

THE BEGINNING

OF THE

SECOND CENTURY



Most Wor Bro RAYMOND BARRY BROOKE
Grand Master 2005 -



Right Wor Bro GRAHAME HUGH CUMMING
Past Deputy Grand Master
Author

THE BEGINNING
OF THE
SECOND CENTURY

HISTORY OF THE UNITED GRAND LODGE OF
FREEMASONRY IN NEW SOUTH WALES
AND THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
1988 - 2002

BY

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ASTC, BE(Hons)
PAST DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

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will be pleased to receive further information.

For Ena, Malcolm and Barbara

*The value of history lies in
its
inspirational value to the
younger members and those
of future generations.*

Sir Frank Schofield McDowell (1889-1980)
Grand Master of the United Grand
Lodge of New South Wales
1948-1951

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

No work of this kind can be undertaken without the ready assistance and co-operation of a number of people and I wish to pay due acknowledgement of their assistance.

I began collecting source material for this history immediately after Volumes IV and V by Right Wor Bro Kellerman were published in the certain knowledge that the information would be required, if not by me then by someone else, to continue the recorded history of the Grand Lodge.

I am, therefore, grateful to a number of people:

- Right Wor Bro Kenneth M Bellingham and Mrs Dawn E Bellingham.
- The Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Raymond B Brooke and the Past Grand Masters.
- The Grand Secretaries, Right Wor Bros Raymond G Connon, Ian R McCulloch, Bruce Nation, Christopher Craven (acting) and Kevin McGlinn.
- The staff of the Grand Lodge office.
- Grand Librarians, Right Wor Bro Maurice H (Harry) Kellerman, Very Wor Bro Thomas K Taylor and Right Wor Bro Joseph V Haffner and the Library volunteer staff.
- Right Wor Bros John C Banks, J Lionel Manches and Brian French.
- Right Wor Bro Donald G Davis, Mrs Jill Davis and the members of the Masonic Historical Society of New South Wales.
- Right Wor Bro Andrew S Brown, Past Assistant Grand Master and Bro Andre Fettermann.
- The Publications Committee of *The NSW Freemason*.

Lastly and most importantly, without the love and encouragement of my wife Ena and my son and daughter, none of my Masonic endeavours would have been possible.

FOREWORD

It is with great pleasure that I write this foreword to another chapter of our Grand Lodge, and to acknowledge R W Bro Grahame H Cumming, PDGM, for his diligence and skill as a renowned Masonic author whose graceful and benevolent influence is evident throughout this volume.

This history is not intended to be primarily a work of quick reference though it may often serve this useful purpose; rather it is hoped that it will be congenial to browse in, sometimes for important dates and occurrences, or simply because it is interesting and educational to do so.

Readers will no doubt choose this book for a variety of reasons. I am confident they will find it interesting and satisfying and, also, challenging reading. This volume might be best complemented by a visit to our Museum of Freemasonry and the Grand Lodge Library at the Sydney Masonic Centre.

I believe this volume will bear proud testimony to generations of Freemasons and will act to inspire the Freemasons of the future to even greater achievements.

Raymond B Brooke, JP

GRAND MASTER

SPECIAL NOTE

Previously published histories of Grand Lodge.

The history of the establishment, growth and development of Freemasonry in New South Wales has been recorded in five volumes which are referred to in this text. They are:

Vols. 1 and 11: Cramp, Karl R and
Mackaness, George: *A History
of the United Grand Lodge of
Ancient, Free and Accepted
Masons of New South Wales.*
Angus and Robertson, Sydney,
1938

Vol. 111: Cramp, Karl R:
*From Jubilee to Diamond
Jubilee; History of Ten years
of The United Grand Lodge of
Freemasonry in New South
Wales 1938 - 1948.* United
Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free
and Accepted Freemasons of
New South Wales, Sydney, 1949

Vols. IV and V: Kellerman, M H:
*From Diamond Jubilee to
Centenary; History of
Forty Years of The United
Grand Lodge of Freemasonry in
New South Wales 1948 -
1988.* The United Grand
Lodge of New South Wales
of Ancient Free and
Accepted Masons, Sydney,
1990.

The first volume describes the history of Freemasonry in New South Wales from the foundation of British settlement up to the

year 1913. The second volume continues the narrative until 1938 and the third volume from 1938 to 1948.

Volumes IV and V cover the period from 1948 until the centenary of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales in 1988.

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ABBREVIATIONS

MASONIC RANKS AND TITLES

Bro(s)	Brother(s)
Comp(s)	Companion(s)
D E O	District Education Officer
D G I W	District Grand Inspector of Workings
D G M	Deputy Grand Master
F B I	Freemasons' Benevolent Institution (see also RFBI)
F W M H	Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of New South Wales
G D of M	Grand Director of Music
G L N F`	Grande Loge Nationale Française (National Grand Lodge of France)
M Y W F	Masonic Youth Welfare Fund of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory
P A G M	Past Assistant Grand Master
P D G D C	Past Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
P D G I W	Past District Grand Inspector of Workings
P D G M	Past Deputy Grand Master
P G D (of) M	Past Grand Director of Music
P G M	Past Grand Master
P J G W	Past Junior Grand Warden
P M	Past Master
P P B B	Past President of the Board of Benevolence
Pro	Provisional (Grand Master)
P S G W	Past Senior Grand Warden
R F B I	Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution of New South Wales
R G O	Regional Grand Officer
Scribe E	Scribe Ezra (secretary)

Wor Worshipful

ABBREVIATIONS

GENERAL

A B C	Australian Broadcasting Corporation
A C	Companion of the Order of Australia
A C N	Australian Company Number
A C T	Australian Capital Territory
A Dip HA	Associate Diploma in Health Administration
A F S M	Australian Fire Service Medal
A I F	Australian Imperial Force
A I M M	Member of the Australian Institute of Municipal Management
am	ante meridiem (before noon)
A M	Member of the Order of Australia
A O	Officer of the Order of Australia
A P M	Australian Police Medal
A S T C	Associate of the Sydney Technical College
B A	Bachelor of Arts
B E	Bachelor of Engineering
B Ec	Bachelor of Economics
B E M	British Empire Medal
B H P	Broken Hill Proprietary (Limited)
B S	Bachelor of Surgery
B Sc	Bachelor of Science
C B	Companion of the Order of the Bath
C B E	Commander of the Order of the British Empire
C D	Compact Disc
Cert H A	Hospital Administration Certificate
Contd	Continued
C T	Computerised Axial Tomographic (CAT) Scanner
D D	Doctor of Divinity
D L	Deputy Lieutenant
Dr	Doctor
D S C	Distinguished Service Cross
D S O	Companion of the Distinguished Service Order
E D	Efficiency Decoration
E D P	Electronic Data Processing
e g	exempli gratia (for example)
Esq	Esquire
etc	etcetera (other items specified)

E M S Emergency Medical Systems Pty Ltd

ABBREVIATIONS - GENERAL Contd

F C E S	Fellow of the Commercial Education Society of Australia
F I B A	Fellow of the Institute of Business Administration
F M	Frequency Modulation (radio)
F R A C S	Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
F R A I A	Fellow of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects
F R C S	Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons
G C M G	Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Michael and St George
H M A S	His (Her) Majesty's Australian Ship
Hon	Honourable, Honorary
(Hons)	Honours
ie	id est (that is)
Inc	Incorporated
I R A	Irish Republican Army
I S M	Imperial Service Medal
J P	Justice of the Peace
K B E	Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire
K C M G	Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George
K G	Knight of the Garter
K St J	Knight of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem
Kt	Knight Bachelor
K T	Knight of the Thistle
L H A	Licentiate of the Australian College of Health Service Administrators
Litt D	Doctor of Letters
LL B	Bachelor of Laws
LL D	Doctor of Laws
LL M	Master of Laws
Ltd	Limited
L V O	Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order
M A	Master of Arts
M A C E	Member of the Australian College of Education
M B	Bachelor of Medicine

M B E	Member of the Order of the British Empire
M H R	Member of the House of Representatives
M L A	Member of the Legislative Assembly

ABBREVIATIONS - GENERAL Contd

M P	Member of Parliament
née	born with the surname of
No	numero (Number)
N S W	New South Wales
O A M	Medal of the Order of Australia
O B E	Officer of the Order of the British Empire
O St J	Officer of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem
P C	Privy Councillor
per se	considered by itself
P H A	Physicians Healthcare Australia
Ph D	Doctor of Philosophy
p m	post meridiem (after noon)
P and O	Peninsular and Oriental (Steamship Company)
Pty	Proprietary
R A A F	Royal Australian Air Force
Revd	Reverend
R F D	Reserve Force Decoration
R N	Royal Navy
R S L	Returned and Services League of Australia
St	Saint
T A F E	Technical and Further Education
Th L	Licentiate in Theology
T V	Television
U G L	United Grand Lodge
Uni	University
U S A	United States of America
U 3 A	University of the Third Age
v	Verse
V C	Victoria Cross
via	by way of
viz	videlicet (namely)
Vol	Volume

CONVERSIONS

1 Mile	=	1.609 kilometres (km)	
1 Pound (£) =	2 dollars (\$)		
1 acre	=	0.405 hectares (ha)	
1 foot	=	12 inches	= 0.3048
metres			

CHAPTER VI

MASONIC BUILDINGS

A. GENERAL

Designation of a Masonic Meeting Place.

At the Quarterly Communication of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales held on 9 March 1988, it was decided to discontinue the use of the word 'Temple' to designate a Masonic meeting place.

The Report of the Board of General Purposes for the Quarter ended 24 August 1988, adopted by Grand Lodge, contained the following item:

The Board resolved that Masonic meeting places of Lodges are to be designated as a 'Masonic Hall'. Should a Lodge, however, desire to name its place of meeting as a 'Masonic Centre' approval to do so must be sought from the Board.

Insurance Arrangements.

At a workshop for Lodge Secretaries held by the NSW Masonic Lodge Secretaries' Association on 26 and 27 May 1990, the Secretary to the Masonic Buildings Board, Wor Bro Don Ferguson, spoke in detail on the subject of insurance for Masonic meeting places.

The various classes of insurance which could be of concern and which were covered in detail by Wor Bro Ferguson were:

- Insurance against loss of or damage to buildings, furniture, regalia and other property of the Lodge.

- In some cases, insurance against loss of profits occurring as a result of damage to the Lodge's building.
- Insurance against liability to members of the public.
- Insurance against accidental injury to members of the Lodge whilst working for the Lodge.

Wor Bro Ferguson's address was published in the October 1990 issue of *The NSW Freemason*.

Appointment of Committee on Rationalisation and Acquisition.

Arising out of recommendations made by the Commission for the Future, the Masonic Buildings Board during 1990 arranged for the appointment of a Committee on Rationalisation and Acquisition.

This Committee, appointed by the Board of General Purposes, was under the Chairmanship of Right Wor Bro Kenneth McInnes, PJGW, a member of the Masonic Buildings Board, and included the Deputy Grand Treasurer and two other members, chosen for their particular expertise in real estate matters.

The Committee examined the needs of the Craft within the Jurisdiction of Grand Lodge and began the process of making broad recommendations for the consideration of building owners, the Masonic Buildings Board and the Board of General Purposes (as the nature of the recommendations might dictate). It was hoped that the overall result of the Committee's work would be the provision of more appropriate buildings for the practice of Freemasonry throughout the State.

Request from a Country Lodge to be allowed to consider a Notice of Motion to Purchase a Cottage as an Investment Property.

In June 1990, the Board of General Purposes decided to disallow the request as a Lodge was deemed not to be in the business of property investment, particularly so where loans moneys were required to fund the investment.

Suspension of Contributions to the Masonic Buildings Fund.

Following on further recommendations by the Commission for the Future and, after consideration and a report by the Masonic Buildings Board, the Board of General Purposes arranged for certain amendments to the Book of Constitutions to be put to the Communication of Grand Lodge in June, 1989. These amendments were duly passed and, pursuant to them, the making of contributions to the Masonic Buildings Fund was suspended. It was left open for the contributions to be re-instated in future if circumstances required.

The Masonic Buildings Fund served Freemasonry extra-ordinarily well and, as evidenced above, continued to do so. The stage however, was reached where further contributions to the Fund from June 1990 were found to be unnecessary.

Fire Protection.

The Masonic Buildings Board focussed increased attention to the protection of buildings (and, consequently, brethren) against fire. It was gratifying to note that, largely as a result of the attention of Regional Grand Officers in

this regard, the standard of protection was, in general, very considerably improved. One building, during 1989, built a fire escape with assistance from the Board; however, the Board stressed there were still buildings with inadequate protection.

Booklet 'Maintenance of Masonic Buildings'.

A second edition of the booklet *Maintenance of Masonic Buildings* was issued during 1990. The major change was the addition of a section outlining the various classes of fire extinguishers appropriate to different circumstances and some of the precautions required to be taken; such as the appointment of fire wardens by Lodges and the holding of periodical fire drills.

Progress Report of the Masonic Building Fund.

The Annual Report submitted to the June 1991 Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge included:

The fund has now been in existence for 30 years. Up to 31 December 1990 it has lent to the owners of private Masonic buildings throughout the Jurisdiction a total of \$4,988,737. Of this sum \$2,677,419 (53.6%) was allocated to buildings within the Sydney metropolitan area and \$2,311,318 (46.4%) was allocated to buildings within country areas of the State and in the Australian Capital Territory. The total amount outstanding on loan advances made to December 1990 was \$1,735,520 comprising 100 advances.

Regional Grand Officers Conference.

On 10 and 11 September 1991, a conference was held at the Sydney Masonic Centre at which the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Johnson, in opening the conference said:

'Since Regionalisation was introduced in 1977 members of the Masonic Buildings Board have frequently remarked on what appears to be an increasing awareness among Masonic Building owners of the need for maintenance of their buildings.

The task you have assumed as Regional Grand Officers is one of the very essence of Masonry. Our forefathers in the Craft were builders: they were practical men rather than theorists. Whilst Speculative Masonry, which we practise, goes beyond the physical aspects of building and seeks to apply those aspects to the development of character and to our relationship with others, we nevertheless still need buildings within which to carry out that Speculative Freemasonry. Thus you, whose work over the next two years will be so closely connected with our buildings, have linked yourselves firmly with the original Masons, the builders of our great cathedrals and stately edifices.

In going about your tasks you may at times, of course, be forced to draw odious comparisons between those stately edifices and the buildings you may be inspecting, but there is much you can do if you will endeavour to keep those Masonic origins clearly in mind.

This line of thought must surely help you to encourage the owners of even the humblest Masonic Halls to take pride in their buildings and to present them as something loved and cared for.

Brethren you, as Regional Grand Officers, may also be assured that your work as such is

sincerely appreciated by the Masonic Buildings Board and I, as its Chairman, and as Grand Master, offer you my personal thanks for taking on the task and my personal encouragement.

Brethren, in reflecting on the question I said was often asked of me "What are you people in Grand Lodge doing to assist us as members of Private Lodges?" THE CRAFT BELONGS TO US ALL. WE ALL HAVE A VESTED INTEREST IN THE SUCCESS OF OUR PRIVATE LODGES.

By using specific "EXAMPLES" and "SUCCESS STORIES" I have deliberately chosen by "ILLUSTRATION" to show that a relatively large organization such as ours must get its work done in orderly ways, yet allow for innovative thinking outside of the basic rules.

Organizations historically don't innovate. Innovation starts with ideas, and ideas come from PEOPLE who have COMMITMENT.

When thinking about what the future holds for Freemasonry there are two main things we can count on.

FIRST - "Change is inevitable". Our Organization will have to adapt to a future that is distant to the PAST AND PRESENT.

SECOND - Some predictions of what may happen will inevitably be wrong so an evaluation of the foreseen risks, to cope with even the most radical changes, must be considered.

It is the SUCCESSFUL INNOVATOR who conceives of new ways to carry on an old established organization.

Use of Lodge Rooms by Non-Masonic Organizations.

At the May 1992 Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, the Board of General Purposes

reported that it had adopted, in principle, the recommendation of the Community Relations Committee that the following organizations be allowed the use of Lodge Rooms for their meetings under the same guidelines as other Orders currently using Lodge Rooms:

- Order of the Eastern Star
- Order of the Amaranth
- International Order of Rainbows
- Daughters of Job
- Order of De Molay

Masonic Buildings Fund Contribution Re-introduced.

Grand Lodge decided at the December 1992 Communication to re-introduce a Masonic Buildings Fund contribution of \$1.00 per member per half year on and from 1 January 1993. The need to re-introduce this contribution, it was explained, was for two main reasons, namely:

- The existing Fund is a very limited source out of which we undertake the Masonic Buildings Board's normal lending to owners of Lodge buildings.
- Above and beyond the normal level of operations, the Masonic Buildings Board needs to assist in promoting and co-ordinating the rationalisation of unviable Lodge buildings into more viable Regional Centres.

Advertising on Masonic Buildings.

The Board of General Purposes, in June 1993, adopted a recommendation from the Community Relations Committee that decisions to allow commercial advertising on Masonic buildings was

the responsibility of the owners of the properties providing that unacceptable or embarrassing material, which might be considered detrimental to the interests and standards of Freemasonry, was not displayed.

Small Advances Scheme.

Building owners were encouraged, in March 1994, to apply to the Masonic Buildings Board for a small irreducible loan (grant) of up to \$2,000 introduced primarily to enhance the community's perception of the Craft and, in particular, the external appearance of Masonic Centres. Nearly \$45,000 had been made available during 1993.

Memorial to Miss Joan Allan.

Miss Joan Allan, over many years, gave freely of her talents to the Craft and other Orders of Freemasonry in providing piano accompaniment to the Grand Director of Music, Right Wor Bro Noel Melvin, PDGM and the NSW Masonic Centenary Ensemble, as well as providing the benefit of her beautiful singing voice at many social functions of Grand Lodge.

On 19 May 1995, the Grand Master received a presentation from Mrs Jean Melvin, the wife of the Grand Director of Music, of a painting as a memorial to Miss Joan Allan. This magnificent painting of *Mount Joy*, the residence located on the NSW Masonic Hospital site, was produced by Mrs Jean Melvin and presented to the Grand Lodge.

The painting was located in the Sydney Masonic Centre.

Rationalisation.

At the conference of Regional Grand Officers held on 12 and 13 September 1995, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Noel F. Dunn, said:

'The buildings in which we meet do influence the pride one has regarding the quality of the organization to which we belong. We can all speak highly of the charitable and service work of Freemasonry; but only a few of us can invite our friends and our wives to attend a function at our Masonic Centre or Hall without some embarrassment regarding the standard of the structure or the condition of the flooring. Whilst the cleanliness and external condition of the properties has greatly improved, the buildings are in the main, 1920-1930's style structures, and require major reconstruction at great expense to update them to modern standards. To achieve this, it will be necessary for building owners to pool their resources with other Masonic Centre owners so that new structures can be erected to house the Masons of the 21st century in modern, comfortable and safe conditions.'

Options for Rationalisation.

During an address at the Masonic Lodge Secretaries' Association, Right Wor Bro Alan Farrell, Past Assistant Grand Master, a member of the Masonic Buildings Board, said:

'There are many possibilities for rationalisation including:

- The disposal of buildings that exist within reasonable driving distance of each other and using the funds to establish a new centre on an owned site or a new site.
- Modernising and refurbishing one existing facility using the proceeds

from the sale of others in the same general area.

- Disposal of buildings within a general area and lease or acquire suitable premises.
- Consideration of a joint venture with either a private developer, Masonic Charity or Masonic Club.
- In remote areas where rationalisation is impractical, upgrade sound buildings to an acceptable standard of accommodation.
- Ensure that those buildings that provide excellent standards of comfort, convenience and appearance are maintained at that standard, through regular repairs and maintenance and periodic refurbishing and improvement.'

Disposal of Proceeds of the Sale of Masonic Property.

The Chairman of the Masonic Buildings Board, Most Wor Bro Noel F. Dunn, Grand Master, reported to the June 1996 Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge:

'Brethren will be aware of the difficulties which arise when a decision is taken to dispose of Masonic property. One of the most critical decisions is what to do with the proceeds of sale. This often involves emotional ties with the original owners or builders or shareholders and the desire to put the money to work in the local community. Nevertheless, all Masons should be aware that our forebears who constructed Masonic meeting places intended that such buildings should always be an integral part of the Craft.

There is a strong case to argue that the proceeds of sale should be retained and used in the provision or improvement of other meeting places for the Craft and not retained for investment by an individual Lodge -

certainly not to subsidise its normal running expenses, including the South!

The Board has long taken the view that the proceeds of sale of a Masonic property should be channelled towards the improvement or creation of other Lodge buildings. Action is being taken to provide incentives for this to occur. Quite definitely, the asset, whether in the form of a building or as money, should not be exported out of the Craft.'

Public Relations - Static Display.

The Community Relations Committee of the Board of General Purposes produced a spectacular static display which could be viewed on the ground floor of the Sydney Masonic Centre, and a transportable display for use in shopping centres, community exhibitions or fetes, around the State for the purpose of making the general public aware of the Craft. This transportable display was available for loan and was based at the Sydney Masonic Centre. A professionally produced video, called *Angelo's Story*, which was suitable for public viewing, was also available to provide information on Freemasonry and was recommended together with the display for exhibition on all suitable occasions throughout the Jurisdiction.

Corporate Trustee.

In August 1996, the Masonic Buildings Board produced a publication which contained information on the appointment of the Corporate Trustee for Private Lodges. The creation of a Trustee Corporation stemmed from the resolution of Grand Lodge in December 1995 and took effect from 1 June 1996. The sole purpose of the Corporation was to hold upon trust, the real and personal property of any Private Lodge

which elected to utilise the facility and was embodied in Regulation 14.15 in the Book of Constitutions.

Application of the Proceeds of Sale of Masonic Assets (Particularly Buildings):

At the December 1996 Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Revd. Raymond Green said:

'Brethren, it seems appropriate to assume that when Masonic Centres were originally constructed, those Masons who were the "driving force" of the idea intended first and foremost that their buildings should serve the cause of Freemasonry in perpetuity. If we accept this assumption, it follows that when a Masonic Centre is sold, or an individual Lodge sells its share of ownership, the proceeds of the sale should remain in the Craft and be applied to the improvement of other existing Centres, or the provision of new ones.

Accordingly, I wish to issue some guidelines for Lodges which derive funds from the sale of any Masonic building in which they have a financial interest. I wish to re-affirm Most Wor Bro Woodman's 1988 statement on the application of proceeds from the sale of Masonic buildings, which states:

"The fundamental intention of a Masonic Centre is that it should serve the needs of Masons and the furtherance of the principles, tenets and objectives of Freemasonry".

To this end all Lodges should follow the guidelines which are to be appended to the text of this address and circulated to Lodges by the Grand Secretary.

I ask that all Lodges follow these guidelines and notify the Masonic Buildings Board in the first instance if they find themselves in the position of disposing of their financial interest in a Centre. I am confident that these guidelines will result in the improvement of the physical environment in which our Lodges meet and through that, an improvement in the image we present both within the Craft and to the community at large.

An annexure to the Grand Master's statement was included in the published Proceedings of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales for the year ending June 1997:

Application of the Proceeds of Sale of Masonic Assets (Particularly Buildings)

'The decline over the years in membership of our Craft and the consequent reduction in the number of Lodges in the Jurisdiction, either by consolidation or surrender of Charter, has had an inevitable effect on Masonic Centres. The effect is that many of our Centres are significantly under-used. Further, maintenance of buildings and regulatory requirements are becoming increasingly costly and in many cases beyond the current financial capacity of building owners.

As a result, over the past couple of decades, a number of Masonic buildings have been sold. It can also be expected that there will be an increasing disposal of property in the future as the trend to rationalisation of buildings, and the development of better quality Centres, takes place. When this occurs, questions arise as to what should be done with the sales proceeds.

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The Masonic Buildings Board has an important role to play in ensuring that maximum benefit to the Craft is obtained from the use of building funds. So far as buildings are concerned, the Board is in a unique position to take an overview of our whole Jurisdiction.

Accordingly, I wish to issue the following guidelines for Lodges which derive funds from the sale of any Masonic building in which they have a financial interest:

- i The fundamental intention of a Masonic Centre is that it should serve the needs of Freemasonry and the furtherance of the principles, tenets and objectives of the Craft.
- ii If a Lodge disposes of its financial interest in a Masonic Centre the proceeds should be applied to the improvement or development of other Centres. To that end, proceeds should be deposited with the Masonic Buildings Fund.
- iii It would be contrary to the purpose of the original builders of a Centre if the proceeds of any sale were applied to the financial support and use of a Private Lodge.
- iv If a Lodge receiving such proceeds is to move to another Centre or consolidates with a Lodge in another Centre, and there is a legitimate need for further capital investment in that Centre, the Masonic Buildings Board will make those funds available for the investment.
- v If proceeds deposited with the Masonic Buildings Fund by a Lodge are not applied in this way they will be used elsewhere in the Jurisdiction for the development and improvement of Masonic Centres according to the needs which prevail from time to time.

- vi If, at some future date, a Lodge which has deposited proceeds with the Masonic Buildings Fund seeks to establish another Masonic Centre and those proceeds have not already been used on that Lodge's behalf in another Centre, the Masonic Buildings Board will grant an equivalent amount towards the new Centre.

All Lodges should have regard to these guidelines if they find themselves in the position of disposing of their financial interest in a Centre.'

High Court of Australia Ruling Concerning Masonic Property.

At the September 1997 Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, in commenting on the policy concerning the application of proceeds from the sale of Masonic buildings or property which he re-stated in December 1996, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Revd Raymond Green said:

'The Grand Lodge position in this matter was supported by precedent derived from a decision of the High Court of Australia. This is to the effect that all Masonic property in this Jurisdiction is ultimately held in trust on behalf of the Grand Lodge, being the recognised holding body of Freemasonry in this State.'

Proceeds of Sale of Masonic Buildings - Grand Master's Statement - 11 March 1998.

'This subject continues to tax our minds as we search for a formula which will produce willing co-operation and the universal recognition that all Masonic assets are held in trust for the good of the Craft.

In reading the reports of the Boards which are included in the handout papers this evening, I was particularly pleased to note in the report of the Masonic Buildings Board the recording of four instances where the proceeds of sale of Masonic buildings have been deposited into the Masonic Buildings Fund.

By way of contrast, I am aware of one or two other instances where resistance is evident, including the spreading of malicious rumour that funds so deposited will be simply swallowed up by Grand Lodge.

Brethren, let me make two points quite clear -

- Firstly, the Masonic Buildings Fund is a specific purpose fund which is quite distinct from the general funds of Grand Lodge.
- Secondly, deposits which are received as a result of the sale of a particular Masonic building will be duly recorded and can be repatriated should the original owners of the building wish to invest in another Masonic Centre.

Our Masonic buildings around the State represent a very important part of the infrastructure of Freemasonry in this Jurisdiction and I repeat that I am not prepared to stand around and watch whilst they are liquidated and the proceeds either given away or hidden in dark recesses where they benefit a very few, if any, of the members of the Craft.'

Masonic Buildings Forum.

At the June 1998 Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, the Chairman of the Masonic Buildings Board, Right Wor Bro Grahame Cumming, PAGM, reported:

'As a result of discussions with a number of representatives of Masonic Hall companies and building committees, a Buildings Forum has been established by the Board to assist and advise hall companies and committees in accordance with the Board's responsibilities as set out in Regulation 8.5.3 of the Book of Constitutions.'

Proceeds of Sale of Masonic Buildings.

At the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge held on 8 September 1999, Grand Lodge adopted a motion as presented by the Grand Registrar, Right Wor Bro Andrew S Brown, Past Junior Grand Warden, that a new Regulation 7.2.4 be inserted in the Book of Constitutions as follows:

7.2.4 a. The following shall apply:

- i In the event that a Lodge has sold or resolved to sell a Masonic meeting place, the process shall, subject to the approval of the Masonic Buildings Board, be re-invested immediately into another Masonic meeting place within the State of New South Wales or the Australian Capital Territory or, alternatively, shall be deposited with the Masonic Buildings Fund pending the repatriation and investment of same into an approved Masonic meeting place.
- ii The terms of this Regulation are applicable whether a Lodge is or was a sole owner of a Masonic meeting place or whether it has or had part-ownership of a Masonic meeting place held by any means, including shares in a corporation.
- iii No Lodge shall act in a manner which is inconsistent with this Regulation unless it shall have

first obtained the requisite approval of the Executive Council.

b. In the Regulation:

- i 'Masonic meeting place' shall mean any real property beneficially owned by one or more Private Lodges; and
- ii 'Approved Masonic meeting place' shall mean any real property so designated by the Masonic Buildings Board.

In proposing the motion, Right Wor Bro Brown said:

'The effect of this proposed Regulation will be to require Lodges that own property to place the proceeds of sale from that property either into another Masonic property or into the Masonic Buildings Fund; pending use of that money for the purchase of a whole or part interest into another Masonic building. It will provide direction to Lodges when disposing of their real property assets and will require them to ensure that, one way or another, any Lodge that has an interest in property preserves its assets, if not for its own benefit, then for the benefit of the Craft.

The proposed Regulation partly codifies the present common law position as stated in a decision of the High Court of Australia in *Hall v Job* (1952) 86 CLR 639. The decision of the High Court of Australia was a joint judgement of the Court on appeal from the Supreme Court of New South Wales. The case related to a Lodge of the Loyal Orange Institution of New South Wales. The High Court made the point that institutions such as Lodges warranted by a parent body can control their own property through their own trustees but must take into account the residual rights

of the Grand Lodge. In other words, Lodges cannot deal with their property to the detriment of this Grand Lodge.

A similar Regulation has recently been adopted by both the United Grand Lodge of Victoria and the Grand Lodge of South Australia.

We should remember that many Brethren put their personal savings into Masonic Halls not so that the same could be sold by future generations of Masons and the proceeds disposed of in other ways, but so as to give a Masonic meeting place to the Craft in general not just the Lodge or Lodges who happen to own it.

Masonic Building Management.

Grand Lodge approved a new regulation at the Quarterly Communication held on 10 May 2000:

- 7.2.5 a. No Lodge having the care, control or management of any Masonic building (or which owns shares in any company or is a member of any incorporated association which does have such care, control or management) shall cause or suffer any alteration, extension or renovation of such Masonic building to be made without first obtaining the express permission of the Masonic Buildings Board where such alteration, extension or renovation is of a type or class that must comply with any statutory or regulatory requirement, any building code or which requires the approval of any local government authority.
- b. In any matters in which the permission of the Masonic Buildings Board is sought to proceed with such

works, that permission shall not be unreasonably withheld or unreasonably delayed.

In explanation of the new Regulation, the Grand Registrar said:

Masonic Halls are the Craft's fixed advertisement and this Grand Lodge must take steps to ensure that they are looked after appropriately.

The Regulation makes clear that funds paid to Grand Lodge pursuant to the Regulation cannot be squirreled away in Grand Lodge's general funds and inappropriately applied. They must be placed in the Masonic Buildings Fund and only used for building purposes. The Fund pays interest on moneys so deposited.

In answer to a question, the Grand Registrar confirmed that the new Regulation would apply to any Lodge that had sold its real property prior to the Regulation coming into effect but which still held the sale proceeds. The Grand Registrar also confirmed that Lodges would always be consulted as to how its funds ought to be used.

Masonic Protection Plus Property Insurance.

After over two years in the planning, the Masonic Buildings Board advised that the Masonic Protection Plus Property Insurance scheme was in operation.

Over the years it had become apparent that there was little consistency in property insurance matters and costs were escalating, putting added pressure on Lodges' finances. A survey was conducted in 1996 to which over 80% of Masonic property owners replied. The Grand

Lodge insurance brokers reviewed the results which indicated that there was a substantial property portfolio that could be marketed to the insurance industry.

Underwriters responded favourably and early indications were that substantial savings in premiums, together with improved levels of cover, could be achieved. Senior Officers of Grand Lodge met with our brokers and it was decided to go ahead with the scheme.

Late in 1998 a document titled *Your New Masonic Protection Plus* was prepared and sent to all property owners together with a covering letter from the Grand Secretary. This invited owners to contact the broker's Adelaide office on a toll-free number and obtain a quotation for their property, public liability and voluntary workers insurance cover.

Maintenance of Masonic Buildings Handbook.

A revised handbook for the maintenance, upgrading and refurbishment of Masonic Centres and buildings was prepared by the Masonic Buildings Board.

A copy was forwarded to all Masonic Hall companies and building owners and the Board requested that serious consideration be given to the preparation of an action plan for building improvements by each company and owner.

Sale of Masonic Properties.

Masonic Hall companies and building owners were advised by the Masonic Buildings Board that no Masonic property (building and/or land) was to be made available for sale or option or

otherwise disposed of without prior consultation with the Masonic Buildings Board.

Appointment of Masonic Accommodation Advisory Committee (MAAC).

During his address to Grand Lodge on 8 August 2001, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro George Curry said:

'Brethren, I would now like to address the issue of Masonic buildings. The suitability of Masonic buildings is critical to the future of Freemasonry in NSW. They should not only provide safe and comfortable accommodation for our brethren but also bring credit to the Craft. Whilst some well-utilised Centres have consistently maintained this high standard, many have not, with the result that our assets are wasting away. Since 1995, the number of Masons per Masonic building has reduced from 225 to 114. In some Regions there are as many Masonic buildings as there are Lodges. Buildings which no longer comply with building codes or which have fallen into disrepair expose our members to potential danger and litigation and, in fact, bring the Craft into disrepute.

The need for a State-wide plan to ensure maximum patronage at minimum cost for safe and comfortable accommodation in Masonic buildings is essential, so we must also replace the present *ad hoc* approach to a critical situation which is rapidly reaching a point of no return. Such a plan is a task of considerable proportions. Nevertheless, it presents an opportunity to prepare our foundations to build a fresh and strong Masonic future.

I believe that Grand Lodge, with consultation throughout the Regions, should take a leadership role in formulating a plan to

assess the suitability of all Masonic meeting places and provide strategic direction for their viability.

I have decided, therefore, to institute a thorough investigation of not only our current accommodation needs but, also, our projected needs over the next 20 years. In order to achieve this, I have established a committee to be known as the "Accommodation Advisory Committee", under the Chairmanship of Most Wor Bro Robert Hammond, PGM. Answering directly to me, this Committee is to prepare a detailed plan with recommendations to be presented to this Grand Lodge. The other members of this Committee are - Right Wor Bro Gerry Greenland, PJGW, Chairman of the Masonic Buildings Board, Right Wor Bro Ralph Stone, PAGM, Right Wor Bro Alan Farrell, PAGM and Wor Bro Graeme Paul, PM. Most Wor Bro Hammond has the flexibility to add to this Committee as he sees fit.

Masonic Buildings and the Need to Improve Accommodation. (MAAC).

The Masonic Accommodation Advisory Committee examined the needs of the Sydney metropolitan area followed by the remainder of the State.

The committee also identified areas in addition to Parramatta that required special attention. Accordingly, the Grand Master appointed a number of brethren as coordinators, or as he called them 'Champions of the Grand Master', to work with the Masonic Buildings Board and the MAAC in determining future accommodation needs and assistance required. These brethren were:

Most Wor Bro Revd. Raymond Green, PGM, as Champion or the Coordinator for the St. George area.

Right Wor Bro William Bate, PJGW, as Champion or the Coordinator for the Punchbowl-Bankstown area.

Right Wor Bro Keith Buckton, PAGM, as Champion or Coordinator for the Hunter-Newcastle area.

Right Wor Bro Gary Dean, PJGW as Champion or the Coordinator for the Blue Mountains area.

Right Wor Bro Ray Brooke, Assistant Grand Master, as the Champion or the Coordinator for the Parramatta area.

Care, Control and Management of Lodge Buildings.

At the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge held on 8 December 2001 the Grand Registrar, Right Wor Bro Andrew S Brown, PAGM, moved on behalf of the Executive Council that:

The existing Regulation 7.2.5 be deleted and replaced by a new Regulation as follows:

7.2.5 a. No Lodge having the care, control or management of any Masonic building (or which owns shares in any company or is a member of any incorporated association which does have such care, control or management) shall cause or suffer any alteration, extension or renovation of such Masonic building to be made without first obtaining the express permission of the Masonic Buildings Board where such alteration, extension or renovation is of a type or class that must comply with any statutory or regulatory requirement, any building code or which requires the approval of any local government authority.

- b. No Lodge which has any legal or equitable estate or interest in any land (or which owns shares in any company or is a member of any incorporated association which does have any such legal or equitable estate) shall cause or suffer such estate or interest in land to be disposed of or varied without first obtaining the express permission of the Masonic Buildings Board.
- c. In any matters in which the permission of the Masonic Buildings Board is sought to proceed with such works or for the disposal or variation of any estate or interest in land, that permission shall not be unreasonably withheld or unreasonably delayed.

In support of this motion the Grand Registrar provided the following printed explanation:

There have been a number of instances where owners of Masonic Centres have taken steps to dispose of the same by way of sale without first consulting the Masonic Buildings Board as to whether such action is truly within the best interests of the Craft in this Jurisdiction. Whilst the majority of Masonic property owners talk regularly to the Masonic Buildings Board about a wide range of issues, there exists a minority who still subscribe to the view that they may dispose of the Masonic Centres that they own without consideration of the broader needs of the Craft. Successive Grand Masters have made it clear that it is imperative, if the Craft is to survive in this Jurisdiction, for great care to be exercised with respect to land which is held by the Craft. Regulation 7.2.5 is currently very broad in its effect, but when it was passed it was not envisaged that owners of Masonic Centres would sell properties without first consulting the Masonic Buildings Board.

The proposed amendment will, if adopted, prevent the sale of any Masonic real estate without the approval of the Masonic Buildings Board. The safeguards against unreasonable withholding of permission or delay contained in sub-paragraph (b) remain.

The motion was carried without discussion.

Masonic Meeting Place - Approval and Cancellation.

The Grand Registrar, Right Wor Bro Andrew S Brown, PAGM, also moved in December 2001 on behalf of the Executive Council that:

A new Regulation 7.2.6 be inserted as follows:

- 7.2.6 a. The Masonic Buildings Board may designate any real property as an 'approved Masonic meeting place' at such times and on such terms as that Board shall see fit.
- b. The Masonic Buildings Board may cancel the designation of any real property as an 'approved Masonic meeting place' at such time and on such terms as that Board shall see fit.
- c. No Lodge shall meet in any place unless such place is, at the date the meeting is held, be an approved Masonic meeting place.

The existing Regulation 14.7.1 be deleted and replaced by a new Regulation as follows:

- 14.7.1 Subject to Regulation 7.2.6 and except as provided in Regulation 14.9, a Lodge shall not be removed to another place of meeting unless the following requirements have been strictly complied with:

- a. Notice of motion for the removal of the Lodge, signed by not less than seven subscribing members, shall be given at a Regular meeting. The names of the members signing the notice of motion shall be stated on the summons;
- b. Such notice of motion shall be placed upon the summons for the next Regular meeting, at which it shall be considered and decided immediately after the minutes have been confirmed;
- c. The motion shall not be declared carried unless two-thirds of the members present shall agree to the removal;
- d. The plans of the proposed place of meeting shall be sent to the Grand Secretary, unless it be already so used by a Regular Lodge; and
- e. The removal shall not take effect until it shall have been approved by the Members' Board.

In support of this motion the Grand Registrar provided the following printed explanation:

The proposed new Regulation 7.2.6 will clearly state the authority of the Masonic Buildings Board to approve, and to cancel the approval of, any premises to be a Masonic meeting place. Cases have arisen from time to time where the Board has believed that for a number of reasons (not the least of which being what might be termed occupational health and safety reasons) that a Masonic Hall ought not be occupied by any Lodge for any reason. Currently, it may be argued that the Board lacks the power to direct that a Masonic Hall (or any other premises) not be used as a Masonic meeting place.

The new Regulation 7.2.6 will, if adopted, make it quite clear that the Board does have

such power. Clearly this power would be only infrequently applied, but there have been cases where it would have been to the Craft's overall benefit for the Board to be able to act in relation to certain buildings.

After some discussion, the motion was carried.

Report of the Masonic Accommodation Advisory Committee (MAAC)

In June 2002, the Grand Master advised:

'The Masonic Accommodation Advisory Committee, (MAAC), has now submitted its final report on the first stage of a plan for Masonic accommodation in NSW and ACT. This committee, which consists of Most Wor Bro Robert Hammond as Chairman, Right Wor Bro Gerry Greenland, Chairman of the Masonic Buildings Board, Right Wor Bro Bill Deeley, Deputy Chairman of the Masonic Buildings Board, and Right Wor Bro Ralph Stone, Right Wor Bro Alan Farrell and Wor Bro Graham Paul, must be complimented on the detail they have produced in a comparatively short time. This report, which consists of some 430 pages, has concentrated on the future and the locations for Masonic Centres throughout the Jurisdiction and is based on demographic information published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and a forecast of Lodges and other Orders requiring accommodation. Not only do we now have a document which gives us an overview of where the Craft should go in the next twenty years with respect to buildings, it has given us an insight to any other statistics for our Craft. For example:

- 38% of our members are over 70 years of age. Our average age is 67 years.
- 12% of Lodges in the Sydney metropolitan area and 20% of Lodges in the remainder

of the State have not initiated a candidate in the past five years.

- The ratio of Lodges to meeting places is 3.6 Lodges per meeting place in the metropolitan area and only 1.3 Lodges per meeting place in the rest of the Jurisdiction.
- Building utilisation in the metropolitan area is 43% and the rest of the State shows only 16% utilisation.

The matter of Masonic meeting places would, no doubt, become more critical in the future.

MASONIC BUILDINGS**B. THE SYDNEY MASONIC CENTRE.**

The Masonic Centre, located at 279 Castlereagh Street, Sydney is the headquarters of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. It was officially opened in March 1979.

It replaced the Masonic Hall erected on the same site by the Grand Lodge of New South Wales and opened in 1884.

Development of the Air Space Above the Masonic Centre.

At the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge held in the Masonic Centre, Castlereagh Street, Sydney on Wednesday 14 September 1988, the President of the Board of General Purposes, Right Wor Bro James L. Eddy, PDGM, announced that an agreement had been signed with Ipoh Gardens Development (Aust) Pty. Ltd., for the sale of the rights of the Development Approval for a building over the Masonic Centre podium.

'The Board received a report from the Investment Committee that on 17 August 1988 - one day into the second century of this United Grand Lodge of New South Wales - a contract for the development of the air space above the Masonic Centre was signed by the Trustees of Grand Lodge on the recommendation of the Air Space Committee in accordance with the principles approved at the Special Communication on 14 October 1987.

Grand Lodge has sold to Ipoh Gardens Development (Aust) Pty Ltd., for an amount of six million dollars, the rights of the existing Development Approval for a building

over the Masonic Centre. Five million dollars has already been received and the balance of one million dollars will be due for payment in August 1991.

The purchaser has also been granted a lease for 125 years over the air space above the Masonic Centre, the lift core and the properties owned by the Grand Lodge in Pitt Street adjoining the Centre.

A lease rental will be payable from 17 August 1991, or from the date of completion of the building, whichever is the earlier, of \$200,000.00 per annum in the first year; \$425,000.00 in the second year and thereafter, increasing annually in line with the increase in the Consumer Price Index.

The lessee has been granted a Right of First Refusal to buy should the Grand Lodge decide to sell the freehold of the land on which the Masonic Centre is built and the land owned in Pitt Street.

From the proceeds of sale the indebtedness of Grand Lodge to the Bank has been paid off and the Mortgage on the Masonic Centre has been discharged.'

Right Wor Bro Eddy then presented a paper which gave a review of the various Masonic meeting places in Sydney from the early years of colonial settlement up to the present.

Before presenting the treatise, the President of the Board of General Purposes said that it was important, for historical reasons, that at the first Grand Lodge Communication of the second century of The United Grand Lodge of New South Wales, he should present such a treatise on meeting places in Sydney since the days of the first fleet.

The President acknowledged the work done by the Grand Treasurer, Right Wor Bro Reginald J Barrington, PDGM, who, because the treatise dealt with monetary matters, had been predominantly responsible for its preparation.

A Treatise of Masonic Meeting Places in Sydney.

At the time of the celebrations of the centenary of The United Grand Lodge of New South Wales and in the wake of the report from the Board of General Purposes to this

Communication that a lease of the Air Space above the Masonic Centre and of the adjoining properties in Pitt Street has been granted to a developer for the purposes of erecting a tower building or buildings thereon with a resultant financial benefit to Grand Lodge, it is timely at this stage that we should review the meeting places of the Craft in Sydney since the first fleet arrived here on 26 January 1788.

During the early years in the colony there were a number of Military Lodges holding Warrants from the Grand Lodge of Ireland which conducted meetings and initiated candidates. Such meetings were held in private homes or taverns.

The first stationary Lodge was established in 1820 and its dedication and first installation were conducted at the Golden Lion Tavern opposite the Kings Wharf on the western side of Circular Quay. History records that in 1827 this Lodge met at an hostelry known as the Freemasons Tavern, No. 3 York Street, Sydney.

The problem of meeting places for Lodges of all the three Constitutions in the early years was a very real one. Recourse was had usually

to a tavern, especially where the host himself was a Mason. Here in low-ceilinged, stuffy and uncomfortable rooms, the mysteries of the Order were worked under difficulties which Brethren of the present day cannot possibly or properly appreciate. Meeting places were continually changing.

The first Masonic Hall in Sydney dates from about 1839 and was situated in York Street, between King and Barrack Streets. This Hall was part of a public house and the title deeds show that the three Lodges which met there were not the owners. These Lodges vacated the premises in 1846 and moved back to various taverns in the city.

In 1853, a group of five Lodges and individual members of the fraternity acquired a building on the western side of York Street between Market and Druitt Streets, and renovated and furnished it. The property was known as Freemasons Hall, and as was usual in those early days, was attached to an hotel known as the Freemasons Hotel. This close association became repugnant to some of the Lodges who moved out in 1859.

Despite alterations to the building from time to time and the erection of a suite of Lodge Rooms on top of the Hotel, the growth of the Lodges outgrew the accommodation. In the year 1868 the shareholders of the owner company decided to pull down the old hotel and to build a new one in its stead. The new hotel was erected with two Lodge rooms and two convenient supper rooms over the public rooms. This remedied all complaints and satisfied the requirements of the brethren until the happy union of all the Lodges in 1888. Some time prior to 1871 a Hall was erected on the Clarence Street frontage of the property.

In 1887, just prior to the Union, the Freemasons Hall Company, aware of the trend of

events decided to sell the Masonic Hall in York Street and wind up the Company.

The Grand Lodge of New South Wales had, as the administrative quarters and Lodge Rooms for its City Lodges, a four storey building at 279 Castlereagh Street, Sydney.

The foundation stone of that building had been set on 9 November 1881, and the Hall consecrated by the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New South Wales, Most Wor Bro James Squire Farnell, on 23 January 1884. The two Lodge Rooms therein were the meeting places of the city Lodges holding Warrants from that Grand Lodge. The building, however, was owned and managed by another Masonic Hall Company, not by the Grand Lodge and, therefore, Masonic historical records do not adequately describe the additions and improvements carried out between 1884 and 1912 when The United Grand Lodge of New South Wales acquired the building for £25,000.

However, it is known that 'the whole place was transformed' in 1899 at a cost of £1,500, that somewhere between 1899 and 1903 a fifth floor was added and an extension westward was erected to give a floor area double that of the original as completed in 1884.

When The United Grand Lodge of New South Wales purchased the building in 1912, it set about an extensive alteration programme which was completed in 1915 at a cost estimated in 1912 to be £14,000. These plans provided for six Lodge Rooms, six supper rooms, a Grand Lodge Room and a Banquet Hall to seat 450, and, in the words used in 1912, 'were expected to provide accommodation for very many years to come'.

The surge of membership following the Great War of 1914-1918 caused further consideration regarding the adequacy of the accommodation,

and in 1922, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro William Thompson, announced that a tender had been accepted for the addition of one new Lodge Room and two large new supper rooms for £10,085.

This was the form of the building which served as headquarters of The United Grand Lodge of New South Wales until it was demolished in 1973 to make way for the present Masonic Centre.

In 1935, the building was considered to have outlived its usefulness and to lack sufficient ordinary amenities, so Grand Lodge was approached to establish a Building Fund for the purpose of erecting a new Masonic Centre. The proposal was not approved by the Grand Lodge of that time, but it was being considered with a view to renewing the appeal when World War II broke out in 1939. It was not the time to think about building, so the matter was shelved and the 61,000 Masons* in 612 Lodges had to make do with the existing inadequate headquarters.

By 1954, membership had grown to 130,585 * in 832 Lodges, so it was no surprise that a motion to establish a Building Fund at the Grand Lodge Communication in December 1954, was unanimously approved. What was a surprise, however, was the amount of discussion on the matter that ensued in later

* These figures included multiple membership and, therefore, are NOT THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF MASONS IN THE JURISDICTION. The exact number is unknown but 50,000 and 100,000 respectively, would be a reasonable approximation. [Author].
years in Grand Lodge and beyond, before the Fund became a functioning reality.

In April 1954, forward thinking Masons were able to purchase for Grand Lodge the property at the corner of Goulburn and Castlereagh

Streets. When added to that in Masonic possession this provided a continuous frontage of 200 feet to Goulburn Street and 179 feet to Castlereagh Street. The price of £29,000 is in stark contrast to the price paid 37 years later to add the Goulburn-Pitt Street corner property to the overall site now owned.

It was not until 1967 that some constructive action was taken for the building of a new Masonic Centre in the city. At the Grand Lodge Communication in June 1967, Most Wor Bro Eric A. Primrose, Grand Master, announced that he had appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Right Wor Bro Donald S. Jackson, Deputy Grand Master, to investigate the possibilities of developing the present site or procuring something better within the city area with a view to the Grand Lodge eventually having erected an edifice worthy of our Institution.

By December 1968, this Committee had reached the conclusion that, at present and in the foreseeable future, the cost of endeavouring to move from the present site would add substantially and unjustifiably to the cost of the project and, therefore, it recommended demolition of the building and re-development on the site.

In December 1970, Most Wor Bro Robert A. Hammond, Grand Master, announced that the City Council had granted approval for a development on the site at the corner of Castlereagh and Goulburn Streets to a height of 218 feet above Goulburn Street. The plans prepared by the Grand Architect to secure this approval provided for a building of 18 floors above Goulburn Street with three basement car parking floors. The first three floors above the parking section were reserved for Masonic purposes, but the fourth to fifteenth floors inclusive were intended to be rentable office space. Subsequently, advertisements were

placed in city newspapers inviting any building or development organization which may be interested in combining with the Grand Lodge in a joint venture to communicate with the Grand Secretary. The Grand Master assured the brethren that in any such joint venture the freehold of the property would not be allowed to pass from the Grand Lodge. Ultimately four proposals were submitted by developers but none was considered suitable for adoption.

At the Communication in December 1971, Most Wor Bro Robert A. Hammond, Grand Master, outlined an amended plan which would allow maximum development of the site in a way that there would be a separate building for our Masonic headquarters with five Lodge Rooms, and an Office Block consisting of about 30 floors rising to a height of over 300 feet which would eventually support the overall development financially. Thereupon Grand Lodge unanimously approved the development of the site, which included the Goulburn Street land to provide for a Memorial Temple with Administrative Offices and Lodge Rooms and a separate commercial Tower Block.

Within 12 months of this decision the old building in Castlereagh Street had been vacated by all tenant Lodges, which were accommodated in suburban Halls, and by the Grand Lodge administrative staff who were re-located in Anthony Hordern's building, 401A Pitt Street, Sydney. Hoardings were erected around the site and the Grand Lodge building was demolished by June 1973.

In December 1973, Grand Lodge approved the development of the Castlereagh-Goulburn Street site to permit the erection of a Masonic Memorial Centre at an estimated cost of \$6,128,600 plus professional fees, and, subject to satisfactory financial arrangements being made, approved the erection of a

commercial Tower Block, such Tower Block to be incorporated into the whole concept, but separated from the Masonic Rooms.

At a Special Communication of Grand Lodge held in the Great Hall of The University of Sydney on 23 June 1975, described by the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Victor C.N. Blight, CBE, as 'the most momentous in the history of the Grand Lodge', approval was given for the acceptance of a tender for the construction of the Masonic Memorial Centre at the corner of Castlereagh and Goulburn Streets, Sydney, in the sum of \$6,428,000 with the customary rise and fall clauses. Estimates were also tendered indicating that the final cost of the building including professional fees, furnishings, carpets and rise and fall costs could amount to \$11,000,000.

The building contract was signed by the Trustees of Grand Lodge on 17 July 1975, and work on the site commenced shortly thereafter.

The Ceremony of Setting the Foundation Stone by Most Wor Bro Victor C.N. Blight, CBE, Grand Master, preceded by a procession of Masons, in regalia, from Sydney Town Hall, took place on 15 May 1976, in the presence of some 6,000 to 7,000 persons.

Construction of the Centre continued through 1977 and 1978 and on 16 December 1978 the Grand Secretary and his staff moved from their temporary premises into the new building. The Official Opening Ceremony was held on 10 March 1979 when Most Wor Bro Noel W. Warren, Grand Master, turned the key in the front door. This ceremony took place during an International Festival Week attended by Masons from all States of Australia, from New Zealand and from many overseas Jurisdictions.

During 1979, the Lodges previously meeting in the old building returned to the Centre and

this activity, together with the commercial letting of the function rooms, breathed life into the concrete and steel edifice taken over from the architects and builders. The members of The Masonic Centre Management Committee appointed by the Board of General Purposes commenced their task, undaunted by the fact that few, if any of them, had had any previous experience in managing a large city building.

Completion of the Memorial Centre was only part of the re-development approved by Grand Lodge in 1971. There still remained consideration of the Tower Block, the income from which was intended to make the Masonic podium a viable economic proposition. This came to be known as development of the Air Space above the Masonic Centre.

The first approach by developers came in 1979 from two organizations which submitted propositions for the erection of an hotel in lieu of the planned office tower. After extensive negotiations it was concluded that neither proposal was acceptable.

In June 1982, Most Wor Bro Harold G. Coates, OBE, Grand Master, appointed a small committee of senior Grand Lodge Officers to consider the development of the Air Space. This committee, under his chairmanship, met regularly with Project Consultants, Real Estate Developers and Architects in an endeavour to find the ideal solution to our problem, which financially became more and more urgent. To assist in securing a large base for a more acceptable project than the single 22 storey tower approved by the City Council in 1973, the Investment Committee gave approval in 1982 for the purchase by Grand Lodge of a property on the corner of Goulburn and Pitt Streets and in 1983 and 1984 for the acquisition of three dilapidated buildings in Pitt Street adjacent to the Masonic Centre.

After many months of negotiations with officers of the City Council, the Air Space Committee obtained a Development Approval in November 1984 for a 23 level building over the enlarged site providing a lettable area of approximately 27,500 square metres. A brochure was prepared for prospective investor/developers setting out the conditions Grand Lodge would require in return for a long term lease of the Pitt Street sites and the air space above the Masonic Centre, one of which was the reversion to Grand Lodge at the end of the lease period of the building and improvements erected thereon by the developer.

Sadly for him, and for Grand Lodge, no acceptable proposition was received by July 1985, when Most Wor Bro Harold G. Coates, OBE, retired as Grand Master, for he had spent five years working towards the ultimate goal. However, the chairmanship of the Committee was taken over by Most Wor Bro Professor Roy A. Woodman, LL.M., Grand Master, who, with the members of the Committee, continued with unabated enthusiasm.

The 21st day of September 1987, was a memorable day for the members of the Air Space Committee. It was the day when, after more than eight years seeking and examining many, many propositions, they received from Ipoh Gardens Development (Aust) Pty Ltd, an offer for the development of the Air Space and the Pitt Street properties which was considered financially advantageous to this Grand Lodge and which, in due time, would result in an additional building, or buildings, on our property to enhance the Masonic Centre.

The offer was approved in principle at a Special Communication of Grand Lodge on 14 October 1987. Almost 11 months later, on 17 August 1988, the documents evidencing the transaction were signed by the Grand Lodge

Trustees on the instructions of the Board of General Purposes and the Investment Committee.

Thus has been concluded the aspirations of Masons in this Jurisdiction for more than a quarter of a century. The names of the brethren personally involved in the many Committees from time to time have been duly recorded in the Proceedings over the period and are really too many to repeat, save perhaps to mention that three have been active from the very beginning. They are the Grand Architect, Most Wor Bro Frank L. Hodgson, PGM, the Grand Registrar, Right Wor Bro John Dick, PDGM, and the Grand Secretary, Right Wor Bro Raymond G. Cannon, PAGM.

The documents relating to the Agreement with and the Lease to Ipoh Gardens Development (Aust) Pty Ltd are very complex and extend to 85 pages apart from scores of attached diagrams, plans and professional certificates. They evidence a transaction considered unique in legal history in New South Wales, if not in Australia - hence the period of 11 months required for their preparation. Every effort has been made in an endeavour to foresee and provide for any eventuality which may occur in 125 years' time. Whilst one can confidently expect to see a building or buildings erected within the next three years, replacements may well occur three or four times in the coming century and a quarter.

The transaction is in accordance with the resolution carried by Grand Lodge on 14 October 1987, and the key aspects of the proposal outlined thereat. Briefly, these are as follows:

- i A sale of the Development Approval granted by the City Council in November 1984.
- ii A lease for a period of 125 years of the Air Space above the Masonic Centre,

portions of the Goulburn Street Lift Core, and the properties owned by Grand Lodge in Pitt Street. At the conclusion of the lease the full development will revert to Grand Lodge at no cost.

- iii The lessee has been granted a Right of First Refusal to buy should the Grand Lodge decide to sell the freehold of the land on which the Masonic Centre is built and the land owned in Pitt Street.
- iv Should it become desirable to enhance the site and maximise the development, Grand Lodge may be required to commit additional funds to a maximum of \$500,000, but the Grand Lodge will receive a commensurate benefit for any monies so applied.
- v The developer will undertake steps to proceed with the building approved by the City Council in the existing Development Consent, but Grand Lodge will not unreasonable object to any variations to such approval.
- vi Commencing on and from the date of practical completion or from 17 August 1991, whichever is the earlier, Grand Lodge will receive a lease rental which will increase significantly after the first year and thereafter increase by reference to the Consumer Price Index.
- vii There will be no encroachments on the use by the Craft of the present facilities on the Ground Floor of the Masonic Centre at the Goulburn Street level, other than the loss of use of the space known as the Gothic Room. Care has been taken to ensure security of Masonic occupation through the basement car parking area and the fire escape stairways.

The capital sum payable to Grand Lodge is almost sufficient to recoup the cost of the properties acquired in Pitt Street and the losses incurred in maintaining the Masonic Centre since

December 1978. Investment of the substantial amount already received should cover any future losses on the Centre's operations and in addition allow us to undertake desirable and worthwhile projects which have not been possible because of the need to conserve funds pending the resolution of the Air Space Development. By the year 1992, when the annual lease rental will become payable, Grand Lodge should be in a very favourable financial situation (but between now and then we must all work very hard to reverse the drain on our membership).

So, in your words, Grand Master:

'LET ALL FREEMASONS UNITE AND MEET THE CHALLENGE OF THE FUTURE'.

Photo Gallery of Grand Masters.

As part of the centenary celebrations of Grand Lodge, the Board of General Purposes, on the recommendation of the Masonic Centre Management Committee, established a Photo Gallery of Grand Masters who have served the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales since its inauguration in 1888.

It was decided to locate the Gallery adjacent to Lodge Room No. 2 on the third floor of the Centre.

Function Room Facilities.

During the past ten years it has become evident that the Sydney Masonic Centre is a venue extensively accepted by various sectors of the community and business interests. It is highly suitable for a wide range of functions.

During 1988 the Centre was selected as a venue for several official bicentennial events which included:

- The Australian Bicentennial Air Show Formal Dinner.
- The Bicentennial World Devon Conference and Dinner.
- The Holstein Friesian Association Bicentennial Dinner Dance.
- The 'N' Class Destroyers Association Bicentennial Dance.
- The Australian Women's Army Service Bicentennial Reunion Luncheon.

Attendance at these functions included Vice-Regal personnel, government officials and many dignitaries and favourable comments were expressed regarding the Masonic Centre.

Tenth Anniversary of the Official Opening of the Sydney Masonic Centre.

On 18 December 1978, the Grand Secretary, Right Wor Bro Ray Connon and his staff, commenced occupancy of the Centre.

During the second week in March 1979, the Freemasons of New South Wales held the Official Opening of the Masonic Centre during the Sydney International Masonic Festival.

That particular week was a most significant one in the annals of this Grand Lodge in that it certainly made the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales more widely known on the world Masonic scene and our Masonic Centre was readily acclaimed as one of the most outstanding.

In that period of 10 years many non-Masons, men and ladies, have used the facilities of the Centre and whereas the headquarters of Freemasonry in Sydney was little known, it was certainly much more recognised and appreciated as a result of the image which the Centre has projected.

The Masons of NSW could, with confidence, look forward to even greater recognition of the Masonic Centre's worth to the City of Sydney as the years go by.

Maintenance and Improvements.

When the building was no longer a new building, and had reached 11 years of age, maintenance and improvement to plant was given high priority and constant attention to enable efficiency standards and appearances to be maintained. New carpets were laid in the Corinthian, Tuscan, Composite and Doric Rooms on the Ground Floor giving these rooms a much brighter and warmer appearance.

The public address system in the Grand Lodge Room and the Ionic Room were replaced with modern systems, providing better facilities for operators, speakers and audiences.

The ceilings of all Lodge Rooms on the third floor were painted, giving the rooms a clean and fresh appearance. To maintain kitchen efficiency and health standards, near the end of 1989, a new dishwasher was installed into the ground floor kitchen.

In an endeavour to keep fuel and electricity costs to a minimum, the hot water boiler that provided heating and hot water to various parts

of the building, was converted from being an oil fired burner to natural gas/oil fired in September 1989 which was intended to reduce the cost of fuel to the boiler by approximately \$20,000.00 per annum.

Electronic programmable time clocks were installed into the plant room electrical distribution board to enable air conditioning and plant programming in advance and allow for alterations to set programmes, thus achieving further cost savings and improved efficiency.

Unveiling of Coats-of-Arms.

A further enhancement to the Grand Lodge Room became a reality when the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Ronald L H Johnson unveiled cast aluminium, enamelled coloured Coats-of-Arms of the Grand Lodge of New South Wales and The United Grand Lodge of New South Wales at the March 1989 Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge. These two Coats of Arms were situated on the Eastern wall, one on each side. Further Coats of Arms were installed early in 1990 in the Banquet Hall and in the Lift Lobby on the fourth floor.

A full explanation of each Coat of Arms is included in Appendix II.

Package Tours of the Centre.

Package tours organized by groups such as - Probus, Red Cross, Widows' Associations, Senior Citizens, etc, became very popular throughout 1989. Bookings for such tours were necessary and were made through the Building Superintendent, Right Wor Bro Ken M. Bellingham, PJGW.

Groups ranged from 8 to 60 persons and at the conclusion of every tour praise was given to the tour guides, caterers, and the Masonic Centre itself, together with expressions of enlightenment and appreciation.

The usual format for such tours after a booking was confirmed, was for the group to arrive around 10.30 am, when morning tea was served, after which a conducted tour of the Centre took place, followed by a two course luncheon in one of the function rooms. There was no charge for the tour, however, a minimal cost was made for the lunch. An appropriate address could be arranged during the lunch, if desired.

Non-Masons on the Third Floor.

In December 1990, the Board of General Purposes adopted a report of the Masonic Centre Management Committee which included the following decision:

The policy permitting Freemasons only onto the third floor within the Masonic Centre after 4.30 pm was varied to permit ladies and non-Masons onto that floor for the purpose of attending Open Nights. The following conditions applied:

- Prior approval to be sought and obtained from the Masonic Centre Building Superintendent.
- Such Open Nights to be held in Lodge Room 2 only.
- That no Degree work or installation meetings to be held by other Lodges on the same evening.
- Persons who are not Masons shall be escorted from the lifts directly to the Ante Room to Lodge Room 2 and are to remain within the

confines of that Ante Room and Lodge Room 2 only whilst on the third floor.

Promotion of Masonic Centre Facilities.

As a means of increasing the utilization of the Masonic Centre by Lodges meeting in the metropolitan and country areas, the following proposal was adopted:

- District meetings may be held in the Masonic Centre during a week-night at a reduced rate of \$75.00 for such meetings.
- Saturday meetings may also be arranged with rental rates to be negotiated.
- Lodges may hold meetings in the Centre on week-day periods at a considerably reduced rate of \$25.00 per meeting, such meetings may be for the purpose of holding ladies nights, open nights, Anzac nights, haggis nights as well as normal ceremonial meetings.

Facilities of the Centre were also available for Lodge social functions such as dinner dances, debutante balls and the like.

These facilities were also available to all Orders of Masonry, Chapters, Councils, Conclaves, with the same reduced rental rates.

Twenty Years' Service on Grand Lodge Staff.

Twenty years ago, on 23 August 1971, Right Wor Bro Ken Bellingham, PJGW, commenced as a clerk in the Records Section of the Grand Lodge Office.

In that 20 years, Ken had risen to Building Superintendent for the Sydney Masonic Centre, an important appointment which he discharged in a most conscientious and capable manner for the Masonic Centre Management Committee which were

responsible for the Centre's efficient management.

The high standard of the Masonic Centre and its facilities remain a testimony to Ken's skill in management, organization and public relations.

Right Wor Bro Bellingham worked closely with the Promotions Officer, Mrs Bette Keene, who, with her distinctive high level of expertise in that field of activity and attention to detail, contributed enormously to make the function rooms in the Masonic Centre very highly regarded for all types of functions.

As a team, Ken and Bette, who had been the Promotions Officer since shortly after the official opening of the Masonic Centre in March 1979, were ably assisted in their operations by loyal and conscientious members of the staff who serviced the Centre and ensured its security.

Rolf Harris Visits Masonic Centre.

The very popular and talented entertainer, Rolf Harris, was at the Masonic Centre on Monday 4 November 1991. The purpose of the visit was a private one - not to do a show.

Rolf, and his brother Bruce, had come specifically to see a portrait in oils of Grand Master, Most Wor Bro William Thompson, painted by their grandfather. They were accompanied by a professional colleague, Very Wor Bro Noel Cole, PDGIW, of Lodge Carlton Kogarah No. 305.

This excellent portrait, had been painted by Very Wor Bro George F. Harris, a Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden of the United Grand Lodge of

England, whose standing had been such that he had enjoyed the distinction of having had his paintings exhibited in the Royal Academy.

On 28 November 1921, Very Wor Bro Harris had, in the presence of some 700 brethren, presented the portrait at a special gathering at the NSW Masonic Club to the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro William Thompson. The latter had, in turn, given it to the Club for 'hanging upon the walls of the social hall thereof'.

Several years ago the Club's Directors had decided to give the portrait to the Grand Lodge for two specific reasons, namely:

- i Because Most Wor Bro William Thompson had had such a distinguished Masonic career and had done so much for the Craft in New South Wales.
- ii In view of the very high standard of the portrait and the fact that it had been painted by such an eminent artist as Very Wor Bro George Harris.

Masonic Meetings in the Centre.

A wide range of Masonic meetings were held in the Centre for the benefit of Masons to participate in and enjoy their Masonic privileges and membership.

As at 31 December 1991, there were 25 Lodges meeting in the Masonic Centre. In addition, four Rose Croix Chapters, two Sovereign Councils 30° (one of which is a Daylight Council), a Knights Templar Preceptory, and a Conclave of the Order of the Secret Monitor also met in the Centre.

Remedial Work to the External Façade of the Sydney Masonic Centre.

At the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge held on 14 September 1994, the Masonic Buildings Board advised that it had concurred with the Executive Council which had granted approval for remedial work to be carried out to arrest spalling (concrete cancer) on the upper external façade of the building. This remedial action, cleaning and anti-graffiti protection of the lower walls, was the first stage of the related protective and featured cladding of the façade.

Cladding was originally proposed to be done in conjunction with the development of the air space above the Masonic Centre but, owing to the delay of the development due to market conditions, it was decided that the remedial work was a matter of necessity to be carried out without further delay. The cost of the remedial work, cleaning and anti-graffiti protection of the lower walls, had been determined from three formal competitive tender submissions, as \$256,450.

The Grand Architect, Very Wor Bro Gary Green, sought the necessary approvals for, and invited tenders to undertake the protective/featured cladding of the façade. It was believed that this further stage of the work would be achieved at a cost of not more than about \$750,000, consistent with the speculative figure of about \$1 million for the two stages as foreshadowed by the Grand Treasurer, Right Wor Bro John Pearson, at the June Communications of Grand Lodge in 1993 and 1994.

Cladding of the External Façade of the Masonic Centre, Sydney.

At the Quarterly Communication in December 1994, Grand Lodge adopted the following motion which was proposed by the Grand Architect, Very Wor Bro Gary A Green, and seconded by the Grand Treasurer, Right Wor Bro John S Pearson, PDGM:

'That in terms of Regulation 56B (1) (i), this Grand Lodge approves the estimated expenditure in the order of \$708,635.00 for the cladding of the upper external façade of the Masonic Centre, 279 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, and directs the Grand Treasurer to execute the necessary contractual documents with the successful tenderer.'

In speaking to the motion, the Grand Architect said:

'This motion could be expanded to "The cladding of the external façade together with external embellishment of the Masonic Centre."

The approach to the aesthetic concept for cladding the façade of the building, was governed by the sheer enormity of the fascia band element. Any two-dimensional (that is, flat) surface cladding of this fascia band, would only succeed in producing an uninspiringly clad façade, of identical enormity, regardless of materials or cost. In fact, during the concept formulation stage, a quotation was received for polished granite cladding, in the amount of between \$1.8 and 2 million without the remedial work component.

The proposed solution, recognises distinct elements of the existing structure, adopts a "modelled" (ie three-dimensional) approach to the cladding and embellishment concept, to fragment, and reduce the scale of the fascia band element.

The Goulburn Street elevation illustrates the various elements of the concept:

- The upper and lower level concrete fins and the curved corners of the finished remedial work treatment are expressed as definable elements of the building;
- The fins dictate a "shadow" continuity between the vertical cladding elements;
- Polished (Australian) granite faces the off-form concrete awnings at street level;
- The cladding units are each three-dimensional, and of reflective glass - being silver in the main, and bronze to the lower, and left hand, modelled-facet outward splays.

The reflected ceiling plan indicates a continuation of the silver reflective glazing as a continuous, serrated horizontal element, under the third floor overhang.

The plan also indicates a large (2 m high x 2.3 m wide) polished, silver-finished Square and Compasses, affixed to the underside of the curved corner of the third floor overhang.

The Castlereagh Street elevation continues the cladding elements generally described for Goulburn Street.

The elements are here, however, specifically modified to certain areas, as follows:

- The main Masonic entry is defined by expanding, in isolation, a single three-dimensional cladding unit to form a portal. This expanded unit will, similarly, be of reflective silver glass in the main, and reflective bronze glass on the internal outward splays of the facets forming the portal.
- Contained within this portal, is a polished granite panel, onto which is affixed an identically polished silver-

finished Square and Compasses, as that previously described.

- To further designate the Masonic entry, the silver reflective, serrated horizontal element is extended further under the third floor overhang.

Certain Masonic subtleties have been incorporated in the proposal, relating to:

- The Masonic colours of blue and red Lodges;
- The Blue and Gold of Grand Lodge;
- The "Rough" and the "Perfect".

The colour blue will be apparent in the blue/grey polished granite; the colours red and gold combine to provide the bronze glass of the cladding units; the existing boarded off-form concrete signifies the "rough", and the glass signifies the "perfect";

The silver reflective glass is figuratively a mirror of the world that Freemasonry seeks to embrace.

The cladding and embellishment proposal will not only improve the appearance of this Masonic Centre, but will also impart a dynamic perception of the Centre, by virtue of the constantly changing reflected images.'

Grand Lodge carried the motion to proceed with the project.

The Grand Treasurer, Right Wor Bro John Pearson, PDGM, then moved:

That this Grand Lodge agrees to appoint G A Green and Associates Pty Ltd (the architectural practice of the Grand Architect) as project architect at a fee of \$20,000 to cover essential office costs of documentation related to the cladding of the façade of the

Masonic Centre, Sydney, including submissions to the Sydney City Council for development and building approval.

During the debate which followed, an amendment proposed by Right Wor Bro Norman Gibbs, PJGW, to the effect of paying expenses and overheads rather than a fee was defeated, and the original motion was overwhelmingly carried on a show of hands.

Cladding of the Masonic Centre, Sydney.

The following is the text of a statement made to Grand Lodge by the Grand Master at the Quarterly Communication held in December 1995.

'During the September 1995 Communication, the Grand Architect advised us of a change to the design concept of the proposed cladding to the fascia of this Masonic Centre. The change resulted from the City Council's concerns regarding the "glitzy nature" of the original design.

The Grand Lodge resolved to defer detailed discussion until the December Communication and that the report be printed and circulated with the Agenda of this Communication; the display items mentioned in the report to be exhibited in the Masonic Centre, Sydney, one week prior to the December Communication.

At the Executive Council meeting on 4 December 1995 the need for proceeding with the cladding at this time was questioned.

The Executive Council resolved to recommend that the work not proceed at this time due to the present need to preserve capital.

As Chairman of the Council, I undertook to have discussion with the Grand Architect to determine the effect of such a deferral.

During discussion the following matters were agreed:

- i The life expectancy of the repair of the concrete cancer will not be affected by deferring the cladding application;
- ii The existing protective paint finish will need to be re-applied from time to time. The coating has a life expectancy of 10 years. The cladding would reduce the area to be treated, resulting in a reduction in material cost;
- iii The Development Application approval was valid for 2 years with the option of a 1-year extension on application. The Grand Architect suggested a request to City Council to extend the 2 years to 4 years with the option of a 1-year extension on application. The Grand Architect was authorised to apply for the suggested extension.
- iv The Grand Architect's fee will not exceed the agreed \$20,000 authorised at a previous Communication of this Grand Lodge.

Brethren, during the Executive Council meeting on 4 December 1995, it was agreed to defer the ordering of the external cladding for 2 to 3 years.

Refurbishment of the Sydney Masonic Centre.

The Masonic Buildings Board reported in March 1997 that a major refurbishment and upgrading of essential services at a total cost of \$242,000 was undertaken during 1996. Funding for the majority of the work was provided from improved trading results.

Masonic Centre, Sydney and Pitt Street Properties.

The Executive Council noted that the Grand Master's Airspace Committee gave consent in June 1997 to the lessee, Ipoh Gardens Developments (Aust) Pty Ltd for the submission of a Development Application for a 17-storey tourist hotel covering the Civic Hotel and the two adjacent properties in Pitt Street, Sydney (all 3 properties owned by the United Grand Lodge). Discussions were continuing with Ipoh concerning their development of the airspace above the Masonic Centre, Sydney.

Development of Pitt Street Properties.

The annual report of the Masonic Buildings Board submitted in June 1999 advised that, in accordance with the terms of their agreement with the Grand Lodge, Ipoh Limited completed work on land at 382B-388 Pitt Street:

- a. Erection of a 17 floor (128 room) tourist grade hotel accommodation tower.
- b. Refurbishment of the Civic Hotel within constraints imposed by the heritage listing of that building.
- c. Construction and fit-out work.

These developments did not alter the income derived from Grand Lodge agreements with Ipoh but they did lock Ipoh in to their commitments towards Grand Lodge and restored the ambience of our properties in this location.

The buildings revert to Grand Lodge at the end of the period of lease in 2113.

Masonic Centre Security.

As a result of two break-ins at weekends during August 1999, electronic security surveillance of the Masonic Centre, Sydney, was significantly upgraded. The break-ins resulted in damage to and theft of cash from public telephones and some damage to doors and locks.

Major Refurbishment.

Replacement of carpet in major traffic areas, construction of ladies and disabled toilets on the third floor and the installation of new entrance doors at Castlereagh Street were completed during 2002.

Airspace Development.

On 14 March 2001, the Executive Council advised:

The Council confirmed that negotiations were taking place between Ipoh Pty Ltd and Grocon Pty Ltd for the latter to take over the airspace development rights acquired by Ipoh in 1988. The Grand Lodge was not placed under duress by this process, since its position was preserved. Should the assignment of the agreement to Grocon take place, brethren would expect that the tower above the Masonic Centre would be constructed very quickly.

Sydney Masonic Centre Web Site
www.sydneymasonic-centre.com.

In celebration of this special event, Centre staff launched the web site in August 2001 by inviting potential and existing commercial clients to an evening which showcased the Sydney Masonic Centre and reinforced its

reputation as one of Sydney's most popular commercial conference and function facilities.

With the building aglow with light, a red carpet welcomed just on 100 guests as they climbed the steps of the Castlereagh Street entrance. The web site was declared officially 'launched' in the Grand Lodge Room by the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro George Curry, and guests were then invited into the Banquet Hall for drinks and a light supper.

The evening proved to be a great success and the web site achieved a considerable number of 'hits' as a direct result. This site provided users with a 180 to 360 degree virtual tour of most of the 25 function rooms available for hire at the Centre, as well as handy commercial room hire rates chart.

Photographs of Past Grand Masters of this United Grand Lodge were featured in the gallery section, as well as a snapshot of historical relics in the Masonic Museum on display on level three of the building.

The Sydney Masonic Centre web site was developed to provide clients with a more convenient and instantaneous way of obtaining information about the Centre.

Installation of Lift to Fifth Floor.

Renovations to the fourth and fifth floors of the Sydney Masonic Centre were necessary to comply with Occupational Health and Safety requirements regarding wheelchair access to the fifth floor. A small lift was installed between these two floors to comply with these requirements. All Grand Lodge staff were relocated to the fourth floor, enabling the

entire fifth floor to be used for commercial purposes.

Sydney Masonic Centre - Tower Stage to Proceed.

Towards the end of 2001 the Sydney City Council granted development consent to the second and final stage of the Sydney Masonic Centre.

The podium building at that time contained five floors of meeting rooms, banquet rooms, a library and a museum along with two basement floors of car parking and the concrete 'core' to house the lifts for the next stage scheduled to commence mid 2002 and to consist of two elements.

Firstly, the external ground level spaces on Goulburn and Castlereagh Streets were to be enclosed with a glazed wall and roof that corresponded to the geometry of the existing building.

The second element was the completion of the 24-storey commercial office tower which was a significant and major element of the original design concept for the building.

Fire Safety and Access Design.

In mid-2001 a Fire Safety Certificate was received and lodged with the Sydney City Council.

An audit of the building for access and mobility design was carried out and resulted in an action plan to ensure that the Centre complied with all appropriate legislation.

Masonic Centre Refurbishment.

New display cases were installed on the ground and first floors during the latter part of 2001. Directional signs in the building were replaced to ensure compliance with standards, where necessary, and for uniformity.

A new fourth floor office layout was completed to house all administrative staff and building service personnel.

Construction of the third floor ladies shower and change room was completed at the end of December 2001.

The under-size non-complying disabled toilet on the ground floor was altered and enlarged in January 2002.

Pitt Street Property Sold.

At the March 2002 Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, the Executive Council advised that the property at 382 Pitt Street, Sydney had been sold. The property was a small shopfront. The sale was subject to a 99 year sub-lease between the occupant and Ipoh Gardens Developments (Aust) Pty Ltd, which minimised the selling price.

Conference and Board Rooms.

Construction of the fifth floor conference rooms was completed, including a 'state of the art' board room during the latter half of 2002.

First Floor Coffee Shop.

'Secrets Café' - available to the public was opened at the Sydney Masonic Centre early in 2002.

The café was located on the first floor overlooking Goulburn Street and was intended to be a place to catch up with friends for a cup of coffee and a chat. It was handy for lunch, and offered a selection of tasty dishes on an ever-changing gourmet menu.

The intention was for the public to come in and 'break the secret code', (of Freemasonry) not their budget.

The 'Secrets Café - Open to the Public' was open from 8 am to 4 pm Monday to Friday and on special occasions.

Entrance was via 279 Castlereagh Street.

The venture was short-lived.

MASONIC BUILDINGS**C. METROPOLITAN AND COUNTRY MASONIC CENTRES***Opening of Belmont Masonic Centre.*

On Saturday 7 October 1988, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Ronald Johnson, accompanied by Ceremonial Grand Officers, carried out the ceremony of setting the foundation stone of a new Masonic Centre at Belmont.

This was followed by the ceremony of dedication of the Lodge Room and the installation meeting of Lodge Belmont No. 593.

Closure of Lodge at Hay.

Lodge Murrumbidgee No. 37, the only Craft Lodge in Hay and the former owner of the Hay Masonic Hall, found it necessary to sell its building and to surrender its Charter during 1988.

Opening of New Centre at Campbelltown.

The regular meeting of The Lodge Federation No. 196, held on Saturday 3 June 1989 was the first meeting held in the new City of Campbelltown Masonic Centre, 101 Wickfield Circuit, Ambarvale.

The Masonic Centre was an endorsed Australian Bicentennial Project and was erected through the efforts of the members of the Lodge to commemorate the nation's bicentenary in 1988.

The Worshipful Master, Wor Bro Roy Jones, introduced Wor Bro Clarence J. Longhurst who was initiated into the Lodge on 20 May 1929.

Wor Bro Longhurst unveiled a plaque to mark the first regular meeting in the Centre.

On 1 October 1988, the unveiling of a commemorative stone had been carried out by local identity Right Wor Bro J. Wal Fairbairn, PJGW, who represented the Most Worshipful Grand Master.

A gathering of some seventy Masons, ladies and children, observed this historic occasion.

The commemorative stone was laid to mark the location of a time capsule which contained a number of everyday items in general use at the time, in addition to the coverage of the centenary of The United Grand Lodge of New South Wales. The ceremonies of setting the foundation stone, dedication of the Lodge Room and installation were held on Saturday 7 October 1989.

The ceremonies included a Civic Reception with the civic leaders of Campbelltown and was attended by the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Ronald L H Johnson.

A public procession of Masons in regalia assembled at the nearby car-park and then proceeded to the Masonic Centre for the ceremony of setting the foundation stone by the Grand Master.

Following the ceremony the Minister for Primary Industries and Energy, The Hon. John Kerin, MP, on behalf of the Commonwealth Government, presented the Worshipful Master with the Australian National Flag.

The dedication of the Lodge Room in the evening was carried out by the Grand Master. This was

followed by the installation of the Worshipful Master of the Lodge.

Refurbishment at Turramurra.

In 1921, after some deliberation, the members of Lodge Renown No. 360 purchased a property which was occupied by Bradley's livery stables, a short walking distance from Turramurra Railway Station at the north-east corner of Turramurra Avenue and Lane Cove Road (now Pacific Highway).

The property, which cost £500, was described by the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro William Thompson as 'the best available site in Turramurra'.

The proposed building was estimated to cost £2,400 and the annual rates and taxes were to be £10.

On 15 July 1921, the members of Lodge Renown formed *The Turramurra Masonic Hall Company Limited* to provide funds and erect the building. Shares were taken in the company by members of the Lodge and other interested brethren.

The project proceeded very rapidly for, on Saturday 20 March 1922, just seventeen months after the consecration of the Lodge, foundation stones were set by the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales, Most Wor Bro William Thompson and the Master of Lodge Renown No. 360, Wor Bro Charles F. Moore.

Seven months later, on Saturday 14 October 1922, the Lodge Room was dedicated to Masonic purposes by the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro

William Thompson who reported to Grand Lodge that it was '*an imposing two storey building*'.

At its meeting on 16 May 1986, the *Hornsby Masonic Hall Company* agreed to the sale of the Hornsby property and the application of its funds to the refurbishment of the Turramurra building.

A new Board of Management was established, styled *The Turramurra Masonic Centre Pty Ltd.*, with a representative director from each Lodge which met in the new centre.

The official opening of the extensively refurbished building was carried out on 9 September 1989 by the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Ronald L.H. Johnson. In reporting the event to Grand Lodge, Most Wor Bro Johnson said:

'Last Saturday, 9 September, I had the pleasure of officially opening the renovated Turramurra Masonic Centre.

For some time, the Masons of District 12 have been working towards the renovation, made possible by the sale of the Hornsby Masonic Hall and the strong urge to upgrade the Masonic facilities for the benefit of the brethren at large.'

The Newcastle Earthquake.

The Masonic buildings throughout the Newcastle area, suffered a considerable amount of damage in the earthquake on 28 December 1989 and the Regional Grand Officer for the Hunter Region, Very Wor Bro Vernon G Hart, PDGDC, was kept very busy inspecting and reporting on the damage.

The damage was not as bad as it might have been in that only two buildings required what was described as major structural repairs before being put back into use.

Opening of New Centre at Wauchope.

On Saturday 17 March 1990, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Ronald Johnson and the Ceremonial Officers of Grand Lodge conducted the ceremony of setting the foundation stone and officially opening the new Masonic Centre at Wauchope. The Grand Master said that the building was a credit to the Craft and to those responsible for the planning and erection.

Opening of New Centre at Ballina.

On Saturday 7 April 1990, the Grand Master and the Ceremonial Officers carried out similar duties at Ballina to those at Wauchope.

The Grand Master said that the building was a credit to the Craft and to those who had undertaken the task of providing the new Centre.

Opening of New Centre at Mudgee.

On Saturday 12 May 1990, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Ronald Johnson, accompanied by Grand Lodge Ceremonial Officers, travelled to Mudgee to carry out the ceremonies of setting the foundation stone and dedication of the Lodge Room. The building was officially opened by the Grand Master.

Re-opening of the Punchbowl (Clairville) Masonic Centre.

On Saturday, 1 February 1992, an important date for the members of Lodges and Chapters meeting at Punchbowl, the remodelled Punchbowl Masonic Centre was re-opened by the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Ronald L.H. Johnson, before a gathering of 350 people who afterwards enjoyed afternoon tea in the new Hall.

The building had undergone major alterations, which included provision of:

- A Lodge/Rehearsal Room.
- Air-conditioning.
- A 12 person lift.
- A commercial kitchen to cater for up to 200 people.
- An on-site car park.
- New floor coverings and a freshly painted club-like stage in the Main Hall.

Function Centre management was also introduced.

Masons who attended meetings at Punchbowl would, in future, enjoy modern up-to-date conditions.

Opening of New Centre at Artarmon.

On 15 February 1992, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Ronald Johnson, accompanied by the Deputy Grand Master, Right Wor Bro Noel Dunn, the Assistant Grand Master, Right Wor Bro John Talty and the Ceremonial Officers of Grand Lodge, dedicated the new Masonic Lodge Room at Artarmon, a modern air-conditioned and carpeted Centre with wheelchair access.

The Lodge Room, which has a seating capacity of 120 was filled for the occasion with 41 Grand Officers accompanying the Grand Master.

The Festive Board was attended by the Mayor of Willoughby, Alderman Greg Bartels, and the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Jill Bartels, together with Mr and Mrs Peter Ledgerwood. Mrs Ledgerwood is known as Kay Dening of Dening and Lumere Pty Ltd, the developers of the project which encompassed shops and offices as well as the Masonic Centre.

Armidale Masonic Centre Vandalised.

Vandals broke into the Armidale Masonic Centre on the night of 25 May 1992 and caused extensive damage to the oldest building in New South Wales built originally exclusively as a meeting place for the Craft.

The contents of the kitchen were strewn around the entire supper room, but the major damage was done by two fires, one set immediately in front of the Master's chair, the other in the ante-room adjacent to the supper room.

In the meeting room the National flags, the Volumes of the Sacred Law, the pedestal, lecterns and working tools were all set on fire. The major loss was a Charter issued by the original Grand Lodge of NSW in 1884 to a Lodge Armidale No. 37 that later amalgamated with Lodge Unity No. 6. This fire was well contained, and did relatively little damage to the room itself.

The second fire did great damage to the contents of the ante-room and the supper room. Virtually all the furniture of the supper room was destroyed or damaged. The contents of a library established originally in 1879 were entirely destroyed. A pressed metal ceiling dating from 1866 and classified as a heritage

item had its entire paintwork destroyed and every window and every item of woodwork needed replacement.

Fortunately, no structural damage was done to the solid brick building and, as the Centre was in the process of being refurbished, most of the memorabilia and Lodge records had been removed to storage.

Community reaction was swift and remarkable. Before the TV news announcing the damage had finished, the Secretary of the Centre Society had received an offer of financial assistance from a member of the public. Other donations were received, both of cash and items like a leather and brass bound Bible.

Members of both Lodge Unity No. 6 and Lodge Armidale No. 641 spent many hours clearing the debris and removing furniture for restoration and storage.

What was more important, however, was the realisation among the brethren that the vandalism had strengthened fellowship and rekindled support among members of the Craft.

Rationalisation of Masonic Buildings in the Greater Newcastle Area.

In May 1992, the Newcastle and Lake Macquarie Masonic Centre Association, in conjunction with the Masonic Buildings Board, engaged the services of the Hunter Valley Research Foundation, a reputable and independent research organization, to examine and make recommendations regarding opportunities for rationalisation of Masonic buildings in the Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and Port Stephens areas. This report was financed by the

Masonic Buildings Board at a cost of \$27,800. The final report, covering the first stage, became available early in 1993.

Refurbishment at Canowindra, Bland and Manilla.

During the latter half of 1992, the Lodge Room at Canowindra was painted and carpeted thereby creating a most enjoyable and harmonious atmosphere for Masonic activities.

The entrance hall to the Bland Masonic Centre was re-built and tiled, greatly improving its appearance.

The Centre at Manilla in District 74 had both the Lodge Room and the building exterior repainted.

Stockton Masonic Centre Fire.

On the evening of Thursday, 20 August 1992 the Masonic Centre at Stockton, owned by Lodge Peninsular No. 221, was completely destroyed by fire. Fortunately, the building was not in use at the time and no one was injured.

Byron Bay Masonic Centre Opened.

Saturday, 19 November 1994 was an important day in the life of Lodge Cavanbah No. 231 at Byron Bay. The day marked the first known visit by a current Grand Master to a Regular meeting of the Lodge since its consecration in 1903. During the visit, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Noel F Dunn, performed two important ceremonies.

During the afternoon, some 100 brethren and ladies attended the ceremony of setting the foundation stone of the new building by the

Grand Master and the Grand Lodge Ceremonial Officers.

After the ceremony all present retired to the Byron Bay Services Club for afternoon tea.

In the evening, the Grand Master and Grand Officers were welcomed by the Worshipful Master, Wor Bro Nick Towers. The ceremony of dedication of the Lodge Room was viewed by nearly 100 brethren seated comfortably in the new furniture in the new Room.

After the ceremony, some 118 brethren and ladies enjoyed the fellowship and friendship at a delightful banquet.

New Masonic Centre for Armidale.

Saturday 29 June 1996 was an historic day for Freemasonry in Armidale, following a street procession by approximately one hundred Freemasons led by the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Noel F Dunn.

The Grand Master and his Grand Lodge Ceremonial Officers set the foundation stone in the north-east of the building in front of a large crowd.

The new Masonic Centre, built as a result of a fire in the old building in May 1992, was officially dedicated by the Grand Master in the presence of one hundred and twenty five Freemasons, and afterwards a Second Degree was conferred on Bro Bruce Hudson by Lodge Unity No. 6 and Lodge Armidale No. 641 in a combined meeting of both Lodges. A delegation of forty-nine Grand Officers accompanied the Grand Master at the ceremony.

A Banquet held at the Armidale Ex-services Club to celebrate the day's proceedings was attended by two hundred Masons and ladies.

Castle Hill - Discharge of Loans.

On Saturday, 31 August 1996, Lodge Fortitude No. 439, celebrated the discharge of loans incurred in the construction of the Castle Hill Masonic Centre. In opening the proceedings, the Worshipful Master, Wor Bro George Williams praised the efforts of those who had the energy, generosity and foresight to establish a Masonic Centre that would serve the needs of Freemasonry for many years to come.

The complex, opened in July 1982, provided accommodation for six commercial tenants, six Masonic Lodges and three other Orders.

Air-conditioned Masonic accommodation was located at first floor level and included the Lodge Room for 140, a carpeted supper area catering for 100, and various ancillary areas. An inclinor provided vertical transportation for those who found the stairs too difficult. On-site parking was provided for 32 vehicles.

Management of the complex was by a Board of Directors comprising representatives of each of the tenant Lodges.

Strathfield Masonic Centre.

In December 1996, Grand Lodge adopted without discussion, the following motion which was presented by the Chairman of the Masonic Buildings Board, Right Wor Bro Alan E Farrell, PAGM, on behalf of the Executive Council:

That this Grand Lodge approves the appointment of the Grand Architect or his company, G.A. Green and Associates Pty Ltd, to inquire into the heritage listing over the Masonic Centre, Beresford Road, Strathfield, and to tender

advice to the Executive Council and the Masonic Buildings Board concerning options for the future development and use of the property. Such work to involve the remuneration of the Grand Architect and/or his company to a maximum figure of \$1,000.

The title of the Strathfield property was vested in the Grand Lodge Trustees. This resulted from the surrender of its Charter by Lodge Washington H. Soul No. 399 on 27 July 1992.

Wyang Masonic Centre.

The Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Revd Raymond Green, in company with the Grand Treasurer, the Deputy Grand Registrar, the Chairman of the Masonic Buildings Board and the Grand Secretary travelled to the Central Coast on Wednesday, 14 January 1998 to attend a general meeting of local brethren to discuss problems which had been encountered with the building of the new Masonic Centre at Wyong.

The open discussion provided an indication that there was a path ahead, subject to reasonable disciplines being applied.

New Masonic Centre at Bellingen.

On 13 June 1998, Right Wor Bro George Curry, Deputy Grand Master and a team of Grand Lodge Officers travelled to Bellingen on the mid-north coast of New South Wales to set the foundation stone and dedicate the new Masonic Centre built by Lodge The Raleigh No. 241 at Fernmount.

The Mayor of Bellingen Shire, Councillor Mrs Sue Dethbridge, was among the dignitaries present. After the setting of the stone, the

delegation travelled to the Bellingen Shire Chambers where they were tendered a Civic Reception by the Mayor and the Shire Council.

Later, the new Lodge Room was dedicated; the Lodge being called from labour to refreshment to enable the ladies to enter and witness the ceremony. This was the first occasion this procedure had been adopted in New South Wales.

Major Refurbishment at Double Bay.

An extensive upgrade was carried out at the Double Bay Masonic Centre which included painting and general improvements to the exterior of the building and surrounding grounds.

The Chairman of the Masonic Buildings Board, Right Wor Bro Grahame Cumming and Deputy Chairman, Right Wor Bro John Talty, with the Grand Architect, Right Wor Bro Gary Green were present at a function on 15 February 1999 when the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Revd Raymond Green unveiled a plaque commemorating the completion of the extensions and refurbishment of the Centre.

Opening of Stockton Masonic Centre.

On Saturday 17 April 1999 the foundation stone for the Stockton Masonic Centre was set, the Centre opened and the Lodge Room dedicated by the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Revd Raymond Green.

The newly completed Centre was built on the site of the Masonic Hall which was completely destroyed by fire on 21 August 1992. The new Masonic Centre would enable a Masonic presence to continue at Stockton as it has done since the formation of The Peninsula Lodge No. 221 in September 1898.

Hawkesbury Masonic Centre.

Hawkesbury's Masons turned out in force for the grand opening of their brand new home, the Hawkesbury Masonic Centre, South Windsor on 5 November 1999.

The Grand Master, Most Wor Bro George Curry, set the foundation stone and dedicated the Lodge Room. Other special guests included Hawkesbury MP Kevin Rozzoli and Hawkesbury Deputy Mayor Les Sheather who both participated in the opening ceremony.

The Hawkesbury Masonic Centre became the home to the District's five Masonic Lodges - Lodge Duke of Connaught No. 150, Lodge Windsor No. 770, Lodge Royal Prince No. 364, Lodge Richard Coley No. 152 and Lodge Seymour No. 945. Centre spokesperson and Regional Grand Counsellor for Sydney West, Right Wor Bro Gary Dean, said all five Lodges would operate from the new South Windsor premises.

Opening of the Wyong Centre.

A crowd of over 200 attended the opening ceremony of the new Masonic Centre at Wyong on 26 November 1999, including the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro George Curry and Grand Officers. Many wives and partners also attended.

The afternoon started with the Grand Master, Grand Officers and members of the Wyong District Masonic Centre Board, their partners and special guests being accorded a Civic Reception by the Mayor of Wyong Shire, Councillor Fay Brennan and her Deputy, Bro Robert Graham.

Following the stone setting by the Grand Master in the huge foyer of the Centre, the Lodge was opened by the Master of Lodge Wyong Tuggerah Lakes No. 247, Wor Bro Terry Wand and his officers. After the Grand Master was admitted the Lodge was called to refreshment to allow the official guests and ladies to be admitted

and witness the dedication; for this over 200 were seated in the Lodge Room.

Official guests included the Mayor of Wyong Shire and members of Parliament, Messrs Michael Lee, Paul Criterden and Grant McBride. Later, all were treated at the Festive Board to an enjoyable evening.

Albury Masonic Centre.

A newly refurbished Masonic Centre was officially dedicated on Saturday 4 December 1999 by the Grand Lodge Ceremonial Officers.

Tea Gardens Masonic Centre Opened.

A new Masonic Centre, complete with Lodge Room, hall and four retail shops, transformed the Tea Gardens site of Lodge Port Stephens No. 522.

It was completed in September 2001, only seven months after the old building was demolished in February.

The official opening was held on Saturday 17 November 2001 and the Lodge organized a full day's programme to mark the opening by the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro George Curry. Activities started at 12 noon and included a street procession and unveiling of the official opening tablet.

The new Centre was constructed by local builder Graham Lawler at a cost of \$750,000.

Wor Bro Terry Munright, Worshipful Master of Lodge Port Stephens, said it maintained the heritage style and is a modern, safe place for our community to be proud.

The Eric A. Primrose Masonic Centre, Epping.

Most Wor Bro George Curry, Grand Master, presided over the setting of the foundation stone to begin major re-development of the Epping Masonic Centre.

The Centre, was to be named after Most Wor Bro Eric Aubrey Primrose, Past Grand Master, and was to become part of plans to provide better Masonic accommodation throughout the State.

Failing health prevented Most Wor Bro Primrose from attending the moving ceremony on 22 December 2001, one day after his 92nd birthday. The ceremony was held before a large gathering which heard of his many career highlights.

The Future.

The sale, building and refurbishment of Masonic meeting places throughout the Jurisdiction will continue to be a vital necessity in order to present an appropriately suitable image of Freemasonry to members and the public alike.



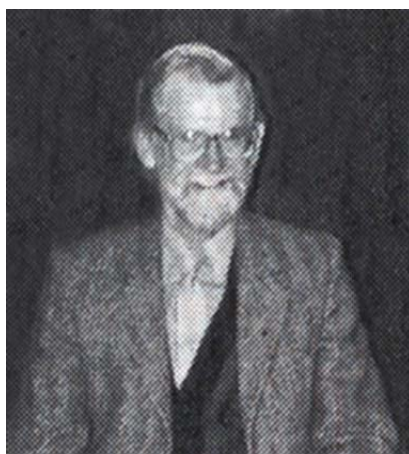
Right Wor Bro
GRAHAM K COHEN



Right Wor Bro
JAMES E KIRKNESS



Right Wor Bro
EDWARD F WAUGH



Right Wor Bro
STUART L KERRY



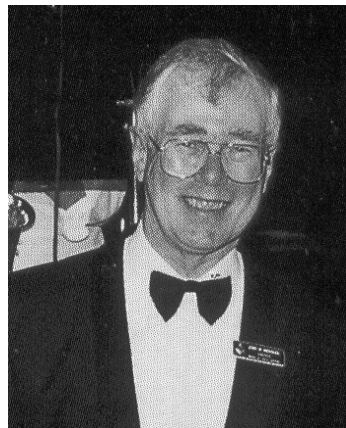
Right Wor Bro
CECIL P AINSWORTH



Right Wor Bro
KENNETH R NEWMAN



Right Wor Bro
BRIAN J H WARDE



Right Wor Bro
JOHN E LeMESURIER



NSW Masonic Centenary Ensemble - 1994



Surf Lifesaving - Central Coast - 2000

CHAPTER VII

MASONIC CHARITY

A. BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE

Help is at Hand in Times of Trouble.

Throughout life, and particularly during times of illness or depressed economy, people can be confronted with unexpected severe financial problems.

The tenets and principles of the Craft charge Freemasons to practice universal charity and benevolence.

To assist brethren in the discharge of these responsibilities a Fund of Benevolence commenced functioning in 1834 when there were but two Irish Lodges in New South Wales, namely, The Australian Social Lodge No. 260 (now Antiquity No. 1) and The Leinster Marine Lodge of Australia No. 266 (now Leinster Marine No. 2).

This valuable adjunct to Freemasonry was confirmed at the commencement of The United Grand Lodge of New South Wales in 1888 when its first Board of Benevolence was established.

The Board has helped many unfortunate brethren, Masonic widows and children for over a century. Assistance has been provided by way of a lump sum grant or loan.

In 1985 the Supreme Court of New South Wales granted trusteeship of what was known as the

'Scott Young Trust' to our Grand Lodge Trustees. This Trust was managed by the Board of Benevolence. From it grants were made to the widows and/or children of deceased Masons.

The Board was able, in instances of extraordinary distress, to recommend the Grand Master to grant additional assistance.

Apart from helping Masons and their dependants, it was, for many years, the policy of Grand Lodge to make annual donations to public charities. The charities were selected on the recommendations of the Board of Benevolence and the Board of General Purposes.

Introduction of Caring Officers Scheme.

At the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge held on 14 September 1988, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Ronald Johnson, in announcing the introduction of a Caring Officers' Scheme said:

'Brethren, as Freemasons, it is our responsibility to offer only our very best to our members, their families and to society at large.'

After a brief summary of this important proposal for the Jurisdiction, he said:

'Brethren, I commend this new Scheme to all of you and seek your assistance in ensuring that it is adopted and used in your Lodge.'

A detailed presentation of this important new venture for Freemasonry in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory was given by the President of the Board of Benevolence, Right Wor Bro Graham K. Cohen, PJGW. He said:

'Brethren, it is my pleasing duty, as President of the Board of Benevolence, to support our Grand Master in the introduction of the Caring Officer Scheme to all Private Lodges throughout New South Wales.

Before proceeding, however, I feel that it is appropriate, at this stage, to give my grateful thanks to the members of the Board of Benevolence, past and present, for the many hours that they have contributed in presenting this Scheme to you. To the members of the sub-committee and, in particular, Wor Bro Ross Godfrey and my Vice-President, Very Wor Bro Stuart Kerry, PDGIW, I express my appreciation for the many hours of work that they have put into this Scheme.

Now brethren, we are all familiar with the word 'benevolent' but what does it mean to us in our daily Masonic activities? If we refer to modern day dictionaries, we find it explained as 'desirous of doing good, charitable, kind and helpful'. Benevolence rises easily and naturally from our Masonic teachings where brotherly love and relief are revered as the cornerstones of our Masonic structure.

Today, with the ever increasing criticism being levelled at Freemasonry, we need to adopt the highest standards in our day-to-day activities and this Caring Officer Scheme is seen as one way of assisting us to forestall such criticisms as well as aiding our brethren and their families.

Brethren, the adoption of the word 'caring' was not arrived at lightly. We thought of words such as 'welfare', but the word 'caring' is derived from 'caritas' which means caring, loving, charity.

Brethren, Freemasonry is concerned with people. Despite the increasing availability

of government and community welfare support systems, the Board of Benevolence believes that it is essential that individual Lodges adopt a positive and realistic stance in identifying and assisting to eliminate, or reduce, the effect of problems touching our members and or their dependants.

It is realised, of course, that there is already extensive Masonic and community welfare coverage practised by many Lodges as well as the Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes, the Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution, the William Thompson Masonic Schools, the NSW Masonic Youth Welfare Fund, the NSW Masonic Hospital, the NSW Freemasons' Orphan Society and, of course, through the Craft, the Board or Benevolence itself.

However, all of these activities could be facilitated by each Lodge having one or more Caring Officers who would be given the role of:

- Remembering that the dispensing of charity is one of the principal objects of the Craft.
- Inducing the Brethren to manifest the virtue - charity - which should be characteristic of all Freemasons.
- On every occasion when a request for charity is made the Lodge, or the individual members thereof, using their best endeavours to ensure that the need is met.
- And generally assisting the Master and the Officers in the overall care of all members of the Lodge and their families.

Now brethren, this evening you received a pamphlet *What is a Caring Officer?* I commend that pamphlet to you.

How can a Lodge implement this new Caring Officer Scheme?

Certainly it won't be easy but, as a measure of assistance, a handbook has been prepared by the Board of Benevolence and, as indicated by the Most Wor Grand Master, it will shortly be made available to each Lodge.

The Handbook has been prepared so as to be self-evident and informative. It outlines:

- The role of the Caring Officer.
- The duties of the Caring Officer.
- The desirable attributes of the Caring Officer.
- Helpful hints for the Caring Officer.
- What records are to be kept.
- What resources - Local, Regional and State - that are available as well as Masonic resources.

The newly appointed District Grand Inspectors of Workings will be undertaking a major role in fostering this Scheme amongst Lodges. If necessary, follow up support will be available through the Board of Benevolence and I know I speak for my fellow Board members and myself of our ready availability to participate in any discussion or to give support to the adoption of the Scheme.

Finally, brethren, I give my strongest support to the Most Wor Grand Master in commending this Scheme to you all and seek your assistance in ensuring that it is adopted by Lodges in your District.

Youth Art Award.

Grand Lodge and the Freemasons of New South Wales have over the years, been interested in assisting youth in preparing them for their future careers.

With this thought in mind the Centenary Organising Committee made an approach to the Department of Education with a view to sponsoring an Award in Art valued at \$1,000 to be given to the top student in the 1988 Higher School Certificate Practical Art Exhibition.

One hundred and seventy four exhibits were selected for the Artexpress Exhibition of selected higher school certificate artworks and the students' submissions were of such high standard and quality that the judges had an extremely difficult task to meet the Committee's request.

A cheque for \$1,000 was presented to Mr Sebastian Oliveiro, a student from Sydney Boys High School. His submission, a graphite drawing titled *Scenes from Newtown*, was an outstanding piece of work.

The judges were unable to separate three works for the position of runner-up and, as a result, cheques were presented to all three, each receiving \$200 and an Award Certificate.

The presentation of cheques and the certificates for the Art Award, together with the Encouragement Awards, were made by the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Ronald L.H. Johnson, at the Artexpress Exhibition held at Centrepoint on Thursday, 19 January 1989.

Vote to Public Institutions.

For many years, Grand Lodge had, each year, granted sums of money from the Fund of Benevolence to worthy organizations throughout the Jurisdiction.

In March 1989, a grant of \$500 was made to each of 13 such public institutions. These grants clearly demonstrated that Masonic benevolence is not confined to its members.

- Camp Breakaway (San Remo) - Give physically handicapped persons a break from parents/guardians.
- Camp Quality (Illawarra/South Coast) - Help ease stress in caring for children suffering from cancer.
- Challenge Foundation of New South Wales (Goulburn) - Provide hostel and transport facilities for the intellectually disabled.
- Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (Newcastle Branch for Hunter Valley) - Assist family support for Cystic Fibrosis patients.
- Fowler Road Special School (Merrylands) - Provide educational services to mildly intellectually disabled children, 4 to 12 years.
- Helping Hand Group (Coonabarabran) - Teaching living skills to the physically and mentally handicapped.
- Kaddy Transport (Dee Why) - Provide free transport for all physically disabled residents in Manly Warringah for social, recreational and medical purposes.
- Lifeline (Coffs Harbour) - Serving the community with confidential counselling to people in crisis.
- Tumut Rescue Squad - Volunteer Rescue Association.
- Wagga Crisis Line - Provides telephone counselling and referral service to people with personal problems.
- The Aged Care Centre Fund (Warialda) - Provide hostel accommodation for aged persons in the district.

Yurana Holiday Homes for Cancer Children (Ulladulla) - Provide holidays for cancer affected children.

The Royal NSW Institute for Deaf and Blind Children - Caring for and educating deaf and blind children.

City to Surf Fun Run.

This annual event, promoted by the President of the Board of General Purposes, Right Wor Bro James L. Eddy, PDGM, had seven Masonic runners in 1988 who raised \$1038 for children with cerebral palsy.

On 13 August 1989, 22 Masonic runners raised \$5,137 for the same worthy cause with one of the runners wearing a sign *Freemasons Support Children with Cerebral Palsy*.

Another runner summarised the event:

'I always think the City to Surf is the day of the year when the normal people unite to make their statement that community spirit still does exist in a city where awareness of others needs seems to be of less and less importance.'

Caring Officers Seminar.

The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Assistant Grand Master and over three hundred brethren and ladies registered for the Seminar held in Sydney on 23 September 1989 and which was declared by all to be a great success.

Hospital Visitation Scheme.

The Board of Benevolence organized for each major city hospital to be covered by Caring

Officers who visited brethren, particularly from the country, when notified. A list of hospitals and contacts was prepared for all Caring Officers and Secretaries. Contact was made through Grand Lodge. The Board also organized a similar arrangement for major country hospitals. For example, brethren from interstate and overseas, after a call for assistance was received, were quickly reached in metropolitan and country hospitals through local Caring Officers - a network not previously available. Simple, friendly personal contact with brethren long absent from Private Lodges has also helped significantly towards a re-vitalised interest and, in some cases, brought timely help.

Donations of Bodily Organs.

Intensive research by the Board revealed at least two methods by which a person may be identified as a donor. Firstly, the new drivers' licences introduced in July 1989, with photograph, carried markings indicating an organ-donor. All information, confidential and although computerised, was only accessible to the organ transplant co-ordinators. Secondly, the Australian Kidney Foundation, issued a card which identified the holder as a donor of bodily organs. This card must be carried on the person of the donor at all times.

The Board of Benevolence was advised that there was a shortage of organs for transplant and commended the donation of bodily organs to all brethren and their families.

Fund Raising for Children's Hospital.

There's no business like show-business, and no Masonic Lodge quite like Lodge Thespian No. 256, the theatrical Lodge of Australia, when it comes to organizing a show. One would be excused in thinking that there was something very special about a Lodge that can make the stars come out at night to shine for children.

On the night of Wednesday 11 October 1989, the stars of the world of entertainment came out to Bankstown RSL Club to shine on stage as only they can to assist in raising funds for the Children's Hospital at Camperdown.

Organized by Lodge Thespian, and billed as an 'International Night of Stars' the show was produced and hosted for the Lodge by Very Wor Bro John O'Connor, professionally known as Dee Donovan. The glittering array of artists included Helen Zerefos, Lonnie Lee, Mary Schneider, Paul Martell, Jane Scali, Enzo and Peggy Toppano, Hot Stuff, Bobby Dennis, Jenny Andrews and the Jan Currey Irish Dancers. The award winning Woomera Orchestra under the direction of Adrian Munn provided the musical backing to a show that would have graced any stage in the world. This fine musician became a proud member of Lodge Thespian, having been initiated into the Lodge on Saturday 25 November 1989.

The Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Ronald Johnson, who attended with his wife May, presented himself on stage after the artists had taken their final bows and made a short but meaningful address in which he remarked how encouraging it was that through the efforts of Lodge Thespian, Masonry would be seen to assist in charitable work other than Masonic. It was, he said, commendable that this great theatrical Lodge which has a legacy of organizing

professional shows of very high standard had once again decided that children would benefit through their efforts.

On Monday 23 October 1989, Lodge Thespian representatives attended the Children's Hospital at Camperdown for the presentation of the cheque for \$5,000 to the Head of the Department of Anaesthetics, Dr John Overton.

A Certificate of Appreciation was then presented by Dr Overton to add to the long list of past honours bestowed on this proud theatrical Lodge. He then informed the Officers of Thespian who were present that an engraved plaque bearing Lodge Thespian's name would be placed within the Children's Hospital in recognition of their fund raising efforts.

Lapel Badge for Caring Officer.

The Board of General Purposes in December 1989 approved, on the recommendation of the Board of Benevolence, the design of a Lapel Badge with the words 'Freemasons - Caring Officer' appearing thereon and surrounding the waratah flower designating New South Wales, to be worn by Caring Officers as a means of identification. Approval was also given for the Badge to be worn by Caring Officers in Lodge.

This provided an important means of identification as some people were initially reluctant to allow the Caring Officer into their homes.

Newcastle Earthquake Appeal.

On 28 December 1989 the tragic news of the Newcastle Earthquake became front-page news

around the world. As the Grand Master pointed out, each of us knew and many of us were in contact with people who were living in the area at the time of the earthquake.

On behalf of the Freemasons of New South Wales, Grand Lodge donated \$15,000 to the Newcastle Lord Mayor's Appeal and this cheque was handed, personally, to the Lord Mayor by the Grand Treasurer, Right Wor Bro Reginald J. Barrington, PDGM. Many individual Lodges also made substantial donations towards the re-building programme.

Country Caring Officers' Seminar.

Representatives of Lodges meeting between Penrith and Bathurst, attended a very informative seminar, at Katoomba on Sunday, 11 February 1990. Members of several local welfare groups were present, so too were ladies from the Order of the Eastern Star, Springwood Chapter. The Department of Social Security, Lithgow Area Manager, contributed a great deal of up-to-date information for the benefit of those present. Two staff members of the Community Service Agencies of the Blue Mountains City Council, spoke about their work in the local community.

Arrangements were completed for a seminar which was held at Ballina, on Saturday, 24 March 1990 and requests were received from representatives interested in conducting seminars at Coonabarabran, Moruya/Narooma and Griffith, all before the end of June 1990.

The Artexpress Award.

For the second consecutive year, Grand Lodge supported the New South Wales Department of

Education Higher School Certificate Examination Award by presenting a cheque for \$1,000 to the winner, Mr Angus Fraser. The Artexpress Exhibition was on display in several country towns throughout New South Wales, having finished the display in Sydney. A suitable Certificate, along with notification of our Award for Excellence in Visual Art, was displayed in a prominent position at each of these exhibitions.

In presenting Angus with the Award of Excellence, and a cheque for \$1,000 the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Ronald L.H. Johnson, said that Freemasons in NSW were proud to support the development of art and art appreciation in this State. He wished Angus every success in the future and hoped his prize would assist him to further his studies in visual art.

The Grand Master's Charity Sportsmans' Night.

On 23 March 1990 the first Grand Master's Charity Sportsmans' Night was held in the Masonic Centre, Sydney, under the theme 'Magic Moments in Sports'. Although many Lodge and District sportsmens' nights have been held, this was the first occasion that the full resources of the Grand Lodge were used to organize and conduct such an event.

As a result of its success the Grand Master was able to hand to the patron of The Royal New South Wales Institute for Deaf and Blind Children, His Excellency, Rear Admiral Sir David Martin, KCMG, AO, Governor of New South Wales, a cheque for \$15,000 to assist the Institute in its very important and worthwhile work in the community.

Sir David was accompanied by Lady Martin and both thoroughly enjoyed the programme.

Two well-known radio and TV sporting commentators, Mr Ron Casey and Mr John O'Reilly compered the show. The sportsmen who so enthusiastically supported the evening included Vic Patrick, the former lightweight boxing champion of Australia; John Pizarro, leading exponent of go-kart racing from Parkes; Peter Rhueben, Australian singles bowls champion and Ron Dennis representing bowls. Steven Edge, Col Rasmussen and Kevin Roberts discussed many of the humorous highlights of their rugby league careers while John Treloar and Lionel Cox took our memories back to the 1952 Olympic Games and the events of that era.

The wood chopping exhibition put on by Les Slee and compered by Keith Belcher, both champion axemen, created both excitement and spectacle as wood chips were sent flying.

News on the latest cricket situation was provided by Alan Davidson and Dick French and Sir James Hardy gave us some insights into the sport of sailing. Australian Rules football was also well represented.

A most impressive finale was the interviews of representatives of the disabled sporting scene. These men who started their sporting activities somewhat restricted by disability, were through their enthusiasm, commitment and perseverance, able to achieve the same level of championship performance as the other sportsmen.

The production of the show was carried out by Dee Donavan who also provided the fascinating series of sporting video clips which separated the various segments. The 'Vic Patrick Perpetual Trophy' awarded to the Lodge which

made the largest monetary donation towards the evening was won by the Port Macquarie Daylight Lodge No. 991 and the 'Alan Davidson Perpetual Trophy' for the Lodge with the greatest representation on the night went to Lodge Wardell and Concord United No. 182.

The Organising Committee which comprised Right Wor Bro John M. Talty, AGM, Chairman; Right Wor Bro Ken M. Bellingham, PJGW, Secretary; Right Wor Bro Brian J.H. Warde, PJGW; Wor Bro Vic Patrick, OAM and Bro Laurie E. Bruyeres, were congratulated and thanked for their work by the Grand Master.

Votes to Public Institutions.

At the March 1990 Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, approval was given for a grant from the Fund of Benevolence for \$750 to each of:

The Melanoma Foundation, University of Sydney,
Camperdown
Greg Cox Cancer Foundation, Maroubra
St George Life Education Centre, St George
area
Richmond Valley Life Education Centre, Lismore
South Coast Life Education Centre, South Coast
Red Cross 'Telecross' Service, Metropolitan
Friends of Lucas School Inc., Metropolitan
Diabetes Australia - NSW, Newcastle
Fairhaven Centre, Central Coast
Epilepsy Association of ACT Inc., Hughes, ACT
Challenge Foundation of NSW, Mittagong
Berriquin Nursing Home Foundation Ltd., Finley
Endeavour Industries Goulburn Inc., Goulburn
And that a donation of \$1,500.00 be made to
the Prince of Wales Hospital towards the
establishment of a Skin Bank.

Nyngan Flood Relief.

As a result of devastating floods which inundated the town of Nyngan and caused mass evacuation of most of the town's population, the Grand Master and the President of the Board of General Purposes decided:

- i To donate the sum of \$15,000 from Grand Lodge funds for the specific purpose of assisting the Nyngan community to re-build the township.
- ii Utilise moneys currently held in 'The New South Wales Freemasons' Disaster Relief Fund' to assist needy Nyngan brethren and, if funds permit, other townspeople.
- iii Inform Lodges and brethren to contribute financially.
- iv By ascertaining whether any physically abled brethren are willing to participate by providing their trade or other skills in assisting the people of Nyngan to restore their homes.

The outcome was not only direct financial assistance from Grand Lodge funds and the Disaster Relief Fund but, in addition, donations were received from all around the State, as well as from Western Australia where that Grand Lodge sent \$4,000 and also the District Grand Lodge of Scotland in Western Australia which donated over \$1,100.

In addition to giving money, Masons were also prominent in the active tasks of restoring the town immediately following the floods. Of particular note was a group organized by Very Wor Bro Barry Foggitt, PDGIW, who journeyed from Sydney and spent nearly two weeks in Nyngan applying their practical skills to assist the local townsfolk.

The Grand Master said:

'In this terrible adversity I am therefore pleased to report that Masons have responded well in accordance with the dictates of charity and brotherly love.'

Beneficence of Right Wor Bro Cecil B. Coulter, PAGM.

At the June 1990 Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Johnson said:

'Such is Right Wor Bro Coulter's love for Freemasonry, for his many Masonic friends and colleagues, and for the Bondi Masonic Centre - where he became a Freemason in Lodge Bronte No. 507, on 6 January 1926 - that he decided, in 1987, to make a gift of \$386,591.54 (representing the whole of the proceeds of sale of his home in Vaucluse) for the purpose of enabling the debt owing by the Bondi-Waverley Masonic Hall Company to the Masonic Buildings Board for the major re-modelling of the Bondi Masonic Centre (carried out in 1980) to be extinguished.

When formally making this gift on 18 August 1987, Right Wor Bro Coulter directed that the money be invested until such time as the accumulated funds were sufficient to pay off the mortgage on the Bondi Masonic Centre to the Masonic Buildings Board. He appointed the Grand Lodge Trustees, Most Wor Bros Blight, Maas and Warren, Past Grand Masters, to accept the donation and administer the Trust. This they faithfully did until the mortgage was discharged on 12 June 1990.'

The Most Wor Grand Master then invited the Chairman of the Bondi-Waverley Masonic Hall Company, Very Wor Bro Harry Ravens, PDGIW, - accompanied by Right Wor Bro Cecil Coulter, PAGM - to come forward and accept the envelope

containing the Title Deeds to the Bondi Masonic Centre.

The Grand Master continued:

'I now take this opportunity of thanking our most generous benefactor, Right Wor Bro Cecil Coulter, for his magnanimous gift and exhort Very Wor Bro Ravens and the Board of Directors of the Bondi-Waverley Masonic Hall Company to ensure that the Bondi Masonic Centre is lovingly cared for and maintained in the years to come to a standard befitting this truly outstanding gift made by Right Wor Bro Coulter.'

Masonic Benevolence 1990-1991.

Because Grand Lodge had no idea of the total amount of money donated to Masonic and non-Masonic charities by the Craft during any one year it was decided to ask each of the 605 Lodges in the Jurisdiction to reply to a questionnaire which sought this information and which, for the purposes of the survey, excluded gifts in kind and paid or voluntary labour expended on any project.

The number of Lodges that responded to the survey was disappointing, however, the survey for the year ended 30 June 1991 revealed that despite a decrease in membership, donations to charity increased by approximately \$240,000. Unfortunately, only 254 Lodges responded to the survey. The response by twenty Masonic Associations revealed the excellent result of \$86,097 of which \$72,332 was distributed to public charities.

The overall results of the 1990-91 survey were:

Donations to Masonic Charities (Lodges

	and Associations)
	\$1,078,843
Donations to Public Charities (Lodges)	
	137,044
Donations to Public Charities	
	(Associations and Auxiliaries)
	86,097
Donations by Grand Lodge to Charitable	
	Institutions
	26,700
Total	
	\$1,328,684

City to Surf Fun Run for the Spastic Centre.

Once again a team of 22 comprising Freemasons, their families and friends ran in the 1990 Sun-Herald City to Surf held on 12 August.

Many of the runners sought sponsorship for the fun run, with other donations being made by Lodges and brethren. The total was \$4,227.50.

The event was even more special as it was the 20th anniversary of the run, and each participant who finished received a medallion to celebrate the occasion. Over 34,000 finished from the 44,000 starters.

The Masonic team members attached to their running gear promotional wording which read *Freemasons Support Children with Cerebral Palsy*. There were many words of encouragement from the general public regarding the evidence that Freemasonry was assisting the children of the Spastic Centre of New South Wales.

Progress of the Caring Officer Scheme.

At the September 1990 Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, the President of the Board of

Benevolence, Right Wor Bro Stuart L. Kerry, OAM, PJGW reported:

'The Caring Officer Scheme is the biggest single issue before the Board of Benevolence at present. We are delighted with the 322 Private Lodges that have taken up the Scheme. However, the Board is disappointed with the 318 Lodges which have not embraced the Scheme.

We Masons cannot afford to be superficial if we do want Freemasonry to survive. We need to stop and look at where we are at as Masons, in our personal lives and in our Lodges.

Caring Officers are contacting brethren, their families and Masonic widows and are finding the reception they receive rewarding for both themselves and those contacted. The friendly caring is always appreciated as are the little jobs, such as unblocking drains, which are carried out, make life more comfortable for people on restricted incomes or for those who are otherwise not capable of carrying out such tasks.'

Community Appreciation.

On 11 December 1990 the annual Community Christmas Party was held at the Drummoyne RSL Club. This function was held each year as a way of recognising and thanking so many people who work so hard throughout the year to help make their community a better place in which to live.

More than 250 people were present representing local residents, neighbourhood watch, ethnic progress groups, action groups, schools, Churches, youth groups and sporting clubs. Dr Bob Woods, the Federal Member for the Division of Lowe, presented community awards to selected

people from the area who had been nominated for special recognition.

Among those to receive a framed Certificate of Appreciation was Right Wor Bro Cyril James Buckingham, PSGW, and a Past President of the Board of Benevolence, who had been nominated by the Western Suburbs Regional Council of the St Vincent de Paul Society. Right Wor Bro Buckingham was involved for a number of years with the Leichhardt and Balmain District Masonic Association Christmas Hamper Appeal. The Award was made in recognition of the many hundreds of hampers which, over the years, had been presented by the District Association to the St Vincent de Paul Society for distribution throughout the Western Suburbs Regional Area.

Votes to Public Institutions.

In March 1991, the Freemasons of New South Wales continued their long-standing practice of making grants to non-Masonic charitable and other worthy organizations. The grants were:

The Hills Special School - Northmead, Provide education services to students with intellectual disabilities.

DEBRA (Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa Research Association) - Woonona, Research into causes and effect of disease, support to sufferers and their families.

Retinitis Pigmentosa Society of NSW - Sydney, Research causes of 'RP' and means of cure. Support to sufferers and their families.

Immunology Centre, St Vincents Hospital - Darlinghurst, Cancer research.

Friends of Brain Injured Children of NSW - Sutherland, Help meet the costs of treatment programmes for brain injured children.

Riding for the Disabled Association (Newcastle and Lower Hunter Region) - Mount Hutton,

Help disabled people to ride and care for horses.

Maitland Cancer Appeal Committee - Rutherford, Promote and assist in treatment and research in cancer in Hunter Valley.

Bingara Hostel Committee Inc. - Bingara, Fund, construct and administer a public hostel for the aged.

Coo-inda Complex - Coonabarabran, Provide nursing care and hostel beds for aged residents.

Geurie Play Centre - Geurie, Playgroup for children under 5 years which involves educational and recreational activities.

Murrumbidgee Life Education Centre - Wagga Wagga, Provide personal development/drug awareness programme to children.

Cooma Public School 10/1S Class - Cooma, Provide formal learning and living skills, i.e. number, language, banking, shopping etc.

Shoalhaven Heads Apex Cottages for Kids (SHACK) - Berry, Provide self-contained holiday cottages for chronically ill children and their families.

Ageing & Alzheimer's Disease Research Institute - Sydney, Investigate important medical problems which make old age undignified and painful.

Collection of Spectacles.

In March 1991 the Board of Benevolence was approached by Optometry Aid Overseas with the request that the Board collect spectacles (in frames) which might be used in developing countries, for people who were unable to obtain glasses.

The Optometry Aid Overseas organization collected spectacles which they sorted and repaired. Optometrists took the spectacles to places like the Philippines, South America and

Asia where they were able to make thousands of people happy.

The Board placed receptacles in the Masonic Centre and wrote to District Grand Inspectors of Workings so that Freemasons would support this worthy cause.

Community Caring.

In March 1991, the Board of Benevolence advised Grand Lodge of a Benefit Day held to provide funds to assist a young child in need. The President of the Board of Benevolence, Right Wor Bro Stuart L. Kerry, OAM, said:

'With regard to caring, what a fine example was set by Lodge Toukley and all Central Coast District Lodges at Right Wor Bro Reg Douglas's property when a Benefit Day was held in support of Jessica Irwin, the young daughter of Tony and Robin Irwin of Woy Woy. Jessica is suffering from cerebral palsy. She is a delight to meet, and it makes you melt just to see her smile.

Brethren, this could happen to any one of our children or grand-children, so you can imagine the wonderful feeling that welled up inside the parents, the grand-parents and uncle and aunt, knowing that somebody cared! The parents then spoke with such confidence that when Jessica comes back from treatment in Hungary she would be able to walk.

The family was overwhelmed by the day with approximately 650 people present and \$10,054.61 being raised. Right Wor Bro Ralph E. Stone, PAGM, represented the Grand Master, and what a demonstration it was to the public that Masonry cares, and that its boundaries stretch far beyond its own members and out into the community.

Freemasons Support Canberra Youth Orchestra.

On Sunday 12 May 1991 the Canberra Youth Orchestra conducted by David Pereira, presented a concert titled *Mozart and More* in the Llewellyn Hall at the Canberra School of Music, to honour the bicentenary of Mozart's death. The concert drew an enthusiastic audience of between 600 and 700 and received excellent reviews from music critics.

Freemasons in the Canberra Region supported the concert through the Masters and Wardens' Association of Districts 102 and 102A, whose members sold tickets, advertising space and sponsorships as well as assisting with the concert publicity and programme.

The Grand Master was represented by Right Wor Bro Thomas Marshall, OAM, PAGM, accompanied by District Grand Inspectors of Workings, Very Wor Bros Gordon Robson and Deric Kenyon.

Bro Robert Nairn, Senior Warden, was the driving force behind the concert and his Lodge, Lodge Commonwealth of Australia No. 633, acted as underwriters for the concert.

Being the first occasion that the Canberra Youth Orchestra had worked together with the Craft in Canberra, there was some understandable indecision about the publicity and its box office effects. It was explained that Masonic publicity requirements are modest and that the primary objective was fund raising for the Orchestra. However, acknowledgement of the fact that the concert was supported by Freemasons in the Australian Capital Territory Region was provided in all of the publicity

material. The success of the concert dispelled any of these reservations.

An amount in excess of \$6,000 was raised for the Canberra Youth Orchestra Society to continue its good work for youth in the Canberra community.

The concert was held in the afternoon so that people from Canberra's senior citizens homes could attend more easily. Transport was provided through the Masters and Wardens' Association.

Successful Caring Officers Seminar.

The Seminar was held on 19 July 1991 at the Sydney Masonic Centre. There were 145 in attendance representing Lodges from many country centres throughout New South Wales, as well as the Sydney metropolitan area.

The Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Ronald Johnson, in opening the conference on the Friday evening, made mention of the enthusiastic support given to the Scheme following its introduction in September 1988. In his many visits to Lodges throughout the Jurisdiction, the Grand Master was repeatedly hearing evidence of the goodwill being created within the Craft by the operations of the Caring Officer Scheme.

A number of Districts reported that they had formed District Caring Officer Associations. The sharing of experiences was of particular benefit and it was evident from these speakers that an association of this type was benefiting not only the Masons in the area but the community as a whole.

Representatives of the Board of Benevolence presented various aspects of the Caring Officer Scheme at the Seminar. Of great interest to all who attended were the talks given by Elizabeth Chetie of the Department of Social Security and Patricia Lee of the Department of Health and Community Services. Both of these ladies covered aspects concerning the ageing, particularly the services and benefits available to those in need.

Group discussion also proved an invaluable aid to those who attended the Seminar. The many suggestions put forward will be of great assistance to the Board of Benevolence in its aim to further the Caring Officer Scheme.

The number of Caring Officers has gradually increased to the point where there are now nearly 600 recorded members either as a Lodge Caring Officer or one of a Committee of Caring Officers.

Stars Come Out for Children.

A glittering constellation of stars was shining at the Bankstown Trotting Club on Wednesday, 30 October 1991, to help raise funds for the Children's Hospital at Camperdown.

Artists who appeared in the Lodge Thespian International Night of Stars included Bobby Dennis, Vicki Forrest, Jay Justin, Warren Williams and family and Julian Jorg. Compere was Bro Dee Donovan. The Stan Wilson Orchestra accompanied the artists.

To ensure maximum results for the children, all performers donated their fees to the fund. Bankstown Trotting Club generously provided its

facilities at no cost, thus boosting the amount to be received by The Children's Hospital.

Sponsorship of Choral Prize.

At the March 1992 Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge the Board of General Purposes resolved to increase Grand Lodge's sponsorship of a Choral Prize in the 1992 Sydney Eisteddfod to a figure of \$1,000. A condition of this increase was that the competition would be known as 'The Freemasons of NSW World Choir Award'.

Votes to Public Institutions.

In accordance with long-standing practice, Grand Lodge agreed at the March 1992 Quarterly Communication to make a grant of \$500 to each of the following:

Sleep Apnea Research Assoc. Inc. - Earlwood
 Prince of Wales Children's Hospital Foundation
 - Randwick
 Cairnsfoot School - Arncliffe
 Department of Endocrinology, Prince of Wales
 Hospital, Randwick
 Disabled Surfers' Association of Australia
 Inc. - Sydney
 Exodus (Children in the Wilderness) - Ashfield
 Merry Makers - Sydney
 New Era - Sutherland
 Maitland Youth Crisis Centre Inc. - Maitland
 Camp Breakaway Inc. - San Remo
 Lifeline Mid North Coast - Port Macquarie
 Red Dove Day Care Centre - Lismore
 Challenge Foundation - Forbes
 Cancer Patients Assistance Society of NSW -
 West Wyalong
 ACT Cancer Society - Australian Capital
 Territory
 Federation of NSW Police Citizens Youth Club
 (Shoalhaven) - Nowra

Endura Special School - Leura
Youth Adventure Holidays Inc. - Canberra
Wollongong Shepherd Centre - Wollongong

Masonic Youth Art Awards.

On Friday 20 March 1992 the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Johnson, presented the Masonic Youth Art Awards in a ceremony held at the NSW Board of Studies.

These awards, given annually, are based upon performance by New South Wales students in the Unit 3 Visual Arts course of the Higher School Certificate of the preceding year. Each year over 11,000 works of art are gathered in two pavilions at the Sydney Showground for the purpose of marking by teams appointed by the Board of Studies.

In the marking of the 1991 Unit 3 course of studies, four students attained equal highest marks. For the purpose of the Masonic Youth Art Awards the Board decided to mark the submitted works of these four students on the basis of 'the most outstanding practical work'. Resulting from this process, the first prize of \$750 was awarded to Kieran McInnes and runners up prizes of \$100 each were made to Amanda Hendriksen, Elvis Podreka and Jamie Boulding.

When presenting the cheques, Most Wor Bro Ronald L.H. Johnson said:

'The Freemasons of New South Wales were proud to reward excellence and to provide encouragement to talented young people to further develop their education and skills so that the community at large would become the ultimate beneficiary.'

The Freemasons of NSW World Choir Award.

The 1992 award for choral excellence at the City of Sydney Eisteddfod was won by the Chur Kolnisher Choir of Bonn, Germany. They were presented with a cheque for \$1,000.

The Circus Comes to Town.

Lodge Thespian No. 256, the theatrical Lodge of Australia, in conjunction with Ashtons, Australia's oldest circus, presented a special showing for sick children on Friday 21 August 1992 at the Children's Hospital, Camperdown.

Over sixty children packed the Starlight Room at the hospital and smiles and laughter were the order of the day. Little faces were filled with wonder and delight as act after act went through their paces, tumbling, juggling and clowning as only circus performers can. Very Wor Bro Dee Donovan acted as Ringmaster for the day assisted by Right Wor Bro Gordon Sharp and Very Wor Bro William (Bill) Carney.

Bros Douglas and Mervyn Ashton, both long standing members of Lodge Thespian, were responsible for organizing the very first outdoor Telethon held at the Children's Hospital. Over the years the Ashtons have quietly raised considerable amounts of monies for various charities.

They also continued his tradition when Lodge Thespian, in conjunction with Ashtons Circus, held a special Gala Night on 2 September 1992 at North Sydney in the presence of the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Noel Dunn and Mrs Dunn from which \$5,000 was raised and presented to the Director of Public Relations of The Children's Hospital, Dr Mark Franklin.

A cheque for \$4,772.50 for the replacement or x-ray equipment at the Mona Vale Hospital was presented to Dr Mark Mackertich, the Executive Director, at the conclusion of Ashtons Circus opening night at Narrabeen on 14 October 1992 by Very Wor Bro William (Bill) Bate, DGIW, on behalf of the No. 15 District Masonic Association which took advantage of Ashton's generosity by ensuring that there was a full house on the opening night.

Freemasonry in Action - Help for the Bushfire Effort.

The Sutherland Masonic Centre was opened on Sunday morning 9 January 1994 by Lodge Gynea No. 796 following the initiative of Wor Bro Ronald Swattridge to assist the need for exhausted fire-fighters returning to the Sutherland Fire Station, which had been created as the command post for the control of operations within the area only one hour before.

Members of the Lodge and their wives were serving refreshments and food within 20 minutes of receiving the call. Some 300 bread rolls with a variety of fillings, sandwiches and cool drinks were sent out to those fire-fighters who could not return for rest.

Hot and cool drinks and a variety of food was served to many fire-fighters in the hall during the day, plus hot dinners and barbecue meals were served into the night. Several fire-fighters seized the opportunity to catch up on some well deserved rest on mattresses made available in the hall.

The brethren and ladies were overwhelmed by the generosity of the community and local retailers

in donating more than sufficient food for this worthy cause.

Around 10.00 pm the Commanding Fire Officer advised that operations would be winding down and offered grateful thanks to all the brethren and ladies for what he described as a wonderful effort. All remaining food and refreshments were then transferred into the Fire Station for those returning from the fires during the night.

A weary bunch of brethren and ladies retired to their homes satisfied that they had effectively spent the last 11 hours communicating Freemasonry and sharing the Craft.

On Wednesday 12 January 1994 at the regular meeting of the Lodge it was made known that the son of a Lodge member had lost all possessions in the fires. The members contributed an amount over \$500.00 during the evening, to assist the son.

Bushfires - The NSW Freemasons' Disaster Relief Fund.

- A pledge of over \$10,000 was received from The United Grand Lodge of Queensland as well as significant contributions from other Constitutions.
- The Freemasons' Disaster Relief Fund received only one petition for relief of a Masonically related family to whom a substantial grant was made.
- Considering further our responsibilities to the community at large, the Management Committee of the Disaster Relief Fund decided:

- i To make donations of \$5,000 each to the widows of fire-fighters killed during the fires.
- ii To target to donate at least \$3,000 to one or more of the civic appeals established as a response to the bushfires.
- The Masters' and Wardens' Association of Newcastle Districts made a donation of \$3,000 from its North East Relief Fund to assist Charmhaven Lions Club with its undertaking to feed local and interstate fire-fighters who were fighting fires in the Charmhaven area.

Sports Stars' Night.

On 4 November 1994, the Banquet Hall at the Sydney Masonic Centre was packed to enjoy a night with a number of well-known star performers in various sports. Among them were Shelley Taylor-Smith, Steve Mortimer and Des Renford. The proceeds augmented the Grand Master's Disaster Relief Fund which had been heavily drawn upon during recent bushfires and drought.

Disaster Relief.

The Grand Master's Disaster Relief Fund continued to provide assistance to those in need as a result of bushfire and flood.

From 1 January 1994 to 26 July 1995, the Fund provided \$75,000 for bushfire relief and \$30,000 to ten claimants for drought relief.

Among many donations from individuals, Lodges and interstate Grand Lodges was a \$5,000 donation from the NSW Centenary Ensemble which

had resulted from sales of their recording *Hymns of Praise*.

Charity Ball.

Almost \$100,000 was added to the NSW Freemason's Disaster Relief Fund as a result of the efforts by the Charity Princesses, the Charity Prince and their supporters.

The Princesses and the Prince, accompanied by their respective District Grand Inspectors of Workings, were received at the Ball held on 25 May 1996 in the Sydney Masonic Centre, by the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Noel Dunn and his wife Faye.

Princess Mrs Hilda Hepburn won trip the P&O for two on the *Fairstar* as first prize and Princess Miss Melissa Thomas won the second prize of a seven day trip to the *Rocks Resort* in Currumbin.

Caring Officer Reports.

In his Report to the September 1996 Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, the Chairman of the Board of Benevolence, Right Wor Bro Cecil P. Ainsworth, PJGW, advised that:

The Board urges Caring Officers not to specify personal details of a brother's illness when giving reports in open Lodge.

The problem may be of a sensitive nature to those concerned and it is only necessary to report that the person is ill. The Board trusts that all Caring Officers will note this point.

NSW Masons Support Surf Lifesaving Excellence.

The Central Coast Branch of Surf Life Saving NSW accepted awards at the inaugural Surf Lifesaving Awards of Excellence sponsored by NSW Masons on Saturday night, 3 May 1997, at the Coogee Holiday Inn.

The Deputy Grand Master, Right Wor Bro George Curry, presented the award to the Central Coast branch as 'Branch of the Year' after a successful 1996 season.

Surf Life Saving New South Wales recognised the United Grand Lodge of NSW and the ACT with a special presentation for its support of the recognition awards.

Mr Paul Smith, Chief Executive Officer Surf Life Saving NSW said:

'Our partnership with NSW Masons benefits the most important person - the volunteer'

He added,

'volunteers are the life blood of the community and the support from the NSW Masons has allowed us to recognise them on such a special night'.

Motion to Enable the Board of Benevolence to Make Loans.

At the March 1997 Quarterly Communication, Grand Lodge adopted the motion:

That this Grand Lodge resolves to insert a new Regulation 9.1.18 into the Book of Constitutions as follows:

Notwithstanding anything contained elsewhere in these Regulations, the Board in addition to or in lieu of making any grant to a petitioner may in its sole discretion lend with or without interest to such petitioner any sum or sums from the Fund of Benevolence not exceeding the schedule for such loans set by the Grand Lodge on such conditions and for such period or periods and on such security as the Board in its sole discretion may deem fit and proper in all the circumstances of the case.

Establishment of an Association with the Surf Lifesaving Association.

The Year 2000 Committee, under the Chairmanship of Right Wor Bro George Curry, the Deputy Grand Master, actively examining a number of options which were able to provide a promotional springboard for Freemasonry in the years leading up to and beyond 2000.

The Committee were attracted to the Surf Life Saving Association because of its highly valuable community service. Its membership,

being largely, but not exclusively male, also has a solid networking base for many of our Lodges who would take the opportunity to introduce worthy men into the ranks of Freemasonry.

A comprehensive programme was negotiated whereby Freemasonry was a major sponsor of the Surf Life Saving Association over a number of years. The programme embraced all parts of the State, for rescue techniques were equally applicable in inland areas as they were on the coast or in suburban swimming pools.

The Committee was greatly heartened by the warmth of the welcome which was given to us by the Surf Life Saving Association. Indeed, there was every confidence that we would develop our participation with them as a major building block in our strategy of demonstrating the relevance of Freemasonry to everyday modern life.

Reaching Out Into the Community - Sponsorships.

Freemasonry in New South Wales extended its community outreach with a programme of important sponsorships.

In addition to the sponsorship of the Surf Life Saving Association, more recently, the Year 2000 Committee announced sponsorship of the Keep Australia Beautiful Council's Community Environment Project which was a component of the Tidy Towns Programme.

Tidy Towns is more than a beauty contest. It is the largest practical environment programme serving regional New South Wales. Some 380 to 400 towns in New South Wales participate in this programme each year.

The programme unites local government, business, media and the community in a single objective - the improvement of the local environment.

Introduction of the Grand Charity.

At the September 1997 Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, the Grand Treasurer, Right Wor Bro John Pearson, PDGM moved that a new Regulation be added to the Book of Constitutions to establish the Grand Charity.

In doing so, the Grand Treasurer said:

'May I repeat the point which I emphasised near the start of this presentation; I state unequivocally and emphatically that the proposal before you is not in any sense concerned with 'territorial ambitions'. As English experience shows, the creation of a Grand Charity does not require pre-existing Masonic charities to be absorbed. Rather they can and should carry on their normal operations and they can themselves become recipients from the Grand Charity's fund raising activities.'

The motion was carried by the members of Grand Lodge.

It was further stated that the Grand Charity Fund would be controlled and administered by the Executive Council and would conduct appeals and receive moneys and other assets from any source; make donations to any organizations, person or persons for the purpose of relieving distress or the furtherance of any other charitable object. Subject to clarification of the legal position, the net proceeds from the sale of the Masonic Hospital and the land at

Baulkham Hills will be lent to the Grand Charity Fund interest free at the pleasure of Grand Lodge. Only the interest earned from any such loan would be applied by the Fund without the approval of the Grand Lodge.

Bushfire Relief.

At the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge held on 10 December 1997, the Grand Master announced a grant of \$5,000 to each of the three widows of those men who had lost their lives fighting the fires.

Flood Relief.

A donation of \$10,000 was made to the Grand Lodge of South Australia for the Katherine, Northern Territory, flood relief appeal to be applied to the re-building of the Masonic Hall should insurance not fully cover the cost.



Presentation of ACT Flag 1999
 Very Wor Bros Hugh Davies, Jerry Cole, Most Wor Bro Revd
 Raymond C Green



Sailability ACT - Sailing for the disabled
 1999

B. THE GRAND CHARITY.

The NSW Freemasons' Grand Charity Fund was established in June 1998 and the Grand Charity Board was appointed in June 1999 to advance the work of the Grand Charity which was based on the very successful model adopted by The United Grand Lodge of England.

Fund Raising and Disbursement.

The Grand Charity Board decided that:

The Grand Charity would raise funds from individual Freemasons, Lodges, members of the public and corporations so as to enable it to fulfil its purpose as the central grant-giving charity of all Freemasons in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

The grants would be made to both Masonic and non-Masonic charities.

In this last area, the Grand Charity would make grants, very often in an 'enabling role' principally to organizations and or charities in support of youth, general welfare and medical research.

Legal Status.

The Grand Charity, the umbrella organization through which Grand Lodge will channel community giving in NSW and the ACT, was endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office and granted fund raising status by the NSW Office of Charities and the relevant authority in the ACT. What this meant was that the Grand Charity was 'licensed' to operate under the new taxation regime.

Caring Officer Seminar at Canberra.

A Seminar for Caring Officers was held at the Canberra Masonic Centre on 29 August 1998.

Surf Life Saving.

A three-year programme of support for Surf Life Saving NSW from 1998 to 2000 was agreed and NSW Masons assisted with:

- NSW Masons Pool Rescue Championships
- NSW Masons Surf Life Saving Awards of Excellence
- NSW Masons Surf Rescue Challenge
- NSW Masons - Sport and Recreation Beach to Bush Education Tours

Disaster Relief.

At the September 1998 Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, the Executive Council advised that the United Grand Lodge of Queensland had launched a Papua New Guinea appeal and the Executive Council resolved to donate \$5,000 from the NSW Freemasons' Disaster Relief Fund. The NSW Fund received donations from Lodges and brethren for onward sending to the United Grand Lodge of Queensland's appeal. The Executive Council also resolved to support the Masons of the Illawarra who established an appeal in aid of the victims of the Wollongong floods.

Keep Australia Beautiful - 1999 Programme of Sponsorship by NSW Masons.

A report on this Programme advised:

The Keep Australia Beautiful Council (KABC) conducts the Tidy Towns Awards, a practical environmental programme in which about 150

cities, towns, villages and schools throughout this State participate annually. These awards are about community involvement and community pride. They inspire a great diversity of groups to make a genuine and lasting contribution to their area and evidence of their activities abounds for travellers to observe. Until this year the sponsorship by NSW Masons was of a general nature, but discussions with KABC have led to a refinement of this and the launching of the 1999 programme included a specific programme sponsored by Masons, to be known as the outstanding Individual Achievement Category.

This new award was announced at the launching of the 1999 Tidy Towns programme in Tamworth on 5 February by Right Wor Bro George James, AM, PAGM. The outstanding Individual Achievement category was introduced to recognise the achievements of dedicated individuals who demonstrated outstanding environmental care and long-term commitment to the Tidy Towns Programme. Any individual was eligible to be nominated for this category if:

- They had demonstrated dedication and commitment to Tidy Towns projects.
- They were able to generate increased community support and commitment, either planned or simply lead by example.
- They were involved in raising substantial funds for Tidy Towns projects.
- They were (or had been) responsible for a significant Tidy Towns project.
- They actively sought new projects or general ideas.
- They were committed to the on-going maintenance of previous projects.

The Tidy Towns programme afforded a valuable opportunity for Masons to demonstrate their commitment to a better community. This was

achieved either by the activities of Lodges as units, or by the participation of individuals in the activities of other groups. It provided a practical opportunity to **'CELEBRATE THE CRAFT AND SERVE THE COMMUNITY.'**

Masonic Funeral Tribute.

With the approval of the Executive Council, the Board of Benevolence began to implement an extension of the Caring Officers' Scheme in December 1998. This involved the training of experienced Masons, working in pairs, to enable them to effectively present Masonic Tributes or Remembrance Services for brethren from country or overseas areas who had travelled to Sydney and died whilst away from home. The Tributes would only be given, subject to a request from the next of kin and the brother's Lodge.

Gift to Sailability ACT.

On Tuesday 28 September 1999 the Canberra Masonic Centre demonstrated the practical side of Freemasonry by donating twelve boats and equipment to the value of \$23,000 to Sailability ACT. Wor Bro Thomas Long, Chairman of the Canberra Masonic Centre, transferred the boats and equipment by 'Deed of Gift' which was received on behalf of Sailability ACT by Michelle Lees who suffers from severe cerebral palsy.

Those present to witness the transfer included the Governor-General, His Excellency Sir William Deane, representatives of the Canberra Masonic fraternity, Sailability ACT, members of the local sailing fraternity and the general public.

Sailability, which is a non-profit organization began in Australia in 1991 as 'sailing for the disabled' and was raised in its present form in the ACT in February 1998.

Gift from The Hills District Masonic Hall Co Pty Ltd.

Under an agreement arranged when the Castle Hill Masonic Centre was re-developed nearly twenty years ago, The Hills District Masonic Hall Co Pty Ltd during 1999 made a donation of \$25,000 to the NSW Freemasons' Grand Charity Fund.

This donation represented half of the estimated pre-tax profit of the company for the year ended 30 June 1999, with donations now amounting to \$75,000 since the Centre paid off its debts.

Australian Pool Rescue Championships.

Australia's finest surf lifesavers were striving for medals as well as the opportunity to impress national selectors when they competed in the 1999 Australian Pool Rescue Championships sponsored by the NSW Masons as part of the Year 2000 Programme.

The event was conducted by Surf Life Saving NSW on 23-24 October 1999 at the Sydney International Aquatic Centre, Homebush Bay, the venue for the 2000 Olympics. Club teams and individuals both male and female, contested events in Open, Under 18, Under 16 categories.

Teams from NSW came from as far north as Kingscliff and Tathra in the south. There were also teams competing from around Australia.

Beach to Bush Surf Education Tour.

These tours were originally initiated as a result of research conducted by Surf Lifesaving, which highlighted 50% of people rescued from the surf lived more than 50 km from the beach. This was reinforced in the findings from the Premier's Taskforce into water safety.

The 1999 'Beach to Bush' tour was the third year the NSW Masons had generously supported this unique programme through their Year 2000 fund. Over 16,500 school students had benefited from the tours during the past two years. One of the highlights of the tours was the visit to schools with fewer than 20 students. Because of the remoteness of these schools, the students were always extremely enthusiastic and interested in learning about surf safety.

The areas visited in 1999 included:

- Glen Innes, Inverell, Guyra, Armidale and their surrounding areas in north-west NSW;
- Lake Cargelligo, Ungarie, West Wyalong, Cowra, Blayney, Orange, Bathurst and Oberon in the central west;
- Corowa, Oaklands, Brocklesby, Burranbutt, Finley, Tocumwal, Berrigan, Barooga, Mulwala and surrounding areas in the south-west.

The programme was coordinated by Surf Life Saving NSW Lifesaving Development Officers who provided lectures and resource material. Each lecture was approximately 45 minutes and included a video presentation, discussion of

the ten surf safety tips, discussion of rescue equipment used and revision of learning outcomes.

There was a Masonic Lodge in many of the towns on the tour.

Tidy Towns Awards at Byrock.

On Friday, 15 October 1999, the population of Byrock in the north-west of NSW, 680 km from Sydney and 100 km from Bourke exploded from a total of twenty-five to a massive 500 fun-loving supporters of the Tidy Towns Programme run by the Keep Australia Beautiful Council. They came from the length and breadth of NSW to meet old friends and to make new ones, Byrock being the overall winner in the 1998 Tidy Towns Competition for NSW and hence the host for the 1999 Awards Weekend.

The NSW Masons, who were sponsors of the Outstanding Individual Achievement Award, were represented by Right Wor Bro Ken Mole, Regional Grand Counsellor of Region No. 7, Orana, and Very Wor Bro Bill Morley, DGIW of District No. 80.

Year 2000 Fund Expenditure Allocation.

The Executive Council re-affirmed that the principal expenditures from the Year 2000 Fund would continue to be:

- Sponsorships of selected programmes of Surf Life Saving New South Wales.
- Sponsorship of one award in the Tidy Towns Programme of the Keep Australia Beautiful Council.

- Selected sporting competitions (golf, bowls, darts, snooker) for Masons, families and friends.

Hospital Visitations.

During the past 12 months advice was received of 17 country brethren being admitted to Sydney hospitals. It was pleasing for the Board of Benevolence to acknowledge the official visitors who attended to the needs of these brethren. It was brought to the notice of the Board of Benevolence that some brethren had not received any visitors. Caring Officers of country Lodges were reminded that the Board could only arrange visits if it was notified.

Masonic Tributes.

In May 2000 the Board of Benevolence sought volunteers to act as Worshipful Master and Director of Ceremonies to conduct Masonic Tributes in Sydney for interstate or overseas visitors when requested. A training programme was held in June 2000 and consisted of:

- i Principles of speaking and reading in public.
- ii Hands-on practice workshop.
- iii Practice sessions recorded and played back.

With the Olympic Games to be held in Sydney during September 2000 the Board was prepared, should a request for a Tribute arise.

The NSW Masonic Centenary Ensemble Supports CareFlight.

The Presbyterian Church at Penshurst was the location of a fine presentation by the Ensemble

on Sunday, 9 July 2000. This event was organized by the Presbyterian Women's Association to support CareFlight.

Foundation Day Dinner 2000.

Three hundred brethren and ladies gathered at the Masonic Centre Sydney on Monday 24 July 2000 for the Foundation Day Dinner to witness the presentation of the Year 2000 Grand Master's Awards.

The Grand Master, Most Wor Bro George Curry presented Awards of Excellence to Very Wor Bro Colin Francis, PDGDC of Lodge Yeoval Cumnock No. 810 and to Mrs Betty Pedersen, OAM, wife of Bro Alex Pedersen of Lodge Stanmore No. 366, for outstanding contributions in the field of community service.

The Grand Master also presented the Board of Youth Support's Young Achiever of the Year Award to Luke Givney from the New England region. Luke came from a somewhat disadvantaged background and it was really heartening to hear what constructive efforts he had made to bring his life together and make a real contribution to the welfare of others, particularly the aged.

Later, during the Foundation Day Dinner, Most Wor Bro Ronald L H Johnson, AM, Past Grand Master, as Chairman of the Grand Charity Board announced the recipient of the Year 2000 major grant from the Grand Charity Fund. This grant of \$50,000 went to help cancer research at the New Children's Hospital, Westmead. There were also 23 other grants around the State totalling \$168,000.

The Grand Charity had started to play a very positive role in welding a bond between Freemasonry and the community at large.

The final selection of the major award was made by a committee comprising two members of the Board of Youth Support, the Communications Manager, Bro Norris Smith, and Ms Robyn Cooper of Burnside and Mr Craig Wilson of Centre Care Community Services.

Keep Australia Beautiful Council of NSW Awards.

The Keep Australia Beautiful Council of NSW Awards Dinner for Metro Pride was held on 9 November 2000 at Mandalay Convention Centre Lane Cove.

The Grand Secretary, Right Wor Bro Ian McCulloch and Right Wor Bro George James, AM, represented the Year 2000 Committee at the dinner. The Committee sponsored the Environmental Education Category in the Metro Pride Awards. This was a popular category and attracted a large number of entries. The standard was so high that two commendations were presented.

Right Wor Bro George James presented the Awards to Kogarah Council, the winner of the Environmental Education Category. The Council's project was New Domestic Waste Service. The runner-up was Georges River Combined Councils Committee with the Riverkeeper Project. Highly Commended were Taronga Zoo - Project Frog Focus Botany, and Warringah Council - Community Watchdog Project.

Tidy Towns Awards.

The Tidy Town Awards presentations were held in Tamworth over the weekend 24-26 November 2000.

The New South Wales Masons' Year 2000 Committee sponsored the Outstanding Individual Achievement Awards in the Tidy Towns programme. Right Wor Bro George James, AM, representing the year 2000 committee presented these awards.

2001 NSW Masons Surf Rescue Challenge - 'Competition Developing the Skills of our Lifesavers'.

Coogee Beach was the venue for the NSW Masons' Surf Rescue Challenge final rounds held on Sunday 28 January 2001. This event was a team-based rescue designed to show the strength of patrolling lifesavers in a 'first past the post' event.

The NSW Masons' Surf Rescue Challenge included swims, patient swims, run-swim-runs with board rescues, IRB (inflatable Rescue Boat) assembly, IRB carry, IRB rescues, and was suitable for all patrolling members developing lifesaving skills.

Choosing a Name.

At the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge held on 13 June 2001 the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Curry said:

'I think you would agree, that our in-house working title of "Grand Charity" may fail to describe the benefits we bring to our community, so we are offering all Masons the opportunity to name the charity through a competition which will open at the end of June 2001. All Masons, in a mailing which will accompany their August Lodge Notices, will receive an invitation to think about and

submit a name for our charity. A panel selected by the marketing sub-committee will review nominations received by the end of that month. The top five suggestions will be published in *The NSW Freemason*. We will all then have the chance to vote for the name we prefer, the result of which will be announced in the December issue of the magazine. As an added incentive, the person who submits the name chosen will receive a \$2,500 "shopping spree" at David Jones Limited.'

Voting for the preferred option from the TOP FIVE names for the Grand Charity closed 31 October. There were 940 entrants who together submitted 1,401 potential names for the Charity.

The choice was MASONICARE.

Twenty one competition entrants submitted MASONICARE.

The Grand Master selected the final 'What's in a Name' competition winner through a public draw held at the Grand Lodge Communication in Armidale on 8 December 2001.

From the Bush to the Beaches.

Through the Grand Charity, Masons of NSW and the ACT continued their involvement with Surf Life Saving New South Wales, a partnership which gave the opportunity to work with both current and future champions.

The Grand Charity supported a number of initiatives which included:

- i The NSW and ACT Masons' Lifesaver Relay.
- ii NSW and ACT Masons' Awards of Excellence.

These awards recognised:

- Athlete of the Year
- Junior Athlete of the Year
- Administrator of the Year
- Coach of the Year
- Team of the Year
- Country Athlete of the Year
- Masters' Athlete of the Year
- Examiner of the Year
- Competition Official of the Year
- Training Officer of the Year
- Outstanding Media Service to Surf Life Saving
- Event of the Year
- Country Event of the Year, and
- Branch of the Year
- NSW and ACT Masons - NSW Sport and Recreation Beach to Bush Surf Education Tour.
- NSW and ACT Masons Leadership Development Camp.

Recipients of the NSW and ACT Masons 2001 Surf Life Saving Awards of Excellence were announced at a gala dinner held at the Sydney Masonic Centre on Saturday, 4 May 2002.

Christmas 2001 Bushfires.

The Grand Charity donated \$50,000 from the New South Wales Freemasons' Disaster Relief Fund to the Rural Fire Service. The amount included \$1,485 from the brethren of the Grand Lodge of Tasmania, \$1,000 from the Grand Lodge of Greece and \$10,000 from the Queensland Masons Fund of Benevolence.

The Chairman of the Grand Charity, Most Wor Bro Ronald L H Johnson, AM, Past Grand Master, the Grand Master and the Superintendent of the Rural Fire Service have agreed that the money was to be used to purchase a 14-seater Toyota commuter bus which would be suitably sign-written as a donation from the Masons of NSW and the ACT.

The Grand Master made special mention of the volunteer fire fighters, many of whom worked over the entire Christmas period to ensure the community received the best possible protection.

Sailors With Disabilities.

When the sponsor for the past four years of the Access Dinghy Australian Championships withdrew its support in mid-last December 2001, the regatta to be held in early March, looked to be in doubt. The reaction, at a time when most potential sponsors are closing up shop for the Christmas New Year period, bordered on panic. The annual regatta held in Canberra for the past five years, is a celebration of the ability of sailors with various disabilities to compete with sailors who have no disability.

Another sponsor was needed and in a hurry.

Freemasons stepped into the role as the major sponsor with a grant of some \$4,000 to supplement that provided by the Snowy Mountain Engineering Corporation (SMEC), the secondary sponsor. The generosity of the NSW and ACT Masons coordinated by Right Wor Bro Ron Neate, PJGW, Regional Grand Counsellor for Region South No. 10, allowed the 6th Australian Access Dinghy Championships to take place at Lake Tuggeranong in the National Capital on the

weekend 2 and 3 March 2002. The Square and Compasses acknowledging the support from the Craft, took pride of place on the bow of each boat, on regatta shirts, drink bottles, correspondence, regatta signs and even on the course marker buoys.

There were 147 sailors competing in seven divisions, sailing 75 'pooled' Access Dinghies. Competitors were from 'Sailability' and 'Sailing for Everyone' clubs in Queensland, NSW, ACT and Victoria with strong contingents from Japan, Singapore and Canada. For the first time sailing teams were sent by the Anson Street Special School in Orange and the Ewing School for the Deaf in Ballarat.

MasoniCare Pledge Programme.

At the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge held on 12 June 2002, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro George Curry said:

'Brethren, it is with great pride tonight that I announce the launching of the 'MasoniCare Pledge Programme', a programme that will enable all of us to make a significant contribution to the success of our Grand Charity activities.

Our key focus of Freemasonry is community service. It's something we're very good at, and just one of the aspects of the Craft of which we can be proud.

During 2002 we will, through our Grand Charity, masoniCare, give away over \$350,000 and, while this is a nice round figure, we're keen to make it even greater in 2003.

Which means masoniCare needs to raise money.

And one way in which we can all become involved is by becoming a masoniCare supporter. For as little as \$15 a month or \$180 a year you can be part of the team that funds a diverse range of programmes and projects. Things like medical teams who are fighting to find the cause of childhood leukaemia; fostering our current and future surf lifesavers; providing literacy programmes for adults and children or funding a crisis counsellor. Together, we can help build facilities to give disabled children the chance to ride a horse or provide help for the family of a cancer patient.

Alone, you and I, with all the best will in the world, can't support all these activities, but together, we can get behind specialist organizations and make a real difference and then we can share in the results.

Supporters of masoniCare will be encouraged to attend functions and events where grants are made so you can meet beneficiaries. Organizations receiving money will also provide us with updates on the progress of the project or programme we have funded.

Your support is critical to the success of our Grand Charity. You will soon receive a masoniCare supporter's package through the mail. I encourage you to join us and look forward to welcoming you as a pledge member of masoniCare.

By this means, the NSW Freemasons' Grand Charity Fund received significant additional capital and continued to expand its work into the future in the name of Freemasonry in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.



Right Wor Bro Noel F Dunn - Official opening of
New Operating Theatre - NSW Masonic Hospital 1991



Masonic Auxiliary - Careflight 2001

CHAPTER VIII

THE NEW SOUTH WALES MASONIC HOSPITAL
AND AUXILIARIES

A. THE HOSPITAL

The Masonic Hospital, which was situated in park-like grounds in Ashfield, 9 km from the Sydney City centre, provided medical service to the community for many years. The property, purchased in two sections, originally consisted of two stately homes, one of which was being used at the time of purchase by the Health Commission for pre-natal care.

A committee was established in 1929 to consider the construction of a Hospital to provide facilities for Masons and their families. The Hospital was completed and opened in June 1931, and the first patients were admitted in July of that year.

In 1935 it was decided that the Hospital facilities could be further utilised by extending them to the community at large.

The Hospital landscaped grounds and gardens were a pleasant and peaceful setting in which patients could convalesce.

In 1969, a five stage programme of expansion was begun and since that time the Hospital continued to expand and modernise to keep pace with the ever-increasing technological and medical requirements of a modern private hospital.

The NSW Masonic Hospital, which received no Government financial support, maintained a high standard of excellence in patient care and

attention to detail to which those who came to the facility were entitled to receive during their illness.

Since its inception, the Hospital was governed by a Board of Directors elected by Grand Lodge with the Grand Master as Chairman.

Building and Refurbishment Programme.

In the Report of the Board of Directors to the December 1988 Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Johnson, in regard to the refurbishment and building programme said:

'Much favourable comment has been received from patients, visitors, doctors and staff regarding this most worthwhile project. With the majority of the work now complete, all that remains is the renovation of the two Private Suites on A floor, the painting of A floor West and the replacement of carpet in A, B & C floor corridors with fire rated material. All this should be accomplished by mid-1989.

In relation to the Suites, the balconies will also be enlarged and enclosed and both Suites air conditioned. It is also intended to provide hotel/motel style service facilities such as a small refrigerator, tea and coffee making facilities, television etc. and these will be available to those patients who request and are willing to pay for 'Executive' style accommodation whilst in the Hospital.

It should also be noted that much of the cost to achieve the refurbishment has been met by donations from Lodges, Chapters, Masonic Associations, individual Freemasons and our Auxiliary.

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A facility long required by the Hospital has now been commissioned with the recent opening of our new Physiotherapy Department. This is located in Level One adjacent to the Radiography Department and includes a surgical appliance store, plaster room, treatment room and discussion interview area.

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It is obvious that a modern and progressive Hospital must continually assess and upgrade its equipment, furniture and plant. To this end the following expenditure occurred on new items during the Quarter.'

Drug Medication Trolley				
\$2,887.00				
Image Intensifier				
168,000.00	Recovery Monitors			
16,510.00				
	Camera	Attachment	-	Operating
Microscope	2,670.00			
Oxygen Monitors				
3,429.00				
Physiotherapy Furniture				
1,303.00				
Oximeters				
18,020.00				
Camera Monitor - Operating Microscope				
1,745.00				
Continuous Passive Movement Machine				
4,744.00				
Two Recovery Trolleys				
4,435.00				

During 1988, expenditure on capital works exceeded \$1.23 million and an additional \$182,000 was spent on repairs and maintenance.

Accreditation.

A decision of major importance to the Hospital and its future was taken during the year when it was resolved to seek an Accreditation Survey for the Hospital from the Australian Council on Health Care Standards.

The Board's objective was twofold in applying for such a survey.

Firstly, it was recognised throughout the hospital and health care industry that all providers of health care were required to meet and conform with an acceptable set of standards. Accreditation with the Australian Council on Health Care Standards meant that the Hospital would meet standards accepted throughout the industry.

Secondly, with the recent formation of the Private Hospitals Association of NSW, criteria for membership was that a Hospital had either been accredited or was seeking accreditation within a two-year period of application. Such criteria is unique to our Association and demonstrates the professionalism and desire for excellence within the industry.

Tribute to the Late Very Wor Bro Jack West.

Lodge Progress No. 135 paid a fitting tribute to its former Secretary, Very Wor Bro Jack West, when a plaque in his memory, was jointly unveiled by the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Ron Johnson and Jack's widow, Mrs Lillian West, at the Masonic Hospital on Sunday 16 April 1989.

The occasion fulfilled the wishes of the Immediate Past Master of Lodge Progress, Wor Bro Hugh Mackrell, who successfully sought support of the members of the Lodge for \$3,600

to be donated to refurbish one of the wards of the Hospital.

The Grand Master assisted by the Lodge's Master, Very Wor Bro Viv Anderson, and Wor Bro Hugh Mackrell, referred to the long term in office of Jack West as Secretary of Lodge Progress, which spanned 27 years, until November 1986. He was initiated into Lodge Progress on 5 January 1942 and served as its Worshipful Master in 1953-54. In 1975 the rank of Past Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies was conferred upon him, and in 1985, the rank of Past District Grand Inspector of Workings was conferred.

Members of the Board of Directors 1988-89.

Most Wor Bro Ronald L.H. Johnson, Grand Master, Chairman
 Right Wor Bro Noel F. Dunn, Deputy Grand Master, Deputy Chairman
 Most Wor Bro Harry R. Maas, Past Grand Master
 Most Wor Bro Professor Roy A. Woodman, LL.M., Past Grand Master
 Most Wor Bro Eric A. Primrose, Past Grand Master
 Right Wor Bro Reginald J. Barrington, Past Deputy Grand Master, Grand Treasurer
 Right Wor Bro Raymond G. Connon, Past Assistant Grand Master, Grand Secretary
 Right Wor Bro Dr Norman F. Brown, Past Junior Grand Warden
 Very Wor Bro Dr Graham M. Piper, Past District Grand Inspector of Workings
 Wor Bro Nicholas Tigg
 Bro Dr Leslie C. Dunlop, Past Grand Director of Music
 Bro Dr Donald M. Sheldon, Past Grand Director of Music
 Mr Barry L. Jones, AIMM, LHA, Cert. HA, A/Dip HA, JP, Chief Executive Officer

Approval of Extensions to the Hospital.

At the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge held on 13 December 1989, the Grand Treasurer, Right Wor Bro Reginald J. Barrington, PDGM, moved:

That Grand Lodge approves of extensions to the NSW Masonic Hospital comprising a four Operating Theatre Wing, a twin lift tower, an Obstetrics facility and a Specialists' Medical Unit within the Hospital grounds, in all estimated to cost \$9m, and authorises the Trustees to arrange the necessary borrowing to finance the construction and fit out.

The Grand Treasurer said that he had already presented the proposal to spend some \$9 million on the extensions to the Board of Directors of the Hospital, the Grand Lodge Investment Committee and the Board of General Purposes and had received agreement in each case.

During the past three years an extensive refurbishment and upgrading project was undertaken, preparatory to this proposed major redevelopment. Capital cost of the work was \$2,858,157.00 and completely upgraded the accommodation to first class standards. Re-equipment was also included in the above work as was the upgrading of the buildings' fire protection and detection services.

This submission was the first stage of the conceptual twenty year Master Plan for the redevelopment of the NSW Masonic Hospital which had been presented by the Hospital Board to Grand Lodge in December 1987. That document addressed the perceived needs of the Hospital, firstly to upgrade the existing facilities to modern-day standards and, secondly, to provide a blueprint to enable the Hospital to keep pace

and expand within the evolving private health care industry.

The recommendations submitted addressed the immediate requirements of the Hospital and were designed to dovetail with future development. They satisfied many of the matters raised in the past by the State Health Department, patients, Visiting Medical Officers and local area demand. The future viability of the Hospital would also be enhanced by the expansion of existing available facilities for admission of obstetric patients and the establishment of on-site Specialist Consulting Rooms.

It was noted that the works proposed were thoroughly researched within the Hospital's financial capacity to service the required borrowings. The Hospital Board had gone to extensive lengths to ensure this fact. The Hospital Board firmly believed the upgrading of the present theatre facilities and the expansion of available services were absolutely essential, not only to overcome present shortcomings but for the future viability of the Hospital.

The proposal for Stage I of the development included:

- i Two-level Theatre Block comprising four operating theatres, a ten-bed recovery ward and supporting services, a central sterile supply department, plant room, pathology and pharmacy store.
- ii Conversion of Level 4 West and South Wings into a 26 bed Maternity Unit including the construction of two birthing suites, clean/dirty utility, nursery and

- conversion of two twin-bed wards into four single-bed suites.
- iii Construction of a ten-suite Specialist Consulting Centre on vacant land situated in the south-west corner of the Ashfield property along with a large off street parking area, and
 - iv Construction of a four-level tower containing two lifts, lift foyer and enclosed fire escape on the north face of the existing building.

An analysis of the estimated cost of these proposals was as follows:

Theatre Block	
	\$6,400,000
	Construction time 35 working weeks
	Estimated commencement date January 1990
Obstetric Facilities	
	\$665,000
	Time 22 weeks
	Commencement April 1990
Specialist Consulting Rooms	
	\$800,000
Roadways, Car Parking & Landscaping	
	\$200,000
	Time 26 weeks
	Commencement January 1990
Twin Lift Tower	
	\$600,000
	Time 40 weeks
	Commencement April 1990
Total	
	\$8,665,000

To ensure the Hospital was financially capable to service the proposed borrowings necessary to undertake the proposal, a large accounting firm was commissioned to investigate the current operation of the Hospital and to prepare a

financial feasibility report for the Hospital Board.

The Grand Treasurer went on to say:

'However, I would like to observe that if Freemasonry in New South Wales desires to continue to own and operate the NSW Masonic Hospital, it really has no alternative but to embark on the lines of the plans now submitted.

We have come to the cross-roads; the decision tonight will enable the Craft either to advance with this very important area of its community work or watch during the coming year as it crumbles away and Freemasonry retreats with its tail between its legs, and loses a lot of its proud achievement at Ashfield.'

The Grand Treasurer invited questions from the members of Grand Lodge and, in response, a number of brethren asked questions as follows:

- Whether the security for the proposed loan would be limited to the assets of the NSW Masonic Hospital?
- Whether the consulting accountants had taken into their calculations the possibility of a recession within the period of the project and, if so, how had a recession been defined?
- Whether, in the event of a recession, there would be a flight from health funds thereby reducing the number of potential patients for the Hospital?
- Whether a day surgery unit was envisaged within the Hospital?
- Whether the Hospital would again become a teaching Hospital?

- Whether, as a private hospital, the NSW Masonic Hospital had access to Government purchasing?
- Whether the quotations for building works had sufficient margin for over-runs?

These questions were answered, and the motion was then put and carried.

The decision to approach the Health Department and receive approval for the expansion of Hospital services to encompass obstetrics followed considerable investigation into the viability of this field in the private sector.

The Hospital Board and senior officers long held the conviction that expansion and diversification of services was essential for the long term viability of the Hospital. The completion of the new theatre complex, provision of obstetrics to compliment the existing medical and surgical component, on-site specialist medical officers, and the Hospital's commitment to community service and provision of a facility dedicated to excellence was an important and a integral part of the programme.

58th Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 1989.

The Chairman of the Hospital Board, Most Wor Bro Ronald Johnson reported to the June 1990 Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge:

The year 1989, as in previous years, has again seen a great deal of change within the private healthcare sector. Change now appears to be the norm in both the private and public hospital scenes. This, coupled with a continued decline in occupancy rates

throughout private hospitals across the nation, has further reinforced the Board's commitment to diversify the Hospital's range of services provided and expand the Operating Theatre capacity to accommodate the trend of shorter hospital stays and longer, more complex surgical procedures.

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The Hospital's daily bed average for the year was 38 which is a fall on the previous year and a disappointing result in view of our refurbishing and the efforts undertaken in marketing and public relations. However, as indicated earlier, 1989 has been a most difficult year for private hospitals and it is encouraging to see that, during the last three years when the industry has suffered, our level of occupancy has been static. Admissions for the period were 3,036 which included 821 day cases.

Operations performed totalled 2,494.
 Operating expenditure was \$4,231,637.00 and
 income \$4,504,184.00.

*Retirement of Bro Dr Leslie C. Dunlop, Past
 Grand Director of Music.*

Bro Dr Leslie Dunlop was appointed as an Honorary Medical Officer to the Hospital in 1948. He was appointed Visiting Medical Officer Representative on the Hospital Board of Directors on 25 August 1966 and served the Hospital and the Board with dedication and enthusiasm during his long association until his retirement on 31 December 1989.

Maintenance and Capital Works.

With expenditure on capital works of \$688,703.00 and on repairs and maintenance \$205,490.00 during 1990 the majority of the refurbishment commitment adopted by the Board in 1987 was completed and paved the way for the major works envisaged for 1990-1991.

Major capital expenditure undertaken included air conditioning, administration \$13,668.00, major project \$542,216.00, PABX expansion \$2,756.00, ward equipment and furnishings \$4,664.00, operating theatre equipment \$2,062.00, computerisation \$46,245.00, fire equipment \$129.00, linen centre \$7,713.00, floor coverings wards and administration \$28,019.00, office equipment and furniture \$5,626.00, consultant architect \$1,710.00, Hospital residences floor coverings \$3,871.00, carpet X-ray \$2,871.00, physiotherapy equipment \$2,160.00. All floor coverings were replaced with fire approved material throughout the Hospital.

Renovations to Nos. 14 and 4 William Street, Ashfield, residences owned by the Hospital, were completed.

Masonic Hospital Gains Recognition.

The NSW Masonic Hospital at Ashfield was granted accreditation by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards in 1990. The accreditation followed a detailed three-day inspection of the 108 bed Hospital in June by a five member team of experienced senior health professionals including medical, nursing and administrative surveyors.

The survey team investigated a comprehensive set of professional standards covering all

aspects of the Hospital's function and services.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Masonic Hospital, Mr Barry Jones, said the accreditation of the Hospital was a significant milestone in the Hospital's development.

The staff, medical officers and Hospital Board had put an enormous amount of effort into providing first class care with first class facilities. They also worked hard to ensure standards exceed the high levels set by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards.

This commitment included the completion of a \$3.5 million programme of improvements which completely refurbished and upgraded the Hospital. The Hospital had then begun a major redevelopment programme costing more than \$9 million.

Death of Miss Ruth Wheen.

A link dating back to the inception of the NSW Masonic Hospital in 1931, was severed by the death, following a brief illness, of Miss Ruth Wheen on 18 November 1990.

Ruth's father, the late Wor Bro Edwin Wheen, was the original pharmacist with the Hospital until his death.

Miss Wheen was a graduate of the Hospital. She continued her professional training and secured the Midwifery and Tresillion Diplomas before returning to the Hospital as a ward sister.

Along with her family, she was most active in the Uniting Church. In 1954 she went to Fiji to do missionary service. When that service

was completed she returned to the Masonic Hospital. She filled the positions of Charge Sister, Operating Theatre Supervisor, Deputy Director of Nursing and then, as a

result of her dedication and efficiency, reached the pinnacle of her career in September 1968, when she was appointed Director of Nursing. Miss Wheen served in that capacity for 12 years. During that period she was associated with a number of developments, including a 26 bed wing extension and the provision of 12 additional beds. She retired from the service of the Hospital on 31 March 1980, after periods of service covering some 28 years.

Ruth Wheen had a deep influence on the lives of the nurses with whom she trained and worked at the Hospital over the years. That influence was very evident in what the present Director of Nursing, Mrs Rosemary Quinn, had to say when invited to speak at the funeral service held in the Ashfield Uniting Church on 21 November 1990 at which many of Ruth's former nursing colleagues, fellow parishioners and friends joined with her immediate family to pay their respects:

'I consider it a great honour to speak today, not only for myself but on behalf of the staff and friends at the Masonic Hospital who, although feeling a deep and extreme loss, remember our friend, compatriot and fellow worker - Miss Ruth Wheen. As you are aware, the majority of Ruth's nursing career was devoted to our beloved Hospital and although many years have passed since she retired, we still think of her as being a part of the 'Masonic'.

During my association with the Hospital I was fortunate to meet Ruth Wheen, to have had many a long chat with her and to consider her not only a fellow nurse but a friend. From our conversations about nursing and the Hospital, I was able to learn of her dedication and devotion to the patients and to nursing. Indeed, if any of us today strive to achieve and become just 50% of what she achieved, then we can justifiably say, "We are a Nurse!".

Ruth's guidance and advice to us all will be cherished and she will serve as an inspiration for many years to come. Indeed, the excellent reputation that our Hospital has today can be attributed in no small way to Matron Wheen and her tireless years of hard work to ensure that good patient care was delivered to all at the NSW Masonic Hospital. It is not uncommon for a patient to ask "Do you know Matron Wheen?" and I can say, with pride, "Yes". They still remember that caring touch which was a part of her makeup.'

Ruth Wheen was sadly missed, but not forgotten.

Official Opening of Obstetrics Unit.

The official opening of the Obstetrics Unit at the NSW Masonic Hospital on Sunday, 14 April 1991 marked the accomplishment of part of the Hospital's major development plan.

The new Obstetrics Unit contained two delivery suites, a well-equipped nursery, 20 maternity beds and 10 pre-natal, obstetric and gynaecological beds. It established a much needed private maternity facility for the people of Sydney's inner west.

'State-of-the-art' equipment was provided by the NSW Masonic Hospital Auxiliary which raised \$170,000 specifically for that purpose.

A large marquee was hired to house the 200 people invited to be present at the official opening which was performed by Mrs Shirley Sinclair, wife of the Governor of New South Wales, Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair, AO. Other guests included the Mayor of Ashfield, Alderman Lewis Herman, OAM, and Mrs Herman.

In extending a welcome, the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Most Wor Bro Ronald L.H. Johnson, Grand Master said:

'13 December 1989 is the date on which my Board's approval to undertake a \$9,000,000 redevelopment of the Ashfield Hospital was unanimously approved by The United Grand Lodge of New South Wales. Our proposal consisted of four separate undertakings and was considered to be one of the largest hospital and medical ventures ever undertaken within the Municipality of Ashfield.

It also surpassed in scope and cost any previous undertaking of the Hospital - even larger than the construction of the original concept in 1931. Part of that development was the conversion of the Hospital's Level Four South and West Wings into an Obstetrics Unit consisting of two 'state-of-the-art' delivery suites, babies' nursery and separate units and refurbishment of the 26 bed ward block.'

In opening the Unit, Mrs Sinclair said:

'I was grateful for the chance to have a look through the complex before speaking briefly to you today. What a fine place to go for the most important event in any family's life! I do not think I would be far off the mark to say it must surely be the most wondrous part of any hospital. This ward complex is a

testimony to the sound principles and vision of the NSW Masonic Hospital.

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I understand the maternity units are a 'first' - congratulations! I applaud the sensitivity that has gone into creating this 'state-of-the-art' Obstetrics Unit and refurbished ward. I compliment the Board and the members of the Auxiliary whose energy and dedication have made it happen. I am therefore delighted to declare them officially open.'

The Keynote Address was delivered by the Mayor of Ashfield, Alderman Lewis Herman, OAM. He concluded his address by saying:

'I would like to conclude, ladies and gentlemen and Mrs Sinclair, if I may, by saying to each and every one of the Freemasons of New South Wales, "Thank you very much on behalf of the people of Ashfield. Thank you very much on behalf of the people of New South Wales, because the charitable works that you are doing, have done in the past and will continue to do in the future, will bring great credit to Freemasonry in New South Wales".'

Cheques for \$170,000 and \$4,000 respectively were presented to the Hospital Chairman, Most Wor Bro Ronald Johnson, by the President of the Hospital Auxiliary, Very Wor Bro Garry Harris, and the President of the Ashfield Lions Club, Mr Russ Kenny. In making his presentation Mr Kenny said that the donation was a token of esteem and in recognition of the fact that the Executive Officers of both organizations had been very close over the years. He added that it was intended that the money be used for the purchase of a humidicrib.

To end the proceedings before the Australian National Anthem was sung, the Grand Chaplain, Right Wor Bro Revd. Harold Ctercteko, offered a meaningful prayer of supplication to the Great Architect of the Universe and dedicated the building.

'We solemnly dedicate these buildings to the glory of the Great Architect of the Universe, to the welfare of mankind and to the true expression and relevance of Masonic tenets and principles. And we pray for Your good hand to be upon this institution throughout the years.'

On the first day of its licence from the Department of Health to function as an obstetrics unit, a son - to be named Daniel - was born. The happy parents were Mr Garry and Mrs Gale Lomas of Canterbury.

Funds Required for Further Development.

At the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge held on 12 June 1991, the Grand Treasurer, Right Wor Bro Reg Barrington, PDGM, moved:

That Grand Lodge approves an additional borrowing of \$1m by the NSW Masonic Hospital Board for the extensions to the Hospital currently being undertaken, and authorises the Trustees to arrange the necessary financial facilities.

In supporting the motion, the Grand Treasurer said:

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 'In the three years prior to submission of these improvements the Hospital Board had undertaken an extensive refurbishment and

upgrading project the cost of which was almost \$3m, all provided from its own funds.

At the Quarterly Communication in December 1989 Grand Lodge approved the construction programme and authorised borrowings of \$9m for its completion, the sum which at that time the Hospital Board had been advised would be required.

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The Hospital Board is proud to be able to tell Grand Lodge that they, Grand Lodge, have a Hospital of Excellence.

However, this has come about at great cost - much more than the estimates in December 1989. Despite the fact that the Specialists Medical Centre with an estimated cost of \$800,000, has not been undertaken, the overall cost of the improvements which the Hospital has not been able to meet out of its own cash flow and the contribution of \$176,000 from the Hospital Auxiliary and including net interest which has been capitalised to date of completion, will approximate \$10m in lieu of the \$9m project envisaged in 1989. There is thus a shortfall in available funds of \$1m. There are very many reasons for this state of affairs and it must be realised that very few, if any, major buildings projects are completed within initial budgets.'

The motion was seconded by Most Wor Bro Professor Roy A. Woodman, LL.M., Past Grand Master and, after discussion, was carried.

Maintenance and Capital Works.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors, Most Wor Bro Ron Johnson in the Annual Report presented to the June 1991 Communication of Grand Lodge said:

'Expenditure on capital works during the year was \$4,898,369.00 and on maintenance and repairs \$172,651.00 with the majority of the capital expended on the Hospital's major redevelopment.

A breakdown of capital expenditure is as follows: major development construction \$4,207,745.00, architectural consultants, supervision and statutory charges \$604,750.00, operating theatre equipment, furniture and instrumentation \$56,075.00, general furniture plant and equipment \$15,286.00, educational and training equipment \$3,321.00. telephone system expansion \$1,471.00, gardens and grounds \$510.00, linen centre equipment \$3,445.00, residences \$5,755.00.

Upgrading of the Hospital's thirteen residences has continued throughout 1990 with only two units 20 and 22 Robert Street remaining to complete the upgrade programme commenced in 1987. Work is nearing completion on the restoration of the Hospital's historical residence *Mt. Joy* with internal repainting scheduled for 1991 to finalise this project.

Other work undertaken during the year includes: refurbishment of the area between South and West wings for patient use; removal of old boiler stacks and installation of modified flue; replacement of main Hospital building roof; installation of new bain-marie and food race, kitchen; upgraded emergency call system; upgrade and capsulate all hot water and steam pipes including calorifiers; installation of heat patching equipment in linen centre; upgraded in-house library.'

These figures gave a glimpse into the total owning and operating costs of the Hospital.

New Operating Theatre Complex Officially Opened.

On Sunday 16 June, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Ronald L.H. Johnson, officially opened the new Operating Theatre Complex at the NSW Masonic Hospital in the presence of some 200 people.

The Board's Deputy Chairman, Right Wor Bro Noel F. Dunn, Deputy Grand Master, in extending a welcome to the gathering, said that the four operating theatres and recovery rooms were the second of a four stage development programme approved by The United Grand Lodge of New South Wales in December 1989.

The first stage, the Obstetrics Unit, was completed and officially opened by Mrs Shirley Sinclair, wife of the Governor of New South Wales, on 14 April 1991. This unit, the Deputy Grand Master said, was functioning well and was proving to be most popular with the residents of Ashfield and surrounding districts.

The new Operating Theatres were commissioned on 8 April and had been functioning since that date.

The Keynote Address was given by the Federal President of the Australian Association of Surgeons, Bro Dr. Donald M. Sheldon, MB, BS, FRACS, FRCS, who said that this new theatre complex was the best equipped and most modern facility in New South Wales.

Utilisation of the Hospital.

The Grand Master advised Grand Lodge in September 1991 that, since the commissioning of the theatre and obstetric complex, there had

been a notable increase in the utilisation of the Hospital by doctors and patients.

The Hospital's Medical Appointments Advisory Committee were meeting on a monthly basis to process new applications from medical practitioners and, by June 1991, operations at the Hospital had increased by 18% and bed occupancy by 30% compared to the corresponding figures at the end of June 1990. This was a heartening result and justified the many years of hard work and expense undertaken to reach this point in the Hospital development.

Twin Lift Tower.

Many complimentary comments were received regarding the new lifts and the small disadvantage of location was far outweighed by the convenience, operation and additional patient and visitor lounge areas gained within the building. Apart from one or two minor problems in the commissioning period carried out during early 1992, both lifts performed well above expectation.

Death of Right Wor Bro Silverstone.

Right Wor Bro Jessel Silverstone, PAGM, was initiated in Lodge The Sir Walter Scott No. 123, on 27 February 1936. He became Worshipful Master of the Lodge in 1952 and he was appointed District Grand Inspector of Workings, No. 38 District, for the Term 1960-62. However, Right Wor Bro Silverstone was best known for his superlative contribution as the Honorary Electrical Engineer at the NSW

Masonic Hospital where he contributed countless hours of invaluable work.

The rank of Past Assistant Grand Master was conferred on Right Wor Bro Silverstone in 1986 as a mark of his significant contribution to Freemasonry. In recent years he suffered increasingly from injuries received as a prisoner of war in Germany and he passed away suddenly on 4 May 1992, just a few months after the loss of his beloved wife, Florence.

The death of Right Wor Bro Jessel Silverstone, PAGM, Honorary Consultant, brought to an end an association of some 43 years during which he provided the Hospital with electrical engineering services.

Prior to his death Right Wor Bro Silverstone provided a legacy to the Hospital on behalf of his wife in the form of the 'Tree of Life' which was placed in the foyer of the Obstetrics Ward.

Private Suites.

During the first quarter of 1992, the renovations undertaken by the Hospital's maintenance staff and contract trades staff were completed and the upgraded suites came into use in the second quarter of the year. Each unit had its own ensuite shower and toilet facility, air conditioning, upgraded lighting, lounge/sitting room, refrigerator, tea/coffee making area and new reading table, lounges, and ward furniture.

The recent conversion in May of two wards on Level Three to four single rooms with shared

ensuites brought the total number of private rooms within the Hospital to eighteen.

New Board Member.

Dr Malcolm Swinburn, specialist physician, was appointed as the second Medical Officer Representative to the Board during the year, replacing Very Wor Bro Dr Graham M.H. Piper who had previously become an elected member of the Board.

Finances.

At the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge held on 13 May 1992, the Grand Treasurer, Right Wor Bro Reg Barrington reported:

'The loss of \$446,221 on the operations of the Masonic Hospital, or \$222,787 after crediting specific donations for Hospital equipment and a specific bequest which will provide continuing investment income, was not unexpected given the level of disruption in the first six months of the year with internal and external additions and renovations and the gradual increase in occupancy which brought about large increases in costs which couldn't immediately be covered by income - not to mention an interest charge of \$905,269 and an increase of \$47,766 in depreciation.

Income was greatly assisted by donations from Lodges, Districts and brethren, and the magnificent \$176,000 raised and donated by the Hospital Auxiliary.

The Adjusted Daily Average of patients rose from 37 in 1990 to 48 in 1991 but the greater increase was in the second six months when the additions were complete and the Adjusted Daily Average increased from 40 in 1990 to 53 in 1991. The Adjusted Daily Average for the

first three months in 1992 has been 42, 52 and 62 and after allowing for all costs and expense accruals there was a profit, albeit not quite up to budget expectations.'

First Twins Born at Hospital.

At 4.30 pm on Saturday 8 August 1992 an historic event occurred in the new maternity unit at the Masonic Hospital, Ashfield. The first set of twins were delivered by Bro Dr Bruce Sheldon. Born to Mr and Mrs Ki Su Lee of Summer Hill, a Korean couple, Paul weighing in at 2325 grams was delivered first, his sister Eunice came next, weighing in at 2440 grams. The medical and nursing team were delighted with the success of a trouble-free first experience.

The twins were the 276th and 277th babies to be born at the Hospital, which proved that the maternity unit was a successful venture since opening in April 1991.

Resignation of Chief Executive Officer.

The resignation of Mr Barry L. Jones was accepted on 17 August 1992.

Church Donation.

An important donation of \$200 was received from the Christadelphian Church.

Most Wor Bro Johnson Appointed to Board.

The Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Noel F Dunn, announced on 9 September 1992 that he had appointed Most Wor Bro Ronald Lewis Hale

Johnson, AM, PGM, to the Board of Directors of the Hospital.

New Chief Executive Officer.

On 18 January 1993, Mr Graham W. Brown, a Bachelor of Health Administration, University of New South Wales, took up his appointment as Chief Executive Officer at the NSW Masonic Hospital following the resignation of Mr Barry Jones.

Mr Brown had previously worked:

- with the general public in the public health system at the Balmain and Western Suburbs Hospitals,
- with children in the NSW Society for Crippled Children, and
- with the aged as Chief Executive Officer of the Presbyterian Homes for Aged Persons, Ashfield.

Private Emergency Centre.

At the Regular Communication on 13 March, Grand Lodge approved a proposal by the Hospital Board to establish an Intensive Care/Coronary Care Unit and, in collaboration with a Brisbane medical group, a Private Accident and Emergency Centre.

The Intensive Care Unit was a prerequisite for more advanced forms of surgery and had been planned for the next phase in the Hospital's development. The Emergency Centre, was to be staffed by accident and emergency specialists, and would cater essentially for patients with private medical insurance and

would enable them to receive emergency care under the continuing supervision of their own doctors.

The concept was pioneered by the Brisbane group, Asia Pacific Medical Corporation, at Brisbane's Mater Private Hospital, a hospital of similar size and profile to our own. It had greatly enhanced usage of the Mater, the benefit was that many patients needing admission to a hospital from an emergency centre chose to enter the hospital at which the centre was located.

The project, which was the first such private facility in New South Wales, was very opportune for the Hospital. In a time of economic recession and declining private medical insurance, usage of the Hospital, though improving, had not grown as strongly as was forecast to result from the earlier project to build four new operating theatres, the obstetrics department and a new lift tower.

Public Relations.

On 19 January 1993, The Little Athletics, Mid-South Zone, held a Trans Tasman Tour Invitation Carnival sponsored by the NSW Masonic Hospital which involved 160 children from New Zealand and approximately 500 children from New South Wales. Two senior members of staff attended the carnival and presented the various ribbons and certificates to the winners of the events. The Hospital benefited from a wide variety of media coverage.

Accreditation of the NSW Masonic Hospital as a Hospital of Excellence.

The Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Noel F Dunn, announced at the December 1993 Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge that the NSW Masonic Hospital had recently received advice that its accreditation as a Hospital of Excellence had been approved by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards for a further three year period.

Opening of X-Ray Department.

The opening of a modern refurbished X-ray Department in 1994 allowed the Hospital to undertake full body and head scans (CT Scanner). The Hospital also provided a Mammography Unit and Ultrasound. Both outpatients and inpatients could access the procedures undertaken by the equipment. Members of Lodges who were able to provide a current notice paper were given a maximum \$50 discount on theatre fee shortfall and up to \$25 per day on accommodation fee shortfall. This discount also applied to dependants of Masons and widows of Masons.

Hospital Open Day.

The Board approved the Hospital to hold an 'Open Day' on 4 June 1994. Planning commenced with the objectives for the day:

- To display and demonstrate the services of the Hospital to members of the public and interested invited groups.
- To provide information on health life style concerns and relevant broad spectrum health data.
- To provide advice on education and career opportunities within the health industry.

The range and depth of activities crossed many spheres of Hospital and associated activities. During the day visitors were invited to tour the Hospital to see the developments in the operating theatres, techniques associated with sterilising surgical and ward equipment, radiology (including CT Scanner, mammography and ultrasound), recovery suites, obstetrics and the latest medical and surgical equipment such as cell saver, video endoscope, heart monitoring and respiratory equipment recently purchased and being currently used in the Hospital's day to day activities.

Official Opening of the Intensive Care and Emergency Departments.

On 15 May 1995, the Governor of New South Wales, His Excellency Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair, AC, accompanied by Mrs Shirley Sinclair, officially opened the new departments in the presence of the Grand Master and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hospital, Most Wor Bro Noel F. Dunn and a large gathering of other dignitaries and Freemasons, their relatives and friends.

Marketing.

A marketing representative was recruited in May 1995 to promote the services of the Hospital and the emergency department. The representative, Mrs O. Kearn, worked under the general direction of the Marketing Committee.

During this period, particular emphasis was placed on the advantages which the Hospital, through the emergency department, could provide to industrial and commercial businesses for injured employees.

Affiliate Teaching Hospital.

In the latter part of 1995, the Hospital received confirmation of its appointment as an Affiliate Teaching Hospital with the Medical Faculty of the University of Sydney.

Removal of Restriction on Borrowings.

At the December 1995 Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, the Grand Treasurer, Right Wor Bro John S. Pearson, PDGM, presented a motion which, after discussion and a secret ballot, was carried. The motion was:

That this Grand Lodge:

- i Authorises the Grand Master and the Grand Treasurer in their discretion to agree with the bankers to the NSW Masonic Hospital to the removal of the existing restriction on the assets to which the bankers may have recourse under the existing security arrangements with the bankers; and
- ii Authorise and directs the Grand Lodge Trustees to execute all documents and do all things as may be necessary or convenient to give effect to this resolution.

By way of explanation, the Grand Treasurer said:

'The purpose of the motion is to give effect to a request from the Hospital's bankers to remove the contractual restriction on the Hospital's borrowing arrangements which limits the bank's security to the assets of the Hospital itself and denies the bank access to other assets of the Grand Lodge in the unfortunate, and I emphasise, unlikely event

that the Hospital became unable to meet its financial commitments.

In a way, this request, and indeed the underlying security limitation might seem strange, because the Hospital is a component part, really a department of the Grand Lodge itself, and is not a separate legal person. Legally, therefore, and certainly morally, one might normally expect that the Grand Lodge would be fully responsible for the debts of the Hospital, as for any other part of the Grand Lodge.'

Receiver Appointed to EMS Pty Ltd.

At the end of May 1996, a Receiver was appointed to Emergency Medical Systems (EMS) Pty Ltd, the operator of the Emergency Department. The Board resolved that the Hospital would continue the department and operate it as part of the Hospital. The Hospital had increased the marketing of the department and had brought into play adjusted fees to encourage greater use of the facility.

Sale of Seven Cottages Situated on Land Adjacent to the NSW Masonic Hospital.

The Grand Treasurer, Right Wor Bro John S. Pearson, PDGM, at

the June 1996 Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge said:

'On behalf of the Executive Council and the Board of the NSW Masonic Hospital and with the support of the Investment Committee, I move that this Grand Lodge approve of the sale of the seven cottages situated at Nos. 4, 10, 12, 16, 18 and 20 William Street Ashfield and No. 22 Robert Street Ashfield, and that the

proceeds be applied in reduction of bank debt of the NSW Masonic Hospital.

On the basis of advice which was obtained late last year, it is estimated that the sale proceeds could be of the order of \$1.16 million.'

The motion was adopted by Grand Lodge.

Sale of Properties in William Street, Ashfield.

As a result of an auction held on 17 September 1996, six of the seven cottages approved for sale were sold. The net proceeds of \$994,000 were applied to reduction of bank borrowings. The final net proceeds were of the order of \$1.13 million, compared with the estimate of \$1.16 million which was reported to the Grand Lodge when the proposed sale was submitted for approval; severe storms shortly before the auction lessened the market value of some of the properties.

Emergency Department.

Following the Hospital's takeover of the Emergency Department at the end of May 1996, the Board purchased from the receiver of EMS Pty Ltd, the previous operator, the equipment which EMS had installed.

The price, determined by an independent valuer, together with some hiring charges during the period of negotiation totalled \$232,000. A small further amount, estimated to be less than \$10,000 will be payable to a finance company for purchase of some further items which had been leased by EMS.

Hospital Operations.

The Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Revd Raymond C Green's address to the December 1996 Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge included:

'The Board of the Hospital is concerned that its expectation that the Hospital would be profitable by the end of 1996 is not being realised. As was reported with concern to the September 1996 Communication, operating results have been depressed by disappointingly low usage in this year of the Operating Theatres and the Intensive Care Unit. Further, the Hospital's costs were unfortunately increased by the need to take over, in mid-year, the operation of the Emergency Department following the failure of the previous operator, EMS Pty Ltd. Fortunately however, that department is progressing well and making a very valuable, indeed vital, contribution to the Hospital's activities, contributing 34 per cent of total admissions to the Hospital.

Moreover, members of Grand Lodge should be aware that the Hospital's operating losses this year have been contained without need for any increase in borrowings, although the year-end loss is likely to be in the order of one million dollars.

The Board is working strenuously to increase business and to prune costs. Discussions are also taking place with interested parties to explore the feasibility of introducing further improvements, such as on-site consulting rooms, by using outside capital in conjunction with Hospital land.

Nevertheless, operating in an environment of continuously declining private medical insurance in the community and having no natural source of capital for the continuing improvements which are essential in modern hospitals, the Board is exploring all avenues and is working towards defining an appropriate

strategy to present to Grand Lodge not later than June 1997.'

Dr. Sheldon's Appointment.

The Board of the NSW Masonic Hospital were delighted to learn that Bro Dr Donald M. Sheldon, a member of the Board and a general surgeon in private practice, was honoured by the University of Sydney by elevation to the status of Adjunct Professor in recognition of his service to the University.

Hospital Utilisation.

For the first three months of 1997, the Emergency Department provided some 34% of total admissions to the Hospital and served to attract a different patient mix. The department had been operating at above 'break-even' for the previous 7 months.

The improvement in the volume of coronary care patients also lifted the performance of the Intensive Care and Coronary Care Unit. Unfortunately, the reduction in general theatre use continued and was identified as an area that required considerable work to return it to an appropriate level of activity.

Motion to Form a Task Force to Dispose of the Masonic Hospital.

The motion, presented by the Deputy Grand Master, Right Wor Bro George Curry, on behalf of the Executive Council was adopted by Grand Lodge at the Quarterly Communication held on 11 June 1997.

- i That a Task Force be established and authorised to negotiate:

- (a) the outright sale of The NSW Masonic Hospital; or
- (b) the sale of The NSW Masonic Hospital to a corporation in which the United Grand Lodge of NSW has a minority shareholding.

ii That the Task Force consist of the Deputy Grand Master, Right Wor Bro George Curry; the Grand Treasurer, Right Wor Bro John Pearson; the Grand Secretary, Right Wor Bro Ian McCulloch; and Most Wor Bro Robert A. Hammond, PGM; Most Wor Bro Ronald L.H. Johnson, AM, PGM; Right Wor Bro Dr Graham M.H. Piper, PJGW.

iii That, subject to the approval of the Executive Council for any such sale, the Grand Lodge Trustees are hereby directed to sign all documents and do all things necessary to give effect to the sale.

The Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Revd Raymond Green presented a statement on this important matter:

'Brethren, you will remember that at the December 1996 Communication of this Grand Lodge I informed you that operating results of the Hospital had been depressed by such factors as disappointingly low usage of the Operating Theatres and the Intensive Care Unit and that the Hospital was facing an operating loss for 1996 of the order of one million dollars. I said that the Board was exploring all avenues for improvement of the Hospital's performance and was working towards defining an appropriate strategy to present to Grand

Lodge not later than this evening's Communication.

A Task Force which I appointed from the Hospital's Board has worked strenuously during the intervening months.

As a first stage, the Task Force vigorously challenged the Hospital's internal costs and management procedures as well as the scheduling and marketing of its operating theatres. It identified a number of opportunities for improvement and these were implemented. Some modest benefits have resulted.

Lack of necessary capital is the factor most hindering successful activity for our Hospital. The Craft clearly lacks any source for supply of large contributions of capital, while bank borrowing, if available, is too expensive a form for funding the levels of capital investment needed. Therefore, given the difficult trading conditions which exist today in the private hospital industry and the insatiable demands for new capital investment which flow from technological advances, the Task Force has concluded that there is no reasonable prospect of our Hospital trading sufficiently profitably to reduce debt and return to a stable financial position if it remains an independent facility owned solely by the Craft.

Given the existing level of debt - about \$14 million including the advance from the Grand Lodge - the Task Force also concluded that leasing of the Hospital to another operator would not provide a sufficient return to allow adequate reduction of debt.

The conclusion against remaining an independent facility owned wholly by the Craft - a sad conclusion in many ways - reflects several factors:

- the insatiable demands, which I have already mentioned, which hospitals face for additional capital investment in consequence of on-going technological advance in medical equipment, together with our own inability to contribute that capital;
- difficult business conditions in the private hospital sector as a result of a dramatic decline over the years in the proportion of the population maintaining private medical insurance and a consequent shift of focus to the public hospital sector;
- the relative weakness of independent (especially not-for-profit) private hospitals in negotiating financial arrangements with medical insurance funds, particularly in an environment in which health policies of successive governments have done little to encourage use of private hospitals
- the weakness of independent, not-for-profit hospitals in competing with hospital corporations which have access to capital markets and which can enjoy the benefit of economies of scale, for example in purchasing, in administration and in management.

Consultants predict that it will become increasingly difficult for independent private hospitals to survive, a prediction which finds some support in the fact that the following private hospitals have already been sold to corporate hospital groups:

1995 Poplars Community, Epping
 1995 Holroyd Private
 1996 Dalcross and Lake Macquarie
 1996 Peninsula Private, Harbord
 1997 Charles Wentworth Private, Wentworthville
 Private and Bankstown Private

At this point it is worth noting that estimates of the capital needed in the

foreseeable future to make our Hospital fully competitive with corporate private hospitals range between five and eight million dollars. These funds would be required to modernise and upgrade our ward accommodation from facilities which were built more than 65 years ago, to upgrade our semi-private rooms to fully private status, to provide additional surgical equipment (for which \$600,000 has been identified as being needed in the short run), to redevelop our very old kitchen, to create a day surgery facility, and to provide for an on-site pharmacy and consulting suites for our large complement of Visiting Medical Officers.

As any prospect of success would require, at the very least, the introduction of a significant equity partner, the Task Force has explored discreetly the possibility of our finding a partner capable of injecting sufficient capital to fund the necessary upgrading of our facilities, to fund reduction of our existing debt in order to reduce our heavy financing costs, and to fund the on-going capital investment which changing technology is forcing on all hospitals.

These enquiries have shown that there effectively exist just two main options for us to consider in relation to our Hospital. The Task Force has been exploring both of these options, which are:

- i To share ownership of our Hospital with a private hospital group which could provide the requisite capital and enable the necessary economies of scale. It is clear that this approach would leave us with only a minority shareholding, although it could possibly preserve the name of our Hospital (if we wished that) and give us a modest income stream; or
- ii To sell the Hospital outright.

Currently, four parties are showing keen interest in pursuing one or other of those options. Our choice between them will need to depend on the relative merits of the respective offers which we might receive. We expect to receive some conditional offers in the very near future, which is the reason for our having issued a Supplementary Agenda last week containing notice of a motion to provide suitable authority for us to proceed.

I should emphasise that if, instead, a Special Communication were needed to consider a more specific proposal, that could create difficulties for our negotiations because, for example, some parties who could be involved could well be under legal constraints in relation to the Australian Securities Commission or the Stock Exchange. Certainly, we could not allow risk of any leakage of confidential commercial information.

Before inviting the Deputy Grand Master to present his motion on behalf of the Task Force, let me stress the following three points:

- first - the successive Boards of our Hospital have given the Hospital their "best shot". If, as appears the case, we can no longer succeed as an independent private hospital, that is attributable to social change which has greatly reduced the proportion of the population which uses private hospital facilities, to technological advances which, as in so many spheres, have raised need for capital investment which is beyond the Craft's resources, and to the age of our main hospital building which no longer provides the quality of patient accommodation expected of private hospitals;
- second - this is inevitably a sad conclusion for many of us, not least for our many donors and especially the NSW Masonic Hospital Auxiliary which has done such splendid work

over the years in making the Hospital a much better facility than it could otherwise have been. In presenting my Statement to you this evening, I pay particular tribute and appreciation to the Auxiliary;

- third - our most recent project, the Emergency Department, which is consistently operating above what professional consultants analysed as financial break-even, is providing about one-third of our total admissions and accounts for almost 40% of our bed occupancy. It has been a life-saver for the Hospital over the past year and is a very valuable feature which, with our modern Operating Theatres and Intensive Care Unit, strengthens our own negotiating position, whether for outright sale or for attracting a suitable equity partner.

That, brethren, is the report which I promised you. I believe it points to the most practicable way forward.'

Report of the Special Task Force for the Disposal of the Hospital.

At the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge held on 10 December 1997, the Deputy Grand Master and Chairman of the Special Task Force reported:

'Brethren let me firstly say that the negotiations for the sale of the Hospital were both long and extremely complex. As a result this report is somewhat longer than I would have liked but to ensure that you are correctly informed of the outcomes, there is no alternative to this fairly long report.

At the outset, Grand Master and brethren, I would like to recognise the commitment and dedication of members of the Task Force who gave up many, many hours of their personal time to achieve this result.

To Most Wor Bro Hammond, Most Wor Bro Johnson, Right Wor Bro Pearson, Right Wor Bro McCulloch, Right Wor Bro Dr Piper, I thank them for their dedication and wise counsel during the negotiations. To have in our Grand Lodge men of such talents truly strengthens this Grand Lodge.

Brethren, at the June 1997 Communication you entrusted a small Task Force, of which I was appointed Chairman, to negotiate the disposal of the NSW Masonic Hospital.

The Grand Lodge's resolution, which I moved, contemplated that the disposal would be either by outright sale, or sale to a corporation in which the Grand Lodge might have a minority interest.

At the September Communication, I reported that the Special Task Force had identified a buyer for the NSW Masonic Hospital but that, due to a number of factors associated with the sale of this complex business, it was not then possible to report or comment on the expected outcome for the Grand Lodge.

Naturally, a primary concern of the Task Force has been to ensure that the proceeds of sale are sufficient to retire our bank debt of over \$12.5 million, to return to Grand Lodge its recent advances of \$3 million and to cover all other contractual liabilities of the Hospital.

In the event, after quite intensive negotiations over the past six months, we have negotiated what we consider the best deal available to the Grand Lodge under which the outright sale of the Hospital will be achieved on a phased basis.

We believe that this sale fits within the terms of the June resolution but, to remove any scope for doubt, we seek your confirmation

of this in the form of the motion which stands against my name.

The Task Force received a total of three offers to purchase the Hospital.

One of these was outright sale at \$11 million which would not even have been sufficient to clear all of the financial commitments of the Hospital.

A second offer, which was for part cash and part equity in the company making the offer, might possibly have just about cleared those commitments but most certainly there would have been nothing left over to repatriate to the Grand Lodge. Our equity would have been in the form of shares listed on the Stock Exchange.

The fact that the deal would have required us to retain an equity interest in the purchaser, meant that only in time would we have been able to establish whether or not the deal would have cleared our commitments or left us with a shortfall on the sale.

The third offer which was from Physicians Healthcare Australia (PHA) was initially for an outright sale at a price which would have cleared all the Hospital's commitments and left us with a modest surplus to repatriate to Grand Lodge. It was clearly the best of the three offers and we shook hands on this deal.

In the subsequent processes of inquiry before a firm agreement could be established, a number of delays occurred which were beyond the control of either the Task Force or the purchaser, but which mainly related to certain existing contractual commitments of the Hospital.

The consequence of these delays on the trading performance of the Hospital was such that we needed to re-open the basic negotiations.

As a result we have finally negotiated with PHA, a phased sell down of the Grand Lodge's interest in the Hospital. The alternative of an outright sale at this time would have produced a significant net loss to the Grand Lodge. The essential details of the sell down are:-

- PHA and the Grand Lodge will establish within the next week a unit trust or company which will purchase the Hospital.
- As part of the settlement of this purchase, the unit trust or company, with funding arranged by the other party, will pay out all of the bank debt of the NSW Masonic Hospital.
- The Grand Lodge will for the time being leave in the new unit trust or company, as temporary equity, the \$3 million which the Grand Lodge has advanced over time to the Masonic Hospital.
- We will also leave in the unit trust or company, as temporary equity, the net value of sundry debtors and stock less sundry creditors and some other defined liabilities.
- The purchaser is introducing several millions of dollars as its capital contribution, to finance several key capital improvements and for other necessary purposes.
- The Grand Lodge will have no liability whatsoever for the bank borrowings of the new owner and will not make any further injection of funds into the Hospital.
- The initial equity in the unit trust or company will amount to approximately \$6.5 million or 58% for the Grand Lodge and about \$4.6 million or 42% for the other party.
- As the other party introduces further capital, the Grand Lodge's interest will decline to below 50%.

- Both parties will nominate three persons to the Board of the unit trust or company and an independent (and expert) chairman will be appointed.
- The Grand Lodge will have the right to exercise an option to have the other party buy out part or all the Grand Lodge's interest, on an agreed pricing formula, on the first or subsequent anniversary of the completion of the sale of the Hospital to the unit trust or company, which is expected to occur on 31 January 1998.

Under the terms of the unit trust or company, there will be put and call options which will enable the Grand Lodge to take out at least its initial equity after 12 months. Furthermore, if, as is expected, the Hospital's value increases during the period in which the Grand Lodge holds equity, then the Grand Lodge will share proportionally in that increased value.

We do, of course, have to recognise that every business carries with it some risk but we will have three Board representatives on the unit trust or company to look after our interests and I am confident that, under the innovative and progressive management provided by PHA, and with the much improved funding base, the plan to turn the trading performance of the Hospital around by mid-1998 will be achieved. Thereafter, we should enjoy a share of good profitability with the comfort of being able to exercise an option to withdraw our equity after 12 months from the date of commencement of the unit trust or company or on any subsequent anniversary.

Although Grand Lodge will hold more than 50% of the equity at the outset, we expect PHA to gradually increase its percentage share as time goes on. Under no circumstances will Grand Lodge be required to put in more capital so that its equity position will only decline

in percentage terms as time goes on. We will, however, be guaranteed one Board seat so long as we hold at least a 10% share of the total equity.

From the second anniversary of the completion of the sale to the unit trust or company, the other party will have an option to buy out the Grand Lodge's interest, again on an agreed pricing formula which will protect the value of our interest and give us a share of the increase in market value of the Hospital which should flow from the further capital investments and developments which the other party will be implementing through the new operation.

Brethren, I repeat that this outcome is the very best which the Task Force could achieve. Because we will hold over 50% of the equity at the commencement of the unit trust or company, we will require the formal endorsement of Grand Lodge for we had previously only anticipated outright sale or our holding a minority share in any corporation. Therefore, I now place before you the motion shown at item 12A in the Supplementary Agenda which is:

That the Task Force which was established to sell The NSW Masonic Hospital pursuant to the motion adopted at the Quarterly Communication held on 11 June 1997 be conferred with the following additional authority, namely:-

- a To negotiate the sale of the NSW Masonic Hospital to a company which is the trustee of a unit trust or company in which the United Grand Lodge of NSW may (at the discretion of the Task Force) have a majority or minority interest and on terms which may involve the granting of an option by the United Grand Lodge of NSW to sell its interest in the Unit

trust or company to the other interest holder; or

- b To negotiate the sale of the NSW Masonic Hospital to a company in which the United Grand Lodge of NSW may (at the discretion of the Task Force) have a majority or minority shareholding and on terms which may involve the granting of an option by the United Grand Lodge of NSW to sell its shares in the company to the other shareholder.

May I summarise as follows:

- If we had pursued an outright sale of the Hospital at this point in time, the most likely outcome would have been a sale price resting somewhere around \$14 million or \$15 million.
- The proposed unit trust or company will be established with Grand Lodge's initial equity being calculated on a valuation of the Hospital at \$17.65 million.
- The existing bank borrowings of the Hospital will be retired and Grand Lodge will not provide security for any on-going borrowings.

Our first priority was to clear the Hospital's large debt for which the Grand Lodge was responsible and that will be achieved on or about 31 January 1998.

Our second priority was to secure a financial surplus on sale and indications are that, after returning the Grand Lodge's advance of \$3 million and meeting a significant contingent liability, we should achieve a surplus which will range upwards from a minimum of \$1.5 to \$2 million.

Grand Lodge may withdraw its equity in the unit trust or company after twelve months or on any subsequent anniversary.

Grand Lodge will enjoy, in proportion to its equity holding, any improvement in the value of the Hospital after the commencement of the unit trust or company.

I therefore, recommend the soundness of this proposal and your adoption of the motion will effectively be adoption of this report as a whole.'

Grand Lodge then adopted these motions without debate, on a show of hands.

The Grand Master then appointed the members of the Board:

Board of the new company to own and run the NSW Masonic Hospital from the date of settlement of the sale agreement:

Right Wor Bro George R. Curry, Deputy Grand Master.

Right Wor Bro John S. Pearson, PDGM, Grand Treasurer.

Right Wor Bro Ian R. McCulloch, PAGM, Grand Secretary.

Sale of The NSW Masonic Hospital.

At the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge held on 10 June 1998, the Deputy Grand Master, Right Wor Bro George Curry, Chairman of the Task Force and Right Wor Bro John S. Pearson, Grand Treasurer advised:

In terms of the authority granted by the Grand Lodge at the December 1997 Communication, the Task Force has finally completed sale of the Hospital to a new company in which the Grand

Lodge will hold, for a time, an equity interest which initially should be a little in excess of 50% of the company's subscribed capital.

In short, the sale was completed on 12 May 1998 and the new company of which we are a part owner is named New South Wales Private Hospital - Ashfield Pty Ltd. The other part owner is Physicians Health Care Australia (Ashfield) Pty Ltd. PHA'S proportionate interest will increase as it introduces additional capital to fund further improvements. As has previously been reported, the Grand Lodge has no responsibility to provide further capital nor to arrange bank finance for the new company.

The NSW Private Hospital - Ashfield.

At the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge held on 8 September 1999, Grand Lodge adopted the following motion moved by the Grand Treasurer:

This Grand Lodge approves of the sale of 3,250,061 of its shares in NSW Private Hospital-Ashfield Pty Limited for \$1.25 million in cash and the retention of 14.7% of equity in the aforesaid Hospital held by means of non-voting shares with an initial face value of \$1 million.

At the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge held on 9 August 2000, the Grand Treasurer, Right Wor Bro Richard Pickering, PJGW advised:

The process of sale of the Hospital which was reported to Grand Lodge at the Communication on 10 May 2000 did not come to fruition.

As a result, the forbearance of National Australia Bank came to an end and the bank appointed a Receiver/Manager on 14 June 2000.

The Board then appointed Joint Voluntary Administrators on 26 June 2000 which had the initial effect of blocking the Australian Taxation Office from making personal demands on Directors. A Voluntary Administrator has to deal with a number of matters relating to creditors generally and has a statutory obligation to make inquiry into the possibility of insolvent trading. At a later stage, the Voluntary Administration may, or is even likely, to lead to the liquidation of the Company.

The sale of the Hospital is now in the hands of the Receiver/Manager with advertisements having been placed in the press. Much may rest on the sale price achieved.

At the December 2000 Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge the Grand Treasurer advised that, after they had received approximately twelve expressions of interest for purchase, the Receivers and Managers, who had been appointed by the Company's bankers, entered into a contract of sale of the Hospital on 24 October, which sale was completed on 1 November 2000.

THE NSW MASONIC HOSPITAL AND AUXILIARIES**B. THE NSW MASONIC HOSPITAL AUXILIARY**

The NSW Masonic Hospital at the Sydney suburb of Ashfield was officially opened by the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Thomas Aubrey Halloran, OBE, BA, LLB, on 13 June 1931, and, at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Hospital held on 19 August 1931, it was agreed that a Ladies Auxiliary Linen Committee should be organised.

The ladies, who were the wives of some of the members of Lodge Dulwich Lewis No. 564, soon extended their activities beyond the linen cupboard and for the next 30 years, they were responsible for many fetes and social functions held to raise funds and make donations in kind to the Hospital.

At the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge held on 11 December 1963, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Edward L. Beers announced that, at a well-attended meeting held on 30 September 1963 in the Nurses' Recreation Hall at the Hospital, it had been decided to form a Combined Auxiliary. It began in October 1963 and its first priority was the establishment of a kiosk which was opened on 27 August 1964. From that time, the Combined Auxiliary continued to gain in strength and importance and fetes were regularly held in the Hospital grounds.

They were major fund-raisers with many metropolitan Masonic Districts providing stalls and other fun-of-the-fair activities. Country Lodges and Districts also contributed with cash donations from locally arranged events and sometimes by the delivery of such items as

fresh vegetables from the farms of the far south coast and bags of macadamia nuts from the north of the State. They were typical of other contributions from distant areas.

The members of Lodge Batlow United No. 650 combined with the members of Lodge Herne Bay No. 788 to stock a stall with apples sent from the orchards in the Batlow area. They proved to be so popular that, at each succeeding fete, the members and ladies of Lodge Herne Bay found that they had sold out long before the Grand Master officially opened the fete.

The Auxiliary continued the outstanding contribution it had made to the Hospital in so many ways and it received support for its activities from many sections of the Craft.

The NSW Masonic Centenary Ensemble Cassette.

There are very few who don't enjoy good music; one of the seven liberal arts and sciences. A C.D. and cassette titled *Sing A Song* was offered for sale which had been recorded live in the Grand Lodge Room by the NSW Masonic Centenary Ensemble under the direction of the Grand Director of Music, Right Wor Bro Noel Melvin, PAGM. The cost of the cassette was \$6, the CD \$12 and the proceeds were donated to the Auxiliary.

This was just one of many instances when Right Wor Bro Melvin and the members of the Ensemble gave freely of their talents for the benefit of Masonic benevolence.

Masonic Hospital Donation.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Auxiliary held on 28 November 1988, the Auxiliary

President, Very Wor Bro Garry Harris, PDGIW, presented a cheque for \$19,270 to the Deputy Grand Master, Right Wor Bro Noel F. Dunn. The money, the result of the fete held in April 1988, was for the purchase of equipment for the Hospital.

The total donations made to the Hospital since 1968 were in excess of \$298,000 including some \$150,000 during the previous five years.

Social Activities.

The members of the Auxiliary participated in a number of enjoyable social events which included barbeques and a visit to the Cronulla Arts Theatre on 17 June 1989.

Fund raising raffles were also successful with one lucky first prize winner receiving a seaplane and dinner trip.

Autumn Fair - 1989.

Although there had been heavy rain during the week preceding the Fair, the weather cleared for Saturday 29 April for the Autumn Fair in the grounds of the Hospital.

The President, Very Wor Bro Garry Harris, PDGIW, reported an outstanding success and the result, including donations and sponsorships exceeded \$26,000.

1989 Debutante Ball.

On Saturday 24 May 1989, the Auxiliary held a very successful Biennial Debutante Ball at the Bankstown Civic Centre. The seventeen Debutantes were presented to the Grand Master and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the

NSW Masonic Hospital, Most Wor Bro Ronald L.H. Johnson, in the presence of 480 family members and friends.

Christmas Appreciation Dinner.

On 3 December 1989, the Board of Directors of the Hospital hosted a Christmas Appreciation Dinner for the Auxiliary and its supporters in place of the normal December Board meeting. The function took place on Sunday 3 December, when the Board, their ladies and senior staff members were joined by some 80 members of the Auxiliary and their supporters at a most enjoyable evening.

Support for Major Expansion of the Hospital.

At the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge held on 13 December 1989, a programme of expansion estimated to cost some \$9 million for Stage I was approved.

The Auxiliary accepted the challenge to raise \$170,000 to equip and furnish the proposed Obstetrics Unit and plans were put in hand to achieve the objective.

Carols by Candlelight 1989.

The Hospital grounds at Ashfield provided a delightful setting for a Carols by Candlelight programme held on Sunday evening 17 December and attended by the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Johnson and Mrs May Johnson.

Annual Fete.

On Saturday 28 April 1990 the Auxiliary's Fete held in the Hospital grounds was extremely

successful and the amount raised on the day was in excess of the 1989 figure of \$26,000.00.

Social Activities.

A variety of social activities continued to be enjoyed by members of the Auxiliary, their families and friends:

A very enjoyable Coach Trip took place on the weekend of 5 and 6 May 1990 when some 50 members and partners travelled by coach to Tumut and Batlow. Entertainment included a barbeque lunch arranged by Lodge Batlow United No. 650, visit to the apple processing co-operative, inspection of Blowering Dam and Sunday morning tea at the Tumut Valley African Violet Farm.

A Shoe Party took place in the Hospital Recreation Hall on Saturday 12 May 1990 and was well attended.

Carols by Candlelight 1990.

In keeping with the Christmas spirit and as a means of fostering Masonic fellowship, the Auxiliary again held Carols by Candlelight in the grounds of the NSW Masonic Hospital.

The weather was kind on this occasion; Sunday 16 December 1990, and the 250 people who attended enjoyed a very relaxing evening in quite pleasant conditions.

The Executive Officers of the Auxiliary expressed their thanks and appreciation to those ladies, gentlemen and brethren who so kindly gave their time and efforts to make the evening such a success:

Compere, Wor Bro Max Stewart; members of the Ashfield Uniting Church Congregation Tongan Choir; members of the Ashfield Musical Society with special mention of Shani Cox and Owen Cox who each sang solos; the Amalgamated Wireless of Australia (AWA) for the sound system; the staff and patients of the NSW Masonic Hospital for their work and co-operation; each member of the Hospital Auxiliary and the Masonic Associations of surrounding Districts who wholeheartedly concerned themselves with the planning, preparation, publicising and presentation of the event; and Bro Bill Leeder, Organist.

Annual General Meeting.

On 25 February the NSW Masonic Hospital Auxiliary held its Annual General Meeting. In presenting his report the President of the Auxiliary, Very Wor Bro Garry Harris said:

'The year 1990 was truly a magnificent one for the Auxiliary. We were given the task by the Hospital Board to raise \$170,000 to fully equip the new Obstetrics Unit due for completion in March 1991 and, at the end of December 1990, we had raised \$130,000. With your continued support and the support of all those who have assisted us during the last 12 months we are confident that our target will be reached by the end of April 1991.

Our Autumn Fair held on 28 April proved to be our most successful fete for many years with a beautiful autumn day with plenty of people in attendance. A total of \$30,200 was raised including donations. The coach trip to Tumut - Batlow in May proved to be an outstanding weekend with too many highlights to elaborate. The Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL Club once again gave its support to our Auxiliary as the venue for the Gala Charity Night held in July

at which over 500 people enjoyed a star-studded variety show. Total proceeds on the night were \$11,873. We thank our Secretary, Dorothy Stevens, for once again organizing the Cronulla Arts Theatre Shows which continue to prove popular by all who attended. Finally, the Carols by Candlelight held on 16 December 1990 was again a wonderful evening and we acknowledge and thank the Tongan Choir and the members of the Ashfield Musical Society for their support and attendance.

Fund raising activities organized by Auxiliary members included shoe parties, linen parties and a lamington drive. We owe our thanks to the NSW Masonic Centenary Ensemble under the leadership of Right Wor Bro Noel Melvin for the *Sing-a-Song* tapes and CDs and also to Very Wor Bro Bruce Sheldrick from Lodge Birkenhead Mansions No. 332 for his important involvement. The project has already raised nearly \$3,000 for the Auxiliary.

Our Christmas cards were again a tremendous success and were sold all over the State. We thank the ladies on the Committee for a job well done. A special thanks also to Mrs Vera Fagen and Mrs Joyce Mealing for the important part they play in the daily administration of the Hospital Kiosk. This role will become even more important with the expansion of the Hospital facilities in the coming year.

We could not hope to achieve the results expected without the generous support of so many Districts, Lodges, Auxiliaries and individual men and women and we gratefully acknowledge their continued support.'

Autumn Fair 1991.

On Saturday 17 April 1991, the Auxiliary held an Autumn Fair in the grounds of the Hospital at Ashfield. The Fair, which was officially

opened by the Grand Master, raised in excess of \$34,000.

Donations for Hospital's Obstetrics Unit.

One of the outstanding achievements of the Auxiliary was finalised with the donation of \$176,000 to equip the Obstetrics Unit with state-of-the-art equipment.

The Grand Master said:

'Thank You' is a very small word. However, its overall offer to all members of the Auxiliary is given from the heart by the Board, executive staff, patients and visitors, who benefit so much from the service given by the Auxiliary members.'

Greeting Cards.

The NSW Masonic Hospital Auxiliary printed a large quantity of four different designs of Christmas greeting cards which were made available at reasonable cost.

Christmas wrapping paper and correspondence cards were also available. These items proved to be very popular and the proceeds from their sale added considerably to the Auxiliary funds.

Christmas Activities, 1991.

Some 100 Auxiliary members, senior management, supporters, Board members and their ladies attended the Board's Annual Thank-you Dinner, held on Sunday 1 December in the Hospital's Recreation Hall. This was a most enjoyable evening, a small token of appreciation from the Hospital Board of Directors in recognition of

the work conducted by the Auxiliary and its supporters.

A further highlight of the final Quarter of 1991 was the annual Carols by Candlelight held in the Hospital grounds on Sunday 15 December.

Autumn Fair 1992.

The Hospital Auxiliary Fete for 1992 held in the grounds of the Hospital on Saturday 4 April was an outstanding success. The Fair was opened by the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Johnson.

The proceeds of the Fair exceeded \$32,000 and the members of the Auxiliary and their supporters who had worked tirelessly were pleased with the result.

Melbourne Cup and Phantom of the Opera Tour.

Members of the Auxiliary and their friends journeyed by coach to Melbourne on 1 November 1992 for a seven-day enjoyable tour to these two events.

Highlights of the tour included 'Drage Air World', a collection of antique civil aircraft, Brown Bros. Winery, Melbourne City Tour, Fairy Penguin Parade, Wilson's Promontory, the Whaling Museum at Eden and the Australian Naval Aviation Museum at Nowra.

Christmas 1992.

The Auxiliary had printed a number of Christmas cards which sold well and contributed to Auxiliary funds.

Thank you Dinner and Carols by Candlelight.

Many members of the Auxiliary joined the senior management, supporters, Board members and Visiting Medical Officers at the Hospital Board's annual Thank You Dinner, held on Sunday 6 December 1992 which was a very successful evening.

A further highlight was the Carols by Candlelight evening held in the Hospital grounds on Sunday 13 December 1992.

New President.

In February 1993, Very Wor Bro Roger Crook, PDGIW, was elected as President of the NSW Masonic Hospital Auxiliary. Roger, ably supported by his wife Cheryl, was a tireless worker for all Masonic charities, especially the NSW Masonic Hospital. With his big beaming smile, he was always seen making donuts at the stall at the Hospital and the Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes Fetes.

Apart from his charity work, Very Wor Bro Crook was an enthusiastic member of the Membership Assistance Committee of the Board of General Purposes.

Right Wor Bro Garry Harris, received a big 'Thank You' for the enormous amount of work which he and Margaret had done over the past six years during which he was the Auxiliary President.

1993 Annual Fete.

The 1993 Fete was held in the grounds of the Masonic Hospital and the gross takings exceeded \$30,000 as the result of this successful function.

Cell-Saver Machine.

Towards the end of 1993, the Auxiliary had raised \$42,000 which enabled a donation to the Hospital of a 'Cell Saver' machine. This machine was used in the Operating Theatre for the re-cycling of patient's blood.

\$40,000 Cheque Presentation.

On 5 December 1993 the President of the Auxiliary, Very Wor Bro Roger Crook, presented to the Grand Master a cheque for \$40,000. The amount was part of the commitment made by the Auxiliary to raise a total of \$150,000 for the upgrading of the Radiology Department of the Masonic Hospital by the addition of a Computerised Tomographic (CT) Scanner.

Donations - New Equipment.

Donations from Lodges, individuals and the NSW Masonic

Hospital Auxiliary during the early part of 1994 enabled the Hospital to purchase three new items of equipment:

- A small fragment set.
- A removal of screws set
- A video endoscope

Hospital Kiosk.

Members of the Auxiliary manned and administered the Hospital Kiosk and, in 1994, a new Auxiliary Kiosk Committee was formed to expand the range of products available and increase trading hours and the Committee called for volunteers to donate time, perhaps one

morning, afternoon or evening each month, on a regular basis at the Kiosk.

Autumn Fair 1995.

Saturday, 29 April started as a bleak and dismal overcast Sydney autumn day but by 9.30 am, when the Official Opening of the Auxiliary's Autumn Fair took place, the sun shone and a great family fun day was assured.

Masonic families, the public, hospital patients and all present were entertained by magician Bro Bill Bailey; a clever canine demonstration; train rides - (children only); the marvellous Leichhardt Municipal Band and members of the NSW Ambulance, Fire Brigade and Police Forces - all showing their expertise.

The proceeds were in excess of \$28,000.

Carols by Candlelight and Presentation.

Some 350 people braved Sydney's unpredictable storms to attend the Hospital's 1995 Carols by Candlelight and the magnificent support given on the evening by soloists Bros Colin Gill and Will Amer with entertainment from Summer Hill Public School Band and Yeo Park Primary School Choir.

Also during December, the Auxiliary presented a cheque to Most Wor Bro Noel Dunn, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hospital, for \$70,000 - their contribution towards purchasing vascular and neo-surgical instruments for the more complex surgery now able to be performed at the Hospital.

Autumn Fair 1996.

The Fair held in the Hospital grounds on Saturday 27 April 1996 was an outstanding success with many Masons and ladies manning the well-stocked stalls.

The Leichhardt Municipal Band, Magician - Bill Bailey, Farrier

- Neville Carpenter and The Dynamite Dogs: all contributed to the \$25,000 banked on the day.

Mascot Airport Tunnel Tour.

The August 1997 issue of *The NSW Freemason* reported:

Recently, a group of members of the NSW Masonic Hospital Auxiliary were conducted on an inspection trip through the tunnels of the new underground Mascot Airport rail link. It was wet, cold and dirty but a most enlightening trip. This new rail link runs from Tempe to Mascot Airport and on to Central Station.

Great Achievement.

There can be no doubt that the NSW Masonic Hospital Auxiliary had achieved outstanding success since its inception over six decades earlier.

THE NSW MASONIC HOSPITAL AND AUXILIARIES

C. THE NSW MASONIC AUXILIARY

A New Direction.

When the NSW Masonic Hospital was sold, the members of the Auxiliary were understandably disappointed. The members, however, resolved to stay together and to continue to raise money for worthwhile charities, a sentiment with which most people wholeheartedly agreed. The Auxiliary, with many years of fund raising expertise, especially over the previous ten years, had raised in excess of \$1,000,000 for the Hospital.

The NSW Masonic Auxiliary.

The Auxiliary had discussions with members of the Executive Council of Grand Lodge and as a result of these discussions it was decided that the Auxiliary would become a fund raising arm of the Grand Charity, and henceforth be known as The NSW Masonic Auxiliary. It was also decided that fifty percent of the money raised would be distributed by the Auxiliary to worthwhile community based charitable organizations, whilst the other fifty percent would be donated to the Grand Charity for their distribution to designated charitable organizations.

Wine and Cheese Evening.

The Auxiliary held a very successful wine and cheese night at the Five Dock Masonic Centre on 27 November 1997. Entertainment was provided by Right Wor Bro Noel Melvin, PDGM.

Autumn Fair - 1999.

At the March 1999 Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, the Grand Master advised:

'I draw your attention to the Autumn Fair to be conducted by The NSW Masonic Auxiliary at the Masonic Club, Parramatta, on Saturday 24 April 1999, commencing at 10.00 am. The NSW Masonic Auxiliary is the continuation of the Masonic Hospital Auxiliary and I am very pleased to let you know that these dedicated Masons and ladies have decided to stay together and channel their fund raising efforts to the Grand Charity and a number of other specified charities. They are well worth your support and I ask you all to consider sparing an hour or two on 24 April to show your own support of Masonic charity fund raising.'

Charity Dinner.

At a Charity Dinner held on Friday 11 June, 1999 in the Mahogany Room at St George Leagues Club, Very Wor Bro Roger Crook presented a cheque for \$7,100 to Mrs Margaret Badham, Community Relations Officer of *CareFlight*. This was to purchase a satellite phone and antenna.

A cheque for \$6,400 was also presented to Mrs Janette Davie, Volunteer for *Camp Quality*. Both ladies gave very interesting talks on these worthwhile charities.

Donation to Grand Charity Fund.

At the June 1999 Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, Very Wor Bro Roger R. Crook, PDGIW, Chairman of the NSW Masonic Auxiliary presented the Grand Master with a cheque for

\$13,555 being a donation to the NSW Freemasons' Grand Charity Fund.

Tribute to Rosemary Woodman.

On 10 January 2000 a large group of Masons and their partners gathered to pay a tribute to Rosemary Woodman. Rosemary passed away on 4 January 2000 at her home. She will be recalled by Freemasons and their families for her dedication to Most Wor Bro Professor Roy Woodman, LLM and the ideals of the Craft, particularly during the period when he was Grand Master. She was a gracious lady.

Bears, Dolls and Valuations.

The Masonic Auxiliary held their extraordinary Doll, Bear and Miniatures Fair in the Parramatta Masonic Club on Saturday and Sunday, 29 and 30 January 2000.

The admission charge was \$5 and the Fair included, along with demonstrations and competitions, trading tables and doll and bear valuations. Proceeds from the event were donated to Masonic Charities and to *Camp Quality*.

The NSW Masonic Auxiliary - The Future Direction.

The President, Very Wor Bro Roger Crook reported that:

'A recent decision of the Executive Council of the United Grand Lodge of NSW and the ACT is that whilst the Auxiliary is considered a valued member of the general 'Masonic family' that consists of a number of independent organizations existing throughout the

Jurisdiction, it has never been a part of the Grand Lodge and clearly does not fall under its control. So accordingly, it is a matter for the Auxiliary as to what type of Constitution it wishes to adopt, and as to how it regulates its affairs. This includes, of course, the right to raise funds and to dispose of those proceeds as the Auxiliary deems most appropriate.

With the news of this decision we, at the Auxiliary, have set about putting our house in order, which, of course, means a new Constitution and many other tasks. Due to the changes in the taxation system, we have recently applied for and obtained status as an Income Tax Exempt Charitable Entity, as well as also obtaining an Australian Business Number. Our new Constitution has been put into the hands of a solicitor and we are hopeful of having it in place in the not too distant future.'

He continued:

'It is the intention of the Auxiliary to donate the money it raises to worthwhile charitable organizations and/or persons. We are also prepared to listen to the input of any brother or brethren who might know of such charitable causes.

We trust that the tremendous support we have received over many years will continue into the future, even though the Auxiliary has now changed its direction from raising funds for a hospital to other charitable causes. Please also note we are on the lookout for new members and those interested in joining a team of enthusiastic charity fund raisers.'

Charity Dinner.

On Saturday 28 October 2000 at the Rockdale Tennis Club, the Auxiliary conducted a Charity

Presentation Dinner. Special invited guests included Mrs Margaret Badham from *CareFlight*, Mrs Jan Steele from *Camp Quality* and Associate Professor Murray Norris from the *Childrens Cancer Research Institute of Australia*.

During the evening the President of the Auxiliary, Very Wor Bro Roger Crook, made a presentation of cheques to the representatives of the charities present. *CareFlight* and *Camp Quality* each received a cheque for \$12,000 and the *Childrens Cancer Research Institute of Australia* received \$5,000.

Right Wor Bro Don Mealing, PAGM, representing the Grand Master, also received a cheque for \$5,000 on behalf of the Grand Charity Fund.

Autumn Fair 2001.

An Autumn Fair was held at Peace Park, Trevenar Street, Ashbury, on Saturday, 21 April 2001. Various styles of stalls were set up and entertainment for children was arranged.

The proceeds of this Fair were in aid of *CareFlight* and other nominated charities.

The Future.

The Auxiliary will, no doubt, continue its good work in the future and in doing so, provide much needed support for many worthy causes in the community.



James S Miller Scholarship
Winners - 1991



Prize Winners - William Thompson Masonic School
and NSW Masonic Youth Welfare Fund - 1995

CHAPTER IX

CARING AND SUPPORT FOR YOUTH

A. THE NSW FREEMASONS' ORPHAN SOCIETY

The Society, established on 23 July 1868, was developed from the Australian Freemasons' Orphan and Institute Children's Society which had been founded in 1854 by the Provincial Grand Lodge of New South Wales under the United Grand Lodge of England. The objects of the Society are to maintain and, if desirable, to apprentice children or orphans of indigent or deceased Freemasons under the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

An excerpt from the first committee report dated 1854 provided a slice of social history, highlighting the early colonial society's views and moral norms. It is interesting to ponder how vital to society and to one's survival the family was deemed to be, and how our society has changed over this time.

'Your committee beg to submit to this meeting that this Society is founded upon the expansive principles of Masonic Charity, for the purpose of reviewing under its fostering care the children or orphans of indigent or deceased brethren, to provide them with decent clothing, to afford them an education adapted to the situation in life which they are most likely to fill, and finally to apprentice them to suitable trades; thus to rescue them from the dangers of vice and immorality to which the condition of the poor and neglected children is peculiarly incident, and carefully train them to respectability and self reliance that they may ultimately become useful members of society and creditable recipients of the

bounty to which they have owed their protection and advancement.'

The report later continued:

'It is proposed that children shall be eligible for admission between the ages of five and twelve years, that they shall be comfortably clothed, supplied with books, and instructed in reading, writing and arithmetic until the age of fourteen (unless provided for by their friends, or considered by the Committee capable of self provision at an early age) and then apprenticed to some trade or occupation, best fitted for their capacities and inclinations.'

It concludes with the following paragraph:

'Your Committee express a fervent hope that the several Lodges in the Colonies and the fraternity generally will liberally contribute towards this noble object, and endeavour to rescue from ignorance, vice and wretchedness the destitute offspring of their deceased or unfortunate brethren and that a design which covers so large a field of pure and practical charity, including within its range all religious denominations, will also be assisted by general public benevolence.'

Today, to be eligible for relief from the Society, the child's father must have been a subscriber either as a governor or have been a member of a Lodge which contributes to the Society and the child must not have attained the age of 18 years.

Subscribing Lodges are required to contribute at a modest rate. In 1989 the rate was 10 cents per member per year, which was payable in advance on 1 January. A Lodge was not eligible to receive support for a child until the Lodge

had been a contributor for one year from 1 January. To join the Society it was only necessary for the Lodge to carry an appropriate resolution and thereupon to make application to the Secretary.

Office Re-location.

The office of the Fund moved into the fifth floor of the Sydney Masonic Centre in May 1990.

Annual General Meeting 1995.

At the March Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Noel F. Dunn advised that he had attended the Annual General Meeting of the Society held on 22 February 1995.

The Society, at the time was providing assistance for 50 children - 30 non-Masonic and 20 Masonic-related children. The sustenance payment to each child had been increased by 20% to \$600 per annum. This was a commendable effort during these difficult economic times. The Grand Master said Lodges not yet subscribers to the Society were to be encouraged to support this fine and oldest Masonic charity in New South Wales.

CARING AND SUPPORT FOR YOUTH**B. THE WILLIAM THOMPSON MASONIC SCHOOL
AND HOSTEL***Development.*

The idea of a school for the education and upbringing of sons and daughters of deceased Masons was nurtured in the mind of Most Wor Bro William Thompson from the time he became Grand Master in 1914, but it was not until 1921 that his plans began to materialise.

It was the period of the Great War, with its inevitable destruction of thousands of lives. Fathers of young families had joined up to serve their King and country, and many of them never returned to their loved ones. Not a few were members of the Masonic Order, and in numbers of instances the mother and children were left without adequate provision.

As Most Wor Bro Thompson travelled to his country home at Windsor each week-end his thoughts always turned to those bereaved ones and his visions of a future home for the children of deceased brethren became clearer.

Having chosen what he considered to be the appropriate site, Most Wor Bro Thompson asked Grand Lodge to provide the funds for the project and in September 1921, the sum of £20,000 was voted. A 168 acre site at Baulkham Hills was purchased for £4,500 and plans were prepared for the erection of an administration block and two cottages, one on either side, for boys and girls with accommodation in each for 24.

The foundation stone was set on 25 February 1922, with due and proper ceremony and then on 11 November 1922, the finished building was opened and dedicated by the Grand Master.

So the dream of Most Wor Bro William Thompson became reality and the William Thompson Masonic Schools for boys and girls commenced operation with accommodation for 48 pupils.

The Schools continued to expand and, at the peak of their existence, housed nearly 300 boys and girls.

In recent times, however, the need and the demand for such an institution declined due to many factors, not the least of which were what is termed the 'Affluent Society' and also the significant increase in the provision of social services at Government level to assist the types of families which the Masonic Schools were designed to help.

When the majority of the land at Baulkham Hills had been sold and at a time when there were just over 30 children left in residence, the School Council had to decide whether a new institution-type building should be erected or a completely new approach considered.

After inspecting other child-care complexes and after considering reports from overseas on current trends, the School Council decided that the institution-type concept should be abandoned and that the Masonic School should establish Family Group Homes in its place.

A Family Group Home was, in essence, a normal dwelling situated in a suburban street amongst other private dwellings, staffed by a married couple who become the house-parents for

approximately eight children coming under the care of the Masonic School and they live as a normal family unit, integrating with any children of their own which the house-parents may have. In addition to the Family Group Homes, the Masonic School became empowered to pay sustenance to approved children living with a parent in their own home.

The standard and quality of both the type of accommodation and the general family atmosphere proved to be superior to the conditions subsisting for the children under the previous system. So the dream of the late Most Wor Bro William Thompson was carried on, altered in form to meet changing social conditions, but identical in concept and perpetuating the vision of caring for the children of deceased Masons.

By the end of 1988 the William Thompson Masonic School and Hostel, from the time of its opening in 1922, had cared for over 2,300 children and had given a great start in life to those whose families had suffered from economic or social distress. In this way the School demonstrated to the community at large the depth of compassion and benevolence which is part of Masonic teaching.

A Start in Life.

To record for posterity what Freemasons had done the School Council commissioned Mrs Beverley Earnshaw, a qualified journalist and historian, to write the history of the School. The book, *A Start in Life*, was launched by Most Wor Bro Harry Rickards Maas, Past Grand Master, Grand Lodge Trustee and member of the School Council, on Saturday, November 5, 1988.

The words 'A Start in Life' were used by Most Wor Bro William Thompson, the Grand Master at the time the William Thompson Masonic School was opened in November 1922. He was speaking at the ceremony which commenced what became possibly the brightest jewel in the crown of Freemasonry in New South Wales. Very many boys and girls were given that 'start' and received the benefit of the vision, initiative and drive of William Thompson.

Book launch Luncheon - A Start in Life.

Very real evidence of the solid foundation given through the School was seen in the banquet hall of the Masonic Centre, Castlereagh Street, Sydney on Saturday 5 November 1988 when ex-students of the School gathered for their annual luncheon and reunion. Provision for the function was provided under the terms of the will of the late Mrs Beatrice Cropley, the wife of the first honorary Superintendent, Most Wor Bro Rubert Cropley. Formalities were kept well to a minimum to allow talk and reminiscences and up-to-date information to be aired.

An important extra was injected into the year's proceedings. The 160 plus page book *A Start in Life* was launched by Most Wor Bro Harry R. Maas, Past Grand Master. He gave some background facts of the author, a history researcher and the author of three other books, for her book is very readable and accurate with well formed judgements of the characters and contributions various people have made to the William Thompson Masonic School.

Accreditation and Grant.

During the latter part of 1988 a submission was completed to enable the School Council to receive Accreditation for the group home programme from the Association of Children's Welfare Agencies. This non-government body awarded accreditation to member agencies when they satisfactorily demonstrated that their standards of service exceeded required standards.

There had been particular focus in the media on the number of homeless youth in the community at large and this was reflected in the growing number of referrals received from the Department of Family and Community Services. Due to these referrals the School Council reopened the Family Group Home named 'Wybalena' in July 1988 with four children in care. This number subsequently increased to eight and for the first time State Wards were admitted to the School Council care.

In 1988, the School Council was also successful in securing a grant from the 'Alternate Care Committee' towards the operation of the Family Group Home, 'Boronia'.

Most Wor Bro Frank L. Hodgson Retires.

Prior to the 19 June 1989 meeting of the Council of The William Thompson Masonic School and Hostel, the Chairman, Most Wor Bro Ronald L.H. Johnson, Grand Master, and Council members held a luncheon in honour of Most Wor Bro Frank L. Hodgson, OAM, Past Grand Master, Grand Architect, who was attending his final meeting after 44 years of devoted service to the Council.

Coincidental with this tribute was the fact that in the Queen's Birthday Honours List of 12 June 1989, the name of Frank Leslie Hodgson

appeared as one of the recipients of the Medal of the Order of Australia for his services to architecture and youth.

Apart from the fact that Most Wor Bro Hodgson gave so much of his time and energy to the work of the Schools Council, he also made a very valuable contribution to the activities of the New South Wales Masonic Youth Welfare Fund, having been a member of the Executive since 1949 and its President since 1955.

Annual Report for 1989.

In submitting the Report to the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge on 13 June 1990, the Grand Master and Chairman of the Council, Most Wor Bro Ronald Johnson said:

'The success of an organization such as ours is difficult to measure in the hard print of a financial balance sheet or a profit and loss account., Our business is CARING - caring for children in need - and I wish to commence this Report with a quotation from a letter sent to the Council from the mother of four children from our Family Support Scheme:

".... I will remember these years with a great deal of pride and gratitude. Looking around me I have often realised that the Lodge has made my life and my children's a lot easier. It is a very nice feeling to know that help, if needed, was only a phone call away."

Our Family Group Homes, 'Boronia' and 'Wybalena', under the care of Mr and Mrs H. Hyland and Mr and Mrs P. Rybicki respectively, provided a basis for security and modelling in life skills as an alternative to foster care.

Throughout the year there have been as many as 12 children in care, three of whom are Wards

of the State referred to us by the Department of Family and Community Services.

Children in care also receive professional counselling from Parramatta Children's Health Services and we are grateful to that Department for its assistance. The day to day management of the Group Homes and co-ordination of child care programmes is supervised by the Executive Officer, Wor Bro David Olshen.'

Accreditation for Family Group Homes.

The function of accrediting agencies was undertaken in 1989 by the Department of Family and Community Services, a task which was formerly performed by the Association of Children's Welfare Agencies. The Alternate Care Committee, which provided funding to non-Government Agencies, asked that the William Thompson Masonic School and Hostel be the very first agency to undergo the Standards Review. The School Council successfully demonstrated that the programmes generally exceed the standard required by the Government. The immediate benefit of this review was that 'Wybalena' was approved for funding as well as 'Boronia', and the Council received \$126,000.00 from the Alternate Care Committee for its Group Home operations. As the result of a recommendation of the review, the Council during October, 1989, engaged a full-time social worker, Miss Shayda Marek, who provided professional support to the house-parents as well as counselling services to the children in care. The balance of funding required to meet the running expenses of the Council's operations was provided from Grand Lodge resources.

Family Support Scheme.

Forty children of Primary School age in the Family Support Scheme received the benefit of a weekly subsidy, for reimbursement for school clothing, general clothing, and optical and dental needs. Both non-Masonic and Masonic cases were considered for the Family Group Homes Programme and the Family Support Scheme. This work was financed from Grand Lodge resources.

Future Direction of the William Thompson Masonic Schools.

The Grand Master, in his capacity as Chairman of the Council of The William Thompson Masonic School and Hostel, expressed the view that the stage had been reached where there should be a critical appraisal of the whole programme into financing, management and operations of the Family Group Homes as well as the alternate programme of providing financial assistance for children who remain in their own homes. The appraisal was to include all relevant bequests, trusts and real property.

To this end, the Grand Master appointed a Select Committee consisting of the following brethren to conduct this appraisal and to make any recommendations which the Committee deemed appropriate: Very Wor Bro Ian H. Pike, PDGIW, (Chief Stipendiary Magistrate in the NSW Courts); Right Wor Bro Reg Barrington, PDGM, Grand Treasurer; Right Wor Bro Hector I.M. McFarlane, AM, PAGM; Right Wor Bro Ray Connon, PAGM, Past Grand Secretary; Right Wor Bro Neville E. Menzies, PSGW; Right Wor Bro Graham K. Cohen, PJGW, Past President, Board of Benevolence and Very Wor Bro Ian R. McCulloch, PDGIW, Grand Secretary.

At its first meeting held on 1 August 1990, the Committee decided, amongst other things, to ask Lodges to submit the names of interested brethren to attend a meeting in the Masonic Centre when an open discussion was held to obtain the ideas of brethren and their ladies concerning the future directions of the Masonic Schools programme.

Over 70 brethren and ladies met on Monday evening 22 October 1990, in the Composite Room at the Sydney Masonic Centre. Amongst those in attendance were: Wor Bro David Olshen, Executive Officer of The William Thompson Masonic Schools; Most Wor Bro Frank Hodgson, OAM, PGM and Right Wor Bro W. John Arps, PJGW, President and former Secretary respectively of the NSW Masonic Youth Welfare Fund; Right Wor Bro Revd. Harold Ctercteko, PAGM, Grand Chaplain; Very Wor Bro Revd. Fred J. Rice, Past Grand Chaplain (former Executive Officer) and Mrs Rice; Very Wor Bro John Craven and Wor Bro Gordon Hess (former pupils of The William Thompson Masonic Schools) together with a number of other interested brethren and ladies.

After welcoming those in attendance the Chairman, Very Wor Bro Pike, invited Right Wor Bro Connon to present a brief review of the past operations of the Masonic Schools.

This was followed by an explanation presented by the Grand Treasurer, Right Wor Bro Reginald J. Barrington, relating to the manner in which the Schools' programme was financed; together with a brief outline of some suggestions regarding the future made by the Executive Officer, Wor Bro David Olshen.

Worthwhile observations were made by a number of brethren and ladies with professional

experience in this field of endeavour. In particular, very significant contributions were made by Mrs Daphne Durbin, wife of Very Wor Bro Revd Harold G. Durbin, Past Grand Chaplain, and Mrs Robyn Keir Coman, daughter of Very Wor Bro J. Basil Keir, MBE, Acting President of the Council of the Church of England Homes at Burwood and a physiotherapist at the NSW Masonic Hospital.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Grand Treasurer made reference to an organization known as The Friends of the Masonic Schools, the constitution of which had been approved some years ago, but had not come into operation. It was agreed that this could be a worthwhile organization to support the work of the Schools Council, and to this end, it was decided that a further meeting be held of those brethren and ladies interested in the work of the Masonic Schools with a view to the possibility of developing the concept of The Friends of the Masonic Schools and putting it into operation.

Forty Years and Still Going Strong.

The *NSW Freemason* for February 1992 reported:

Emanating from a suggestion made by Mrs Beatrice Cropley many years ago a number of the 'Old Girls' from the Masonic School who were married, commenced meeting for luncheon once a month at the 'Old Masonians Club Rooms' in Pitt Street, Sydney.

In the early stages Mrs Cropley made a point of being present and looked forward to seeing the girls as well as playing 'grandmother' to their children. After Mrs Cropley's death in 1954, the 'Old Girls' decided it would be a pity to

lose touch with each other and the idea of taking it in turn to hold the luncheon in their homes was born.

This home luncheon continued for the past 37 years. At first the ladies were content just to socialise, each of them taking a dish to help the hostess of the day with the cost and the work of providing luncheon for the crowd. Then it was suggested that they could use their 'get-togethers' to do something for someone less fortunate than themselves - as some little return for the generosity of the Freemasons who supported them as children.

Their first project was to collect good used clothing and send it to the Country Women's Association at Ennngonia (literally back-o-Bourke) for sale to the local Aborigines. This continued for several years. Next they decided to help support a young lady who had gone to Sudan, Africa, as a Bible translator.

Following the death from cancer of one of their group they decided to support cancer research. Later they supported many other worthwhile projects, mostly of a medical nature. A total of \$1,200 had been raised over the past six years.

The ladies say they really look forward to seeing each other on the first Monday of each month. At first it was just mothers and children attending but now, as their husbands reach retirement age, they join them and they are just 'one big happy family'.

Seventieth Anniversary of the William Thompson Masonic Schools.

On 11 November 1992 - Remembrance Day - Grand Lodge celebrated the 70th anniversary of the commencement of one of its greatest achievements - the official opening of the William Thompson Masonic Schools.

In every generation there are people with great humanitarian ideals or talents which can be utilised for the common good. But only occasionally there will be found a leader with the capacity to inspire people of talent, to bond them together, and fire them with such enthusiasm for a cause that a truly memorable project is undertaken and carried to its fulfilment. In his role as Grand Master, William Thompson proved to be such a leader.

Through his vision and under his guiding hand the William Thompson Masonic Schools at Baulkham Hills were established in 1922. For over 50 years the Schools remained the showpiece of child care establishments in New South Wales, the focus of Masonic pride and affection. In addition they displayed to the outside world that one of the basic principles of Freemasonry is charity.

Today the scheme operates in a more modern though less spectacular form, for while ever there is a need in society the Freemasons will continue to operate in the field of child care.

In an unprecedented display of Masonic unity, 10,000 people verged on the Schools' site at Baulkham Hills on 11 November 1922, to witness the official opening of the Schools. The great crowd comprised 4,000 Masons, members of their families and interested friends.

One thousand cars were guided along the narrow country road and marshalled onto the open space behind the buildings by the local police. Because the old steam tram had not coped with the crowds at the time when the foundation stone had been set, seventy motor buses were organized to operate from Parramatta Railway Station.

In his address to the assembled gathering on that great day, Most Wor Bro William Thompson had this to say:

'Brethren, today I may very well claim, constitutes an epoch in the history of Freemasonry, not only in the Jurisdiction of New South Wales, but in the whole southern hemisphere when we dedicate these magnificent Schools which, for generations to come, will stand as tangible evidence of that great principle of Freemasonry - charity.

The dedication of these Schools is a practical demonstration of our realisation of our responsibilities to each other. We 47,000 Masons, have accepted the responsibility of educating and providing for the fatherless. The Schools are now ready for the accommodation of 48 children, and within the next three or four weeks that number will be increased to 72. That is the number waiting at the present moment.

We are determined that these Schools will bring credit to Freemasonry and we are also determined that they will be conducted on the lines of the highest class of private educational establishments in New South Wales. We are determined that our little ones will have the very best that money can buy. Additions can readily be made to these Schools as occasion arises and the child of a millionaire could not get a better practical education under more congenial surroundings

and on a pleasanter spot than will be provided for the orphans of Masons at these Schools.'

Family Group Homes.

At the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge held on 10 March 1993, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Noel F. Dunn advised:

'During 1992 the number of children under care in the Family Group Homes known as 'Wybalena' and 'Boronia' fell from eight to four, which continued to reflect the decreasing demand for this type of special care.

The School Council had for some time, also been concerned about the increasing costs of running the Family Group Homes. In an attempt to contain costs, the Council decided that, with the departure of a long-standing pupil at the end of 1992, it was an opportune time to transfer the remaining children from 'Boronia' to 'Wybalena' and to implement steps to sell 'Boronia'. This move was a realistic approach to changing community needs and the greater emphasis that was being placed on alternative child care arrangements.

Changing community needs and financial constraints eventually forced a re-examination of the role of the Family Group Homes. After lengthy consideration the Council of The William Thompson Masonic School and Hostel decided to place greater emphasis on the Family Support Scheme. The provision of financial and moral support, directed towards the retention of children in their familiar family environment, was considered the most important priority.

At the same time, the Council sought to establish suitable arrangements with other organizations to provide for those special

cases which would come up from time to time and which could not easily be assimilated into their immediate family environment. Only when these arrangements were concluded and the remaining four children provided with alternative accommodation, did the last of the Family Group Homes 'Wybalena' at Baulkham Hills close. Proceeds of the sale of the property and those of another home, 'Boronia', which closed at the end of 1992, were applied exclusively to the Family Support Scheme. This was consistent with the long-standing philosophy of The William Thompson Masonic School and Hostel. The Council believed that this would result in more efficient use of the financial resources of this important Masonic charity.

Future Directions.

The Chairman of the School Council and Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Noel F Dunn, in his Annual Report to Grand lodge at the Quarterly Communication held in June 1995, said:

'Plans for the establishment of a Board of Youth Support have been publicised through proposed changes to the Book of Constitutions. It is hoped that this will provide an opportunity to strengthen and broaden Masonic assistance programmes for youth in the community.

Clearly the 90's are seeing the demand for youth care escalate - albeit away from more traditional and established programmes. The School Council is aware of these emerging trends and is confident that it can, with the assistance and support of the brethren, meet the challenge and continue to provide young Australians with a chance for "A Start in Life".'

CARING AND SUPPORT FOR YOUTH

C. BOARD OF YOUTH SUPPORT

The complete review and revision of the Book of Constitutions in 1996 provided for the establishment of the Board of Youth Support.

The Regulations stated:

- a. The Board shall embrace and continue The William Thompson Masonic School and Hostel.
- b. The Board may participate with and/or embrace any other worthy association.

The Board of Youth Support shall be responsible for:

- i Assisting with the education and maintenance of the children of deceased brethren who, at the time of their death, were members of a Lodge under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge;
- ii Assisting with the education and maintenance of the children of brethren who are unable to support their children fully;
- iii Assisting with the education and maintenance of other children, without limiting the eligibility of children under 8.7.3(a) or 8.7.3(b);
- iv Providing accommodation in one or more localities or making payments to any person for the maintenance, education, advancement or benefit (including private accommodation) of any child entitled to receive any benefit under this Regulation;

- v With the approval of the Executive Council, undertaking such other activities in the field of youth support as are delegated to it by the Executive Council or are directed to promoting the education and welfare of young people.

School Trust Funds.

Because of the changes in direction implemented in the operation and administration of the William Thompson Masonic School and Hostel, the Grand Lodge Trustees undertook an extensive review of the School trust funds and the purposes to which they had been directed. The review included the interpretation of previous legal advice and obtaining further legal advice from the Grand Registrar.

At the conclusion of the review, the Trustees delivered a comprehensive report, which concluded that the fifteen trust funds involved should continue to be administered by the School Council.

Annual Prizes.

On Saturday 15 July 1995 a most enjoyable presentation ceremony and afternoon tea occurred at the Sydney Masonic Centre when three prize-winning children from the William Thompson Masonic School and seventeen prize-winning young people from the NSW Masonic Youth Welfare Fund were presented with prizes to mark their achievements in good citizenship and academic attainment and excellence.

Prizes were awarded annually and this year was the first time that both youth funds combined their presentations.

Prizes awarded covered all levels of education from primary school to university undergraduates with a special prize awarded annually to the top graduate ward of the NSW Masonic Youth Welfare Fund.

Child Support Activities.

The Chairman of the School Council, Most Wor Bro Noel F. Dunn, Grand Master, reported to Grand Lodge in June 1996:

Assistance provided to children is, in large part, made by monthly financial grants. These funds are directed to the needs of the children for food, clothing, school fees and excursions, all of which help to ensure, as far as practicable, that each child has every opportunity to participate in school, family and community activities. In certain circumstances, additional financial assistance is made available to help with medical, dental, optical and other specialist medical services.

The spiritual aspect of the child's development is also recognised and the School Council provides an appropriate version of the Volume of the Sacred Law or other suitable religious book to each child coming under the School's care.

Regular reviews and periodical visits are undertaken to ensure that all beneficiaries continue to be eligible for assistance.

The needs of families adversely affected by drought have also been recognised and, in conjunction with the NSW Masonic Youth Welfare Fund, assistance is being provided to a number of children so affected around the State. Some private sponsorship of children has also been undertaken and is gratefully acknowledged.

Family Support Scheme.

At the end of 1996, 14 children left the care of the William Thompson Masonic School and Hostel and were transferred to the NSW Masonic Youth Welfare Fund as they commenced secondary school in 1997.

Right Wor Bro Revd Harold Ctercteko Appointed Chairman.

At the February 1997 meeting of the Board of Youth Support, Right Wor Bro Revd Harold Ctercteko, PDGM, Grand Chaplain, and a former pupil of the William Thompson Masonic School, began his term as Chairman of the Board.

Mission Statement.

A 'think-tank' was conducted in March 1997 as a result of which the Board of Youth Support adopted as its Mission Statement:

To provide practical and positive programmes for youth in the community.

As a first step, the Board, under the guidance of Very Wor Bro Le Mesurier, examined a Pilot Project in literacy for young people in the Canberra area.

Other actions included closer association with other youth organizations, promoting the Board's role and responsibilities to Lodges and a review of the adequacy of assistance to families as well as the financial base for the Board's wider responsibilities.

Group Home 'Wybalena'.

The Board of Youth Support advised in June 1997 that 'Wybalena' had been sold.

Land at Baulkham Hills.

The Board indicated to the Executive Council that it could not see any likely future use of the 4.071 ha of land remaining from the original School land at Baulkham Hills.

At the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge held in June 1997, Grand Lodge adopted the following motion presented by the Grand Treasurer, Right Wor Bro John Pearson, PDGM, that this Grand Lodge:

- i being in receipt of an offer from the Baulkham Hills Shire Council, agrees to sell to that Council the land at Lot 3 Radiata Avenue, Baulkham Hills for the sum of \$3.5 million; and
- ii instructs the Trustees of the Grand Lodge to execute all necessary documents to effect this sale; and
- iii instructs the Investment Committee of the Executive Council to invest the proceeds in suitable securities.

Masonic School Honour Boards.

Many Honour Boards from the Masonic School at Baulkham Hills were refurbished and were placed on display in the Masonic Centre, Sydney.

75th Anniversary of the William Thompson Masonic School.

November 1997 marked the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Masonic Schools at Baulkham Hills in Sydney.

Twenty-one girls arrived at the school between 27 and 29 November 1922 and twenty-four boys took up residence between 11 and 13 December. For the next nineteen years the School provided a home, education and much more, for the young Masonic wards entrusted to the care of the organization which was the brain child of the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro William Thompson. It was run by a dedicated and committed team led by Most Wor Bro Rubert and Mrs Beatrice Cropley and supported by an enthusiastic band of Masons.

The year 1997 also marks the 50th anniversary of the re-occupation of the School after the Army had taken it over as a military hospital in 1942.

Many former students celebrated these events on the occasion of the 1997 Cropley Reunion Luncheon held at the Masonic Centre, Sydney on Saturday, 8 November 1997.

Board of Youth Support - Statement of Objectives.

The Executive Council on 1 June 1998 endorsed the Statement of Objectives of the Board of Youth Support.

The Statement of Objectives was intended to provide a basis for priorities of the Board in considering proposals for support and in setting programmes of enquiry. It expanded,

but in no way replaced the objects expressed in Regulation 8.7.

- i The Board of Youth Support is to encourage the development within Freemasonry of cohesive policies and programmes in support of youth. The primary focus will be the welfare and education of young people who are in some way disadvantaged.
- ii It is to foster increased understanding within the Craft and the community of the ways in which Freemasonry supports youth.
- iii In assisting with the education and maintenance of children it may liase with other similar associations and bodies whose delivery of specialised services support and complement the Board's aims.
- iv It is to encourage and assist Private Lodges and other Masonic organizations in their support of youth. It may also join with other bodies in similar activities. In either case, the Board of Youth Support will concentrate its support on programmes consistent with item i.
- v All needy children shall be given equal status, regardless of Masonic connection, gender, race or creed.
- vi The Board of Youth Support will continue to embrace the William Thompson Masonic School and Hostel and will provide support for the maintenance and education of children, especially those in financial need. It may also provide financial and other assistance to young people with special needs; and to institutions and programmes designed to meet those needs.
- vii Other than its programme through the William Thompson Masonic School and Hostel, the Board of Youth Support will

not normally be involved in direct delivery of support programmes.

viii In applying the funds available to it (including those of the William Thompson Masonic School and Hostel) the Board shall give highest priority to support of those with financial need and secondary priority to young people with other sorts of need. Support for cultural and sporting organizations is to have lower priority.

Old Masonians Lunch.

The Old Masonians (former pupils of the William Thompson Masonic School), held their annual luncheon on 7 November 1998 when 170 attended. For some of these it was the first time for 25 years. The luncheon is known as 'The Cropley Lunch' named after the first Superintendent of the School and is held each year on the Saturday closest to the formation and opening of the School on 11 November 1922.

Board Goes Bush.

The Board of Youth Support met on Saturday 4 September 1999 at Gulgong in the central west of New South Wales. This meeting at Gulgong may have been the first time a Board of the Grand Lodge had met outside Sydney.

Australian Ballet First Impressions Programme.

The Australian Ballet conducted a programme to enable disadvantaged children to experience at first hand the pleasures and excitement of ballet. Children attended a regular performance and afterwards were introduced to the cast and directors of the performance. The Board of Youth Support sponsored 200 places in this programme for the year 2000 season in

Sydney and Canberra at a cost of \$5,000. A small number of children who were assisted by the three Masonic charities supporting youth were included in the programme.

The Freemasons support was recognised by The Australian Ballet in each of the 100,000 programmes printed and in 44,000 annual reports to subscribers.

Burnside Family Centre at Doonside.

Burnside, a community support agency of the Uniting Church, established a family support centre at Doonside in the Blacktown area of Sydney. The Board of Youth Support contributed \$5,000 towards the establishment costs of the Centre.

The Centre ran a number of early intervention, self-help and child support programmes. Burnside saw this and similar centres as a response to a high level of child neglect and abuse in certain areas of Metropolitan and Regional New South Wales.

Administration of the Family Support Scheme by the Masonic Youth Welfare Fund.

The Family Support Scheme enabled Grand Lodge to assist needy families of children of primary school and younger ages. The scheme was financed from the earnings of funds retained from the William Thompson Masonic School and Hostel. The Masonic Youth Welfare Fund operated a complementary scheme to assist young people through their secondary and tertiary education.

This division of responsibilities was a source of confusion to many brethren and to the

families assisted. As a result, the two organizations agreed to combine under the administration of the Masonic Youth Welfare Fund.

From 1 July 2001 the Masonic Youth Welfare Fund met the costs of supporting these (and future) children from its own resources. The Executive Council was delighted to accept this generous offer from the Fund as it would enable the monies of the William Thompson Masonic Schools to be diverted to other forms of assistance to youth under the aegis of the Grand Charity.

Under these circumstances Grand Lodge discontinued the annual appeal for the Schools, bringing to an end nearly 80 years of such appeals. The Grand Secretary wrote to all Lodge Secretaries to inform them of the situation.

Grand Charity.

The Grand Charity Board of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory was established in June 1999 and henceforth it would provide for the care and support of the youth in the community.

CARING AND SUPPORT FOR YOUTH**D. SCHOLARSHIPS***Scholarships - The University of Sydney.*

One scholarship valued at \$1,000 per annum in 1988 and known as the 'Freemasons' Scholarship' is awarded each year for general proficiency in the Higher School Certificate and is tenable in any faculty at the University of Sydney for a period of three years. Competitors must be the sons or daughters of Freemasons of five years' standing of The United Grand Lodge of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory and must have qualified for Matriculation.

Applications must be lodged with the Registrar of the University of Sydney to reach him no later than 1 March each year, and must be accompanied by a certificate from the Grand Secretary giving the full name of the competitor and certifying that the father of the applicant has the requisite membership.

James Sidney Miller Memorial Scholarship.

This Scholarship was created and originally financed by the Lodges of the Jurisdiction to perpetuate the memory of Most Wor Bro James Sidney Miller, Past Grand Master, who served with distinction as Deputy Grand Secretary from 1933 to 1939 and Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales from 1939 to his death in July 1963. The Scholarship is for sons and daughters of Freemasons, of at least five years' membership. Students whose fathers have died, but were subscribing members of Lodges at the time of death, are eligible to apply. The applicants must have completed year 10 to progress to years 11 and 12. The

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of study achievements and to assist in future studies to encourage young people to further their education.

Two Scholarships are awarded each year under the James Sidney Miller Memorial Scholarship Fund. The Scholarships in 1988 were valued at \$300 per annum for up to two years.

James Sidney Miller Memorial Scholarship Committee.

At the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge held on 14 March 1990, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Ronald Johnson announced a new appointment to the Scholarship Committee.

The Committee comprised:

Chairman; The Grand Secretary; Right Wor Bro Raymond Connon, PAGM
 The Grand Treasurer; Right Wor Bro Reginald Barrington, PDGM
 Right Wor Bro M.H. (Harry) Kellerman, OBE, PAGM
 Right Wor Bro Patrick W. Medway, PJGW
 The Deputy Grand Secretary, Right Wor Bro Graham Maltby, PSGW, as Secretary to the Committee.

Right Wor Bro Patrick W. Medway had moved interstate and the Grand Master appointed Very Wor Bro Donald Garth McKinnon, District Grand Inspector of Workings No. 35 District, in his stead.

Very Wor Bro McKinnon, a retired Public Servant had been an Assistant to the Public Service Board of New South Wales.

C.R. Buchanan Trust.

In June 1999, the Executive Council requested the Grand Lodge Trustees to control and administer the C.R. Buchanan Trust which had been operated with difficulty for a number of years by a Private Lodge.

The Grand Lodge Trustees, acting on behalf of the Worshipful Master of Lodge Oatley No. 381, made five scholarship awards to boys who were leaving the care of the William Thompson Masonic School and Hostel. The awards made under the provisions of the C.R. Buchanan Trust were each in the amount of \$600.00 and were to provide scholarships for the boys who commenced High School education in 1999.

The late Brother Charles Ronald Buchanan was a member of Lodge Manoah No. 41 which consolidated with Lodge Oatley a number of years ago.

The boys having left the care of the William Thompson Masonic School and Hostel were taken 'under the wing' of the NSW Masonic Youth Welfare Fund until such time as they completed their high school and tertiary education.

Hunter Region Freemasons' Scholarship to the Newcastle Conservatorium of Music.

On Friday 22 September 1989, some 160 guests attended a dinner at the Newcastle Tattersall's Club. The organizer of the dinner, Very Wor Bro Neil Richardson, Past District Grand Inspector of Workings, said the 1988 'centenary' events in the Hunter Valley were arranged so that members of the community could

participate with the Masonic fraternity in commemorating this centenary. The '1988' events were of tremendous benefit to Masonry in the area, making many aware of Masonic aims and work within the community. With this in mind, this dinner was held.

The guests included the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Ronald L H Johnson and Mrs May Johnson; the President of the Board of General Purposes, Right Wor Bro James Eddy and Mrs Mary Eddy; the Grand Inspector of Workings Area A, Very Wor Bro John Hile and Mrs Betty Hile along with civic leaders, local dignitaries and many members of the community.

Following an excellent dinner and a selection of Hunter Valley wines, the Hunter Region Freemason's Scholarship to the Newcastle Conservatorium of Music was launched. The presentation was made to Bro Vincent Millington representing the Board of Management of the Conservatorium by the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Ronald L H Johnson.

The Newcastle Conservatorium of Music is truly representative of the youth of the Hunter. With this in mind, and to mark the 1988 'Centenary', this fund valued at \$10,000 had been set up. This will enable an annual scholarship of \$1,000 adjusted annually for inflation, to assist students to achieve potentials otherwise latent due to either financial hardship or other limiting factors.

It was stated during the evening that the Freemasons of the Hunter, are proud to be associated with the scholarship. A number of the senior students of the Conservatorium provided harmony during dinner.

The after dinner speaker was Right Wor Bro George L James, AM, PJGW, whose topic was 'Getting the Most out of Life'.

CARING AND SUPPORT FOR YOUTH

**E. THE NEW SOUTH WALES MASONIC YOUTH
WELFARE FUND**

Introduction.

On March 28, 1923, Most Wor Bro William Thompson, Grand Master, presided over a general meeting of brethren held in the Masonic Hall, Castlereagh Street, Sydney, at which the NSW Masonic School Welfare Fund was inaugurated.

The objects of this new organization were:

- To place the children in suitable positions on their leaving the William Thompson Masonic School, to secure homes for them, to assist them financially until they were in a position to support themselves, take a personal interest in their welfare.
- To assist any who show the necessary qualifications to complete their tertiary training.

In 1965 the Fund was re-named the NSW Masonic Youth Welfare Fund. The constitution was enlarged to not only assist ex-pupils of the William Thompson Masonic School but also help needy youth of deceased or incapacitated Masons. In 1972 the constitution was once again enlarged to assist any youth, Masonic and non-Masonic, deemed to be in necessitous circumstances, regardless of race, colour or creed, but referred through Lodges.

Although the organization became known as the NSW Masonic Youth Welfare Fund and its Charter was broadened to include any youthful person considered by the Executive Committee to be

'necessitous and deserving', the basic objects established by the meeting in 1923 were still applicable.

THE FUND IS DEDICATED TO THE CARE AND GUIDANCE OF YOUTH.

It has committed itself on behalf of the brethren in this Jurisdiction to afford relief to needy children; children who have suffered the loss of a father's support by death or incapacity.

Since the Fund began more than 2,000 boys and girls, ex-pupils of the William Thompson Masonic School, and those children referred to the Fund by Lodges, have been given the opportunity to complete their education to enable them to enter the vocation for which they were best suited, whether it be professional, commercial or industrial.

The cost of training these young people has been met by the voluntary contributions of the brethren from the Lodges in this Jurisdiction. The administration expenses are met by the income from investments.

An anonymous author once wrote:

Let us remember that our youth inherit the world we make for them. We must ensure that love, kindness and compassion are part of this inheritance.

Hodgson Memorial Prize.

At the June 1989 meeting, the members of The Australian Lodge of Harmony No. 5, unanimously carried a resolution to vote the sum of \$20,000 to the NSW Masonic Youth Welfare Fund for the provision of an annual sum to be known as the

'Hodgson Memorial Prize' for the best graduate of the year.

It was to honour Most Wor Bro Frank L. Hodgson, OAM, Past Grand Master, Grand Architect, who had been actively involved with the Fund and who had made an outstanding contribution towards the welfare of youth for over fifty years.

George Nouh Assisted by Fund.

One important instance where the Masonic Youth Welfare Fund was involved concerned George Nouh, who spent his life fighting a crippling bone disease, and who died in September 1992, in Camperdown Children's Hospital.

During his short lifetime George was never one to let his painful medical condition, osteogenesis imperfecta, get him down. Despite bone fractures too numerous to count and body painfully stunted by the affliction, George's spirit was never broken.

By the time he was 12, he had conquered the mysteries of computers, was a maths whiz, and - thanks to the local community's generosity - a 'terror' on wheels.

George, who had lived at the Royal Far West Children's Health Scheme at Manly from the age of 18 months, had a passion for life and because he believed that 'anything was possible' he nurtured an ambition to become a policeman. Although this was never to be, the community helped him realise a more immediate wish to own a 'really fast set of wheels'.

The NSW Masonic Youth Welfare Fund, Manly Rotary Club and the Manly District Relief Fund raised more than \$4,000 to provide a made-to-measure electric wheelchair to increase his mobility at school. The wheelchair was delivered in April 1992.

Right Wor Bro Athol Martin elected President.

The President of the Fund since 1955, Most Wor Bro Frank L Hodgson, OAM, Past Grand Master did not seek re-election in 1993. Right Wor Bro Athol Martin, Past Senior Grand Warden, became President, a great honour for the long-serving Vice-President and former pupil of the William Thompson Masonic Schools.

At the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge held on 11 September 1996, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Revd Raymond C Green announced that Right Wor Bro Athol Martin had passed to the Grand Lodge Above.

William Thompson Masonic School and Hostel - Family Support Scheme.

The Family Support Scheme used funds of the former William Thompson Masonic School and Hostel to help young children of families who were facing particular need.

Masonic Youth Charities - An Overview.

At the September 1998 Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, the Board of Youth Support advised:

The William Thompson Masonic Schools and the Masonic Youth Welfare Fund were both established by Most Wor Bro William Thompson, Grand Master 1914-1924. The two funds were

intended to complement each other in caring for and supporting young people.

The Masonic Youth Welfare Fund (MYWF), which operates quite independently of Grand Lodge, became the main Masonic provider of financial assistance to youth. It also provides considerable help to Grand Lodge's Board of Youth Support in auditing the assistance provided through the Family Support Scheme. In many cases the two funds were assisting the same families. This happened because the Family Support Scheme restricted itself to children below secondary school age while the MYWF concentrated on youth in secondary and tertiary education. New families were divided between the funds according to the ages of the children. Most of the children receiving help from the Family Support Scheme were passed over to the MYWF as they graduated to High School.

Family Support Scheme children and the youth receiving assistance from the Masonic Youth Welfare Fund were widely dispersed throughout the Jurisdiction.

Administration of the Grand Lodge Family Support Scheme.

From 1 July 2001, the Masonic Youth Welfare Fund assumed responsibility, at its own expense, for the children formerly looked after by the Grand Lodge Board of Youth Support.

CARING AND SUPPORT FOR YOUTH

F. THE OPALS CHARITY.

Formation of OPALS Group.

In September 1999, the wife of the Grand Master, Mrs Annette Curry announced her desire to create a charity to raise money independently of other Masonic fund raising activities to help childrens' causes that get very little assistance through the normal channels.

This charity was known as OPALS and was funded by social events and donations. DEBRA (Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa Research Association) was the first group to benefit from this new charity. DEBRA helped babies and children with a genetic skin condition where any pressure put on their skin causes blisters and tears. With open wounds infections are inevitable. Their fingers and toes eventually become so damaged they literally wear away. Their eyes are also greatly affected as, while still babies, they rub them forming blisters on the eyes. Eating is just another problem, and life in general is one big struggle.

Mrs Curry said:

'We need sponsors and supporters - not only so that we can make a lot of money, but to enhance the Masonic reputation of caring for the disadvantaged.'

Arts and Crafts Fair.

The Arts and Crafts Fair arranged by OPALS on Friday 31 March and Saturday 1 April 2000 was a great financial success. OPALS raised \$6,000.

This pleasing result was partly due to the very hard work of lots of people around the State sending their handicrafts and to the ladies and partners who helped at the fair. The ladies from DEBRA (Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa Research Association of Australia) were right there beside OPALS on that day.

Thanks was extended to the Parramatta Masonic and Community Club for their generosity in giving the auditorium, staff, and other equipment at minimal cost. President of the Club, Very Wor Bro Robert Galley, and President of DEBRA, Mrs Joan Patison, and the Federal Member for Parramatta, Mr Ross Cameron, attended the cocktail party held on the Friday night.

The Grand Master officially opened the Fair and later that evening presented a cheque for \$6,000 to the president of DEBRA. The Grand Master also presented award certificates to Betty Pearson and Diana Gordon for their paintings which were of excellent quality. Awards were also presented to Bev Lipscombe and Marie Grainger for their beautiful handwork.

Grant to DEBRA.

Due to the extensive work being done by the wife of the Grand Master, Mrs Annette Curry and her committee, \$8,000 was provided for the DEBRA organization which provided research into cures of and support for people with Epidermolysis Bullosa, known as EB which is the name of a group of genetic disorders causing blistering and shedding of the skin from even the gentlest function and sometimes even spontaneously. It is estimated that one in 20,000 people are affected by EB.

OPALS Fashion Parade.

The Fashion Parade, held in March 2001 was a great success. *Boronia Grove Reception House* at Epping was a lovely venue to hold such a function. Mrs Annette Curry thanked the ladies who modelled the clothes. They did an excellent job and raised around \$1,800 on the day.

At the Fashion Parade the ladies started selling spring flowering bulbs as a fund raiser to try to bring the green thumb out in everyone.

OPALS Donation to DEBRA.

On Monday, 27 August 2001, Most Wor Bro George Curry and his wife Annette, went to the annual luncheon of the Combined Masonic Widows Associations, when Mrs Curry was presented with a cheque for \$2,000 for DEBRA.

This resulted in a cheque for \$15,000 to Dr Murrell to use in the research of Epidermolysis Bullosa. That cheque was presented to her at a reception at the University of New South Wales on 19 November 2001.

The Grand Master, as well as the ladies of the OPAL Committee and some from the committee of DEBRA, were in attendance as Dr Murrell accepted the cheque and thanked the OPAL Committee heartily for their efforts. She also passed on her grateful thanks to the Masons of NSW and ACT for their kindness and support.

OPALS Functions.

The 'shopping spree tour' on 23 March 2002, was as popular as usual, and a great success. The

ladies came home heavily laden and much the poorer, but very happy with their bargains.

The 'Last Hurrah' Trivia Night held on 29 June 2002 was a great success. Those who were there had a fun night.

OPALS raised over \$1,300 which was marvellous for just sixty people.

Over the three years the OPAL Committee had been putting on these functions, they had raised and given to the Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa Research Association (DEBRA) the sum of \$49,000 with about \$5,000 more yet to donate. This was much more than expected; and, in addition, the Grand Charity gave \$6,000.

Mrs Annette Curry extended her thanks to the OPALS Committee, Pam Foster, Carole McCulloch, Leslie Brown and, more recently, Helen Pickering and Judy Halmarick.

It was a wonderful and worthwhile programme.



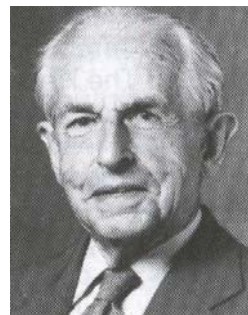
Right Wor Bro
FRANK M JEFFREE



Right Wor Bro
LESLIE LOCK



Right Wor Bro
THOMAS GEESON



Right Wor Bro
ATHOL MARTIN



Very Wor Bro
GRAHAM NICHOLLS



Official Opening, Acacia House 1992.
His Excellency Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair , Patron,
RFBI,
Right Wor Bros Frank M. Jeffree Keith Buckton



Lake Macquarie Retirement Village, FWMH 1997

CHAPTER X

CARING AND SUPPORT FOR THE AGED

A. THE ROYAL FREEMASONS' BENEVOLENT
INSTITUTION OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

When the Freemasons' Benevolent Institution (FBI) was founded in 1880, there were no social welfare programmes offered by governments of the day. They left the task to charitable organizations who drew upon members of their own kind to support needy people. Churches, municipalities, fraternal and benevolent groups such as Freemasons provided the means of assistance to help families and individuals through tough times. The Institution has maintained financial aid for well over a century and will continue to do so as long as Lodges put forward applications.

In the June 1923 issue of *The New South Wales Freemason*, a poem by Bro Eli Broad was published.

THE F B I

There's a noble Institution,
Better known as F B I,
Whose unequalled Constitution
No good Craftsman dare deny.
It was rounded very firmly
On a basis dear to all -
To assist a worthy Brother
Should he by the wayside fall.

The distressed and poor are succoured,
And the aged, too, relieved;
Oft a needy infirm Mason
Has some benefit received;
While sad homes have been made happy

By the timely rendered aid
 Of this sympathetic Body,
 For its hand is rarely stayed.

Though this is a heaven-born mission,
 With a purpose most benign,
 It has need of well-filled coffers
 To accomplish its design.
 Then, my Brother, please give largely
 To the funds of F B I;
 Someone's load you'll help to lighten
 On life's rugged road thereby.

ELI BROAD, 23-1-1923

Once governments commenced welfare funding there was less call on the FBI and new fields of caring endeavour were investigated. In the mid 1960's, a Geriatric Hospital was established at Shortland near Newcastle. That was the organization's first venture into domiciliary care; the Hospital was sustained by the FBI until 1984.

Early in 1984, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, was pleased to give her consent for the Institution to be known as the Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution of New South Wales (RFBI) in recognition of the great service given to Freemasonry and the community.

It became apparent that village style accommodation for the elderly was the way of the future and a village consisting initially of self-care units was built at Edgeworth, also near Newcastle, and the first units were occupied in 1972. A nursing home followed quickly as did further self-care units. Other villages eventuated, some with three stages of care viz: self-care, hostel for the frail aged and nursing home. Many of the villages have a

community hall which can be used by residents for a great variety of activities. In some areas the halls are made available to community groups who might otherwise not be able to meet publicly.

Remembering that the term 'domiciliary' refers to a house or a home, the Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution and the local Boards of Management charged with the operation of the villages have, as their prime role, the task of helping residents to maintain a high quality of life, at least as good and as satisfying as the one they experienced before entering care.

In keeping with its caring role the RFBI has, in recent years, assisted the funding of research into the causes of ill-health in the aged, with particular reference to the problems associated with Alzheimer's Disease, a form of dementia with distressing effects on both the sufferer and those who care for them. This aspect of the duty of care has continued to be addressed as well as the provision of hostel accommodation for afflicted people.

The number of aged persons in the community at any one time is increasing rapidly. Governments have a multitude of calls upon their resources and cannot meet every one of them. It is a part of the role of the RFBI to continue to be active in caring for those in residence today and those who will join in the future.

Opening of Hostel at Lakemba.

In the presence of the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Ronald Johnson and the Deputy Grand Master, Right Wor Bro Noel Dunn, the 50 room Hostel at Lakemba was officially opened on Saturday 5

November 1988. There was a large number of interested Masons and their families present and, after the opening, an inspection of the facility took place to the unanimous praise of all those present. The site, adjoining the Lakemba Bowling Club, enabled many of the residents to overlook the greens from their rooms and to have access to the Bowling Club premises.

During January 1989, some 40 residents and their friends were entertained with a concert and refreshments on a Sunday afternoon by the members of the adjoining Bowling Club at its premises and Campsie Rotary arranged for two residents to attend an organ concert at the Orion Centre at Campsie.

Opening of Hostels at Wellington and Dubbo.

On Saturday 18 February 1989, the 32 room Hostel at Wellington was opened and on the following Saturday, 25 February, a 40 room Hostel at Dubbo was also opened. Both these projects were joint ventures between the RFBI and the local community and in the case of Dubbo with the United Protestant Association. The Dubbo Hostel supplemented the existing RFBI village at Dubbo, which comprised 10 self-care units and a community centre.

Fifth Biennial Australasian Conference on Aged Care.

The conference was held in Melbourne in March 1989 to coincide with and as part of the centenary celebrations of The United Grand Lodge of Victoria. This biennial meeting of representatives of Masonic Aged Care providers throughout Australia and New Zealand which originated by the RFBI, afforded a valuable

forum for the exchange of information and views in a rapidly changing environment with respect to the care of the aged.

Brochures - RFBI Centres.

During 1989, Lodges received an attractive coloured brochure which gave a general description of the facilities of the RFBI retirement complexes throughout New South Wales.

Annual Debutante Ball.

The Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Ronald Johnson attended the 98th Grand Masonic Ball held under the auspices of the RFBI on Friday 11 August 1989 at the Round House, University of New South Wales. This annual event was again an outstanding success and brought the work of the RFBI to the notice of all who attended.

Kalparrin Hostel - Canberra.

Canberra's newest Hostel for the frail aged was officially opened by the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Ronald L.H. Johnson on Sunday 1 October 1989. Kalparrin is an Aboriginal word meaning 'to lend a helping hand' - and the hostel is a project of the Canberra Masonic Homes, which provides management in Canberra and the surrounding district for the Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution of NSW.

The Hostel is Stage 3 of the development of an ideally located site in the northern Canberra suburb of Holt, directly opposite the Kippax Shopping Fair and service area. The first two stages of the Holt Retirement Village which comprised 17 and 21 self-care units and a well-

equipped community hall were completed in 1984 and 1987 respectively.

The 49 bed Hostel was planned with four wings, each with offset corridors. The rooms were self-contained motel style and had an ensuite designed for wheelchair access, large wardrobes, hot water radiators and sliding doors to landscaped gardens. There were four double units with connecting doors for couples and one respite care room.

Each wing has a common lounge and tea making area and there were bath, spa and laundry facilities. Corridors were offset to avoid long hallways often found in nursing homes and hostels. All units and common areas were on the one level. Rooms in each wing were colour coded and numbered for easy identification by residents.

The total cost was about \$2.8 million to build and furnish. Just over \$1 million was provided by the Federal Government as a subsidy. A total of \$1.4 million was raised and contributed by the Freemasons of Canberra and district with the balance being advanced by the RFBI.

The work of willing volunteers had long been a feature of the work of the Canberra Masonic Homes and had been a major reason for the large financial contribution to the project by local brethren. Volunteers did virtually all of the maintenance on the self-care units as well as the landscaping and this work continued with the Kalparrin Hostel.

Donation of Land at Goulburn.

After many frustrating years seeking out land for a retirement village, it was announced in December 1989 that Bro Geoffrey Gulson had donated five acres of prime real estate in the City of Goulburn to the RFBI for that purpose. This was a magnificent gesture by the head of a family which for generations played a very important role in the life of the City.

The *Goulburn Post* of 28 August 1989 reported:

Provision for aged hostel accommodation in Goulburn took a giant step forward on Friday because of the benevolence of one Goulburn man.

Mr Geoff Gulson of Gulson's Brickworks donated 'about five or six' acres to the Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution of NSW (RFBI) to build a village for the aged. It is proposed that the complex will have up to 30 self-contained units, a hostel with about 30 beds and a similar sized nursing home. There was an on-site meeting on Friday between Mr Gulson and Directors of the RFBI to discuss the proposed project.

The building site, south of Gulson's Brickworks, will have dual access - both entries from Long Street. RFBI President, Mr Frank Jeffree, OAM, Directors Mr Alex Bell and Mr Ken Thompson, District Inspector for District 101 Mr Peter Larkin and Secretary of the Goulburn District and Masonic Retirement Villages, Mr Allan Miller, attended Friday's meeting.

Mr Gulson stressed that his gift of land was not to Goulburn City Council but to the aged people of Goulburn. 'It is my way of giving something back to Goulburn', Mr Gulson said. 'I feel there is a great need for this type of accommodation in Goulburn and we are all

getting older. The gift is to the citizens of this City.'

RFBI President, Mr Jeffree, said whatever the future held in the expanding field of aged care with the many changes taking place, the RFBI will remain a leader in the field, willing to adopt new ideas and concepts in association with those in the community who share similar objectives. The donation of the land is the first step towards eventually minimising the severe shortage of retirement accommodation in Goulburn, he said. Many elderly people have been forced to move out of the City and find somewhere suitable to live. Some have found retirement villages as close as Bundanoon but others have had to go as far as the coast.

Mr Larkin said previously there were two hurdles - land and money. Now, at last, one of those problems has been solved. He added proceeds from the recent Masonic Debutante Ball (\$1,500) will be put towards the village. And in the last 10 months, our total raised by the people of Goulburn was \$15,000. About \$10,000 of this will be invested with the RFBI, Mr Larkin said. I must stress that while this is a Lodge project, it will be open. The only criteria is need.

The sincerest thanks and appreciation of the RFBI was expressed to Bro Geoffrey Gulson and his family for the magnificent gift, and they were assured that the RFBI and the Masons of Goulburn would produce a facility second to none for senior citizens.

A First for Hawkins Village.

On 11 March 1990, the Board of Management of Hawkins Village showed great initiative and innovation in hosting what would become an annual event, namely a breakfast at the Village

with residents, the local Directors and Central Office Directors and their wives, Members of Parliament from surrounding regions, friends of the Village and staff.

Following the sudden passing on 17 October 1989 of the long serving Village Administrator, Les Oldham, so beloved by residents and staff alike, the Board of Management appointed John Turnbull as Administrator. John came well qualified to carry out his important duties and contributed his knowledge of computers to assist in installing a system for the Village.

Fortunately, there was only very minor damage to the Village following the Newcastle earthquake.

Premier's Wife Visited Moorefield Village.

Residents at the Village were delighted to receive a visit from Mrs Kathryn Greiner on 6 April 1990 when she chatted with them and showed a keen interest in their welfare. After morning tea Mrs Greiner inspected the Village and remarked on the happy atmosphere and serenity which prevailed.

Death of Sir David Martin.

The President, the Board of Directors and everyone associated with the RFBI were greatly saddened by the death on 10 August 1990 of the former Governor of New South Wales, Rear Admiral Sir David Martin, KCMG, AO. Sir David was the Patron of the Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution of New South Wales.

Nyngan Flood.

A month before the floods at Nyngan, RFBI Directors visited the town to discuss the details of assistance for a hostel on land adjoining the local hospital. At that time there was a drought.

The hostel project proceeded notwithstanding the tragic events of the extensive flooding in the town and the RFBI moved to give priority to financial assistance to the hostel and to assist Masons in distress.

Debutante Ball to help Alzheimer's Disease Research.

It is a generally acknowledged fact that Australian society is an ageing one. It is not so well known that over the next 20 years, or so, the over 80's age group will increase by over 200%. As a natural consequence, the incidence of dementia including Alzheimer's Disease, Parkinson's Disease and osteoporosis will increase proportionately. Already over one hundred thousand Australians suffer from Alzheimer's Disease. The Directors of RFBI made themselves aware of these changing circumstances and were looking to the future.

At the August 1990 Board Meeting, Professor Tony Broe, Director of the Aging and Alzheimer's Disease Research Institute (AADRI), which carried on its work at the Repatriation General Hospital, Concord, responded to an invitation to inform RFBI Directors of the research work which was being undertaken by this organization into the causes of ill health in the aged.

The proceeds of the Ball held on 9 August 1991 were donated to AADRI. Directors of the RFBI believed this new direction to be an exciting

and constructive one and in pursuance of its Charter to care for the senior citizens of New South Wales.

Opening of Coffs Harbour Masonic Village.

On Saturday 11 August 1990, a new RFBI sponsored Retirement Village was opened at Coffs Harbour by Right Wor Bro Matt Singleton, MLA, PAGM, together with the President of the RFBI, Right Wor Bro Frank Jeffree, OAM, PAGM.

Over 500 people attended the official opening including former Australian boxing champion, Wor Bro Vic Patrick. Ladies from the Order of the Eastern Star catered for the 380 people who attended the afternoon tea.

Annual Meeting of the Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution.

The Annual Meeting of the Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution was held at the Lakemba Bowling Club on Thursday 15 November 1990. The Grand Master was represented by the Assistant Grand Master, Right Wor Bro John Talty, who was accompanied by his wife, Dawn.

The Annual Report contained:

A Year of Achievement Across the State.

The body and soul of the RFBI lies in its network of 14 regions spread over NSW (Adelong, Bathurst, Bellingen, Canberra, Central Coast, Corowa, Dubbo, Goulburn, Lakemba, Newcastle, St Georges Basin, Tamworth) whilst its Head Office is situated at Central Office, 171 Castlereagh Street Sydney. There are another 27 joint venture villages throughout New South Wales (Blayney, Carcoar, Cobar, Coolamon, Cowra, Dubbo,

Dunedoo, Gilgandra, Glen Innes, Gulgong, Gundagai, Gunnedah, Inverell, Junee, Lithgow, Lockhart, Mudgee, Narromine, Nyngan, Quirindi, Rylstone-Kandos, Sussex Inlet, Tumbarumba, Ungarie, Walgett, Wellington, West Wyalong).

The Body is made up of dedicated Boards of Management who, without financial reward, control the day-to-day running of each of the regions, whether they consist of self-care units, hostels or nursing homes. These dedicated groups of Masons and non-Masons, males and females, work tirelessly in the best interest of those in their care, supported by efficient and caring medical staff and supervisors. They in turn are assisted by hundreds of voluntary workers in the form of ladies' auxiliaries who carry out all manner of tasks from gardening to interior decoration, fund raising and counselling. It has been estimated that some 80,000 hours of work per year are performed by these volunteers, representing hundreds of thousands of dollars if only \$10 per hour were calculated as its value. At the same time funds totalling thousands of dollars have been raised at the centres.

That the soul manifests itself in the spirit of friendship, communication and co-operating is continually evinced by the increasing liaison between regions, for example visits by management and residents - exchange of information and ideas - preparation and distribution of news sheets to regions and Lodges, and of course, assistance, advice and encouragement from Central Office which is ever ready to help when needed.

The year has been a most successful and rewarding one, especially when regard is given to the exciting plans and projects which are on the drawing board and which will come to fruition in the coming year. It brings to life the cold factual figures and merits and

approbation of all supporters of the RFBI who have contributed in their own way, to such solid progress in the care of our elderly citizens.

RFBI Executive Director's Report.

The Executive Director, Right Wor Bro Alex Bell, presented the following report:

'It is my pleasure to provide an overview at the Executive level of the day to day activities of this Charity, as directed from Central Office on the performance of the principles and philosophy espoused.

Possibly the most important development in the aged care industry over recent years, has been the introduction of the Retirement Village Act and the Complementary Code of Practice, which sets standards for the conduct of operations of retirement villages in New South Wales in conjunction with the Fair Trading Act of 1987 effective from 30 October 1989. The rights and obligations of residents and management are clearly set forth and must be spelt out in contract documents drawn in accordance with the legislation. Whilst increasing the paper work load it ensures full and proper protection in those circumstances which originally caused the passing of the

legislation. The legislation has in no way altered, or varied the quality and lifestyle of the residents throughout New South Wales in our many village complexes.

In accordance with Commonwealth Government policy of monitoring the standard of care provided (called 'Out-come Standards') the report of a visiting team to Hawkins Village complimented the management and reported 'the residents and relatives praised the staff for the friendly and happy atmosphere conducive to

positive communication - relatives well informed' 'staff were observed speaking to residents in a respectful manner and were encouraging and, where necessary, assisting residents to be well groomed and dressed according to the time of day'.

The Commonwealth Government commenced work in 1988 on compiling a manual of guidelines for the implementation of standards for hostels assisted by input from many care organizations to become operative in July 1991.

The RFBI continues to be well served by the Voluntary Care Association (VCA).

The Government's Cost Aggregate Module (CAM) system of funding nursing homes continues to be an area for review. The reconciliation of allowances presently provided for patient care costs, at certain resident levels, continues to be at variance with the actual costs of providing care.

Throughout the State, geriatric assessment teams certainly seem to vary in their composition, their effectiveness and their relationship with care organizations. The outcome of a follow-up survey will, no doubt, obtain the necessary data to enable further negotiations with the Government on this issue.

Videos produced by the Commonwealth Government Department of Community Services and Health namely *Your hostel - their home* and *I'm still caring for people with dementia* are designed to help with creative staff training programmes for hostel and nursing home staff, and have been well received by the staff in our complexes.

The rapid expansion over the past five years has necessitated a complete study and re-assessment of our computer system, which has

served so well over those years. The updating of our contributors roll as well as the modernisation of other equally important areas, probably will involve the purchase of new hardware and programmes, thereby minimising the employment of additional staff. Staff levels are three full-time and one part-time and have remained unchanged over those years.

During March 1990, five trips to the country were made to 24 of our joint venture Centres involving some six thousand kilometres of travel in 11 days. Much important dialogue resulted in goodwill from these trips which strengthened the excellent associations already established at the Centres.

The accommodation shows an overall expansion over the past four years of 69 per cent in the number of residents under our care. Within that increase, hostel bed numbers have grown by over 250 per cent as a result of our being involved in many joint ventures. It is interesting to note that further growth in hostel accommodation will occur in the immediate future at our own fully-funded complexes at Coffs Harbour, Bathurst, Goulburn, Tamworth and Hawkins Village whilst at the same time there is a high expectation of involvement in two major metropolitan projects.'

New Administration Building for Hawkins Village.

To cater for the expansion of the Village, a new administration building was completed in February 1991. This provided much needed office space and brought all the administrative functions under the one roof to provide a more effective and efficient administration unit. Further, on their many visits to the office,

residents were attended to in comfortable and modern surroundings.

The official opening was carried out by the President of the Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution of NSW, Right Wor Bro Frank M. Jeffree, OAM, PDGM on Sunday 17 March 1991. Around 400 attended the ceremony.

A highlight of the proceedings were items, 'In the Garden' and 'The Place Where I Worship' sung by the Hawkins Masonic Retirement Village Residents Choir. The conductor of the Choir, Wor Bro Bill Gordon, was the Director of Nursing at the Village, and members of the Choir were justly proud of their contribution to the opening ceremony.

The 100th Anniversary Gala Masonic Ball.

Each year, for the last 99 years, the RFBI has held a Masonic Ball - one of the big events of the Masonic calendar. Old-timers will remember that those Balls were held in the Sydney Town Hall with all the glitter and excitement of a true Debutante Ball where the Grand Master of the day received the Debutantes in their 'coming-out' ceremony.

The Ball this year, the 100th Anniversary Gala Masonic Ball, saw, as of old, the Grand Master receiving the Debutantes. For the last decade the venue was at the Round House of the University of New South Wales at Kensington where the 100th Anniversary Ball was held on Friday 9 August 1991.

The President, Right Wor Bro Frank Jeffree, OAM and his special guests and the Debutantes were 'piped-up' by a detachment from the 2/17th Battalion resplendent in their kilt and later

in the evening a brilliant floor-show that featured the very talented artists Helen Zerefos and Neil Jensen entertained the guests. Neil Jensen was an international virtuoso organist for the Mike Walsh-Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace. Helen Zerefos, singer extraordinaire, wife of Wor Bro William Raymond Millanta, Past Master of Lodge City of Sydney No. 952, was a tireless worker for the Alzheimer's Research Institute. The dance music was played by well-known Bro Harry Woods and his orchestra.

The Directors of the RFBI were very proud to announce that, following their decision to give considerable financial assistance over the next three years to the Ageing and Alzheimer's Disease Research Institute, which complements the work done by RFBI in the area of senior citizens in RFBI Retirement Villages throughout NSW, the Ball Committee decided that all proceeds of the Centenary Ball would go to the Alzheimer's Research Institute as a most deserving and worthy cause.

Hawkins Masonic Village Celebrates its 20th Anniversary.

On Sunday 18 August 1991, Hawkins Masonic Village at Edgeworth, Newcastle, celebrated its 20th anniversary with a Combined Church Service in the grounds of the Village. A large marquee was erected on the Village lawn to hold the 300 plus crowd in attendance.

The Guest of Honour at an official luncheon following the Church Service, was Right Wor Bro Leslie Holmes, PAGM. Right Wor Bro Holmes was the District Grand Inspector of Workings of District 55 when the need for a home for the

elderly in the Newcastle and Lake Macquarie area was first perceived in 1968.

The proposal became a reality following the generous donation of 18 hectares of land at Edgeworth by Bro Albert Hawkins and his family; the financial support of The Freemasons' Benevolent Institution as it was then known; the assistance of a government subsidy and a great deal of practical support by the Freemasons of the area.

The setting of the foundation stone of the initial project, which consisted of 54 self-care units named *Rose Court*, took place on Sunday 15 August 1971. In all, home for some 270 aged citizens has been provided at a development cost of \$4.3 million.

Thanks were also extended to members of the former Ladies Auxiliary and the present Support Group. Over the past 20 years, the members of these bodies have raised in excess of \$125,000 for the comfort of nursing home and hostel residents.

Support of Research into Causes of Ill Health in the Aged.

In 1991, the RFBI announced details of a grant of \$90,000 for the next three years to the Alzheimer's Research Disease Institute for research into the causes of ill-health in the aged, particularly those relating to that most devastating disease, Alzheimers.

Annual Meeting 31 October 1991.

In presenting his Report, the President, Right Wor Bro Frank Jeffree, OAM, said:

'It is with very great pleasure, in this 12th year of my Presidency, to present my report in the 110th year since the foundation of The Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution. I am proud to record another successful year for this charity in carrying out its objectives of providing care and shelter with compassion for our senior citizens in the dignified surroundings of our 14 villages throughout the State.

During the year under review, 1990-1991, I signed contracts for self-care units, a hostel extension and an activities centre at Cessnock, an administration block at Hawkins Village, self-care and hostel at Bathurst, self-care at Canberra, self-care and activities centre at Lake Haven. We also attended the official opening of joint venture hostels at Glen Innes, Narromine, Mudgee, Sussex Inlet, Gulgong, Junee, Dunedoo, Blayney, Kandos and Coolamon and nursing homes at Bellingen and Lithgow; also official openings of the self-care units at Coffs Harbour and the administration block at Hawkins Village.

A number of other projects are at an advanced stage of planning and will commence during 1991-1992.

Particularly pleasing is the fact that plans for two major hostel projects in the metropolitan area of Sydney at Bantry Bay in the Warringah Shire and at Concord are progressing favourably and building should be commenced before 30 June 1992. It has always been difficult to establish metropolitan facilities for the aged having regard to the high cost of land. Because of the increasing need, every endeavour has been made to assist in overcoming the shortage of affordable housing for our senior citizens by seeking out suitable sites.

This year has witnessed a major policy initiative, namely the granting of \$3,000 for each of the next three years to establish a research foundation under the auspices of the Ageing and Alzheimer's Research Institute headed by Professor Tony Broe, a world-wide authority on the causes of ill-health amongst the aged. Successful research is always a slow and costly undertaking and money to fund such a fundamental objective is hard to come by.

My Board decided that it made sense not only to provide shelter and care for the aged, but also to assist quality research into the causes of diseases such as Parkinson's Disease, Osteoporosis, digestive and nutritional problems and incontinence. But most of all, research into the causes of Alzheimer's Disease, which is becoming the most debilitating and distressing disease affecting senior citizens, is most important. Not only does this disease affect the health of senior citizens of an increasingly advanced aged, but it also affects the quality of life of those nearest and dearest to the sufferer who is being cared for. Such success in this field is a natural corollary to the work of this organization. I enthusiastically welcome the initiative and extend to Tony and his dedicated team our very best wishes for future discoveries in their research work. The future of this organization is an exciting one and I look forward to it with the greatest confidence.

Mozart Bicentenary Tape.

The 200th anniversary of the death of Bro Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was recognised worldwide in 1991. He died on 5 December 1791.

Mozart was a very active Mason and composed much music specifically for Masonic purposes

and ceremonies; also a famous opera *The Magic Flute* based on Masonic ritual.

A 60 minute tape outlining the story of his life, with generous extracts from his compositions and the operas, was re-issued by the Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution. This was a most interesting and instructive tape, both musically and Masonically.

Kookaburra Court, Walgett.

On Sunday 29 March 1992, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Ronald L.H. Johnson, who was visiting Walgett for the 100th installation of Lodge Barwon No. 208, officially opened *Kookaburra Court*.

The completion of the facility, opposite the Walgett Hospital which provided eleven units of aged accommodation, marked the culmination of many years of fund raising and effort by the local community and the Lodge, aided by financial support from the Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution, Sydney Legacy and the Commonwealth Government.

Named *Kookaburra Court* in recognition of the two families of kookaburras which were nesting in the trees in the forecourt, it was completed at a cost of \$540,000, with the RFBI contributing \$50,000; Legacy \$28,000; Walgett Shire Council \$30,000 and the local community and its organization some \$190,000.

The imaginative but functional design and décor of the building blended delightfully into the somewhat harsh western landscape. Its construction and facilities, however, promised every reasonable degree of comfort and convenience for its residents.

Acacia House - Hawkins Masonic Village.

In 1992, the Hawkins Masonic Village at Edgeworth near Newcastle was home for 310 senior citizens. His Excellency, Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair, AC, Governor of New South Wales and Patron of The Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution of NSW, officially opened *Acacia House* on Saturday 10 October 1992.

Acacia House comprised 10 apartments and marked the completion of the tenth stage of the Village. It provided state of the art facilities, motel type units with pleasant private rooms and ensuite, spacious lounges, dining and recreation areas, which allowed residents to be relatively independent, while expert staff provided meals and assistance with domestic care.

In his address the Governor said:

'As Governor, I am invited to officiate at the openings of many buildings and structures but few occasions give Shirley (Mrs Sinclair) and me greater pleasure than those involving facilities for our senior citizens. Shirley and I believe that a measure of any community's work and values is provided by the way in which it cares for and supports its elderly. This magnificent 40 apartment hostel, *Acacia House*, epitomises the style of accommodation which our seniors so richly deserve.'

In concluding his address, the Governor said,

'A project of this kind does not just happen by itself, but requires hard work and dedicated effort by many'.

He congratulated the Board of Management of the Hawkins Masonic Village and the staff for bringing *Acacia House* from a dream to a reality.

The Public Relations Officer at Hawkins, Very Wor Bro Neil Richardson said that over 600 residents and guests attended the official opening on a beautiful spring morning. One of the highlights of the opening ceremony was the contribution by the Barnsley Public School Choir. Their Choirmaster wrote a special song for the occasion.

Lake Haven Activities Centre.

On 18 August 1993, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Noel F. Dunn journeyed to the Retirement Village at Lake Haven on the New South Wales Central Coast to attend the official opening of the Activities Centre, the newest addition to the Village.

Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 18 October 1993. The President's Report was presented by Right Wor Bro Russell Stevens, Deputy President, on behalf of the President, Right Wor Bro Frank Jeffree, OAM, who was gradually regaining his health after a severe illness. He welcomed the Grand Master and Mrs Dunn and explained that 113 years ago to the day a group of Freemasons met in Sydney to form an organization for benevolent purposes that became known as the Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution.

The Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Noel Dunn, congratulated the RFBI on doing its work well

over the past year and expressed the expectation that there would be no change in the direction or pace of activity in 1993-94. The Grand Master presented awards to Lodge Representatives for contributions to the Annual Appeal, the total for the year being \$160,590.

Seminar.

A two-day seminar, organised in conjunction with the opening on 21 May 1994 of *Camellia Court*, in the presence of the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Noel F. Dunn and arranged within the Hawkins Masonic Village at Newcastle, for all members of Boards of Management and senior staff of Centres and Directors of RFBI, was well attended and presented valuable information and tuition to all present.

Masonic Awareness Week.

In March 1994, the RFBI was heavily involved in the promotion of Freemasonry during Masonic Awareness Week and a great deal of literature and personal information was provided to all Districts. The various RFBI Centres arranged special inspections and advisory sessions.

Retirement of Right Wor Bro Frank Jeffree, OAM, Past Deputy Grand Master.

After thirty-four years of active service with the Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution, Right Wor Bro Frank Jeffree, OAM, PDGM, tendered his resignation as a Director of the Board on Monday 26 August 1996. Bro Jeffree joined the RFBI in 1962 and became President in 1979 following the retirement of Most Wor Bro Syd Cann, PGM. He relinquished the position in

July 1995 but remained an active member of the Board during the intervening period.

Official Opening at Harden Murrumburrah.

On 29 October 1995, Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair, AC, then Administrator of the Commonwealth of Australia, and Mrs Sinclair, unveiled a plaque to commemorate the opening of Stage I of the Harden Murrumburrah Masonic Village. A large gathering of Freemasons, the President of the RFBI, Very Wor Bro Graham Nicholls, RFBI Directors, Members of Parliament, civic dignitaries and local citizens saw His Excellency greeted by a Guard of Honour of Cubs and Brownies, with Mrs Sinclair receiving a posy of flowers from Brownie, Celeste Webb.

The Village, situated in a delightful rural setting next to the District Hospital, began with Stage I which comprised ten two-bedroom self care-units. The concept plan was for 32 self-care units, a 30 bed hostel and an activity centre.

Official Opening of Village at Kurri Kurri.

The Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Noel F. Dunn attended the official opening ceremony of the Kurri Kurri Masonic Village on 18 May 1996. The Village comprised a nursing home and hostel.

Grand Master Visits Hawkins Masonic Village.

The Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Revd Raymond Green and Mrs Janet Green paid a visit to Hawkins Masonic Village on Saturday 1 February 1997, as guests of the Board of Management.

The members of the Hawkins Masonic Village Masons' Association and their ladies and widows of Masons entertained the Grand Master and Mrs Green at a morning tea held in the Village Community Hall. All those present were delighted to talk to the guests of honour.

After an inspection of the Village facilities, which included the Nursing Home, the Grand Master and Mrs Green were invited into a number of resident's homes in the self-care units and hostels.

Following a luncheon with members of the Board and senior staff, the Grand Master was presented with a framed photo of the Village while Mrs Green received flowers from the Village gardens.

The Grand Master said:

'Janet and I are delighted to visit Hawkins Masonic Village and see at first hand the work being undertaken and the care provided for senior citizens in the community, many of whom were Masons or have Masonic ties.'

Opening of RFBI Homes at Berry, NSW.

On 1 November 1997, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Revd Raymond Green, opened the Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution Homes complex in Berry, near Nowra. The day was well organized and the opening was a resounding success. Many people from the local community, as well as community leaders, were present and the activity was well reported in the local media.

Director of RFBI Speaks on Radio FM 100.1, Hornsby.

Recently, Right Wor Bro Russell Stevens, PAGM, a Director of the Institution, was invited by District 11 to speak on the Sunday programme of FM Radio 100.1 on the work of the Institution.

Interviewed by radio presenter Richard Kelnyack, he explained that the RFBI was founded in 1880 to help needy people with social welfare, which was not forthcoming from the Government.

He then went on to cover the introduction of the building of retirement homes in 1960 when the Government offered welfare assistance to charitable organizations willing to provide this type of accommodation.

Right Wor Bro Stevens went on to mention that there were, at the time, seventeen retirement homes situated throughout NSW with another village to commence at Leeton in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area of New South Wales during 1999.

Death of Right Wor Bro Frank Milton Jeffree, OAM, Past Deputy Grand Master.

Right Wor Bro Frank Jeffree passed to the Grand Lodge Above on 9 January 2000. He served as President of the RFBI from 1979 to July 1995 and the successful expansion of the Institution's activities in the field of aged care was largely due to his vision and drive. He resigned as a Director of the Institution on 26 August 1996.

Bro Jeffree joined the RFBI in 1962 and became President in 1979 following the retirement of Most Wor Bro Syd Cann, PGM. He relinquished the position in July 1995 but remained an active member of the Board during the intervening period.

Although the Institution had existed for some eighty years as a benevolent organization, its involvement in aged care was just beginning. There were only four RFBI regions at that time and these were located at Shortland, Hawkins, Canberra and a joint development with the community at West Wyalong. Under Bro Jeffree's presidency, the RFBI developed into a major provider of aged care facilities with eighteen regions caring for 1,451 residents, accommodation in 804 self-care units, 410 hostel rooms and 104 nursing home beds. The Institution had also made cash donations to thirty-five country areas to assist local communities in establishing retirement facilities.

His services to aged care were recognised when he was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 1984. His services to RFBI have also been recognised through the *Frank Jeffree Hostel* at the Lake Haven Retirement Village, named in his honour. The Board of Directors made him an honorary life Director.

Bro Jeffree's Masonic career was as outstanding as his career with the RFBI. He was initiated into Lodge Sans Souci No. 442 in 1941 and in 1949 became the foundation Junior Warden of Lodge Excalibur No. 737. After service as Worshipful Master of that Lodge in 1951, he occupied the Chair of Lodge Sandringham No. 884 in 1956. In 1958 he was appointed District Grand Inspector of Workings of District No. 28

and this was followed by the rank of Past Junior Grand Warden (conferred) in 1966, the appointment as Assistant Grand Master in 1974 and Past Deputy Grand Master (conferred) in 1990.

Failing health made it necessary for Right Wor Bro Frank Jeffree to curtail his energies which he devoted to assisting the Board of Management at the Lakehaven Retirement Village where he resided for a number of years.

Right Wor Bro Jeffree lived respected and died regretted.

The Future.

There can be no doubt that this old and highly regarded Institution will continue its role in benevolence and aged care and continue to receive its due recognition from all Freemasons and the community.

CARING AND SUPPORT FOR THE AGED

B. THE FRANK WHIDDON MASONIC HOMES OF
NEW SOUTH WALES

The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of New South Wales were named after the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales from 13 August 1945 until his untimely death in office on 1 September 1947. The company bearing his name was registered just four days before his death. On 29 November 1947, the Deputy Grand Master, Right Wor Bro (Sir) Frank S. McDowell, received the deeds to the 8.5 ha site at Easton Park, Glenfield, which had been generously donated by Mrs Ethel Easton Symonds.

Planning for the provision of aged care facilities began and the foundations were set for the first two cottages in 1948.

The story of the remarkable development of the Homes into a large, multi-purpose organization which operates aged care accommodations in many locations across the State of New South Wales, has been recorded in detail in Volumes III, IV and V of the Grand Lodge History.

District Grand Inspectors of Workings Seminar.

For many years, the Council of the Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes invited, each two years, the newly appointed District Grand Inspectors of Workings and their partners to visit the headquarters of the Homes at Easton Park, Glenfield, 40 km to the south-west of Sydney.

The visit, held on Sunday 11 September 1988, took the form of a day-long seminar, with addresses from a number of Homes Councillors on

a wide range of topics that covered many aspects of the Homes' operations.

The Chairman, Right Wor Bro John T. (Tom) Geeson, ISM, PJGW, welcomed the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Ronald L.H. Johnson and Mrs Johnson and the Deputy Grand Master, Right Wor Bro Noel F. Dunn and Mrs Dunn. Most Wor Bro Johnson spoke of the outstanding work being carried out in the name of Freemasonry by the Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes, of which the Grand Master was President, and wished the Homes every success in its future endeavours.

The 160 attendees were taken on a tour of the facilities by staff and Councillors and enjoyed a splendid luncheon in the pleasant atmosphere of the Homes' facilities.

President's Day Fair.

The Annual President's Day Fair was held at the Homes' headquarters at Glenfield on Saturday 17 September 1988. The Fair was officially opened by the Grand Master and President of the Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of NSW, Most Wor Bro Ronald Johnson.

Inaugural Debutante Ball.

On Friday 28 July 1989, the Chairman of the Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes, Right Wor Bro Tom Geeson, ISM, PJGW, welcomed the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Ronald Johnson, Mrs Johnson, the Deputy Grand Master and the Assistant Grand Master and their respective wives to the inaugural Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes Debutante Ball at the Bankstown Civic Centre where the assembly of more than 500 persons witnessed a splendid presentation of 21 Debutantes.

The Matron of Honour, Mrs June Parkins, presented the Debutantes to the Grand Master who was accompanied by numerous Grand Officers. The spectacle was enhanced by the four lovely flower girls who were escorted by a page boy.

The splendid support given to this Ball by the families and friends of the Debutantes, as well as many active Freemasons resulted in a very successful function and a presentation of over \$5,500 to the Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes.

Retirement of Right Wor Bro John T. Geeson, ISM, Past Junior Grand Warden.

On 19 January 1990, the Chairman of the Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes, Right Wor Bro J. (Tom) Geeson, retired from the office of Chairman. The Homes had continued to expand and provide the highest possible level of aged care for the residents in many parts of the State.

Right Wor Bro Leslie Lock, PSGW, elected Chairman.

On 19 January 1990, Right Wor Bro Lock was elected Chairman to replace Right Wor Bro Tom Geeson.

Appointment of General Manager.

Mr Colin Appleyard was appointed General Manager of The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes - to be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the affairs of the Homes.

Change of Name.

In 1990, the Council of the Homes decided that it would become a Board of Directors and the

Councillors would be henceforth designated as Directors.

Dedication of Lodge Room.

Lodge meetings had been held over many years in Thespian Hall at Glenfield and Lodges and Districts had visited the Homes to carry out Degree work for the benefit of elderly Masons who were residents of the Homes and who were unable to leave the Homes to attend nearby Lodge meetings at night.

As frequently as once each week, Thespian Hall would be converted into a Lodge Room for the occasion and then, after the meeting, the Masonic furniture was removed so that the Hall would be available for the residents the next day. It was a laborious process until the Homes were able to make a Room available specifically for Lodge purposes.

On Saturday 23 June 1990, The Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Ronald Johnson, dedicated the new Lodge Room and attended the installation meeting of Lodge Ingleburn No. 815 in the new Room.

An era of hard work and enthusiasm by many brethren in travelling to Glenfield to set up and dismantle a Lodge Room in Thespian Hall had come to an end.

Annual General Meeting.

The 40th Annual General Meeting of The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of New South Wales was held in the Thespian Hall at Easton Park, Glenfield on 27 October 1990. The meeting was chaired by Right Wor Bro Les Lock, Past Senior Grand Warden, and on opening the meeting he

extended a warm welcome to all present. In particular he expressed his pleasure at being able to welcome Right Wor Bro James L. Eddy, PDGM, President of The Board of General Purposes and Mrs Eddy as the honoured guests.

Following the formalities to confirm the minutes of the previous General Meeting, the Chairman presented his Report for the period ended 30 June 1990.

Right Wor Bro Les Lock, PSGW, had been elected Chairman of The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes on 19 January 1990 and the beginning of his term was described as a time of disorientation due to the loss of so many senior staff members and Directors from the Board. However, with the aid of many loyal and sincere staff members the Homes continued to function satisfactorily without any disruption to the residents.

The first six months of 1990 was obviously a time for consolidation. A time well spent in building up a solid team highly qualified to operate the Homes in a modern and up to date manner. Mr Michael Barry was appointed as the General Manager of the whole of The Frank Whiddon Homes, Mr Ken Patterson as the Accountant and Mr Peter Kellett as the Administration Manager of Easton Park.

The Management Committees of the 14 complexes situated throughout New South Wales were to be congratulated for the manner in which they operated and who were responsible for the high image that these Homes had engendered.

The operation of The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes was actually Masonry in action, doing all that was possible in caring for the aged and the frail from all walks of life. During the

year, 40 bed Hostels were completed at Laurieton and Kelso.

A successful Debutante Ball was held on 25 August 1990 at the Bankstown Auditorium.

Right Wor Bro James L. Eddy, PDGM, presented the following trophies:

The President's Cup. - For the largest amount per capita for the year. 1st, District No. 17 (\$12.32 average per member); 2nd, District No. 12 (\$11.02 average per member).

The Chairman's Shield. - For the Lodge contributing the largest amount per capita. 1st, Lodge Booralee No. 202 (\$64.56 per member); 2nd, Lodge Seymour No. 945 (\$16.18 per member).

The Homes Trophy. - The Lodge with the greatest per capita increase. 1st, Lodge Booralee No. 202 (\$15.69 increase); 2nd, Lodge Seymour No. 945 (\$15.39 increase).

The W.J. (Bill) Williams Trophy. - The District with the greatest per capita increase. 1st, District No. 28 (\$5.69 increase); 2nd, District No. 31 (\$4.03 increase).

District with Largest Aggregate. - 1st, District No. 17 with \$9,365; 2nd, District No. 12 with \$7,251.

Lodge with Largest Aggregate. - 1st, Lodge Booralee No. 202 with \$8,134; 2nd, Lodge Carlton Kogarah No. 305 with \$1,485.

Educational Forum and Opening of Laurieton Haven Retirement Village Hostel.

February 1991 was another milestone for The Frank Whiddon Homes and all attention was centred on the beautiful Camden Haven area to celebrate the opening of a modern 40 Bed Hostel in the Laurieton Haven Retirement Village.

On Friday 22 February 1991 many members of the staff and Management Committees of the 14 complexes of the Homes, scattered throughout the State of New South Wales, assembled in Laurieton to participate in an educational forum on the Care of the Aged and Frail. This was opened by the Chairman of The Frank Whiddon Homes, Right Wor Bro Les Lock, PSGW.

The programme comprised many eminent speakers among whom were Dr Colin Creighton, Area Geriatrician, Department of Health NSW; Mr Steve England, Area Manager (North), Department of Community Services and Health; Mr Bill Bourne, Australian Nursing Homes Association; Right Wor Bro John Read, PJGW, Chairman of the Lake Macquarie Retirement Village at Belmont; Mr Stephen Kozicki, National Sales and Marketing Manager of Dougman Training Systems.

Each complex of The Frank Whiddon Homes was well represented. The forum provided educational involvement for the various country complexes ranging from Temora in the south to Kyogle in the north. The purpose of such an on-going educational programme for the staff and management committees was to provide a continuous high standard of care in our complexes deemed to be essential to maintain the good name of Freemasonry throughout the community.

Saturday 23 February 1991 saw the Grand Master of The United Grand Lodge of New South Wales, accompanied by his Grand Lodge retinue, arrived

in Laurieton to officially open the Hostel. It was a very hot day and although what was thought to be ample covering and protection from the sun was provided, the unexpectedly large attendance stretched the available shade to the limit.

Prior to the formalities of the Hostel opening, Miss Wendy Machin, the State MP for Manning, presented a State Flag to the Grand Master who received it on behalf of the Laurieton Haven Retirement Village.

The dignitaries present at the Opening Ceremony included Most Wor Bro Ronald L.H. Johnson, Grand Master of The United Grand Lodge of New South Wales, President of The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of NSW and Mrs Johnson; Mr Eric Fitzgibbon, MP, Member for Hunter representing the Honourable Peter Staples, MP, Minister for the Aged, Family and Health Services; Right Wor Bro Les Lock, PSGW, Chairman of The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes and Mrs Lock; Mr Bruce Cowan, MP, Federal Member for Lyne and Mrs Cowan; Alderman Bob Woodlands, the Mayor for Hastings Shire and Mrs Woodlands; the Revd. Robert Perry representing the Ministers Fraternal; Very Wor Bro Arthur Relf, Chairman of the Laurieton Haven Retirement Village Management Committee and Mrs Relf.

On the completion of the Grand Master's address, Right Wor Bro Les Lock invited the Grand Master and Mr Eric Fitzgibbon to jointly unveil a plaque commemorating the occasion, to cut the ribbon and unlock the entrance door of the Hostel.

Visit of Governor of New South Wales to Temora.

The Governor of New South Wales, His Excellency Rear Admiral Sir David Martin, KCMG, AO, visited the Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes retirement village *Greenstone Lodge* at the south-western town of Temora during 1991.

During the visit, the Governor was present at a morning tea to celebrate the 100th birthday of resident Alice Chalmers.

Sir David Martin Memorial Nursing Home.

Following the death of Sir David Martin, the Council of the Homes decided to name the Nursing Home in his honour.

An appeal was launched at a special concert held in the Sydney Masonic Centre on 6 September 1991 attended by the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Ronald Johnson.

Redhead Gardens Retirement Village Official Opening.

On Saturday 23 November 1991, the ceremony of setting the foundation stone and the official opening of the Redhead Gardens Retirement Village was performed by the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Ronald L.H. Johnson, and the Grand Lodge Ceremonial Officers.

The ceremony was preceded by a March of Masons from the nearby Redhead Bowling Club led by a Scottish Pipe Band under the leadership of Bro Richard Face, MLA, State Member for Charlestown.

In perfect weather and under cover of a big marquee, the proceedings were witnessed by a gathering of approximately 500 persons.

The Grand Master invited the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of New South Wales, Right Wor Bro Les Lock, PSGW, and the Chairman of the Lake Macquarie Retirement Village Management Committee, Right Wor Bro John Read, PJGW, to assist him in raising the cover to unveil the plaque commemorating the official opening. The Redhead Gardens Retirement Village was a joint project of the Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes and the Lake Macquarie Retirement Village Association.

Death of Right Wor Bro John Thomas Geeson, ISM, PJGW.

Right Wor Bro Tom Geeson died in Westmead Hospital on 17 December 1991, following a tragic fall at his home. Tom was survived by his wife Myrtle and daughters Coral and Joy and their families to whom deepest sympathy was extended.

Born at Wallsend, NSW, on 21 July 1914, he served his apprenticeship as an electrician with the NSW Government Railways and spent 43 years in Government service.

During World War II he served with the Royal Australian Air Force and rose to the rank of Pilot Officer.

Being interested in community affairs, Right Wor Bro Geeson served as an Alderman on the Junee Council for some years. In 1975 he was awarded the Imperial Service Medal by Her Majesty the Queen for his services to the country, the government and the community.

Right Wor Bro Geeson was initiated in Lodge Werriston No. 273, at Werris Creek on 10 July

1940. He affiliated with Lodge Guildford No. 321 in January 1972 and was installed as Worshipful Master in September 1979. He was appointed District Grand Inspector of Workings for No. 40A District for the term 1982-1984.

In 1982 he was elected to the Council of the Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of NSW, was made Chairman of the Council in 1985 and served four years in that office. He travelled extensively throughout New South Wales telling Lodges of the charitable works of the Homes and visiting country branches of the Homes.

Throughout all this work Tom was ably assisted and supported by his wife, Myrtle. In 1987, the Grand Master recognised his diligent and devoted work by conferring on him the rank of Past Junior Grand Warden.

Recently, when the Sir David Martin Memorial Nursing Homes Foundation was formed to raise funds to build a nursing home at Glenfield, Right Wor Bro Geeson was invited to chair the Committee which was entrusted with the task of raising funds for this important charitable project.

In 1990 Tom and Myrtle celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. In addition Tom completed 50 years continuous membership of the Craft.

A Memorial Service conducted by Revd Crawford was held at St Johns Anglican Cathedral in Parramatta. The District Grand Inspector of Workings, Very Wor Bro Raymond Brooke, read the Masonic Funeral Tribute at the Pinegrove Memorial Park Crematorium in the presence of a large circle of relatives, friends and Masonic brethren, numbering about 150 in all. Truly it can be said that Tom Geeson spent his life

in service to his family, his country, the government, the community and, in a very large measure, Tom served Freemasonry.

Support from The Order of the Eastern Star for the Sir David Martin Nursing Home Appeal.

On Saturday 21 March 1992, during a recess period at the Annual Installation of the Grand Chapter of New South Wales, Order of the Eastern Star, a further presentation was made to the Sir David Martin Nursing Home Appeal.

The Worthy Grand Matron, Mrs Marjorie Eslick, and the Worthy Grand Patron, Mr Alan Olsen, presented a cheque to the Chairman of the Appeal Committee, Right Wor Bro Les Lock, for the sum of \$30,000 on behalf of the Grand Chapter of New South Wales.

This brought the total donation from the Order of the Eastern Star in New South Wales to \$100,000 over the past twelve months. A previous cheque for \$70,000 had been presented at the Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes on 2 February 1992.

Easton Park Retirement Village Self-Care Units Official Opening - Setting of Foundation Stone.

On Saturday 11 April 1992, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Ronald L.H. Johnson, who is also President of the Homes, officially opened *Cracknell Court*. This Court comprised the first 13 of approximately 100 units to be built at Easton Park, Glenfield.

The official opening was preceded by a Masonic march through Easton Park to the site of the foundation stone. The stone was then set by the Grand Master with the assistance of his senior Grand Lodge Officers.

Amongst the large number of brethren, their ladies and residents of the Homes in attendance was one resident in the person of Wor Bro William Hamilton Davies, a Past Master of Lodge Commercial Travellers No. 224. He was

believed to be the last surviving member of the original committee of 'The Aged and Distressed Brethren's Comforts Fund' inaugurated in 1925, the work of which ultimately led to the formation of The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of New South Wales.

It was just prior to 1925 when three dedicated Masons, Wor Bro Herbert J. Cracknell, Wor Bro Frederick Greening and Very Wor Bro Harold F. Wilkins became conscious of the fact that there were many elderly Masons who, through force of circumstances, were living and dying in public institutions under appalling conditions. With very limited resources these three brethren formed the Committee, later to be known as 'The Aged and Distressed Brethren's Comforts Fund'.

In addressing the gathering, the Grand Master said that he always looked at his elders with a great deal of awe.

'When we think about the humble beginnings of this magnificent property here and also associated properties of The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes, we cannot help but be inspired by our elders - those people who may not be much older than ourselves but have really included in their lives the time and provided the opportunity for others so that they would benefit from the experience of their elders.

People going into these self-care units, will have the pleasure and satisfaction of making their future lives revolve around other

residents because they are going to live in very close relationship in splendid circumstances, similar to hundreds of other people throughout New South Wales who are living under the broad umbrella of The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes.'

Concluding his address, the Grand Master congratulated the Chairman, Right Wor Bro Les Lock, PSGW, and his Board of Directors on their achievement and he wished them every success with their future development programme.

Debutante Ball.

The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes Debutante Ball was held at the Bankstown Civic Centre on Friday 8 May 1992, when the Chairman of Directors, Right Wor Bro Les Lock, PSGW, and Mrs Elva Lock received 22 beautiful debutantes. It was a very special occasion for one of them, Jennifer Graham, who suffered from cerebral palsy and was confined to a wheelchair.

A great night was enjoyed by over 300 patrons. Included in the Official Party were the Mayors of Campbelltown and Bankstown, Alderman Les Patterson and Alderman Ray Buchanan.

The Ball was held to raise funds for the Sir David Martin Memorial Nursing Home at Glenfield which was to be built for the care of aged and frail members of the community regardless of race, religion or nationality. A Big Band orchestra provided outstanding music during the evening.

Redhead Gardens Retirement Village.

The recent signing in early 1992 of a \$3.27 million contract for construction for a 40 unit

hostel and activities centre marked the commencement of Stage 2 of the development of the Redhead Gardens Retirement Village by the Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes.

Due for completion in April 1993, the hostel would provide a number of rooms for dementia sufferers. Redhead Gardens was the fifteenth retirement complex developed by the Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes, and plans were well in hand for Stage 3 of the project, which would consist of a further twenty two-bedroom self-care units.

Kyogle Court.

Kyogle Court Home for the Aged, located within the *Kyogle* Hospital grounds, was described as a 'five star' aged hostel. It has - amusingly - also been mistaken for the place where wrongdoers receive their just deserts, said Supervisor, Mrs Elaine McLean.

With a full range of services available, which included an access bus, hairdresser, banking, indoor bowls and even voting facilities, it afforded a fine example of hostel care. The Home was recently presented with a cheque for \$1,000 from the Lismore Masonic Association.

Death of Right Wor Bro Reginald Ernest Catts.

Right Wor Bro Catts, PSGW, who died on 17 October 1992, was the Chairman of the Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes Foundation.

The Foundation was formed to gather financial and human resources in the community for investment in order that income derived

therefrom could be made available for a capital works programme to be maintained by the Homes.

Since its inception, the Foundation donated \$1,020,000 to the Homes to provide urgently needed hostel and nursing care accommodation. \$1,000,000 of this was donated over the last six years. The late Right Wor Bro Reg Catts did a tremendous amount of work in helping to raise those funds.

Setting of Foundation Stone for Redhead Gardens Hostel.

Before a gathering of approximately 400 people the foundation stone for the Redhead Gardens Retirement Village Hostel was set by Most Wor Bro Noel F. Dunn, Grand Master, assisted by Grand Lodge Ceremonial Officers on Saturday 14 November 1992.

A project of the Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of NSW and The Lake Macquarie Retirement Village Association, the hostel is the second stage of development of the Redhead Gardens complex and consisted of 40 rooms for the elderly entitled to hostel accommodation. With a wonderful view over the suburb of Redhead, along the coastline and out to the Pacific Ocean, the hostel 'made possible with the assistance of Federal Government funding' was due for completion in April 1993. In addition to the aged accommodation there was respite accommodation, a community hall, board room, offices, storage and workshop rooms together with dining room, kitchen and refrigeration storage.

A welcome to the City of Lake Macquarie was extended to all visitors by the Mayor, Alderman

Doug Carley. An address of thanks was given by Wor Bro the Hon. Peter Morris, MP.

Musical items rendered by the Newcastle Masonic Singers, conducted by Right Wor Bro Allan Grieve, PJGW, and accompanied by Bro Noel Moase, PGDM, accompanied a successful mini fete arranged by the organizing committee to assist with the purchase of some necessary furniture for the hostel and its residents.

The complex was officially opened by the Grand Master on 19 June 1993.

The Sir David Martin Memorial Nursing Home.

It was not very often that the ancient Masonic ceremony for the setting of a foundation stone was performed under canvas whilst torrential rain fell during a fierce electrical storm. This, however, was the case when the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Noel Dunn - with the assistance of his Deputy and Assistant Grand Masters, Grand Wardens, Grand Chaplain and other Grand Officers - set the foundation stone of The Sir David Martin Memorial Nursing Home at the Easton Park complex of The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of New South Wales on the afternoon of Saturday, 5 December 1992.

Fortunately all brethren had taken their appropriate seats in the large marquee with the ladies prior to the commencement of the storm after marching in a procession to the site. Apart from problems encountered as a result of rain coming through a tear in the canvas roof near the Grand Master and his party, all present were able to enjoy the presentation of this age-old ceremony without any great discomfort.

Distinguished guests in attendance included the Federal Member for Werriwa and Minister for Trade and Overseas Development, The Honourable John Kerin, the State Member for Campbelltown, Mr Michael Knight, MP and His Worship, the Mayor of the City of Campbelltown, Alderman Les Patterson.

Also present were two residents, Wor Bro William Hamilton Davies, a Past Master of Lodge Commercial Travellers No. 224, the only surviving member of the original Aged and Distressed Brethren Comforts Fund Committee and Mrs Lena Martin.

In his welcome, the Chairman of the Homes, Right Wor Bro Les Lock, PSGW, gave a brief history of the Easton Park complex from the opening of the first Duo Homes in 1950 to the current proposal which included the construction of *Webb House* as a modern hospital block in 1958. The need to replace *Webb House* was brought about due to its non-compliance with changed fire safety requirements and revised government regulations.

Right Wor Bro Lock said that the new 45 bed, The Sir David Martin Memorial Nursing Home, was part of a further five year building programme extending throughout New South Wales.

In responding to Right Wor Bro Lock's request to set the foundation stone, Most Wor Bro Dunn recalled the launching of the fund raising appeal in the Masonic Centre on 6 September 1991, saying that, at that time, the target of \$3 million seemed an 'impossible dream'. The fact that the building was now well

underway and ahead of schedule was a credit to the combined efforts of the various Boards and

Committees of the Homes, the members of Masonic Lodges, Chapters and Conclaves, the Chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star and Sydney Legacy all of whom had given freely of their time and money.

Construction of the new nursing home commenced in early September 1992. It was estimated to cost \$2,500,000 of which the Commonwealth Housing and Community Services are funding an amount of \$1,377,000. Completion of the building would enable the demolition of *Webb House* to take place to make way for a new hostel to replace *Maas House*.

Foundation Stone at Maclean.

On 27 February 1993, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Noel F. Dunn, set the foundation stone for self-care units at *Bellgrove Court*, an extension of the Lower Clarence Retirement Village, at the north coast town of Maclean.

Debutante Ball.

The Annual Debutante Ball was held at the Parramatta Masonic Club on 14 August 1993.

Retirement Hostel at Largs.

On 3 October 1994, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Noel Dunn and the Ceremonial Officers of Grand Lodge performed the ceremony of setting the foundation stone of the Retirement Hostel which was to be built at Largs, near Maitland. Some 300 people witnessed the ceremony.

Arthur Webb Court - Glenfield.

The ceremony of setting the foundation stone was performed at

Glenfield by the Grand Master for *Arthur Webb Court* which would replace Webb House Nursing Home.

Temora.

In December 1994, approval was granted by the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes to permit the Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes to use the word 'Masonic' in the name of the new complex at Temora. The whole complex was known as *The Noel Warren Masonic Village* in memory of the late Most Wor Bro Noel W. Warren, Past Grand Master. The naming of *The Noel Warren Masonic Village* and opening of the *Narraburra Lodge* 40 bed nursing home at Temora, a joint Community and Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes project, was carried out by the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Noel F. Dunn on 25 February 1995.

Appointment for Director of Nursing and Administration.

Congratulations were extended to Susan Hartley, Director of Nursing and Administrator at the Easton Park Complex of The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes. Susan was appointed to The Policy Committee for The NSW Council on the Aging. She was asked by The Department of Employment, Education and Training to participate in a working committee on 'Skill Share Programmes and Implementation'. The aim of this committee was to oversee training programmes throughout the State for the long-term unemployed.

Official Opening of Largs Court.

On 4 November 1995, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Noel F. Dunn attended the official opening of *Largs Court*, a 43 bed hostel care unit as

the first stage of the Maitland Retirement Village.

Official Opening of Arthur Webb Court.

This three-level, 48 bed hostel was officially opened on 2 December 1995 by the Grand Master. The building was named to retain the memory of Right Wor Bro Arthur F. Webb, PJGW, a distinguished Mason and Past President of the Homes from 1955 to 1962. It was located on the original site of the old Webb House Nursing Home which, over the years, provided a home and care to many elderly citizens. In July 1993 Webb House was replaced by the 45 bed Sir David Martin Memorial Nursing Home. Mrs Gwenyth Stuart, eldest daughter of Arthur Frederick Webb, unveiled a Profile of her late father.

The Golden Jubilee.

On 7 March 1997, the Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of NSW celebrated its Golden Jubilee with a special dinner at the Sydney Masonic Centre.

In the early 1920's, three brethren formed 'The Aged and Distressed Brethren's Comfort Fund' to visit Masons living in the Lidcombe, Parramatta and Liverpool State Hospitals. In later years the visits were extended to include the Waterfall Sanatorium and the Randwick Auxiliary Hospital.

Members of the group visited these Hospitals regularly to provide comfort to brethren who, because of age or circumstance, were forced to reside in Government institutions.

This simple act of brotherly love and relief continued for many years and became the vision for a Masonic hostel in which aged and infirm

brethren could be given the care and the standard of living to which they were entitled.

In 1927, the estimated cost of caring for a brother in the manner proposed was approximately £50 per year. Fund raising began in earnest but without the official sanction of Grand Lodge. In 1946, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Frank Whiddon, gave his approval to the venture and in the following year, The Aged and Distressed Brethren's Comforts Fund changed its name to the Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of New South Wales.

The vision became a reality in May 1947, when Mrs Ethel Easton Symonds, the widow of Brother Charles Symonds, who had been a member of Lodge Arcadia No. 177, donated 21 acres (8.5 ha) of land at Glenfield. A condition of the donation was that the proposed complex was to be named Easton Park.

The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes has since developed into a highly respected organization operated by the Masons of New South Wales providing care and accommodation for aged and disabled persons regardless of religion, nationality or Masonic affiliation.

In 1997, the organization had sixteen facilities with a total value exceeding \$71 million and caring for 1,490 residents. In Easton Park alone there were 196 nursing home beds and 222 hostel beds.

A 50th Anniversary Homes Fete was held at Easton Park on 27 September 1997.

Golden Jubilee Debutante Ball.

Many weeks of exciting preparations for the 50th Anniversary Debutante Ball culminated on 30 August 1997, when twenty-five Debutantes and their partners were presented to Right Wor Bro Gordon Watt, representing the Grand Master, and Mrs Beryl Watt. It was a golden evening at the Bankstown RSL Community Club with the Debutantes beautiful in white gowns and gold bouquets, attended by young gentlemen handsomely attired in dinner suits. Four hundred families and friends looked on with pride as the Debutantes were received into society during a programme of dinner and dancing.

New Chapel at Glenfield.

During February 1998, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Revd Raymond Green participated in the dedication of a new Chapel at the Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes at Glenfield, in company with the Deputy Grand Master, Right Wor Bro George Curry and his wife, Annette, and the Grand Chaplain, Right Wor Bro Revd Harold Ctercteko, PDGM. A most impressive ceremony was conducted in the presence of many community leaders. This new facility for prayer and contemplation was to be used on a regular basis by the residents and their families and would add immeasurably to their quality of life.

Hamilton Gardens Opened.

Hamilton Gardens, a complex of 2-bedroom villas and units, on the corner of Lawson and Denison Streets, Hamilton (Newcastle), was opened on 1 February 1999.

On Saturday 26 June 1999, Mr Bryce Gaudry, MP, State Member for Newcastle and the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Councillor Greg Heys, officially

opened Hamilton Gardens Serviced Apartments, the 17th complex of The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of NSW before a crowd of over 150 brethren and invited guests.

Right Wor Bro Les Lock, PAGM, Chairman of the Homes, in his address said:

'This complex was built as a part of the Federal Government's initiative under the 'Building Better Cities Programme' and is unique in the way care is provided to older persons in Newcastle. He went on to say, 'This project was a joint venture between State Government (Hostel and Care Programme, Department of Urban Affairs and Planning), Newcastle City Council, Stronach Pty Ltd (private developer) and The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes, which will provide 30 units for both public housing residents and private residents'.

The assembly was addressed by Mr Alan Morris, Federal MP for Newcastle, and Right Wor Bro Noel Melvin, together with Very Wor Bro Bill Caukill, provided a musical interlude. Right Wor Bro Revd Harold Ctercteko gave the Benediction. Many local Lodges were represented.

Foundation Stone Setting at Laurieton.

Most Wor Bro George Curry, Grand Master, set the foundation stone of the new CHAPCA (Camden Haven Aged Person's Care Association) House, a 20 Bed Low Care Dementia facility, at Laurieton Haven Retirement Village, Laurieton on Saturday, 13 November 1999.

The function was held in the grounds of the picturesque complex with a large gathering who witnessed this most important ceremony.

Amongst the guests were Members of the Homes' Board of Directors, Mr Robert Oakshott, MP (Member for Port Macquarie), Councillor Wayne Richards (Mayor of Hastings Council) and Mrs Richards, members of the Laurieton Haven Retirement Village Management Committee, members of CHAPCA and many other guests. CHAPCA Association supported the construction of this worthwhile project with financial assistance in the region of \$850,000.

The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes Foundation Ltd.

For the past fifty-five years the Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of New South Wales was dedicated to the care and accommodation of the aged and frail in our community regardless of religion, nationality or Masonic affiliation. It's centralised philosophy has been the provision of individualised care for each of its residents.

Being a non-profit, charitable company, it relied heavily upon the financial support of caring people to help meet the costs of providing and maintaining its high standard facilities, necessary for the continued and increasing needs of our aged population.

The Foundation was formed to assist in raising funds to meet these costs and has maintained a high degree of success, largely attributed to the generous financial assistance given each year by its members and supporters.

The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes Foundation Ltd invests donations and bequests to provide on-going financial support to the work and expansion of:

- The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of New South Wales, care and accommodation for the aged and frail, The Foundation aims to achieve this in a variety of ways by inviting individuals, families, clubs and organizations to invest in a Class of the Foundation:
 - i MEMBER:- A donor who makes a gift to the value of \$2,000 or more or gives notification of an intended bequest of \$4,000 or more.
 - ii FELLOW:- A donor who makes a gift of \$7,500 or more or gives notification of an intended bequest of \$15,000 or more.
 - iii GOVERNOR:- A donor who makes a gift of \$25,000 or more or gives notification of an intended bequest of \$50,000 or more.

Annual Fete 9 September 2000.

Despite the strong wind and a couple of showers of rain, it was a very successful day and there was a large crowd in attendance. Approximately \$17,000 was raised on the day.

Right Wor Bro John Armfield, Deputy Grand Master, accompanied by his wife Phillipa, officially opened the Fete.

Opening of CHAPCA House, Laurieton.

CHAPCA House, an extension to the Laurieton Haven Retirement Village, was officially opened by the Hon Marke Vaille, MP, Minister for Trade and Member for Lyne, on

Friday, 10 November 2000 in the presence of a large gathering. This extension was specifically designed for the care of 20 dementia residents. *CHAPCA House* was supported by many organizations and community groups in the Laurieton and Camden Haven area. Camden Haven Aged Persons Care Association (CHAPCA) donated financial assistance in the region of \$850,000 to the project.

Redhead Gardens Complex, Redhead.

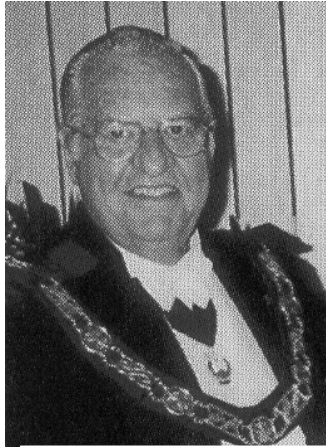
The official opening of the *Gosford Wing* extension of the Redhead Gardens took place on Saturday, 11 May 2002. Right Wor Bro Les Lock, Chairman of the Homes, unveiled the plaque and Mrs Beedsworth, Past Worthy Matron of the Gosford Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, made the opening official by being the first to open the door.

State and Federal Members of Parliament were in attendance along with the Mayor of Newcastle.

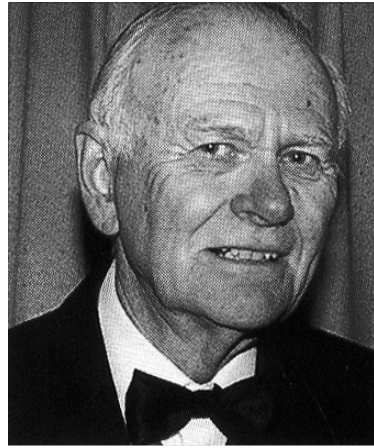
The Future.

From its humble beginning, the Homes developed into one of the 'jewels in the crown' of Masonic benevolence in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

Undoubtedly, this situation will continue as the need for aged care facilities increases with the anticipated increase in the number of aged persons in the community.



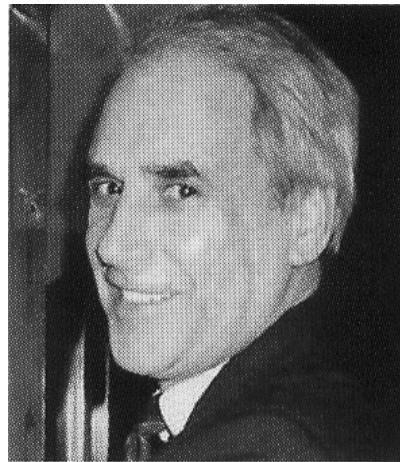
Right Wor Bro
NOEL W MELVIN



Right Wor Bro
KEVIN A STUMBLES



Right Wor Bro
PETER T KNEESHAW



Right Wor Bro
WILLIAM P M CAUKILL



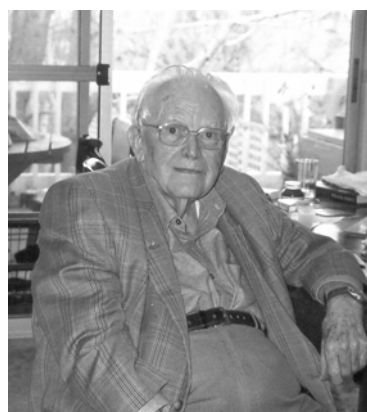
Right Wor Bro
M H (HARRY) KELLERMAN



Right Wor Bro
JOHN C BANKS



Right Wor Bro
J LIONEL MANCHES



Very Wor Bro
THOMAS K TAYLOR

CHAPTER XI

MASONIC KNOWLEDGE

A. MASONIC EDUCATION.

In the October 1992 issue of *The NSW Freemason*, Very Wor Bro Alan H. Kerr, a former secondary school teacher, contributed a foreword titled 'Education'. He wrote:

Speculative Freemasonry even in its earliest years had four main aims: fellowship, moral teaching, benevolence and learning. These days we would call the last one 'education'. Education is probably the aim to which we pay least attention in modern Lodges, yet in the years following 1717 it was accorded some prominence by leaders of the Craft.

Dr Desaguliers, third Grand Master and early Grand Secretary, was also for thirty years from 1714 the Curator of the Royal Society for the Promotion of Natural Knowledge. By occupation he was a clergyman and teacher of physics, the first one ever in London. It is to Desaguliers that the ritual owes references to arts and sciences, and the admonition to make some daily progress in the acquisition of Masonic knowledge.

Fostering the education of members was an important part of the early Craft as it sought to prepare members to come to terms with the rapidly changing society of the Industrial Revolution. Understanding the potential of education as a modern Craft activity could give us a new focus. So what exactly do we mean by 'education'?

Being educated is not knowing the answers to questions put up by other people. It is asking new questions. Being educated is not going to school, college or university. It is

a way of approaching life. Being educated is not passing examinations, which is answering someone else's questions. It is the getting of understanding. Being educated is not accidental, because you have to put your whole self into it. Being educated is not just for academics. There are more ordinary folk full of deep understanding than there are professors. Being educated is not looking up what others know about the world. It is discovering things we need to know for ourselves, in order to solve our own problems.

Educating is changing and growing, learning to come to terms with things that are new or difficult, and generally both at the same time. Within the Craft we have been telling ourselves for some time that things are new and difficult. Devoting some of our efforts to a new emphasis on learning or education could be a way of working out appropriate solutions.

The Committee of Masonic Education.

The Committee continued to promote knowledge within the Jurisdiction through Official Lecturers, District Education Officers and participation in Regional seminars, as well as by the publication of booklets and the production of audio and video tapes.

It was recognised that while there were many Masons who happily delved into Masonic studies and derived great satisfaction from increasing their Masonic knowledge in this way, modern methods of communication and pressures which tend to deprive us of leisure time, require us to provide 'instant education', with entertainment value too, that is now available in most fields.

Seminar for District Education Officers (DEO).

On Saturday 18 February 1989 the Committee of Masonic Education conducted a seminar at the Masonic Centre, Castlereagh Street, Sydney.

Although the programme was aimed mainly at District Education Officers, (DEO), there was a good attendance of District Grand Inspectors of Workings, who were, directly responsible for all Masonic activities in their Districts. DEO's worked in close liaison with their DGIW's and under their direction.

Some 63 Masons were present, including many from the country.

The seminar was opened by the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Ronald Johnson, who welcomed the brethren and addressed them on the significance of their role in the educational field and also on the part they, and all Masons could play in plotting the future course of Freemasonry in this Jurisdiction by expressing their views to the Commission for the Future.

The President of the Board of General Purposes, Right Wor Bro James Eddy, PDGM, supported the Grand Master's remarks and emphasised the crucial importance of everyone responding to the request from the Commission for constructive comment on the issues under consideration.

Five subjects were covered by Committee of Masonic Education speakers:

- i The appointment and role of the District Education Officer, Right Wor Bro Don Scott.

- ii Lodge Education Officers and the formation of Education Committees, Wor Bro Alan Fairbairn.
- iii District Education Officers' Manual - Its content and how it can best be used, Right Wor Bro Stan Keough.
- iv Committee of Masonic Education Publications: current and planned, Right Wor Bro Bill Lux.
- v The programme for the production of taped talks and video films and titles already available through the Grand Library. This talk was followed by the showing of the first video production 'The First 100 Years of Freemasonry in NSW', Wor Bro Bob Ridding.

Official Lecturers.

Concern was expressed about the sometimes casual approach of Lodges to Official Lecturers. The areas of concern were:

- The distress caused to the family of a deceased Lecturer when Lodge Secretaries telephone after consulting an out of date directory.
- Remarks that are sometimes offensive which infer that Official Lecturers are paid by Grand Lodge when their work, including travelling expenses, is entirely voluntary.
- Late tyling and extensive Lodge business because it is 'only a lecture'.
- Lack of parking.
- No invitation to sit at the Worshipful Master's table.

- No copy of the Lodge summons.

The Committee of Masonic Education made it clear that Official Lecturers were entitled to receive proper Masonic courtesy.

Conference at Orange.

On 21 April 1990, the Committee of Masonic Education sponsored a mid-west region Masonic Conference at Orange arranged by the Chairman of the Committee, Very Wor Bro Colin Wright.

He was one of five speakers from the Sydney area to address the Conference organized locally by Very Wor Bro John Garden, District 84 Education Officer. Other speakers were from Bathurst, Cowra and Orange.

About 40 Masons attended the day-long meeting, representing Lodges at Canowindra, Parkes, Lithgow, Eugowra, Mandurama, Millthorpe, Bathurst, Cowra and Orange. Flooding in parts of the central west prevented some people making the journey to Orange.

Chaired by Right Wor Bro Don Williams, the Conference covered a variety of issues all of which were relevant to Lodges in the area. Of particular interest was the address by Very Wor Bro Arnold Spackman which described the successful involvement of the Cowra community in what started as a Masonic project; the construction of an aged persons hostel.

The Grand Secretary-Designate, Very Wor Bro Ian McCulloch, was warmly welcomed by the delegates and provided some insight into the findings of the membership working party of the Commission for the Future.

Other speakers included Right Wor Bros Roger Donsworth, Enoch Walker and Don Scott, Very Wor Bro Grahame Bloore and Wor Bro Ted Enright.

Exemplification of Degrees.

A special demonstration team was established by the Board of General Purposes to exemplify the First, Second and Third Degrees. As a result, in the presence of the Grand Master and other members of Grand Lodge, the team, under the guidance of Right Wor Bro Ronald M. Dennis, PAGM, conducted a seminar which included demonstrations on Masonic Education and Ritual at Canberra on 2 June 1990 and Newcastle on 2 August 1990.

The visits were a great success and there was no doubt that the members of the Jurisdiction benefited from such important educational activities.

New Publications.

Three new publications were approved during 1990.

- *Nominator's Guide* - to assist Nominators to fulfil their responsibility to Candidates.
- *Greetings Mason's Lady* - A booklet for Masons to show how a Mason's partner could share more fully in the total Masonic experience with her partner, not just the preparation of refreshment in the South.
- *Understanding Freemasonry* - this was prepared as a suitable basis for an address at Open or Non-Masons Nights.

Grand Master Speaks on Masonic Education.

In his address to the Special Proclamation Communication of Grand Lodge held on 20 July 1991, Most Wor Bro Ronald Johnson, commencing his fourth term as Grand Master and as former Chairman of the Committee of Masonic Education, said:

'One of the vital keys to our organization's future is the role of Masonic Education and those of us directly involved in Masonic Education in its wider sense (and isn't that all of us?) have a great responsibility to ensure that all those who have contact directly or indirectly with Freemasonry are as fully informed as possible with the aims, principles and practices of the Craft.

It is a positive and certain means whereby the Craft will attract those men we seek to augment our membership and who will gladly participate in our activities, because they know and understand that Freemasonry is a worthwhile influence for good in the family and in the community.

Masonic Education cannot be presented as a single all-embracing concept. Different groups of people require a different approach and, in some cases, quite different information, and it is incumbent on us all to carefully examine the needs of various groups.'

He emphasised the importance of the communication of the aims and principles of Freemasonry to our own members, their families and the wider community.

Task Force to Examine the Future Direction of Masonic Education in New South Wales.

The Board of General Purposes in September 1991 adopted a proposal from the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Ronald Johnson, for the formation of a new Task Force; the membership to be:-

Right Wor Bro Gordon H. Watt, PDGM - Publications Committee
 Right Wor Bro William H. Lux, PAGM - Committee of Masonic Education
 Right Wor Bro James Eddy, PDGM - Lodge Management Group
 Very Wor Bro D. Garth McKinnon, PDGIW - Lodges Assistance Committee
 Right Wor Bro John O. Bennett, PSGW - Deputy Grand Treasurer - Finance Committee
 Right Wor Bro Grahame H. Cumming, PSGW - Board of General Purposes
 The Chairman of this Task Force to be Right Wor Bro James L. Eddy.

Masonic Leadership Skills Course.

The first of three Masonic Leadership Skills Courses was conducted at the Sydney Masonic Centre on 2 November 1991. Additional courses were held on 16 and 23 November.

There were 35 participants for each course. The courses were conducted in conjunction with TAFE (Technical and Further Education) who prepared the material and provided the instructors.

The subjects covered included planning, decision making, leadership and team building. Each course was of six hours duration and on completion, participants received a certificate of attendance and course notes.

The first course on 2 November was introduced by Right Wor Bro James L Eddy, PDGM, Chairman

of the Lodge Management Group which is responsible for the Masonic Leadership Skills Course.

At the March 1992 Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Johnson announced:

'Last year, four (4) Masonic Leadership Skills Seminars were successfully conducted in the Masonic Centre, Sydney, with 140 Brethren benefiting from these very instructive programmes. Our thanks go to the staff of TAFE for their active participation in this project and we were extremely fortunate to find an experienced Mason amongst the team of instructors.

The Lodge Management Group, noting the success of the previous Seminars, has instituted a further ten (10) Seminars in 1992, three (3) to be conducted in this Centre and the others at Belmont, Coffs Harbour, Orange, Goulburn, Tamworth, Wagga Wagga and Nowra.'

Australian Masonic Research Council.

In the April 1992 issue of the *NSW Freemason* it was announced that an Australian Masonic Research Council had been formed to:

- Promote Masonic research and education within Freemasonry on a national basis
- Act as a liaison body between its affiliated Masonic Research Lodges and Chapters.
- Organize any Research Lodge conferences which its affiliates may sanction.
- Organize and co-ordinate any national tour by a Masonic speaker as its affiliates may require.

Membership was open to any regular Research Lodge, Research Chapter or Research Body warranted or sanctioned by a recognised Masonic

Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter or Grand Body within Australia.

The first President of the Council was Very Wor Bro William Caulfield, PDGDC, Secretary of the Research Lodge of NSW No. 971.

The Council's first Biennial Research Conference was held in the Masonic Centre of Victoria, Melbourne on 12 to 14 June 1992, and all Master Masons and their partners were invited.

Official Lecturers.

At the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge held on 13 May 1992, the Board of General Purposes advised its approval of a submission by the Committee of Masonic Education that:

- i The term of appointment of an Official Lecturer shall be for a period of five (5) years. The appointment may be withdrawn at any time by the Grand Master.
- ii An Official Lecturer may, at the end of a five (5) year term, be invited to apply for an extension to his current appointment for a further period of five (5) years which the Grand Master may, at his discretion, and upon the recommendation of the Board of General Purposes, see fit to grant.
- iii After an Official Lecturer is appointed, the content of all purposed lectures shall be presented to the Committee of Masonic Education for assessment by the Official Lecturers' Sub-Committee.

Audio Visual Productions.

During the early part of 1992, the Committee of Masonic Education produced two new video tapes for use by Lodges.

These were *Masonic Symbolism* prepared from a series of historic glass slides, and *Tam o'Shanter*, a travelogue in Robert Burns' country in Scotland with Masonic interest.

The Committee also videotaped, on behalf of the Grand Lodge, the 1991 Grand Proclamation and re-edited the 1990 Grand Proclamation to improve the definition of the earlier copies.

Masonic Seminars Held in the Country.

The last of a series of seven seminars arranged by members of the Lodge Management Group of Grand Lodge was held at the Nowra Masonic Centre on 29 August 1992.

Similar seminars had previously been held at Belmont, 28 March; Coffs Harbour, 11 April; Orange, 2 May; Goulburn, 23 May; Tamworth, 27 June and Wagga Wagga on 11 July.

Each of the seminars was based on the Masonic Leadership Skills Course, which proved to be an outstanding success, and was conducted by the TAFE, Sydney Technical College.

The course covered strategic planning, decision making, leadership and team building.

Public Education.

At the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge held on 9 September 1992, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Noel Dunn said:

'To date our Grand Lodge Boards and Committees have published many booklets to assist new members, and potential members, towards a better understanding of the objectives of our Order. I would suggest that our new members are better informed about Freemasonry than many of our long-standing members who were introduced to the Craft, as I was, some 30 to 40 years ago under the old conservative banner. What we learnt about Freemasonry was contained in the three Degrees and from any personal research and reading which we may, or may not have undertaken.

Little wonder then, that we have failed to 'Communicate Freemasonry'. We had little or nothing that we felt confident about to tell our friends.

May I charge the new District Grand Inspectors of Workings and Worshipful Masters of each Lodge to make themselves conversant with the many publications which have been prepared by The Committee of Masonic Education and which are available from the Grand Lodge Office. These will assist them to enlighten brethren on how to answer questions like -

'What is Freemasonry?' 'What are the principles and ideals?'

'What are the benefits and obligations of membership?' and

'How does it affect my family?'

All members of Lodges should be in a position to provide non-Masons with this information, and to make the best of every opportunity to Communicate Freemasonry.

We are reminded on numerous occasions throughout our ceremonies of the importance of practising out of the Lodge those duties we are taught within it. Such duties as charity, virtue, benevolence, kindness and fortitude and many others that will be well known to you

and are constantly practised by all caring Freemasons.

Many of our brethren share their professional or trade skills by assisting those less fortunate than themselves in practical ways, such as assisting Lodges and brethren with accountancy, legal, social security, real estate advice, building, plumbing, painting or lawn mowing and so on. These members are truly Masonic and community spirited brethren and are sharing what they are taught in the Lodge Room - brotherly love, relief and truth; all qualities which will identify them as being Masons, and provide them with a real opportunity to share their Craft.'

Brethren let us all - **'COMMUNICATE FREEMASONRY
- SHARE YOUR CRAFT'**

First steps in Freemasonry Launched.

At a seminar for District Grand Inspectors of Workings, District Education Officers and interested Masons held on Saturday 3 April 1993 at the Parramatta Masonic Club, the Committee of Masonic Education launched its alternative system of Masonic Education known as the *First Steps in Freemasonry*.

It was impressed on those present at the seminar that *First Steps in Freemasonry* was an alternative to the *Lodge and District System of Masonic Education* and not a replacement.

If the *Lodge and District System of Masonic Education* was both effective and operating then it was to be continued. If there were problems, however, with committee members meeting with candidates, the alternative system, which consisted of a series of booklets, provided an answer. The series

commenced before initiation by outlining the history and aims of Freemasonry and, after each Degree, a further booklet was to be issued which explained the significance of the Degree and the expectations of the new Freemason.

Death of Very Wor Bro Dr Alan Kerr.

For the past six years, the meaningful and thought provoking Forewords which appeared in each issue of *The NSW Freemason*, were written by Very Wor Bro Dr Alan Kerr, PDGDC, of Armidale.

Tragically, Very Wor Bro Kerr died on 4 April 1993, following an accident at his home.

A teacher by profession, Very Wor Bro Kerr held degrees in Arts, Literature and Education and a Doctorate majoring in Linguistics. On his retirement three years ago he was Associate Professor of Multicultural Studies at the University of New England and at the time of his death he was Chairman of the NSW College of Education.

Very Wor Bro Kerr was initiated in Lodge The Peel No. 209, at Tamworth in January 1964. He affiliated with Lodge Armidale No. 641, in February 1965, and was Worshipful Master in 1970-71. He served as Organist and as Secretary. In addition he was Secretary of the Armidale Masonic Centre Society and Secretary for the New England Masonic Retirement Village Steering Committee.

World Masonic Lecture Tour by renowned Masonic Lecturer, Wor Bro Cyril Batham, OSt.J, PJGD, English Constitution.

Through the efforts of the Australian Masonic Research Council arrangements were made for Wor Bro Cyril N. Batham, who was doing a World Masonic Lecture Tour during 1993, to give lectures in New South Wales between 4 and 9 October.

The following were the venues and dates where this distinguished Masonic Lecturer, who was the Prestonian Lecturer in 1981 and a past Secretary of the famed Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076, English Constitution, were heard:

- Goulburn Masonic Centre, Tuesday 5 October
- Canberra Masonic Centre, Wednesday 6 October, under the Charter of Lodge Gowrie of Canberra No. 715
- Sydney Masonic Centre, Thursday 7 October, under the Charter of The Research Lodge of New South Wales No. 971. Topic - *Unusual Masonic Ceremonies*
- Newcastle Masonic Study Circle, Saturday 9 October. Topic - *Unusual Masonic Ceremonies*.

Library, Museum and Archives Committee.

The President of the Board of General Purposes, Right Wor Bro Dr Norman F. Brown, PJGW, appointed Right Wor Bro M. Harry Kellerman, OBE, PDGM as Chairman of the Committee vice Right Wor Bro Leslie A. Peaty, PAGM, who had retired from the position.

Participation in Hyde Park Barracks Museum Exhibition.

The Committee of Masonic Education negotiated to video tape some footage from the 'Macquarie' exhibition at the Hyde Park Barracks and from

this contact secured a display featuring Freemasonry for the 'Icons of Australia' exhibition.

Norman B. Spencer Prize.

In 1991, Wor Bro Allan M. Sharp, a member of The Research Lodge of New South Wales No. 971, became the first Australian to win the prestigious Norman B. Spencer prize awarded by the Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076, English Constitution for well-researched, 'first-time' papers.

His paper, *Australia's Oldest Masonic Document - A Factual Interpretation*, was a detailed examination of the certificate issued to Bro Captain Anthony Fenn Kemp in 1802.

The Australian Masonic Research Council Annual Conference.

On 30 September 1994, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Noel F. Dunn opened the Conference held at the Parramatta Masonic Club. Most Wor Bro Dunn said that:

'Masonic Research and Education has an important role to play in the revival of enthusiasm among the members of our Craft.'

This was certainly true of the 50 or more delegates from each State and the Australian Capital Territory, who gathered together for the occasion.

Named after Right Wor Bro Harry Kellerman, OBE, PDGM, the presentation of the Kellerman Lectures became a prestigious event on the calendar of the Masonic Research Council and in the words of Right Wor Bro Kellerman:

'Heralded a progressive step in Freemasonry in this country.'

MASONIC KNOWLEDGE

B. GRAND LODGE LIBRARY

Freemasonry is a subject with an extensive literature and the Grand Lodge Library continues to add books, periodicals, lectures and other material to the collection. It is a valuable resource for Masonic information and education and, in recent years, Grand Lodge Librarians have been instrumental in achieving an increased use of the Library with inquiries for information on a wide variety of topics and provision of material from books for lectures, research, and other uses.

More brethren visited the Library for reading, discussions and taking notes and more Lodges and Districts developed local libraries. In consequence, surplus books in the Grand Lodge Library found a ready sale. A limiting factor in the despatch of books was the prohibitive cost of postage.

The Library was opened on a regular basis to brethren and the General Public and was staffed by experienced volunteers.

The Library staff in June 1989 were:

Grand Lodge Librarian - Right Wor Bro M H
(Harry) Kellerman, OBE, PAGM
Deputy Grand Lodge Librarian - Very Wor Bro
Thomas K Taylor, PDGIW
Assistant Grand Lodge Librarian - Bro Zdzislaw
(Bill) Wielebinski, PGDM
Right Wor Bro J Lionel Manches, PSGW
Very Wor Bro Constantin N Trikas, PDGIW

Very Wor Bro Robert L Carbines, PDGDC
 Very Wor Bro Harry L Littman, PDGDC
 Wor Bro Leonard Bass
 Bro Dr Geoffrey Davis
 Mrs Yvonne Taylor

Deputy Librarian Visits London and Dublin.

In September 1989, the Deputy Librarian, Very Wor Bro Tom Taylor visited the library of the United Grand Lodge of England in London and of the Grand Lodge of Ireland in Dublin.

He was able to report that the library of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales, although on a smaller scale, proceeded along very similar lines to that of England.

Library Re-organization.

In December 1989, Mrs Yvonne Taylor completed a re-organization of book shelving, maintenance and the proper storage and recording of material suitable for use as lectures. This work materially assisted in making the Library more user friendly.

Lending of Audio Tapes on Masonic Subjects.

A new feature introduced during 1989 was the lending of tapes which developed satisfactorily during the year and, it was expected that as the service became better known and Lodges procured equipment, more use would be made of audio tapes for the dissemination of Masonic knowledge.

Postage Costs on Book Borrowings.

The Library, located in Sydney, always had difficulty in providing an adequate service to

borrowers in the country and metropolitan brethren who did not work in the city.

Over the years, various schemes were tried, the most successful being the despatch of a number of books in a specially designed case by railway freight to the care of the Secretary of a Lodge who was expected to then distribute the books on loan to Lodge members, collect them within a specified time and return the case of books to Sydney.

Where there was no rail connection, the books were sent individually by post.

In either case, return freight or postage was paid by the borrower.

Initially, there was no catalogue, which added to the difficulty. Eventually, a catalogue was produced and offered for sale and, in 1991, to assist brethren borrowing books that needed to be posted to the country and outlying suburbs, the Board of General Purposes decided that the cost of postage both ways would be met by Grand Lodge. This meant the Library would affix postage stamps to parcels sent to borrowers and included stamps of equal value for return postage. Borrowers did not have to refund postage or to pay their own return postage.

Library Re-located.

During May 1992, the Grand Lodge Masonic Library was re-located from the fourth floor of the Sydney Masonic Centre to a larger room, formerly Lodge Room No. 6 on the third floor of the Centre.

Valuable material was put on display that had been stored away for want of space, and shelves and cupboards were used to much greater advantage. The books and magazines could be seen, there was space to walk between the shelves and tables and the whole atmosphere became one of learning, culture and principal recreation.

The Library exists for all Masons and it has helped Masons to become informed, knowledgeable Masons.

The Library Staff worked every day for a fortnight to make the Library more efficient for readers. They moved books and papers, rearranged material in cupboards, moved furniture, made suggestions and helped to implement them.

Library Week 3-10 August 1992.

The Grand Lodge Library in itself presented a grand theme: a panorama of Masonry - its beginnings, philosophical and practical; its progression to the philosophical from the tenets of the practising Mason: and since then what has been written about the Craft and its relationship to the world around it.

Within that framework, the Grand Lodge Librarian, Right Wor Bro M H (Harry) Kellerman, OBE, PDGM, and his assistants presented an exposition of Freemasonry, crafted to interest all who would see it.

Nine tables were effectively ranged to give the visitor - Mason or otherwise - an overview of the Craft. With themes related to its origins, its beginnings in Australia (based on Military Lodges and Lodges from England, Ireland and

Scotland), its philosophy and teachings, regalia and ceremonial, symbolism and overseas membership, it was difficult to choose one over another in the Library Week display.

However, on one table illustrating philosophy and teachings, the Grand Lodge Librarian said:

'Many Masons find symbolism the most interesting part of their Masonry. It is certainly very important but other aspects of Freemasonry should not be neglected, if one is to get a well-balanced outlook on life and living.'

Right Wor Bro Kellerman asked those unable to visit to take advantage of the Library borrowing facilities, which would allow them to share in its treasures. He quoted the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, who said, in part:

'By using our minds, we can learn more, think more deeply, and aim higher. That's what it means to be a Mason.'

The Library on the third floor of the Sydney Masonic Centre began functioning as the important Grand Lodge facility it was designed to be. The core of regular readers had grown larger; more new readers joined the Library and many more inquiries for information continued to be received. It seemed that brethren in greater numbers were becoming interested in understanding Freemasonry.

Freemasonry is a subject with an extensive literature and the Grand Lodge Library continued to add books, periodicals, lectures and other material to the collection.

Computerisation.

During 1993, Very Wor Bro Arthur Astin, PDGIW, commenced the mammoth task of computerising the index of books in the reference section and in this he had the assistance of Mrs Robyn Forster.

Education and Recreation.

The Grand Lodge Librarian, Right Wor Bro Harry Kellerman, OBE, PDGM, reported in the August 1994 issue of *The NSW Freemason*:

There is no charge for membership or for use of the Library. The Library is an educational agency as well as recreational. Some see in Masonic Education a vital factor in the survival of Freemasonry, with its ideals, humanity and brotherliness.

Education goes hand-in-hand with training, especially for those who can see beyond the Ritual. Brethren who put more into Freemasonry by learning about it, get more out of it, much more than those who just attend meetings and become bored or disinterested. The Library helps in the Masonic Education of a Mason.

Grand Master's Address.

At the March 1997 Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Revd Raymond Green said:

'As we are all encouraged to make some daily progress in the acquisition of Masonic knowledge, I want to encourage you all to avail yourselves of the facilities of the Grand Lodge Library.

The Masonic Library in the Sydney Masonic Centre has one of the finest collections of books and papers on worldwide Freemasonry that you could ever wish to see. They are available for research or borrowing and the staff under the guidance of Right Wor Bro Harry Kellerman, OBE, PDGM, are only too pleased to assist in any way with their wealth of knowledge.'

Some Words and Thoughts.

Under the auspices of the Research Lodge of New South Wales No. 971, a book *Some Words and Thoughts* of the Grand Lodge Librarian, Right Wor Bro Harry Kellerman, OBE, PDGM, was published and advertised for sale from the Grand Lodge Library.

Right Wor Bro M.H. (Harry) Kellerman was born in 1902 and became Foundation Chairman, Committee of Masonic Education, in 1960, retired as Principal, Blackfriars Correspondence School, 1963, awarded OBE for Services to Education in 1969, appointed Grand Lodge Librarian in 1982, conferred Past Assistant Grand Master, 1983, Author *From Diamond Jubilee to Centenary*, 1986-90, conferred Past Deputy Grand Master, 1990, Author, *History of the Order of the Secret Monitor*, 1994-5.

Following the retirement of Right Wor Bro Harry Kellerman, Very Wor Bro Thomas K. Taylor, PDGIW, was appointed as Grand Lodge Librarian, a position he was well qualified to fill by reason of his experience as a Librarian, Teacher, and Historian.

Library on Web Site.

A working party met with the aim of providing resources to brethren via the Grand Lodge web site.

This working party identified a list of resources which would be made available progressively. Their final report with the details was available at the end of July 2001.

The Future.

There can be no doubt that the future of Masonic Education will depend upon the use of the computer and the Library, aware of this, has endeavoured to keep abreast of the latest technology in an ever-expanding realm of knowledge.

MASONIC KNOWLEDGE**C. THE GRAND LODGE MUSEUM**

At the time, in 1979, when the Sydney Masonic Centre was nearing completion, plans were made for the creation of a Museum within the Centre, and, on 21 June 1978, Most Wor Bro Victor C.N. Blight, CBE, PGM, was appointed as the Masonic Centre Museum Curator. This position he held until his death on 9 February 1988. His devotion to the task of setting up the Museum and categorising and recording the numerous artefacts which had been donated and held in store was an onerous task. It was a task which Most Wor Bro Blight carried out with great care, diligence and enthusiasm. The work performed by him in the setting up and establishment of the Museum laid an excellent foundation for those who followed.

Wor Bro John C. Banks, OAM, was appointed as Curator and accepted the challenge of continuing on this very important task. He was very ably assisted by Very Wor Bro Lyle J. Blok, PDGDC, and Wor Bro John Allibone.

The Museum played a very important part in the centenary celebrations of the United Grand Lodge. Numerous interested people who were being conducted through the Masonic Centre were able to pay particular attention to the various artefacts on display in the showcases on the Third Floor.

Visit to London by Museum Curator.

During a visit to London in February 1989, the Curator of the Museum of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales, Wor Bro John C. Banks, OAM,

visited the Museum of the United Grand Lodge of England in London.

Much useful information was obtained for the future layout and display of material for the Museum at the Sydney Masonic Centre.

Official Opening of The Victor C.N. Blight Memorial Museum.

One of the last duties to be performed as Grand Master by Most Wor Bro Ronald Johnson, AM, was that of the official opening of the Victor C.N. Blight Museum on Thursday 6 August 1992; the day before he installed Right Wor Bro Noel F. Dunn as Grand Master.

It was fitting that the Museum should be named after the late Most Wor Bro Victor C.N. Blight, CBE, PGM, who was not only primarily responsible for the building of the Sydney Masonic Centre but who painstakingly and efficiently catalogued numerous Masonic artefacts so that they would be preserved for future generations.

Most Wor Bro Johnson considered it appropriate that he should have Mrs Phyllis Blight to assist him in cutting the ribbon and in unveiling the plaque recording the naming of the Museum and its Official Opening.

Very Wor Bro Jack Banks, OAM, PDGIW, a brother-in-law of the late Most Wor Bro Victor Blight, and his assistants continued with the work already commenced.

Re-location of the Grand Lodge Museum.

The Board of General Purposes reported the re-location of the Museum displays to the gallery

and assembly areas on the third floor of the Sydney Masonic Centre during the early part of 1994. This re-location made the displays more available for inspection.

A Fascinating Find.

The regalia of Most Wor Bro James Hunt, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New South Wales, 1888, found in

September 1988 under old masonite and timber in the roof of a workshop at Nowra, and giving every indication that it had been there for many years undisturbed, was presented to the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Revd Raymond Green by Right Wor Bro Reg Ferguson.

James Hunt was born in Yorkshire, England in 1825 and married in 1857 in Bombay, India. He brought his family to New South Wales in 1877, at that time being a Past Master of a Dublin Lodge and Grand Superintendent of Royal Arch Masons, Western India.

He served as Treasurer of the Leinster Marine Lodge of Australia No. 1, Grand Lodge of New South Wales, in 1874 and again from 1880 to 1882, and was elected as Master of that Lodge for the 1883-84 term.

He became a prominent member of the Grand Lodge of New South Wales and at the Grand Installation on 24 June 1884 was appointed as Deputy Grand Master by Most Wor Bro Dr Harman J. Tarrant, MLA. Bro Hunt served in that office until the formation of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales in 1888 when he was elected as a member of its first Board of General Purposes.

At the final meeting of the Grand Lodge of New South Wales held on 16 August 1888, its Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Dr Tarrant exercised his last privilege in that office and conferred the rank of Past Grand Master on James Hunt in recognition of the work he had done in respect of the formation of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales.

Historic Tracing Boards Restored.

One of the areas of interest, which came under the direction of the Members' Board was the Grand Lodge Museum and Archives.

Tracing Boards play an important part in Masonic Ritual and a set of three, on display at the Masonic Centre in Sydney, were particularly historic.

Bro R. Read painted them in 1827. At first it was thought he was a convict, but further research revealed that there was a convict of the same name.

Their early whereabouts is clouded in mystery. They were later found in a garage at Hill End, where they had been for forty years. Finally they were presented to the Museum. Oils and other preservatives had almost blackened them beyond all recognition.

Grand Lodge spent some \$5,000 in having them fully restored to their original colours.

Display Cabinet Re-location.

During the latter part of 2001, the display cabinets were re-located within the Sydney Masonic Centre and the contents up-dated.

The contents improved the image of Freemasonry within the Centre, especially to the large number of non-Masons using the Centre on a daily basis.

MASONIC KNOWLEDGE**D. THE GRAND LODGE ARCHIVES**

Development of a Masonic Archival Section in the Grand Lodge Office.

As a result of the downturn in membership, there was an increase in the number of Lodges surrendering their Charter. In accordance with the Regulations, the property of such a Lodge automatically became the property of Grand Lodge and, as a consequence, Grand Lodge received a large number of Lodge minute books, dues registers, attendance books, installation programmes and other Lodge memorabilia.

This material was of great importance to the Craft as it contained, in a great many cases, the only details of the history of the Lodge.

Freemasonry has always been an integral part of the community and especially in a small country town, the Lodge activities were part of the town's history and, as the Masonic Hall was often the only hall in the town, an important part of the social fabric for several generations.

In order that this irreplaceable material could be properly stored and catalogued and made available for historical research, the Board of General Purposes approved the use of a room in the Sydney Masonic Centre which was provided with suitable storage facilities to be controlled by a voluntary Archivist.

The Board also approved the establishment of a Masonic Archival Section as part of the functions of its Library and Museum Committee. The Archivist was initially the Deputy Grand

Lodge Librarian, Very Wor Bro Thomas K Taylor, PDGIW.

Appointment of Archivist.

At the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge held on 11 December 1991 the Board of General Purposes adopted the recommendation of its Library and Museum Committee to appoint Right Wor Bro J. Lionel Manches, PSGW, as the Archivist of the Grand Lodge for the balance of the term ending 30 June 1992.

A Past Master of The Robert Burns Lodge of Australia No. 21, Lodge Royal Empire No. 513 and The Research Lodge of New South Wales No. 971, as well as a former member of the Publications Committee, Right Wor Bro Lionel Manches brought a vast amount of Masonic knowledge and experience to his new role.

He had previously collected an abundance of Lodge records and many other articles of Masonic history which had been catalogued and stored under archival conditions.

Right Wor Bro Manches restored many of the photographs of former Grand Lodge Installations on exhibition on the Third Level of the Sydney Masonic Centre which had deteriorated due to mildew.

Conservation of Paper Items.

The December 1996 issue of *The NSW Freemason*, included an article written by the Grand Lodge Archivist, Right Wor Bro Lionel Manches, PSGW:

In response to a number of requests I have received from Lodge Secretaries I will outline a few simple techniques that can be used

successfully even without formal training in conservation.

These basic techniques will extend the quality and life-span of Installation cards, Minute books, Lodge histories, etc, and other articles in care.

Paper starts to deteriorate from the moment it is made. This is caused by many factors, the most significant of which is the kind of materials used in its manufacture. Today most paper is made from wood pulp and usually contains Lignin and alumrosin sizing, which causes the paper fibres to break down under exposure to ultraviolet light and, over a period of time, to form damaging and self destructive acids.

Choosing the right type of storage is probably the most important step to prolong an article's life span and quality. Using some of these simple environmental controls is good housekeeping.

- Avoid excessive or fluctuating heat and humid conditions. I recommend a cool, dark and dry storage area with a relatively stable humidity of approximately 50% and a temperature of about 21°C. This excludes most garages, basements and attics.

If you can keep the storage area clean, free of insects and rodents you have done your best to preserve a good physical environment and if fluorescent light is necessary, ultraviolet filtering material should be used.

- Good shelving is most important, preferably made of steel with a smooth baked enamel finish. Standard metal filing cabinets and steel presses are acceptable.

The bottom shelf should be at least ten centimetres from the floor to allow for air circulation and high enough to prevent the possibility of water damage. If wood shelving is used it should be coated with three coats of formaldehyde-free, polyurethane varnish and be allowed to stand for at least three weeks before use.

- An important part of basic paper preservation is the selection of a proper storage container.

All storage boxes should be acid-free, comfortably filled but not overstuffed. Metal staples, paper clips, etc, should be removed and, where possible, like-sized items should be stored together, with a calcium carbonate buffer added.

The calcium carbonate buffer will resist the acid absorption from other adjacent material and will reduce the risk of acid from one article affecting the others.

Unfortunately many records are stored in highly acidic conditions which will cause them to turn yellow and brittle prematurely, and eventually they will disintegrate and crumble. A much better idea would be to entrust all except the current Minute book to the Grand Lodge Archives for safekeeping and where they can be obtained for reference, at a moment's notice.

Grand Lodge Archives.

The Archives of the United Grand Lodge of NSW and ACT contain a wealth of information that reflects the history of the times in which it was created - early travelling certificates for Masons in the Regiments of Foot from the early 1800's; documents relating to Lodges prior to 1888 under the English, Scottish and Irish

Constitutions; William Charles Wentworth's Certificate of Initiation in France; cardboard working tools from a Japanese Prisoner of War camp; old menus and accounts for Souths; photographs of heritage Lodge buildings throughout NSW; minutes of meetings leading to the creation of the Grand Lodge of New South Wales in 1877 and the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales in 1888 - are but a few of the many items recorded on a card index prior to being put on a master computerised data base. In addition, the minute books and other Lodge records of both past and active Lodges have been preserved for future reference.

Preserving Our Heritage.

An exciting new project was developed during 2002 within the Grand Lodge. It involved the recognition of the heritage items in Freemasonry, to locate them, restore them to their former glory and have them available for all to appreciate now and in the future.

An initial challenge was to finance the work separately to the income derived from the members' capitation fee.

To enable this to occur, a 'Heritage Fund' was established within the United Grand Lodge General Purposes Fund. This special fund was specific to heritage work, and every dollar received was set aside and faithfully applied to the restoration of our heritage.

The Archivist of Grand Lodge.

The newly appointed Archivist, Wor Bro Brian French, was born in England and, from an early age devoted his time to the study of archaeology and history. After serving in

Egypt with the Royal Army Educational Corps he joined his father's firm of Chartered Building Surveyors and, for the next thirty years, specialised in the conservation and restoration of buildings of heritage interest dating from the 15th to the 19th centuries.

Following his marriage, he returned to Europe where he practiced in England and Italy. Since becoming a permanent resident in Australia in 1987, he has taken an MA in Australian history at the University of Western Sydney and was studying for his PhD on early copper mining in New South Wales.

For the past six years he has lectured on ancient and medieval history at the Workers Education Association in Sydney.

Wor Bro French continued the important work of the Grand Lodge Archives and the preservation of the important historical records of the Grand Lodge and Private Lodges throughout the Jurisdiction.

CHAPTER XII

OTHER MASONIC ORDERS AND ORGANIZATIONS

A. FREEMASONRY'S FAMILY CIRCLE.

There are various Masonic Orders which are supplementary to Craft Freemasonry and which make up Freemasonry's Family Circle. These Orders exist in harmony with the Craft and with one another, and each has a history which is rich in tradition.

Members of the Masonic family which function in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory and their inter-relationships were defined in the Family Tree of Freemasonry.

NOTE: Only those Orders which have the Degree of Master Mason as a Masonic qualification for membership are included in this history. They are:

- *Mark and Royal Arch
- The Ancient and Accepted (Scottish) Rite
- The Order of the Secret Monitor

* These are the only Degrees recognised in the Regulations of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

Meeting of Heads of Other Orders with the Grand Master.

The Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Noel F. Dunn, advised that four meetings had been convened during 1993 with representatives from allied

male Masonic Orders meeting within New South Wales and The Australian Capital Territory.

Two meetings had been restricted to those Orders which stipulate Master Mason qualifications in a Craft Lodge as a requirement for admission to their particular Order. From these meetings it had been possible to agree to:

- i A Family Tree of Freemasonry in New South Wales and The Australian Capital Territory.
- ii A brief description of the teachings and joining qualifications of each Order.
- iii Guidelines for members of the Craft as to their responsibilities to their Lodge and the Craft and the timing of their progression to side Orders, if or when they make such a decision.

It was the Grand Master's recommendation to those brethren who wish to pursue such Orders:

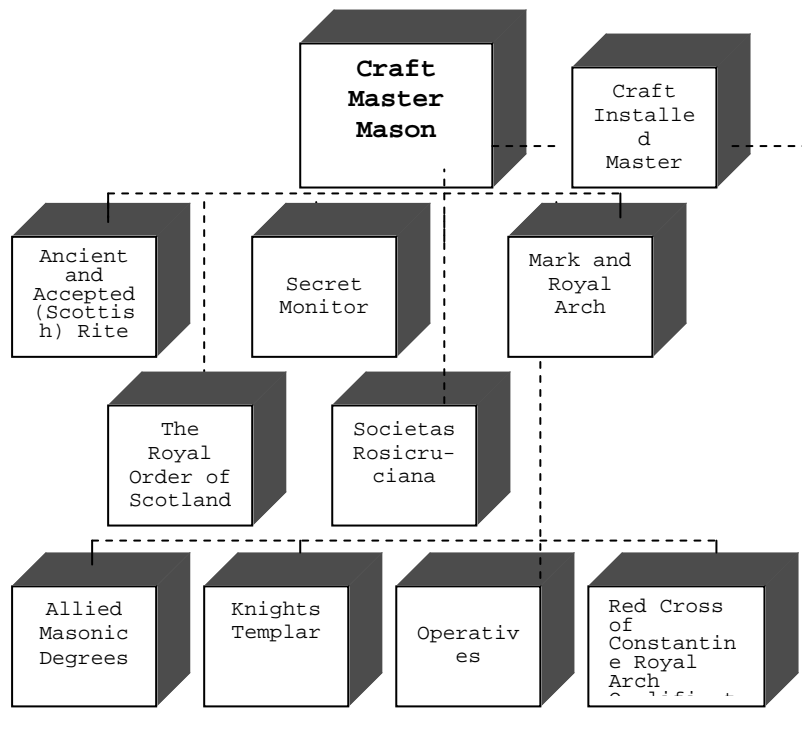
- i That a Master Mason should not be approached to join nor should he consent to join any other acknowledged Order within 24 months of becoming a Master Mason.
- ii Beyond 24 months of becoming a Master Mason, consideration should first be given to the completion of Pure Ancient Masonry by becoming a Mark Master Mason and then proceeding to the Royal Arch Degree.
- iii Other Orders may follow subject to the interests of the individual Mason and his qualifications to participate.

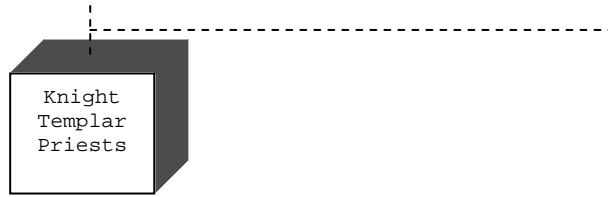
Although a Master Mason may hear talk of 'higher Degrees' and observe the words 'Supreme', 'Grand' or 'Great' in the titles of some of the other Orders, it should not be

interpreted, the Grand Master pointed out, that there is an arithmetical progression of Degrees which implied an ascending superiority.

A booklet titled *Freemasonry's Family Circle* was produced giving an explanation of the structure of Freemasonry in New South Wales and The Australian Capital Territory, including an identification of other Masonic Orders, their roles and inter-relationship. This booklet was to be presented to all new Master Masons following the Third Degree ceremony.

FREEMASON'S FAMILY TREE - 1993





OTHER MASONIC ORDERS AND ORGANIZATIONS

B. THE SUPREME ORDER OF THE HOLY ROYAL ARCH.

Among the many Orders and Degrees of Freemasonry, none stands closer to the Craft than the Royal Arch. Together they constitute Pure Ancient Masonry so designated by the Craft itself, and gaining its place by virtue of Regulation 1 of the Book of Constitutions of the Craft. This has been the case ever since the formation of The United Grand Lodge of New South Wales in 1888 and, going back still further, to the formation of The United Grand Lodge of England in 1813.

Historically, this came about through the constitution of The United Grand Lodge of England, which was a union of the two Grand Lodges, the so-called 'Moderns' and the 'Antients'. At that time the Royal Arch Degree was worked within the Lodges holding under the 'Antients'. The 'Moderns', on the other hand, sought to maintain the Craft as purely three Craft Degrees. Its members were able to have recourse to the Royal Arch by joining Chapters holding under the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England.

So it was that, in 1813, the English Craft became exclusively three Degrees as we know it today, and the present English Grand Chapter was constituted in 1817, being a union of the Grand Chapter and the Royal Arch quotient of the 'Antients'.

The first Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masonry in the world was constituted in England in 1766. Scotland and Ireland formed their own Grand Chapters in 1817 and 1861 respectively, in each case including the Degree of Mark Master Mason, to be taken before exaltation to the Royal Arch Degree.

In England, to this day, Royal Arch Chapters are attached to particular Craft Lodges from which they take their number, and generally, their name, and the closeness of the relationship of the two Orders is further illustrated by the Grand Master of the Craft being the First Grand Principal of the Royal Arch.

In New South Wales, in 1980, all bodies working the Mark Degree and those appertaining to the Royal Arch, unified into The United Supreme Grand Chapter of Mark and Royal Arch Masons of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory which we have today.

Master Mason is the Masonic qualification for membership.

What then is The Royal Arch?

Briefly and simply it is a system of three Degrees in which the essential basis of the Craft Degrees is expanded and rounded out to give a comprehensive illustration of the

allegory of Freemasonry. In line with the Craft, it utilises the Old Testament teachings.

We are enjoined to make some daily progress in the science, not only as to our character development and improved relationship with others, and to be constant in our pursuit of truth, but also in reaching a fuller and more meaningful understanding of just what Masonry has to teach and the unique way in which it is taught.

Added to the three Degrees of the Royal Arch series, there are also some additional or further Degrees which explore side issues in a meaningful way. They are side Degrees which give an extra interest and dimension to the entirety of Royal Arch Masonry.

Under the banner of the United Supreme Grand Chapter of Mark and Royal Arch Masons of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, individual Chapters are able to perform some eleven different Degrees and seven installations; one of the few Jurisdictions in the Masonic world where this is done.

The Degrees available are:

Cardinal series - Mark Master Mason; Excellent Master Mason; Royal Arch Mason.

Cryptic series - Most Excellent Master; Royal Master; Select Master; Super Excellent Master.

Red Cross Knights series - Knight of the Sword; Knight of the East; Knight of the East and West.

Ark Mariner series - Royal Ark Mariner.

A Mason joining this Order requires only one set of regalia, which covers all the Degrees.

Participation is gained by joining a Royal Arch Chapter, with membership of the Craft as a prerequisite and becoming a 'Companion'. In general therefore, the Royal Arch together with the Craft, follows the system basically known in the United States of America as the York Rite of Freemasonry.

To pre-empt the nature or content of the Degrees would be to detract from the rich experience of receiving the private information, mysteries and privileges of the Holy Royal Arch, the second part of Pure Ancient Masonry. The Order has its own headquarters at Petersham, which includes the famous Egyptian Room.

Grand Installation of Most Excellent Companion E. Norman Garland, First Grand Principal and Grand Master.

The installation of Most Excellent Companion E. Norman Garland as the First Grand Principal and Grand Master of the United Supreme Grand Chapter of Mark and Royal Arch Masons of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, took place in the Grand Lodge Room of the Masonic Centre, Sydney on Saturday 16 September 1989.

A near capacity attendance of Royal Arch and Craft Masons witnessed a memorable and colourful ceremony. In addition to the installations of the four Principals and the Investiture of Officers, the District Grand Inspectors of Workings from the 41 Royal Arch Districts were invested.

Prior to this installation, only two other full installations have taken place since the Unification of all Capitular Orders of Freemasonry, in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory into the United Supreme Grand Chapter in 1980. These were the inaugural installation in 1980 and the installation in 1984.

Most Excellent Comp Roy Rhodes, Installing First Grand Principal and Grand Master welcomed delegations from interstate and from New Zealand, as well as representatives from the Grand Chapters of Scotland and Ireland. All States were represented, except for Tasmania where travel difficulties proved insurmountable.

The convocation was honoured by the attendance of Most Wor Bro Ronald L.H. Johnson, Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales. He was accompanied by Right Wor Bro Noel F. Dunn, Deputy Grand Master and Right Wor Bro John M. Talty, Assistant Grand Master and a delegation of Present and Past Grand Lodge Officers.

Associated functions included a reception on 15 September 1989 for interstate and overseas guests and their ladies. At an afternoon tea on 16 September for the ladies, to coincide with the time of the Grand Installation, Very Wor Bro Dee Donavan provided delightful entertainment.

A banquet followed the Grand Installation with 360 brethren and companions and their ladies being present.

On Sunday 17 September, two large coaches conveyed members, visitors and ladies on a tour

of the northern beaches, stopping at the Manly Warringah Masonic Club for a first class lunch.

Combined Church Service.

On Sunday 26 November 1989, Masons from the St George and Sutherland Shire areas attended worship at Rockdale Uniting Church. The Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales, Most Wor Bro Ronald L.H. Johnson and the First Grand Principal and Grand Master of the United Supreme Grand Chapter of Mark and Royal Arch Masons of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, Most Excellent Companion E. Norman Garland, attended the service especially arranged for Craft and Royal Arch Masons, their families and friends.

Centenary Celebrations at Broken Hill.

On Friday 21 September 1990, Most Excellent Comp E. Norman Garland, First Grand Principal and Grand Master, commenced a sojourn in the name of unity and understanding to Broken Hill. This was to permit celebrations with Barrier Royal Arch Chapter No. 10 (original Charter dated 25 August 1890) and Barrier Mark Master Masons Lodge No. 13 (Charter granted 27 June 1891) on the occasion of their centenary.

To further highlight their centenary, Most Excellent Comp Garland invited the First Grand Principal and his Officers of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of South Australia to visit with him and together publicly demonstrate their belief and application of unity and the magic Masonic word, 'togetherness'. Most Excellent Comp the Revd Maurice Giles arrived with his Deputy First Grand Principal and his two associate Principals all wearing full regalia and robes.

There were 50 Grand Chapter members in his delegation.

Most Excellent Comp Garland had nine Grand Chapter Officers with him from Sydney plus a number of local Grand Chapter members to officially welcome the South Australians. The merging of the two groups almost as one will long be remembered by the members of Barrier Royal Arch Chapter.

The visit began on Saturday morning with an official Civic Reception hosted by the Mayor of Broken Hill, Alderman Peter Black. The Mayor's words of welcome to the two First Grand Principals and guests were simple, warm and friendly. He explained the history of Broken Hill and gave a resume of its current problems and its future aspirations.

He stated that Broken Hill was truly aware of the fact that Masonry in general had 'taken over the town' for the weekend. He said it was not very hard for these events to receive 'bush telegraph' prominence whereby even the furthestmost resident gains some knowledge of what is happening. He said this was very good for Masonry as it was a commonly known fact in the 'Hill' that Masons only do good.

Broken Hill was very proud to play host to two distinguished Masons and their respective delegations. It split wide open the murky story that Masons were 'secretive'. The Barrier Industrial Council supported him.

Both leaders responded and together, shoulder to shoulder on the podium, stated that their aims, beliefs and support of one another bound by the principles demonstrated in their Craft origins were always open for others to learn by

and to emulate. Each quoted the verse upon which charity, the foundation of our Order, is inseparably bound to each Royal Arch Mason by his Craft affiliations and beliefs and it is largely due to this single fact both are able to ensure no boundary stands between either State and that the world may see that we stand as one and united. All else is secondary to this, the most important of all considerations.

Saturday afternoon saw a bus load of Masons and their ladies taken to Silverton (about 37 km out of the Hill) and it was here that a visit was made to Lodge Umberumberka No. 141, United Grand Lodge of New South Wales. This was the first Lodge erected in the district.

The Lodge Room measures 6m x 4.2m. It is illuminated by hurricane lamps. Walls are of local ore-bearing stone and the furniture is still the original. Over 70 people 'squeezed' into this tiny room and were entertained by the Master, Wor Bro Max Anderson, who was one of the organizers of the Royal Arch Centenary programme.

It was at Silverton that Bro Rasp, the founder of Broken Hill, began the long haul to start the mine and its township. The original mine closed down long ago and Broken Hill became the new mine. Masonry plays a very important part in the life of Broken Hill and hosts visits from Cobar, Mildura and South Australia regularly.

Mark and Royal Arch Tour of Northern New South Wales.

On Friday 7 December 1990, the First Grand Principal and Grand Master of The United Supreme Grand Chapter, Most Excellent Comp E.

Norman Garland, in company with several of his Grand Chapter Officers, began a tour of the northern New South Wales districts. The tour was convened by him in order to permit members of those Chapters and Districts who were unable, on the previous excursion in July 1990, to meet him and to sojourn with the members who comprise the Grand Body.

Such tours provided face to face contact. They also opened up whole new frontiers of ideas and encouraged an interchange of thought on the development and furtherance of the Order and its members. In addition they, at times, encouraged 'on the spot' solutions and harmony which was an excellent medium for personal understanding and future aspirations. As well, this style of touring promoted the Order, demonstrated what Masonry is about and, refreshingly for some, permitted a public first-hand awareness of Masonic action and creativity. As the First Grand Principal personally said for the public record .

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'It totally reveals for the world to witness, the solidarity of the two Orders in particular, of which so much wrongful interpretation exists.'

It was well documented that at each of the 'stop-overs' on the itinerary, good publicity prevailed and local dignitaries were able to meet, welcome and discuss numerous subjects with the First Grand Principal and his members. This again highlighted the importance that such visits could establish by way of personal, friendly, open-hearted meetings which could be well publicised locally.

Many non-Masonic friends were seen at all stops and their particular interest was warmly welcomed. Their questions were answered in a simple and forthright manner which did much for our Craft affiliations. As the First Grand Principal said. 'Unity is the watchword for 1991.'

This pointed to the necessity for each and every Mason to underpin the qualifications of the Craft and its aims and objectives.

Mark and Royal Arch Tour of Southern New South Wales.

On Saturday, 16 March 1991, the First Grand Principal and Grand Master of United Supreme Grand Chapter, Most Excellent Companion E. Norman Garland, commenced the tour of the New South Wales southern districts.

The tour also included an open invitation for the First Grand Principal and his Officers to visit Chapter Yarrawonga No. 69, Victorian Constitution, in order that the First Grand Principal of The United Supreme Grand Chapter of Victoria, Most Excellent Companion David Paroissien, accompanied by his Grand Officers could extend the hand of friendship and officially welcome a Sister Grand Delegation.

An installation ceremony with the blending of the two Grand Officer groups into one was of a very professional standard. A number of social events for the weekend were listed and all were well patronised by companions and their ladies from both Constitutions. There were boat trips, barbeques, Church Services and a farewell dinner.

Most Excellent Comp Garland stated in his farewell address,

'Surely this excursion must downturn any display of anxiety concerning boundaries between Masons. By any measurement the tour clearly emphasises "hands across the border" and is positive proof of "Masonry on the Move".'

Monday 18 March 1991 saw the group arrive in Finley, the first official New South Wales stopover. It was interesting to observe that in this small township a large number of its citizens turned out to meet the First Grand Principal. Advance publicity had produced a welcome of the highest order.

On Tuesday 19 March, the visitors moved on to Narrandera to become part of the combined meeting night of Leopold Royal Arch Chapter No. 98.

On Wednesday 20 March, the group journeyed to Cootamundra. The host Chapter in this town was Cootamundra St John No. 24.

Most Excellent Companion Garland stated that his understanding of the upsurge of interest and success currently in vogue was to a large extent due to good communication and caring and sharing. He suggested that the recent letter written by the Grand Master of The United Grand Lodge of New South Wales, Most Wor Bro Ronald Johnson, to a magazine simplifies our unified aim:

Freemasonry's greatest gift to its members and the community at large is knowledge interpreted, explained and applied.

On Friday 22 March 1991, Chapter Kosciusko No. 43 hosted the visitors at Cooma and, the following evening, Chapter Pambula No. 120 were the hosts where a beautiful painting by local artist Marjorie Roche was presented to Most Excellent Companion Garland and his wife Mavis as a tribute of gratitude for their visit.

The southern tour concluded with a Church Service on Sunday 24 March 1991 at Christ Church Anglican Church, Pambula.

Dedication of Royal Arch Museum.

On Saturday 20 April 1991, the First Grand Principal and Grand Master, Most Excellent Comp E. Norman Garland, performed the ceremony of dedicating the Royal Arch Museum in the Petersham Masonic Centre and of unveiling a plaque to commemorate the event.

Altogether there were some 372 persons in attendance, including members of the Order of De Molay for boys and the International Order of Rainbow for girls, who had been invited to be present by the First Grand Principal and Grand Master.

Following the dedication ceremony, the Egyptology group, under the direction of Right Excellent Comp Oliver Cummins, gave an explanation of the Egyptian Room frieze.

Whilst the dedication of the Museum was taking place the De Molay boys were assembling their furniture in the lower level banquet hall.

After completion of the explanation of the frieze in the Lodge Room the young men, suitably attired in their gowns and regalia, entered the banquet hall and demonstrated a De

Molay ceremony under the chairmanship of their Grand Master, Dad Ken Auld.

Proclamation of Most Excellent Companion E. Norman Garland as First Grand Principal and Grand Master.

On Saturday 21 September 1991, in the presence of some 200 companions, brethren and their ladies, Most Excellent Companion E. Norman Garland was proclaimed for a further year as the First Grand Principal and Grand Master of the United Supreme Grand Chapter of Mark and Royal Arch Masons of New South Wales and The Australian Capital Territory.

There were a number of distinguished visitors present. Two who had travelled from bordering States were Most Excellent Companion W. Burston, First Grand Principal of Victoria and Most Excellent Companion E. Zillman, First Grand Principal of Queensland.

The Grand Master of The United Grand Lodge of New South Wales, Most Wor Bro Ronald L.H. Johnson, together with the Deputy Grand Master, Right Wor Bro Noel F. Dunn, and the Assistant Grand Master, Right Wor Bro John M. Talty, attended the ceremony together with the Grand Director of Ceremonies, Very Wor Bro George Owen.

Worship Service Rockdale Uniting Church - Sunday 10 November 1991.

Members of the Craft, Royal Arch, Order of the Secret Monitor, Order of the Eastern Star, Order of De Molay for boys and the International Order of Rainbow for girls joined together in worship at the Uniting Church, Bay

Street, Rockdale, on Sunday evening, 10 November 1991.

In attendance at the Service were the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro Ronald L.H. Johnson and Mrs May Johnson, the First Grand Principal and Grand Master, Most Excellent Companion E. Norman Garland and Mrs Mavis Garland.

The Service was conducted by the Grand Chaplain, Right Wor Bro Revd Harold Ctercteko, Past Deputy Grand Master, in conjunction with the District Grand Inspector of Workings of No. 7 District, United Supreme Grand Chapter, Very Excellent Companion Robert W. Ridding. The organist was Very Wor Bro Roy Barnett, PDGIW.

The address was given by Right Wor Bro Revd Ctercteko who chose 'Come and be our Leader' as his theme.

Eastlake Daylight Royal Arch Chapter No. 181, Consecration and Dedication.

On Saturday 30 November 1991, a new Royal Arch Chapter was consecrated and dedicated at Belmont by the First Grand Principal and Grand Master, Most Excellent Companion E. Norman Garland, in company with the Royal Arch Grand Ceremonial Officers.

This daylight Chapter had long been the wish of companions in the district and observing that it was located in part of the Frank Whiddon Homes complex, it would serve a number of retired companions in a way that evening Chapters could no longer do. To this end much credit was extended to Very Excellent Companion William Ramage, District Grand Inspector of Workings, and his group of willing assistants.

*Consecration and Dedication of Milton-Ulladulla
Daylight Royal Arch Chapter No. 182.*

On Saturday, 8 February 1992, another Chapter was dedicated under the banner of The United Supreme Grand Chapter of

Mark and Royal Arch Masons of New South Wales and The Australian Capital Territory. This was the third Chapter to be consecrated and dedicated since unification took place 12 years earlier. The First Grand Principal and Grand Master of the Order, Most Excellent Companion E. Norman Garland, performed the ceremony.

Of the 142 companions in attendance there were quite a few who had travelled from as far north as the twin towns on the Queensland border; some from as far west as Dubbo and Orange whilst some had journeyed from the Victorian border, as well as a number from The Australian Capital Territory.

During the occasional address by the First Grand Principal, special mention was made of the untiring efforts of the Deputy First Grand Principal, Right Excellent Comp Sidney Weller, to bring the occasion to its successful fruition. Reference was made to the recent upswing in membership of the Order and to the obvious stand which Freemasonry was adopting publicly. Such activities could only reflect credit on the various Orders and Freemasonry in general.

Seated at the festive board to enjoy the installation banquet were 82 ladies which brought the total attendance to 224 for a crowded but enjoyable occasion.

In response to the toast to the First Grand Principal and Grand Master, Most Excellent Companion Garland said:

'This day underscores my conviction that Freemasonry in general has much to recommend it. As we all adhere to our Craft principles there is little doubt that we will continue to foster good relations, companionship and harmony with each other in this present difficult period of recession. With our positive lifestyle, Freemasons should always be seen to be leaders when trying circumstances prevail.'

Royal Arch Visit to New Zealand.

On Thursday 19 March 1992, the First Grand Principal and Grand Master of the United Supreme Grand Chapter, Most Excellent Companion Garland, accompanied by twelve companions and ten ladies, left for New Zealand to attend the installation of the First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Zealand.

It was a special celebration for the centenary of the New Zealand Grand Chapter.

Sightseeing tours were arranged and the installation of Most Excellent Companion Bernard H. Tibbs was held on Friday 20 March 1992 in the Logan Campbell Centre at Auckland. Dignitaries were present from Ireland, Canada, America and all States of Australia together with their respective delegations. The ladies were seated in the gallery above the main area and witnessed the whole of the ceremony. Saturday was spent sightseeing around Auckland

and in the evening the Grand Installation Banquet was held.

At 10.30 am on Sunday 22 March, companions and their ladies attended the Centennial Convocation Morning Service at the Edgar Faber Memorial Chapel in the Roskill Masonic Village. The Service was conducted by Bro the Very Revd J.O. Rymer, who was the Dean Emeritus of the Auckland Cathedral. His sermon was in two parts. One was based on 2 Chronicles, Chapter 2, verses 11 to 16, and related to the Mark Degree. The other, based on the Book of Proverbs, Chapter 2, concerned the Royal Arch Degree.

Proclamation of First Grand Principal and Grand Master.

Two hundred companions and brethren were present at the Petersham Masonic Centre on Saturday 19 September 1992 to witness the proclamation of Most Excellent Companion E. Norman Garland as First Grand Principal and Grand Master of the United Supreme Chapter of Mark and Royal Arch Masons of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

Combined with the proclamation was the installation of Most Excellent Comp Garland's support Principals and investiture of Grand Officers for 1992/93.

Deputy First Grand Principal and Deputy Grand Master - Right Excellent Companion Robert Black.

Second Grand Principal - Right Excellent Companion Kevin Andersson.

Third Grand Principal - Right Excellent Companion Reuben Rischin.

Visiting Dignitaries -

The Grand Master of The United Grand Lodge or New South Wales, Most Wor Bro Noel F. Dunn, accompanied by the Deputy Grand Master, Right Wor Bro Ian H. Pike.

Most Illustrious Comp James Crisp, Past Grand Master, Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of South Australia.

The Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Victoria, Most Illustrious Comp Roderick McLennan.

The Deputy First Grand Principal, Supreme Grand Chapter of Queensland, Right Excellent Comp John Dann.

The First Grand Principal, Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Zealand, Most Excellent Comp Bernard H. Tibbs.

The Deputy First Grand Principal, Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Victoria, Right Excellent Companion Robert Paroissien.

Presentation - During his address, Most Excellent Comp E. Norman Garland made an unusual presentation. The gift was a copy of an original document held in the National Museum in Canberra which was presented to Most Worshipful Bro Noel Dunn as a token of respect and esteem.

The original document, a Master Mason's Certificate in the name of Bro Jeffery Hart Bent, may well be one of the oldest Masonic records in Australia. The certificate was issued by the Right Worshipful Master and Officers of Lodge No. 227 on the register of The Grand Lodge of Ireland bearing the distinctive title of 'Social and Military Virtues'. It is dated 1 January 1817.

Jeffrey Bent arrived in the colony in 1814 in the ship *Broxbornebury* and took up his appointment as the Honourable Chief Justice of New South Wales.

Open Day at the Petersham Royal Arch Masonic Centre.

On Sunday 29 November 1992, some 300 persons came to the Royal Arch Masonic Centre at Petersham to see the many fine displays and artefacts relating to the Holy Royal Arch series of Freemasonry.

The Egyptian Room attracted numbers of people to hear a brief resume of the story of Anni and Tutu.

The International Rainbow for Girls featured as the principal group for the day and their bearing left no doubt as to the high standards and versatility which these girls achieve in their Assemblies.

The Guest of Honour for the day was Most Excellent Comp Harold F. Yaeger, General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter International, who hails from Montana, USA. He is also the Representative of our Grand Royal Arch Chapter near the Grand Chapter of Montana.

At the opening ceremony the First Grand Principal, Most Excellent Comp E. Norman Garland, spoke on the effort which Freemasonry has put into youth organizations and, in particular, the Order of De Molay for boys and the International Order of Rainbow for Girls.

At the conclusion of his welcome, Most Excellent Comp Garland introduced Most

Excellent Comp Yaeger who spoke on the support which youth received from American Masonry.

The assembled gathering was then treated to a display of faultless ritual and movement in the main auditorium by the girls under the leadership of the Grand Worthy Adviser of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, Miss Elizabeth Webster. The colourful ceremony, 'The Friendship Trail', which had been specially put together for presentation to Mrs Garland, created a very lasting impression on those present.

Following completion of the presentation by the girls, Most Excellent Comp Garland announced the establishment of an award - consisting of a Certificate of Achievement Badge and a cheque to be known as the 'Hand of Friendship Award' and to be won annually by one of the girls as an outstanding achiever. The inaugural winner was Miss Caroline Kemp from Illawarra St George Assembly No. 3.

Royal Arch Grand Installation.

In a glittering ceremony on Saturday 18 September 1993, in the Masonic Centre Sydney, Most Excellent Companion Robert Edwin Black was installed into the Chair of First Grand Principal and Grand Master of the United Supreme Grand Chapter of Mark and Royal Arch Masons of New South Wales and The Australian Capital Territory.

Heads of Orders from each of the States of Australia, plus a delegation from New Zealand and from the Irish Constitution took part in the event. The Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales, Most Wor Bro Noel Dunn attended with a large number of Grand

Lodge Officers. After making a colourful entry to the swirling strains of the Grand Pipers, each delegation was welcomed by Most Excellent Comp E. Norman Garland, who was relinquishing his position after four years as leader. The ritual for each event was simple and of the highest calibre, and on its conclusion the forty-one District Grand Inspectors of Workings paraded and were invested with their insignia of office.

Later, nearly 300 persons sat in the Banquet Hall in an evening of companionship.

Coomealla Royal Arch Chapter No. 179 Installation.

The installation was held at Wentworth, the town at the junction of the Darling and Murray Rivers on 9 July 1994. The Chapter is one of the most distant from United Supreme Grand Chapter Headquarters, it being over 1,000 kilometres away from Sydney towards the South Australian border and closer to Adelaide than Sydney.

A large number of visitors were welcomed, some travelled from Adelaide, Balaklava, Broken Hill and Red Cliffs (Victoria) - they could always be relied upon for support and companionship. The Grand Representative travelled from Bathurst and the Grand Director of Ceremonies from Gosford to take part in the proceedings and lend strength to the overall presentation.

Most Excellent Companion Robert E. Black Proclaimed for a Second Term.

On Saturday 17 September 1994, Most Excellent Companion Robert E. Black was proclaimed for a second term as First Grand Principal and Grand

Master of the United Supreme Grand Chapter of Mark and Royal Arch Masons of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

The Petersham Masonic Centre was filled with companions and brethren eager to witness the Grand proclamation, installation of Associate Principals, and the subsequent investiture of Officers.

Among the distinguished guests warmly welcomed by Most Excellent Comp Black was the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales, Most Wor Bro Noel Dunn, and the Deputy Grand Master, Right Wor Bro Revd Raymond Green.

Royal Arch Three - State Visit.

On Friday 15 November 1996, three Supreme Grand Chapter bodies joined as one for a companionable weekend of Masonic activities at Wagga Wagga, the States represented on this occasion were, NSW, Victoria and South Australia.

Host Chapter for the tri-State meeting was Sturt United No. 127.

The day began with a Mayoral Reception at the Wagga Wagga City Council Chambers, where some eighty persons congregated to be welcomed by the Mayor, Councillor Peter Dale. The words of welcome expressed to Most Excellent Comp Robert Black, were warm, open and most sincere.

Councillor Dale stated that Freemasonry and its members were regarded in a very special way in Wagga Wagga with its history being dated almost from the commencement of the district. He

particularly welcomed the parties from Victoria and South Australia.

At 7.30 pm, the host Chapter held its own reception for the three delegations and their ladies, with some ninety people assembling for an informal and entertaining evening.

On Saturday 16 November 1996, all companions were welcomed by Chapter Sturt United's Excellent Companion Stubbs. Most Excellent Companion Black took the chair of First Principal to welcome the visiting delegations. The principal business for the occasion was an Exemplification of the Holy Royal Arch Degree.

Whilst the chapter was meeting the visiting ladies were treated to a bus tour of the city and its environs plus an afternoon tea stop-over arranged by the ladies of Chapter Sturt United.

A banquet was later held in the Wagga Wagga Commercial Club.

On Sunday at 9.30 am another organized event saw a capacity crowd leave for a local tour and additional points of interest. In spite of the heavy rain a barbecue lunch was held at midday at the Wagga Winery.

Closer Working Relationship between Craft and Royal Arch.

The Executive Council of the United Grand Lodge, in March 1998, established a Task Force to investigate the possibilities for closer working relationships between Royal Arch (including Mark Master) Freemasonry and Craft Freemasonry in the Jurisdiction. The Task Force members appointed were:

Right Wor Bro Grahame H. Cumming, PAGM,
Chairman.

Right Wor Bro John E. Armfield, PJGW, Grand
Registrar.

Right Wor Bro Roger J. Donsworth, PAGM.

Right Wor Bro Ian R. McCulloch, PAGM, Grand
Secretary.

Right Wor Bro Kenneth R. Newman, PJGW.

*Consecration of Macquarie Royal Arch Chapter
No. 186.*

For several years there had not been a Royal Arch presence in the Sydney Masonic Centre, the Masonic headquarters for New South Wales. To correct this a number of Royal Arch companions led by Most Excellent Comp Robert (Bob) Black, Past First Grand Principal, and Right Excellent Comp Ralph Hannaford, Third Grand Principal, met early in 2000 and decided to form a Royal Arch Chapter 'of excellence' which would meet in the Sydney Masonic Centre. Their vision resulted in the consecration of Macquarie Mark and Royal Arch Chapter No. 186 on 3 August 2000.

The organization and operation of the Chapter was to be distinguished by a number of important features under the headings: *friendliness, business, ritual, instruction and dining.*

Most Excellent Comp Dr Frank J Radcliff, BSc, PhD, was installed as First Principal in the presence of both the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Bro George Curry, and the First Grand Principal, Most Excellent Comp Kevin Andersson. The Chapter began its existence with 23 foundation members and two foundation candidates.

Royal Arch Masons Assist Flood Victims.

On Monday 7 May 2001, prior to a meeting of Nundle Shire Council, a group of Royal Arch companions travelled from Tamworth, where they presented a cheque for \$7,013.63 to Mr Ted Warwick, Chairman of Nundle Shire Council Special Flood Committee.

The donation was the result of an appeal made by the First Grand Principal and Grand Master to all Chapters of the Royal Arch in NSW and the ACT.

Royal Arch Freemasonry's Grand Installation.

In an afternoon of pageantry held at the Sydney Masonic Centre and witnessed by the heads of Orders of Capitular Freemasonry in Australasia and the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of NSW and the ACT; Most Excellent Companion Kevin V. Andersson installed his successor - Right Excellent Companion Sydney Thomas Weller as the sixth First Grand Principal and Grand Master of the United Supreme Grand Chapter of Mark and Royal Arch Masons of NSW and the ACT since its formation on 18 October 1980.

Installed as the new Deputy First Grand Principal and Deputy Grand Master was Right Excellent Companion John Herbert Whitehorn, with Very Excellent Companion Morsley Harry Ellis installed as Second Grand Principal and Very Excellent Companion Neil Cecil Bateman as Third Grand Principal.

All previous First Grand Principals were in attendance with most of them taking some role in the ceremonies.

The United Supreme Grand Chapter of Mark and Royal Arch Masons of NSW and the ACT Comes of Age.

October 2001 marked the twenty-first anniversary of the Supreme Grand Chapter which was constituted, consecrated and dedicated on 18 October 1980.

The United Supreme Grand Chapter of Mark and Royal Arch Masons of NSW and the ACT was formed from the former Orders -

- Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of NSW,
- District Grand Scottish Royal Arch Chapter of NSW,
- Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of NSW,
- Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of NSW and the ACT.

The Consecrating First Grand Principal was the Rt Hon The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, KT, LLD, JP, DL MA, the First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch of Scotland, and the installing First Grand Principal was George A Shea, OBE, the First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Western Australia. The inaugural First Grand Principal and Grand Master was Dr Frank J Radcliff, BSc, PhD.

This consecration and dedication brought together the majority of Royal Arch Masons in this Jurisdiction, under one banner. There remains in New South Wales one Royal Arch Chapter that still proudly works under the Irish Constitution.

It is the Leinster Marine Royal Arch Chapter No. 266.

OTHER MASONIC ORDERS AND ORGANIZATIONS

C1. THE ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED (SCOTTISH) RITE
-
SUPREME COUNCIL FOR AUSTRALIA.

In 1993 there were two hundred and forty-five Rose Croix Sovereign Chapters operating in Australia, under the English Supreme Council divided into five regions and thirty-four districts.

The first record of what is now known as the Rose Croix Degree dates from 1765. In its early years the Degree had a chequered history and eventually became one of twenty-five Degrees in what was known as the Rite of Perfection. A group of eminent members of the Rite, under the titular direction of Frederick of Prussia, published The Grand Constitutions of 1786. Under these Constitutions the Rite of Perfection was re-named the 'Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite': the Rite was extended to thirty-three Degrees of which the Rose Croix Degree became the eighteenth.

The 4° to the 33° were developed during the period 1730 to 1801; the majority before 1780. The 4° to 13° may be considered as extensions of the Master Mason's legend. The three Craft Degrees are accepted as equivalent to the first three Degrees of the Rite, and refer to the completion of the Temple at Jerusalem, after the death of the principal architect under the direction of King Solomon or his subordinates. In the 14° to 16°, the theme changes to the search for the lost secrets of Masonry and the re-building of the Temple by Zerubbabel after the return of the Jews from Babylon. These last three Degrees were developed in France about the same time and used the same material as the Royal Arch Degree in England. The 17°

has no historical theme and is a mystical preparation for the 18°, illustrated by symbols from the Book of Revelation.

The Grand Constitutions of 1786 provided for a procedure whereby a Supreme Council in one country could move to establish a Supreme Council in another country where a Supreme Council did not already exist. Under this procedure a Patent to establish a Supreme Council for England and Wales was sought from the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction USA and was granted in 1845. A Patent to establish a Supreme Council for Scotland was granted by the Supreme Council for France in 1846.

Within a comparatively few years both the Supreme Council for England and the Supreme Council for Scotland had approved petitions for Charters to establish Rose Croix Chapters in Australia.

It was a natural outcome to the growth of Rose Croix Masonry after 1945 that there should be a demand for a Supreme Council 33° for Australia. In response to that demand, in 1985, the Supreme Council for England and Wales and the Supreme Council for Scotland conducted a plebiscite for all their members and Chapters. The result of that plebiscite proved favourable, and on 12 October 1985 'THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE THIRTY THIRD DEGREE OF THE ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE FOR THE STATES AND TERRITORIES OF AUSTRALIA AND ITS DISTRICTS AND CHAPTERS OVERSEAS' came into being. A large majority, but not all, English and Scottish Chapters tendered allegiance to the Australian Supreme Council.

Apart from the two Supreme Councils in the United States of America, Australia became one of forty-three regular Supreme Councils

operating in different countries throughout the world and recognised by all of them.

In Australia the Order is Christian in character and practice and Master Mason is the Masonic qualification for membership.

OTHER MASONIC ORDERS AND ORGANIZATIONS**C2. VISIT OF DISTINGUISHED MASON FROM
SCOTLAND - SUPREME COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND.**

Monday, 6 September 1993 heralded the arrival in Sydney of Most Illustrious Brother Captain Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esselmont 33°, The Most Powerful Grand Commander of the Supreme Council for Scotland of the Thirty-third and Last Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.

Captain Gordon was in Sydney until Friday, 10 September after having visited the Province of Victoria as part of a tour of all Provinces in the Pacific area. He was accompanied by the Most Illustrious Grand Chamberlain, Most Illustrious Brother Gabriel Jerdan 33°, and the Very Illustrious Grand Secretary General, Most Illustrious Brother William Fleming 33° and Mrs Fleming.

On the evening of 6 September, the Most Powerful Grand Commander, at a Special Provincial Meeting of Sovereign Chapters of the Scottish Constitution in New South Wales, obligated and invested the Deputy Elect for New South Wales, Very Illustrious Brother E. Norman Garland 32°, who assumed that Office on 13 November 1993.

Whilst in Australia, Most Illustrious Brother Gordon chaired a conference in Brisbane of Deputies, Administrators and Provincial Secretaries of Provinces in Australia and fraternised with members of the Rite following which he proceeded to New Zealand and Hong Kong.

Sovereign Chapters and Councils of the Supreme Council for Scotland have been in operation around Australia for 114 years and are still very active in Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia.

Membership to the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite under the Supreme Council for Scotland is dependent on a candidate professing the Christian belief and, in particular, a belief in the Doctrine of the Holy Trinity. He must have been a Master Mason for at least two years and remain financial in a Craft Lodge.

OTHER MASONIC ORDERS AND ORGANIZATIONS**D. THE ORDER OF THE SECRET MONITOR**

This Order is also known as the Order of David and Jonathan.

Monitor Masonry took its rise in the 17th century although there are reasons for assuming that it could possibly be traced back to the 16th century.

It is known that an Order of David and Jonathan was taken to New Amsterdam (now New York), USA by Dutch settlers in the 17th century.

According to a work in the National Library in Paris, an Order of Jonathan and David was practised in Lodge Concord Vincit Animos meeting in Amsterdam, Holland in 1755. That Lodge was working under a Charter from the Grand Lodge of Scotland and is now No. 5 on the roll of the Grand East of the Netherlands.

The Grand Council of the Order of the Secret Monitor or Brotherhood of David and Jonathan in the British Isles and Territories overseas was formed in 1887.

The first Conclave to be granted a Charter in Australia was Southern Cross Conclave in 1896. It met in Geelong, Victoria, and survived for a little over a year. The Conclave was revived in 1924.

The first Conclave to meet in NSW was Sydney Conclave. It was consecrated in 1945 under a Charter issued by the District Grand Council of the English Constitution based in Melbourne.

By 1953 there were three more Conclaves working in NSW and a District Grand Council for NSW and the ACT, English Constitution, was formed.

By 1959 there were twelve Conclaves in NSW and the Grand Council for the Sovereign State of NSW and the ACT was formed. This was the first independent Jurisdiction formed outside Great Britain. It was followed by Southern Australia, granted independence in 1966, Northern Australia, in 1968 and New Zealand in 1982.

In 1993 there were twenty-six Conclaves operating in NSW and the ACT with a total membership of about 1,450.

The main objectives of the Order are:

- To promote friendship in its fullest and truest sense and sincere concern for the well-being of a brother Monitor.
- To support and assist in promoting the interests of the Craft which Monitors regard as being of paramount importance in all Masonic activities.

Those who are familiar with the relationship between David and Jonathan as detailed in the First Book of Samuel will understand the first objective.

Four Visiting Deacons in every Conclave are each allocated one quarter of the membership. It is the duty of these officers to contact the brethren on his list between meetings and to report to the Worthy Supreme Ruler, the title of the officer who occupies the chair in the Conclave, should he learn of a member suffering distress of any kind. The Visiting Deacons are also required to report in the Conclave the

reason for the absence of any member on his list.

Every year a Conclave of Remembrance is held to honour the memory of those brethren who have passed away during the previous year.

Membership of the Order is by invitation. A member of the Order might put forward the name of a Master Mason for consideration. Every member in the Jurisdiction is then given the opportunity of supporting or rejecting the proposal, and if the suggestion is not opposed, the Secretary of a Conclave will issue a written invitation to that brother to apply for membership.

It has always been a basic requirement of the Grand Council that a Master Mason invited to join must be a member of a Craft Lodge. Should a Monitor cease to be a member of a Craft Lodge he is excluded from the Order without regard to the reason.

Monitor Masons are encouraged to be active in their Craft Lodge where they have the opportunity of assisting and encouraging the greatest number of Freemasons to develop their skills and their knowledge and understanding of the teachings of the Craft.

A member of the Order should never be aware of the name of the brother who was responsible for making the initial move which resulted in his induction. A Monitor would be embarrassed if a brother approached him requesting nomination. Monitor Masons require their brethren:

i To be friendly and courteous to all brethren at all times.

- ii To show a sincere interest in the ritual and an understanding of the teachings of the Craft.
- iii To assist and encourage others in their Masonic development.
- iv To actively assist in extending the well being and influence of their Lodge and Freemasonry.
- v To act in such a manner in their everyday life that will reflect only credit on the Craft. They must remember that non-Masons can only sincerely base their opinion of Freemasonry on the actions and attitudes of those whom they know to be Masons.

These are the qualities which a Monitor Mason should look for in a Craft Mason before putting his name forward as a possible member.

Hospice for the Terminally Ill.

An appeal conducted by the Grand Council of the Order of the Secret Monitor to raise money for the Hospice for Terminally Ill Children to be built by the Children's Hospital was an outstanding success. This appeal had been inaugurated by Most Worthy Bro John Cooke whilst serving as Grand Supreme Ruler, Head of the Order in NSW and the ACT.

At the Grand Banquet held in the Sydney Masonic Centre on 9 October 1993, following the Grand Installation of Most Worthy Bro James T. Ruxton as Grand Supreme Ruler, Most Worthy Bro John Cooke presented a cheque for \$40,042 to Dr Michael M. Stevens, Senior Staff Specialist and Head of the Oncology Unit at the Camperdown Children's Hospital.

Centenary of Federation Dinner.

At the Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge held on 14 March 2001, the Grand Master, Most Wor Bro George Curry advised:

'I would like to draw your attention to a special dinner at Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney, on Friday 15 June 2001 at which the theme is *Masons Celebrating the Centenary of Federation*. This function is being arranged by the Order of the Secret Monitor. I join with Most Worthy Brother Roger Donsworth, Grand Supreme Ruler of the Order, in recommending your support for this function. It is my hope that many of you and your partners will join Annette and I at this very special event. It will be an ideal opportunity for all of us to show the community that -

Freemasonry's not a secret . . I'm proud to be a Mason'.

The host was Right Wor Bro Andrew Fraser, MLA, PJGW, Member for Coffs Harbour.

During the evening a look-a-like Sir Henry Parkes in the guise of Very Wor Bro George Lawson, PDGIW, was questioned about Federation by the great-great-grandson of Sir Henry, Mr Ian Thom. A remarkable insight of the time was given by the questioning.

After an engrossing presentation by guest speaker, Wor Bro the Hon Justice Lloyd Waddy, RFD, Most Worthy Bro Roger Donsworth, Grand Supreme Ruler, Order of the Secret Monitor, presented a cheque for \$3,000 to Most Wor Bro George Curry, Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of NSW and the ACT, as a donation to The Grand Charity. The evening was deemed to be a highly successful celebration of the Federation

of the Australian colonies into a cohesive whole as a nation.

New Leader for the Order of the Secret Monitor.

On 13 October 2001 the 44th Grand Conclave meeting of the Order of the Secret Monitor in this Jurisdiction saw Most Worthy Bro Warwick Boyling, ED, RFD, installed as Grand Supreme Ruler to succeed Most Worthy Bro Roger Donsworth who had completed a very successful two-year term as leader of the Order. The impressive ceremony of installation was attended by the Grand Supreme Rulers and Officers of the Order of the Secret Monitor from New Zealand, Northern Australia and Papua New Guinea, Southern Australia and South Australia. Most Wor Bro George Curry, Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, was also one of the distinguished guests.

Monitor Masonry continued its wholehearted support for the Craft and its aims and principles.

OTHER MASONIC ORDERS AND ORGANIZATIONS**E. THE PRESENT AND PAST GRAND LODGE OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES.**

The Association was inaugurated after the closing of the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge held on 9 December 1908.

The Articles of the Association provided that the President was to be the Senior Grand Warden and the Vice-President, the Junior Grand Warden of Grand Lodge.

Membership of the Association is open to all Grand Officers, Present and Past, including those who have had Grand rank conferred upon them.

The Association's monthly luncheons include a guest speaker, not necessarily on a Masonic subject.

A major part of the Association's activities is the purchase and presentation of a Past Grand Master's jewel to the retiring Grand Master at each Grand Installation.

A number of Masonic and non-Masonic charities have also received donations.

OTHER MASONIC ORDERS AND ORGANIZATIONS**F. MASONIC LODGE SECRETARIES' ASSOCIATION.**

The Association was formed in 1918 and met in the Masonic Centre, Sydney, at 11.00 am on the first Friday of March and then quarterly. The objects of this Association are:

- To improve the standard of secretaryship of Lodges and Lodges of Instruction;
- To provide a forum for the meeting of present and past Secretaries, for the sharing of ideas, information, advice and experience and for fraternal and social intercourse;
- To make such donations to Masonic and other charities as the members determine.

Thousands of dollars have been donated over the past eighty-one years.

The current membership in 2000 consisted of 496 individual Secretaries and Lodges; the format of meetings was under the chairmanship of the Grand Secretary. Following general business, an invited speaker was introduced and the meeting was complete with a luncheon.

OTHER MASONIC ORDERS AND ORGANIZATIONS**G. LORNA MILGATE SCHOLARSHIP TRUST**

The Trust was established by the Will dated 22 March 1988, of the late Lorna Maud Lott who died on 18 August 1988, and Probate of whose Will was granted in November 1988. The Will appointed as Trustees of the Trust, the Trustees for the time being of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales, and provided for the establishment by the Trustees of annual scholarships for the purpose of assisting those recipients of such scholarships to obtain any form of tertiary education or trade qualification.

The Trustees, were responsible for administering the Lorna Milgate Scholarship Trust independently of Grand Lodge and its Constitutions.

Scholarships were first awarded in 1998.

OTHER MASONIC ORDERS AND ORGANIZATIONS

H. THE MASONIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

Since its inaugural meeting early in 1992, the Masonic Historical Society of NSW has presented numerous papers on prominent Australians who were Masons. Some of these papers have been reproduced in *The NSW Freemason* and they have been used as lectures from time to time. Members have, on many occasions, been invited to speak, not only at Lodge meetings, but at other venues such as the Royal Australian Historical Society, Church and historical groups, Lions and Probus Clubs, etc, which enhances the community awareness of Freemasonry.

Talks, illustrated by slides, have been prepared and include

- *Freemasons on Sydney's Doorstep*
- *Masons on Australian Stamps*
- *Freemasonry in NSW*
- *Freemasonry and Australia's Currency.*

Booklets were published from time to time, and included

- *Freemasonry and Australia's Prime Ministers*, a brief biography of the ten Prime Ministers who have been Freemasons
- *Australian and New Zealand Freemasons and the Victoria Cross*
- *Freemasonry and Australia's Explorers.*

Membership of the Society is available to all brethren, their wives, families and friends.

Meetings are held in the Sydney Masonic Centre.

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