

The
Newsletter of
the District
NSW Hunter
December 2015



NEWCASTLE
NORTHERN
COUNCIL
19th Degree

Page 2



10th Degree Page 4



NEWSLETTER



Our District Commander sends his Christmas Wishes...

As we approach the festive season, Gail and I extend the Season's Greetings to all members and their families for a merry and safe Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Eminent Brother David Henry DFC Awarded Legion of Honour!

David Henry's Second World War service was honoured by the French Government on this year's Remembrance Day when he was presented with the 'Legion of Honour' at the Australian War Memorial in Sydney by French General Jean-Louis Georgelin.

David, 97, was awarded the honour for his role in the liberation of France more than 70 years ago.

He and his two brothers, John and Garven, also served in the same squadron having received permission from King George VI to serve together. David said that whilst he did not seek any acknowledgement, he was proud to accept the award on behalf of his two brothers.

Enlisting in 1941, David and his brothers flew for the 123 Bomber Squadron. Flying mainly over France and Germany David went on 26 missions and rose to the rank of Flight Lieutenant.

David has been a member of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite for 56 years, and so is one of the most respected and well-loved members of our Order.

David's daughter, Lesley, described the presentation of the Legion of Honour as one of the family's most proudest moments.



Em.: David Henry DFC, 32⁰
CoM

(Photo: David Padgett)

In our June issue of this Newsletter we reported that Aedis Christie Sovereign Chapter had presented David with a specially mounted and inscribed gift of a Model Lancaster Bomber and instrument panel to show their appreciation of his war service.

Information used in this article was obtained from the Central Coast Express Advocate, Nov 11, 2015

'A Region First'

The Illustrious Grand Commander of Newcastle Northern Sovereign Council, EmBro. Dave Parsons 32 OoM, presided over a demonstration of the 19th degree, in what is probably a 'first time event' in our Region.



Being guided across the symbolic bridge by Illus.: Bro. Kevin Short 30⁰, The Grand Pontiff Orator, is the Candidate, Em.: Bro. Greg Stockert 31⁰ OoM. Very.: Illus.: Bro. Ian Robertson 33⁰ Grand Pontiff Conductor is in the background.

A forward thinking initiative, this idea could well introduce the intermediate degrees, from the 19th to the 29th, into the Council Room, similar to the practise by the Lachlan Macquarie Chapter of Improvement in delivering the 4th to 17th over an eight year cycle.

Dave first came up with the idea of working the Intermediate ceremonies as demonstrations about one year ago when visiting Aquila Alba and after putting his thoughts before his members was given the support to go ahead.

Doing demonstration avoids any of the difficulties associated with permission as it is distinct from working the degree.

The 19th Degree is known as the Grand Pontiff

Guardian, Pontiff being a term meaning 'Bridge Builder'.

Apart from a small prop, symbolising a bridge, no special changes were made to the Council Room and during the ceremony a narration of the events was given, as the story unfolded.

The cast was made up entirely of experienced members from Newcastle Northern Council.

Em.: Bro. Dave Parsons 32⁰ OoM played the part of the Grand



Gosford Masonic Centre Sold

Em.: Bro. Bill Elliott 32⁰ CoM, the Recorder of Aedis Christie Sovereign Chapter, informs us that the Gosford Masonic Centre was sold to the Imperial Centre and will be vacated by the 16th January 2016.

Aedis Christie's future meetings will be held at the new Masonic Centre to be opened at 86-88 Mann Street, Gosford.

Aedis Christie's first meeting at this venue will be on the 3rd Saturday of February 2016.

The Mann Street venue is presently occupied by Saint John's Ambulance, and will need some alterations before it will be suitable for Masonic use.

Aedis Christie Chapter will meet every 3rd Saturday in the months of February, May, August and November.

Pontiff Commander and was accompanied by: Illus.:Bro. Kevin Short 30⁰ as Grand Pontiff Orator: Illus.:Bro. Col Grainger 31⁰ as Grand Pontiff Warden: Very.:Illus.:Bro. Ian Robertson 33⁰ as Grand Pontiff Conductor: Em.:Bro. Bill Bagnall 31⁰ CoM as Grand Pontiff Marshal: Illus.:Bro. Terry Stothard 30⁰ as Grand Pontiff Guardian with Em.:Bro. Peter Groves 31⁰ OoM and Em.:Bro. Ken Smith 32⁰ CoM as Assistants and Em.:Bro. Greg Stockert 31⁰ OoM as the Candidate. Very.:Illus.:Bro. Ted Oldfield 33⁰ narrated the demonstration.

“The Intermediate Degrees are often overlooked,” Dave said. “They are an educational experience like all other degrees in Masonry, and I was happy to give our members more access since these degrees are made to be experienced.”

It was evident that the Officers and audience enjoyed the demonstration and to say that the evening was a success is an understatement. It is to be hoped that subsequent demonstrations of the Intermediate degrees by Newcastle Northern or Hunter Sov. Councils will build upon this success.

A Serbian Christmas

Understanding another person’s background and what they may have experienced in life can bring people closer together. Sympathy found by listening to another’s life experiences can open us up to empathise and lead us to tolerance and understanding, welcoming people from different cultures into our lives.

At least that is what Illus.:Bro. Kevin Allen 32 the MWS of Aquila Alba Sovereign Chapter believes.

“It all began with a simple thought,” he said, “Several years ago I listened to a short talk on “The Meaning of Christmas” and began to wonder how people from different countries and cultures celebrated Christmas and also what they had to say”.

He recalls, “That led me to talk about Christmas in the Netherlands who celebrate their Christmas on the fifth of December with the arrival of Black Piet. This year I had asked another friend from Germany to speak to us but he had to pull out, so I invited my Serbian friend, Ljiljana McLennan, to Aquila Alba Sovereign Chapter and asked if she would tell us about a traditional Christmas in Serbia... and she kindly agreed”.

Ljiljana was born in Croatia where her family had lived for over 200 years. They fled from Croatia during the 1991 Croatian/Bosnian conflict and went to Serbia via Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was a frightening experience for anyone and many refugees fled from this trauma to look for peaceful



Ljiljana McLennan enjoys a joke as Illus.:Bro. Kevin Allen 32⁰ thanks her for her talk on a Serbian Christmas

nations to accept them. Not wanted back in Zemun in Serbia she came to Australia towards the end of the 1999 as a refugee and gained citizenship in 2001. She met her husband Kim and now like so many Australians she has many happy memories of Christmas spent in her native land and her new country, Australia.

Ljiljana has embraced Australian life and through her family has found a new happiness, but of course, she still treasures the memories of her childhood and the very different traditions when she and her birth family celebrated Christmas in Serbia.

As the Christmas season came her childhood duties included the responsibility of force-feeding the Turkey three times each day - a cold thankless task that the Turkey in particular did not appreciate. The Christmas holiday lasted three days. Expensive gifts were not the custom but instead children were treated to a mixture of nuts, sweets, coins and other delicious prizes that they found under the table on Christmas morning - the emphasis being on teaching sharing with one's siblings.

Her family followed the tradition of cutting down an oak tree, which was blessed by the Priest and shared in the family as a symbol of hope and prosperity. Delicious cakes and foods were prepared and like her Australian experience everyone was happy and full of joy.

The traditions may vary but essentially we celebrate Christmas with joy, good wishes, family, friends to rejoice in the birth of our Saviour.

It is 26 years since Ljiljana came to live in Australia to start a new life and like so many before her she has embraced both cultures and takes great pride in being Australian.

Kevin Allen values his friendship with Ljiljana and her family and believes that Christmas is a time like no other to open our hearts to accept and give the gift of friendship bringing happiness to those seeking a welcoming new life in this country.

Elect of Fifteen Brought to Life

The Tenth Degree, or Elect of Fifteen, was brought to life at the Maitland Masonic Centre on Saturday 7 November 2015, with members of the Order from Shortland and Hunter Districts combining under the Lachlan Macquarie Chapter of Improvement to give a splendid performance.

Following on from the Ninth (performed at Belmont Masonic Centre in May), the Tenth Degree continues the saga in pursuit of the murderers of H.A., and details how they are brought to justice.

This part of the allegory helps resolve the saga brought to a close in the Tenth Degree since it is devoted to the causes of Toleration, Liberality and Enlightenment that are values cherished by any civilised society and form the basis of mutual respect in our social interactions.



The candidate, E&P Bro Terry Thomson 18⁰ with Em. Bro Les Cawthorne 32⁰ CoM, Marshal who progress around the Chapter Room in search of the murderers.



The Illustrious Sovereign, played by Em.: Bro. Roger Broadbent 32⁰ CoM invests the candidate with his regalia. In the background are Em.: Bro Rod Stokes 31⁰ OoM, Junior Deacon, Em.: Bro Les Cawthorne 32⁰ CoM, Marshall and E&P Bro. Jeffrey O'Connor, Senior Deacon.

The profound message contained in the Tenth Degree was not lost on the audience or those who took part, some noting that now in our society we need to promote the lessons taught through Masonry to reinforce the values that we hold dear and to counter the fanaticism that threatens the peace and good order of society.

Congratulations must go to those who acted out their parts and also to Very.: Illus.: Bro. Ted Oldfield 33⁰, District Commander, District Shortland, The Assistant Preceptor of the Lachlan Macquarie Chapter of Improvement, and his colleague Very.: Illus.: Bro. David Padgett 33⁰, District Commander of District Hunter, who worked together to organise the Tenth Degree performance.

Very.: Illus.: Bro. David Padgett said that next year the Lachlan Macquarie Chapter of Improvement will promote and exemplify the Eleventh and Twelfth Degrees as part of the eight year cycle to bring these great allegories to Brethren in the two Districts.

Those who took part in the ceremony were: Em.: Bro Roger Broadbent 32⁰ CoM - Illustrious Sovereign: Illus.: Bro John McDonald 30⁰ - Senior Warden: Illus.: Bro. Keith McCord 31⁰ - Junior Warden: Em.: Bro Bill Bagnall 32⁰ CoM - Seneschal: Em.: Bro Dave Parsons 32⁰ OoM - Herald: Em.: Bro Les Cawthorne 32⁰ CoM - Marshal: E&P Bro Jeff O'Connor 18⁰ - Senior Deacon: Em.: Bro Rod Stokes 31⁰ OoM - Junior Deacon: Em.: Bro Barry Stephenson 32⁰ OoM - Hospitaller: E&P Bro Terry Thomson 18⁰ - Candidate. Narrator - Very.: Illus.: Bro. Ted Oldfield 33⁰

18th Degree Open Night

Mystes Rosae Sovereign Chapter will host an Open night on the 9th of February 2016 at the Wallsend Masonic Temple, to give Masons who are not members of our Rite an opportunity to meet our members, get to know what our Rite is about and enable them to ask any questions that they may wish.

The evening will be a relaxed affair with a short business meeting finishing at about 7.30pm so that we may welcome our guests into the Chapter Room when a short information session will take place before retiring to the refectory for a more informal chat.

All the Chapters of our District will be represented by their MWSs so that any prospective members, if they join, may choose the most convenient Chapter night to attend, best suited to their own Masonic schedule.

The beauty of our Order and our Rites is renown and our more intimate friendly atmosphere is appreciated by members who enjoy the less frequent meetings of our Chapters and Councils. We hope that you can be there to help promote our Order and welcome our guests. The more members of our Rite that attend the better impression we will create, so please add the date to your diary of Masonic events.

A Round Up of Recent Events...



From Left to Right: Very. Illus. Bro. David Padgett 33⁰, IllusBro. John Clark, IllusBro. Allan Campbell and Illus. Bro. Terry Holstein 31⁰ after being elevated to the Thirtieth Degree.

Two New Members for Hunter Sovereign Council

Hunter Sovereign Council's last meeting on the 30 November, welcomed Brothers Allen Campbell and John Clark into the fold when they were elevated to the 30th Degree; two very well know members of St. Albans Sovereign Chapter.

The evening wasn't without some drama though as our Grand Commander, Em. Bro. Bob Lyons 32⁰ OoM was unable to attend due to a chest infection. The Immediate Past Grand Commander Illus. Bro. Terry Holstein 31⁰ stepped in and expertly took command of the ceremony.

In the refectory John Clark expressed his gratitude on being elevated to the 30th Degree and Allen Campbell followed suit by saying how he had looked forward to joining the 30th Degree since he entered the Order through the Rite of Perfection 3 years earlier. Both Brethren said that they were especially impressed with the ceremony and its beauty.

Eighteenth Degree Brethren are eligible to advance to the 30th Degree upon completing three years as Excellent and Perfect Brethren of the 18th Degree.

Supreme Council Confers Further Honours on Em.:Bro. Dick Bell

Em.:Bro. Dick Bell 32⁰ is a man who puts unfeigned love and work into his many Masonic duties, that is, when he is not ocean sailing on one of the many cruises he so fervently enjoys...and are we envious... not half!

It gave the District Commander, Very.:Illus.:Bro. David Padgett 33⁰, great pleasure to confer upon Brother Dick Bell the title 'Companion of the Order of Merit' at Mystes Rosae Sovereign Chapters November meeting (see photo to the right).

Illus.:Bro. Brian Stevens 30 was also there to receive his 30 Years Certificate (below) whilst



Very.:Illus.:Bro. David Padgett 33⁰ received his 20 Year Certificate from Very.:Illus.:Bro. Les Hipwell's hand (Well he could hardly present it to himself, could he?). photo below...



Saint Albans News

Excellent and Perfect Bros. Walter Parker and Charlie Copas, respectively received their Perfection Certificate and Twenty Years Member Certificate at the October meeting of Saint Albans Sovereign Chapter.

E&P Bro. Walter Parker, from Toronto, joined the Order in May this year and is a member of Lodge Lake MacQuarie No. 243.

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E&P Bro. Charlie Copas is a devoted Officer of Saint Albans Sovereign Chapter and works quietly behind the scenes, keeping in touch with members and ex-members. He also made a very positive contribution



Very.:Illus.:Bro. David Padgett 33⁰ explains the certificate to E&P Bro. Walter Parker, with the MWS, E&P Bro. Kevin Eshman looking on.

not only to the ceremonial but also to the St. Albans Standing Committee, influencing all aspects of the Chapter's business. Charlie joined Saint Albans Sovereign Chapter back in 1995 and was presented with his 20 Year Certificate at the October meeting.

Charlie is seen in the photograph to the right with those same familiar faces as in the photograph above.



A talk given after the Perfection of a Brother

by Very: Illus.: Bro. Noel Elkington 33⁰

Very: Illus.: Bro. Noel Elkington 33⁰ was a very influential figure in Rose Croix Masonry, especially in the Newcastle area. Noel died on the 31st August 2005. He was renowned for his knowledge of Masonry and wrote and delivered many talks in the district derived from his own profound observations. Some of his writing have survived and were held in the care of Illus.: Bro. Neal Keats 32⁰ who passed them on to Em.: Bro. Roger Broadbent.

Below a talk of Noel's given after Perfection, taken from his handwritten version.

In becoming a Rose Croix Mason not only do we find it a wonderful adventure in friendship but it gives us an entirely new enthusiasm for Masonry. It makes an unforgettable impression to be so often surrounded by so many like minded men, all seeking a better way of life and a greater closeness to all that is most worthwhile.

Knowing how very much the A&ASR can mean to a craftsman, we seek to open this door to as many as can qualify to pass through. You can help by guiding your friend to this door. He will be a better man for the philosophy he can find in our Rite; richer because of his larger circle of friendship and happier. Whatever his age, because of the frequent opportunities available to him to associate with men of high (moral) standing and character – men who have a common background of a mutual reverence for things divine in life.

Isn't our membership justified if we can stimulate a new enthusiasm for more spiritual understanding and help to better coordinate the feelings of brotherhood in men's hearts?

The last of the Intermediate Degrees which you received, is designated Knight of the East and West and I urge you to see it worked in full if ever the opportunity presents itself. The Degree centres around the wandering Neophyte, an earnest seeker of truth and is an indispensable prelude to the 18th Degree. It inspires the hope that the day of truth will dawn at last, that the knowledge and worship of the One Living and True God shall spread from East to West and that one spiritual Brotherhood shall extend across the world.

THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE 33⁰ FOR THE ANCIENT & ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE IN AUSTRALIA

The 18 is designated Knight of the Pelican and Eagle. Man had to have a new temple, a new law, a New Word. The Degree sets forth a law of the heart, a law of warm and intimate human virtues, a law that the simplest and humblest may practice. It symbolises a perfect life, which every man can understand and take for the guide, inspiration and model of his own. The Rose Croix Degrees are the spiritual centre and among the most important in the whole body of Freemasonry.

It is our (my) sincere hope that you will find the Degrees impressive and helpful, that they will inspire you to greater Masonic activity, that you will gain much pleasure and benefit from the new associations and friendships which you will form here, that your life will be enriched spiritually, intellectually, morally and socially through your coming among us, that you will become an active and interested member of our great Rite and assist in making this world a better place in which to live.

District Commander's Message

Another year is coming to an end and we reflect on what has happened over the previous 12 months.

Both St Albans Sovereign Chapter and Aquila Alba Sovereign Chapter have perfected a candidate, and Hunter Sovereign Council has elevated 4 Brethren with a further 2 to be elevated at their next meeting in February 2016. We also had 1 member advance to the 31st Degree and 3 to the 32nd Degree



It was also pleasing to have 103 year old Ill. Bro Bill Hall 32⁰ re-join both St Albans Sovereign Chapter and Hunter Sovereign Council.

Together with the District of NSW Shortland, we carried out expositions of the 9th and 10th Degrees under the Charter of Lachlan Macquarie Chapter of improvement. Both these meetings were well attended and appreciated. I was very pleased with the members of both teams for the effort that they exhibited in learning the Ritual work and attending the rehearsals. It is proposed that the 11th and 12th Degrees will be worked during 2016.

Brethren, I again appeal to you to seek out candidates to join our Rite. If you know of any Master Mason who qualifies with the mandatory 2 years as a Master Mason, please invite him to come along to the planned Open Night being arranged by Mystes Rosae Sovereign Chapter on Tuesday 9 February 2016 at the Wallsend Masonic Centre.

If you are interested in progressing to a higher Degree and have held your current level for a minimum of 3 years, please do not hesitate to ask me for the necessary application forms.

I look forward to a new year of co-operation and support between the Chapters and Council of the District.

As we approach the festive season, Gail and I extend the Season's Greetings to all members and their families for a merry and safe Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

The Most Wise Sovereign of Mystes Rosae Sovereign Chapter

Em. ∴ Bro. Philip Holden 31⁰ OoM invites you to
an

Open Night

at

The Wallsend Masonic Centre

Metcalfe Street, Wallsend,

7pm for 7.30pm, 9 February 2016

An informative presentation of the Rite will be given by 18th Degree Chapter members. Please dress "Smart Casual" and it would be helpful if Masonic Name badges could be worn (*members of the Order in evening attire*).

Light refreshments will be served when Craft Masons may fraternise with Rose Croix (18th Degree) Masons in a relaxed atmosphere.
No expense will be incurred by our guests.

RSVP

By Friday 29th January 2016 to:
Philip Holden, 4958 4677 or Email - philip.holden@optusnet.com.au or,
Roger Broadbent, 49570409 - Email - rbr20269@bigpond.net.au

Your Contributions to our Newsletter...

You can contribute to this Newsletter by E-mailing the material to Roger Broadbent, rbr20269@bigpond.net.au . Roger will write the article for you, let you see it, make any changes you desire and then publish with your permission.

*Friends, working together, sharing a common
cause and goal, can move mountains through
the power of love.*

Coming Events for 2016

District Hunter Committee Meeting - 14/02/2016 All members of the Rite welcome.

Saint Albans Sovereign Chapter - 23/01/2016
Exemplification of the 18th Degree.

Saint Elizabeth Sovereign Chapter - 06/02/2016 TBA.

Mystes Rosae Sovereign Chapter - 09/02/2016 Open Night at Wallsend Masonic Centre.

Newcastle Northern Sovereign Council - 12/02/2016 will be an Installation.

Aedis Christie Sovereign Chapter, Gosford - 19/02/2016 will be their first meeting at their new venue.

Hunter Sovereign Council - 29/02/2016 will be a Elevation Ceremony.

Aquila Alba Sovereign Chapter - 04/03/2016 Election of Officers & TBA