



## Tips for the Deputy Master

You've been asked to be the Deputy Master – what is involved?

Firstly you need to be a Past Master. Next the role is one to support the Master, however if the Master is absent, dies, resigns, is rendered incapable of discharging his duties or for any other reason is unable to be present, then the Deputy Master takes over.

Here are some tips to make a success of the role:

- Best practice is for the Master to be / elect to ask you early to undertake the role – that will enable you to counsel him in regard to:
  1. Selecting his officers (usually in accordance with Lodge custom);
  2. Planning his installation (in consultation with the District GM).
- In the event that the Master is away or not able to discharge his duties (hopefully this will not happen) it is a good idea that you familiarise yourself with:
  1. Current matters before the Lodge;
  2. The Lodge ceremonial requirements.
- Depending on his experience the Master will likely value your guidance and support. There is a balance in waiting to be asked and coaching the new Master on aspects of his role. It is best to have a discussion with the Master to establish his expectations.
- It is always good for the Deputy Master to support the Master during rehearsals if possible. Your careful guidance should enable him to add finesse to the role.
- Practice your prompting – it's good to be a step ahead and be able to provide the Master with a prompt when needed.
- Make time to have a chat with the Master to enquire of him how he is finding the role and enable any challenges to be shared. Listening on these occasions is good.

