



Singing our National Anthem

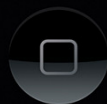
It is traditional for many Lodges to sing our national anthem 'God Defend New Zealand' at regular meetings or particularly at installation meetings. This can be either during the installation ceremony or during refectory.

'God Defend New Zealand' is one of two official anthems. The second, 'God save the Queen', reflects our colonial past. 'God defend New Zealand' was elevated to anthem status in 1977 and has become the preferred anthem for New Zealanders both at home and abroad. 'God save the Queen' is usually reserved for formal ceremonies involving the Queen, the Governor-General or the royal family.

Thomas Bracken's poem, 'God defend New Zealand', was put to music in 1876 by J.J. Woods from Lawrence, Central Otago. The first Maori translation was made in 1878 by Native Land Court judge Thomas H. Smith, at the request of Governor Sir George Grey. Despite this, until the closing decades of the 20th century most New Zealanders were familiar only with the English-language version. This situation changed dramatically at the 1999 Rugby World Cup in England. Hinewehi Mohi sang 'God defend New Zealand' only in Te Reo Maori before the All Blacks versus England match.

While it has been customary for Lodges to sing the 'English' version younger men have grown up with the anthem being sung in both Maori and English, to acknowledge our bicultural heritage, particularly before major sporting events.

Accordingly if we wish to ensure Freemasonry is attractive and contemporary to younger men it is important that Lodges look at adopting the dual version when the anthem is sung during Lodge activities. The words are provided for assistance – see over the page.



THE FREEMASONS TOOLBOX



THE NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL ANTHEM

E Ihoa Atua
O nga iwi matou ra
Ata whakarongona
Me aroha noa

God of Nations at thy feet
In the bonds of love we meet
Hear our voices we entreat
God defend our free land

Kia hua ko te pai
Kia tau to atawhai
Manaakitia mai
Aotearoa

Guard Pacific's triple star
From the shafts of strife and war
Make her praises heard afar
God defend New Zealand

