

RAHOTU PLUNKET

Plunket began in Rahoitu on May 24th 1928, when 20 residents met with New Plymouth Plunket members to form a sub-branch. Officers elected being President: Mrs. W.R. Wright, Vice President: Mrs. Wright Junior, Secretary Treasurer: Mrs. R. Morgan (who later cut the cake for the 50th Jubilee celebrations). Mrs. Linehan kindly placed her front room (of the new schoolhouse) at the society's disposal, as the hall was considered too cold. Fortnightly visits began on June 7th to coincide with sale day – nurse to be paid \$36 per annum with a car allowance of \$52.

Euchre, flag 500 and dances formed the basis of fundraising in the early days. New scales cost \$15, a little different from today's \$1000 plus.

Mrs Muriel Clarke was elected president in 1930 and remained so till 1951, at which time she was elected patroness until her death in 1969. Moves were made in 1934 to obtain land for Plunket Rooms, the present site being approved in 1936. In 1935 an Austin 7 saloon car was purchased - \$50 was our share of it.

The first ball, for which Plunket became renowned, was held in 1936, an auspicious year that saw a tender of \$466 accepted for the construction of the rooms, with Mr. Green officiating at the opening on September 18th. A generous donation from Mrs. Elizabeth Wright helped to meet the cost.



**Late Elizabeth Wright Late William Ralston Wright
Benefactors Rahoitu Branch**

Long standing member, Mrs Linda Barrett, joined the Plunket committee in 1939, was elected President 1954-57. Linda is still a very energetic member; much of the decoration at the Centennial Ball was the result of her inspiration and effort.

The first debutante ball was in 1946 and these were held regularly, the last being in 1979. These were great social events, the decorations vying for a place in the memory of all who attended. Remember Cinderella, Swan Lake, The English Country Garden?!

Our present Patroness Mrs. Phyll Corric was elected President after Mrs. Clark, presided for 4 years, before being elected Patroness in 1969. We are very grateful for Mrs. Corric's continued support. Mrs. Tansie Gibson joined Plunket in 1951, presided 1960-68 and was honoured with life membership in 1974. Another long serving member is Mrs. Madge Jarman who joined in 1956 and has been renowned for her floral work ever since, especially her sprays. Mrs A. Lowry and Mrs C. Looney were each secretary for a considerable time. 1956 saw Long Service Awards presented to Mesdames T. Barrett, P. Corric, C. Green, C. Looney, E. MacRae, F. Morgan and E. Morrow, in 1968 to Mesdames A. Gibson and R. Rosser and in 1971 to Mesdames R. Bingham, R.J. Fleming and A. Jarman. Those who have presided in latter years included Mesdames Ruth Morgan, Heather Pennington, Kay Dwyer and Jennifer Mullan.

The Plunket rooms were substantially upgraded from 1977-79 with foam seating, new curtains and covers and carpets, new paintwork inside and out, plus re-roofing which the Rahotu Dairy Co assisted with.

Our 50th Jubilee celebration dinner was held on April 8th 1978, the Dominion President Mrs Joy Reid from Dunedin being guest of honour.



Plunket Float for the Centennial Parade

In 1979 the Measles Campaign promoted by Plunket, resulted in 20,000 immunisations during one week. In 1982, 75 years of Plunket was marked with a commemorative plate and a special Jubilee dinner at the NZ Conference. We purchased one of the limited edition plates to display in our rooms.

Telethon funds from IYDP supported a nation-wide scheme to introduce a car seat rental scheme. Rahotu received one seat, and has bought others and had 2 donated. In 1983 funds raised from a Fashion Parade enabled a \$350 donation to a Corometric monitor for the Neonatal unit at Base Hospital.

The Centennial year saw us participating in the grand parade of floats which preceded the Centennial Celebrations, as we did at the 75th Rahotu Jubilee. Congratulations Rahotu.

HEATHER PENNINGTON

Rahotu Plunket continues..... a combined effort.

Rahotu Plunket combined with Pungarehu Plunket in the mid 1980's. Patroness at the time was Mrs Ruth Morgan (snr) and current members at that time were; Bev Billing, J Vercoe, J Mullan, M Young, C Gibbs, B Kuriger, M Brophy, R Morgan, B Cockburn, C Sole, J Clark, S Fisher, Barbara Billing, and C Matthews.

We continued to raise funds via raffles, slink calves, cabarets, catering and serving for local events. Tupperware and Nutrimetic parties, craft/toy, book, clothing evenings. The proceeds of which were used to refurbish toilet area in Plunket Rooms. New scales and toys were purchased, a new water tank was installed and a new fence built to upgrade the section. Funds were also put into the purchase of a new area Plunket car for our nurse Miss S Forythe. We got grants from the Rahotu Pungarehu Lions Club and the TSB for the purchase of more car seats bringing our total to around 25.

We went out as a Plunket group for dinner, or ten-pin bowling etc with the husbands. Christmas parties with Santa were held each year for the children. Coffee/plan group meetings (sometimes with the Plunket Nurse present) were held on a regular basis.

I also remember dessert evenings, Rawleighs and aromatherapy evenings. I left after serving many years, serving in all offices in the late 1990's.

Maureen Brophy

I joined Rahoitu Plunket in 1993 after the birth of my first child. We had six committee members. Our committee organised coffee mornings, open weigh days, tots and toddler seminars, Easter and Christmas parties for the kids. We collected for Plunket's annual appeal and raised funds that went towards the upkeep of the Plunket building. Money was also raised to go towards the Plunket car that the nurse used for all visits. There were several conferences which happened yearly and most of the committee had the chance to attend these conferences throughout New Zealand. I remained in Plunket for 12 years and totally enjoyed my time on the committee.

Helen Baylis



Rahoitu Plunket Rooms 2009

Rahoitu Plunket 2001-2006. During this time at Rahoitu Plunket the committee members were; Jo Morgan, Helen Baylis, Kylie Field, Donna Helms, Margaret Harrop. Maureen Brophy was the Patron. Every year Rahoitu Plunket held Easter and Christmas parties at the Rahoitu Rugby Pavilion where the yearly fee of a gold coin donation was received and raffles were held. At Christmas, Father Christmas arrived in the local fire engine and all the Plunket children

received Christmas presents. They all had fun playing together while their parents enjoyed a cup of tea and cake. Easter eggs were a highlight at the Easter party; these days were all well supported. The Plunket room interior was updated with bright colours and new furniture replacing the borer ridden nurses table and chairs. A few items were donated to Pioneer Village. All fundraising opportunities were taken, these included barbecue and food stalls at farm auctions, slink calves, cake stalls, catering etc. Committee members took opportunities to attend Plunket Conference every 1-2 years, which was a great event not to be missed.

Carseat Co-ordinator meetings were held monthly at the Opunake Health Centre Boardroom which included a co-ordinator from Opunake, Manaia, and Auroa Plunket Committees. This was to organise new seats to be ordered, checking expiry dates and removal of seats from the system. Nearing the end of 2005/06 the committee made the change to hold all carseats in Opunake Plunket Rooms and employ a co-ordinator to issue carseats once a week.

Erin Ehrhorn

M	T	P	N
Micro	Tiny	Preemie	Newborn
1-2.5lbs 11-15"	2-4lbs 14.5-16.5"	3-6lbs 15-18.5"	5-8lbs 17.5-21"
.45-1.1kg 28-38cm	.9-1.8kg 37-42cm	1.36-2.7kg 38-47cm	2.3-3.6kg 44-54cm