

*Souvenir Programme*

PRICE : 3d.



*Official Opening*

NEW PLYMOUTH Y.W.—Y.M.C.A.  
COMMUNITY HOUSE

By Mrs. A. ALEXANDER  
(PRESIDENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS)

On TUESDAY, 14th AUGUST, 1934

*A Venture in Applied Religion and Social Service.*

# New Plymouth D. W. — D. M. C. A.

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# PROGRAMME OF OFFICIAL OPENING

By Mrs. A. ALEXANDER  
*(President of the Board of Directors)*

TUESDAY, 14th AUGUST,  
1934, at 2.30 p.m.

2.30: Mrs. Alexander will arrive at the front entrance, where she will be met by His Worship the Mayor (Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour), Mrs. E. A. Walker (first President of the Y.W.C.A. in New Plymouth), Mr. E. J. Carr (Chairman of the Building Committee), and Mr. T. H. Bates (Architect).

After the official turning of the key, the assembled group will pass through the hall into the new gymnasium, where the ceremony will be continued.

1. Hymn—Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow.
2. Prayer—Rev. J. D. McLennan Wilson.
3. Chairman's Remarks—His Worship the Mayor.
4. Address—Mrs. E. A. Walker (First President).
5. On behalf of the National Council Y.M.C.A.—Mr. R. M. Brasted.  
(National Secretary Y.M.C.A.).
6. On behalf of the Advisory Board—Hon. J. McLeod, M.L.C.
7. Vocal Solo, Selected—Miss Francis Nicholson.
8. On behalf of the National Council Y.W.C.A.—Mrs. Carmichael  
(Member National Board of the Y.W.C.A.).
9. Address—Rev. F. Copeland (President Ministers' Association).
10. On behalf of Taranaki District—Mr. S. G. Smith, M.P.
11. Hymn—Now Thank We All Our God.

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GOD SAVE THE KING.

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*At the conclusion of the Ceremony an inspection will be made  
of the Building.*

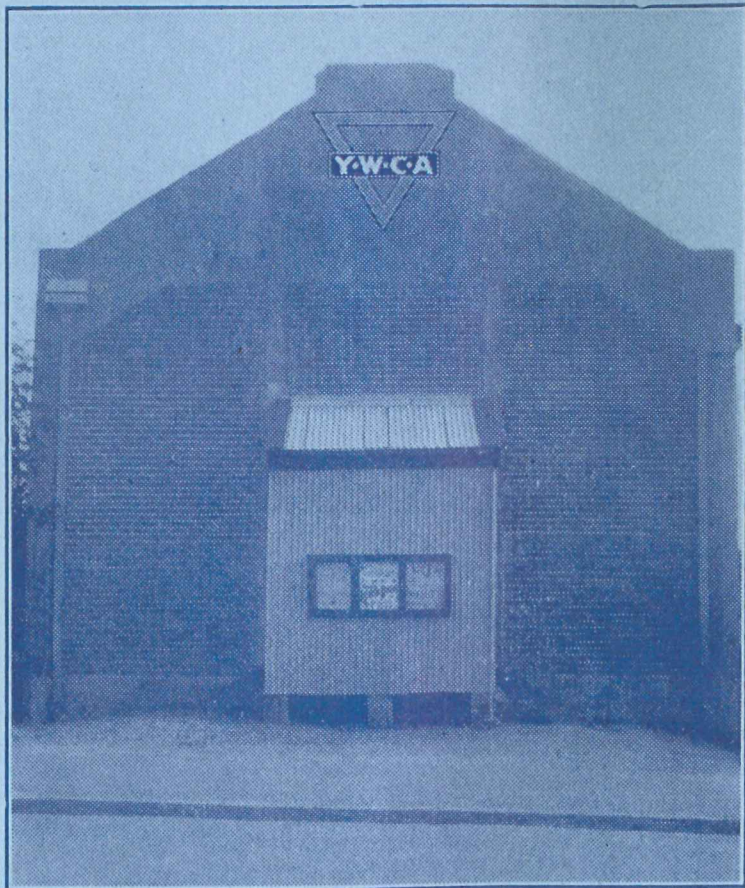
*Visitors are asked to make full use of the opportunity of  
inspecting the Community House.*

## Information about the New Community House

The additions to the Y.W.-Y.M.C.A. Hall in Powderham Street cost £2215 and of this amount the New Plymouth public has subscribed approximately £800. A debt of £1500 remains on the present building.

The extensions consist of a splendid gymnasium 65ft. x 28ft., with shower and dressing rooms; a men's club room 28ft. x 20ft., a club room and office for the Y.W.C.A. Staff, and an office for the Y.M.C.A. Staff.

These, in addition to the existing Hall 44ft. x 28ft., with stage and dressing-room accommodation, kitchen and club room, provide New Plymouth with one of the most up-to-date Association Community Houses in the Dominion.



*Front view of the first administrative building around which the new additions have been made.*



## YEARS OF PROGRESS.

The dated record appended gives the briefest indications of the growing service of the Y.W.C.A. and Y.M.C.A., but enough is here to make clear to all friends of youth that these Associations bear a vitally important relation to the growth of efficient citizenship.

### 1844

The First YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION was founded in the City of London by George Williams (later Sir George) and his fellow-workers. The original room may be seen, preserved intact, in the building of Messrs. Hitchcock, Williams and Co., in St. Paul's Churchyard.

### 1855

Miss Robarts and the Hon. Mrs. Kinnaird began the work which in 1877 resulted in the establishment of the first YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION. The first Hostel was erected in Upper Charlotte Street, London.

### 1877 - 1920

These two Associations spread throughout the entire world and are now to be found in over fifty different countries.

### 1920

A meeting in New Plymouth of a Girls' Hostel Committee was held in Mr. Baily's office. There were present: Mesdames J. Clarke, C. H. Burgess, C. Weston, A. Ambury, T. C. List, A. Alexander, Neal, O. Blundell, H. Baily, and Miss Pratt. Later there were added Mesdames E. A. Walker, W. H. Skinner, Mills and Miss L. Harrison. Also Messrs. T. C. List, J. McLeod, C. Weston, W. H. Skinner, P. J. H. White and H. Baily.

### 1921

Chatsworth House purchased and established as the Clarke Memorial Hostel, and under the control of the New Plymouth Young Women's Christian Association, Inc. Officially opened by her Excellency Lady Jellicoe in October. First President of the Board of Directors, Mrs. E. A. Walker.

### 1926

Mrs. A. Alexander became President of the Board of Directors.

### 1929

March.—Y.W.C.A. Hall built. It was officially opened by Miss E. Law, National General Secretary of the Y.W.C.A.

### 1932

Mr. R. M. Brasted, National General Secretary of the Y.M.C.A., met with citizens to consider the establishment of the Y.M.C.A. in New Plymouth.

### 1933

March.—Boys' Club inaugurated by Mr. A. E. Foster and later assisted by Mr. W. Toomey. This was the first real practical step in the formation of the Y.M.C.A.

May.—A Citizens' Committee appointed to establish the Y.M.C.A. Messrs. E. J. Carr, W. N. Stephenson and F. S. Grayling were appointed as a men's executive.

June.—First official Y.M.C.A. Groups formed for active work.

August.—Visit of the World Y.W.C.A. President, Miss C. M. Van Asch van Wijck, and the World Y.W.C.A. General Secretary, Miss Charlotte Niven.

### 1934

March.—Ground broken for new additions to the Hall to provide for the amalgamated Y.W.-Y.M.C.A. sufficient space and equipment to carry on the youth work of New Plymouth.

August.—The completed building officially opened by Mrs. A. Alexander, President of the Board of Directors.



## The Future

The progress of the Association does not, of course, end with the completion of the new building. The vision of our responsibilities penetrates far into the future. Friends of youth, reading the summary "Years of Progress," and viewing the work being accomplished in New Plymouth to-day, will readily appreciate the financial burdens we are carrying.

It is not generally understood that out of the faith and foresight of the past and present directors this vast service has been constructed. At no time have they flinched from assuming financial obligations in order better to equip the oncoming generations of citizens.

The New Plymouth community has readily and loyally supported the Association, recognising that membership fees must necessarily be kept at a minimum in order to accomplish the greatest good. Yet so long as our staff and active friends are compelled to give a large proportion of their time to raising adequate necessary maintenance, more progressive work is being kept in check. A continuance of public generosity in these difficult times can largely alleviate our financial problems and be a concrete gesture of helpfulness to the youth of New Plymouth.

It is now about 85 years since these two international organisations were founded. Eighty-five years of accomplishment in the field of dynamic community service. What of the next 85 years? They are yours to be moulded, yours to be filled!

*"Look then at your History and take courage."*

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If, after reading this Booklet and observing our work, you desire to invest in the building-up of character and citizenship you may do so in many ways:

1. By becoming a SUSTAINING MEMBER, paying annually a small subscription.
2. By making a donation to the Association, marking it:
  - (a) For general purposes;
  - (b) For girls' work;
  - (c) For boys' work;
  - (d) For Sinking Fund.
3. By remembering us in Endowments and Bequests.



# The Events of the Opening Week :

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## Tuesday Afternoon—

Official Opening Ceremony at 2.30.

## Wednesday Evening—

GRAND OPENING BALL IN THE NEW GYMNASIUM.  
An event of real community importance. Music by  
M'Neill's Orchestra. Double Tickets 7/6.

## Thursday Evening—

Members and Friends' Ball in THE NEW GYMNASIUM.  
A night of merriment for active members and their  
friends.

Music by Martin's Orchestra. Double Tickets 5/-.

## Saturday Evening—

The PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION to Members and  
Friends. A Family Night for All. Community Singing.  
Concert Items. Address by Mrs. E. Dawson, of the  
National Board of the Y.W.C.A. Informal Dancing.  
Supper. Admission 6d.

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SUNDAY.

SUNDAY.

SUNDAY.

## Thanksgiving Service

IN THE NEW Y.W.-Y.M.C.A. COMMUNITY HOUSE.

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**Speaker : Rev. Dr. C. R. Mitchell (Ph.D.) M.A., B.D.**

Dr. Mitchell, before becoming a Minister in the Independent Church, was Director of Religious Work in the Melbourne Y.M.C.A., and later Y.M.C.A. Secretary in Russia, a position he held at the time of the Revolution. He is at present Minister of the Wellington Unitarian Free Church.