



# FREEMASONS

New Zealand

## 2016/17 Annual Report



# Message from the Grand Master



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Freemasons New Zealand has many activities, some more prominent than others, but all requiring supervision, planning, and monitoring and from time to time there is a need to fine-tune and adjust the controls so that an improved strengthened performance is achieved.

This year under review has been a year where we have re-focussed our resources, re-calibrated our direction, and re-assessed the operational needs of the organisation. The attached reports from the President and Deputy Grand Master give you an outline of what we have achieved at the Board of General Purposes and with The Freemasons Charity.

I wish to pay tribute to those who have contributed to our progress to date, and then to look to our future.

First, a thank you to the brethren in our Lodges who have heard the request to Speak Up For Freemasonry. The future of your Lodge and our organisation rests in your hands – when you talk about Freemasonry and your Lodge to members of the public, we attract serious inquiry. Evidence is mounting that men of calibre in our communities are asking more about our organisation and many are then joining. Tremendous, but we need to persist with these efforts. We each need to talk to a non-Freemason at least once a week about our Lodge – every week – anywhere, any time, any place!

Our Divisional Grand Masters have had a sterling year, working well together as a team sharing experiences and ideas and giving leadership to their Divisions in a way which I simply admire. The District Grand Masters have toiled at the coalface, working with Lodges and brethren to put Freemasonry into practice. They have welcomed me into their areas and I have been delighted to experience their hospitality and the warmth of their welcome. We have the right men in the right places, and we must, as members of our Lodges, support them in their efforts to grow our organisation.

Through this year, we have reviewed our management of the Craft, which led to a change at our helm. Laurence Milton, our champion for the last 15 years, has retired and passed the tiller to Gareth Turner. Laurence has a phenomenal knowledge of Freemasonry built up over his years of dedicated service, and I wish to continue to tap into that for the next couple of years – more on this in the New Year.

Gareth brings new skills, a fresh approach to the challenges that face us as an organisation, and an enthusiasm which is infectious! I look forward to working with him as Freemasons New Zealand looks to the future.

Which leads me to my second focus, which is tomorrow. No organisation can simply rest on its past successes, or sit back and hope that somehow someone will knock on the door. We need to be pro-active to grow Freemasonry and to that end I am meeting in January 2018 with my Executive and the Divisional Grand Masters to review our existing plan and importantly to re-focus, re-calibrate and re-assess. We have several ideas and concepts to test and introduce; we have resources available to implement what is intended; and we have a real desire to involve our Lodges and our brethren in building their Lodges, in their communities. This isn't just a talkfest – we are getting into action – so watch out, as it will be happening in a Lodge near you!

Thank you for your support, and I again thank Laurence for his service to our organisation. My sincere appreciation also goes to my two long-suffering side-kicks, Graham Wrigley and Peter Benstead, without whose support very little would have been achieved this past year.



**Mark Winger**  
Grand Master

**“Evidence is mounting that men of calibre in our communities are asking more about our organisation and many are then joining”**

# Report from the President of the Board



**Peter Benstead**  
President, Board of  
General Purposes

## Overview

I am delighted to present my first report as President of the Board of General Purposes for the 2016/17 year.

Normally around the time of the Grand Installation we see many personnel changes within the Board, but as President, I feel fortunate this year because current Board members who received promotions were able to remain (i.e. MWBo Mark Winger GM and RWBro Graham Wrigley DepGM). Their experience is considerable and I welcome that.

The changes made to the structure of the Board in recent years continues to strengthen the focus on providing good oversight and governance. Membership, Communication and Finance were confirmed as our three key focus areas and will continue to be priorities for the foreseeable future.

## Positioning for the future

As a result of this focus, several immediate steps were agreed. Firstly, we wanted to ensure we have the necessary skill sets in place at National Office to drive the success we were looking for and to provide the required support to our Divisional and District Grand Masters, as well as the Lodges.

Secondly, we undertook a review of our ownership of Freemasons House in Willis Street, Wellington. Unfortunately (and due in some part to the effects of recent earthquakes), this building had become an increasing cost to the membership rather than an investment, as planned.

The result of the National Office review was a change to the structure. An Executive Director was introduced to ensure a clear focus on membership (as well as having the range of well developed commercial skills required). Also the position of Head of Communications and Administration was created, to structure and coordinate all Masonic communication, public relations and administrative activity – across all platforms (e.g. magazine, newsletter, websites, social media etc...).

I am pleased to advise that we have sold Freemasons House for more than its current valuation. This removes significant risk for us and allows us to apply increased funding to activity that better supports our Divisions, Districts and Lodges.

## Membership and communication

We are not unique in struggling to retain and increase our membership – many organisations are in the same position. We do, however, have several unique challenges – the largest to overcome being a natural reluctance / reservation to Speak Up for who we are and what we stand for.

How are men in our local communities going to know what we offer if we don't tell them? Also, we have to acknowledge that too many members are leaving, and must address that issue. We need to understand what's driving that and remedy it.

Increasing awareness of Freemasonry and our values is the key driver for the campaign 'Speak Up' for Freemasonry, which was introduced by our Grand Master at the Grand Installation in November 2016.

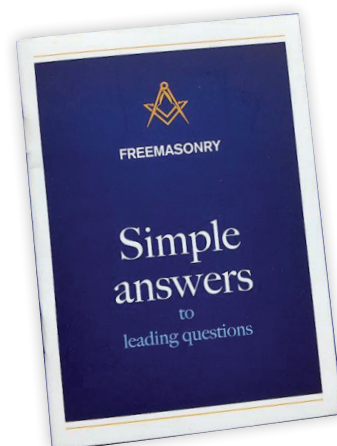
Since its introduction there has been a renewed belief within our membership that our organisation is as relevant today as it has ever been – if not more so!. There has also been an increase in activity to 'open up' our Lodges and engage with our communities and with non-Freemasons – so they find out first hand who we really are and what we offer.

Two excellent booklets have been produced, namely *Simple Answers to Leading Questions* and the *Plain English Guide to Freemasonry*. Both are being well used by many as a tool to assist in explaining Freemasonry – which is not easy for many of us.

Individual initiatives are now being undertaken by Lodges throughout New Zealand, too many to list here but I will mention one which is the recent Facebook initiative, trialled first by the United Forces Lodge No 245.

This has been very successful, and has led to the United Forces Lodge gaining seven new members, with an additional one joining in December. News of this has spread quickly and other Lodges are now taking it onboard. If your Lodge hasn't yet, I encourage you to do so. With the correct processes and people in place it works!

Communication to our membership and the wider communities we serve has traditionally been through our publications e.g. the *New Zealand Freemason* magazine and more recently through our National and Divisional Websites. Although we will continue to do this we are now increasingly communicating via social media – Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and Twitter.



These social media channels facilitate instant communication and, importantly, allow for questions, comments and feedback, and that all encourages engagement which, in turn, supports better awareness and understanding, two important goals that we strive for with our communications initiatives.

## Finance

Freemasons New Zealand continues to focus on ways to increase income and manage expenditure. This financial year's income, \$1.975m, is down on previous year's, \$2.3m – the current trend of a falling membership, which we are beginning to address as mentioned earlier in my report, and lower interest rates being the main causes. However, balanced against a reduce income, I am pleased to note a reduction in expenditure over the same period from \$2.3m to \$1.88m.

Income from Heartland Bank can only be increased by encouraging more deposits into the Freemasons Deposit Scheme – and I encourage all Lodges and Brethren to support this scheme.

This year (as per last), we have separated our accounts into two distinct statements: one for Freemasons New Zealand and the other for The Freemasons Charity. This is necessary to comply with the new financial reporting standards and to provide transparency.

I am pleased to advise that for Freemasons New Zealand we have turned the deficit of \$71,227 in 2015/16 to a surplus of \$130,897 in 2016/17. This will be reinvested in Divisional and District activities in support of the membership and communications initiatives.

Extracts of our financial performance for each entity are published with this report. Full financial statements and the independent auditor's reports can be viewed or downloaded from the Grand Lodge website [www.freemasonsnz.org](http://www.freemasonsnz.org) or can be obtained from the Executive Director.

## 2017–18

We still have a lot of work to do in retaining and growing our membership, communicating clearly both internally and externally, and in managing our finances. But we have made some significant and valuable progress this year and we have laid the platform for continued development. I am confident we can continue to build on the excellent achievements of this last year and I look forward to reporting those additional gains to you in 12 months time.

**“The past cannot be changed.  
But the future is in our hands.”**



# Report from The Freemasons Charity



Another great year for The Freemasons Charity. During the year we registered the new Trust Deed for The Freemasons Charity which will ensure that our funds are well protected for the future of charitable activities by Freemasons through their Lodges, Districts and Divisions. The Freemasons Charity Management Committee now operates as a sub-committee of the Board with full responsibility for the oversight of all charitable activities.

Continuing from our 125-year celebrations supporting the Blind Foundation, this year we continued with our 'Buy a Bookshelf' campaign and added a further 33 titles to the recorded books used in the Daisy Players.

Our flagship university scholarships were again a highlight of the year with the presentations made by Sir (Brother) Richard Faull, after his address to the students on what can be achieved by a hardworking focus group of young people with a 'can do' attitude. His message to take opportunities when they are presented was not missed on the large gathering in the Grand Hall at Parliament. Next year will be our 40th year of these scholarships.

This year the charity supported the Grand Installation and we were privileged to have Andy McDowell speak at the Grand Banquet on the impact of deep brain stimulation to combat the effects of Parkinson's Disease which was inspiration to say the least, showing the positive impact of medical research funded by the Freemasons of New Zealand.

The work of The Freemasons Charity relies heavily on our engagement with our Brethren who continue to make such a great difference to their communities by the projects that they undertake. The Divisional Almoners work closely with the Charity Officers to ensure that we are quick to respond when need has been identified, with over \$284,000 spent on individuals and projects by our Brethren.

## Investments and donations

Donations from the Lodge collections at Installations during the year were \$64,194. This is an important source of funding for the charity which is often applied back to Lodge and District projects. We appreciate these collections and Lodge donations which are faithfully applied to the work of your charity.

We now have over \$33 million invested with prudent management through JB Were, who have looked after our funds for over 10 years achieving a return of 9.01% this year. Through this investment and your donations we distributed over \$883,743 in charitable activities this year.



**Graham Wrigley**

Deputy Grand Master  
Chair of The Freemasons Charity  
Management Committee

**\$76,102** assisting  
individuals in need

**\$207,078** assisting  
Lodges with community  
programmes

**\$295,900** student  
scholarships



2017 widows' gift:  
a royal blue pashmina  
scarf with discreet  
gold square and  
compasses.


# Extract from financial statements


## FREEMASONS NEW ZEALAND

### Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Brokerage commission received	237,197	286,086
Capitation fees	509,293	513,865
Interest received	195,457	398,559
Other income	243,573	277,985
Rental revenue	790,278	824,682
	<u>1,975,798</u>	<u>2,301,177</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Audit fees	10,800	23,478
Other administrative expenses	1,105,208	1,105,398
Other building expenses	523,418	715,722
Mortgage interest	244,287	444,125
Grants	-	16,812
	<u>1,883,713</u>	<u>2,305,535</u>
Operating surplus/(deficit) before tax	92,085	(4,358)
Taxation	38,812	(16,869)
Operating surplus/(deficit) after tax	<u>130,897</u>	<u>(21,227)</u>
Unrealised gain/(loss) on Freemason House	-	(50,000)
Unrealised gains/(losses)	<u>-</u>	<u>(50,000)</u>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>	<u>130,897</u>	<u>(71,227)</u>
The surplus/(deficit) has been allocated to the various reserves as follows:		
General fund	(17,879)	55,137
Freemason House	(64,979)	(468,225)
Building fund	119,440	303,601
Communication fund	26,162	6,514
Special reserve fund	68,153	31,746
	<u>130,897</u>	<u>(71,227)</u>

Full financial statements and the independent auditor's reports can be viewed or downloaded from the Grand Lodge website [www.freemasons.nz.org](http://www.freemasons.nz.org) or can be obtained from the Executive Director.

  
 Date 14th November 2017  
 Title President of the Board  
 of General Purposes

  
 Date 9 November 2017  
 Title Grand Treasurer



## Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash on hand	200	200
Bank accounts	5,859,101	5,304,603
Accounts receivable	65,806	158,445
Taxtion receivable	40,964	98,884
Building fund loans	322,206	333,806
Stock on hand	42,347	63,635
Investment property	6,050,000	6,050,000
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>12,380,624</b>	<b>12,009,553</b>
<b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Investments	891,748	891,748
Plant & equipment	255,061	314,853
Accounts receivable	-	12,000
Building fund loans	1,272,561	1,306,808
<b>Total non current assets</b>	<b>2,491,370</b>	<b>2,525,409</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>14,799,994</b>	<b>14,534,942</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable	140,860	63,072
Deferred income	45,776	-
Employee entitlements	75,844	65,253
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>262,480</b>	<b>128,325</b>
<b>NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Mortgage to The Freemasons Charity	5,775,000	5,775,000
<b>Total non current liabilities</b>	<b>5,775,000</b>	<b>5,775,000</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>6,037,480</b>	<b>5,903,325</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>8,762,514</b>	<b>8,631,617</b>
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>		
Accumulated funds and reserves	8,762,514	8,631,617
<b>TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>	<b>8,762,514</b>	<b>8,631,617</b>


# Extract from financial statements


## THE FREEMASONS CHARITY

### Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Revenue from members	64,194	90,510
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	1,311,010	1,346,002
Unrealised investment gains/(losses)	1,104,642	(505,958)
Other revenue	308,950	-
Total revenue	2,788,796	930,554
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Grants and donations	883,742	992,529
Other expenses	411,405	349,775
Total expenses	1,295,147	1,342,304
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	1,493,649	(411,750)

Full financial statements and the independent auditor's reports can be viewed or downloaded from the Grand Lodge website [www.freemasons.nz.org](http://www.freemasons.nz.org) or can be obtained from the Executive Director.

  
Date 14th November 2017  
Title President of the Board  
of General Purposes.

  
Date 9 November 2017  
Title Grand Treasurer

## Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Bank and cash	165,767	161,826
Managed funds	16,954,810	15,799,806
<b>Total current assets</b>	17,120,577	15,961,632
<b>Non current assets</b>		
Managed funds	16,838,188	16,511,174
<b>Total non current assets</b>	16,838,188	16,511,174
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	33,958,765	32,472,806
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Creditors and accruals	(53,720)	(61,409)
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	(53,720)	(61,409)
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	(53,720)	(61,409)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	33,905,045	32,411,397
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>		
Accumulated funds	33,905,045	32,411,397
<b>TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>	33,905,045	32,411,397

## **Freemasons New Zealand**

PO Box 6439, Marion Square, Wellington 6141, New Zealand

+64 4 385 6622

[secretary@freemasonsnz.org](mailto:secretary@freemasonsnz.org)

[www.freemasonsnz.org](http://www.freemasonsnz.org)

