

BELMONT ALBION



September 2015

<http://thebelmontalbionlodge.co.nz>

FROM THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Greetings from Singapore Brethren,

An initiative near and dear to my heart is on the near horizon. As a spark of an idea, and with the support of our then Master, IPM Matt Rea Rankin, our lodge instigated a cross city, cross constitutional evening with our brethren from St. Andrew Lodge #418, SC. The original purpose had a number of aspects it was wanting to cover, the principle one being the opportunity to share in a refectory evening that was different and special. From the moment that Bro Wayne and his team started setting up the refectory to cram in the expected numbers, it was obvious that we were onto something special.

Special for our two lucky candidates, Bros Alistair Lumsden and David Little, both of who probably think that a packed Lodge room with 50-60 visitors is the least that we would do for their special night. Special in seeing the old friendships rekindled, and new ones made. Special in having a Lodge flexible enough to engage brethren from sister constitutions delivering charges. But most special in my mind, is the laughter, the singing, the food and the scotch. Much wisdom is shared around a kitchen table, ours just happened to be seating 85. With the next evening booked for next month, I am desperately sorry that I will not be able to participate in it. To ensure that the evening is another roaring success, it needs numbers, and I would therefore ask a favour of each of you.



Slangear
Sean Neely



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

This past month I have been reminded of the many flavours in Masonic life. I have been fortunate to attend installations in both Craft Lodges and Royal Arch Chapters, listen to a paper given by the travelling Australian and New Zealand Research Council (ANZMRC) lecturer, and witness both the ceremonies of the Third Degree and Acknowledgement to the Degree of Excellent Master.

This in addition to joining members of the North Shore Masonic Motorcycle Group in partaking in a fund raising ride organised by 'Blue September' the Prostrate Cancer Foundation. Where else but in Freemasonry can you spend an evening in splendid regalia then a day in motorcycle leathers all under the same banner?

It has been suggested that the 'Short Education's' given in Open Lodge are reproduced in the Newsletter. This will serve two purposes, extend the compass of the paper given in the Lodge to a greater number of people and ensure the record of this paper is included in the BA45 website archive. The first 'Short Education' to be published in this manner is one given by Russell Ward on Benevolence, which can be found in this issue.

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SHORT HISTORY OF BELMONT LODGE NO. 335 1948 – 1993 RESEARCHED BY WORSHIPFUL BROTHER FRANK ANSELL (1930-2015) PAST MASTER

Part 5 - 1960 - 1972

At the meeting held on 29 November 1960 the Albion Lodge advised the Belmont Lodge the annual rent would now be £175.0.0 per annum (up £100.0.0). This was brought about by renovations to the Lodge Room being completed and Belmont agreed to forward £25.0.0 to Albion to assist payment of this expense.



At the April 1962 Committee Meeting for the first time a suggestion was to be made to the Albion Lodge and Lodge Trinity to ascertain if they were interested in a combined effort to build a North Shore Temple. So began the long journey to achieve this project that did not become a reality until 2005 after 45 years of endeavour.

At this meeting also the present Chaplin of Belmont Albion, Nelson Webster, requested country membership as he was living away from the North Shore. Bro. Webster has since completed 50 years service and awarded Roll of Honour.

The impending first weekend visit from Lodge Kaikohe was discussed to make sure it was a success (in 1962). Mr Terry Riddle's application for membership had insufficient and more particulars were required. Mr Riddle subsequently became W/Bro. Riddle, son-in-law of the late W/Bro. Allan Wordsworth, who was Director of Ceremonies of the Belmont Lodge for 11 years.

W/Bro. Terry Riddle followed his father-in-law into this office and became Director of Ceremonies for the following 13 years. W/Bro. Riddle shifted to Lodge Kumeu and became Master there in 1964. This year (2006) he has been awarded Roll of Honour.

In 1964 the Albion Lodge wrote to Belmont enquiring if the Lodge would be interested in joining Lodge Trinity in joint ownership of the Devonport Lodge building. A committee was formed of the Master W/Bro. Moverley and W/Bros. Forbes and Camplin to formulate a scheme for this project.

The annual Ladies Night was also discussed and it was advised that the cost of hiring Romaleigh Centre would be £20.0.0 hall hire, £16.0.0 for the band and 12/6d per head for catering. What great prices compared with today.

At the end of 1964 W/Bro. Allan Cossley achieved his 50 years service badge. W/Bro. Allan Wordsworth, D.C. Advised that Lodge of Instruction attracted on average 20 members. We still achieve this these days with a smaller membership.

In 1966 the Albion Lodge advised annual rent would now be £208.0.0. Albion explained they were having financial difficulties and the Belmont Standing Committee were sympathetic to these problems.

In 1969 W/Bro. Forbes reported to the Standing Committee concerning joint ownership of the Devonport building and noted no progress had been made. It was then moved that:-

'In view of the abortive meetings held over a long period and nothing and nothing had been produced we should write to the Albion Lodge and notify them that if no positive action is taken to produce a draft Agreement within three months we would have to consider withdrawing from the existing arrangement'.

In 1972 the joint ownership of the Devonport Lodge Rooms with Albion Lodge was completed, with the Belmont Lodge having W/Bro. Terry Riddle as its leader and the Albion Lodge led by W/Bro. Frank Pavlik.

A very large social event was held in the refectory to celebrate this event with Belmont agreeing to pay Albion \$6,000.00.

Finances must have improved as Bro. Treasurer proposed \$2,000 be invested in Local Body Stock. Roskill Masonic Hospital Appeal for donations also commenced this year.

W/Bro. G. Camplin, the first Belmont Master passed away this year and W/Bro. Bob Foster replaced him as Trustee, a post he held until he passed away in 2006.

CHARITY: GIVING OR PAYING?

A quote from the Freemasons Guide and Compendium 1950:

True charity is not typified by an alms-box. The benevolence of a check book does not meet all the wants of humanity. Giving food, clothing and money to the poor is only the beginning, the kindergarten class, of real charity. Charity has higher, purer forms of manifestation. Charity is but an instinctive reaching out for justice in life. Charity seeks to smooth down the rough places of living, to bridge the chasms of human sin and folly, to feed the heart-hungry, to give strength to the struggling, to be tender with human weakness, and greatest of all, it means—obeying the Divine injunction: "Judge not."

When I became an Entered Apprentice, I was given a set of working tools that teach the allocation and wise use of time, to get stuck in quickly and work hard and keep at it. I regret that they lay unappreciated for some years.

I was given my VSL when I became a Master Mason and told of the wondrous facts therein; I think I have referred to it more times in the last six months than in the previous 19 years. Funny, that is about as long as the educational web has been on line. Or is it because I became SW? There are two major quotes in the VSL referring to charity:

Before he heard the call, Matthew was a tax collector in Judea. He would have been a very wise man. He teaches in Matthew 6:1 -13.

'Take heed that you do not do your alms (charitable deeds) before men, to be seen by them.

Otherwise you have no reward from your Father which is in Heaven. Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have the glory of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward.

But when you doest alms do not let thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth. That thine alms may be in secret: and thy father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly'.

There is a different take from St Paul in the first epistle to the Corinthians.
I Corinthians 13:

Though I speak with the tongues of men and angels and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal.

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

Charity suffered long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up.

Charity my brothers is not about plastering the square and compasses on everything we do! It is far more subtle and we have of late slowly moved away from the purity of Masonic Charity. Return on charitable investment cannot be a driver for the activity. When we first came into a lodge of freemasons we learned from The First Tracing Board that the Freemason's Lodge is vast: indicative of the universality of the science and that our charity should have no bounds save those of prudence.

In the second degree, the Craftsman is told to judge with candor and admonish with friendship indeed lenient judgment of others.

But what is modern concept of charity.

1. Benevolent good will toward or love of humanity
2. Generosity and helpfulness especially toward the needy or suffering also aid given to those in need.
3. An institution (as a hospital) founded by such a gift
4. Lenient judgment of others
5. Goodwill or love of humanity.

Why is it then, that as freemasons, who are enjoined to a practice of brotherly love and charity, so many focus on the charity of giving and not on the charity of loving? Could it be because reaching into your pocket for some coins is easier than stretching out your heart?

To me, charity means having a charitable heart. By this I mean we should ever be willing to see the best in our brethren, to cast the best light on their actions, to see them in the most positive light. On this principle, masonry unites men of every country sect and opinion, and causes true friendship to exist among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance. Brotherly love is a principle, and charity in attitude and actions, is the outward expression of that affection. A charitable job well and quietly done conveys on the doer an inner feeling of peace and tranquillity. So let it be with Belmont Albion's benevolence.

Russell Ward S.W.

From the Almoners Script Purse

On Sunday August 16 I represented Belmont Albion Lodge at the Devotional Service held at the Edgar Faber Memorial Chapel, Selwyn Heights Retirement Village. I was accompanied by Murray Morrissey along with Humphrey and Marjory Ewens.



On behalf of the Lodge I did the first reading followed by Lodges North Harbour and Takapuna whose representatives gave the second and third readings. After the service we visited the restaurant which is part of the retirement village for an enjoyable lunch which closed a great morning.

Wayne Jones (Almoner for Life)

The 'Almoner' is responsible for the well-being of lodge members and their families. He remains in contact with members who are unwell, and also maintains a discreet presence in the lives of widows of former members, so that the lodge may readily assist them should they find themselves in any particular need.

100 Years Ago

Extracts from the minute book of Albion Lodge No. 45, 9 September 1915.
The Lodge was opened in Due & Ancient Form at 7.40pm with Solemn Prayer & Praise.

W.Bro. R Gardener:-

The W.M. moved as follows "that this Lodge extends its fraternal sympathy to W.Bro. & Mrs Gardener in the bereavement they have recently sustained through the death of their only son recently killed in action at the Dardanelles" Carried with all standing in silence.

Correspondence:-

A circular letter from the M.W. the G.M. a copy of which had been sent to each member of the Lodge was read.

The letter dealt with the need for care & avoidance of undue expenses in the Lodges, urging the cutting down of refreshment expenses and abolition of the use alcoholic liquors at refreshment until the end of the war as an example to the outside world and to enable Lodges to exercise more fully that excellent Masonic Virtue, Charity.

Alcoholic liquors abolished sine die:-

Proposed by Bro. P.W. McCallum & seconded by Bro. C.L. Jewel & carried "that this Lodge adopts the suggestions contained in the G.M. letter and will discontinue the use of alcoholic liquors at refreshment until the end of the present war".
The business of the evening being ended the Lodge was closed in Peace, Love and Harmony with solemn prayer at 9.50pm

The Order of Free Gardeners

The Order of Free Gardeners is a fraternal organisation that is Scottish in its origin subsequently spreading to England and Ireland and further. The Order is believed to have been founded in the middle of the 17th Century, although the earliest formal record is the minute book from Haddington, in East Lothian, dated 1676. The records show fifteen rules called 'Interjunctions for ye Fraternity of Gardeners of East Lothian'. The founding members appear not to have been gardeners by profession but farmers and landowners who practised gardening for pleasure. Tailors, merchants and clerks were also members during this early period. They were unable to obtain the status of an incorporation, known as a guild in England, so modelled their Society on the Masons.



The group established in Haddington provided practical training, ethical development and supported the poor, widows and orphans. By 1849 the Gardeners Lodges had grown in number and a Grand Lodge was established. In 1859 a Grand Lodge meeting in Edinburgh has representatives from 100 Lodges in attendance including 3 from the USA.

In January 1726 there is the first record of 'initiation secrets' of the Order, this coming from an internal complaint that accused a member of defaming certain of its officers by reporting that they 'could not correctly give its words and signs'. In 1772 documents established that the fraternity of Free Gardeners had 'Words' and 'Secrets' and an 1848 document mentions teaching in the form of 'Signs, Grips and Secrets'. There are complete rituals of the Apprentice, Companion and Master Degrees dating from 1930 and minutes of the lodges show that the ritual of the order progressively developed so that by the end of the 19th Century a system of three grades similar, to those of the Masonic Blue Lodge, had been developed.

THE 20th Century saw many members conscripted to fight in the two World Wars, not to return and the British National Insurance Act 1946 removed much of the need for mutual aid and by the year 2000 there remained but one Lodge of the Order of Gardeners in the United Kingdom, this in Bristol, although the researcher Robert L.D. Cooper reported Lodges surviving in the Antilles and Australia.

Those Brethren who have knowledge of Melbourne may be aware of a rock-band called 'Ancient Free Gardeners'. Who Allegedly took their name from a building, in Elizabeth Street, that still carries the name and logo of the Order of Free Gardeners.

Source:- Kyne / Cooper / history shelf.org /Gow /et. al. PC

MASONIC BIRTHDAYS

13/09/1967	K.A.	Eglesome
10/08/1971	R.D.	Skinner
12/08/1975	H.J	Ewens

North Shore Royal Arch Chapter No. 52



On 3 September V.E. Comp. Graham Haxell, E. Comp. Henri-Noel Venturini and V.E. Comp. Alan Thompson were installed as Principals of the Chapter.



[2nd Principal Haggai, 1st Principal Zerubbabel, 3rd Principal Joshua]

1st Principal. Zerubbabel the Prince of Jerusalem. Zerubbabel led the first group of Jews numbering 42,360 from Babylonian captivity and laid the foundation stone of the Second Temple in Jerusalem shortly after 520 BCE. He is referred to in the Hebrew Bible, in the books of Ezra, Nehemiah and 1 Chronicles in the Apocrypha and in the genealogy of Jesus found in the New Testament.

The 1st Principal is the ruling Principal and conducts the Ceremony of Exaltation to the Royal Arch Degree. He is addressed as 'Very Excellent'

2nd Principal. Haggai the Prophet. This name means my holiday and he was a Hebrew prophet during the building of the Second Temple. The building of the Second Temple had been suspended

for eighteen years until Haggai with the support of Zechariah roused the people to take advantage of a policy change by Darius the Great and commence work again.

The 2nd Principal conducts the Ceremony of Acknowledgement to the Degree of Excellent Master. He is addressed as 'Worshipful Excellent Master' during the working.

3rd Principal. Joshua (Jeshua) the High Priest. Joshua was the first person to be the High Priest for the reconstruction of the Second Temple. This is recorded in Zechariah 6:9-14.

The 3rd Principal conducts the Degree of Mark Master Mason. He is addressed as Worshipful Mark Master during the working.



Following the Installation of the Principals and Investiture of Officers the guests led by R.E. Comp. D.C. Craddock Grand Superintendent retired to the refectory for an enjoyable meal and much banter and recalling of old friends.

Source:- Meyers/Coogan/Tollinton/Rose/et.al. PC

"A man's true wealth is the good he does in this world"

Muhammed (570 – 632 CE)



Next Issue

Deadline: 2 October 2015 **Email:** ba45.editor@gmail.com