
BELMONT ALBION



February 2015

FROM THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Happy New Year to all!

Since our last newsletter we have had some wonderful news, and so congratulations to Dan and Gina Laird on the birth of Riley in December. I am sure all will be looking forward to seeing the new arrival as soon as possible.

Well, after a slow start to summer it certainly has been hot hot hot for nearly a month, and it is with some relief that I am inside typing as a gentle drizzle tickles the garden.

Last weekend I met with Richard and Marcia Lumsden, as well as our Junior Warden Russell Ward to finalise arrangements for our Icebreaker on Saturday 21 February. I am sure it will be a wonderful afternoon. The Lumsden's are busy organising, and I am sure Richard is ever busy trimming the garden and scrubbing the pool so that all is in readiness for a grand get together. He may even give us a spin in his new Morgan. (At least he might start it and rev it up a bit...)

What is really neat is that this will be a great get together for the whole family, - with a pool, big grassy area for games, as well as shady relaxed spots for relaxed chatting.

Over the break, Ricardo Nascimento, a Masen Companion from São Paulo, Brazil Lodge União 112, has been visiting NZ, and we managed to fit in lunch as



well as a short tour of some of Auckland's lodge buildings.

Rehearsals will recommence on the 17th, and I am looking forward to an excellent 1st degree working for Isaac Newcombe in March.

In the meantime, continue to enjoy the summer, and I look forward to seeing you all over the coming weeks.

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 this is the first edition of the new year the Newsletter wishes all its readers a somewhat belated 'Happy New Year'. The Lodge being in recess during January and February this issue is playing catch up on two items from last December both celebrating lives of members but in differing ways.

The North Shore Motorcycle Group has had its first 'ride out' of 2015 to The Waikato Freemasons Centre for a simulated Alternative Third Degree, worked by Lodge Tawhiri No. 166. What became an early morning ride back to Long Bay with the words of Ecclesiastes ringing in my ears added to the enjoyment of a pleasant evening. It is intended to arrange future rides to visit lodges. If any brother is interested in joining us please contact Glenn Clark at Lodge North Harbour or myself. Other planned rides are shown in the diary.

It is difficult not to reflect on the horrific start to the year and the murder of two or more of our brethren in the Paris atrocities, whilst man's inhumanities to man continues

seemingly unabated. Many lodges across the northern hemisphere are opening their doors to encourage the public to become more aware of the ethos of Freemasonry. There are those of us who express concern about the fraternity being so exposed but I suggest that there has never been a time when the inculcation of the words from the 'Charge After Initiation', in the First Degree, are more needed to support our children's future.

"The Future of Masonry lies not simply in the increase of numbers, but in the dissemination of Masonic principles throughout the world. The greatest function of Masonry is to raise mankind to a higher realisation of the beauty of the truth and the importance of human freedom".

I make no apologies for repeating this quotation from the New Zealand Craftsman of May 1938.

Editor: ba45.editor@gmail.com

VW KEITH FREDERICK 'FRED' CONNEW, PAST ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

Tuesday December 1953 was a busy day for the Connew family for whilst Fred was in Auckland Town Hall having the British Empire Medal pinned on his chest by Queen Elizabeth II his wife Pat also had a special appointment. She was giving birth to their third son Alan.

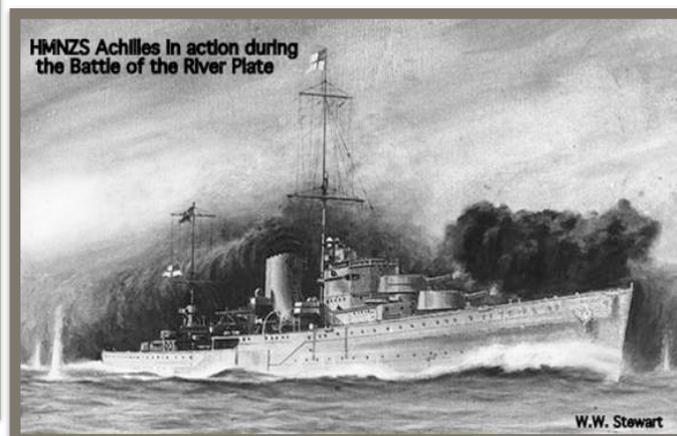
Fred was awarded the B.E.M for long service and good conduct whilst serving with the New Zealand Royal Navy. This was not the first recognition of his service with the NZRN. On 13 December 1939, off the coast of Uruguay, Fred was serving on HMS Achilles, later to become HMNZS Achilles, a Leander-class light cruiser, with 320 other New Zealanders amongst the ships crew. At 06:20 on that morning, Achilles, with two other cruisers Ajax and Exeter, engaged fire with the German Pocket Battleship Admiral Graf Spee. Exeter was badly damaged leaving Achilles and Ajax to force the Pocket Battleship to seek sanctuary in Montevideo harbour. The Admiral Graf Spee was critically damaged and with escape impossible on 17 December its Captain Hans Langsdorff ordered his ship to be scuttled in the River Plate. One of the major Allied victories of World War II

Following the battle the Captain of Achilles, William Parry, decided, for safety reasons, to jettison their remaining depth charges. Able Seaman Connew No. NZ1284 volunteered to assist the Gunnery Officer, Lieutenant R.E.Washbourne, in

this dangerous and ultimately successful task. For his act of courage Fred was mentioned in despatches. On his discharge from Achilles Fred was promoted to the rank of 'Master of Arms' based in Wellington and then Littleton, being responsible for recruitment. Following a second posting to Wellington and further promotion to Sub Lieutenant, Fred moved north to be based in Auckland. During this time he married Pat whose brother Edgar, coincidentally, had been a shipmate and friend of Fred on Achilles and who was seriously injured in the Battle of River Plate.

When in Auckland Fred, who had been initiated into the Craft in Wellington, became a Charter Member of the Belmont Lodge No. 335 which was Dedicated on 20 May 1948. He was installed as Master in 1953 and ultimately achieved the rank of Assistant Provincial Grand Master. VW Bro. Fred is described by his peers as a top guy, dignified, great ritualist and always impeccably turned out. There is just one word missing from that list and that is heroic.

Content and pictures by courtesy of Mrs Pat Connew. Initial contact via Vic Fabian



W BRO. FRANK ANSELL - 50 YEARS A FREEMASON

On 9 December Frank was the guest of honour at a celebration of his 50 years in the Craft. He was accompanied by his wife Bernice and family members. The Lodge was filled with Brothers who had been part of Franks Masonic life. After Frank had been welcomed to the Lodge by Matthew,

Murray and Vic presented a Power Point presentation of Franks life. Frank was then presented with his Jewel and Certificate by the North Shore Grand Master.

Those assembled then adjourned to the refectory. After the meal Frank cut his cake, with the support of his son Scott. There was a then a flying visit by VW Bro. S. Claus dressed in full regalia. Some of

those present commented that he bore an uncanny resemblance to Vic Fabian.



100 Years Ago

From the minute book of Albion Lodge No. 45, 11 February 1915.

Correspondence:-

From Salvation Army Headquarters soliciting a donation towards the Belgian Relief Fund of that body.

The sum of £2/2/- voted for this object.

A/Cs Passed:-

The following accounts were passed for payment, Nicholson & Griffin Interest 13/19/- Repairs to building 3/13/4 Printing 1/2/6 Gas 14/- Hopkins

& Coutts Refreshments 3/-/8 Tyler 2/-/- Candles 8/6 Grand Lodge Dues 18/12/9 Total 43/10/9

Ballot:-

A ballot was for the affiliation of Bro. J. Scammell MM of Otari Lodge No. 190. Proposed by Bro. W.J. Stevenson seconded by Bro. C.L. Jewell. The ballot was successful and Bro Scammel was declared duly elected. Being present the Brother was introduced and welcomed by the WM and took his seat as a member of the Lodge.

The business of the evening being ended the Lodge was closed in Peace and Harmony with solemn prayer at 9.20 pm

UPCOMING LODGE EVENTS



February

- 15 Sunday** -  Ulysses 20th Auckland Rescue Helicopter charity ride
- 17 Tuesday** - 1st Degree Rehearsal
- 21 Saturday** - Ice Breaker at Richard & Marcia Lumsden's
38 Ridge Road, Albany 3:30pm - 7pm

Directions:

Turn into The Avenue at Albany Pub on SH 17, take second right into Hobson Road (about 2 km), left into Ridge Rd. We are 400m on the right. Parking - Either up the drive on the grass, or on the grassy verge on the left hand side of Ridge Road opposite the gate.

- 22 Sunday** -  Paeroa 'Battle of the Streets'
www.battleofthestreets.co.nz/spectator
- 24 Tuesday** - 1st Degree Rehearsal

March

- 1 Sunday** -  Ulysses Cambridge Toy Run. Cambridge to Waikato Hospital
- 3 Tuesday** - 1st Degree Rehearsal
- 10 Tuesday** - 1st Degree Working Isaac Newton Education Topic Alistair Lumsden
- 17 Tuesday** - Installation Rehearsal
- 24 Tuesday** - Installation Rehearsal

North Shore Masonic Motorcycle Group Diary Events

Brothers and friends are welcome on these rides, for more details contact Glenn Clark

glenn_clark@vodafone.co.nz or the Editor

FROM A PAST MASTER



Greetings from the East to Belmont Albion and other friends, I wish you all a very excellent and prepared start for our first gathering this year.

While we were on holiday, like weeds, we Freemasons have been quietly prospering. Sadly some of the more treasured Brethren have ceased labour. We also honour those we remember from times past. Elsewhere you will find a reference to Fred Connew. As a young matelot the Master at Arms, or 'crusher' was one to be feared or respected. When I arrived in Devonport from Wellington dominating figures we termed 'Eagles in the East' looked down upon those delivering ritual. Foremost was Fred in his Grand Lodge regalia. I was mindful of his Naval past so joined the Tuesday gardeners at the 'Village'. Memories of those times flooded back last Thursday at the funeral of Alan Bucheler who with W.Bro Greenstreet and Dean Paul Rymer had been involved there at the 'Edgar Faber'

Chapel from its earliest beginnings. Not many Freemasons bother to attend their services these days which is also rather sad. Selwyn Heights, as the village has become, is a very vibrant set up. Adjacent to the chapel is a magnificent new restaurant.

Most of Auckland Masonic Lodges and Other Masonic Orders and side Orders are given a date for their Brethren to confirm their professed belief and participate in worship, if that is not a too 'Old Fashioned' concept. Rose Croix brethren would have known and loved Alan.

I saw our 'Spirit of New Zealand' candidate off on his training voyage and met the ship on its return. Sebastian Jones is keen to attend our next meeting to give us a presentation.



Out Pipes Humphrey.

'We must learn to live together as brothers or perish as fools'

- Martin Luther King Jr.



Next Issue

Deadline:

24 February 2015

Email:

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