



FREEMASONS

New Zealand

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Grand Secretary Newsletter Issue 2008/5 – 4 March 2008

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National Lodge Planning Committee Strategic Paper

Objectives:

1. To ensure the longevity and achieve excellence in Lodges within New Zealand.
2. Retaining consistency with previous Renewal Programs and taking cognizance of subsequent external research findings, facilitate support to Lodges so they are able to:

- Practice Freemasonry internally and within in the community in keeping with standards expected of our new members.
- Determine the present “state” of the Lodge and obtain agreement from members as to the way forward.
- Establish the appropriate planning mechanisms and structure to achieve this and also to achieve: the retention of existing members, the regaining of previous members and then renew with new members with emphasis on quality/suitability not “quantity.”
- Maintain accommodation which visually presents a public image worthy of our Constitution and create a Lodge environment which meets/exceeds the expectations of the modern man and his family.

Strategies:

- Retain the support, confidence and trust of the Board of General Purposes by establishing effective two way communication and maintaining professionalism in all we do.

- Continue to work closely with Divisional Grand Masters and develop the involvement and participation of District Grand Masters which is critical to success.
- Train and empower suitably qualified Brethren who have the necessary credibility to assist with the presentations.
- Continue to update and refine existing presentation material and ensure that it is retained in its present professional format.
- Establish appropriate feedback systems so that progress can be monitored. This would be preferably through the District Grand Masters.

Recommendations:

- The Board promulgates the purpose and services provided by the National Planning Team and that the District Grand Masters undertake the administration of this within their pastoral duties.
- In conjunction with the Divisional Grand Masters a review of the functions, duties and responsibilities of the office of District Grand Master is undertaken and that this is documented. This would then be the basis of agreement with District Grand Masters elect, before accepting office, to certain obligations including development of a District Plan incorporating “Lodge renewal.” Progress could then be monitored against time lines and reported back through Divisional Grand Masters.
- The current Divisional and District “Membership” roles are renamed “Planning & Lodge Development” which incorporates as a natural component and consequence - membership. This in our view more accurately reflects the importance of creating a Lodge environment conducive to attracting and **retaining** new members. Experience and feed back clearly demonstrates the need for this change.
- That representation from the National Planning Team is involved in appropriate surveys and seminars at Board level so they keep abreast with any developments with a view to assisting with implementation.
- That members of the Planning team assist at the Divisional Conferences in promulgating the support mechanisms available. (this has been agreed in principle).
- The Planning team is involved in the dissemination of the new Charitable Trust requirements as this will present an opportunity to cover other related issues to a captive market.
- Consideration to a brief report delivered at the next Communications.

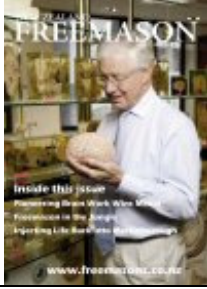
Summary:

There is sufficient evidence from results, feedback and personal experiences, to have confidence that the methodology and material utilized to date is both relevant to the market and when taken up by Lodges very successful. Many challenges however still remain, not the least resistance to change, aging membership and inability to attract and more importantly **retain** newer and younger members. With continued effort, support from the Board, and the ability to market ourselves and the concepts professionally, progress can be made.

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[Laurence Milton](mailto:laurencem@freemasons.co.nz)
laurencem@freemasons.co.nz

Grand Secretary
Freemasons New Zealand
+64 4 385 6622

This newsletter was sent by:
The Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of New Zealand
Level 6, Freemason House
195-201 Willis Street
Wellington, New Zealand

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