



WBro. William Rattray

The Prince Of Wales Lodge No.1338 EC



William Rattray was a prominent businessman in early Auckland running a large drapery shop first in Shortland Street and later in Queen Street, on the corner of Vulcan Lane.

He was a member of the Auckland Institute (Royal Society of NZ) and Secretary of the Auckland Centre of the St John Ambulance Association. In 1865 he was Vice president of the Northern Association and in 1866 he was an Elder at the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of NZ.

In 1872 he was Chairman of the Auckland Auxiliary of the British & Foreign Bible Society and at one time was associated with the work of a Band of Hope (a temperance organisation) in Auckland which was started in the Boys' Academy, Lorne Street.

He competed in athletic events and in some newspaper reports was referred to as "Auckland's champion gentleman walkist"

In 1883 he married Lizzie Frost Fenton who was in charge of the Young Women's Institute (a forerunner of the YWCA) and shared her husband's work with St John Ambulance. She organised a street collection which raised about £500 towards the purchase of the first premises for St John Ambulance in Rutland Street.

Lizzie was a prominent member of the Auckland community in her own right. She was a prominent member of St Luke's Anglican Church, and an enthusiastic and able worker for a variety of welfare organisations. These included the St Barnabas' Association and Order of the Good Shepherd, and the Girls' Friendly Society which gave assistance to girls and young women immigrating to Auckland.

Her views led her to become a committee member of the Women's Franchise League, of which her friend Amey Daldy was president. She was one of the earliest women journalists in the country, acting as co-editor of the *New Zealand Graphic* from 1892 and as New Zealand correspondent for *The Gentlewoman* for many years.

William Rattray was initiated into the Prince of Wales Lodge in 1874 and rose to become Master in 1880.

On the formation of the Auckland District Grand Lodge in 1877, he was appointed DGAstP.

Sources:

Contemporary newspaper reports.

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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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