

**A Brief History of
ISIS MASONIC LODGE
No. 93 U.G.L.Q.
(formerly Corinthian Masonic Lodge No. 2573 E.C.)
CENTENARY
4th April 1895 – 4th April 1995**

IN THE BEGINNING

ISIS, THE ISIS, THE ISIS SCRUB, and HISTORIC CHILDERS - these names invoke a variety of memories for different people.

It was in 1863 that the first close look was taken at the dense, almost impenetrable, vine scrub which had been seen from distant ridge tops. The reports of the bonanza of hoop pine, red cedar and other millable trees soon brought the timber-cutters and bullock drivers to the scrub, some also bringing their families. Of necessity camps were set up near waterholes, Abington, Kelly's Camp (Stockyard Creek), Grout Camp and South Isis being among the earliest. Other settlers began crop farming, mainly growing corn and pumpkins, while others were charcoal burners.

Twenty years after the first pastoralists took up their leases of about 16 000 acres at Stanton Harcourt, Agnesvale, Teebar and Eureka, the Queensland Government offered leases of 100 acres plus to settlers, who were required to clear the land and purchase it by yearly instalments. As the scrub was cleared, the rich red volcanic soil, some 25 000 acres in extent, and in parts, over 40 feet in depth, was revealed.

As one part of the area was opened up, other areas were investigated and quickly settled. These included such localities as Goodwood, Apple Tree Creek, Cordalba, Huxley, North Isis, Knockroe, Isis Central Mill, Barnes' School area and later Booyal.

Sugar cane soon began to establish itself as the main crop; juice mills were built (at Doolbi in 1890), the juice being transported to Yengarie, on the Mary River, for processing into sugar. Other mills were set up at Knockroe and by the C.S.R. Company at Huxley, all being superseded and consolidated in the Isis Central Mill by the early 1930's.

Some twenty years after the Isis Scrub was first sighted a new and permanent settlement was established on the crest of a ridge, now the main street of Childers, Churchill Street, and the previously proposed township at Isis Junction, to be called Isistown, never eventuated.

The rapidly expanding settlements made it necessary for a form of Local Authority to be instituted, separate from that at Howard, and the Isis Divisional Board was proclaimed on 31st December 1886. The construction of the railway line from Howard to Goodwood, and from Isis Junction to Childers, in 1887, provided a considerable impetus to the development of Childers and district, and by 1903, when the Isis Divisional Board was abolished and the Shire of Isis proclaimed, the population had more than doubled to over 2 800.

This then was the scenario when, in 1894, Thomas Gaydon arrived in Childers to construct his building, now the Pharmaceutical Museum. It was a rapidly expanding settlement roughly in the middle of a scrub, with the nucleus of a road system and street design, and bush roads and tracks leading to the settlements in the surrounding areas of the Shire.

FOUNDATION OF THE LODGE

A "Brief History of Corinthian Lodge No. 2573 E.C." in the Jubilee Year Book of Masonry (pages 70/71), which was submitted by the then Secretary, Wor. Bro. John R. Wrench in 1908, provides some information on the initial moves to found a Masonic Lodge in the fledging community of Childers.

A meeting of Freemasons was convened by the local Police Constable, Richard William Henderson, and- Thomas Gaydon towards the end of 1894. On 24th January 1895 the first meeting at which it was resolved to found a Lodge was held in the Isis Divisional Board's Hall. A vote was taken to decide under which Constitution, as there were Brethren from all three Constitutions, resulting in favour of English Constitution, and Thomas Gaydon was appointed Secretary. There being no Brother able to take the Master's Chair, a request was preferred to Wor. Bro. Robert Henry Blissett of Goodwood, a Past Master of Star of the East Lodge, Maryborough, which was accepted.

Corinthian Lodge No. 2573 E.C. was inaugurated on Thursday, 4th April 1895 at 7.30 pm in the Isis Divisional Board's Hall, at which the District Grand Master, Most Wor. Bro. A.C. Gregory presided, and was assisted by Grand Lodge Officers, Wor. Bros. Fenwick and Clark.

INSTALLATION,

Following the Opening and Consecration, the District Grand Secretary, Wor. Bro. Fenwick, assisted by Wor. Bro. Clark, first Installed Wor. Bro. Blissett as Worshipful Master, and then Invested Bro. J. Cameron as Senior Warden, Bro. G. Nixon Junior Warden, Bro. G. Eales Senior Deacon, Bro M Birkett Junior Deacon, Bro. J Thompson Inner Guard, Bro. A. Taylor Tyler, Bro. W. Cran Treasurer, and Bro. T. Gaydon Secretary. A photocopy of the first pages of the Attendance Roll may be found in the middle pages of this booklet, and it is interesting to note the various Lodges of the Worshipful Master and thirteen Master Masons who were Founding Members, and their occupations.

The early years of a Lodge are obviously not easy, as membership must be increased to become viable financially, and Lodge equipment and furniture obtained as soon as possible in order to be self-sufficient. Wor. Bro. Wrench credits Star of the East Lodge for the assistance rendered by them, and it is also known that Tyrian Lodge at Bundaberg was the sponsor of Corinthian Lodge.

Being midway between Maryborough and Bundaberg, the Lodge at Childers has had many visiting Brethren from other Lodges, none more so than in the early years of this Lodge. In this regard, we may well cast our minds back to the conditions which prevailed at the turn of the century. Working hours were 48 per week, which included work on Saturday, for a wage of about two pounds per week.

Consider also the mode of transport, by buggy or on horseback, the bush roads or tracks to be travelled, the time taken to travel 10, 20 or 50 miles, no electric or gas light, and we begin to appreciate the dedication of those Brethren who made the effort to be present at meetings. From the records of the Minutes, it seems that meetings were held usually during a period of bright moonlight, and this practice carried on for several decades, the majority of Regular Meetings being held on Friday nights.

THE FIRST YEARS

The first years were times of establishment and learning under the guidance of Wor. Bro. Blissett, affectionately referred to in the Jubilee Year extract by Wor. Bro. Wrench as "Our Daddy" and in addition to being the first Worshipful Master, he was called upon again in 1896/97 and 1897/8, when, first, Wor. Bro. Cameron - who conducted only four meetings after his Installation - resigned due to a change of residence, and then Wor. Bro. Birkett resigned in 1897 as a result of a dispute over the contract for the building of the Hall.

In the fifteen months following the formation of the Lodge. Brethren were required to quickly familiarise themselves with the working of the Degrees of the Ritual, although they were often assisted by Visiting Officers. In this period, the nomination of 6 Candidates for admission and 2 as Joining Members required an intensive study of the three Degrees, and in 12 meetings all candidates were raised to the Degree of Master Mason, members being complimented on a number of occasions by the Worshipful Master on their proficiency.

At the first Regular Meetings, it was agreed to open an account with the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney at Bundaberg, an appropriate set of By-laws based upon those of Tyrian Lodge was approved, and even though decided to be somewhat premature at that time, the possibility of organising a Masonic Ball was discussed.

It is interesting that the joining fee was set first at £1.11.0, later corrected to £1.1.0 (one guinea) for members of English Constitution, and £1.11.6 for other constitutions, and that the provision was made in the By-laws for part of this fee to be set aside in a Building Fund. In 1907 a minimum wage was set, being two guineas (\$4.40 in today's currency) for 6 days work. This fee therefore appears to have been roughly equivalent to half a week's wages.

The Warrant, which was received prior to the meeting on 4/10/1895, was then signed by all Founding Members except Bro. Henderson, who unfortunately had been transferred from the area.

A proposal that a Masonic Ball be held was again put forward in April 1896, and it appears that the first Masonic Ball was held in Childers soon after, the cost of the tickets being set at £1.1.0, LADIES FREE. In the minutes of the meeting on 5/4/1899 there is a reference to Ball tickets costing £1.1.0 admitting "one Gentleman and one or two Ladies".

CONSTRUCTION OF HALL

With the objective of building a Masonic Hall in mind, a Committee was formed as early as 24/7/1896 to investigate and recommend a, suitable allotment, and their recommendation of the present site in Macrossan Street, at a cost of £30.0.0, was approved at the next meeting, and the Deeds for the land were received in April 1897. Council rates on the land were 6 shillings and 3 pence per year up to 1899. In 1900 rates were increased to £1.2.6 and in 1901 to £1.17.6.

The way being now clear to consider building, a Committee was appointed to look into ways and means, and to obtain plans. Wor. Bro. Blissett offered to advance £120-130 on favourable conditions, and Bro. Taylor promised to clean the land of brush and undergrowth, while Bro. Slater promised to contribute a 1000 gallon rainwater tank.

Plans were obtained from an architect, Mr. Faircloth, the building to cost about £ 170 , and the Committee reported that loans were available, one being up to £ 150 from the Commercial Bank of Sydney on terms, and another from the Bank of North Queensland at the ordinary rate of interest, whereupon Wor. Bro. Blissett offered funds on the same

conditions. This generous offer was accepted, and it was agreed to proceed with the construction of the building. This comprised the main part of the lower section of the present building, but it was not completed without dispute, as a result of which the Worshipful Master, Wor. Bro. Birkett tendered his resignation.

The first meeting in the hall was held on 8/10/1897, the Consecration being temporarily deferred. Until October 1897 Lodge Meetings had been held in the Childers School Room, by courtesy of the Head Master.

In September 1899 the necessity to provide ante-room accommodation was considered, and, one of the three options was approved, but details and cost have not been discovered.

Tenders were called in May 1900 for the painting of the front of the hall, which apparently cost 3 pounds 8 shillings for labour, and in November the ventilation of the hall was improved.

On 4/9/1908, the Trustees were empowered to raise the necessary funds from the Bank for the construction of additions and alterations to the hall, in accordance with plans provided by Mr Faircloth, who had been the architect for the earlier construction also. Tenders for the construction of the second story were well above the estimated cost of £250, but one was recommended at the October meeting, and confirmed at the Lodge Meeting on 6/11/1908, the tender of J.E. Sharpe for £368 being the lowest.

CONSECRATION OF HALL

The Consecration of the Masonic Hall was held at 3pm on 9/7/1909, the ceremony being carried out by the District Grand Master, R. W. Bro. A.J. Stephenson, assisted by the Deputy District Grand Master, R.W. Bro. A. Corrie, who, in 1920, was the first and only Grand Master of the temporary Queensland Grand Lodge, and the first Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of Queensland, inaugurated on 27/4/1921. In attendance there were 9 officers of the Lodge, 14 members and 12 visitors, Wor. Bro. T. Gaydon again being Master of the Lodge for 1909-1910 year.

Thus ends the saga of the Isis Masonic Hall, the lower section being only months short of 98 years of age, the complete building being a reasonably healthy 86 years old.

It was resolved on 26/3/1915 that electricity should be installed in the Hall, it having recently become available in Childers, thus ending the dark ages, barring blackouts caused by storms and lightning strikes.

CHANGE OF NAME

The name "Corinthian" having become popular with Masonic Lodges, it is not surprising that there were three Lodges bearing that name in Queensland prior to the establishment of the United Grand Lodge of Queensland in 1921.

The first "Corinthian" Lodge was at Charters Towers, having been consecrated on 31/12/1890, being No. 340 under the Irish Constitution. The second was "Corinthian Lodge No. 2573 English Constitution", inaugurated at Childers on 4/4/1895, while that at Wynnum, consecrated on 25/2/1914, was No. 1135 Scottish Constitution.

When a "Grand Lodge of Queensland" was established in 1904, it had on its roll 39 Lodges, 25 under the Irish Constitution and 14 from Scottish Constitution. Corinthian Lodge at Charters Towers was one of these, and was registered as "No. 22 G.L.Q.". The Grand Lodge of England, however, refused to recognise what it described as "this

irregularly-formed Lodge", and in fact expelled or suspended a number of Queensland Brethren.

On 26/1/1905 the Lodge at Childers, by special dispensation of District Grand Lodge, discussed the situation, and voted 16 to 1 "That the members of Corinthian Lodge No. 2573 E.C. are in favour of the formation of a Sovereign Grand Lodge of Queensland". Special meetings are recorded to have discussed the proposition again on 30/5/1910, 17/5/1912 and, 26/7/1919, voting unanimously in favour at the first two meetings, and 32 to 1 at the third meeting.

In order to facilitate the establishment of a "United" Grand Lodge of Queensland a temporary "Queensland Grand Lodge" was formed by the District Grand Lodges under the English and Scottish Constitutions on 30/4/1920, and it was agreed that Lodges on its Roll be provisionally numbered according to the dates on which they were originally established. As a result Corinthian Lodge No. 2573 E.C. became No. 65 Q.G.L., the first meeting under the new Grand Lodge being on 17th December, 1920. The Corinthian Lodge at Wynnum became No. 173 Q.G.L.

When the United Grand Lodge of Queensland was formally inaugurated on 21/4/1921, the chronological order of establishment prevailed, with the Lodge at Charters Towers retaining the name "Corinthian", its number being No. 71 U.G.L.Q. The Lodge at Childers, having been asked to select a new name, became "Isis Lodge No. 93 U.G.L.Q.", while that at Wynnum became "Tuscan Lodge No. 235 U. G. L. Q."

However, this Lodge operated as "Corinthian Lodge No. 65 Q.G.L." from 17/12/1920 to 17/6/1921, and then "Corinthian Lodge No. 65 U.G.L.Q." until 14/10/1921, the name and number, changed to "Isis No. 93 U.G.L.Q.;" appearing in the Minutes on 11/11/1921.

Reference was made previously to the losses the Lodge suffered in the first years due to prominent Brethren being transferred or leaving the district. In particular the lack of Past Masters, whose expertise would have been helpful in the working of the Lodge, was a real concern. For five years Wor. Bro. Blissett was the sole Past Master, and on his death in 1903 the Lodge then had only three Past Masters. The Lodge lost another three Past Masters during 1904, 1906 and 1907, and it was not until 1910, when there were six Past Masters active in the Lodge, that the situation was stabilised.

LOSS OF WORSHIPFUL MASTERS

The deaths of several officers of the Lodge are recorded in the Minutes of Emergent Meetings, when, having received a Dispensation from the District Grand Lodge, Brethren attended, or marched in procession in their regalia, thus showing the face of Masonry in public.

The funerals of Bro. Dr. Hancock (S.C.) on 3rd. November, 1897, and of Bro. W.J. Young (JW), on 16th May, 1902, (when Brethren escorted the latter's casket from his house to the railway station, and then attended the funeral in Maryborough,) were two such occasions.

However it was the death of Wor. Bro. T.J. Perkins, who was installed as Worshipful Master on 22nd July, 1910, that created public interest and sorrow. He had previously been a member of Charles Blakeway Lodge No. 2451 E.C. at Engcobo, Cape of Good Hope, and had attended at Field Hospitals and concentration camps in the South African War. Wor. Bro. Perkins had been in Childers about five years, having purchased a private practice from Wor. Bro. Dr. Challands, and he was also Medical Officer at the Isis District Hospital.

Wor. Bro. Perkins had a history of previous ill-health, and on 15/8/1910 he suffered a ruptured blood vessel while returning from a case at Horton, and despite the attention of Dr. Lee Garde of Maryborough, who also conveyed him to a Maryborough Hospital, he died on Wednesday, 17th August, 1910, aged 41 years. Some 39 Masons escorted the casket in procession from the train to the cemetery at Apple Tree Creek, where Wor. Bros. Thomas Gaydon and John Wrench recited the ritual on the 19th August. By coincidence, that night he would have conducted his first meeting as Master of the Lodge.

Isis Lodge later suffered the loss of another Worshipful Master, in the person of Wor. Bro. D. W. Mitchell, who was installed on 19/6/1937, but died while in office about 10/4/1938.

NEW LODGES PROPOSED

A petition from several well-known Brethren for a Lodge at Dallarnil, to be known as "Lodge of Continuity" was presented by Wor. Bro. Wrench at the meeting on 30/10/1914, to which this Lodge gave its approval.

At the same meeting Wor. Bro. Wrench presented a similar petition requesting approval for the establishment of a Royal Arch Chapter, to be known as "Corinthian Chapter". After an explanation of the R.A. work by the Visiting Brother who was directing the movement, the consent of the Lodge was given to this petition also.

BRETHREN ON WAR SERVICE

It was resolved at the Meeting on 22/10/1915 that an Honour Board should be provided on which to record the names of Brethren from the Lodge who volunteered for service in the 1914-18 War. Located on the West Wall of the Lodge this Honour Roll, headed "TO THE CALL FOR LIBERTY", records the names of Bro. Thomas DEDMAN, who was killed on 26/7/1916, and Bro. Ernest John RAWLINGS, son of Wor. Bro. John Rawlings, who died in May 1918. Their sacrifice is enshrined in the Hall of Memories in the Isis Shire Council Building. Other names on the Honour Roll are Bros. William Montague OAKES, Robert Samuel GANT, Edmund Gore GOODWIN, Louis BOUTTELL and James William HARBOTTLE, (who was not Initiated until 1/11/1919, and this resulted in some controversy a few years after the Honour Board had been completed in 1919).

LEST WE FORGET

The names of six Brethren from this lodge who served in the 1939-45 War have been discovered in the Minutes. They were Wor. Bro. C.M. Wrench and Bro. S.C. Christie, in 1940, Bros. H.H. Brown and W.J. Kliese in 1942. Bro. L.C.W. Garland, then a Sergeant in 9th Division A.I.F., was nominated as a Candidate in 1943, Initiated, Passed and Raised in 1944, the latter ceremony being carried out by Ravenshoe Lodge on 1/11/1944. Brethren were welcomed back to the Lodge on 19/10/1945 and 15/2/1946, and on the latter occasion Bro. F.J. Valiance's name was noted.

A RECORD YEAR

A perusal of the Minutes shows that a considerable number of Emergent Meetings were held during the first thirty years or so in order to initiate, pass and raise candidates expeditiously, but the record year was 1915/16. In 1916, in the six months to 16th June, a total of 18 meetings were held, during which 12 First Degrees, 12 Second Degrees, 10 Third Degrees and an Installation were carried out. The total for the 12 months from July 1915 to June 1916 was 27 meetings and 48 Degrees, with 3 Second Degrees and 6 Third Degrees not completed until October 1916.

Until about 1960, there were several other years in which as many as 8 candidates were initiated, passed and raised to the degree of a Master Mason. An average of almost five candidates per year was maintained over the 65 years to 1960, when declining numbers of candidates began to affect many lodges.

A Lodge functions well when the Worshipful Master is supported by dedicated officers, especially the Secretary and the Treasurer, and in this regard Isis Lodge has been most fortunate, 4 Secretaries having served a total of about 75 years, and 6 Treasurers over 80 years. Wor. Bro. T. Gaydon was Secretary for the first year, later to become the longest serving Treasurer, Bro. W. Cran being the Treasurer for the first year, 1895-96.

Secretaries who served for lengthy periods were-

Wor. Bro. J.R. Wrench 1/6/1906 to about 19/12/1923 (over 17 years)

Wor. Bro. W.G. Hutton 23/9/1928 to 27/6/1953 (over 24 Years)

R.W. Bro. L.T. Thompson 25/6/1960 to 28/1/1977 (over 16 years)

Wor. Bro. R.M. Robinson 23/6/1979 to - 1995 (16 years)

Other Brethren who served for various periods ranging from 7 years to 1 year were-

Wor. Bro. G.A. Miske (7),

Wor. Bro. H.W. Lee (6),

Bro. N.S. Woodroffe (5),

Wor. Bro. F.S. Lound (3) Bro. T.R. Pink (2),

Bro. D.H. Robinson and Wor. Bro. T. Gaydon (1)

Treasurers who served for 6 years or more were-

Bro. F. Poeppe 13/6/1898 to 12/6/1908 (10 years)

Wor Bro. T. Gaydon 12/6/1908 to 4/6/1909 and 9/6/1911 to about 15/2/1935 (over 24 years)

Wor. Bro. A.C. Copp 15/2/1935 to 25/6/1955 (over 20 years)

R.W. Bro. H.N.C. Stephenson 23/6/1962 to 27/6/1970 and 24/6/1972 to 24/6/1978 (14 years)

Wor. Bro. B.C. Christiansen 27/6/1981 to 27/6/1987 (6 years)

Wor. Bro. T.R. Guppy 25/6/1988 to - 1995 (7 years)

Other Brethren who had periods of service from 3 years to less than 1 year were-

Wor. Bro. J.R. Hughes (3),

Bro. IC. Knowles (3),

Wor. Bro. R. Hill (2),

Wor. Bro. R.C. Fitzsimmons (2),

Bro. G. Nixon (2),

and Bro. W. Cran, Wor. Bro. W.J. Ilett, Wor. Bro. H.J. Sinclair, Bro. J. Harley,

Wor. Bro. R.G. Hume and Bro. R.G. Lovett (per Wor. Bro. R. Williams) 1 year each.

In addition to the years of service given by Secretaries and Treasurers a number of Brethren were found to have filled other offices for lengthy periods. Those which came to notice were:-

Organists - Wor. Bro. C.M. Wrench 1920-21 and 1928-41. He was also nominated each year 1942 to 1945, but was apparently not invested, being on War Service.

Wor. Bro. R.C. Sigston was Invested in June 1950 and served continuously until 1972, except for the 3 years, June 1961 to June 1964, associated with his turn as Worshipful Master.

Director of Ceremonies - Wor. Bro. C.H. Sigston 1936-37, 1941 to 1945 and 1947 to 1962.

Chaplains - Bro. S.D. Bolton 1923 to 1931.

Wor. Bro. J. See 1934 to 1937 and 1938 to 1961. He was also Director of Ceremonies from 1930 to 1933.

Tyler -Bro. J. Thompson - recorded as serving for 19 years in broken periods until his death in 1945 aged 94 years.

RELATIONSHIPS

In a fairly close-knit community such as the Isis area it is understandable that a considerable number of Brethren of Isis Lodge were related in some way, as Grandfathers, Fathers, Sons, Grandsons and Brothers.

Worshipful Masters and their Sons who also became Worshipful Masters of Isis Lodge are listed below.

Wor. Bro. Thomas Gaydon, a Foundation Member 4/4/1895,
and his son Wor. Bro. Thomas Geoffrey Gaydon, Initiated 16/12/1927.

Wor. Bro. William Thomas Ilett, a Foundation Member 4/4/1895,
and his son Wor. Bro. Harold Arthur Ilett, Initiated 28/11/1941.

Wor. Bro. John Robert Wrench, Initiated 12/2/1896,
and his son Wor. Bro. Clarence Meredith Wrench, Joined 30/7/1920 (ex Anglo
3517E.C., Brisbane)

R.W. Bro. Charles Henry Sigston, Initiated 19/11/1926,
and his sons Wor. Bro. Reginald Charles Sigston, Initiated 4/11/1949,
and Wor. Bro. Stanley Geoffrey Sigston, Initiated 27/3/1953.

There are so many instances where relationships are known or suspected amongst Brethren - some 50 surnames at least with possible relationships in the region of 150 - that it would be difficult to include them within the scope of this booklet, and without a great deal of research to ensure the accuracy of the list. Never-the-less the information now extracted is a starting point for further research.

Music significantly enhances Masonic ceremonies, and it is not surprising to find that Bro. (Dr) F. Challands initiated the purchase of an organ as early as 1898 by a donation of £5.0.0, which was matched by two other Brethren, the Lodge at that time having incurred considerable expense in furnishing the Hall. Bro. Challands was a musician of considerable ability, but regrettably he transferred to Mudgee, N.S.W., in 1906, and for about 10 years there is little reference to any Brother officiating as Organist.

The existence of a Masonic Choir might have gone unnoticed, but for a footnote on a printed Meeting Notice which indicated that "the Choir would also attend the Installation Practice". Minutes of Installation Meetings in the early 1950s merely record that "the Choir sang an anthem", but no other information has been noted.

MAINTENANCE OF HALL

Maintenance of the Masonic Hall has through the years been an on-going concern, and would have been a much greater expense had it not been for the voluntary repairs carried out by Brethren, often at the cost only of materials, and sometimes these at cost price only. One expense noted in 1956 was £397 for repairs and replacement of weather-boards.

Since 1976 significant maintenance work included replacement of the iron roof and a complete re-wiring of the electricity system by voluntary labour, re-stumping of the Hall, and, in March this year, a complete re-nailing of the external weather-boards, by Brethren at the cost of the hire of a "cherry picker". Internal and external painting has always been a recurrent expense and a drain on Lodge finances. Replacement of windows in the Lodge room was funded by donations from Brethren in the mid 1980s, and this was followed by

replacement of the lower windows a year or two later. Refurbishment of Lodge furniture and the donation of carpet for the dais, and later carpeting the Lodge room have enhanced its appearance.

This brief history would be incomplete without an acknowledgment of the initiative, zeal and generosity of Worshipful Masters and Brethren, not only for the good of Freemasonry in general or the Isis Lodge in particular, but also for the good of the local community. Of necessity very little has been written in a biographical form of Brethren who have contributed much to the life of the Lodge, and in many instances have also held high public office in Local and State Governments. Not all Brethren would aspire to high office in the Lodge, and we pay tribute to the many Brethren who, by their faithful service, have helped establish and maintain our traditions, and trust that those who follow will build on this foundation.