

A Two Keeper Station (1957-1968)

Year	Principal Keepers	Assistant Keepers
1957	<u>Temporary Keepers</u> James Sutherland James R. Smith	James Sutherland (Acting as Principal Keeper)
	<u>Temporary Keepers</u> Kenneth Frank Valentine	Kenneth Frank Valentine (Acting as Principal Keeper)
1958	Raymond James Johnson	
1959		Mr Shepherd
1960	Brian Frederick Mason	
1961		F.W. Roe
1962	Ronald Sears	J.H. Akula
		Michael W. Lloyd
1963		
1964		F.W. Roe
		I.A. Harris
1965	Peter John Rodda	Bryan M. Richards
1966		
1967		J R Murray
1968		

James Hector Sutherland

Rank: Acting Principal Keeper.

Work Period: 13-03-57 to 04-12-57.

Family: Single.

James Sutherland filled the role of acting principal keeper. It is not known if he had a full time assistant keeper – more likely he was helped by relieving keepers such as Kara Hepi.

Kenneth Frank Valentine

Rank: Acting Principal Keeper.

Work Period: 04-12-57 to 18-11-58.

Postmaster: from the 04-12-57.

Family: Wife ~ Name unknown.

Children (2) ~ 1 son and 1 daughter, names unknown.

Ken had an assistant keeper (name unknown), who had an accident while riding in the dinghy attached to the crane. Something caused the dinghy to descend rapidly with the assistant keeper in it – the result was a broken leg. The injured man was sent to the hospital. Russell based fisheries Inspector, Ivan Anderson, arranged for the teenaged Alan Baker (17-18 years old) to work on the station for the summer (for more on Alan see page 124).

Previously Ken had worked on the *Pamir*, a four masted barque launched in 1905. She had sailed under the New Zealand flag from 1941 to 1949, having been seized as a ‘prize of war’ in Wellington Harbour. During this time she made several trips crewed by men of the New Zealand Steamship Company. She is best known for being the last commercial sailing ship to round Cape Horn in 1949.

Raymond James Johnson

Rank: Principal Keeper.
Work Period: 18-11-58 to ??-07-60.
Postmaster: from the ??-01-59.
Family: Wife ~ Phyllis.

Mr Shepherd

Rank: Assistant Keeper.
Work Period: 07/08 1959.
Family: nothing known.

Brian Frederick Mason

Rank: Principal Keeper.
Work Period: ??-07-60 to 16-09-62.
Postmaster: from the ??-07-60.
Family: nothing known.

F.W. Roe

Rank: Assistant Keeper.
Work Period: 17-06-61 to ?? and 07-02-64 to 19-11-64.
Family: nothing known.

FW Roe also had multiple postings at Cape Brett as an assistant keeper. His visits seem to have all been for very short periods of time.

Ronald Sears

Rank: Principal Keeper.
Work Period: 16-09-62 to 05-11-65.
Family: nothing known.

Ronald Sears is the first principal keeper who appears in the remaining monthly reports which survived the Wellington fire (they are held in the National Archives and cover 1962 to 1978). Ronald's wife and daughter appeared in the *Auckland Star* during their stay at Cape Brett and probably win the prize for the most dramatic birth to occur at Cape Brett

J.H. Akula

Rank: Assistant Keeper.
Work Period: 05-04-62 to 15-10-62.
Family: Wife ~ Name Unknown.
Children (2) ~ 2 Daughters.

J.H. Akula was transferred to Cape Brett in April of 1962. He appears to have been the first regular assistant keeper since electrification. The Akula family included his wife and two young daughters, and in October 1962 the girls were recorded as being four years old and four months old.

Michael W. Lloyd

Rank: Assistant Keeper.
Work Period: 15-10-62 to 06-02-64.
Family: Wife ~ Sue.

Party Beats Stork to Lighthouse

Own Corrers. Russell.

After a seven hour struggle through heavy seas and a five mile trek along a cliff-top goat track on Saturday, a party of three men and a woman arrived at Cape Brett Lighthouse in time to deliver the head keeper's wife, Mrs R. Sears, of a baby daughter. A strong norwesterly swell prevented any boats leaving Cape Brett and at 3.30am, as the time of confinement came nearer, a fishing Launch, Kewpie Two, owned by Mr A.G. Fuller, set out from Russell for Paihia to pick up Dr R. Citrine and the Bay of Islands district Nurse, Sister I. Tulloch.

Barging its way through the waves, the launch hove to off Cape Brett, but the seas were too high to land anyone.

It was quickly decided to head for Deep Water Bay, on the leeward side of the Peninsula. Here the Doctor, nurse and two of the crew, Messers G. Cook and B. Meynel, of Russell, landed.

Scrambling up the steep sides to the Bay, the party, carrying a stretcher, reached a goat track. They followed this along the coast for five miles until they reached the lighthouse. Later at 4pm, the cry of a newborn baby told the men at the lighthouse that their trip had not been in vain.

A change in the direction of the wind enabled the party to embark at Cape Brett and they arrived at Russell late on Saturday evening.

Figure 128 – New Zealand Herald, Monday, 27 May 1963.

I.A. Harris

Rank: Assistant Keeper.

Work Period: 19-11-64 to ??-06-65.

Family: nothing known.

Peter John Rodda

Rank: Principal Keeper.

Work Period: 19-11-65 to 22-04-69.

Family: Wife ~ Lynley.

Children (2) ~ 2 sons, Thomas and Bryn.

Peter Rodda transferred to Cape Brett in November 1965 and was joined by his wife and two sons (in March 1967 Thomas was recorded as being four and a half years old and Bryn was six years nine months). Towards the end of his time at Cape Brett, Peter successfully interviewed for a job with the Lands and Survey Department and he resigned from the lighthouse service in April 1969.

Bryan M. Richards

Rank: Assistant Keeper.

Work Period: ??-06-64 to 22-06-67.

Family: Wife ~ Janet.

Children (2) ~ 2 daughters, Geridwen and Gwentyth.



Figure 129 - Peter and Lynley Rodda - tea time while painting one of the Stevenson's Island houses in the 1960s.

John R. Murray²⁴⁰

Rank: Assistant Keeper.

Work Period: 07-08-67 to 07-11-69.

Family: Wife ~ Dot.

Children (2) ~ 1 son, Roy, and 1 daughter, Lee.

John Murray was transferred to the role of assistant keeper in August 1967. John's posting at the Cape lasted just over two years and in November 1969 he was transferred to the Portland Island light. When he resigned from the service he joined the Lands and Survey Department and became the caretaker of Kapiti Island.

John's memories of Cape Brett include having to be really good with heights to be able to get up on the lighthouse dome to polish the copper with linseed oil. He also notes that the light at Cape Brett was much like any other to run and winding the weights was much like winding a cuckoo clock. He describes Cape Brett as a very busy place with frequent visits from launches, and that it was a fun place.

John also remembers the night of the *Wahine* storm when tropical cyclone Giselle hit New Zealand, on 10 April 1968.²⁴¹ The storm hit Cape Reinga on 9 April and in Northland caused a large amount of damage, flooding large tracts of farmland and drowning hundreds of farm animals.²⁴² At Cape Brett the keepers were warned that someone had taken a yacht out beyond the Bay so they spent their night watching for flares. The next morning the keepers were told that the yachties were rescued by the Navy.

The Proebstel Years and De-manning (1969-1978)

Year	Principal Keepers	Assistant Keepers
1969	Noel Probestel	Bill Chee
1970		Barry Skinner
1971		
1972		Steve O'Neill
1973		
1974		
1975		Ron Allen
1976		
1977		
1978		J. Scapens



Figure 130 - The Proebstel family and all their pets.

Noel Probestel

Rank: Principal Keeper.

Work Period: 13-06-69 to 25-09-78.

Family: Wife ~ Joy.

Children (3) ~ 2 daughters, Deborah and Vicki, and 1 son, Cliff.

Noel Probestel was the second longest serving principal keeper at Cape Brett serving 3392 days, or just over nine years. Before joining the service Noel was a fireman in Petone, Wellington. Noel changed professions because as a fireman he rarely saw his children whereas there was plenty of opportunity for family life in the lighthouse service.

Noel was considered the ideal keeper by the Marine Department and was the keeper who lobbied for permanent postings for principal keepers for longer than three years. This is the reason his posting at Cape Brett lasted until late 1978.

Noel was the last permanent principal keeper of Cape Brett before it was de-manned.



Figure 131 - The Chee Family.

Bill Chee

Rank: Assistant Keeper.

Work Period: 07-11-69 to 06-11-70.

Family: Wife ~ Kowhai.

Children (3) ~ names unknown.

Barry Skinner

Rank: Assistant Keeper.

Work Period: 06-11-70 to 15-03-72.

Family: Wife ~ Glenys.

Children (3) ~ 3 sons, Craig, other names unknown.

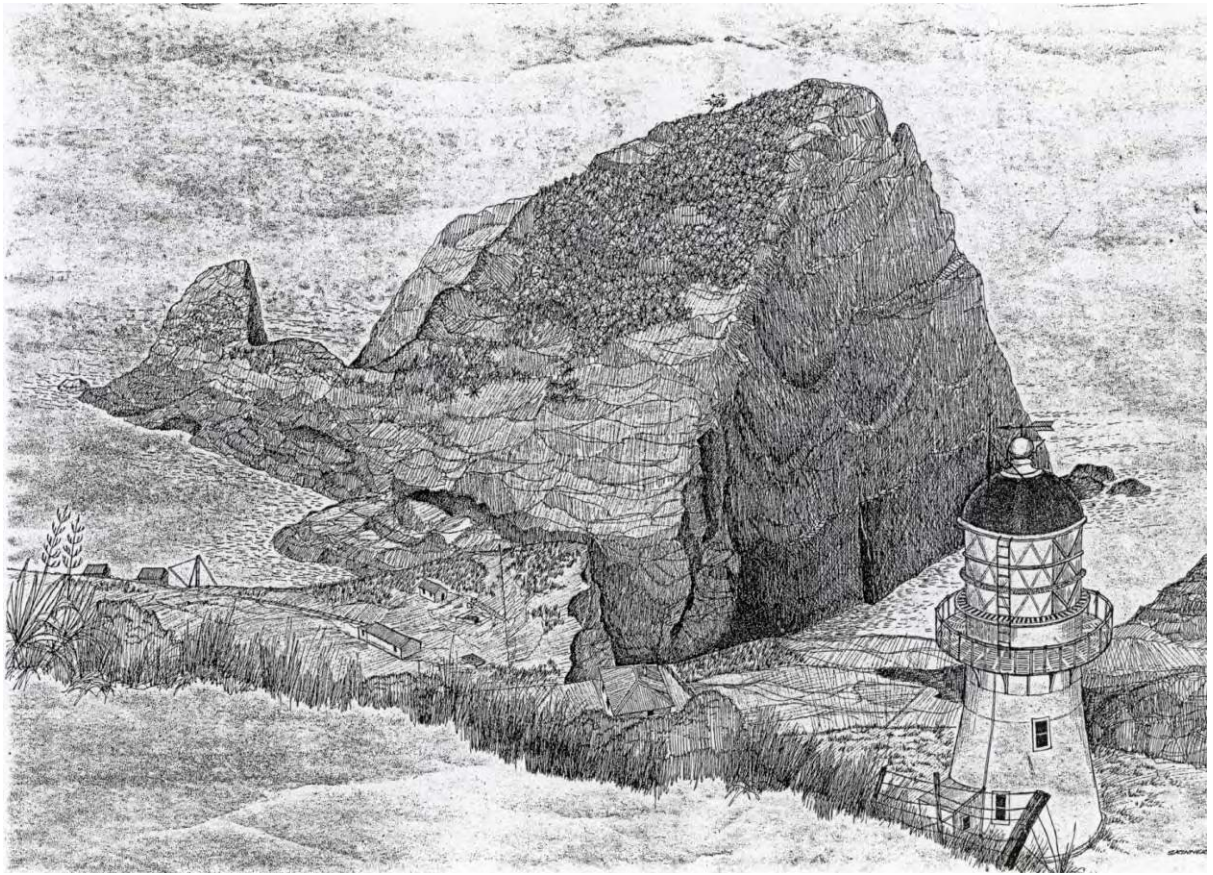


Figure 132 – Sketch of the Cape Brett station by Barry Skinner.

Steve O'Neill

Rank: Assistant Keeper.

Work Period: 29-03-72 to 16-10-75.

Family: Wife ~ Corinne.

Children (2) ~ daughter, Toni, and son, David.



Figure 133 – The O'Neills – Corinne, Steve, David and Toni.

Ron Allen

Rank: Assistant Keeper.

Work Period: 16-10-75 to 14-03-78.

Family: Wife ~ Val.

Children (3) ~ 2 sons, Geoffrey and Russell, daughter's name unknown.

J. Scapens

Rank: Assistant Keeper.

Work Period: 15-05-78 to 23-08-78.

Family: nothing known.

J. Scapens was the last long term assistant keeper stationed at Cape Brett. Unfortunately he fell to his death while goat hunting with principal keeper Noel Proebstel behind the old radar station.

The Last Months

As Noel had moved from the station to work on the Russell ferries from 25 September 1978, and Scapens hadn't been replaced after his death in late August, the remaining months of the Cape Brett Lighthouse operation fell to relieving keepers.

The last of those were F.I. Williams in the role of principal keeper and a Mr Hill in the role of assistant keeper. Williams arrived on the station a few days before Noel left for the inquest into Scapens' death (between 21 - 25 September 1978). He took over Noel's role as principal keeper as the Proebstels were due to shift to Russell. Mr Hill was brought in on 25 August two days after Scapens' death to take over his role as assistant keeper.

Both men were tasked with closing up the station and seem to have left at the end of September / start of October when the beacon - that still operates today - took over.

The "Last Keeper Letter" written by Noel sums up the lighthouse closure nicely (see Figure 134).

MINUTE SHEET

Subject:

Department:

File No.

Date:

To all interested Parties.

To—

At 0600 hours this 5th day of October 1978 the light house at Cape Brett was found to have given birth to a child of indeterminate sex. The child appears to be very bright of eye but weak in the body and due to the rugged weather conditions which it must endure its life is in grave danger and it is not known how long it will survive.

It is with the deepest regret that I have to report that the grand old lady of 68 years standing died in the giving birth and will be sadly missed by all who have tended her needs over the past years.

R. I. P

Her Last Keeper.



Figure 134 – “Her Last Keeper” letter written by Noel Proebstel and a photo from 2004 showing the word GOODBYE painted on the top right side of the dome .

The Supporting Cast, aka the visitors through the years

Relieving Keepers

The Marine Department generally hired single men aged 21 - 40 years as Relieving Keepers (RKs).²⁴³ They were just as qualified as the principal and assistant keepers but had less experience. However, 'men who [could] cook and fend for themselves [were] preferred.'²⁴⁴

The salaries, conditions, duties, application process, training and examinations for relieving keepers had a similar structure.²⁴⁵ The RKs would serve in the role of an assistant keeper until such time as they were fully trained and experienced to act in the role of a principal keeper.²⁴⁶

Their salaries were paid fortnightly with the standard relieving allowances; such as the station allowance, sleeping bag or bedding allowance. Daily allowances were the relieving duties allowance and the travelling and incidental allowances.²⁴⁷ Their annual leave was 28 consecutive days plus one day of recreation leave.²⁴⁸

Relieving keepers had a six week obligation to the Brothers Island Lighthouse in Cook Strait (the only station manned strictly by relieving keepers) before their 18 week stint at whatever other stations needed relief (as directed by the Lighthouse Service Station).²⁴⁹

Accommodation for the RKs at Cape Brett was the ex-second assistant keeper's house once there was no second assistant occupying it (the house was left fully equipped minus bedding). Before this the relieving keepers would reside in the house of whoever was on leave. They had to provide their own food and bedding, but were not charged rent.²⁵⁰

Travel between stations was via the Government steamers until it became the responsibility of the RKs to move between stations with department funding.²⁵¹ The department also provided funding for the RKs personal effects while they were in transit.²⁵²

Those Recorded at Cape Brett:

Akers, L.

- 1978 - January to 10th March.

Baker, Alan

- 1958 – November to December.

Bayne

- 1971 - 12th – 28th July.

Bradley

- 1976 - 14th March – 10th April.

Burch, J.B.

- 1967 - 22nd December 1966 – 18th January.
- 1970 - 21st May – 8th June.
- 1970 – December.

Burgess

- 1977 - 25th June – July.

Cattell, D.J.

- 1974 - 28th February – 18th March.

Clendon, Henry

- Multiple visits as a relieving keeper and visitor during 1930s and 40s
- Henry was a local man from Rawhiti who would ride his horse out to the station.
- Was also a returned serviceman from WW1.

Clendon, Heta

- Multiple visits as a relieving keeper and visitor during 1930s and 40s
- Was also a Rawhiti local and brother to Henry.

Cole

- 1963 - 12th June - ??.

Collet, G.I.

- 1964 - 13th August – 8th October.

Cook, B.

- 1976 - 19th June – 23rd August.
- 1977 - May – 6th June.

Coulter, R.

- 1970 – 30th January – 3rd February.
- 1970 – 28th October – 6th November.

Davies, Charles M.

- 1950 - June

Drew

- 1964 - January – 24th February.

Dunn, J.

- 1966 - 4th – 13th November.
- 1970 - 6th - 30th March.

Eagle, Murray

- 1971 - 10th - 31st December.
- 1972 - 14th – 31st January.

Ellis, D.

- 1968 - 11th September – 22nd October.

Ellwood

- 1978 - 4th April – 11th May.

Gray, T.

- 1973 - 27th July – 14th August.
- 1973 - 15th – 31st August.
- 1973 - 17th September – 5th October.

Halifax

- 1942 – February.

Hendrickson

- 1964 - 12th May – 13th August.
- 1964 - 23rd December - ??.
- 1966 - 20th October – 2nd November.

- ▲ 1966 - 18th November – 22nd December.
- Hepi, Kara
 - ▲ 1957 – October.
- Hickman
 - ▲ 1976 - 3rd – 10th April.
- Hill
 - ▲ 1978 - 25th August – 28th September.
- Hodson, C.
 - ▲ 1975 - 26th March – 10th May.
- Johns
 - ▲ 1963 - 10th – 22nd December.
- King
 - ▲ 1964 - 19th November – 23rd December.
- Kirk
 - ▲ 1972 - 15th – 29th March.
- Knight, B.
 - ▲ 1968 - 23rd April – 10th June.
- Lindsay, R.
 - ▲ 1978 - 9th March – 6th April.
- Madigan
 - ▲ 1973 - 23rd March – 10th April.
 - ▲ 1973 - 12th – 29th May.
- Marchks, G.
 - ▲ 1965 - ?? – 17th December.
- McBrcarty, P.A.
 - ▲ 1969 - 22nd April – 12th May.
- McQuaid, K.
 - ▲ 1971 - 16th May – 16th June.
- Moffatt, L.
 - ▲ 1975 - 29th November – 16th December.
- Nathan
 - ▲ 1946 – April.
- Newman
 - ▲ 1965 - 11th July - ??.
- O'Keefe, R.
 - ▲ 1967 - ?? – 22nd November.
- Peake, W.
 - ▲ 1968 - 11th July - ??.
 - ▲ 1969 - 12th May – 11th June.
 - ▲ 1969 - ?? – 23rd July.
- Pierson, R.
 - ▲ 1974 - 19th September – 24th October.
- Riding, M.
 - ▲ 1969 - 12th September – 15th October.
 - ▲ 1973 - 10th January – February.
- Scapens, J.
 - ▲ 1974 - 2nd – 23rd June.
- Thorson
 - ▲ 1975 - 5th September – October.
- Wallace
 - ▲ 1973 - February – 23rd March.
- Ward, L.
 - ▲ 1968 - 22nd October – 21st November.
- Watson
 - ▲ 1977 - 20th January – April.
- Williams, F.I.
 - ▲ 1963 - 17th February – 21st March.
 - ▲ 1973-74 - 5th December – 11th January.

Alan Baker ²⁵³

Alan was a teenager of about 18 and a unique case for the Cape. While Ken Valentine was acting principal keeper Alan was brought on for the summer holidays to replace the previous keeper who had broken his leg. Alan had just finished his final year at school and was waiting to head off to university when Ivan Anderson (a popular local Russell character who worked on the service ship *Tainui* and for the Fisheries Department) recruited him for a short term as a lighthouse keeper. Alan worked on the station for two months, November and December 1958, and left before Christmas. He was most likely the youngest paid keeper to have worked at the station.

Alan recalls that he would work every second day — rising at around 6am (depending on sunrise) to pull the curtain around the light and send the first coded weather report for the day. The next weather report was between 12 and 12.30 and the last was sent at 6pm when he would walk back up the hill to start the engine for the light. Once the sun had set he would pull back the curtain and switch on the light. Each week Alan also polished the lens.

During his time off he would often fish at Piercy Island and go goat hunting. Alan stayed with the Valentine family and remembers eating a lot of ‘standard 1950s food’ such as tinned corned beef.²⁵⁴ Fresh meat was rare, unless they hunted goats or fished (catching snapper, trevally and groper).



Figure 135 – Alan Baker standing on the lighthouse dome, 1958.

Alan’s father ran a local game fishing boat in the Bay of Islands and used to frequently stop to visit his son. He would arrive with home-baking from Alan’s mother who would seal the baking in a kerosene tin. Delivery was achieved by Mr Baker throwing the tin to Alan — who had rowed out to meet him — though if the father’s aim was off, the son would have to swim after the tin.

The Navy Personnel

The Navy personnel were divided between the signal station and the radar station. Originally the signal station was manned by two men. This increased to five in mid-1941, then six in 1943.²⁵⁵ Reports suggest there were six to 14 men posted at the radar station. The length of the men's stay varied, and appears to have been up to six months for the signal station though only six weeks for the radar station.

Rod Sinclair was stationed at the signal station from October 1942 to April 1943.²⁵⁶ He was the Senior Naval Rating in charge until his transfer in April and kept a daily activities diary during the war.

“6.10.42 — Very busy all day. Coal and oil arrived by barge. Heart and back-breaking work heaving slings up to the block by crane and hand windlass. Murray went over to Pig Gully and got 19 lbs of fresh mutton from Puke Cross [station]. R/T broke down this morning and try as I might I couldn't get a peep out of it. Wasted about 4 hours tinkering with the damned thing this afternoon then did a bit of carpentry work on the back shed. Sent some gear back to Naval Store, Whangarei by barge. Mosquitoes and sandflies gave me hell down the block this am. 'Wahine', 'Grenadier' and 'Betelguese' and USS 'Clarke' passed early this morning.”²⁵⁷

R.J. Orman was stationed at the radar station for six weeks in 1944.²⁵⁸ He had just returned to New Zealand from the Solomon Islands and considered Cape Brett a rest period before being deployed back overseas. He recollected that there were probably two radar mechanics and about 12 operators at the station at one time. There was no designated cook so they all took turns preparing meals. He remembers the great fresh fish meals that he had caught and cooked.

Table 1 - Names of some of the signal station personnel.

Name	Rank	Arrival-Departure
Burrows (Burroughs), Joe	Leading Signal	1942 – Oct-42
Cookson, Jack	Sig	1942 – 1943
Davidson, Bill	Sig	1942 – 1943
Griffiths, Bob	Sig	1942 – 1943
Johnson, Bill	Sig	1942 – 1943
Kane, Bill	Ldg Sig	Apr-43 – 1943
Longley, Murray	Sig	unknown
Neary, Fabian (Max)	Sig	1942 – 1943
Porter, George	Sig	1942
Rattenbury, Derek (Basil)	Sig	1942
Sinclair, R.O.	Ldg Sig	Oct-42 – Apr-43
Stoddard, Frank	Sig	1943

Table 2 – Names of some of the Radar Station Personnel.

Name	Rank	Arrival-Departure
Bill	unknown	1942
Blow, Colin C.	Petty Officer in Charge	Dec-43 – Mar-44
Chick	unknown	1942
Chris	unknown	1942
Cliff	unknown	1942 – 1943
Finklestein	LRM	1943
Grear, Aussie	Operator	1944
Green, Len	Operator	1944
Heath, Laurie	unknown	1942
Joe	unknown	1942
King, R.	Sig	1942-43
Lou	unknown	1942
Marklew, ??	Lieutenant	1942
O'Conner, Jim	unknown	1942
Orman, R.J.	unknown	1944
Oscar	unknown	1942
Phipps	Lieutenant Commander	1943
Pitt, Vaughan	P/R	unknown
Purvis, Bob	unknown	unknown
Robinson, Robbie	Operator	1944
Ryall, Bert	Petty Officer in Charge	1944
Simpson, ??	Naval rating/ Petty Officer	unknown
Thomas	LRM	1943
Thorne, Bernard	Petty Officer	1943
Wedge Charlie	unknown	1942



Figure 136 - LSig Sinclair, Sig R King and Sig Murray Longley down at the landing.



Figure 137 - LSig Sinclair and Stg F Stoddard at the Signal Station.

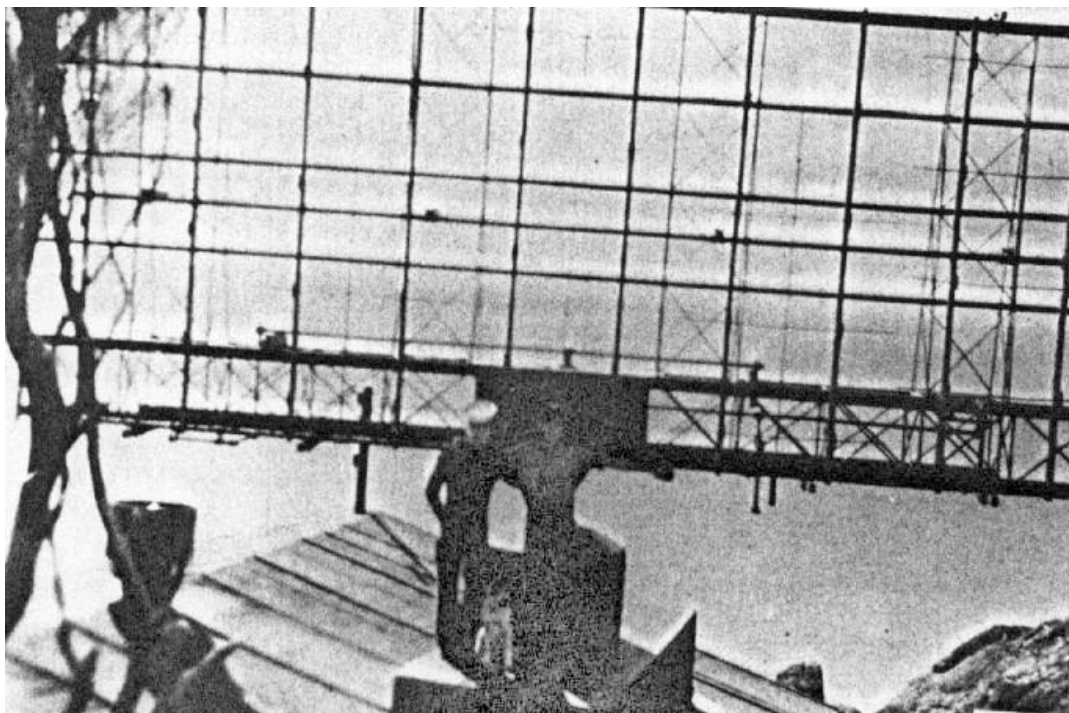


Figure 138 - By the radar aerial, mounted above the operator's hut.



Figure 139 – RJ Orman’s arrival at Cape Brett.



Figure 140 – The camp buildings with the navy crew enjoying some good weather. The radar hut and aerial are at the top, while the building to the right was the living accommodation.

Teachers

The records of the Cape Brett School held by the Auckland branch of National Archives of New Zealand show that in the 13 years from 1931 to 1944 the children were taught by 10 different teachers.²⁵⁹

The first teacher, Miss Annie M. Smith, arrived in March 1931 to teach the six children enrolled for the school's first year. She arrived on the Government ship the *Clansman* from Auckland and immediately started teaching. Miss Smith seems to have been an excellent teacher about whom no complaints were ever made by the parents. After teaching for just under two years she moved in August 1932 to a better paying job.

The teacher employed to finish the 1932 school year was Miss Joyce Reeve Dunbar, appointed to start from 6 September with a roll of 10 children. Miss Dunbar finished the year and was employed again the following year to replace a Miss Annie A. Jones of Pakaraka who taught for only a month before resigning in early March 1933. Miss Dunbar was regarded as a brilliant teacher and this was reflected in the school inspector's report from 1933. The children's level of education was considered to have been far advanced for their ages (or standard levels – what is now considered as year levels). Miss Dunbar left for the Christmas holidays on 16 December 1933 and decided not return.



Figure 141 – Mrs Joyce Quarrie (nee Dunbar) on a return visit to the station, 1978.

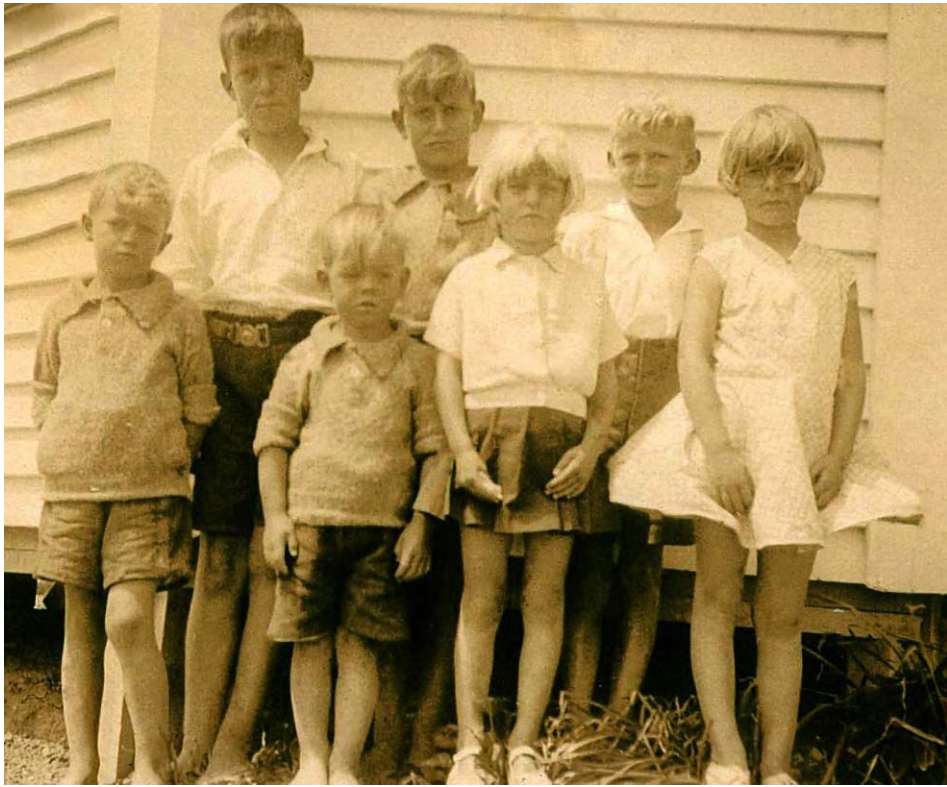


Figure 142 – The 1932 school photo.



Figure 143 – The 1933 school photo.

The change in principal keepers in 1933/34 also saw a request to the Auckland Education Board that in future only male teachers be sent to Cape Brett because of certain rumours that had been circulating. The board complied and employed Mr H.G. Atkinson of Auckland as the new teacher.

.Mr Atkinson arrived in February 1934 to teach the 10 children and was followed by Mr S.A.J. Faville who started in September 1934 with nine children and continued until the school was closed due a lack of students in December 1935.

The school was opened again in July 1937 after the Jamieson family was transferred to the station and instantly increased the number of school aged children to nine. The teacher was Mr V.D. Tapper who had previously taught both the Emmens boys and Jamieson children when they were stationed at the Cuvier Island Lighthouse. In November the roll was increased to 13 with the arrival of the Tennent boys.



Figure 144 - Mr Spittal and the Webleys at Pig Gully.

The Cape's seventh teacher, Mr A.P. Spittal, began in 1938. He taught the Jamiesons, Emmens and Tennents till the following year when the roll was reduced to eight in August because of the transfer of the Emmens family. Mr Spittal is known to have spent a lot of his time with the newly-arrived Webleys as they were similar in age (see Figure 144). In 1939 a third form was established for the benefit of one of the students.

In 1940 a Mr P.J. Quinn was originally hired to take the children for the year but he cancelled before the start of the term. He was not replaced until 21 May 1940 by Mr J.T. Gunn who stayed only until July, before being replaced by Mr D.L. Sutherland. Mr Gunn apparently owned an organette which he brought with him to the station, but sold to keeper Jamieson before he moved on.²⁶⁰

When Sutherland arrived in August 1940 the roll had steadily declined to five students by December. Sutherland resumed his role as teacher for the following school year, but had to leave in January 1941 when he received his first call up to the territorial forces. He returned until he received his second ballot which he suspected would send him overseas. The roll had now been reduced to three and though the school should have immediately closed the board chose to leave it open until Mr Sutherland was called to service soon after May 1941.

In March 1944 the keepers had again shifted and the arrival of the Bateman family meant the number of school aged children rose to nine. The school board had a lot of trouble trying to find a teacher and so approved of Miss Winifred Jamieson teaching for the year. Miss Jamieson was happy to take on the role as she intended to enter teacher training the next year. She proved to be the Cape's tenth and final teacher. The school was finally closed at the end of the 1944.

Visitors

On 10 January 1963 the keepers had the pleasure of welcoming the Deputy Prime Minister, John Marshall, and the Minister for Customs, Norman L. Shelton. In 1972 Mr Marshall was elected Prime Minister leading a National Government, his term preceded that of Robert Muldoon.

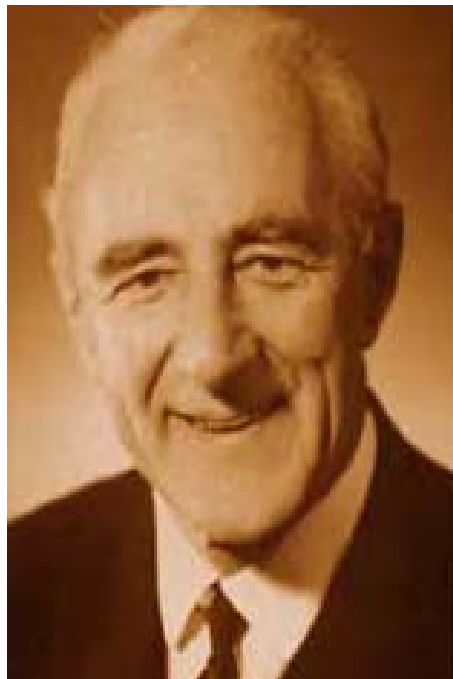


Figure 145 - Mr John (Jack) Marshall visited the station in 1963.

The Special Air Service (SAS) also visited the station in September 1963 for a military exercise. Generally, station visitors tended to be either tourists or the workmen who were sent for a specific purpose.

Sailors

Captains and their crew also have fond memories of the Cape Brett light. Allan Phillips worked on various ships between 1948 and 1987.²⁶¹ He estimates that he passed the lighthouse at least 197 times. One passing, during the mid-1950s on the scow *Pearl Kasper*, was made during a gale and Phillips recalls that while he and a crew member were struggling with the scow's sail the Cape Brett light seemed to fix on them and helped them to furl the sail.