



# FREEMASONS

## New Zealand

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## Grand Secretary Newsletter Issue 2008/4 – 3 March 2008

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## SUMMARY

of

### MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES WEDNESDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2008

#### **Finance**

It was noted that the budget round for 08/09 was about to commence and it was intended to have the draft budget available at the May meeting. Therefore any budget requirements would need to be forwarded to the G Sec by mid April 08.

The list of overdue debtors was noted and once again concern was expressed at the amount of 90 day and 120 day debts.

#### **Charities Commission**

The Grand Registrar tabled the legal submission for inclusion in the KPMG letter in support of the Grand Lodge application for Charity Registration and advised that the Book of Constitution will need to be amended to more clearly reflect the requirements of the Charities Act.

The Grand Registrar then briefed the Board on his concerns about Lodges setting up Charitable Trusts to own Lodge buildings. He noted that this created a conflict with the Book of Constitution in that the Book of Constitution requires building assets and funds from sale of buildings to be returned to the Grand Lodge of New Zealand Building Fund whilst charity registration requires that charitable assets must be given to charities for charitable benefits. This would

only be a problem if Grand Lodge of New Zealand fails to be fully registered as a charity. However, as a Charitable Trust, a building owning Trust would have to charge full market rents to its member Lodges or could be in breach of the Charities Act by providing a benefit to its member.

The Grand Treasurer advised that a draft circular on Charity Registration and Tax implications had been written in conjunction with KPMG. He stated that subject to some fine tuning this will be distributed to Lodges shortly.

A draft Trust Deed for establishing a Charitable Trust has also been compiled. This is to be distributed with the Grand Treasurer's Tax circular.

The Charity and Tax information is to be made available to other Masonic Orders in New Zealand.

### **Publications Copyright**

The Board granted permission for the Research Lodge of Wellington to publish on CD the research material published prior to 1969 for which the Grand Lodge of New Zealand has copyright.

### **Masonic Offences**

A number of Masonic Offences were dealt with.

### **Masonic Bibles**

Lewis Masonic Bibles have been sourced from the UK at an affordable price. Whilst not exactly the same as the previous edition the new volume is a good quality Masonic Bible and should be available for purchase at a cost of \$45.

### **Grand Lodge Office Staff**

The Grand Secretary advised the Board that the Grand Lodge Office Communications Officer, Gabrielle Moke, had resigned.

### **Waikato Dining Lodge**

The Board expressed support for the establishment of a Dining Lodge in Waikato. The Grand Secretary noted that the current application needs to be supported (Book of Constitution, Rule 25b) by a neighbouring Lodge before it could be approved.

### **Jewel**

The Board recommended to the Grand Master that the Scinde Lodge's 150th year Jewel be approved.

### **National Lodge Management Planning**

The National Lodge Planning Committee's strategy paper is attached to this summary for the interest of all and particularly for all District Grand Masters.

### **National Masonic Education**

V W Bro P A (Alan) Jackson, PG Lec, was appointed as Chairman of the Education Committee

## **Freemason House – Ground Floor**

The Wellington Museum and Library was now at the stage where fit out could be considered.

## **Communication 2008**

Planning for Communication 2008 in Christchurch is proceeding well and on schedule. Registration Forms will be in the March edition of the Freemason Magazine.

## **NEXT MEETING:**

**Wednesday & Thursday, 14/15 May 2008**

## **Update to the Website Forum**

Hello,

I have updated the website's forum software, phpBB, to the latest version. <https://www.freemasons.co.nz/forum> . **This note does not refer to the members-only section of the website. The forum is a separate login.**

This version offers a number of new features that some members will find useful - the ability to attach files to your message as an example. The migration of logins from the old version to the new version has an unfortunate side effect - most people must re-set their password before they can log in. This will not affect all forum users. You will be notified when you try and log in. The reset procedure is quite straight forward and you will be e-mailed a new password after following the password reset procedure.

After you have re-set your password and logged in, to change your password to something you will remember use the User Control Panel. The link will be at the top right of the page. Click in to User Control Panel then select "Profile" then "Edit account settings" from the left hand side menu, and follow the instructions.

I hope the new forum software will be of use to our members.

Kind Regards,  
Bert  
Freemasons NZ Webmaster

## Freemasons Deposit Scheme

The current interest rate for March is 8.18%

See the [Deposit Scheme home page](#) for an application form and further information



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