

# BELMONT ALBION



May 2015

## FROM THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Greetings Brethren,

This month, across the country and wider afield, the acknowledgment of the 100 anniversary of Gallipoli has been wide spread and heart-felt. During this time of remembrance, young and old have stood together in silence, prayed, shared stories, asked questions, laughed, and cried.

As part of our ANZAC commemoration, Lodges offer the Ceremony of the Empty Chair from wars past in memory of our fallen brothers. For those newer brethren who have not yet availed themselves to the ceremony, you have forgone an opportunity to witness the poignancy and symbolism of a truly special event.

Following the Empty Chair ceremony at Orewa Lodge, our Deputy Master was honoured to make a very significant and personal presentation during their refectory. His presentation, in front of wives and partners, was of a 50 year badge to a humble brother, Bro Harry Cammish, PGStdB. What made it all the more memorable was Harry is one of five remaining members of Bomber Command 50 Squadron.

Later that week, I was fortunate enough to visit Lodge Albany for their Ceremony of the Empty Chair, two days before ANZAC weekend services. The significance and meaning of the words was still fresh with me when I stood with my family overlooking the beach at the Browns Bay memorial. The event, shared with my family,



brought home the significance of the sacrifice others had made in years gone by.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
We will remember them.*

The "Ode of Remembrance",  
from Laurence Binyon's poem, "For the Fallen"

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

The anniversary of ANZAC Day fell between this and the April edition of the Newsletter so a reflections of the events around that day appears in this issue. ANZAC Day is commemorated on April 25 but it was one day in a campaign that ran from February 19 1915 until January 1916 so in the coming issues articles will be printed concerning the Freemasons involved in this campaign and also on the Western Front in both World Wars.

As you will have read in the Masters Message the day was commemorated in many Masonic Lodges with the ceremony of the 'Empty Chair' being enacted. The 'Empty Chair' is presented in 'Closed Lodge' with non masons present but other lodges had ceremonies in 'Open Lodge', the reading of Rudyard Kipling's 'My Boy Jack', the playing of the Last Post and the laying of a wreath was one such at United Masters 167. It is pleasing to note that the masonic events were in the form of a memoriam whilst many sectors of the media seem to be trying to turn the day into a celebration.

The re-structured Belmont Albion website will be launched this month and details are shown following this piece. This site will be linked to the BA 45 Education Forum intranet site launched earlier in the year which unlike the website is open to Brethren of Belmont Albion 45 only. The new site will show a calendar, as this calendar will be subject to regular updates it should be noted that this will be the last month the Masters Calendar will appear in the Newsletter.

As promised last month the serialisation of Frank Ansell's 'Short History of Belmont Lodge No. 335 1948 – 1993' begins in this copy. Once the serialisation is complete the document will be archived on the BA 45 website.

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

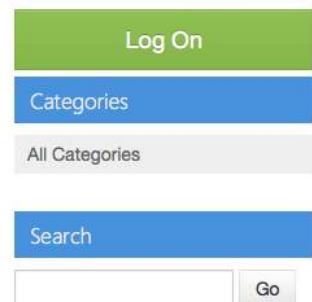
## WELCOME THE BELMONT ALBION 45 WEBSITE

Due to the hard work and commitment of Briene Salosagcol (pictured with his assistant Kenny) the re-structure of the BA45 Website is complete. The re-launch is planned for later this month. The site will be linked with the BA45 Masonic Education Forum Intranet site which was also launched, by Briene, last October.

It is intended that the Newsletter will be available via the site both as current and archived in the near future.

Thanks are also due to the sponsors of both sites, Stu Mill and Richard Lumsden.

[Shown is a screenshot of our Education Forum]



### Latest Discussions



Our 25 members have posted 51 times in 29 discussions

# A STORY THAT COULD HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY ALISTAIR MACLEAN

At the Empty Chair Ceremony, conducted at Lodge Orewa No. 370, the Deputy Master of Belmont Albion No 45, Geoff Foote, presented Harry Cammish with his 50 year jewel. The piece below is a precis of the presentation made by Geoff and outlines an amazing story of bravery. The complete words of Geoff's presentation will be available on the BA website later this month.



[Right] W.Bro. Harry Cammish PGStdB



In 1940 Harrison Stanley Cammish volunteered for the Royal Air Force and trained as a Flight Engineer with the Lancaster Bombers 50 Squadron, which was first formed in 1916. In July 1943 he became a 'fill in' Flight Engineer and flew with a mixture of French, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand flight crews. He had flown 16 successful missions over Germany until in February 1944, following an attack by a German fighter, the crew were forced to bail out of the aircraft. 5 crew members were captured, the navigator was killed but Harry managed to escape.

Harry's landing was 'cushioned' by thick snow near the German border with France and he set off walking. Eventually he was picked up by members of the Maquis, the French Resistance, who after a somewhat tense 'grilling' became satisfied that Harry was indeed an English airman and not a German spy. With the help of the Resistance he was moved across France toward the Pyreness and the Spanish border. On the day he was due to be moved over the mountains to

safety machine gun fire alerted him and he only avoided capture by running headlong into a forest where he just kept going telling himself "you've come too far to be stopped now". Dressed in a railway porters uniform and wearing thin shoes Harry walked through the mountains with no food, only snow to quench his thirst and with German patrols to avoid. After 3 days and 2 sleepless nights he reached Spain, frostbitten and with a mouth so swollen he could not swallow the food he was given. Finally his ordeal was ended and he came under the protection of the British Embassy who arranged for him to be flown home from Gibraltar on the day the allies invasion started, D-Day.

Harry had been reported as 'missing in action' so after thirteen weeks his home coming was full of joy but rather traumatic with family and friends greeting him with the words "we thought you were dead" Airman were given an escape kit which included an amount of Dutch, French and Belgium currency Harry recalls how the members of the Resistance refused offers of this money and describes them as "the salt of the Earth". Many being killed after torture had failed to make them divulge who they were helping and their escape routes.

In 2010 Harry was among 5 Royal Air Force veterans, living in New Zealand, who were to be honored for their services to Bomber Command. Harry being 'demobbed' in 1946 had emigrated to New Zealand in 1956.

Initially the 5 British veterans were excluded from the official trip to London for the unveiling of a Bomber Command Memorial with the British Government refusing to assist Bomber Command veterans living in New Zealand but with the generosity of Auckland entrepreneur and philanthropist Ian Kuperus, Harry and his five remaining comrades were able to go to attend the unveiling.

With thanks to Geoff Foote and of course Harry Cammish

## *100 Years Ago*

From the minute book of Albion Lodge No. 45, 13 May 1915.

Correspondence from Board of Benevolence:-  
From the Grand Secretary notifying that the Board of Benevolence had been pleased to make a grant of £26 to assist Bro. P.H. Wood, now at Cambridge, to be expended at the rate of £1 per week & with permission to make further application at the end of six months if found necessary.

Election of W.M. :- A ballot was taken for the election of W.M. Bro. W. G.Allen being the

only candidate was declared duly elected the ballot being unanimous.

Passing:-  
Bros. A.E. Willey, A. Meany & W.S. Spence presented themselves to be passed to the Second Degree & being properly prepared were admitted announced and obligated by the W.M. who also communicated the Secrets of the Degree & gave the Charge in the S. E. Corner. Bro. J.W. presented the W. Tools. Bro. S.W. Gave the Charge & W.Bro. Harris the Lecture on the Second Degree Tracing Board.

The Lodge was closed in Peace Love and Harmony with solemn prayer at 10.00 pm

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# SHORT HISTORY OF BELMONT LODGE NO. 335

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## 1948 – 1993 RESEARCHED BY WORSHIPFUL BROTHER FRANK ANSELL PAST MASTER

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### Part 1

The Foundation Meeting of the Belmont Lodge No. 335 was held at the Masonic Hall, Devonport on 25 September 1947.

W/Bro. G. Camplin, a Past Master of the Albion Lodge was voted in, to take the chair.

A discussion took place concerning the name for the for the new Lodge with both Ngataranga and Achilles being considered with the majority preferring the name Belmont.

It was decided the regular meeting would be held on the second Tuesday of each month as it to this day.

Foundation member fees were set at £4.4.0, Initiation fee to be £18.18.0 and membership £3.3.0

A sub-committee was formed to prepare the Lodge By-laws.

It was decided the dedication and first installation meeting would be held on the second Tuesday of April 1948.

In general business it was suggested to endeavour to build a masonic hall at Belmont.

W/Bro. Camplin was thanked for his work in connection with the formation of the new Lodge.

The following members were proposed and seconded to be the founding officers of the new Lodge:-

#### **Officers**

Master	W/Bro. G.M. Camplin
Senior Warden	Bro. H.R. Newman
Junior Warden	Bro. C.V. Harris
Secretary	Bro. A.G. Horwood
Treasurer	Bro. J.J. Herrick
Senior Deacon	Bro. A.T. Crossley
Junior Deacon	Bro. E.A. Jonasson
Junior Guard	Bro. F.S. Rand
Senior Steward	Bro. K.F. Connew*
Junior Steward	Bro. G. Barr
Assistant Steward	Bro. C.E. Canty
Assistant Steward	Bro. S.T. Davies
Assistant Steward	Bro. H. Cranston
Tyler	Bro. E.W. Bain
Organist	Bro. A.W. Joughin
Chaplin	W/Bro. L.H. Postlewaight
D of C	W/Bro. Douglas
Preceptor	W/Bro. Douglas
Almoner	no appointment



*\*a profile of Bro. Connew appeared in the February 2015 edition of the Newsletter*

#### Notes on Foundation Officers:-

W/Bro. Camplin's son-in-law the late W/Bro. James Gibbons became Master of the Belmont Lodge in 1982 and his son Bro. Roger Gibbons is a present member.

Bro. A.T. Crossley became Master of the Belmont Lodge in 1951 with his son-in-law the late R/Wor. Bro. J.C. Jessup becoming Master of Lodge Takapuna in 1958 and subsequently rising to the rank of Provincial Grand Master Auckland. His son John Jessop also became Master of Lodge Takapuna for two years in 1976 and 1977. Bro. K.F. Connew started as Senior Steward in the Belmont Lodge and became Assistant Provincial Grand Master of Auckland.

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# MASONIC MISCELLANY

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## **Out and About with the Secretary**

Had a Visit from our great friend Murray last week. He looks great, said he played a 9 at Golf the other day. He is now under the care of North Shore Hospital which are all good signs for his recovery.

How fortunate we are having Brethren who see a 'hole' and without asking just pick up the ball and run with it. This team effort was very evident at our recent Camaraderie Evening, in particular the effort of Wayne Jones needs to be recognised. He and his wife Bev set up the refectory in the morning, purchased the wine and other drinks for the evening and organised prizes and tickets for

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## **FROM THE DITTYBOX OF A PAST MASTER**

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Greeting brethren and readers. A new masonic year is starting with our traditional camaraderie evening. It provides us with time to reflect upon past progress, where we stand at this present moment and time to plot a safe course into this and the next year. We have experienced memories of momentous occasions in the recent and distant past for our nation, our families and across the world at large. We reflect upon those we have known and loved but cannot now be with us. We meet and make new friends all the time. The Craft enables us to make life long brothers as our Vision Statement tells us "To prosper into the future"

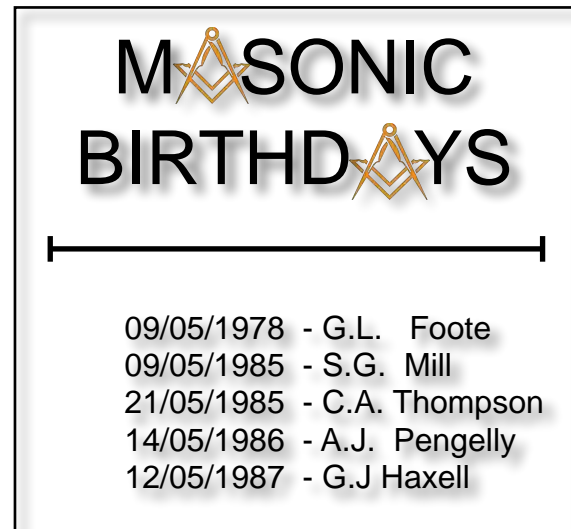
I get a little tired when the media continue to find fault without an intelligent suggestion about how to improve matters. Actions invariably speak louder than words so involvement in such superlative organisation as ours in which good works forge profitable outcomes should be promoted abroad. How we do this without offending those who find it difficult to 'come out', as it were, calls for constant discussion which must lead to ideas for attracting candidates who may at this time still be wearing their blindfold.

I have recognised that advancing years makes driving late in the evening more of a challenge for brethren who retain their membership in a lodge that only meets in the evening. I became aware of the comradeship that continues to be available in the 'daylight lodge'. A further advantage is the invariable lunch after the meeting at which the ladies participate.

the raffle and at the conclusion of the evening played a major part in the clean up. The Lodge give thanks to all of those team players who go out of their way and do the extra mile to ensure BA is a success.

Noel Whiley and Stu Mill have both made contact and report that they settling in well in their new homes.

Dave

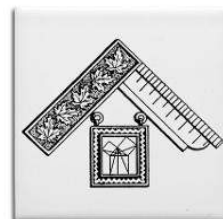


It has been suggested that such a move denies the evening lodge of a member, is resisted and loses it certain financial benefits. Perhaps a member who joins a daylight lodge could retain his former membership for a 'country' fee. Payments of the capitation dues already apply to only one lodge\*.

Daylight lodges must rely only upon joining members so it is to be hoped that many consider the benefits. Come and join us.

Out Pipes. Humphrey

*\*Unfortunately clause 101(c) of the Book of Constitutions has been amended and capitation fees must now be paid for each lodge a brother is a member of.*





Over this and the following two issues of the Newsletter it is intended to give an outline of the 4th, 5th and 6th degrees, the Royal Arch Degrees.

The Royal Arch, like craft masonry, consists of three degrees, namely Mark Master (founded 1769), Excellent Master (1740's) and Holy Royal Arch (1745). It is worth bearing in mind that our degrees are derived from the Scottish working rather than the English.

A peculiarity of the Royal Arch is that each of the three degrees is controlled by a different person in the chair; for the Mark degree the lodge is controlled by the Worshipful Mark Master, for the Excellent degree the lodge is controlled by the Worshipful Excellent Master and for the Royal Arch degree the lodge is controlled by the Very Excellent 1st Principal. The officers taking the Worshipful Mark Master and Worshipful Excellent Master positions are equivalent to the Junior & Senior Wardens respectively. Unlike craft masonry the Royal Arch Chapters (equivalent to the lodge) are opened in the senior degree where general business is worked.

Each of the degrees tell a very interesting allegorical story –

The **Mark Master Degree** is concerned with the building of the first temple around 974BC, in which the candidate represents a fellow craft mason who constructs and discovers a key part of the building of the Arch in King Solomon's temple. In this degree the candidate devises his own "mark" for each stone he fashions – hence the name of the degree. The use of a Mason's Mark is ancient with marks being found at the base of Cleopatra's needle, and medieval Cathedrals.

It is of interest to know that whereas in NZ this degree forms the first step in the Red degrees towards the Royal Arch, in England the degree is stand alone having its own Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

The Mark degree essentially completes and is a partner of the Fellow Craft degree and along with the Operative degrees dramatise the actual working in the quarries. It emphasizes the work ethic of the Entered Apprentice degree, that labour, diligence and effort combined with an understanding of the grand design, essential for further philosophical and spiritual growth.

An important lesson of this degree is that just because something is discarded it does not necessarily become less valuable. It illustrate a shining example of how a man needs to pursue his direction if it is the correct direction, regardless of the opinions of others.

The need to maintain ones belief in the face of adversity and the suppression of superiors is dramatised. A lesson we could all learn from.

Another lesson contained within this degree is that all men are entitled to and will receive equal reward. In essence this reward is a spiritual reward, whereby the diligent application of hard labour will be rewarded by spiritual growth.

source:- R.E. Comp. Phil Ivam

# UPCOMING LODGE EVENTS



## May

**19 Tuesday** New Officers 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Charges practice  
EA and FC education meeting

**16 Tuesday** Officers workshop  
EA and FC Education Meeting

**26 Tuesday** 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree rehearsal

**17 Wednesday** Browns Bay Installation

## June

**2 Tuesday** 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree rehearsal

**23 Tuesday** 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree rehearsal  
Management Meeting

**9 Tuesday** 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree working - Floyd Apoderado

**30 Tuesday** 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree rehearsal

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‘Though Gallipoli was a small conflict compared with landmark battles of the first world war like the Somme, the battle for the narrow peninsula contains the story of the war in microcosm: the fatal bravado, the futile fighting, the error-prone assumptions made by politicians and generals, and the killing fields that decimated a generation of young men. Ships, submarines, mines, planes, war on the soil, balloons—almost everything humankind used in war was used in the Gallipoli campaign.’

- Haluk Oral professor at Koç University Istanbul  
During the campaign a conservative estimate is that 100,000 men died.

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## Next Issue

Deadline:

31 May 2015

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