

## **Management Council Brief July 2017**

Greetings Companions

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Firstly, many thanks to all the Companions throughout New Zealand who sent through the ubiquitous bread bag tags ....

### **Bread tags for wheelchairs project now complete**



The collection of bread tags for wheelchairs project has come to an end. If you have any bread tags please immediately forward them to R E Comp Roger Gregory, 107 Hurworth Road, RD 1, New Plymouth 4371. Thanks to all who participated.

### **Management Council meeting**

As advised on the website and elsewhere, the new Management Council met in Wellington on Saturday, 8 July 2017 in the Boardroom at Freemasons New Zealand with R W Bro Peter Benstead, the President of the Board of General Purposes, Freemasons New Zealand in attendance for the first part of the meeting.

There was a very extensive agenda, covering a number of projects carried over from the previous year as well as several new initiatives. Specifics of some changes were advised direct to Chapter Scribes and Council Recorders as well as Grand Superintendents and PGZs the next Monday and the following is an abbreviated outline of the main items covered. If you would like more details on any aspect please contact your Scribe E or Grand Superintendent in the first instance.

Firstly, at the First Grand Principal's request, Council agreed to reinstate the circulation of the Council minutes to the Grand Superintendents and PGZs reflecting an agreement when the move was made from the old Supreme Committee to the greatly reduced Council membership.

**Grand Chapter Officers:** Council also approved the Central Division's Grand Superintendents' recommendations for Grand Chapter Officers for that Division for 2018-21 and these will be laid before Convocation for formal election and ratification.

While not directly linked Council also noted the situation of the new application process for the roles of First Grand Principal, Depute GZ, Grand Haggai and Grand Jeshua for 2019-21. Full details of these are covered in the constitution and on 1 July applications were called for via Chapters/Councils, Grand Superintendents and PGZs. As mentioned to a Chapter recently the big change for these four roles is that these are now applications not nominations and they come direct to me from the applicant with the supporting material rather than the former process of nominations from Chapters or individuals to the Grand Superintendents etc. Equally the applications for the role of First Grand Principal can come from any Companion anywhere in the country. The 3 Divisional ones are still by Division; the Depute GZ is allocated to Central, Grand H to Southern and Grand J to Northern this rotation so any qualified applicant in the whole Division can apply directly in the manner set out in the Book of Constitution.

1. **Book of Constitution:** The amendments have been incorporated into a full edition which was approved and subject to final formatting will be on the website and circulated as a pdf shortly. As with many publications in the 21<sup>st</sup> century world we live in it will only be available in hard copy as print on demand. Cost for that will remain at \$15 including postage and packaging!
2. **Future amendments:** Life is not static and as indicated in the last "Brief" Council had before it a recommendation that the role of Grand Lecturer be updated to reflect their current role of education officers to their respective divisions responsible for such as the "Pathways" ceremonies as opposed to the traditional "lecturing". This and a recommendation to allow the use of a post-nominal for those receiving a First Grand Principal's Award will be placed before Convocation next year for consideration
3. **Book of Proceedings 2017:** The draft prepared by R E Comp Robert Jaray PGH (and immediate PGSE) was approved. Council also resolved to implement the decision of Convocation 2009 and separate the historical listing of Grand Chapter Officers since 1892 from the principal document, reducing the print size considerably to 84 pages. The reduced version is at the printer and will be circulated ASAP. The full historical listing will be on the website as before but requires a substantial review due to some material such as resignation or death of a person not being annotated against the respective listings.
4. **Royal Arch Certificates:** these will now be produced in A4 format as for all others provided in the Craft and most other Orders. The Latin/French sidebars have been removed but reference has been retained in the explanation. The fee will increase for the first time in over a decade to \$25 but this includes registration, certificate, members jewel, RA lapel badge, Research Chapter booklet and some other material.
5. **Scarves:** See the images on the website, which have also been circulated to Chapters/Councils. Council agreed to an immediate reduction in charge to \$25 each including p&p and we feel these will now find favour with members in greater numbers than in the past. Perhaps a Chapter or Council might think of giving one to a

scholarship recipient or other persons connected to them as a “thank you”. They are suitable to be worn by either male or females.

6. **Ties:** The cost for these remains at \$30 including p&p having been a ready seller over the past year. They are pure silk and have been a popular alternative due to their more modern styling than the usual black with a single emblem available in the past
7. **Convocation:** Times were confirmed and will be on the website shortly with the usual invitation booklet, which R E Comp Gregory and his team are finalising. They have a great event planned for 2-4 March in New Plymouth. Dr Peter Segal, the recipient of the Centennial Award for this year will also speak to us – see details of him and the Centennial Award on the website. The Silver Trowel ceremony will also be held on Friday afternoon for Central and Northern division candidates. More later.
8. **Jubilee Scholarship Fund:** Council noted with some concern a considerable reduction in contributions to the fund over the past year, which will have a material impact on the number of grants able to be made in future especially with the low rate of returns now available on the capital funds held. The usual invitation for applications to be submitted from Chapters in January 2018 remains and these in turn must be with your respective Grand Superintendent no later than 31 January 2018. The form and all details are as shown on the website ([www.royalarch.org.nz](http://www.royalarch.org.nz)) and will not be being printed as most students currently download these forms and complete them on their computer. The student’s results are still required and must be certified as true copies. There are no limitations as to applicant suitability – scholarships are made for providing a technical education, professional or vocational training or to continue such a course already begun. Scholarships are awarded annually and may be renewed, subsequent to a further application, for a period of one year. The value of each scholarship is determined by the Scholarship Council which also has the authority to award special prizes to the most outstanding applicants.
9. **Craft/Royal Arch Liaison Meetings:** Unfortunately, a scheduled meeting had to be postponed due to weather issues and the next meeting will now be held on 2 August. Further reports will follow but Companions are encouraged to discuss our great Order with fellow Lodge members and wear their Royal Arch Jewel (recall it can be worn at Lodge meeting under Rule 71 of the Book of Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of New Zealand, which states ***Degrees Recognised as Antient Freemasonry*** “Grand Lodge recognises the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, Master Mason, Mark Master, Excellent Master and the Royal Arch as being pure Antient Freemasonry.” Equally see Rule 185. ***Permitted Jewels:*** “No jewel, medal, device, or emblem shall be worn in Grand Lodge or any Craft Lodge which does not appertain to, or is not consistent with, those degrees which are recognised by Grand Lodge as being pure antient Freemasonry.”
10. **Website:** [www.royalarch.org.nz](http://www.royalarch.org.nz) - a full presentation on the site including issues on emails, Mailchimp etc was delivered during the lunch break by V E Comp Duane Williams, GSN and Grand Chapter Webmaster, at the venue
11. **Concept paper on ritual:** This paper had been presented to the previous Council without resolution but revolved around the use of an app for an electronic version of the ritual on a hand-held device. While not opposed by the current Council it was

acknowledged that considering the extensive stocks of rituals held by GSE no further action was appropriate at present.

12. **Ratification of Minutes of Convocations:** An issue raised by M E Comp Graeme Pengelly relating to the ratification of minutes of Convocations since 2014 had been as summarised by the GSE with the agenda. It was agreed to refer the issue to the Grand Registrar for his advice, to be considered at the next Management Council meeting