



THE MASONIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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Prepared and Presented by: K.R. Newman.

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Bro. NELSON ROWATT CHAD
(1938 - 2011)
DETECTIVE INSPECTOR.

Nelson Rowatt Chad was born on the 23rd April 1938 at Lindfield to Tom and Violet Chad. Nelson was educated at Chatswood Primary School and then went to Manly High School. He was School Captain in year 12. Nelson had a younger brother. During his youth at the age of 13, he joined the Dee Why Surf Club as a junior lifesaver. Whilst performing Lifesaving Duties in 1959, he entered the surf and saved the life of a girl swimmer in distress. For this act, he was awarded the Royal Humane Society's Certificate of Merit.

On the 21st November 1955, he joined the N.S.W. Police Force and after completing his probation, entered the Plain Clothes Police Force at Manly. In 1961, he was transferred to the City Vice Squad. In 1964, he was transferred to the Criminal Investigation Branch, serving in the Special Breaking Squad, then the Consorting Squad in 1981 and went back to Manly as a Detective Sergeant. In 1982 he went back to the C.I.B. into the Armed Hold-up Squad and Fraud Squad. In 1984 he was promoted to Detective Inspector and remained there until 1986.

In 1966, Nelson was part of the squad who nabbed the notorious criminal, Ronald Ryan. During the visit of the United States President, L.B. Johnson, Nelson was assigned as one of those to protect him. In 1968 whilst attached to the C.I.B. Breaking Squad, he intercepted a plot by thieves to raid a military armoury and sell Owen sub-machine guns to the underworld.

In 1971 he captained the Australian Surf Lifesaving team in Hong Kong and then went to Bali to introduce surf lifesaving there.

In 1963 he achieved the Peter Mitchell award for the highest marks in the Detective exams. In 1965, Nelson received a Commissioner's Commendation for the arrest of three violent offenders at Nowra in 1964. In 1970, he received the Commissioner's Courage Medal for the arrest and charging of armed escapees K. White and B. White at Ashfield.

On the 19th December, Nelson graduated from the F.B.I. Academy in Quantico, Virginia. In 1977 he was highly commended for his actions at the Granville Rail Disaster particularly in the field of Victim Identification. Highly commended for courage in 1980 for his part in the arrest of the offender D. Speranza at Sydney International Airport. Speranza was in possession of a home made bomb and holding a passenger, a nurse, as a hostage on a PANAM Jet. Chad negotiated for three hours before a colleague shot dead the hijacker.

In 1982 he graduated from the anti-hijacking course. In 1984, he was appointed as Deputy Commander Anti-Terrorist/Hijacking Committee. In 1985 he was commended re the scene of a murder leading to the arrest of the offender.

But dark shadows were starting to settle. Like some detectives of that era, he compromised himself, especially with "wheeler and dealer" Frank Hakim. The underworld figure, Louie Bayeh later said that in 1975 Chad 'landed' him and had him convicted over a crime that he did not commit. According to Bayeh, in later sworn evidence Hakim told him "Chad, was a very powerful man within the N.S.W. Police" who had interest in illegal gambling.

Chad qualified as a barrister in 1982. Then in 1983, the head of the C.I.B., Chief Superintendent Noel Morey called Nelson into his office and said, "You are in deep trouble, you are going to be sacked tomorrow and you will be charged with a criminal offence."

The N.S.W. Police Internal Security Branch had done covert telephone intercepts during which certain individuals such as Hakim were heard talking about his apparent practice of taking bribes. Chad was accused of forming improper relationships with Nick Paltos, Graham Palmer and businessman Lesley Jones, all of whom were of intense interest to the Police.

Chad appeared before the N.S.W. Police Tribunal chaired by Judge Jim Staunton. Chad was found guilty and was dismissed from the N.S.W. Police. Later in 1995, Chad appeared before I.C.A.C. and was found guilty of lying and destroying records relating to his business. He was sentenced to 400 hours community service and fined \$10,000.00.

Nelson Chad had served a total of 38 years Police service retiring on 16th April 1986. In 1970, he had received the National Medal and in 1980 received a bar to the National Medal.

In 1960 Nelson met and married his first wife, Jan Henshaw of Chatswood. From this marriage they produced three daughters, Nicole, Jacqui and Rebecca and from these girls they have three grand daughters. In 2001 Jan and Nelson divorced. In 2004 Nelson married his second wife, Kerryn and they were together at Collaroy until his death this year.

MASONIC HISTORY:

Initiated o 17th June 1965 in Lodge Claymore No. 892 meeting at Artarmon.
Passed and Raised in 1965.

RESEARCH:

N.S.W. Police Force/ Police Academy, Goulburn.
The Sydney Morning Herald.
Family Mem,bers.
