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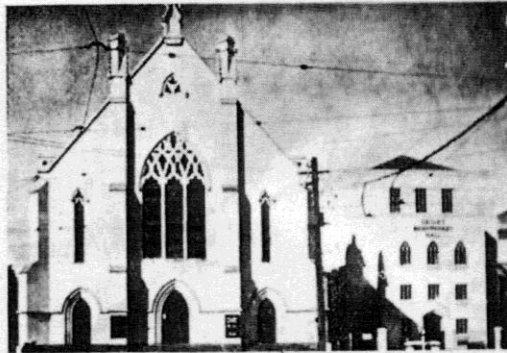
JUBILEE

1951

Wesley Young Men's Institute

"The Utmost for the Highest"

Pitt Street Methodist Church
AUCKLAND



CHURCH AND BI-CENTENNIAL HALL

FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE FOR THE YOUTH OF AUCKLAND

JUBILEE GATHERINGS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH—Re-union in Club Room, 7 p.m.
Banquet in Sunday School Hall, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH — 11 a.m. Family Jubilee Re-union Service,
Pitt Street Methodist Church.



A Message from the President

Rev. R. THORNLEY M.A. *President*

Greetings to all member of W.Y.M.I.—past and present.

This Brochure provides an outline of W.Y.M.I.'s life through fifty years. The name W.Y.M.I. for many of us speaks of rich and treasured experiences: hours in the clubroom, on the sports field and in the fellowship of the Pitt Street Methodist Church. Creative leisure, fuller living, the Christian faith and gospel, all this and much more W.Y.M.I. has meant for hundreds of boys and young men.

Were we able to have a full roll call of our Jubilee gatherings, it would be an impressive list. There are the names of those who have become prominent in church and community life, and all would acknowledge their debt to W.Y.M.I. our motto, *The Utmost for ihc Highest* was set before us by word and life.

We share the past and give thanks to God.

We face the future with confidence for the Living God who has sustained the Institute through fifty stirring years is our abundant sufficiency.

In W.Y.M.I. bonds,

ROBERT THORNLEY



1901 CHURCH and WESLEY HALL – Corner Karangahape Road

IN THE BEGINNING 1901

Interested in the idea of combining the existing activities for the young men of the Pitt Street Methodist Church, four young men (Bob Clarke, George Eyre, Jim Muldoon and Bert Whitehead), were discussing the question in the Gymnasium Wesley Hall, when they decided to seek the guidance of the new minister, the Rev. C. H. Garland. His knowledge of Trinity Young Men's Institute, at that time a flourishing organisation in Wanganui, was first-hand news.

The information gathered that evening at the Parsonage, adjoining the church, confirmed the opinion of the "Quartette" that there could be a "Wesley Young Men's Institute"—W.Y.M.I.—and it was so . . . 50 years ago.

The first meeting was held on 9th September, 1901, but no records of that meeting are available—but a second, held on 23rd September, 1901, confirms the previous meeting and with Mr. A. Peak in the chair, the main business was electing the new, and first officers of the W.Y.M.I.

The list contains many well-known Methodists:—

President, Rev. C. H. Garland; Vice-presidents, 30 were elected, but found too large a number; Associate Secretaries, T. H. Martyn, R. Clarke; Treasurer, E. B. Gunson. The first committee elected was: F. M. Winstone, Sid Harvey, J. H. Gunson (later resigned, taken by S. M. Barry), A. Wilson, E. Preston.

The subscription was fixed at 5/- for the year, and the name of Wesley Young Men's Institute was adopted rather than Pitt Street Young Men's Institute.

At the next committee meeting the list of the Vice-Presidents was reduced to six and the number not to be more than ten. Did all 30 of the Vice-Presidents arrive at the same time?

Vice-Presidents, Messrs. S. J. Ambury, T. W. Jones, J. W. Shackelford, C. Winstone, T. McMaster, W. Gunson.

Activities: Gymnasium—The building created some difficulty, as a hall with a suitable gymnasium would have cost £400, a large sum for those days, so the club was granted the use of Wesley Hall which at that time was in Karangahape Road. Prof. Potter had the use of Wesley Hall for a Gym and it was decided to offer Mr. Potter £20 for his gym fittings as they stood, including a bath, the Professor to act as the instructor.

The minutes of the next few years show much progress, concerts being an annual affair to raise money. The sub. now stood at 1/- to join the W.Y.M.I., but if members wished to join the other clubs, football or literary, etc., there was a further fee. The original roll stood at 20. In 1916 it was to have over 70 members.

There was football for all ages in the Winter, and cricket in the Summer. Gymnasium was held on Wednesday nights, Literary and Debating Society was also in full swing. About 1906, an orchestra, conducted by Mr. Harold Light, was affiliated with the club, They certainly had a “go” at anything in those days, didn’t they!

In 1907 the “Lookout Committee” was first formed and its definite duties were “to welcome young men to the church.” What a great job this committee has done through the years. The original members were: W. Muldoon, R. Gunson, W. Mack, S. Marks, J. Stanton.

In 1909 the W.Y.M.I. Glee Club was reformed and the Secretary was instructed to approach Mr. T. T. Garland to secure his services as conductor. Band of Hope meetings with the “White Cross League” were held regularly.

One interesting item appears in 1910: “The Secretary reported that Mr. S. J. Ambury had again offered his usual supper to the W.Y.M.I.” What memories does this supper bring back to you old members?

The committee in 1910 were considering a Tennis club, a Rambling and Camera club and Messrs. J. Halstead and J. Wilson were the subcommittee formed.

A club room for activities was given considerable thought by the members, various schemes were drawn up, one, that the room be painted a light green; and on 25th February, 1912, the club-room was officially opened by the Rev. W. Ready, the present minister, assisted by the Rev. C. H. Garland, who was the first life member of W.Y.M.I.

The one room proved too small and in 1912. the committee were approaching the Trustees to have half the Wesley Hall for their own use. This was granted and a voluntary working bee was formed, with the Trustees providing the material. And on 10th February, 1914, the new hall was opened.

The famous W.Y.M.I. sign first appeared on the side of the Wesley Hall in 1915 when Messrs. C. Payne and S. Gribble, between them, offered to paint same; and for 36 years now it has shown its witness.

1916 saw an Air Rifle Range outfit purchased and permission to use the old club room under the Hall granted. A Roll of Honour was now started as many members were on active service and on 18th April, 1917, a temporary board was unveiled. The minutes showed several changes in the personnel of the club as members were called up for active service, but still the club carried on, juniors taking over as the older ones left. One name first appears in 1919, a name that for many years was to carry the W.Y.M.I. message—that was G. C. Riddell (Snowy), who was a member of the social committee for that year. In 1921 he was secretary and he held this position for many

years, and made the name Snowy Riddell and W.Y.M.I. a password of hospitality in Auckland city.

The first “Ring the Gallery” Rally Tea was held on Sunday, 2nd July, 1922, the preacher being the Rev. Ready, members of W.Y.M.I. assisting.

The canteen in W.Y.M.I. was first established in 1929 and since then it has served a useful purpose as the proceeds have gone to club finances.

The well known Electric light was installed on 15th July, 1929, for the sum of 24/-.

The years from 1925 saw much progress, and the work consolidated and every branch of W.Y.M.I. flourished. Boys’ club on Friday nights had regular attendances of 70 to 90 boys. Bible classes were well attended, and at every camp, W.Y.M.I. in their conspicuous jerseys were a familiar sight. Mr. Harry Halstead and his class attended camps throughout New Zealand thus bringing the name to many parts of the Dominion.

The gymnasium club was again formed and it is still a strong side of the present day institute. The Men’s club on Tuesday night attracted many men, and today the Indoor Bowls has a strong following. Every night the hall was lit up, giving help and assistance to men and boys.

The outbreak of World War II saw many boys joining up, and once again several fine leaders gave their lives. It was necessary to curtail many activities, but the younger boys came forward and kept the W.Y.M.I. doors open. Re-organisation after the war proved a big hurdle, but thanks to the keen unselfish efforts of the few, W.Y.M.I. has again a large team of willing fellows all out to give of their best in the interests of the church and youth.

Today W.Y.M.I. is growing again, every department reporting huge attendances and in every walk of life in New Zealand, and especially Auckland, prominent men can claim association with our club and church.

In 1940 the new Bi-Centenary hall was opened and the old Wesley hall is now serving as the Mission Bay Church.

The Utmost for the Highest

This famous motto of W.Y.M.I.—where did it come from? And who first thought of it? Does anyone know? For fifty years it has been the club motto and what a lot it has meant to the members. We pride ourselves, as the Bible Class Union in New Zealand use it as their motto as well, and it has also served as an inspiration to thousands of Bible Class members throughout New Zealand.

PRESIDENTS

1901—Rev. C. H. Garland	1926-1928—L. B. Dalby
1906-1908—J. H. Luxford	1928-1934—W. Walker
1909-1913—W. Ready	1935-1950—E. T. Olds
1914-1919—C. H. Laws	1950—R. T. Thornley
1920-1925—P. W. Knight	

SECRETARIES

1901—Associate Secretaries, T. H. Martyn and R. Clarke	
1902—R. Clarke	
1905—R. Gunson	1918—H. Halstead
1907—A. G. Marshall	1919—N. Paton
1908—A. D. Whitehead	1919—K. J. Rosser
1909—W. S. Stewart	1921—G. C. Riddell
1909—C. O. Eyre	1925—R. Crawford
1910—S. B. Houghton	1925—K. Scott
1911—J. Halstead	1926—F. Davidson
1915—A. Stephenson	1928—A. Hodgekinson
1916—A. D. Whitehead	1929—G. C. Riddell
1916—K. J. Rosser	1939—W. H. Elliott
1918—W. Jupp	1951—C. J. McGregor

LIFE MEMBERS'

*Rev. C. H. Garland	*S. J. Ambury
*J. H. Muldoon	*T. McMaster
T. B. Arthur	*R. Clarke
A. D. Whitehead	H. B. Halstead
J. T. Halstead	C. C. Riddlell
K. J. Rosser	E. J. Atwell

* Called to higher service.

W.Y.M.I. FOOTBALL CLUB

This club fielded three teams; in one of them, in 1903, several well-known names appear—Messrs. C. H. Poole (who was later elected member of Parliament for Auckland West), Dr. E. B. Gunson, Mr. F. M. Winstone, Mr. J. Tyler, and our evergreen Bert Whitehead. The aim of the club was “not to win games, but to provide clean and manly sport for its young men.” And for over 30 years, the maroon and gold colours were to be seen on the playing fields of Auckland. During the years, teams have won their championships and some very fine players were drafted to the senior clubs. The married men still play the single men each year and the trophy is a shield made from wood out of old Wesley hall.

1907: 2nd Grade Championship. Matches played, 14. Won 13, lost 1.
Goals for, 47; against, 4. In seven years twice been third, three times runners-up and finally Champs.

1921: 4th Division Championship. Matches played. 14. Won 12, drew 2.
Goals for, 53; against, 3.

TENNIS CLUB

This club was formed in 1910 with J. Halstead and J. Wilson the original members of the committee, and for many years the club had several homes in Auckland. One interesting item occurred in 1923 when land available opposite where the Western Springs playing field now stands. The land, 100 x 132. could have been purchased for £300! In the year 1931 the club was located at the Grafton School grounds in Nugent Street and finally, in 1946, they combined with the Grafton Club and their headquarters are now behind the Collegiate Church.

During the years the club has successfully contested in the churches' competitions and a high standard has been maintained.

CRICKET CLUB

The first meeting of the club was held in 1903 and for many years W.Y.M.I. was represented in the summer games and played under the churches' own association. During the last few years, however, tennis and other attractions have proved too strong a draw, and now the club is in recess.

1928-1929: 3rd Grade Championship. Matches played, 17. Won 15. drawn 2.
For wickets 148, average 22.7; against 220, average 8.3.

LITERARY AND DEBATING CLUB

June 1897, was the beginning of this club and for many years was one of the strongest clubs associated with W.Y.M.I., and the year's syllabus show very interesting lectures and discussions. Many members gained valuable experience from debating at these meetings.



**INTERIOR OF THE
OLD CLUB ROOM
– Wesley Hall**



1903 FOOTBALL TEAM

Matches played, 11. Won 7. Drawn 2. Lost 2.

C.H.Pooler, Vice-Captain, G.Eyre, E. Winstone, A.D.Whitehead, R.W.Whitehead, W.Haddock
 J.Muldoon, Rev. C.H.Garland, President, J.Tyler, S.J.Ambury, Vice-President, C.Duffus
 C.N.Booth, F.Harvey, F.M.Winstone, Captain, W.J.Mears, R.W.Gunson.
 Absent: A.Wilson, E.B.Gunson.

Present Day Activities of the W.Y.M.I.

Monday	....	....	....	....	Ambulance, Cadets
Tuesday	....	....	....	....	Indoor Bowls Club
Wednesday	....	....	....	....	Gymnasium
Thursday	....	....	....	....	Badminton
Friday	....	....	....	....	Boys' Club
Saturday	....	....	....	....	Tennis, Soccer
Sunday, 9.45 a.m.	....	....	....	....	Bible Classes
Sunday, 11 am.	....	....	....	....	Sunday School

We Want You to be One of Us

1951 Executive

President: Rev. R. Thornley. M.A.

Secretary: C. J. MacGregor **Assistant Secretary:** R. Elliott

Treasurer: W. Paterson

Committee: Messrs. W. Elliott, K. Rosser. D, Bennett, M. Graves