



WBro. Bruce Smith

The Prince Of Wales Lodge No.1338



Bruce Andrew Smith, was born in Takapuna in 1936, and educated at Cornwall Park School and Auckland Boys Grammar.

Having attained School Certificate Bruce entered the Fire and Accident insurance industry, initially with Guardian Assurance, then with Transport Industry Fire & General Insurance and Excess Insurance. Having established his career with Insurance Companies Bruce became an insurance broker. He retired from the insurance industry after more than 25 years and with his partner Carol, purchased a suburban café which they ran for several years before fully retiring.

Bruce completed his compulsory military training, and at the end of the statutory four years was a Sergeant in the transport division of Royal NZ Artillery. 25 pounder Guns, Limbers, Quads, Chev, V8 Ford and GMC trucks were the equipment of that time. He volunteered on and served for another thirteen years as WO II. Battery Sergeant Major, 13 Battery, 1st Field Artillery Regiment, Royal NZ Territorial Army.

Bruce was brought up in a Masonic family. His father had been master and then Secretary of the Prince of Wales Lodge. Family friends included many members and past masters. All Bruce's 5 uncles were masons.

Bruce was initiated by his father into the Prince of Wales lodge on 10 July 1969, rising to become Master in 1976.

He was the lodge representative on the Market Road Masonic Hall Fraternity from 1976 to 2000, Chairman of the Ellerslie Masonic Centre from 1994 to 2001 and served as a Trustee on the Northern Masonic Trust Board from 1995 to 2001.

Bruce was first appointed to District Grand Lodge as DAGDC in 1979, rising to PDGDC in 1981 and PDSGW in 1986 before being appointed as Assistant DGM in 1992 and then Deputy District Grand Master in 1994, an office he held until 2001. He served as President of the Board of Benevolence from 1983 to 1985.

Bruce was first appointed by the United Grand Lodge of England as PAGDC in 1992, promoted to PJGD in 1994 and PSGD in 1996. At that time his was the highest rank below DGM allocated by London to members of our district.

Bruce joined the Auckland Chapter of the Royal Arch Masons in 1971, rising to serve as First Principal in 1981, holding that office for two years including the Chapter's centenary year. He was appointed DDGDC in 1983, DGDC in 1984, PDGSN in 1985 and served as Third District Grand Principal from 1988 to 1990. He had conferred Supreme Grand Chapter Rank as PGStdBr in 1989 and PAGSoj in 1998.

Bruce is also an active member of the Te Awamutu Rose Croix Chapter No.471. It is the only English 18th degree Rose Croix Chapter operating in New Zealand. After progressing to discharge the duties of Most Wise Sovereign he served the Chapter as Director of Ceremonies for 15 years and rose to the 30th & then 31st Degree. Supreme Council in London elected Bruce to the 32nd degree, he currently being one of only three English masons to hold that high English Rank in New Zealand. Past District Grand Masters, Ross Collins and Ivan Whale being the other two.

He was initiated by his father into the Prince of Wales lodge on 10 July 1969, rising to become Master in 1976.



WBRO BRUCE SMITH



He was first appointed to District Grand Lodge as DAGDC in 1979, rising through many offices to become DDGM in 1994.

The Prince of Wales Lodge

www.englishmasons1338.org.nz

The Prince of Wales Lodge, No. 1338, under the United Grand Lodge of England, was founded on the 18th day of December, 1869, and consecrated on Thursday, the 28th day of September, 1871, at the Masonic Hotel, Princes Street, Auckland, by Bro. J.J. Fitzgibbon, Past Master of the Waitemata Lodge, No. 689, E.C.





.Since the mid seventies Bruce has been very active as a volunteer with Coastguard. He joined Auckland Coastguard as a volunteer Rescue Vessel Skipper with his 36' Corsair launch "Vicuna". In 1983 he was elected President and appointed as SAR Controller in 1984. In his time he has served for many years as a marine SAR advisor to the Police, was a Board member for some 30 years and has spent many years as a Search & Rescue Co-ordinator, a role he continues to this day. He also continues as the editor of the monthly magazine to the volunteers of the 23 Coastguard Units throughout the Northern Region extending from Raglan to North Cape to Cape Colville.

During his busy masonic years as part of the "Chain Gang" (12 years) Bruce's wife Carol gained her Batchelor of Arts as a student at Massey University. She continued with her research and studies and elected to complete a Thesis for her Masters (MA). Interestingly the topic she chose was

"Civilised men ... members of the craft:
**Freemasonry in Auckland to the formation of
the Grand Lodge of New Zealand in 1890."**

During her research she was especially grateful for the immense assistance afforded her by the librarians of the Irish, English and NZ masonic libraries. Her framed degree Certificates hang proudly in their family home in Takapuna.

Bruce has always been very appreciative of the courtesies afforded him throughout his masonic career. He enjoyed the friendship and brotherhood of his fellow masons and is in awe of the opportunities presented. Bruce really derived great fulfilment from serving freemasonry in the various roles and ranks that he felt privileged and honoured to hold.

Unfortunately Bruce's health restricted his masonic activity somewhat during his later years with his serious Lung decease requiring fulltime oxygen 24/7.

*Bruce Smith
May 2013*



The Prince Of Wales Lodge No.1338

The Prince of Wales Lodge

www.englishmasons1338.org.nz

The Prince of Wales Lodge, No. 1338, under the United Grand Lodge of England, was founded on the 18th day of December, 1869, and consecrated on Thursday, the 28th day of September, 1871, at the Masonic Hotel, Princes Street, Auckland, by Bro. J.J. Fitzgibbon, Past Master of the Waitemata Lodge, No. 689, E.C.



The Prince Of Wales Lodge No. 1338 EC
Biography Research 2010