

HISTORY

Elstow

The original name for this locality was 'Aylesbury', given by Mr Frederick Strange after his English hometown.

1878 Two brothers Edward and Allan Bowler purchased a block of land which ran alongside Bowler Road. At their instigation it was renamed 'Elstow', after their native village of Elstow in Bedfordshire, England. Bedfordshire was birthplace of John Bunyan, who wrote 'Pilgrim's Progress.'

1923 Elstow Hall was opened, with extensions added in 1952.
Elstow Bowling Club was formed in June 1951.

Elstow School

The original site proposed for Elstow School was on the Stanley Road/Bowler Road corner (11½ acres), but it was thought to be too far away and so the site of our School today was chosen.

1901 Elstow School opened on 1st April. Twenty pupils were enrolled. Miss Mary Butcher (who retired in December **1903** to marry Mr F Strange) was the first teacher.

The carving of Miss Butcher, which stands proudly in the centre of the school today, was carved from the Totara tree which she planted in **1901**.

1907 The first school library was opened.

1910 The school roll shows 31 children enrolled, with 29 ponies grazed on the school paddock!

1922 In May electric lighting was installed in the school.

1948 August - approval was given to have a telephone installed at the school.

1951 The memorial gates were erected in December. Inset into each gate post is a bronze plaque inscribed with the names of those who served, from Elstow. Each year an Anzac service is held and wreaths are laid at the gate in remembrance.

1953 The PTA (Parent Teacher Association) was introduced in September.

1955 Fire broke out in the ceiling of a newly erected classroom in June, destroying one classroom and part of another. The fire was caused by the pot belly stove in the classroom. Thankfully, the children were safely evacuated.

Eight tankers, loaded with water, from the Waitoa Dairy Factory, assisted the Te Aroha Fire Brigade. Lessons were conducted in the Hall during the rebuild.

1964 October saw the completion of the new toilet block.

1976 March—the new Library/Multi-purpose classroom arrived to commemorate the 75th Jubilee of Elstow School.

1977 November saw the opening of the new pool and facilities.

1982 Office area, sick bay and store room were added.

1994 New shed for sports gear built.

2000 11th May, the Elstow-Waihou Combined School Administration block was opened by Chairperson, Graeme Hallett.

2001 saw the merger of Elstow School with Waihou School—becoming Elstow-Waihou Combined School. The students from Waihou School started at Elstow-Waihou Combined School on 30th January 2001.

2005 The New Entrants classroom (old Room 1 / now Room 6) was moved to the rear of Room 5, to make way for the construction of the 'Endeavour'.

2005 The 'Endeavour' was opened by Mr Allan King (Ministry of Education) on 18th November.

Waihou School

1880 Waihou School began on 30th June 1880, with 15 pupils. Lessons were conducted in the Waihou Public Hall, which was on the site now occupied by the Waihou Interdenominational Memorial Church. When Waihou School began there was no other school in the area, apart from Paeroa or Hamilton. Pupils came from Manawaru, Aylesbury (now Elstow), Waitoa and Waihou. Mr Warren was the first Teacher as Waihou School.

1880 The first Waihou School Committee was formed.

1895 Waihou School opened in its new location in April 1895 on an 8 acre site, purchased from Mrs E Swney at £3 per acre. It consisted of one room and a porch. The building was built by William Stoup and cost £289.

1955 Waihou School celebrated its 75th Jubilee over the weekend of 24th, 25th and 26th June.

1980 A plaque was erected to commemorate the School's Centenary, 1880-1980.

2001 Waihou and Elstow Schools were amalgamated and the combined school site was established at Elstow.

2001 Waihou School officially closed on **15th March**.

References:

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