

NEW ZEALAND Freemason

Issue 4 (Vol. 51), December 2023

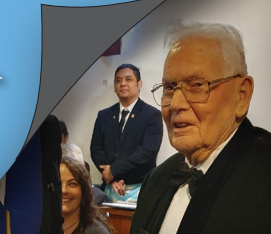
Season's Greetings!



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Making a difference in New Zealand

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Contributions to the magazine, preferably in electronic form (e.g. MS Word documents) are greatly appreciated and should be of interest to a wide audience. Photographs should be high quality, preferably in jpg or tif format. Contributions may be edited in order to fit space available and to achieve overall balance. Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words. A guidance sheet for preparation of publishable material is available on request from the Editor. Contributions should be forwarded to communications@freemasons.nz

Freemasons NZ contributions to Duane Williams, Editor
communications@freemasons.nz

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From the Editor

Well done to one and all!

Another masonic year passes, and we are all a little older (even the young) and perhaps a little wiser, thanks to our exposure to Freemasonry and those members in our Lodges who provide support, friendship and kindly advice.

Please make sure during the festive season, New Year, and summer holidays that you have quality time for yourself and with your partner, family, and friends. Our bodies and minds always need a period of rejuvenation as we head in 2024.

We are humans, and communication is important, be that in person, if possible, but failing that, a telephone call, text, email or even letter (which is always a lovely surprise). Many of us have smartphones, which allow us to talk face-to-face. You will be amazed how this lifts the spirits of all – the sender and the receiver!

All year round, we should be finding ways to help others, which is part of our masonic DNA, but this time of year provides extra challenges for many in New Zealand. Check on the vulnerable, the lonely, and those in need in your area. All Lodges support their Widows at this time of year and also assist their older Brethren, and others support community organisations like a Lodge in Wellington, by way of example, that gave \$5,000 with the assistance of The Freemasons Charity to the Home of Compassion Soup Kitchen, which has helped people with Breakfast and Dinner and social services for over 130 years. The funds will help keep their larder full.

Freemasons New Zealand would love to hear your Lodge's story for our magazine and social media.

I wish everyone all the best for the festive season, a happy New Year, and safe and enjoyable holidays, and I look forward to seeing you and hearing from you in 2024.

RWBro Duane Williams MBE, KCLJ, JP, PGW and GSec



Our Grand Secretary under his desk during the 'Great ShakeOut' in October with his drop, cover, and hold for earthquakes. The National Office staff then walked their Tsunami escape route as well (but some running may be involved in the actual event). Something all Lodges should try once it every year as a practical health and safety exercise for their members.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

GRAND INSTALLATION 2024

Save The Date

12 - 14 April 2024

Invitation from MW Bro David Booker OS
to attend the Installation of
RW Bro William Robert Donald Merrill as Grand Master
of the Grand Lodge of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons
of South Australia and the Northern Territory

Functions Include:
Meet and Greet
Grand Installation
Grand Installation Banquet
and other associated events to be advised.

Any Freemason (and their partner) wishing to join our Grand Master Jim Watt and his New Zealand Delegation

to the Grand Installation of The Grand Lodge of South Australia and the Northern Territory in Adelaide should

indicate their interest to our Grand Secretary at secretary@freemasonsanz.org and once Registration and

Accommodation details are available, they will be passed on to you.

GRAND MASTER'S VISITS

6 Dec Lodge Wanaka No 277 – 80 Year Service Bar (a first for New Zealand) – WBro HJ Thayer RH at Wanaka Freemasons Centre

12 Dec The Alpha Lodge No 81 – 60 Year Service Bar – VWBro Warwick Roberts PDistGM Freemasons Centre, Cambridge

14 Dec Lodge North Harbour No 182 – 60 Year Service Bar – RWBro Mike Whitlock PGW and WBro Eric Faulkner RH, Northcote Masonic Centre

Grand Master and everyone taking a well-earned break.



FROM THE GRAND MASTER

A Christmas Story

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all thro' the house, Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse; The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.

Every Christmas Eve for the last 25 years, Penny has sat me down, made me put on a Santa hat, and regardless of who was sharing Christmas with us, they had to sit and listen to this and then the Kiwi version:

'Twas the night before Christmas
and all round the bach,
Not a possum was stirring;
not one could we catch.

This Christmas is the first in 25 years that we will not have one of the boys or any of the grandchildren with us, but no doubt like all good traditions, I will still read them. And like all good

traditions, with the telling will come fond memories.

And so, like us, I envisage there will be brethren amongst us, where this Christmas will be one that has a loved one or loved ones missing, those who like us have family strung far and wide or more sadly those who have lost a loved one to the Grand Lodge above.

In these quiet moments, when we think of those no longer with us, it really brings home how much we all mean to each other. These bonds we've got, built from all the times we've shared and the support we've given and received, they make us take a step back and think about the year that's just whizzed by.

When I look back at this year, it strikes me how we've all pulled together through thick and thin. It's not just about us as individuals; it's about all of us, together as a family. Freemasonry isn't just

about the formal stuff in our lodges; it's about the solid support we're always ready to give each other in the good times and the tough ones.

And now, as we're getting into the Christmas spirit, it's clear how much our Masonic values shine through in the season's messages of peace, love, and goodwill. It's a nudge to remember that our real strength comes from sticking together, respecting each other, and sharing those precious moments. Whether we're meeting up or sending our love from miles away, the bond we share as brothers is as strong as ever.

Especially now, let's not forget to check in on each other. A quick call, a few words, maybe even a cuppa - it can make all the difference. It's what we're here for, after all - to lift each other up, to be there, to keep the spirit

of our fraternity alive and kicking.

And why stop there? Let's take this brotherly love, relief, and truth we talk about and make it our everyday compass. That's how we make a difference, not just in our own lives, but in the lives of those around us. We're here to make things better, one small act at a time.

I therefore encourage all Brethren to take a moment and to make this holiday season something special for someone, for who knows, it maybe you next year who welcomes the unsolicited love and support of a brother.

Now, as the year winds down, let's think about ol' Robert Burns and his song, 'Auld Lang Syne'. It's a bit of a Freemason thing, you know. Burns was one of us, and this song of his, about not forgetting old mates and keeping those connections



National Office staff: Bianca, Duane, Rosalind, Jacky, our Grand Master, Debbie and Andrew.

Making a difference in New Zealand

alive, well, it hits right at home.

Turns out, the way we link arms and sing it comes from a Masonic ritual, the 'Chain of Union'. It's all about that bond we share as Freemasons, no matter where we are in the world. It's a powerful thing, this unity and brotherhood.

So, in the same way 'Auld Lang Syne' went from originating from our little Masonic tradition to becoming a global anthem, let's remember what it stands for. It's about more than just the words or the

tune; it's about sticking together, supporting each other, and spreading those values far and wide.

This Christmas, as we remember those who've passed and cherish those who are with us, let's let the spirit of 'Auld Lang Syne' guide us. Let's reach out, strengthen our bonds, and share the light of Freemasonry wherever we go.

To wrap this up, on behalf of Penny and I, and the whole Masonic family, we're sending you the warmest



With Henry Thayer, Roll of Honour and 80-year Freemason.

wishes for a Merry Christmas and a smashing New Year.

Here's to a year filled with peace, happiness, and more growth in our beloved Craft. Remember, 'Should old acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind? Should old acquaintance be

forgot, and auld lang syne?' Let's keep those memories alive and celebrate the friendships and the brotherhood that keep us all going.

MWBro Jim Watt
Grand Master



Stuart Brooker Past Grand Lecturer getting his 50 Year Service Badge at Westminster Lodge recently.

News clips

Freemasons New Zealand Special Communication 2023

The Special Communication 2023, called by our Grand Master Jim Watt, was held at the Wellington Freemasons Centre on Saturday 18th November 2023.

112 Lodges of our 178 Lodges had appointed a voting delegate who could attend in person or virtually via Zoom. All Freemasons in the Grand Lodge of New Zealand were welcome to join by webinar.

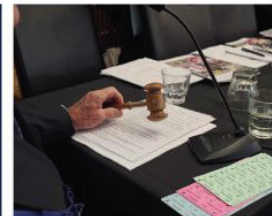
The 23 Remits to change the Book of Constitution covering Communications, All of Governance and Masonic Differences and Offences passed with substantial majorities.

There were presentations on Lodge Trustees and Masonic Insurance/ Properties, plus the investiture of a new Grand Treasurer and a Grand Steward.

The Grand Master's Reviews continue with further Remits to be

presented to the next Annual Communication in 2024 and Grand Communication

in 2025 in conjunction with the Grand Installation in Christchurch.



Handover – Changeover

Our New Executive Director, Bro Andrew Cowie, who started on 1st November, farewells Mark Cassidy on his last day, 30th November 2023, outside the National Office in Wellington. A seamless handover/changeover after four years of excellent service by Mark, during which time he encouraged Freemasonry to look outside the square. We wish him well in his new role with the St Vincent De Paul Society – 'Vinnies'.

Mr Mark Cassidy at the end of his four-year tenure as Executive Director at Freemasons New Zealand was farewelled by Bro Andrew Cowie our new Executive Director outside the National Office in Kilbirnie, Wellington.

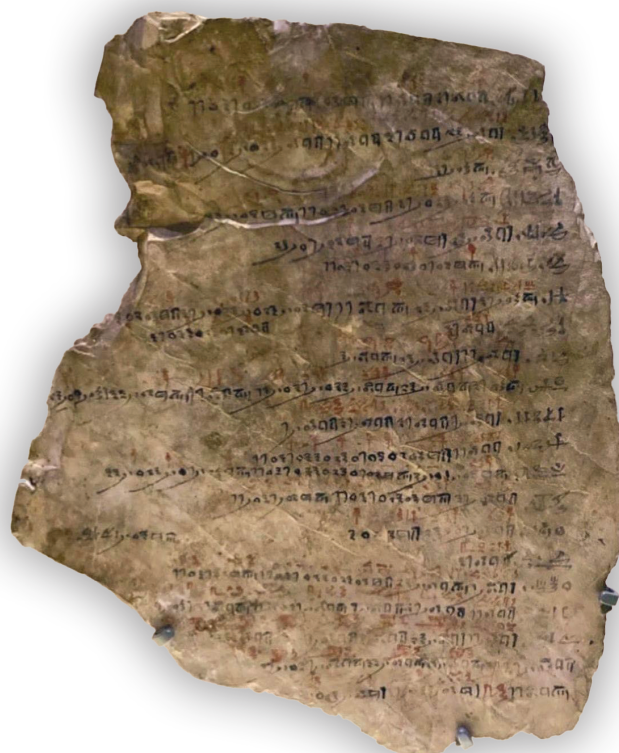
Attendance records never change

Does this sound familiar? Old Lodge attendance records and apologies might have something similar, perhaps not embalming!

This is a 3200-year-old attendance sheet found in Deir el-Medina, Egypt.

Reasons for worker absence include "embalming brother", "brewing beer", and "bitten by scorpion".

Interesting that it survived so long, and there are very interesting reasons for their absences.



Freemasons New Zealand Annual Report 2022–2023

Our Annual Report has been sent to all Lodge Secretaries but is also available on our Freemasons New Zealand website www.freemasonsNZ.org at the bottom of the home page along with the Audited Financial Accounts

for the year ended 30th June 2023 for Freemasons New Zealand and The Freemasons Charity. Extra hard copies are available from the National Office at secretary@freemasonsNZ.org for promotional purposes.

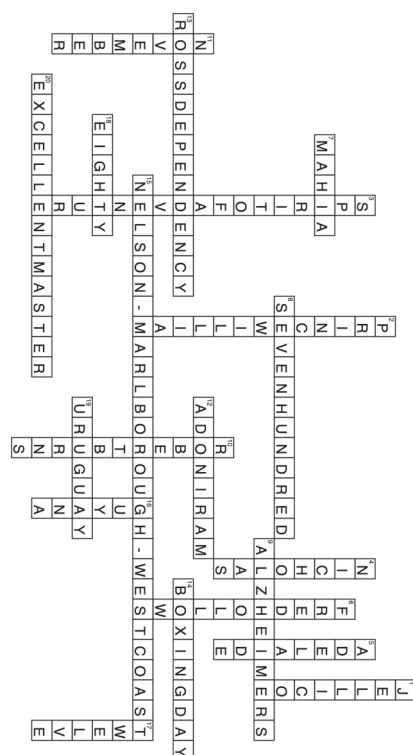


Correction

Our September Issue Page 13 incorrectly stated RWBro Gilbert Murray PGW in an article called a 'Lodge of Sorrow a thing of Joy' it should have read RWBro Gilbert Murphy PGW. An apology has been sent to his widow.

Editor

Crossword solution



New Zealand Freemason magazine slowly goes digital

Whilst making the magazine more available digitally, we will still be producing some hard copies for those who need it in New Zealand, e.g. promotional purpose, Older Brethren, Widows, those in rural areas with a poor internet connection, etc.

Especially for those who did not respond to requests to 'Opt-In' as appeared in the magazine, by Circular and by bulk email to all members with email addresses, we will be sending ten extra copies to all Lodge Secretaries to assist.

A MILESTONE IN NEW ZEALAND FREEMASONRY

Celebrating WBro Henry Thayer's 80 Years of Service

In an unparalleled event in New Zealand Freemasonry, WBro Henry Johnstone Thayer, Roll of Honour, aged 98, was honoured for his 80-year commitment to the brotherhood. The ceremony, attended by prominent

members including Grand Master Jim Watt, marked a historic moment, celebrating the first-ever 80-year service bar awarded in the country.

Initiated into Lodge Waikaka No. 151 as a Lewis at the tender age of 18 in 1943, WBro Thayer

embarked on a journey that intertwined deeply with his life's narrative. His move to Wanaka in 1990 after years of dedicated farming in Waikaka with his wife and three children only strengthened his Masonic bond. Joining Lodge

Wanaka, he continued his profound influence, filling various offices and sharing his wisdom.

Grand Master Jim Watt, in his address, underscored the uniqueness of the occasion: "An 80-year bar is unique... so unique it's the first". He



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT WBro Thayer and clock presented by Lodge Wanaka 277. WBro Henry Thayer RH cutting the cake. WBro Thayer and Grand Master – presentation of certificate. VVBro John Levido PGDC and RWBro Bruce Pagan DivGM after honorary grand rank promotion. VVBro John Levido PGDC, Grand Master – certificate of honorary grand rank promotion.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT WBro Thayer and family. VWBro Gordon Girvan PDistGM and WBro Thayer. The Grand Master meeting the attending Masters. WBro Gordon Girvan PDistGM pinning the badge and bars on WBro Thayer. The attending Masters listening to the GM who was addressing them from the north: (from left) Lodge Wanaka 277 (WBro Doug Wilson), The Cromwell Kilwinning Lodge 98 (WBro Justin Taylor), Lodge Dunstan 103 (WBro Murray Gray), United Lodge of Otago 448 (WBro Cullum Turner), Lodge St John 94 (WBro Colonel Cabuhat), The Waikaka Lodge 151 (WBro Kyrie Romero), Lake Lodge of Ophir 85 (WBro Jeff Salonga).

highlighted WBro Thayer's unwavering commitment, describing him as "a very active member, highly respected". The sentiment was echoed by Thayer himself, who found the ceremony "very humbling" and expressed his deep appreciation for Masonry.

Thayer's son, Myles, reflected on the significance of Freemasonry in his

father's life, especially in his advanced years, noting the fraternity's supportive role.

The event was also a testament to WBro Thayer's exceptional contributions over the years. His ritual work, covering every charge in the ritual book, was praised as "an outstanding achievement". VWBro Gordon Girvan, Past District Grand Master, expressed

personal gratitude for Thayer's mentorship and guidance, particularly during his tenure as the District Grand Master for the Otago Lakes District.

The ceremony was not just a commemoration of service but a celebration of WBro Thayer's character – described as "true and trusty, of good report, and held in

high esteem amongst your brethren".

As Grand Master Watt presented the 80-year service bar, he remarked WBro Thayer not only as a recipient of this unprecedented award but as a beacon of dedication and service in the Freemasonry community of New Zealand.

“Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.”

—Winston Churchill, 1948 address to House of Commons

I am a firm believer in review of the past to inform the future – that is not to say keep doing what we have always done, but rather to ensure we capture the lessons and minimise the repeatable mistakes.

Looking back 100yrs to 1923, I captured 20 large events across the year that are still a very present part of life today. Some of these events will no doubt assist you with the inevitable games of trivial pursuit that the Christmas holiday period brings.

- ♦ 1923 MWBro Sir John Rushworth Jellicoe, 1st Viscount, was both the Governor General of New Zealand and the Grand Master with 22 lodges constituted.
- ♦ 1 Jan 23 The USSR was established.
- ♦ 9 Jan 23 Katherine Mansfield passed away in France aged 34.
- ♦ 23 Jan 23 The patents for insulin were granted and sold for \$1.00 to the University of Toronto marking the beginning of a major life change for diabetics everywhere.
- ♦ 16 Feb 23 The burial chamber of Tutankhamen was opened.
- ♦ 3 Mar 23 The first issue of *Time* magazine was published.
- ♦ 25 Mar 23 Trans-Jordan is granted autonomy by Britain and later becomes Jordan.
- ♦ 28 Apr 23 Wembley Stadium opens with the FA Cup “White Horse Final” being played.
- ♦ 26 May 23 The first 24hr Le Mans starts at 4pm.
- ♦ Henry Wigram’s Canterbury Aviation Company was purchased by the NZ Government on the 14th of Jun 23 as the first base for the newly established New Zealand Permanent Air Force (NZPAF) later to become the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) 1 April 1937. RNZAF Wigram closed 14 Sept 1995.
- ♦ 1 Jul 23 NZ Breweries was formed following the merger of 10 breweries including Speights.
- ♦ 13 Jul 23 “Hollywoodland” predecessor to the famous “Hollywood” sign is dedicated.

- ♦ 13 Jul 23 The first dinosaur eggs were discovered.
- ♦ 30 Aug 23 Lodge Calliope No 252, Samoa is constituted.
- ♦ 7 Sep 23 Interpol is formed.
- ♦ 16 Oct 23 The Disney Brothers Cartoon Studio was founded.
- ♦ 1 Nov 23 The cornerstone of the George Washington National Masonic Memorial is laid.
- ♦ 20 Nov 23 Garrett Morgan, the first Black citizen to own a car in Cleveland, Ohio, patents the three-way (red, amber, green) traffic signal.
- ♦ 6 Dec 23 The first US presidential address is broadcast via radio.
- ♦ 31 Dec 23 The first transatlantic radio broadcast takes place.

In keeping with a lookback theme, let us take a much more recent perspective and see how the first year from a membership business point of view post-Grand Installation has progressed.

The 2022 Grand Installation took place in Wellington on the 12th of Nov 2022 and our MWBro Jim Watt was duly installed as Grand Master. The Grand Installation is always a significant undertaking



New Executive Director
Andrew Cowie.

to prepare and deliver from the business side. Contracts are struck with event management, venues, catering, hospitality, media logistics etc.

Those of you who were there will recall the wee surprise sprung upon the Grand Master with his youngest son, an EA, presenting the Grand Master’s Collarette and then, of equal significance, the call to arms to bring about change that was laid out in his inaugural speech. If you have not already seen this, I highly recommend watching the video documentary.

This past year under the continued leadership of Mark Cassidy, the team have delivered a lot of change to the business by way of improving processes, seeking efficiencies, and servicing the needs of the organisation. Mark has put in place a stable and solid foundation for us to move forward with.

Major activities that you all will have seen in 2023 were:



- ♦ The continued roll out of Board Pro, the software we use to manage the majority of governance meetings that are in place. This has sped up the meeting process and enhanced record keeping significantly and is a major move towards modernisation.
- ♦ The continued uptake and benefit the SmartyGrants, our grant management software that has seen significant uplift in ease of use and application by Lodges for grants of all kinds, ably managed by the appointment of our Charity Administrator.
- ♦ The professional production of the Freemasons NZ Documentary that we expect to broadcast in the first quarter of 2024. It is available on our website already if you have not seen it.
- ♦ The delivery of the 2023 Special Communication that saw 23 remits presented and voted on by Lodges.

Looking forward to 2024, our work plan is intended

to start to bear results as we support the big pieces of work that the Grand Master has in place, along with continuing to solve the challenges that present themselves on a weekly basis.

National Office will have to decide on its own location and property requirements as our current lease comes up for review. This is a real chance for us to see where we can put our resources into a more mutually beneficial situation to support the organisation.

In looking at property, I expect National Office will be called upon to support the various property entities as we work to resolve a lot of the legacy challenges that exist and are presenting clear and present challenges. We will do the absolute best we can with our small team to support the outcomes sought.

Separating the running of the membership business for 5000 members and the running of the Craft is a careful balance that is struck and maintained between the governing bodies of our organisation, with both seeking to work

in harmony as much as possible whilst discharging our accountabilities.

I personally find the following analogy the best way to describe how the organisation works:

- ♦ Grand Lodge of New Zealand is the sum of all members – we, as Freemasons together, collectively make up the Grand Lodge.
- ♦ Freemasons then elect a governing body in the form of the Grand Lodge Officers to run the Craft, just like we, as residents of New Zealand, elect a government to run the country. The great difference is Freemasonry does not have the challenges of MMP to deal with!
- ♦ My team and I at National Office provide the continuity and support to the Grand Lodge Officers with their 3-year term, however National Office is in perpetuity, so to say.

You will not hear a lot from me as a Master Mason and member of the Craft as part of my day job here at National Office, but I do expect that, as members,

you will see and hear a lot from my team and I as we support our organisation moving into the future.

In executing the work programmes, there will be times we will need to reach out to you for advice and support and I want you to know that we absolutely acknowledge that most of you have day jobs and a range of other commitments to juggle, and the zest and zeal with which you still find time to help us out on various initiatives earns you our heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

As we move forward into the new calendar year, I look forward to the work we have before us to contribute to our One Vision, One Goal and One Team success.

But for now, enjoy your well-earned rest and refreshment after a hard year of labour and when we return may your labour bring the rewards you seek.

Best Wishes for a very merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to you and your families.

Bro Andrew Cowie
Executive Director

Making a difference in New Zealand

Districts and the Grand Master

Nelson-Marlborough-West Coast District crossed the Cook Strait to conduct the Installation of Trevor (Mac) McKenzie as Master of the Te Puni Lodge No 315 in the Hutt-Wairarapa District.

Both Ray Keenan District Grand Master Nelson-Marlborough-West Coast and Mac McKenzie Master have a connection with the Lodges on both sides of the Strait.

The greater Wellington Region advanced its masonic knowledge with an Installation with some different elements than they were not used to seeing.

Our Grand Master Jim Watt made an official visit on this special inter-district occasion and took the opportunity to promote Duane Williams, Grand Secretary, to the rank of Past Grand Warden, much to his surprise (as Grand Secretaries usually know everything!).

We wish the Master and Officers of Lodge Te Puni a successful year.



Grand Master, Officers of Grand Lodge and Lodge Master, District Grand Directors of Ceremonies both Districts and the Grand Director of Ceremonies - Central, Grand Master and Grand Stewards both Districts and Grand Master with his Chain Gang. Notice the painting in the Lodge and the signage in the Refectory.

Lodge Zetland No 312 and the Home of Compassion Soup Kitchen in Wellington

The Home of Compassion - Soup Kitchen has been run by the Sisters of Compassion for nearly 130 years in Wellington, providing Breakfast and Dinner (for at least 100 people every day 6 days a week) to all those who need it, as well as other social services. A Lodge Zetland member worked as a volunteer for 20 years on the Saturday Night Dinners and the Lodge has provided Tinned Food over a number of years and wished to make a larger donation to their food stocks over the challenging times of the holidays.

It ticks all the boxes:

- ◆ Provides relief of need
- ◆ Involves active voluntary participation by Freemasons

- ◆ Improves the lives of individuals
- ◆ Builds Freemasons community profile
- ◆ Provides benefit to the community

Between the Lodge and The Freemasons Charity, they have been able to support the Home of Compassion Soup Kitchen with \$5,000 to help fill the larder.



DONATE NOW



\$200

Sponsor a meal for all guest



\$100

3 cartons of large diced tomato cans



\$75

Spices for one month



\$50

15L of cooking oil for one month



\$20

5kg of rice or pasta

MONDAY TO SATURDAY

Breakfast | 7:45 AM - 8:45 AM Dinner | 4:45 PM - 5:45 PM

Tea and coffee also served



A Look Back to a Special Evening in March

Some moments in our Masonic journey leave an indelible mark, and our fond reminiscence from 8th March is one such instance. The Manawatu Kilwinning Lodge No. 47, with its charitable trust's profound generosity, proudly donated \$10,000 to the Manawatu Branch of Special Olympics NZ. This altruistic gesture was to extend our full-hearted support to the seven commendable Manawatu athletes bound for the world event in Germany this June.

The ceremonial presentation was graciously made by lodge member Andrew Neilson, and trustee of the Manawatu Kilwinning Charitable Trust. Helen Johnson from Special Olympics Manawatu was there to receive the donation on behalf of the lodge, adding to the gravitas of the occasion.

But the night was made doubly special by Bro Hamish Taverner. A beacon of inspiration, Hamish, a successful Special Olympics athlete and former representative on the Special Olympics NZ Board, stood in

solidarity with Helen during the presentation. More remarkably, that very night, he took another significant step in his Masonic journey by becoming a Master Mason in The Manawatu Kilwinning Lodge No 47.

His introduction to the Craft was influenced by a meaningful conversation with Past Grand Master Graham Wrigley in 2021, during the launch of the Freemasons Special Olympics partnership. Since then, Hamish has been an active Freemason, and his enthusiasm for the Craft is evident in his dedication and involvement.

Reflecting on this night, it's heart-warming to see our brothers exemplify Masonic virtues in action, championing community causes and uplifting one another in their individual journeys.

Finally, we would like to offer our heartfelt congratulations to Hamish Taverner on completing his journey to Master Mason, and here's to many more memories and milestones!



From left: Hamish Taverner, Helen Johnson from Special Olympics, and Andrew Neilson.

Straight from the Horse's Mouth – Sonny All Smiles!

Sonny, the horse, feels a 'gait' deal more comfortable with the help of a new saddle. The Marlborough Riding for the Disabled

(RDA) 'Gisborne Cross Standard Bred' - Sonny was fitted and donated with the funding with the support of The Freemasons Charity for

a new saddle, a joint project through Freemasons Lodge Awatere No. 292 and Lodge Eckford No.334.

The Freemasons in Marlborough have been supporting Riding for the Disabled for a number of years.



FROM LEFT Sonny, Michael Malin - Master of the Lodge Awatere No 292, Chris Williams - Master of Lodge Eckford No 334 and Samara Lloyd - RDA Coach

Making a difference in New Zealand

Building Futures: The Freemasons Willson Lewis Scholarship Awards 2023

The Freemasons Willson Lewis Scholarships presentations were made on 30th November 2023 in Palmerston North. Created in memory of the late WBro Jim Willson and Bro Sam Lewis, who owned prominent construction companies in Palmerston North, a total of \$25,000 was presented to the recipients this year.

The annual scholarships are provided by The Manawatu Kilwinning Lodge No 47 in conjunction with the Master Builders Association (Manawatu), Master Painters NZ (Manawatu/Whanganui), UCOL / Te Pūkenga and with the support of The Freemasons Charity. The Scholarships were presented

by Councillor Leonie Hapeta on behalf of Grant Smith, Mayor of Palmerston North. Campbell Findlay (Master Builders), WBro David Hurn (Master Painters), Danny Reilly (UCOL / Te Pūkenga) and WBro Murray Mansfield (WM, MK47) represented their organisations.

The Freemasons Willson Lewis Scholarships are to support students completing post-trade education in the NZ Diplomas in Construction, Quantity Surveying, Architectural Technician or Business Management. In its eighth year, the scholarships aim to contribute up to 50% of their course fees. Scholarships were provided to Corban Cottam, Ngapuhi Hauraki,

Joseph Wharehinga and Joshua Scales.

This year, special scholarships of \$500 were also able to be provided to trade students for use towards tuition or course costs to recognise accomplishments. They were provided to Julianna Alve, Arvin Dumas, Ollie

Kidd, Rueben McCracken, Ellie Moore, Rex Pelayo and Paul Schalkuk.

Chair of the Freemasons Willson Lewis Scholarships committee, VWBro Darren Shadbolt, GSupWks indicated the standard of the applicants was very high, and it was a pleasure to be able to support their education.



Celebrating Initiative and Community Engagement at Lodge Kororareka No 304!

A Story of Resilience and Innovation

In the charming town of Russell, Bay of Islands, Lodge Kororareka No 304 has stood as a beacon of fraternity and support for 92 years. Facing the challenge of declining membership, the Lodge took a proactive and innovative approach to rejuvenation.



Collaboration with Russell Sports Club

In a remarkable collaborative effort, Lodge Kororareka supported the Russell Sports Club, leading to a unique opportunity to share the values of Freemasonry with a broader audience. This synergy opened doors to a new demographic, showcasing the relevance and appeal of Freemasonry to younger community members.

A Successful Promotional Evening

An enlightening evening at the Russell Bowling Club saw

Lodge members, including

Alastair Mitchell, and guests engaging with the community. This event highlighted Freemasonry's principles and sparked genuine interest, leading to several potential new members expressing their desire to join.

The Future Looks Bright

This success story marks a pivotal moment for Lodge Kororareka, ushering in a hopeful future with the prospect of welcoming new, enthusiastic members.

We Applaud Their Efforts!

What About You?

We're curious to hear from other lodges and members!



What innovative initiatives are you undertaking in your areas to promote Freemasonry and engage with your communities?

Please share your stories, and let's inspire each other towards greater heights of community service!

Lodge Kororareka's comes to the aid of Project Island Song

In a year of remarkable achievements, Lodge Kororareka No 304 stood out with its significant contribution to PROJECT ISLAND SONG, a local wildlife conservation effort. This initiative represents a profound commitment to the Russell community, reflecting the Freemasons' values of fraternity, charity, and community service.

Earlier this year, the Department of Conservation's withdrawal of funding posed a serious challenge to PROJECT ISLAND SONG. Lodge Kororareka, under the guidance of Alastair R. Mitchell, Master/Secretary of the Lodge, stepped in to fill

this gap. Demonstrating their dedication to environmental stewardship, the Lodge worked through the Kororareka Charitable Trust to facilitate the purchase of a specially equipped MAZDA BT50 vehicle. This vehicle, critical for the project's field operations, was acquired at a significant discount from Pacific Motor Group-Whangarei, with additional support from FLEETLINE and VISUAL ID.

The vehicle, now adorned with a custom-designed wrap featuring the Lodge's newly styled logo, is a testament to the collaborative efforts of the Lodge and its partners. It proudly bears the



message, "This vehicle is proudly sponsored by the Freemason members of Masonic Lodge Kororareka No 304," underscoring the

Lodge's commitment to the community.

A formal unveiling and handover ceremony was held at the Russell School Sports Field, attended by Lodge members and their spouses. This event not only celebrated the successful collaboration but also served to promote Freemasonry's positive impact in Russell.

As the year concludes, Lodge Kororareka No 304 stands as a beacon of communal service and environmental care, setting an inspiring example for Freemasons everywhere.



Publicity for your community events – 3 steps

BEFORE Ensure someone is responsible for publicity, arrange for a photographer, plan photographs, involve recipients and find a hook that would interest local media.

DURING Seize good photo opportunities, concentrate on 'action' not 'satisfaction', get names for captions, make notes. If media comes ensure that they are looked after and opportunities set up.

AFTER Act quickly to spread the word, send press release and captioned high resolution photo, focussing on a newsworthy aspect to local media, district and divisional newsletter and NZ Freemason.

Making a difference in New Zealand

Freemasonry and Scouting – two great organisations!

Scinde Lodge No 5 in Napier and The Freemasons Charity provided 35 tents valued at \$12,000 to help a Scouts

New Zealand local group in Napier.

In addition, the Lodge is doing some major

renovation of their Freemasons Centre in Kennedy Road starting in January 2024, and the

Scouts are helping with the move and will get some further funds to help them.



Some of the Tents, Scouts and Freemasons at the local Scout Hall for handover.

Meaty help from Freemasons

Café Oasis in Cambridge recently ran several charity fundraising events in their wish to return the support they had received from their community.

Proceeds were split between several community organisations in Cambridge – Lions, Jumble Around Op Shop, Achievement House and the Foodbank.

This is where the Freemasons came in.

The Alpha Lodge No 81, with support from The Freemasons Charity, was able to provide 400 meat packs with help from Pak N Save Te Awamutu for the Cambridge Foodbank run by the Salvation Army.

FROM LEFT Carl Morris Pak N Save, Julieanne Feath Community Coordinator Salvation Army, Doug McWatters Master of the Alpha Lodge No 81, Jeremy Bennett Pak N Save, Tukky, Korn, Kay from Café Oasis, Peter Saunders Freemasons Waikato District Charity Officer and Scott Wallace also from The Alpha Lodge No 81.



Celebrating 40 Years of Musical Talent: Young Musician of the Year 2023

Marking its 40th anniversary in 2023, the Young Musician of the Year (YMY) competition in Hawke's Bay, New Zealand, stands as a testament to the unwavering support of sponsors, grant bodies, and the community in fostering young musical talents.

This year's laureate, 16-year-old Taradale pianist

scholarship and the Peter and Valerie Williams Cup. Ruby, a pupil of Frances Te Weehi in Napier, exemplifies dedication and musical prowess.

The event, orchestrated by the Institute of Registered Music Teachers NZ - Hawke's Bay branch, is unique in its inclusive approach. Open to



adjudicated by Guy Donaldson, who shortlisted six finalists. The final concert on 8th September, judged by Dr. Justin Bird, showcased an array of classical and modern pieces. This year witnessed a welcome return to pre-pandemic audience numbers, enhancing the festive atmosphere.

highlighted by the accolades awarded to other finalists.

YMY's enduring success underscores the collective efforts of the IRMTNZ-HB Committee, sponsors, and the local community. It highlights the crucial role of music education in nurturing youthful talent. Looking to the future, YMY remains

Ruby Lo, became the competition's youngest-ever winner. Her spellbinding repertoire, spanning Mozart to contemporary composer Fazil Say, secured her the esteemed 'Gold Ribbon'

advanced musicians in varied disciplines, it's a platform that nurtures a plethora of musical gifts.

Spanning two concerts, the event commenced with a preliminary round,



Ruby Lo triumphed in the finals, followed by baritone Joseph Clinton and guitarist Hunter Piercy. The breadth of talent was further

a beacon of inspiration, continuing to cultivate classical music prodigies in New Zealand.



The Digital Masonic World: A Guide to Freemasons New Zealand's Online Platforms

In an era where digital interaction is paramount, Freemasons New Zealand has embraced this evolution, ensuring our members and the wider community remain connected and well-informed through various digital platforms. This guide highlights each of these channels, detailing their unique offerings and benefits.



FREEMASONS
New Zealand

1. Our Website: The Hearth of Our Digital Presence

freemasonsnz.org

Our official website is the cornerstone of our digital outreach. It is a rich source of information about our fraternity, providing insights into our history, values, and community initiatives. Here, members can find updates on events, recent news, and in-depth articles exploring the essence of Freemasonry.



2. YouTube: A Visual Journey into Freemasonry

[youtube.com/
@FreemasonsNewZealand](https://youtube.com/@FreemasonsNewZealand)

YouTube enables us to tell our stories in a visually compelling manner. This platform hosts a variety of content, from detailed documentaries about Freemasonry's history to highlights of our charitable activities. These videos offer an engaging way to educate and showcase the impact of our fraternity.



3. Facebook: Our Social Media Hub

facebook.com/freemasonsnz

Facebook acts as the social media hub of our community. It is a space where members can connect, share experiences, and stay updated with the latest Masonic happenings. This platform is a blend of news, updates, and interactive community engagement, fostering a strong online Masonic fellowship.





4. Instagram: Capturing Moments of Brotherhood

[instagram.com/freemasonsnewzealand](https://www.instagram.com/freemasonsnewzealand)

Instagram offers a window into the day-to-day experiences of our members. Through images and short videos, we share snapshots of our events and the camaraderie within our fraternity. It's a platform where the visual elements of Freemasonry are brought to life.



5. LinkedIn: Networking in the Professional Sphere

[linkedin.com/company/freemasons-new-zealand](https://www.linkedin.com/company/freemasons-new-zealand)

Our presence on LinkedIn addresses the professional side of Freemasonry. It is a forum for networking, sharing industry insights, and discussing the relevance of Freemasonry in various professional fields. This platform is particularly valuable for members looking to connect within the professional community.



6. Twitter: Instant Updates and Masonic Dialogue

twitter.com/freemasons_nz

Twitter is our channel for quick, timely communications. Whether it's announcing events, sharing news, or engaging in conversations about Freemasonry in today's world, Twitter allows us to disseminate information rapidly and effectively.



7. TikTok: Embracing Modern Storytelling

www.tiktok.com/@widowstama

Our sponsored TikTok account, managed by Freemason Michael Bailey, represents our venture into modern, dynamic forms of communication. This platform is ideal for reaching a broader, perhaps younger audience, with content that is both educational and entertaining.

The Virtues of Digital Media for Freemasons

Each platform offers distinct benefits. Our website is the authoritative source of Masonic knowledge. YouTube enriches our narrative with visual storytelling. Facebook serves as a communal hub, fostering interaction and engagement. Instagram provides a glimpse into the personal aspects of Masonic life. LinkedIn is an excellent tool for professional networking. Twitter offers swift updates, while TikTok introduces us to the creative world of short-form video content.

As Freemasons, it is imperative to evolve with the times while staying true to our traditions. Our varied digital presence ensures that we remain connected, informed, and engaged in this fast-paced digital world. We encourage our members, particularly our older audience, to explore these platforms to discover the wealth of information and community they offer. By embracing these digital avenues, we continue to uphold the values of Freemasonry and strengthen our global brotherhood in the digital era.

HAVE YOUR SAY

- ♦ **Write a letter to the Editor** – preferably 300 words maximum.
- ♦ **Submit an Opinion piece** – 800 words plus a 100-word author biography, and a photo.

The Centre for Brain Research Freemasons Neurosurgery Research Unit: bridging surgery and science

World models in neurosurgical care show that whenever brain surgery is undertaken in an environment of innovative research, patient care and the development of innovative treatments will follow. Our very own model of this now exists in Aotearoa New Zealand and was formally launched on the evening of 19 September at the University of Auckland's Centre for Brain Research (CBR).

Director of the CBR Sir Richard Faull says that one of the centre's most ambitious developments through the years has been establishing this model of an 'Academic Neurosurgical Unit'; that is, a committed and collaborative unit where neurosurgeons are able to devote a portion of their time to research.

Ten years ago, a fundraising campaign was launched to fund the unit and Sir Richard met with the Freemasons in the early stages. And, he says, "They understood our vision, they understood our dream, right from the start."

The Freemasons made the first, ground-breaking donation. Sir Richard says, "This incredible gift from the Freemasons of \$2 million in 2013, and that of other philanthropic funding, has resulted in a unique research relationship between our researchers at the CBR and Auckland Hospitals' top-class neurosurgeons. Really excitingly, we have built up a significant body of research together over this time."

The overarching aim of the unit is to facilitate collaborative world-class clinical research innovation between neurosurgeons in the hospital and neuroscience researchers and pharmacologists at the CBR, in order to enable therapeutic drug discovery and development, and critically, improved outcomes for neurosurgical patients.

Current studies are many and varied and include novel surgical practices in epilepsy and neurotrauma (traumatic injury to the brain), and the development of drugs and advances in technology for brain tumour treatment.

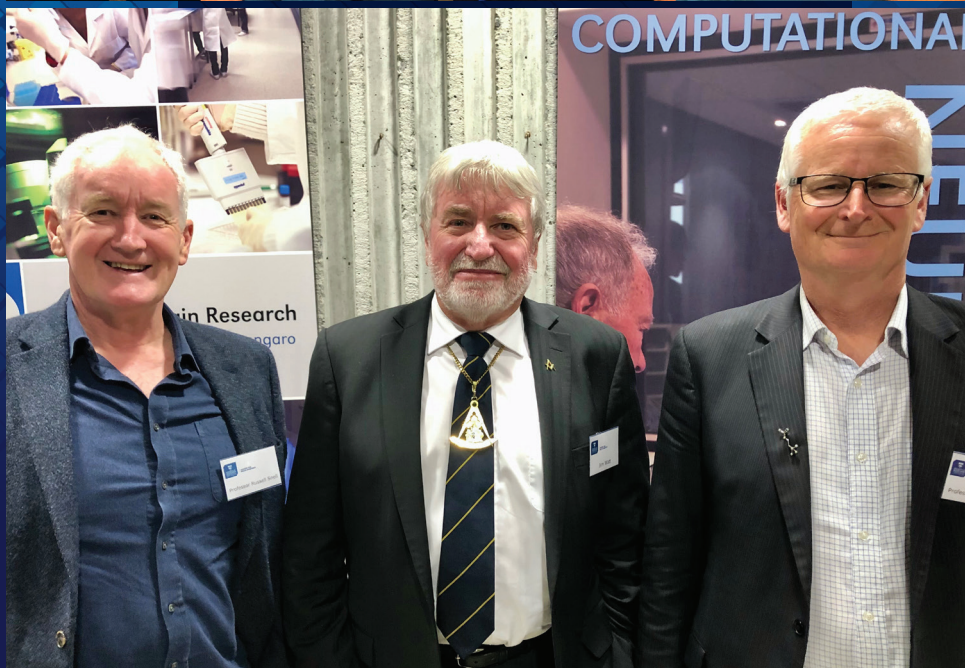
This 'bench-to-bedside' approach also involves the incredible support and generosity of neurosurgical patients. Sir Richard says "Remarkably, we are now receiving the tissue resected by our neurosurgeons in biopsies or surgery on living patients with brain tumours and epilepsy in 'real time' (the CBR is a stone's throw away from Auckland City Hospital). Professor Mike Dragunow and his team at the CBR Hugh Green Biobank can proliferate cells from this tissue, and we are now at the stage of being able to test drugs on these cells with the hope of identifying new therapies for patients in the future. The Freemasons' support has facilitated this progress in a few short years. Isn't this extraordinary?! We are immensely grateful to the Freemasons for their ongoing support to make our visions and dreams come alive."

The CBR wished to acknowledge the ongoing impact of the Freemasons' seed donation by bestowing the unit with the formal title of the CBR Freemasons Neurosurgical Research Unit. The name was unveiled at a special 19 September event hosted by the CBR which featured presentations from three of Auckland City Hospital's six neurosurgeons - Mr Andrew Law, Mr Jason Correia, and Mr Chien Kow - Sir Richard, and Professor Michael Dragunow, neuropharmacologist and Director of the CBR Hugh Green Biobank.

Co-Directors of the CBR Freemasons Neurosurgery Research Unit are CBR pharmacologist Professor Michael Dragunow and Mr Jason Correia, Neurosurgeon Auckland City Hospital.



Above (left to right): Auckland City Hospital consultant neurosurgeon Mr Jason Correia with Catherine Tanumihardja, CBR Neurosurgical Nurse Specialist at Auckland City Hospital.



Top (left to right): CBR neuropharmacologist Professor Mike Dragunow, Auckland City Hospital neurosurgeon Mr Chien Kow, Sir Richard Faull and Mr Andrew Law.

Bottom (left to right): Professor Russell Snell, Freemasons NZ Grand Master Jim Watt and Professor John Fraser at the launch event for the Freemasons Neurosurgery Research Unit.

Navigating History and Culture: A Journey Through the Western Bay Heritage Museum's 'Waka Migration & Ancient Voyages' Exhibit

By Rosalind Smith, for *New Zealand Freemason* magazine

As we approach the inviting warmth of the summer break, the Western Bay Heritage Museum in Katikati, enriched by the Potter Masonic Trust, unveils its "Waka Migration & Ancient Voyages" exhibit. It's a vivid tapestry of history and culture, and I had the distinct pleasure of delving into its depths through enlightening conversations with the museum staff.

The exhibition's heart lies in its authentic portrayal of Māori perspectives. Hone, the Mana Whenua Liaison Officer, shared his vision for this project. "The theme of our current exhibition – Treasures of Culture was the catalyst for our display... It was important that Māori stories are told by Māori," he said. This approach ensures the narratives remain genuine and resonate beyond the local community, encapsulating a global audience.

Turning to the vivid depiction of pre-European Aotearoa, the exhibit doesn't just inform but captivates. "One of the

major standouts for me was their ability to locate the resources available quite early in their arrival," Paula Gaelic remarked. Artefacts like the Amokura feather and the pīpīwharau (shining cuckoo) exemplify the early Māori's profound connection to their land and sea, shedding light on an era before European influence.

The exhibition's educational aspect is equally compelling. "We welcome learners of all ages," a curator noted, highlighting the alignment with the national Matariki celebrations. This aspect of the exhibit encourages exploration and discovery, offering an immersive learning experience that resonates with visitors from all walks of life.

Visitor feedback, especially from younger audiences, has been overwhelmingly positive. Jenny Gawith, a volunteer, observed, "Hone is very well informed, knowledgeable and eloquent." Her reflections underline the exhibition's capacity to



challenge perceptions, offering a transformative experience that enriches understanding of Māori history.

The collaborative nature of this project is a cornerstone of its success. Paula discussed the museum's partnership with local schools and hapū. "Our children of Katikati Primary are like United Nations, cultural diversity and our philosophy is the museum is owned by the community for the community." This philosophy has created a vibrant cultural hub that embraces inclusivity and community spirit.

Adding to this, a local school teacher, Tamara Cook, shared insights into the educational impact on students. "Our students

thoroughly enjoyed the trip to the Museum," she said, emphasising the exhibition's role in enhancing their understanding of Māori history and culture.

In conclusion, the Western Bay Heritage Museum's "Waka Migration & Ancient Voyages" exhibit is more than a historical display; it's an engaging journey through the heart of Aotearoa's story. As the summer season unfolds, I encourage our readers to experience this enriching showcase in Katikati. The exhibition stands as a testament to the power of storytelling, cultural preservation, and the importance of community and education in understanding our shared heritage.



EMBRACING COMPASSION

Alzheimers New Zealand's Crusade for a Dementia-Friendly Aotearoa

In the serene landscapes of New Zealand, a significant yet often overlooked challenge is the stigma associated with dementia/mate wareware. This condition, affecting numerous Kiwis, is frequently met with exclusion and misunderstanding, deeply affecting those grappling with a reality beyond their control. Alzheimers New Zealand is at the forefront of changing this narrative, embarking on a mission to cultivate an inclusive and dementia-friendly New Zealand. Here, individuals living with dementia/mate wareware are not only respected but can also actively engage in their whānau and communities.

The stigma around dementia/mate wareware is a profound barrier. Many New Zealanders living with the condition feel marginalized and misunderstood. Addressing this issue, Alzheimers New

Zealand has focused on education and awareness. Their efforts were prominently showcased in an event titled 'Repositioning Dementia: Let's get real', held both online and in-person on World Alzheimers Day (21 September).

A key element in these endeavours is the Dementia Declaration, created by individuals living with dementia/mate wareware. It outlines the essentials needed for them to lead fulfilling lives. Dr Meg Spriggs, Dementia Friendly Senior Advisor, emphasizes that the desires and needs of those with dementia are no different from what we all seek in life.

An innovative approach in Alzheimers New Zealand's arsenal is the Educational Dementia Immersive Experience (EDIE). These workshops, co-designed by people with dementia mate wareware, offer a unique virtual reality experience.

Participants are placed in the shoes of Edie, gaining an empathetic understanding of living with dementia. Dr Kathy Peri, Director of the Dementia Learning Centre, points out the significant impact of EDIE, noting its effectiveness in raising public awareness and potential in upskilling carers and health professionals.

Complementing these workshops is the Dementia Friendly framework. This initiative allows Alzheimers NZ to work with individuals, communities, and organisations to build a more understanding and compassionate society. The online module, Dementia Friends, educates over 18,000 Kiwis about dementia/mate wareware and how to support those affected in their communities.

The Dementia Friendly Recognition Programme is another vital component. It's an accreditation system

that assists businesses in becoming safe, friendly, and supportive places for people with dementia. An exemplary achievement in this area is Audika NZ, which became the first hearing provider to gain dementia-friendly accreditation.

Alzheimers NZ also understands the importance of community support in creating a dementia-friendly environment. They are actively involved in making communities more inclusive and accommodating for residents with dementia/mate wareware. This comprehensive approach, blending education, virtual experiences, and community engagement, showcases Alzheimers NZ's commitment to changing perceptions and promoting empathy towards dementia.

Alzheimers New Zealand's innovative education programme marks a significant stride towards reshaping perceptions of dementia. By emphasizing understanding, empathy, and community involvement, they are paving the way for a more compassionate and inclusive Aotearoa. Their work goes beyond addressing dementia; it's about nurturing a society that values and supports all its members, irrespective of their challenges.



The Alzheimers NZ team at the latest 'Repositioning Dementia: Let's get real' event. From left: Dias Suwido, Lyneta Russell, Dr Kathy Peri and Amie Hickland.



NZ Choral Federation's BIG SING Finale

The NZ Choral Federation's Big Sing Finale took place in August at the Auckland Town Hall - presenting 950 singers from the best secondary school choirs in New Zealand. Freemasons Foundation was proud to support this event, enabling all 8500 national competitors to see the contest as it was live-streamed. Choirs who otherwise wouldn't be

able to attend the Finale were able to learn from the music directors and choirs who made it into the finals. The 2023 competition encouraged participation, excellence, leadership and exposure of Te Reo in song. Live streaming was watched by Big Sing fans from all over the world with an audience of around 67,000 views.

Diabetes Auckland Hope Programme

Diabetes is one of the most serious long-term health challenges facing New Zealand. Through Diabetes NZ's HOPE programme, champions support and empower people with knowledge, motivation and healthy lifestyle choices. HOPE reaches out to whānau to create preventative solutions, growing self-esteem and building confidence. Diabetes NZ is specifically reaching out to individuals and families of Pacific, Māori and Indian communities through their social groups and networks- and is grateful to the Freemasons Foundation for support and funding to deliver the HOPE programme.



R LATEST NEWS REPORT

organisations, artists, scientists, young minds and innovators to improve our community

Indian Ink - stepping stone to employment

Indian Ink is one of NZ's most successful theatre companies and offers high quality mentorship and training to those who are eager to develop a career in performing arts. Indian Ink's Internship and secondment opportunities give passionate young people a 'foot in the door', as they learn industry specific skills and receive support from experienced and award-winning professionals.

The youth training project benefits 4-6 young Rangitahi Aucklanders and it is a joy to watch these young people grow in confidence, knowledge and skills as they take their first steps into the arts.

Indian Ink's Youth Training Project is financially supported with donations from the Freemasons Foundation.



Jon Southwick



Mike Cadman

A change in Deputy Chairman

We welcome Jon Southwick, the Provincial Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, as our new Deputy Chairman. Jon is replacing Mike Cadman who has filled the Deputy's role for the last 7 years.

Did you know that the Board's ten Trustees represent all Constitutions? We have you covered whether you are an Irish, Scottish, English or New Zealand Freemason.

Financial highlights for 2023

This year, despite global market fluctuations, the Foundation is delighted to announce a surplus of \$3,447,926. Thanks to prudent management, we donated \$1,189,034 to the community, raising our 16-year total to \$17 million.

Among the initiatives supported is vital research at the University of Auckland, notably exploring treatments for Alzheimer's and studying stem cells' role in lifespan differences. This commitment reflects the enduring legacy of our founding Trustees from 1956, as we continue to champion the values of the Freemasons of New Zealand.

For more information on the projects we support and information on other activities please visit our website at freemasonsfoundation.org.nz



Have a safe and happy Christmas! 

The Freemasons Foundation and team would like to wish all our supporters, contacts and brethren a safe and happy Christmas and holiday break. We hope you enjoy the festive season with family and friends and we look forward to seeing you all in the new year of 2024!



Masonic Education

Let's unfurl the rich tapestry of Masonic tradition as we delve into the meaning behind the revered Masonic v.

A Symbol of Commitment: The Masonic apron, an emblem of pride, is deeply entrenched in our history, echoing the

protective aprons worn by operative stonemasons. As Freemasons endeavour to spiritually craft our lives, the apron is a testament to our dedication to the fraternity and our symbolic journey of erecting our inner temples.

Innocence Embodied: A plain white lambskin apron

presented to an Entered Apprentice is emblematic of pure intentions and uprightness. As the illustrious 19th century American Doctor/Author and Freemason Albert Mackey noted, it's the initial symbol explained to a new Freemason, symbolising his earnest commitment to our cherished brotherhood.

Apron Varieties:

Masonic aprons are not a 'one-size-fits-all'. The aprons reflect this journey as a Freemason ascends rank and explores various Masonic bodies. From the plain white of an Entered Apprentice to the ornate designs for Lodge Officers, Grand Lodge members, and other esteemed positions - each apron tells a story, celebrating unique milestones and contributions. Remember, every Freemason starts with that initial apron, a humbling

reminder that we all embark from a common foundation.

A Lasting Bond: For many, the Masonic apron transcends the realms of a mere accessory. It becomes a treasured possession, so much so that many brethren choose it as their eternal companion, symbolising their undying bond with the fraternity even in the afterlife.

Preserving the Legacy: If you've been bestowed with an ancestor's apron or intend to pass yours down, ensure its safekeeping and knowledge of its location. These are not just aprons but legacies, stories, and memories.

So, the next time you don your apron or see a fellow Freemason in theirs, remember the journey, commitment, and unwavering bond it signifies. Share this tale with your kin, and let the apron's tale resonate through the ages!



An example of New Zealand's Constitution Master Mason's Apron.

Masonic Education for Freemasons

The Ruapehu District is starting an initiative to provide masonic education sessions to Entered Apprentices and Fellowcraft Freemasons at the Palmerston North Freemasons Centre.

They had a successful event for 28 newer Freemasons covering a variety of topics in early November. This followed an earlier session for Master Masons in October.

They are planning other sessions in 2024. These

have been hosted by District Grand Master Brian Short and organised by District Planning/Education Officer Ainsley Watson.

We all need to make a daily advancement in masonic knowledge, especially our newer

members, so they can fully understand the value of Freemasonry and how it works.

Tell us if your District is doing something similar?



King Solomon's Temple— did it really exist?

Our masonic tradition and our ceremonial are chiefly based around the building of King Solomon's Temple.

There has never been any doubt as to the existence of Herod's temple, but evidence of the existence of King Solomon's temple has never been found. There are remains of many buildings throughout the Holy Land which clearly bear the signature of King Solomon, but nowhere can be found any physical proof that his temple that features so prominently in Masonic tradition did in fact exist at all.

The Holy Bible contains a great deal of detailed information concerning the building itself such as, for example, the number of employees used in its construction, the dimensions of the building, the source of the raw materials, who carried out the construction and so on, BUT the exact location of the temple is not given in the same careful detail.

Historically there is some external evidence but archaeologically there is no evidence that the

temple did, in fact, exist. The Hebrews were not expert builders so any structure on the scale described in the bible would have been built by someone else and the closest expert builders were the Phoenicians. In fact, many of the temples built by the Phoenicians throughout Syria appear to fit the description of King Solomon's temple and a small temple excavated at Tell Ta'Yinat in Northern Syria is a KST look-alike.

It is probably safe to assume that a building that was given such prominence in the bible and other sources such as the writings of the Jewish historian Josephus, was in fact, built. The offer by Hiram the King of Tyre to help with the building of the temple is not only mentioned in the bible, but the epistle containing his letter to King Solomon is quoted by Josephus who states that copies of the epistle were preserved in Jewish books and also in the public records of the Tyrians.



Historical evidence also suggests that on the formation of the Order, which became familiarly known as The Knights Templar, their headquarters were sited in the cellars of what had been King Solomon's Temple which is said to have been the stables for his horses.

The Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs has an internet website which states unequivocally that "until this very day, not a single archaeological remnant has been found of the Temple of Solomon."

It appears clear, contrary to common thought, that the temple destroyed by the Babylonians was not the same building as that which is described in Kings. In I Kings, Chapters 6 and 7, the description of Solomon's temple puts the height of the two great pillars at 18 cubits, whereas in Chronicles, Chapters 3 and 4, the height of the pillars is given as 35 cubits. Even if we used

Royal cubits for the one and for the other the common and smaller cubits, this cannot account for the huge difference in these heights.¹

There are other descriptive differences supporting the proposition that two temples existed before the destruction by Nebuchadnezzar. It is truly doubtful that the beautiful story found in Kings and Chronicles was only, after all, a Jewish fairy tale, and we are therefore grateful for the discovery late in 2002 of a sandstone tablet containing 10 lines of Phoenician script describing King Jehoash's orders "To buy quarry stones and timber and copper and labour to carry out the duty with the faith" in regard to repairing the first temple. Differences in the wording found in Kings and Chronicles can also perhaps be accounted for by the fact that the latter was written some 700 years after Kings.

With thanks to Keith Stockley



¹ A thorough analysis and discussion of the Temple and its pillars can be found in "King Solomon's Temple in the Masonic Tradition" by Alexander Horne

Freemasons and the Wellington Children's Hospital

The fundraising project we initiated by Westminster Lodge No 308 to raise money for the new Wellington Regional Children's Hospital culminated with our Grand Master Jim Watt presenting two plaques for naming the Therapeutic Gyms, recognising the Freemasons donation of \$116,000. This was made up of a generous bequest from Kathleen Brooker's estate (third

plaque), \$30k contribution of the Freemasons Charity, nearly \$12k from the Divisional Charity Dinner and Auction at the Divisional Conference held in Napier earlier in the year, significant contributions from Westminster, Trentham, NZ Pacific, and Ngatiawa-Russell lodges; and many smaller donations from Lodges and Freemasons around the Central Division.

Photos include the three plaques erected with key participants, including the Kathleen Brooker Estate (Stuart and Family) and Freemasons New Zealand (Grand Master and Hospital Staff), affixing them, then Deputy Grand Master Pat Cooney and Chair of The Freemasons Charity Management Committee and Adrian Douglas Central Division Grand Almoner and all the participants including Bill Day Chair of the Wellington Children's Hospital.



Freemasons New Zealand: *Pioneering the Future of Cancer Treatment*



As we turn the pages of Freemasons New Zealand's journey, a chapter of profound impact and hope unfurls. It's with great pride that we, at The Freemasons Charity, continue to stand at the forefront of medical innovation, reaffirming our partnership with the esteemed Malaghan Institute of Medical Research. This collaboration is more than just a commitment; it's a testament to our enduring dedication to transforming lives through groundbreaking advancements in cancer therapy.

In this exclusive feature, we delve into the heart of our alliance with the Malaghan

Institute, spotlighting the revolutionary CAR T-cell therapy. This pioneering treatment, a beacon of hope in the battle against blood cancers, represents the pinnacle of medical research and innovation. Our sustained support, a financial cornerstone of \$200,000 annually for the past three years, has been pivotal in propelling this research forward. As we step into the future, we are elated to announce our proposal to extend this vital funding for an additional three years, from 2023/24 to 2025/26, coinciding with the research's progression into a critical multi-centre trial phase.

The essence of Freemasonry – brotherhood,

integrity, and societal improvement – resonates through our continuous involvement in the CAR-T Cell program. This initiative perfectly aligns with our mission of instilling meaningful improvements within the communities we cherish. Our commitment goes beyond financial support; it's an embodiment of our values, a reflection of our resolve to enhance the health and wellbeing of individuals across New Zealand.

This magazine piece also shines a light on the human side of this scientific triumph. The progress in CAR T-cell therapy is not merely a milestone in medical research but a source of renewed hope and strength

for patients, their families, and the broader community. We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone involved in this journey – the resilient patients, their supportive families, and the dedicated researchers. Your collective spirit, unwavering commitment, and collaborative efforts have been instrumental in achieving this monumental breakthrough.

As we look ahead, the horizon is bright with the promise of a healthier future. Through our joint efforts and consistent support, we're not just partaking in a scientific endeavour; we're crafting a legacy of life transformation. We invite our readers to share in this journey, to spread the word about this remarkable chapter in our shared history of scientific advancement and humanitarian commitment.

Join us at freemasonsnz.org for more inspiring stories and updates on our collaborative journey towards a better world. Together, we are shaping a future filled with hope, healing, and health.



HEARTLAND
BANK



2024 Heartland Freemasons Scholarships open 1 November 2023
freemasonsnz.org/charity/scholarships

Freemasons Foundation and Sistema Aotearoa



For a number of years, the Freemasons Foundation have been supporting this excellent programme in South Auckland.

Sistema Aotearoa – who are we?

Walk through Ōtara Town Square any afternoon, and you'll see smiling children of all ages carrying violins or balancing cellos on their backs! These eager learners are heading to Ōtara Music Arts Centre (OMAC), the home of Sistema Aotearoa, one of New Zealand's most unique and effective music and social development programmes.

Sistema Aotearoa works to unleash the potential of tamariki, whānau and communities through orchestral music making. The programme fosters confidence, teamwork, pride and aspiration in the children and their wider community, bringing about social change and community empowerment and supporting the well-being of tamariki and whānau.

Sistema Aotearoa has been an integral aspect of family and community life in Ōtara. Since its inception in 2011, over 3000 children have been impacted by the programme. In 2023, over 1,200 Māori and Pasifika children students, aged 2



to 20 years will participate in diverse activities, including lively preschool music sessions, concert performances, in-school musicianship lessons, and instrumental tuition after school and in school holidays.

Inspired by Sistema music programmes around the world, Sistema Aotearoa is a social development programme that builds a sense of community, self-respect, and mutual support in children. Our free, intensive, ensemble-based music lessons inspire children to realise their full potential through orchestral music-making.

www.sistemaaotearoa.org.nz



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Charting New Horizons: The Potter Masonic Trust's Voyage of Empowerment with the Spirit of Adventure Trust

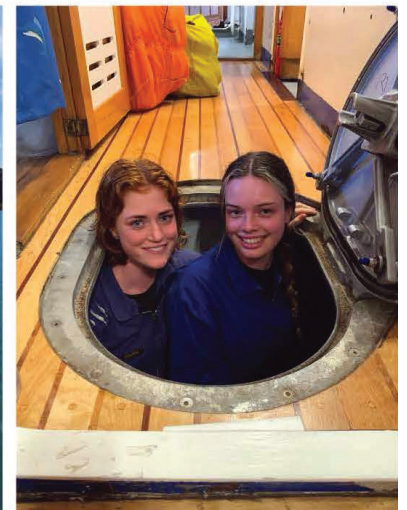


In the spring of 2023, the Potter Masonic Trust made a significant and compassionate contribution to the Spirit of Adventure Trust. With a grant of £30,000, the trust has provided invaluable support to a group of young New Zealanders, enabling them to embark on a transformative 10-day youth development voyage aboard the Spirit of New Zealand. This noble initiative resonates deeply with the Masonic principles of community support and personal growth.

The Spirit of Adventure Trust operates with a commendable mission: to enable young people to realise their full potential through the challenges of the sea. Their commitment to inclusion and equality aligns perfectly with our Masonic values. They strive to ensure that financial constraints do not prevent any young individual from participating in these life-changing experiences. The scholarship programme they run is a testament to their dedication to breaking down

financial barriers. The Potter Masonic Trust's grant has been instrumental in this regard, enabling 14 deserving young individuals from our community to embark on this voyage.

Each of the beneficiaries had their unique circumstances and reasons for needing assistance. The Trust's support ensured that these financial hurdles did not stand in the way of their participation. One particularly poignant story is that of a young person who, after relocating from





Australia and facing the loss of a parent, struggled with adapting to the New Zealand education system. Living with grandparents and separated from most of their family, this young person saw the voyage as a golden opportunity for personal and leadership development. The grant from the Potter Masonic Trust made this possible, highlighting the profound impact such support can have on individual lives.

The increasing economic challenges of our times have heightened the demand for such support. This financial year, nearly half of the participants in these voyages needed financial assistance to join. The grant from the Potter Masonic Trust has been a beacon of hope, ensuring that the spirit of adventure and personal growth remains accessible to all, irrespective of their financial background.

This grant is much more than a financial contribution; it is an investment in the future of these

young individuals. It underscores our commitment as Freemasons to foster community spirit, equality, and personal development. Each of the 14 young people, including the one eagerly awaiting their upcoming voyage, represents a life positively impacted, a potential unlocked, and a future brightened by this philanthropic gesture.

The story of the Potter Masonic Trust's support for the Spirit of Adventure Trust is a reminder of the profound impact our Masonic values can have on the community. It is through acts of generosity and support that we continue to build a strong, inclusive, and supportive society. The partnership between the Potter Masonic Trust and the Spirit of Adventure Trust exemplifies this commitment beautifully, guiding young individuals towards a promising horizon.

The Potter Masonic Trust, in providing this grant, has not only supported a journey across the seas

but has also helped chart a course for a brighter future for these young people. It's a shining example of how we, as Freemasons, can make a significant difference in the lives of others, and a reminder of the ongoing need for such support. The impact of this grant will resonate far beyond the ten-day voyage, influencing the lives of these young individuals for years to come.

The Potter Masonic Trust's generous grant to the Spirit of Adventure Trust is a testament to the power of community and philanthropy. It demonstrates how, through thoughtful support and commitment to our values, we can create opportunities that change lives and shape futures. As we celebrate this achievement, let us also look forward to more opportunities to make a meaningful difference in our community.



Embracing Modern Tech

A Beginner's Guide to the Latest Useful Gadgets and Apps



Roborock s7 Vacuum cleaner.

In an age where technology evolves at lightning speed, it's crucial for everyone, especially older adults, to stay in the loop. This guide delves into the latest technological trends and gadgets that promise not only to simplify daily life but also to enhance

it. From health-monitoring devices that keep a close eye on wellbeing to innovative apps designed to boost enjoyment and connectivity, the digital world has much to offer. Let's embark on a journey to discover these technological marvels.

Health-Monitoring Devices

One of the most significant advancements in modern technology is in health monitoring. Wearable gadgets like smartwatches and fitness trackers have become indispensable tools for seniors. Products like the Apple Watch/Samsung Galaxy Smart Watch or Fitbit offer features such as heart rate monitoring, sleep tracking, and even fall detection, sending alerts to emergency contacts if needed. For those managing chronic conditions, devices like the KardiaMobile EKG monitor provide instant

heart health analysis, easily sharing data with healthcare providers. Meanwhile, smart blood pressure cuffs and glucose monitors seamlessly record and track vital health metrics, offering peace of mind and fostering proactive health management.

Smart Home Technology

The concept of a 'smart home' might sound futuristic, but it's very much a reality. Voice-activated assistants like Amazon's Alexa or Google Home make everyday tasks more manageable. With simple voice commands, seniors



Alexa smart home system.



Kardia Mobile EKG Monitor and app

can control lighting, heating, and even lock doors, enhancing home security and convenience. Smart thermostats like Nest adapt to your routines, ensuring optimal comfort and energy efficiency. Moreover, robot vacuum cleaners, such as the Roomba and Roborock,

take the hassle out of daily chores, maintaining clean floors on a programmed schedule without lifting a finger.

Communication and Social Apps

Staying connected with loved ones is more

important than ever. Thankfully, apps like Zoom and FaceTime make video calls a breeze, bridging the physical distance. Social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram offer a window into the lives of friends and family, while messaging apps such as WhatsApp provide an easy way to stay in touch. For those looking to expand their social circles, Meetup and similar apps connect people with local groups and activities based on shared interests, promoting social engagement and new friendships.

Entertainment and Learning Apps

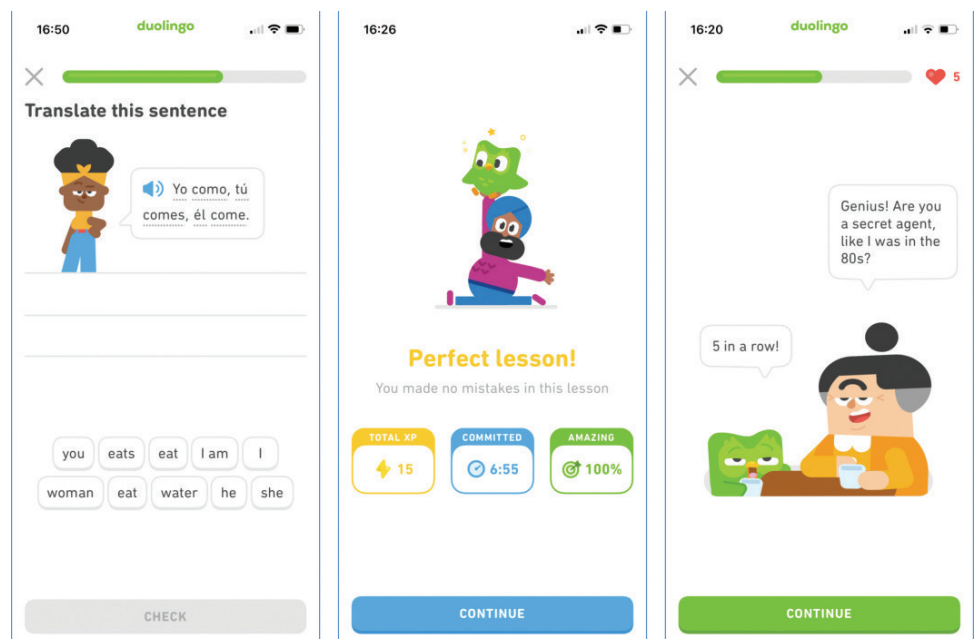
The digital world is a treasure trove of entertainment and learning. Streaming services like Netflix and Spotify bring movies, shows, and music directly into the living room. For book lovers, e-readers and apps like Kindle and Audible open up a vast library of literature, often with font size adjustments

for easier reading. Meanwhile, educational platforms like Coursera and Duolingo offer opportunities to learn new skills or languages, keeping the mind sharp and engaged.

This guide only scratches the surface of the technological wonders available to seniors. By embracing these tools, older adults can enjoy increased independence, better health monitoring, and enhanced social connectivity. When used wisely, technology can significantly improve quality of life, making the golden years comfortable but also vibrant, and fulfilling. As we witness technological advancements, the potential for even more tailored and intuitive gadgets and apps for seniors is limitless. It's an exciting time to get tech-savvy, and there's no better moment than now to start this digital adventure.



Duolingo is the worlds most popular app for learning a foreign language.





Generous donation bolsters Masonic Court

A \$19,000 donation from a Palmerston North Freemasons Lodge has been described as “incredibly generous” by the aged care facility to which the money was donated.

It’s sometimes rare to find a charity that offers to donate money, rather than simply responding to requests for funding.

But, in this case, the Manawatū Kilwinning Trust, a Palmerston North Masonic Lodge, reached out to the local aged care facility, Masonic Court, in November to offer unprompted assistance.

The Freemasons’ donation enabled Masonic Court to buy equipment, such as a syringe dryer for palliative care, a lounge chair, a ceiling hoist, and two outdoor benches.

Facilities Manager, Karen Adrian, described the very kind donation as “incredibly generous and greatly received”.

“Our 2024 budget was already allocated to other vital projects,” she says, “so this donation is a real bonus.”

She says even the outdoor benches are important; in a healthcare setting, which places a priority on physical wellbeing, mental health is also key.



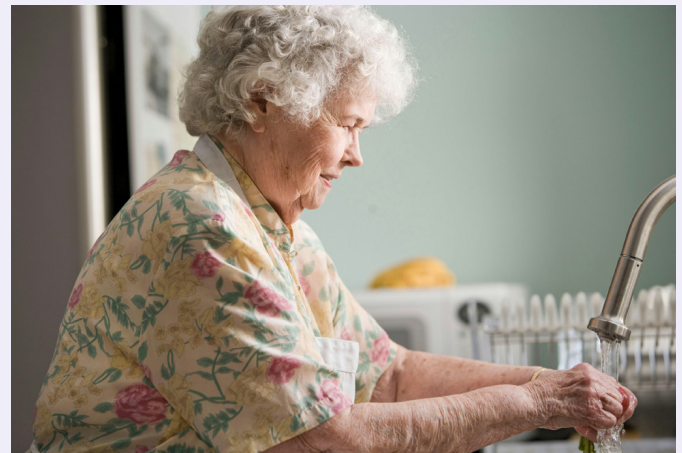
Karen Adrian,
Facilities Manager

“Giving our clients a nice place to sit while enjoying the sun has a huge impact on them.”

Aged care providers across New Zealand are facing ongoing financial barriers. In some cases, they experience potential losses of up to \$15 per resident per day.

In that context, Karen says, this generous donation to Masonic Court came at a time when budgets are being carefully and frugally allocated.

The Chief Executive of the Masonic Villages Trust, Warick Dunn, says the donation from local Freemasons is hugely valuable and appreciated.



“Equipment undergoes replacement as necessary throughout the year, but this goes beyond the essentials; it provides the facility with smoother and safer options.

“It enables them to continue providing high-quality, person-centred care and support, which epitomises our values of care, community and compassion.”

Warick said donations of this nature are particularly important given the financial challenges facing the aged care sector.

Hardships across the sector have resulted in many other facilities closing beds, which, in turn, has meant older New Zealanders in need of this support are being placed in care facilities that are farther away from their families and communities.

“This is something we try to avoid at all costs.

“Ensuring our residents’ dignity, safety and overall well-being is a top priority, and Freemasons New Zealand wholeheartedly supports this.”

The challenges faced by age care providers are not limited to Masonic care facilities.

The recent Ansell report by Chartered Accountant Cam Ansell gave a comprehensive financial and operational review of New Zealand’s aged care sector. This review found a significant proportion of aged care providers were operating at a loss. The shortage of clinical staff has forced over half of facilities to temporarily suspend admissions, further exacerbating the challenges faced by the sector.

“These statistics paint a grim picture of the financial sustainability of the aged care sector,” says Warick.

“Although an uncomfortable conversation, it is necessary to ensure support reaches those who need it most.”

The Aged Care Association and former DHB leaders have launched campaigns like “Domino Effect” to sound the alarm over critical issues. They stress the need for solutions to nurse staffing shortages, a lack of pay parity and the need for 80,000 additional beds by 2040.

As these issues persist, the conversation within The Masonic Villages Trust has shifted towards the importance of these challenges not affecting the quality of life within its facilities.

“We are one of the oldest and respected facilities in the area with a deep community focus. The provision of this additional equipment assists us to provide high quality person-centred care while supporting our residents ensuring their dignity safety and wellbeing,” said Karen.

The recent contribution from the Manawātū Kilwinning Trust highlights the need for community support for the aged care sector, even as higher-level changes are still in progress.

“Preserving the dignity and well-being of our elderly is a challenge that requires collective action, and with the help of organisations such as Freemasonry, we are taking a step in the right direction,” says Warick.

“The Freemasons’ generosity helps to shape lives. While they don’t often publicise what they do, they certainly make a difference.”



Warick Dunn,
Chief Executive

20 Splendid Summer Activities

As the warm breeze of the Kiwi summer sets in, New Zealand transforms into a wonderland of opportunities for families to bond and create lifelong memories. With Christmas cheer in the air and school holidays underway, it's the perfect time to explore fun-filled activities that cater to all ages. Here's a curated list of 20 delightful summer activities to enjoy with your family during this festive season.



1. Beach Picnic and Games

New Zealand's picturesque beaches offer the ideal backdrop for a family picnic. Pack a hamper with your favourite treats, bring along a Frisbee or a backyard cricket set, and bask in the sun while enjoying the company of your loved ones.



2. Backyard Barbecue

Nothing says Kiwi summer like a sizzling barbecue in your backyard. Grill some classic New Zealand lamb, serve some fresh salads, and enjoy a feast under the stars.



3. Camping Trip

Embrace the great outdoors with a camping trip. Whether it's pitching a tent by a serene lake or in the heart

of a bustling campsite, camping is a fantastic way to disconnect from technology and reconnect with family.



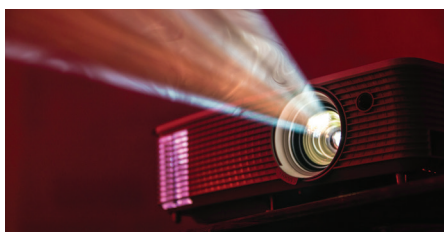
4. Hiking Adventure

Explore New Zealand's stunning landscapes on a family hike. Choose trails that match your family's fitness level and discover the natural beauty of our country.



5. Garden Party

Transform your garden into a party venue with games like croquet and bocce ball. Serve homemade lemonade and enjoy a day filled with laughter and joy.



6. Outdoor Movie Night

Create your own outdoor cinema. A projector, a white sheet, and some comfy seating are all you need for a magical movie night under the stars.



7. Christmas Crafts

Get creative with Christmas crafts. Making decorations or gifts not only sparks creativity but also adds a personal touch to your festive celebrations.



8. Cooking Day

A day in the kitchen can be a delightful bonding experience. Bake some festive treats or cook a special meal together, sharing recipes and stories.



9. Visit a Local Festival

Summer in New Zealand is festival season. From music to food, there's a festival for every interest, offering a chance to enjoy the vibrant local culture.

for Families in New Zealand



10. Fishing Trip

Relax by a river or lake and teach your kids the art of fishing. It's a peaceful way to enjoy nature and perhaps catch your dinner!



11. Bike Ride

A family bike ride is a healthy and enjoyable way to explore your surroundings. Choose a scenic route and enjoy a leisurely ride together.



12. Star Gazing

On a clear night, look up at the sky and marvel at the stars. It's a wonderful opportunity to teach your children about constellations and astronomy.



13. Ice Cream Making

Homemade ice cream is a delightful treat. Experiment with different

flavours and have fun making (and eating!) your creations.



14. Kayaking or Paddleboarding

Take to the water for a day of kayaking or paddleboarding. It's a fun way to stay active and enjoy New Zealand's stunning waterways.



15. Treasure Hunt

Organise a treasure hunt in your garden or a local park. It's an exciting way for children to explore and solve clues.



16. Sports Day

Host a mini sports day with races and games. It's a great way to stay active and have fun as a family.



17. Visit a Local Orchard or Farm

Spend a day in the countryside picking fruit or exploring a farm. It's a great way to teach children about where their food comes from.



18. Scrapbooking

Create a family scrapbook documenting your year. It's a wonderful way to preserve memories and spend quality time together.



19. Board Game Marathon

Bring out the board games for a day of friendly competition. It's a fun way to bond and engage with each other without screens.



20. Volunteering Together

Give back to the community by volunteering. It's a rewarding experience that teaches compassion and gratitude.

Conclusion

The holiday season in New Zealand offers a unique blend of festive cheer and summer fun. These 20 activities provide a diverse range of options to ensure that your family time is filled with joy, laughter, and memorable experiences. So, embrace the spirit of the season and make the most of this wonderful time with your loved ones.



From the First Grand Principal

Greetings all

It is great to see the number of candidates coming through, and most Chapters seem to be very busy. Of course, with natural attrition, it is necessary for Chapters to bring in on average around 10% of their membership numbers just to stand still.

Chapters are encouraged to run the Pathways ceremony, which generally leads to a high level of acceptance by Master Masons attending. A new playlet, which can be run in Lodges, has been produced

and is being run for the first time in Auckland in early December. This play is adapted from a successful playlet in England and will be run by a demonstration team in each Division. In addition, we will shortly be producing a new brochure which invites Master Masons to continue their Masonic journey.

I have seen through my visits a growing enthusiasm among Companions, and I am sure this will translate into growth in the Order in the future.

At this time I would like to wish you and you partners

all the very best over the holiday season, and a very successful new year.

Grand Principals' tour of Nelson/Marlborough/ Westland

At the instigation of the Divisional Grand Principal (Southern), REComp Ferg McNaughton, a tour was arranged for the four Grand Principals to visit Royal Arch Chapters in Blenheim, Nelson, and Westport. This is the first time that the four Grand Principals have made such a tour.

The tour group was made up of First Grand Principal, MEComp Dennis Waller, Depute First Grand Principal, REComp David Craddock, Divisional Grand Principal (Central), REComp Greg Bennett, and REComp McNaughton.

REComp Ian Plummer, Grand Superintendent for the Nelson/Marlborough/ Westland District, and VEComp Neville Hall, Grand Sword Bearer, completed the group.

On Tuesday, 21 November, the Principals visited Marlborough Chapter No 14 which carried out a



REComp Ferg McNaughton, REComp Greg Bennett, MEComp Dennis Waller, REComp David Craddock ready to hit the road.



Grand Principals with the Principals of Kawatiri Chapter No 21 (left to right): EComp Trevor Warne, Robert Tyler, EComp Ray Moroney.



MEComp Dennis Waller congratulates Bro Chris Wratt of Victory Chapter No 12 following his Mark Master degree.



Meeting of Marlborough Chapter No 14.

Pathway ceremony attended by four Master Masons. At the supper to which the Master Masons were invited the First Grand Principal gave a talk on the progress that was being made in promoting the Royal Arch. He invited comments from the Companions, which led to a very positive discussion between the Grand Principals and members. All four Master Masons indicated that they would like to join.

The following day, the Principals visited a farm in Seddon owned by EComp Justin Stevens and his wife Rebecca and, after morning tea, had a tour through the deer farming activities and vineyard. After a BBQ lunch they went to Yealand's vineyard for a wine tasting and heard about the history of the vineyard. A casual meal was held that evening attended by 18 Royal Arch Masons and partners.

On Thursday, the group attended Victory Chapter No 12. A good attendance included members from Trafalgar Royal Arch Chapter (Scottish Constitution) and Marlborough No 14. A Mark

Master degree was worked with MEComp Waller dressed in his regalia as Grand Master of Mark Master Masons of New Zealand. This caused a good degree of attention as most had never seen this before. The degree work was carried out to a high standard particularly considering that their meetings are held in temporary accommodation, upstairs in the lounge of a funeral director's premises. During supper, Companions took the opportunity to meet with the First Grand Principal and have a casual discussion.

On Friday, REComp Craddock, who had been unable to join earlier, was picked up from Nelson airport and the group travelled to Westport where a Royal Arch degree was worked in the evening at Kawatiri Chapter No 21. This was very well attended with Companions from Invercargill, Wanaka, Christchurch, Greymouth, Blenheim, Nelson etc attending. The Chapter has been struggling since COVID-19, and it was great to see them getting

together and performing a great degree working, and it was encouraging to see the support they received.

At supper the First Grand Principal talked of the isolation of the Chapter and support provided by Nelson and Marlborough Chapters and talked about the new material that was coming forward to assist in recruiting Master Masons. Some discussion was held but the hour was late so it was off to bed with a big day to follow.

Saturday, 25 November, was the Installation Day for the Chapter and an even greater number of Companions were present, with more members from Marlborough No 14 and Nelson No 12 arriving to carry out some of the work, and others just supporting the Principals and the Chapter. The Installation was carried out by the District Grand Superintendent and his Grand Director of Ceremonies. Despite members having had COVID-19 and other illnesses, the ceremony was well worked. MEComp Waller then invested



VEComp Azher Mir as Grand Sword Bearer and presented three certificates to Companions and two five-year badges to VEComp Peter Robertson.

Over afternoon tea, there was a great deal of discussion held with people asking questions of the Principals and generally talking to them about issues. Ladies were invited to the afternoon tea and REComp McNaughton proposed the toast to the First Grand Principal. He replied with a talk, including some of his thoughts from the various meetings, during which he produced a bag containing chocolate fish for everyone which he hoped would spur people on to remember the various matters discussed. He invited anyone who had ideas to advance the Royal Arch cause or wanted help to solve any problems to e-mail him, and he would endeavour to assist them.



New Sailability yachts – thanks to fundraising from the Wellington District



In the evening, a meal was held at a local restaurant which was attended by 33 Companions and their partners. It was a great success.

On Sunday, 26 November, the Principals returned to Nelson, and from there home.

REComp Plummer is to be congratulated for organising the Chapters, special meetings, visits, carrying out an Installation, receiving the Grand Principal etc. A very busy time. His wife Sue deserves special thanks for her support of Ian and her contributions, including a quick trip to the Picton ferry terminal to pick up REComp Bennett whose flight from Wellington was cancelled by fog and had to come by ferry.

Special thanks also to VEComp Hall for his assistance in organising the tour. Of course, special thanks to REComp McNaughton for promoting the idea, and for driving

from Invercargill for the tour and using his 8-seater to transport the Grand Principals around.

Charitable giving

During 2019 and 2020 Royal Arch Chapters and Cryptic Councils in the Wellington District raised funds totalling \$15,000 for the Sailability Wellington Trust. Herbert Teagle-Taia Lodge No 300 also donated funds and obtained a subsidy from the Freemasons Charity, providing another \$1,000.

The donations enabled a newly designed yacht to be built, which was officially launched in September 2023.

The Sailability Wellington Trust promotes amateur sailing for persons with disabilities. It operates six days a week when the weather permits from bases at Evans Bay, Lowry Bay, and Titahi Bay. There are currently 198 participants with 30 on the waiting list, supported by 76 volunteer members with 25 yachts and three support boats.

Participants come from a diverse range of ethnic

backgrounds and ages and are a fairly even mix of females/males. They have a range of disabilities, including physical, intellectual, psychological, and neurological (and frequently multiple).

They are welcomed into the sailing community, included in social events, fed at BBQs, and given opportunities to go out in the support boats. Whether the sailor is sailing solo or with a support sailor, what they are able to achieve often far exceeds what family members/support workers imagined possible. Sometimes a whole family attends, complete with a few children who are taken sailing individually.

Most sailing is in Hansa 303 sailing dinghies, but their maximum payload is just 160 kg. As many of the participants need a companion crew or skipper to be with them, the Trust set about seeking out a self-righting sailing dinghy with a larger payload. This led to a new design of a yacht named a "ParAble" with a payload of 240 kg. It has two sets of sails, one

for racing and one to use in learning to sail.

It can be stored on a beach trolley and rolled off into the sea for rigging. The centreboard is weighted and is lifted into the yacht with a crane (the same one which would be used to lift someone from a wheelchair into the yacht). It has a self-taking jib as well as easily identifiable controls for blind sailors. It is self-draining, has a steering wheel on the centre console instead of a tiller, and can be reefed easily from inside the cockpit.

Sailability organisations are not for profit and volunteer-based, and through the activity of sailing they enrich the lives of people of all abilities: the elderly, those who are financially and socially disadvantaged, and people with physical challenges.

Well done to this initiative in Wellington showing Craft and Royal Arch Masons assisting their community.

MEComp Dennis
First Grand Principal
Supreme Grand Royal Arch
Chapter of New Zealand

Master Masons completing the Masonic journey

Clause 71 of the Freemasons NZ Constitution recognizes three Craft degrees: Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason; plus the three Royal Arch degrees of Mark Master, Excellent Master and Holy Royal Arch as being pure, antient Freemasonry. We warmly welcome these newly-advanced Mark Masters within our Royal Arch fraternity.

17/07/2023	Jason Tainsh	Karangahape No 69
23/08/2023	Michael Spalding	St Andrew No 90
28/08/2023	Mouria Ngati Au	Chapter of Peace No 98
27/09/2023	Erickson Minoza	St Andrew No 90
05/10/2023	Adam Farr	Auckland No 9
24/10/2023	Tamey Yukoya	Marlborough No 14
23/11/2023	Christopher Wratt	Victory No 12
27/11/2023	Stace Tahere	Bay of Plenty No 57
07/12/2023	Christopher Burman	Auckland No 9

Royal Arch Grand Convocation and Proclamation

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Welcome to our newest Freemasons

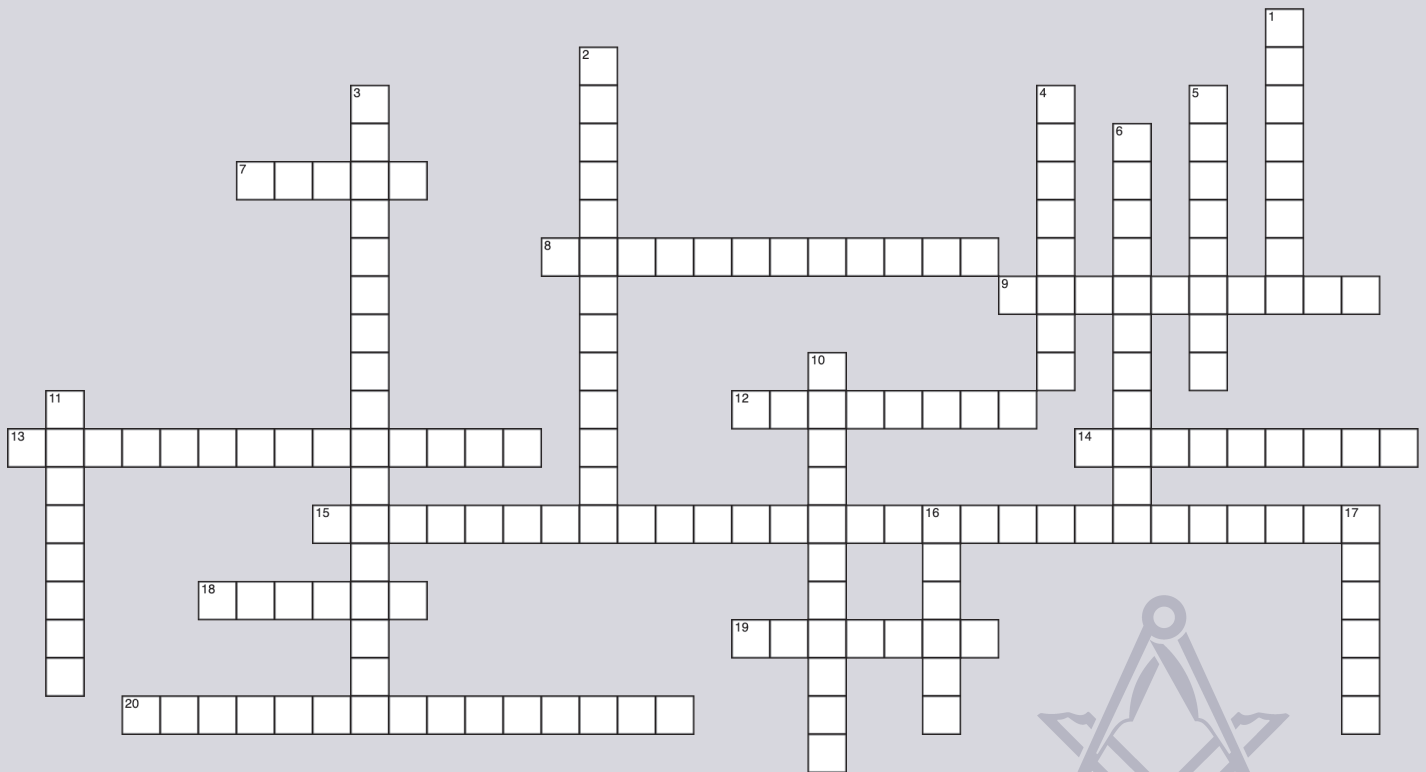
August–October 2023

Kaveen Hanthi	The Ara Lodge No. 1	Richard Sharpe	Lodge Waitakerei No. 170
Ian Reu Mercado	The Beta-Waikato Lodge No. 12	Huseyin Yalaz	Lodge North Harbour No. 182
Marvin Lara	The Caledonian Lodge No. 16	Ahriez Yambao	Lodge Doric Brighton No. 236
Joel Sapla	Patea Kilwinning Lodge No. 18	Glenn Alcuizar	Lodge Doric Brighton No. 236
Christopher McCloy	Lodge of Progress No. 22	Arun Mehan	Lodge Te Puke No. 261
Rolly JR Rivera	The Belmont Albion Lodge No. 45	Makea Kainuku	Lodge Te Puke No. 261
Andrew Fage	The Manawatu Kilwinning Lodge No. 47	Jack Wicks	Lodge Arawhaiti No. 267
Apirana Dawson	The Ponsonby Lodge No. 54	Aaron Martin	Lodge Arawhaiti No. 267
Jose Celestino Querol	The Fortitude Lodge No. 64	Nestor Tenorio	Unity Lodge No. 271
Nissan Lofranco	The Ngapara Lodge No. 68	Willem Vermeulen	Lodge Haeata No. 272
Joseph Angus	The Alpha Lodge No. 81	Ian Mellor	Lodge Awatere No. 292
Sherwin Baracael	Lodge St John No. 94	Mark Runge	Westminster Lodge No. 308
Hazzan Kent Wabe	The Cromwell Kilwinning Lodge No. 98	Edcel Dupo	Lodge Te Papa No. 316
Kirby Chunaco	Lodge Whangarei No. 102	Alexander Stewart	The Lodge of Remembrance No. 318
Bradley Lietze	Lodge Dunstan No. 103	Krishn Chandra	The Mangere Lodge No. 330
Sean O'Donnell	The Havelock Lodge No. 104	Donie Rafael Loterina	The Mangere Lodge No. 330
Glen Palacay	Marlborough Lodge of Unanimity No. 106	Al Syd Meleisea	The Mangere Lodge No. 330
Oliver McChesney	The Forest Lodge No. 116	Liam Oades	The Mangere Lodge No. 330
Carl Kristoffer Elemينو	The Coronation Lodge No. 127	Froilan Calacsan	The Mangere Lodge No. 330
Riffy Joseph Geraldizo	Te Awahou Lodge No. 133	Lopeti Pomee	The United Lodge No. 340
Mark Jazen Catalbas	Te Awahou Lodge No. 133	Kevin Richards	The United Lodge No. 340
Kenneth Bayaco	Te Awahou Lodge No. 133	Sean Thompson	Lodge Kerikeri No. 402
Dean Magbojos	Te Awahou Lodge No. 133	Allen Cris Melebo	The Pakuranga Lodge No. 416
Rusthy Bayaco	Te Awahou Lodge No. 133	Oliver Flemmer	Lodge Mangaroa No. 419
Waka Hurihanganui	Lodge Rotorua No. 153	Cameron Atkins	Lodge Mangaroa No. 419
Jean Downie	Lodge Tawhiri No. 166	Kane Affleck-Brown	Lodge Kauri No. 474
Raymond Takani	Lodge Tawhiri No. 166	Mandeep Singh	Lodge Matariki No. 476
Leon Nowy	Wellsford Marsden Lodge No. 169	Peter Stoute	Lodge Discovery No. 501
Arpit Joshi	Lodge Waitakerei No. 170		

For every man who aspires to be a better person, Freemasonry helps you develop the knowledge and skills to be the best you can be – through a unique mix of ceremony, fresh thinking and good works in an enjoyable and supportive environment, because only Freemasonry uses long-proven principles that empower you to unlock your full potential, for a better future.

The Last Word!

Freemasons New Zealand crossword



Solution page 7



ACROSS

- 7 Peninsula used for launching space rockets in New Zealand?
- 8 How many records did Elvis Presley record in round figures? (two words)
- 9 Name a degenerative brain disease common amongst the elderly?
- 12 Who replaced Hiram Abif in the building of King Solomon's Temple?
- 13 New Zealand Antarctic Territory is called? (two words)
- 14 The day after Christmas is called?
- 15 Only masonic district in New Zealand with a triple name? (four words)
- 18 What masonic service bar record has just been broken in New Zealand?
- 19 Who won the first FIFA World Cup in 1930?
- 20 Degree after the Mark Master Mason Degree in the Royal Arch is? (two words)

DOWN

- 1 Surname of Grand Master and Governor General in 1923?
- 2 King Charles III's first son is? (Two Words)
- 3 Sailing ship for Youth Training in New Zealand? (three Words)
- 4 In Europe, which saint is associated with Father Christmas?
- 5 Next Australian Grand Installation is being held in which city?
- 6 What foundation gives life-changing eye surgery in the Pacific? (two words)
- 10 Auld Land Syne was written by? (Two Words)
- 11 What month is King Charles III's actual birthday?
- 16 What was Great Britain's only colony in South America? (current name)
- 17 How many days of Christmas?

Interesting New Zealand!

The Moeraki Boulders (a geological wonder) are found in the South Island of New Zealand.

According to Maori legend, the Moeraki Boulders are gourds that washed ashore (on what is now Koekohe Beach) when the Araiteuru canoe was wrecked hundreds of years ago.

Interested in Freemasonry in New Zealand with 181 Lodges and 4885 members throughout New Zealand, go to www.freemasonsNZ.org and if interested in joining, living in New Zealand and you meet the basic criteria, go to freemasonsNZ.org/join and we will start the process.



Joerg Bonner

SERVICE AWARDS

August–October 2023

70 YEAR BADGE

WBro John Mathew Bell PGBB RH	The Tauranga Lodge No. 125
RWBro Colin Francis Johnson P Prov GM	The United Lodge of Wanganui No. 468

60 YEAR BADGE

Bro Frank Walter Bundle MM	The Woburn Lodge No. 25
WBro Roger William Lundy PM	Lodge St John No. 94
RWBro Michael Francis Whitlock PGW	The Tauranga Lodge No. 125
WBro Gabriel Haldezos PM	Hutt Valley Lodge No. 176
WBro Eric Oliver Faulkner PM RH	Lodge North Harbour No. 182
WBro Ian Hugh Fraser Grapes RH PM	Lodge Omarunui No. 216

50 YEAR BADGE

WBro Alexander Douglas Wallace PM	Scinde Lodge No. 5
WBro Kenneth Arthur Greenwood PM	Lodge of Progress No. 22
WBro Kay James Hoskin PM	The Woburn Lodge No. 25
WBro Graeme William Wakelin PG Swd B	Lodge Abercorn-Tuahine No. 76
RWBro John Beury Marshall PGW	Lodge St John No. 94
WBro Russell John Conning PM	The Forest Lodge No. 116
WBro Gordon Douglas Pellowe PM	Lodge Rotorua No. 153
WBro Victor Charles McIntyre PGS	Lodge Whangamomona No. 234
WBro Robert Corbett Western PM	Lodge Kumeu No. 279
WBro Kevin John Tait PM	Lodge Zetland No. 312
WBro Spencer Guy Watson PM	Harmony Lodge No. 325
WBro Roydon Nelson Cresswell PGBB	Lodge Whitianga No. 443
WBro Kerry Andrew Nicholls PGS	United Horowhenua Lodge No. 464

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