



Hold A Paddy Night

Many of the first Lodges formed in New Zealand did so under the Irish constitution. Indeed the first Lodge was Lodge Ara No 348 IC. When the Grand Lodge of NZ (GLNZ) was formed in 1890 most, but not all, lodges in NZ at the time transferred their allegiance to the GLNZ. In coming together the Freemasons of the new Grand Lodge brought together traditions of all three constitutions, English, Scottish and Irish into the NZ constitution. On that basis it seems appropriate for Lodges from time to time to celebrate the Irish origins in our NZ Freemasonry.

The Irish are about good 'crack' – sharing a joke and having fun. A Paddy Night for a Lodge meeting should capture this spirit and involve numerous aspects with an Irish theme. While it could be held on the Lodge meeting night nearest St Patricks Day it need not be. Here are some ideas:

- Invite a member/s of an Irish Lodge (there are 4 in NZ) to come and share an evening – get them to describe the differences in their regalia, their signs and their salutes.
- Track down some of the original Irish ceremonial and get several brethren to perform parts – doesn't need to be the whole ceremony – could be just the working tools or a tracing board.
- Find some passages from the 20thC poet William Butler Yeats and have a poetry recital.
- Invite a local Irish band or musicians to play at refectory.
- Find a bottle or two of good Irish whiskey (Bushmills, Jameson, Tullamore Dew) and have a tasting activity.
- Get someone who has toured Ireland to share their experiences.
- Serve an Irish stew for dinner plus other national dishes like 'champ'.
- Dress up the refectory in green for the evening.

Use some imagination and have great night.

