

Wesley Central Mission

1893 – 1977

Details

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The Wesley Central Mission was established in 1893 on a site next to the Wesley Church in Lonsdale Street. At that time, the area was known as the 'back slums' of Melbourne and was notorious for opium dens, gambling houses and places of ill-repute.

The Mission established a range of institutions which have supported single mothers, orphaned or abandoned children (most famously through the former Tally Ho Boys' Home), helped victims of domestic violence, and provided support for alcoholics and work for unemployed people with special needs.

In the Mission's centenary history, Howe and Swain note that it was a 'highly gendered organisation'. The male Superintendent led the Mission, assisted by two or three male ministers and a male committee. A notable superintendent minister of the Mission was Irving Benson, who held the position from 1933 to 1967.

The congregation and staff of the Mission were predominantly female, and women were prominent in activities to assist women and children. Male managers ran the institutions for men and boys.

The operations of Wesley Central Mission were governed by a General Committee, which met quarterly from 1893 until 1939. The major decision-making body was the Executive Committee, also established in 1893 and comprising the Superintendent minister, the Organising Secretary, the Honorary Treasurers and representatives from the General Committee.

In 1939, these two bodies were superseded by a new Managing Committee.

More info

Chronology

- **Wesley Central Mission (1893 – 1977)**
 - Wesley Central Parish Mission (1977 - 2001)

Related Entries

Ran

- [The South Yarra Home \(c. 1878 - c. 1936\)](#)
Date: 1895 -
- [Tally Ho Boys' Training Farm \(1903 - 1986\)](#)
Date: 1903 - 1977
- [Girls' Memorial Home \(1922 - 1973\)](#)
Date: 1922 - 1973
- [Moreland Hall \(1936 - 1946\)](#)
- [Lincoln House \(c. 1939 - 1950\)](#)
- [South Yarra Hostel \(c. 1974 - c. 1982\)](#)

Resources

- UnitingCare Victoria and Tasmania, *Uniting Church in Australia: agencies in Victoria delivering substitute care services*, April 2008

Records

Records held by other organisations

- ['Closed' Agency and General Correspondence Files \[Charities Board of Victoria\] \(1923 - 1983\)](#)
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