

# Passed to the Grand Lodge Above

Nearly a quarter of Tasmania's masonic fraternity - along with a big representation from interstate jurisdictions - attended the funeral of RW Max Webberley, PGW, at St Mary's Cathedral in Hobart on March 21, 2007.

Catholic Church officials estimated the attendance of masons at nearly four hundred, but what was of equal significance was the decision of the Archbishop of Hobart, the Rt Rev Adrian Doyle, to allow the use of the Masonic Oration in the service.

It was the first time in the history of the Catholic Church in Tasmania that this "official oration" for a member of the Craft had been included in its funeral services.

(The Anglican Church in Tasmania does not allow the inclusion of the Masonic Oration in its funeral services, although it is used in other churches).

RW Bro Webberley died in Hobart on March 15, 2007, aged 81, after a short illness.

A long-term and active member of the Catholic Church, RW Bro Webberley extended his interests into freemasonry during the 1960s...and continued doing so right up to his passing to the Grand Lodge Above.

The Oration, delivered by Past Grand Master, MW Bro Robert Clarke, covered RW Bro Webberley's achievements in

## Vale

### RW Bro Max Webberley



the church and freemasonry, while an address by RW Bro Webberley's son, W Bro Max Webberley from Sydney - and other speakers - focused on his involvement in Tasmania's education services as a teacher, principal and mentor of many young people.

Addressing the service, Rt Rev Doyle said he first met RW Bro Webberley when the Archbishop was parish priest at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Sandy Bay.

Rt Rev Doyle commended RW Bro Webberley's work in many of the church's committees and his support of the parish in other ways.

W Bro Webberley said his father lived "a Boys' Own life" - referring to a popular British magazine for boys - and remarked ruefully in a eulogy notable for its reflection on his father's sense of humour that one of the very last faculties to leave him was his ability to speak, sometimes at length, on many subjects.

W Bro Webberley quoted his father as saying, only four days before he passed to the Grand Lodge Above, that life had been "a wonderful trip".

The following points about a remarkably full masonic career were made by RW Bro Clarke during the Oration at the funeral service:

RW Bro Max Webberley...

- joined freemasonry in May 1963 and was raised in February 1964 in Lodge Lyndhurst, joining the Hobart Lodge of Research in the same year... - became

a founding member in 1964 of Lodge Meridian, the second of the new concept of daytime lodges in Tasmania...

- became a founding member of Lodge Phoenix, an early-evening dining lodge meeting in Launceston...

- joined the Grand Lodge ceremonial team in 2000 as a Grand Steward, and progressed through Grand Standard Bearer in 2001, Grand Deacon in 2002, Grand Chaplain South in 2005...

- was a member of the Grand Lodge Board of Benevolence and the Masonic Benevolent Foundation in 2002 and 2003, and was elected to the Board of General Purposes in 2004, continuing as a member of that board until his death...

- was elected Grand Warden in 2005, taking up that post in 2006 before retiring in February 2007...

- was convenor of the Grand Lodge Public Relations and Information Committee until his death...

- was the last President of the Masonic Club of Southern Tasmania and became a founding member of the Masonic Social Club of Tasmania (Mascot) after the Masonic Club closed...

- was awarded the Grand Master's Order of Distinguished Service in 2002...

- became an active member of a wide range of other masonic Orders, as well as President of the Australian and New Zealand Masonic Research Council until his death

MW Bro Clarke also commented on RW Bro Webberley's sense of humour and oratorical ability, as well as his enthusiasm in many facets of freemasonry and in mentoring its newer members.

He likened Max Webberley to a surfer who could not content himself with riding comfortably in the middle of the board.

"He moved to the front of the board and 'hung ten' over the front edge; he was not content to let things happen and had to be to the fore in making them happen," MW Bro Clarke said.

"Our Brother Max embodied all of the good things we associate with freemasonry and his presence and humour at our meetings, both as friendly gatherings and while serving as a lodge officer will be sorely missed".



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