

BELMONT ALBION

CHRISTMAS EDITION



December 2014

FROM THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Many will know that I have just started a new job at Fonterra, based at 9 Princes St. Imagine my delight when I discovered that I was working on a Masonic site! Within the entrance is a time capsule from the time of the construction in 1886. It outlines that the foundation stone was laid in the North East Corner, and includes a news article of a procession of Freemasons in conducting the ceremony. Of course all that is left is the facade of the Grand Hotel and the Freemasons Hall.

About the same time as my site discovery, I arranged to pick up a colleague for a business trip to Hamilton. I suggested Sylvia Park, she somewhat coyly suggested the Eilerslie Masonic Centre. My interest piqued it turns out her husband is a member of Prince of Wales! So I feel I am off to a good start in my new employment, although currently find my Masonic administrative capacity confined to Sunday mornings before the family get up.

This month was very special, with the Lodge recognising the outstanding contribution of Vic Fabian in crafting the Newsletter for fifteen years, in addition to his long standing commitment to education. It was also fabulous to welcome and recognise Connie's wonderful support to her husband, and her contribution to the Lodge as she has on many occasions been photographer and proof reader over those many years! It was lovely that our District Grand Master Barry Rushton presented Connie with a certificate of appreciation (courtesy of the Division), followed with flowers from the lodge.



This of course is our last newsletter before Christmas, and we will conclude this part of the year with a presentation to wonderful Frank Ansell for 50 years in the craft. We once again will welcome ladies into the lodge and celebrate our Masonic family.

It will be a busy week, but I encourage attendance at the District Christmas function on Wednesday 10 December, and mention that a District BBQ is planned in early February at Long Bay, as well as our Lodge Icebreaker on 22 February.

In the meantime, I wish you and your families all the best for a safe and happy Christmas.

Matt Rea-Rankin



Vision Statement: To prosper into the future

Mission Statement: The Belmont Albion Lodge No 45 shall practice the principles of freemasonry in all ways, to enhance education, knowledge and care for its members, attracting men of high quality, personal development and participation in our community

FROM THE EDITOR

As a number of Brothers have difficulty in receiving or opening large documents, in the terms of mega-bytes, it has been agreed that when there is a 'special' event such as the Masters Installation or the Scottish Night a supplement will be issued, separate to that months Newsletter. This will also assist in the need to print copies of the Newsletter for those readers without e-mail addresses.

The supplement would enable a few more photographs to be shown with the text and would only contain details of the specific event.

As can be seen from the Masters Diary the Regular meeting on 9 December will see the Lodge go into recess until 10 March 2015, although an Icebreaker and a 1st Degree rehearsal are booked within the recess

period. Mr Isaac Newton, whose profile appeared in the October issue, being the 1st Degree candidate. What better way to start the new year than by the initiation of a new member of the Craft who has 'been well and worthily recommended'

The Newsletter wishes all its readers and their families a joyous Christmas and a peaceful 2015. I would like to thank all those who have forwarded contribution during 2014 and also thank Anthony who does all the 'clever stuff' and formats the Newsletter you all receive from the copy and images sent to him.

Please note that there will be no Newsletter in January

Editor: ba45_editor@gmail.com

THE MOTHER OF THE CUBAN NATION

"To fully express what freemasonry represents for us in a few words, suffice to say that, without mentioning it once, twice and perhaps a thousand times, one cannot write the history of Cuban culture or Cuba's struggle for freedom." These words recently appeared in the Havana Times as did the headline above them.

Freemasonry was introduced into Cuba by the British following the Anglo-Spanish war of 1762-3, when, according to a Masonic historian, "the light of Freemasonry shone in Cuba for the first time" and it became deeply rooted in the culture. Shortly after this time the British returned Cuba to the Spanish in exchange for Florida but Freemasonry flourished.

A testimony of Freemasonry's historical significance for Cuba is to be found in the Cuban flag, where the masonic ideal is expressed in the red, masonic triangle placed over the three blue and two white bands, a symbol that sealed the intimate connection between Cuban independence and Freemasonry for eternity. Less striking evidence for this connection is to be found in the names of some streets in Havana, such as Amistad (Spanish for friendship), Concordia and Virtudes.

Historic figures such as Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, who freed his slaves and made the declaration of Cuban independence in 1868, Ignacio Agramonte, a Cuban revolutionary, Perucho Figueredo a freedom fighter who wrote the Cuban National Anthem 'El Himno de Bayamo', Calixto Garcia a General in the Cuban War for Independence and Jose Marti who became a symbol for Cuba's bid for independence and is referred to as the "Apostle of Cuban Independence." were all Freemasons and some of the formative figurers in the history of Cuba.

The failed uprising of 1810, known as the "Great Masonic Conspiracy", was organised at a lodge in Havana with the first attempt at drafting a political constitution for a future Cuban nation also being made by Freemasons in 1810. Its author was Joaquin Infante described as 'promotor de la independencia Cubana'.

W.Bro Warren Murphy S.D. of the Walter Meier Lodge of Research No. 281 opened a paper given in 1968 with the words ' The history of Freemasonry in Cuba is tragic and violent, much of it tied to the political picture of its day' and a time line of Cuban history gives graphic support to this statement. Yet today there are 318 Lodges with approximately 30,000 members active in the only Marxist state to tolerate Freemasonry.

It is said that during Cuba's revolution Fidel Castro took refuge in a Masonic Lodge and so the fraternity has never been shut down.

Historic detail and images by kind permission of Circles Robinson, Editor, Havana Times

other sources: Hodlapp / Murphy / L & A Perry



MASONIC MISCELLANY

Out and About with the Secretary

We welcome Mark Rowley back from his trip to the USA

Ted Corkill has had an operation on his ear and it was also reported that Brendan had a mishap with his bike, we trust they both are up and running quickly. Our condolences go out to Briene and especially Romina on the recent death of Romina's father.

Murray has just reported In, he's been up at the hospital all day hooked up to a machine, watching TV and eating Peanuts. Great life what!

Daniel Laird's wife Gina is expecting a baby any day now and our congratulations are given.

I enjoyed Vic (and Connie) special presentation last meeting. I have had a close association with Vic over the past years .We both shared the secretarial duties and I know the dedication he has given to our Lodge and especially as editor of our "Flag Ship" *THE BELMONT NEWS*. Vic has written to the lodge thanking them for the honour they conferred on him. I attach a copy of the wording.

'Many thanks to the Belmont Albion Lodge for being instrumental in getting Grand Lodge approval to present me with the Medal of Freemasons Charity

The evening was a special occasion and I thank the Lodge for also including my wife Connie. She was a great help to me when I needed to discuss some

points of the Newsletter to make the publication a success and to become a popular reading in masonic circles. Our Lodge is a forward thinking modern organisation without losing the fundamental tenets that makes us so special and sought after among men. The Lodge is fortunate that the membership is full of very capable brethren that make Belmont Albion an exemplary Lodge.

Fraternally, Victor Fabian, PGLec

Dave Barr

MASONIC BIRTHDAYS

11/12/1951 R.J.M. Pettett
05/12/1967 W.A. Wheldale
16/12/1975 M.G.E. Morrissey
09/12/2010 D.J. Laird

100 Years Ago

From the minute book of Albion Lodge No. 45, 17 December 1914.

A Dispensation from the Prov. G.M. Was read authorising the Lodge to hold its meeting on 17 December instead of December 10 (election day) its Regular date of meeting.

In accordance with notice given Bro. W.G. Allen S.W. moved and W.Bro. Crosher seconded the following. That this Lodge go into recess for the month of January 1915. This was put to the vote and carried.

A ballot was taken for the initiation or otherwise of Mr Andrew Meeny, setter, of Cheltenham

Beach, Devonport. Proposed by Bro. W. Walker seconded by Bro. R.H. Duder. The ballot was successful and Mr Andrew Meeny declared duly elected a member of this Lodge.*

The business of the evening being ended the Lodge was closed in Peace and Harmony with solemn prayer at 9.30 pm

Editors note: I am puzzled by this entry as it suggests that Mr Meeny was elected not initiated into the Lodge yet the ballot was for initiation. Previous similar entries have concluded with the words 'The ballot was successful'

Perhaps a more experience Brother can clarify.

WHAT DOES CHRISTMAS MEAN TO FREEMASONS?

Freemasonry is not a religion, Christian or otherwise. It leaves the determination on spiritual matters to each individual Mason, so long as the Brother believes in an Almighty Architect. But there are certain messages from the story of Christmas that are applicable to all Masons, not just those who celebrate with the Christian faith on 25 December.

Christians believe that God gave his greatest gift to mankind, and that gift's birth is marked on Christmas Day and the spirit of giving is also prevalent in our Masonic ceremonies. During his initiation the Entered Apprentice is reminded, in the northeast corner, of charity and to practice it whenever possible. There is the monetary charity of that Charge in our ceremony but there is another kind of gift. The one referred to in the Charge After Initiation, in the same degree, which admonishes 'by relieving his necessities, soothing his afflictions and by doing to him as in similar cases you would wish that he should do to you'. In other words, the Golden Rule, from the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 7:12. Indeed this Rule, outlining mans relationship to man, appears in similar forms in most of the great religious books, Udana-Varga, the Talmud, Hadith and The Book of Certitude being typical.

Christmas is a time of faith for our Christian brethren but all Masons are reminded in the different degrees of the principle of faith. In the explanation of the First Degree Tracing Board, we hear '...this faith naturally creates in us a hope of becoming partakers of the blessed promises...'. Therefore, let this time of year serve as a reminder to all Masons to practice their faith, whatever it may be.

Faith and Charity are names of principal staves or rounds on the Ladder we see on the 1st Degree Tracing Board. But there is another round and that is Hope, Hope in Salvation. While Salvation has a particular connotation to those who believe in the story of Christ the concept of some kind of reward, for following Masonic principles, during our lives winds its way through the various degrees.

So let this season of the year remind all Masons, no matter what their religious beliefs, to follow those universal tenets of the Craft, Faith, Hope and Charity. Doing so should bring satisfaction and pleasure at Christmas time.

Source: Bennie/Milliken/et.al.

PC

A PAST MASTER'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Seasonal Greetings brethren from the East Part of the Lodge.

As we come to the end of another very successful year our Standing Committee meeting has prompted me to comment on attendance.

The success of any organisation depends on good governance and conscientious practice. I believe in turning up when matters of forward planning are to be decided, so they can be recommended to the brethren at forthcoming regular meetings. This in order to get the business session out of the way as quickly as possible, we do not want to spend valuable time arguing petty matters in that forum.

With social media it is now possible to conduct much planning behind the scenes. The danger of this, as we see out there in politics, is that many floor members may not have their say or give valuable input. So I implore all to regard the Standing Committee as the right and proper place to do most of our weeding.

Having now covered that side of our proceedings we move on to the excellence of Belmont Albion ritual. At no

time in my 27 years in the craft have I enjoyed such amazing ritual coming from Freemasons in their formative years. In days past we expected charges to be delivered by such masters as John Wann, Bill Laurie, or the Foote - Morrissey team. Much of this new found excellence is due to Junior Lodge Manager the well loved and soon to be fifty year service badge recipient W Bro Frank Ansell. If this breaking news gets to you before our December meeting you must make a point of attending to give Frank your support.

Furthermore I cannot let this opportunity pass without wishing our hard working secretary W Bro Dave Barr a special thank you and bon voyage as he travels to family as is his wont at this time of year to the land of Oz. Here's looking forward to 2015 and Bro Sean's Installation.

Out Pipes. Humphrey.



THE NORTH SHORE WIDOWS AND SENIOR MASONS LUNCHEON

Organisation by Wayne Jones and catering by Richard Sharplin



photographs by Vic Fabian, Carlo de Guzman and Briene Salosagcol

The event was held at the North Shore Masonic centre on November 1. The pictures were held over from last months issue due to space constraints. Further photographs can be seen on the BA 45 Intranet site.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hi, Editor

I have just received your newsletter from Belmont Albion Lodge and I am about to pinch a couple of thoughts from it, especially on the Scottish Night as the Kyneton lodge will be conducting similar in July next year.

We conduct a ceremony of the Vacant Chair at the April Meeting. We have an Orator who speaks to the Vacant Chair, Deacons who take the Vacant chair to the Wardens and Master, an Escort Guard with reverse arms (rifles), a Bugler for the Last Post and Reveille and a Flag Party, 4 members of the 430 Air Cadet Squadron

in Kyneton. Finally a Piper who plays a moving lament around the lodge room. Next year we are videoing the procedure. Maybe you would like a copy?

Please convey sincere best wishes for the Christmas season and the New Year of 2015 from the Worship Master, Brethren and friends of the Kyneton Lodge to all at the Belmont Albion Lodge.

Kind Regards

Brian Davenport PJGW Kyneton
Lodge No. 192 Western
Victoria.





THOUGHTS OF A NEWLY ADMITTED MARK AND EXCELLENT MASTER MASON

The Degree of Royal Arch Mason is founded upon the destruction of the first and then the building of the second Temple. The ceremonies of the Degree have an interesting and graphic historical setting and a profound and reverential moral significance. The Royal Arch Degree is complementary to the Master Mason's Degree. The unfolding into a second volume of the history of that which was lost to its final recovery. Without the Royal Arch, the Master's Degree is like a tale partly told.

The preparatory Degrees conferred in the Chapter are those of Mark Master Mason and Excellent Master. All are beautiful, all are interesting, all teach valuable lessons, but the Degree of Royal Arch Mason is more august, sublime and important than all that precedes it. It brings to light many essentials of the Craft contained only in this Degree and explains many cryptic passages of the first three Degrees incomprehensible to the Master Mason. Without a knowledge of these the Masonic character cannot be complete.

As Laurence Dermott commented in 1756, "The Royal Arch degree is the Root, Heart and Marrow of Freemasonry".

The value of Royal Arch Masonry will be appreciated by all who are Exalted to that Most Sublime Degree, particularly by those who are seeking to complete their Masonic education. It reveals the full light of Ancient Craft masonry, presents it as a complete system in accordance with the original plan and confers at last the rights and light of a Master Mason, in fact as well as in name. Completing the degrees of the Royal Arch leads to a fuller understanding of the purposes and spirit of Freemasonry and enables, the first time, the perception of the completeness of the Ancient Craft and an understanding how all its forms and ceremonies, from the Entered Apprentice to the Master Mason's Degree, are the preparation for the final goal, the Most Sublime Degree of Royal Arch Mason.

source: yorkrite.com/whyaram.htm / Domenic

PC

VICTOR FABIAN PGL^{EC}

Keith and Murray outline Vic's work as editor for over fifteen years and Murray presents the 'In Appreciation' Jewel.

The District Grand Master, Barry Rushton, presents Vic's wife Connie with a certificate recording her endless support for Vic, in his work for Freemasonry



UPCOMING LODGE EVENTS



December

2 Tuesday - Education - The Relationship of the Third Eye or Pineal Gland to Freemasonry and Spiritualism. Lothar Caviezel

9 Tuesday - 50 Year Badge Frank Ansell (with partners and wives)

January

Recess

February

22 Sunday - Icebreaker at Richard & Marcia Lumsden's

March

3 Tuesday - Rehearsal

10 Tuesday - 1st Degree working for Mr Isaac Newton

- Education Topic with Alistair Lumsden.

17 Tuesday - Installation Rehearsal

24 Tuesday - Installation Rehearsal

MASONIC MOTORCYCLE RIDERS GROUP

On 8 November eighteen bikes left the Lodge Room in Orewa for a ride that took them through Warkworth and onto Wellsford where a stop was made for fuel for both riders and machines. With the sun shining it was then follow the bends on S.H. 16 to the Old North Road and on to Rodney Road, Northcote, for those attending Lodge North Harbours BBQ and fire work display.

There are currently thirty six riders from fifteen Lodges on the groups register and any brother wishing to join should contact Glen Clark at <glenn.clark@vodafone.co.nz>

Organised rides that members will be joining in the near future include the 'BRONZ 32nd Annual Toy Run' on 6 December, following Santa on his Honda trike and in 2015 the Ulysses 'Westpac Helicopter Ride' 22 February and the 'Cambridge Toy Run' on 1 March and no doubt on 22 February some members will ride down to Paeroa for the 'Battle of the Streets'.

photographs by courtesy of Carl Treadwell, more of Carl's photographs can be seen on the BA 45 Intranet site.



PC

'Contentment is never the outcome of fulfillment, of achievement or of the possession of things; it is not born out of action or inaction. It comes with the fullness of what is, not in the alteration of it.'

Jiddu Krishnamurti 1895-1986



Next Issue

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Email:

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