

Cornaigmore School was extended in 1936 as a secondary school, with central heating, electric lights and running water powered by a windmill at the loch. *When I went to Cornaig I was fair thrilled to bits because they had toilets. I thought it was very posh!*

PUPIL FROM RUAIG, 1950



Mairi and Iain Paterson walking to Balemartine School along Sorobay Beach 1937



School sports

Teachers kept order using their personalities. *I hardly remember a discipline problem at that school [Scarinish in 1933]. If you did offend the teacher and there was a problem and your father got to know you got another hammering. The view was that anything you got from the teacher you deserved... Miss Nisbet had this power over you. Not only had you let yourself down, but you had let Katie Nisbet and the school down... She wasn't just our teacher, she was our mother, our father, she was our grannie. She knew our birthdays and gave us a sweetie.* ANGUS MUNN, HEANISH

The man who exerted the greatest influence on Cornaig School was Mr MacDougall, headmaster there from 1938 to 1969. *You always got so many spellings every week to learn and then you got this test on a Friday and for every spelling you got wrong you got one whack of the belt. Oh! [Mr MacDougall] would be strapping away for about half an hour. The girls got the belt too. Yes!*

ARCHIE MACKINNON, CORNAIGMORE



Headteacher Allan MacDougall and his wife Alice

Mr MacDougall really encouraged Gaelic. *In Ruaig, all we learned about was raffia-work and useles things. I think the teaching in Cornaig was the best I've ever had. There was good education, good discipline and good encouragement.* PROFESSOR DONALD MEEK, CAOLAS
Mr MacDougall died in 1969 after he fell into the sea at the Gott pier trying to protect the paint on his beloved car.



Pupils getting off the school bus at Cornaigmore

In the 1970s Ruaig, Scarinish, Balemartine and Heylipol Schools closed and all children were bussed to Cornaigmore. In 1980 Cornaig became a six year secondary, meaning, for the first time, that pupils could have their entire schooling on the island. Many children had to walk to school. *Many a time you were soaking wet going to school and that was you all day, wet.* ANGUS MACKECHNIE

In the autumn you always had the pleasure of stealing turnips from the field. You wouldn't pinch them from your own field; you pinched them from next door's field. We didn't have sweets or chocolates or biscuits. So to get a nice fresh turnip was a real treat.
MABEL MACARTHUR, HOUGH, WHO WALKED FROM MOSS TO HEYLIPOL SCHOOL IN 1940

Balemartine School, like Ruaig and Heylipol, had a large number of foster children from Glasgow from the 1930s to the 1960s. In 1953 the roll of the school was 61, of whom 38 were foster children.

Donald went to Oban and took his 'Highers' [Exam] and was ready to go to University, but my mother was a widow and just couldn't do it. He had to go to sea [although] he didn't like the sea. I think it's very wrong that a poor man's son shouldn't have the same chance as the rich man's son. ANNIE KENNEDY, SCARINISH

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