

The quarterly newsletter
of the District Grand
Lodge of the South Island

DEGREES SOUTH



JULY 2011

COMMUNICATIONS 2011 - TIMARU

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The Annual Communications, held over the weekend of the 14th May were very well attended with a light-hearted reception taking place on the Friday evening which saw our Grand Director of Ceremonies demonstrating his considerable skill as an auctioneer, at the same time raising over \$800 for the Grand Charity. District Grand Lodge met on the Saturday afternoon and by now you should all have a copy of the minutes of that meeting (*please contact your Secretary if you have not*). After the Ladies' excursion in the afternoon everyone met up again in the evening for drinks followed by a generous banquet at the Sevenoaks Reception Centre in Timaru, where the raffle raised a further \$600.



The afternoon had seen the elevation of W Bro Ken Borland (*right*) to Deputy District Grand Master and W Bro David Stenning (*left*) moving up to Assistant District Grand Master. These moves made way for a number of Promotions in District Grand Lodge, all of which are detailed in your minutes. In his address the District Grand Master made reference to the Mentoring Programme, Freemasonry Cares (see Page 2) and a tantalising glimpse into the future of the Royal Arch (more to follow in a future issue). He went on to thank W Bro Roly Veitch for all his hard work over the past 10 years, first as AsstDGM and then as DepDGM.



FROM THE DISTRICT GRAND MASTER

Fraternal Greetings to all Brethren and their families.

This year we have seen the conclusion of another successful Annual Communications Meeting and on your behalf I offer grateful thanks to The Lodge of St John for their skill, dedication and hospitality. Bev and I enjoyed meeting with all of you who made yourselves available to come to this meeting and the social events associated with it.

Brethren, during my address to the meeting I made mention of several new initiatives that we will be looking at during the forthcoming year. You will recall that I asked each Lodge to appoint a Lodge Mentoring Coordinator at their next meeting and to pass this name on to Wor. Bro. Peter Sherrif of the Southern Star Lodge. **Have you complied with this request?**

There are two other matters that I wish to bring to the Lodges attention and these are the roles of Lodge Almoner and Charity Stew-

ard. Would the Lodges now forward to me the names and addresses (physical or e-mail) of the brethren who hold these positions. There will be a new set of ideas for these offices so we can move them out of the traditional "look inside the box" attitude that we have adopted over the years. We intend that these roles become more pro-active in the near future and I need to be able to discuss these ideas with those directly involved.

Your Lodge Secretary should also have passed on to you a short survey re this years Communications - if he hasn't done so please hassle him until he does! I need these returned to your Lodge Secretary and I want him to register all replies as they are received. I am probably being a bit optimistic in saying I would like a 100% return but if they are recorded then I can contact those who didn't reply and also

obtain their views so we can make our Communications even more enjoyable and something that our Brethren will want to come to.

The meeting of Masters/Wardens and Master Masons brought up some interesting comments not the least of which was a perceived lack of communication from the District Grand Master and the Officers of the District. Brethren, my door is always open (mail, e-mail, phone or fax) if you want to know about a particular project, problem or query and I am sure that the same applies to the District Officers in your Lodge. After each board meeting it is expected that these representatives will report back to their Lodge at the next meeting.

In closing I wish you all well in the year ahead - remember we may all be individuals but if we work together then we can copy the TEAM model - Together Everyone Achieves More!

Geoffrey W Rowe
District Grand Master

IMPORTANT DATES

- 3RD SEPTEMBER, GREY-MOUTH INSTALLATION
- 12TH SEPTEMBER, THE LODGE OF ST JOHN INSTALLATION
- 21ST SEPTEMBER, DUNEDIN INSTALLATION

W BRO ROLY VEITCH STANDS DOWN AFTER 10 YEARS

Our Past Deputy District Grand Master is finding things rather strange after 10 years and now having no engagements to fulfil. Roly says “I have no regrets in the offices which were filled in that time...I certainly hope that I haven’t disappointed any particular Brother in the duties which were open to the positions”. He went on to recall how the then District Grand Master RW Bro Geoff Friend managed to track him down in Australia in order to ask him to fill the position of Assistant District Grand Master, “I was indeed overwhelmed. In fact I know other Brethren in the District weren't best pleased—they certainly felt that they

should have been asked”. Over the years Roly made many friends, especially in the other three constitutions. “Brethren, you never forget”. He went on to thank RW Bro Geoff Rowe for his kind words at the Annual Communications Meeting and also the District for presenting him with the regalia of a Past Junior Grand Deacon. Roly’s best wishes go to W Bro Dave Stenning and W Bro Ken Borland for the future, “both officers are extremely capable and deserve the positions.” “Good Luck District”

Whereas most people would wish to relax and put their feet up after 10 years of endless commitment and many thousands of kilometres of travel, Roly takes up the Seniors Deacon’s wand at the Lodge of St John in September. The Brethren of that Lodge feel extremely lucky to have such a knowledgeable and committed member of their team of officers for next year and Degrees South wishes him all the very best in this role, and for the future. A big thank you from all of us, Roly, for what you have done for the District Grand Lodge of the South Island.

“A big thank you from all of us, Roly, for what you have done for the District Grand Lodge of the South Island”

FREEMASONRY CARES



We all hope we will never face financial hardship or major health problems, need help supporting our children or require extra care in our old age. In reality thousands of people every year need a little extra assistance and a newly launched service is making sure that people who need that support are getting it. Known as Freemasonry Cares, it is a gateway to the help available to Freemasons, their families and dependants from the four central masonic charities. Anyone with a masonic connection who has a real financial, healthcare, or family need can access guidance and advice on the support available to them using email help@freemasonrycares.org or website www.freemasonrycares.org

‘The co-location of the charities at Freemasons’ Hall means we are now working closer together than ever before’ says Natasha Treweek of The Freemasons’ Grand Charity. Freemasonry Cares is the logical next step in the relationship and makes it really easy for people to get the information they need about the help available’.

Natasha is part of the working group which has been developing Freemasonry Cares and hopes that the initiative will mean more people will be aware of the support available and encouraged to approach the charities for help.

‘We know that some people who could be assisted by the Masonic charities are not asking us for help. A lot of the time this is either because they don’t know that the support is available or they think they won’t qualify and don’t pursue it. The central Masonic charities are committed to addressing this problem and Freemasonry Cares means that anyone seeking support can access the services of all four charities via a joint telephone number, email address and website. We have also produced a leaflet explaining the support available, which we will be encouraging Freemasons to share with their family and fellow Freemasons.’

ELIGIBILITY

What does ‘a Masonic connection’ mean?

People with a Masonic connection include:

- All current and former Freemasons under the United Grand Lodge of England
- Dependants of a Freemason, former Freemason or deceased Freemason. For example, wife, widow, partner, child.

In some cases other relatives who are clearly linked to a Freemason, former Freemason or a deceased Freemason. For example, grandchild, adult child, sister, sister-in-law, father, father-in-law, grandmother, grandmother-in-law.

What do you mean by the dependant of a Freemason?

A dependant is someone whom the Freemason has the responsibility for looking after. In most cases this will mean that the Freemason supports the person financially, but it may also mean that they are the primary carer for the individual or have another important role in their life. Where the Freemason is deceased, the person may have been supported by the Freemason whilst they were alive or the person may be reliant on the Freemason’s estate.

Why are only people with a Masonic connection eligible?

Freemasonry Cares offers guidance on the help available from the central Masonic Charities to individuals. These Charities were established to support Freemasons, their families and other dependants and are primarily funded by donations from Freemasons. Under the guidelines set down by the Charities, to qualify for support an individual will usually require a Masonic connection. In choosing to support a specific group of individuals the Charities are similar to the many occupational and organisational benevolent funds, which provide services based on a common interest. For example, the RSA is dedicated to supporting those with a connection to the military. In the case of Freemasonry Cares, the common interest is Freemasonry.



Health and Care Support

FROM THE DEPUTY DISTRICT GRAND MASTER

Once again the Annual Communications were an enjoyable occasion for those who made the effort to attend. Congratulations to Berry and his team for a job well done.

To those Brethren who have gained District Rank I look forward to working with you during the year and I have no doubt that you will fulfil your commitments with dignity, decorum and the dedication that is expected of you, after all, we set the standards for the Lodge brethren to aspire to.

I officially visited both the Ashburton and Winchester lodges and have attended the Installations of Cargill Kilwinning (SC) and the Caledonian Lodge (NZ).

The Cargill Kilwinning Installation was held in Ashburton and it was great to see the 4 constitutions present. As their installation is held in the first degree only, it was a pity that there was only one brother there below the rank of Master Mason, perhaps this may be because the Lodges do not

realise that this is the case.

Very Wor Bro Alan Glasson Dist GM Midland Dist officially received me and the District Grand Lodge officers who accompanied me at the recent Caledonian installation in Timaru where the Lodge accorded me the opportunity to Address their Wardens.

The next few weeks are going to be busy with the installations of Winchester, Canterbury and Phoenix lodges, as well as the St Patricks (Irish C) in Dunedin. I have also accepted an invitation from VW Bro John Marshall DGM Southland to attend the installation of the Waihopah Lodge in Invercargill which is the Mother Lodge of my 4 brothers where I have again been invited to address the Wardens.

I sincerely hope the new Earthquakes have not affected our Christchurch Brethren too badly.

Best wishes to all and keep warm during the Winter months fraternally

Ken Borland, *Deputy District Grand Master*

ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE...

101 years ago...22nd February 1910, the Pacific Lodge of Hokitika 1229 E.C. held a consecration meeting for their new Lodge rooms in Revell Street South Hokitika, and following day held their annual Installation meeting. This Lodge was the first of many to be established on the West Coast, with its origins dating back to 1866, they used a variety of local hotel buildings and from 1876 to 1910 were a tenant in Westland Kilwinning's rooms.

This Lodge was first 467 S.C. and, from 1892, no 88 N.Z.C. From 1939 until its closure in the late 1970's Westland Kilwinning, first as Pacific's tenants then as joint building owners used the building.

Pacific Lodge of Hokitika 1229 transferred its charter to Amberley in April 1978, this started a major argument with the Grand Lodge of New Zealand which was to last some 8 years...but that is another story.

The rooms lay idle for a few years and in July 1991 the land and buildings were sold to the Hokitika Dramatic Society and, since then, that group has modernised and refurbished, using the complex for their many public theatre shows. Within the interior bits and pieces of the original lodge rooms are still recognisable, and inside the front foyer is a beautiful rimu, lodge secretary's table with a small plaque affixed. reading..."In Memory of W Bro. E. M. Best, Secretary of Pacific Lodge of Hokitika 1229 E.C. Who Laid Down His Life at Koiterangi, October 1941. At Duty's Call He Gave His All." W Bro. Ted

Best was one of seven men murdered, in what became known as the Graham massacre. The Hokitika Dramatic Society has improved the Revell Street frontage of the building, and have named the premises "The Old Lodge Theatre." A nice gesture to the past. Much Masoinc furniture still resides in the Hokitika Museum. More information about Pacific Lodge of Hokitika and their rooms can be found in W Bro Doug Stapleton's book "The Pacific Lodge of Hokitika" its history released in February 2007. ISBN 978-0473-11942-3.

Meanwhile, over the other side of the Mainland, May of last year saw the opening of the Lodge Theatre in the old Geraldine Lodge rooms. Geraldine Lodge handed back its charter to the Grand Lodge of New Zealand in 2005 but wished the Lodge building to be put to a good community cause. Consequently it was sold to the Geraldine Players who, after some years of fundraising, secured enough money to convert the building to a 91 seat theatre. The Geraldine Players have been putting on performances for the community since the 1920's and probably date back as far as the building itself. The conversion has been beautifully carried out and has incorporated the honours board of Lodge 29 as well as a large square and compasses and the Lodge's charity record on other walls.

These two legacies to Community Arts are a fitting tribute to the men of these lodges who, I'm sure, would be proud to see the fruits of their labours living on long after their Lodges have ceased.

"These two legacies to Community Arts are a fitting tribute to the men of these lodges ..."

FROM THE GRAND CHARITY

WEBSITE: 23 FEBRUARY 2011.

(WWW.GRANDCHARITY.ORG)

£30,000 FOLLOWING NEW ZEALAND EARTHQUAKE.

In response to a severe earthquake, which took place on Tuesday in Christchurch, New Zealand, the President of the Grand Charity has approved an emergency grant of **£30,000** to the British Red Cross to assist with their recovery appeal. The Red

Cross has launched an emergency appeal which will be used to support the New Zealand Red Cross response to the disaster. This grant follows a £10,000 grant that was given following a large earthquake in the same area in September 2010. On that occasion the money was passed to the District Grand Master's appeal on behalf of the Mayor of Christchurch Earthquake Relief Fund, which was to help the wider community with their immediate needs following the earthquake.

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Deadlines:

September 30th for the October edition

December 31st for the January 2012 edition

March 31st for the April 2012 edition

June 30th for the July 2012 edition

FREEMASON'S GOLF TOURNAMENT

The tournament was organised by Graham Robertson and held at the Hagley Park course on 12th June. There were 7 lodges represented on the course and another 3 for lunch. As a result a cheque for \$290 was sent to the Canterbury Masonic Charitable Trust which included some from the Weedons tournament of 2008. Results of this Ambrose format tournament were:-

G Rowe, G Robertson, K & P Boanas **Gross 53**

A Fussell, J Worsfold, K Down, D Gregson,
D Lyons **Gross 55**

Mr & Mrs R Adams, Mr & Mrs G Sigley **Gross 58**

R Davis, D Eveleigh, D McKay, G Brown **Gross 59**

Ladies' longest drive No.6 Mrs E Adams

Men's longest drive No.6 G Robertson

Nearest the pin No.12 K Down

THIS ISSUE'S CAPTION COMPETITION



The picture above shows Conyer's Lodge meeting in their newly refurbished Lodge Room. If you look closely you can make out the Junior Deacon and W Bro Wooster (*extreme left*) communicating by text on their mobile phones. What do you suppose they might be saying to each other? Bottle of wine to the most original suggestion. (*As ever, Editor's decision final - if approved by "her indoors"*)

IDENTIFY THE CYCLIST—COMPETITION RESULT

Yes the answer was indeed our Deputy District Grand Master, W Bro Ken Borland. Alistair Macpherson was our worthy winner, if you discount the cyclist himself who rang within a few hours of Degrees South being published on the website! Good try Ken but in all fairness you did, perhaps, have a little inside information - notwithstanding any short term memory loss you may be experiencing at your age! W Bro Macpherson has kindly asked for the wine to be raffled - many thanks .

Note from the Editor

This issue completes the quartet of Degrees South for the 2010/11 year and I have to say how much I have enjoyed producing them. My thanks go to those Brethren who have supplied me with the material for inclusion that has made the publication that much more interesting and readable and also to the messages of encouragement I have received from so many people. I feel that I have made many new friends in the district during the past year and I hope to make many more over the coming 12 months as I take on the Mastership of the Lodge of St John.

A DAILY ADVANCEMENT IN MASONIC KNOWLEDGE - MENTORING

The purpose of the Mentoring Programme is to ensure that every new member enjoys being a Freemason, understands what it is about and becomes involved in his Lodge - its ritual working and other activities. Lodges which accomplish this have enthusiastic and committed members who are not only an asset to their Lodge and Freemasonry in general, but also keen to encourage their friends to join as well. One person alone cannot achieve this objective. The Lodge as a whole must welcome, involve, and value its new members. We are receiving them into our Order and their attitude and reaction to us and to Masonry in general will depend on how we treat them.

It is therefore the responsibility of every Lodge to look after its members and give them all the information they need at each stage of their Masonic development. Whilst Lodges may adopt differing procedures for doing this, the Mentoring Scheme recommends the appointment of a senior and experienced Brother as Mentor to each new member. Each Candidate needs a Mentor to whom he can relate and who is readily available at any time to answer questions. The Mentoring Co-ordinator of the Lodge acts as Team Leader. He selects two or



three Brethren of experience and knowledge to act as individual Mentors for newly initiated Brethren. It is important that these Mentors have (or establish) good relations and close communication with the Brethren they are mentoring.

The scheme suggests a series of meetings, though these can be very informal, and covers the period from a man first identifying himself as a potential candidate to when he is Masonically mature.

Mentoring is not new. We have always done it, but not on an organised and systematic basis. The prime responsibility for Mentoring a young Mason has always rested with his Proposer and Seconder. It still does. However, sometimes they are not able to do the job well, so back-up is essential.

The Lodge Mentoring co-ordinator makes sure Mentoring is done well, identifies suitable people to fill any gaps and makes sure the resources needed are available.

*More details are available from
W Bro Peter Sheriff District Grand Mentor*