

BELMONT ALBION



August 2014

FROM THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Having just returned from the USA I have of course missed much Masonic happenings here in New Zealand, but I am delighted to hear of a wonderful evening for the raising of Briene Salasogcal where the Lodge was blessed with a strong contingent of visitors and a wonderful Filipino styled refectory.

At almost exactly the same time as Briene's refectory was wrapping up we were arriving in Palm Springs. It transpired that the aircon in our 10 tonne RV was not working on the 3 hour drive. As the temperature was 45 degrees in the shade I literally fell out of the drivers seat, much akin to the frog slowly boiled in the pot. In addition, the RV park we had booked into had closed its pool for repair! Naturally my mood was far from positive towards El Monte RV, Palm Springs, and indeed my own state of health. Checking into an adjacent motel and getting into the 40 degree pool offered some relief from my afflictions. At this point the manager stopped by for a chat. Noticing my ring he enquired whether I was a traveller. For those unfamiliar with this expression, it enquires whether one is a Freemason. I was reminded that even in our most difficult moments far from home we must at some point put our trust in the universe.

We adapted incredibly quickly to the heat (a pool and aircon is critical) and got our mobile oven repaired so that the trip to San Diego was cool and enjoyable. The Aircon gave out again, but by that time we had decided



to stick to the cool breezes of the coast and had a great trip.

Having returned, I am aware that several of our Masonic family are experiencing difficulty. My fellow Coastguarder Brendan Patterson has suffered a serious back injury, and Diane Mayne has had a bad fall. My thoughts and best wishes are with you both for a speedy recovery.

Matt Rae-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

The historian Margaret Jacobs wrote 'the micro-society set up within Freemasons Lodges constitutes a normative model for society as a whole'.

I was reminded of her words whilst listening to Celia Lashlie, the social justice advocate, being interviewed. Amongst other issues Lashlie was debating the pressures placed on teenaged males by the lack of ethical values exhibited in the actions and persona's of public figurers, this word wide. Later that morning I was to read in a lead article in the Washington Post "My parents are prouder if I get good grades in my class than if I'm a caring community member in class and school". The article reviewed the results of a nation wide survey conducted to understand the social attitudes of teenage males.

Questionable honesty, a lack of moral behaviour, self aggrandisement and greed are all openly promoted by world leaders and others whom the media advance as role models for the young. Their credo seems directly opposed to 'the practise of every moral and social virtue'.

Children learn ethical values by watching the actions and not just by listening to the words of adults they respect or are 'told they should respect'. I would

suggest that now more than ever is the time that Freemasons should be inculcating, loudly, to society at large the Masonic virtues that we live our lives by. This to realign the direction the world is being driven in.

In the last month I have attended three very different Masonic celebrations. The first at the Lodge Room in Orewa, this was the combined District 2nd Degree Working, the second at the Northcote Masonic Centre, this being a Royal Arch Working with the third being a Filipino Masonic Fellowship at the Lodge Rooms Burch Street, Mount Albert. All these events were well attended with Howick as well as North Shore Chapters represented at Northcote and 'emergency' chairs required at Orewa and Mount Albert.

I am told Freemasonry is dying, without doubt organisational rethought and rationalisation is need at all levels but dying? I respectfully beg to disagree.

Sad news has been received of the passing, on Friday 18th July, of WBro John Iversen, Past Grand Standard Bearer, to the Grand Lodge Above. A profile of John will appear in the September Newsletter.

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SINGAPORE FREEMASONRY



As you can see in the picture, there is character oozing from every corner of the building, inside and out. This character is equally mirrored by some of the individuals I have had the pleasure of being introduced to. They are warm, incredibly friendly and very gracious hosts and added to their "Festive Board" (Refectory), held in the new glass building extension at the rear of the original building, is the ability to invite everyone down into the basement of the building to their own Masonic members bar.

Freemasonry began in Singapore in 1845 with the consecration on 8 December of Lodge Zetland No 748 at the "Masonic Room" in Armenian Street. There were meetings at seven places in the town before the consecration of Freemasons' Hall in Coleman Street on the 27 November 1879. English Lodges have now met here for over a century. In addition to the 9 English Constitution lodges using the Coleman Street facilities today, there are also 2 Scottish and one Irish Lodges. In total, however, there are 29 Masonic Lodges, Chapters and other Masonic bodies using the building.

To date I have been fortunate enough to visit EC Lodge St. George #1152, and SC Lodge Ailsa #1172. I also have an invitation to visit EC Lodge Sir Stamford Raffles #7444 before I depart Singapore.

A special treat in my visit to Lodge Ailsa was to watch a first degree done in with the McBride Ritual. This Lodge is one of only 6 Lodges in the world to use this ritual.



MASONIC MISCELLANY

Out and About with the Secretary



Many of our B/A travelling members are starting to arrive back in NZ and we welcome you all back and look forward to your company

Murray Morrissey, accompanied by Kay, is off to Samoa with other North Shore Grand Lodge Officers to conduct the Calliope 252 Installation. Over the past few years B/A have had a close association with this Lodge. After Samoa had been struck by a tsunami a group from Lodges on the Shore went over there and assisted in the re-building of the Women's Committee House at Saleaamua. Some of you will remember Mike Tafua, who was originally a Northcote policeman, he is now the High Chief of the Aliepata District and is their Member of Parliament and has joined the Calliope 252 Lodge

Graham Mayn's wife, Dianne, after a fall, ended up in hospital with a broken ankle and wrist. So Grahams knee job has been put on hold. Sadly we hear that he is now also hospitalised with other concerns.

Brendan Patterson, our Senior Deacon, has also been in North Shore Hospital while they decide on a 'fix' for his back. He is home now and from his pastings on FaceBook he is mobile but still in pain

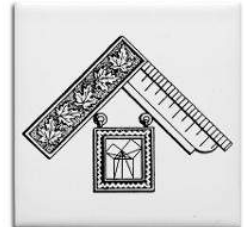
What a wonderful night the July meeting turned out to be, beside some great theatre put on by Sonny and Ronald our Junior Warden had arranged for "Filipino Cuisine" in the refectory. We and our visitors gave it top marks.

Dave Barr

MASONIC BIRTHDAYS

09/08/55	N. S. Webster
10/08/71	V. Fabian
12/08/75	E. Corkill
12/08/08	L. Caviezel
13/08/13	A. De Guzman

MUSINGS OF A PAST MASTER



Greetings Brethren. We have returned from an action packed visit around the world which at our age was tiring. Before I left I commented upon the good manners of offering an apology if being unable to keep an appointment. This month I have been studying the Charges of a Freemason in the Book of Constitution. My copy is probably a little out dated but it covers the expected behaviour that a Brother is expected to display in the Lodge, with his family and out in the community.

One aspect is the consideration due to those about us. In particular striving to be prompt, respectful, and reliable. Harmony is enhanced if tiling time is strictly adhered to so that the business can be dealt with in a timely manner.

A happy Lodge is one in which all of its members engage in the workings.

Advancement up the ladder entails a reputation for reliability and in turn earns respect. It is my experience that much enjoyment is experienced from working cohesively in a team. Freemasonry being a way of life means that we have a lifetime to progress from darkness to enlightenment while at the same time paying due respect to a consideration for all other activities we may wish to be engaged in.

Out Pipes. Humphrey

100 Years Ago

From the minutes Albion Lodge No. 45, 13th August 1914;

Correspondence from Messrs Nicholson & Griffin Re. Mortgage notifying that the principle became due on 18th July and that the mortgagee had instructed them to inform the Lodge that the rate of interest for the

future would be 6% per annum instead of 5½%.

The Balance Sheet and Auditors report a copy of which had been posted to each member was presented & received.

It was proposed by the W.M. And seconded by Bro. SW that the Auditors Report & Balance Sheet be adopted. Several queries were answered & then the proposition was put and declared carried.

THE GRAND LODGE OF JAPAN – A BRIEF HISTORY



The Masonic Fraternity was introduced to Japan in much the same way as it was to other countries, outside Europe, by means of a military travelling Lodge. Sphinx Lodge No. 263, under charter from the Grand Lodge of Ireland and attached to the 20th Regiment of Foot (Lancashire Fusiliers) came to Yokohama, Japan in 1864 departing in 1866. Sphinx Lodge, while in Japan, accepted several members of the resident foreign community and these newly made Masons, along with those who had already been members of other lodges,



decided to petition the Grand Lodge of England for a Lodge Charter.

In 1865 their petition was approved and on June 26th 1866, the first meeting of Yokohama Lodge No.1092 was held. From this beginning and prior to World War II the following Lodges were formed, six Craft Lodges and a District Grand Lodge under the United Grand Lodge of England, three Craft Lodges under the Grand Lodge of Scotland plus a number of Royal Arch Chapters and Scottish Rite Bodies.

The situation began to deteriorate for Freemasonry in Japan in the late 1930s when the government authorities began to crack down on the fraternity, especially after the outbreak of war in China in 1937. In the early 1940s the anti-Masonic movements intensified and all the lodges had to cease their operation.

Following the organization of several Masonic Clubs by the occupation forces, the Grand Lodge of the Philippines began to charter Lodges in Japan and Okinawa. The Fraternity was made available to Japanese Nationals for the first time, and soon the ritual was translated into the Japanese language. The building and land that were to be the forerunners of the new

Tokyo Masonic Center were purchased and occupied. Soon yet another Grand Lodge was to be represented in Japan. Sinim Lodge, which had been operating in the city of Shanghai, China, with a charter from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, was reactivated in Tokyo in 1952.

The various Lodges and appendant bodies enjoyed considerable growth and prosperity, and by 1954, a District Grand Lodge for Japan was approved by the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. In early 1957, a resolution was passed within Moriahyama Lodge No. 7, calling for all Lodges in Japan chartered by the Grand Lodge of the Philippines to a convention to consider the formation of an independent Grand Lodge of Japan. By March of 1957, fifteen Lodges had approved the resolution, a constitution had been drafted, prospective Grand Lodge officers had been elected, and a delegation had been formed to attend the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines to request recognition for the newly formed Grand Lodge of Japan.

When the delegates returned to Tokyo, the newly independent Grand Lodge of Japan proceeded to issue charters to its constituent Lodges, and sought the recognition of other Grand Lodges throughout the world.

As the years passed, the number of constituent Lodges under the Grand Lodge of Japan increased to twenty and by 1972, there were 4,766 members on the rolls. After 1972 the Grand Lodge of Japan began experiencing the trend that faced a large proportion of the worldwide fraternity of Masons a gradual reduction of members and the consolidation of Lodges.

In recent years this trend was partly reversed by a renewed interest in the Fraternity and currently the Grand Lodge of Japan has sixteen constituent lodges with a membership of approximately three thousand Brethren.



Pictures by kind permission of the Grand Secretary Philip A. Ambrose PGM, G. L. of Japan

The Ancient's Lodge of Devonport or as some say – 'The Brown Lodge'

For many years our much loved Past Master Len Tippett would spend a five hour Bus ride to have an hour in the Birkenhead Pub with a couple of Mates.

In the end it became too much for him and so regretfully he had to stop his big event of the week. So he sat on a Thursday as he did for most days of the week watching the wall of his minute Pensioner's flat or sleeping while his mind turned into 'moosh'.

To stop the decline of his brain the suggestion was made to Len, "What about on a Friday afternoon we spend an hour at the 'Masonic Pub' in Devonport (a long time drinking hole of Len's) and enjoy a couple of his favourite beers". The eyes lit up straight away. YES.

Another 90 year plus member of the Lodge Doug Rapley was in the same situation and when offered the same deal quickly accepted. The 'Dedication' of the Lodge took place about three years ago perhaps four, promptly at 3.00 on the afternoon. Unfortunately the Minutes are not the best.

It is truly a Table Lodge. Now providing both Sustenance as well as Libation throughout the meeting.

The founding Members were the two Ancients (hence the name) and one younger.

We were surprised and delighted when other members of The Belmont Albion Lodge No 45 started to attend. We then started to be honoured with visitors from other Lodges including Browns Bay No 404 and St Andrew Lodge No 418 S.C.

Some members come from afar. One travels by bus for almost an hour, then 15 mins in a ferry followed by a 15 min walk to the meeting. He then repeats this for the return.

After a year or so the owners of the 'Masonic' (The oldest Wooden Pub in New Zealand) sadly commenced to demolish the building. It was necessary to find a new venue and closing the Pub did the Lodge a favour.

We moved two doors along the Waterfront of Devonport to the 'Platters Restaurant' where we were welcomed warmly and offered beer at half the price we had been paying. We now sit in great relaxed comfort with a magnificent view of the ships moving up and down the harbour enjoying the outstanding service of Matt and his superb staff every Friday through all seasons.

And so our success has continued. We may have any number from four to fourteen or more (often includes Ladies) any Friday afternoon.

Sadly both of our Founding Members have passed to the Grand Lodge above. However they are remembered with much love and affection every Friday afternoon at three o'clock.

P.S. As for the origin of the 'Brown Lodge' name, you must ask another for the answer to this question



Members of the Ancient's Lodge of Devonport gather: (left) David Barr, Jack Lambert, Frank Ansell, Jim Williamson, Keith Eaglesome, Jimmy Jones.

Words and picture courtesy of Keith Eaglesome – one of the younger Ancients

LETTER TO BRETHREN

Dear Brethren,

I have installed a new door-bell which is situated on the left hand side of the Lodge wooden doors in the foyer for any Brother who may be locked out after regular hours or may be late for any Lodge visits.

Many thanks

Steve McIntosh-Dona
NSMC Manager.



167 HERITAGE SOCIETY MUSEUM

The Museum is situated within the Masonic Centre located on the first floor at 181 Khyber Pass Road, Auckland. The Museum houses approximately 9,500 items including photographs, prints, pottery, glassware, certificates, regalia and banners. These items are from many countries and organisations connected with Freemasonry and other fraternal societies.

A large number of the jewel, regalia and certificates show the roles and achievements of individuals.



The display area enables a large number of items to be viewed but as this is only a small proportion of the total held within the Museum and frequent changes to the display are made. For further information regarding the Heritage Society Museum and times of opening please contact the Newsletter editor.

Images: Entrance and Some items (below).



UNITED MASTERS LODGE NO 167 - THE RESEARCH LODGE FOR ALL CONSTITUTIONS

This month Bro. Ian Shaw will be presenting a paper entitled 'Freemasonry and the Occult'.

The big question is, are we an 'Occult'? The Online Cambridge Dictionary defines the word 'occult' as: 'relating to magical powers and activities, such as those of witchcraft and astrology.'

We all know that we as Freemasons do not practice any of these activities, so come along and listen to what Bro Ian Shaw has to say about 'Freemasonry and the Occult,' and improve your knowledge in Freemasonry.

The Lodge meets on Thursday 21st Tyling and visitors 7:30. If you wish to visit and need a lift please contact the editor.

THE BAAL BRIDGE SQUARE

In ancient Egypt it was customary to deposit specimens of the building material and models of the tools and implements, used in the construction of a tomb or temple, within the foundation of the building, these at focal points such as corners or doorways. Ritual deposits such as these have also been unearthed from pre-Roman sites in southern Britain.

Of interest to Freemasons there is one such artifact, whether it was left in place on purpose or just misplaced by its owner is unclear although it was found under the north east corner of the structure. In 1830 in Limerick, in the Province of Munster in Eire, a builders square was found during the demolition of the old Baal Bridge. The bridge spanned the Abbey River and connected the old town of Limerick, known as the Irish Town, situated on Kings Island, with the newer parts known as the English Town. James Pain, architect and a Freemason, wrote in 1870 '...I beg to say I have perfect recollection of the square being found and being given to me by the workmen and I think I gave the square to the late Brother Michael Furnell who I recollect thought much of it...'

Five years later in correspondence Bro. Paine again wrote '...I was standing on the foundation of the old bridge overseeing some labourers I had on work. One of the labourers came to me "see, Sir, what we have found amongst the stones of the bridge we are taking up".

The square apparently passed through the hands of the Furnell family until Captain Furnell, a member of Irish Lodge No. 13, presented it to the Lodge, framed with a sketch of the original Baal Bridge showing where the square was found.

The square is still treasured by the Brethren of Irish Antient Union Masonic Lodge No. 13 but perhaps you may wonder why is an old stone masons implement so revered?

It is engraved on both sides with an inscription that reads;
*'I will strive to live with love and care
Upon the level, by the square'*

It is further engraved with a date, this being either 1507 or 1517.

The inscription, which is witness to a moral application of an operative masons working tools, has only one other known equal. That on an ancient chest that belonged to the Steinmetzen of Hamburg which has interpretations of the square, compass, level and gauge engraved on it.*

Source: Crossley / Tatsch / Vic. Lodge of Research / et. al.

*see *History of Freemasonry vol 1 by R. F. Gould p. 168*

UPCOMING LODGE EVENTS



August

- 5 Tuesday** - Rehearsal
- 12 Tuesday** - Regular Night, 2nd Degree for Allen de Guzman
- 16 Saturday** - North Harbour installation
- 19 Tuesday** - Education - Group Education
- 26 Tuesday** - Rehearsal

September

- 2 Tuesday** - Final Rehearsal
- 9 Tuesday** - Pass David Little to FC (Junior Lodge)
- 16 Tuesday** - Standing Committee Meeting
- 23 Tuesday** - Grand Lodge presentation by RW Neil Ingram
- 30 Tuesday** - Rehearsal



Royal Arch Masonry

Following the Regular meeting of North Shore Chapter 52 of the Order of the Royal Arch nineteen Companions and Brethren gathered in the North Shore Masonic Centre Refectory to hear a presentation by R.Ex. Companion Dennis Waller, Grand Lecturer.

R.Ex. Companion Dennis's talk was titled 'Continuing the Masonic Journey'. The basis of his words being The Six Degrees of Masonry – their relevance, relationship, history and importance'. Dennis first reminded his audience of the work going on to strengthen the relationship between the 'Red' and the 'Blue' lodges with MW Bro. John Litton GM making history by giving an address at the 2014 Royal Arch Grand Convocation held in Nelson*. He then went on to outline the development of Royal Arch Masonry during the middle years of the 18th Century with its growth in Ireland and England and then explained how the Royal Arch Degrees now worked were finally established.

The manner in which the Royal Arch Degrees of 'Mark Master', 'Most Excellent Master' and 'Royal Arch Mason' mesh with, expand and answer questions posed by the three Degrees of the Blue Lodge were then explain and discussed with great clarity but without exposing the Secrets of the Royal Arch Degrees.

Companion Dennis then answered questions and was thanked in the usual manner.

The discussion around the fine festive board, prepared by Bro. Richard Sharplin, suggested that the interest of the Chapters guests had certainty been 'fired'

* Companions note:- the Grand Master's address to the Convocation can be seen via a YouTube link on the Royal Arch website.

'In the end, it's not going to matter how many breaths you took but how many moments took your breath away'.

- Shing Xiong



Next Issue

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Email:

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