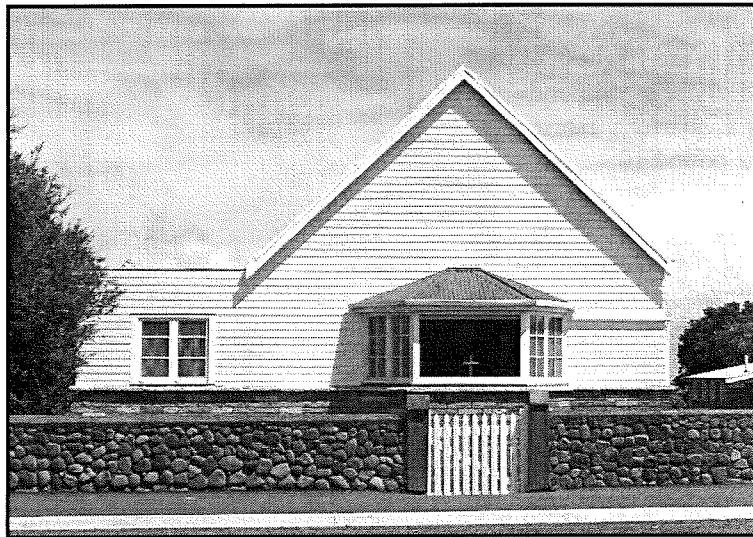


RAHOTU METHODIST CHURCH AND CAMPSITE

The first church building was erected towards the end of 1897, financed from a loan of 250 pounds from the Oddfellows Lodge in New Plymouth. This loan was repaid in full in 1908. The first Minister was Rev J. H. White, in charge of the Coastal Circuit. Official opening. Sunday 16th January 1898, service conducted by Rev. Bard of Wanganui. No further records available till 3rd November 1905, when Rev Herman Foster wrote a memorandum in which a very high tribute was paid to Rev White, his wife, daughter and son (H. Temple White, later a very well known Organist) for their untiring and dedicated service to Church and Community in many ways including music.

It is not known from whom the land was purchased; an area of just over three acres, is still Church property, a portion being leased, the rest for Church and building associated with same. A group of Church Trustees was elected in 1905, to control the running of the Church finances, care of buildings etc. The old Parsonage residence is now being used by the Play Centre. In 1906 the church was insured for 175 pounds, Organ 12.10 pounds and shillings, Furniture 12.10 pounds and shillings. A lot of voluntary work has been done over the years, as funds have not been too readily available. The ladies did their share, and held bazaars, flowers etc. and helped with finance, and also provided many items to add to the comfort of the Church. About 1912 a vestry was added to the back of the Church, cost about 99 pound, which also included repairs to the Church. Until 1930 regular maintenance was kept up, and in 1930 the Vestry was enlarged and partitioned for a kitchenette, with sink, copper for hot water, and an open fireplace. Vestry area was fitted with movable partitions for Sunday School class areas. Carpenter, Mr G. Robertson, Rahotu, cost 109 pounds, 1 shilling and 9 pence. In 1943 the inside of the Church was painted, stained and trimmed for 35 pounds 15 shillings by Mr Reardon, Opunake.

On 26th November 1955, the Foundation Stones were laid by the late Mrs Alice Jane Dawson, and the late Rev. E. F. Olds, for the Church Hall, which was built in front of the Parsonage. Mr Bert Parker, Waitara, carpenter, with voluntary labour from and church groups throughout Taranaki. Building officially 24th March 1956. The has been a big asset to the being used by Sunday many organisations, including camps from as afield as Auckland and Wellington. The ablution was built in 1958 to serve Church and Hall. In 1961 Church was renovated,



Rahotu Methodist Church 2009

entrance porch was removed, a new sanctuary added, with a large window, (donated by the late Mrs A. M. Billing) facing the Mountain, Ministers room on the South side of the Church, and the main entrance is now on the north side leading into a roomy Vestibule between Church and Vestry. In 1969 the Vestry was enlarged, kitchen rearranged, toilet facilities added, plus a large window in Vestry, now Fellowship Lounge, Venetian blind for window kindly donated by Mr and Mrs V. Pentelow. About 1965 three concrete dormitories were built, complete with bunks, handbasins and hot and cold showers. Most of the work was done with voluntary labour; in charge, Mr Maurice Worth, of Auckland, from the Order of St Stephen. These dorms can accommodate 80 people.

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Over the years, the Ladies' Guild, now Fellowship, have been very supportive with funds, also carpet in lounge of Minister's Room, Sanctuary, and aisle of Church. Vestibule floor covered also. In 1973 three extra hot points were added in camp kitchen, and in the grounds are 3 caravan points.

The Hughson Family have been associated with the Rahotu Methodist Church since 1905, and over the years have given many years of Christian service to Church and community, and in 1946, as a memorial to the late Mr & Mrs T.P. Hughson Snr, a beautiful communion table with two matching chairs, were placed in the Church and in later years the Hodson Family donated a baptismal font in memory of their parents, the late Mr & Mrs W. Hodson. The hymn board was presented by Mr & Mrs W. Clarke.

From approx., 1920 to 1931, there were four Maori Home Missioners stationed here. They were Rev Papakukura, Rev Rakena, Rev Pihama, Rev Maki, working among the Maori folk and assisting the other Ministers, who were then based at Okato. During the 1920's the coastal area was divided and Rahotu became part of the Opunake circuit.

Rahotu Methodist Church celebrated the 50th Jubilee on December 5th with a special church service, preceded by a Garden Party on the 4th December. The late Mr C. W. Field resigned as Secretary of the Trust after serving from 1908 to 1951, his devoted Christian service has been recorded, as have the services rendered by the late Mr T. Clemence and the late Mr Alan Symons.

The Campsite is now known as Camp Egmont. Church; Wesley Rahotu Cooperating. Present Trustees; L. Penelow, A. Hamill, G. Moratti, L. Lewis, D. Symons, C. Washer, C. Pentelow.

Church and fittings present replacement value \$101,000.00. Over the years, many fine Ministers have come and gone, but all have left, with us feeling it has been good to know them. Our present Minister is Rev Ian Millar. He and his wife Dorothy have many friends not only in our own church, but with all other denominations. God bless them

Glory to God in the Highest.

1905 Minister's Stipend 45 pounds a quarter. Horse Allowance 2 pound 10.

1924 Ministers Stipend 62 pounds quarterly. Travelling Allowance 12 pounds and 10 shillings.

1952 Minister's Stipend 412 pounds annually.

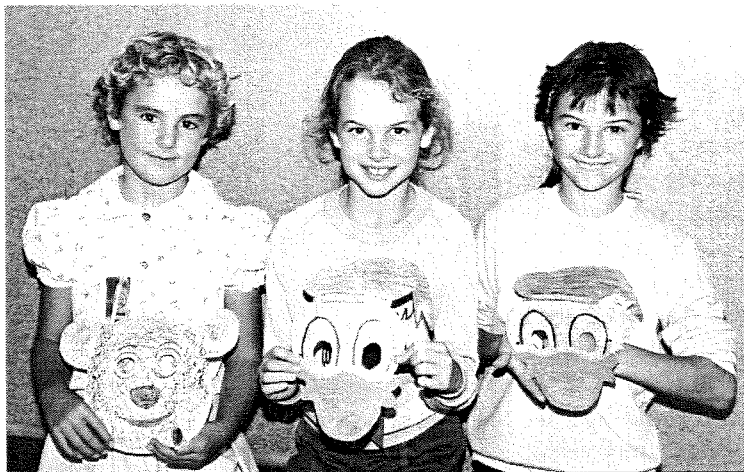
The Methodist Church and Camp site continues

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Egmont Youth Camp

Our camp was built and first established in the 1950's by local church members with the idea of providing camping facilities for visiting/local youth groups. The focus being for scouts, cubs, guides, brownies, boys' brigade and schools. Easter Camps drew huge numbers many of whom slept in the school hall next door.

Our camp has continued its journey with highs and lows. Changes in the committees over the years have kept the camp alive.



Jody Symons, Lia Billing, Andrea Gilberd



At present, our very enthusiastic committee has the grounds and buildings looking and functioning really well. We are able to accommodate camps of up to 50 people in bunkhouse plus caravan plugs and tenting ground is available.

The Church is in the same grounds and for some groups may be an attractive asset to their camp programme. The adjacent school sports areas, baths, and playground are also available with the appropriate consent from the school staff.

Our camping facility welcomes family camps, whanau groups, schools, retreats and a quiet country space away from the hustle and bustle of urban life.

Wesley Church

“What a great little church!” – a comment from a young local. “Why isn’t the communities using it? Can we have a look inside?”

“By all means – you are more than welcome. Come on in!”

“Wow! This is awesome – why can’t we have church services?”

“We can! Let start next Sunday. Will you be here?”

From this conversation, began the revival of our community fellowship within Wesley Church Rahotu ...

Our unique little country church was built in the 1890’s – a very traditional style of building for those years even using established in-ground boulders as some of the foundations. Large congregations and enthusiastic Sunday School children met weekly to share in worship.

In the 1950’s the structure of the church was changed adding the entrance porch on the side and the feature window at the front. The pews were reversed to allow parishioners to view our beautiful mountain.

We had a grand celebration for our centennial in 1997. Many people travelled great distances to share memories and renew friendships. We were fortunate to have many past ministers return to our community to join in our celebrations.

Sadly, as the older members of our congregation moved on, services became less frequent until four years ago, when our church doors re-opened in response to God’s stirring amongst the local people

During this time we have celebrated several weddings and many baptisms. Services are held on the first Sunday of each month bringing together a great number of our local community. It is especially exciting to see parents bringing children to hear the Word of God.
