

HISTORY

Preface

Because of the unfortunate loss of Lauriston's early minute books and other records, this history has had to be compiled from the Annual Installation Programmes and the memories of the writer and other long serving Brethren. They are therefore very incomplete and in some cases possibly inaccurate, for which apologies are offered.

I have found that several members who took part in or witnessed early events have quite different memories as to what happened. This is quite common in Historical Research. Even newspaper reports (notably inaccurate at times) are more reliable than most people's memories of past events. There are many accepted stories about George Town's early history which the writer has found to be totally incorrect when researching into original written sources.

However, it is hoped that this history will be of interest to those who read it. It can be safely accepted that the dates and names taken from the Installations Programmes are reasonably accurate. The writer has enjoyed writing it and the research has brought back many happy memories of people and past events.

Bro. J.G. Branagan
(Foundation Member, Life Member)

THE HISTORY OF LAURISTON MASONIC LODGE No. 72 (T.C.) GEORGE TOWN 1956 – 1987

Although Lauriston Masonic Lodge was not formed until 1956, there have been Masons in George Town district from its earliest settlement. The second-in-command of Colonel William Paterson's expedition, which landed in Outer Cove (now called York Cove) on 4th November 1804, was Captain Anthony Fenn Kemp, a Mason, who later became a 33rd Man. Although he had nothing to do with Masonry in George Town – he was only here for about seven weeks – he was later connected with the formation of the early lodges in Hobart, where he became a prominent citizen. The town of Kempton in Southern Tasmania was named after him, and his original land grant was "Mt Vernon", at nearby Melton Mowbray. The beautiful old "Mt Vernon" homestead is still in good order and is classified by the National Trust.

The next known Freemason in George Town was Governor of the Australian Colonies, Lachlan Macquarie, who visited the site of George Town in 1811, and again in 1821. He ordered that the "capital" of Northern Van Dieman's Land be transferred from Launceston to George Town in 1819 after considerable resistance and delaying tactics by Launceston people. In 1812, he had issued the well known plan of George Town which shows Regent Square and the streets exactly as they are today. George Town's glory was short lived, as headquarters were moved back to Launceston in 1825.

There were several Masons at Low Head in the 1830's and 40's. Adye Douglas (later Sir Adye) owned 20 acres on the Low Head Peninsular which he sold to Joseph Cordell, who thereafter owned and farmed virtually the whole of Low Head, as well as being a pilot. Both Douglas and Cordell were members of St. John's Lodge, Launceston in the 1840's.

Wor. Bro. Lushington Goodwin, who later lived at "The Grove" and whose grave may be seen in the St. Mary Magdeline Anglican Church yard, George Town, joined St. John's Lodge in 1845. Bro. Joseph Cordell joined in 1846, and some of his descendents are member of the craft today.

In 1847 Benjamin Hyrons, a publican of George Town was a Mason. He was a member of St. John's Lodge, and land-lord of the Freemasons Inn, George Town. This Inn later became the home of the Woodgate Family, and was unfortunately demolished a few years ago to make way for the present Ambulance Station in Anne Street. Hyrons owned one of the earliest steam boats trading on the Tamar River, and lived in the small yellow cottage on the corner of Anne and Cimitiere Streets that later became the residence of Mr O'Dougherty.

John Duigan, who joined St. John's Lodge in 1857, was the first manager of the Bass Strait Cable Station at Low Head in 1859.

Mr. Steele Traill of the Low Head Pilot Station and Captain J. Paterson of George Town were both members of St. John's Lodge in the mid 1800's.

In 1881 the foundation meeting of Pembroke Lodge (E.C.) was held in the Old Rectory, George Town, which is where the present Council Chambers now stands. Many of the members of Pembroke Lodge, which moved to Lefroy shortly after its consecration, still have descendants living in George Town and other parts of Tasmania.

Wor. Bro. Alan Davidson's grandfather, Wor. Bro. W.E. Davidson, and Wor. Bro. Walter Lustig's father-in-law, Wor. Bro. A.D. White, were Masters of Pembroke Lodge, which finally closed at Lefroy in 1920, after the gradual decline of the gold mines. Some prominent George Town residents who were members of Pembroke Lodge were Captain Robert Harris, David Petrie, A.R. Quinn, W.E. Parry, C.A. Tregurtha, E.P. Tregurtha, A.D. White, Charles Croyden Adams (first Warden of George Town), T.C. Simpson, Thos Opie and E.P. Richardson (school teacher).

George Town faded to a very small town in the early 1900's after the closure of most of the mines. When the Second World War ended in 1945, George Town had a population of only about 300 people and consisted of largely holiday homes for Launcestonians. The decision to establish the Aluminium works at Bell Bay brought about a boom, with the result that there were now about 7000 people here. Among the newcomers were many Freemasons, including a number from Scotland, and they decided the time was ripe to establish a Lodge. By 1954 they were holding preliminary committee meetings, including unofficial Lodge of Instruction of which J.G. Branagan was the first Secretary.

The early meetings of Lauriston were held in the George Town Methodist Hall, till the Temple was built in 1961.

1956 - The following Masons signed the necessary petition to the Grand Lodge of Tasmania, asking for a Charter to be granted for a new Lodge to be called Lauriston. Most of these were George Town residents, but a number were Launcestonians who had holiday homes in the districts:-

Name	Rank	Lodge
A.C.J. Cameron	P.G.D. P.M.	Empire
J.A. Finch	M.M.	Spencer (S.A.).
A. McCallum	M.M.	Empire
A. Spinks	M.M.	Empire
H. Kubank	M.M.	Empire
L. Barnard	M.M.	Empire
A. Mackay	P.M.	Empire
K. Marsden	P.G.S. P.M.	Centenary
S.C. Martin	M.M.	Sorrento (Vic)
M.W. Pretty	M.M.	St. John's
J.G. Branagan	M.M.	Roland
G. Brown	M.M.	Army and Navy
J.M. Gray	M.M.	Tas. Reunion
J.G. Dineen	M.M.	Empire
H.M. Taylor	M.M.	Empire
J.S. Woolcock	M.M.	St. John's
H.C. Gray	M.M.	St. John's
C.A. Triptree	M.M.	Empire
A. Anderson	M.M.	St. Andrew's
T. Knowles	M.M.	Old Grammarian
F.G. Stewart	M.M.	St. Andrew's
G. Hodges	M.M.	Hope
G.C. Miller	M.M.	Empire
M.S. Colgrave	M.M.	St. John's
R.J. Davis	M.M.	Roseberry
L.C. Newman	M.M.	Geelong Service Mens
R.C. Waddle	P.M.	Empire
R.C. Randall	M.M.	Churinga
J.G. Badman	M.M.	Athol (vic)
J. McDade	M.M.	Empire
E.J. Anstree	M.M.	Army and Navy
M.C. Burton	M.M.	Hope
T. Butterworth	M.M.	Centenary
J.E. Bastwick	M.M.	Hutchins Old Boys

The petition for a Charter was granted and on Saturday 13th October 1956, the Ceremony of Consecrating the new Lodge and installing the first officers was carried out by the Grand Master of Tasmania, Most Wor. Bro. F.J. Carter, C.M.G. and his team of Grand Lodge Officers.

The Consecration Ceremony commenced at 5.20pm with the opening of a Lodge by the Master and Officers of Empire Lodge No. 37, Tasmanian Constitution, The Mother Lodge of Lauriston. At 5.45pm a large number of visiting Brethren from most parts of Tasmania were admitted, after the Lodge had been raised to the 3rd Degree. At 6.15pm the Grand Master and his Officers entered, followed by the singing of the National Anthem and the usual opening ceremony with appropriate odes. The Ancient Ceremony of Consecration was then conducted including the Oration by the Grand Master, the Consecratory Prayers, the Invocation, the Three Processions and the Anointing with Wine and Corn and Oil, and the Three Perambulations by the Grand Chaplain with censor and burning of incense, all with appropriate music.

Most of the local and visiting Brethren and even some of the Grand Lodge Officers had not previously seen a consecration and all agreed it was a beautiful and impressive ceremony.

After the Consecration the M.W. Grand Master and his team conducted the Installation of Wor. Bro. Cyril Cameron, P.G.D. and his Wardens, and the Investiture of the other officers.

These other foundation officers were Wor. Bro. A. MacKay, I.P.M.; Bros. J. Finch, S.W.; A. McCallum, J.W.; Lance Barnard, Chaplain; Arthur Spinks (Senior), Treasurer; H.M. Kubank, Secretary; Wor. Bro. K. Marsden, D.C.; Bros. S.C. Martin, S.D.; Max Pretty, J.D.; J.G. Branagan, I.G.; G. Brown, Tyler; and the Stewards were Bros. J.M. Gray and G.J. Dineen and H.M. Taylor: Floor members on Board of Management were Bros. H. C. Gray and J. McDade; Auditors, Bros. G. Hodges and J.M. Gray; Trustees, Wor. Bro. Cyril Cameron and Bros. J. Woolcock and H.C. Gray.

All the Brethren present then proceeded to the George Town Memorial Hall where a sumptuous banquet was provided by the Ladies Committee. These same ladies had been raising funds for several years to pay for most of the cost of establishing the new Lodge. Had they not worked so hard it would undoubtedly have been some years later before Lauriston could have started and all members are very grateful for their support. The Lauriston Ladies have continued to work from 1956 to the present time (1989), providing suppers for Installations and raising funds for the Lodge. The first new member of Lauriston, initiated into the Entered Apprentice Degree at the first regular meeting on Friday, 16th November 1956, was Mr Alfred Waratah Widdowson. He was a son of the late Wor. Bro. A.S. Widdowson of Tamar Valley Lodge at Exeter. He is also the father of our present member (1987) Bro. John Widdowson. Bro. A.W. Widdowson eventually reached the chair of King Solomon in Lauriston, and passed to the Grand Lodge above several years ago.

1957 - During the past year we lost one of our foundation members, Bro. Charles Triptree, who passed to the Grand Lodge Above on 21st January, 1957. He was a son of the late Wor. Bro. Triptree of the now defunct Pembroke Lodge at Lefroy. We also regretfully said goodbye to several members whose employment made it necessary for them to move to other districts. We welcomed seven new members, some by initiation and others by affiliation.

At the second Installation on 19th October, 1957, conducted by the Grand Master, Most Wor. Bro. Vernon Jones, the incoming Wor. Master was Bro. Alec McCallum. The foundation Secretary, Bro. Harold Kubank was re-elected for a further term. He was a very capable officer and it was largely owing to his hard work that the Lodge was satisfactorily established.

1958 - On the 7th April, 1958 Lauriston Brethren were shocked by the passing to the Grand Lodge Above of the very popular and efficient Treasurer, Bro. Arthur Spinks (Senior). As is the usual custom, he was given a Masonic Funeral at which a large number of the Brethren were present.

During 1958 there was a somewhat unusual double Initiation. Mr Max Hammond and his son Frank were made Entered Apprentices in the one ceremony. A large number of visitors from other Lodges attended to witness this rare occurrence.

1959 - For the 1958-59 year the Master was Bro. Harold Kubank, who had previously served a term as Warden in his Mother Lodge before coming to George Town. Bro. P.R. Bird took Bro. Kubank's office of Secretary. The Installation was conducted by Most Wor. Bro. F.G. Carter, D.M.G.T., the Grand Master, and was followed by the usual banquet in the Memorial Hall. In the year ended 18th October, 1958, there was an unusually large influx of fifteen new members, eight by initiation and seven by affiliation.

On the 17th October, 1959, the Grand Master, Most Wor. Bro. Vernon Jones installed as Wor. Master, Bro. S.C. Martin.

During his term of officer there were six new Entered Apprentices. Also, in 1960 we lost two members who passed to the Grand Lodge Above. They were Bro. Harold Gray, foundation member and donor of the land on which the Temple is built, and Bro. Harry Davidson. Harry did not join the Lodge until he was over 70 years of age. He was the son and grandson of Masons, and the father of our present Past Master, Wor. Bro. Alan Davidson. Harry Davidson owned his father's Masonic Apron and showed it to the writer (who was his proposer) and several other Brethren before his initiation.

1960 - The Wor. Master for the 1960-61 year was Bro. Geoffrey Hodges, son of a Past Master, and father of three sons, all of whom were to be Masters of Lauriston in later years. Geoff was installed by Grand Master Wor. Bro. the Right Reverend W.R. Barrett.

1961 - Eight new initiates and one affiliate joined Lauriston in 1961.

The Grand Master, Most Wor. Bro. Vernon Jones installed Bro. Keith Malone in the Master's chair on 21st October, 1961. This was also the date of the dedication of the new Temple in Cimitiere Street, and Most Wor. Bro. Jones carried out this beautiful ceremony with great dignity. The architect who designed the new building, Wor. Bro. Roy Smith of Launceston took an important part in the Dedication Ceremony.

The contractors who successfully tendered to build the Temple were Messrs. W. Zoon and C Wohlgemuth. They did an excellent job. Neither of them were Masons, but Chris Wohlgemuth joined Lauriston some years later, and is now (1988) Wor. Master. Wor. Bro. Wohlgemuth also built the additions to the building in 1981, at a generously discounted price.

1962 – There were seven Entered Apprentices and two affiliations in the 1961-62 year. We also lost three older members, including foundation member Wor. Bro. R.C. Waddle, who passed to the Grand Lodge Above.

The 1962 Installation of Bro. John Maxwell Gray was conducted by the Deputy Grand Master, Right Wor. Bro. L.P. Abra on 20th October, 1962. During the ensuing year there were ten new members – five Entered Apprentices and five affiliated. One of the latter was Bro. J.C. Sim and another was Bro. the Reverend C.K. Warren.

1963 - Bro. Lance Barnard was installed in the chair of King Solomon by the Grand Master, Most Wor. Bro. T.E. Doe, in October, 1963. The Most Wor. Grand Master was an old school mate of two Lauriston Brethren, A.W. Widdowson and J. G. Branagan, and was a close life-long friend of the latter.

There were three new Entered Apprentices and two affiliated in the 1963-64 year.

1964 - On 5th August, 1964, Bro. Ross Dennison passed to the Grand Lodge Above after a long illness. Shortly before his passing, Bro. Dennison managed with great physical difficulty to attend Lodge and receive his Master Mason's Certificate, even though his illness was terminal and he had very little time left. He was a comparatively young man and was greatly missed by the Brethren.

Bro. E.J. Windsor was installed as Wor. Master on 17th October, 1964, by the Most Wor. Bro. the Right Reverend W.R. Barrett. Wor. Bro. Windsor initiated five new members during his year in the chair, but unfortunately this was offset by the loss of four of our oldest members for various reasons.

1965 - The Master for the 1965-66 year was Bro. Alfred Widdowson (The Lodge's first candidate after formation in 1956). He was installed as Wor. Master on 17th October 1965 by Most Wor. Bro. T.E. Doe. Wor. Bro. Widdowson initiated three Entered Apprentices and there was one affiliate during his year of office. Also during this year we experienced

the passing to the Grand Lodge Above of two more of our foundation members, Bro. T. Knowles and Bro. Bert Bynon. The latter had been in poor health for some years.

1966 - The 1966 Installation of Bro. F.W.P. Hammond on 15th October was conducted by Right Wor. Bro. Albert Marshall P.D.G.M., of Ulverstone. Wor. Bro. Hammond was to have a second term as Master some years later. There were five initiations during this 1966-67 year.

1967 - In 1967 the annual Installation was conducted by another Grand Master from the North West Coast, in the person of Right Wor. Bro. Athol Overall of Penguin. The new Master was Bro. the Right Reverend Charles Kingston Warren, a very popular, if somewhat unorthodox Wor. Master. He and Right Wor. Bro. Overall were old friends, both being members of Peace Lodge at Penguin. There were three initiations and one affiliation in 1966-67.

An unfortunate occurrence in 1967 saddened the members. During an official visit to Heather Lodge in Launceston, Lauriston Bro. S.E. Dwyer was raised to the 3rd Degree but collapsed during the proceeding in the South. He was rushed to hospital but died a few days later. He had become very popular with the Brethren during his short membership. Another sad loss in the same year was the passing to the Grand Lodge Above of Bro. Noel Parish. He too had only been a member for a short period of time.

1968 - The installation on 19th October 1968 of Bro. D.R. Cossins was conducted by Most Wor. Bro. W.H. Hill, Grand Master. During his term Wor. Master, Wor. Bro. Cossins initiated five new members, including his son, Richard. There were two new affiliations.

1969 - Bro. W. H. Park became Wor. Master on this installation by Right Wor. Bro. C. H. Harnett on 18th October 1969. He initiated three Entered Apprentices, and has one new affiliation during his term in the chair. Bro. Glyn Richards was invested as Chaplain, a position he still holds nineteen years later. Unfortunately he has been unable for personal reasons to proceed to higher office, although he has the undoubted ability to do so. Bro. Richards has delivered the Masonic Oration at all funeral of Lauriston Brethren during the past nineteen years.

Two Lauriston Brethren, Bro. Andy Montgomery and Bro. Harry Taylor, passed to the Grand Lodge Above this year. Both were members of Lodges in Scotland before coming to Tasmania in the 1950's. Harry was a foundation member and Andy joined in 1957. Bro. Taylor's widow, Mrs Jessie Taylor, was an active member of our Ladies' committee from its beginning and continued this interest after the death of her husband.

1970 - Bro. L Lendvay was next to occupy the Master's Chair. He was installed on 17th October 1970 by Right Wor. Bro. E.C. Gifford, Deputy Grand Master. There were five initiations during Wor. Bro. Lendvay's period in the Chair.

1971 - On 16th October 1971, Bro. J.R. Warhurst became Wor. Master, on his installation by Most Wor. Bro. E.C. Gifford, Grand Master. During his term in office he initiated five new members, three of whom, Bros. Paul and Leon Hodges and Walter Lustig, eventually reached the Chair of King Solomon in Lauriston Lodge.

1972 - At the 1972 Installation Bro. Alan Davidson was installed by the Right Wor. Bro. H.B. Fowler. Alan is a son of the late Bro. Harry Davidson of this Lodge and a grandson of the late Wor. Bro. W.E. Davidson of the old Pembroke Lodge at Lefroy. His great grandfather was also a Mason in Victoria. Whilst Alan was Wor. Master he had six initiations. He later acted as Lauriston's representative on the Board of the Fred French Masonic Home in Launceston.

1973 - Wor. Bro. Frank Hammond became Master of Lauriston for the second time (the first was in 1966) when he was installed by Right Wor. Bro. J.W. Edwards on 22nd October 1973. He served a second term because of an emergency created by the withdrawal from office of Bro. C. Whittle. While in the Chair this time he initiated five new members including his son, Bro. C.F.P. Hammond. Bro. J. Frain also withdrew from office about this time.

1974 - The 1974 installation placed Bro. G.J. Miller in the Chair of King Solomon. Right Wor. Bro. C.H. Harnett D.G.M. officiated on 19th October 1974. Wor. Bro. Miller initiated one new member and had one affiliate during his year in the Chair.

During 1974 we lost two members to the Grand Lodge Above. They were Wor. Bro. Marsden, our foundation Director of Ceremonies, and Bro. W.G. Archer, father of our present Bro. Lawrence Archer.

1975 - Bro. G.J. Stilgoe was installed Wor. Master on 18th October 1975 by Grand Master, Most Wor. Bro. L.P. Abra. There was one initiation in 1976, and also one re-affiliation of Bro. J.G. Branagan, foundation member, who had returned after twelve years on the North West Coast.

During this year we suffered the loss to the Grand Lodge Above of our foundation member, Wor. Bro. Max Gray, as a result of a fatal car accident on the East Tamar Highway.

1976 - At the Installation on 16th October 1976, Bro. Neil Radford was installed in the Chair of King Solomon by Right Wor. Bro. I.T. Saltmarsh, P.G.W. During Wor. Bro. Radford's year in office there was one initiation and two affiliations. One of the latter was Bro. G.R. Hanson, our present secretary. Bro. Hanson is a son-in-law of our foundation I.P.M., Wor. Bro. Archie Mackay.

1977 - On 15th October 1977, Bro. John McLelland was installed as Master of Lauriston by Right Wor. Bro. F.J.G. Shepherd, P.G.W. In Wor. Bro. McLelland's year there were two affiliates and one Entered Apprentice. Also in this year Bro. J. Frame passed to the Grand Lodge Above.

1978 - Bro. Arthur Spinks, (son of the late Bro. Arthur Spinks) became Lauriston's Master on 21st October 1978. He was installed by Right Wor. Bro. A.J. Paterson, P.G.W. Both the Spinks, father and son, were members of the Craft in Scotland before they came to George Town in the early 1950's. While in office, Wor. Bro. Spinks initiated four new members, one of whom was our 1987 Wor. Master Wor. Bro. Willi Deckert.

1979 - On 20th October 1979, Bro. Paul Hodges was installed as Wor. Master by the Grand Master, Most Wor. Bro. C.H. Harnett. During the year 1979 we suffered the loss to the Grand Lodge Above of three valued members, Wor. Bro. Cyril Cameron, Foundation Master, Bro. W. Burton, and Bro. J McKenzie. Bro. Burton was drowned when his car accidentally ran into the North Esk River. Wor. Bro. Cyril Cameron was one of the Trustees of the Lodge. There were seven initiations in 1979.

1980 - Bro. Walter Lustig became Master of Lauriston on his Installation by Right Wor. Bro. G.F. Dell, D.G.M. on 18th October 1980. During Wor. Bro. Lustig's year of office, Bro. Max Hammond and Wor. Bro. Geoff Miller passed to the Grand Lodge Above. There were no new members for the first time in the history of the Lodge.

1981 - 1981 was a milestone in the history of Lauriston Lodge, as its 25th birthday occurred that year. To celebrate this anniversary the Lodge was re-consecrated on the night of the Installation, 17th October 1981, and the beautiful new Temple added to our building was dedicated. Both ceremonies were presided over by the Grand Master, Most Wor. Bro. David H. Johnstone, assisted by a large team of Grand Lodge Officers. There was also a larger than average number of visitors from other Tasmanian and interstate Lodges. Wor. Bro. Geoffrey Hodges was created a Life Member this year.

The incoming Master was Bro. Anthony Hodges, the third member of this family to be Wor. Master for Lauriston. His father, Wor. Bro. Geoff Hodges was in the Chair in 1960. His brother, Wor. Bro. Paul Hodges, in 1979. His other brother, Leon Hodges, was Senior Warden in 1981. His grandfather, the late Wor. Bro. H.W. Hodges, was Wor. Master of Leven Lodge at Ulverstone in 1914, over seventy years ago.

1982 - The new Wor. Master on 16th October 1982 was Bro. Leon Hodges, the fourth member of this family to occupy the Chair of King Solomon in Lauriston. He was installed by Right Wor. Bro. W.D. Wivell, D.G.W. Unfortunately his father, Wor. Bro. Geoff Hodges, passed to the Grand Lodge Above, before the installation not long after being made a Life Member.

At this stage it is appropriate to mention another member of this Masonic family. The wife of Geoffrey and mother of Paul, Leon and Tony is Mrs Roma Hodges. She has been a tower of strength not only to her husband and three sons, but to the Lodge in general through her help with the Ladies' Committee, particularly at installations. She has provided a great proportion of the floral decorations, including the beautiful small bouquets of orchids for members to take home to their wives.

1983 - The installation of Bro. John F. Reay took place on 16th October 1983, and was conducted by Most Wor. Bro. C.H. Harnett, P.G.M. There were two initiations this year but unfortunately we lost five members to the Grand Lodge Above. They were Bro. W.M. Anderson, Wor. Bro. A. Spinks, Bro. G.L. Peck (Treasurer), Bro. W.M. McMillan and Bro. G. Green. The father of Wor. Bro. Reay, a Past Master from N.S.W., came to George Town to attend his son's installation.

After the installation, Most Wor. Bro. Harnett was asked to present a Life Member's Jewel to Bro. J.G. Branagan, to whom this came as a great shock, albeit a very pleasant one. He found out later that most members, and even his wife and family, had known about it for several weeks. His two sons, Bros. Terry and Donald Branagan, came from Ulverstone to attend this meeting.

1984 - Right Wor. Bro. W.D. Wivell, P.G.W., presided over the installation on 20th October 1984 of Bro. Brent Woolley, who had reached the Chair eight years after his initiation. During his year, Wor. Bro. Wooley initiated Bro. Lawrence Archer, son of our late Bro. W.G. Archer, and had one affiliation, that of Bro. Neil Stephen. Neil came from New Zealand as a Fellow-craft and was raised in Lauriston to the 3rd Degree.

We suffered the sad loss of two of our Past Masters in 1984. They were Bro. Alfred Widdowson who passed to the Grand Lodge Above after a long illness, and Wor. Bro. Tony Hodges who was killed in a bush logging accident only three years after he reached the Chair of King Solomon.

Another loss this year, but not such a serious one was the withdrawal from office of Junior Warden Bro. A. Cooke, a school teacher, who was transferred to Mathinna in the Fingal Valley. Wor. Bro. Paul Hodges was therefore elected to the office of Senior Warden. Fortunately for Bro. Cooke, who affiliated with Lord Carrington Lodge at Fingal which had a vacancy for a Senior Warden, he stepped into that position, thus not losing Masonic rank because of this transfer. He is now serving his second term as Wor. Master of Lord Carrington.

1985 - Wor. Bro. Paul Hodges consequently became Wor. Master for the second time on 19th October 1985. he was installed in that office by Right Wor. Bro. M.E. Sevens, P.D.G.M.

In 1985 we lost Bro. George McKinnon to the Grand Lodge Above after he suffered several years of ill health. Two Brethren joined by affiliation and there was one initiation.

1986 - Bro. Werner Willi Deckert was installed in the Chair of King Solomon on 17th October 1986 by Most Wor. Bro. Harold Williams, Grand Master. Wor. Bro. Deckert experienced a very good year with the admission of several Entered Apprentices, followed by more on the notice paper.

Another of our Past Masters, Wor. Bro. D.R. Cossins, P.G.SW.B., was called to the Grand Lodge Above after a long illness, which he knew to be terminal. It is interesting to

note that at Wor. Bro. Cossins' funeral at the Launceston Crematorium, the service was conducted jointly by Anglican minister, Father Robert Archer, and Roman Catholic priest Father T. Southerwood. Denis was an Anglican but Father Southerwood was a personal friend. The Masonic oration was delivered by Lauriston Chaplain, Bro. Glyn Richards. There was a very large attendance of Masons, both from Lauriston and other Lodges.

Wor. Bro. Deckert, his Director of Ceremonies, Wor. Bro. Walter Lustig, and Senior Warden, Bro. Chris Wohlgemuth, are all natives of Germany. Lauriston has been noted for the number of its members who came from overseas. In addition to a large number of Scotsmen and some Englishmen, we have members from Holland, Italy, Wales, Czechoslovakia, and the West Indies, in addition to Germany. It has been jokingly remarked that we need interpreters to cope with the various accents, particularly the Scottish! All these various nationalities have fitted into the life of the Lodge with true Masonic harmony.

1987 - Wor. Master Chris Wohlgemuth was installed in the Chair of King Solomon in October 1987. During his year there has been an unusually large number of applications for membership (as there was also in Wor. Bro. Willi Deckert's year).

Some of there were I.T. Nixon, Tom Lowe (Junior), Trimble, Emmerton and Peucker.

Official visits were made to a number of other Lodges, including Dorset, Tamar Valley, St. George's, St. Andrew's, Friendship, Empire, Glamis and Lord Carrington.

Visits have been received from a number of Tasmanian Lodges. Individual members have visited Lauriston from several mainland states and from overseas, including England.

Bro. H.A. (Bert) Crawford was called to the Grand Lodge Above in August 1988. At his cremation the Masonic oration was given by our Chaplain, Bro. G. Richards. A large number of Lauriston Brethren attended and also representatives from Launceston Daytime Lodge, of which Bro. Crawford was a member, and from his old Lodge, Leven, of Ulverstone.

The pig roast was as usual held at Bro. Tom Nixon's property at Hillwood, and was very successful, both socially and financially.

Once again, Bro. Lawrence Archer donated several hundred bags of sheep manure from his woolshed. This was bagged and distributed to local gardeners by a working bee of Lauriston Brethren, enabling the Lodge to make its annual commitment of \$400 to the Grand Lodge Fund for Research into Alzheimer's Disease.

1988 - This history of installations terminates with the installing of Bro. Tom Nixon in the Wor. Master's Chair by Most Wor. Bro. David Johnstone, P.G.M., on 21st October 1988.

Most Wor. Bro. Johnstone is of special interest to Lauriston, as it was during his term as Grand Master that Grand Lodge granted us a low interest loan in order that we could complete our old established building with the addition of our beautiful Temple.

We have reason to believe that Most Wor. Bro. Johnstone's support was a major influence in persuading the Grand Lodge to grant our request for this loan.

During the 1987-88 year, Wor. Bro. Chris Wohlgemuth initiated five new members and welcomed two affiliates.

Wor. Bro. Nixon appears to be assured of an equally successful year as there are several names of new applicants on the waiting list, and others have been mentioned.

Although Lauriston has had its ups and downs, with some few regrettably unmasonic incidents in the distant past, in recent years we have been a very happy family. We have been more fortunate than many Lodges inasmuch as we have never been really short of candidates. This is a good thing, as we need new members to offset an unfortunate continuous loss of members being transferred away from George Town by their employment needs. Our attendance is fairly good in spite of a number of members being unable to attend as regularly as they would wish, owing to their being shift workers. Some, who now live in distant parts of Tasmania, attend from time to time.

So far in this record little has been said about our secretaries, treasurers and organists.

These hard working officers receive very little kudos, but without their efforts the Lodge could not carry on.

The following Brethren have carried out these onerous duties:-

Secretaries

1956-1957 Bro. H. Kubank	1968-1969 Wor. Bro. J.M. Gray
1958-1961 Bro. P.R. Bird	1970-1974 Wor. Bro. E.J. Windsor
1961 Bro. G. Stilgoe	1975 Bro. J.W.P. Hammond
1962 Bro. A.F. Hampton	1976-1977 Bro. G.W. Christensen
1963 Bro. J. H. Taylor	1978 Bro. B. Woolley
1964-1965 Wor. Bro. H. Kubank	1979-1980 Wor. Bro. G Stilgoe
1966 Bro. L Backus	1981 Bro. G. Hanson
1967 Bro. G. Stilgoe	

It is also believed that Bro. A.J.F. McLean acted as secretary for a brief period between installations but this is uncertain owing to the loss of our earlier records.

Treasurers

1956-1958 Bro. A. Spinks (Sen)	1965-1967 Bro. D. Parish
1959-1961 Bro. E.J. Windsor	1967-1972 Bro. P. Hannon
1961 Bro. E.R. Ferguson	1972-1983 Bro. G.L. Peck
1962-1964 Bro. A.J.F. McLean	1983-1988 Bro. D. Parish
1964 Bro. A Lendvay	

The position of Organist has sometimes had to be left vacant, owing to lack of members with sufficient musical ability. At one period we used a tape recorder of the musical parts of the ritual, but this was only partly successful. On four occasions members of other Lodges, Bros. H. Pope, J. Sim, W.C. Shaw and B.T. Grace, were appointed to the office, and we are very grateful for their assistance, especially as they had to travel from Launceston for our meetings. We have also been helped by George Town Masons who are not members of Lauriston, including Bro. Ron Johnstone who has been helpful in emergencies.

One of our members has not only been our officially appointed Organist three times (including this present year of 1988) but has acted temporarily on many occasions.

He is Wor. Bro. George Stilgoe, whose services have been greatly appreciated.

Our official Organists have been as follows:

1957 Bro. J. Finch	1970 Bro. G. Stilgoe
1958 Bro. H. Pope	1971-1973 Bro. J. Sim
1959 Wor. Bro. B.T. Grace	1974-1975 Bro. A Kane
1961-1965 Bro. J. Sim	1976 Vacant
1966 Vacant	1977-1981 Bro. A. Cooke
1967 Bro. J. Sim	1981-1982 Wor. Bro. G. Stilgoe
1968 Vacant	1983-1984 Vacant
1969 Wor. Bro. C. Shaw	1985-1988 Wor. Bro. G. Stilgoe

Donations & Bequests

A number of articles of furnishings and other gifts have been made to the Lodge, not only by Lauriston members, but by Brethren of other Lodges.

The most generous gift has been that of the land on which the Temple was built, as already mentioned, by the late Bro. Harold Gray.

The greatest value of all gifts received was that of the Lauriston Ladies' Committee, \$4000 towards the erection of the original Temple, and \$6000 for the new additions in 1981. They have also provided most of the china, glassware, and cutlery and other kitchen equipment. It is doubtful if Lauriston Lodge would exist today without the assistance of the ladies, and the 1981 additions would certainly not have been made. They also financed the purchase of many of the chairs in the supper room, as well as the curtains and other items.

Some of the other gifts have been as follows:

Lodge furniture items, including the Lewis by the late Wor. Bro. J. Sidnell.

Our beautiful (and valuable) tracing boards; painted and presented by the late Wor. Bro. Geoff Tyson, the noted watercolour artist. He was Wor. Master of Old Grammarians Lodge.

A cable tow by the late Bro. Fred Stewart.

The working tools by Wor. Bro. Syd Martin, and made for him by Mr. Ray Abbott, who is believed to have become a Mason in Victoria in later years.

The volume of the Sacred Law was donated by Bro. G. McEwan of Lodge Griffin No. 1254 Scottish Constitution, "with very good wishes for the future".

The silver tray in the supper room presented by the Lodge to the late Wor. Bro. Cyril Cameron on his being foundation Master, and returned to the Lodge as a bequest under his Will.

The Lodge organ, and gavels for a number of our Wor. Masters in recent years presented by Wor. Bro. G. Stilgoe.

The Masters and Wardens chairs by the foundation Ladies' Committee.

The glass display cabinet in the supper room by Mrs. L. Viret, widow of Wor. Bro. Ted Viret.

The Inner Guards admission equipment was donated by the late Wor. Bro. Archie McKay, our first I.P.M.

Since its inception Lauriston has subscribed to many charities and good causes, including the Launceston City Mission, Roland Boys Home, Legacy, bush fire and flood relief funds, as well as assisting some of our own Brethren in distress. One of these suffering a serious long term illness is being helped by the Lodge at the present time and is also receiving assistance from the Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund at the request of Lauriston Lodge.

We have committed the Lodge to give \$400 yearly to the Grand Lodge Fund for Research into Alzheimer's Disease in elderly people. To finance our contribution, Bro. Lawrence Archer donated a large amount of sheep manure from his woolshed. This was bagged and transported by working bees of members and sold to interested gardeners at \$1 a bag. Nearly \$500 was raised.

For several years a pig roast has been held at Bro. Tom Nixon's home at Hillwood. These have been very successful, both socially and financially and have helped finance our charitable activities and Lodge finances generally.

Ladies' nights, at which wives and other family members are the guests of the Brethren, are held annually. These are various kinds of social activities, and in recent years have consisted of a dinner at the Bohemian Restaurant, Dilston. In addition to these regular events we have held progressive dinners, family picnics at Low Head and other places, and various other enjoyable functions. On most of our long distance official visits, when we stayed overnight, we were accompanied by our wives who were entertained by wives of the host Lodges while the Brethren were engaged in the ceremonies of the Temple. We have reciprocated by doing the same sort of thing for the ladies of official visitors from other Lodges to Lauriston.

The following Lauriston Brethren have served a term as member of Grand Lodge:

Wor. Bro. Cyril Cameron	P.G.D.	Wor. Bro. Alex McCallum	P.G.S.
Wor. Bro. Max Gray	P.G.S.	Wor. Bro. Frank Hammond	P.G.S.
Wor. Bro. Keith Marsden	P.G.S.	Wor. Bro. Denis Cossins	P.G.SW.B.
Wor. Bro. John McLelland	P.G.SW.B.	Wor. Bro. Paul Hodges	P.G.D.

Unfortunately most of our early records – minute books, etc., have been lost. We have reason to think they may have been destroyed by some Brother who did not realise that apparently obsolete records are very valuable. This history is therefore somewhat inadequate and with some errors, and in this respect we compare unfavourably with most other Tasmanian Lodges, which in some cases – such as St. John's, Hope, Peace and Mersey – have detailed records dating back for more than 100 years.

Lauriston has made many interesting official visits in past year – the writer can remember some early trip to Lodges at New Norfolk, Lyndhurst, Leven, Dorset, Lord Carrington, and Hobart Lodges, but no written record of particulars is available. Only two of our foundation members are still with us – Wor. Bro. Lance Barnard and Bro. J Branagan. Most of the others have gone to the Grand Lodge Above, and the remainder now reside in distant places.

A number of Masonic church services have been held. The first believed to be when Wor. Bro, Harold Kubank was Wor. Master, was at the newly established Baptist church where Bro. the Reverend Robert Steele was the first minister. At least one other service was at the local Anglican church, when Wor. Bro. the Reverend Charles Warren was the minister there. It is intended to continue these services.

At times in past years when Lauriston has been too busy to do all its own work, we have been ably assisted by other Lodges carrying out some of our passings and raisings.

We have also been able to do records and thirds for other Lodges on occasions. One case of interest was that of Bro. Laurie Ellis, the first General Manage of Comalco, who came to Tasmania from Victoria as a Fellow Craft and we were pleased to raise him to the third degree for his mother Lodge.

Another activity of Lodge members in recent years has been assisting the Salvation Army with its annual Red Shield appeal. The whole of the collecting for the Low Head area has been done by members with the help of a member of the Ladies' Committee, Mrs Jessie Taylor, widow of foundation member, the late Harry Taylor. Jessie has collected from the tenants in the units of Ainslie Geriatric Hospital, where she resides.

We believe this helping the Salvation Army started during Wor. Bro. Brent Woolley's term as Wor. Master, or possibly earlier.

Other parts of George Town have also been canvassed for this annual collection. During the years the Lodge members have been collecting, several thousand dollars have been raised by our members.

After thirty two year of successful existence Lauriston Brethren look forward to the future with confidence.

Alphabetical List of Members – Past and Present

* Anderson A.	1956	Coleman R.H.	1981
Anderson J.V.	1962	* Colgrave M.S.	1956
# Anderson W.	1957	Colgrave R.J.	1973
* Ansyee E.J.	1956	Collyer M.	1974
Archer L.	1985	# Cooke A.J.	1977
Archer W.G.	1961	Cook W.D.	1968
# Armstrong B.W.	1969	# Cossins D.R.	1960
Attwood.R.W.	1960	Cossins R.D.	1969
Backhug L.	1963	# Cottrell F.	1975
* Badman J.G.	1956	Cowling D.	1978
Barker A.J.	1967	Cowling D.J.	1981
Barker E.	1960	Cowling H.	1971
* Barnard L.C.	1956	Crawford H.A.	1972
Barter E.F.	1973	Dalton W.G.	1961
Bass R.A.	1979	Davidson A.	1963
Bennell R.A.	1973	Davidson J.	1983
# Bennett E.	1980	# Davidson M.	1958
# Beresford J.	1957	Deckert W.W.	1979
Berry J.	1972	Dennison R.G.	1958
Bevans J.F.	1963	* Dineen G.J.	1956
Birrell A.	1973	Dobbin J.W.	1978
Bird P.R.	1957	# Dunstan A.D.	1967
# Bourke	1977	Dwyer S.E.	1966
Bowman E.R.	1969	Edwards G.	1959
Brain J.L.	1963	Ellis L.T.	1967
* Branagan J.G.	1956	Emmertson A.	1988
Branagan M.W.	1967	Ewington A.T.	1980
Brazendale K.A.	1961	Frain J.O.	1965
Broomhall L.W.	1959	Frame J.	1970
# Brown B.G.	1958	Ferguson E.R.	1957
* Brown G.	1956	* Finch J.	1956
Brown H.J.	1964	Flanagan J.W.E.	1960
Brown M.	1983	Flanagan J.	1958
Bull J.M.	1965	Geale C.A.	1965
Burt R.H.	1959	Geale P.J.	1987
* Burton M.C.	1956	Gee R.	1977
Burton W.J.	1973	# Gibson P.G.	1963
Butler S.H.	1957	* Gray H.C.	1956
Butler P.	1981	* Gray J.M.	1956
* Butterworth J.	1956	Gray R.H.	1968
* Cameron A.C.W.	1956	# Gray R.	1986
Christiansen G.W.	1974	Green B.	1970
# Clarke D.B.	1968	Green G.S.	1959
# Clarke D.W.	1976	# Greenwood J.D.	1957
		Hammond C.E.P.	1974

Hammond F.W.P.	1958	McLean F.J.	1973
Hammond J.P.	1970	# McLelland J.H.	1972
Hammond M	1958	McMillan W.M.	1970
# Hampton A.F.	1959	Nicholls K.E.	1959
# Hannan P.J.	1966	Nixon I.T.	1987
# Hanson G.R.	1977	# Nixon T.	1981
Harris G.L.	1966	Nolan C.J.	1962
Helm R.L.	1960	Olsen D.C.	1961
Hodges A.W.	1972	Orr. E.C.	1974
* Hodges G.H.	1956	Parish D.J.	1961
Hodges L.H.	1971	Parish N.G.	1966
Hodges P.G.	1971	# Park W.H.	1963
Hughes D.E.	1973	Peck G.I.	1968
Humphries F.H.	1959	# Perkins M.C.	1982
Kane A.J.	1972	Peucker M.	1988
Kennett I.J.	1988	* Pretty M.	1956
# Kennett J.E.H.	1957	Prins F.	1980
Kennett J.H.	1969	Radford M.	1963
Kent A.E.	1968	* Randall R.C.	1956
* Knowles T.	1956	# Reay J.R.	1974
Krushka D.L.	1961	Richards G	1961
* Kubank H.M.	1956	Richardson P	1986
# Large K.B.	1969	Robson H.	1988
Larter C.F.	1961	Roberts T.S.	1958
Lechmere M.K.	1980	Roy N.A.	1984
Lendvay L.	1961	# Rudge J.C.	1972
Lowe T.M.	1988	Rump A.	1965
Lowe T.R.	1983	# Sidnell R.N.	1962
Luker J.K.	1961	# Sim J.C.	1963
* Mackay A.	1956	# Simmons S.R.	1961
# Mackintyre B.	1958	Snare R.R.	1958
# Malone K.M.	1958	* Spinks A. (Senior)	1956
* Marsden K.	1956	# Spinks A. (Junior)	1973
Merrett J.L.	1957	# Steven N.	1985
Millar G.D.	1961	* Stewart F.G.	1956
# Millar J.A.	1959	Stilgoe G.J.	1960
* Miller G.C.	1956	Stilgoe L.A.D.	1987
Miller G.J.	1965	Strange T.	1979
Milne K.A.	1986	# Stubbley J.L.	1969
Montgomery A.G.	1957	* Taylor H.M.	1956
Mooney J.	1957	# Taylor J.H.	1963
* McCallum A.	1956	# Templeton	1956
* McDade J	1956	# Tinmouth H.F.	1964
McKeen W.	1983	Trevail T.G.	1966
# McKenzie J.	1957	Trimble R.	1988
McLean A.J.F.	1961	# Viret E.C.	1964

Voss L. A.	1964
* Waddle R.C.	1956
Walburn A.	1962
Walch R.C.	
Wallace R	1983
Walters J.K.	1979
Warhurst J.R.	1962
# Warren C.K.	1963
# Whittle B.C.	1970
Widdowson A.J.	1967
* Widdowson A.W.	1956
Williams F.A.	1969
# Willson A.R.	1963
# Windsor E.J.	1957
Wohlgemuth C.H.B.	1980
Wood K.	1988
* Woolcock J.	1956
Woolley B	1976
Young R.A.	1977
Zanvera F.G.	1975

* Foundation Members

Affiliated