



FREEMASONS

New Zealand

Grand Secretary Newsletter

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For Grand Lodge contact information, please see the bottom of this newsletter.

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Grand Lodge Restructuring - An Update

Following the conclusion of the three Divisional Conferences, it is timely to update everyone on progress.

Our objective in circulating the Discussion Paper was to generate feedback and comment, to ascertain whether the brethren broadly agreed with the proposed restructuring of Grand Lodge.

The answer is clear – there is a widely held view that freemasonry in New Zealand can function more efficiently and effectively over the future years with a single Board, and with greater decision-making powers based in the Divisions.

Equally clear were some concerns expressed about transparency and accountability, the desire to ensure change didn't result in regression, and the important aspect of communication.

At its May meeting, the Board of General Purposes resolved to promote the restructuring, along the lines of the Discussion Paper. As there is broad support for the proposal, it will be proposed as a remit at Communication in Christchurch 2008.

Prior to that however, there are to be meetings with the Divisional Grand Masters to flesh out with them the detail of their roles in the new environment – practicalities; further resources they may require in order to fully function; reporting lines; communication needs; management needs with the Division, and

so forth.

We doubt we will have total unanimity in everything that is finally proposed, but by working constructively together we ought be able to ensure that most major concerns are addressed, or at least safeguards are built in to deliver a level of comfort.

While delving into the detail of the new structure, we consider it prudent to obtain an independent external overview of the proposed model. This expert review ought to provide some comfort that the new structure is soundly based, addresses the correct issues, and provides a firm foundation for years into the future.

The Grand Registrar has been asked to consider any other issues which might be needed to implement change, and his comments will be circulated as soon as possible, together with some detailed explanations on the rationale behind what is (or is not) proposed. Any resulting remits will then form part of the Business Session at Communications 2008, where everyone will have the usual opportunity to be heard.

We feel confident that, once the detail of the new structure has been circulated, and the rationale fully explained and understood, brethren will adopt the restructuring and work harmoniously to drive freemasonry into the future.

Barry McLaggan
Grand Master

Neville Patrick
President, Board of General Purposes

Mark Winger
President, Board of Benevolence

Arts Foundation Update

Warren Maxwell (New Generation Artist and Little Bushman frontman), is collaborating with John Psathas (Laureate) and the Auckland Philharmonia. The concert Little Bushman meet the APO, will take place on Sunday, July 13 in the Great Hall of the Auckland Town Hall. The evening will see the band perform songs from their two albums – Onus of Sand and Pendulum – with a full orchestra, scored by John Psathas. For more information and tickets visit www.apo.co.nz

USA: "Freemasons in midst of popularity, membership boom"

From The Los Angeles Times, 18 May 2008

The secretive society gains a higher, hipper profile as younger men seek out a place for fraternal bonding.

IN LOS FELIZ, across from a 7-Eleven on North Vermont Avenue, a few dozen men in their early 20s to late 80s share a dinner behind closed doors. Some wear full tuxedos with bow ties and jeweled cuff links, some have shoulder-length hair, and others wear open-collared shirts that reveal the slightest filigree of tattoo arching across their chests.

Over Italian food, retired lawyers and judges sit elbow-to-elbow with owners of scrap metal yards and vintage clothing boutiques. They hold forth on philosophy, the weather; they rib each other and joke about saving room for cannoli. As they reach for seconds, they reveal skull-cracking rings emblazoned with a compass and a square.

Meet the millennial Masons. As secret societies go, it is one of the oldest and most famous. Its enrollment roster includes Louis Armstrong and Gerald Ford, and it has been depicted in movies such as "The Da Vinci Code" and "National Treasure." Once more than 4 million strong (back in the 1950s), it has been in something of a popularity free-fall ever since. Viewed with suspicion as a bastion of antiquated values and forced camaraderie, the Masons have seen membership rolls plummet more than 60% to just 1.5 million in 2006.

Only now the trend seems to be reversing itself, and nowhere more noticeably than in Southern California. The reasons seem clear. In another Masonic Hall, this one on La Cienega, a Sri Lankan-born banker, a sunglasses-wearing Russian immigrant and a continent-hopping Frenchman break bread, poke at their salads and chat about their health.

"For a time it looked as if Masonry was going into a sharp decline, if not the death throes," said UCLA history professor Margaret C. Jacob, who has written extensively about the fraternal order. "But it looks like it may be making a comeback."

(more) . . .

To read the entire article, click the link below:

<http://www.latimes.com/features/lifestyle/la-ig-masons18-2008may18,0,562412.story>

The Royal Society promotes Freemasons *Big Science Adventures* Competition

Announcement by the Royal Society of New Zealand

Wednesday 4 June 2008

Royal Society Celebrates CarboNZero Certification on World Environment Day

Leading climate and Antarctic scientists will join the Royal Society of New Zealand staff in Wellington tomorrow morning to celebrate the organisation's carboNZero certification. CarboNZero is a Landcare Research programme, which involves the evaluation and audit of an organisation's carbon emissions, a plan to manage and reduce them, and at the end of the year, a payment to offset remaining unavoidable emissions. It has been adopted internationally.

Manager of the Programme, Dr Ann Smith from Landcare Research, said, "carboNZero certification is a strategic business tool to assist companies in the promotion of their carbon credentials in a manner that will withstand the intense scrutiny that both our domestic and international markets demand. We are delighted that the Royal Society of New Zealand has recognised the importance of certification to ensure that their claim of carbon neutrality has credibility and integrity."

Some 20 other organisations have achieved carboNZero certification including Trade Me and The New Zealand Wine Company, maker of Grove Mill and Sanctuary wines.

The Royal Society is keen to take a lead in reducing emissions in order to focus attention on the ultimate goal of sustainability. A key part of the Royal Society's emissions management plan is the recent installation of a high definition video conferencing facility to replace some air travel and associated carbon costs - taxis and hotels for example. It will have the incidental benefit of reducing operating costs and the productive time lost in transit.

Antarctic scientist, Professor Peter Barrett (2006 Wellingtonian of the Year), who was one of the first to alert New Zealanders to the ominous signs of climate change in Antarctica, said, "We must work towards a sustainable way of life, and that includes dealing with carbon-driven climate change. We need to get on now with changes in our lifestyles and our ways of doing business. Author of "Heat", UK journalist George Monbiot, talked with a live audience via video link in the recent NZ Post Writers and Readers Week in Wellington, making his presence felt as if he were among us. I support the Royal Society's promotion of this greatly improved technology."

The Royal Society's celebration on 5 June will feature the World Premiere of "Lessons from a Melting Icecap", a documentary on climate change effects in Greenland, produced by young filmmaker Jinty McTavish. She was part of the Royal Society's expedition there last year, with three students from Otago Girls High who won the Freemasons BIG Science Adventures DVD competition.

(Go to <http://www.rsnz.org/news/releases/carzero-jun08.php> for a photo of Professor Peter Barrett and Dr James Renwick (NIWA climate scientist and Royal Society Council Member) in front of the Royal Society's carboNZero billboard in Thorndon, mounted today.)

For further information, contact Glenda.lewis@rsnz.org 04 470 5758 or 027 210 0997.

More about carboNZero...

The carboNZero programme is an internationally recognised greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions management and reduction certification scheme for organisations, products, services and events, offering optional mitigation strategies through the provision of credible and verified offsets. Credibility and integrity are paramount to the carboNZero programme and its clients. The carboNZero programme has emerged from over ten years of research in GHGs and carbon monitoring at Landcare Research. CarboNZero certification is awarded only after independent verification of the Measure, Manage (reduce) and Mitigate (offset) steps by authorised auditors. Ethical and technical oversight is provided by an Independent Advisory Panel.



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Laurence Milton
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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