



The Prince of Wales Lodge No. 1338 EC



Ivan Eaglestone Whale

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Bro. Whale was born in Auckland on the 26th May 1910, his forebears having come to N.Z. from Windsor in the mid 19th century, to settle in Onehunga and Howick. He completed his education at Seddon Memorial Technical College and entered the construction industry. In due course he formed his own business and ultimately owned and headed a group of companies involved in civil engineering, roading, quarrying, travel agents and importing.

Bro. Whale was involved in many sports including golf, yachting, fishing, bowls and rugby. He was not only a successful participant in these but he was actively engaged in their administration, becoming president or patron of many of the clubs he was associated with. His principal community interests include service to Rotary since 1947 and as a founding trustee of the Northern Masonic Association which owned and operated the residential homes in Auckland and Rotorua as well as the outstanding geriatric hospital at Mount Roskill. For his work in Rotary he was made a life member of the Onehunga Rotary Club and awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship. He is a Life Trustee of the Northern Masonic Association (now the Roskill Foundation) and is its Patron.



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In Freemasonry he was made a Mason in the Prince of Wales Lodge in 1943, and Master in 1952. He was appointed District Grand Pursuivant in 1954 and passed through many ranks until he became DDGM in 1964. His first appointment to Grand office was as Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1963, Past Junior Grand Deacon in 1967, and DGM for Auckland in 1968.



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Bro. Whale's energy, enthusiasm, his interest in others and his ability to bring others along with him by his willingness to delegate, stood him in good stead in his Masonic career as it had in business. He considerably strengthened the relationships with all the other Constitutions and was made an honorary member of many of the English Constitution lodges in the District as well as those of the Irish and Scottish Constitutions. The Grand Lodge of New Zealand granted him Honoris Causa rank as Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1963. His regular annual visits to his family in Windsor also enabled him to maintain close ties with senior members of Grand Lodge and particularly the Grand Secretary which greatly assisted them in their understanding of the relationships of the four constitutions in New Zealand





This became particularly evident and helpful when Bro. Whale and his executive officers in Auckland met with their counterparts in the Wellington District to organise the transition into the amalgamated District of North Island in 1973. This was in reality a reversion to the original District formed in 1876 under Bro. Sir Donald McLean, but the decision by the Grand Master to amalgamate the two Districts in North Island had resulted in some initial concerns. However, complete understanding and goodwill prevailed and the administration of the new District was happily organised and accepted. From then on the strength of English Masonry has been consolidated and maintained.

Bro Whale, who believed that the office of DGM should be passed on during the lifetime of the incumbent, resigned in 1984 and was succeeded by Bro. Ross M Collins who had been his deputy for some years.

In the Royal Arch, he was exalted into Auckland Chapter No. 1338, in 1947, and First Principal in 1957. He was first appointed to District office as Director of Ceremonies in 1961, followed by Scribe N a year later and Third District Grand Principal in 1965. He was appointed Past Grand Standard Bearer in 1963, Past Assistant Grand Sojourner in 1967, and Grand Superintendent in and over the District of North Island in 1968.

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During his term of office as Grand Superintendent, Comp. Whale was invited in 1973 to visit Melbourne, together with three of his Past Grand Officers to assist the Grand Scribe E, Comp. JW Stubbs in consecrating the newly formed Combermere Chapter No. 752 EC. The ceremony in the magnificent temple of the Grand Lodge of Victoria, with Comp. Stubbs as the Consecrating Officer, assisted by Comps. Whale, Edward A Miller, and Ross M Collins as the principal Officers together with Comp. Vernon Avery as Acting Grand Director of Ceremonies, was impressive, both Masonically and musically. At the following meeting of Supreme Grand Chapter in London, the event received a special commendation. The occasion resulted in a close fraternal and personal relationship between the District and the brethren of the English Constitution in Victoria. Comp. Whale and the other principal officers were made honorary members of the Combermere Chapter.





In letter to Bro. Whale in 1985, from Bro. the Hon. Edward L Baillieu, the Deputy Grand Master, in expressing his appreciation of the hospitality shown to him everywhere during his visit to New Zealand he wrote:

"I find it difficult to know where to start,. You have done so much to make my visit to NI, NZ. such a memorable and happy experience. Although you would deny it, I am certain that your behind-the-scenes influence was of great importance and was a potent factor in making everything run so smoothly. Of course your great experience in the District, and the outstanding success of your reign as D.G.M was a great help to you - and to me. It would be surprising indeed if you do not feel some real sadness on relinquishing your command. But I believe your timing is excellent. You can - and must - look back with real pride. You are handing over a District with high morale and to a successor of proven merit. All of which makes you a true Masonic statesman. Grand Lodge has every reason to be deeply grateful to you - and I am sure that they are! You have done a magnificent job, and you will certainly continue to have great influence here (in New Zealand) and in London when you can be there. I value our friendship greatly and much look forward to seeing you again. "

Though now able to enjoy a well-earned respite from the responsibilities of active office in the District, Bro. Whale maintains a continuing interest and participation in the affairs of his lodge, chapter and the District itself.

When the Grand Master decided in 1973, that the two Districts in the North Island should become one, Bro. Whale was designated by him as the DGM for that District, under the authority of the patent he held. Like any other major change of bodies which had been in existence largely unchanged for some 96 years, there was bound to be some resistance.

In particular, it would be expected that there would be resistance from members of those lodges which were some considerable distance from the new 'centre' of the District in Auckland. Bro. Whale like many great and successful men in history is of small build and has such natural skills of man-management and personnel care that he was, able to bring all points of view together very skill fully by his example and manner. Thus what could have been a very difficult period passed with few major problems to solve. There were of course many small details which had. to be addressed as they occurred but the team which he gathered around him dealt with these under his guidance in a manner which signified the best of Masonic tradition. Even though the two Districts at 6 and 17 lodges respectively were spread geographically, they were both very close knit groups of lodges, honed to a fine tradition over those 96 years, so the task of putting them together and developing a new sense of being one organisation was quite enormous. It was like most commercially successful companies important that the man at the top chose and led the right team.

Extract from "A History of Freemasonry in North Island New Zealand" by W.Bro. Alan Bevins, the production of which was sponsored by The Prince of Wales Lodge, Remuera Lodge and United Masters Lodge

