

# Thespian Argus

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*Monthly Masonic journal of  
Thespian Lodge No 268  
meeting 10.00 a.m. monthly  
1st Saturday except January in  
the Eight Mile Plains Masonic  
Centre*

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**CURRENT THESPIAN  
MASTER**



WB Steve Cook MSM

0403-001 990

## Winter in the Sunshine State...

### HUMBACK-MIGRATION



A short drive from Lodge Myora takes you to the spectacular Point Lookout. From this vantage point a group of Thespians and Myora members enjoyed whale watching on June 18. The massive mammals were on their northern migration to warmer waters and put on a great display for our group.

Whales, covered in barnacles, frolicking in groups or breaching individually, I warmly recommend the experience from such a magnificent vantage point. Thank you to Rod and Claire Wilson for organising the outing.

### MARYBOROUGH

It gives me pleasure to announce Thespian's official visit to Fraser Coast United Lodge No 19 on Saturday, August 9. Many members of Thespian and other lodges have now locked in this great weekend in a historical town of Mary Poppins fame. Many are staying Saturday and Sunday nights, some also the Friday night before, so not having to drive to lodge on the day of the Installation.



Most are staying in a central location at the Carriers Arms Hotel-Motel, 405 Mary Street, Maryborough. For bookings ring **4122 6666**. Do tell staff that you are part of the Freemasons group for favourable rates. Do remember, if you already booked for August 23 you need to change your booking as Fraser Coast United have changed the date, a matter of importance!

### SOCIAL

Wednesday, July 23 is Thespian's Bi-monthly social luncheon at Capalaba Sports Club. The ever-popular event is growing and now welcoming Brethren, Ladies and friends from other lodges. Food is great, reasonably priced and served by pleasant staff. Can I please ask you to give me a ring with your intent to come along. This allows staff to organise tables and give us prime seating. My number is **0403 001 990**.

### CONGRATULATIONS

to our new Grand Master, Most Wor Bro David Gray who according to tradition was installed as the head of the United Grand Lodge of Queensland on July 5, 2025. MWB Gray is no stranger to Thespian Lodge. I wish him well and welcome to our lodge. – *Steve Cook, MSM, Master of Thespian Lodge.*

# Packed to the rafters...



The much-awaited UGLQ Grand Installation in the Ann Street Masonic Memorial Centre took place on Saturday, July 5, 2025. It was a unique occasion on many fronts. Brethren from near and far descended on our heritage listed building in masse. Attendance records were broken as Brethren, Ladies and visitors quickly filled the Grand Hall when stewards opened the doors at one o'clock. Attendance estimates vary between 590-620. Suffice it to say, there was not a spare seat in the Grand Hall.

## ROBING WITH FRIENDS

Logistic planning was commendable as Brethren were directed to level one's lodge rooms where aprons, collars, gauntlets and chains morphed Brethren into various ranks and positions. For a moment I thought I was in Paris as I was assigned Lodge room 3 where the visiting New Caledonian delegation held sway. They wore impressive regalia featuring sky blue sashes for the occasion. In other rooms other visiting jurisdictions were likewise preparing for their ceremonial entry. The building was abuzz as the clock approached 02.00 p.m.

Seated in the South I was both surprised and delighted to see our Grand Hall filled for the occasion. My mind briefly meandered back to my last Grand Installation. It was in 1976(!) Grand Master Sir Alan Mansfield installed his successor at the time. I had long forgotten the pomp and ceremony and regal splendor of such occasions. Almost half a century has passed since my last Grand Installation.

## DELEGATION ENTRIES

The UGLQ Grand Team, under the direction of Grand Director of Ceremonies RW Bro Troeger introduced each visiting delegation. Grandmaster MW Bro Jeff Harper welcomed each in turn. Australasia was well represented with delegations from all States and Territories, New Zealand and New Caledonia. The final entry was that of the UGLNSW & ACT led by Grandmaster Kris Albano who brought over fifty delegates for the august occasion.



## THE MAIN EVENT

At exactly 03.00 pm Grandmaster Harper instructed the Grand Director of Ceremonies to withdraw for the purpose of introducing RW Bro David Gray, Grand Master elect. All eyes turned to the entry in the West where David Gray made his long-awaited entry. Dressed in his Master Mason's apron, trumpets heralding his arrival, David made his way towards the East. The 20-30 metres between West and East carried immense importance and was a culmination of David's long, distinguished journey which commenced decades ago.

Grand Master Harper delivered the age-old charges which have resonated in this Grand Hall since its consecration in 1930. Steeped in history and tradition, the candidate for the office of Grand Master was requested to kneel, hand on the Volume of the Sacred Law and recite the obligation of Grand Master.

It was a solemn moment signaling the end of one reign and the commencement of another. These transitions have existed since time immemorial and were not lost on the large audience.



David's blue UQ apron was removed. The UGLQ Grand Master's apron, collar and gauntlets were ceremoniously invested before outgoing Grand Master Harper led his successor to the throne of Solomon while the Masonic Choir, augmented for the occasion by young ladies from International Order of Job's Daughters, from the organ loft sang *Lord God, Our Master Bless*.

Seated in the East Grand Master MWB David Gray gave his first address to the Brethren. It was filled with positivity, challenges, attainable goals, ambitions and determination – all achievable aims accommodated under the umbrella of Brotherly Love.

As MWB Gray concluded his address the Grand Organist played the introduction to *Hail Masonry Divine*. Brethren joined in all three verses which filled the hall with joy and exaltation.

The Grand Team executed the ceremony with military precision reminiscent of the Edinburgh Tattoo.

This, I learned, stemmed from countless practices, rehearsals and hard work. Yet, on the day they made it look so easy, so natural and flawless. How Grand Director of Ceremonies Peter Troeger could remember all names, ranks and jurisdictions of myriad visitors remains a mystery.

MWB David Gray invested RW Bro David Melville as Deputy Grand Master and RW Bro Neil Jones as his Assistant Grand Master. The triumvirate were now in place as attention turned to investiture of remaining grand officers, a lengthy

process confirming elected members' ongoing commitment to visiting lodges near and far and support the UGLQ in its work from Cairns to Coolangatta and beyond – Papua New Guinea springs to mind.

## OVERSEAS REPRESENTATION

The UGLQ has, since its inception, been represented by foreign Grand Lodges. At one time these coveted positions numbered more than 100. Nowadays only a few foreign grand lodges have representatives in the UGLQ. PGM Dr Gary Bacon called on these Representatives to stand as he conveyed to our new Grand Master fraternal greetings from various lodges around the globe. MWB David Gray thanked Dr Bacon for his short address on behalf of foreign jurisdictions.

## SISTER GRAND LODGES

MWB Jim Watt, Grand Master of New Zealand, on behalf of all visiting grand lodges extended warm greetings to MWB David Gray which were reciprocated.

## THE ELDERS OBSERVING

Seated together were several UGLQs Past Grand Masters. Possibly reliving their own installations while supporting UGLQs next leader were Past Grand Masters Emmanuel Anthony; Adrian Burton; Gary Bacon; Alan Townson and Paul Holland.

## CLOSING

Before the closing of Grand Lodge all rose and sang the Royal Anthem. Professional trumpeter Mr Angus Cleaver, perched near the Masonic Choir on the organ loft led a most stirring rendition of *God Save the King*. The 2025 Grand Installation had drawn to its natural conclusion.

Dusk had arrived outside the temple in Ann Street as the footpath swelled by the throng of people. Some heading for the Grand Installation Banquet at nearby Pullman Hotel, others simply enveloped in the crisp evening air while walking back to their cars. – *Stig R. Hokanson*

# Thespian's roaming scribe – Harry Lygoe 1914-1965



Common amongst newspaper journalists is change of location, change of papers and experiences. In his all too short life – Harry Lygoe died, aged forty-nine in 1965 – he had accomplished much in a relatively short span.

Born Henry Joseph Lygoe in Maitland, New South Wales January

uary 31, 1915 to Henry Joseph Lygoe and wife Violet. He was the eldest of seven siblings.

His father was also named Henry Joseph Lygoe, better known as Joe. Joe was a fitter who worked at South Maitland Railways maintaining steam locomotives and rolling stock. His mother was Violet, nee Pinfold.

Harry completed all his education, Primary and Secondary, in Maitland. A gifted student Harry remained to complete Senior Level in high school, an exception to the rule in the 1930s.

Graduating from Maitland High School in 1932.



He would have left school around fifteen or sixteen which would have been during the Depression and the pressure would have been on him to get a job and help feed his siblings.



The first job that he got was with a butcher but that did not last long. He would not have been “cut out” for that job, but there may have been some cheap meat to feed his family during the Depression years.

We next find Harry at the *Maitland Mercury*. It is not known at what level he started, whether it was a scholarship or cadetship, but it all seemed to fall into place for him, and he excelled. The *Mercury* is the third oldest daily newspaper in Australia still publishing today.

Thus began his Journalistic career. Reporters cut their teeth on the mundane tasks covering

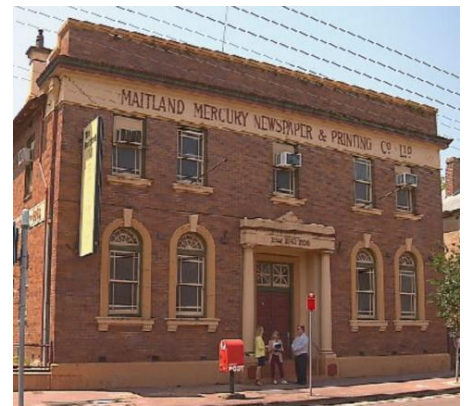
weather, cattle sales, auctions and police rounds. After such grounding for several years, young reporters graduated to general news reporting, politics, elections and daily news coverage. Harry followed the established path and became increasingly encouraged to take on more complex work for the paper.



Harry met his wife to be, Mary Elizabeth Murphy from Morpeth. They were married in November 1937.

First born child Peter came along in August 1938.

By now Harry had attained the position of senior journalist on the *Mercury* and could have carved out a niche for himself on the editorial board. However, as is often the case with reporters, they seek new challenges which is why Harry left the *Mercury* just before the outbreak of WWII for a senior position on the *Lismore Northern Star*.



The family moved into a roomy cottage in Bright Street, an easy commute to the *Northern Star* building. The family steadily grew when Harry was invited to take up a position on his first metropolitan newspaper – *The Courier-Mail* in Brisbane.



The offer was too good to turn down which met Harry and family pulled up stakes and travelled to Queensland.

The Lygoe family secured a double unit dwelling in Holland Street, Toowong from which Harry would commute to the *Courier-Mail* building in Queen Street, Brisbane. World War II had started and Brisbane, by the end of 1941, had become a garrison town. In this period many U.S. servicemen descended on Brisbane, spreading out to camps and training facilities in the hinterland in regions such as Caboolture, Bribie Island, Canungra and Camp Cable at Logan Village. *Courier-Mail* journalists were expected to cover troop movements and

deployments yet were under strict guidelines from the Commonwealth Government as to what could be disclosed and what fell victim of strict censorship imposed by the Allies at the time.

Semblance of normality, despite blackouts, air raid sirens and war readiness, was encouraged and promoted by the press corps in the national interest.

## THE COURIER-MAIL FREEMASONS

Harry Lygoe met a number of active Freemasons at the newspaper. They were not confined to the editorial realm. Many were compositors, linotype operators and pressmen who started the mighty Goss presses around midnight.

To that point Harry had only a cursory understanding of the fraternity, yet his association with Freemasons in general and senior journalist Burnett Netterfield caused him to inquire about membership. Thus, it was that Harry Lygoe, then aged twenty-eight, in July, 1943 became a



Freemason and member of Thespian Lodge No 268.



Air raid shelters were prominent in Ann Street where the Masonic Memorial Temple entrance were fortified with myriad sandbags seen in the picture below.

It was a challenging and austere period for Queensland Freemasonry. Some Brethren sadly never returned at war's end having fallen either in the Middle East or closer to home in PNG.

Bro Netterfield had cut his teeth in journalism at the *Maryborough Chronicle* while Harry Lygoe had done the same hard yards first at the *Maitland Mercury* and later the *Northern Star* in Lismore. Wor Bro Clifford Wansborough, a senior scribe on the *Courier-Mail* was Harry Lygoe's seconder. Wansborough hailed from Townsville and had worked on the *Townsville Bulletin* before arriving in Brisbane. Cliff Wansborough was Master of Thespian Lodge in 1942.

Bro Lygoe was a most regular attendee at Thespian's meetings. However, the family decided to return south later during WWII. Harry relocated his wife and children first, while remaining in Brisbane himself.

Transfers between newspapers were severely interrupted during the war. Indeed, many newspaper people had by now enlisted or been subject of the national service seeing them assume military roles in Papua New Guinea to defend the north from the advancing Japanese.

By late 1944 Harry's wife and children had found a new home in Morpeth a large town near Maitland in the Hunter region of New South Wales.



Sometime later Harry was successful with an application to become Chief Sub Editor on the *Newcastle Herald*. He retained his membership in Thespian Lodge until January 1949. It is unclear whether he affiliated with a local lodge in Newcastle, sporadically attended or left the Craft altogether. What is certain is that Harry became successful in his new role on the *Newcastle Herald*.

## HARRY LYGOE - UNION REP



Harry became involved in the Australian Journalist Association (AJA) at an early age. As a card-carrying member of the AJA, he took on the role as Union Rep and travelled as an organiser up and down the NSW coast then peppered with daily newspapers in almost every town between Newcastle and the Queensland border.

This was in an era where independent newspapers were the norm and communities' major source of news. Indeed, the regional dailies were the 'go to' ranging from births, deaths, marriages, funerals, stock and station sales, police rounds and local council politics.

## FRIENDSHIP WITH SIR WILLIAM (Bill)

Harry took on an interesting assignment whilst he was in Newcastle: Sir William Dobell.

An enduring friendship became established between Harry and Sir William, whom Harry felt had been subjected to much flak for standing his ground surrounding his Archibald Prize of 1944. While largely forgotten in contemporary discourse, the prestigious Archibald Portrait Prize was once enveloped in controversy.



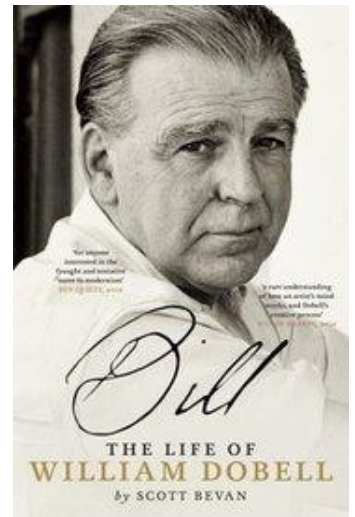
Anger, frustration, hatred and disdain were on show against the gifted artist and prize winner Sir William Dobell. In an interview on ABC radio Sir William famously said:

'To me, a sincere artist is not one who makes a faithful attempt to put on canvas what is in front of him, but who tries to create something which is a living thing, regardless of its subject I have been trying to develop a style of my own derived from the Old Masters. The leaders of the so-called "modern" movements have done the same—although they have developed in different directions.'

At the core of the controversy was Sir William's depiction of artist Joshua Smith, a one-time friend and fellow artist. Sir William's 'interpretation' of Joshua Smith was to some honest, to others, hugely offensive. The cause célèbre sadly affected the two artists' friendship and led all the way to the Supreme Court of New South Wales.

Worth noting was that Joshua Smith, while talented as a painter and sculptor was not blessed with good looks. Photographs bear an uncanny resemblance to Sir William's prize-winning entry of 1944.

When the dust settled, Sir William retreated from Sydney. Scarified by the court case, by the publicity and by abusive letters from total strangers, Dobell suffered an acute attack of dermatitis, followed by a nervous breakdown; he refused to leave the house, to think, to paint or do anything at all. In 1945 he retreated to Wangi Wangi, on the shores of Lake Macquarie, to live with his sister Alice in the holiday home that had been built by his father. '



Harry Lygoe's assignment and interview with Sir William led to a strong bond and friendship.

## LAWN BOWLS CAPTURE HARRY'S ATTENTION



Just as there many Freemasons at the newspapers there were also countless lawn bowlers.

Harry was a most keen participant, gifted, focused and in the hunt for many prizes in this competitive field.

Harry won the prestigious Newcastle District Singles in 1948.



While fiercely competitive on the lawns Harry also became very involved in the Administration side, a massive task before computers and emails made sports administration easier.

His son Peter recalls many weekends when “my Dad would be on the typewriter and I would take a bag full of letters to the Post Office mailbox.”

He played bowls at New Lambton then Newcastle City. Lawn Bowls popularity post WWII grew rapidly with regional, district and state tournaments. As with Freemasonry, Lawn Bowls had an egalitarian culture and welcomed men and women from myriad profession trades and occupations.

## HARRY GOES TO SYDNEY

Harry then left to take up a position at the Consolidated Press on the *Daily Telegraph* in Sydney in 1954. There he remained apart from a short stint at the *Daily Mirror*.

He continued with his bowls, first at Marrickville later Moore Park. There he played both competition and social lawn bowls and made many new friends in both clubs.

## TRAGEDY STRIKES



On the January 12, 1965, Harry became unwell at work (night shift) and made his way home. The otherwise healthy Harry was in the preparation stages of celebrating his fiftieth birthday, an event which sadly was not to be.

Having made it safely home Harry sat on the lounge and waiting for his wife to bring him a cup of tea. By the time she returned Harry had silently passed away. He fell a couple of weeks short of fifty years old.

At his desk in the editorial room of the *Daily Telegraph*, his typewriter sat silent. Colleagues penned a tribute in the following day's edition.



From a humble start on the *Maitland Mercury* Harry had travelled near and far, penned countless stories, done investigative journalism in New South Wales and Queensland.

He had become a Freemason and Bowler, raised a family and contributed to many worthy causes.

Harry Lygoe was much too young to go yet lived a very useful and busy life. For a few years during the war, he was also a valued and respected member of Thespian Lodge 268. – *Stig R. Hokanson*

## Vale Robert Percy Faulconbridge...



Wor Bro Robert Faulconbridge was born ninety years ago in the midst of the Great Depression. Brisbane was a very different town compared to today's metropolis.

Annerley was a popular southside suburb, serviced by trams and buses. Its main shopping area was dominated by the *Boomerang* picture theatre with its art deco façade made famous by Hugh Lunn in his seminal "*Over the top with Jim.*"

The book chronicles life of young boys and girls around Annerley back in the day...  
(*Rob & dogs circa 1944, right*) ...



It was a carefree era for children, less so for adults, often unemployed and relying on produce from backyard gardens, chicken runs and outdoor dunnies with the obligatory Choko vine.



Rob attended Junction Park State School, an old, established school erected in 1909. His educational journey continued at Brisbane State High School where he attained his Junior Certificate in 1951 after which he served an apprenticeship as a carpenter and joiner.

His trade took an upward trajectory in 1958 when accepted as Manual Arts Teacher with the Queensland Education Department.

Rob's career in teaching further grew when he was appointed head of the Building Trades at Yeronga TAFE. Rob filled this position with distinction and remained with TAFE until retirement in 1992.

## MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Rob met his future wife Lesley in 1956. Two years later, in 1958, they married in St Andrews Anglican Church, South Brisbane and took up residency first in Pamona on the Sunshine Coast and later in Heaslop Terrace, Annerley. The couple were blessed with four children. Susan, 1959; Karen, 1961; Jan, 1963 and Ian, 1969.

## BEES WERE BUZZING



Rob was a devoted beekeeper from age fourteen until quite recently. He was good with his craft and invited others to emulate his success. By extension he also loved his garden, food source for his myriad busy bees making "Heaslop Honey" the brand name on his countless honey jars.

By pure coincidence the pillars at the entrance to Rob's old school are adorned with murals of bees. Perhaps there is a message there?

## FREEMASONRY

Robert Percy Faulconbridge became 'Brother' Faulconbridge when initiated into Anglo-Prince Arthur Lodge No 143 on May 19, 1972. Rob was thirty-six years old. His journey in Freemasonry continued unabated until ill health prevented his attendance.

During this long Masonic journey Rob was a member of several lodges. Merthyr Lodge was where we found him between 1979 and 1994. Next, we found Rob in Thespian Lodge his first step into the wonderful world of Daytime Freemasonry.

A meticulous organiser, Rob took on the role of "Acting Secretary," an interesting concept as if of a temporary nature. Not so. Rob worked most diligently to sort out Thespian's records, history and day-to-day affairs.

Indeed he, in no small measure, was my catalyst to research via the medium of biography the multitude of interesting past members of Thespian Lodge, still a work in progress, as you well know and hopefully enjoy in the *Thespian Argus* ' biography series.

With most of the work done, Rob decided to leave his "Acting" role in Thespian Lodge and throw his lot in with Lodge Woolloongabba No 140. Why? Because that is where his maternal Grandfather, Wor Bro Walter Rafton had been Master in 1914.

It was a "Back-to-the-Future" moment for Rob who took two Thespian members along for the ride, Wor Bro Bob Cook and Wor Bro Barry Swan.

New signs, tokens and words, steeped in the Scottish tradition, proved no barrier to Rob who served a year as Master with distinction. The occasion was not lost on Rob, whose thoughts meandered back to 1914 when his Grandfather Walter had done it all before.





Rob remained a dedicated member of Lodge Woolloongabba till the end. The lodge was intermittently struggling. However, Rob lived long enough to see new candidates and affiliates come aboard this welcoming day lodge meeting in the Eight Mile Plains Masonic Temple.



## CARAVANNING

The Faulconbridge's were synonymous with caravanning from 1974. This passion took them practically all-around Australia long before the Grey Nomad concept had been popularised.

Trips were carefully planned and took in vistas only accessible by 4-wheel drive vehicles and sturdy caravans.

Worth mentioning is that petite Lesley was as capable behind the wheel as Rob and stepped in when required.

## TURNING POINT

Rob suffered a serious fall at home in March 2023 and spent three months in Greenslopes Hospital. More hard times awaited him. After seven weeks at home, showing encouraging signs of improvement Rob suffered a major stroke in July 2023.

Living at home was no longer an option. Rob went into Regis Aged Care facility at Yeronga on 4th October 2023 where he resided until his passing on 17th June 2025.

The once active Rob needed 24/7 care and drew comfort from visits from family and friends and the enduring love of wife Lesley and *Lulu*, a miniature dachshund/poodle cross, who visited each day right up to the end, an end which concluded a life well lived.

A man of strong principles and convictions, Robert Faulconbridge accomplished much into his allotted time on Earth. Those who had the privilege of knowing him, calling him a friend and benefit from both his wisdom and humour are better off from the experience.

His well attended funeral was held at St Andrew's Anglican Church, South Brisbane, on July 3, where sixty-seven years earlier he and Lesley were married. – *Stig R. Hokanson*

## Greetings from the Tercentenary...



Emeritus UGLQ Grand Librarian V Wor Bro David Cook attended the Grand Lodge of Ireland Tercentenary celebrations in Dublin in June. It was, according to those present, a most glittering event executed to perfection, a memorable occasion for those fortunate to be in attendance. 300 years of Freemasonry! What a milestone. I note Slovakia has a long way to go, as our most recently formed Grand Lodge... (2009).

“Slowly but surely all present have made their way back home around the globe. Those missing the main event, may be interested to learn that some forty overseas delegations attended our Tercentenary celebrations. Amongst that number



were The United Grand Lodge of England, The Grand Lodge of Scotland, The Danish Order of Freemasons, The Grand East of the Netherlands, The Swedish Order of Freemasons, The Grand Lodges of South Carolina, Austria, New York, North Carolina, New Hampshire, District of Columbia, The Alpine Grand Lodge of Switzerland, The Grand Lodge of Luxembourg, The Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario. Also present were The Grand Lodges of Kansas, Dominican Republic, British Columbia & Yukon, Romania, South Australia & The Northern Territories, New South Wales & The Australian Capital Territory, New Zealand, Western Australia, Turkey National Grand Lodge of France, Ecuador, Czech Republic, Finland & Bolivia. The Norwegian Order of Freemasons and The Symbolic Grand Lodge of Paraguay were present along with The United Grand Lodges of Germany, The Icelandic Order of Freemasons, The Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium, The National Grand Lodge of Greece and The Regular Grand Lodges of Serbia, Portugal, and Italy. Finally, we had the National Grand Lodge of Poland in attendance along with delegations from The Grand Lodges of Estonia, Lithuania, Ukraine, and Slovakia. Interestingly Slovakia was the youngest Grand Lodge present, having only been formed back in 2009.”



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## A ‘no-go zone’ revisited...



Tucked away down in Butterfield Street, Herston many years ago was a non-descript Besser block building. I drove past it on occasions on my way to the *Courier-Mail*, where I worked at the time. The Butterfield Street building was a ‘no-go’ zone for me. Indeed, I was told, in no uncertain terms, that the outfit who met in this building was tantamount to ‘the devil himself.’ Strangely, I was told this by Brethren in Thespian Lodge as well as Brethren writ large.

Eager to please, and unquestioning of elders’ combined wisdom, I followed their advice and stayed clear of Co-Masons, who met in this place. I was told that theirs was a strange organisation, certainly not ‘real’ Freemasons, and not recognised by the UGLQ or any other self-respecting constitution. So, what was so terrible, so ghastly, that abhorrent about those who met to practice Freemasonry? In one word, WOMEN! The Co-Masons allow women to be part of Freemasonry. Was there an inherent fear Co-Masons would produce deviates, axe-murderers, anarchists or worse?

Not at all, the ban on association was, in hindsight, based on ignorance and intolerance and possibly a desperate retention of patriarchy. Of course, we shall never know all myriad reasons for the strict instructions not to ‘fraternise with the enemy’ as promulgated by UGLQ in the 1960s and 1970s.

Despite the clear divide, Co-Masonry has survived into the present; still frowned upon by UGLQ as before; still unrecognised and rarely mentioned in Masonic discourse.



When the Co-Masons (Le Droit Humain) began practicing Freemasonry in Australia over 150 years ago, the mere suggestion of its existence angered the various other Masonic Grand Lodges. Since this time the attitude of those institutions has varied from plain disinterest to castigation of the 'alternative' Order.

These organisations identify several 'doctrinal' disagreements with the existence of The International Order of Freemasonry for Men and Women - *LE DROIT HUMAIN*, the first and foremost being the inclusion of female Freemasons within their ranks.

The Order is a fully fledged Masonic Order, deriving its authority from French Freemasonry in the 1800's. It is in no way associated with the United Grand Lodges of the various Australian States.

The non-recognition by the male-only branches of Freemasonry is of little consequence to Brothers and Sisters of the Order today, who see themselves as "custodians of venerable Masonic tradition, founded upon Humanist principles."

Turning the other cheek, so to speak, Le Droit Humain says "Despite their reluctance to recognise our Order, we commend their efforts in guiding so many men in Freemasonry and the accomplishment of their charitable works in the Australian community."

LE DROIT HUMAIN [transl. THE HUMAN RIGHT] was founded in Paris in 1893 by several Freemasons who felt more strongly about social progress and gender equality, than blind adherence to centuries' old social traditions that no longer served the common good of society.

Le Droit Humain was and remains supported and endorsed by the major Masonic bodies of Europe (but not the United Grand Lodge of England).

Le Droit Humain respect the sovereignty and right of Masonic groups to decide who can and cannot become a member of their Orders yet contend (as did their founders) that the inclusion of women in all aspects of life is a basic human right.

"In Australia in 2025, women serve the community in many corporate, governmental, military, community and private roles. Some of them happen to be Freemasons of our Order, and those who are not have every right to petition for



initiation as a Freemason, and can do so, should they form a favourable opinion of the order, and solemnly express a desire to become a better agent to serve humanity," posits a spokesperson for the Order.

While the annals of Australian history are peppered with famous Freemasons, some were drawn from Le Droit Humain.

Presently gracing the Australian \$50 note is none other than Edith Cowan OBE, first woman member of an Australian parliament in 1921, the first woman to be appointed a Justice of the Children's Court in 1915, and namesake of Edith Cowan University.

Sister Edith Cowan was initiated in Co-Freemasonry 14<sup>th</sup> October 1916. She was also a founding member of St Cuthbert's Lodge 408, Perth, Western Australia. It is said Cowan remained a member of the Order until her death in 1932. – *Stig R. Hokanson*.

# Has elitism a place in Freemasonry?

Of late there has been a robust discourse on Facebook and other social media platforms about a paradigm shift from *Quantity to Quality*. The two 'Q's' are not mutually exclusive, I hasten to add. However, contributors to the debate often suggest the two are incompatible.

Polemicists are using the terms when describing Freemasonry, its past, present and future. Many arguments hold that UGLQ has for far too long prioritised Quantity over Quality. This may be a reasonable argument in some quarters, in an ideal world where hundreds, if not thousands of keen young men knock on our doors to join the craft. Sadly, that is not the situation in 2025.



It is a more valid argument were we to have 50,000 Freemasons on the books of UGLQ as opposed to a mere 3000. With a small membership base, mounting costs of maintaining temples, offices and staff salaries it could be argued that we need to recruit new members at any cost.

After all, with current attrition rate through death or resignations, UGLQ may face an ever-smaller membership base inside the next decade, ultimately unable to save the Order from extinction.

With such mindset it is easy to see why 'recruitment at any cost' is encouraged in some quarters. Imagine a country lodge, for example. A country lodge reduced to a mere handful members often relying on visitors to form a quorum to conduct Masonic meetings. How serious will such lodge take the duty of investigating a new member?

How deep would they dig into his past before asking UGLQs permission to ballot? Chances are they would do anything possible to speed up the enquiry process as the lodge's very survival could depend on the outcome. Survival instincts are strong among Freemasons.

Does it really matter whether the new candidate is suitable? Moreover, who decides if a man is suitable? Why, for example, does our Wor Bro Ken Corley, CSM and I stay with Thespian Lodge for 57 and 54 years respectively, when at least 15-20 young men who joined at the same time did not? Were those who fell by the wayside any less enthusiastic in the beginning? I would argue that they were not. Myriad reasons exist as to why some stay in the Craft while others withdraw either through resignations or expulsions born from non-payment of dues.

'Quality' is a subjective concept fraught with certain danger; danger of sounding elitist. It presumes an almost superior intellect, an intellect capable of absorbing our ritual, its allegories and symbols. Further, it presumes that 'certain' men may never understand Freemasonry and should therefore be avoided as potential new members. Such arguments are flawed on many levels; not least the supposition that only well-educated men can comprehend the messages and teachings embedded in the Craft.

I reject this notion with examples from the world of art and music. Imagine a philosophy professor and a janitor standing in front of a Rembrandt painting. My argument is that both would enjoy Rembrandt's work and may indeed see things in



the work to which the other is oblivious. Again, the same pair at the opera, at a certain moment in Verdi's *Rigoletto*, both may be in awe of its beauty, either simultaneously or apart. So too, is our Masonic experience.

This is why I suggest it is folly to use the word "Quality" when defined as intellectual superiority. After all Brethren, charge after charge in our ritual stresses the fact that we meet on the level and part on the square. Nowhere does it state that you and I meet on a higher or lower level, simply on the level.

To make entry to Freemasonry more difficult in 2025 and beyond must therefore be questioned. To make the time from application to initiation drag on for several years is questionable, given young people's attention span. Further, to charge inordinate initiation and ongoing fees effectively shuts out potential candidates who seek, and usually find, equally stimulating pastimes outside the realms of our Craft.

Moreover, I question the proposed idea of inviting prospective members to Festive Boards or anywhere near our temples *prior* to Initiation. The awe and wonder of one's experience is removed if one has already been inside a lodge room and seen its layout and fraternised with apron-wearing Brethren in regalia.



Returning to the perennial question why do people leave; why do only 2 out of 20 'soldier on' while others drop out?

From time to time, I run into some of the surviving Brethren who joined Thespian Lodge in the late 1960s and early 1970s but left after a couple of years. When asked 'what do you remember about your time at Thespian,' the answers are positively surprising.

Most, if not all, say... Wow, they were great years... I remember so and so..., the camaraderie, how we visited

Toogoolawah, Laidley or Kingaroy and stayed overnight in the pubs... how we carried the kegs in the lift at the Ann Street Temple... singing, playing and entertainment at every Festive Board, etc. etc. etc.

At no time do I hear from these Brethren that they regretted the step they took. Work commitments, family and/or changing career paths are offered as reasons for their withdrawal. Yet only happy memories remain; happy memories from a now distant past when less discussion occurred about Quality vs. Quantity. – *Stig R. Hokanson*

## DAY LODGE ROUNDUP FOR JUNE 2025

### QUEENSLAND 2

The Queensland Lodge's June meeting had some interesting times. Despite several apologies, we still had seven members attending. Who said men don't multitask? As secretary, I acted as The D.C. Both Wardens acted as Installing Deacons. I invested both Deacons to complete our May Proclamation meeting.

Masonic Information flowed that day. "Do you actually know where the Junior Deacon Goes?" (when opening the Lodge)? It all started in 1799 as an act of [Parliament 1799].



As all “Secret Societies” including the Catholics & Jacobites had to take oaths to swear their allegiance to The King: He needed to know if there were any groups plotting against him, then list all members attending gatherings had to be presented to the Clerk of the Peace with verifications. (The Law was later amended to exclude Freemasonry as a lot of the members of Parliament and Lords were Freemasons).



Freemasons openly stated *Loyalty to the King*. Yet, it was still required to drop off a list of the members without verification. The Junior Warden would pass the list onto the Junior Deacon to deliver it to the authorities. This act was repealed in 1967.

Next was a lecture on Lodge Killwinning No 0, its formation and its status in the annals of the History of Early Freemasonry.

Was King James a Freemason? Due to the fact that we use his name and Title on the name of the V.S.L. Had you been there you would have listened to the Statements both for and against that claim. The conclusion was, “He became very influential in Spreading of Freemasonry through England in his reign.”

In my past, I commented about Friendship from Freemasonry. I was recently corrected. It should be Fellowship not the other. What is the difference?

Friendship is about the closeness of people, getting to know your brother's strengths and faults. Fellowship is about working together for a bigger Cause. But not with the intimacy of friendship. Do keep learning more about Freemasonry keeping your mind Active. - Ian Maxwell Brown, Secretary.

## DUKE OF LEINSTER 8

The Duke conducted its election of Master and Officers for 2025-2026 at the June meeting. Wor Bro Don Matheson was re-elected for a second term. The Duke welcomed its newest affiliate, Bro Gregory Fellows to the lodge. Greg is active in myriad Orders and will be a great addition to the lodge.

The Irish Heritage Lodge Tercentenary coin was officially launched with Wor Bro Neil Herdigen present.

Neil designed the coin and was praised for his artistic talent by IPM



Wor Bro Paul Kranen who also presented Neil with the very first coin minted.



Acquisition of the coin is now open to all Freemasons. The coin is not for sale, rather for a donation in the region of \$20.00 - \$25.00. The coin comes in a velvet-lined presentation box and will no doubt be a collector's item in time to come.

Being the Tercentenary of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, a combined Irish Lodge event will be held on Saturday, August 23 in the Beenleigh Masonic Centre, with our Grandmaster, Most Wor Bro David Gray



and Grand Officers in attendance.

Festive Board tickets can be booked already. Cost: \$35.00. Capacity attendance is expected with only eighty seats at the Festive Board which is why it pays to book early. Treasurer Bro Roger Kelley, phone 0435 010 836.

A lecture on the life and times of Wor Bro Thomas Vokes Dudgeon took place at the June meeting. Dudgeon was the first Master of Duke of Leinster Lodge in 1864.

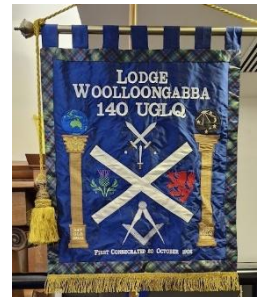
Master Matheson announced that Stradbroke Lodge is once again kindly 'lending' us a 2° candidate for the July meeting. Matheson announced that he will be attending the following lodges during July: Tamborine, Rathdowney and Stradbroke, while inviting members to accompany him.

## WOOLLOONGABBA 140



Visitors find the signature of Grandmaster Arthur Corrie on Lodge Woolloongabba's Warrant from 1922. The Masonic giant from yesteryear had the pleasure in the early 1920s to sign myriad new warrants as the pipedream of a United Grand Lodge of Queensland was realised.

Gabba's Warrant has stood the test of time for its first 103 years, passing from Master to Master with undiminished luster.



thorough rehearsal of a Scottish 3°, something I have not witnessed since my regular visits to Ashton Lodge, then situated in the Vulture Street Masonic Temple with spectacular river views. Radically divergent from standard UGLQ ritual, the work twists and turns around our age-old narrative challenging visitors to keep up.

Master Syd Norman, short of a Chaplain for the day, asked me to fill that position. Dropped in the deep end, I quickly learned the stark ritual difference and was able to keep up. It was a most invigorating experience.



Master Norman officially welcomed Wor Bro Rory Cain, Secretary, into the lodge with a presentation of his UGLQ Certificate of affiliation.

Together with Wor Bro William Borg, both Brethren will be put to good use as Officers of the lodge with dwindling membership until quite recently.

William Borg is the Grand Lodge off Philippines Representative to the UGLQ while Wor Bro Cain springs from a string of lodges anchored in military tradition as evidenced from an array of medals worn in lodge with his Scottish attire.



Most suitable on a cold, windy Saturday was the festive board's succulent pea and ham soup and/or hot pumpkin soup, enjoyed by members and guests in the South. It was announced by Master Norman that Lodge Woolloongabba 140 will not hold a meeting in August, instead making an Official Visit to Myora Lodge No 517 Installation Meeting on Saturday, August 9 on breathtakingly beautiful Stradbroke Island, an event to which Ladies are invited. – *Stig R. Hokanson*

## ROBERT FAULCONBRIDGE R.I.P.

It was on a gloomy, overcast winter's day we learned of the passing to the Grand Lodge Above of Wor Bro Robert Faulconbridge on June 17. Wor Bro Faulconbridge was a valued, esteemed and respected member of Lodge Woolloongabba. His contribution to this lodge is immeasurable.

“Rob,” as we all knew him had ancestral links with Lodge Woolloongabba. Together with his wife Lesley, they were both a driving force and pivotal members who kept the flame alive for our Scottish workings lodge.

Rob was a good ritualist and attentive secretary, greatly aided by wife Lesley. Suffering a stroke some time ago, Bob's last years were difficult and challenging for his loving family and friends who visited him in his final months, weeks and days. He is now at eternal rest. – *Syd Norman, Master.*

## MYORA 517

Immediately after opening the Myora Lodge meeting on June 11th, the Worshipful Master V Wor Bro Rod Wilson had the honour and privilege of announcing that our beloved Worshipful Brother Roger Brady, PG Standard Bearer has been honoured by the Most Worshipful Grand Master Jeff Harper with the Conspicuous Service to Freemasonry, CSM, in recognition of his stellar service to Freemasonry spanning more than fifty years.



Roger, well known for his charitable work with the Redlands Community Centre, an entity which epitomises 'charity,' shows no signs of slowing down as he continues to practice his Freemasonry both inside and outside the walls of lodge rooms.



Following this joyous announcement, Worshipful Brother Malcolm Teasdale was elected Master of Myora Lodge for the 2025/26 Masonic year.

Worshipful Brother Teasdale's Installation will take place on Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, tying at 10.15m.

A large number of visitors are expected from near and far for this auspicious occasion. It is recommended that you contact our lodge early with numbers so the logistics will be in place with water taxi, buses and the banquet catering. – *Wor Bro Chris George, Secretary, Phone 0419 - 738 429* for bookings.

## LOGAN-BEENLEIGH DAYLIGHT 536



term will be Wor Bro Ken McNab who is a

Logan-Beenleigh Daylight held its annual election of Master and officers for 2025-2026 on June 17. Leading the lodge for this



foundation member of the lodge which celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026. The installation will take place on Tuesday, July 15 in the Beenleigh Masonic Centre, tyling at 09.30 a.m. Festive board charges \$25.00 for Brethren; Ladies guests of the lodge.

The lodge mourns the loss of one of its senior members, Wor Bro Frank Neil Wickham, aged 94. Frank was buried on the Gold Coast with members of the lodge in attendance. Frank had earlier been presented with his 60-year jewel from UGLQ.

## GARDEN CITY DAYLIGHT 531

Garden City Daylight worked a 3° in June. Full report in the August edition of the *Argus*.

## Letter to the Editor...



Howdy from California! I just read about that small temple you consecrated in Brisbane (*Argus June, 25*). It's not small at all! Here in California we have smaller temples than that one. Nowadays a ghost town, you find Hornitos. The community was founded by Mexican miners in 1848 and was soon populated by settlers evicted from the nearby mining town Quartzburg.

Most of the evictees were of the "less desirable" type and almost overnight they changed the character of

Hornitos and it quickly became known as a rough community. Soon the streets were lined with fandango halls, bars, gambling dens, and houses of ill repute and it was rumored that many of the businesses were interconnected with underground tunnels. By the mid-late 1850's Hornitos had grown into a small city with a population of some 6000 people.

A thriving Chinese section formed to the east of town and housed some 2000 folk. Business was thriving as \$40,000 in gold was shipped out daily. In 1860s the Freemasons built a very, very small temple.

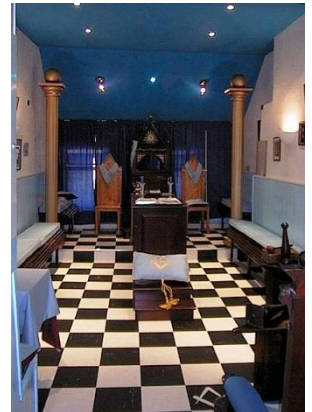
It's still there today with a lodge meeting on a monthly basis. BTW, it's not connected to any other building via tunnels! – *Bro David Shapiro, Sacramento, Ca.*

**REID REPORT FOR JUNE** – Wor Bro Dennis Moore has had a foot scan. Wor Bro Gary Golding's wife Fran had a knee replacement. Bro Paul Tucker is recovering from shoulder surgery. Wor Bro Kevin Roberts has had very good news that his skin cancer is negative. All other Brethren and wives appear to be okay. – *Wor Bro Norman Reid, Almoner.*



**Thespian Argus** sellers can be seen on most street corners this time of the month. Dimitri Papadopoulos was out early this morning with a bundle of the *Argus* July edition. He soon ran out and had to be topped up. Of course, you don't have to buy your copy; it comes free to your inbox. Enjoy the read, forward it to other Brethren, and do comment in the Letters-to-the-Editor section, if you be so kind.

Until this time in August, school winter holidays with your grandchildren and chores in the gardens under the mid-day sun.... *Ed.*





# URGENT STOP PRESS !!

Thespian's annual "Visit to Country" earlier advertised for Saturday, August 23, overnighing also Sunday, August 24 has been changed. Fraser Coast United No 19 has announced that they have changed their Installation to **Saturday, August 9, tyling at 03.00 pm.** Thespian members who have already made bookings with the advertised hotel are encouraged to rebook as soon as possible. Note: Thespian organisers of the visit regret the date change which was only announced a week ago due to internal matters within Fraser Coast United No 19. – *Steve Cook, WM.*

## *Contemplating Daytime Freemasonry?*

Not keen on driving at night anymore? Like to bring wife/partner to all festive boards?

Looking for a great, vibrant and friendly lodge?

**Your search is over, Brother...**



**Thespian Lodge 268 UGLQ**

**1<sup>st</sup> Saturday each month 10.00 am 8MP Masonic Centre**

*Affiliation costs:*

**1<sup>st</sup> Year Nothing/Free/Gratis!**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Year \$130.00 3<sup>rd</sup> and subsequent years \$120.00**