



## Enhancing Ceremonial - Tips for the Inner Guard

The role of Inner Guard is an important one as it creates that first impression in any ceremony, especially for the candidate. An Inner Guard who knows and undertakes their role well really sets the tone for the rest of ceremony to build upon.

Here are a few tips to assist the Inner Guard in the role:

1. Liaise closely with the Tyler before every meeting – ensure that whatever the system is regarding the 'Tyler's light' and the opening of the door is fully understood.
2. Familiarise oneself with the knocker on the door – these are all different from Lodge room to Lodge room.
3. Also familiarize oneself with the light switches + dimmers and if necessary draw a sketch to remind which switches control the various lights.
4. Fully understand the Lodge's tradition in announcing visitors to the Lodge.
5. It is useful to know the names of the Lodges in the area from which brethren are likely to visit so that you can pronounce the Lodge names correctly, especially if a Maori name and their correct title i.e. are they Lodge XXX or XXX Lodge.
6. Ensure your equipment is on hand for your role in the three ceremonies.
7. Given the importance of this role it is helpful for the Inner Guard to attend all rehearsals.
8. From this role it is customary to advance to the Junior Deacon's position – as such this is an opportunity to observe the ceremonial for understanding that future role

These are a few pointers. There will be others which the Director of Ceremonies or Preceptor of your Lodge can assist with.

