

Homewood Herald

Greetings Brethren

I hope you have all had a sunny time since our last meeting. Let's hope the warmish weather continues a bit longer.

I'm pleased that our February meeting went well with a good number of Brethren and visitors squeezed into the dining room at the Wellesley. The highlight for the evening, of course, was our presentation of a cheque for \$500 to Stroke Central Region. That's only a progress payment and I hope that we'll be able to present a similar-sized cheque later this year.

Also since our last meeting a good delegation from Lodge Homewood took part in our fraternal visit to Lodge Te Puni. Thanks to the Homewood Brethren who acted as officers for the second degree working on that evening. In the photo you'll see us exchanging the travelling gavels.

March meeting

Our meeting on 30 March will focus on the second degree. Bro Craig Fraser, Bro Hyatt, and Bro Barnes will talk about different aspects.

I would also like to use the opportunity to talk about the Speak Up for Freemasonry campaign launched by the Grand Master at his installation in November last year. This is about retaining members and attracting new members. This is important for Lodge Homewood. I would say that our current position is satisfactory but, and this is a big BUT, we must look to the future and now is the time to bring in new people to secure our ongoing viability.

Homewood Herald

I would like to thank WBro Nicholls for his dedication month after month in producing the Homewood Herald. I used to do it years ago, and I know that at times it can be time-consuming. Hadyn – thank you! Remember that this is our newsletter, so contributions from everyone are welcome. Feel free to send in a review about a movie, restaurant, or TV programme, or a report on a visit to another lodge, or a recipe, or share with us information about one of your other interests, trips or hobbies.

Looking ahead

Bro Hyatt has invited us for petanque and a social afternoon at his home at Waikanae Beach on Sunday, 26 March. The event planned for February was unfortunately postponed due to bad weather.

Our April meeting will be at Trentham Lodge on the evening of ANZAC Day, 25 April.

The May meeting will be Bro David Barnes' Third Degree. I'm really looking forward to this. Bro Barnes has been a loyal member of the Lodge since his initiation last year and I would like the Lodge to give him a night to remember.



*Ahdut Coah Hi
Worshipful Master
David Ryan*



TV review: *Andrew Marr: The Making of Modern Britain*

This is a six-part BBC series from 2014 that I came across on YouTube. It tells the story of Britain from the death of Queen Victoria to the end of World War II. It covers a variety of topics such as war, culture, music, women's rights etc and includes plenty of film coverage from the era and many important scenes recreated by actors. Andrew Marr is a well known British journalist and his style is very relaxed and light-hearted

(although sometimes too irreverent) so, while it relates to history that may be a boring topic for some, it is very easy viewing. I learnt a lot in a short time which would have taken me much longer by reading.

One interesting point stands out for me: Britain almost lost WWII with the Dunkirk evacuation in 1940. Some politicians were urging for peace talks with Hitler. However, the Government decided to continue the struggle and later won the decisive Battle of Britain. However, it was touch and go for a while. It was not until the defeat of the Germans at the battle of El Alamein in 1942 that things started to turn in favour of the Allies.

Of course, a six-hour documentary cannot cover everything that happened in 50 years and some things are left out. It covers, for example, the establishment of the Butlins holiday camps, American GIs bringing their slang to Britain, and royal scandals. However, there is no mention, for example, of the war in the Pacific or of the Empire other than shots of Gandhi visiting London in his loin cloth and sandals. However, it has a fairly good mix of themes that build up a general picture of the times.

I'll give this 4.5 stars out of 5.

WBro David Ryan

Townsville Masonic Hall - Queensland

This single-storeyed masonry building was erected in 1889 as Townsville's first masonic hall, on a site acquired in 1888 by the Townsville Masonic Hall Company Ltd, all the shareholders of which were Freemasons.

Freemasonry was established in Townsville in 1866, with the creation of the Hibernia and Albion Star Lodge, No. 289 under the Irish constitution. Townsville Lodge, No. 1596 under the English constitution, was established in 1875. Both lodges met at a variety of venues until the purpose-built Masonic hall was constructed in 1889. Its location in Sturt Street West reflected the 1880s spread of population to the West End, where the need for a building suitable for lodge meetings was growing evident by the late 1880s. The project was a combined effort of both lodges in Townsville, but was initiated by members of the Hibernia and Albion Star Lodge.



The hall was designed by North Queensland architects WG Smith & Sons and erected by contractors Sparre & Hansen, with a contract price of £1,175. Smith (it is not clear whether this was William George Smith Senior or Junior) and Sparre were Freemasons. The foundation stone was laid in May 1889 and an elaborate opening ceremony was conducted the following August. The building was described at the time as simple and severe but beautifully finished and delightfully cool.

The "new" Townsville Masonic Temple in Walker Street

However, by 1926, it was decided that a new temple was needed and a two-storey reinforced-concrete hall was constructed at 42 Walker Street in 1934 (which is still in use in 2016).

The Sturt Street building was then sold to the Townsville Assembly of God, who occupied the building until 1980. The Assemblies of God (Queensland) (now known as the Australian Christian Churches) was formed in 1929, with the amalgamation of ten pentecostal groups from around the state, including that established in Townsville around 1924.

In 1970-71, several old structures at the rear of the building were demolished, the sides and back of the hall were extended, and the building was re-opened by the Assembly of God in 1971 as the Calvary Temple. The building was used principally as a meeting place, but for a brief time in the late 1970s it housed an Assembly of God school for grades 1 to 10.

In 1980 the building was transferred to trustees of the Townsville Choral and Orchestral Society; providing office and rehearsal space. The Society formed in 1906 as the Townsville Musical Union. In 2013 the former Masonic Hall continues to be used by the Townsville Choral Society Incorporated.

Recipe – Sausage Hash Brown Breakfast Casserole



Ingredients

- 1 pound hot pork sausage
- 1/2 (30 ounce) package frozen hash brown potatoes, thawed
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt, divided
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 cup milk
- 3 large eggs, beaten

Method

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease a half-casserole baking dish or deep-dish pie plate.
2. Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook and stir sausage in the hot skillet until browned and crumbly, 5 to 7 minutes; drain and discard grease.
3. Stir hash browns, cooked sausage, Cheddar cheese, 1/2 teaspoon salt, and black pepper together in a large bowl. Whisk milk, eggs, and remaining salt together in another bowl. Pour hash brown mixture into prepared baking dish; pour egg mixture evenly over hash brown mixture.
4. Bake in the preheated oven until bubbling and golden, about 45 minutes.

The Mother-Lodge – Rudyard Kipling

There was Rundle, Station Master,
An' Beazeley of the Rail,
An' 'Ackman, Commissariat,
An' Donkin' o' the Jail;
An' Blake, Conductor-Sargent,
Our Master twice was 'e,
With 'im that kept the Europe-shop,
Old Framjee Eduljee.

Outside — "Sergeant! Sir! Salute! Salaam!"
Inside — "Brother", an' it doesn't do no 'arm.
We met upon the Level an' we parted on the Square,
An' I was Junior Deacon in my Mother-Lodge out there!

Cont..

We'd Bola Nath, Accountant,
An' Saul the Aden Jew,
An' Din Mohammed, draughtsman
Of the Survey Office too;
There was Babu Chuckerbutty,
An' Amir Singh the Sikh,
An' Castro from the fittin'-sheds,
The Roman Catholick!

We 'adn't good regalia,
An' our Lodge was old an' bare,
But we knew the Ancient Landmarks,
An' we kep' 'em to a hair;
An' lookin' on it backwards
It often strikes me thus,
There ain't such things as infidels,
Excep', per'aps, it's us.

For monthly, after Labour,
We'd all sit down and smoke
(We dursn't give no banquits,
Lest a Brother's caste were broke),
An' man on man got talkin'
Religion an' the rest,
An' every man comparin'
Of the God 'e knew the best.

So man on man got talkin',
An' not a Brother stirred
Till mornin' waked the parrots
An' that dam' brain-fever-bird;
We'd say 'twas 'ighly curious,
An' we'd all ride 'ome to bed,
With Mo'ammed, God, an' Shiva
Changin' pickets in our 'ead.

Full oft on Guv'ment service
This rovin' foot 'ath pressed,
An' bore fraternal greetin's
To the Lodges east an' west,
Accordin' as commanded
From Kohat to Singapore,
But I wish that I might see them
In my Mother-Lodge once more!

I wish that I might see them,
My Brethren black an' brown,
With the trichies smellin' pleasant
An' the hog-darn passin' down,
An' the old khansamah snorin'
On the bottle-khana floor
Like a Master in good standing
With my Mother-Lodge once more!

Outside — "Sergeant! Sir! Salute! Salaam!"
Inside — "Brother", an' it doesn't do no 'arm.
We met upon the Level an' we parted on the Square,
An' I was Junior Deacon in my Mother-Lodge out there!