



From Under the Eastern Star

Mount Pleasant Lodge Newsletter

January, 2014

Welcome,

Welcome to the fifth newsletter of the 2013/2014 term, the first this calendar year. This being the beginning of the year, things were not very busy – masonically speaking. There were only a few visitations that occurred between those mentioned in the last newsletter and the January meeting. As is our normal custom, our January meeting did not involve degree work and was followed by an Australia Day themed festive board which included games, one in place of our normal swindle, and the other that raised funds. Both seemed to inspire much fun and excitement. Though it was a relatively quick meeting we had a presentation, other information and a piece of Masonic Education.



Our IPM, WBro Andrew Childs, PGSwBr, is presented with his Past Master's certificate and a booklet of photos from his term by RWBro David Carter, PJGW DGArc.

The presentation was to WBro Andrew Childs, our IPM, of his Past Master's Certificate which was performed by his proposer, RWBro David Carter. They have both known each other for a considerable period of time, some of which RWBro Carter appraised the lodge of during the presentation. It turns out that Grand Lodge endorses, for want of a better term, a Past Master's Certificate when he has already been a Master of that lodge – so, in fact, we were really representing WBro Childs with his Past Master's Certificate. I am sure we all echo RWBro Carter's sentiments of thanks for the work and effort WBro Childs put in, and continues to put in, to Mount Pleasant Lodge.

We also learnt that WBro Ron Walker, our almoner, was receiving an Australia Day Award. WBro Walker was quick to point out that this was not a national Australia Day Award (viz Australian of the Year), but rather the more local variety. Not that this matters as he was receiving the award in recognition of his long involvement with sailing, most particularly the Sandgate Yacht Club which he joined in 1963, and more recently for his volunteer work for Sailability Shorncliffe Inc which organises sailing for people with a disability. (There is more info about this on the Lodge website. – ed)

WBro Victor Chandler presented his piece of Masonic Education, which was an Australian themed piece. It was centred on Australian Prime Ministers who were Freemasons and included a number of facts and figures, though WBro Chandler did point out that on some brethren not much information appeared to be available. It was quite an informative piece and thank you to WBro Chandler.



WBro Ron Walker, PSGD, is presented with his Lilley Electorate Australia Day Award by Hon Wayne Swan, MP and Mr Kevin Rouse (CEO Burnie Brae Centre)

Brethren I would like to advise that I had been planning on attending the 100th Anniversary Reconsecration of Tuscan Lodge on Feb 15th. We have been advised by Tuscan Lodge that, unfortunately, this has been postponed with a date yet to be determined. In place of that they will hold a 1st Degree on Mr Neil Symes. As mentioned previously I will be visiting Morningside Lodge on 04 March for a 1st Degree on their Wor Master's step-son and the following week I will be visiting, as Wor Master of Mount Pleasant, my own mother lodge in Christchurch, NZ, on 12th March for their Installation.

Our February work is for a 3rd Degree on Bro Stephen Jones and it appears the evening will be busy, as we will have Grand Lodge in attendance and it is likely we will also be balloting for an initiation that evening as well.



(Clockwise from top left) Visiting Brethren, Brian (Clem) Clements (Prince Albert Lodge) and John Smith (Windsor Lodge) enjoy the Australia Day fare of meat pies and peas. (This was followed in true Aussie style by pavlova for dessert.); Winner of the Australia Day Sports Trivia Quiz, Mt Pleasant's Bro Rod Lancashire; Winner of the thong throwing competition, Mt Pleasant's WBRO Peter Donald; Bro Chris Eades shows his thong throwing technique; Brethren toast Bro Stephen Jones who celebrated his birthday on the night; WBRO John Smith shows his unsuccessful coin rolling skills; Winner of the coin rolling competition, Mt Pleasant's RWBRO Harold Littler whose coin landed closest to the bottle of rum; (centre) Finalists in the thong throwing competition (l to r) WBros Ron Walker & Geoff Mauger, Bro Chris Eades, WBros John Smith (Windsor Lodge) & Peter Donald. (Mt Pleasant 4, visitors 1.)

Social Activities / Upcoming Events

There have not been any social events since our last meeting, however there will be a Breakfast in the Park 'with a twist' – that is croquet. This will be on Sun 09 February at the Graceville Croquet Club from 8am to 12noon. The cost will be \$20 per person as it includes the croquet.

Our Masonic Widows & Absent Brethren – never forgotten.



Our Masonic widows (l to r) - Shirley Donald with our Wor Master; Vera Carter with her son, RWBro David Carter, our Wor Master and WBRO Ron Walker; and Joy Boys with our Wor Master.

At Christmas time our almoner, WBRO Ron Walker, and I visited some of our Masonic widows. This was to wish them Seasons Greetings on behalf of the lodge as well as to have a general chat and yarn. Before Christmas either separately or together we visited Robyn Jiggins, Shirley Donald, Vera Carter and Sonya Watts and gave each of them a tin of biscuits on behalf of the lodge. In addition we caught up with Denise Wyatt at the Christmas breakup breakfast (see Nov & Dec 2013 Newsletter). In the New Year we were able to catch up with Joy Boys who had been taken ill just before our planned visit prior to Christmas (hence the delay in reporting this item).

In addition to our widows we also visited some of our long-term absent brethren, such as WBRO Ken McKenzie & his wife Joan, WBRO Jeff Brown (see photo at right) and WBRO Peter Hassell, extending the best wishes of the lodge to them as well as reminding them that they are never far from our thoughts.



Fraternal regards,

WBRO Gareth Pethig, Worshipful Master
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Almoner's Report

This month our Almoner, WBRO Ron Walker, reported on the health of the following brethren:

WBRO David Avery: is quite well except for spasms of pain when talking. A left-over symptom from his shingles. He was in attendance at the meeting.

WBRO Jeff Brown: His hip has improved but he still gets very tired. He has gained back some of the weight he lost previously.

WBRO Ian Donald: Has had a cat scan and is due to see his Oncologist on 23rd January. (This is his two yearly check-up rather than his normal regular X ray.)

Bro Les Fossey: He is feeling fine but cannot walk without a walker as he has a balance problem. He is still having hydrotherapy treatment. (It will be his 60th wedding anniversary on 12 Feb 2014 and is having a get-together with his family on Sun 09 Feb.)

WBro Greg Gabb: He has recovered from his surgery in October. His macular degeneration in his left eye has settled down but he still has trouble reading and still cannot drive at night.

WBro Peter Hassall: (and his wife Ellen) have picked up a bug and he was vomiting and had diarrhoea. He says he is as weak as a kitten other than that, all things considered, he is travelling as well as can be expected.

WBro Heinz Walter: He is recovering from an intestinal hernia operation he had on 17 December. (He was only in hospital one night not his usual 6 weeks!)

WBro Cedric Murray: His eye sight continues to deteriorate.

WBro Bob Townsend: He is well but has tests every 3 months.

WBro Ron Walker: He recently visited his Oncologist for a six monthly check-up. A blood test revealed that one of the blood cells readings was a little higher than expected so he has to have a scan and a further blood test in late February followed by another visit to his Oncologist in early March.

Our Wor Master's father: He had a heart attack and is now back home on a strict diet and medication.

Bro Jim Reid's wife, Maureen: She has just about recovered from the operation she had in November.

WBro Ken McKenzie's wife, Joan: She is due to have an operation in a couple of months' time.

Widows: Joy Boys had been in hospital before Christmas and this was why the Worshipful Master and myself could not visit her before Christmas. She has now fully recovered; Vera Carter's appetite has improved and she is a little better; Renee Chandler's health is deteriorating; Betty Donald is blind in the left eye and only has 18 to 20 % sight in the right eye due to macular degeneration. The Wor Master and I plan to see her on Sat 01 February to present her with her Masonic Widow's Brooch and a tin of shortbread (her Christmas present).

(Please let the Almoner know if you are unwell or if you know that one of our members or widows is unwell so that he can advise the lodge of either your or their circumstances. WBro Ron Walker can be contacted on the following - home: 3399 1586, mob: 0407 251 413 or email: <ghost_magic@bigpond.com>.)

Events and Visitations List

(View on the website: <http://www.mpl361.org.au>)

Brethren, please refer to the website for the latest information on all upcoming events and visitations. This will be kept up-to-date with any changes, additions, etc. If you are unsure, please give me a call.

Sat 15 Feb – 6:30pm	Tuscan Lodge – 1st degree on Mr Neil Symes.	Wynnum Masonic Centre (Tingal Rd, Wynnum)
Thur 20 Feb – 7:30pm	Mt Pleasant Lodge – practice meeting 3rd Degree.	Stones Corner Masonic Centre (Cleveland St, Stones Corner)
Thur 27 Feb – 7:30pm	Mt Pleasant Lodge – 3rd Degree on Bro Stephen Jones.	Stones Corner Masonic Centre (Cleveland St, Stones Corner)
Tues 04 Mar – 7:15pm	Morningside Lodge – 1st Degree on step-son of the WM.	Stones Corner Masonic Centre (Cleveland St, Stones Corner)
Wed 12 Mar	Conyers Lodge - Installation	Christchurch, New Zealand

(Please let me know if you are going somewhere for a visit and if I can make it I will happily join you. - WM)