



June 2019

# The Belmont Albion Lodge No.45 Newsletter

**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.

REMINDER



**Next Issue**

Deadline:

30 July 2019

Email:

ba45.editor@gmail.com



[www.thebelmontalbionlodge.co.nz](http://www.thebelmontalbionlodge.co.nz)

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"I will strive to live with love and care,  
Upon the level and by the square"

## Message from the East

Greetings Brothers,

As we continue to move well into the year, I can say that we have had a great start with our officers learning and working in their new positions. It was a very good first Regular meeting. I would like to give many thanks to our Director of Ceremonies W Bro Sean Neely for his stewardship.

As we are about to embark on a fresh year of masonic education, I would like to share a paragraph I read online some years back relating to its importance.

‘The genius of Freemasonry is not our Masonic buildings and temples or the trappings of our organizations. It is not our great charities or community activities. It is not our beautiful rituals or their teachings. It is the practice of Freemasonry by Freemasons. Yet we cannot practice that which we do not know or understand. Thus, Masonic education is and should be the strongest foundation for our fraternity.’

I plan to try a slightly different approach this year to keep things interesting. I look forward to putting out some great education nights for you all and will be working closely with our Education Committee headed by W Bro Russell Ward and VW Bro Keith Eaglesome. We will do our best to keep our education sessions interesting, informative and practical.

Our Masonic education will kick off this June with a presentation by W Bro Russell Ward on Demystifying King Solomon’s Temple. There will also be a focus on teaching our newer members the basics, and this will start with ‘A walk around the Lodge’ presentation by VW Bro Keith E. which we have scheduled for the July’s Regular meeting in lieu of degree work.

From there we hope to be able to develop a platform to maybe research the more esoteric, historic, and old traditions of freemasonry and balance these with other topics that generate general and current interest among the brethren -be it a hobby, a profession, medical issues or the like. I would like to ask any brethren who may have some ideas that they would like to see happen to please get in touch with me. I value your feedback, so let me know what you think!



July will also see us celebrate another Filipino Night with our partners. Planning at this stage is in the very capable hands of our Junior Warden Bro Allen De Guzman. It would be a good opportunity to show case our brand of camaraderie so please bring any candidate that has petitioned or any man you know that has shown an interest in Masonry.

I look forward to visiting with as many brothers as possible in the future. I would ask that you keep an eye out on the Master’s Visits section on the Notice papers and news on upcoming events. I am starting to miss the Travelling Gavel for one.

As winter sets in stay warm. eat healthy and exercise to keep the winter blues and other ailments at bay. Please let the lodge know if you are in need or know of any brother in need of any assistance in getting to the lodge as we would be happy to help in any way we can to keep our members active.

Fraternally and sincerely  
Floyd Apoderado  
Worshipful Master

# FILIPINO NIGHT



The Belmont Albion Lodge No. 45  
Welcomes Brethren and their Partners from around the district to our Lodge feast  
Join us for an evening of Filipino Food, Drinks and Live Music

Mix and Mingle 6:00 pm  
A presentation on the origin and symbolism of the Philippines Flag 6:30 pm  
Filipino Feast at 7:00 pm

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2019  
North Shore Masonic Centre  
5 William Laurie Place, Corinthian Drive, Albany

Seats are limited so book in advance

Attire: Smart Casual  
Refectory Fees: \$25 per head

To help us better with catering, please  
**RSVP** to Allen de Guzman,  
allenemdgee@gmail.com



**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. FREEMASONRY- A WAY OF LIFE*

**VISION: To Prosper in To The Future**



**Worshipful Master**

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38 Ridge Road  
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**Secretary**

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Belmont 0622  
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**Treasurer**

Bro Chris Bilham  
40 Church St Devonport  
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**Almoner**

W Bro Wayne Jones RH  
8 Almadale Place  
Hillcrest 0627  
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**North Shore Masonic Centre**  
5 William Laurie Place, Albany  
Tel: 09-4485000



**Agenda**

Tying: 7.30pm  
Confirmation of Minutes  
Correspondence  
Matters arising there from  
Treasurer's Report  
General Business  
Almoner's Report  
Visitors Received -7.45 pm  
Supper at Refectory  
Supper Fee: \$15

**Attire**  
Dark lounge suit, White shirt, Black or Lodge tie, Black shoes, Black socks and White gloves

**The Work of The Evening:**  
To Pass Bro Craig Cock

**The Masters Calendar**

**MAY**

28th Belmont Albion -2nd Degree Rehearsal

**JUNE**

4th Belmont Albion- -2nd Degree Rehearsal

11th Belmont Albion- Regular Meeting  
To Pass Bro Craig Cock

18th Belmont Albion- -Education Evening by  
W Bro Russell Ward

25th Belmont Albion- -Lodge Planning Session

**JULY**

2nd Belmont Albion- -Rehearsal for 'A Walk  
Around the Lodge'.

9th Belmont Albion -Regular Meeting  
'A Walk Around the Lodge' presentation  
by VW Bro. Keith Eaglesome

13<sup>th</sup> Filipino Night: Saturday -commences at  
6:30pm.

**Master's Visit:**

-May 28<sup>th</sup> Onehunga Maungawhoi No, 168 -1<sup>st</sup> Degree Tracing Board

-June 18<sup>th</sup> -United Lodge No. 340-Combined Sitting Masters' Degree Working 2019

-June 19th Browns Bay Lodge No 346 Installation

## From the Editor

Dear Brethren,

I hope you are coping well with the cold and keeping healthy. It's great to see RWBro Murray Morrissey back in action. Its always great having you around Murray. You are definitely one of the pillars of our lodge so please take care and don't over-commit yourself again. I have heard you saying this to younger members and it just highlights how important it is to pace activities around the lodge with everything else in life.

This month we had an amazing 2<sup>nd</sup> degree for Bro Craig Cock. A real flawless delivery by all the brethren, I am sure Craig enjoyed his night. Well done to Bro Craig for such an inspiring speech in the refractory, you will make generations of masons in your family proud of you.

Looking forward to the main even of this month, our famous Filipino night, with great food, music and company.

Until next time, keep warm and happy reading!

Ali Seyfoddin (Editor)



## In Memory of Irene Beryl Williamson

Our deepest condolences, thoughts and prayers go out to RW Bro Jim Williamson on the passing of his beloved wife Beryl. May his cherished memories of Beryl assuage his pain and sorrow, may it sustain and strengthen him as he navigates the difficult days ahead. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jim and his family as are all of our blessings and love.

In Memory of

Irene Beryl Williamson



WILLIAMSON, Irene Beryl (Beryl). Passed away peacefully on 20 May 2019 in her 91st year. Loved wife of Jim for 68 years, mother of Trish, grandmother of Robert and Tessa, and Kathryn and Mat, great grandmother of Nola and Phoebe and friend of Don and Ken. Thanks to the staff of Eversleigh Hospital for their tender care. Loved always. A service for Beryl will be held at Holy Trinity Church 20 Church St, Devonport, on Friday 24 May at 11am followed by private cremation.

## Know your brothers

My name is Alan Thompson. I qualified as a mechanical engineer at South Bank Polytechnic and after marrying Linda I came to Auckland to work for a medium size consulting firm. I moved up to Hong Kong in 1979 as a Principal Lecturer at the polytechnic and after 8 years became building services manager in HK for Fletcher Construction. I returned to Auckland in 1993 to form my own consultancy firm from which I retired 5 years ago. My Mother Lodge is University Lodge of HK 3666EC. I was master of Lodge Rangitoto 404 in 1995 and joined BA45 in 2012. I have four children and 6 grandchildren. I love travelling and have been to over 100 countries.



WBro Allan Thompson

## Sherlock Holmes and Freemasonry

By Bro Chris Bilham

Sherlock Holmes is one of those fictional characters known to every literate person in the English-speaking world (and elsewhere – the stories in which he appears have been widely translated). Nearly a century and a half after he first appeared, new television series about him are still being produced.

Holmes was created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Freemasonry was extremely popular in Victorian Britain, and Doyle was initiated into the Phoenix Lodge No. 257 of Southsea, Hampshire, in 1887. A few years later he resigned, but later rejoined. He also became an honorary member of Edinburgh Lodge (Mary's Chapel) No. 1 of Scotland. He never advanced beyond Master Mason.



*Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*

There are a few references to Freemasonry in the Sherlock Holmes stories. “A Study in Scarlet”, the story in which Holmes was first introduced to the public, was published in 1887, the same year in which Doyle was initiated. In that book, a gold ring with a masonic device is found among the possessions of a murder victim. It was evidently quite common for Freemasons to wear masonic

emblems as they are mentioned in several other stories. In ‘The Red Headed League’, Holmes startles his client by describing his career and habits, all deduced from observation. When the man asks how Holmes knew he was a Freemason, Holmes points out, “Rather against the strict rules of your order, you use an arc and compass breast pin.” By saying “*your* order” rather than “*our* order” we can infer that Holmes himself was not a Freemason. A man falsely accused of murder (‘The Norwood Builder’) displays a masonic charm on his watch-chain, and a rival private detective (‘The Retired Colourman’) wears a large masonic tie-pin.

‘The Musgrave Ritual’ has a masonic flavor although there is no specific reference to Freemasonry. Members of a gentry family are instructed in a catechism which has been passed on from generation to generation; over two centuries, the meaning of the ritual has been forgotten. The catechism, a series of questions and answers, begins as follows:

“Whose was it?”

“His who has gone.”

“Who shall have it?”

“He who will come.”

“How was it stepped?”

“North by ten and by ten, east by five and by five ... “ and so on.

The ritual turns out to have a very practical meaning, which Holmes discovers.

Doyle was fascinated by secret societies and several stories feature secret organisations of a far more sinister aspect than Freemasonry: the Ku Klux Klan (‘The Five Orange Pips’), a Russian Nihilist brotherhood (‘The Golden Pince-Nez’), and a Naples branch of the *Carbonari* who were fore-runners of the Mafia (‘The Red Circle’).

A secret society features very prominently in one of the novel-length stories, ‘The Valley of Fear.’ The society concerned is the Ancient Order of Freemen. There were several other fraternal societies at that time, such as the Oddfellows and Buffaloes, but from the name and description of the Order of Freemen it seems that it was modeled

closely on the Freemasons. The Order had lodges all over the United States (where most of the story is set), organized in districts, with each lodge known by a number and name. The Order was founded to promote charity and good fellowship. However, Lodge 341 Vermissa Valley has gone off the rails very badly indeed.



McMurdo, a member of the order, claims to be a criminal escaping from Chicago. On the train bringing him to Vermissa Valley he encounters a member of the local lodge. They identify themselves as members first by a special handshake, then by signs (raising the hand to the eyebrows), and finally by a short series of words; “Dark nights are unpleasant”, “Yes, for strangers to travel.” Thus introduced, McMurdo presents himself to the local lodge where he is required to confirm his membership by answering questions: “Where were you made? When? What Bodymaster? Who is your district ruler?” A departure from normal masonic practice is that McMurdo had a revolver pointed at him throughout this interview.

His initiation into the lodge also has both similarities and points of difference with our own procedures. First, he stated his name and mother lodge, and repeated the sentences about dark nights. He took an oath of fidelity and secrecy which included a warning of death for any breach. The master then asked “Are you ready to be tested?” When McMurdo (who was blindfolded) answered in the affirmative, he was told to take a pace forward. He felt two hard points in front of his eyes but walked forward regardless, and the pressure was withdrawn. Then, without any warning, he was branded on the forearm with the

lodge initials. Having passed this ordeal successfully, he was then welcomed as a member of the lodge and the brethren retired to refectory.

Members referred to each other as Brother. Officials of the lodge were identified by a garment variously described as a scarf or sash. Head of the lodge was the Bodymaster; other lodge officers mentioned include deacons, an inner guard, a secretary and treasurer. Descriptions of the last two are worth recording:

*“Harraway, the secretary, was a lean, bitter man, with a long scraggy neck and nervous, jerky limbs – a man of incorruptible fidelity where the finances of the Order were concerned, and with no notion of justice or honesty to anyone beyond. The Treasurer, Carter, was a middle-aged man with an impassive, rather sulky expression and a yellow parchment skin. He was a capable organizer, and the actual details of nearly every outrage had sprung from his plotting brain.”* (Doyle seems to have confused the roles of the two officers). Compared to these two, Dave Barr and I must seem rather bland.

Even with some warning that the Vermissa Valley Lodge was not quite like other lodges of the Order, McMurdo was startled when the Secretary read out the correspondence. The first item was a letter in which the master of a neighbouring lodge requested them to provide two reliable men to carry out a murder. The Bodymaster observed, “Windle has never refused us when we have had occasion to ask for the loan of a man or two, and it is not for us to refuse him.” Evidently the rot had infected other lodges in the district. The Treasurer then reported that the lodge had to pay a pension to the widow of a brother who had been “struck down” doing the work of the lodge. However, the lodge’s finances were in a healthy state – the local businesses were paying substantial sums in blackmail. He stated, “Walker Brothers sent in a hundred, but I took it on myself to send it back and ask for five. If I do not hear by Wednesday, their winding gear may get out of order.”

I trust that I will not be accused of plot-spoiling when I observe that this lodge did not come to a good end!