

# The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 50 March 2016



Most Worshipful Brother Geoff Edwards OSA.

## An International Success Story.

In a recent discussion Wor Bro Carl Planting, a new member of Lodge de Goede Hoop and a Brother with a most interesting international Masonic background, told me about Wor Bro Greg Goding, a renowned and respected Australian Freemason. Greg and his 6 sons are all members of Burleigh Lodge in Queensland and the sons (and a nephew as well) are the family's 7<sup>th</sup> Masonic generation. Their very special success story makes interesting reading.

In the English 2<sup>nd</sup> degree tracing board charge, incidentally, the candidate is taught that 3 rule a Lodge, 5 hold a Lodge and 7 make it perfect - and the Godings on their own make Burleigh a perfect Lodge!

In a 9 year period the Lodge increased its membership by 72 Brethren, giving them a total of 110 members. At the time of the analysis they had 34 members aged 18 - 40, 44 members aged 40 - 60 and 32 members aged 60 - 85.

This growth came about largely due to the application of some basic philosophies promoted by Greg and included in an address "Order in the House" which was presented by Greg to over 75 Masonic audiences around Queensland and the rest of Australia. Greg firmly believed that for Freemasonry to prosper it had to change much of its approach and his 1½ hour message encompasses what he believes are some of the most important factors to ensuring membership retention and growth.

While Greg's success formula is very simple, it has worked extremely well for his Lodge. He really boils it down to 5 basic points which have to be put in place for a Lodge to be successful. They are :

1. **Harmony** - there must be an absolute and perfect harmony within the Lodge. No arguments, no

nastiness, no disputes, no niggling at each other, but perfect respect for each other at all times.

2. - **Effective BoMs** - the business part of the meeting must be restricted to the shortest time possible. We simply don't have the luxury of being able to waste the time of those attending our meetings by reading minutes or correspondence or having long-winded discussions within the Lodge meeting.

3. **Ritual Work**. - the ritual always has to be performed as close to perfect as humanly possible. It is our ritual which sets us aside from any other organisation. It is the responsibility of each and every one of us to ensure that the ceremonies are performed well. It is the ritual which actually "hooks" the new Freemason as a committed member of the Craft.

4. **Festive Boards**. - in this modern and hectic life we are all short of time. To allow a Festive Board to go on too long is a sure way to drive good men out of the Craft. Speeches should be kept to the minimum. The food must be good, well presented and filling.

5. **Avoid the Cringes**. - this is something that we have to eliminate completely from our Lodges. It can be anything at all, but a good rule of thumb is that it is that thing that makes us look at the floor, pull at our collars or shuffle our feet. It is the Brother who talks too long, criticises other members, waffles on about himself (generally), has to speak on every item raised, argues every point and simply annoys the other Brethren. It is rife in far too many Lodges and has to be culled from all Freemasonry.



Greg Goding & Carl Planting (centre) with Greg's sons

Inevitably, the level of recruitment and growth enjoyed by Burleigh Lodge created some interesting challenges. As an example as to how they went about catering for some of these, Burleigh Lodge "adopted" 2 other Lodges (Meridian & Millennium) who were about to surrender their charters. The Brethren belonging to Burleigh were then automatically members of all 3 Lodges and set about working in all

of them. As, however, the structures in each one of the 3 Lodges was different, talented Brethren were able to progress far faster and more effectively than they would have been able to in a single Lodge structure. They continually explore other new ideas which will make them more efficient in running their Lodge.

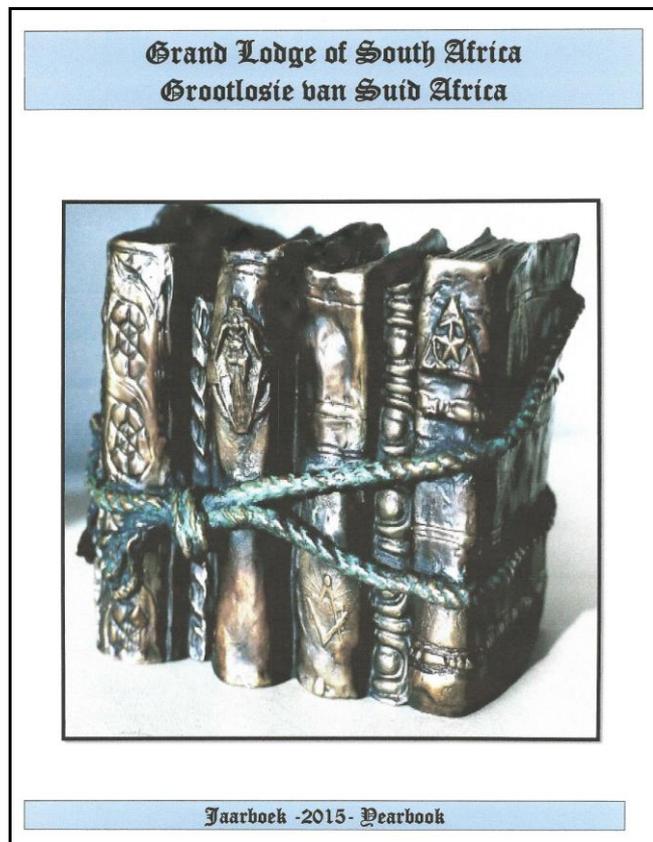
The reality is, Brethren, that the challenges that we face in our Grand Lodge are not unique to our environment. Lodges all over the world are having to address similar issues and, inevitably I guess, some Grand Lodges and some Lodges are faring better than others. Greg Goding and Burleigh Lodge are a fine example of what can be achieved and they have some interesting views on changes that we could perhaps consider. We do, however, have a number of Lodges in our own Grand Lodge who are also succeeding admirably and we fully support Greg's emphasis on Freemasonry being a Quality experience.

Our challenge now is to get this culture of striving for Quality and growth inculcated in all our Lodges so that each and every GLSA Freemason can enjoy the richest possible experience.

**MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM  
Grand Master**

### 2015 Yearbook Released

Brethren, we are delighted to be able to advise you that the GLSA 2015 Yearbook has been released.



This year's edition is considerably earlier than has ever been the case in the past and focuses on providing all the historical information related to our Grand Lodge as at and during 2015. It includes the annual reports of the Grand Master and of all the Provincial Grand Masters as well as including

information for our Royal Arch and AASR jurisdictions. In all cases contact details are provided and there are pictures of all the senior Officers.

While specially printed copies can be purchased through the Grand Lodge office, the publication itself is really intended to be used in electronic form. It has already been loaded on to the Grand Lodge website [www.grandlodge.co.za](http://www.grandlodge.co.za) and will be distributed to all our Lodges and Brethren over the next few weeks.

RW Bro Dave Duncan OSM, our Yearbook Editor, is to be congratulated on a job very well done.

### Sir Christoffel Brand, an Extraordinary Mason

In our 2 previous copies of Square and Compasses we introduced Jacob de Mist and Sir Johannes Truter. The 3rd Deputy Grand Master National of the Netherlands was every bit as impressive a personality and his achievements were, indeed, quite remarkable.

In 1847, Sir Christoffel Brand was appointed as the new Deputy Grand Master National and he held the position for some 27 years. In an article by Silberbauer he writes that "no Brother can be said to have exercised so great an influence on the destinies of our Constitution" – and Brand certainly left a



great deal to be remembered by. He was a grandson of one of the founders of Lodge de Goede Hoop and was from a well respected Masonic family. Brand is credited with "adjusting matters in the Symbolic and High degree branches of his jurisdiction"; played a major role in developing the long-term relationships between the Constitutions and was a great Masonic ambassador, travelling far and wide in his support and promotion of Netherlandic Freemasonry. Lodges such as Aurora (Pretoria), Unie (Bloemfontein), De Morgenster (Kroonstad), St Jan (Malmesbury) and la Belle Alliance (Swellendam) were examples of Lodges opened during his term of office – and he visited them all, on horse-back, on an extended tour through the Cape Colony, the Free State and Transvaal in his 73<sup>rd</sup> year. Taking into account the travel facilities at the time, this in itself was truly remarkable.

As with his predecessor, Brand had a Doctor of Law degree from Leyden. He evolved into politics and was the first Speaker in the Cape's House of Assembly, holding that office from 1854 to 1874 and being knighted in 1859 in recognition of his work. The first meeting of the Cape parliament, incidentally, was held in the Lodge de Goede Hoop banqueting hall. In 1874, Brand relinquished the reins of office and on 19 May 1875, passed to the Eternal East. There is a painting of Sir Christoffel Brand on the wall on your right as you enter the de Goede Hoop Temple, while a hand-written letter from him is to be found in the Masonic Museum area in the Southern Division offices.

**MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM**

## Ritual Excellence Program. (REP).

The Grand Master is constantly stressing that “every Candidate is entitled to a quality experience” in all his degree workings, especially at his initiation.

The Ritual Excellence Program has been created and released as an intervention within the Grand Lodge of South Africa to promote the quality of that ritual working and, of course, the candidate's experience.

The program sets out standards for the quality of the presentations of the ritual in all three Degrees and a process for measuring this quality. Brethren can elect to be tested on their ritual work and can earn credits for performing passages of ritual to a defined standard. These credits are cumulative in each Degree until the candidate earns enough to entitle him to recognition. "Ritualists" and "Senior Ritualists" are rewarded with lapel pins while Master Ritualists and Grand Ritualists will be rewarded with Grand Lodge Jewels.

The program is open to everyone, from the newest Apprentice to the oldest Past Master, and is designed to ensure that everyone who participates will improve in the performance of their work. There is no such thing as failure in the REP; merely varying degrees of success. This will not only encourage each Brother to develop his ritual presentation skills, but also incite our new members to emulation. It is a proven fact that if the standard is high, men will aspire to better themselves and hence progress towards to the goal of self improvement and personal growth.

The new program has been launched in both the Northern and Southern Divisions and we have already awarded our first credits for work well done.

We congratulate Bro W Welthagen (14 credits, 1<sup>st</sup> degree, Lodge Prins Frederik), Bro W Wepener (8 credits, 1<sup>st</sup> degree, Lodge Star of the Rand), Bro Z Fourie (6 credits, 1<sup>st</sup> degree, Lodge Koh-I-Nor) and Bro C J Cornelius (4 credits, 1<sup>st</sup> degree, Lodge Koh-I-Nor) on rising to the challenge and being the first to gain recognition in our Ritual Excellence Program.



RW Bro Alan van der Vyver and his team have designed and implemented the program and are to be congratulated on a job extremely well done. We have no doubt that our new initiates will more than benefit from their efforts as time goes by.

## Annual Installation of Lodge Alpha No 89.

Lodge Alpha's was the first Installation for 2016 and took place at the Grand Lodge Centre, Orange Grove on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016. It was attended by the Grand Master, MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM, who was accompanied by the Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro Dave Duncan OSM, and a number of Grand Lodge Officers. Bro Emmanuel Nwaubani was installed into the chair in front of a packed Temple with upwards of 70 Brethren present.



*MW Bro G Edwards OSM, Wor Bro E Nwaubani, Wor Bro G Macintosh and Wor Bro P Roos.*

Wor Bro Gavin Macintosh APGM, was the Installing Officer. He gave a most relevant address and performed the ritual working with great dignity. He was ably assisted by the excellent performance of all of the Provincial Grand Lodge Officers. Whilst we will never promote pride as a Masonic virtue, the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Alan van der Vyver could be forgiven for his very satisfied smile.



*RW Bro A van der Vyver, Wor Bros D Bailes and P Roos and, bottom right, Wor Bro N Wallach.*

The outgoing Master, Wor Bro David Bailes, produced an eloquent valedictory report in which he detailed the successes of the Lodge over the past year. It was not all plain sailing, however, and his observations were astute and to the point. We are sure that a cognisance of these issues will help the incoming Master to address these issues and to focus his interventions for the future with confidence.

A further highlight of the evening was the presentation to Wor Bro Norman Wallach of a 50 years service jewel. Bro Norman is not very mobile nowadays and it was a real pleasure to see him in Lodge again, even if in a wheelchair. The Grand Master noted that Bro Norman has been a stalwart of the Lodge for many years and during the periodic “dark days” of Lodge Alpha, has taken the Chair on no less than 5 occasions. He is a legend within his Lodge and has every reason to feel extremely proud of the contribution that he has made. We wish him the best possible health for many more years to come.

**“Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or lose.”**

*Lyndon B Johnson*

## Behind the Scenes: Chains Conference 2016.

It is often perceived by the junior members of the Order that the Grand and Provincial Commissioned Officers only attend Installations and ceremonial events. This is far from the truth and it is interesting to note that at the Provincial level, Installations represent about 20% of their Masonic labour and at Grand Lodge level, no more than 5% of the labours required.

As an Order, we have all of the administrative challenges that a medium sized business has and then some. These often involve “people” issues, and we are all very aware that we are in the “Brotherly Love” business.

In 2015, we held a Chains Conference to make sure that all of the Commissioned Officers in the GLSA structures were fully informed about the challenges that we faced and the programs being implemented to most effectively address them, so that we may continue to take our Grand Lodge forwards in these interesting times.

As in any business, we need constantly to review progress and set new challenges. The Conference is a discussion forum where everyone has his say and interacts with his counterparts from his other parts of the country. A typical example of discussions would include why some Lodges are doing really well whilst others are dying. What makes some successful and what can we do to emulate this success.

In most cases it is merely an attitude of mind. Successful Lodges have effective leaders and enthusiastic followers, just as the ritual prescribes. The members of these Lodges work together, play together and involve their families to create a harmonious whole that defines the character and ambiance of the Lodge. The less successful Lodges tend not to do this. They tend to focus on disruptive practices and inter-personal issues which ultimately destroy the ambiance of the Lodge and its value to its members.

If your Lodge is not a happy place, then how will you achieve a meaningful Masonic experience from attending the meetings?

The 2016 Chains Conference is taking place in conjunction with the AGM of the Central Division. The central situation of Bloemfontein facilitates the attendance of our Commissioned Officers and the facilities provided and hospitality offered by our Brethren in the Free State makes sure that we also can “have fun whilst at labour”.

You may rest assured that whilst you are enjoying your activities “on the Square”; we are hard at work making sure that you will be able to continue to do so.

**RW Bro Dave Duncan OSM**

## Almoner's Corner.

It is with much sadness that we have to report that Bro Trevor Marcus (Lodge First United) has been called to the Eternal East after an accident in which he was crushed by a falling wall at his home. It would appear that the recent heavy rains had destabilised the wall. We request that each of us keep Lorraine and the family in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

On a happier note for the Lodge, Eastern Division's Deputy PGM, Wor Bro Basil de Kock, is recovering well after his short spell in hospital.

### Grand Almoner

Brethren, the Grand Almoner is only as effective as the information he receives. Please, if anything is known about a Brother in distress, be sure to phone RW Bro Neville Klein OSM at 071 4148869 or send him an email to:

*[kleinneville@gmail.com](mailto:kleinneville@gmail.com)*



### The Power of Two.

Brethren; I fear that, in far too many Lodges, the role of Almoner is sadly neglected. It is left to one Brother to try to make the effort to contact anyone not present at the last meeting and determine why. While, in principle, this may be fine, it is simply not enough for an organisation in the “Brotherly Love business”.

Can I suggest that your Lodge considers the following approach: Each more senior Brother is given two more junior Brothers to “look after”. They will then become mentors and guardians of the junior Brethren that they are responsible for. Regular contact should be implemented and any concerns reported to the Worshipful Master.

It can be seen that with each member having to make no more than two phone calls, the whole of the Lodge membership can be covered with ease. At no more than 5 minutes a call, no member in the Lodge need ever be overlooked or forgotten about and each and every Brother will always know that somebody cares.



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(0) 83 256 6682 or on [heyneketours@telkomsa.net](mailto:heyneketours@telkomsa.net) for more  
information on this tour and other arrangements.