

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

# DEGREES SOUTH



JANUARY 2012

## SUPPORT FROM THE ROCK

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The District Grand Lodge of Gibraltar, on hearing of the difficulties facing the South Island in the aftermath of the earthquakes of last year, decided to seek a unique and tangible way of expressing support for the South Island District. As one of the smaller UGLE Districts it was not in their power to relieve necessities in any significant way, so it was decided to present a hand crafted, boxed set of working tools as a token of that District's mindfulness of our adversities and of their support and fellowship.

Consequently W Bro Julio Hernandez set about constructing the tools pictured here which were presented to RW Bro Geoff Rowe on his recent trip overseas.

RW Bro Rowe commented on how impressed and touched he had been to receive such a gift and how, even though we live in such a far flung corner of the world, we continued to be in the minds of Brethren everywhere, including one of the smallest UGLE Districts.



## HISTORIC VESSEL GIFTED TO MUSEUM

A little-known piece of World War One history has just been gifted by W Bro Allan Williams (pictured right) to the maritime museum in Auckland. The 99-year-old launch Nautilus began life as a river boat on the Avon and the Estuary before it ferried wounded Anzac soldiers from the shores of Gallipoli to the hospital ship Marama during World War I. It also operated a ferry service from Lyttelton to Corsair Bay during the Depression. Built in Auckland in 1912 the

original owner had little time to enjoy it as the Nautilus was commandeered by the Navy in 1915 to help ANZAC soldiers injured in the Gallipoli campaign.

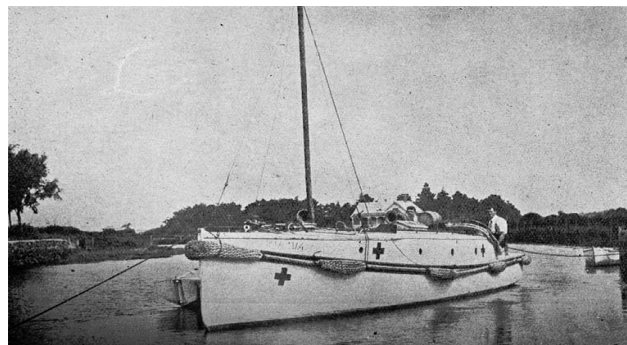
"There are many people in NZ now whose relatives were saved by this little boat in Gallipoli," says Allan.

"It serviced backwards and forwards, taking the wounded from Gallipoli shores back to hospital ship," says Allan. Six stretchers were squeezed into its tiny cabins to deliver soldiers to the much larger Marama for treatment.



Picture by Dean Kozanic

Allan's son convinced him to buy the Nautilus after it caught his eye in Lyttelton Harbour 25 years ago. Over the years it's been lovingly restored - even the bullet holes scarring its kauri body have been patched up. "Restoring the boat has taken over two decades and a huge amount of money but has been a labour of love" according to Allan. "After all the work we've had done on it - it would be a pity not to see it looked after in the future. And at the Maritime Museum, I know it will be," he says.



Home from its travels, the Nautilus of New Brighton, back in the New Brighton Motor-boat club's anchorage on the Avon after 2 1/2 years' service with the hospital ship, Marama. [1918] (Christchurch City Library)

### IMPORTANT DATES

- 28TH JANUARY, WINCHESTER'S CHEESE, WINE AND STRAWBERRY EVENING
- 22ND FEBRUARY, PACIFIC LODGE OF HOKITIKA INSTALLATION
- 1ST MARCH, CONYERS LODGE INSTALLATION
- 12TH MARCH, LAZAR LODGE INSTALLATION
- 27TH MARCH, CANTERBURY LODGE INSTALLATION
- 18TH & 19TH MAY, ANNUAL COMMUNICATIONS AT WESTPORT

## PRO GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS - DECEMBER

Extracted from the Quarterly Communications of 14th December 2011...

**Mentoring** has essentially three stages. The first two are in many ways obvious as they cover logistics, basic ritual meaning and developing a sense of belonging and the third – how to talk about our Freemasonry to the non Mason – needs more explanation as it links in with our overall communications strategy. A strategy that supports an external facing organisation and underpins our new ambassadors' scheme.

The first stage is for each candidate to understand the basic logistics that are involved in becoming a Freemason. It is really about a proper welcome. I am not going into that detail today – other than to say that a candidate should never feel under briefed and should be made aware of his financial and time commitment. During this stage the personal mentor answers any questions the candidate may have for him to gain a sense of belonging. In other words, there should never be any surprises.

The second stage is to understand the basics of the ritual, especially after initiation and then passing and raising. But this understanding should be about the ability to answer questions about the myths that non Masons have – so that right from the start, members can counter the questions about the so-called funny hand shakes and then the nooses and trouser leg being rolled up – all these classics. The questions on the myths need to be answered accurately and without embarrassment. I am not talking about an in depth knowledge, but more a common understanding. The Mentor can, of course, point them in the right direction for this additional and important information as they require it. It is not, however, part of the new mentoring scheme.

We all understand the need to look after candidates, but it is the third stage of giving the confidence – from the very outset – in order that you can speak to, in particular, family and friends about Freemasonry. That, Brethren, is

vital to ensuring the future. A candidate – and this applies equally to the rest of us – needs to understand how to talk to the non Mason about what Freemasonry means. The aim is to have as many members as possible as ambassadors to Freemasonry.

Brethren let me say straightaway that an ambassador is not a rank or office - it is a mode of behaviour. On the fundamental understanding that we recruit only people who live up to our principles – an ambassador will not only understand the basics of ritual but also, importantly will be able and willing, with our support and guidance, to talk to family and friends about their Freemasonry as and when appropriate. We need to have confidence in them to do so appropriately. To quote the Grand Master, "Talking openly about Freemasonry, as appropriate, is core to my philosophy, central to our communications strategy and essential to the survival of Freemasonry as a respected and relevant membership organisation".

It is with these three stages in mind that the Grand Secretary's working party is producing brief and succinct guidelines for the Mentor to give, in turn, to the personal mentors.

So Brethren the mentoring scheme is in place and evolving. In March you will vote on whether you wish the appointment of Mentor to be an optional additional office. In essence I see mentoring as a "light touch" resulting in everyone enjoying their Freemasonry even more and feeling comfortable and confident talking to their family and friends in an informed and relaxed way.

Mentoring is progressing well in our Districts. Since the last Quarterly Communication I have travelled to Auckland, North Island New Zealand to install the new District Grand Master. It was good to see that they were in excellent spirits. We should however continue to keep in mind the hardship of our Brethren in the South Island after the earthquakes and the severe damage that was caused, whilst remembering the continuing after shocks that they are still experiencing on a regular basis.

*"Talking openly about Freemasonry, as appropriate, is core to my philosophy, central to our communications strategy and essential to the survival of Freemasonry as a respected and relevant membership organisation"*

*Grand Master*



### CHAMPION CYCLIST SPEAKS TO ASHBURTON LODGE

Olympic hopeful, track cyclist Lauren Ellis was the guest speaker at Ashburton Lodge's Christmas function last month. Pictured here with her grandparents, John and Jeanette Lovett.

Lauren enjoyed a very successful 2011 which saw her, along with Alison Shanks and Jaime Nielsen, shatter the national team pursuit record and clock up the fastest time in the world at sea level that year. Proud grandfather John is a member of the Ashburton Lodge

## FROM THE ASSISTANT DGM

Greetings Brethren. With Christmas done, another year rolls over to a new 2012, I hope that all you wish for turns into reality. For all of you who suffered so badly from the adverse effects of 2011, I hope this will be a better year for you.

However there were a few brighter spots to the latter part of the year, masonically speaking, in Top of the South. September we travelled down to Grey-mouth for their installation, which was a huge success thanks to Wor Bro Ken Borland who brought up a large party from the South by train. We had a wonderful time with our wives, partners and friends getting together in the local hostelrys and shopping centres. Although I did find time to do some work by putting Wor Bro Les (Ginger) Briggs firmly into the chair of his Lodge for another year on the Saturday afternoon. A short refectory was held afterwards for official toasts followed later by the installation dinner held in the Kingsgate Hotel which was most enjoyable. The only dark cloud over the whole proceedings was when Wor Bro Arthur Thompson had a bad fall in the hotel and had to be taken to hospital where he was well looked after. Unfortunately Arthur died a few weeks later and our condolences go out to his family.

October saw the installation of Bro Jeffery Grimmett being well placed into the chair of Southern Star Lodge. I was assisted in this ceremony by Wor Bro Ken Borland who is a very great friend of the Grimmett family. It was a very grand affair attended by many brethren and friends from many parts of the South Island. Congratulations go out to Wor Bro Jeff and his lovely wife Sally for putting on a most enjoy-

able afternoon for the ladies and the fabulous Installation dinner in the evening.

In November Fran and I attended a Christmas dinner and party held for the girls of Kirkpatrick house which was organised by V Wor Bro Ron Hiscoke, his wife Elaine and the brethren of the Kirkpatrick house committee. Unfortunately we have just heard recently that Ron is very ill in Nelson Hospital, our thoughts go out to him and Elaine.

An Official invitation to the Installation of Bro Quentin Barridge of the Forest Lodge No 116 by V Wor Bro Derek Nees, DGM Nelson/Marlborough NZC, was well received and thoroughly enjoyed by myself and the Officers of District who accompanied me. This was a unique meeting as it was held on a Saturday morning followed by a midday luncheon, and sadly being the last meeting of the lodge to be held in Wakefield. They have now transferred their meetings to Nile Street in Nelson.

Following this meeting I went home and decided to do some work out in the garden for the afternoon, resulting in falling down a bank and breaking my right ankle. This was great timing in the preparation for Christmas with grandchildren and their respective parents arriving in a few weeks from the UK, Australia and Auckland. Fran did a wonderful job with the extra duties and yours truly hobbling about getting in the way and trying to do what he could. I can now report the body has well repaired itself and I'm back up on two legs without any problems, looking forward to the year ahead.

In spite of this set back, we had a great Christmas and New Year. I hope you did.



*"...I went home and decided to do some work out in the garden for the afternoon, resulting in falling down a bank and breaking my right ankle"*

## THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR AND FRIDAY 13TH

January 2012 sees yet another Friday 13th; just why is that day considered unlucky? Interestingly enough it has often been linked to the demise of the Knights Templar. The whole superstition regarding the unluckiness of Friday 13th arose when, on Friday, October 13, 1307, King Philip IV of France ordered the simultaneous arrest and imprisonment of all the available Knights Templar, and the confiscation of all their worldly goods. Because of this unwarranted persecution of the Knights Templar, all down the ages, Friday the thirteenth has been considered an unlucky day ever since.

Those arrested were tortured into confessing such misdeeds as heresy, treason and idolatry; all capital offenses. Over the next seven years executions were carried out with many Knights Templar burnt at the stake, including (on Friday 13th March, 1314) the elderly leader of the Order, Grand Master Jacques de Molay. As he was burnt at the stake, he faced the Notre Dame Cathedral, his hands folded in prayer. He said: "God knows who has sinned. Soon a calamity will occur to those who have condemned us to death."

Pope Clement, who was instrumental in disbanding the Knights Templar, died only a month later, and King Philip, who ordered the capture, persecution and death of the Knights Templar, died mysteriously in a hunting accident before the end of the year.

How did this come about, that these proud knights in armour, responsible for escorting pilgrims to the Holy Land and the most respected knights in the

land, with their vows of poverty, chastity and obedience rigorously adhered to and their sacred mission of protecting the pilgrims in the most holy of all places on earth - how did these perfect, gentle knights manage to offend not only their sovereign king but the pope, as well? And to the degree that the infamous persecution has its own unlucky aura surrounding that day, or indeed any Friday the thirteenth, for the next 700 years?

Even though the original vows included a vow of poverty, and the individual knights adhered to the rule as far as personal expenditures, they, as an organization, had become extremely wealthy over time, forming the first international banking system of any kind, and accruing wealth and estates through pious gifts of landowners wishing to finance the Crusades. King Philip was deeply in debt to the Knights Templar and Pope Clement owed his position to King Philip's influence, primarily. That's one way to cancel the debt - kill all the persons you are indebted to and confiscate their wealth.

A document known as the "Chinon Parchment" was found in the Vatican Secret Archives, in 2001. It had been apparently "misplaced" since around 1628. It is a record of the trial of the Templars, and shows that Pope Clement had absolved the Templars of all heresies, posthumously for the most part, in 1308, before completely dissolving the Order of the Templars. The Roman Catholic Church nowadays admits that the medieval persecution of the Knights Templar was unjust.



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#### Deadlines:

March 31st for the April 2012 edition

June 30th for the July 2012 edition

September 30th for the October 2012 edition

December 31st for the January 2013 edition

**January 25th - Bro Robert Burns ' Anniversary**

*The joys refin'd of sense and taste,  
With every muse to rove:  
And doubly were the poet blest,  
These joys could he improve.*



## THIS ISSUE'S CAPTION COMPETITION



Carrying on with the automotive theme, this issue's picture shows our District Grand Master and W Bro John Foster in deep and serious discussion at the combined Winchester and St. John Christmas Luncheon last month. The subject of the conversation appears to be John's beautiful Delaunay-Belleville vintage car. (As ever, Editor's decision final - if approved by "her indoors")

## PREVIOUS CAPTION CONTEST-RESULT



Although it pains the editor somewhat to relate, our adjudicator decided that W Bro Ken Borland's caption of "Two old seeds in a tomato" tickled her fancy enough to award the bottle of wine to our Deputy District Grand Master. Congratulations to Ken - the bottle of wine will be catapulted towards you when you least expect it!

## A DAILY ADVANCEMENT IN MASONIC KNOWLEDGE - THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER

The custom in every lodge of electing by ballot a new Master each year is of time-immemorial, although there is evidence to show that in many of the early eighteenth-century lodges Masters were elected to serve for six instead of twelve months. The Master is elected from those of the members of the lodge who have served the office of Master or Warden, or who, in very exceptional cases, have been rendered eligible by dispensation. The Old MS. Charges appear to indicate that the Master, many centuries ago, was simply an experienced craftsman presiding over the lodge, and, so far as we can see, the idea of his ruling his lodge by virtue of his possession of peculiar secrets was not within the comprehension of our ancient brethren; but in this matter there is room for many different opinions. The same appears to apply to the old Scottish operative lodges.

To-day, in the speculative lodges throughout the world, a Master is one who has been elected to the office by his Brethren, and who has passed through a special ceremony of Installation, in the course of which secrets peculiar to the Master's chair have been communicated to him; but essentially the Master must always be a Brother who is well qualified by years of service as member and officer of the lodge to govern his Brethren in wise understanding. The rule that a Master should first have served as a Warden is also an old one. It was not always observed in the early speculative lodges, but it goes right back into the history of the craft guilds from which masonry draws its system of government by Masters and Wardens. Every Master in the old days, as in the new, solemnly pledged himself to observe the ancient usages and established customs, and strictly to enforce them within his lodge. It is he who is responsible for the due observance of the Ma-

sonic laws by the lodge over which he presides. We pay respect to the ruler of a lodge by addressing him as 'Worshipful Master.' On an earlier page it was pointed out that to be 'worshipful' is to be 'honoured.' Thus the 'Worshipful' Master is the 'Honoured' Master, even as the magistrate is 'Your Worship,' or, in other words, 'Your Honour.' In a great many lodges in the eighteenth century the Master was 'Right Worshipful,' a form of address now the exclusive privilege of certain Grand Officers. The custom of calling the Master the 'Right Worshipful Master' ceased about the time of the union in 1813, although we find it used in a Kendal Lodge up to 1819.

Outside freemasonry the use of the term 'Right Worshipful' must be of ancient standing, for in Pepys's Diary for August 4, 1661, a clergyman addresses his congregation as "Right Worshipful and Dearly Beloved." The celebrated Paul Revere, presiding as Grand Master at a Washington lodge, Massachusetts, at the end of the eighteenth century, addressed himself to the "Right Worshipful Master, Worshipful Wardens and Respected Brethren." In La Césarée Lodge, Jersey, the Master was at one time addressed as 'Venerable Master,' following an old French custom, which is still observed.

Grand Masters have always had the right of visiting a lodge within their jurisdiction, and, if they so wished, of presiding on the occasion of their visit. This right is enjoyed by the Pro Grand Master as well as by the Deputy and Assistant Grand Master and by the Provincial or District Grand Master. With a Brother of such exalted rank in the chair, the Master of the lodge sits on his immediate left, whereas when, as is sometimes the case, the Master of a lodge gives up his chair to a Past Master to work a ceremony, he sits to that Past Master's immediate right, or, it may be, to the right of any Grand Officer having a prior right to preside.

(An extract from "The Freemasons' Guide and Compendium" by Bernard E Jones)