

WHO CARED?

Childhoods within Hawke's Bay Children's Homes and Orphanages 1892-1988

Kay Morris Matthews

2013

This book (now in its 2nd edition with an additional 60 pages) provides unique insights into atypical childhoods lived within institutions that most have forgotten or have not known existed in New Zealand. It explores the ways in which one province dealt with the care and custody issues associated with orphaned, illegitimate, abandoned or destitute children from 1892 to 1988 and of Hawke's Bay's eight children's homes and orphanages. Drawing upon institutional archives, school and government records as well as personal collections, this book explores the intersections of benevolent care, state protection and education. Central to this are first-time individual narratives of children who lived their childhoods within these institutions. Their stories bear testimony to a 'culture of toughness' in the delivery of care and education to children whose circumstances left them with nowhere else to go.

Who Cared is at times harrowing, at times comforting, yet it is most importantly always enlightening. *Who Cared* exposes one of the many neglected aspects of colonial life – providing insight into the heart-breaking lives of the Nineteenth and early Twentieth century poor of Hawke's Bay, and those who cared sufficiently about the plight of local children that they were driven to act. This is regional history of a quality that one only rarely encounters and is to be savoured as a major achievement in its field.

Douglas Lloyd Jenkins, Director/Manager, Hawke's Bay Museum and Art Gallery

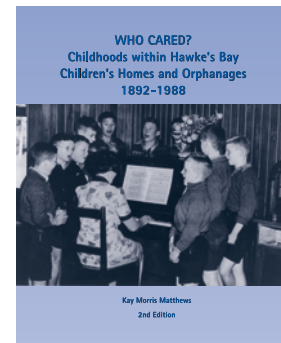
'This book reflects our experiences of being raised within a Children's Home where no love was evident. However, we were given security and were well looked after, which was needed at this time.'

Jill Baker (nee Rees) and Betty Chittick (nee Rees) raised at Abbotsford Home, Waipawa.

I enjoyed this book. Kay Morris Matthews is a gifted story teller and has captured the experience of the children in these homes in Hawke's Bay with compassion and charm. This is an important piece of the history of childhood of New Zealand and deserves to be read by all those with an interest in children.

Dr Russell Wills, Paediatrician, Children's Commissioner

Author Kay Morris Matthews is well known internationally as an academic historian of education. Her published work has canvassed New Zealand education history and policy including two books focused on Hawke's Bay education. Kay came home to Hawke's Bay in 2008 where she is Research Professor at the Eastern Institute of Technology.



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