



# Ashton News

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

## 23 Visiting Lodges attend Installation Ceremony

A most impressive ceremony followed by an enjoyable function at the Festive Board was the end result of the Installation of Worshipful Master and Investiture of Officers evening at this years installation night.

To witness the ceremony in the lodge room were 51 visitors representing 23 Lodges from as far north as Barcaldine down to Southport.

A long time friend of our newly installed Master, Rt Wor Bro Kevin Kerr, PGSW made the round trip from Barcaldine, arriving on Saturday prior to the meeting and back on the train Sunday morning.

Kevin did an impressive Charge to the Master, in acknowledgement of

his friendship to Jim.

This was the first time that Kevin had witnessed an installation performed in scottish craft workings, and he was just a little more than impressed with the ritual performed.

At the Festive Board, a two course meal with a choice of two dishes was served to 74 brethren plus 13 invited guests

Ashton would like to thank the several Brothers from other Lodges who helped make the night a success,

Special thanks to Wor Bro Alf Finlay of

General Glasgow who contributed so much to the Ceremony within the Lodge Room in his capacity as Organist.

To the Piper Wor Bro Harry MacKenzie of William McLeod who assisted in the Proclamation of the Master, and the piping in of the haggis at the Festive Board.

To the members of Stanley Lodge who were responsible for the serving of the meals at the Festive Board.

During the course of the evening a raffle was conducted

with the major prizes being a microwave oven and a china teaset.

Two visiting members of C H Harley Lodge were the lucky winners.

A variety of other items comprising bottles of wine, chocolates, beverage glasses, etc comprised the minor prizes.

### Grand Lodge Honours

Congratulations are extended to Ted Ross who was honoured with the title of Past Dep Grand Director of Ceremonies at the June Grand Lodge Communications.

Ted is a dedicated member and at present holds the office of Chaplain.

He recently had the pleasure of proposing his son Lochlin into membership of Ashton Lodge.

### Queensland's Masonic Beginnings

This issue contains the beginning of a two part series on the history of Freemasonry in Queensland.

This first installment outlines the situation when Queensland was proclaimed a State in 1859.

Next issue will continue with the beginnings of the Scottish Constitution, the Grand Lodge of Queensland, Queensland Grand Lodge and concluding with the United Grand Lodge of Queensland.

## Vale Ron Taylor

It is with the deepest regret that the Lodge records the passing of Wor Bro Ron Taylor who passed away at Greenslopes Hospital on July 20.

Ron was Initiated into this Lodge on 7th May, 1962.

He was Installed Wor Master on 3rd July, 1972.

He faithfully served the Lodge for many years, as it was one of his principal interests outside of his family, and until his own health and that of his wife Mavis, made that impossible, but he loyally retained his membership.

He served in the Australian Army in World War II in New Guinea and Borneo, and was active in the local RSL

His funeral was held at Mt Thompson on 24th July and grateful thanks was extended to those eleven members of this Lodge who attended.

Condolences from all members of the Lodge have been passed to Mrs Mavis Taylor and Ron's family.

## Black Knife of Scotland

The **Sgain Dubh** (pronounced Skeen Due) or black knife is worn on the right leg, tucked between the stocking and the leg.

It is held in place by the garter band with its handle protruding above the stocking top.

Some are bone handled some black with a cairngorm set in a silver mounting.

Originally the Sgain Dubh was hidden somewhere on the highlanders body it became traditional to wear it in the sock to show friendliness.

Tradition also states that the Sgain Dubh is worn in the sock so that even when kneeling a Scot is dangerous.

## Elementary deduction

Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson went on a camping trip. As they lay down for the night Holmes said: "Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see".

Watson replied "I see millions and millions of stars".

Holmes: "And what does that tell you".

Watson: "Astronomically, it tells me there are millions and millions of galaxies and billions of planets. Theologically it tells me God is great and we are small. Meteorologically it tells me we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you Holmes?"

Holmes: "Somebody has stolen our bloody tent".

## Masonic charity helps Leukaemia Appeal

A pledge made by the Freemasons of Queensland is about to enter the last quarter of a two year fund-raising campaign to honour our commitment of \$1.2 million towards the establishment of a Leukaemia Village in Townsville.

Construction of the Village is virtually complete and already the first residents of the 10-unit Village have arrived.

The official opening is scheduled for September 21.

The total raised for this important project currently stands at just over \$810,000 and by the end of December it hoped that our target will have been reached.

Ashton's contribution to the appeal at present stands at \$2,930 and to honour our

- If you expect something good, for nothing, you'll get something good-for-nothing.
- Perhaps it's better to be seventy years young than forty years old.
- Remember these are the 'good old days' you'll be sighing for twenty years from now.
- No matter how well you nurse a grudge, it'll never get better.

commitment, another \$1,770 is needed (We have pledged to raise \$100 for each of our 47 members).

In order for us to reach this target, another bumper raffle with goods to the value of at least \$4000 has been commenced by the members of the South Brisbane Fund Raising Committee.

Four of the southside shopping centres have given permission for tickets to be sold on their premises.

What is needed is a response from our membership to make themselves available as ticket sellers on the day.

The more people we have selling tickets, the more money will be credited to Ashton's contribution.

The shopping centres are:

- Springwood - 23 September
- Morningside Central - 30 September
- Fairfield Gardens - 7 October
- Cannon Hill - 14 October
- Greenslopes - 21 October

If there are any members who feel that they would like to assist in making this worthwhile project a success, or would like to make a donation to the Appeal, please contact secretary Ted Lowe on 3843 1957 and let your intentions be known.

# The beginnings of Freemasonry in Queensland

At the end of the 18th Century, Masonry under the Grand Lodges in England, Scotland and Ireland was experiencing a period of great progress and expansion.

In such circumstances it could be reasonably expected that among the thousand persons in the first fleet there would have been some Freemasons.

Especially as it had been the custom since 1728 to issue military warrants, and since 1732 to issue travelling or ambulatory warrants to regiments.

Warrants were also issued to the ships of the Navy.

## First recorded mention of Masonry in Australia

As early as 1797 there was a petition to the Grand Lodge of Ireland; in 1800 Lodge St. John No.1 was meeting in Norfolk Island; in 1802 meetings were held on board British ships "Glatton" and "Buffalo" moored in Port Jackson.

A Masonic Certificate dated 1802 was issued by French officers then in port, to Captain Anthony Finn Kemp.

An interesting case is that of Sir Henry Browne Hayes.

In 1801 at Cork, Ireland he was sentenced to transportation for life in New South Wales.

In 1803 he applied to Governor King for permission to hold a Masonic Meeting, but this was refused.

Despite this, he arranged for the meeting to be held during a Party at the home of a Sergeant Whittle.

The news came to the notice of the Governor, and while the meeting was in progress, Hayes and all - with the exception of the Naval men who had escaped - were arrested and placed in jail.

Later, all except Hayes were discharged.

Hayes was ordered to be sent to hard labour in Van Diemon's Land, but the sentence was not carried out.

## Travelling Military Lodges

Most of the Military Regiments sent on garrison duty to New South Wales in the early days of the colony had Masonic Lodges attached to them.

But Lodges No 227, attached to the 46th Regiment, and No 218

attached to the 48th Regiment, are those most closely associated with the establishment of the first permanent Lodge in Australia.

Lodge No 22, (Irish Constitution), The Lodge of Social and Military Virtues, attached to the 46th Regiment, is credited with holding the first public Masonic ceremony ever held in Australia.

On 2nd November 1816, this Lodge was responsible for the laying of the cornerstone of Bro John Piper's house at Eliza Point, Sydney.

Thirty-two Masons actually took part in the ceremony.

## John Oxley

John Oxley's role as founder of Brisbane should be recalled now, for Oxley was a Freemason - as, indeed, were many of the leading Governmental authorities of Colonial Australia.

Unfortunately, we do not now have detailed records of Oxley's Masonic life, we do not even know where he first saw the Light.

But we do know that he was accepted in Sydney, where he was well known, as being a reputable Freemason.

His name appears in Masonic records, as having participated in a Ceremony arranged and carried out in Sydney by

members of the Military Lodge No 227 IC, The Lodge of Social and Military Virtues, on 2nd November, 1816.

## First Lodge in Queensland

The first active steps to establish Freemasonry in Queensland were taken in the State's foundation year, 1859.

A meeting of members of the Craft held in Brisbane forwarded to the Provincial Grand Lodge of New South Wales (EC), a petition praying for a Lodge to be constituted in the new State capital.

A dispensation was subsequently granted by Provincial Grand Lodge, authorising the establishment of the "North Australian Lodge" aptly named as it was then the most northerly Lodge in Australia.

An inaugural meeting of the Lodge was held on 13 July 1859, in the Lodge Room of the Freemasons Hotel, Albert Street, Brisbane, at the hour of high twelve.

The most striking aspect of that first meeting was the number of candidates.

Fourteen were proposed for initiation.

At the next regular meeting of the Lodge, on 10th August 1859, five of these applicants, Messrs Moffatt, Petrie, Lilley, Cowell

# The Beginnings of Freemasonry in Queensland

and Morton, became the first Queenslanders to be regularly initiated into Freemasonry in a Queensland Lodge.

## Lodges under the English Constitution

A milestone in Queensland Freemasonry was passed on 2nd December 1862 when, at the meeting of North Australian Lodge, the Master, Wor Bro John Petrie, called upon Wor Bro W M Boyce PM to read a communication from the Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland (EC), appointing Wor Bro Augustus Charles Gregory (then Surveyor-General to the Queensland Government), to be Provincial Grand Master (EC).

Thus, slightly more than three years after the foundation of the first Queensland Lodge, Queensland received some degree of autonomy.

The exact extent of the powers and responsibilities laid upon the new Provincial Grand Master cannot be judged on the basis of contemporary records.

But it is probable that officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge were empowered to issue dispensations, sign certificates, and generally to supervise the workings of Freemasons of the English Constitution.

The United Grand Lodge of England

delegated some of its functions to local authority, but retained ultimate powers of decision.

*(The title Provincial Grand Master (EC) gave way in Queensland to the title District Grand Master (EC) in 1867).*

By 1862, three years after the establishment of North Australian Lodge, there were four Lodges of the English Constitution in Queensland – North Australian and Prince of Wales in Brisbane; Queensland Lodge in Ipswich and Leichhardt Lodge in Rockhampton.

A proposal that a Provincial Grand Lodge should be created in Queensland was readily agreed to by the Grand Lodge of England.

The creation of a Provincial Grand Lodge was carried out with suitable ceremony on the night of 23rd December, 1862.

The first Masonic Temple erected in Queensland was located in the vicinity of the Albert Street Methodist Church.

## Lodges under the Irish Constitution

A meeting of Brethren interested in the establishment of a Lodge of the Irish Constitution was held in Brisbane on 12th October 1863, attended by Wor Bros John Mackenzie Shaw (Lodge No10, Belfast), Thomas Vokes Dudgeon (Lodge No260, Sydney), Rev James

Robert Moffatt (North Australian Lodge No1098 EC, Brisbane), Robert F. O'Callaghan (Lodge No96, New York), and George Harden (Lodge No 125, Dublin).

It was resolved "that application be immediately made to the Provincial Grand Lodge of New South Wales, Irish Constitution, for a Dispensation to authorise Wor Bro Shaw to act as Master, Bros Dudgeon and Abbott as Senior and Junior Wardens respectively, and Bro Moffatt as Senior Deacon, to open and hold a Lodge for Labour until such time as a Legal Warrant can be procured from the Grand Lodge of Ireland".

"That the Lodge be called the St Patrick Lodge of Queensland".

The Dispensation arrived on 13th November, 1863.

The Lodge was inaugurated at a meeting on St John's Day 28th December 1863.

At the Lodge meeting of 25th April 1864, Warrant No 279 arrived from Grand Lodge of Ireland.

The Lodge became No 1 on the Register of Grand Lodge of Queensland in 1903 and No 5 on the Register of United Grand Lodge of Queensland in 1921.

In the records of St Patrick Lodge No 279, Brisbane, is an entry dated 30th January 1865: "This was an Emergent Meeting, and the circular calling the meeting having been read, viz: 'For the purpose of electing a

Provincial Grand Master for the Irish Constitution in Queensland – St Patrick, Duke of Leinster, and St John's.

The resolution was then carried "That Bro M C O'Connell is a fit and able Brother to fill the chair of Provincial Grand Master in the Colony of Queensland' and unanimously carried.

Directors were given to the Secretary to have a Memorial properly endorsed and forwarded by the next English Mail".

This meeting, held three years after the formation in Queensland of the Provincial Grand Lodge, English Constitution, was a natural development of the times.

It was to be expected that the Irish Lodges, like those of the English Constitution, would come to regard the new, self-governing colony of Queensland as a self-contained Masonic Territory worthy of its own Provincial or District Grand Lodge. And the recent example of the English brethren in this matter would not pass unnoticed.

Grand Lodge of Ireland acceded to the choice, and a Warrant constituting the Provincial Grand Lodge of Queensland, and naming Bro O'Connell as its first Master, was issued by the Grand Master of Ireland on 25th June, 1866.

The Ceremonies of Inauguration and the Installation of Officers was held on 24th September, 1866 in the School of Arts, Queen Street, Brisbane.