



Graham J. Wrigley

GRAND MASTER



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Brethren

Special Olympics National Summer Games postponed

As Brethren may now know, the Freemasons New Zealand Special Olympics (SONZ) National Summer Games have been postponed due to Covid and will now be held in December 2022.

Obviously, this is very disappointing for SONZ and their athletes and families. They have trained hard for the Games and were really looking forward to what was going to be a massive event.

We really feel for them all, but we understand the athletes' safety and wellbeing had to be a priority. If there was a viable alternative, other than postponement, SONZ would have taken it.

We know that many of you have also put considerable effort into this relationship, fundraising and building relationships with Special Olympics Clubs near your Lodge. We appreciate all that you've done and know what a huge, but unavoidable, let-down this decision is. But your efforts won't be wasted.

The good news is that our relationship with SONZ and our sponsorship of the Games continues.

SONZ chose the December 2022 date for the postponement because the Games are a truly national event, and they can't really be held unless the whole of New Zealand is at Covid Level 1 status. Hopefully we will have that level of control over Covid by late next year.

And, if anything, the extra year gives all of us even more time to do all the things we need to do to make the Games even more successful.

So please, maintain those relationships with SONZ Clubs as best you can. Keep the ball rolling, keep on fundraising, continue to provide great support where you can so that we are well placed to hit the ground running again, probably early in 2022.

In the meantime, we will announce shortly how much Lodges have raised towards the Games – watch this space – and when the time is right (probably early next year) we will 're-launch' our support for the Games with some updated branding to reflect the date shift. It'll be like the 2020 Olympics held in 2021! And as and when we get more information from SONZ, we will keep you posted.

In the meantime, Freemasons NZ is going to 'pivot', to use a word of the day. We'll keep close ties with SONZ, but we will use this time to focus on some of the many other initiatives that National Office is working on, and that were highlighted at the recent Roadshows.

FREEMASONS NEW ZEALAND

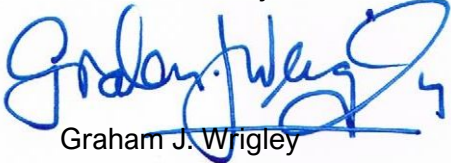
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There's no shortage of things for all of us to do as we work as One Team to ensure Thriving Lodges, Engaged Brethren and Growing Membership.

Thank you for staying committed to the Freemasons New Zealand Special Olympics (SONZ) National Summer Games. I know I look forward to celebrating with SONZ and watching the Games in December 2022.

Yours fraternally,



Graham J. Wrigley
Grand Master