



## Tips For A Lodge Standard Bearer

Many lodges have a lodge standard or banner and some of these have a Lodge 'Standard Bearer'. Their role is to parade the Lodge's standard / banner both at the opening and closing of the Lodge. This enhances the impression of the ceremony. The Standard Bearer should be behind the Master as they enter and leave the Lodge room, just like the Grand Master with his Grand Standard Bearer.

Here are a few pointers if your Lodge wishes to pick up this idea:

The words for investing the Standard Bearer are designated in most installation guides – the following words are used by one lodge:

*"You having been appointed Standard Bearer of the Lodge, I now invest you with the collar and jewel of your office. Your jewel is two staves in saltire, with the standard of arms of Grand Lodge and the New Zealand ensign. Your duties are to bear the Lodge Standard and to follow the Master when he is received into the Lodge, to place the Standard in its designated position whilst the Lodge is in session, and to retrieve it and follow the Master when he retires from the Lodge."*

Included in the Standard Bearers position description can be responsibility for the proper care of the standard / banner, to ensure it does not get damaged – many banners are holder and made of fragile material.

Some lodge standards / banners are positioned in stands on the lodge room floor or leant against the wall, however a preferable place to position them is on an appropriately made rack fixed to the lodge room wall where they don't move around or can't be knocked over.

The collar jewel for the Standard Bearer can be adapted by using the crossed standards from the Grand Standard Bearer collar jewel. This being two staves in saltire tied with a ribbon; flowing from the dexter a standard of the arms of Grand Lodge and from the sinister the New Zealand Ensign.

Given the role requires no reciting of words it is an excellent one to involve a master mason, who would not otherwise participate in ceremonies.

