

BELMONT ALBION



May 2014

FROM THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Happy 21st Birthday Belmont Albion!

Yes our recent installation marked a youthful 21 years and we all enjoyed a slice of birthday cake courtesy of Vic Fabian. It was fabulous to have the first Master of BA 45, Murray Morrissey, present and of course still holding office as the current Immediate Past Master. One could be excused for thinking he has been in office the entire time!

The installation went extremely well and I thank all those involved behind the scenes in the planning and preparation of the evening. I particularly note Mrs Bev Jones' assistance in the set up of refectory.

The first standing committee meeting was an opportunity to outline the plan for the year ahead, as well as consider a number of important matters. Included was the desire to increase our visiting and to find visits that as many as possible can attend, - made trickier by the fact that there is only one Entered Apprentice working for May throughout Auckland, - mark your diaries! My encouragement is for all to attend our "Team BA" visits, and you will see a schedule of these in the newsletter covering the next two months. Mentoring and education are receiving special attention from Paul Copper, and I encourage all mentors to think about their role as friends, advisors, guides, and yes leaders to those they mentor. Be active!

The strategic planning committee is reviewing our performance with respect to the strategic plan, and will be making recommendations on any amendments to the plan. Likewise they will advise on any issues they believe we must address. An early signal is to conduct the exercise entitled "The brethren have spoken", which is a gathering of views on a range of topics from our members. This was instrumental in establishing the current strategic plan and many of our practices.

Benevolence is also a hot topic, with a sub-committee examining the best use of our funds and also how we



might apply activity to this important aspect of what we do. I note the outstanding success of Lodges Albany and Orewa which recently raised \$15,000 for Hospice through hosting a "High Tea" event. A superb effort and an inspiration to what can be achieved for a worthy cause.

And thirdly, we will be reviewing our accounts to ensure we remain in a fiscally sound position so that we can prosper into the future. Naturally these items all interconnect and the August Standing Committee should see a bringing together of reviews so that we take all matters into account in re-setting our overall direction.

I am excited that this year will see two 50 year badges given to the two Franks. Frank Arnott in June, and Frank Ansell in December. These are very special celebrations and I encourage all BA brethren to attend. In the meantime I hope to see you at Camaraderie night in May with our esteemed speaker Dr Frances Pitsilis.

Matthew Rea-Rankin

FROM THE EDITOR

Many Brethren will have attended the Dawn Service on Anzac Day and be thinking that 100 years ago on the 28th July 1914 the 'war that was supposed to end all wars' broke out.

The same thought crossed my mind when compiling the '100 years ago' piece for the Newsletter. Reading the record of Lodge meetings it is difficult to imagine what thoughts were going through the minds of the Brethren as they attended Lodge and went about their daily lives with the sabre rattling in Europe getting ever louder. It will be interesting over the coming months to see how the awful events that were happening so far away and ultimately claiming 17,697 New Zealanders lives, effected the workings of Albion Lodge No.45.

On a much lighter note, last month saw the 22nd Installation of the Master in the 21st year of Belmont Albion No. 45. The celebration in the refectory being highlighted by a wonderful birthday cake presented to the Lodge by Vic Fabian.

It has been requested by a number of Brothers that the Masters programme be included in the Newsletter, in addition to being shown on the Notice Paper. So from this month the current and following months activities will be shown.

Editor: ba45.editor@gmail.com

MASTERS INSTALLATION

The work of the evening was the Installation of the Master and his Officers and it was performed with the smooth efficiency one would expect with a Master entering his second term. There is little more that can be added to comments made on other pages but to record two quotations which encapsulate the evening, one from a speaker in the refectory the other from our Ritual.

From the Refectory:

"I always enjoy visiting Belmont Albion as I am met with such warmth and friendship it almost feels like coming home"

From our Ritual:

*As happy we have met
And happy we have been
So happy may we part
And happy meet again*

The only words that can be added come from from Michael Palin CBE's immortal comment "Say no more – Say no more"



2014/2015 LODGE OFFICERS



Back row:

Russell Ward, Dave Barr, Matthew Rey-Rankin, Murray Morrissey, Paul Copper

Front row:

Daniel Laird, Carlo de Guzman, Mark Rowley, Frank Ansell, Sean Neely, Brendan Patterson

Not present:

Noel Whiley, Keith Eaglesome, Graham Haxell, Wayne Jones, Nelson Webster

MASONIC MISCELLANY

Out and About with the Secretary

Great to see so many B/A Brethren at our recent Installation. 31 of our own turned out to witness Matthew receive the Masters Collar for the second time. We appreciate the effort he personally put in to adding 'Lustre' to our Lodge. In his Second Term we look forward to being part of assisting him to put polish on that 'Lustre'.

We had the pleasure of having WBro Scott Treadwell PM Farmington Lodge #151. Grand Lodge of Michigan, join with us at our Installation Meeting. Scott sent a note saying:

*"It was a great pleasure to meet your Brethren of the Belmont Albion Lodge No. 45 and that if any Brother from our Lodge should be planning a visit to the Detroit area feel free to give them my email address. You all will be welcomed with the same friendship as you extended to me" Fraternal Regards, **WB Scott***

Another Visitor from afar who attended our Installation and gave greetings, was Bro Rory Browne, Lodge Claremont 931 SC. South Africa.

Noel Whiley has been able to return home after having a recent knee replacement.

Nelson and Fran Webster have been visiting Wellington.

Mark Rowley has had a short break in Australia

Listening to Sport Radio just now, about "Team Culture and Desire" and if you haven't got it. You don't Win !! . Reflecting on this, and our own Lodge desire to keep on improving. I believe that the B/A Team has that Winning Culture.

Dave Barr

MASONIC BIRTHDAYS

09/05/1978 - G.L. Foote
09/05/1985 - S.G. Mill
21/05/1985 - C.A. Thompson
14/05/1986 - A.J. Pengelly
12/05/1987 - G.J. Haxell

100 Years Ago

Correspondence

From Messrs Nicholson & Griffin enclosing a/c for legal expenses. The account was referred to W. Bro Barry who undertook to interview the above firm with respect to a disputed item in the a/c.

Expenses

The sum of one pound one shilling was given to the Plunket Nurse Fund and five pounds agreed to be handed over as the Lodges contribution to the fund for assisting Bro. P.H. Wood.

The Treasurers Balance was declared as being Bank a/c £32.7.9. In hand £31.14.9. The following a/c's were passed for payment. Printing 1/5/-. Gas Co. 10/4/-. McMintire Refreshments 1/6/1. Tyler 1/-/-. Total £4.1.5

JACOBS LADDER

Jacob's Ladder is the centre piece of the First Degree Tracing Board, but what is the symbolism of this ladder depicted as such an ornate stairway to heaven.

Chapter 28 in the book of Genesis tells of Jacob's journey to Haren and his mystical dream whilst sleeping with a stone* as a pillow.

The Ladder was apparently not originally a symbol of Speculative Masonry, being probably introduced from Hermetic Masonry, about 1776. McKay's Masonic dictionary tells us that the number of rungs on Jacob's Ladder varies but 7 is favoured, no doubt due to the mystical character of that number in many cultures. In the Persian Mysteries the number seven is given as the rungs, stages or degrees of attaining enlightenment.

The Torah identifies that the ladder's rungs signify the number of exiles the Jewish people would suffer before the coming of the Messiah. 'First the angel representing the exile of Persia climbed up 70 rungs and then fell down. It was a fourth angel, representing Rome/Edom, who finally climbed up into the clouds. Although the figure of 70 is used there is no definite number given for the rungs actually in the ladder and climbed by the fourth angel.

Kabbalistic interpretation of Jacobs Ladder is the link between the four Worlds, Divine, Spirit, Psyche and

Body. This linking of four Worlds, each with 10 Sefirot, gives a figure of 40 which signifies a complete process as mentioned in the Bible – 40 days and 40 nights Genesis ch7 v12, Moses was again with God for 40 days and 40 nights, Exodus ch34 v28 being but two instances.

The Ancients believed that Jacobs Ladder had 72 rungs with each rung representing a name of God. The Shemhamphorash, the explicit name of God, has a numerical number of 72. This according to the Hebrew belief that every letter has a numerical value.

A slightly differing view is the Muslim belief that Jacob's ladder is a symbol of God representing in its form the essence of Islam which gives much emphasis to following the 'straight path'. Martin Lings, in his 'Book of Certainty' describes the ladder thus, '...it is also the 'straight path', for indeed the way of religion is none other than the way of creation itself retraced from its end back to its Beginning'.

In the Masonic Ritual of the Working Tools the Plumb Rule is described thus '...which like Jacobs Ladder links heaven with earth....' which is how Jacob's vision describes it, the rungs show the connection of God and Man. The question of whether there are 7 rungs, 72 rungs, or however many, may be considered immaterial to Freemasons for upon our Tracing Board standing on 3 rungs are the principle moral virtues - Faith, Hope and Charity. Faith in T.G.A.O.T.U, Hope in salvation and to be in Charity with all men.

Source: McKay, Oliver, Bernstein, Halevi, et. al.

Footnote: *Celtic legend suggests that the stone, known as the Stone of Destiny travelled from the Holy Land to Ireland around 700 BC, was then taken to Scotland in AD 870 where it was encased in the Scottish Coronation Chair. In 1296 it was moved to a similar position in Westminster Abbey being placed under King Edward's Chair upon which British sovereigns are crowned.

THE ESSENCE OF BEING A FREEMASON

Mark Twain said:

“Action speaks louder than words but not nearly as often”

This remark can be well applied to the work done in the community by Belmont Albion's Junior Warden, Dr M R Ward BDS, DipClinDent (Restorative), Dip Bus, MBA, FICDE.

It was noticed by the Newsletter reporter that he was often away from his dental practice on the North Shore. It was first though his time was being spent playing with one of the ancient mechanical devices he so loves but further investigation found otherwise.

A while ago comments made by a family member, who was studying rheumatic fever at a South Auckland medical centre, regarding the poor state of some children's mouths saw a delivery of toothpaste

being organised by Russell and delivered to the centre. A short while later a call from the Professor of Clinical Health at the Medical School enquired if he would be prepared to help in a programme of oral hygiene.

The C.E.O. at Turuki Health Care then made contact to ask if our Brother would set up an in-house dental clinic for them, as a previous attempt had failed. That was six months ago and following the installation of nearly new gear and kit 'scrounged' from fellow dentists the clinic is ready to take its first patients. It is understood that Russell will spend at least two days a week working there and now has plans for obtaining funding for a second clinic. A Freemason quietly doing his 'bit' for the community.

BRENDAN'S GOOD CAUSE



I had a full head of hair and a beard that my wife wanted me to get rid of! So to give her what she wanted, after many months, I decided to do a crazy thing for an amazing cause. I signed up for Shave for a Cure. Off comes the hair AND beard! The Leukaemia & Blood Cancer New Zealand foundation receives no government funding. Shave for a Cure is Leukaemia & Blood Cancer New Zealand's signature fundraising event. Every year thousands of individuals, schools and businesses across the country whip out the clippers and

shave their locks in a bid to help the 6 Kiwis a day diagnosed with a blood cancer or related condition. To add to the dramatic effect, I was offered extra donations if I died my hair pink before shaving it all off... how could I resist the chance to earn even more for this great cause. So out came the pink hair chalk, and when I turned up to the public shave event at Farmers in the Westfield Albany mall I was sporting a 'Pretty in Pink' hair do! It took less than 5 minutes for the hair to be gone!

Brendan Patterson

UPCOMING LODGE EVENTS



May

- 7 Wednesday** - Lodge Ponsonby 1st Degree for Mr Russell, visitors at 7.30pm. Onehunga. **Full BA Visit.**
- 8 Thursday** - Lodge North Harbour Double second – **Small visiting team.**
- 13 Tuesday** - **CAMARADERIE NIGHT** Guest Speaker Dr Frances Pitsilis on Stem Cell Therapy.
- 17 Saturday** - Northern Divisional Conference
- 20 Tuesday** - Group meeting for EA's FC's and mentors.
- 21 Wednesday** - Lodge Browns Bay 346 3rd degree;
 - Test questions for Dan Laird;
 - Tracing board for Dan Laird and Carlo De Guzman.
- 27 Tuesday** - Lodge Etiquette with the DC;
 - Separate activity after presentation for WM, DC, Deacons on prep for 50th presentation.

June

- 3 Tuesday** - 1st Degree Rehearsal – First run through for all.
- 10 Tuesday** - 50 Year Badge, Frank Arnott, with Ladies.
- 17 Tuesday** - Rehearsal 1st Degree.
- 23 Monday** - Management Meeting.
- 24 Tuesday** - Rehearsal 1st Degree.

LETTER TO BRETHREN

A letter of thanks has been received from Danilo D. Angeles PGM, Grand Secretary of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines it reads:-

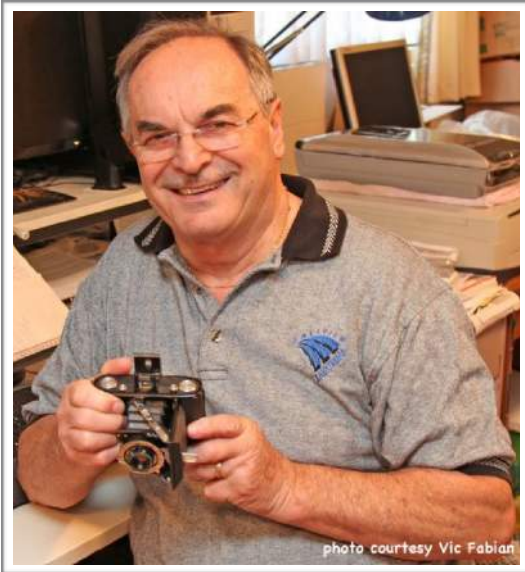
We acknowledge with thanks receipt of your donation for the relief of Typhoon Yolanda victims for a total amount of P41,760.00. Your donation will certainly attenuate the 'sad plight of our distressed brethren and their families'. Enclosed is Official Receipt No. 151993.

Fraternally Yours

Danilo D. Angeles
Yolanda Calamity Fund



TRIBUTE TO VIC FABIAN



Hardworking and esteemed Past Editor of the Belmont News for 15 years.

A few words by way of a thank you to our good friend Vic Fabian, for so many years a tireless Editor for our Newsletter and in doing so, found interested readers in all points of the globe.

It is a 'must read' for our members and although he indicated flashes of frustration at times in getting articles for publication, never seemed to miss a deadline and everyone of them seemed to be a masterpiece – the envy of so many.....

Given the opportunity, Vic delivers excellent lectures on Educational matters, is an outstanding photographer and is widely travelled. He has contacts in Freemasonry in many parts of the world. A very interesting man indeed brethren, bearing in mind he is a Past Grand Lecturer. We are lucky to have him. Using his photographic skills, he was able to enhance our Newsletter. He was one of only two official photographers allowed into the Grand Installation in Auckland in 2010.

On a personal note, Vic has assisted me in many ways during my term as Grand Superintendent of Ceremonies and as Master. His wise counsel and artistic flair were good value to me. Only recently he designed the new cover for the resurrected ``Guide to Officers of Grand Lodge`` booklet - re designed some pages in our `Strategic Plan` and made valuable contributions to the Funeral Notice of our dearly beloved brother Doug Rapley – not to mention the many years of printing our Installation Programmes. I was always conscious of not taking Vic for granted. Thank you Vic and Connie for all the assistance you gave me over many years. I trust you are still available?

Thanks again Vic.

Murray Morrissey.

MURRAY'S BITS AND PIECES

FREEMASON: TOMB THUMB

Did you know the original `Tomb Thumb` was a Freemason? His name was Brother Charles Stratton. He was two feet high and weighed a mere 16 pounds and was a member of the St Johns Lodge in Connecticut.

Conversely, the world's largest Freemason was a Brother John ASSEN, a member of the Highland Park Lodge of Los Angeles. He was eight feet tall and weighed 38 stone. It took 12 brethren to raise him and there were 1500 at his initiation.

THANKS TO ROBIN BOURDOTT

Thanks to Robin Bourdott:

Thanks Robin for your sterling service to Belmont Albion over many years. You and Joyce have been active members and hardly ever missed a social function. Your smiling faces were always a welcoming a pleasant tonic for a relaxed evening, breakfast or whatever other activity we had going. We will miss Robin and Joyce, and wish them safe journeys to their new Lodge 'across the bridge'.

HE STILL SHOWS US THE WAY

Thirteen years after he passed to the Grand Lodge Above William Swinton Campbell Laurie (1931-2001) still guides the way for visitors to the North Shore Masonic Centre as the final piece of road we travel along, to the Centre, has carries his name. William Laurie Place. There can be few members of the Craft who are spoken about with such fond remembrance as Bill Laurie. Exemplary Freemason, friend, tireless worker, rugby aficionado, boatee, lover of Lion Red beer. The list of friends endearments is endless.

Sebastian Vettel, the F1 racing driver, said 'If the boat started shaking we stayed on course and did not lose focus. That made the difference', this could have been Bill's credo in Freemasonry and life in general. Legend has it that if you walk along Brown's Bay beach as dawn breaks you will see two sets of footprints those of Bill and his dog Jack. Concentrate and you will hear the opening of the Lodge in the three Degrees or Royal Arch Chapter followed by a number of Charges being rehearsed. This accompanied by frequent bursts of laughter as he had to ability to see humour in the most formal and solemn situation.

Visitors to his building in Auckland City often found him in a hammock slung below his metal parts storage system they also recount that he would most likely have a little blue or red book in his hand. Wherever Bill was Freemasonry was never far away.

His status as a Brother is shown in two diverse ways. As a Worshipful Master he is recorded as making 75 visits to other Lodges in a year which he did for 2 consecutive years. This was a very visible achievement and one never promoted was his charity. At the end of the refectory, when there was food left on the Festive Board at Takapuna Lodge, Bill would gathering up the left over fare and place it in his car.

He then did not drive to his home in Brown's Bay but turned left and traveled over the Harbour Bridge taking the food to the City Mission. This at a time when most Brethren attending the meeting had returned home and were asleep. He is also remembered for handing

an envelope full of Dollar bills to Frank Ansell saying this is just an anonymous donation for the Installation. Bill had a passion for rugby and at the time of his passing he was the incumbent President of the North Shore Rugby Football Club, arguably the oldest rugby club in New Zealand. At one time he played in the front row for Grammar Old Boys and told a story of being instructed by his coach, the redoubtable Sir Fred Allen who became captain and coach of the All Blacks, to 'deal' with the Ponsonby front row, unusually on this occasion Bill was beaten to the punch quite literally. He remembered the front rows coming together but the next he recalled was regaining consciousness in the dressing room.

Worshipful Master, Secretary, raffle maestro at Roskill Masonic Village, Newsletter Editor, which was typed and carbon copied by his staff at W. S. Laurie, Bills fishing tackle company, all activities for which Bill never sought any accolade.



Together with Jim Williamson and Stu Mill, Bill was one of the instigators of the plan for a North Shore Masonic Centre. When the deal for a building in Shea Terrace, Takapuna fell through Bill took the collapse of the deal personally as though it were his failure, which it was not. Tragically he did not live to see the culmination of the project he was passionate in promoting so it is fitting that we are reminded of this extraordinary Brother when ever we attend the Lodge Rooms on the North Shore.



With thanks to Frank Ansell, Keith Eaglesome, Stu Mill, and Murray Morrissey.

"The past is another country, they do things differently there"

L. P. Hartley



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Deadline:
Email:

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