Scholarships 2010
Freemasons Roskill Foundation has recently launched the book “50 Years of Care”. The book tells the history of Roskill Masonic Village, from its origins and early days through to the sale of the facility on 1 November 2005.

The Village became an icon of Freemasonry in the northern area. Complimentary copies of the book are available to anyone interested in the Village’s History and in the prominent Freemasons who ran it. The book provides an insight into the wonderful voluntary work of the many, many Freemasons and their wives and families who in some way helped at the Village.

The 160-page coffee-table book is beautifully produced and presented in its own hard box cover and would be a handsome addition to any personal or Lodge library. It would make a substantial educational gift to new Freemasons or could be given to local libraries and historical archives.

If you would like a free copy please contact:

Freemasons Roskill Foundation
Telephone: 09 520 6414    Fax: 09 520 6415
Email: judith@roskill.org.nz
Post: PO Box 113144
Newmarket
Auckland 1149

This is a FREE BOOK!! Get yours today!

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Brethren, once again thank you to all those who attended the presentation of the Freemasons University Scholarships and/or the Special Communication held in the Wellington Town Hall on Friday 21st May 2010.

The morning’s presentations proceeded like clockwork thanks to all the efforts of our organising team. I believed everyone who attended, including HRH the Duke of Gloucester, students, parents, Brethren, family and friends were very impressed with every aspect of the occasion. The feedback from the public has been tremendously positive. The only question being asked is “how do we do better next year?”.

The Special Communication held that same day in the afternoon was similarly a very successful event that looked to the future of our Craft. I would especially thank the many Brethren who made positive and constructive contributions towards arriving at a workable solution to the request made by MWBro J M Pope at the 2008 Communication.

Statistically, the Communication was more than likely the best ever with 86% of the Lodges throughout New Zealand being represented (230 Lodges registered a Commissioned Representative) with 232 Brethren attending despite a cold wet Wellington day outside.

The end result can be summarised as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lodge</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JUNE</td>
<td>26 Acacia Lodge No. 472</td>
<td>Tokoroa</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Consecration &amp; Dedication of Acacia Lodge No. 472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JULY</td>
<td>2-4 United Grand Lodge of Queensland</td>
<td>Brisbane</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>Grand Installation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUGUST</td>
<td>16 Lodge Waihopai No. 189</td>
<td>Invercargill</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>Regular Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18 Lodge Putaruru-Tirau No. 401</td>
<td>Putaruru</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Annual South Waikato Schools / College Freemasons Debating Competition</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lodge Matamata No. 265</td>
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<td>Lodge Tokoroa-Orakau No. 344</td>
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<td>The Alpha Lodge No. 81</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Following their election, each District Grand Master-elect will appoint his District team consisting of a District Grand Director of Ceremonies, unless a Grand Director of Ceremonies is appointed in a District, and up to two Grand Stewards. If a Grand Director of Ceremonies is appointed from a District then he will undertake the duties of District Grand Director of Ceremonies in that District.

Following his investiture, the District Grand Master will arrange the investiture of those Brethren he appoints.

That from this November Communication (to be held in Auckland from the 17th to the 20th November 2010) all Grand Officers will be invested for a maximum of three years except the Executive Officers, Grand Superintendent of Ceremonies and Divisional Grand Almoners who will be appointed annually up to a maximum of six years.

These changes do have immediate effect because the District Grand Masters-elect need to carefully select their future teams. From the constructive comments, it is clear that it is generally recognised that there is a need for each District Grand Master to select and arrange investiture of Brethren with those Brethren’s future promotion in mind; and to consult with his Divisional Grand Master and Brethren in his District as to selecting suitably qualified people for the role.

These changes are only part of a number of initiatives being implemented by the Board of General Purposes aimed at retention and attendance of members. However, these initiatives do need “drivers” and not “maintenance” men. Whilst MWBro Pope’s remarks were aimed at ratios – and that is what the Special Communication and future Schemes of Distribution will achieve – it is also important to focus on quality.

Brethren, I am conscious that by providing clear leadership during these watershed years, we will be positioning the Craft for a prosperous future. I note with absolute delight that many areas within the New Zealand jurisdiction which are promoting growth are developing very strong membership statistics, but more importantly are developing ways of improving retention and attendance at Lodge. My feeling is that there are many Brethren throughout the Craft that have a steely determination to maintain a strong Freemasons brand with distinction and pride being the valued cornerstones of the Community that they are involved in.

Stan Barker
Grand Master
Presented by Freemasons New Zealand

The Arts Foundation New Generation Awards were established in 2006 in partnership with Freemasons New Zealand. The third biennial Awards will be presented later this year. The Awards celebrate five artists early on in their career. Each recipient receives $50,000 to contribute to their individual artistic identity and a Christine Cathie-designed glasswork.

Ten New Generation artists have been awarded so far. These artists are Eve Armstrong (Visual Artist); Jeff Henderson (Music Maker); Warren Maxwell (Musician); Tze Ming Mok (Writer); Alex Monteith (New Media Artist); Madeline Pierard (Opera Singer); Anna Sanderson (Writer); Joe Sheehan (Stone Artist and Jeweller); Taika Waititi (Filmmaker, Comedian, Actor).

Since our last newsletter there have been two notable successes amongst this group of exciting artists. In particular we would like to congratulate Taika Waititi on the success of his film Boy which he directed and in which he also played a feature role, and Alex Monteith, who has been selected as one of four finalists in the prestigious Walters Prize to be announced later in the year.

Taika Waititi gains success with his new feature film Boy.

Boy gained the number one spot at the New Zealand box office after a hugely successful opening weekend at the end of March 2010. The film pulled in $607,471 and managed to comfortably beat two major Hollywood 3D family films – How To Train your Dragon and Alice in Wonderland. At time of going to print Boy is enjoying a successful cinema run, close to a box office mark of NZ$6 million.

Before premiering in New Zealand, Boy was awarded the Grand Prix, Best Feature Film, Generation Section, by the International Jury at the 2010 Berlin Film Festival. When announcing the Award, the Generation Kplus International Jury said: “with a genuine voice and a remarkable spirit the winner is a film with bold direction, a fearless risk-taker. It tackles difficult subject matter not with preaching, sentimentality or self-pity but with humour, often treating tragedy and comedy simultaneously. Because it’s so enjoyable it is easy to underestimate the depth of this film. It is a rich mix of ideas which strike and collide to create poetic moments that speak, despite the remote location, to all of us today. With fantastic charismatic performances all around, including a striking moustache on the director.”

Taika Waititi is now creating a music video for Poi E, the 1984 song which features in Boy. The new video is said to be made from a mix of deleted scenes from Boy, the film’s final dance sequence and the original Poi E music video. Written by linguist Ngoi Pewhairangi with music by Dalvinius Prime, Poi E was created with the intention of teaching young Maori to be proud of being Maori in a format that they were comfortable with.

Alex Monteith is one of four finalists to the Walters Prize 2010 prize to be announced later this year and the winner announced at a gala dinner in October.

Alex’s work is Passing Manoeuvre with Two Motorcycles and 584 Vehicles for Two-Channel Video and was shown at ST PAUL St, Auckland (19 June – 7 July 2008). It is a digital video work with two video projections. Images taken from motorbikes on the Auckland motorway fill a wall of the gallery. The video is positioned so that the road runs away from the point where the gallery wall meets the floor. The viewer experiences the movement of the bikes makes their way along the road and through the traffic. Moving visual art works are as old as films; however they have become significantly more popular with digital technology.

You can view the work at the Arts Foundation’s website: www.thearts.co.nz Navigate to the artist index page and click on Alex Monteith.

Update

The $50,000 Walters Prize is awarded for an outstanding work of contemporary New Zealand art produced and exhibited during the past two years. The winner also receives an all-expenses-paid trip to New York as well as the opportunity to exhibit their work at Saatchi & Saatchi’s world headquarters.

The international judge for the Walters Prize 2010 prize will be named later this year and the winner announced at a gala dinner in October.

View the work at the Arts Foundation’s website: www.thearts.co.nz Navigate to the artist index page and click on Alex Monteith.
On 21 May, A-grade students from New Zealand universities were presented with Freemasons scholarships totaling $250,000 by HRH The Duke of Gloucester. Ten students were awarded post-graduate scholarships of $10,000 and 25 students university scholarships of $6,000.

Freemasons Grand Secretary, Laurence Milton, says applicants must not only be consistent A-grade students completing their degrees, but they must also play an active role in their community.

“As Freemasons we are delighted to assist those who display excellence and encourage them to use their skills and abilities in making our society a better place.”

“Today we have helped psychologists studying subjects as varied as the causes of depression in ante-natal couples, deliberate self-injury, and brothers and sisters of cancer survivors. Scientists will progress their study in mechatronics, neurophysiology, and medical physics, and other Freemasons scholars will make their mark in a variety of careers.”

“What unites these high-achieving students is their recognition of and involvement in community service as well as academic success. As they will be our leaders of tomorrow, Freemasonry is honored to be able to reward their merit and further encourage their application.”

“Education is an investment in New Zealand’s future, and we are delighted to empower another 35 students with scholarships,” says Laurence Milton.

Photos: Left: HRH the Duke of Gloucester and Wellington Mayor Kerry Prendergast.

Below: VWBro Laurence Milton amidst students (clockwise from lower left) Mary Silcock, Giuliana Bernardi, Melanie Haeata, Melissa Wolfe, and Irene Lichtwaark.
2010 Scholarship Recipients

AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY POSTGRADUATE
Elizabeth Silcock

UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND POSTGRADUATE
Eleanor Riddick

UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND POSTGRADUATE
Sanket Srivinasa

UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND
Elizabeth Chan

UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND
Max Harris

UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND
Renee Johansen

UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND
Alex Petty

UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND
James Tremlett

UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO POSTGRADUATE
Melanie Haeata

UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO
Vanessa Cameron-Lewis

UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO
Irene Lichtewart

UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO
Claire Mulholland

UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO
Steven Rae

MASSEY UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE
Kirsty Furness

MASSEY UNIVERSITY
Holly Andrews

MASSEY UNIVERSITY
Daniel Lamb

MASSEY UNIVERSITY
Matilda Newton

MASSEY UNIVERSITY
Melissa Wolfe

MAKING UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON POSTGRADUATE
Robyn Langlands

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON
Jane Chewings

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON
Joshua Foster

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON
Corinna Howland

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON
Brendan Veroelen

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE
Giuliana Bernardi

CANTERBURY UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE
Simon Donaldson

CANTERBURY UNIVERSITY
Rosemary Baird

CANTERBURY UNIVERSITY

CANTERBURY UNIVERSITY
Rosa Hughes-Currie

CANTERBURY UNIVERSITY
Craig Muir

UNIVERSITY OF Otago POSTGRADUATE
Matthew Shaw

UNIVERSITY OF Otago
Svend Tolson

UNIVERSITY OF Otago
Gareth Bencic

UNIVERSITY OF Otago
Olivia Faull

UNIVERSITY OF Otago
Julien Van Mellaerts

UNIVERSITY OF Otago
Anthony Wicks

Elizabeth Chan shows Stan Barker ‘success’ in English, Chinese, and French.

Matilda Newton explains her theory to Superintendent of The Freemasons Charity, Mark Winger.

Medical photographer, Rina Hughes-Currie, shows Grand Secretary Laurence Milton her sketching skills as a member of the Omereville Ukelele Orchestra.

Simon Donaldson explains elements of his thesis on combating dementia to Superintendent of The Freemasons Charity, Mark Winger.

Vets Giuliana Bernardi and Holly Andrews with Superintendent of The Freemasons Charity, Mark Winger.
Traditionally, Masonic assistance has been known for its place in helping the elderly. Our involvement in the provision of retirement villages throughout New Zealand, helping to set and maintain standards for the care of our older citizens, has been the face of Freemasonry. This work continues. But as society has changed so has our benevolence diverged and education has become a spearhead.

For over two decades major funding has been provided for research at both the University of Auckland and the University of Otago in gerontology and brain disease, and paediatrics respectively.

Through our close association with the Royal Society of New Zealand we sponsor the ‘Freemasons Big Science Adventures’, an annual video competition for secondary schools where winning student teams experience national and international travel.

The Freemasons University Scholarships have been in existence for many years, starting in a humble way over 30 years ago but now grown in size and stature to represent a significant boost to students’ academic or worldly progress into their careers. They are highly valued and vigorously competed for at all Universities and the winners are invariably outstanding students and young citizens. But the unique feature that distinguishes a Freemasons scholar is not an academic one but the quality of human caring so valued by Freemasons.

So why such an emphasis on education? Because Freemasons believe that knowledge is the source of individual freedom and leads to greater understanding and tolerance which builds peace and unity among all people.

The Freemasons University Scholarship programme has been running for many years encouraging students to go on, to do even better, to learn and contribute to our society.

We also will go on, striving to reach our ideals.

I am truly privileged to stand here on behalf of all the 2010 Freemasons Scholarship recipients today to thank the New Zealand Freemasons for their extraordinary generosity in giving out these scholarships. In an era that some say is characterised by self-interest and individualism, the New Zealand Freemasons embody values of empathy and integrity, fellowship and fraternity, that hold us together as a New Zealand society. Today the Freemasons have quite literally placed these values centre stage by supporting the next generation of community leaders and decision-makers as they move through their university career.

These scholarships will be valuable to us all in so many ways. For many of us, they will help pay off loans, living costs, and study expenses. For some, they will support research trips or give us an opportunity to advance our university study in a way that we hadn’t imagined. The scholarships may also directly allow us to continue the work in the community for which we were rewarded these scholarships. Speaking for myself, I know that the scholarship is now likely to allow me to do an unpaid internship with the American Civil Liberties Union – a human rights law firm in the United States – that I otherwise would not have been able to fund. Perhaps most of all, though, these scholarships encourage us to instil in others the values of service, charity, and generosity. They are a signal that we all here are heading in the right direction; but they also act as a bold encouragement to us all to go even further.

We should remember the prestigious individuals who have been Freemasons in the past, who have contributed to the enduring stature of the Freemasons today. Their legacy reverberates around this hall. Past Freemasons include musicians such as Mozart and Louis Armstrong, politicians like Winston Churchill and Salvador Allende, and sportspersons like the cricket player Don Bradman, as well as the many hard-working Freemasons currently in the room today. While we are not made Freemasons ourselves by virtue of the scholarship, we should remember the great values and achievements that we now become associated with having received this scholarship. Let us go out and aspire to reach the same heights as all of these individuals. But let us not, at the same time, forget the need to give back to the community and contribute to our society at large. Franklin D. Roosevelt, himself once a Freemason, said, “The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have little.” Let us seek always to provide enough for those who have little. Let us seek to continue to strengthen the Freemasons spirit.

Once again, thank you so much to Freemasons New Zealand for their recognition of what we have done – and the springboard they have offered us all with as we look to the future.

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Ambition, optimism and a passion for social change are the personal drivers for Max Harris of Thorndon. In the final year of a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in history and political studies and a Bachelor of Law with Honours at the University of Auckland, Max has plans for further study, internationally.

A Master’s degree in Law in the United Kingdom, United States or Canada is likely before a career combining legal practice, academia and politics.

Last year Max received a NZ University Blue for outstanding national representation in debating, won Auckland University’s Oratory Shield for public speaking and presented a law paper for the U21 Undergraduate Research Conference in Glasgow.

Max coached the Waitakere regional schools’ debating team to victory at the national debating championships. He mentors and tutors and helps run workshops and homework sessions at Auckland schools as part of the university’s Mentoring and Tutoring Education Scheme. Max has also been a caregiver for a young lad with autism.
It is with profound regret that I have to report the passing on 16 March 2010 of Most Worshipful Brother Robert Henry Ashby, Past Grand Master.

Most Worshipful Brother Robert Henry Ashby was initiated 18 June 1934 in The Abercorn Lodge No. 30. He was installed as its Master on 16 March 1942. He was a member of the Woburn Lodge No. 25 and a past member of Lodge Manchester No. 287, Lodge Manawaroa No. 438 and The Research Lodge of Ruapehu No. 444.

He was appointed Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1964, Provincial Grand Master in 1971 and elected Grand Master in 1978.

L G Milton
GRAND SECRETARY
The Order of The Royal Arch: The Way Forward
REComp Gary Kerkin, Grand Lecturer
Presented to The Research Chapter of New Zealand No. 93
12 March 2010

On Tuesday 16 October 2007 I presented a paper to this Chapter entitled “Whither the Royal Arch?” in which I concluded:

- We have an Order which provides an education and widening of the philosophical and moral code which underpins Freemasonry.
- Its ceremonial and rites provides an encouragement which is not hanging after the first three Degrees.
- The survival of the Royal Arch depends solely on its membership.
- The Royal Arch Masonry lies with the Companions and the direction is upwards from the grassroots – not from Grand Chapter down.
- Where an individual Companion sees a need to improve things he must take responsibility and accept the challenge.
- Questions from Companions must be encouraged to assist with education and understanding.
- Promotion of the Order is the responsibility of every Companion, Chapter and Grand Chapter.
- The education of Companions is the “responsibility of themselves, their management and social activities and what it achieves.”

However one Companion cannot achieve success on his own: success will be achieved by a team effort, and the size of the team depends on the size of the objective. It may be a small group within a Chapter; it may be a Chapter; it may be Grand Chapter; or it may be the Order. And success will largely be determined by the excitement and enthusiasm each of us shows to our Brethren in Craft Masonry and, indeed, to those outside the Craft. We need them to “say that looks so exciting that I wish to be part of it!”

A fine sentiment, but it leaves begging the almost inevitable question “How do we achieve it?”

The short answer is, of course, increasing membership. But is the short answer sufficient? Is it more complex than that?

Recently I attended a meeting in another Order and listened while they struggled to come to grips with their immediate future. One member suggested, adamently, that the solution to their problems was to add more members. We are all familiar with this argument – indeed we have all used it ourselves. In the Piako Chapter Summons for August 2008 I wrote:

“...Step one is to ensure that we retain our members – that we do not allow any of them to feel unwanted and unwelmed and that we give them reason to feel it is worth remaining a member by not only making membership enjoyable but by ensuring that they feel useful. Progressing as part of an organisation that exudes high standards in all that it undertakes. Step two is to gain new members by encouraging Craft Brethren that there is something worthwhile to be gained by joining; by seeking out unattached Royal Arch Masons and asking them to join us ... But we know that gaining new members from our Lodges is not easy, because they too are struggling. So we also need to have new membership of the Craft as one of our motivations.”

I recently heard an interesting statistic which, unfortunately, I have not been able to verify world-wide, an average of 20% of Craft Masons join another Order.

The Royal Arch in New Zealand has around 1,700 members at present – which is less than 20% of the membership of Craft Masonry in New Zealand. VEComp Mark Fraser GDC, who also has responsibility for overseeing membership in the Hauraki District, points out that there are about 200 members in the District but while this number is closer to 20% of the Craft membership residing in the corresponding area, the percentage in the Eastern Division is closer to 5%. The basic conclusion is that the Royal Arch is not growing.

We shall also discover that a time-honored aspect of the Craft known as the R.A. did not grow naturally on the tree of the Craft degrees, but it was “grafted” on to one of its three branches. Much was learned in the original material during the second half of the 18th century, and our modern R.A. is generally described as the completion of the Third Degree, though I would call it an extension.

“At early as 1998 we have a regulation in the Schaw Statutes, relating to operative masonry in Scotland, requiring that the ‘Master of fellow of craft’ should have his name and mark regularly inserted in the Lodge book of the Craft Lodges.”

The earliest clear evidence of the existence of the Royal Arch is in a rather rare Irish work entitled A Serious and Impartial Enquiry into the Causes of the present Decay of Free-Masonry in the Kingdom of Ireland, by Dr. T. Fifield, in 1744. He wrote that the Royal Arch was a separate Degree for ‘men who have passed the chair’.

Latter he writes that when a Candidate enters a Lodge for the first time he is likened to the Rough Ashlar which will eventually become smoothed and perfected.

“...At the time when Grand Lodge was founded in 1717 only two Degrees were in general usage in England and Scotland, the first for the ‘Entered Apprentice’ and the second for the ‘Master or Fellow Craft’. The Third Degree, when it eventually appeared in 1725, was not a new invention. It was, in fact, a “grafting” of the original First Degree onto two parts, i.e., for the E.A. and the F.C., so that the original Second Degree became the Royal Arch and the Third in the new Three-Degree system.”

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It would be quite impossible to discuss the contents of the Royal Arch ceremony at that date because we have not the minutes of the meetings of that period. However, it is well known that there was little doubt that soon after its appearance in England it began to embody various links with the legend of the Third Degree. Apparently both ‘ceremonies’ were verbally modified so that a more or less tenuous relationship was established. I would say that the R.A. did not grow naturally on the tree of the Craft degrees, but it was “grafted” on to one of its three branches. Much was learned in the original material during the second half of the 18th century, and our modern R.A. is generally described as the completion of the Third Degree, though I would call it an extension.

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Latter he writes that when a Candidate enters a Lodge for the first time he is likened to the Rough Ashlar which will eventually become smoothed and perfected.

“The Mark seems to have developed into a Degree or ceremony during the 1750s, and there is an interesting rule, made by an unattached Craft Lodge at Newcastle on 19 January 1756 (which suggests a Scottish source and there is evidence showing that this Lodge had contact with the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

“The earliest record of the making of Mark Mason and Mark Masters is in the minutes of the Gran Lodge of Freemasonry in Scotland, where appears recorded on 19 September 1769.”

Unfortunately, writes Gardner, instead of developing the thrust of the first two degrees by incorporating Newtonian or other Temple philosophy, the fictitious legend of Solomon became the focus. But, he writes:

“...a rather more than adequate 3rd
degree already existed. It was much older, and had evolved quite separately from Craft Freemasonry, with records of a Scottish working as far back as 1590 in Stirling. Laurence Dermott, Grand Secretary of the Antients, explained to the Moderns that he knew of this degree, which existed quite independently of the Craft, and that he firmly believed it to be the 'true, heart, and marrow of Freemasonry', but he was ignored."

Much later the Antients included it as a formal aspect of their ritual, in 1772, but the Moderns did not relent until after amalgamation in December 1813 — their own membership had applied pressure for recognition, the Excellent Degree tells him of the relationship Freemasonry has to its history, and reinforces awareness.

What is it then that the Order brings to our knowledge and understanding of Freemasonry?

The philosophy which underpins Freemasonry is explained in the First Degree, and summarised in the tracing Board.

• The three principle virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity
• The four cardinal virtues of Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice
• The characteristics of a Freemason — virtue, honour and mercy.

The Mark Degree exemplifies Faith, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice: the Faith of the Fellowcraft in following his intellect; his Fortitude in persisting in the correctness of his actions; the lack of Prudence on the part of the Master Overseer; and the Injustice in his treatment of the Fellowcraft. Along the way, the Mark Degree also educates the Candidate as to how the work on King Solomon's Temple was regulated and the quality controlled; it tells him of the relationship between the Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft and, incidentally, informs as to why a Lodge of Speculative Masons takes the form we enjoy today.

The Excellent Degree builds on Faith, Hope and Fortitude: Faith in the Decree of Cyrus and that the Temple will be rebuilt; Hope that he will be allowed to work on the Second Temple; and Fortitude because of the long journey that confronts him as he leaves Babylon. The journey to Jerusalem was to last at least 7 months and often longer. He is also given insights into how the ancient Hebrews viewed their situation; how God communicated with the Hebrews; is educated in the symbolism of the voids and their relationship to his life and the way he ought to live it. Although the Mark Degree has introduced him to other secrets of the Mark Lodge, the Excellent Degree tells him precisely why modes of recognition were so important in those uncertain days.

The Royal Arch Degree leads him to a number of points and exemplifies the Honour of a Freemason. It tells him about the structure of a Chapter and its processes. It explains how the sojourners were honour bound to report their findings to the Sanhedrin and the vows of secrecy are just as important to that trust. It amplifies one of the lessons of the Address in the Excellent Degree when it says "The Almighty Architect never intended a mason to come and say 'I have made mistakes'."

Managing our Chapters

If we are to ensure that the workings of our Chapters are enjoyable, productive and not at all embarrassing to those participating, we must manage our Chapters. By “manage” I don’t mean just “management”. “Leadership” is also involved.

Some years ago I heard Chris Laidlaw on National Radio interviewing Kevin Roberts, a New Zealander and world-wide CEO for Saatchi and Saatchi. Laidlaw asked Roberts a question and hearing the reply commented that it was leadership. Roberts said that it wasn’t leadership, it was management. When Laidlaw asked him about the difference, Roberts said “Management is doing things right thing. Leadership is doing the right thing!”

If our Chapters are to survive, at the very least by not losing members apart from the obvious implications of age and infirmity, we have to promote a culture which emboldens leadership, management and team work. We need to establish:

• What are the “right” things we need to do for our Chapters
• What is the “right” way to do them

An oft-quoted presentation which was given by RWBro Greg Godding of Queensland at the Craft Northern Division
FREEMASONS NZ GRAND INSTALLATION
18-21st Nov 2010
The Langham, AUCKLAND

Programme

Monday 15th – Wednesday 17th.

Pre-Grand Installation Activities.
Sight seeing, Organised trips. – Please contact organisers for advice/choice.

Thursday 18th.

(AM-PM) Pre-Grand Installation, Social, and Leisure Activities (see Activities)
- Registration Booth opens 3pm-6pm only
- Mw Bro David Mace / Rf Bro Neil Ingram
- "Why on Earth would you be a Freemason?"
- "The Secrets of the last two years and the Mystery of the next three"
- "Why on Earth would you be a Freemason?"
- "The Secrets of the last two years and the Mystery of the next three"
- "Why on Earth would you be a Freemason?"

Friday 19th.

8am Registration Booth open all day
8.30am-12.30 In the Great Grand Lodge Ballroom – The Langham
9am - 1pm NZ Grand Lodge Business Session – The Langham
9am – 5pm Social & Leisure Activities (see Activities Home Page)
6pm Grand Master of Installation Participants
7pm Grand Installation – Auckland Town Hall
10pm – 1am Entertainment – The Langham Public Bar

Saturday 20th.

8.30am-10.15am "Mace / Ingram Breakfast" – The Langham
MW Bro David Mace / Rf Bro Neil Ingram
"Why on Earth would you be a Freemason?"
9am-5pm Social & Leisure Activities (see Activities Home Page)
10.30am-12.15pm "YourTurn to get Answers" – The Langham
A Panel of the Grand Registrar, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary answer your questions
10.30am-12.15pm "Grand Almoners Forum" – The Langham
(Camp Quality presentation and more)
12.30 – 2.45pm "Grand Masters Luncheon" – The Langham
MW Grand Master / MW Bro Stan Barker IFPGM
"The Secret of the last two years and the Mystery of the next three"
(Photographer and Press Release details recorded then)
6.30pm Grand Refectory Banquet & Ball – Formal
The Langham Grand Ball Room. Auckland City Big Band plus Soloists

Sunday 21st.

9am Church Service – Holy Trinity Cathedral – Parnell
9am-5pm Social & Leisure Activities (see Activities Home Page)
11.30-12.30 Lunch
12.30-1pm Closure of the Grand Installation
1pm MW Grand Master Vision Statement
1pm Extended Leisure Activities – Flights North & South

From the Mayor of Auckland City

Fraternal Greetings to Freemasons from all over New Zealand and to those from overseas.
The City of Sails is very pleased to be
the host city of our
Grand Installation and
Communication in November 2010.
One of the reasons I enjoy being a Freemason myself is seeing the tireless work and commitment
being made by Brethren and their spouses and
partners in projects and to the people in our
communities. Freemasonry makes a real difference
and it is much appreciated and valued by all.
I hope delegates from around the country take the
opportunity to enjoy some of the many attractions
in our magnificent city as well as our exceptional
galleries, theatres, shopping centers and cafes.
Auckland city looks forward to hosting you and
trusts everyone enjoys their stay and makes the
most of their time here.
Hon John Banks QSO
Mayor Auckland City

Leisurely:

Thursday 18th.

60 mins North of Auckland, on the
beautiful Matakana Coast set in park-like
surroundings, a beautiful sculpture trail
awaits. Lunch or wine tasting afterwards

1) SEGWAY TOURS
1. Daily AM/PM
You can easily learn to ride a Segway Personal Transporter
in no more than 15 mins. We will personally guide you
through the process on our specially selected training ground
and then you are off with us on a two-hour guided tour of
Historic Devonport.

2) MOUNTAIN BIKING – HIGH WIRE WALKING – Daily AM/PM
Have wonderful fun under the canopy of Woodhill
forest. Beginners to advanced are catered for on well
grumbled and interesting riding tracks. Bike hire
included. Or test your skills on the supervised Tree
Adventures. Great fun. 3-4hrs

3) AMERICAS CUP SAILING
Daily PM (Limited 30 passengers/boat)
Feel the thrill of taking control yourself at the helm of
NZ41 or NZ42 during a simulated race on Waiterma's
sparkling harbour. Join a team and have a competition with
another Lodge or even another District and give it a go. For
all ages. 3-4hrs

4) BRICK BAY SCULPTURE TRAIL & LUNCH/WINE TASTING
(Daily excluding Fri)
60 mins North of Auckland, on the
beautiful Matakana Coast set in park-like
surroundings, a beautiful sculpture trail
awaits. Lunch or wine tasting afterwards
at their vineyard on site. 4-5hrs

5) AUCKLAND ‘MUST DO’ ATTRACTIONS
Daily AM/PM
Your choice of two different but equally
stimulating ‘Must see and Do’ attractions
that Auckland has to offer. Comfortable
couch, knowledgeable tour guides. Perfect
for those from out of town who just want to say
"Take me to three great places" 3-4hrs

6) WAITAKERE RANGES WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE
An Eco-Tour of Auckland’s largest Regional Park.
30 mins west of Auckland lie the breathtaking Waitakere Ranges. Take in the
views that stretch from the Tasman to
the Pacific, view the magnificent Moerit
carvings, and walk on those beaches. 4-5hrs
Freemasonry - Making a Difference

FREEMASONS NZ
GRAND INSTALLATION
18-21st Nov 2010
The Langham, AUCKLAND

Full Day activities

7) RUAKURI CAVE EXPERIENCE
Enjoy a spiritual journey on your guided tour through this underground universe of narrow winding corridors, hidden waterfalls, glow-worms and amazing cave formations. Lands at the Crosshill Homestead and Farm.

8) CLEVEDON VALLEY COASTAL TOUR
Intimate tour of Botanical Gardens, Clevedon Village with lunch at a stunning vineyard and then tour a private garden and travel along the scenic coastline before taking a 35-minute harbour cruise back to Auckland.

4 Day activities

9) THE NORTHLAND EXPERIENCE
Travel to the sensational Bay of Islands and stay three nights at the Kingsgate Hotel, Paihia. Have the opportunity to swim with the dolphins, cruise out to the “hole in the neck”, enjoy an evening BBQ dinner cruise down the Waitangi river to the Haruru falls as well as feeling the exhilaration the next day on an Excitrib high speed adventure which will take you around the beautiful bays, into famous Cathedral cove and finish with an evening show combining Masit Culture and live drama.

10) THE SOUTHLAND EXPERIENCE
Fly into stunning Queenstown and stay three nights at the Novotel Hotel in the central city. Travel through the magnificent Hollyford Valley and then down into Milford Sound for a sensational cruise the length of the Sound out to the Tasman Sea and back. The next day experience the exhilaration of the longest jet boat ride in this beautiful area before boarding the famous Emslawn Evening Cruise and Dinner at the Walter Peak High Country Farm.

Accommodation

BOOK EARLY FOR THE COMMUNICATION VENUE
18-21st Nov 2010
The Langham, AUCKLAND

Organiser:
Northern Division Freemasons NZ

Contact Details

THE LANGHAM HOTEL
Grand Installation Hotel

The Langham

Rendezvous Hotel

Refer to registration form for pricing.
BOOK EARLY FOR THE COMMUNICATION VENUE
HOTEL: The Langham

Organiser:
Northern Division Freemasons NZ

Registrations and Contact:
Jim Watt
New Zealand Conference Connexions Ltd.
Cell: 021 715 442 Ph: 04 237 8091
Fax: 04 237 8062
Freemasons2010@ncc.net.nz
P.O. Box 452, Whakatane 5250

focus on Freemasonry (continued)

Annual Conference in 2009 mentioned five things which he considered essential to the survival of a Lodge (or, in our case, a Chapter):
- Perfect harmony
- Effective handling of business
- Superb ritual and ceremonial
- Enjoyable refectory proceedings, and
- Elimination of the “cringe factor” in all our activities.

These are all outcomes of good, sound and successful leadership and each of them implies an aspect of good, sound management.

Harmony should be a given and if it is not then we should be taking a hard look in our respective and personal mirrors! It is implied in the exhortation given to the Officers at the Installation in a Chapter regarding precept and example, and is an obligation every one of us is required to observe.

Effective handling of business may from time-to-time pose difficulties because not all of us are skilled and able administrators. It does not mean that we should strive to keep the business part of our meetings as short as possible. It does mean that we should strive to be as effective as possible and that we should organise ourselves to ensure that everyone is completely conversant with what the Chapter needs to achieve. This is essentially a management consideration but leadership is needed from those who have ability and can help train others. This is an area in which the establishment of small committees to assist those who have accepted governance roles will greatly enhance the activity of a Chapter. For example a committee or group may assist the Scribe in his composition duties; someone to assist with notice papers and someone to assist with newsletters and letters. Someone may develop a web page for the Chapter and someone may take responsibility for publicity. Another committee or small group may assist the Treasurer.

There is probably little doubt that the area which most affects the view we have of our Chapter is the standard of ritual and ceremonial. It is an area in which we can all contribute merely by trying our best and it is ALWAYS obvious when a Companion has been striving to do his very best. It is equally obvious when he has not. It is also an area which can be greatly enhanced if we do not leave it all to one or two Companions. The responsibility for presenting good ritual belongs to all of us – not just the Director of Ceremonies or the First Principal. Certainly they provide the leadership – but then so do all of the senior and experienced Companions. A ritual committee could take responsibility for planning ceremonies, allocating duties and ensuring that every charge has not only a presenter but also that it is understood by one or more other Companions. It could be responsible for liaising with other Chapters for assistance as appropriate so that our Candidates are offered the best possible experience.

It doesn’t take much imagination to make our refectories more enjoyable. A little humour (not the telling of risqué stories) and innovation can go a long way to making the occasion memorable. And it isn’t dependent, necessarily, on a recent practise of dropping out certain toasts and replies. Don’t forget that one of our objectives is self-development and if making a short address – or toast – is part of those objectives then dropping them prevents Companions practising and enhancing their skills. The process can be improved if a small group of Companions, a committee, accept responsibility for planning our refectory proceedings: for ensuring the catering is adequate and yet affordable; and for planning social events which involve our families and other Chapters.

The “cringe factor” is not necessarily the worst aspect of some of our meetings and should not be overemphasised. It is true that some comments from “the old codgers” may turn a new member off and it is equally true that the worst example of a “cringe factor” is the criticism of a Companion who has difficulty with ritual but who has clearly tried to present it as best he can – who has evidently put in work even if he is not particularly successful. With gentle persuasion those who cause us to cringe can be convinced to ameliorate their criticisms. But we must not forget that for many of those who do criticise from the stance of long membership and recollection, Masonry has been their life and they are less confident. We must ensure that no Companion is overburdened merely because he is able and is a willing workhorse. I venture to suggest that five years is the maximum term anyone should be expected to occupy an administrative office.

Promoting the Order

Even if we manage to apply leadership and management to our Chapters to ensure that we do not lose our existing membership we still need to promote our Chapters – to gain members to offset natural attrition and to provide for growth. How can we achieve that? And, indeed, why?

A dilemma faces every Master Mason when he has been raised.

He has been informed, in his First Degree, that he should make every endeavour to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge and that which is necessary to that end will greatly enhance the activity of a Chapter. He has been informed, in his Third Degree, which concentrates on his spiritual nature and in particular that aspect which relates to his mortality, that the genuine philosopher was outlined in the lecture of the First Degree Tracing Board: the three principal virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity, the four cardinal virtues of Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice; and that the distinguishing characteristics of a Freemason are Virtue, Honour and Mercy.

But he has also been informed in his Third Degree, that concentrates on his spiritual nature and in particular that aspect which relates to his mortality, that the genuine secrets of a Master Mason were lost by the death of just one person.

His dilemma is:

Why should he extend his knowledge?

• How does he extend his knowledge of things Masonic?

We need to provide leadership in our Chapters and manage them such that we can proudly introduce someone into our midst and feel secure in the knowledge that nothing in our activities will embarrass him, or us, and drive him away, and that he too will take pride in the workings of the Chapter. We must provide leadership and example to those who have less knowledge and are less confident. We must ensure that no one Companion feels disenfranchised. And we must ensure that no Companion is overburdened merely because he is able and is a willing workhorse. I venture to suggest that five years is the maximum term anyone should be expected to occupy an administrative office.
The short answer to the question of why he should extend his knowledge is predicated on the basis of all education: that it is comprised of three parts:

- **Knowledge**
- **Experience**
- **Personal development**

He will know he has been given a little knowledge and has been brought to this point by his personal development. But he knows his experience, at least in a Masonic sense, is very limited.

There is a further reason although probably he will not be aware of it at this early stage in his Masonic development and experience. The preface to the Rules of Union written by John Wesley, the original Constitution of the United Grand Lodge of England contains the following statement:

> By the solemn Act of Union between the two Grand Lodges of Free-Masons of England in December 1813, it was declared and pronounced that point: Antient Freemasonry consists of three degrees and no more, viz., those of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Ark.

At the Quarterly Communication of 10 December 2003 the United Grand Lodge of England acknowledged and pronounced the status of the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Ark to be an extension to, but neither a superior nor a subordinate part of, the other two degrees.

Rule 71 of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand states:

> The Craft ceremonies introduce to the Mason how the work was done in the building of King Solomon's Temple and works on the theme of the work ethic. This is because the work was controlled and measured and how the quality control which ensured a sound, stable building was implemented. They describe the controls put in place to ensure that only descendants of the Jews taken into captivity by the Babylonians would work on the Second Temple. And they finally show how the last of them were trained, managed and paid and the reason why the loss of just one man could prevent transmission of the secrets.

> In other words they answer some questions which newly raised Master Masons may have pondered but never found answers to. What was the true relationship between the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason?

> Why is it that the degree of Master Mason does not guarantee him the right to sit in the chair of Master of a Lodge?

> Why does a Lodge have a Master and two Wardens?

> Was the Temple of King Solomon as indestructible as our allegories imply?

> Given that three men knew the secrets of a Master Mason – Solomon King of Israel, Hiram King of Tyre and Hiram Abi – why did the loss of just one of those cause the loss of the secrets?

> Were the lost secrets ever found?

Above all the three degrees of our Order provide a solution to that rather peculiar state in which the Craft Mason finds himself: every lodge learned secrets which are not “genuine”!

> If he joins the Order of the Royal Ark he will, as the catechism of the opening of a Lodge in the Third Degree suggests, have assisted in finding the genuine secrets by his own industry.

Conclusion

I do not wish to list any particular conclusions from the foregoing. Rather I wish you to draw your own conclusions. But I do wish to summarise and extend some of the points I have made.

I stated that I believe there are three steps to the very best of our success at promoting a Chapter is easily measured in the number of new members: for example the success of a plan to promote it we must if we are to be able to answer the questions I posed. If we can’t answer them our ability to promote the Order and our Chapters suffers. If we make this mistake this is a measure of how successful we have been in developing our understanding.

The solution is in our hands. You may recall an old adage: “If it is to be, it is up to me.”

If every one of us does not participate in each of the three steps to the very best of our abilities I can assure you a very bleak future.

www.royalarchmasons.org.nz
ANNE PLUCK by Diana Litton

When asked to write about an inspirational woman, I knew straight away who this would be. She is a lady, modest to the extreme, who has put her hand to many things. She has gone through many hardships, but has always maintained a positive and “can do” spirit with everything she has been involved with.

I am talking about Anne Pluck, wife of Alan, who is a member of the United Lodge of Wanganui No 468.

Anne was born in Timaru, the younger of two girls and didn’t enjoy the best of health as a small child so spent her first years at home with her mother who schooled her through correspondence school. Her mother was a dressmaker and encouraged Anne to sew at a very early age.

Anne attended Timaru Girls High School and during her first years there she was sent to the needlework class as a punishment – little did the teacher realise what a joke that was! She excelled under the guidance of the needlework teacher, a perfectionist in all embroidery techniques which she instilled in her pupil.

Some years after Anne had left school she attended a dance where some army personnel were also present, being in the area as a result of the wharf strike at that time. One of the soldiers was Alan and the rest, as they say, is history. Anne and Alan were soon married and lived first in Addington and then at the Burnham Army camp for the next 13 years, where they had three lovely daughters. From there they went to Waiouru and then to Trentham and later Alan served in Vietnam. Within two years of his return James was born.

Throughout her married life Anne always gave back to the community as much as she gained from it with vigorous energy and commitment. She was involved with the Girl Guide movement for 18 years as a leader and had the honour of meeting Lady Baden-Powell during this time who visited her pack as “the best in New Zealand”.

Anne was also heavily involved in the local church, taking on voluntary roles and vestry positions before becoming an active lay reader.

Anne has always been a great supporter of Alan in his role as a freemason. When Wanganui Lodge amalgamated with Rutland Lodge she attended the blessing of the new Lodge rooms and felt there was potential for the ladies to form a group. So she canvassed the other ladies, suggesting that they met on a regular basis, which was potential for the ladies to form a group. So she canvassed the other ladies, suggesting that they met on a regular basis when the men did. The result was that the United Lodge of Wanganui thrived with the support of the ladies and continues to do so.

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Anne's dedication to her craft and her community has been truly remarkable. She has always put in the effort and has never given up, even facing challenges with her vision. As she approaches the age of 80, she continues to inspire others with her passion and dedication.
Lodge Mangaroa Links With Local School

During 2009 and early 2010 Lodge Mangaroa focused its fund-raising efforts on the provision of a multimedia projection unit and screen for the local Mangaroa School located in Mangaroa Valley, north of Upper Hutt.

The Master of Lodge Mangaroa at the time, WBro Graeme Morgan, says that “It was decided to support Mangaroa School because of the name association with the Lodge and our being aware that the local community was in the process of building a new hall without the benefit of Ministry of Education funding. Several of the Lodge brethren had observed the progress of the hall both during the fund-raising phase and the construction, which was mostly done using volunteer labour from the community.

“We wanted to help out and show our support for a local organisation that was making extensive use of the newly-installed data projector. We are currently part of an IT Cluster and the use of a quality projector for presentation purposes will be immeasurable.

The concept of owning the project and the support of Grand Lodge matching funds.

The project, which could involve all members of the Lodge, was seen as an opportunity to raise the profile of Freemasonry in the valley.

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Ivan Whale's picture window frames a beautiful view of Howick beach where his forebears came ashore in 1847. Whites, not Whales (whose habitat was Onehunga), was the name of Ivan's Howick-born mother, and his own life spans 100 of the 163 years since her parents' arrival there in the ship Minerva.

Ivan's century was on May 26. "I'm keeping out of it," he said as preparations went ahead for the afternoon birthday party, held at his home. The invitations said, "Your company is a gift; we respectfully request no other." There were more than 500 guests at the evening's Queen, the Prime Minister and the Governor-General. Small, alert and mobile, Ivan wears his years lightly. As he tells it, they have just defined by like summer days - "time went on. Things just happened. A lot of people ask me about being 100, but it is just one of those things." Losing his wife Gladys 17 years ago was a huge blow, "but we didn't sit down, we just got on with it." His two daughters and family members include great-great-grandchildren, none with the name Whale, were among the 40 or so at the celebration of his century. From that plateau he can look back and say, "I've had a wonderful, a marvellous life. I'm amazed by it. When they write me up I wonder, 'who's that they're talking about?' I suppose there's been some luck. I went to the hospital some years ago and told them this was the second time. They said, 'no broken bones?' I said no. My eyes are a bit off. I've got all sorts of vehicles and I can't use any of them except the mobility scooter."

His friend, midget and fellow-Mason Dave Roberts, who lives around the corner, makes the joking comment, "Even when he doesn't hear, he does try to look interested." Ivan laughs. He heard that all right.

What kind of strength has helped his business and Masonic life? People say it is the ability to harmonise viewpoints and take others with him. He was always one to delegate - and still is with the co-operation of Dave Roberts, who drives him where he wants to go.

He likes bacon, tomato, banana, toast and tea for breakfast and gets it himself. For lunch he has a salad sandwich. He enjoys a full dinner too. Most days he is out in the garden, weeding the flower and vegetable plots beside a clifftop path. It is one of life's beautiful views of Howick beach where his forebears came ashore in 1847. Whites, not Whales (whose habitat was Onehunga), was the name of Ivan's Howick-born mother, and his own life spans 100 of the 163 years since her parents' arrival there in the ship Minerva.

Ivan Whale was made a Freemason in the Prince of Wales Lodge (EC) 67 years ago, and his sister every Saturday morning. He is very blessed. He has never had any major illness."

Not a man to tilt at windmills like some people, he did knock one over once. It happened to be the iconic Parintongi's Mill, which was "irreplaceable and unique" on the Auckland skyline for 99 years, to quote city historian Dr Graham Bush. And that raised a bit of dust, though it could not be helped. Three of those things." Losing his wife Gladys 17 years ago was a huge blow, "but we didn't sit down, we just got on with it." His two daughters and family members include great-great-grandchildren, none with the name Whale, were among the 40 or so at the celebration of his century. From that plateau he can look back and say, "I've had a wonderful, a marvellous life. I'm amazed by it. When they write me up I wonder, 'who's that they're talking about?' I suppose there's been some luck. I went to the hospital some years ago and told them this was the second time. They said, 'no broken bones?' I said no. My eyes are a bit off. I've got all sorts of vehicles and I can't use any of them except the mobility scooter."

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Guarding The GM's Jewel? Sleep On It!

The “crown jewel” of Freemasonry is the Grand Master's collarette. What if you had to look after it; how would you keep it safe?

WBro Allan Birtwhistle, IPM of Lodge Rotorua No. 153 had to make that decision. He took the precious object home, put it under his pillow and slept on it. And he thought “this is about as close as I will get to being Grand Master,” he reveals in writing about the incident for the first time.

It happened during the Rotorua lodge’s centennial celebrations in 2007 when it was the incumbent. He approached The Jade Factory in Rotorua where a carver wanted to study the stone. The Jade Factory and the carver suggested flower jade which features orange, yellow and brown markings which combine with greenstone colours to produce beautiful patterns in the stone. The Jade Factory and the carver Lewis did a superb job without charge “and we are forever grateful for their generosity,” writes Allan. “I hit on the idea of a greenstone carving depicting the collarette.

He approached The Jade Factory in Rotorua where a carver wanted to study the original piece in order to copy it. Could this be done? A request went to WBro Mark Fraser of Tokoroa-Orakau No. 344 to ask the Grand Master if he was willing to lend the jewel. He agreed, and Mark delivered it to Allan with the words, “Guard this with your life, or else!”

Allan now had custody of “this beautiful piece of jewellery which is quite heavy due to its gold content. With great trepidation I took it to the carver who needed two days to take measurements and photographs. With this done I returned the collarette to Mark Fraser. The whole procedure from start to finish had to be quick because the Grand Master needed the jewel for upcoming commitments.”

With a desired South Island nephrite unavailable at that time, the carver suggested flower jade which features orange, yellow and brown values it as “a treasured heirloom”, says Allan. “I hit on the idea of a greenstone carving depicting the collarette.

The finished carving in its presentation case was ready on the day before the centennial events which included Allan's investiture as master. At the banquet following this he asked “my old HMNZS Royalist shipmate Rev Bro Manny Timutimu of Lodge Apanui No. 395,” to bless the jade collar and the newly-carved stone. The Jade Factory and the carver Lewis did a superb job without charge “and we are forever grateful for their generosity,” writes Allan.

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The board which trades as the Freemasons Roskill Foundation, and whose own benefactions are varied and numerous, sold the Roskill Village to the Selwyn Foundation in 2005 and brought the venerable timepiece with it to the new office. There it rests, waking punctually on the hour to give voice, to beg attention big-time, and then tick on … Tempus fugit.

What Goes Bong in the Corner?

Every day on the hour melodious bonging sounds ruffle the measured calm of the Freemasons Roskill Foundation in Auckland. Conversation falters until the last notes die away. You wonder if there is a clock tower above this top-floor office in Newmarket, but no dome or turret breaks the modern skyline. So where are the sounds coming from?

The culprit looms darkly in a corner. It is a very tall, ornately-carved grandfather clock, a model of good grooming thanks to skillful restoration work by our own master craftsman WVBro Warren Howard. The hand-grained oak and lacquered brass gleam like new from his touch. The clock carries a plaque that says, “Dr and Mrs W.B.Allen, 1979.” Who were the Allens? There is no immediate answer to that, though someone will surely come forward with information. They are believed to have been Roskill Masonic Village residents who donated this handsome clock to the Northern Masonic Association Trust Board which values it as “a treasured heirloom”, says long-time secretary now retired, Mr Dan Matheson.

The clock tower above this floor in Auckland's Glendowie, and the guests are senior brethren assembled for the official unveiling, at which Charity Superintendent RWBro Mark Winger notes that Freemasons have given $3 million support to hospices nation-wide in the last three years.

The multi-purpose room which can be hoisted by crane to other sites in the verdant grounds around Dove House as needed, is a timely gift with the hospice’s services in growing demand. The project has involved Auckland lodges Tamaki, Wayfarers and Peace who contributed $2500, $2500 and $5000 respectively, with $8942 coming from The Freemasons Charity whose Northern Superintendent, WVBro Ray Laurence, is there with his wife June. The donor lodges are represented by their Masters.

Chief executive officer of the hospice Janine Ewan says the number of patients on its books has gone from 80 to 240 in 18 months, and this “exponential growth … shows no sign of tailing off. We get 25 to 40 referrals every month.” She thinks the reason is that the 10-year-old Dove House has gained a reputation for care and a credibility with health providers “who send their patients to us, knowing we will be able to help them to achieve a level of acceptance around their illness.” The approach is holistic with intertwining strands of therapy often “tailored” to the needs of patients beset with fear and uncertainty. They are helped to feel positive about helping themselves.

Breathing space is a big factor for both patients and their carers, though Dove House is not a 24-hour facility. And the hospice needs breathing space of its own – spatial respite – which the moveable room provides with safe storage for a variety of important equipment that must be on-site and handy, but does not need to be crammed into the house. Wheelchairs and walkers for which demand fluctuates, for example, or crates of glassware for fund-raising events. The Freemasons’ gift “gives us breathing space … and in the future we can utilize it as a separate room,” says Janine Ewan, who adds that once influential well-wishers had taken the idea to the participating lodges, she found that the Masonic mission statement was “perfectly aligned with ours!”

J just a bunch of blokes down at the shed having a cuppa, in what seems a typical scene. But this is not a working bee and the “shed” is no such thing, though it is called so in jest. It is really a $20,000, relocatable room at Dove House, the Eastern Bays Hospice in Auckland’s Glendowie, and the guests are senior brethren assembled for the official unveiling, at which Charity Superintendent RWBro Mark Winger notes that Freemasons have given $3 million support to hospices nation-wide in the last three years.

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More than 40 defibrillators have been distributed nationwide with the help of The Freemasons Charity, and the campaign is still going strong. Here the Northern Div.GM, RWBro Eddie Eeles (left) and Auckland Central District GM VWBro Brian Cliff (right) present a defibrillator to Snr Sgt Wayne Kitcher, for duty at the central police station. Centre is benevolence officer Jack Leigh. Photos by Vic Fabian.

Hearty Enthusiasm

At each stage of our lives we face a whole new set of financial situations. Being in your sixties is no exception. Whether you’re planning for retirement, semi-retired or retired you’re likely to be asking yourself a whole lot of questions.

For some New Zealanders, 65 is the new 45. These Kiwis are still busy working and have plenty of things to do before they ‘retire’.

For others being in their sixties or seventies is a chance to spend time with their grandchildren and be a part of the local community.

Then there are many others who do a bit of both.

We need to find a new label for ‘retirement’ because these days it means different things to different people. But wherever you are on the spectrum it’s a good time to take stock of your financial affairs and plan ahead so you can make the most of whatever your ‘retirement’ is going to be.

For example, have you worked out how much money you will need in retirement? If you have a nest egg what are your plans for managing it so that it lasts for as long as you need it? Do you plan to stay in the house you’re in now or have you got plans to downsize?

You may have already thought about how to look after your hard-earned assets in the years ahead, but are things like your insurance and will up-to-date? For example, your insurance needs may change as your lifestyle changes so it’s worth reviewing your cover regularly.

The Retirement Commission’s free booklet, Your money in retirement, is a good checklist for working through these issues, either by yourself or with your family.

The Retirement Commission’s free booklet, Your money in retirement, is a good checklist for working through these issues, either by yourself or with your family.

As well as seeing how their weekly budgets pan out the stories will give you some good insights into different options for planning, spending and saving. You might also find some good tips for making the money you’ve got go further.

The Retirement Commission’s Sorted website (www.sorted.org.nz) is also a goldmine of free and impartial information on all these topics.

The 60-plus section includes information and easy-to-use calculators to help you live off your savings, protect your assets and plan where to live as you get older. You’ll find good, independent information on retirement villages and rest homes and where to go for more information.

If you’re just heading towards retirement try Sorted’s Budget calculator to work out your retirement budget. Or if you’re already in retirement use the Managing your nest egg calculator to work out how much you can spend each year to make your savings last.

Note:
As of today 42 units have been placed throughout the country total outlay $126,302:
- 32 in the North Island
- 10 in the South Island

42 lodges contributed $1500 each = $63,000

Cost were shared 50:50 between Lodges and The Freemasons Charity.

Is Your Retirement Sorted?
by Diana Crossan, Retirement Commissioner

The Sorted website is used by one in four Kiwis. All the calculators on the site are secure and the information you enter into them remains confidential to you.

You might like to try a new feature called ‘My Sorted’ where you can save all the results of the calculations you do on the website. It only takes a couple of minutes to join and once you’re signed up it’s like having your own personal, confidential filing cabinet online.

Sorted is New Zealand’s free independent online money guide, run by the Retirement Commission. You can order Sorted’s free booklet, Your money in retirement, online at sorted.org.nz/ordering or by calling 0800 SORT MONEY (767 866).

Whether you’re planning for retirement, online money in retirement, is a good time for managing it so that it lasts for as long as you need it? Do you plan to stay in the house you’re in now or have you got plans to downsize?

The Retirement Commission’s free booklet, Your money in retirement, is a good checklist for working through these issues, either by yourself or with your family.
Obituary: MEComp Trevor Griffiths Past First Grand Principal

Trevor Wiremu Griffiths.

It was with considerable sadness we learned of the passing of MEComp Trevor Wiremu Griffiths.

The following report by Jacob Page is from the Timaru Herald of 22 February 2010.

South Canterbury has lost one of its most respected and well-known residents. World-renowned rosarian Trevor Griffiths died yesterday after a long illness.

Such was his knowledge of roses that the Trevor Griffiths Rose Garden at Caroline Bay was opened in 2001, and he was a New Zealand and international identity. He wrote eight books on roses and worked as a nurseryman until his retirement.

Mr Griffiths, 83, also had a rose named after him by distinguished English rosarian David Austin who described Mr Griffiths as a pioneering nurseryman.

His son Bevan said he was a modest man whose passion in life was roses. “Roses have been his life, they were the love of his life.”

“He was always very humble about his achievements. Former mayoress Nan Raymond, who was instrumental in establishing the Trevor Griffiths Rose Garden when she was president of the Timaru Beautifying Society, said South Canterbury had lost one of its most influential people.

“Roses lovers all over the world will be sad to hear of Trevor’s death.”

The people of South Canterbury were fortunate to have Trevor and his roses in their midst.

“His life’s work will live on for decades to come.”

South Canterbury Rose Society secretary John Jackson said Mr Griffiths would be a sad loss, and he would always remember Mr Griffiths for his passion, dedication and willingness to pass on his knowledge. The Trevor Griffiths Rose Garden was designed by Sir Miles Warren and today boasts more than 1200 roses. It has a rose from every rose family in the world.

Mr Griffiths’ collection of genuine old roses was once the third biggest in the world. It is from this collection, plus 600 modern roses from David Austin, that the Bay garden evolved.

Mr Griffiths also contributed to The Herald’s Past Times pages, reminiscing about Timaru in days gone by.

The following is taken from the Eulogy presented by MEComp Eoin Dryden Past First Grand Principal at the funeral of MEComp Griffiths:

My family came to Temuka in 1973, and whilst I did not know Trevor at that time, I was aware of a rose nursery at Arowhenua that had a most unusual sign on the gate that said “Closed on Sunday, see you in Church.” This was my first indication of a man who thought outside the square, that acted beyond the bounds of convention, but in a sincere and forthright way.

As time moved on my association with him became more involved, mainly through a joint interest in Masonic Lodges and consequently by our frequent trips between Timaru and Christchurch initially, and then ultimately throughout New Zealand. As an indication of this, we had both purchased a similar car around the same time and we always had an arrangement that we would alternate the use of our cars on our many trips to Christchurch, and it was only after some three years when we both decided that it was time for a change, that we discovered that both of our cars each had travelled some 63,000 kilometres and then we became to realise just how much time we had spent in each others company on the road. You can perhaps now appreciate just how much conversation we had had in the car, and how many times that we had put the world to right.

From this time together, I came to learn about a man who had a fantastic memory, whose ability to recall incidents was scary, who could quote without pause the name of a thousand plants, shrubs and roses. Who could identify the name of a rose without looking at its bloom, but merely by regarding its foliage and growth behaviour? Who could explain in detail the history of the many varieties of roses and their origin?

This revered man was acknowledged as a world authority on roses and was known and recognised throughout the world. Through circumstances which I do not know about, he became the New Zealand agent for a very well known and respected English rose breeder David Austin, and David must have thought so highly of Trevor that he bred and marketed a rose which he named Trevor Griffiths, one with more barbs I have never seen, but with a fragrance that is unique. There are few people in this world who have the privilege of seeing their own monument created and named in their honour, but the Trevor Griffiths Rose Garden is testimony to the respect that Timaru publicly acknowledges and has created in commemoration of this local lad.

Freemasonry has been part of Trevor’s life for the last 53 years, and he has played an involved and important part in the history of the Lodges throughout the South Canterbury-District, and indeed throughout New Zealand. You may notice that I wear a collarette today, to which is attached a double triangle surmounted by a crown, there are also three other Companions here today who also are wearing this collarette, as a token of respect toward Trevor, and also an acknowledgement that he also wore one of these collarettes as a Past First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Zealand, Past Grand Master of The Supreme Council of Cryptic Masons of New Zealand, Past Venerable Preceptor of the Order of Knights Templar of New Zealand, Illustrious Brother and Past Most Wise Sovereign of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Rose Croix Masonry.

In our Masonic teachings, we are instructed that death holds no terrors equal to the stain of falsehood and dishonesty. We are also reminded per medium of the passages of New Zealand qualified to wear this jewel and now there are only 12 of us. There are also a substantial number of Brethren and Companions from Christchurch through to Dunedin here today, and I am sure that I speak on behalf of the Griffiths family by thanking them most sincerely for their effort in attending this funeral service.

I would now like to ask all Masonic Brethren present to be upstanding.

Very Worshipful Brother Trevor Wiremu Griffiths, Past Grand Director of Ceremonies of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, Most Excellent Companion Trevor Wiremu Griffiths, Past First Grand Principal of The Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Zealand, Past Grand Master of The Supreme Council of Cryptic Masons of New Zealand, Past Venerable Preceptor of the Order of Knights Templar of New Zealand, Illustrious Brother and Past Most Wise Sovereign of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Rose Croix Masonry.

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;
VEComp John Breton receives a First Grand Principal’s Award

The First Grand Principal, MEComp Graeme Pengelly, presented a First Grand Principal’s Award to VECOMP John Breton at the annual fraternal meeting of Paritutu Chapter No. 5 and Wanganui Chapter No. 23. The meeting was held at the Tawa Street Lodge Rooms, Goulburn, Wanganui on the afternoon of Saturday 8 May.

John was initiated into Lodge Rutland No. 398 in May 1975; becoming its Master in March 2001. Lodge Rutland became part of The United Lodge Of Wanganui No. 468 in 2004 and he has since served this Lodge in various offices ranging from Junior Steward to Deputy Master.

John joined Wanganui Royal Arch Chapter No. 23 in May 1977, was installed as its First Principal in September 1987 and has served as Treasurer since 1994. When presenting the award MEComp Pengelly referred to the very capable and conscientious way John had carried out his duties. It can be said that John’s respect for the Institution and attachment to the interests of his Chapter enabled him to faithfully discharge his duties. He designed the Financial Return Form presently used by Grand Chapter.

John joined Knights Templar in 1978, rising to District Grand Marshall in 2009. He is a Past District Grand Master of the United Shriners of New Zealand and a part of The United Lodge Of Wanganui.

Photo: VECOMP Frank Vandenberg PGDC, VECOMP John Breton, MEComp Graeme Pengelly GZ

Want to know more about the Royal Arch, or got an idea for a Royal Arch story?

Contact Royal Arch publicity officer
Gary Kerkin:
email: gary@kerkin.co.nz
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Fax: 07 889 3028
http://www.royalarchmasons.org.nz
Since 1977 the Freemasons Deposit Scheme has enabled Freemasons and their families to reap the benefits of a highly competitive interest rate that is based on the collective savings of all accounts in the scheme. Your funds will be ‘On Call’ and most importantly, your deposits help the Craft as a whole.

For an application form or more information regarding the Freemasons Deposit Scheme please call 0800 659 876, or visit www.freemasons.co.nz