



From Under the Eastern Star

Mount Pleasant Lodge Newsletter

April, 2014

Lest we forget



(l to r) Our latest Fellowcraft, BCC Cr - Bro Peter Matic, presents a wreath during the ANZAC Memorial Service in the Grand Hall at the Ann St Masonic Memorial Centre; The Memorial Urn surrounded by the many wreaths laid by brethren; Bro Bill Moffat and the Wor Master, WBro Gareth Pethig, before laying the wreath at the Memorial Urn in the Ann St Masonic Memorial Centre;

Welcome,

Welcome Ladies, Gentlemen and Brethren to the eighth newsletter of the 2013/2014 year. Over a third of 2014 has now passed. As always I do hope you are in good health or the best health you can expect. Our April meeting, being the presentation of the First Tracing Board, was of shorter duration than most of our evenings – I am sure this was appreciated being ANZAC Day eve, with Dawn Ceremonies in the morning. Our main work of the evening was performed by WBro Andrew Childs, our IPM, who gave a warm, heart-felt and excellent presentation of the First Tracing Board to Bro Gannon, our new Entered Apprentice. Comments made afterwards alluded to the same. Preceding this, as we were not performing an ANZAC memorial service this year, a minute's silence was held, remembering all those from both countries, who have served their country, ceasing labour during their duty or in the intervening years since. WBro Cedric Murray presented the ANZAC Ode part-way through that minute's silence.



(l to r) The Wor Master, WBro Gareth Pethig with Bro Gannon, our new Entered Apprentice, and our IPM, WBro Andrew Childs, who presented the first degree tracing board to Bro Gannon.

The festive board was quite an enjoyable event and I believe our visitors also found it to be so. I would like to thank our visitors for attending the evening. The festive board main fare was scrumptious - shepherds, or cottage (depending on what you name it), pie. During the festive board RWBro David Carter, our Chaplain, read a piece of ANZAC related literature that many of us have heard before – “The ANZAC on the Wall” (long version) by Jim Brown – a very poignant piece. Later WBro Cedric Murray recounted some family history relating to WWI which had some large similarities with the poem, giving even more poignancy.

AT THE FESTIVE



(clockwise from top left) Visitors are served a home-made shepherds pie; RWBro David Carter presents the poem "The ANZAC on the Wall"; WBro Victor Chandler and Bro Cameron Donald - Mt Pleasant "swindle" winners; Visitors listen to the poem; The Mt Pleasant "swindle"; WBros Peter Donald and Andrew Bull toss the coins for the Mt Pleasant "swindle"; WBro Bernie Kuncle and Bro Michael Mifsud prepare to serve.

On ANZAC Day the Worshipful Master was present at the Ann Street Masonic Memorial Centre to attend the wreath laying ceremony at 9am. Bro Bill Moffat laid the wreath on behalf of Mt. Pleasant Lodge – thank you Bro Moffat. Also in attendance was WBro Andrew Childs, our Immediate Past Master, representing the Order of DeMolay, the masonic youth group for boys. Afterwards, Bro Bill Moffat indicated he may try to find his WWII compatriots in the ANZAC parade and set off to do so. Following the ceremony the Grand Master lead a parade from the Ann Street Masonic Memorial Centre, down Ann Street, to lay a wreath at the Shrine of Remembrance at ANZAC Square. That evening at 7pm, the AIF Memorial Lodge held their ANZAC Day Memorial Service. This was a very well presented and solemn ceremony attended by a good number of people, with a great ANZAC address being given. This was then followed by a light supper. I would encourage people to attend this service in future years, if they are so inclined, as I was glad I did. There were also a few other Mt Pleasant brethren in attendance - two were attending to duties that night – BCC Councillor Bro Peter Matic and Bro Stephen Jones who was taking the official photos as well as mentoring two young adults on the night.

Out and About/Visitations

Various officers and brethren have reported that they visited lodges after our March meeting. While I forgot to ask for visitation reports during the meeting, some were communicated to me later. My apologies if I have missed any.



Visitations to a 1st degree at Baden Powell Lodge (left) and a 3rd degree on Bro Scott Moller at Lamington Lodge (right).

Social Activities



Our 'Breakfast in the Park' was held on Sunday 27 April in the Rocks Riverside Park at Seventeen Mile Rocks. This was a slightly cooler morning than the previous breakfasts with light dew on the grass, as I discovered in my sandals. Not that being cooler detracted in any way from it being a great breakfast BBQ. It was attended, and very much enjoyed, by about 30 people of all ages. Thank you all for attending.

The work for our May meeting will be the raising of Bro Peter Matic to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. With the election of officers being held at our June meeting I would like to take the opportunity to remind the brethren to please advise the lodge secretary by email or in writing if you are willing to accept a nomination for either a particular office or any office nominated, especially if you think you may not be present at that meeting. The lodge will then be aware of your intentions and can conduct the election with certainty on the night.

Fraternal regards,

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

Almoner's Report

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

Wor Bro Jeff Brown: He is having ongoing problems with his back. The Doctors have just altered his medication in the last week to try and rectify the problem but believe it is due to maturity of his age (turning 82 this year). Jeff sends his regards to all the Brethren of Mt Pleasant Lodge.

Wor Bro Ian Donald: Ian is back on his tablets this week and his feet are starting to swell again. Ian sends his regards to all the Brethren.

Wor Bro Peter Hassall: Peter had some tests in April for prostate cancer which sent his blood pressure up, however following an increased dosage of blood pressure and anti-stroke medication this has now come back down. The report on the prostate cancer was clear. Peter sends his best wishes and regards to all.

Wor Bro Ron Walker: Ron had his fourth chemotherapy treatment on the Tuesday prior to the meeting. He was discharged as a day oncology patient and sent home with a portable pump which was disconnected a day later after revisiting the Hospital. He suffered a few headaches and hiccups as a result of the treatment. High blood platelets test reading was 112/100 as compared to 97/100 & 102/100 two weeks previously which is good news. On the Tuesday following the meeting he is going for a scan and has an appointment with his oncologist the next day for the results of the scan. Ron sends his best wishes to the Brethren for a good meeting as well as his apologies. He also wishes to thank WBro Bob Jekinson for visiting him in hospital on three occasions.

Widows: Mrs Joan Mc Kenzie (wife of WBro Ken McKenzie) has had a new pump fitted three weeks ago to pump morphine and anaesthetic for her cracked spine. She is recovering as well as can be expected. Ken sends his regards to all the Brethren.

(Please let the Almoner know if you are unwell or if you know that one of our members or widows is unwell.)

Masonic Widow's Pins Presented



Late last year the wives of two former members of Mt Pleasant Lodge were made lodge widows. These were Betty Donald, wife of WBro Lance Donald, and Vera Carter, wife of WBro Stan Carter. Until recently a wife could only be a lodge widow if her husband was a financial member of the lodge when they passed to the Grand Lodge above. The change was brought about a few years ago when a former member of Mt Pleasant Lodge, WBro Ron Wyatt, passed away and his wife, Denise, was made a lodge widow. The reason for this was mainly due to the tireless work which both Ron (Treasurer for almost 20 yrs) and Denise had done for the lodge when Ron was still an active member. Denise has since reacquainted herself with the members of the lodge and has attended many lodge social functions as well as our installations. Betty and Vera were made lodge widows for similar reasons and were presented with a widow's pin by our Worshipful Master, WBro Gareth Pethig, earlier this year. So who are these hard-working ladies and their husbands and what have they done for Mt Pleasant Lodge?



Betty's husband, Lance Mitchell Donald, a carpenter by trade, affiliated to Mt Pleasant Lodge in November 1963 as a result of him working for then Bro Graham Boys. Graham could be very persuasive and it may have been a matter of him insisting that Lance join Graham's lodge - Mt Pleasant - if he wanted to keep his job! Whatever the reason Lance made the change having previously been a member of Victoria Lodge No 10 UGLQ, which was his mother lodge, having joined that lodge in 1958. Lance and Betty took an active part in the lodge, helping to run bingo nights and other fund raising events as was usual in those days. After progressing through the various offices, Lance became Worshipful Master of Mt Pleasant Lodge on 13 May, 1971, four years after Graham, and together with Betty, continued to work enthusiastically for the lodge for many years afterwards. Unfortunately Lance's health deteriorated and in December 1985 he resigned from lodge due to ill health and passed to the Grand Lodge above three years later. As well as being active in Freemasonry, Lance was a keen supporter of Masonic youth, particularly those organisations which were expanding in the early 1960s. As a result of this he founded Kippa Kamarron Chapter of the Order of DeMolay, an

The Wor Master, WBro Gareth Pethig, presents Betty Donald (top) and Vera Carter (above) with their Masonic Widow's Pins on behalf of the lodge.

organisation for boys which is run along similar lines to Freemasonry. Lance and Betty's son, Ian, joined DeMolay and then eventually Mt Pleasant Lodge. It is largely due to Lance's influence that many former DeMolays, as well as advisers of the Order, became members of Mt Pleasant Lodge which in turn encouraged more former DeMolays to join. This could be seen as part of the reason why today there are so many members of the lodge who can trace their roots to association with DeMolay.

Vera's husband, Stanley (Stan) Carter, was a member of Mt Pleasant Lodge from 1973 to 2003. He joined Freemasonry because his son, David (now RWBro David Carter, PJGW, DGArch, - currently our lodge Chaplain), had joined the Order of DeMolay, the same youth organisation which Lance was actively involved in as an adviser. At that time only Freemasons were permitted to witness the DeMolay ceremonies and so Stan became a Freemason primarily to join and support his son at the DeMolay meetings. Once he was a Freemason he then became active as an adviser on the Advisory Council of the Chapter and served as Chairman for a number of years. Lance Donald and Stan became good friends through their involvement in DeMolay and it was Lance who proposed Stan into Mt Pleasant Lodge. (It seems a fitting coincidence that it is Stan's and Lance's wives who are the ones to receive their lodge widow's pins at this time.) Stan's seconder was Bro (now RWBro) Harold Littler (now PJGW). Harold and Stan were members of the same DeMolay Chapter - Frank S. Land (Memorial) Chapter. Stan also joined many of his work colleagues at GEC, a heavy engineering company at Rocklea, who were also members of Mt Pleasant Lodge, such as Bros Don Bell and Dave Avery.

Stan was 50 years old when he was initiated into Mt Pleasant Lodge in March 1972 and his proposer, WBro Lance Donald, was Worshipful Master at the time. A few months after being raised in April 1973 he was installed as a Steward at the next installation. He then served as Tyler (yes, in those days new members often served a term as Tyler) before his ascent through the offices to the chair of King Solomon, in which he was installed on 12 June, 1980, the lodge's 50th anniversary. Stan's love of Freemasonry continued long after he left the chair. After serving as Immediate Past Master he was immediately installed as Secretary which he served for 3 years, then as Almoner for two years, and then as Assistant Secretary for 7 years. He was good at ritual and presented many of the past masters' charges while he was still active in the lodge, although sometimes a candidate would have to have the pronunciation of certain words corrected after they had received them from Stan as he still had quite a strong Yorkshire accent! All this time Vera supported him as well as the lodge by holding various social functions at their home in Mt Gravatt. In those days the ladies organised and prepared all the food for the installation banquet and Vera's skills at cooking meant that she often played a key role in those duties. Vera's support of the lodge continued as Stan served as Assistant Secretary by utilising her former skills as a typist to type the lodge notices and minutes – at a time long before computers, home printers and copiers, and the internet.



Vera and Stan Carter in their earlier days.

The minutes were squeezed onto as little paper as possible to minimise the copying and mailing costs which were a large part of the secretary's expenses. Such was her hard work for the lodge that in 1993 Mt Pleasant Lodge applied to Grand Lodge and presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation and brooch. Stan's term as Worshipful Master was made even more special when his son, David, presented him with his papers to join at Stan's installation and so Stan was Worshipful Master for all of David's degrees. Later, when Stan joined Alma Mater Chapter, 18th degree, David again presented Stan with his papers to join on the night of his enthronement. Stan was rewarded for his continued hard work and service to the lodge by the presentation of various charity jewels - Life Governor (1982), Life Vice President (1988) and Life Vice Patron (1993).

Being empty nesters and wanting a smaller house with less work, Vera and Stan moved from Mt Gravatt to a retirement village at Mt Warren Park, just outside Beenleigh. They enjoyed this stage of their life and took part in the many social activities as well as spending more time pursuing their love of bowls. However after a few years Stan's health started to deteriorate. He gained weight and had difficulty breathing. He was unable to drive at night and, despite offers to be picked up by his son, David, his attendance at lodge started to wane until, in January 2003, at the age of 81yrs, he resigned from lodge, just 3 months short of 30 years active membership. Stan passed to the Grand Lodge above on 14 October, 2005.

(Prepared by WBro Ian Donald & RWBro David Carter. Thanks to our Secretary, WBro Victor Chandler, for researching member information in our lodge records and also to the Grand Secretariat, for providing information from the Grand Lodge records.)

Footnote:

WBros Ron Wyatt, Lance Donald and Stan Carter are not currently included on the Honour Roll of Deceased Members which is read out at the last meeting of the year when we remember our past members and the love and devotion they gave to the lodge. This is because they were not financial members of the lodge when they passed to the Grand Lodge above. It is hoped that at some time in the future the lodge will give consideration to including their names and the names of other brethren who worked tirelessly for the lodge, on the Honour Roll so that we can remember them alongside their fellow brothers in toil.