

Lodge 669 Newsletter

Issue No. 9, January 2013



A LOOK BACK OVER THE YEAR 2012

As the Year 2012 draws to an end and we are looking forward to another successful year in Lodge 669, let's take a look back on events during 2012 which proved a very busy year for us all, especially not forgetting all those involved in Degree work carried out during the year.

The year got underway sadly with an appeal being launched on behalf of the victims of a recent Flood Disaster in the Philippines, involving several of our Brethren. The Appeal raised a total of £2690 from Masons all around Ireland, along with goods, enabling a Relief Container and Financial aid to be sent to the Philippines in February.

JANUARY: Installation of W. Bro. Ivor lamont as W. Master for the year 2012 by W.Bro. Brian McBride in the presence of D.P.G.M. , R.W. Bro. Dennis Millen and V.W. Bro. Lionel Clarke, G.L. Steward of Charities, & 29 visitors. New Candidate proposed, Mr Ernest White. £350.00 Raised, for Filipino Relief Fund. £383.00 Raised, for Benevolent Institutions.

FEBRUARY: Visit by 3 Filipino Brethren from Isle of Man Lodge 6512. MM Degree conferred on Bro. Stephen Mc Burney. Ballot for Initiation, Mr Nathan Phillips & Mr Alexis Lambert.

MARCH: Visit by W.Bro. Arthur Lockhart Lodge 683. FC Degree conferred on Bros., Paul Francey, Neil Merritt & Paul Lockhart. Ballot for Initiation, Mr Ernest White.

APRIL: Gala Ball at Stormont on Friday 13th as start of a weekend of Titanic events, including a lodge meeting in PGL Rosemary Street on Sat 14th hosted by Belfast Lodge 651, and followed by a 3rd Class Supper Dance in Arthur Square. The entire weekend was organised by Lodges 669, 651 & 169 working together as "Titanic Lodges". Over £5000 was raised over the weekend, with £3308 from the Gala ball going to RNLI and the remainder going to Masonic Charities. At the Stated Communication Mr Nathan Phillips & Mr Alexis Lambert were initiated as E.A. Freemasons. Bro. Stephen Mc Burney was presented with his MM Certificate.

MAY: Mr Ernest White initiated as E.A. Freemason. May also seen the introduction of our current Newsletter by W.Bro. Brian McBride.

JUNE: Cheque for £3308 presented to RNLI Bangor by the WMs of Lodges 669,651 & 169.

ABSENT BRETHREN

Sadly during the summer recess the Lodge were advised of the passing of two highly esteemed Brethren.

W. Bro. David Crothers, and W.Bro. Sam Millar

Our thoughts are with their families at this time

SEPTEMBER: An Emergency Communication was held on Friday 7th to confer MM Degree on Bro. Neil Merritt prior to his deployment overseas, Visit by W.Bro. Mark Wilson Lodge 108. Stated Communication held in Freemasons Hall Molesworth Street, Dublin in the presence of D.P.G.M. R.W. Bro. Dennis Millen & V.W. Bro. Lionel Clarke G.L. S. o. C. Memorium to the Late W. Bros., David Crothers and Sam Millar. FC Degree conferred on Bros., Nathan Phillips, Alexis Lambert & Ernest White. Bro. Neil Merritt presented with his MM Certificate by D.P.G.M. R.W. Bro Dennis Millen. Nomination of officers for 2013.

OCTOBER: An Emergency Communication was held on Sat 27th to confer MM Degree on Bro. Paul Francey. At the Stated Communication on Sat 27th, items of historic value to the Lodge were returned into the keeping of the Lodge. W.Bro. Neil Ritchie P.G. Organist presented back to the WM the original Maul which had been presented to the Lodge in 1938. Also returned was a PM Apron which belonged to W.Br. H. Harrison, who was a founder member and WM in 1940. The apron was accompanied by an original copy of the Book of the Constitution Ceremony of the Lodge on Sat 23rd April 1938. MM Degree conferred on Bro. Paul Lockhart. Election of Officers for 2013. Visit by W.Bro. Arthur Lockhart Lodge 683.

NOVEMBER: Visit from 6 Brethren from Norway and also W.Bro. Rennie McGrath P.P.G.L. Std. Br. And Bros., Maurice Clarke and Gopala Bhat from Belfast Lodge 651 and University of Dublin Lodge 2352 E.C. Demonstration of E.A. Degree with Norwegian Bro. Christian Christiansen acting as Candidate. New Candidate proposed, Dr Dimitri Bakirtzis.

DECEMBER: Stated Communication Held early because of Christmas on Sat 8th. Mr William Kingsberry & Mr Jorge Garcia initiated as E.A. Freemasons. Bro. Paul Lockhart presented with his MM Certificate. Ballot for Initiation, Dr Dimitri Bakirtzis. Notice of Motion on future of December Stated Communications discussed. Visit by W.Bro. Arthur Lockhart Lodge 683.

"G'Day"
From Sydney, New South Wales.
By: W.Bro. Brian McBride



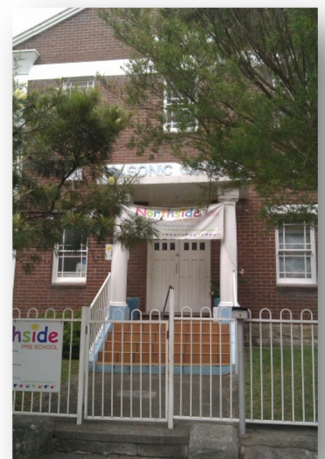
Sydney Masonic Centre
Exterior View

I am pleased to say that Freemasonry in Australia looks to be doing well, and I have been very well received at Lodge meetings. Aprons are worn in a different way of course, but other than that, I have found great fellowship, and hospitality. As in Ireland, Masonic halls vary in size: Sydney Masonic Centre is a 25 story Skyscraper, with a very large Grand Lodge room.

This year I had the pleasure of visiting Lodge Phoenix No. 1034 which has a small but very decorative Masonic Hall in Balgowlah, Northern Beaches.

As you can see from the picture, the hall is also used as a kids pre-school during the day. Freemasonry in the Community at its best!

With a minimum of fuss, and great humour, I was "examined" by the Lodge Phoenix Secretary W. Bro. Robert Drake, who also saw my Masonic passport from G. Lodge of Ireland, my M. Mason certificate, and letter of introduction from our Secretary.



Lodge Phoenix No.1034
Masonic Hall, Balgowlah

I enjoyed an excellent third degree ceremony, with the W. Master, W.Bro Olivier Massart giving up his chair to W. Bro. Bill Dunlop of Lodge Warringah to conduct the degree for his son Bro. Greg Dunlop.

Dad still has a strong scots accent, Bro. Greg his son is very much an "Aussie"



Grand Lodge Room
Sydney Masonic Centre

After the meeting we adjourned to a local Indian restaurant for the Festive Board, where, after a lovely meal, and a generous toast to the visitors, I passed on the best wishes of Sir George Clark Memorial Lodge No. 669 to the W. Master and Brethren, and invited Bro. Greg Dunlop to visit us in Belfast. This invitation was also extended to all present.

Lodge Phoenix also has a Newsletter, and the Secretary has added my name to their circulation list. With the W. Masters permission, I would like return the compliment, and send our monthly Newsletter to Australia.

BAKED ALASKA FUND IN ZETLAND HALL HONG KONG **By: Bro. Jonathan Tarr**

Another story from Zetland Hall Hong Kong, an annual event held each Christmas, that I thought would be fitting for our December newsletter.

The Baked Alaska Fund pays for the 'Festival of Baked Alaska' which starts at High Twelve on the second or third Saturday each year in December.

The Festival of Baked Alaska is a giant Christmas Party for under-privileged children. The children arrive at about 2.15pm, and for the next two and a half-hours, all hell is let loose in the normally sedate and hallowed surroundings of Zetland Hall.



The Baked Alaska

The title was dreamed up some years ago. One Brother, seeing the calendar for the year, counted the installation meetings that he would have to attend, then counted the inches on his girth and complained of the Baked Alaskas he would have to eat.

Another Brother said, '*Think of the children who will never see a Baked Alaska*'. And therein an idea was born.

The Party

The basic menu is chicken wings, chips and jelly, washed down with coke served on arrival by the Stewards and Stewardesses (including Lewises and Lewisettes), led by the Chief Steward. Games are played and the children are 'entertained' by the antics of Zetland Hall's resident 'Three Stooges'. In the mean-time, the Director of Ceremonies tries to keep a semblance of law and order. Musically-inclined Brethren play Christmassy muzak. Mixing it somewhere in this cacophonous cocktail are sundry riff raff who can be relied upon to prop the bar up. At 3.30pm Father Christmas arrives. After each and every child has received a present the lights are dimmed and Baked Alaska with lashings of chocolate sauce is served. Then it is 'loot bags' and time to go home.

All Masons, wives, partners and older children are welcomed to help. Duties may include wiping noses, bums etc. Just turn up for lunch and enjoy. If you haven't got all afternoon to spare - pop in for thirty minutes or so.

INSTALLATION MEETING 26TH JANUARY 2013

Our first meeting of 2013 is of course our Installation Ceremony and Dinner which will take place on Saturday 26th January, in the Leighton Room, Freemasons' Hall, Arthur Square, commencing at 4.00pm, with Dinner at 7.00pm.

The cost of the Installation Dinner will be £20.00 per person. Dress Code Formal Black Tie.

Brethren are asked to contact the Secretary as early as possible with regard to attendance and include details of any guests that they will be bringing along, i.e. Full Name, Masonic Rank (Past /Present) & Lodge Number. A seating plan will be in place on the evening and every effort will be made to accommodate Members and their Guests together. In order to facilitate arrangements for this, the earlier you get in touch, the better.

Non Masonic guests, interested in joining are always welcome at our festive Board and should be asked to arrive at 6.30pm on the evening.

Remember that any meals reserved **cannot be cancelled after Tuesday 22nd January and must be paid for.**

Amongst our Distinguished Guests on the evening we hope to have R.W. Bro. Kenneth Porter, Provincial Assistant Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Dennis Millen, Past Provincial Deputy Grand Master and several Brethren visiting from the English Constitution.

OTHER STATED COMMUNICATION DATES DURING 2013

February	Saturday 23rd
March	Saturday 23rd
April	Saturday 27th
May	Saturday 25th (Dublin)
September	Saturday 28th
October	Saturday 26th
November	Saturday 23rd
December	Saturday 14th

FUTURE ISSUES

Don't forget Brethren all contributions for inclusion in future issues of the Newsletter will be gratefully received and considered. We look to you as our reporters in the field so to speak, to keep us advised on items of interest which you feel may be shared amongst our members, such as visits you have or are planning to make to other Lodges.

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Please send your items and pictures for inclusion in the Newsletter by email to: Secretary@lodge669ic.org