

## **Presentation to RW Bro William (Bill) Hibbard PGW by RW Bro Bob Black PGW.**

RW Bro William Hibbard PGW known to all as Bill.

It is indeed my pleasure to make this presentation of a 50 year's Service Badge to Bill today. We have known each other for many years, which in fact seem like a lifetime.

We first met through Freemasonry and our friendship has developed over many years.

Bill and I were Masters of our respective Lodges in the same year 1981. The friendship developed more when we both became G L Officers when Bill, Jean, Margaret and I started attending the Grand Installations etc all over NZ. Staying in the same hotels/ motels sharing breakfasts etc and of course late night parties etc which we shared with many of the GL officers of the time, a few of which are here this evening.

We even shared the same employer, the Open Polytechnic in our pre retirement years, and now belong to the same lodge.

We have shared many happy times, and been there for each other during the sad ones and we intend to continue as such for as long as we are able.

Now I will get down to the reason we are all here today, Bill's 50 year's Service Badge to Freemasonry.

Not all Freemasons make this journey but it is great to see a person such as Bill make it.

Now just a few details of the man himself.

Bill was born in Auckland. Lived at Ohakune and Papatoetoe before moving to Lower Hutt with his parents at the age of 9.

Went to Waiwhetu School (now defunct) and Hutt Valley High School.

Left school at the age of 15 and joined ICI (Imperial Chemical Industries), a multinational company supplying mainly imported raw materials for NZ manufacturers.

At 21, he left to join a ship and worked his passage to the UK.

Lived in the UK for 10 years, during which time he married Jean and produced a son.

Returned to NZ with his family in 1959 and rejoined ICI.

Took early retirement in 1982 and joined the Technical Correspondence Institute (now known as The Open Polytechnic) as a tutor.

Ten years later at the age of 65, retired fully.

In the 25 years since then, Bill and his wife Jean enjoyed many overseas trips.

Jean died in 2011 and since then Bill has lived alone. His two sons Andrew and Peter live in Melbourne and Havelock North.

Apart from Freemasonry, which he has studied in depth, his other interests have included, cabinet making, wood turning, computer development including Senior net membership, history, philosophy, and driving for the Cancer Society.

### **MASONIC RECORD.**

Joined Jellicoe Lodge No. 259 in August 1967 and was initiated in this very lodge room.

Was Master of Jellicoe Lodge in 1981.

Appointed Grand Steward in 1986.

Appointed Grand Lecturer in 1990.

Served as chairman of the Wellington and Hutt Valley Almoners' Association.

Chaired the Provincial Grand Master's Advisory Committee when Bryan Scott was Provincial Grand Master.

Appointed Past Grand Warden in 2002.

### **Other Orders.**

First Principal of Bledisloe Royal Arch Chapter.

Has been Sovereign of three Rose Croix Chapters, in which Order he was appointed to the 33rd Degree in 2012.

In the SRIA, he has achieved the 9th and Final Grade.