

Kate Sheppard

Did you know that in the past girls weren't allowed to go to school because they had to stay home and help their mothers with chores. This made them feel insufficient because they felt like they were being disrespected and hated because of their gender.

Last term, we went to the New Brighton Museum and looked at all of the cool objects they used back in the day. We listened to stories about famous people and learnt what the objects were used for. I was interested in why women were treated differently and why they had to stay home all the time.

Men were treated like they were better than women because according to most people they were stronger and more important to society. I think that women didn't have a chance to speak up about why they think they should have had the same rights as men did.

Over the years there have been lots of women that have changed New Zealand from what it was in the past to what it is today. For Inquiry I have chosen to find out about one of these women. The woman I have chosen is Katherine Wilson Sheppard.

Kate Sheppard gathered 32,000 women to protest on why women should be able to have their own rights. Isn't that crazy?!

Katherine Wilson Malcolm was born on the 10th of March 1848 in Liverpool, England. When her dad passed away in 1862 her family left Liverpool. February 8 1869 they took the Matoaka to get to New Zealand. Kate was the first woman to run for women's rights. Women's rights means "The Rights Of Women by Law to vote ".

In 1893, she and other pioneering women campaigned so later that year, New Zealand became the first nation in the world to grant women over the age of 21 the rights to vote. To get her votes, she got a telegram from a man named Richard Seddon who was a politician that served as the 15th Prime Minister at the time and she was told to send it out to women of New Zealand to help her get votes. 3 years later she became the President of the National Council of Women in New Zealand. Imagine how hard that would be for her, being a woman in a time like that when all of that happened.

Kate had over 13 petitions and her longest one was 270 meters long. After she had died, thanks to all her hard work the first ever woman entered parliament .

Kate passed away on the 13th of July 1934 at the age of 87 years old. She died peacefully in her home on Clyde Road in Riccarton, which is now bordering the University Of Canterbury.

I strongly believe that people should look up to Kate Sheppard

because of the person she was and the leader she became throughout her life. When she passed away, a newspaper obituary proclaimed “ A great woman has gone, whose name will remain an inspiration to women of NZ for a very long time.

No matter who threatened her and no matter what they said she kept on going and did what she wanted to do.