

## **On Recent Articles in our Lectern on losing members,**

**Bro. Eric Sullivan** District Grand Organist and Past Preceptor of the Lodge of Research writes as follows:

Masonry was so secret when I joined, it took me 10 years to find out how!

When the H/W came off, I was shocked to find so many friends and acquaintances as members, who could have helped me join earlier. I had a 'buzz' doing the three degrees and it reminded me a lot, of my days in the Methodist Order of Knights (especially secret sign, handshake and words), although the Masons were more involved than the 'O.K's'.

Then I wondered why nothing more happened?

No one told me about other degrees and orders (too secret, I suppose),

Until I went in the Chair, at an installation, we found time to race down to the Imperial Hotel for a quick one, before being called back.

I started to lose interest and I suppose I could have been lost, but an organ was purchased and I was asked to play it.

I reckon that a new member should be asked if he plays a musical instrument, not necessarily an organ but perhaps a guitar or mouth organ.

We used to use gifted people at our festive boards. Perhaps speaking on holidays abroad, music, jokes, story telling, talk about their work or hobbies or get (imported) guest speakers.

As they do in the Probus Club (very strong in Innisfail), a lot of our meetings in the District are still boring, although Cyclone Larry didn't help. (The attendance?).

Probably appointing a sub-committee could avoid a long boring meeting among disinterested participants.

To summarise, degree work is serious and new members should be helped all the way (tell them if something is wrong). If no degree work, arrange an interesting speaker for general business and make whoopee at the Festive Board, using members' and visitors' gifts, as mentioned previously.

**IN SUMMARY:** With new members, we should find out what their gifts are and use them. I use every opportunity to wear my Lodge and Dist.G.L. Name Tags in public. If someone asks, I promote the cause.

\*\*\*\*\*