

Freemasons New Zealand

Annual Report 2025–26



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Front cover: 2025 Grand Installation – Freemasons.
Special Olympics New Zealand Summer Games Dec 2025.

Grand Master's Report

It is my privilege to present this year's Grand Master's Annual Report, reflecting a period marked by significant progress, operational transformation, and renewed unity throughout Freemasons New Zealand.

I highlight the transition from Districts to Regions. This operational change, has been implemented at every level and has strengthened our ability to collaborate, innovate, and respond to the needs of our members. The dedication of District and Regional leaders, along with support from the Board of Directors, has been vital to this achievement. We have now had close to a year under the new operational structure. I encourage you to share your feedback with your Grand Superintendent of Region, and any potential adjustments may be brought forward to Divisional conferences mid-next year.

Open and consistent communication remains the cornerstone of our path to success. Our Grand Superintendents have ensured that every voice is heard , fostering a spirit of transparency and mutual respect. We will focus on continued improvement in our communication channels and offer targeted, relevant information to those who need it.

Membership growth and engagement have been at the forefront of our mission. We are seeing renewed interest in Freemasonry, with initiatives focusing on mentorship and community involvement yielding positive results. These achievements reflect the collective effort of our entire fraternity.

Compliance and governance have also improved significantly. Our ongoing partnership with the Board of Directors and Trustees ensures that our operations maintain the highest standards of integrity and accountability. Targeted training is being optimised, to bring new, qualified members to our boards and various trusts and lodges around the country. We believe in empowering and enriching our members and investing in programs to upskill our brethren as well as existing trustees and board members.

With our organisation, we couldn't operate without the hard-working teams of so many people, from our head office to our working groups, charity, and all brethren who contribute in some way. We are a group of volunteers who give so much of your time and efforts to enrich the craft, and I want to thank everyone for their contributions; without each and every one of you, we could not achieve what we do.

I extend heartfelt thanks to those whose leadership and service have been instrumental this year: RW Bro. Duane Williams, Grand Secretary; VW Bro. Warwick Bell, Chair of the Board; RW Bro. Neville Patrick, Chair of Trustees, who have led their teams to make our constitution more compliant and in better shape to look ahead.

Let us carry forward the momentum of this year's accomplishments, confident in our vision and united in our purpose. Be proud to be a part of the Grand Lodge of Antient and Free and Accepted Masons of New Zealand, our official title. This constitution is ours collectively; we, together, are building a brighter future for Freemasonry in New Zealand.





MWBro Paul Chappel,
Grand Master

Review of Progress

Report from the Board Chairs
July 2025–June 2026

The Grand Installation in October 2025 heralded a significant change to the structure of our organisation with the establishment of nine geographic regions and a new Operational team. The period following the Annual Communication in late 2024 saw significant input to work through the finer details of the changes and ensure the various appointments were in place. That coincided with the first full year of the new Grand Lodge trustees who also form the smaller Board of Directors. They comprise the Deputy Grand Master and six appointees.

The new governance team have worked collegially together, to continue the mission previously articulated, convening as either the Board of Directors or Board of Trustees, with separate Chairs as required. The Grand Master is still in attendance, and during the period, both MW Jim Watt's' and his successor MW Bro Chappel's, wise counsel has been regularly sought and appreciated.

The Board continues a mission to improve efficiency, working on initiatives that will positively impact on the future of our organisation. Particularly the vision to create a brighter and more sustainable future for Freemasons New Zealand.

There are challenges facing the organisation that cannot be ignored, but with every challenge there is opportunity. Addressing engagement of brethren across the country through improved communication and providing value through offerings to our members and the Lodges, that meet the challenges they face is paramount.

The Committees of the Board of Directors are now actively delivering on their foci. Membership & Growth's recent launch of the new Grand Lodge Onboarding Resource; Education & Research's various education initiatives; and Property & Wealth's considerable input to various properties are evidence of this.

Communication and Connection

Our digital app, Masonica is now in it's third year. Most brethren are connected with the app and regularly use it. The app continues to be adapted to provide additional access to resources. The latest innovation will be using the app for voting at the 2026 Annual Communication. We are indebted to RW Russell Pratt PDivGM and his team for this initiative.

Much work has also been done behind the scenes on the Grand Lodge database and a Lodge Management System. Watch out for a future announcement on this.

As previously articulated our goal is to keep every member abreast of crucial decisions, maintaining an environment of trust, clarity, and understanding. The Boards are committed to regular communication with our members and will continue to provide an update after each meeting.

Operational organisation

As previously mentioned in the introduction, much effort went in to ensure the restructure of the organisation and establishment of new roles, had a sound platform to build on as of the Grand Installation last November. It is a period of transition and the Boards appreciate that some flexibility is required over the current three years to ensure its success.

Finances

This is a significant issue for the organisation.

The Grand Lodge of New Zealand is experiencing a funding challenge driven by a historical reluctance to increase capitation fees to a realistic level exacerbated by a significant reduction in membership numbers, resulting in substantially fewer members contributing towards the cost of operating Grand Lodge.

Annual capitation contributes only approximately one-third of the annual operating costs of Grand Lodge. The Board has a cost containment exercise underway looking at not only ensuring Grand Lodge minimises its actual expenses but also investigating how alternative streams of revenue can be generated. Notwithstanding that process, the Board believes it is inevitable that the capitation fee income needs to be made realistic – operating at a deficit each year is simply not sustainable nor good practice. The Board

expects Lodges to operate with a modest surplus and so Grand Lodge cannot ignore what it is preaching by running at continual deficits.

The income shortfall is currently supplemented from two sources:

1. Administration fees charged to charities controlled by the Grand Lodge Trustees; and
2. Heartbank Deposit Scheme Brokerage – approx. 20% of budget expenditure.

Ideally the Heartland brokerage should be used for one off projects, such as a member acquisition programme which is urgently required. That cannot be considered without resolving the present financial situation.

Furthermore, the organisation's reliance on the Heartland brokerage comes at a huge risk which needs to be mitigated:

- Analysis shows a huge disparity in support across the nine regions.
- The top 4 investors (36 brethren) in each region account for over 50% of the invested sum.
- The average age of depositors is around 78 years.

This suggests that a few elderly brethren are significantly financially supporting Grand Lodge operations (through Heartland deposits) - there is uncertainty how long that will continue.

It is time for every Freemason to contribute to the increased costs of operating Grand Lodge.

Protecting our Assets

Our Grand Lodges Trustees primary role is overseeing our assets across the organisation. They are both Trustees of Grand Lodge and Trustees of the various national charities – The Freemasons Charity, the Potter Trust, the Hugh Rankin Trust and the Lawson Smith Trust. The role is enshrined in statute under the Grand Lodge of Freemasons of New Zealand Trustees Act 1903. This last year has continued to see significant matters regarding property being addressed. Property and focussing on putting the wealth in our organisation to best purpose has been and will continue as a major focus.

Celebrating the Staff

We have a small team at National Office of 4.5FTE. W Bro. Andrew Cowie as our Executive Director and the Grand Secretary RW Bro Duane Williams, along with the other staff have continued to provide sterling service in managing Freemasons NZ and assisting Lodges and brethren. We thank them on behalf of all Freemasons in New Zealand.

A Salute to Past and New Contributions

With election as Grand Master, MW Bro Paul Chappel stepped down as a Grand Lodge Trustee and Director on his investiture in October 2025. Similarly, RW Bro Dave Piper with his appointment as Divisional Grand Master. Both brethren contributed significantly to the Board during their time. However both brethren are active supporting us in their new roles. As Grand Master, MW Bro Paul Chappel, still joins us for Board meetings. Meanwhile, given RW Bro Piper's skills and knowledge we have retained his expertise as Chair of the Board's Remuneration & Nominations Committee. Their replacements are RW Bro Mick Turner, our current Deputy Grand Master, and W Bro Leon Grandy PGS. Both bring considerable business and professional acumen to the roles.

In early 2026, VW Bro Don Seath PDistGM also stepped down as a Grand Lodge Trustee and Director. Don had been a Grand Lodge trustee when the Trustees joined the Board after the Governance restructure in 2023. We thank him sincerely for his very meaningful contribution. Replacing Don, the Board of Directors filled his vacancy with W Bro Tony Fallon PGS from Christchurch. Tony, Board Chair of Athletics Canterbury. brings a younger member perspective as a Trustee and Director.

In concluding we note, the members of the two Boards are committed to continuing their focus on improved assistance to Lodges, reducing costs, prudent management of our resources and improving communication channels. We wish to thank the other Trustees / Directors who have committed their time to making Freemasons New Zealand a better organisation. More importantly again we thank all Freemasons contributing to the ONE TEAM for their enthusiasm in furthering Freemasonry and the role we play in society.



VWBro Warwick Bell PDistGM
Chair Board of Dirctors



RWBro Neville Patrick PDepGM
Chair Board of Trustees

Our Organisation

The Grand Lodge of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of New Zealand is an unincorporated Society trading under the name of Freemasons New Zealand. Its 4,270 brethren are members of 165 Lodges across New Zealand. Each Lodge operates under a charter issued by The Grand Lodge. The assets of The Grand Lodge are held in trust by the Grand Lodge Trustees under an act of parliament. These assets include the proceeds from the sale of Lodges held in the Masonic Building Fund to be used for the acquiring and preserving of buildings or land. The Grand Lodge has established a separate registered charity CC46016, with its own trust deed. It's known as The Freemasons Charity and is devoted solely to charity within New Zealand.

A brief history

Freemasonry was established officially when the first Grand Lodge was formed in 1717 in England. In reality, it is much older than that, dating back to late 13th-century stonemasons' guilds.

In 1842, Freemasonry came to New Zealand with Lodges from the English, Irish and Scottish Constitutions.

The Grand Lodge of New Zealand was formed in 1890. As of 30 June 2026, there are 165 Lodges in New Zealand, from Kerikeri to the Bluff, with a total of 4,270 members.

Our vision

To add value to society by supporting good men, their families and their communities.

The principal aim of Freemasonry is the promotion of universal and lasting happiness of all people.

Our principles

Freemasonry is founded upon the principles of tolerance and acceptance, care, kindness, honesty and trust.

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.

Our structure and governance

Grand Master

Our ceremonial head is responsible for the overall administration of The Grand Lodge of New Zealand.

Board of Trustees

There are 7 Grand Lodge Trustees made up of the Deputy Grand Master and 6 members elected at the Communication. They hold the assets of The Grand Lodge of New Zealand on behalf of its members, monitor investments and administer The Freemasons Charity and the Potter, Rankin and Lawson-Smith masonic charitable trusts.

Board of Directors

The 7 trustees constitute the Board of Directors and look after The Grand Lodge of New Zealand (governance and policy) between Communications.

Board Committees

We have three Board Committees:

Audit and Risk

An independent committee of the Board of Directors that oversees and advises on financial and other risks. They ensure that The Grand Lodge of New Zealand properly manages its risk and complies with its statutory obligations in New Zealand.

Strategy Committee

The Strategy Committee assists the Board of Directors in the proper discharge of their responsibilities to produce a strategic plan, to promote and resource the plan, and to monitor / review the plan's targeted outcomes.

Nomination and Remuneration Committee

The Nomination and Remuneration Committee assists the Board of Directors in determining the strategic direction of the Craft by ensuring succession is in place, nomination of key personnel and oversight of senior employees at Freemasons NZ.

Charities Management Committee

An independent committee, established under the Charitable Trust Deed, to administer and manage The Freemasons Charity and other Charitable Trusts. It oversees the prudent management of the Trust's investments. It is made up of the Grand Almoner, two appointed members and one person seconded by the Board of Directors.

National Office

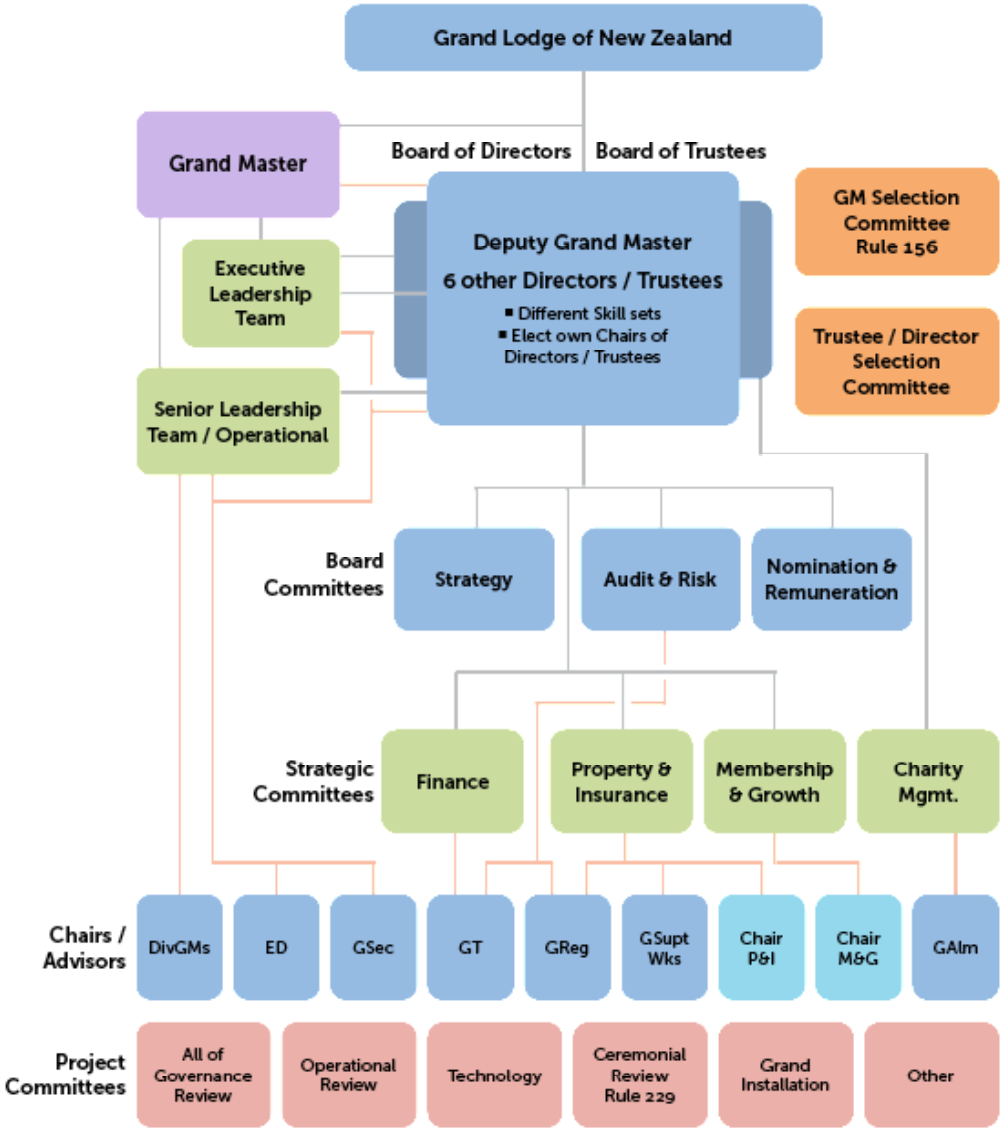
The Executive Director and team of five provide Membership Services, including Lodge, membership and administration support.

They provide support to The Freemasons Charity and Charitable Trusts.

Our National Office promotes Freemasonry through our channels including our Website, Social Media and quarterly Magazine.

The National Office also works with external specialists to deliver our Strategic Plan and key projects.

Freemasons New Zealand Governance Map



Meet the Board and Trustees

Board of Directors and Grand Lodge Trustees as of 30 June 2026



Warwick Bell
Chair

A member of the Executive Leadership Team, Warwick is a Registered Architect and Company Director. He has extensive Board governance and strategic leadership experience. Including NZQA, NZ Industry Training Federation and as Chair of the NZ Registered Architects Board and Chair of Trustees NZ Scout Youth Foundation. A Freemason since 1989, Warwick is a Past District Grand Master and has held other appointments.



Mick Turner
Deputy Grand Master

Appointed Deputy Grand Master in October 2025, Mick Turner previously served as Divisional Grand Master of the Central Division. He is the founder and CEO of Cratos Limited, Chair of the New Zealand Defence Industry Association, and a member of the Ministerial advisory group, the Defence Industry Advisory Council. Before establishing Cratos, Mick completed 28 years with London's Metropolitan Police, retiring as a Detective Chief Inspector. He brings extensive experience in leadership, governance, strategic programme management, and organisational change..



Neville Patrick
Chair of the Grand Lodge Trustees

Neville Patrick is currently the Chair of the Grand Lodge Trustees and is part of the Executive Leadership Team. Having served in various offices from local ceremonial, national ceremonial and GL Board duties from 2002 through to the present time. During his working life Neville has occupied senior roles in the NZ Defence Force, senior HR roles and Line management in contracting companies and general management positions in Defence/Civilian contracting. With these various positions, Neville brings a wealth of knowledge in people management, risk management, ISO auditing, Leadership and Employment relations.



Graham Wrigley

Graham served as Grand Master in 2019-2022. He has extensive experience in the governance of Freemasonry, having served as a Board member, President of the Board, Deputy Grand Master and then as Grand Master. Outside of Freemasonry, Graham had an extensive New Zealand and international senior Fire Service career for 32 years followed by 25 years with the NZ Red Cross.



Leon Grandy

Leon Grandy is a freemason of some 32 years standing; a Past Master of both Westminster Lodge No 308 and New Zealand Pacific No. 2. A corporate governor and director, Leon is a Joint Managing Director of Armillary Ltd, a fellow of CISI and graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Over the last 30 years he has held governance positions across diverse commercial, iwi, and not for profit entities. His more prominent board appointments included serving as Chair of: Keith Andrews Holdings, FUSO NZ, and Switched On Group. Currently he is the chair of: Aegis Retirement Living; TEAM IM, Protranz Earthmoving; Dough Bakeries, and on several other boards, either as a director or in trustee roles.



Anthony (Tony) Fallon

A Freemason since 2014, Tony is a Past Grand Steward and has served the Craft in a variety of capacities over that time. Outside Freemasonry, he is a senior leader within Health New Zealand with responsibility for strategy, planning and organisational performance. Anthony has extensive governance experience across charitable, health and community organisations, having served as a Chair, Deputy Chair, Trustee and Board Secretary for various entities. He brings to the role strong skills in governance, strategic planning, risk management and organisational leadership, supported by ongoing professional development through his recent MBA studies and strong involvement with the Institute of Directors in Canterbury.



Mark Bunting

Mark is a relatively young mason, having been initiated in 2019, becoming the Worshipful Master of Lodge Waikato 475 this year. Having spent 6 years as a Hamilton City Councillor and 15 as a lines company trustee, Mark is no stranger to governance. Mark has made a life out of communications, with 35 years of radio and TV broadcasting, an education degree, teaching background under his ever lengthening belt. He now runs his own communications training business and works with corporate, councils and high level sports teams, teaching them to get on with each other. He has a passion for freemasonry and is passionate about turning around the decline in membership, as he believes the answer to so many ills in NZ society lie within the portals of freemasonry.

Attendees



Paul Chappel
Grand Master

Paul was installed as the Grand Master on 25 October 2025. Prior to this he served as Deputy Grand Master and was also the Past District Grand Master for the Counties-Hauraki District, and he also brings a rich skillset from nearly 30 years in the transport sector and owning a commercial buildings company. His leadership spans 14 years with the National Road Carriers, serving as Vice-President, President, and later Chairman of its parent group.



Duane Williams MBE, JP
Grand Secretary

Duane has been a Freemason for over 42 years in Papua New Guinea and New Zealand. Professionally, he was an International Banker for most of that time. He has been a Past District Grand Master for Kapiti-Wellington District 2008-10, Grand Secretary since 2018 and continues with several other duties within the National Office, including Manager Operations, Editor of New Zealand Freemason magazine, websites and social media.



Andrew Cowie
Executive Director

Andrew joined as Freemasons New Zealand as Executive Director in November 2023 following a number of roles in the private and public sectors of New Zealand and the UK. He was initiated into Freemasonry in 2011 at Waihenga St Marks Lodge No 37 in Martinborough.



Graham Law
Grand Treasurer

Graham is currently the Chief Financial & Corporate Officer at NZX Limited. He has considerable experience working across the financial and professional service sectors in New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Graham previously worked in Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer roles, and brings expertise in strategic leadership, corporate governance, and risk and financial management.

Changes in the Board 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026 explained

VW Bro Don Seath retired in December 2025 and was replaced by W Bro Anthony Fallon.

Board of Directors and Board of Trustees

VW Bro Warwick Bell (Chairs BoD)
RW Bro Neville Patrick (Chairs BoT)
MW Bro Graham Wrigley
RW Bro Mick Turner
W Bro Mark Bunting
W Bro Leon Grandy
W Bro Anthony Falcon
RW Bro Mick Turner

Strategy Committee

VW Bro Warwick Bell (Chair)
Grand Master
W Bro Mark Bunting
Bro Kevin Hstings
WBro Andrew Cowie (Executive Director)

Audit and Risk Committee

W Bro Dene Saunders (Chair)
MW Bro Graham Wrigley
W Bro Henry Davies
W Bro Tony Fallon

Nominations and Remuneration Committee

VW Bro David Piper (Chair)
RW Bro Mick Turner
VW Bro Warwick Bell

Charities Management Committee

RW Bro Stephen Salmon (Chair)
RW Bro Adrian Douglas
Bro Carlos Delos Santos
W Bro Nick Langley

Property and Wealth Committee

W Bro Cameron Smith (Chair)
RW Bro Neville Patrick
VW Bro Darren Shadbolt
W Bro Leon Grandy
W Bro Chis Agius (Northern)
W Bro Kent Chamberlain (Central)
W Bro Alan McGill (Southern)

Membership and Growth Committee

W Bro Mark Bunting (Chair)
RWBro John Lukaszewicz
W Bro Ainsley Watson
W Bro Luke Boustridge
Bro Neil McCarthy

Finance Committee

VW Bro Graham Law (Chair)
W Bro Leon Grandy
W Bro Mathew Robertson

Education Committee

VW Bro Ainsley Watson (Chair)
RW Bro Stephen Griffin
W Bro Tony Fallon
W Bro Stuart Eeles
W Bro Mark Bunting

The Freemasons Charity 2024–25 Report

The 2025-26 financial year saw the continued governance of the Charities under the Charities Management Committee (CMC) who report on activity to the Board of Grand Lodge Trustees, ensuring the continuing and equitable support for various charitable initiatives that align with our strategic priorities. Here are the key highlights:

Charity Restructure

RWBro. Jeff Mear Grand Almoner and Chair of the CMC, resigned from these roles in March 2026 after making a significant contribution to the Charity over several years in multiple roles. We also thank him for the way that he passed over the transactional business after his resignation and wish him and Yvette all the best for the future.

At the time the opportunity was taken to review the roles of the Grand Almoner and the Chair of the CMC – which is now a significant role in its own right given the number of individual charities looked after by the Committee. Following this review, a decision was made to split the two roles. RWBro. Steve Salmon PDepGM was appointed as Acting Chair of the CMC on the 13th of April 2026 and RWBro. Adrian Douglas was invested as Grand Almoner on the 26th of May 2026.

During the year, Region Charity Officers replaced District Charity Officer in line with the restructure recommended by the Operational Review Committee Working Group.

Penelope (Pene) Frost KSM is a recent addition the CMC. Pene comes to the Committee with a significant background within a charity community and many years as a social worker and she is currently a Regional Manager for Stand Tū Māia.

National-Level Charitable Endeavours

Throughout the 2025-26 financial year, we maintained our steadfast commitment to supporting various national-level charitable initiatives. These included:

- Continued support for CAR-T Cell cancer research conducted by the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research.
- Ongoing backing for the "Camp Purple Live" programme, a vital initiative by Crohn's and Colitis New Zealand.
- Sustained funding for Freemasons University Scholarships, a tradition extending over 48 years.
- Nurturing young talents through postgraduate Paediatrics and Child Health Fellowships in partnership with the University of Otago, spanning over three decades.
- Premier Partner of the Special Olympics New Zealand (SONZ) National Summer Games in December 2025

Community Support Initiatives

Local Lodges and Districts/Regions continued to demonstrate robust support for community projects. These initiatives often involved local fundraising, supplemented by subsidy support from The Freemasons Charity.

The Freemasons Charity Paramedicine Scholarships

In a continuation of the scheme commenced in 2024, one scholarship at $5,000 and seven scholarships at $2,500 were awarded to support students pursuing a qualification to become a Paramedic. These scholarships were available to those studying either on-campus or via distance learning at Whitireia/WelTec.

The program aimed to ensure representation across the Southern Division, with at least one recipient intended from each district. In keeping with Masonic values, applications were evaluated based on both academic merit and community service.

Special Olympics New Zealand (SONZ) Participation

Our partnership with the Special Olympics NZ culminated in the National Summer Games in December 2025. Freemasons New Zealand was the Premier Partner. The Freemasons Charity established a funding model and fund-matching programme. Over 60% of lodges nationwide with the assistance of The Freemasons Charity raised over $245,000 to support the volunteers and athletes to attend the Games. Lodges fostered and maintained relationships with SONZ Clubs in the lead up to the games. At the event, twenty-seven volunteers participated in running the Games and nineteen VIPs attended to award medals to the participating athletes.

Freemasons University Scholarships

The presentation event for the Freemasons University Scholarships was again held at Parliament marking their 48th year of support. We celebrated 28 recipients in the Legislative Council Chamber alongside the host MP, Greg O'Connor and guest speaker Fran Scholey, Chief Executive of Special Olympics New Zealand.

Also presented at this event were the Heartland Bank Freemasons Scholarships, the Lawson-Smith Freemasons Education Trust Veterinary Scholarships, and the Freemasons Orakei Scholarship.

Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge and recognise the support of the Charity by the Freemasons NZ National Office staff – in particular Bianca Marie Twort, our Charities Administrator.

We would also like to thank all members of the Craft for their input, feedback, creativity and work on charitable projects within Lodges and Regions. Similarly, the Divisional Grand Almoners and District and Region Charity Officers for their leadership and guidance in the Charity space.



RWBro. Steve Salmon
Acting Chair
Charities Management Committee



RWBro. Adrian Douglas
Grand Almoner

1. Benevolence and Almoning

Assistance & Critical Need Grants

The Freemasons Charity assisted **44 individuals** by providing funding of **$43,650 through Critical Need grants, and a further $30,614.78 with 9 Assistance grants - totalling $74,264.78.**

Hospital Packs Granted

TFC granted $7,669.35 towards Hospital Packs for patients staying in hospital.

It Takes A Village Hub

The Freemasons Charity granted $15,000 to It Takes A Village Hub at the Partners Function of the 2025 Grand Installation to support providing essentials bundles to families with babies and young children in need across Canterbury.

2. Enhancing Our Communities

Lodge & District/Region Projects

The Freemasons Charity supports local Lodge & District/Region community projects by matching funds raised by the Lodge 1:1, a District/Region project may qualify for 2:1 funding from TFC.

Over this period the Lodges supported 87 local community projects and raised a total of $222,151.59.

TFC funded $257,261.24 towards Lodge & District/ Region Projects through matched funding.

The fund-matching scheme in total funded **$479,412.83** to charitable, not for profit organisations and community groups to support local communities throughout New Zealand.

Over the 2025/26 period...

Northern Division initiated **36 Lodge and District/ Region Projects** and contributed **$66,985.45 - The Freemasons Charity funded $75,843.50**

Central Division initiated **23 Lodge and District/ Region Projects** and contributed **$69,319.90 - The Freemasons Charity funded $77,775**

Southern Division initiated **28 Lodge and District/ Region Projects** and contributed **$85,846.24 - The Freemasons Charity funded $103,642.74**

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Camp Purple Live - Crohn's and Colitis NZ

TFC granted $30,000 in support of Camp Purple Live 2026 to assist young people living with Crohn's and Colitis to attend the camp held at Waipara Adventure Centre in Canterbury in January 2026.

3. Education and Personal Development

Freemasons University Scholarships

The Freemasons Charity funded a total of $200,000 to provide the **2026 Freemasons University and Postgraduate Scholarships** to 28 students attending University in New Zealand. These scholarships are awarded annually.

Freemasons University Scholarships

The Freemasons Charity, in conjunction with the **Auckland Masonic Education Foundation Trust**, funds **$10,000 annually** for a Postgraduate Scholarship awarded to a University of Auckland student of engineering or the natural or formal sciences.

Lola Elvy
2026 Freemasons Orakei Scholarship Recipient



Special Olympics New Zealand (SONZ) – 2025 National Summer Games

Alongside the $125,000 donation provided in 2025 to support the National Summer Games in Christchurch, the Freemasons Charity directly engaged the Special Olympics Clubs nationwide, establishing a funding model and fund-matching programme to support the volunteers and athletes to attend the Summer Games through the support of the Lodges and Districts/Regions.

The Lodges and Districts/Regions fundraised an astounding total of **$108,109.87** to support their local SONZ Clubs' attendance at the 2025 Games. These amounts were matched 1:1 (Lodge) or 2:1 (District/Region) by TFC for a total of **$137,404.75.**

Northern Division

Lodges and Districts/Regions donated a total of $129,554.62 to Northern SONZ Clubs. This amount consisted of $56,829.87 raised by Lodges and Districts/Regions, and $72,724.75 matched by TFC.

Northern Special Olympics Clubs supported were **Rotorua, Papakura, Bay of Islands, Manukau, Tamaki, Hibiscus Coast, Greenhithe, North Harbour, Tauranga, Counties, Mangere, Thames Valley, Whangarei, Waikato, Howick-Pakuranga, and Waitakere.**

Central Division

Lodges and Districts/Regions donated a total of $58,560 to Central SONZ Clubs. This amount consisted of $24,280 raised by Lodges and Districts/Regions, and $34,280 matched by TFC.

Central Special Olympics Clubs supported were **Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Porirua, Kapiti, Wairarapa, Manawatu, Wanganui, Hutt Valley, Hawkes Bay and North Taranaki.**

Southern Division

Lodges and Districts/Regions donated a total of $57,400 to Southern SONZ Clubs. This amount consisted of $27,000 raised by Lodges and Districts/Regions, and $30,400 matched by TFC.

Southern Special Olympics Clubs supported were **Canterbury, South Canterbury, Otago, North Otago and Marlborough.**

The SONZ fund-matching programme in total funded **$245,514.62 supporting local Special Olympics Clubs across New Zealand attending and competing at the 2025 National Summer Games.**

4. Supporting Innovative and Quality Medical Research

Medical and scientific research has been supported with long term collaborations with the University of Otago, and the Malaghan Institute.

Child Health and Paediatrics Fellowships

The Freemasons Charity granted a total of $165,685.91 to support Child Health and Paediatric research at the University of Otago. TFC contributes annually towards student tuition fees and to research programmes developing innovative studies in Paediatrics.

TFC granted an additional $21,000 towards Child Health Summer Scholarships at the University of Otago.

Malaghan Institute of Medical Research – CAR-T-Cell Research Programme

The Freemasons Charity has been a long-standing supporter of the Malaghan Institute and their innovative medical research. **2026 is the final year of the existing three-year partnership with Malaghan where TFC provided funding of $200,000 per year as per the MoU.**



Lodge and Region Projects

2025-26 Central Lodge Projects

Central Lodges	Supported
The Manawatu Kilwinning Lodge No.47	Freemasons Willson Lewis Scholarship
The Manawatu Kilwinning Lodge No.47	Rei Kōtuku Charitable Trust
The United Lodge of Wanganui No.468	Special Olympics Wanganui Trust
Lodge Otaihape No.142	Friends Of Taihape Society
Lodge Rangitikei No.38	Marton School
Scinde Lodge No.5	The Scout Association of New Zealand
New Zealand Pacific No.2	Wellington South Community Patrol Charitable Trust Board
Westminster Lodge No.308	Wellington Free Ambulance Service (Incorporated)
The Saint Andrews Lodge No.32	Evolve Wellington Youth Service
The Saint Andrews Lodge No.32	Institute of Registered Music Teachers of New Zealand
Westminster Lodge No.308	Foster Hope Charitable Trust
Waihenga St Johns Lodge No.37	Capella Martin
Lodge Te Puni No.315	Stokes Valley Food Bank
Lodge Haeata No. 272	Young Musician of the Year

2025-26 Central Region Projects

Central District/Region	Supported
15 Ruapehu/ 4 Central North Island	Foxton Primary School
19 Kapiti-Wellington/ 5 Greater Wellington	The Little Miracles Trust
19 Kapiti-Wellington/ 5 Greater Wellington	Kilbirnie Lyall Bay Community Centre
19 Kapiti-Wellington/ 5 Greater Wellington	The Salvation Army New Zealand Trust
19 Kapiti-Wellington/ 5 Greater Wellington	The Mary Potter Hospice Foundation
19 Kapiti-Wellington/ 5 Greater Wellington	Alzheimer's Society
21 Hutt Wairarapa/ 5 Greater Wellington	The Scout Youth Foundation
21 Hutt Wairarapa/ 5 Greater Wellington	Upper Hutt Women's Centre Incorporated
21 Hutt Wairarapa/ 5 Greater Wellington	BARCA Academy

2025-26 Northern Lodge Projects

Northern Lodges	Supported
Lodge Kerikeri No.402	Powell-Van Beek Family
Lodge Hatea No.431	One Tree Point School x2
Lodge Te Papa No.316	Promotion for SONZ
Lodge Kerikeri No.402	Paihia Sea Scouts

Wellsford Marsden Lodge No.169	Sophie Townsend
Lodge Orewa No.370	The Starship Foundation
Okara Daylight Lodge No.461	Maerin Farrington
Lodge Hatea No.431	Mountains To Sea Conservation Trust
Lodge Parahaki No.269	Cancer Society of New Zealand Incorporated
Manukau-Westmere Lodge No.24	Everybody Eats Charitable Trust
The Ara Lodge No.1	Blood Cancer NZ
Manukau-Westmere Lodge No.24	The Scout Association of New Zealand
Manukau-Westmere Lodge No.24	Camp Quality New Zealand
Lodge Kauri No.474	Kiwi Quilters
The Ponsonby Lodge No.54	West Auckland Hospice
Manukau-Westmere Lodge No.24	Edmund Rice Justice Aotearoa/New Zealand Trust
The Ara Lodge No.1	Camp Quality New Zealand
Lodge Selwyn No.274	Torbay Theatre Incorporated
The Franklin Lodge No.58	Te Akonga Early Learning Centre
The Onehunga Lodge No.168	Give a Kid a Blanket Charitable Trust Board
The Franklin Lodge No.58	Pukekohe High School
The Franklin Lodge No.58	Waiuku College
Lodge Matariki No. 476	Manurewa Central School
Lodge Waikato No.475	The Kids in Need Waikato Charitable Trust
Lodge Copernicus No.505	The Ignite Arts Academy Cambridge
Nau Mai Lodge No.177	Kuratau School
Lodge Rotorua No.153	Rotorua People with Parkinsons

2025-26 Northern Region Projects

Northern District/Region	Supported
2 Auckland	Special Olympics New Zealand Foundation
2 Auckland	The Middlemore Foundation
2 Auckland	Harlequin Music Theatre Incorporated
2 Auckland	Camp Quality New Zealand
2 Auckland	Franklin Hospice Charitable Trust
2 Auckland	The Middlemore Foundation
6 Waikato/ 3 Kaimai	Prostate Cancer Foundation of New Zealand
7 Bay of Plenty/ 3 Kaimai	Aphasia New Zealand (AphasiaNZ) Charitable Trust

2025-26 Southern Lodge Projects

Southern Lodges	Supported
The Waitohi Lodge No.111	Hospice Community Nurses
Lodge of Progress No.22	Parafed Canterbury Games
United Forces Lodge No.245	Training Ship Godley

The Crown Lodge No.138	Board of Governors of Kirkpatrick House
Lodge of Progress No.22	Ellesmere College
United Forces Lodge No.245	Canterbury West Coast Air Rescue Trust
United Forces Lodge No.245	Hato Hone St John Future Care Fund
United Forces Lodge No.245	The North Canterbury Quilting Group
The Caledonian Lodge No.16	Temuka Community Garden x2
The Saint Bathans Lodge No.126	Manuherekia Valleys Charitable Trust
Lodge Wanaka No.277	Upper Clutha History Society Incorporated
Lodge Oamaru Kilwinning No.82	Oamaru-Dunedin Shuttle
Lake Lodge of Ophir No.85	Frankton Volunteer Fire Brigade Incorporated
Waikaka Lodge No.151	Otama Hall Society Incorporated (Inc. Society)
The Lodge of Remembrance No.318	Southland Multiple Sclerosis Society Incorporated
Lodge Kakapo No.471	The Chopper Appeal Charitable Trust Board

2025-26 Southern Region Projects

Southern District/Region	Supported
23/ 6 Nelson-Marlborough-West Coast	Celtic Pipe Band Incorporated
23/ 6 Nelson-Marlborough-West Coast	New Zealand Riding For The Disabled Association Incorporated
23/ 6 Nelson-Marlborough-West Coast	Greymouth Marist Rugby football club
23/ 6 Nelson-Marlborough-West Coast	The Scout Association of New Zealand
25/ 7 Canterbury	Athletics Canterbury Incorporated
25/ 7 Canterbury	Parafed Canterbury Incorporated
25/ 7 Canterbury	Make A Wish Foundation of New Zealand Trust
30/ 8 Otago	Royal New Zealand Foundation Of The Blind Incorporated
30/ 8 Otago	Koru Care (Otago) Charitable Trust
33 Southland/ 9 Southern	The Southland Charitable Hospital Trust
33 Southland/ 9 Southern	Cancer Society of New Zealand, Otago and Southland Division Inc

Our membership

Our total membership has followed the trend that has been evident since 2008 and earlier whereby new members and death of members are equalling each out to maintain a core, however resignations continue to drive members numbers to an overall deficit to membership. Consolidations and closures of Lodges contribute to this challenge that the Board is working to resolve.

Reporting Jul 2025 to Jun 2026

Month	Joined	Initiations	Passings	Raisings	Resigned	Removed	Suspended	Died
Jul 2025	45	27	15	12	12	0	0	11
Aug 2025	28	25	23	19	18	2	0	13
Sep 2025	29	21	16	16	10	1	0	13
Oct 2025	22	19	16	15	8	2	0	9
Nov 2025	24	19	23	18	13	0	0	7
Dec 2025	12	8	9	3	3	0	0	6
Jan 2026	4	2	0	0	3	3	0	12
Feb 2026	25	20	13	12	28	0	0	5
Mar 2026	24	19	19	17	45	5	0	8
Apr 2026	18	18	16	20	29	3	0	17
May 2026	16	14	26	15	37	14	0	13
Jun 2026	20	15	22	10	97	29	0	15
Total	**267**	**207**	**198**	**157**	**303**	**59**	**0**	**129**
Net change = 267 joined − 303 resigned − 59 removed − 0 suspended − 129 died					-224			
Members on the roll: 4526 at Jul 2025 → 4330 at Jun 2026					-196			

Freemasons New Zealand
FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Freemasons New Zealand Financial Snapshot

Income and Expenses For year ended 30 June 2026	2026 General Fund $	2026 Building Fund $	2026 Benevolence Fund $	2026 Total $	2025 General Fund $	2025 Building Fund $	2025 Benevolence Fund $	2025 Total $
Operating Income								
Capitation Fees	448,484	-	-	448,484	461,372	-		461,372
Other Income (including Administrative Services)	527,962	26,304	-	554,266	361,303	(3,970)		357,333
Member Contributions (net)	-	-	25,000	25,000	-	371,864		371,864
Building Fund Loans Interest and Rental Income	-	278,076	-	278,076	-	340,224		340,224
Total Operating Income	**976,446**	**304,380**	**25,000**	**1,305,826**	**822,675**	**708,118**	-	**1,530,793**
Operating Expenses								
National Office	755,901	-	-	755,901	716,383	-		716,383
Grand Lodge	571,062	-	-	571,062	324,188	-		324,188
Strategic Initiatives	-	-	-	-	12,122	-		12,122
Building Fund and Property Rental Expenses	-	313,460	-	313,460	-	183,238		183,238
Total Operating Expenses	**1,326,963**	**313,460**	-	**1,640,423**	**1,052,693**	**183,238**	-	**1,235,931**
Operating surplus/(deficit) before tax	**(350,517)**	**(9,080)**	**25,000**	**(334,597)**	**(230,018)**	**524,880**		**294,862**
Interest Received	101,244	62,286	34	163,564	154,247	59,843		214,090
Brokerage Commission Received	255,782	-	-	255,782	246,880	-		246,880
Surplus/(deficit) before tax	**6,509**	**53,206**	**25,034**	**84,749**	**171,109**	**584,723**	-	**755,832**
Taxation	109,256	41,925	6	151,187	62,089	7,212		69,301
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	**(102,747)**	**11,281**	**25,028**	**(66,438)**	**109,020**	**577,511**	-	**686,531**

Commentary

Freemason New Zealand's general operating activities (i.e. the General Fund) are kept seperate to the building operating activities (i.e. the Building Fund) and the Freemasons Benevolence donations (i.e. the Benevolence Fund).

The General Funds key sources of operating income are capitation fees and charging for administration services performed for various masonic charities, trusts and property companies. The General Fund's main operating costs are National Office costs (including staff, IT, administration costs, rent, general insurance etc) and Grand Lodge (including governance costs, ceremonial, annual communication and strategic initiaitives costs). The General Fund runs at an operating loss before non-operating income, which relates to bank interest and commissions from Heartland Bank deposit scheme.

The Building Fund charges interest on loans, rents on properties and receives lodge capital contributions relating to buildings. The Building funds operating expenses are mainly administration fees, property rental costs and EV charger costs. Resulting in the Building Fund having a surplus in the current year.

The Benevolence Fund has been set up during the year and segregates donations received for the benefit of Freemasons.

Net Assets As at 30 June 2026	2026 General Fund $	2026 Building Fund $	2026 Benevolence Fund $	2026 Total $	2025 General Fund $	2025 Building Fund $	2025 Benevolence Fund $	2025 Total $
Current Assets								
Bank Accounts	3,131,037	1,794,085	25,028	4,950,150	3,166,445	1,797,572	-	4,964,017
Other Current Assets	111,582	(24,420)	-	87,162	140,920	(791)	-	140,129
Total Current Assets	**3,242,619**	**1,769,665**	**25,028**	**5,037,312**	**3,307,365**	**1,796,781**	**-**	**5,104,146**
Non Current Assets								
Building Fund Investments	-	1,181,054	-	1,181,054	-	8,172,954	-	8,172,954
Property, Plant & Equipment	125,026	7,079,358	-	7,204,384	126,683	33,746	-	160,429
Total Non Current Assets	**125,026**	**8,260,412**	**-**	**8,385,438**	**126,683**	**8,206,700**	**-**	**8,333,383**
Total Assets	**3,367,645**	**10,030,077**	**25,028**	**13,422,750**	**3,434,048**	**10,003,481**	**-**	**13,437,529**
Current Liabilities	**186,482**	**24,858**	**-**	**211,340**	**150,138**	**9,543**	**-**	**159,681**
Net Assets	**3,181,163**	**10,005,219**	**25,028**	**13,211,410**	**3,283,910**	**9,993,938**	**-**	**13,277,848**

Commentary

Freemason New Zealand's General Funds net assets are kept seperate to the Building Funds and the Benevolence Fund net assets.

The General Fund's operating assets are predominantly in bank balances and deposits.

The Building Fund's investments are in property, property companies and property related loans. Property assets were reclassified in 2026 from investment property to property assets.

The Benevolence Fund balances are held in a seperate bank account.

Full audited financial accounts are on the Freemasons New Zealand website
www.freemasonsnz.org/blog/2026-annual-communication

Freemasons Charities
FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Freemasons Charities Financial Snapshot

Income and Expenses For year ended 30 June 2026	2026 Freemasons Charity $	2026 Potter Masonic Trust $	2026 Lawson-Smith Education Trust $	2026 Hugh McDougall Rankin Ed. Trust $	2026 Total $
Income					
Net Investment Income (realised and unrealised)	9,936,839	8,057,604	458,591	531,579	18,984,613
Bequests and Donations	39,001	10,250	-	-	49,251
Total Income	**9,975,840**	**8,067,854**	**458,591**	**531,579**	**19,033,864**
Expenses					
Grants and donations	1,394,613	1,195,281	21,910	58,400	2,670,204
Other expenses	363,224	191,263	40,000	19,754	614,241
Total Expenses	**1,757,837**	**1,386,544**	**61,910**	**78,154**	**3,284,445**
Surplus for the year	**8,218,003**	**6,681,310**	**396,681**	**453,425**	**15,749,419**

Income and Expenses For year ended 30 June 2026	2025 Freemasons Charity $	2025 Potter Masonic Trust $	2025 Lawson-Smith Education Trust $	2025 Hugh McDougall Rankin Ed. Trust $	2025 Total $
Income					
Net Investment Income (realised and unrealised)	3,336,829	3,623,815	186,475	216,572	7,363,691
Bequests and Donations	916,338	7,600	-	-	923,938
Total Income	**4,253,167**	**3,631,415**	**186,475**	**216,572**	**8,287,629**
Expenses					
Grants and donations	1,092,809	1,499,737	40,000	49,500	2,682,046
Other expenses	281,127	167,921	13,200	15,190	477,438
Total Expenses	**1,373,936**	**1,667,658**	**53,200**	**64,690**	**3,159,484**
Surplus for the year	**2,879,231**	**1,963,757**	**133,275**	**151,882**	**5,128,145**

Commentary

The Freemasons charities all had strong investment returns in 2026. This reflects the long-term investment strategy which matches our long term charitable objectives. The investment income is net of investment management and monitoring costs (including imputation credits not claimed). The gross investment returns (before management fees and costs) and related benchmark returns were:

	1 Year		3 Years	
	Portfolio	Benchmark	Portfolio	Benchmark
Freemasons Charity	24.3%	11.0%	51.5%	31.8%
Potter Masonic Trust - Investments	23.1%	10.6%	52.1%	32.8%
Potter Masonic Trust - Property	20.3%	11.1%	55.5%	33.4%
Lawson Smith Education Trust	21.3%	10.6%	49.8%	32.8%
Hugh McDougal Rankin Education Trust	21.0%	10.6%	48.3%	32.8%

Grants, donations and related expenses account for 81.3% (2024: 84.9%) of the charities expenditure. Other expenses includes the administration services fees charged by Freemasons New Zealand National Office.

Net Assets As at 30 June 2026	2026 Freemasons Charity $	2026 Potter Masonic Trust $	2026 Lawson-Smith Education Trust $	2026 Hugh McDougall Rankin Ed. Trust $	2026 Total $
Investments (current and non-current)	51,468,668	46,790,597	2,670,134	3,144,125	104,073,524
Other Assets (including bank balances)	197,910	54,322	3,772	3,678	259,682
Current Liabilities (accounts payable and accruals)	(61,423)	(14,265)	(4,520)	(4,519)	(84,727)
Net Assets	**51,605,155**	**46,830,654**	**2,669,386**	**3,143,284**	**104,248,479**

Net Assets As at 30 June 2025	2025 Freemasons Charity $	2025 Potter Masonic Trust $	2025 Lawson-Smith Education Trust $	2025 Hugh McDougall Rankin Ed. Trust $	2025 Total $
Investments (current and non-current)	43,167,550	40,132,262	2,273,570	2,694,096	88,267,478
Other Assets (including bank balances)	260,633	29,602	3,114	6,742	300,091
Current Liabilities (accounts payable and accruals)	(41,031)	(12,520)	(3,979)	(10,979)	(68,509)
Net Assets	**43,387,152**	**40,149,344**	**2,272,705**	**2,689,859**	**88,499,060**

Commentary

Investments are independently managed by JB Were under a Statement of Investment Policy & Objectives (SIPO) for each charity. The SIPOs were independently reviewed by EriksensGlobal Limited, investment consultants, during the year.

Full audited financial accounts are on the Freemasons New Zealand website
www.freemasonsnz.org/blog/2026-annual-communication








FREEMASONS
Supporting the Community
SCIENCE
Working with The Royal Society of New Zealand promoting science in school
PAEDIATRICS
Awarding annual fellowships in paediatrics and child health at the University of Otago
Howick Lodge #314
& The Freemasons Charity
19th February 2024
Howick Sailing Club
Six Thousand Dollars
$ 6,000.00




novus glass




PLEASE CLOSE DOOR
AUCKLAND
SPECIAL OLYMPICS NZ
2025 NATIONAL SUMMER GAMES
OTAUTAHI CHRISTCHURCH