



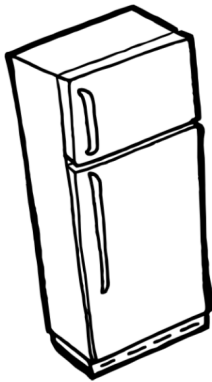
## An update on Books in fridges

As mentioned previously, a local resident has suggested we might like to set up a local library in old fridges. Thanks to those who have written to us or spoken with committee members. So far, the comments have all been in support of the idea.

We need a fridge for this to work, preferably one with good seals and a glass door. If anyone has a spare fridge, contact us at [ntimes@hotmail.com](mailto:ntimes@hotmail.com) or talk to any of your local committee members.

We'd still like to hear what you think about this idea and any suggestions for spots to place one of these fridge libraries. Contact us with any suggestions.

*Want to know more?* The examples of "books in fridges" in New Zealand are primarily set up as book exchanges - take a book and give a book. The advantage of using a fridge is that they are already sealed against the elements and come with built in shelves!



**Word of the month:**  
**Agelast**

- A. Chemical mix
  - B. Someone who doesn't visually age
  - C. Someone who doesn't laugh
  - D. Sustained reaction
- Last-month's word:**  
**Ailurophile**  
A cat lover

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# NORMANDALE TIMES

Published by the Normandale Residents' Association



MAY 2019

## Update on planting plans

On the 18th of April, 2019 a group of both committee members and association members met together to develop the planting plans for the entrance of Normandale. Thanks to those who, even though they couldn't make the meeting, sent in their suggestions by email.

It was unfortunate timing with Easter Friday the following day, but we wanted to keep some momentum with the project. With that idea of keeping up the momentum in mind, a subset of the group met the following morning to view the area directly. We plotted 10 different zones on a map. These zones differed in:

- ◇ width (from narrow to wide);
- ◇ slope (some were relatively flat, others steep); and
- ◇ aspect (some were sunny at that time of the day, others more shaded).

While we were walking along we discussed the kind of plants that it would be nice to have there, based on the discussions we had had the previous evening.

From our list (in the April newsletter) many at the meeting were in favour of:

- ◇ the more attractive native flowering plants;
- ◇ ones they knew that self-seeded in their gardens; and
- ◇ those that attracted birds.

We will discuss that map at the next meeting on the 16th of May. *Robyn Caygill*

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Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this paper do not necessarily reflect those of the committee.

Note: Copy deadline 25th of preceding month.

The next NRA meeting will be held at 17 Pokohiwi Road on Thursday 16th May at 7:30pm - all association members welcome.

## Normandale in the 1930s

### Sharing a cow with your neighbor.... just one of Bill Macaulay's memories

Bill Macaulay grew up in Normandale in the 1930s. He now lives in Petone and was kind enough to share his memories of growing up in Normandale.

He moved to 132 Miromiro Road when he was about a year old in 1931. The house is still there now. Bill said that he remembers his mum carrying the groceries up the hill as none of the families had cars and there was no bus service. He also remembers that his family shared a cow with their neighbor, looking after it together and enjoying the fresh milk. Later on, Bill's father built a bigger house around the original one. Bill remembers that growing up in the 1930s/1940s Maungaraki didn't exist at all it was just gorse.

Bill said he attended the original school (the current Playcentre) which had only 8 or 9 students. They weren't at the Normandale School for long and after one or two years, Bill started attending the old Hutt Central School. It was a big change as instead of having to walk up the gravel road to school they got picked up at the door by taxi and taken down to the school – door to door service! The taxis only lasted a year as a school bus service started in the 1940s.

He remembered being able to catch the bus home on a Friday night after going to the movies. As teenagers they would hire the old school which was free for Normandale residents and they would have parties there, playing music with a gramophone.

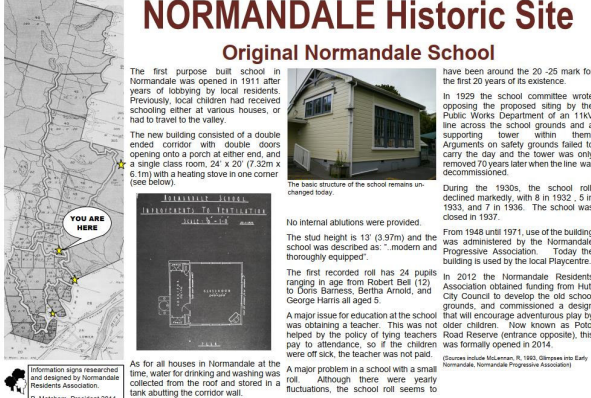
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## Normandale in the 1930s continued ...

Bill said that when he was a teenager he had a job delivering 81 papers, which despite being the smallest number of papers was the highest paying run because of the steep terrain. Bill did an apprenticeship as a tool maker and paid his mum board while he worked there. He earned 15 shillings a week and paid his Mum 7/6 for board..

Bill moved out of his parents' home when he got married when he was around 23, and then lived and raised his family in Trentham, Belmont and Maungaraki. Bill had a number of different jobs and started a scrap metal business in 1959. He is now retired and lives in Petone. His parents stayed in Normandale and when they retired at the age of 60, they moved from Normandale to Shannon.

If you're interested in learning more about Normandale's history, look out for the history signs around Normandale. You can also contact Rosemary McLennan to buy a copy of her book on Normandale. Call Rosemary on 5864180 or email her at [rvmclennan@gmail.com](mailto:rvmclennan@gmail.com).



**NORMANDALE Historic Site**  
**Original Normandale School**

The first purpose built school in Normandale was opened in 1911 after years of lobbying by local residents. Previously, local children had received schooling either at various houses, or had to travel to the valley.

The new building consisted of a double ended corridor with double doors opening onto a porch at either end, and a single class room, 24' x 20' (7.3m x 6.1m) with a heating stove in one corner (see below).

In 1929 the school committee wrote opposing the proposed siting by the Public Works Department of an 11kV line across the school grounds and a supporting tower within them. Arguments on safety grounds failed to carry the day and the tower was only removed 70 years later when the line was decommissioned.

During the 1930s, the school roll declined markedly, with 8 in 1932, 5 in 1933, and 7 in 1936. The school was closed in 1937.

From 1948 until 1971, use of the building was administered by the Normandale Progressive Association. Today the building is used by the local Playcentre.

In 2012 the Normandale Residents Association obtained funding from Hutt City Council to develop the old school grounds, and commissioned a design that will encourage adventurous play by older children. Now known as Piko Road Reserve (entrance opposite), this was formally opened in 2014.

A major problem in a school with a small roll. Although there were yearly fluctuations, the school roll seems to have been around the 20-25 mark for the first 20 years of its existence.

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No internal abutments were provided. The stud height is 13' (3.97m) and the school was described as "...modern and thoroughly equipped".

The first recorded roll has 24 pupils ranging in age from Robert Bell (12) to Doris Barnes, Bertha Arnolds, and George Harris all aged 5.


A major issue for education at the school was obtaining a teacher. This was not helped by the policy of lying teachers older children. Now known as Piko Road Reserve (entrance opposite), this was formally opened in 2014.

Although there were yearly fluctuations, the school roll seems to have been around the 20-25 mark for the first 20 years of its existence.


Information signs researched and designed by Normandale Residents Association.  
P. Matcham, President 2014

*This is one of the interesting historic signs around Normandale.*

By Denika Mead



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