

Moreton Lodge, 1913 = 1963

It is with a feeling of great pride that we present this brief History of Moreton Lodge, which actually completed 50 years of continuous Masonic activity on March 29 of this year. In so doing, we have had to rely on information gleaned from old minute books, as, to our knowledge, only one of the foundation members is still surviving, in the person of Rt. Wor. Bro. F. J. Wilkes, and it is our sincere wish that the Great Architect will enable him to fulfil his desired wish, to be with us on the occasion of this Golden Jubilee Ceremony.

The inaugural meeting to consider the formation of a new Masonic Lodge in Wynnum, was held at the Moreton Bay High School on the 18th January, 1913, being attended by nine Brethren, with apologies recorded for three extra. Wor. Bro. R. V. Pines was voted to the Chair, with Wor. Bro. Parker Secretary pro-tem. The decision emanating from this meeting was that "A Lodge working under English Constitution be formed in Wynnum, and that Albert Lodge No. 2344 E.C. be asked to recommend the petition for same." Foundation Fee of £3/3/- was set, with Initiation Fee £7/7/-, Affiliation Fee £1/1/-, and annual dues £2/2/-. The election of Officers resulted in Wor. Bro. Pines being elected as Foundation Master, Bro. Rose Senior Warden, Bro. Dickens Junior Warden, Wor. Bro. Watkins Treasurer, Bro. Greene Senior Deacon, Bro. Wilkes Junior Deacon, Bro. Dick Inner Guard, Bro. Clarke Steward, and Wor. Bro. Parker Immediate Past Master. Bro. Heiner was later elected Secretary, and Bro. Hart Assistant Steward.

It is therefore with a feeling of gratitude and homage towards these Brethren that we celebrate this Jubilee, for, had it not been for their foresight and labours in this and later years, and their generosity in the donations of furniture, books, etc., we may not have been doing so.

The request to the Rt. Wor. District Grand Master for the ceremony of Consecration to be performed in the Alice Street Temple was acceded to, and following receipt of sponsorship from Albert Lodge dated 17th February, 1913, the Lodge was consecrated on 29th March, 1913, by Rt. Wor. Bro. A. J. Stephenson, District Grand Master, assisted by Wor. Bro. A. Corrie, Deputy District Grand Master, Wor. Bro. W. H. Greenfield, District Grand Director of Ceremonies and Grand Lodge Officers. Although reports vary, the Queensland Times advises that some 275 Brethren witnessed a most impressive Consecration Ceremony, followed by the Installation Ceremony, by Wor. Bro. A. Corrie, of the Wor. Master and Officers as previously recorded.

The offer of a room, free of rental, by Miss Greene, of Wynnum High School, having been accepted for meetings, the first candidate, Mr. George Arthur Senior was initiated on the 10th May, 1913, he being No. 13 on the Lodge register. Since that date, a further 411 Brethren have been Initiated and Affiliated, the latest Initiate's register number being 424. Of that number, naturally many have passed on to the Grand Lodge above, many have resigned for various reasons, and some, unfortunately, forfeited membership, leaving a present roll call of 135.

Official approval of By-Laws, and Charter registering Lodge as No. 3689 E.C. was received in November, 1913, and is still on display, together with photograph of Foundation Members, in the ante-room of Wynnum Temple. Steady progress was made until April, 1916, when a change of meeting place to School of Arts, Wynnum South, was decided upon. In April, 1917, an Honour Board was unveiled by the Rt. Wor. Deputy District Grand Master.

July, 1919, saw a unanimous vote in favour of the formation of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Queensland, the District comprising over 200 English and Scottish Lodges, and in April, 1920, the Queensland Grand Lodge was formed, the Charter from this body registering Moreton Lodge as number 167 Grand Lodge of Queensland. Upon the formation of the United Grand Lodge of Queensland in 1921, a third Charter was received registering Moreton Lodge as No. 226, U.G.L.Q., under which Charter we are still working.

Another momentous decision was made in August, 1919, when a suggestion to build a Masonic Temple in Wynnum was adopted. This was immediately instituted, and although records indicate that the Temple was dedicated on 19th February, 1921, by Most Wor. Bro. T. W. Fowler, deputising for Most Wor. Bro. A. Corrie, they also reveal that the first meeting was held there in November, 1920. We are proud to record that the Architect of the Temple was our only surviving foundation member, Bro. (now Rt. Wor. Bro.) Wilkes, who, in March, 1922, was elected the first Honorary Life Member of the Lodge in recognition of his services, and presented with a gold watch and chain, an illuminated address, and also a brooch for Mrs. Wilkes.

Unfortunately, the period following the completion of the Temple saw many very difficult years, and in 1922, a considerable loan had to be sought in order to maintain payments on Building. Eventually, in November, 1924 the Wynnum Masonic Hall Investment Company was drafted and approved, and in October, 1925, all books, documents, etc., were handed over to this Company, the Committee of

Management of which were to work in conjunction with the Trustees of the Lodge. Many avenues of financing were explored, including an appeal for all Brethren to take out shares in the Company, voluntary subscriptions, Lodge subscriptions, running of social evenings, annual Masonic Balls, etc., but the depression years were too severe, and in 1938, Grand Lodge had to assume control of the Temple by taking over the mortgage. During this period, the Lodge contributed every available penny, so much so, that on many occasions, they were unable to meet other commitments, including Grand Lodge dues, and had to request extension of time for payment of same. Is it any wonder, therefore, that we record our admiration and gratitude to our earlier members for their efforts, which now allow us to hold our meetings in peace and harmony in our Wynnum Temple.

It is also worth recording that, at the end of 1956, in response to representations made by Wynnum Lodges, control of the Temple reverted to those Lodges, and that they again honoured Moreton Lodge by having Title Deed transferred to their name as "Trustees for the Combined Masonic Bodies meeting in Wynnum Temple."

We think, at this stage, it would be appropriate to record our appreciation to many Brethren, who, over the period of 50 years, have contributed various articles of furniture and fittings. These are too numerous to mention fully, but it could be honestly said, that the Lodge has been put to very little expense in maintaining these implements. To mention one or two, the original Volume of the Sacred Law, a donation, is still in use, and attention could also be drawn to our beautiful Altar, donated by Wor. Bro. Puttick, in memory of his Wife.

We would also express appreciation to present and past Grand Masters, who have seen fit to confer Past Grand Lodge Rank on a number of our Wor. Brethren, these now numbering 17. It is very fitting that 14 of these served in the very difficult years up to 1938. However, whilst acknowledging the merits of many of these, particularly perhaps, Wor. Bros. Pines, Rose, Dickens, Krummel, Harwood, Simpson, Luke (Snr.), Unsworth, Dutton and Lewis, we must not lose sight of the sterling work also performed by later Past Masters such as Wor. Bros. Pratt, Luke (Jnr.), McKercher, and many others. Some of these, we are sure, would also have been recipients of a Past Grand Lodge Rank, had they not been called to the Grand Lodge above at a comparatively early age.

We must not omit from this record the fact of the consistent and varied charitable donations by the Lodge during its existence. Records reveal that these included all types of Organisations, but the most significant would naturally be our own, to which many contributions have been granted. This

is especially so, in the case of the Aged Masons, Widows, and Orphans Fund, which, over the period 1946-1962, has received over £330 and will receive a further donation of £21 this year. This entitled us to nominate 29 Brethren as Life Governors and 2 Brethren as Life Vice-Presidents of the Fund. Unfortunately, prior to 1946, the finances did not allow donations to this worthy cause. In addition, grants have, on many occasions, been made to Widows of members, and now, to commemorate this Jubilee, a Bursary to the value of £10 per annum has been established. This Bursary will be allotted to the High Schools in Wynnum District, and will be used for the purchase of library books selected by the Headmaster.

Presentations of 40 year Jewels have been made to 8 Brethren, 3 in 1954, and 5 in 1962. The former three have passed on, but the latter five are all still members of the Lodge, two of them being Honorary Life Members.

Moreton Lodge has also been honoured by the privilege of sponsoring two new Lodges, namely Birkdale in 1923 and Pacific in 1955. Unfortunately, the former disbanded after a short period, but the tie of affection and fellowship between Moreton and Pacific Lodges is still very evident.

This will also be an auspicious occasion for the Lodge, because, for the first time for many years, and the first time in the memory of most of our present Brethren, we are privileged to welcome our Grand Master, accompanied by Grand Lodge Officers. We sincerely trust they will not be disappointed, and that they will leave us with the assurance of our loyalty to the U.G.L.Q. and the gratification of having spent a very fruitful night with Moreton Lodge.

And so, in conclusion, may we advise that this history has been compiled with the view of acquainting our present and future members with the worthy efforts of our predecessors, and the success achieved by sound guidance of worthy officers during our first 50 years of existence. It must be realised that space does not permit of a thoroughly complete history and that there are many other factors which could have been included, but we hope that the information contained herein has been interesting and informative. We sincerely trust that when our Centenary is achieved in another 50 years; the Brethren on that occasion will feel that the principles and traditions of Freemasonry, have been, in that period, as faithfully preserved as we know they have been in the period 1913-1963, thereby enabling them to say "Well done, thou good and faithful Brethren".