



THE MASONIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

PAPER No. 121

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DATE: 26 September 2005

HE KEPT A WEATHER EYE ON THE WORLD

**Wor. Bro. Dr. JOSEPH AUBREY WARBURTON
(1923-2005)**

Joseph Aubrey Warburton was born at Goulburn on 16 May 1923 to Joseph Leslie and Agatha Warburton.

After graduating from Goulburn High School he attended the University of Sydney, graduating with honours in physics and mathematics. Advanced studies in radio astronomy and the physics of the lower atmosphere led to a Master's degree and a PhD at the University of Queensland. He then was employed at the CSIRO in Sydney.

He established the Warburton Family Science Award at Goulburn High School to provide scholarships to outstanding science students. He was a born-again Christian all his life.

Joe Warburton served with distinction in the Australian Imperial Forces during the Second World War.

In mid-1965, he, his wife Winifred and their seven children emigrated to Reno, Nevada in the United States of America where he had been appointed to a senior scientist position at the Desert Research Institute.

In 1969-70 he served the University System as the president of the Desert Research Institute and later as the executive director of the Atmospheric Sciences Division from which he retired in 1993, the University Board of Regents awarding him emeritus status.

At the time of his death, he was working on a weather modification program he developed for the Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Authority in Australia, in addition to writing a book entitled *The Science of Weather Modification*.

His scientific work is described in more than 120 papers published in scientific journals in the United States and other countries. He conducted research projects in Antarctica, France, Greenland, Switzerland, Canada, China, Australia, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Spain.

Dr Warburton was appointed a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Physics, a member of the American Meteorological Society, secretary/treasurer of the North American Interstate Council on Weather Modification, a member of the Antarctic Society and an alumnus of the University of Queensland.

His scientific awards include the Antarctic Service Medal, the Vincent L. Schaefer Scientific award for outstanding original contributions in the field of weather modification, and his appointment as visiting fellow at the Australian National University in 1996.

He was recently honoured for his work in the Antarctic by having a landmark named after him - "Warburton Ledge" - 6.4 km east of Mount McClintock in the Britannia Range, Antarctica.

Joseph Aubrey Warburton was made a mason in Lodge Kuring-gai No. 230, at the old Chatswood Masonic Hall, on 18 August 1955 and remained a member of this lodge until his death.

Incidentally, he named his property in Reno, "Kuring-gai" after his mother lodge!

Lodge Kuring-gai consolidated with Lodge Brotherhood in 1992 to become Lodge Brotherhood of Kuring-gai and this lodge in turn, consolidated with Laurelbank Daylight Lodge in 2004 to become Laurelbank Kuring-gai Daylight Lodge No. 230.

Wor. Bro. Warburton attended meetings of his lodge during visits to Australia and paid his last visit to the lodge in February 2005. He received a 50-year Membership Certificate this year.

After arriving in Reno in 1965 he joined Golden Lodge No. 50 Grand Lodge of Nevada, where he served as Master in 1992 and 1993. He was elected Grand Sentinel for 1996-97 and Worthy Grand Patron for the Order of the Eastern Star for 1998-99. Dr. Warburton was a 32 degree mason in the Scottish Rite, Noble of Kerak Shrine, and served in the York Rite as Eminent Commander of Lahontan Commandery No. 7, Knights Templar and as Excellent High Priest of St. John's Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Nevada and a member of the Knights of the York Cross of Honour.

Dr. Warburton was also a very active member in the Rotary Club of Yerington.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 55 years.

Wor. Bro. Dr. Joseph Aubrey Warburton passed to the Grand Lodge Above at his home, suddenly and peacefully, on Saturday, 30 April 2005. He is survived by a number of his children, 22 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren and his many relatives and friends in Australia.

His contributions to the scientific community, the Masonic fraternity and humanity in general were great indeed and he will be sadly missed.

REFERENCES:

Obituaries - *The Canberra Times*, 25 May 2005.

Lodge Records : Lodge Kuring-gai No. 230
 Lodge Brotherhood of Kuring-gai No. 230.
 Laurelbank Kuring-gai Daylight Lodge No. 230.