

# BELMONT ALBION



April 2015

## FROM THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Greetings Brethren,

It gives me great pleasure to write this piece, as your newly installed Worshipful Master.

In the lead up to the Installation in April, I have been genuinely surprised at just how much support is so freely coming from you all. Change is always difficult, and I have been impressed by people's willingness to assist me in the lead up to this period of transition.

I feel very honoured, and humbled, to be taking the chair and to be taking over the mantle from W Bro. Matt. Under his stewardship, we have a Lodge that has moved forward positively, and is currently in strong spirit. I wish to take this opportunity acknowledge W Bro. Matt for his leadership, his counsel and his friendship. On a weekly basis, it is a real joy to watch, and partake in, the good natured banter and the ensuing laughter that emanates from all corners of the Lodge. This is a true testament to camaraderie we all feel to each other and to the Lodge in general.

Looking forward, it is my genuine hope that I can help build on this productive spirit, and wish to do so in the first instance by looking after and supporting our own. From what I have observed and the feedback I have sought, I believe that both Senior and Newer members alike, are likely to need different levels of support. Be it support outside of Lodge, recognising the many years service given by our more experienced brethren, or the need for personal growth and education within Lodge for our more junior members, it is my hope that our Lodge continues to excel in the spirit of giving, whatever shape it may take. I hope that you will support me in making sure that such assistance is both freely available and readily given.



In closing I would like to note that from time to time there may be situations when we do not always agree with each other. But It is my fervent wish that you recognise that these times, and the decisions that ensue, are done so with the best intentions and for the greater good of our people, their families and our Lodge's future. I look forward to working with you all, in whatever capacity it may take.

Sean  
021 897326

**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

Although the regular meeting in April is not the first meeting of the calendar year for Belmont Albion No. 45 it is the first meeting of his year for the newly installed Master. Last year was the 22 time BA45 had installed its Master the Lodge being 21 years old. This year we celebrate the Grand Lodge of New Zealand being 125 years old it having been formed in 1890. The Albion Lodge has a time line 7 years in excess of this for it was consecrated in 1883 and for the first years of its life was known as The Albion Lodge No. 2003 English Constitution. This changed to The Albion Lodge No. 45 when it joined the roll of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand.

The Belmont Lodge No. 335 New Zealand Constitution was consecrated in 1948 67 years ago. There was also a less known anniversary celebrated on the 14 April 2015 as the newly installed Master was initiated on that date in 2008, 7 years to the day he was installed as Worshipful Master.

Those of you who read the posts on the BA Education Intranet site <http://www.edu.thebelmontalbionlodge.co.nz> will notice a change in some of the discussion postings. After much debate, regarding the concepts of modern education methods, it has been agreed that posting of 'long' pieces of prose should become the exception and that short questions with wherever possible an image should be used. This will challenge the brother to research an answer with a glass of his favourite tipple as a reward for the sender of the most complete answer.

In the coming issues of the Newsletter it is planned that Frank Ansell's book ' Short History of Belmont Lodge No. 335 1948-1993' will be serialised. It is hoped that this will be of particular interest to the newer members of BA45 who have been asking about the Lodge's history in the education meetings.

Editor: [ba45.editor@gmail.com](mailto:ba45.editor@gmail.com)

## THE THREE CHAIRS 2015 - 2016 THE MASTERS CHAIR



Shortly before his Installation, over scotch and coffee, Sean talked to the Newsletter Editor about his feelings as his first year in the Chair of Solomon approached.

**Editor**, Sean where and when did your Masonic life begin?

**Sean Neely**, I was initiated into the Lodge of Enlightenment No. 502 on 14 April 2008, strangely 7 years to the day before my Installation as a Worshipful Master. I was raised on 8 February 2010.

**Editor**, What was the driver for you wishing to become a Freemason?

**Sean Neely**, My paternal Grandfather Robert was a Freemason. He was Initiated, Passed and Raised in *Lodge Coltness St Mary No. 31*, Scottish Constitution, who meet in Wishaw in Lanarkshire. My Father-in-Law, Max Mabin, was Initiated into the Nelson Victory Lodge No.40 in the early 50's and still a member. He has twice been Master of Wairarapa Lodge No.238 and currently he is a member of Lodge Omarunui No.216. Max holds the

Grand Rank of Past Grand Standard Bearer and is a 31<sup>st</sup> Degree in the Rose Croix. My Grandfather-in-Law Ernest Edward Bailey Mabin was Master of Pacific Lodge No.1229 English Constitution 1907-1911 and held the Grand rank of District Grand Chaplin Southern District of New Zealand, English Constitution. So you can see there was Freemasonry all around me, this made me curious about the history of Freemasonry and I was also impressed with the stature of Freemasons I came into contact with.

**Editor**, Who have you had as mentor?

**Sean Neely**, I have been very lucky to have 2 very good mentors, John Weymouth and Stu Mill.

**Editor**, What offices have you held as you moved up the ladder?

**Sean Neely**, I was Junior Deacon at 502 and have been Senior Deacon, Junior and Senior Warden at Belmont Albion.

**Editor**, What do you feel will be your biggest challenge as Worshipful Master?

**Sean Neely**, Understanding the expectations of the Brethren and putting in place what is necessary for those expectations to be met.

**Editor**, If you have the power to change some aspect of Freemasonry what would it be?

**Sean Neely**, The public's perception of the Craft. We are good people doing good things and this is not always apparent to the person in the street or through the media.

**Editor**, What aspects of Freemasonry do you most enjoy?

**Sean Neely**, The people and the team challenges from which develop special relationships.

**Editor**, Do you have any long term thoughts on what you would like to achieve after your term as Worshipful Master is completed?

**Sean Neely**, I would like to look within the Craft to see what opportunities are available to me and what interests me. At this stage, it is more about getting the next step up the ladder done and done well.

**Editor**, What was your wife's reaction when you told her the Lodge had asked you to become the Worshipful Master Elect

**Sean Neely**, Coming from a Masonic family, Angela knew I was on the ladder and that this would see me sitting in the Chair of Solomon one day, so she was pleased for me, but not surprised.

## THE THREE CHAIRS 2015 - 2016

### THE SENIOR WARDEN

I was Raised and became a Master Mason in 1993, joined the Royal Arch 2 years later in 1995 and the Knights Templar in 1997. I then became a member of Rose Croix.

I did too much and 'binned them all' but retained my membership of Belmont Albion No 45 where I had risen on the ladder to Senior Warden.

Three years ago my enthusiasm for Freemasonry was rekindled and I became again active in the Blue Lodge where I am happy. I enjoyed being Junior Warden and am looking forward to the challenge of the coming year

Russell



## THE THREE CHAIRS 2015 - 2016

### THE JUNIOR WARDEN

I was Initiated into Belmont Albion on 10 November 2009, Passed 8 June 2010 and Raised 9 August 2011.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at lodge and I am looking forward to taking the Chair of Solomon in the coming years.

I would love to be part of the District, Division and National organisations in the future but fully believe that these things should not be rushed.

Brendan

### 100 Years Ago

From the minute book of Albion Lodge No. 45, 8 April 1915.

#### G.L Relief Fund:-

The W.M. announced that owing to the non receipt of the circulars from Prov. G.M. re the Grand Lodge Special War Relief Fund this would be considered at the next meeting.

#### Lusitania Disaster:-

The W.M. made feeling reference to the loss of the 'Lusitania' and a motion of sympathy and regret was carried in silence.

#### Condolence:-

It was resolved to send letters of condolence to the W.M. W.Bro. Coltman and Bro A. Wooly whose sons had been wounded in the action before the Dardanelles.

It was also resolved to send a letter of sympathy to W.Bro. J. C. Spinley whose wife had recently died.

The business of the evening being ended the Lodge was closed in Peace and Harmony with solemn prayer at 10.00 pm

# INSTALLATION

The installation of the Worshipful Master 2015/16 Bro. Sean David Neely



old friends meet and collars are adjusted

to guard our secrets from cowans



The new Master with his father-in-law and minders

stories are recounted



The Brothers who looked after us so well

food eaten with the odd glass of wine



the end of a memorable evening

## MASONIC MISCELLANY

### Out and About with the Secretary

Welcome aboard Isaac, Great to see you are already attending all our Tuesday Night Rehearsals, and taking advantage of Paul's" Masonic Education Program "etc and are quickly becoming part of our B/A Family.

Murray visited me this week, he's "Tracking" very well and the doctors are very pleased.

Frank is feeling much better and hopes to be able re-join us soon.

Looking Forward to the May Camaraderie Meeting with our ladies and guests.

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Marie-Louise Ward, PhD.

Marie is a Senior Lecturer in Physiology at the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, University of Auckland. She is Principal Investigator and Leader of the Muscle Cell Function Group, and has a particular interest in understanding how the heart is regulated on a beat- to-beat basis, and why this regulation sometimes fails.

Heart failure is a debilitating disease that drastically affects the quality of life, and has poor prognosis. For older populations, heart failure is a major health risk with ~18% of the population over 65 years developing this debilitating condition.

Her subject will be "**Heart to Heart**"

Dave Barr

### MASONIC BIRTHDAYS

09/04/1964 - F.D. Arnott  
18/04/1974 - R.J. Wright  
06/04/1981 - M. Rowley  
14/04/2008 - S.D. Neely

### PAST MASTER'S LETTER FOR APRIL 2015

I thought that I had written my last contribution to the monthly newsletter. (onset of infirmity or addled brain syndrome). It occurred to me that as an Officer in my new daylight Lodge, after our Installation in May, that it would be appropriate for North Shore influences to be better coming from the younger scribes over there. (We Westies love you but rarely enjoy the pleasure of your presence this side of the harbour bridge).

The new team will have to rely upon mentors able to instil the strong attributes that we have become inherently used to in the past. Delivering ritual at degree ceremonies will slowly be given by younger members. Eagles in the East may sometimes descend to the floor to give of their best. Visitors may be impressed by Belmont Albion's great abilities and I will always continue to support them whenever possible.

We should always remember the contribution given over the many years by conscientious brethren, some still around, some passed to the

Grand Lodge above. By their dedication and love to us all they have represented the best annals of Freemasonry which will never die. A Lodge is the sum total of its members. The Lodge is a refuge for honouring the memory of great men. The Lodge is a place where its members may join together in Harmony, Peace, and Love of fellow men. May it prosper and never cease.

Out Pipes. Humphrey

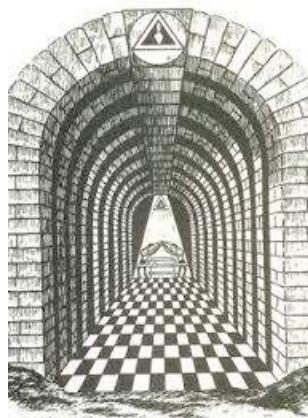




The Holy Royal Arch – a personal reflection.

I would suggest that the degrees of Mark Master, Excellent Master and Royal Arch are the most wonderful pieces of theatre. They contain drama, joy, despair and sorrow and with these emotions comes learning, understanding and pleasure. I have been fortunate to see many of Shakespeare's plays sitting in the theatre, that bears his name, at Waterside in Stratford-upon-Avon and have thought how well these three degrees could be presented on that famous stage as the same emotions are felt for both productions.

There is another link between the Shakespearian written word and the Royal Arch Degree, from whence did they originate? Did Edward de Vere, Christopher Marlowe, Sir Francis Bacon or almost every other prominent Elizabethan write the plays? Did the Royal Arch originate on the Continent of Europe around 1740 or in Ireland around the same period. Minutes from Lodges in Dumfries Scotland, in Londonderry Ireland, Bristol in England and Virginia in the USA, where George Washington was confirmed, show it was widespread by the 1750's. Remember there was no internet or skype in those days so the degrees must have spread amazingly quickly or have been in place some time before 1740 I would suggest.



Laurence Dermott, Secretary of the Ancient Grand Lodge of England, who in 1756 published 'Ahiman Rezon', recorded that he had received the Royal Arch Degree in Ireland on 16 April 1746. It was Dermott who described the Royal Arch as the 'root, heart and marrow' of Freemasonry. I could only find three 'formal' references to the Arch prior to Washington in 1753 these were Dermott's record and two from Ireland. In 1743 'Faulkener's Dublin Journal' noted that 'Youghal Lodge No 21 celebrated St John's Day with a parade in which the Royal Arch was carried by two Excellent Masters' and in 1744 Firfield published a book in Dublin in which he referred to the Royal Arch having been brought to Ireland from York. James Anderson's 'The History of Freemasonry', written in 1723, does comment on '....the Royal Art duly cultivated....' but academics dismiss this as being a reference to the Royal Arch.

So I ask the question "does it matter where the Royal Arch Ritual came from any more than who wrote Hamlet, Much Ado or Macbeth" and I would answer "no it detracts nothing from my enjoyment of the 'performance'".

Of course if a more experienced Brother could enlighten me I would be most grateful.

Source: Waller/Pietre-Stones/ GL Yukon et.al.

# UPCOMING LODGE EVENTS



## April

7 Tuesday	Installation Rehearsal with District Team
14 Tuesday	Installation Sean Neely & his Officers
28 Tuesday	Workshop for new officers followed by Standing Committee meeting Education 7:30 – 8:30

## May

5 Tuesday	Masters Lodge visit to be confirmed
12 Tuesday	Camaraderie Night. Guest speaker Marie Ward Subject 'Heart Health'
19 Tuesday	New Officers 3rd Degree Charges practice EA and FC education meeting
26 Tuesday	3rd Degree rehearsal

## Treasurer\$ Note: Your Due\$ are Due

Brethren, the paparazzi of the Newsletter have been able to photograph the Treasurer handing out the financial affidavits, so it is no good denying all knowledge.

The 'chocolate fish' has already been awarded, for the most prompt payment of the due. As 'name suppression' has been applied for, and awarded to the recipient, all the

Newsletter can reveal is that he is a thought to be a member of the Devonport Mafia.



## REFLECTION OF THE IMMEDIATE PAST MASTER

This month marks the end of my term as Master. It's been a fabulous experience and I have thoroughly enjoyed it. There's nothing quite like sitting in the hot seat, - it challenges the self as well as the lodge to keep on our collective mettle!

The relationship between the master and the lodge is very special. The craft bestows all the authority one could wish for, but of course, one quickly learns that without the goodwill and support of all little progress can be made. Judging whether the touch of the controls must be heavy or light, or when to intervene and direct instead of allow a free flow of discussion, - all these things (and more) must be learnt through the application of judgement, effort and time.

It is an investment in one's self that is well worth making, and I like to think that being a progressive science, every brother has the potential to occupy the chair of King Solomon.

I have enjoyed a lot of support for which I am very grateful. To mention everyone would inevitably lead to someone being

forgotten, but I must say that the BA team really helped me settle into the job and always came up trumps when asked to do a job.

I reflect on the quality of our ritual, emergency meetings, mentoring and education, the evolution of our newsletter, guest speakers, new members, brothers who have passed, the trials as well as the jubilees of our extended masonic family, 50 year badges, support for Typhoon relief, several Scottie nights, and connections with the Spirit of Adventure.

So we now welcome the master and I know he will be do a great job, taking the lodge to a new level as we continue making our Strategic Plan a living reality.

My sincere thanks to all, and best wishes to our Master Elect and his team for the coming year.

Matt

'The Important thing is to never stop questioning.'

- Albert Einstein



## Next Issue

Deadline: 30 April 2015  
Email: [ba45.editor@gmail.com](mailto:ba45.editor@gmail.com)