

Napier District Masonic Trust W T Dobson Scholarship



Who was William Thomas Dobson?

Bill Dobson was born in Stratford on the 31st December 1899. He qualified as a lawyer in Auckland and after a short time practicing as a lawyer moved to Napier to set up his own practice in the early 1930's.

He was a man with a strong personality, lots of energy and a sharp intellect. Ultimately, he became the senior partner of a firm known as Carlile, McLean & Co. and remained in practice at the firm until the early 1980's. He was one of a few lawyers who practiced law for over 60yrs.

Work Ethic

Bill was a man of routine, who always came to work in a dark grey fedora hat as was common in those days. He arrived at 0800, took exactly one hour for lunch between 12.30 – 13.30 and left the office at 1700hrs. Before leaving the office, he would write a list of matters to be attended to the following day and as each matter was completed, he would cross it off the list. Every day he created a new list; this was a matter of strict routine.

Napier District Masonic Trust

Bill was one of the founding fathers of the NDMT which was incorporated in 1961. He wrote its first Constitution and was their first chairman.

W T Dobson Settlement Trust

In 1981 Bill created the W.T. Dobson Settlement Trust. When he set up this Trust, he recognised that the NDMT favoured the elderly and infirmed people and thought that something needed to be done for the youth of Napier. Accordingly, his trust left a third of its capital to be administered by the NDMT for the purpose of giving scholarships to students for tertiary education.

The other two thirds were left equally to the YMCA and the Napier City Council.

The W.T. Dobson Trust Scholarships commenced in 1994. Since that time approximately 120 students have received scholarships and approximately \$600,000 has been paid out to these students.

Bill died in 1988, he and his wife Levia had no children

Bill would have been delighted to see how beneficial his WT Dobson Scholarship Trust has been to past applicants and will continue to assist Napier students into the future.