



September 2017

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.



Photo by: Mark Kitaoka (reprinted with permission)

<http://www.markkitaoka.com>



Next Issue
Deadline:
15 October 2017
Email:
ba45.editor@gmail.com

www.thebelmontalbionlodge.co.nz

In this issue:

Views from the East	3
Master's Calendar	4
From the Editor	6
Notes from the Director of Ceremonies	7
Q&A with Keith Eaglesome	8
A night at the museum	13
Masonic quote	17

Views from the East

Commitment

The great tennis player Martina Navratilova is credited with the quote “The difference between involvement and commitment is like ham and eggs. The chicken is involved; the pig is committed.”

When a new brother joins the Craft, it is with a certain expectation that to get the most from Freemasonry, there will be a genuine commitment to this decision and all it stands for. Unfortunately, there is no full proof blueprint that new initiates are given that articulates every aspect and understanding of what such commitment looks like and how best to incorporate it into one’s daily life. This is what we discover as part of our journey in the Craft.

Commitment is best defined as “a willingness to give your time and energy to something that you believe in, or a promise or firm decision to do something.”

There are many avenues that a Brother can follow on his journey in Freemasonry.

The most obvious commitment we see in Lodge is between people, both directly in terms of friendships, education, mentoring and personal support, as well as indirectly to family and friends.

The management and administration of the Lodge requires dedication and commitment, often behind the scenes so that the constitutional infrastructure works smoothly, communication are correctly directed, finances are managed responsibly and judiciously, and the general health and well-being of the Lodge are not put under undue or unnecessary pressures.

There is a commitment to supporting worthy causes and helping those less fortunate than

ourselves, close to home as well as in the wider community.

There can be commitment to helping pass on the secret arts and hidden mysteries through ritual, being the best you can be in delivering ritual or helping support those that may be struggling with the challenge they face.

It is not in any way selfish to want a level of commitment towards self-development and personal growth and brethren are encouraged to do this.

Without doubt, there should always be a commitment to having fun and enjoying time away from the challenges of the day.

We are fortunate to have individuals in Lodge who have a dedicated and life-long commitment to the Craft. They lead the way and demonstrate to newer members, and to the community at large, the value that comes from being a committed Mason.

The personal sacrifice often identified in terms of time, financial, social, and interpersonal, while willingly given, needs to be recognised and appreciated. It is a responsibility on us to venerate those who truly demonstrate commitment, and where possible, celebrate with them and their family and friends, to highlight the good that has emanated from their willingness to be more than just involved in Lodge.

We all profit from our relationships with these individuals, both personally and as a Lodge. The more of us that commit, the stronger we all become.

WM Sean Neely

Master's Calendar

19 Sept – Standing committee (Its your Lodge and your voice is important, all to attend)

26 Sept – Annual Scottish night night practice

3 Oct – Final Lodge practice - Annual Scottish night

10 Oct – **Regular meeting Annual Scottish night**



Your invite to the annual Belmont Albion Lodge Scottish night

7:00pm, 10th October 2017

Welcome to the annual
Belmont Albion 45 Scottish night,
hosted in conjunction with our generous brethren from
St. Andrew Lodge No. 418 SC.

Join us, and our many visitors from all 4 Constitutions,
as well as from around the District, for a stirring evening
of camaraderie and entertainment.

Date: 10th October.

Time: Tying at 6:45pm,

Visitors: Received at 7:00pm sharp, with all Lodges piped in individually.

Evenings working: An address by RW Bro Garry Salmon, Divisional Grand Master.

Location: North Shore Masonic Centre, 5 William Laurie Place, Albany, Auckland

Refectory format for the evening

All Masters piped into Refectory
Haggis parade with pipes
Ode to the Haggis Toast to the Haggis The Selkirk Grace Haggis piped out
Loyal Toast - Queen and the Craft
Toast to the Grand Master
Toast to the Scottish District Grand Lodge, North Island
St. Andrew Lodge No. 418 SC reply to the toast
Traditional winter dinner, including haggis, tatties and neeps
The McAllister Poem
Toast to the Visitors
Visitors reply
The Tyler's toast and singing of Auld Lang Syne.

Cost: This evening's entertainment for all Brethren will be \$25 per head and includes table wine during the meal. This will be collected on the night.

Due to the increasing popularity, seats are limited.

RSVP: To help accurate catering, please respond by 3th October, to BA45 secretary, Dave Barr on 09 488-7296 or barrdd@orcon.net.nz

Location: North Shore Masonic Centre, 5 William Laurie Place, Albany, Auckland



From the Editor

Chipping at the stone...

I was searching for a photo that best describes the theme for this edition which is commitment to the craft and chipping at the stone consistently. I came across a beautiful photo that is now on this issue's cover page. It was taken by an American artist, Mark Kitaoka, who kindly gave me permission to reprint after checking out our website and seeing that some of our members ride bike. Mark has raced bikes all his life.

Someone I am very close to told me once: life is full of lessons and sometimes very painful but there is no escape. Just grab the lessons, put them in your suitcase and continue the journey. I am slowly learning that I can't have everything and everyone the way I want in life. It's a constant struggle but I am learning to enjoy the little things that make sorrows go away and that has helped me to realise the joy of having bigger and more meaningful things in life. I apply this to people I have around me, enjoying little moments of happiness with them. Chipping at the stone slowly but consistently!

Rituals teach us that with repeated trials and probations, we can hope to become a perfect ashlar. The road to perfection is never ending. We have to keep chipping at the stone. There are people who can help in our journey but it's our own efforts and how much we put in that decides how much we get in return from masonry or life in general. Goes to the famous Rumi quote that: "It's your way and yours alone, some will walk it with you but, no one will walk it for you". Life is a journey and to arrive at the final desired destination one needs to make consistent progress.

There will be challenges and difficulties of all sorts but with determination and hard work nothing is impossible.

"Bro Albert Pike was an imposing figure; six feet tall and 300 pounds with hair that reached his shoulders and a long beard. In 1831, he left Massachusetts to travel west, first stopping in Nashville, Tennessee and later moving on to St. Louis, Missouri. There he joined an expedition to Taos, New Mexico, hunting and trading. During the excursion, his horse broke and ran, forcing Pike to walk the remaining 500 miles to Taos". He thought us that nothing should stop us in our journey and from chipping at the stone.

This month we celebrated the 50th anniversary Jewel for VW Bro Keith Eaglesome, a true traveller and a living example of what can be achieved by patience, hard work and determination. I hope you all enjoyed the event and if you missed it, we have the full coverage including an exclusive interview with Keith in this edition.

Happy reading!

**Ali S
Editor**



Notes from the Director of Ceremonies

1) What a fantastic turnout at North Harbour last Thursday night. Double Second Degree - work carried out by Masters from across the Auckland District. Biggest attendance I have witnessed for many years.

The Refectory was highlighted by a presentation of a cheque to a young girl from Westlake Girls High school who is raising money for a Prosthetic leg ``blade``. Anna and her parents were present. A very ``feel good`` evening Brethren and sorry you could not join W/Brother Geoff FOOTE and myself to witness this.

2) The Church Service at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Parnell was well attended by the Freemasons fraternity on Sunday evening. Our Grand Master was present to do a reading. A lovely late afternoon tea was later served. The occasion was to publically thank the Freemasons for ongoing support over many years.

3) Our esteemed and long serving Brother ``Bluey`` WHELDALE is soon to receive his ``50 year service badge``. As ``Blueys`` health prevents him from attending Lodge to receive it, it is intended to travel to his home at Algies Bay sometime between now and November. Any Brother wishing to accompany us for this momentous occasion, please let me know. ``Bluey`` was a great stalwart of BA before poor health set in. A date will be set in the near future.

4) That man Wayne Maurice JONES never ceases to amaze me. He works tirelessly behind the scenes Brethren with his Almoners work. It was Wayne's creative hard work that set up the Refectory and liaised with the Caterer for Keith's 50th. What an occasion.

He is now working on the ``Senior Masons`` luncheon on the 4th December at the old Masonic Village in Mt Roskill.

The Senior Masons luncheon for the North Shore people is still in limbo?

Thanks also to our esteemed Secretary David BARR for ``working the numbers`` and in the end gave us a 100% headcount. Thanks David. He is now working on the ``SCOTTIE NIGHT`` numbers.



RW Bro Murray Morrissey

Q&A with Keith Eaglesome

On the 12th of September RW Bro Keith Eaglesome received his 50th Jewel. Prior to one of Brown Lodge meetings, the editor sat with Keith in Devonport to talk about his masonic life.

Keith, you are well-known among BA brethren and the masonic community in New Zealand but would you please introduce yourself for our wider audience?

I am often accused of being a pomme and people here think that because I lived in Melbourne for 20 years, I am Australian. But, I was born in Wanganui. We went to Palmerston North when I was about 2 and left there when I was at standard 4 probably when I was about 12 and about 12 years before we left there, a family came and built a house across the road, Willsons and I think they had 4 sons and one of the sons were called Richard. You will meet a prominent mason on the shore, we call **Dick Willson**. We then went down to Wellington and I went Kelburn Normal school. (KE: Normal school in NZ is a primary school attached to a training college.) I went to Wellington College and after that I joined a company which was New Zealand operation of the GEC, England. They were the New Zealand agents for a company which they had in Britain called Woods of Colchester who made industrial fans and I got involved with that and I got hooked on it and thought it was really good. In those days, nobody knew much about fan engineering in New Zealand. Woods company produced a book on the subject which was written in layman terms and another one by a company in America called Buffalo Forge wrote a book about fan engineering, you need to be a Philadelphia lawyer to understand that. So here, nobody knew anything about it because there was no school or university, even now, but there use to be one in South Hampton.



Figure 1 Johan Van Oldenbarnevldt.

So, in 1959, I thought if the mountain won't come to Muhammad then Muhammad must go to the mountain so I thought I have to go to Britain if I wanted to progress. So, I have been going with this girl for 4 years or so who had come from Britain and was born there. So, I rang her up and said, I want to go to Britain. Do you want to come? She was surprised but said yes alright. So in a matter of 6 months Libby had her 21st birthday, engagement and the marriage we married on a Saturday and on a ship to Britain on Wednesday and we both got jobs with Woods of Colchester Ltd. Came back to NZ in 1962 and went back to the old company in Wellington

In 1964 we had a new director in NZ, a guy I had worked with in London. On a Friday, he burst into the office and said, Keith, I have just been to Auckland and sack the bloke up because he upset an important customer. Will you go home and ask Libby if it is ok for you both to go to Auckland on Monday? And we were off to Auckland...

The bloke that was upset by my predecessor happened to be **Alan Thompson**'s boss. That's where I first met Alan and we have been friends ever since.



Figure 2 Keith and Libby

We brought a house in Narrow Neck and I joined the **Milford lodge** No 372 in 1967

In 1968, we had another managing director, he was an accountant. Accountants don't know how to run a

company and this wasn't a good place to be. I had a friend who I met in London and had gone to Australia and he suggested I go to Melbourne. When we had come from Britain, Australia was an awful place, very hard to find work. Takapuna.

So, I went to Melbourne to interview the company and was offered a job. We moved to Melbourne in 1968. Life was fantastic. The choices you had in the shops and you had money left over at the end of the week was unbelievable compared to the life we lived in New Zealand at that time. In 1972, they sent me to Kuala Lumpur to help and check out some manufacturing agents we had over there. That's where I first understood a saying my mother had: Never judge a Chinaman by his cloth! We had a trade exhibition in Kuala Lumpur and one day this Chinese bloke walked in, he looked like he just came out of a ragbag but the fuss they made about him was incredible. So, I asked who is that man and they said he is a very important costumer, indeed he is one of the richest man in Malaysia! So, I learned my mother's lesson.

Then in 1975, this Australian company wanted to establish an operation in New Zealand. In those days, the law of the land here was that foreign companies couldn't establish a company in their own right, they could only do so in partnership with a New Zealand company. So, they had a New Zealand agent here and after much discussion they agreed to establish a joint venture company in New Zealand and it had to be set up by a representative from each company. The New Zealand company representative was to be the first General Manager and I was sent from Australia to be the Australian. He retired after a year and I ended up running the company. In 1984, the Australian Directors asked would I consider going back to Australia to manage an associated Acoustic Company in Melbourne which had just ended a 3 months' strike. So, back to Melbourne.

When I first moved to Melbourne in 1968, I had joined a lodge called the Malvern Lodge No. 121. Each time I crossed the Tasman it meant starting at the bottom of the Lodge ladder again.

In 1984, I was Master at Malvern lodge. About that time, I was asked to join a lodge in Melbourne which is quite unique in the Masonic world, it's called **The Rhetoric Lodge of Communication**. While it was a

properly constituted lodge, it never made freemasons. It opens in a normal way as we do, the business is completed and then there would be a key speaker for half an hour. At 9 pm, the lodge was closed as we do and everybody disappeared to attend tutorials. There would be tutorial on public speaking, ritual rendition, Movement around the Lodge, particularly for deacons. In fact, if you needed any help in your Lodge Rhetoric could help. These tutorials ran until 9:30 pm, then everyone went down to the Refectory and it would start all over again there would be tutorials about presenting toasts various presentations. By 10:30 pm, you would on your way home.

Is that lodge still going?

Sadly not.

Following my year as Master, I was asked to join the Wardens courses or as we call them here Leadership courses. There were four Brethren in the Rhetoric Lodge of Communication who were fed up with the appalling quality of Masters. They decided to write a Course to teach Masters how to do their job. I was asked to be part of the Courses (1985) I continued until I came back to NZ in 1993.

Going back to 1990. All through my Masonic life I have been extraordinarily lucky for people to be mentors or guiders who have gently directed me. A particular person decided that I should have the experience of being a member of a Grand Lodge Team. In Melbourne, every year, three **Grand Lodge Teams** are selected to perform Installations, and Consecrations/Re-Dedications of Lodges. There were two metropolitan team and one country teams. In my year, about 80 people applied for 16 positions. Should you be lucky enough to get a berth in a team rehearsals start in October and are a weekly event until the Grand Installation early March. If you want to see a Grand Installation, go to Melbourne, and witness absolute precession!

I was appointed Asst Grand Pursuivant, an old term for the Inner Guard. There four of us, the Grand Pursuivant had three assistants, two for the Metropolitan Teams and one for the Country Team. The Pursuivants organise everything, the work sheets accommodation,

social events, clothing, regalia etc. One Purs is the money bags and I ended up with that job. Apart from the Grand Master, every team member pays all of his costs and during that one year, I processed \$80, 000.



Figure 3 Grand Poo-ba (Pursuivant)

In the same year, prior to joining the Grand Team, I agreed to become the Master of The Rhetoric Lodge of Communication despite people thinking I wouldn't be up to it with my Grand Lodge duties. I proved you can do both.

In the meantime, I didn't like where the company was going as it was taken over by a couple of accountants in Sydney. I organised myself an early retirement. Another Company, started by two blokes I knew from my days in London, needed a sales engineer and I applied. They said you can't have this job, being an ex-director of an Opposition Company. When I said I wanted a nice easy 9-5er I got the job. At the same time a very big project was coming up in Melbourne and close friend became the Manager. We ended up with the order for Fans and Attenuation Equipment for this big project and that kept me busy for the next three years.

One day the Company Owners asked if I would look at some figures they had put together which was a financial plan for an operation in NZ. It was a load of rubbish. All my working life I had maintained a practice of never discussing work problems with Libby. However, for some reason I told Libby about this stupid plan for New Zealand. At that stage our

daughter was back in NZ and married, our son was just at the end of university and Libby had ideas she wanted to go back to NZ. So, between Libby and the Company I was exported back to NZ in 1993.

When I met **Geoff Foote's** father, in the Mail Exchange one day and was told I had to join The **Belmont Lodge**. Belmont was joining the other lodge, Albion at that time and I became founding member of The Belmont Albion Lodge No. 45.

At that time the Provincial Grand Master of the day, found out about the Leadership Courses I have been involved with in Melbourne and asked could I establish a similar Course in Auckland. My problem was that I had been away for more than 10 years and I didn't exactly know how Masonry operated here. The only way I can do this job was to find two young Masters from local Lodges who could help me and someone who knew about machinations of Grand Lodge. I found them in **Geoff Foote, Murray Morrissey and Bob Wright**. They came to my house every week for months and we re-wrote the course for N.Z. Bob was a great for encouraging people to attend courses. I also re-wrote the Speaking Courses after that. We continued teaching them until late 90s when Bob went to Christchurch. Without Bob, it was difficult to get people attending. Unfortunately, there is a terrible dirge in Freemasons wishing to learn and progress. Very sad.

Currently, the only Speaking Courses are in-house Belmont-Albion that will be held for the likes of yourself and anyone else who is interested.

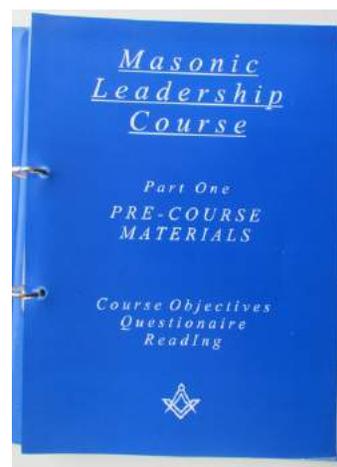


Figure 4 Leadership courses.

What got you first interested in freemasonry?

My Grandfather was a Freemason. I had a close friend whose father was a Freemason. One of the Managers at the GEC where I started work was a Freemason as well. They were all people I admired. I thought maybe I could join Freemasonry and do something in the community without the usual ra-ra associated with other American organisations like J.C. or Rotary. When in Auckland during the 60's a work mate asked if I would be interested in joining which lead to receiving a call from someone in Takapuna who invited me to a meeting in a house in Lake Road which happened to be Master of The Milford Lodge. I subsequently join this lodge.



Figure 5 Keith's grandfather, Robert English

Tell us about your experience at Lodge Belmont-Albion No 45.

I believe anyone joining BA is extremely lucky when you compare the operation B.A. to other Lodges. BA was a 'run of the mill' Lodge until about 1994 when Murray put out a survey called "The Brethren have Spoken" asking how they wanted things to run. We had a great Master at the time who was a very fine thinker and he introduced things like, one degree a year for a candidate, an

established teaching programme for Candidates during that year. We decided we only do limited numbers of rituals per year, permitting more interesting and different meetings. The Refectory was improved. There are Lodges, who have more members than we do, but it is like a revolving door, Candidates joining in one day, do their three degrees and out the next day. We have gone out of our way to look after the candidates to make sure they learn, are entertained and enjoy their time in the lodge. This is the big difference between BA and other lodges.



Figure 6 Keith's brother Jack

Where do you see Freemasonry in 50 years?

It purely depends on the leadership of the Craft. It depends on the ability of the new generation. Obviously, it won't die. It may slow down until another generation of inspired people with vision lift it up again.

One of the things I see as being detrimental to Freemasonry are Masonic Centres such as we have at Albany. Take Devonport as an example where we have Lions and Rotary booming. We have in Devonport I believe some great potential in young blokes who are ready to be involved and do good in the Community but have never heard of Freemasonry because we don't exist in the community anymore. Since the Devonport Lodge Room has been sold Freemasonry in this suburb disappeared off the map. Freemasonry is losing hugely because we are not active in our own local communities.

Is ritual out of place in a modern society?

Absolutely not. This is where lessons of Freemasonry are thought. However, I do believe that there are aspects of it that should be brought up to date. For example, in our Lodge, in the first degree we talk about steps of different inches. We don't have inches anymore and it can make the candidate confused.

Is there a conflict between Freemasonry and established religion?

I don't see a conflict on the part of Freemasonry. But certain religious people have a problem with themselves which they direct at Freemasonry.

Why do certain fundamentalist groups oppose Freemasonry?

Because of ignorance, lack of knowledge and a fear of any organization they see as a possible threat to their unenlightened thinking.



A night at the museum

On the 5th of September Belmont Albion brethren visited the Devonport museum. Keith Eaglesome is involved in running the museum and they had some interesting objects from our lodge on display for the brethren on the night. Here are some photos:









Masonic quote

*If you wish to move
mountains tomorrow, you
must start by lifting stones
today.*



Next Issue

Deadline:

15 October 2017

Email:

ba45.editor@gmail.com