



William Hewitson was born to immigrant parents in the Australian colony of Victoria on October 25, 1860. He grew up in the mining town of Clunes, where his father worked as an engineer. As a boy Hewitson was studious becoming proficient at Latin, French and mathematics.

He attended boarding school from the age of fourteen and demonstrated a deep faith even at this early age. At sixteen he went to work as a clerk in a drapery establishment, moving three years later to become a clerk in the Union Bank of Ballarat. By the age of 25 he was a manager in the frontier gold town of Annandale, often sleeping in the bank with a loaded revolver at hand.

At age 27 he entered Ormond College, Melbourne, where he decided on a career in the Presbyterian Church – a big change for a man raised in the Methodist faith. On completing his training he was ordained as a Junior Minister in the Presbyterian Church of Brunswick, Victoria, where he remained for seven years.

In 1895, Dunedin's Knox Church began the process of calling a new minister. The incumbent minister, the Rev. Dr. Stuart, was dying and the congregation had resolved to invite ten ministers from Australia and New Zealand to minister to their parish for one

month each. The first man to occupy the position was Hewitson and such was the impression he made that it was to him they addressed their call when Stuart died.

Hewitson threw himself into parish ministry and his reputation as a teacher and speaker grew with each sermon he gave. The Rev. Andrew Cameron of Andersons Bay Presbyterian Church shared his vision for a residential college and theological hall and Hewitson became an enthusiastic supporter in securing the site and raising funds for the construction of the College.

In 1908 Hewitson was named as first Master of the College and he encouraged a mix of divinity and non-divinity students to provide a more worldly life for his students.

When he died on 8 December 1932 such was the extent of loss felt by the College community that a fund was opened for a memorial to him. A stained glass window was placed in the Ross Chapel, as was a brass plaque, honouring his memory and his contribution to the College.

Since then, two further memorials to Hewitson have been erected. The first was in 1955 when the colleges four separate libraries (including the Paterson Library) were combined to form the Hewitson Library. In 1998 the Theological Hall Block was renamed the Hewitson Wing.

Hewitson is buried in Dunedin's Northern Cemetery but sadly the headstone has fallen and is partly buried in the mud.