

[Book Review by Neil Morse, March 2006.]

MASONIC CENTRES OF QUEENSLAND

From Allora to Yungaburra

Masonic Centres of Queensland: Concise histories of the construction and use of Freemasons' Halls

By Wayne L Budgen

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Available from Two Pillars, PO Box 4119, St Lucia South Qld 4067

From Allora, between Toowoomba and Warwick, to Yungaburra, near Atherton in FNQ, this A5-sized compendium of Queensland's Masonic buildings is ideal library/glovebox reference material. Each page has a clear black and white photograph of the building, the street address, the lodges meeting there, when built and at what cost, when consecrated and by whom. These facts are interesting in themselves, but the paragraphs on the history and points of interest about the building make fascinating reading. A first instance: at the consecration of Wallangarra Lodge 236QC in 1914 held in the Union Church at Wallangarra, the GM fainted from exhaustion due to the heat. The erection of the Wallangarra centre resulted soon after! Funny that.

I am aware that a NSW brother started a similar, but so far incompleting, project some years ago, and also of at least one comprehensive set of photos of Masonic Halls collected by a local [ACT] brother during his travels around Australia. Neither of these efforts has resulted in a publication. Perhaps jurisdictions could consider a similar project.

If you travel in Queensland, or intend to do 'the big lap' soon, get a copy of this and stick it in the map folder.

A late update: Amara Masonic Centre was destroyed in a freak storm on 1 December 2005. But efforts are being made to rebuild.

The rating has been set because the volume only relates to current buildings. For completeness's sake, I would have liked to have learnt about buildings formerly used by the Craft as well. The author specifically deleted these, and makes it clear in the introduction. Nevertheless

☆☆☆.5/5 [I have no way of splitting stars!]

TCC