

## Mr Kenneth Rae ... Founding Principal (1960 - 1967)

Plans had been drawn up by the Education Board in 1958 for the translation of Howick District High School into a College by 1960. The site chosen was Robin's Corner to Moonie's Bridge, an historic site on the old highway but unfortunately prone to fogs and flooding. There too, was the tiny Pakuranga Post Office with its venerable "V.R." plate and its almost equally venerable Post-Mistress, Miss Pearce. The William Green Domain reminded all of an early teacher and the Pakuranga School and school building and teacher's house were still on the site at the foot of Hutchinsons Road.

The new school is now at the Historic Village and the school-house, now renamed Waiora House, which is now on the fields of the College was then occupied by the last headmaster of the District High School, Mr E G Smith.

The Pakuranga Old Pupils Association still held their annual picnic on Pigeon Mountain Domain and the annual reunion was still being held in the District Hall. A beautiful but mutilated rata tree planted by Pakuranga school pupils still flowers on the site near the present day Ambulance Station.

Mr Edwin Roberts asked that the new College also be named Pakuranga and the suggestion was unanimously supported by the nine parents representatives of the contributing schools who had been elected as a committee of management to assist the Education Board. The local representative of the Education Board was Mr J R Hallam who proved to be a good friend of the College and in 1964 became its second Board Chairman. The original nine were: Mr D G Wallace (Chairman), Mr E V Aldis (Vice-Chairman), Mrs J W Bailley, Mr R A Bassett, Mrs J Butterworth, Mr D E Good BA, Mr R W Harwood, Mrs K D McKay, Mr E F Roberts.

The new College, adjoined the old school site, just occupied on 14 June, its predecessor having been shifted to become Pakuranga Hall. Although the school was closed when the District High School was formed its bell was still in the tower in 1959. It is now in the library at the College. Five schools had been consolidated to form Howick District High School. The Chairman then was Mr Archie Trusdale. There was a secondary top to the Pakuranga School in 1936 which was lost when the District High School began under Mr Norman Day in September 1937. The first teachers of secondary pupils in the area were Mr Eric Halstead, later MP for Tamaki and Mr Norman Webb later Headmaster, SuvaBoys Grammar School. The High School had four headmasters: Messrs F C Day, R C Adlam, J E Maxwell and E G Smith, photographs of whom are in the office corridor.

The Education Board was to supervise the management of the College for the first two years and existing staff were to have their appointments safe-guarded for two years but could opt out if they did not like the new organisation.

Though the headmaster was appointed in mid 1959 he was not relieved of his duties as First Assistant, Penrose High School, and this made preliminary meetings and organisation very difficult. Though at first it seemed possible that the new school might open in February a small tornado which swept up Dr Mc Gregor Grant's stream and unroofed two prefabs, one of which housed the High School Library, delayed the move. Thus the College was established with a roll of 312 and a staff of 17 with the revived old name Pakuranga but still in the Howick District High School building. It did not move down to the old/new site until 23 May of the second term, 1960.