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23 July 2019

**Management Council Brief July 2019**

Greetings Companions

If you have yet to register on [www.royalarch.org.nz](http://www.royalarch.org.nz) please contact Grand Scribe Nehemiah gsn@royalarch.org.nz or webmaster@royalarch,org.nz once this is complete, we will be better able to send these briefs direct to all members

The Management Council met on Saturday 20th July 2019 but before the formal and usual business received an extensive submission from R E Companion Robert Jaray, PGH, Chairman of the Jubilee Memorial Scholarship Council as to the future of the JSF and also a presentation from R E Companion Ken Burt, G Supt, on the development of the Application for the ritual and other matters.

1. **The App** is well underway with the development being undertaken by students at Whitirea Polytec and subject to some further work will be available for further demonstration in the next month or so. All members of Management Council were (to use the current phrase) “blown away” with the work done to date and the hours of voluntary work put in by all involved. We are well out in front of other Masonic areas in this regard.
2. **Jubilee Scholarship Fund:**

As regards the JSF members will be aware of the concerns as to the viability of the fund with reducing membership and likewise reductions in interest income. Equally those at Convocation this year will recall the extensive discussion as to the relevancy of the scholarships themselves including the implication of the Governments “Fees Free” policy.

Royal Arch membership as a whole was canvassed in 2014 for support for a re-shaped approach to the JMSS after the circulation of a document entitled: "The Royal Arch Award Scheme".

The membership was unsupportive of the proposed initiative. Equally the Jubilee Memorial Scholarship Council (JMSC) decided in 2018 that within the powers granted to it in the existing rules that changes within the historic nature of awarding scholarships would be made for the 2019 and beyond,

The JMSC formally advised the Management Council of those intentions and the detail of the changes in June 2018 and sought Management Council's support for the changes.

Management Council responded in December 2018 that it was unable to support the changes on its own volition and asked for further consultation with all Chapters before change was made which was done. Regrettably little feedback was received from members indicating a possible apathy for the continuance of the scheme. A further plea was made at Convocation 2019 (Hamilton) for Royal Arch members to convey views and ideas to the JMSC for the JMSS for the future, but again little feedback has been received. Accordingly, the JSF Council placed several options before Management Council at this meeting for consideration ranging from a retention of the existing provisions to absolute abolition of the JMSF. After a careful consideration of these options Management Council considered that the best option was to extend the provisions of the existing scheme to make the awards more general rather than merely scholastic ones. If this approach fails to find support from Companions in their contributions, then it may well be that the time has come to wind up this fund.

Proposals to amend the Rules of the JMSF will be drafted and circulated for consideration to then be laid before Convocation 2020.

The following is a general summary of the other discussions of Management Council:

1. **Centennial Fund:** The chairman of the Centennial Fund R E Comp Ron Lane, PGH, had provided a fuller outline of the CoPD project which was approved at Convocation. The funding stream associated with the project was confirmed by Management Council
2. **Grand Chapter Officers 2020**-23: Southern Division. The various recommendations from the 4 Grand Superintendents were considered and approved subject to some final formal details being received regarding those for the Southland District.
3. **Convocation for your planning diaries:**

2020 – full details including the application form will be circulated separately but please see especially the letter from the First Grand Principal attached.

2021 – as advised previously Wellington District will host the Convocation over the second weekend in March 2021 at the Solway Complex in Masterton.

1. **Pro and Epilogues plus Test Questions:** Management Council has been concerned for some months at what seems to be a variation as to how these tools are used around the country. All acknowledge that they help the Candidate better understand the ceremonies he has been through (been subjected to) but some commonality would seem warranted to ensure what works best is used. To this end the Ritual Committee will be tasked with reviewing both the content and practices associated with these. This is separate from the review which was undertaken last year on the Pathways ceremony which was updated and circulated (and which works in attracting new candidates).
2. **Web site** –check it out and see the great work the GSN continues to do on it. [www.royalarch.org.nz](http://www.royalarch.org.nz) (email him at webmaster@royalarch.org.nz for assistance in logging on as a member if need be.)
3. **First Grand Principals visits**: can Chapters and Councils involved ensure that they and their Grand Superintendent liaise closely with the GZ on these especially where changes of date are involved?

**First Grand Principals major events here and overseas** (for information and support at where appropriate):

1. St Augustine RAC # 1 – Sesqui centennial 30th November 2019
2. Freemasons NZ Grand Installation of R W Bro G Wrigley (member of Shirley Chapter) – 15-17 November 2019
3. SGRAC NSW – Grand Proclamation 19 September
4. Royal & Select Masters of SA&NT (Cryptic) Grand Installation – 5-6 October
5. SGRAC Western Australia – Grand Installation 25-27 October (GZ attending)
6. SGRAC Queensland – Grand Installation 1-2 November (GZ attending)
7. Royal & Select Masters of Victoria (Cryptic) Grand Installation – 16 November 2019 (represented)
8. SGRAC Tasmania – Grand Installation 29-31 May 2020 (GZ attending)
9. Allied Masonic Degrees – installation of M E Comp R H Biel, PGZ as District Grand Prefect 3 August 2019 (Napier)
10. United Great Priory in NZ (Knights Templar) – Installation of R E Comp D Craddock, PG Supt, as Grand Master 31st August 2019 (Auckland)
11. Red Cross of Constantine - installation of M E Comp R H Biel, PGZ as Grand Sovereign 7th September 2019 (Marton.)

**Craft/Royal Arch Liaison meeting:**

At the conclusion of the meeting we also had the opportunity to meet with R W Bro Graham Wrigley, DGM/GM -elect and R W Bro Peter Benstead, President of the Board of General Purposes. Among the various topics we canvassed was the provision of a booth at Grand Lodge Communication and other ways in which we can better enhance the understanding of Craft Masons as to the 6 degrees covered by the Book of Constitution. The letters to Master Masons after 2 years of their raising and other initiatives such as endeavouring to get Freemasons back to their Lodges remains an ongoing project. The DGM outlined his thoughts for the next few years which will be enunciated on fully later but include a better understanding of the whole Masonic “family”. We are continuing to look at how a Craft Lodge/RA Chapter situation might best work. These meetings are ongoing and the DGM is committed to ensuring actual outcomes are achieved.

Yours fraternally



Alan Hart

Grand Scribe Ezra.

**Companions all,**

Thank you to the organisers of this year’s Convocation at Hamilton. It was a super event and my wife, and I really enjoyed the hospitality and Companionship we enjoyed that weekend. The team in Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast have already been at work planning and arranging the next one on the 12-14th of March2020 in Sunny Nelson. (A place I know very well and love)

The team have put together an impressive programme with a number of events designed to open up our Convocation to other orders in the Freemasonry family. I have asked the team in Nelson to invite all the local Craft Lodges and Chapters to attend the business meeting and the Convocation meetings itself so they can see Royal Arch masonry in action.

The Convocation Hotel is the Grand Mercure Monaco Apartments. This unique environment was modelled on a small UK village concept all centred on a village green.

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The Nelson Convocation Team has provided me with an overview of the weekend’s events which I am sure you will find interesting. Their aim is to entice you all to extend your stay at the conference to enjoy the many things of interest that Nelson provides. (The Hotel is making the very special room rate we have negotiated available for the whole period of your stay in Nelson!)

The convocation meeting will be held in the nearby Nelson Centre for Musical Arts (formally Nelson School of Music) Auditorium. This has only just been reopened after an extensive renovation and earthquake strengthening. The star of the show will be the massive internationally renowned pipe organ which will be used during the ceremony.

The normal programme will be o offer but with a few differences. The first of these will be the meet and greet which will start at 5.30 pm where I will receive all those attendees who are attending convocation for the first time. This is designed to make sure they feel at home before the more experienced conference attendees’ come in at 6pm. In addition, instead of just a few canapés the team at Nelson have arranged a plated meal for each attendee. (There will be a choice). In addition to the normal programme the Knights Templar will be conducting a re-enactment of an initiation Ceremony from the 12th century for you all to see. This is a really special event and has only previously been demonstrated in the Nelson Area.

My wife and I are looking forward to meeting you all again in Nelson

Graham