



FREEMASONS

New Zealand

Grand Secretary Newsletter

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Charities Commission Ruling

Brethren may hear from the news media that Freemasons NZ has lost its appeal to be registered as a Charity with the Charities Commission.

The Charities Commission had challenged the status of some of Grand Lodge's activities, while accepting the charitable status of The Freemasons Charity. We appealed this decision in the High Court.

We have now been advised that Freemasons NZ has lost its appeal to have global registration of ALL its activities as "charitable".

For the sake of clarity the Judge observed that:

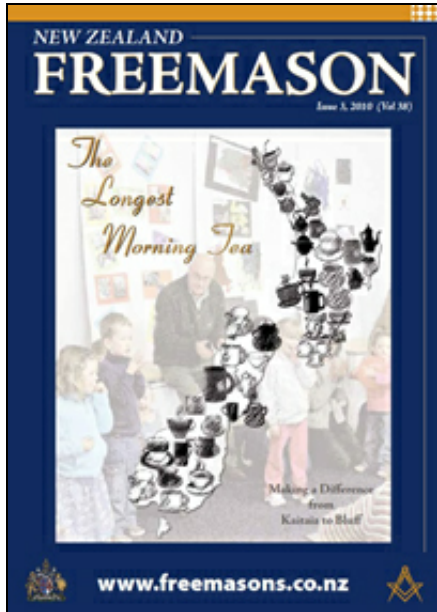
"Everyone accepts that the assets and expenditure of (The Freemasons Charity) fall within charitable purposes"

The Judge also correctly anticipated that "an amended application might be made that is limited to (The Freemasons Charity)".

The activities of The Freemasons Charity will therefore continue uninterrupted. The impact of the court decision as far as the other activities of Grand Lodge is being considered and I will report further on that in due course.

Fraternally,

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