

# Waiau Gazette

NEXT ISSUE.

The next issue of the Gazette is due out on  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 17.**

All copy of news items and advertisements  
must be in by  
**MONDAY, APRIL 6.**

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1970.

Volume 1. No. 11.

## Busy Meetings For Waiau CWI

Mrs S. Kokay chaired the December meeting and welcomed members and guests of the evening.

Mrs W. Mellon, who is leaving the district, was farewelled and presented with a small gift.

After concluding the business members and guests took part in games and carols by candlelight, followed by an exchange of gifts. Biscuits for the elderly folk at Riverton were collected.

Competition results: Miniature Christmas tree—Mrs H. Whyte 1, Mrs E. Peek 2, Mrs C. Diack 3; cluster—Mrs W. Mellon 1, Mrs A. Erskine and Mrs S. Kokay 2 equal, Mrs F. Thomson and Mrs E. Peek 3 equal; single bloom—Mrs G. Sutherland and Mrs F. Thomson equal 1, Mrs E. Peek 2, Mrs A. Erskine and Mrs S. Kokay 3 equal.

### FEBRUARY MEETING

Mrs S. Kokay took the chair and welcomed back an old member and one new member at the February meeting. Mrs C. Diack was elected president and nominations for new committees were received. Arrangements for the Mulvy trophy competition were discussed. A crochet demonstration was given by Mrs F. McLaughlan. The wandering florin was won by Mrs C. Diack.

Competition results: Oven cloth—Mrs G. Sutherland 1, Mrs C. Diack and Mrs F. Thomson 2 equal; rhubarb jam—Mrs C. Diack 1, Mrs E. Peek 2; preserves—Mrs F. Thomson 1; sweet dish—Mrs A. Erskine 1, Mrs F. Thomson and Mrs H. Whyte 2 equal, Mrs H. Horrell 3; golden jubilee verse—Mrs C. Diack 1; cluster—Mrs E. Peek 1, Mrs C. Diack 2, Mrs W. Keating and Mrs S. Kokay 3 equal; single bloom—Mrs G. Sutherland and Mrs W. Keating 1 equal, Mrs F. McLaughlan and Mrs A. Erskine 2 equal, Mrs C. Diack and Mrs H. Whyte 3 equal.

## Buddhist Temples Feature In Landscapes Of Japan

First, I would like to mention that the Oriental people have a totally different conception of religion from European people. Some Christian religions hold that sex is sin; some even state that we are born in sin. Then some Christians believe that to have any form of enjoyment on a Sunday you are committing sin against God. Neither Buddhism or Shintoism regards sex or Sunday enjoyment as sin.

One other thing I am compelled to mention and ask my readers to understand is that in writing this article on Buddhism, I am now, as always

### SCHOOL ASSN NEW PRESIDENT

The annual meeting of the Waiau DHS Home and School Association was held recently. The retiring president (Mrs W. Walker) presented her report and the secretary (Mrs A. Leonard) presented the balance sheet.

It was moved that a donation of \$125 be made to the School Committee for use at the school.

Officers elected for the 1970 year were: President, Mrs A. Leonard; secretary, Mrs E. Sutherland; vice-president, Mrs E. Jeffrey; junior vice-president, Mrs P. Vestappen; past president, Mrs W. Walker; Mr W. Keating, headmaster; school committee representative, Mr H. Stoddart; committee, Mesdames D. Ryley, A. Kenneally, P. Bryan and A. Mill.

Disappointment at the poor attendance of parents at these meetings was expressed and it is hoped that with the interesting speakers arranged for this year that parents will make every effort to attend.

The next meeting will be held on April 7 and the guest speaker will be Miss Hampton, a member of the staff who has just returned from an extended stay overseas.

completely impartial about religion. I would not champion any religion, Christian or non-Christian, nor do I condemn any religion. I take this neutral stand because in my travels I keenly observe all religions, knowing full well that religion can in a human being bring out his greatest and finest qualities. Also it can bring out his cruellest and most barbaric qualities.

Buddhism went to Japan from China well over a thousand years ago. Since then Shintoism and Buddhism live side by side in Japan in harmony. They do not have the friction that Christian religions only too often have. In fact millions of Japanese today have adopted both religions, but far more Japanese are Buddhist than Shintoist.

Buddhism "took on" in Japan for the simple reason that Buddhism can offer them a life hereafter. In fact, that is what Buddhism is. Buddhism believes that you are here in this world just to prepare yourself for the perfect life you will live after your earthly life has expired. Missionaries have made many attempts to introduce Christian religions into Japan, but their success has been fairly feeble, for the simple reason that Christian religions cannot match what Shintoism and Buddhism can give them.

Mankind has spent through the ages untold billions, also millions of human lives, on glamorising the splendour of religion in building temples, shrines, cathedrals and other places of worship. The first Buddhist temple I visited in Japan was in Kyoto, called the Kinkakuji Temple but better known as the Golden Temple. This temple will just simply take your breath away. Many tourists regard this Buddhist temple as the highlight of their trips to Japan. It is in the middle of a very small lake, is not open to the tourist, but you can see it at quite close range. It is three storeys high and the outside walls of the top two storeys are covered in pure gold. That is the most gold I have ever seen all in one place. At the New York World Fair I saw a million dollars worth of gold on display in one heap, but it would take several heaps of that size to cover the walls of this temple.

As this temple is in Kyoto, I am prompted to say a few words on this town. It has a population of 1,400,000, is 300 miles west of Tokyo, and can be reached in plush comfort in under three hours on the Bullet train. Kyoto is the very heart of Japan. For the tourist it is a must. It was the capital of Japan for over 1000 years. It has more imperial palaces, Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines than any other town in Japan. It has many industries also. They make the finest silk in Japan there.

Kyoto is rich in history, and if you are the kind of tourist who can appreciate the ancient art, culture and architecture of other nations you can spend several most interesting days there. It is also the best place in Japan for souvenirs. In fact the choice here is endless.

But getting back to Buddhism the best known Buddha to the outside world is the bronze one in Kamakura, although it is not the largest. This Buddha became a symbol of Japan, similar to what the Eiffel Tower

is to Paris and France. Like all Buddhas, it is sitting cross-legged 43ft high. Kamakura is a seaside town, small by Japanese standards, with a population of 120,000, and only 32 miles south-west of Tokyo. This Buddha used to have a roof over it once, but some 100 years ago a tidal wave came and swept the roof away, also a few hundred people. Having no roof over it today is an advantage to the tourists, as it helps taking pictures of it.

The largest Buddha in Japan is in Nara (population 162,000), one of the oldest cities in Japan which was the capital of Japan 1200 year ago. It is 300 miles from Tokyo, but the Bullet train does not go there. To get to Nara you have to take a side trip from either Kyoto or Osaka for about 20 miles. There is only one hotel in Nara. It is outside the town and situated in a beautiful park.

My big surprise at this hotel was that it had a Scottish atmosphere all about it, with Tartan decorations on the walls, and a large breakfast gong (never used). All the bedrooms had English open fireplaces in them. This is not found anywhere else in Japan. The large bronze Buddha is 72ft high and sitting cross-legged. This one is inside a very large building. It is claimed that it is the oldest wooden building in the world and over 900 years old. It is built of cedar, giving you an idea of what wonderful timber cedar is. Those of you who read your Bible will know that when Solomon built his great temple, in honour of his father, he built it of cedar.

The temple houses many priceless treasures. There is one amusing feature in the temple. One of the wooden pillars holding up the temple has a hole in it at floor level, only big enough for a small man to crawl through. The story is that if you can go through that hole you will go to heaven. I would certainly not get to heaven if that hole in the pillar is the measurement for getting there.

In Nara there is also a Shinto shrine, as usual up a hill. The shrine is a very old one, just oozing old age. No glamour about it and no gold facings.

One unique feature about the town of Nara is the hundreds of deer there in the town and the parks. These deer are spotted and smaller than our own. They are everywhere and they follow the tourist expecting food.

I have only mentioned three towns here in my Buddhist article out of the many towns I have visited. One fact that impressed me in studying shrines and temples is that no matter where I went to see a Buddha or a shrine I always saw hundreds of secondary school children on conducted tours round the same places. It appeared to me that this is a part of their education.

However, do not get the impression that the Japanese are very pious people. Not at all, in the sense that we know religion. Shinto religion teaches love and consideration for each other. Buddhism prepares them for life hereafter in which fewer and fewer young people believe today. As far as bigotedness goes you will not find that in Japan.

(Next month: Characteristics of the Japanese people).

## Rugby Club Had Successful Year

A successful year for the Waiau Star Football Club was reported by the retiring president (Mr Geoff Erskine) at the annual meeting.

The senior team came out on top winning the WDSU banner for the fifth time in the last nine years.

The junior team once again was not very far away in its competition and the third grade also had a good season. With most of last year's players still under 17 years there should be the nucleus of a very good team this year.

Mr Erskine thanked all coaches, doctor, first-aid men, linesmen and others who gave their assistance throughout the year.

The committee elected for the 1970 season was:—

Patrons: J. Devery, W. Love, R. Muldrew, B. Thwaites. I. Buchanan, president; P. Daly, secretary; D. McNay, treasurer; first vice-president, L. King; junior vice-president, D. Mill; delegates to sub-union, G. Erskine, R. Hibbs, G. Ridder, D. Mill; club captains, R. Newall, R. McIntyre. committee — N. Thomson, B. Faulkner, J. Hansen, G. Erskine, R. Hampton, R. Devery, R. Hibbs; coaches—Senior, G. Erskine, L. Brown; junior, R. Hampton, A. Devery; 3rd grade, L. Swain (another still to be elected); selectors, coaches and captains; postponements, J. Marshall; schoolboy,

### PERSONAL

Mr Lindsay Foley, of the National Bank, has been transferred to Christchurch.

G. Ridder, M. Freeman; social committee, G. Burgess, G. Erskine, W. Clark, N. Thomson, G. Soper, J. Hansen; honorary vice-presidents, P. Whyte, J. Hansen, W. Faulkner, A. McGibbon, G. Ridder, R. Campbell, J. Findlay, W. Carr.

### CHANGES IN SCHOOL ROLL

The roll in the primary department is slightly higher than at the same time last year but that in the secondary department has decreased slightly, states a report from Waiau District High School.

New teachers on the staff are (in the primary department) Mr I. Edmonds (first assistant), Miss J. Hampton and Mr J. McKenzie. Mr I. Parsons is the new teacher in the secondary department.

The dental clinic has re-opened with Miss L. K. Wilson in charge.

Information has been received of a television programme which could be of interest. This is a mathematics programme for parents, called "Maths and Meaning," which is to be shown on all channels for seven weeks commencing on Monday, March 23, at 6.45 pm.

Designed for the general public, the series aims at informing rather than instructing. For this reason emphasis is placed on children working in classrooms at all levels from new entrants to standard 4.

This should be a series well worth seeing and it is hoped that parents will endeavour to watch it each week.

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## County Corner

### Waiau Riding Notes

Supplied by  
**STEVE KOKAY**  
(Riding Member)



At our meeting on 5th March we had a request from the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society that the Wallace County Council should formally support the "Save Manapouri" petition and display copies of the petition in the county office for the general public.

We could not do anything else but turn this request down, and of course the radio, tv and the paper came out with big statements that we do not support the campaign. This kind of news no doubt can cause excitement but in actual fact may not mirror a true picture of the position at all.

My own personal view on this matter is that we could hardly support the petition. Regarding leaving a copy of the petition in the county office for the general public, this again could not be done as the council has a policy that no petition of any nature can be placed in the office for display, as the general public would immediately assume that council is supporting the petition.

At our meeting we had literature supplied to us on the "Save Manapouri" campaign, also literature on "Why Manapouri Should Be Raised 27ft." We also have an invitation from the Manapouri-Te Anau Travel Association to be shown the shore-lines of Manapouri to personally see the effect that the raising of the lake would have. This invitation we have accepted.

#### MISTAKE

By mistake a one-lane bridge was designed for Cameron

Creek on the Coast Road. Later we tried to incorporate into this bridge provision to have it a two-way bridge later on. For our engineer this proved impracticable, so at this meeting we have decided to build a two-lane bridge now. We are still not able to start reconstructing Youngs Hill as our gang is really tied up on jobs we have grant monies for which have to be used up before March 31.

#### RECONSTRUCTION OF BLUFF HILL

Representatives of all the Southland local bodies met in Invercargill on February 10. It was resolved that all the local bodies contribute towards the reconstruction and sealing of this hill. Based on population, our share comes to \$620. I may add that we are getting off lightly here.

#### AFFORESTATION

Regarding the visit to Southland by the Minister of Forests and 27 Parliamentarians, I understand they were quite impressed with the forest potential of Southland. It may be that some of our once-worked-over forest could be worked over again. There may also be a potential for a chip mill in Southland.

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