

NEW ZEALAND Freemason

Issue 1 (Vol. 52), March 2024



ANZAC Day

New Zealand's day of remembrance



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Making a difference in New Zealand

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The *New Zealand Freemason* is the official journal of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of New Zealand. Unless otherwise indicated, the opinions expressed and the advertising content are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy of Grand Lodge.

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Queries or comments regarding subscription or distribution should be addressed to membership@freemasons.nz.org or the Grand Secretary, PO Box 6439, Marion Square, Wellington 6141. Queries and comments regarding content and advertising should be addressed to the Editor.

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.org

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Royal Arch contributions to Duane Williams, Editor
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Magazines are distributed in March, June, September and December. The deadlines for contributions are the first day of February, May, August and November

Layout by Bartlett Projects, Wellington
Printed by Fisher Print Ltd, Palmerston North
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ADVERTISING RATES PER ISSUE

Description	Height	Width	Base price	Discounted (4 Issues)
Full page	240mm	175mm	\$1250	\$1000
Half page (vertical)	240mm	85mm	\$650	\$500
Half page (horizontal)	120mm	175mm	\$650	\$500
Banner	75mm	175mm	\$350	\$250
Quarter page	120mm	85mm	\$350	\$250

All figures GST exclusive. For full advertising details contact communications@freemasons.nz.org

From the Editor

Accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative

Whilst the challenges we face as an organisation may appear daunting, there are lots of positives mentioned elsewhere, including the first increase in membership since 1982 (a net increase of 53 in second half on 2023), a 43% increase in initiations and a 33% drop in deaths. Also, a modest increase in members aged 49 and under. This is all due to the efforts of Lodges in acquiring members and referrals to Lodges by the National Office from the website and social media as part of our Awareness and Acquisition Programme.

That masonic harmony that we talk about in our ceremonial and our own rhetoric on harmony is finally starting to come into play where we show each other that love and harmony that should always characterise a Freemason. Harmony consists of greeting every brother at every meeting, finding out more about each of them, and finding common interests. Mentoring each other – because whether young or old, we can all learn something or have something useful to offer our members or our Lodge. Especially sorting out differences with honest and kindly conversations.

Freemasonry has so many good stories to tell. The personal development of our members as they progress in Freemasonry, exciting Lodge and Social events that involve our partners, families and the community, the excellent charitable work that our Lodges, Districts, Divisions and nationally Freemasons New Zealand do. It is important as a country that we recognise the support Freemasons give our communities estimated at over 10 million dollars each year, which goes towards Making a Difference in New Zealand.

ANZAC Day is a uniquely New Zealand (and Australia) day of remembrance and forms an important part of our collective DNA. Buy a Poppy to support welfare needs, attend an ANZAC Service, and ensure that members and Lodges support local RSAs with logistics, venues, and personnel. Also, remember that the Grand Master has a standing Dispensation for wearing masonic regalia if taking part in the parade or laying a wreath.

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



HOT OFF THE PRESS



Annual Communication 2024

It is being held at the Auckland Freemasons Centre, 181 Khyber Pass Road, Central Auckland, on Saturday 9th November 2024 (10 am until finish (probably early afternoon). Followed by a Board of Directors Meeting on 10th November 2023 in Auckland. It will be in person or remotely by Teams—Lodge’s need to nominate a

Lodge Representative by Commission to be able to vote.
Remits from the Board and the Lodge’s will be called for under Rule 265 in the Book of Constitution. Remits may include some from the Operational Review Working Group, etc. Presentations on topics of interest to Freemasons.



2025 Freemasons University Scholarships open 1 July 2024

freemasonsnz.org/charity/freemasons-university-scholarships-2



GRAND MASTER’S VISITS

13 Jan	Camp Purple (Young People with Crohn’s and Colitis – IBD), El Rancho, Waikanae	14 Feb	Installation and Investiture of new Deputy Grand Master RWBro Paul Chappel, The Te Aroha Lodge No 52, Morrinsville	26 Feb	Promotion and Investiture of RWBro Michael Cadman to Past Grand Warden at the Lodge of the Liberal Arts No 500 at Ellerslie Freemasons Centre, Auckland.	8–10 Mar	Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Zealand, Grand Convocation and Proclamation with RWBro Michael Turner (Div GM – Central) attending as the Grand Master’s Representative at Palmerston North.
10 Feb	The Baden Powell Lodge No 381 Installation (outdoors in Campfire Circle), Brookfield Outdoor Education Centre and Scout Camp	23 Feb	Funeral of MWBro Raymond Duncan PGM in Christchurch	27 Feb	Funeral of RWBro Murray Morrissey PDepGM and Installation of WBro Chris Leigh at The Wayfarers Lodge No 389, Auckland Freemasons Centre.	12–14 Apr	Grand Installation of the Grand Lodge of South Australia and Northern Territory, Adelaide, taking a New Zealand delegation.
24 Feb	60 Year Service Bar to Bro Peter Woodward (from Kapiti) at The Waitohi Lodge No 111 in Picton						

Grand Master is out of action for month of March due to a knee operation.



FROM THE GRAND MASTER

Navigating the Winds of Change

Brethren I extend my warmest greetings to you at the start of a new Masonic year. I hope this message finds you in good health and having enjoyed a relaxing summer break. As we embark on the new year together, let me express my sincere gratitude to each and every one of you for your continued support and your contribution to the craft.

Let's begin on a note of celebration. The recent surge in membership is not just a statistical figure; it's a testament to what we have to offer to our communities and to the vitality and resilience of our brotherhood. Witnessing Master Masons installed into the Chair of King Solomon brings a sense of renewal,

injecting our lodges with fresh perspectives and invigorating energy.

In the tapestry of Freemasonry, we must consistently remind ourselves that a lodge transcends its physical structure. The members themselves are indeed the lodge. As wisely articulated by Benjamin Franklin:

"Masonic labour is purely a labour of love. He who seeks to draw Masonic wages in gold and silver will be disappointed. The wages of a Mason are in the dealings with one another; sympathy begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness, and these are the wages of a Mason."

Our rewards, as Masons, reside not in material gains

but in the friendship and fellowships we form and enjoy, the kindness we extend, and the helpfulness we offer to one another. These principles form the very bedrock of our fraternity, where brothers gather not just to perform rituals but to learn, evolve, and establish enduring connections.

Reflecting on the past year, the positive upswing in membership is heartening. Many lodges have experienced the pleasure and dare I say it, relief of witnessing Master Masons stepping up to leadership roles, bringing a new sense of vitality into our organisation. However, with this positive momentum comes a weighty responsibility—to

keep our newer members engaged and actively involved in the Lodge and in its management.

In the spirit of inclusivity and progress, I strongly urge lodges to revisit their By-Laws. Let us be flexible and progressive, allowing Entered Apprentices, Fellow Crafts, and Master Masons to participate in Standing or Management meetings. Embracing fresh perspectives is not just a gesture; it's a necessity that can breathe new life into our lodges and ensure a vibrant future for Freemasonry.

However, as we cast our gaze optimistically toward the future, it is crucial to acknowledge the challenges that lie ahead. The recently compiled report by WBro Cameron Smith on Masonic property and the changes in trust law and in the roles and responsibilities of our Grand Lodge and Lodge trustees presents a sobering reality. Our properties, while symbolic and integral to our traditions, have become a significant challenge, an Achilles heel, if you will.

The escalating costs of insurance, coupled with declining incomes, present a formidable obstacle for many lodges. The membership decline, coupled with ageing buildings, contributes to a widening gap between income and expenditure. Similarly, company and trust-owned properties face



Investiture of new Deputy Grand Master – Amanda, Paul, Jim and Penny.

Making a difference in New Zealand

pressure from competitive commercial rents and stagnant masonic tenant rents, intensifying financial burdens.

Let's confront this reality head-on. Grand Lodge has recently taken necessary measures, intervening and assuming ownership of two properties facing insurmountable financial challenges. While this is far from the ideal scenario, it is a pragmatic step, ensuring a semblance of certainty for Freemasons in those affected areas.

However, we must collectively acknowledge that Grand Lodge cannot be the perpetual 'buyer of last resort.' Financially and pragmatically, this is not a sustainable solution. Therefore, recognising the gravity of the situation, I have established a Property Review Committee, spearheaded by WBro Cameron Smith. This committee, in collaboration with property owners, will undertake the critical task of developing recommendations to address the widening gap between income and expenditure. Furthermore, it will formulate a long-term strategic plan for property ownership that aligns with the evolving landscape of our Masonic community.

The committee faces a monumental task, and their success hinges on the cooperation of all masonic property owners, whether lodges, companies, or trusts. The challenges before us demand a unified effort. We cannot afford to operate in silos; instead, we must work together to alleviate the burdens on property-owning lodges.

Similarly, the changes to trust law have highlighted the exposure to personal risk of our Grand Lodge Trustees and Lodge Trustees. The points below should be noted by any Trustees and Officers.

The Risks:

- Being in breach of trust through failing to comply with your duties resulting in a loss of trust assets.
- Failing to comply with legislative or regulatory requirements as a Trustee/Officer.

The Potential Consequences:

- Either jointly or individually having to make good any loss arising out of the breach of duty from your own personal assets.
- Personally liable to a penalty as prescribed under the appropriate legislation.



Grand Master Jim Watt takes a dunking at Camp Purple.

If loss is attributable to the following, then you are personally liable:

- Your gross negligence; or
- Your own dishonesty; or
- Your own wilful misconduct.

As we navigate these winds of change, let us not forget the core tenets of Freemasonry – unity, brotherhood, and support. The Property Review Committee is not just an administrative body; it is an opportunity for constructive engagement. Brethren I ask that you engage honestly and frankly with the committee, share your insights, and let us

collectively ensure that our lodges are not merely surviving but thriving.

In conclusion, let us face these challenges with the same spirit of brotherhood and fellowship that has defined us throughout the ages. Our lodges may be diverse in architecture, scattered across the landscape, but our unity is unwavering. Together, as a united Masonic family, we shall overcome the challenges that lie ahead.

MWBro Jim Watt
Grand Master



King’s New Year Honours List

Freemasons New Zealand is pleased to congratulate the following who received King’s New Year Honours;

Major General Bro Evan George Williams, Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) for services to the New Zealand Defence Force. Bro Evan is a member of Lodge Otaihape No 142 and Freemason since 2012.

WBro Luke Boustridge, Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) for services to the Electrical Industry and Vocational Training. WBro Luke has been the Master of Lodge Papakura No 56 and a

current member of Lodge Tuakau No 278 and Lodge Matariki No 476, and a Freemason since 2012.

WBro Allan John Kerr OSM, Queen’s Service Medal (QSM) for services to Music. WBro Allan has been a Freemason since 1997 and a member of The MacKenzie Lodge No 93 and the Midland District Lodge of Research. He was Master twice of The Mackenzie Lodge No 93 from 2008 through to 2010. He was awarded the Order of Service to Freemasonry (OSM) in 2013.

The Impact of Heartland Bank Freemasons Scholarships on Students’ Journeys

In the heart of our Freemasons community, the spirit of education and empowerment shines brightly through the stories of our scholarship recipients. We are delighted to share with you a heartfelt letter from Olivia Begbie, a 2023

Heartland Bank Scholarship Winner, who embodies the aspirations and achievements fostered by the Freemasons Scholarship Programme.

Dear Freemasons,

Hello, my name is Olivia Begbie, and I was awarded the Central North Island Heartland Bank Freemason Scholarship earlier this year. I just wanted to say a huge thank you for the scholarship and support that I have received from the Freemasons.

On Tuesday, I was informed that I had been successful in gaining entry to the University of Auckland Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of



Adjusting the earthly time and space continuum

This year, 2024, is a leap year, and what that means is that we get an extra day this year. We get that extra day because we measure time, in part, by the days it takes our planet to go around the sun (365 and a quarter days). It means this year will have 366 days instead of 365, and the second month, February, will have 29 days instead of 28. Generally, a leap year comes every four years. The last leap year was 2020, while the next leap year will be 2028.

Why does February normally have 28 days? This is because of a simple mathematical fact: the sum of any even amount (12 months) of odd numbers will always equal an even number—and Numa (second of seven Kings of Rome predating Emperors) wanted the total to be odd. So Numa chose February, a month that would be host to Roman rituals honouring the dead, as the unlucky month to consist of 28 days.



Surgery program for 2024. I was thrilled to receive this opportunity as places are very limited. Medicine is a five-year degree that will allow me to become a junior doctor and fulfil my dream of working with children at Starship Hospital.

The Freemason scholarship will make a big financial contribution to my medical school fees for next year, which I am extremely grateful for. These scholarships really help students like myself achieve their academic dreams, so thank you again for all that you do.

Kind regards,
Olivia Begbie

The financial support provided by the Freemasons Scholarship Programme and Heartland Bank has a tangible and meaningful effect on students like Olivia. By alleviating the financial burden of medical school fees, the scholarship empowers individuals to focus on their studies and aspirations without the weight of financial constraints.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Olivia Begbie and express our sincere gratitude to all members and supporters whose contributions continue to shape the educational landscape for promising individuals like her.

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.



As the 2024 Masonic year begins let us remember absent friends – those who have passed, those who are not well, those who 'life has temporarily got in the way of' and those who we wish were back with us and applying our efforts to get them back.

A toast to Absent
Brethren!



Think you have a family member who once belonged to Freemasonry in New Zealand, email library@freemasons.nz.org and send your enquiry to the Grand Lodge Library team (who are volunteers); they will do some masonic research and get back to you.

They search through copper plate handwritten volumes dating back to 1890 when The Grand Lodge of

New Zealand was founded or constituted, or more recently, a card index system from the 1960s or, even more recently, 1980s, our computer records. Also, our Grand Lodge Library and other resources.

The person you are searching for must no longer be alive and have been a Freemason in New Zealand with our Grand Lodge, and it's free of charge.

[illegible]

Our December Issue Page 45 missed Roll of Honour (RH) against two Brethren in the Service Awards:

60 Year: WBro Roger William Lundy RH PM
50 Year: WBro Kevin John Tait RH PM

Our fraternal apologies.

Editor



Capitation vs membership numbers – why the correct level of capitation matters to us and should matter to you

A fundamental requirement of a membership organisation at all levels, in our case national, divisional, district and local lodge is to prudently and wisely distribute the limited funds that are collected to ensure the maximum effect to support and maintain member services and then to efficiently execute our business.

Freemasons NZ has determined a very low level of capitation and has over many years relied on the income from investments to cover the shortfall that has come to be as the

membership has dropped by more than 50% to 4873 members in 2023.

In 2008 we were 10,000 strong which in turn is a far cry from 1984 where we had 29,757 individual members.

With capitation set annually to raise by the CPI rate as per the Book of Constitution Rule 101, the organisation has fallen off a cliff in terms of income to cover the actual cost to service you the members.

In real terms for July 2023:

- ♦ The capitation revenue was \$448k and expenditure was \$1.68m

The 2023 expenditure includes Grand Installation so to get a more standard year let's look at June 2022 figures as below.

- ♦ The capitation revenue was \$447k and expenditure was \$1.21m

You can see the significant gap that exists between the income and expenditure. Capitation is less than 50% of the revenue that is needed to just keep the organisation running let alone growing.

No matter anyone's views on the value for money from the \$110 in the 2023 year, members can see this



Executive Director Andrew Cowie.

is not sustainable and has not been for some time. By comparison with the Grand Lodges in Australasia we are the lowest despite being the third largest Grand Lodge.

If we want Freemasonry to continue to improve and not just stand still, then we need to be proactive and collective about it. So, with



that in mind if a detractor or denier as to our collective predicament is in our midst, we are able to educate them as to the agreed course of action using sound reasoning, logic, and arithmetic to make it clear we need to make a change.

The Grand Master has a plan, and you will have seen the various reviews that have been executed and are now coming into effect – all of which are targeted to being about efficiency and reform.

We are not an organisation unique in this dilemma whereby a diminishing base of members presents a

challenge; however, it is in our gift to rectify it.

We have some good news data to share with you obtained from the statistics in our membership database

- ♦ The six months to 31 Dec 2023 have for the first time since 1982 recorded a net increase in individual members.

- ♦ The increase of 53 new Freemasons should be watched closely and encouraged by us all as this is the green shoots, we need to survive.

In the twelve months to Jan 2023:

- ♦ we have 4% more brethren under 49 years of age.
- ♦ Initiations are up by 43%.
- ♦ Deaths are down by 33%

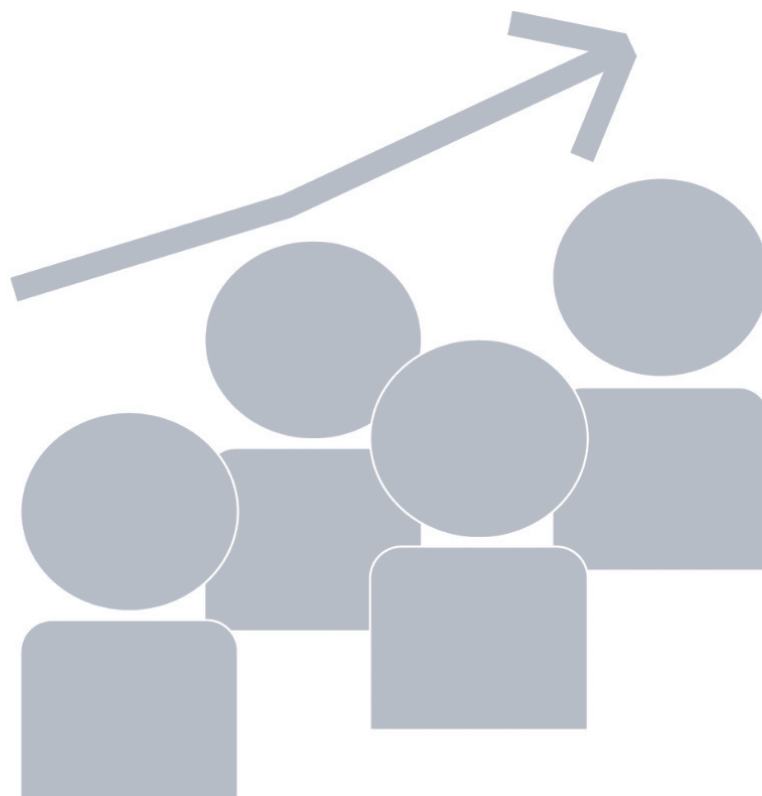
This positive trajectory coupled with the decline in losses across the fraternity illustrates that the hard work we have all be doing over the last couple of years is starting to bear fruit.

It is imperative that we recognise the contributing input factors and capitalise on this momentum to ensure we can grow.

The input factors I see are a direct result of the Thriving Lodges, Engaged Brethren and Growing Membership initiatives that have been put in place.

Investing in the organisation with the right resources now means we can ensure that through our temperate decisions now, give the very best chance for our legacy to be there for generations to come.

Bro Andrew Cowie MM
Executive Director





About Volunteering New Zealand

Volunteering New Zealand is an association of national and regional organisations with a commitment to volunteering New Zealand. It is the national voice for all things volunteering and works to increase the recognition and value of volunteering.

Freemasons New Zealand is a member organisation, signalling your involvement and commitment to volunteering.

Our vision is for volunteering to be valued as a vital part of society. We know almost all community organisations rely on

volunteers and volunteering strengthens communities.

So we build the capacity of organisations to better manage volunteers and promote volunteering in all its forms. Which leads to a better experience for volunteers and stronger organisations and communities; and results

in volunteers enriching Aotearoa and a society that values volunteers.

Organisations that involve volunteers recognise that volunteering is not free. It requires resourcing and managing to be effective. Volunteering New Zealand



LEFT Cyclone Gabrielle response Hawkes Bay – Volunteers at the Hawkes Bay showgrounds during the response to Cyclone Gabrielle, February 2023.

RIGHT Big Shout Out event Manukau June 2023 – ‘Thanks’ is spelt out in balloons at an event to celebrate volunteers, held in Manukau in June 2023.

BELOW Volunteering Leadership Hui 1 & 2 – About 160 delegates attended the one-day Volunteering Leadership Hui for volunteer managers, Wellington, October 2023.



VNZ Board – Volunteering New Zealand Chief Executive Michelle Kitney (on the left) and members of the VNZ Board at the Volunteer Leadership Hui, October 2023.



Freemasons annual membership of VNZ.

supports organisations and volunteer managers.

Some of the ways we do this include:

- ♦ Advocating for volunteering to government to promote volunteer rights

- ♦ Provide research and share knowledge about the state of volunteering in New Zealand
- ♦ Lead campaigns to showcase volunteering (e.g. National Volunteer Week) and to recognise and thank volunteers (e.g. The Big Shout Out)

- ♦ Promote best practice in volunteer management such as Best Practice Guidelines (new in 2023)
- ♦ Run webinars and an annual in-person conference

- ♦ Maintain a website with resources for volunteer management as well as being a portal for information about volunteering.

For more information see: www.volunteeringnz.org.nz

Late MWBro Raymond John Duncan PGM

Term of Office: 1984–86

Eulogy from Grand Master MWBro Jim Watt

Most Worshipful Brother Raymond John Duncan, Past Grand Master and Grand Master of Freemasons New Zealand from 1984 till 1986.

To Shirley and Graeme, Ray's Grand Children and Great Grand Children I extend deepest condolences on behalf of all the Freemasons of New Zealand.

You have lost a father, a grandfather and a great grandfather and all Freemasons mourn alongside you during this time of Ray's passing.

Ray was our most senior Past Grand Master and those Grand Masters who succeeded him all benefited from his wise council and support. Today I bring apologies from the 4 Past Grand Masters who couldn't be present.

Most Worshipful Brother Mike Pope who served alongside Ray as a Grand Lodge trustee fondly recalls Ray's extensive Masonic library housed in his garage. Ray's wealth of knowledge and ability to address historical matters were unparalleled.

When I joined Freemasonry, Ray held the position of Grand Master, steering us through challenges of declining membership. His leadership and proactive measures during that period were

instrumental in addressing our concerns.

This continued during his 20 odd years as a Grand Lodge Trustee. In those days the Grand Lodge Trustees were mainly lawyers and accountants so the humble man from the West Coast brought some good old common sense and some reality to the table. The good of Freemasonry was always at the forefront in his mind.

Ray was a gentleman and a highly respected and dedicated Freemason, he was approachable and not only Grand Masters benefited from his knowledge, he was also a mentor to many a young mason. But he was a stickler for things being done right, especially our ceremonies and he was a brilliant ritualist right up till the time that his health began to deteriorate.

I would like to finish with a little story that will be my enduring memory of Ray and Joan. In Freemasonry, Ray and Joan were a partnership and Joan was loved by all who met her and to this day she is still fondly remembered.

For the ladies' function at our 2013 Grand Installation, my partner Penny arranged for the ladies to stuff teddy bears. A group of Harley motorcyclists I ride with run an annual Christmas Charity Toy Run collecting toys for the Salvation Army. On the day of the event, Penny arranged for some of the boys to ride their



Harley's into the venue so the ladies could present the bears to them.

Taking advantage of the occasion Joan promptly hitched up her skirt and hopped on the back of Rock's bike. Rock is rather large and tattooed Māori gentleman, and the sight of Joan on Rock's bike became an iconic image, the photo adorning the cover of the 2013 Christmas edition of the Freemasons Magazine.

I will not dwell on what Joan said at the time or Ray's reaction other than to say that they both did everything they could to help and promote Freemasonry and

they were both loved and respected by the brethren for it.

Family, Friends, Brethren.

In closing, let us reflect on the words from one of our Masonic teachings, where we are encouraged:

"to limit your desires in every station of life so that rising to eminence by merit you will live respected and die regretted".

Most Worshipful Brother Ray Duncan, Past Grand Master, lived respected and his passing will be deeply regretted.

You have led a good life Brother Mason.



Eulogy from RWBro Neville Patrick PDepGM

MWBro Duncan joined United Forces Lodge 245 in 2002 and made himself to be a very useful member of the Lodge, strong in mentoring, professionalism, integrity, respect and strength of knowledge.

It has been said on a number of occasions over the years that it was a privilege to have MWBro Duncan in our midst. During the inquiry period before joining there were some thoughts that the MWBro might just be a little headstrong for the Lodge. Those cautionary thoughts were quickly dispelled and MWBro Duncan enjoyed his last years in Freemasonry thoroughly enjoying his Freemasonry being a very positive contributor to the Lodge and its functions.

As is the case with most brethren, we glide through our masonic lives, hitting the odd home run but generally getting on with the task in hand. MWBro Duncan was no different and he certainly made his mark when he needed to and was very much an accepted and valued member of the Lodge. Another point that should not be overlooked was the impact that both Ray and Joan made to the Lodge and its members and wives/partners. Both were

very much an integral part of the Lodge, to the point that it has been said that they were what we should all aspire to be.

The date for his 50 year Service Badge was coming up and the Lodge (totally unbeknown to MWBro

Joan had to be present. Uncharacteristically we pushed back insisting it was a blokes only event, to this point he really did get quite toey, not once but on a number of occasions.

What he was totally unaware of was that Joan

the Book of Constitution was well read and well understood by him. This knowledge and awareness of what Freemasonry actually was, made him a source of knowledge and wisdom for the brethren in the Province/District. Not forgetting of course that he was a very capable ritualist and was ever present at the Installations across the country where he was often called upon to present a charge in the Installation process.

MWBro Duncan was for many years a Grand Lodge Trustee, a role he took personal pride in and often advised the brethren of the work the GL Trustees work on. It was very evident from

his reports that he fully embraced the charitable works of the various Trusts and what they stood for.

Being a Past senior Grand Lodge Officer, he was also involved in Fraternal Relations abroad and had a number of highly pitched visits to the UK, USA and Australia representing New Zealand Freemasonry at the highest level.

So what do we know of and remember of MWBro Ray Duncan. He was without equal in many eyes, he presented the qualities that not only make a Senior Grand Lodge Officer but he also possessed qualities that many of us in the Craft are keen to emulate and at the end of the day, that is the impact that this great man had on Freemasonry and those associated with the Craft

Rest in Peace MW Brother



Duncan) organised a "Here is your Life" night, MWBro Duncan being the central focus. MWBro Duncan tried on several occasions to get a feel for what was being prepared, however the Lodge members remained completely silent on the event. On the night in question we had all of the PGMs and the GM along with a number of close friends waiting in the wings ready to contribute to the event.

The weeks leading to the event MWBro Duncan insisted that his dear wife

was to be the leading part of the guests to speak, this of course astounded him and at last we got a tremendous smile, not sure he ever forgot that event. Further Joan had been very involved in giving us the photos of Ray from infancy to the time he was GM, yes, she was very much involved leading up to and during the 50 year presentation.

Respect paid a large part of who MWBro Duncan was. We have a Brother in United Forces who was initiated into Freemasonry because of the respect he had for MWBro Duncan when working with him at the 1990 Grand Lodge Centennial in Christchurch, the impact he had on those he came across.

It was no secret that MWBro Duncan was a stickler for the rules and regulations of the Craft,



New Deputy Grand Master Installed and Invested

Our Grand Master Jim Watt installed and invested Paul Chappel, as the new Deputy Grand Master on 14th February 2024 at The Te Aroha Lodge

No 52 in Morrinsville, which is Paul's mother lodge.

Our congratulations to RWBro Paul Chappel, Deputy Grand Master of The Grand Lodge of New Zealand.

Paul had previously been a Grand Steward, District Grand Director of Ceremonies, District Grand Master, and President of the Board, so a wealth

of masonic and business experience.

There was a great turnout of Freemasons, partners, family and friends, followed by Refectory for a great little country Lodge.



Some of the Chain Gang, District Grand Master – Waikato – Len Jeffrey reports to Grand Master, Grand Master meets visiting Lodge Masters and addresses them, Reception of RWBro Paul Chappel Deputy Grand Master designate, Grand Master addressing his Deputy, Grand Master Investing his Deputy, Presenting his warrant of appointment, new Deputy Grand Master at the right hand of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Grand Master with their partners Amanda and Penny, Refectory Replies to Toasts and the obligatory Waikato Gumboots gift to the Grand Master.



Making a difference in New Zealand

Something old, older and new!

Kapiti-Wellington District had some Service Badge/Bar Presentations late last year, and the first Entered Apprentice Freemason in the District in 2024.

Service Badge/Bar Presentations made by RWBro Kevin Nelson, Past

Deputy Grand Master, at the Grand Master's request, to WBro Barry Richmond RH (25 Years) and WBro Len Domb (70 Years) at Herbert Teagle Taia Lodge No 300 and a new Freemason at The Coronation Lodge No 127 Brother Dondie Celestino.



Barry and Len with Past Deputy Grand Master, the Domb Family and Brother Dondie Celestino and those present at his 1st Degree on Saturday 3 February 2024.

Strawberry Fields rise again

Duncan Crosby's Strawberry Fields were completely inundated with 3-4 metres of water in the floods last year in the Esk Valley in Hawke's Bay (one of the worst-hit areas of Cyclone Gabrielle).

To the rescue came members of Te Papa Lodge No 316, who travelled from Auckland and Tauranga to help rebuild the elevated Strawberry Fields.

Freemasons are all about helping our communities.



Fostering Camaraderie: Establishing New and Young Masons Clubs

As Freemasons, we cherish the principles of brotherhood, enlightenment, and service. These ideals are not just ingrained in our rituals but are the very fabric of our fraternity. However, as times change, so too must we adapt to ensure the continuity and vitality of our beloved institution. One significant way to achieve this is by establishing New and Young Masons Clubs within our lodges. Traditionally, Freemasonry has been perceived as an exclusive society, often associated with age-old traditions and esoteric knowledge. While these elements are integral to our identity, they can inadvertently create barriers

for newer and younger members. By forming specialised clubs tailored to their needs, we can create a more inclusive and engaging environment that appeals to a broader demographic.

One of the primary benefits of New and Young Masons Clubs is the opportunity for like-minded individuals to connect and form strong bonds outside the confines of regular lodge meetings. These clubs provide a platform for newer members to share their experiences, seek guidance, and develop friendships with peers who are at similar stages in their Masonic journey. Such camaraderie fosters a sense of belonging and encourages active

participation within the fraternity. Moreover, these clubs serve as incubators for leadership development. By empowering younger members to take on leadership roles and organise their activities, we cultivate a new generation of Masonic leaders who are passionate about upholding our values and guiding the fraternity into the future. Through practical experience and mentorship from seasoned brethren, these emerging leaders gain invaluable skills that will serve them not only within the lodge but also in their personal and professional lives.

Critics may argue that such clubs risk diluting the sanctity of Freemasonry

or creating division within the fraternity. However, it is essential to recognise that these clubs complement rather than undermine our core principles. By embracing diversity and adapting to the changing needs of our members, we ensure that Freemasonry remains relevant and resilient in the face of evolving societal dynamics.

With the recent success of the Waikato New and Young Masons Club, Freemasons across New Zealand have taken notice and reached out, expressing their interest in establishing similar clubs within their Districts.

Going forward we will be releasing bite-size tips and tricks in this magazine to support the development of New and Young Masons clubs across the country but for more immediate support and advice please reach out to the club via WaikatoNewAndYoungMasons@gmail.com.



The Todds and Tawhiri: A unique situation!

Three members of one family have occupied the principal chairs in a Lodge during the masonic year 2022–23.

In November 2022, WBro Martyn Todd took the chair as Master of Lodge Tawhiri No 166 to fill a gap when a vacancy arose. He invested

his father, Robert, as Senior Warden and his younger brother, Nathan, as Junior Warden.

Is this the only time this unique situation has happened in New Zealand, or at least a very rare occurrence?

Making a difference in New Zealand

From Picton to Kapiti and Return

The Waitohi Lodge No 111 in Picton was humbled to welcome a brother into his mother lodge. Bro Peter Woodward QSM, RH accompanied by family members proudly received his 60-year Service Bar. It was presented by Grand Master, MWBro Jim Watt, at a suitably late afternoon meeting.

The Saturday from the Wellington region proudly stood beside his grandfather. The Grand Master took off his Square and compass lapel pin and presented it to the Master Mason. A fitting gesture. A BBQ dinner and dessert rounded out the Refectory with toasts and raffles. Attending Waitohi brethren and families contributed



afternoon meeting was attended by Grand Lodge officers from the Nelson-Marlborough-West Coast District. VWBro Ray Keenan welcomed MWBro Watt to the Lodge alongside WBro Craig Hammond, sitting Master.

Most especially, Peter's Grandson a Master Mason

BBQ food and desserts.

Bro's Kennedy and Huntley from Waitohi No. 111, both new Freemasons, were presented with Square and Compasses lapel pins by the Grand Master during the afternoon in the Lodge. Both appreciated the kind words from him that followed.

Peter has led an interesting life, as illustrated by visiting brethren from the Wellington region, which he now calls home. His passion and contribution to the regional coastguard, aiding with a significant masonic project that has saved many lives in the last few years.

This is a testament to Peter's community focus. He is a recipient of the Queens Service Medal (QSM) and Roll of Honour (RH) for Freemasons New Zealand.

Congratulations, Bro Woodward, a life well lived. He continues to inspire and is a special light in New Zealand Freemasonry.

Master and District Grand Master welcoming Grand Master, Peter receiving his 60 year Bar, Peter and his grandson with Grand Master and two new Freemasons getting their lapel badges from Grand Master and Peter's family on this special occasion.

Past Grand Treasurer promoted to Past Grand Warden

Mike Cadman, Past Grand Treasurer, was promoted by our Grand Master Jim Watt to Past Grand Warden for services rendered in this important role for Freemasons New Zealand. He performed that role for six years and also sat on the Board.

He was supported by his wife, Lea, and a bevy of Freemasons, Family and Friends at The Lodge of

the Liberal Arts No 500 In Auckland. An enjoyable supper was held afterwards in the Refectory.

Well done, good and faithful Freemason.

The Grand Master also attended the Installation of

The Wayfarers Lodge No 389 on the next night, in Auckland, where WBro Chris Leigh went in as Master.

Mike with his Past Grand Warden regalia with Grand Master Jim Watt, Grand Master presenting him with his warrant of appointment and Mike, Lea and Grand Master.



First Lodge Meeting of 2024 in New Zealand and possibly the World!

The Baden Powell Lodge No 381 (New Zealand's Scouting Lodge) always conducts a Lodge meeting in association with the triennial New Zealand Scout Jamboree.

The meeting of The Baden Powell Lodge No 381 was held at 7pm on 1st January 2024 (where each

new day in the world starts a little earlier) at the Waikato Freemasons Centre in Barton Street, Hamilton (thanks to Lodge Tawhiri No 166 for supporting us) with about 30 in attendance, not bad for New Year's Day (in New Zealand's summer holidays period).

It was a first degree for Bro Sylvester EA (and a Lewis), who had his father in attendance from Christchurch, along with members of The Baden Powell Lodge No 381 and visitors from around the North Island, including Masonic Scout Leaders from the Jamboree.

The 23rd New Zealand Scout Jamboree had 4,000 participants from throughout New Zealand, Australia, the Pacific and further afield in the world. Members of the Lodge also visited the Jamboree site.



Len Jeffrey, District Grand Master – Waikato, Chris Blair, Master – The Baden Powell Lodge, Bro Brent Sylvester EA, WBro Gordon Sylvester, his father and WBro Dave Henry – Brent's proposer.



Jamboree site and activities.



Harmony

"Let there be Harmony"; we sing it at most refectories.

We are currently experiencing a state of change that will, no doubt, bring disagreement, tension, disappointment, excitement, and opportunity. However, some of us may not welcome change as it challenges our beliefs and assumptions, as well as forcing us out of our comfort zones. As Freemasons and Brothers, we are not just a casual society where men gather like Rotarians or Rugby clubs. We are a brotherhood striving for peaceful coexistence and a state of harmony among our different factions while always remaining united in Fraternity.

Much has been written on the subject of Harmony. The term "Harmony" is frequently misunderstood, as it is often defined in terms of agreement and accord. This implies that a lack of conflict is the goal, but is that truly desirable?

Trying to enforce universal agreement through rules and commands only leads to insincere politeness, a lack of trust, and often stubborn obstruction. This makes it essential to recognise that Harmony is a complex and nuanced concept that goes beyond simply avoiding disagreement and conflict.

In fact, the notion that everyone could constantly agree with one another in a world outside of an Orwellian dystopia is unrealistic. Therefore, we must understand that Harmony involves much more than just the absence of conflict.

In the context of Masonic beliefs, Harmony can be described as constructive conflict. When individuals engage in thought-provoking discussions, seek to comprehend each other's viewpoints, and remain receptive to new ideas, disagreements can lead to fresh insights. By fostering an environment of respect and trust, and ensuring that all parties are involved

in decision-making, even disputes cannot disrupt the prevailing sense of Harmony.

As members of the Masonic community, Harmony means maintaining brotherly ties despite our differences. Our mutual respect and trust for one another ensure that conflicting interests will never weaken our bond of brotherhood and friendship. Freemasonry is dedicated to the moral and ethical improvement of its members. Harmony is essential in this process, as it encourages us to develop virtues such as tolerance, understanding, and respect for others, fostering an environment where personal growth can occur.

This is an important lesson that the world needs to learn, and as Freemasons, we must always remember it.

As Freemasons, we are taught to address differences or conflicts privately and directly with the individuals involved. Open and honest communication is valued,

and we are expected to express our concerns respectfully. Our masonic teachings emphasise the importance of moderation and temperance in all aspects of life, including conflict resolution. We are encouraged to approach disagreements with a calm and measured demeanour, avoiding heated arguments or confrontations. We must constantly remind ourselves and our Brethren to find common ground and areas of agreement when resolving differences. This approach aligns with the idea of building Unity and Harmony within the Lodge and the wider Craft.

Let us remember that Harmony is not a divine gift from God but rather a result of the hard labour of good men. Therefore, we must work diligently every day to achieve harmony and remember that it is our responsibility as Brothers to maintain it.

VWBro Steve Griffin, with thanks to WBro Richard A. Graeter, PM Caliburn Lodge No. 785

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.

Whakatāne Welcomes Freemasonry's Future with Acacia House

In a significant move for the Freemasonry community, Lodge Whakatane No. 198 has officially transferred the ownership of Acacia House to the Grand Lodge, marking a new era for the Masonic Centre in Whakatāne. Positioned near the Central Business District, Acacia House is set to become a strategic hub, symbolising wisdom and endurance through its name and serving as a testament to the collaborative spirit of Freemasonry.

This transition is not merely a change of ownership but a profound statement of unity and strategic vision within the Masonic community. **"The outcome of these discussions has been immensely positive,"** reflects the Divisional Grand Master John Lukaszewicz. **"Lodge Whakatane No. 198 can now get on with the business of enjoying Freemasonry and already have new candidates, a great outcome for the Members and the District."**

Mark Fraser, Past Master of the Lodge and Past Grand Superintendent of Ceremonies, shared his insights on the transition: **"The agreement with Grand Lodge has not only ensured the financial viability of this lodge but has also uplifted the energy and spirit of every Freemason within the lodge. With rising costs such as insurance and building rates, we were in survival mode. This transfer has alleviated our financial burdens, allowing us to refocus on Freemasonry."**

The palpable positivity has led to the addition of two new members post-agreement, signifying a promising future for us." Marks adds, **"...For any Lodge feeling the financial stress, I encourage you to consider engagement with Grand Lodge to look at a solution."**

Acacia House, designed as a state-of-the-art conference and function centre, has quickly become a cornerstone for local and regional events, including the notable WorkSafe Whakaari White Island inquiry. Its facilities, which include modern conference rooms, a fully equipped kitchen, and advanced audio-visual equipment, are drawing attention far beyond the Masonic circles.

The stewardship of Acacia House reflects the dedication of Lodge Whakatane No. 198 members, who have voluntarily committed to the property's maintenance, ensuring it remains a premier venue. The building's recent transition to Grand Lodge ownership was meticulously planned, emphasising

cooperation and mutual respect among all parties involved.

The negotiations, led by key figures such as Divisional Grand Master John Lukaszewicz, Grand Treasurer Graham Law, and Deputy Grand Master Paul Chappel, were determined with a shared goal to secure the Lodge's long-term viability and prosperity. This strategic decision aligns with a broader vision for Freemasonry's expansion in the Bay of Plenty, positioning Acacia House as a strategic asset.

"The general feeling was that maintaining the property was becoming unaffordable," explained Paul Henricksen, Past District Grand Master and Treasurer for the Property. **"Transferring the asset to the Grand Lodge was a strategic choice that took courage, ensuring the lodge's longevity rather than just selling the property without securing a sustainable future."**

The move has been met with widespread approval within the community, with prominent Lodge

members like Mark Fraser, Paul Henricksen and Dave Gray playing key roles in the successful outcome. Their efforts, alongside those of other brethren, Mike Cadman and Cameron Smith, exemplify the shared values and collective endeavour that define Freemasonry.

Now and for the future, Acacia House will stand as a beacon of activity and unity, located just a stone's throw from Whakatāne's town centre. Its transition into the stewardship of the Grand Lodge is celebrated as a milestone in Freemasonry's local history, reinforcing the principles of fraternity and collaboration.

With the formal agreements being finalised, both Lodge Whakatane and the Grand Lodge anticipate continued growth and success from this partnership. The upcoming completion of the Agreement for Sale and Purchase of Shares promises to usher in a new chapter for Freemasonry in the area, showcasing the power of strategic planning and shared values.

As Acacia House prepares to support Freemasonry's regional growth, it remains a symbol of the enduring principles and brotherhood that define the craft, ensuring that the Masonic community's future in Whakatāne and the Bay of Plenty is as solid and promising as the foundations of Acacia House itself.

"Great result and I look forward to visiting as soon as possible," said Jim Watt, Grand Master.



Commemorating ANZAC Day in Style: *A Guide for Community Connection*

In the heart of New Zealand, a tradition of remembrance echoes through the years. ANZAC Day, a poignant tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of New Zealanders and Australians during the First World War, holds a special place in our hearts at Freemasons New Zealand. As we approach this solemn occasion each year, we're not just commemorating history; we're actively participating in its continuation.

1. Dawn Service Brilliance

Immerse yourself in the aura of tradition by attending the Dawn Service. Across New Zealand, towns and cities orchestrate moving ceremonies at war memorials, marking the time of the original Gallipoli landing.

2. Wreath Creation and Wreath Laying

Participate in the poignant wreath-laying ceremonies. Symbolically laying wreaths at memorials allows us to honour and remember the valiant soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice. Your lodge can go one step

further and create a wreath that represents your lodge

3. Parade Proudly

Join local parades and marches, where communities and veteran organisations come together. These events are a powerful display of solidarity featuring veterans, active service members, and community groups.

4. Reflect and Respect

Delve into the day's significance. Attend church services or create a personal moment of reflection at home. It's a time to acknowledge and appreciate the sacrifices of those who served.

5. Anzac Biscuits Delight

Bring a touch of history into your kitchen by baking ANZAC biscuits. These delicious treats, crafted with rolled oats, coconut, and golden syrup, pay homage to the soldiers of yesteryear.

6. Educational Enchantment

Make history come alive by learning about the roots of ANZAC Day and the significance of Gallipoli. Share stories with younger



generations to ensure the flame of remembrance continues to burn brightly.

7. Community Connection

Engage in local community events. From memorial services to exhibitions and displays, these events foster a sense of togetherness, ensuring the legacy endures.

8. Memorial Pilgrimage

Visit war memorials in your vicinity. Take time to read the inscriptions, connecting with the sacrifices etched in stone, and pay your respects to those who served.

9. National Commemoration Viewing

Tune in to the national commemorative service broadcasted on television or online. Witness the official ceremonies, often held in Wellington, from the comfort of your home.

10. Craft Poppies with the Future

Extend the tradition to younger generations by following our step-by-step guide to creating poppies. Crafting these symbolic flowers together is a meaningful way to share the spirit of remembrance.



How to make a paper ANZAC poppy

As ANZAC day approaches, families over New Zealand look for ways to remember our lost ones. Whether that is through a dawn service with others, attending a march or simply a quiet moment at home in remembrance, this significant day in our history and the sacrifices made is one we all stand together for.

One way to get the kids involved is by making a commemorative poppy. Below is a simple step-by-step guide to how you can

make a paper poppy with your kids. It requires only a few items to make and will give them a personal sense of involvement and contribution.

What you need to make a paper poppy

- A red sheet of A4 paper
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Glue
- Stem wire or pipe cleaner
- Black marker

ANZAC Biscuits

Indulge in the warmth of tradition with our ANZAC biscuits—golden, delicious, and a heartfelt nod to the spirit of camaraderie and remembrance on ANZAC Day.

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup Edmonds standard grade flour
- 1/3 cup Chelsea white sugar
- 2/3 cup finely desiccated coconut
- 3/4 cup rolled oats
- 50g butter
- 1 Tbsp Chelsea golden syrup
- 1/2 tsp Edmonds baking soda
- 2 Tbsp boiling water



Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C. Line a baking tray with baking paper.
2. Mix together flour, sugar, coconut and rolled oats.
3. Melt butter and golden syrup. Dissolve baking soda in the boiling water and add to butter and golden syrup. Stir butter mixture into the dry ingredients.
4. Place level tablespoonfuls of mixture onto cold greased trays and flatten with a fork. These don't spread as they bake so you can place them close together.
5. Bake for about 15 minutes or until golden. Leave on the tray for 5 minutes then place on a wire rack to cool.

From the Edmonds Cookbook



Step 1

Fold the red A4 piece of paper in half horizontally. Repeat this twice more until you have a rectangle approximately 10.5cm x 7.5cm in size.



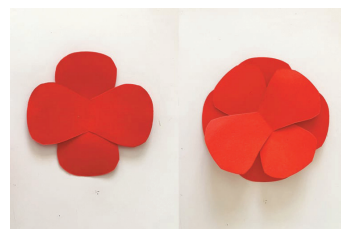
Step 2

One long side of the rectangle will be a fold and on the other side you will be able to flap open. Draw two petal shapes (as seen below), one slightly larger than the other, at the bottom of the folded sheet on the side that can open. Cut out the two shapes.



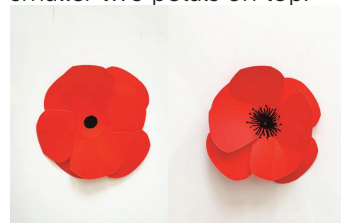
Step 3

You should be left with the following petal shapes. The two large and two small joined petals pieces are all that we will need.



Step 4

Using glue, make a small dot at the centre of one of the larger joined petals and place the other large one on top in the opposite direction. Then repeat this with the smaller two petals on top.



Step 5

Cut a small circle out of the remaining petals and draw a black dot in the centre of it using the marker pen. Glue this into the centre of the flower. Draw some lines out from the centre dot like (see below) so that it looks more like the centre of a poppy.



Step 6

Poke a small hole (with a pin or tip of your pencil) and thread your stem wire or pipe cleaner through it.

And there you have it!



Trees for Survival - celebrating another successful year of planting natives with our kids

Keenly supported by the Freemasons Foundation, Trees for Survival and children from local schools are inspired to propagate and transplant native plants in sensitive environmental locations.

The planting is done around riparian margins and overland flow paths where the native plants shade and cool the water, while slowing water flow, securing land stability and providing habitat and food for native wildlife.

School children and supporters alike feel the dirt beneath their fingertips, laugh with others of different ages and enjoy the vibrant and positive outcomes. Read more here at:
www.freemasonsfoundation.org.nz/blog



In Memoriam Brother Angus Graham

With deep regret we record the passing of Brother Angus Graham, Past Right Worshipful District Grand Master District Grand Lodge of North Island New Zealand Scottish Constitution.

Angus was a Trustee of the Freemasons Foundation representing the Scottish Constitution for 5 years from 2007 to 2012. He was then appointed an Honorary Life Member.

A member of Lodge Ponsonby 708, Angus served as Master in 1979 and in a long and distinguished career received recognition as Honorary Grand Senior Warden, Grand Lodge of Scotland and Past Provincial Grand Master, Royal Order of Scotland.

Born on the Isle of Lewis, Angus was a dedicated Freemason, a highly respected, positive leader who was fun to be around. He will be greatly missed. We express our deepest sympathy to his widow Patricia and his family.



OUR LATEST NEWS REPORT

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



Innovative E-Power supported by young minds at the wheel

Freemasons Foundation is delighted to support the work of EVelocity in helping to develop the next generation of engineers, technology innovators and entrepreneurs through their engaging STEM programme.



We are providing financial help to fund the supply of electric motor kits to schools as part of the programme's investment in the young people of New Zealand.

Find out more about this innovative EVelocity programme at:

www.freemasonsfoundation.org.nz/blog

Autumn Wellness for the over-60s in New Zealand

As we embrace autumn in New Zealand, let the changing season be a motivator for adopting a healthier lifestyle. Do you feel as good now as you did at age 40? How about at age 50? Achieving that same level of well-being is possible with new, healthy habits, and you might even feel better. While it might seem like a considerable effort to develop new routines, the benefits are well worth it. Even small changes can enhance your health.

While specifically tailored for individuals over 60, the valuable tips within this article can benefit anyone seeking to improve their health by making positive lifestyle changes.

Path to Improved Well-being

Diet and exercise stand out as the two most crucial changes you can make. It's never too late to get active, even if you've never been before. A healthy diet and physical activity are beneficial at any age. As you age, these habits strengthen muscles and bones, reducing the risk of serious falls-related injuries. Activities like getting up from a chair or opening a door become easier with stronger muscles. If you're new to

lifting weights, start with a 1KG to 3KG weight. Don't have weights? Utilise a can of soup, a book, or a full bottle of water. Keep your weights in the same room as your television and do a few exercises while watching.

Another effective way to build muscle is by using a resistance band, also known as an exercise band. These flexible bands come in various lengths and are commonly used to strengthen upper arm and leg muscles.

Tips for a Healthy Diet and Exercise

Diet: You don't have to overhaul your diet all at once. Try making one small change at a time. For instance, swap one of the slices of white toast for breakfast with a slice of whole grain bread. Replace some of your daily orange juice intake with an actual orange three times a week. Opt for whole fruit over fruit juice and if you enjoy salty snacks, consider low-fat popcorn instead of potato chips.

Add more fibre to your diet. Fibre aids in reducing constipation, helps with weight loss, and lowers the risk of various health issues. Men over 50 should aim for 30 grams of fibre daily, while women over



50 should target 21 grams. Good sources include beans, whole grains, vegetables, and fruit. Consider the Mediterranean diet, which promotes heart-healthy foods such as fish, fruits, vegetables, beans, and whole grains. It's light on meat, dairy, and sweets. Stay hydrated by drinking more water, as it flushes out toxins and boosts energy—Prioritise whole foods, opting for fresh fruits and vegetables and minimally processed items like whole grains.

Exercise: Exercise contributes to improved chronic diseases, like diabetes, and enhances your emotional well-being. A combination of aerobic (walking, swimming) and strength training (weights) works best. Aim for 20 to 30 minutes of exercise on most days, combining aerobic and strength training activities. Walking is an excellent starting point; you can break it into shorter sessions throughout the day. Exercising with a partner adds a social element and makes it more enjoyable. Consider joining a group or involving a friend or even your dog. If walking isn't your preference, explore other activities such as gardening, dancing, fishing,

tai chi, or yoga. Choose any active pursuit that brings you joy for its health benefits.

Things to Consider:

Before starting an exercise program, consult your doctor. Expect some muscle soreness initially, but it will subside as you become accustomed to exercise.

Your activity level and dietary choices are habits; adopting healthy habits can initially be challenging. Start small and reward yourself for each step; you'll notice a positive impact on how good you feel. Consider every day and every meal as an opportunity to do something good for yourself, making it easier to stay active and incorporate more fibre.

Questions to ask your doctor

- ◆ Do I need a full examination before changing my diet and physical activity?
- ◆ If I adopt a healthy diet and exercise, can I stop taking my prescription medicines?
- ◆ What exercises do you recommend for people with heart conditions, arthritis, and other medical issues?



Freemasonry's Contribution to Immunology

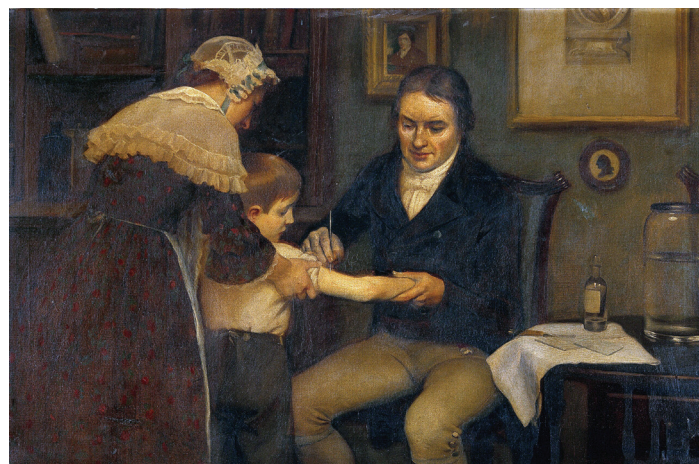
In the spirit of this year's World Immunology Day, themed "Immunity Through the Ages: Navigating the Science of Ageing and Immunology," it is apt to shed light on the lasting legacy and modern contributions of Freemasonry in the field of medical science. The Freemason fraternity, renowned for its pursuit of knowledge, has long been a proponent of advancing health and well-being.

Freemason Edward Jenner FRS FRCPE, often hailed as "the father of immunology," stands as a towering figure in this narrative. An English physician and scientist, Jenner was the pioneer of the world's first vaccine against smallpox, a landmark achievement that has undeniably saved innumerable lives. His seminal work on the concept of vaccines, primarily through his Inquiry into the Variolae vaccinae known as the Cow Pox, established the foundation of immunology. During Jenner's time, smallpox was a formidable foe, responsible for the deaths of up to 10% of the global population, with even higher mortality rates in densely populated areas. Jenner's impact was so significant that by 1821, he was consulted by King George IV himself.

Fast forward to today, and the Freemason fraternity remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting health advancements. A prime example of this dedication is our

support for the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research, an independent organisation in Wellington, New Zealand, renowned for its pioneering research in immunology. The institute's endeavours, particularly in the realm of CAR T-cell therapy, epitomise the innovative spirit propelling medical advancement. This groundbreaking cancer treatment utilises the body's immune system, specifically T-cells, modifying them to target and combat cancer cells effectively. Referred to as 'living drugs,' these adapted T-cells represent a beacon of hope, offering lasting protection against cancer recurrence.

Our fraternity's contribution, surpassing 1.2 million dollars and rising towards the Malaghan Institute, specifically designated for CAR T-cell therapy research, reflects our unwavering resolve to support innovative medical solutions that herald a healthier future for humanity. This commitment is a testament to our belief in the transformative power of science, echoing our longstanding values



Edward Jenner delivering the first early vaccinations

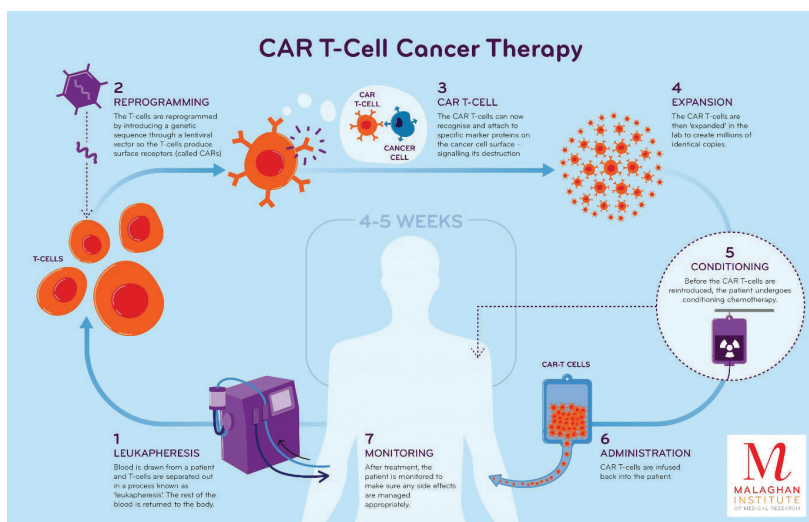
of benevolence and enlightenment.

This year, coinciding with World Immunology Day, the Malaghan Institute plans to reveal a comic/infographic that clarifies the theme of 'fine-tuning the immune system.' This informative piece aims to simplify how immunotherapy can either stimulate the immune system to fight cancer and infectious diseases or modulate it to mitigate allergies and inflammation. This initiative is in harmony with our ethos of fostering knowledge and understanding, motivating us all to delve into the intricate

workings of the immune system in human health.

Reflecting on our journey from backing pioneers like Edward Jenner to supporting state-of-the-art treatments at the Malaghan Institute, it is clear that Freemasonry's commitment to health and science is as strong as ever. Our legacy and ongoing efforts demonstrate a deep respect for the past while actively contributing to a healthier, more informed future. As members of this esteemed fraternity, we should take pride in our contributions and continue to advocate for medical science, embodying the true essence of Freemasonry.

This April 29th, on World Immunology Day, look out for Malaghan Institute's forthcoming comic/ infographic. We will also be celebrating our partnership together. Let us reaffirm our dedication to supporting scientific ventures that promise a healthier tomorrow, remaining true to our Masonic principles of knowledge, charity, and progress.



Camp Quality – Young People with Cancer

www.campquality.org.nz

A programme that Freemasons from the Northern Division and elsewhere in New Zealand have been supporting for a number of years. Making a difference in New Zealand.

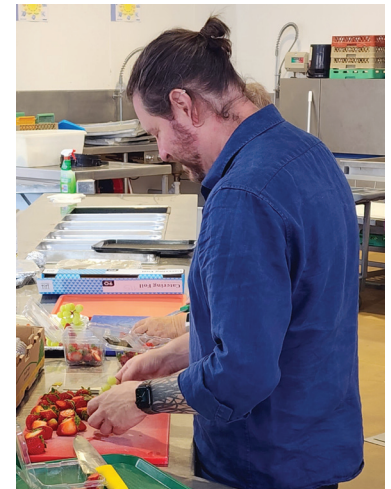
On 9th January 2024, the Freemasons of Auckland were set to work at the annual Camp Quality residential camp. With COVID-19 restrictions still somewhat in place at the camp and with the Wesley College staff manning a lot of the stations, the numbers required for the day were reduced. That did not mean a relaxed day!

With a hearty breakfast to prepare and serve and packed lunches to make, the campers and companions were off-site for the day. We still had a banquet dinner for 200 people to prepare for

and a dining hall to decorate, so we were kept busy, but at the same time, we had a great day.

Freemasons in Auckland, along with The Freemasons Charity, donated \$49,000 in three tranches.

We acknowledge and thank the following: The Ara Lodge No 1, The Lodge of Enlightenment No 502, The Titirangi Mt Albert Lodge No 204, The United Lodge No 340, The Wayfarers Lodge No 389, Lodge Waitakere No 170, Lodge Howick No 314, Lodge Arawhaiti No 267, The Belmont Albion Lodge No 45, Lodge North Harbour No 182, Lodge Kumeu No 279, The Browns Bay Lodge No 346, Lodge Selwyn No 274 and of course The Manukau Westmere Lodge No 24, for the support given to Camp Quality this past year.



Grand Master takes a dunking for Camp Purple!

On 13th January, the Grand Master Jim Watt, accompanied by his partner, Penny Jackson, Kapiti-Wellington District Grand Master Clive Lloyd and Divisional Grand Almoner – Central Adrian Douglas, made a visit to Camp Purple Live for their carnival day, near Waikanae.

Camp Purple is help for children and young adults dealing with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). The participants are assisted and supported by medical staff, dieticians and other volunteers and are encouraged to take part in a variety of activities. The camp has been supported by Freemasons New Zealand for over 9 years.

On carnival day, they are split into teams for a

variety of activities. Our Grand Master was asked to judge the team's parade and present a prize to the winners (the Orange Team). After lunch, he also responded to a dare from the Crohn's and Colitis NZ CEO Belinda Brown to don Camp Purple attire and make himself available at the "dunk" tank.

Of the many volunteers and spectators available, the Grand Master selected the children in their first year at the camp to "dunk" him by hitting a target with a ball. It wasn't long before success was achieved! The chairman of Crohn's and Colitis NZ and also Master of Hutt Valley Lodge No.176, Dr Richard Stein, and other camp leaders also offered to be "dunked".



MASONIC EDUCATION

Discovering Freemasonry: The Chaplain's Role

Hello, Friends and Freemasons! This month, we're peeling back the curtains on a unique and vital role within our Masonic Lodges – the role of the Chaplain.

Did you know that the Chaplain is much more than just a title in Freemasonry? It's a role steeped in history and heart!

The Roots

From the early days, when Masons were the master builders of cathedrals, Chaplains were the spiritual pillars, offering prayers and guidance.

The Heart of the Lodge

Today's Chaplain continues this tradition of spiritual

stewardship. They're the go-to for moral support, leading prayers, and ensuring our values of brotherhood and charity shine bright.

Listening Ear

Whether it's offering comfort in tough times or celebrating life's joys, the Chaplain is there. They embody empathy and understanding, making sure every Mason feels supported.

Beyond Prayers

It's not all about the spiritual; our Chaplains are leaders in their own right. They're the moral compass, guiding us through life's moral and ethical challenges.

Inclusive Spirit

Remember, our Chaplains don't play favourites with beliefs. They're here for all, regardless of one's religious leanings. Freemasonry

is not a religion, nor a substitute for one. Thus, the Chaplain's role is to foster universal harmony. Within our lodges, we maintain a respectful environment by steering clear of discussions on politics and religion, emphasizing our shared values and unity instead.

Ever Thought of Becoming One?

If you're a Mason with a big heart and a listening ear, maybe the Chaplain's path is calling you.

As we uncover the mysteries of Freemasonry together, let's give a big cheer for our Chaplains – the unsung heroes of our Lodges!



Freemason Spotlight: The Chaplains Role



Discovering Freemasonry: The Director of Ceremonies

Greetings, Fellow Freemasons and Friends! Today, we unravel the essential role of the Director of Ceremonies (DC) within our Masonic Lodges – a role that orchestrates our ceremonies with grace and precision.

The DC, wielding a symbolic jewel of two batons tied with a ribbon in saltire and an actual baton, ensures that our ceremonies flow smoothly and gracefully, creating an atmosphere of dignity and respect. They're like the conductor guiding a symphony, ensuring

everyone knows their part in the performance.

In simpler terms, the DC is the unsung hero behind the scenes, enhancing the overall experience for everyone involved. They contribute to the Lodge's atmosphere, making sure traditions are upheld and ceremonies are a meaningful and cohesive experience.

Think of them as the behind-the-scenes mastermind who ensures everything runs like clockwork. Let's give a nod to our Directors of Ceremonies for their silent but impactful role in shaping the magic of Freemasonry!



Freemason Spotlight: Director of Ceremonies Role





Start planning your trip to the 2024 ANZMRC Conference Sydney 17–19 October 2024

It's ON and the time draws closer, so if you are joining us from overseas, interstate or not living in Sydney, now might be a good time to book your ticket and/or accommodation to get a better deal.

The conference will be held at the New South Wales Masonic Club / Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, 169 Castlereagh Street, Sydney from Thursday afternoon 17 October and concluding with a gala dinner on Saturday evening 19 October in the beautifully presented Cello's dining room.

We will have 2½ days of interesting (we hope) papers presented on a variety of topics and a fantastic opportunity for fraternal bonding and chats with likeminded masons.

The Conference

The following link can be used to book the conference:

trybooking.com/CPFVP

We have a number of options for those attending:

Full Conference – Thurs 17th to Sat 19th: \$395 AU

Includes: All three days of conference, Conference Transactions, Discovery Lodge of Research Meeting & Gala Dinner

Single Day Booking – Thurs 17th, afternoon only: \$60 AU

Includes: Entry and Opening of Conference, Presentations on the Thursday 17th afternoon, Transactions of the conference

Single Day Booking – Fri 18th only: AU\$125

Includes: Entry Conference Presentations on Friday & Conference Transactions (does not include DLoR Meeting)

Discovery Lodge of Research Meeting – Sydney Masonic Centre – Fri 18th (Evening Event): AU\$65

Lodge Meeting and Dinner at the local Research Lodge – The Discovery Lodge of Research No.971 UGL NSW

& ACT Location: Sydney Masonic Centre (not the NSW Masonic Club)

Single Day Booking – Sat 19th only: AU\$125

Includes: Entry Conference Presentations on Friday & Conference Transactions (does not include DLoR Meeting)

Gala Dinner @Cello's – Sat 19th (Evening Event): AU\$120

Includes: 2 course meal – wine on table – other drinks at own expense

Accommodation / Hotel

Special pricing for our conference at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel. Same venue as the conference.
www.thecastlereagh.com.au

Hotel rooms

The accommodation rates offered for the conference are:

Boutique Double or single: AU\$235 per night

Twin Room: AU\$258 AU per night

Continental breakfast @\$15 per person per day, hot breakfast @\$25 per person per day. Please note that these rates are special prices that must be booked directly with the Hotel.

NB! You will need to book this yourself directly with the hotel. Phone: +61 2 9284 1000, or email reservations@thecastlereagh.com.au

Sydney attractions

If you bring your partner or intend to stay beyond the conference, Sydney has plentiful attractions: sydney.com/things-to-do/attractions

More details to come.

Kerry Nicholls – Vice President
Australian & New Zealand
Masonic Research Council
(ANZMRC)

Illuminating Minds and Oceans: Potter Masonic Trust Champions Environmental Education Through BLAKE's NZVR and Blake Explorers Initiatives

In a resounding commitment to environmental education, the Potter Masonic Trust has graciously supported BLAKE (Sir Peter Blake Charity Limited) with a substantial grant of \$25,000. This philanthropic contribution has played a crucial role in sustaining and expanding two transformative programmes—NZVR and Blake Explorers. Both initiatives aim to spark curiosity and enhance understanding among students, fostering a deep connection with the natural world of Aotearoa New Zealand.

BLAKE: A Pioneer in Environmental Education

Named after the iconic Sir Peter Blake, BLAKE operates as a charitable organisation committed to environmental education and leadership. The Potter Masonic Trust's generous grant is a testament to its shared vision of nurturing awareness and stewardship of the natural world. Let's delve into the profound impact of the NZVR and Blake Explorers programmes, both of which have been enriched by the Potter Masonic Trust's invaluable support.

NZVR: A Submerged Learning Experience

Throughout 2023, BLAKE has consistently delivered the NZVR programme to schools in Auckland and Northland, with a particular focus on intermediate-age students (years 7-8). The NZVR initiative employs virtual reality headsets to transport students into the depths of New Zealand's marine environment, offering a unique and immersive learning experience. The anticipated

reach for this year is an impressive 24,755 students in these regions. The programme's ultimate goal is to deepen students' knowledge of New Zealand's marine ecosystem and the challenges it faces. Results from a teacher survey indicate a remarkable 97% agreement that the NZVR programme significantly improves students' understanding of the marine environment.

BLAKE Explorers: Nurturing Wellbeing Through Connection

The Potter Masonic Trust's support extends to the Blake Explorers programme, a three-day immersive experience tailored for intermediate-aged students. In a gesture of inclusivity, BLAKE invites schools that have participated in NZVR to select 20 students and 2 teachers to partake in this unique adventure, fostering a deeper connection to Aotearoa New Zealand's natural environment.

At the heart of Blake Explorers is the guiding principle of 'enhancing hauora through connection to te taiao.' Hauora, rooted in Māori philosophy, encapsulates the total health and wellbeing of an individual.

The programme seeks to elevate students' wellbeing by forging meaningful connections with the natural environment.

BLAKE Explorers offers a diverse range of activities, including snorkelling, surfing, and hiking nature trails, all aimed at instilling a profound understanding of kaitiakitanga—the Māori concept of guardianship and sustainable management. This immersive experience connects students to the whenua, providing them with a sense of belonging, or their tūrangawaewae.

A teacher from Sylvia Park School shared, "As well as the educational benefits, we have noticed a change in our students at school; they have stronger friendships, their confidence has skyrocketed, and they have become leaders in their own right. Weeks after BLAKE Explorers, they are still talking about the amazing time they had and all the incredible things they did."

It's important to note that BLAKE Explorers operates on an invitation basis. This deliberate approach ensures that the opportunity is extended to students who may not otherwise have access to such



experiences. The programme also reaches out to schools that have participated in the NZVR programme within the last year, ensuring a continuum of immersive environmental education experiences.

NZVR: Bridging the Educational Gap with Virtual Reality

Beyond the generous grant from the Potter Masonic Trust, BLAKE's NZVR initiative has been actively engaging students across Te Tai Tokerau Northland, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland, Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington, and Ōtautahi Christchurch. This travelling programme sends educators equipped with a class-set of virtual reality headsets to schools, delivering an engaging, inspiring, and educational one-hour session on environmental sustainability, with a particular focus on oceans.

Wearing VR headsets, students embark on a virtual dive into various marine environments through 360° videos. These immersive experiences allow them to compare and contrast different ecosystems, gaining insights into the causes of ocean damage and exploring actionable measures to protect the marine environment. The content is meticulously crafted for Year 7-8 students, making these classes a priority.

Feedback from participating schools underscores the programme's impact, as observed by a teacher from Onehunga High School in 2020: "Students were able to see with their own eyes the toll that pollution and overfishing are having on our



marine environment. They explored the concept of Kaitiakitanga; the guardianship of our environment. Our ocean is our future, and so they discussed all the things that we could do to protect our oceans so that we can all enjoy them now and in the future."

Measuring Success: Positive Outcomes and Ongoing Impact

Both NZVR and Blake Explorers have witnessed consistent positive outcomes and high satisfaction rates. The success of these programmes is evidenced not only by the impressive number of students reached but also by the tangible impacts reported by teachers and students alike.

For NZVR, the emphasis on enhancing students' understanding of the marine environment has resulted in a 97% approval rate from teachers. Blake Explorers, with its focus on holistic wellbeing, has seen a significant boost in students'

confidence, leadership qualities, and interpersonal skills, contributing to their overall personal development.

Potter Masonic Trust: A Catalyst for Environmental Stewardship

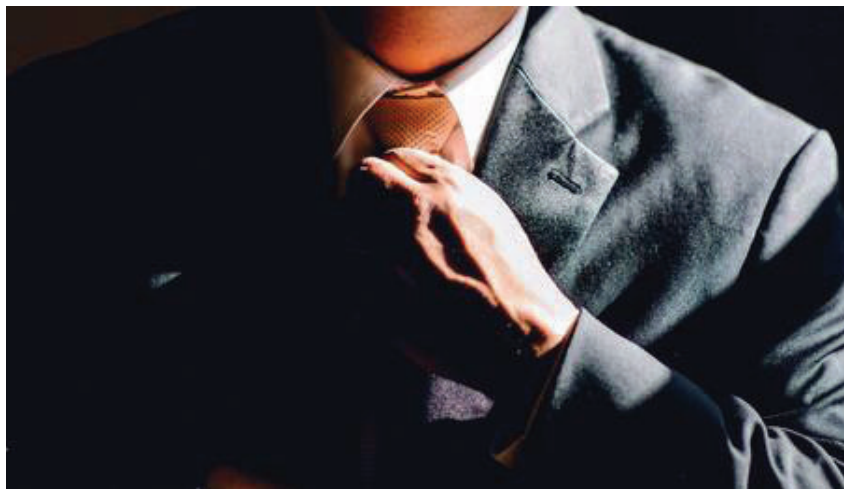
The Potter Masonic Trust's commitment to supporting BLAKE's NZVR and Blake Explorers programmes underscores its dedication to environmental stewardship and education. The trust's financial backing not only ensures the continuation of these transformative initiatives but also paves the way for further expansion, reaching more students and instilling a lasting appreciation for the natural wonders of Aotearoa New Zealand.

As we look ahead, the collaboration between the Potter Masonic Trust and BLAKE remains pivotal in shaping the next generation of environmental stewards. The NZVR and Blake Explorers initiatives, buoyed by the trust's generous grant, will continue to weave a tapestry of environmental awareness, connection, and empowerment, creating a legacy that resonates far beyond the classroom. This partnership exemplifies the collective power of philanthropy and education in nurturing a sustainable and environmentally conscious future.



Freemasonry Might Be the Cure for Gen Z Men's Desperate Loneliness

Meet Bull Garlington, a US-based Freemason and acclaimed author of books like "Fat in Paris" and "The Beat Cop's Guide." In this insightful article, he delves into how Freemasonry could be a remedy for Gen Z's loneliness, offering a unique and humorous perspective on the ancient fraternity's potential to forge meaningful connections. Follow @bull_garlington for more from the author himself.



Yes, that Freemasonry.

By Bull Garlington

The following is adapted from an essay I wrote on Medium that got a lot of attention. And yes, writing about Freemasonry here may seem like a fateful, windmilling step off the edge of credibility, but I assure you the actual organization is nothing like what you've read about in Dan Brown's novels. It isn't the least bit secret and, seriously, controlling the world? We can barely make it through a fish fry.

Also, for members reading this from your invisible sky palace, please remember next Tuesday's Illuminati meeting is lizard skin only. FNORD!

The loneliness epidemic is real

I was talking to my therapist about how I worry that my adult kids are so isolated. I told him that all of them — my nieces and nephews too,

that whole generation — are the loneliest people I've ever seen. Turns out I'm late to the party. Or the complete and total lack of a party.

If you're a man in your twenties or early thirties, there's a good chance you are isolated as hell, possibly facing a kind of debilitating loneliness and despair.

I wrote this essay about men because that's where my mind was at the time. I saw the difference in members of my fraternity versus non-member men who were the same age. But men do not hold a monopoly on social estrangement

The loneliness epidemic is equal

A 2022 Cigna study reported that 57% of men and 59% of women are isolated.

And let's just walk right up to the big hairy elephant in the room: Freemasonry is a centuries-old fraternity that doesn't admit women. That may seem discriminatory or sexist and I do not bear

sufficient rhetorical skill to refute that claim artfully. The simple truth is that Freemasonry is a fraternity and always has been.

But what I'm promoting here applies to everyone.

Look, I'm a boomer and no expert

I don't have a degree in psychology. I'm a moderately successful humour writer. So, regarding this article, buyer beware. I might just be another old guy yelling about those kids and their damn phones. Which is to say, I understand your trust issues.

What I'm about to tell you might seem to come from a place of privilege. It may seem disingenuous. It may seem dilapidated geezer, but I promise you it is not. I promise you that there is an antidote to the loneliness and despair wrecking the lives of young men like you, one your dad and your grandad knew about: Freemasonry.

Freemasonry saved my lonely ass

Ok, stay with me here. Yeah. I know. Your bulls*** alarms just shot into the "flat earther" zone, but hear me out. I know it works because I am a Freemason, and before I found my lodge, I was lonely as hell. I was in despair. Freemasonry saved my ass from going completely bonkers. Here's how it worked for me. I think it will work for you too. Hell, I know it will.

A little about me. Back in the early aughts, my wife and I were looking forward to sending our kids to college and realizing we could never afford it. I was in retail. She was in environmental fieldwork. She went back to school to become an attorney, and I prepped to become a freelance writer. She was hired by a massive, terrifying law firm and disappeared into a maelstrom of meetings and cases and all-night work sessions. I quit my job to be an at-home

dad, and here's where things got weird. I found myself at home, alone. We had moved to Chicago when I was 30, my daughter was five, and my son was a toddler. All my friends were back home in Florida. My family in Alabama. I had nobody.

I was doing fine when I had a staff and coworkers and a routine

But suddenly, I'm dropping my kids at school and then spending my day not talking to anyone. My wife left for work at dawn and got home when it was dark. I talked to my friends through email and sometimes over the phone, but this was way before social media and they'd moved out of state and got different jobs and Jeff didn't have Bill's number and Sheila was a ghost somewhere in Europe and Susan was a teacher and I'd lost her digits and here's the thing. All of this is analogous to what you're going through. Isolated. Alone. Few actual connections offline. Working a Zoom job you don't completely understand — or trust — and you might just be finding yourself going ever so slightly insane.

I did. One day, I just broke down.

I dropped the kids at school, came home, and misery took over. I crumpled into tears. Now look, I'm a crier and I'm fine with it. Crying is a pressure release. The pressure tapers off while you're crying. That's what it's for. That's not what happened. My crying *got worse*. Its intensity didn't wane, it *built* until I was howling and wondering what in the living hell was going on.

I called my uncle down in Florida, who talked me off the ledge and offered some wise words.

"You used to talk to people all day at work. Before that, you hung out with your friends all the time. Now you don't do anything, and you talk to your dog. You need to get the hell out of the house."

Then he said, "Find a lodge"

I was sceptical, but honestly, if I didn't shake hands with a grown-ass human and have an adult conversation soon, I was going to wander off into the desert.

And Freemasons are all *about* handshakes. So, I reached out. I was invited to visit a lodge near my house. I walked into a room full of men in suits. It looked like a family reunion. There were men in their eighties to men in their twenties — and Kevin, a guy I used to work with. I was overjoyed to see him. He introduced me around. I must've shaken hands with 30 people. I had a halfway-decent supper with perhaps an overabundance of green beans and enjoyed an unforgivably average cup of coffee.

I also had some real, genuine, decent conversations with grown men.

I went home with a warm fraternal afterglow and an application to join

Which I did, and here's what happened.

Every two weeks for the last 20-odd years, I've made the seven-minute drive to my lodge and sat there in that ancient old room with ancient old men to listen to them argue about dues and plan fundraisers and tell jokes from 1974 and drink that terrible coffee. Some of those men and I turned ourselves into a crew. We all came in around the same time and went through all the same stuff and it all just turned into this strong,

unbreakable bond. A bond that is still there, still strong.

Now we're the old men. We argue about dues. Our jokes are from 2003. Our hair is turning white, we have gout, and we can't hang like we used to. Sure. But, for all these years, these dudes have had my back, and I've had theirs. They have taken the liberty of calling me on my own bulls*** more than once. I've helped them move. We've come together to mourn for Sean, a loss that nearly killed us. My wife has Dan's number on tap for emergencies. These guys have been in my house, eaten my food, borrowed my books. We are family.

Here's why I'm telling you this

You're somewhere between 25 and 35. You and your friends were already drifting apart in 2019. Jaimie had a kid and had to get real. Now he's a union electrician with a mortgage and a wife and he's got a schedule. Dana got a job in San Diego, so you only talked to her in game chats, which is cool, but still. Not the same. Then Covid hit. Holy c***, what a nightmare of isolation. You started working from home. You still work at home. Isolation and life online is your life now.

You probably haven't touched another person in a month. Even if you work a gig job, you're alone at it. Your mom keeps asking you what you're going to do with your life. You can't sleep. You find yourself doom-scrolling at three in the morning or rabbit-holing on the dumbest Reddit threads, or watching reels about all the places in the world currently on fire and praying the STEM kids of your generation can bring their ideas online fast enough to save the world.

And you just feel like nothing's gonna work out.

One of the reasons you're not getting out of the house is because there's nowhere to go. The whole world comes to you. Books, booze, groceries ... unlimited chicken sandwiches. Why even go outside? And you know the downside of this. It's all the stuff I just laid out. And the awful, overwhelming, crippling despair.

Right now, your generation is unspooling like a feedback loop

And believe me, we old guys are a little freaked out about it. I'm terrified for my son. I think about my daughter's isolation and have to take a few breaths to keep it together.

So, I'm advising you, my generational zed friend, to join this storied fraternity. Join *something*.

It's cheap (mostly). There's a lodge close to you (probably). They will be happy to give you a tour and an application — and I don't know if I've mentioned the coffee, but there will be plenty, and you won't like it.

Freemasonry ain't no silver bullet. It's not rehab.

This essay isn't a membership brochure. The men in the local lodge are local men. I'm biased a little here — and so is the fraternity—but members trend towards the more open-minded, better-educated local men. My experience has proven this to be true. Still, a guy who talks too much at work will tend to hold court at lodge too. If a dude is a self-appointed expert on everything from industrial logistics to Australian zip ties his expertise will come with him to lodge.

And your troubles and anxieties won't evaporate. The wildfires will still burn.

Your job will still be weird, and those 6 a.m. Zooms will *never* be necessary. Dana still lives in San Diego. Jaimie's still busy. Your rent's still too high.

But something magical will happen: You won't be alone.

These old Freemasons have developed their intangible assets, the soft skills all the resume mills are raving about, to ninja level. A retired septuagenarian has been through it. He may drink cheap beer and the worst Scotch, and he absolutely does not understand TikTok. But he listens with compassion. He is charming. He can turn a complete stranger into a lifelong friend in the time it takes the waiter to bring more fries. He survived decades of legendary screw-ups. He is the stand-in grandpa you didn't know you needed. There's a whole room full of these guys. And they will bring you in. You'll be passing out flyers or filling the drink tubs with ice or running the slide projector. The 50-something leader calls you bucko and he doesn't look anything like your dad, but when he shakes your hand, he's got the same callouses and the

same grip and there's a whiff of Old Spice and cigarettes and it's like hearing a long lost favourite song you forgot about. It reaches into your heart and taps out a familiar, comforting rhythm.

After a meeting, some of you go to the local dive

The oldest man you've ever met tells you a story that sounds like a lost Mad Men episode, and a guy more your age gets you into a conversation about good whiskey and you drop your bourbon knowledge like a boss and three people shut up and listen and here's the thing.

You keep going to meetings and after a while, you develop your own crew. There's a handful of guys who just seem to gel. You help one of them move. Another one starts a Facebook group of just you guys, and it's nothing but dark, dark humour that sends you into howling fits of laughter. One day Butler texts. Something went down at work and he's thinking about giving it up. You meet up at that same dive bar and drink terrible IPAs and play a run of late 90s classics on Touch Tunes and you don't really say anything

about his job. You both just sit there, watch the game, drink your beers, and grunt. Which Butler could do all by himself, sure. But he doesn't. Because he doesn't have to.

He's got you

Look, I'm not promising anything. Freemasonry has millions of members all over the world. Your experience will be your experience and maybe I've been lucky.

I know a lot of Freemasons who complain about their lodge and talk about how things need to change, and *it just ain't what it used to be or it's nowhere near as good as it should be*. Maybe they read a little too much into the internet's idiotic fascination with Freemasons as secret conspirators running the world arm-in-arm with the lizard people and Bigfoot. Maybe these guys thought they were joining a wizard school and they're disappointed. Maybe they should be.

But maybe, just maybe, you'll have an experience like mine.

Maybe you will join a broad collection of good and sometimes extraordinary

men who will become your brothers. Maybe you'll find yourself among these men, like I do, and think back to when you were alone and facing that impossible thundercloud of dread.

Maybe you'll reach out and put your arm around Tony's back while he's telling Franky about how he sets up his lathe, and he doesn't even look at you, he just keeps talking. But while he does, he reaches around and hugs you back. He doesn't have any idea why. But his reaction is everything. No questions. Just reassurance:

I got you, buddy. I got you.



Bull Garlington is in his 29th year of Freemasonry, is a past master of Kelvyn Park-Willing Lodge, a former District Education Officer for the 5th Northeast District of the Grand Masonic Lodge of Illinois, a contributing member of the Illinois Lodge of Research, and a noted speaker in the fraternity.

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*.



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Katrina Villegas



Jayne Davis



Prachi Puri

Championing nursing excellence and community support

During the pandemic, New Zealand faced exacerbated nursing shortages due to border closures. Since then, there has been a frantic effort to address this shortfall, with intense competition for recruitment.

Masonic Care attempted to mitigate the effects of this shortage by creating a fund to bolster the training and development of the current nursing workforce within its care facilities.

In July 2022, Freemasons New Zealand came to the party and approved the NZ Nursing Development Fund, totalling \$50,000, for various training programmes and tertiary courses.

The Fund has five options that provide career development pathways:

1. Initial registration support for Internationally Qualified Nurses (IQNs)
2. Competency Assessment Programme (CAP) support for IQNs
3. Assistance for current carers to progress toward becoming Registered Nurses in New Zealand (NZRN)
4. In-house courses in speciality areas
5. Nurse Practitioner Pathway

“Uptake was slow for the first eight months because our facilities were grappling with COVID outbreaks and staff illnesses, which limited our ability to release staff for training,” says the General Manager of Masonic Care, Anne McLean.

“However, uptake improved in 2023, and we accepted eight staff for training.”

Anne says the training fund was promoted across all five Masonic Care Facilities. Individuals had to submit a written application that was reviewed by the Masonic Care Clinical Governance Group. Once approved, each recipient receives a certificate containing the Freemason NZ logo, indicating they were awarded the

fund for training.

Since 2022, six IQNs have obtained registration with the NZ Nursing Council and are currently employed by Masonic Villages. In addition to grant funding, they also received financial assistance to settle into the country, immigration visa support, coverage of wages during the three-month courses, and assistance with the registration processes.

Anne emphasises the courage she witnessed in the IQNs who arrived, often young women travelling halfway around the world alone, based solely on an internet interview’s promise of a job.

Despite this, they settled in well and are now valued members of the Masonic Care team.

Each of the following Nurses brings a wealth of experience and expertise and is set to make a meaningful impact within the facilities and beyond.

Katrina Villegas - Registered Nurse at Woburn Masonic Care

Katrina originally completed her Bachelor of Nursing Science over 16 years ago in the Philippines. She came to work at Woburn Masonic from Tawan Hospital in the United Arab Emirates, where she held duties as an Infection Control Officer. At Woburn, she holds the role of Infection Control and Prevention Nurse, along with her other duties.

Jayne Davis - Quality Coordinator at Horowhenua Masonic Village

Jayne applied to complete the Quality Plus Health Auditor training.

The course is designed to provide participants with the skills required to perform audits against the Ngā Paerewa Health and Disability Services Standards, enabling Jayne to gain a recognised qualification.



Anju Sebastian



Vismaya Sabu



Ronesh Prasad and Artika Devi

Prachi Puri - Registered Nurse at Glenwood Masonic Hospital

Prachi has worked at Glenwood for nine and a half years, and prior to this, she completed her Bachelor of Nursing in India. Prachi is also an Infection Control Officer and applied for funds to complete a paper at Victoria University: Nurse Practitioner Clinical Pharmacology.

"I look forward to bringing the skills I learned into my career at Masonic," says Prachi.

Anju Sebastian - Registered Nurse at Horowhenua Masonic Care

Anju initially planned to arrive from Kuwait, where she had been working, but because of Masonic reference checks, her employer cancelled her contract and visa, so she needed to return to India.

Anju has also worked at the Global Hospital and Transplant Unit in Mumbai. During her interview, she expressed to the board that, since she was a young child, she had a strong desire to live in New Zealand.

"The approval of the grant application realised my dream; this consisted of different phases from happiness to adaptation difficulties to new learning experiences," says Anju.

Vismaya Sabu - Registered Nurse at Horowhenua Masonic Care

Vismaya and Anju have a shared history, having worked together in Mumbai and later in Dubai. In fact, Masonic recruited three friends through the grant. Moving from the bustling cities of Mumbai and Dubai to the small town of Levin was a significant change for them, but these three were able to support each other as they settled into New Zealand life. Currently, they are all flatting together.

Ashna Chandra - Registered Nurse at Woburn Masonic Care

Ashna had to leave her husband behind when accepting the grant. She had earned her Bachelor of Nursing in Fiji and gained experience working in both

medical and emergency departments. Since obtaining her registration through CAP, she is now a Continence Nurse, offering guidance and advice to all care staff.

"Not only am I now a RN, but I have been able to have my husband join me here.

"Together we can start a new life in New Zealand! Thank you."

Ronesh Prasad and Artika Devi (Husband and Wife) - Registered Nurses at Horowhenua Masonic Care

Ron and Artika arrived in Levin from Fiji with their two children and grandparents who provided childcare during the training.

Artika graduated with a Bachelor' of Nursing from Fiji in 2017.

"With my New Zealand registration, there is relief from financial and emotional burdens," says Artika.

While in Fiji, Ron accomplished a Bachelor of Nursing, a Master of Nursing, and a Postgraduate Certificate in Nursing Management and Professional Standards. He expressed a clear desire to eventually transition into a Facility Management role.

Anne says Masonic is now receiving regular requests for employment, enabling the organisation to expand its RN skill set. This expansion not only reflects a commitment to supporting nurses but also benefits residents by granting them access to a broader range of speciality clinical skills.

"The ability to attract and retain great nurses has been a result of this fund.

"We will always be thankful for the generosity of Freemasons New Zealand; it has truly been a game changer for us."



Anne McLean,
General Manager
Masonic Care



CONTINUE THE JOURNEY

Discover more

"The heart and marrow of Ancient Freemasonry."

Whether you have just been raised or have been a Master Mason for some time, you probably have questions, such as what is next, how do I discover the secrets that were lost or, perhaps, what does it all mean?

You might also be wondering how to enjoy more of what Freemasonry has to offer and how to expand your social circle beyond that of your own Craft lodge.

The Royal Arch provides answers to these questions and where you will discover more of what Freemasonry has to offer.

For further information, scan this QR code.



The New Year

By the time you get this, we will be well into the new year. I hope you have all had a happy festive season and had a chance for a relaxing holiday, and are enthusiastic about getting back into your Masonic activities.

The Masonic year has started off slowly as usual, but is now picking up

rapidly, with many Chapters having initiates. It has been particularly busy for those helping organise our annual Convocation in Palmerston North, and I thank them very much for their efforts.

I would like us to think of 2024 as the Year of Change.

A year when we break from a negative narrative in our Chapters and Lodges, finding reasons why we can't

make a difference, to find a way to say "yes, we can".

At the annual Convocation for the Royal Arch in Palmerston North on 8-10 March a number of new brochures were released. These are aimed at attracting new members, mentoring them, and providing education material that explains each degree and the lessons



do things, making excuses for not doing something, carrying on doing things the way we have always done them, relying on the status quo. We need to change this to a positive attitude, finding ways to do something, to

to be learned from them. Two new playlets were also introduced, one designed to be run in a Craft Lodge outlining the Royal Arch, and the other to be run in Chapters for education.



They will also serve as reminders to current members.

It is very important that we keep members interested, informed and involved.

Royal Arch members on average remain with the Craft longer and contribute disproportionately to filling senior roles in their Lodges. In this way the Royal Arch is critical to the future of Freemasonry.

Centenary celebrations

The Ara Chapter No 53 and the North Shore Chapter No 52 recently held a joint meeting to celebrate their 100-year anniversary. The Chapters were chartered only months apart, as you can see from their numbers, so it seemed logical to hold a combined celebration.

It was held in two parts. On the Thursday night a combined formal meeting was held with about 70 Companions in attendance. The First Grand Principal and officers of Grand Chapter were formally received.

After the reception, the Chapter was formally closed, and a Mark Lodge opened.





The first Grand Principal as the Grand Master of Mark Master Masons of New Zealand was then formally received in his appropriate regalia. A photo is shown as this regalia is not on display very often.



A candidate from each Chapter was then put through the degree with Companions from both Chapters participating in the work.

In addition to the two candidates, three other Mark Masons were present. An enjoyable refectory was then held with appropriate speeches. On Saturday night a celebration dinner in a more

casual setting was held with partners. Short summaries of important members from the past were given, reminding us of their contribution not only to the Royal Arch, but also to the Craft.

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.

27/09/2023	Steven Horgan	Horowhenua No 63
16/11/2023	Peter Dix	Ara No 53
16/11/2023	David Main	Ara No 53
07/12/2023	Doug McWatters	Te Awamutu No 88
29/01/2024	Stephen Wallace	Tutanekai-Hinemoa No 92
01/02/2024	Luke Kerr	Rotorua No 44
07/02/2024	Tristram Speedy	North Shore No 52
07/02/2024	Michael Newlands	Ara No 53
19/02/2024	Fernando Ribeiro	Mt Maunganui No 103
19/02/2024	Eugene Banotan	Mt Maunganui No 103



Royal Arch Grand Convocation and Proclamation

PALMERSTON NORTH 8–10 MARCH 2024

See you there!

Double 60-year Service Bar presentation on the North Shore

The presentation of a 60-year Service Bar to a member of any Lodge is a truly special occasion and deserves a worthy celebration. And, when Lodge North Harbour No 182 could present two 60-year Service Bars at the same time, all the stops were pulled out in mid-December 2023, and a suitably grand event was organised.

This was the case at Lodge North Harbour No182 when Eric Faulkner, Roll of Honour, and Mike Whitlock, Past Grand Warden, were presented with their respective Service Bars. For

such an auspicious occasion, we asked our Grand Master Jim Watt if he would do the recipients and the Lodge the honour of presenting their 60-year Service Bars.

It was wonderful to see a full lodge room and refectory, with non-Masonic friends and family members as well as many Fraternal friends present. The Grand Master met the Masters of 8 Lodges. The Master of Lodge North Harbour No.182, Andy Winter, handed over the control of the Lodge to the District Grand Master, Andrew Alexander, for the evening, who then received

the Grand Master together with 43 Officers of Grand Lodge accompanying him. Once the Grand Master had been received and the Lodge duly returned to the 1st degree, the Fellowcrafts and Entered Apprentices present were invited to re-enter the Lodge and be introduced to the Grand Master. The Lodge was then closed, and the non-Masonic guests were admitted. The recipients were then addressed by Ken Smith Past Master, and Derek James, Past Grand Warden, before being presented with their 60-year Service Bars by the Grand Master,

followed, of course, by the obligatory photo call. While the Grand Master was trying to take a selfie, the District Grand Master leapt in and took one of his own. The Grand Master also presented Cameron Smith with a Certificate of Appreciation for his work leading the review of Masonic Properties/Insurance.

On completion the non-Masonic guests and recipients retired to the Refectory. A fine selection of finger food and refreshments was then supplied by the Lodge caterer, which was well received by all present.



Recipients with their families, family friends and Freemasons, Eric, Mike and Cameron and photo bomb by District Grand Master of Grand Master and the two recipients.

Welcome to our newest Freemasons

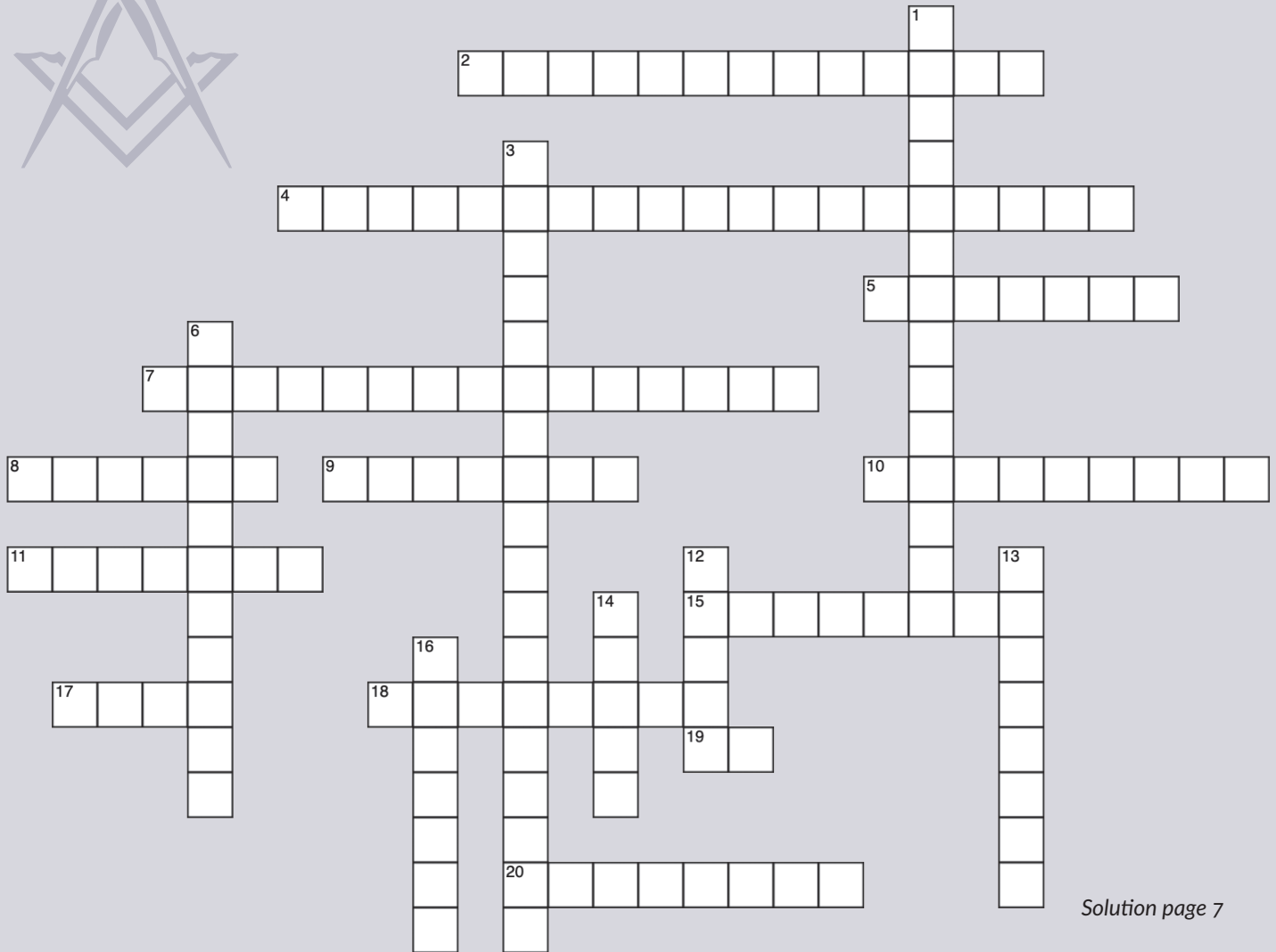
November 2023 – January 2024

Eugene Gonzales	The Beta-Waikato Lodge No. 12	John Perry	United Forces Lodge No. 245
Bryce Nicol	The Franklin Lodge No. 58	Jason Lloyd	Lodge Arawhaiti No. 267
Frederick Enerio	The Rawhiti Lodge No. 66	Philip Sandae Dablio	Unity Lodge No. 271
Rommel Fuentes	The Rawhiti Lodge No. 66	Christopher Abellera	Unity Lodge No. 271
Jayson Alcaraz	The Heretaunga Lodge No. 73	David Carlo Balane	Lodge Tuakau No. 278
Gerald Adrales	The Heretaunga Lodge No. 73	Christopher Paderanga	Lodge Tuakau No. 278
David Angelo Latonio	Lake Lodge of Ophir No. 85	Thorben Hoffschneider	Lodge Nelson No. 288
Bernardino Janerol	The Mount Ida Lodge No. 97	Kurt Simpson	Lower Hutt Lodge No. 299
Brendo Banatlaol	Lodge Whangarei No. 102	Raven Lester Garcia	Lodge Howick No. 314
Eli Kennedy	The Waitohi Lodge No. 111	Matthew Flight	Lodge Eckford No. 334
Aaron Gardner	The Forest Lodge No. 116	Gary Cooke	Lodge Eckford No. 334
Dwayne Westley	The Forest Lodge No. 116	Elijah Manlod	Lodge Eckford No. 334
Jose Galang III	The Coronation Lodge No. 127	Ric Diaz	Browns Bay Lodge No. 346
Angelito Toralba	Rongotea Lodge No. 146	John Meaker	Browns Bay Lodge No. 346
Bradley Peters	Lodge North Harbour No. 182	Brent Sylvester	The Baden Powell Lodge No. 381
Elmer De Guzman	Lodge Clinton No. 183	Arikanara Mcleod	Lodge Hatea No. 431
Nathan Wilkinson	The Avon Shirley Lodge No. 185	Christopher Hobbs	Lodge Aquarius No. 466
Matthew Sullivan	Empire Fergusson Lodge No. 225	Alastair Gibbons	Lodge Aquarius No. 466
Noah Ilogon	Lodge Doric Brighton No. 236	Michael Kaplan	Lodge Waikato No. 475
Elmer Rayneir Gatdula	Lodge Doric Brighton No. 236	Lloyd Morgan	Lodge Matariki No. 476

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

- 2 Highest ranking Very Worshipful Officer in our Grand Lodge? (two words)
- 4 What is the title of the Officer of Grand Lodge who looks after a District? (three words)
- 5 Freemasons who guide a candidate around the Lodge are called?
- 7 The Royal Arch Convocation and Proclamation is being held where in March 2024?
- 8 Freemason in charge of a Lodge is called the ...?
- 9 Lodges are usually closed in Peace, Love and ...?
- 10 Board of General Purposes is now known as the Board of ...?
- 11 Surname of new Deputy Grand Master?
- 15 Next Annual Communication is being held in which city in November 2024?
- 17 How many points of Fellowship are there?
- 18 The Treaty Grounds are where in New Zealand?
- 19 Two batons in saltire tied with a ribbon belongs to which Officer in our Lodges? (initials)
- 20 A year with 366 days in it is called? (two words)

DOWN

- 1 Which South Pacific country was at one time administered by the British, Dutch and Germans? (three words)
- 3 Freemasons ceremonial is chiefly based around the building of? (three words)
- 6 Which Scouting Lodge held the first meeting in 2024 in New Zealand and the World? (two words)
- 12 King Solomon's father?
- 13 Who followed on from Hiram Abiff?
- 14 Which New Year is celebrated by several Asian Countries?
- 16 The New Hebrides (a joint British-French Condominium) is now known as?

SERVICE AWARDS

November 2023 – January 2024

80 YEAR BADGE

WBro Henry Johnston Thayer PM RH Lodge Wanaka No. 277

70 YEAR BADGE

WBro Leonard George Domb PM The Herbert Teagle-Taia Lodge No. 300

60 YEAR BADGE

WBro William Francis Hulme PM RH	Manukau Westmere Lodge No. 24
WBro Lawrence Richard Taylor PGIG	Lodge Wairoa No. 55
RWBro Alan William Peter Robertson PGW RH	The Advance Mawhera Lodge No. 61
VWBro Warwick Ramsden Roberts P Dist GM	The Alpha Lodge No. 81
WBro Brian Maxwell Vincent PM	Lodge Aorangi Timaru No. 196
VWBro Milner Alexander F Jacob Dist GM	Lodge Erewhon No. 200
Bro Peter John Woodward QSM MM RH	Lodge Tawera-O-Kapiti No. 253
WBro Robert Leslie Ancell PM RH	Lodge Waikato No. 475
VWBro Brian James Ross PGDC	Lodge Eckford No. 334
WBro Colin Irving Hickman PM RH	Lodge Matariki No. 476

50 YEAR BADGE

WBro Alan Francis Patterson PM	The Saint Andrews Lodge No. 32
VWBro Brett Delahunt ONZM PG Lec	The Saint Andrews Lodge No. 32
VWBro William James Anderson PGDC	Lodge St John No. 84
WBro Bruce Jefford PM	Lake Lodge of Ophir No. 85
WBro Stuart Winston MacLean PM	Lodge Arrow Kilwinning No. 86
WBro Ross Earle Murray PM	The Waipa Lodge No. 119
WBro Lancelot George Johnson PM RH	Empire Fergusson Lodge No. 225
WBro Geoffrey Howard Smith PM RH	Lodge Whangamomona No. 234
VWBro Stuart Norman Mahan Brooker PG Lec	Westminster Lodge No. 308
WBro Barry Arthur Bishop PM	Lodge Te Puni No. 315
WBro Frank Robert Dyson PM	Lodge Orewa No. 370
WBro Edward Henry Martin PM	Meridian Lodge No. 449
WBro John Oliver PGIG	Lodge Matariki No. 476



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