

BLACKBURN UNITED NEWS

MARCH 2011

The March meeting saw a demonstration of the First Degree by Officers of the lodge. The ceremony went very well with Ben Hodkinson acting as candidate. Well done to all brethren involved.

Having brought our meeting forward to the First Monday may have contributed to only two visitors attending, both on official District duties. Certainly the first “skinner” since the inception of the newsletter in 1992.

TLC CORNER

Peter Cleary attended our lodge meeting and is getting around much better after his recent knee operation.

To any indigent brethren and their families, a speedy relief to your suffering.

CONDOLENCES

Our sincere condolences to George and June Elliott on the loss of their son, Geoffrey, who passed away on February 22nd, aged 46 years. Geoffrey was a well respected employee at his various companies, especially during his last 8 years at Samson Hire, where any job given would be completed on time and efficiently. Geoffrey was involved with scouting, from the Cubs through to leadership roles as an adult until his untimely death. His other loves were his family and 4 wheel driving.

THE BOWLING BOYS

Unfortunately Don Boyd and Bert Elway’s Pennant teams failed to reach the finals, while Ian Belling’s Ferntree Gully team went out in the semi final. Ian had the pleasing consolation of being a member of the Club Champion Fours team, and will soon play off in the final of the Mixed Pairs and the Men’s Club Triples. Members of his Triples team were recently runners-up in a tournament at Thorpdale and brought home a few bags of spuds, some of which will be presented as wedges at the Fish Day on March 20th.

TRAVELLERS

Ron and Robyn Pidcock have been enjoying a visit to family at Lismore where their daughter, son-in-law and two granddaughters live. The joy was soured somewhat near Tamworth when the car blew up and Ron spent more than its resale value getting it fixed! They plan a trip to England later in the year, taking a production of “Trial by Jury” for several performances in the UK.

RUBY WEDDING

Congratulations to Ian and Joan Clark on their 40th wedding anniversary, on February 26th. The happy couple celebrated the occasion by heading to Perth for a relaxing break, particularly keen on a trip South of Perth to the Margaret River winery area.

POLO SHIRTS

Brethren are reminded of Tom Sterling’s organisation of lodge Polo shirts. Tom will place orders for shirts of your preferred sizes. Green and gold shirts with the Masonic emblem and Blackburn United 915 featured, and priced at a low \$20.

MASTER'S MESSAGE

Greetings ladies and brethren. At our March meeting we conducted the demonstration of the First Degree ceremony. My thanks to the Officers involved and special thanks to Ben Hodkinson for acting as candidate.

The Installation team continues to rehearse diligently leading up to our proposed Special Meeting on March 29th seeking Grand Lodge approval for our team to conduct Installation Ceremonies. The team will seek the support of all officers and brethren to fill the lodge in support of their efforts. Dress is jacket and tie. Tentatively 7.30pm.

Our April meeting will be the traditional Vacant Chair Ceremony, in the capable hands of Les Bailey, with a team of ex-servicemen. Please support Les by attending rehearsal for this most solemn and important ceremony.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

By the time you read this newsletter the Fish Day would have been conducted on a balmy autumn day at the Oakes' Blackburn South home where all brethren and their families would have enjoyed the fish and salads provided.

Ladies Luncheon at Waverley Golf Club on June 19th.

Next social committee meeting on May 18th.

FOX ON THE WAY

After a chance meeting with Simon Fox at K-Mart Rowville recently, we received the good news that Simon and Ailsa are expecting a baby on September the 7th. We look forward to Simon making the proud announcement at a future lodge meeting.

ECHUCA TRIP

While the Official Visit to Echuca has been postponed, it was good to hear that the Bassetts, the Sunderlands and the Oakes visited Echuca at their March meeting to see the initiation of Grant Stapleton. Grant is the son of John and grandson of Jim. Happily the three generations were in attendance in good spirits. Congratulations to Grant and we look forward to monitoring his progress in the Craft.

BIRTHDAYS

David Chambers	5/4	Don Forbes	6/4
Ross Ward	9/4	Don Boyd	11/4
Derek Budd	18/4	Stan Gee	20/4
Ben Hodkinson	26/4	Lionel Rex	26/4

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