



# WBro. W.J. Boden

*The Prince Of Wales Lodge No.1338*



William James Boden was born 1882 in Patumahoe, where his father James served on the school committee. He was educated at Patumahoe School, Auckland Grammar and Auckland University.

In 1900 he started his teaching career at Waiokaraka School before moving to Mahurangi School as Headmaster in 1903. In 1909 he became Second Assistant Master at Grafton School and thereafter transferred to Grey Lynn School. He served as Headmaster at Coromandel District High School (1919), Taurunui District High School (1922) and Grey Lynn School (1924) successively.

In 1926 he was appointed a Schools Inspector and moved to Wellington, where he was promoted to Senior Inspector in 1931. In 1933 he transferred back to Auckland and then to Nelson as Senior Inspector in 1935. After two years in Nelson, he then transferred to Wanganui.

In addition to his teaching roles, he was the President of the Public Schools Assistant Masters Association and in that capacity was, in 1919, involved in erecting a memorial tablet at the Masonic Hall in Newton (the former lodge rooms of Eden Lodge in Upper Queen Street) to commemorate those teachers who died in World War One.

He also served as the acting Secretary of the Auckland Branch of the NZ Educational Institute until his promotion to Inspector.

In 1907, he married Florence Evelyn Barker and they had two daughters, Evelyn and Constance. Evelyn won a scholarship in 1924 and followed her father into teaching.

In his spare time he was a keen bowler and played for the Grey Lynn Club in Auckland as well as joining other teachers to make up an education team for some tournaments.

William died in 1939 in Wanganui after a short illness at the early age of 57.

William was initiated into freemasonry in the Rodney Lodge No. 1711 while teaching at Mahurangi School. He joined the Prince of Wales Lodge in 1909 and rose to serve as master in 1914.

In District he was appointed DGStwd in 1915, DGstBr in 1916 and DSGD in 1925.

## *Sources:*

*Contemporary newspaper reports*

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[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.



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