



# Ashton News

DEC. 2002

Vol.8 No.4

NEWSLETTER of ASHTON LODGE No 218 of the UNITED GRAND LODGE OF QUEENSLAND

## Where to after sale of the South Brisbane Centre?

A postal ballot was conducted in September by the South Brisbane Hall Co-operative of 15 share holding Lodges who meet at Vulture Street to decide on a proposal put forward by the Board of Directors to accept the offer of \$1.73m for the sale of their premises.

The result of the ballot was 13 for and one against.

Due to a mix up in the delivery of the ballot paper to the remaining cooperative

member, the paper was returned undelivered.

The purchaser has deposited a down payment of \$150,000 which cannot be returned if he/they break the contract and has agreed to pay all legal and other expenses relating to the sale of the site

The proposed settling date will be March, with the possibility of it extending into June 2003.

This means that the Lodges now meeting

in Vulture Street will have to look for new venues until the Hall Committee make a decision on what they are about to do with the proceeds of the sale.

A proposal brought forward by the Board of Directors was to use the sale proceeds for the purchase of premises which have a commercial value, and incorporate facilities for Lodge activities within the building structure.

Also that the Cooperative compensate the Lodge by subsidising the rental expense of meeting in another place until the new Cooperative Centre is opened.

It is hoped that the furnishings of the Lodge room will in some way be preserved, if only for their historical value.

According to reports, the dias in the East of the Lodge room formed part of the furnishings of the Alice Street Masonic Hall, dating from the end of the 1890s, where, among many

other important Masonic decisions, the beginnings of the unity of the various Grand Lodges in Queensland were discussed and acted upon, culminating in the formation of the United Grand Lodge of Queensland.

### Grand Lodge appointment

Congratulations are extended to Ashton member V Wor Bro Bert Phin on his nomination by the Board of General Purposes to the position of Grand Steward for the year 2003 - 2004.

Bert is dedicated to the principles of Masonry and this becomes evident to any who associate with him.

He is presently Almoner of the Lodge and would like to keep in close contact with members so that should the necessity arise through unforeseen circumstances he will be readily available to advise the lodge's benevolent committee.

Contact can be made by phoning 3269 8392

Worshipful  
Master  
Jim Robertson  
extends  
Best Wishes  
to all  
Brethren and  
their Families  
for the  
Festive Season



May the New Year  
bring  
Health and Happiness!

## An Excuse for speeding

A middle aged guy bought a brand new Mercedes convertible SL500.

He took off down the road, pushed it up to 120 kms, and was enjoying the wind blowing through his (thinning) hair.

"This is great," he thought and accelerated to an even higher speed.

But then he looked in his rear view mirror, and there was a Police Car behind him, blue lights flashing.

"I can get away from him with no problem" thought the man and he floored it some more, and flew down the road at over 200 kms to escape being stopped.

Then he thought, "What the hell am I doing? I'm too old for this kind of thing" and pulled over to the side of the road, and waited for the Police car to catch up with him.

The Policeman pulled in behind the Mercedes and walked up on the driver's side.

"Sir," he said, looking at his watch. "My shift ends in a few minutes and today is Friday the 13th. If you can give me a good reason why you were speeding that I've never heard before, I'll let you go."

The man looked back at the Policeman and said, "Last week my wife ran off with a Policeman, and I thought you were bringing her back."

The Policeman said, "Have a nice day."

## Hospital rush

Prompt action by Margaret Herbert, wife of Lodge treasurer Keith, resulted in a rushed trip to hospital to avert a major heart attack.

Whilst driving alone, Margaret became unwell and decided to call in to her doctor for treatment.

After a short examination he immediately called the ambulance and had her hustled to Princess Alexandria Hospital where she underwent surgery for a triple bypass operation.

Margaret is now home and recuperating under the watchful eye of Keith who is still in a bit of shock over the suddenness of the whole happenings.

## A Ceilidh

(pronounced Kay-Lee)

The Ceilidh was the centre of the social life of the old High land community.

The word translates the Gaelic "visitor or social gathering".

In some parts of the Hebrides the old type of Ceilidh was still being held until the beginning of the 20th century.

The Highlanders would gather at a favoured cottage, usually one of the more well-to-do resident or the local landlord,

There played the fiddle, some singing, dancing, food and drink and the telling of tales.

Most modern Ceilidh is little more than concerts with a Scottish flavour.

But the traditional form is fast returning.

## SOME MASONIC WORDS EXPLAINED

**CABLE TOW:** The tie by which the candidate is bound to his brethren; the length of a Mason's cable tow is the scope of his ability to go to the relief of a brother in need. In early years the distance was 5 kms. In present time it is usually considered about 65 kms.

**DUE FORM:** A Masonic body is opened or closed in "due form" when performed fully according to a pre-

scribed ritual. Distinguished from "ample form."

**GREAT LIGHTS:** The Holy Bible, Square and Compasses. The Bible represents the will of God, the Square is the physical life of man and the Compasses represents the moral and spiritual life.

**LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES:**

Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic, Arith-metic, Geometry, Music, and Astronomy.

**MYSTIC TIE:** Spiritual tie not easily broken; fellowship among Masons.

**OBLIGATION:** A promise or pledge of obedience. The Mason takes an obligation, not an oath, that he will not depart from the promises he makes.

**SECRETS:** Masonry's only secrets are in its methods of recognition and of symbolic instructions. Its principles and aims have never been secret.

**TENETS OF FREE-MASONRY:** Dogmas; principles, beliefs, doctrines; teachings of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. A Tenet is something obviously true; that which is universally accepted without question.

**TESSELLATED PAVEMENT:** Checkered floor of black and white, symbolic of the triumphs and the despairs throughout life.

**THREE STEPS:** Emblematical of youth, manhood, and age.

### COWAN

A term of contempt, applied to a person who does the work of a Mason but has not been regularly initiated.

This term is an old Scottish word, it is purely Masonic in nature, meaning an ignorant Man who puts stones together without mortar.

He attempts to pass himself off as a Master Mason without being initiated.

### EAVESDROPPER

An eavesdropper is an illicit listener. Eavesdropping is the punishment inflicted on a person, who is caught attempting to receive the secrets of Freemasonry, through other means than that of joining as an Entered Apprentice.

"To be placed under the eaves of the house in rainy weather, till the water runs in at the shoulders and out at his heels."

# The beginnings of Freemasonry in Queensland

Conclusion of article from June issue

## Lodges under the Scottish Constitution

The first Lodge in Queensland under the Scottish Constitution was founded in November 1863. Provincial Grand Lodge of New South Wales (SC) received a petition from "certain brethren" in Brisbane who had met and resolved to form a Lodge under the Scottish Constitution, to be called St Andrew, Queensland.

The first meeting of Lodge St Andrew, Queensland under Dispensation from New South Wales Provincial Grand Lodge (SC) was held on 27th May 1864.

The minutes of Lodge St Andrew (SC) for the regular meeting of 3rd March 1865 are of more than ordinary interest.

Written in the clear hand of the Secretary, Bro W C Whitehill, they record the routine procedure of the evening: "The Lodge was opened in form in the first degree by Bro W M Boyce, Rt Wor Master presiding. Bro Whitehill, Secretary, having read the minutes of last Regular and Emergency meeting, they were confirmed.

The Secretary, having read letters from Grand Lodge of Scotland and Provincial Grand Lodge of

Queensland (EC) their consideration was delayed until dispatch of other business..."

The "other business" included a motion that no refreshments should be provided henceforth from Lodge funds - a proposition that was promptly defeated.

The important correspondence of the evening was then considered in detail.

As the minutes tell it: "Bro Whitehill having read a communication from the Very Worshipful Bro Lawrie, Grand Secretary for Scotland, in which it was intimated that it was the intention of the Grand Master to form a Masonic Province in Queensland, and the Rt Wor Master having intimated that he had been requested to nominate some brother of high social standing to fill the office of Provincial Grand Master, stated that in his opinion he could not do better than leave the nomination to the Lodge."

The following entry was discovered in "The Grand Lodge of Scotland Reporter", for June 1866:

"Brisbane - Inauguration of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Queensland (SC) and Installation of Office-Bearers.

On Tuesday the 17th April last over one hundred and fifty brethren

of the different Masonic Lodges in Brisbane, assembled at the Masonic Hall in full costume, at 6 pm for the purpose of receiving the resignation of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and to assist at the inauguration and consecration of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Queensland under the Scottish Constitution".

## The Grand Lodge of Queensland - The first Grand Lodge on Queensland soil.

In the year 1900, 41 years after Queensland had become a self-governing sovereign Colony, Queensland

Freemasonry was still divided into the three jurisdictions of the English, Scottish and Irish Constitutions. The Lodges holding under these Constitutions were still subject to the guidance and control of District Grand Lodge, which were responsible in turn to the parent grand Lodges in the British Isles.

So, in addition to the division implied among Freemasons in this territory, there was the fact that ultimate authority resided on the other side of the world. This was not as irksome as might be supposed by those unfamiliar with the habits of thought of the peoples of the British Commonwealth.

Queenslanders were tied to the Mother Countries by strong feelings of kinship, loyalty and sentiment.

But even so, it was inevitable that the idea of Masonic self-government, no less than political self-government, should take root and grow strongly. The other Australian Colonies had offered abundant precedent for such development.

A meeting of Lodges holding under the Irish and Scottish Constitutions was held on 23rd March, 1904 in the Masonic Hall, Alice Street, and it was resolved:-

"That a Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Queensland be formed, and that the date of its establishment be Monday, 25th April, 1904".

The Grand Lodge was duly formed on that date with the amalgamation of 39 Lodges, and was styled the Grand Lodge of Queensland.

The first Grand Master was RW Bro GS Hutton.

## Queensland Grand Lodge 1920-21

At a meeting at the Masonic Hall, Alice Street, on the night of 30th April, 1920, delegates of the 187 Lodges of the English and the two Scottish Districts of Queensland who were not

# The Beginnings of Freemasonry in Queensland

members of the Grand Lodge of Queensland were represented.

The newly-elected president, RW Bro Alexander Corrie, District Grand Master (EC), quickly stated the business of the evening:-

"This is probably the most historic gathering of Freemasons ever held in Queensland.....for many years it has been the desire of the brethren in this Country to promote unity in Queensland.

There is only one regular way known to Masons to arrive at that end, and this meeting of delegates has been called to bring into existence constitutionally for the first time in the Masonic world a Grand Lodge.

And that Grand Lodge, we hope at any rate, will be but a brief stepping-stone..to that other United Sovereign body we all wish to see in this territory".

Wor Bro David Guthrie, District Grand Master Depute, Scottish Constitution, NQ moved the main resolution of the meeting, seconded by Wor Bro H Courtnay Luck, Deputy District Grand Master (EC):-

"That the regular Craft Lodges enumerated in the schedule attached hereto, and holding Warrants from their respective Grand Lodges, having agreed to take part in establishing a Queensland Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted

Masons, according to the Antient Landmarks and the Grand Lodge of England and in the treaty between the Grand Lodges in the United Kingdom, dated 29th June, 1905, relative to the recognition of a new Grand Lodge in any colony or other territory in which the said Grand Lodges have equal jurisdiction and have Warranted Lodges working therein; and the said regular Craft Lodges having appointed full power to speak, vote and sign for their respective Lodges, it is resolved and established this 30th day of April, AL 5920, AD 1920, according to the Antient Landmarks and Customs of the Order".

Creation of the new Grand Lodge, always an interesting operation, proceeded step by step.

Bro FG Nevill, Assistant District Grand Master (EC), moved the next necessary resolution:-

"That this meeting authorises the President to appoint the necessary acting officers and open Grand Lodge 'in form' forthwith".

The resolution was seconded by Bro WH Green and carried unanimously.

Then, as Acting Grand Master, Bro Corrie opened the Grand Lodge, "in form", at 8.40pm.

Official intimation of the new Grand Lodge was sent by cable to the Grand Lodge of

England and Scotland, and the expected recognition was granted without delay.

## United Grand Lodge of Queensland

The Grand Master, MW Bro Corrie, now Grand Master of Queensland Grand Lodge, wrote a personal letter to the Grand Master of Grand Lodge of Queensland, MW Bro James Stodart, advising him of the steps that had been taken, and "cordially extending the right hand of fellowship". The response was equally cordial, and a conference was arranged between the Grand Master and three distinguished members of each of the Grand Lodges. This conference officially laid the foundation of the United Grand Lodge of Queensland.

This conference, on 30th August 1920, carried four important resolutions:-

1. That the desirability of promoting unity amongst the Freemasons in Queensland by establishing a United Grand Lodge of Queensland be affirmed.

2. That in the United Grand Lodge, the Lodges shall be registered and numbered and take precedence according to the dates on which they were originally consecrated.

3. That the principle of recognising all Past Ranks be affirmed; District Grand Ranks for this purpose considered equivalent to Grand Ranks.

4. That a joint Committee of four (4) be appointed to draft a Constitution for the proposed United Grand Lodge, to be submitted to the respective Grand Lodges for approval.

A notice to all brethren of Grand Lodge of Queensland and of Queensland Grand Lodge, signed by MW Bros James Stodart and Alexander Corrie on 4th April 1921, summoned them to the historic meeting to form the United Grand Lodge of Queensland.

The meeting was arranged for 21st April 1921, at the Exhibition Building, Brisbane.

About 2,000 Brethren were present at 7.00pm.

At 7.30pm, the Inaugural meeting of United Grand Lodge Queensland was opened.

The two Grand Masters then signed the Articles of Union, and the Grand Secretaries affixed the Seals of their respective Grand Lodges.

Thus the United Grand Lodge of Queensland came formally into being with 281 Lodges, comprising 79 Lodges of Grand Lodge of Queensland, and 202 Lodges of Queensland Grand Lodge.

It is pleasing to announce that two Ashton members, Tom Blackwell and Len Norman were acknowledged as the catalyst for this Lodge in raising over \$6,000 for the Freemason's Leukemia Appeal.