

BELMONT ALBION



June 2014

FROM THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER

This month reminds me of that Dickensian opening "it was the best of times, and the worst of times". Camaraderie night was a wonderful evening where we added to our knowledge of the hidden mysteries as Dr Frances Pitsilis enlightened us about stem cells and the opportunities it heralds for health.

We then enjoyed visits to a 1st degree for Lodge Ponsonby 708 Scottish Constitution, a 2nd degree for Lodge North Harbour, followed by a 3rd degree at Lodge Browns Bay where Dan Laird completed his test questions. The Trifecta you might say!

We are preparing to celebrate 50 years of service for Frank Arnott, which is a marvellous milestone for a highly regarded brother. This will include wives and partners which makes for an extra special evening. Without the support of our wives and partners we could never participate in Freemasonry to quite the extent that we do.

However the tragic death of Blessie Gotingco has been an awful end to the month. I know all feel for this Masonic family at this terrible time. I met Blessie and Antonio last year and I recall Blessie's tremendous warmth and enthusiasm for life. That wonderful smile of hers that we have seen in the newspaper was very real indeed!

I have been amazed at the Filipino community. They are a wonderful and special people. Attending the nightly Novena at the Rodney Road Lodge buildings has been extremely moving, as was the march where thousands turned up to walk from Salisbury Road to the Eskdale cemetery. I can tell you that I looked back over nearly 1 kilometre and I could not see the end of the procession. People carried candles, released lanterns into the night, and sang. I am reminded that it is times of difficulty and distress that true depth of character is shown. Our Filipino brethren are showing their depth like nothing any of us could ever have imagined.



This is a community brought together by the most awful of circumstances. We are all connected. One of my girl scouts is a best friend of Antonio and Blessie's daughter Bea. It is not lost on me, that a Freemason of this Lodge has the accused under lock and key. A Freemason of this Lodge takes care of Blessie's mortal remains in preparation for the funeral. The Novena occurs at a Masonic Lodge, and for what could be a first, a Mass is said in that same Lodge.

We are united in our grief for this good and decent family. Our hearts cry out at the injustice, suffering, and pain.

Blessie, you are forever in our hearts.

Matthew Rea-Rankin

FROM THE EDITOR

As you will have already be aware this months Newsletter is tinged with sadness regarding the tragic death of Brother Antonio Gotingco's wife Blesilda. Freemasons of differing Constitutions and nationalities have quietly responded by following 'The duty to your neighbour':

"by acting with him on the Square and rendering him every kind of office justice or mercy may require by relieving his necessities and soothing his afflictions".

During the summer months ten new display cabinets have been installed in the '167 Heritage Museum and Library' located at the Masonic Centre Khyber Pass Road. Seven of the cabinets are for displaying jewels, two for the display of ancient books and one for Masonic Aprons. The Museum houses several thousand items from many countries and fraternal organisations. The Herbert B. Spencer Library also holds several thousand publications and papers on an extensive range of fraternal subjects. If you have an

interest in the history of such organisations and would wish to visit please contact myself and spend some time in the museum and perhaps attend a meeting of United Masters Lodge No.167 which is a premier Research Lodge for all Constitutions.

Brethren of Belmont Albion will have received a survey document issued by the Strategic Planning Team. The intention of this survey is to support our vision statement 'To Prosper into the Future by making our Lodge a place we all enjoy attending'. If you are one of the few Brethren who have not completed and forwarded the sheet to Mark Rowley please do so. On the theme of looking into the future a penciled date for your diaries. The Roskill Foundation are considering an event, at a date in April 2015, at the Cathedral in Auckland to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the formation of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand. As plans are finalised details will appear in the Newsletter.

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PROFILE FROM THE EAST

Montacute in the county of Somerset in South West England was my home village until Royal Navy call up before wars end. I then spent nearly five years at Rosyth, on the Firth of Fourth in Scotland as an Artificer Apprentice then it was off to sea. First as a Killick a Leading Seaman, then a Petty Officer and a Chief Petty Officer. During this period I played lots of rugby, managed to find a wonderful wife we had 4 children and I gained promotion to Engineer Officer.

The Royal New Zealand Navy then employed me for 19 years entailing many appointments ashore and at sea. The following 14 years we lived in Wellington where I was employed by The Rail Ferries and Marine Department. During this time I was invited to join Otari Lodge No. 190 until an amalgamation formed The United Lodge of Wellington No. 13. Prior to leaving Wellington to relocate in Auckland I had joined the Spirit of Adventure Trust sailing as a volunteer Engineer for 19 years.

Once in Auckland I joined Belmont Lodge No. 335, as Junior Warden, this Lodge was also amalgamated to become The Belmont Albion Lodge No 45. Whilst in Wellington I had been perfected in Rose Croix, so joined their Chapter in Devonport where I was able to walk to the Lodge as I had done in the Wellington suburb of Khandallah. Over the next few years I became aware of the Order of the Secret Monitor (the friendly Order at which partners attend usually on a Saturday afternoon). Having left my wife behind during my many years away at sea this really appealed to me



and we still enjoy the many happy times meeting other masonic wives and partners.

It became possible to join the Royal Arch, and following that the Knights Templar (or sword swallows as Dave Barr calls it). It was my privilege to sponsor a few candidates across the board and a few of these have survived the experience much to my delight.

In addition to Freemasonry I have continuing work with the Institute of Marine Engineering Science and Technology and kept busy with a few ex Naval reunions (UK & NZ) going to Napier and UK this year for these and my school Old Boys reunion in June this year. Marjorie my wife continues as a 'Blue Coat' at the City Hospital twice a week.

Advancing years brings the need to make plans for that last journey. Admission to a retirement village in Green Bay led me to joining masonry in our new locality. This leads to the expectation of climbing the old ladder once again so going out at night causes one to be a little careful when accepting the 'poisoned chalice' and take the favoured choice of sitting in the chair of an evening and dozing off. This is a profile of someone, probably similar to many others, whose thoughts have moved from concern about obligation to a Past Master, who is expected to stump up on every occasion, deliver a charge word perfect, but who worries that prompting (or even worse dare I say cribbing from a cheat sheet) marks him less than worthy.

Humphrey Ewins

MASONIC MISCELLANY

Out and About with the Secretary

John and Alison Wright advise that they are back on the Shore and residing at Vila 21/21 Graham Collins Drive, Windsor Park 0632. They are now settled in Knightsbridge Village and are very pleased with their choice.

Sean Neely our Senior Warden is on a work secondment in Singapore and intends to visit a Lodge local to him during his stay.

Humphrey and Marj Ewens are off to England for Seven Weeks.

We are looking Forward to seeing Frank and Bev Arnott at our June Regular Meeting.

A number of Brothers have been unwell recently namely, Wayne Jones, our Almoner, who is still hobbling around with a couple of broken toes. He reports that he is on the mend and will be able to put on some shoes soon.

Alan Thompson is also on the mend after he was back in hospital having some corrective surgery done.

Frank Ansell reports that his operation was successful and all is A-Okay. and Noel Whiley who is back up on his feet, minus the sticks, after his recent knee operation.

Graham Mayn is following Noel's footsteps as he is also due to have a knee replacement.

Graham's son Simon, who lives near Sydney, is recovering from being kicked in the chest by a horse. Latest news is that he is improving and has been moved from intensive care to a general ward.

We also give our condolences to Sonny Pablo and his family as Sonny's Father-in-Law died recently.

Dave Barr

MASONIC BIRTHDAYS

18/06/1979 - M.F. Cadman
09/06/1981 - D.W. Barr
12/06/2001 - D.B. Wrigley
10/06/2003 - W. Jones
14/06/2004 - R.J. Lumsden
09/06/2009 - S. Pablo

Camaraderie Evening

49 Brethren, family and friends sat down to a three course meal. After the cheese course was eaten they listened to Dr Frances Pitsilis the guest speaker who spoke about 'Adult Stem Cell Therapy'.

Dr Pitsilis outlined the history, research and current practise of this therapy. She also discussed the potential conditions that could be treated with continuing research. After answering a number questions Dr Pitsilis was thanked and presented with a bouquet of flowers.



A memory of the past from Mangawhai

The death of Sybil Lyon. Sybil was the widow of the late Richard Norman (Buck) Lyon.

Buck was a marine engineer serving the Royal New Zealand Navy both in uniform as a Lieutenant Commander and in the dockyard. Buck's last job was with Stability and Support Operations at Kauri Point.

Buck was initiated in The Albion Lodge No 45 in December 1946. Master 1957, Grand Steward 1980, Past Grand Standard Bearer 1998. He was active in Rangitoto Royal Arch Chapter No. 52. was Z, Head Officer of the Chapter, although I have forgotten the year and he was also very active in Rose Croix, especially in Tawera No. 361 and Whangarei No. 776, and after the New Zealand Rite was set up in 1994 he became Grand Director of Ceremonies and a 33 Degree Mason. Definitely an all-round good guy.

Frank Arnott

100 Years Ago

Presentation of the Master Elect – Bro. William Coltman the Master Elect was then presented to the W. Installing Master W. Bro. J. M. Busher by W. Bros. Reid & McRea.

The Brethren were then addressed according to usual custom and the W. M. Elect's attention drawn to the qualifications of a Master.

The ancient Charges were then read by the Secretary W. Bro. Hornsell and the Master Elect assented to them. The Obligation of a Master Elect was then administered by the W. Installing Master.

A solo 'Let not Honour forsake thee' was then sung by Bro. A Fogarty.

EDUCATION FROM NEAR AND AFAR

A Daily Advancement from South Island

It is the first obligation of a Mason to be on the Square, in all his duties and dealings with his fellow men, and if he fails there he cannot win anywhere.

Let one of our poets sum it all up:

*It matters not whate'er your lot
Or what your task may be,
One duty there remains for you
One duty stands for me.*

*Be you a doctor skilled and wise,
Or do your work for wage,
A labourer upon the street,
An artist on the stage;*

*Our glory still awaits for you,
One honour that is fair,
To have men say as you pass by:
"That fellow's on the Square."*

*Ah, here's a phrase that stands for much
'Tis good old English too,
It means that men have confidence
In everything you do
It means that what you have you've earned,
And that you've done your best,*

*And when you go to sleep at night,
Untroubled you may rest.*

*It means that conscience is your guide,
And honour is your care;
There is no greater praise than this:
"That fellow's on the Square."*

*And when I die I would not wish
A lengthy epitaph;
I do not wish a headstone large,
Carved with fulsome chaff,*

*Pick out no single deed of mine,
If such a deed there be,
To 'grave upon my monument,
For those who come to see,*

*Just this one phrase of all I choose,
To show my life was fair:
Here sleepeth now a fellow who
Was always on the Square."*

with thanks to Bob Wright



From Counties Hauraki District No. 5

Edward Thomas Gillon is known as the founding father of the New Zealand Grand Lodge. He advocated very strongly for independence from the Mother Constitutions for many reasons. One the reasons being 'self-government', to be able to administer their own affairs and form new lodges without any directive from England, Ireland or Scotland. There was also the fact that lodges were paying high capitation fees to District Grand Lodges with much of the money going overseas to the mother Grand Lodges with the lodges seeing little if any return of it for the benefit of benevolence to their own members. It was first suggested in 1876, by himself and Vincent Pyke, but nothing came of it, as the majority of Freemasons opposed to idea of breaking off their elegance from the mother constitutions.

Bro. Gillon claimed his mother lodge as being Otago Kilwinning No 417 S.C. but spent most of his masonic life and activities in the Waterloo Lodge in Wellington. He was born in 1842 at Douglas in the Isle of Man. He attended the Foresters School until his parents emigrated to New Zealand and arriving at Christchurch in 1851. He was educated by his mother and showed a great promise aided by his unusually retentive memory which was to serve him well for the rest of his life. He choose a career in journalism which later lead him into the political scene. At the age of 24 he was initiated into Lodge Otago Kilwinning No 417 S.C. and his remarkable memory established him as a superb ritualist.

He remained in the Otago area where he wrote articles for the 'Otago Witness' and later became one of its staff members. He was posted to Gabriel's Gully where he recorded the development of the goldfields and accurately recorded the hardships and privations of the prospectors, portraying their joys and disappointments and championed their cause. On

returning to Dunedin he graduated to a higher position on the newly founded daily paper 'Otago Daily Times' established by Julius Vogel (another Freemason) of whom both became lasting friends. In the same year he was initiated he became a founding member of St John Lodge No 461 S.C. and in the following year accepted a position on the newly established Hansard Staff in Wellington. Here he joined Lodge Waterloo No 463 S.C. where he served two terms as Master, continuing to contribute articles to the 'Otago Times', 'The Evening Post' and 'Lyttelton Times'. He became active in the Royal Arch and Rose Croix Chapters in Wellington and held high officers in the United Press Association also being editor of the 'Evening Post' for eighteen years.

When the Provincial Grand Lodge of the North Island S.C. was formed on the 30th of November 1877 he was appointed Provincial Grand Assistant Secretary, retaining this position for several years and in 1888 was unanimously elected Deputy Provincial Grand Master S.C. holding this office until the formation of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand in 1890. At the inaugural ceremonies for the Grand Lodge, and for the effort and dedication he showed in connection with the formation, he received the honorary rank of Past Deputy Grand Master and four years later, in spite of his reluctance, received the rank of Past Grand Master, and was elected to the Board of General Purposes, an office which he held until resigning in 1895 due to ill health. In November 1895 he was forced to give up his work and in January 1896 retired to his room at the Empire Hotel, where he lived, for he did not married, never to leave again, and at 4 o'clock on the afternoon of Sunday the 19th of April, he passed away to the Grand Lodge above.

With thanks to Reg Watt

THE ACT OF MENTORING

"It rests upon not only the moral duty of every more advanced Brother to help the less advanced but upon the spiritual principle that whoever has freely received must as freely give, that no one is initiated for his private advantage but must pass on his light to someone below him on the life-ladder."

W. L. Wilmshurst 1867 - 1939

There has been much discussion recently regarding the Mentoring Process and its effectiveness. The opening page of the BA 45's 'Mentoring Programme' book states the Aims of the Mentoring Programme are to ensure that new members of the Craft:

- Are effectively introduced into Freemasonry.
- Enjoy their Freemasonry.
- Are keen to pursue their interest in Freemasonry.

This general support through initiation and up to the Brothers early years as a Master Mason works well but then there was the question of how does the Mentor manage education.

It was considered by the Lodge Management Committee that there was a tendency for the individual Mentor and protégé to become rather isolated regarding this function. It has therefore been agreed that a programme of group meetings for Mentors, protégés and other Brethren,



interested in education, will be held. The agenda for these group meetings will be based around BA 45's 'Basic Tutorial' books for each degree. Meeting dates will be shown in the diary.

The Mentors relationship with his protégé will now be more of a 'buddy' than educator.

FROM THE D.C'S BATON - GUARDING THE LANDMARKS

Recent events have given me pause to reflect on the importance of the 'Landmarks' of Freemasonry. On his initiation every Entered Apprentice is presented with a personal copy of the Book of Constitution – the manual by which the Craft in general, and our Lodge, in particular is governed. The charge accompanying its presentation states that through the diligent study of this book he will be 'instructed in the duties he owes to the Craft' and it is recommended that he seriously peruse it.



Every newly installed Master is presented with the Book of Constitution and is informed that 'there is scarcely a problem or difficulty that may arise within his Lodge that the solution to it may be found within its pages'. I believe therefore that it is essential for every member of our Lodge, and of the Craft, to have an understanding of the precepts and rules contained within this book.

If we are unfamiliar with its contents, how can we possibly fulfil our obligation to 'strictly observe the constitutions of the fraternity and adhere to the ancient landmarks of the Order'?

How can we ascertain whether the Craft in general, or indeed our Lodge in particular, is being administered in compliance with the principles and rules laid down in this volume, if we don't read it.

There are some interesting passages within. And I quote:

On behaviour in the Lodge while constituted:

'You are not to hold private committees, or separate conversation, without leave from the Master, nor to talk of anything impertinently or unseemly, nor interrupt the Master or Wardens, or any Brother speaking to the Master; nor behave yourself ludicrously or jestingly while the Lodge is engaged in what is serious and solemn; or use any unbecoming language upon any pretence whatsoever; but to pay due reverence to your Master, Wardens and fellows'.

The Book of Constitution sets out the rules with which each of us is required to comply.

You may possibly be unaware of Rule 252 which states:

'It is the duty of any Brother who has been convicted of any offence against the laws of the land punishable by imprisonment, whether or not such a sentence has been imposed, to report the fact within 28 days to the Master of his Lodge.'

CONT... GUARDING THE LANDMARKS

Some may argue that as an 'ordinary member' it is not your role, or responsibility, to question the decision making processes of the Craft.

However it is my strong conviction that it is imperative for the well being of Freemasonry that each and every one of us is vigilant and vociferous in our obligation to 'guard the landmarks against encroachment'.

I have also come to appreciate the vital role that senior Freemasons play in fulfilling this task. Without the collective wisdom of our long serving brethren, accumulated over many years, our organisation would be very much the poorer.

This institutional knowledge is even more indispensable today when relatively inexperienced brethren are promoted through the ranks far more quickly than was the case in former times. It was not uncommon for a brother to take 20 years to reach the chair of King Solomon. Today it can be achieved in as little as 5 – 6 years.

Many a Lodge has been lost due to its inability or unwillingness to hold fast to its history while at the same time embracing its future. Our time honoured traditions,

customs, rituals and ceremonies make Freemasonry unique. If we surrender them we will descend into becoming just another social club. It is every Brother's solemn duty therefore, if we are to maintain the integrity and uniqueness of the Craft, to have the moral fortitude to speak out when they consider that anything is being done that may weaken or undermine the ancient traditions and foundations of our Order. It is the vital obligation and duty of senior freemasons to counsel and guide the upcoming leaders of the Craft to take care that when introducing innovation they do not inadvertently sweep away hundreds of years of tradition. Although our forthrightness may put us at variance with another Brother we must have the courage to engage in robust and considered debate if we are to preserve both our Lodge, in particular, and the Craft in general, into the future.

In conclusion I trust that when any Brother, be they Entered Apprentice or Right Worshipful, challenges matters of procedure, or reinforces custom or protocol, it will not be considered a personal slight against any other brother, nor be seen as pedantic, but will be viewed favourably in the light of one who is endeavouring to 'guard the landmarks against encroachment'.

Mark Rowley

UPCOMING LODGE EVENTS



June

- 3 Tuesday** - Attend St Mary's church Onewa Road 7:15.
- 10 Tuesday** - 50 Year Badge - Frank Arnott, with Ladies.
- 12 Thursday** - North Harbour 3rd to 33rd Evening. All freemasons invited. Visitors 8:00
- 17 Tuesday** - Rehearsal 3rd Degree. EA & FC work in Library.
- 23 Monday** - Management Meeting.
- 24 Tuesday** - Rehearsal 3rd Degree. EA & FC work in Library

July

- 1 Tuesday** - Final Rehearsal 3rd Degree. EA & FC work in Library
- 8 Tuesday** - To Raise Breine Salosagal DM to open and close, Geoff Foote to be in chair for ceremony.
- 15 Tuesday** - Education Group meeting (see details in newsletter)
- 22 Tuesday** - TBC
- 29 Tuesday** - TBC

Note: Master overseas 2 to 19 July.

LETTER TO BRETHREN

During the recent Installation Ceremony the Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts present asked why they use different words, on returning to the Lodge, in salutation to the Worshipful Master. The following explanation was received:

Dear Editor,

There is no verbal greeting on entry of any of the brethren after a Board of installed Masters in the Canterbury region which goes to show that there is no "standard" Installation ritual in the NZ Constitution. I have not been able to find anything definitive, however suggest the EA words relate to his "inferior" status as the "servant" of the Master (Teacher). The FC's words show that he has achieved some status and therefore is able to "converse" with the Master and the MM's words relate to his "superior" skill status as as the Master's "equal" and has a more familiar relationship.

Fraternal Regards,
Bob Wright.

A similar explanation was received from Neil Ingram. This included a comment that the wording varied area by area.



A TABLE LODGE

Four members of Belmont Albion, Murray Morrissey, Stu Mill, Richard Lumsden and Alastair Lumsden, attended the recent Table Lodge meeting held by Lodge Albany No 404 at the North Shore Masonic Centre.



Prior to the visit my research indicated that a Table Lodge, also known as 'The Ceremony of the Seven Toasts' was an innovation of the Continental Lodges. It is said to have been introduced into England from France in the 18th Century by Captain George Smith who, although born in England, was initiated into a German Lodge whilst doing military service in Prussia. Captain Smith is most noted for the authorship of 'The Use and Abuse of Freemasonry' a volume that seems to have been welcomed by the Brethren in general but drew the ire of the then Grand Lodge.

Table Lodges are opened in the Entered Apprentice Degree with the diners being served by Entered Apprentices and Fellow Craft Freemasons. The table is in the form of a horseshoe or U. The Master sits at the head of the table, the

Senior Warden at the northwest extremity and the Junior Warden at the southwest extremity. The Deacons sit between the Wardens. The Brethren are then placed around the exterior of the table thus leaving the central area for serving of food and wine.

It seems that it is not an uncommon ceremony in American Lodges. One USA source states that 'In our colonial days the Table Lodge was Freemasonry's greatest asset. It buoyed up the spirit of the brethren when the spirit of the colonists was low'.

Our impressions of the Table Lodge experience were:

- The layout of the Table Lodge is impressive as one enters the room
- The Ceremony and particularly the toasting style is different but very enjoyable
- The experience is unique yet entirely Masonic

The Table Lodge we attended had all the elements of an enjoyable dining experience, good food, good fellowship, good wine, and Lodge Albany deserves congratulations not only for the evening but also for having the initiative to provide this uniquely Masonic experience.

One of the advantages I see of the Table Lodge is that it is one of the few Masonic ceremonies that Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts can participate fully in.

I will not detail the ceremony and quaint tasting style of a Table Lodge as I do not wish to diminish the experience for those brethren who are yet to attend a Table Lodge. However I will urge you all to attend at least one Table Lodge in your Masonic career

Richard Lumsden

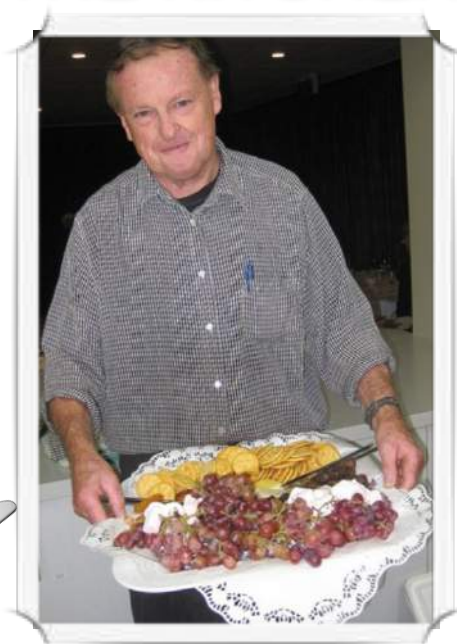
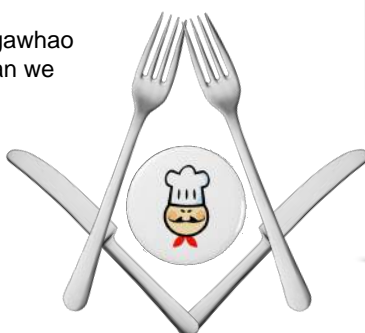
THE QUIET BROTHER IN THE KITCHEN

There are two main aspects of a Regular Meeting at BA45:

1. listening to the wonderful words of Masonic Ritual and
2. sharing the mouth watering Festive Board with our friends.

The Brother who hones our Ritual, the D.C. is very visible and perhaps vocal but the Brother who prepares our repast is more reticent.

He is Richard Sharplin of Lodge Onehunga Maungawhau No. 168. Thanks to whom many of us eat more than we should.



FROM A PAST MASTER



A Past Master, twice Installed in the Belmont Albion Lodge, relates an experience or two.

Greetings Brethren. Over my 85 years I have enjoyed many experiences, some worth forgetting and a few others which may provide food for thought.

The abiding source of drive was created in my long training as an Artificer. First as an apprentice, next as a journeyman in the trade, and for the rest of my life as a practising member of society in all its variables. The differences I see around me today in young people trying to cope with their life's problems is a general difficulty in adapting to the every day challenge of change. Change in the expectation of a certain conformity, reaction, and the performance of duty to their fellows whilst missing those early disciplines that I was expected to endure.

But wait — There is a second chance. Should a prospective candidate now discover Freemasonry, there is a way through this minefield towards enlightenment and pleasure by way of our system of learning, working, dress, companionship, advancement and achievement.

An early discipline from a father who had been overseas on active service for the entire Great War, followed by being bombed from the air at school in England during the Second Major Conflict and a military career of many years

duration taught me to appreciate the importance of companionship and consideration of my fellowmen. So the tenets of Freemasonry teach us a way of life which not only benefits our wellbeing by thought, words, and deeds but also helps the other brethren with whom we mix and mingle to achieve a better way of life.

One should always strive to learn and practice, perhaps a little at a time, so as then to continue to advance happily for the rest of one's whole life. In the Lodge the process starts by listening to the ritual of the ceremony. Just as one used to listen to the Gospels of old, so it is that our Rituals need study afterwards in order to understand just what is the meaning of the message being passed. The next step is to develop the skill of giving little pieces of ritual yourself. Very quickly it will be discovered what a wonderful machine is the brain. With the regular practice of this learning comes the enjoyment of achievement. Believe you me, everyone says that they do not have the ability to remember the stringing together of words. Ever been to Grimsby and listened to the "fish wives"? Try a little, do a little, go a bit farther each meeting, soon the bug gets you. Next you will be climbing up the ladder.

Out Pipes. Humphrey



The Craft and Royal Arch Masonry

The Grand Lodge of New Zealand has a special relationship with the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Zealand. Rule 71 of the Book of Constitution recognises six degrees as Pure Ancient Freemasonry and the degrees of Mark Master, Excellent Master and the Royal Arch are considered an extension of Craft Masonry.

How to Join:

Your qualification as a Master Mason in good standing enables you to join a Royal Arch Chapter. You will need a Proposer and a Seconder who are Royal Arch Masons. Consult your Mentor and talk to your Brethren in the Craft a number of whom will already be Royal Arch Masons.

There are many benefits that await you in the Royal Arch. It is considered to be the copestone, the top stone of a building, of the whole Masonic Structure. As sharers in something valuable all Companions (the generic title for members of the Royal Arch) feel a sense of unity and fellowship. You will be warmly welcomed.

"This above all: to thine own self be true, and it must follow, as the night the day,
thou canst not then be false to any man."

Hamlet



Next Issue

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