



THE MASONIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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SOME OF THE MASONS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF KU-RING-GAI

Over the years many Freemasons have been involved in the development of Ku-ring-gai.

A number have served as Shire Presidents and Mayors; Councillors and Aldermen. Others have contributed to the growth of the district as farmers, shopkeepers and businessmen. Some have represented the electorate in State and Federal Parliaments and many have been employed over the years as Council Officers. A number of clergymen have been members of the local lodges as have those of other professions practicing in the district.

Let us first take the Shire Presidents and Mayors:

William Cowan, was the first Shire President in 1907. He was a member of Lodge Kuring-gai.

His successors, Dr Paul Clipsam, (Lodge Turramurra) W.R. Fitzimmons (Kuring-gai) and C.B. Thistlethwaite (Turramurra) were also Freemasons.

George Christie, the last Shire President in 1928 and the first Mayor in 1929, was a member of Lodge Roseville. He was a very enthusiastic Freemason particularly in the field of charity and the welfare of aged persons. He worked tirelessly for the Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes at Glenfield where one of the complexes, 'Christie House,' was named in his honour.

Other Mayors include George Travis, (Lodge Killara) H.G. Carter, Noel D. McIntosh and Geoffrey H. Robin, (Kuring-gai) Herbert T. Cornish, (Roseville) Andrew N. Campbell M.B.E., A.H. Jago and George R. Nicolls, (Killara) and Michael Kartzoff O.A.M., and others.

Several of these need special mention:

Noel Desmond McIntosh joined Lodge Kuring-gai on 19 November 1925. He also became a member of Lodge The King's School where he became the Worshipful Master in 1950. He had been a pupil at the school. This Lodge met for a time at Turramurra. He was also a member of Lodges Torchbearer and Samaritan.

He was a direct descendent of the pioneer Robert McIntosh, the Bandmaster of the 46th Regiment who arrived in the Colony in 1814. He owned a large orchard opposite St. John's Church, Gordon. He called this property 'Gordondale' in honour of his friend, James Gordon, of Pittwater. It is believed the suburb takes its name from McIntosh's property, although some claim that it is named after James Willoughby Gordon of the Peninsular wars. He was a friend of Sir Thomas Mitchell, the Surveyor General at the time.

