



He was initiated into the Prince of Wales' Lodge in 1937 and served as Master in 1953.

# WBro. Thomas Stratton

*The Prince Of Wales Lodge No.1338 EC*



Thomas Stratton was born in and grew up in Wanganui. His father, Matt Stratton, was a Signals Inspector for the Railways and was killed on a motor trolley at work.

After leaving school, he was apprenticed as an electrician to New Zealand Railways and served out his apprenticeship at the Aramaho workshops. In those days, railways electricians were not usually given full registration as an electrician but Tom succeeded in becoming fully qualified and registered as such.

His main work was in signaling and he transferred to Auckland, eventually being promoted to a very senior role. He was also given a transfer to Tauranga but his family didn't like it so he returned to Auckland. He stayed with the Railways until he retired.

After retiring, he joined Hank Godfrey at Kyd Garrett where he serviced electrical tools.

He married Terri in Auckland and they had three sons; Thomas, John and Mark. He was very proud of his namesake as young Thomas was the first member of his family to go to university and obtain a degree.

For many years the family lived in a Railways house in Middleton Road, Newmarket.

He was well known as being a very "straight shooter" who had no hesitation in letting you know how he felt about something or someone.

Contemporaries recall he was often on call. On one occasion, when he was master of the lodge, he arrived at the lodge (then held in Princes Street) only to be contacted and called out as there had been an electrical failure in the Auckland railway yards, only a few minutes from the lodge. Off he went, still dressed in his dinner suit, fixed the problem and arrived back at the lodge, still immaculately dressed, in time to open the lodge.

When younger he was very keen on motorbikes and later on cars, the Vauxhall 12 being a favourite. He was an enthusiastic supporter of motor racing, a member of the Grand Prix Association and a regular at events first at Ardmore and later at Pukekohe. He was also a keen rower and rowed for the St George and Union clubs.

Thomas was initiated into the Prince of Wales' Lodge in 1937 and served as Master in 1953.

Thomas was appointed DGStdBr in 1958.

*Acknowledgement:*

*V.W.Bro. Reid Polkinghorne, PDGM (NZC)*



He was appointed DGStdBr in 1958

## The Prince of Wales Lodge

[www.englishmasons1338.org.nz](http://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.

