondary Department of the Rotorua District High School would receive full high school status from the beginning of 1927. In preparation for this long awaited and much anticipated development, the School moved out of the YMCA building and into the Suvla and Lowry Wards of (the now re-named) King George V Hospital. The secondary roll had, by 1926, outgrown the YMCA building, and these wards were not currently being used by the hospital. However, the School's re-location into them was only a temporary measure pending the construction of Edward La Trobe Hill's new Rotorua High School building (now A Block) on Pukuatua Street in mid-1927. The staff and pupils watched the building's progress from their vantage point on Pukeroa Hill, and they all eagerly awaited their move to it at the start of 1928.

On Monday, 9 February, 1928, the School was officially re-opened at its new Pukuatua Street site by the Minister of Education, the Hon. R.A. Wright. In the first edition of the School's magazine, *Raukura Rotorua*, which was first published two years later in December, 1929, a brief account of the Library's early beginnings was included. "The Library" it recorded, "began in a small way with books from the secondary part of the old D.H.S. and discarded books brought by the pupils themselves." The magazine also records that each Form (Year Level), in 1927, had made a special effort towards obtaining more books for the Library. Forms 3A and 3B had, for example, combined to provide "assorted lunches" for a small fee. A sweets sale, an "egg day", and an ice cream day were also held to raise money for more books. The School's original Library Book Plate (see Appendix 1) was also produced and proudly affixed to the inside of its library books in 1927.



Photographic Collection, Rotorua Boys' High School Archives.

The original (1927) Rotorua High School building, 1929. The future site of the Harwood Library is where the two girls are walking on the original grass tennis opposite the building.

The 1929 account of the Library in *Raukura Rotorua* also mentioned for the first time the name of the man who would occupy the most prominent and important role in its history. "We have a very good friend in the person of Mr. E. Earle Vaile, of Reporoa, who has taken a most generous and grateful interest in us; there are no books more popular than the 'World's Library of Best Books (6 Vols.) to mention one of Mr. Vaile's gifts." Vaile would, over the next thirty years, present to the School personally or give money for new and old books to be purchased. It was the collection of old New Zealand-related books Vaile gradually built up for the School that was of particular note and importance. These books would set the School apart from every other secondary school in New Zealand.



Auckland Grammar School Archives

Earle Vaile, c. 1911.

Edward Earle Vaile, who was known by his middle name, Earle, was born on 3 March, 1869, at Hampstead in London, England. His father, Samuel Vaile, emigrated to New Zealand in 1843, and settled in Auckland where he became a very successful businessman and real estate agent. Samuel returned to Great Britain between 1861 and 1869. While he was there he married, in 1866, Sarah Ann Earle. Vaile was the eldest of their three children. He grew up in Auckland and was educated at Auckland Grammar School. In about 1886, Vaile joined his father's real estate business and then took it over when his father retired in 1902. Vaile, who never married, steadily expanded it and also increased its profitability. By 1906, he was a very wealthy man and purchased 53,000 acres (over 2,000 hectares) of what was then considered to be very poor-quality and useless land at Reporoa south of Rotorua. He named the estate "Broadlands" and commenced farming it. However, the animals grazing on most of the land soon developed what was then termed "bush sickness". The reason for this – a lack of cobalt in the soil – was not known at the time, but Vaile, through share hard work, a lot of money, careful usage and further development and management of the land, was able to overcome this problem. In the process, he made it very profitable.

In the 1920s, Vaile started gradually disposing of Broadlands. The bulk of it, 30,000 acres, was sold early on in the decade. By the time of his retirement, in 1936, he had sold the remaining 22,000 acres to the Government for State Forest plantation purposes by the New Zealand Forest Service. Vaile had earlier given 1,000 acres to the Government for land settlement purposes in 1933, and he later gave a small section of the land for a public hall at Reporoa in August, 1939.

In his retirement, Vaile returned to Auckland and he spent the rest of his life gradually disposing of his considerable wealth. He is estimated to have given away £40,000 (more than \$5 million) which included gifts of money, valuable property, and books to Auckland Grammar School, the Auckland War Memorial Museum and the Rotorua High School. In the Queen's

Birthday Honours for 1952, Vaile was appointed an Officer of The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.) for services to the community in Auckland. On 11 January, 1956, Vaile died, aged 87, at Auckland. He was cremated and his ashes were later scattered at Broadlands.

Between 1927 and his death, I estimate that Vaile gave to the School somewhere between 1,000 to 2,000 books. He did so either by giving money directly for books to be purchased, or he selected and purchased the books himself and then presented them to the School. Most of the books that Vaile himself gave were published in the nineteenth and the early twentieth-centuries. Of these books only a handful now remain and these are held in the School Archives. The rest of them, including the School's own purchases of books made with Vaile's gifts of money, were divided when the Rotorua High School was closed in 1958. The most valuable of them – the Vaile Collection – was retained by the School.

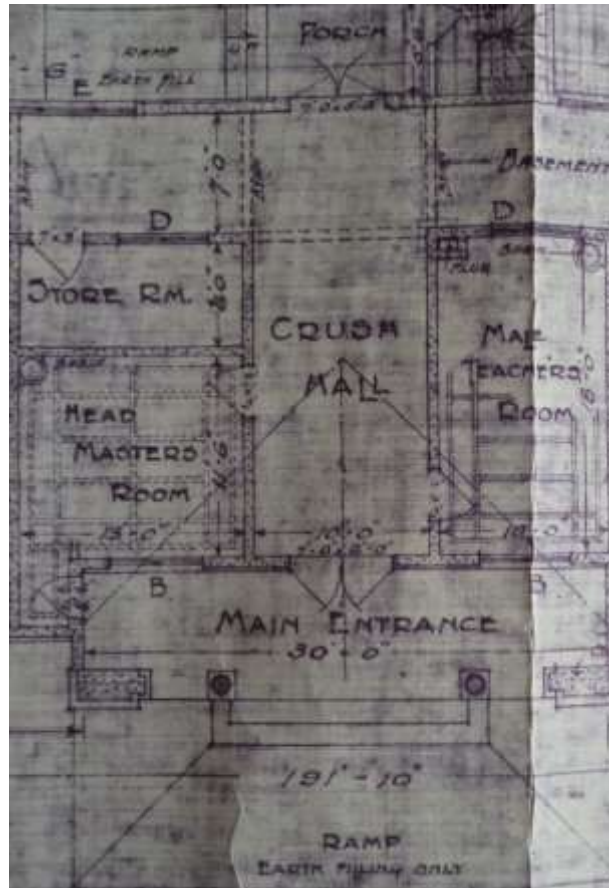
In addition to Vaile's patronage, the School also received generous donations of books and money from other people and institutions in Rotorua. Amongst the first of them was J.D. Macfarlane, of Taharua, who, according to the 1929 *Raukura Rotorua*, presented a "varied" collection. The Rotorua Women's Club also presented a bound and specially inscribed Visitors' Book (now held at Archives New Zealand) to commemorate the School's official re-opening at the Pukuatua Street site in 1928. For each signature entered into it, the Women's Club donated a small sum of money for the purchase of new books for the Library.



Kevin J. Lyall

The first storage location of the Library in A Block is indicated by the ceiling beam (seen at the top of the photograph) outside classroom A4. This was, in 1927, where the original building terminated on the south side. There was originally a wall here with a window beneath which the Library's books were stored from 1928 until 1930.

In the new Rotorua High School building, the Library was first stored at the end of the south wing outside what is now classroom A4. This was, in 1927, where the building originally terminated on that side. Two further classrooms, A5 and A6, were added on after it in 1929. In his plan for these additions, La Trobe Hill also included a purpose-designed library room after A6. However, due to a shortage of money, it was not built. Another classroom was added after A6 in 1930, and the rooms beyond that were added in 1951. The lack of space for the Library prompted the Principal, A.R. Ryder, to record in his Principal's Report for 1929, that "The School does not yet possess a room for a library, and systematic reading of literature from the library shelves is at present impossible."



Rotorua Boys' High School Archives

Detail from the 1926 architectural plan for the original A Block showing the central part of the building. The room marked on the plan as "Store Rm" is where the reception desk is now.

It was not until 1931 that the Library was provided with a room of its own in A Block. This room, which no longer exists, was originally located adjacent to the carved Māori Entrance Hall (designated on the 1926 architectural plan above as the "Crush Hall"). It is shown on the plan as being a "Store Rm" directly behind the Head Master's Room, and it was located where the main reception desk in the foyer is now (the foyer was not created until the second-storey was added in 1938). This room had its own door and a window facing into what was then the main corridor. When the Library moved to this room new furnishings were provided for it, including bookshelves and book display stands, and the first book cataloguing system was also introduced. It involved a double-entry, hand-written Card Catalogue (see Appendix 2) for recording who borrowed the books.

Despite the severe financial constraints imposed on the country by the Government of Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. G.W. Forbes, during the Great Depression of 1930-1935, the Library continued to grow steadily mainly due to Vaile's continuing patronage and generosity. By 1930, there were over 200 books in the collection. Vaile gifted the *Chamber's Biographical Dictionary* in 1932, and the *Chamber's Encyclopaedia*, in ten volumes, followed in 1933. This prompted the Librarian, Miss J.H. Wilson, to state: "Our appreciation of these valuable gifts cannot be fully realized until the years to come, when it will be shown by the constant and judicious use made of them by us and those who come after us." The Principal, W.G. Harwood, also made note of Vaile's generosity in his Principal's Report for 1933. "Once again," he stated, "I have to record the generosity of Mr. E. Earle Vaile, who by gift of twenty-five pounds [\$3,000] to the Library, has made possible the purchase of many useful volumes." There was otherwise very little money available for the purchase of new books or the replacement of old ones. The purchasing of periodicals (newspapers and magazines) was stopped entirely during the Great Depression. The pupils were, once again, also asked to "augment" the Library with donations of old books from home that were no longer wanted.

Vaile's donations of money made it possible for the School to order directly from Great Britain a great number of re-prints of the classics in Fiction and works of General Reference. He also "by dint of an unflagging personal interest", it was proudly recorded in the 1934 *Raukura Rotorua*, "provided the School with a purely New Zealand section possibly unequalled in any other secondary school in the Dominion." This statement refers to what became known as the Vaile Collection. These books, which were distinct from the all the other books in the Library, we shall come to later. The Fiction, Non-Fiction, and the New Zealand books purchased during 1934, as listed in the 1934 *Raukura Rotorua*, number well over 500.

One of the books on the 1934 acquisitions list is the third volume (of the 1864 edition) of Baron William Macaulay's five-volume *History of England*. This book, which is now held in the School Archives, would play an interesting role in my own life fifty-one years later.

Within a year of its move to the Store Room, the Library had outgrown it. As there was nowhere else in A Block, or indeed the rest of the School for it to move to, it was decided to address this problem by disbursing the Library collection.

First, all of the books were classified as either being available for borrowing by the pupils or for reference-only use. The books for borrowing were then decentralized and disbursed throughout A Block into a series of what were called "Form Libraries". In these, the books were catalogued separately and overseen by Form Librarians in each of the School's eleven classes. For the reference-only books, the senior form, the Upper Form 6 (there was no Form 7 or Year 13 until the 1960s), was provided with its own reference-only library, and another part of these books was formed into the "Corridor Reference Library" which was open to all pupils. Second, the balance of the reference-only books, including the ever-increasing Vaile Collection, was formed into the "Staff Reference Library" which was housed in the original Masters' Common Room. This room was located adjacent to the Māori Entrance Hall and is designated on La Trobe Hill's 1926 plan as being the "Male Teachers Room" (it is now the Principal's Personal Assistant's office). This new library arrangement appeared to work well, readership increased and it provided an effective way to solve the problem of space for the Library for the time being.

An effort was also made that year, 1934, to remind senior pupils, who were in their last year of school, of the "tradition" to present a book to the Library before they left school. This tradition, which had only been commenced in 1927, was encouraged both as a means for pupils

to denote a book to mark their years of attendance at the School and also to build up the Library's collection. However, it never really took-off and nor was it widely supported.

At the end of his final year in 1934, one senior boy, Robert B. Dawson, did present a book to the Library. It was the 640-page novel *Medal Without Bar: An English War Novel* by Richard Blaker, published in 1930. This book is now considered to be one of the great World War I war-related novels, although it is not well known. Dawson's presentation of this particular book was both ironic and eerily prescient. In World War II he served with distinction and was appointed a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order (D.S.O.) twice over, that is a D.S.O. and Bar, for his heroic deeds! Dawson later rose to the rank of Major-General and was the Chief of the Army from 1967-1970. Sadly, the book he presented has not survived.



Photographic Collection, Rotorua Boys' High School Archives.

The Principal, masters, and boys of the School in front of the new second-storey, 1938.

In the Library Notes in the 1937 *Raukura Rotorua*, it was noted: "Preparations are being made for the purchase of books and their housing in a central library when our new rooms are built." This statement alluded to the most significant event in the Library's history thus far: the provision of its first, purpose-built room since its establishment in 1922.

The School's roll had been steadily growing throughout the 1930s. However, no new classrooms were approved by the Department of Education to accommodate the growth. By the middle of the decade, overcrowding at the School needed to be urgently addressed. On 23 April, 1937, the Rotorua High School Board of Governors recommended to the Director of Education, N.T. Lambourne, that permanent new additions be made at the School. Their request was approved by both Lambourne and the Minister of Education, the Hon. (later the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister) P. Fraser, that September, and the Board of Governors was authorized to call for building tenders. The new additions, at a cost of £6,383 (\$705,000), commenced that December. They were completed by the end of May in 1938.

The new additions were all made to A Block. On the west-facing (rear) side of the building two new cloak and washing rooms were erected off the north and south corridors: one for the

boys; one for the girls. These rooms, which opened directly into the corridors where windows had originally been, are now the School Uniform Shop and the School Archives respectively.

The major and the most significant of the new additions was the erection of a new second-storey over the central part of the building. This addition was comprised of four large classrooms, a library room, and two smaller rooms. The four classrooms, which were intersected in the middle by the Library room, were on the east-facing (front) side of the building; the two smaller rooms, which opened from the top landing of the stairs, were on the west-facing side. The two smaller rooms were originally an office for the Head of English, and a store room for text books. These rooms are now women's and men's toilets respectively. The spacious, well-lit, and purpose-built library room in the centre of the second-storey was located directly over the main entrance (this room is now part of the staff room). Its original position is marked by the central window with the fanlight directly above the concrete Latin School Motto, and the two medium-sized windows on either side of it (see the 1938 photograph above). All of the windows on the east-facing side of the second-storey filled the rooms with light and warmth, and along the internal corridor on the west-facing side windows were positioned opposite those on the outside wall. The interior windows allowed for the afternoon sun to shine through and for very effective cross-ventilation when all three sets of windows were open.

The official Opening Ceremony for the new additions was performed by Minister Fraser on 13 June, 1938. This ceremony was, in fact, his first official engagement as the recently appointed Minister of Education. His wife, Mrs. Janet Fraser, accompanied him for the occasion, and there was a large gathering of the Rotorua public in attendance for this special and very significant event in the School's history.

A dais was erected in front of the entrance portico for the opening ceremony. The official party was comprised the Minister and Mrs. Fraser, the Board of Governors, A.F. Moncur, the M.P. for Rotorua, Vaile, and Harwood. The Board Chairman, R.B. Nesbitt, whose wife had recently died, was unable to be present. However, he had prepared an address for the occasion and this was delivered on his behalf by Governor H.M. Martin.

In his opening address, Harwood referred to the occasion as being a "red-letter day" in his life. He said, "These new rooms and particularly the spacious library will make our work so much easier." In welcoming the visitors and particularly Vaile, who was now resident in Auckland, he explained had been specially invited to formally open the new library.

After the Principal's welcome, Governor Martin then introduced the Minister. In his remarks, Fraser said that the Rotorua High School was "one of the best schools in New Zealand that he had visited." He congratulated the architect, La Trobe Hill, on his plans for the second-storey, and also the builders for the "excellent manner" in which they had carried out the plan. Fraser remarked that the plans had been executed in such a way as to appear that the new second-storey had been there all along. At the end of his address, Fraser cut a ribbon extended across the inside of the carved Māori Entrance Hall and the official party then made their way up the new stairs to the second-floor.

At the entrance doors to the new Library room, Vaile made a few remarks after which he unlocked the doors and proudly declared it to be "open". It was perhaps a missed opportunity at that point not to have named the Library as the "Vaile Library" in his honour.

The School's new Library room was handsomely appointed and situated. It was furnished with solid Kauri tables and chairs (what happened to these is not known), a desk for the Librarian, and a wide wooden ledge under the room's three east-facing windows provided the pupils with a place to sit and read in the sun. Pendant lights hung from the moulded plaster

ceiling above, there were purpose-made book shelves ranged on the two end-walls of the room (on the north and south sides) and there were in-built cupboards for storage. There are no photographs of what the new Library room looked like when it was opened in 1938, however one photograph has survived. It was taken through the Library's open central window looking north-east towards Pukeroa Hill. We can see in the photograph the area where B and T Blocks now stand, the original Caretaker's house (on the site of T Block), a covered bicycle rack on the right-hand side through the open windowpane, and part of the original raised gardens that flanked the south-side of the roundabout in front of A Block (it was matched on the north-side).

With its spacious new room, plenty of shelving and storage, the Library's collection was once again centralized into the new Library room. The books were also re-catalogued according to the Bliss Classification System. An appeal for money for new books was also made at the time of the new Library's opening, and this raised £100 (\$11,000) out of which 450 new books were able to be purchased.



Harwood Collection, Rotorua Boys' High School Archives.

The view looking north-east through the open central window of the new Library room, 1938.

As at 1939, the Library's collection stood at 837 books. Further shelving had to be provided for the ever-growing collection within a year of the new Library room's opening, and paper covers for the lending books were introduced during 1939. This was done to both prolong their lifespan and to protect them.

Despite the shortage of money throughout World War II, the Librarians continued to make thoughtful and informed book acquisitions whenever circumstances allowed. When, in 1941, the School's Air Force Cadet Unit was formed, the Librarians, Miss H.M. Donald and Miss R. Sharp, started purchasing books on aviation to assist the Air Cadet boys in their work and study. Over 1,000 new books were added to the collection in 1941. Some of these were bought from out of the prize money that the School had won at the New Zealand Centennial Exhibition of 1940-1941. Three new sections of shelving had to be built to accommodate the growth. In the Library Notes in the 1942 *Raukura Rotorua*, it was stated: "Despite the difficulties in procuring new books we have made over five hundred additions to the Library this year, so that the new shelves provided during 1941 are already overflowing." Many of the new acquisitions related to the various phases of the war, which were all eagerly read and enjoyed by the pupils. Donald and Sharp concluded their Library Notes for 1942 by stating: "The School has every reason to

feel proud of its library which should surely rank high among schools throughout New Zealand.”

In 1945, all new book acquisitions were kept and displayed together on their own shelf. Many of these books, it was recorded in the Library Notes in that year's *Raukura Rotorua*, bore the inscription of Old Pupils, who had presented books to the Library to mark their years of attendance at the School. 152 new books were acquired by this way that year, and during 1946 a further 1,500 new books were added to the Library's collection.

In 1947, it was decided to set aside one period each week for the pupils to devote to reading English and one period every second week to social studies and one period for science reading. This, said Donald in her Library Notes in *Raukura Rotorua* that year, “has stimulated interest and widened the scope of reading to a marked extent.” These dedicated reading periods were also implemented in order to keep the books in good repair, which was a never-ending job. This, explained Donald, was made more difficult in recent years because of the poor-quality bindings and the low-grade of paper that had been used to print books published during World War II.

By 1948, the Library had grown to such an extent that its spacious new room and original shelving provision (with the subsequent extensions) of a decade earlier was no longer sufficient. Full use had been made of all of the available wall space in the room by extending the shelves on the two end-walls almost up to ceiling height. This meant that many of the books were now only accessible by ladders. This prompted Mrs. Downer (Donald had married that year) to state in her Library Notes in the 1948 *Raukura Rotorua*: “The time has now come for serious consideration of the problem of accommodation. Until the present arrangement of shelves has been replaced by one allowing easy access without the use of ladders, many of the valuable books owned by the School will not be sought after by pupils.” Downer went on to add: “This is a great pity when the average reading taste in the School is improving.” She concluded by stating: “In order to meet the needs of the scholars [pupils], no barrier should be placed in their way.” However, her plea went unanswered. The Library's accommodation problems would not be addressed for another thirteen years.

If shelf space was at a premium by 1948, the Library itself was very well organized. The first catalogue, of the Fiction collection, had been made in 1943. It was extended and improved to cover the whole collection for the first time in 1948. The shelves were also “ticketed” or sign-posted with the names and codes for the various types of books, and a key to the codes was made into a large poster. This was hung prominently as “The first step towards enabling the pupils to become self-supporting in their library periods.” A new index to the Card Catalogue was also prepared for the pupils, so that they could find books themselves without the Librarian's assistance. The index recorded every book held and its location, and it corresponded with the sign posts on the shelves that provided the names and codes for the books.

In 1950, a stocktake of the Library's collection revealed that approximately 1,265 Fiction and 2,073 Non-Fiction books were held. One of the Library's most distinguished visitors that year was the Minister of Education, the Hon. (later Sir) Ronald Algie, who would become Speaker of the House in 1960. Minister Algie had a special connection with the School through his older brother, Colvin S. Algie. He had been the School's foundation Deputy Principal in 1914, and was the only staff member to be killed in World War I.

In 1952, pupil librarians were appointed in every form. They were responsible for issuing and returning the books to the shelves, and also for keeping the shelves and the Library room

in general tidy. Re-cataloguing of the collection was underway again that year, and a sixteen-drawer filing cabinet was purchased to house the Card Catalogue. Work on transferring the hundreds of hand-written cards (used since 1931) to typewritten ones was undertaken by the girls in the typing class. A further improvement to the Library room was also noted in the Library Notes in the 1955 *Raukura Rotorua*. This improvement, which was made to discourage pupils who liked to “leave some record of their stay inscribed on the benches and tables”, was the reconditioning and varnishing of the Library’s wooden furniture. This work effectively removed all trace of the pupils’ hand-made etchings and carvings.

On 11 January, 1956, Vaile died. Under the terms of his will, a bequest of £150 (\$8,000) was left to the School for the purchase of books for the New Zealand (Vail) Collection. £146 (\$7,850) of the bequest was used to purchase fifty-four books from Vaile’s own private library in his home at Auckland, and further books written by Sir George Grey, Dr. Thomas Hocken, and Dr. Ferdinand von Hochstetter were also able to be acquired with the assistance of the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington. It was noted in the Library Notes in the 1956 *Raukura Rotorua*, that the School had been able to acquire from Vaile’s bequest “a large number of New Zealand books – some quite valuable.” The most expensive of which, at a cost of £20 (\$1,000), was Edward Gibbon Wakefield’s *Adventures in New Zealand 1839-1844*, published in 1845.

The Vaile Collection was, by 1956, regarded as a treasure, and it was a valuable part of the School’s heritage. Its continued building up after Vaile’s death reflected its importance. The collection’s richness and many rare nineteenth-century volumes may have inspired one pupil, James E. Traue, O.N.Z.M., M.A. (N.Z.), Dip. N.Z.Lib.Sch., F.N.Z.L.A., who achieved distinction in the library profession. Traue was Chief Librarian at the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) from 1971-1973, and finally Chief Librarian of the Alexander Turnbull Library (now part of the National Library) from 1973 until his retirement in 1989.

In 1957, all of the Non-Fiction books were re-classified from the Bliss Classification System (it had been in use since the opening of the Library room in 1938) to the Dewey Decimal Classification System. This is the classification system that is still used in the Harwood Library sixty-five years later.

1958 marked the final year of the co-educational Rotorua High School. In preparation for the division of the School into separate Boys’ and Girls’ High Schools from the start of 1959, all of the resources built up since 1914 were divided equally between the two new schools. The impressive collection of boys’ and girls’ Sterling silver cups and trophies was divided, as were all of the class text books. A portion of the Library’s collection was also divided, however Harwood refused to allow the Vaile Collection to be so. It transferred intact to Rotorua Boys’ High School.

During the first term of 1960, some very long overdue renovations were made to the Library room. The original room was extended with the full incorporation of the adjoining classroom on its southern-side (the dividing wall between the rooms was non-structural), and new steel shelving was installed to replace all of the original wooden shelves and the subsequent additions that had been made to them since 1938. The newly expanded Library was re-opened for the start of second term. A re-cataloguing of the books was also commenced in 1960, and, for the first time, Librarian Badges were introduced. These were awarded, in the third term, to: Douglas Spence; Dennis Hoffman; Paul Edlin; and John Christie.

The re-cataloguing of the Library’s collection was completed under the new Librarian, Mrs. (now Dame) Fiona Kidman, in 1961. Kidman’s arrival at the School with her husband, Ian,

who commenced that year as a teacher, was marked with a generous grant made by the Rotorua High Schools' Board of Governors. This enabled her to purchase almost 1,000 new books for the Library. Kidman also introduced book displays accompanied with complementary items such as: for books on yachting, a model yacht; for books on railways, a model railway set; and for books on sport, assorted sports clothing and other related items. A further initiative of hers was to have a record player installed in the Library. Classical and Jazz records were played during lunch hours, and this proved to be very popular with the boys – the Jazz records more so than the Classical ones.

On a less happy note, however, the first year of Kidman's Librarianship coincided with the most disgraceful event in the 100-year history of the Harwood Library. As I provided a detailed account of the loss of the Vaile Collection in *Rotorua's Plume: A History of Rotorua Boys' High School 1880-2001* (2003), only a brief summary of this is needed here.

Soon after his commencement, as Principal, in 1960, N.H. Thornton noticed that the Vaile Collection was kept locked and was, for the most part, largely unused by the School. He felt that the collection would be of far greater value in the Rotorua Public Library where the public could use it for research purposes.

At a meeting of the Board of Governors in October, 1960, Thornton raised with them the "future of the valuable old books on New Zealand [the Vaile Collection]." The Board resolved that the Board Secretary, A.M. Clark, should write to the Town Clerk, L.J. Wright, about the books. In his letter dated 12 October Clark advised Wright that the Board, who were the legal owner of the Vaile Collection which was vested in Rotorua Boys' High School, was prepared to *loan* the books to the Rotorua Borough Council for placement in the Rotorua Public Library for research purposes. Clark's letter was the last official record that the Board of Governors had in the matter.

Details regarding the *loaning* of Vaile Collection to the Rotorua Public Library were then progressed over the course of the next year, 1961, between the Borough Librarian, Miss K.M. Spencer, and Thornton. In October of that year, 219 books were subsequently transferred from the School *on loan* to the Rotorua Public Library.

On 1 November, 1961, Spencer wrote to Thornton to acknowledge receipt of the books and to confirm that: "The enclosed list of books is the collection of New Zealand books *loaned* [my italics] to the Public Library by the High School." She also confirmed that the books would, as agreed by the Board of Governors, "now become available to borrowers so that books may be used for study or conditional lending." Spencer also mentioned in her letter to Thornton that concern had been expressed by the Public Library's staff about the poor condition of some of the books, and that she was anxious that the Public Library should not be held responsible for this if the return of the collection was ever required in the future. In this regard, she asked Thornton, "Would you be agreeable to us doing any necessary repairs?" It should be noted that, up to this point, it was clear to both parties – the Rotorua Borough Council and Thornton – that the Vaile Collection was only on *loan* to the Public Library.

It was Spencer's letter of 1 November, 1961, that prompted Thornton – without the authorization of his Board of Governors – to instruct Kidman to write and tell Spencer "...that he passes the New Zealand Collection entirely to your hands and that it is to be your property to be handled in whatever way you think best... We relinquish any rights of the School to claim the collection at a later date, or to have it returned here." On 21 December, 1961, Wright wrote to Thornton to confirm that: "The collection of New Zealand books which were recently made available to the Public Library by the School may now be regarded as having passed entirely

into the hands of the Council and that the books may be regarded as Council property...” And so, without the knowledge or approval of the Board, Thornton gave away (on his own authority) the 219 books comprising the Vaile Collection and the Rotorua Borough Council assumed the ownership of them on that basis.

It is therefore my contention that, should it wish to do so, the School can lawfully reclaim the Vaile Collection at any time. It continues to remain *on loan* to the Rotorua Public Library on the basis that, firstly, Thornton exceeded his authority (none) to dispose of property that lawfully belonged to the Rotorua High Schools’ Board of Governors which was vested in Rotorua Boys’ High School; and secondly, that Wright unlawfully and quite improperly assumed ownership of the Vaile Collection for the Rotorua Borough Council on the basis of Thornton’s unauthorized action.

As the successor Crown entity of the Rotorua High Schools’ Board of Governors (it was disestablished under the “Tomorrow’s Schools” reforms of 1989), the Rotorua Boys’ High School Board of Trustees is now the rightful – and the legal – owner of the Vaile Collection. All of the letters between the School and the Rotorua Borough Council, together with a full listing of the 219 books that were placed *on loan* with the Rotorua Public Library sixty-one years ago are held by the School Archives and the present-day Rotorua District Council. The ownership and identification of the books can, therefore, very easily be established and made.

In July, 1962, the School’s first pupil-produced newspaper, *Reo Taitama – Voice of the Youth* was published. It survived until 1963, when it was replaced by *Pleb*. Both publications were prepared and collated in the Library.

Following Kidman’s resignation on 9 November, 1962, the School was fortunate to obtain the services of an accomplished professional librarian. William M. Jess, M.A., B.Com., formerly the Assistant Chief Librarian of the General Assembly (now known as the Parliamentary) Library at Wellington, commenced in 1963. A “handsome” donation of over £50 (\$2,300) from the French Bequest was also received that year, which enabled a number of books covering a wide range of subjects to be acquired.

In 1964, fifty metal book-ends were purchased for the Library. These enabled the shelves to be used more efficiently and kept much tidier. The Library also lost that year one of its pupil librarians, Tony Cunningham. He was drowned in a boating accident on Lake Rotorua along with three other boys: David Henderson; Grant McFarlane; and Chris Wales. The boys’ parents later presented books to the Library as memorials to them.



Photographic Collection, Rotorua Boys’ High School Archives.

The earliest surviving photograph of the interior of the second-storey Library, 1965.

In 1965, the Library was again extended with the incorporation of the adjoining classroom on its northern-side. This time the wall dividing the two rooms remained in place (it was structural) and a new, double doorway was cut through it. A partitioned office was also created at the same time for the Librarian in the north-eastern corner of the main Library room. It had one-way windows facing into the main Library room, and a small hole was cut through the wall into the new room for observational purposes on that side. Some new steel shelving was also erected in both rooms.

At the end of 1971, the Library was fully refurbished. New carpet was installed, the two rooms that now formed the Library were re-painted, new upholstered chairs were provided, and study carrels were introduced. The first photocopying machine, a Rank Xerox, was also installed in the Library in 1974. It proved to be very popular.

In 1972, the School formed all of the night classes that it had been running for adult students since 1939 into the Rotorua Boys' High School Technical Institute Division (TID). The TID was one of the early forerunners of the first full tertiary education institution to be established in Rotorua for the Bay of Plenty, the former Waiariki Institute of Technology (1978-2016). Jess immediately started purchasing books for the TID's students to assist with their work and studies. When Waiariki was officially opened in 1978, some of the Library's books were transferred to it to form the foundation for its library.



Rotorua Photo News, August, 1967. Rotorua Boys' High School Archives Newspaper Clippings Collection.

Boys collating the latest edition of "Pleb" magazine in the main Library room, August, 1967.

In the Library Notes in the 1977 *Raukura Rotorua*, it was noted that the Head Librarian, Kenneth Duncum, had left school during the second term and that one of the Prefects, Graeme Taylor, had taken over from him. This was the first time, since 1927, that the duties of the Head Librarian were combined with those of a prefect. “It has been suggested that in future,” it was stated in the Library Notes, “this system could operate to advantage, as an extra authority carried by a prefect appears to make the Head Librarian’s job more effective.” The practice of the Head Librarian also being a prefect continued until 1987 when prefects were abolished by the Principal, G.R. Cramond (prefects were restored in 1991). The steep increase in book prices was also noted in 1977, and this certainly affected book purchases. In the final change that was made to the interior of second-storey Library rooms, sun filter curtains were installed over all of the large east-facing windows (and also over most A Block’s east-facing windows) in order to reduce the sunlight and glare. In July, 1979, just before the Library vacated its second-floor rooms, some photographs were taken of it. A selection of them is shown below.



Photographic Collection, Rotorua Boys' High School Archives.

The second-storey Library looking north in July, 1979. The study carrels are in the foreground.



Photographic Collection, Rotorua Boys' High School Archives.

The Librarian's office (with one-way windows) is in the corner.



Photographic Collection, Rotorua Boys' High School Archives.

The second-storey Library looking south. The three panels on the back wall were mirrors.



Photographic Collection, Rotorua Boys' High School Archives.

The finishing touches being made to the new Library building, March, 1980.



Photographic Collection, Rotorua Boys' High School Archives.

The completed Library building, 12 June, 1980.

In the Library Notes in the 1979 *Raukura Rotorua*, an exciting new building development was noted. "We hope everyone has noticed the building rising on the tennis courts, the new Library, the construction of which is closely supervised by the Librarian and her assistants from the present Library windows." Construction of the Library's new, free-standing building on part of what were originally grass tennis courts commenced in mid-1979. The building was completed and occupied in early 1980. The Library's former rooms in A Block were then

refurbished for use as the staff room and staff work room, both of which moved up from the end of the south wing of A Block where they had been located since 1951.

The new Library was a standard Department of Education-designed concrete block building (the library building at Rotorua Girls' High School is identical), and consisted of two large rooms intersected with a workroom and an office at the rear of it for the Librarian. It had generous provision of wall space allowing for six tiers of shelves on all of the outer walls of the building, and three tiers of shelves on the lower-half of the two sides of the internal walls of the central workroom. The upper-half of the workroom's walls had windows around all three of its sides for observational purposes. The building was fitted out with all of the most up-to-date equipment, including: headphones for a closed-circuit audio sound system; an overhead projector for hand-written transparencies; and a film projector. New Formica-topped tables, moulded plastic chairs, bean bags, framed art and potted plants were also supplied. The carpets and colour scheme throughout the building was a charming late 1970s décor of dark browns, yellows and golds – all then much in vogue. The new Library building was officially opened with a "wine and cheese" function in the evening of 16 October, 1980, hosted by the Parent-Teachers' Association.



Photographic Collection, Rotorua Boys' High School Archives.

The new Library building's original interior (and overhead projector), 1981.



Photographic Collection, Rotorua Boys' High School Archives.

Boys relaxing on bean bags, 1981.



Photographic Collection, Rotorua Boys' High School Archives.

The tropical fish aquarium and the Card Catalogue drawers, 1981.



Photographic Collection, Rotorua Boys' High School Archives.

Boys studying, 1981. The moulded plastic chairs were remarkably comfortable.



Photographic Collection, Rotorua Boys' High School Archives.

Pupil Librarians and the Librarian, Mrs. B.M. O'Connell, in the Library's work room, 1981.

Within a year of its completion and opening, the new Library building was a very popular place for boys to “hang out” in; some 200 boys were crowding in, particularly on wet days. A tropical fish aquarium, proved to be a great source of interest, was installed in 1981. The first Vertical File (a filing cabinet filled with newspaper clippings on various topical local, national and international affairs cut from local and national newspapers) was established in 1983. This was a much-used and valuable quick-reference source (the 1980s equivalent of doing a Google search) of information for boys preparing for their essays and assignments. In an attempt to reduce the number of boys now flooding into the Library on wet days, a “Library Lunch Pass” system was implemented. These passes very quickly became much sought after and a “black market” soon developed for them. The passes had to be produced in different colours each year in order to foil the forgeries that were being presented to the pupil librarians posted at the Library’s internal foyer doors.

1983 also saw the very significant work commence on the computerization of the Library’s Card Catalogue. This process, which commenced as a joint venture with the other four high schools in Rotorua, was under the control of the Board of Governors. A large black and white computer, which was hooked-up to the Board’s mainframe computer at its office in town, was placed in the workroom for the Librarian’s use. The considerable work involved to enter the many thousands of type-written catalogue cards dating back to the early 1950s, was completed by the next year. The Card Catalogue was, however, retained, as a back-up until the mid-1980s. By that time, videos, records, cassette tapes, and the hugely popular “Dungeons and Dragons” computer games were also available in the Library for the boys’ use. A large number of old books were also still held by the Library at this time, and periodic disposals of these continued to be made – some of which went directly into the rubbish bin.



Kevin J. Lyall

The School's remaining old books now held in the School Archives.

The eight books that I salvaged from the rubbish bin, in 1985, are the fifth to eighth, and the last three books on the top shelf and the fourth (upright) book on the bottom shelf – Lord Macaulay's History of England. The six volumes of the 1819 edition of Plutarch's Lives are the identically-bound books on the right-hand side of the top shelf, ending fifth from the right.

Early one morning in 1985, I watched the Librarian, Mrs. G.M. Streeter, come out of the Library with an armful of books. She made her way over to one of the old oil drums that were then placed around the School and used as rubbish bins. I saw Streeter dump all of the books into the bin and then return to the Library. As soon as she had gone, I went over to the bin and looked into it. There were eight books lying in a pathetic heap at the bottom of the bin. Out of curiosity, I pulled one of the books out. I looked at it, saw the publication date and was horrified! I retrieved all of the other seven books. There were too many books for me to put into my backpack, and they were in any case too big and heavy to fit in it. I knew of a safe place under A Block and stashed all of the books there. I went back at morning tea, and then again at lunch to check on them. When school finished that afternoon, I retrieved the books and took them home. The books that I retrieved from that grubby bin thirty-seven years ago were all published between the 1860s and the 1880s, one being Lord Macaulay's *History of England* that I have referred to earlier. I returned all eight books to the School in 2008.

Meanwhile, and unbeknown to me at the same time in 1985, Streeter was busily disposing of more of the School's remaining old books. On 30 September that year she wrote to Anah Dunsheath, of Anah Dunsheath Antiquarian Booksellers – Dealers in Fine and Rare Books, Auckland, to advise and list "old books which we may well decide to part with, and we should like to have some idea of their value and saleability..." The thirty-five books that Streeter listed ranged in publication date from 1819 to 1949. Included in her list were the six volumes of *Plutarch's Lives*, published in the third (Langhorne) edition, of 1819.

Dunsheath replied to Streeter's letter on 20 October, 1985. She advised her that she was interested in purchasing twelve of the books listed and offered between \$500 to \$650 for them, dependant on their condition and completeness. All of the books, excluding the six volumes of *Plutarch's Lives*, were subsequently sold to Dunsheath that November. As at the time of writing a complete 1819 set of *Plutarch's Lives* is listed on eBay for £350 (\$682.95 New Zealand).

Also in 1985, a tall, round wooden display carrel was installed in the Library. It was for the displaying of pamphlets about various career options produced by the Department of Labour and distributed to high schools around New Zealand. I was given responsibility for looking after the display, keeping it up-to-date, and for presenting the material.

In 1986, the Parent-Teachers' Association built an enclosed outdoor reading area. It was added on directly behind the building and was intended to provide a warm and sheltered place for boys to read and have their lunch in. However, it was never very popular and it was rarely opened. It was later removed and transformed into a greenhouse. The Library's old (and now long-redundant) Card Catalogue was also disposed of at about this time.

In 1987, Mrs. D.M. Moore, a second-generation Old Girl of the School, was appointed Head of the Library. She oversaw its management and had line responsibility for the Librarian, would fiercely protect, battle, and care for it for the next twenty-seven years. Moore was one of the earliest teachers in New Zealand to combine her teacher training with professional school library management with her Diploma of Teacher-Librarianship.

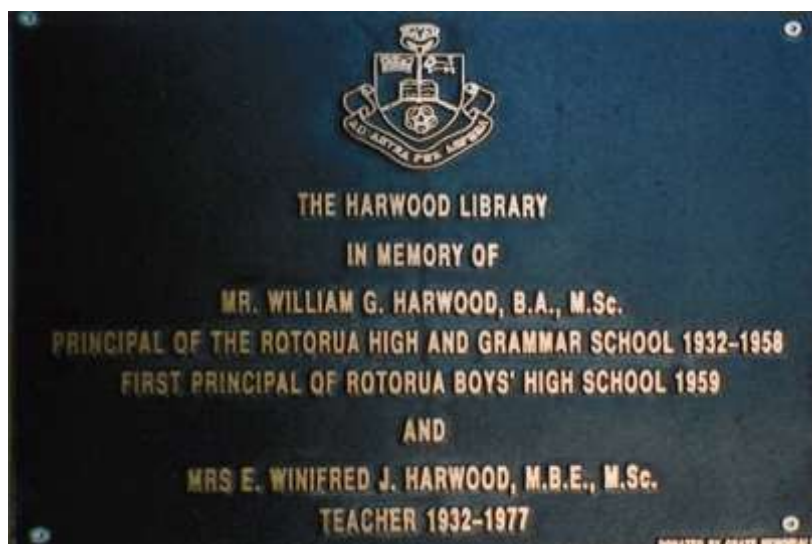
During 1989, the Library's computer system was further expanded. A book-scanning system was introduced and a walk-through security gate was installed at the Library's internal foyer doors. The scanning system enabled books to be issued and returned via a barcode generated from the Library's Catalogue and then placed into the back of each book. The books were then issued and returned automatically by the Librarian and pupil librarians with the aid of a hand-held, pen like barcode reader that scanned over the book's barcode. This greatly reduced the manual work involved in the returning of books and the follow-up work for overdue books. By the mid-1980s, the Library's collection stood at around 10,000 books – the highest it had ever been.

On 10 October, 1992, at the Reunion held to mark the Sixty-Fifth Anniversary of the School's attainment of full high school status in 1927, the Library was officially named and dedicated as the Harwood Library in honour of former principal and Mrs. E.W.J. Harwood. The bronze memorial plaque for the building was donated by Old Boy Roger Gray, of Gray's Funeral Services, and it was unveiled by two of the Harwood's three children, Old Pupils W.J. Harwood and Mrs. J.M. Smale (née Harwood). Smale later presented the two fine portrait photographs of her parents that flank the internal entrance doors to the Library.



Kevin J. Lyall Collection

The Dedication Ceremony for the Harwood Library, 10 October, 1992.



Kevin J. Lyall

The Harwood Library's bronze memorial plaque.

During 1993, former Librarian (and now internationally acclaimed author) Dame Fiona Kidman visited the School and gave a talk in the Library. She will have noticed the many changes and progresses that had been made since her time at the School thirty-one years earlier. That same year, a CD-ROM (Compact Disc Read-Only Memory) – the forerunner of CDs and DVDs – network was installed around the School. This enabled digital access to an atlas, a thesaurus, a book of quotations, and an encyclopaedia. This was the first step in the process that would make the printed encyclopaedias which were purchased and updated regularly since 1922, obsolete. In 1996, a new computer with a “sound blaster”, CD-ROM, and a printer was installed in the Library, and 600 new books were added. Further video tapes, a video player, television set, and a laminating machine were also purchased. 1996 also saw the massive old *Red oak* tree that had stood in front the Library (where the front classroom extension is now) removed.



Photographic Collection, Rotorua Boys' High School Archives.

The Harwood Library's classroom extensions, c. 1999.

In 1996, two new classrooms and a storage room were built on the eastern-side of the original 1979 Library building. The classrooms have their own entrances at the front (the rear classroom has a connecting door into the main library), and the storage room, which is now used as a computer server room, is only accessible from the main library. The main library was also refurbished for the first time since it was opened in 1980. New carpets were installed, and a new colour scheme was implemented throughout. The building's original, dark wood exposed roof beams were also all painted white.

The Library was again re-carpeted in 2000, and a card-operated photocopier was installed. Credit had to be purchased from the school office and loaded onto the cards in order to use the photocopier.

With the retirement of the Librarian, Mrs. A. Geddes, in 2003, no further Head Librarians or pupil librarians were appointed. This ended a proud eighty-one-year tradition of having pupil librarians assist in the running of the Library.

In 2007, the first Old Boy (and Māori) to be appointed Librarian, Kenneth Whareaitu, commenced. He had come from the Rotorua Public Library and remained until 2014. At the end of that year, Moore retired after forty-eight years' teaching service – the longest in the School's history. During her tenure as Head of the Library, she had, with the assistance of her five Librarians, thirteen Head Librarians, and many pupil librarians over that time, completely transformed, enhanced, and also expanded its role and services. In her last fifteen or so, Moore's homemade baking had been a special treat for the boys.

In 2015, the present Librarian, Mrs. J. Davies, commenced. The Library building was again upgraded and also modified in 2016. By 2018, the book collection stood at 4,000 (about the same as it had been in the early 1950s). In 2019, air conditioning and Wi-Fi Internet was installed in the building, and the central workroom was reduced in size by a quarter. It had been felt that the original work room took up too much space. In 2020, the building's lighting system was upgraded and also expanded.

As at 5 October, 2021, the Library's collection stood at 4,193 books. They are catalogued on the Accessit Library Management System, which is accessible to the staff and boys via a portal on the School's Website. The most popular books in the Library, according to Davies, are found in the Fiction section followed by Biography, Sport, and New Zealand history. In her Harwood Library Report in the 2021 *Raukura Rotorua*, Davies reported: "We had another very busy year in our Library, as a popular teaching space, study and relaxing venue..." She noted that technology now plays a big role in the boys' school life, but was encouraged to see that "reading is still popular." The clear favourites being the Harry Potter series, along with an increased interest in New Zealand History books. She also noted that: "The Library continues to adapt with the demands of the digital era with curated websites and resources, aligned with the school curriculum, available from our Library webpage to support students' learning."

As she mentioned, a large part of Davies' work now involves the 'curation' (or vetting) of validated websites via the Library's Intranet webpage. In these times of "fake news", misinformation, disinformation, false information, inaccurate information, social media – and too much information – the careful vetting of the vast sources of information that are available on the Internet is both prudent and wise to do. Davies' efforts in this regard do not, however, prevent the boys from searching the Internet at home or on their smart phones and other Internet-capable devices. The Library's validated websites have all long since replaced the (now no longer) printed British *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and the (as at the time of writing) still printed American *World Book Encyclopaedia*. These encyclopaedias were the "go-to"

sources of reliable, authoritative – and reputable – *knowledge* for the previous, pre-Internet generations of pupils. *Wikipedia*, although a vast and easily assessable trove of *information* at a click, it cannot be considered to be accurate, reliable, or trustworthy.

In this regard, Vaile gave some wise and interesting advice to the pupils ninety-two years ago. At the School's Prize Giving Ceremony for 1930 held at the Grand Theatre, Vaile was the guest of honour. In his address, which was recorded and paraphrased in the 1931 *Raukura Rotorua*, it was stated: "With regard to reading, Mr. Vaile asked the scholars [pupils] to be thorough, to question everything, and find a reason for everything." In other words: he was advising them to very carefully check their facts.

The COVID-19 pandemic, with its Delta and Omicron variants, has not, as at the time of writing, had too much of an effect on the Library. While the building was closed during the two national Level 4 lockdowns, the curated websites were accessible via the School's Intranet and these kept the boys engaged with their learning and accurately informed.

An after-school programme, Te Honoa Toi, operates from 3.00-4.00 p.m., Monday to Thursday, in the Library (and these have been so since Moore first introduced them in the mid-1980s).

Modern data display units affixed to the roof beams on both sides of the Library building supersede the overhead projector, and handsome black leather lounge suites replace the bean bags of the 1980s making for an even more comfortable way for the boys to relax and read on. The tropical fish aquarium, however, has not survived (it was disposed of in 2015).

In terms of what the future holds for the Harwood Library, we can for certain assume that technology will continue to have effects on its role in the life and work of the School in ways that cannot now be known or even guessed at. The number of printed books stored in the Library will probably continue to steadily decrease, though they will not disappear entirely. New digital platforms, software, and other media for the management, accessing, sharing, and storing of knowledge and information will arise. The Library will continue to adapt in order to meet the boys' future educational needs.

The Harwood Library at Rotorua Boys' High School is 100 years after its founding by Miss Winifred E. McHardie at the Victoria Institute in April, 1922, a modern, well-appointed, popular and a very well run school library. It gives depth to the curriculum, fosters a love of learning, and it continues to provide the boys with a happy and safe place.



Kevin J. Lyall

The Harwood Library, 1 October, 2021.



Kevin J. Lyall

The left-hand (western-side) side of the Harwood Library, 1 October, 2021.



Kevin J. Lyall

The right-hand (eastern-side) of the Harwood Library, 1 October, 2021.



Kevin J. Lyall

Looking from the right-hand side of the Harwood Library towards the central workroom.

LIBRARIANS

1922-1926	Miss W.E. McHardie, B.A. (N.Z.)
1927-1929	Miss E.C. Wilson, M.A., Dip. Ed.
1930-1931	Miss S.M. Foote, M.A.
1932	Miss F.M. Huntington, M.A.
1933	Miss J.H. Wilson, M.Sc. (N.Z.)
1934	J.E. Leaming, M.A.
1935-1938	Miss J.H. Wilson
1938-1939	Miss H.M. Donald, M.B.E., B.A., Dip. Journ. (N.Z.)
1940-1941	Miss H.M. Donald and Miss F.L. Sharp, M.A.
1942-1948	Miss H.M. Donald
1949-1951	Miss E.E.F. Leaman, M.A.
1952-1956	Miss E.E.F. Leaman and W.W. Bridgeman, M.A., LL.B., Dip. Ed. (London), Dip. N.Z.Lib.Sch.
1957-1958	Miss H.P. Gray, Dip. Geo. (London)
1959	H. Crook, F. Gee, M.A., and C.J. de Leeuw
1960	Miss J.M. Welch
1961-1962	Dame F. Kidman, D.N.Z.M., O.B.E.
1963-1965	W.M. Jess, M.A., B.Com.
1966	Mrs. Y.J. Hendry
1967-1978	Mrs. S.M. Oram
1979-1982	Mrs. B.M. O'Connell
1982-1986	Mrs. G.M. Streeter
1987-2014	Mrs. D.M. Moore, Dip. Tchg., T.T.C., Dip. Tch.Lib. (Head of the Library)
1987-2003	Mrs. A. Geddes
2004	Mrs. J. Johnson
2005	Mrs. V.K. Smith
2006	Mrs. E. Dunett.
2007-2014	K.L. Whareaitu
2015-	Mrs. J. Davies

HEAD LIBRARIANS

1929	Miss N. Harron
1930	Miss M. Sloane
1931	Miss P. Brooker
1932	Miss F. Morrison
1933	Miss J. McKenzie
1934-1935	Miss G. Richards
1936	Miss G. Richards and Miss E. Farmer
1937	Miss E. Farmer
1938	Miss K. Bailey
1939	Miss J. Musgrave
1940	Miss E. Goulter and Miss B. Hitchon
1941	Miss N. Dawson and Miss P. Fergusson

1942-1959 No appointments made.

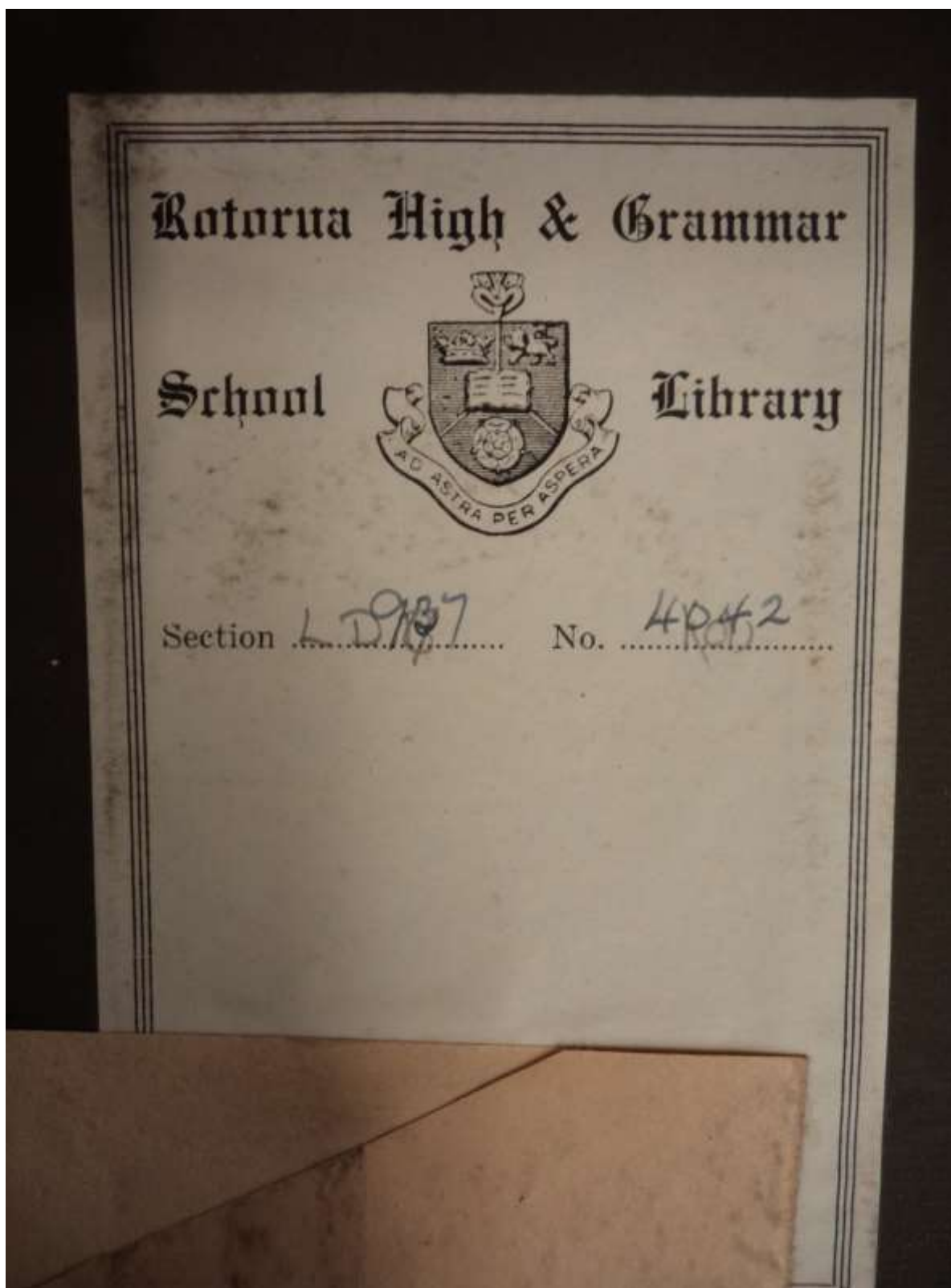
1960-1962	D. Spence and D. Hoffman
1963	D. Hoffman and A. Dick
1964	D. Hoffman
1965	R. Hayes and P. Mackey
1966	P. Mackey
1967	O. Howard
1968-1969	B. Kendrick
1970	L. Ransley
1971	B. Ashworth
1972	B. Scott
1973	D. Moore
1974	I. Hedderwick
1975-1976	S. Fraser
1977	K. Duncum and G. Taylor

1978-1979 No appointments made.

1980	A. Manchha
1981	C. Pinfold
1982	B. Henson and B. Parker
1983-1986	B. Henson and D. Lash
1984	D. Lash and V. Manchha
1985	P. Thompson
1986	G. Weatherall
1987	C. Dempsey
1988	A.R. Gardner and J.J. Ah Chan
1989	K.J. Lyall
1990	B. Lynch-Blosse

1991	B. Lynch-Blosse and J. Potter
1992-1993	J. Potter
1994	D. Woodhouse
1995	F. Sucgang
1996	W. Kemys
1997-1998	E. Naseri
1999	Y. Choi
2000-2001	S. Thomas
2002	<i>Not recorded.</i>
2003	K. McEwan

APPENDIX 1



Kevin J. Lyall, 2021.

The School's original Library Book Plate used from 1927-1958. A pocket for the book's Catalogue Card to be inserted is shown at the bottom.

APPENDIX 2

ROTORUA HIGH SCHOOL

Section:— Rome

Classification:— 937 Serial No.:— 4042

Author:— Gibbons, Edward

Title:— Roman Empire

Received 7-3-58

N.C.

Kevin J. Lyall, 2021.

A hand-written Card Catalogue used from 1931-1952.

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Auckland War Memorial Museum (online portrait)

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Photographic Collection, Rotorua Boys' High School Archives.

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Raukura Rotorua: The Magazine of the Rotorua Boys' High School, 1959-2021 editions.

Rotorua Boys' High School Archives: Historic Books Collection

Rotorua Boys' High School Archives: Newspaper Clippings Collection

Rotorua Boys' High School Archives: Photographic Collection

The Reserve Bank of New Zealand Online Inflation Calculator

ALSO BY KEVIN J. LYALL

Rotorua High And Grammar School and Rotorua Boys' High School History and Register of Pupils 1927-1992

1992 Reunion Committee, Rotorua, 1992

An Historical Introduction to Rotorua Boys' High School (First Edition)

Rotorua Boys' High School, Rotorua, 1994

An Historical Introduction to Rotorua Boys' High School (Second Edition)

Rotorua Boys' High School, Rotorua, 1995.

Rotorua's Plume: A History of Rotorua Boys' High School 1880-2001

Rotorua Boys' High School Board of Trustees, Rotorua, 2003

Rotorua Boys' High School: An Historical Introduction For New Boys (Third Edition)

Rotorua Boys' High School, Rotorua, 2009

The Cutting Edge: A History of the Waipa Sawmill 1939-2010

Waipa Corporation, Rotorua (with K. O'Conner), 2010

The Waiariki Institute of Technology New Zealand Aria: A Brief History 1946-2012

New Zealand Aria Trust, Rotorua, 2012

The Rotorua Boys' High School War Memorial Hall

New Zealand History Online, 2013

The Early History of King George V Military Hospital, Pukeroa Hill, Rotorua

Kevin J. Lyall, Rotorua, 2015

The Empress's Plume: Rotorua's First High School,

Kevin J. Lyall, Rotorua, 2015

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Rotorua Boys' High School, Rotorua, 2018

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(Fourth Edition and First Digital-Only Edition), Rotorua Boys' High School, Rotorua, 2018

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Rotorua District Veterinary Club, Inc., Rotorua, 2020

Rotorua Boys' High School: An Historical Introduction
(Sixth and Seventh Editions and Third and Fourth Digital-Only Editions)
Rotorua Boys' High School, Rotorua, 2021

Ngā Rakura I Te Ao Rotorua Boys' High School Hall of Fame: Plumes of Raukura
30 Years of Celebrating Success 1991-2021 (Second Edition)
Rotorua Boys' High School, Rotorua, 2021

Farewell To Our Plume: The Retirement Years of W.G. and E.W.J. Harwood, First Principal
and Lady of Rotorua Boys' High School
Rotorua Boys' High School, Rotorua, 2021

Rotorua Boys' High School: An Historical Introduction
(Eighth Edition and Fifth Digital-Only Edition)
Rotorua Boys' High School, Rotorua, 2022



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