

service.<sup>28</sup> Hettie's marriage meant that her employment was automatically terminated.<sup>29</sup>

While enrolments through the Depression years fluctuated, the net enrolment remained steady. Victor Baudinette reported a net enrolment in late April 1934 of 57 pupils. (In June 1935 Head Teacher William McKernan reported a net enrolment of 54.<sup>30</sup>) Six months earlier, September 1933, school secretary Blanche Dickson reported that the school committee had decided to build an additional shelter shed 12ft x 15ft at an estimated cost of £40.0.0. The existing shelter had become too small to accommodate the students and was exposed to all weather conditions.<sup>31</sup> Correspondence on the matter was sent to W.H. Everard again seeking his assistance.

The school was prepared to contribute half the cost in erecting the structure, the usual subsidy arrangement prevailing at the time. In April 1934 Mrs J Brown, the secretary of the Ringwood North Mother's Club wrote to Mr Everard asking if he could "do anything to help us to pressure any help from the Education Department re supplying money for building (the) shelter shed at North Ringwood State School." She continued: "We are badly in need of a shed for the (girls), as they have no shelter apart from the school room during the winter months..."<sup>32</sup>

A shortage of funds meant that the Education Department regretted that it had to decline the request for a contribution towards the cost in erecting the shelter. In a letter to Mr Everard during January 1935, the Department advised that there were a large number of cases awaiting action with the Public Works Department..."many of which are for the provision of additional accommodation at schools which are overcrowded."<sup>33</sup> But by 10 April 1935, the result of characteristic perseverance on the part of the school community, the shelter was built at a cost of £35.6.0.<sup>34</sup>

With the ever present scarcity of fiscal resources and concern of the school committee to adequately ensure that the students were housed in a learning environment that gave optimal accommodation, Head Teacher Edwin Garing was reporting by March 1937 that the net enrolment of the school was 67, and that there were only thirty-seven cloak pegs available, "not nearly sufficient to meet requirements."<sup>35</sup> Now, cloak pegs could not be regarded as significant items in themselves, but a source of annoyance at best, given the increasing enrolment. Thirty

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<sup>28</sup> Attachment to Henrietta Hurdle's letter of the same date.

<sup>29</sup> A memo attached to the correspondence indicated that she could only be reappointed with the approval of the Governor in Council. This could not be secured unless it could be stated that she was the only qualified applicant or that she was the successful candidate at a competitive examination. (Memo dated: 28 April 1932)

<sup>30</sup> Correspondence Files, (VPRS: 640, Box 3001)

<sup>31</sup> School Building Files, (VPRS: 795, Box: 2970), Dickson to the secretary, Education Department, 18 September 1933.

<sup>32</sup> School Building Files, (VPRS: 795, Box 2970), Brown to Everard, 19 April 1934.

<sup>33</sup> School Building Files, (VPRS: 795, Box 2970), secretary, Education department to W.H. Everard, 15 January 1935.

<sup>34</sup> School Building Files, (VPRS: 795, Box 2970), Public Works Department Memo: E 8175, 13 April 1935.

<sup>35</sup> School Building Files, (VPRS: 795, Box 2970), Garing to the secretary, Education Department, 19 March 1937.