

NEW MASONIC TEMPLE

CONSECRATION AND DEDICATION

To-morrow will be an historic occasion in the history of Freemasonry in Bowen when the New Masonic Temple in Gordon Street will be consecrated and dedicated by a party of District Grand Lodge officers from Townsville, Ayr and Home Hill, headed by the District Grand Master (Right Wor. Bro. A. D. Charge).

The Temple itself is a very handsome addition to the architecture of our town and no pains or expense have been spared to make it in every respect worthy of the institution it represents.

Its completion is the result of years of effort on the part of the local brethren, who have steadily accumulated enough money to enable them to proceed with its erection, and it will doubtless remain as a monument to their self-sacrifice for many years to come.

The history of Kennedy Masonic Lodge makes rather interesting reading and is exceptionally rich in traditions. It stands as No. 11 on the register of the United Grand Lodge of Queensland, and has been the sponsor and mother Lodge for the Charters Towers, Anderson, Proserpine, Devlin, and Bowen Lodges during its long career.

The first meeting was held in Clifton's Buildings on October 17th, 1864, (70 years ago) with Mr. D. W. Lambe in the chair. On January 5th, 1865 a Lodge Room was acquired from Mr. Wills of Wills Hotel, and there the first Lodge meetings were held.

A discussion about a new building was begun in August 1878, and in November 1879 the Lodge shifted into the building just vacated, with the late Wor. Bro. F. W. Myles in the chair. The building cost about £150, and £100 of this was taken up in £5 debentures.

Since then fifty-eight individual Masters have held the chair, several having held it twice and one (the late Wor. Bro. C. T. H. Cheffins) three times. The oldest Master at present with us is Wor. Bro. J. E. Kelly, who was in the chair in 1908. Twenty-nine Secretaries have held office, the most conspicuous being the late Right Wor. Bro. Alex MacKenzie, who officiated for eleven years. Wor. Bro. H. Macklin did similar duties for eight years.

He did similar duties for eight years. It is a tribute to their faithful efforts that the history of the Lodge is perfect, and all minute books are still in an excellent state of preservation.

In 1922 on the occasion of the visit of the Grand Master M.W. Bro. Chas. Stumm, K.C., the Lodge had the honour of entertaining four of their brethren, whose combined ages at that time totalled 320 years, viz. Bro. W. H. Toms (84 years), Wor. Bro. D. Miller (80 years), both of whom were Initiates of the Lodge in 1869 and 1871 respectively, Wor. Bro. F. Hooper (75 years) and Rt. Wor. Bro. A. MacKenzie (80 years) who was initiated in Scotland in 1863.

All these brethren have since passed away, but the memory particularly of Rt. Wor. Bro. MacKenzie's guidance, strength and example over a period of more than 40 years still happily remains as an inspiration and example to all who are Freemasons.

Thus we pass to the transfer of this ancient Lodge to a New Temple, and it is believed that the foundations of Masonic structure so well laid by the brethren who have passed to the Grand Lodge above, and the traditions handed on to the present generation, will lose none of their lustre as they are in time passed on to the generations that are to come.