

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

DEGREES SOUTH



NOVEMBER 2013

LODGE NIGHT 1759 PROMISES A GREAT DAY OUT FOR EVERYONE

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IMPORTANT DATES

- Saturday 18th January -
The Winchester
Strawberry Night
- 1st February Lodge Night
1759 at West Melton

W Bro Bruce Russell and W Bro Ron Sutherland have hatched a plan to entertain, instruct and promote Freemasonry whilst at the same time eat, drink and socialise with Brethren, families and friends.

A group of would be thespians have been gathered, briefed and formed into the South Island District Ancient Ritual Demonstration Team (SIDARDT).

A well researched script has been obtained depicting a first degree ceremony as probably took place in the year 1759 - previously most notable for the battle of Quebec; soon to be best known for the initiation into Freemasonry of a Master Frederick Green, a breeches maker.

This demonstration will take place in a marquee at the property of W Bro Russell at West Melton on Saturday 1st February 2014. Signs, tokens, words etc are not involved so all will be welcome to attend. The audience will be transported back to 1759 by the team dressed in authentic costume who will set the Lodge room as it would have been in the 18th century.



Members of the Burnley & Pendle 1759 Antient Ritual Demonstration Team

The team's demonstration will start with the arrival of the Tyler who lights the candles, then the members of the lodge will arrive and the audience will be able to hear the banter between them. As the ale starts to flow, the banter and ceremony will become intertwined and very entertaining. Ticket and timing information will be distributed to Lodge Secretaries very soon.

FROM THE DISTRICT GRAND MASTER

Greetings to all Brethren and their families, Christmas is only a few weeks away and I am left wondering where the year has gone. We seem to have been extremely busy this year with Lodge and Chapter meetings all around the District and I wish to thank you all for your generous support at these meetings.

This coming year promises to be another busy one with planning to be done for the 2017, 300th Anniversary of The United Grand Lodge of England. Have you started to make your own personal plans for this trip? It is intended that we make a block booking for flights and accommodation but as far as an itinerary goes this has yet to be discussed. We will be forming a "working committee" to start the proceedings - if you would like to be part of the organising group please let me know.

As we move towards the conclusion of this year I would like to thank the DDGM - Ken, the ADGM - Dave, the DGSec - Ron, the DGTreas. - Peter and the Pres. Of the Board and Trust - Ian. There are many of our District Officers who have also given sterling service during this past year and again I thank you for this.

It is with regret that I have to advise the resignation of the DGDC - Wor. Bro. David Marsh from the D.C.'s role. David has worked long and hard on putting together the "Protocols for Entry and Exit of Grand and District Grand Lodge to and from our meetings. This document will continue to be used as a guide for our future D.C.'s & D.D.G.D.C.'s. Wor. Bro. David - thank you for your efforts on this project.

Brethren, I will close for now and Bev and I wish you and yours all the very best for the festive season.

Geoff W Rowe

FROM THE DEPUTY DISTRICT GRAND MASTER

With Christmas only a few weeks away Barbara and I would like to wish you all a happy Festive Season with family and friends.

The recent charity concert that was held in Ashburton featuring the Midland Masonic Choir supported by the five musical scholarship (\$500) recipients from Mt Hutt, MacKenzie, Opihi, Ashburton Colleges and Geraldine High School was very successful. Together with the assistance of the Midlands Trusts \$3750 were raised for the Life Education Trust. We received wonderful support from all our local lodges and the Life Education Committee members.

Don't forget that on the 1st of February the 18th Century degree work will be held at Bruce Russell's property at West Melton. Come in period costume and thirsty!!

The programme for the 2014 Communications to be hosted by Ashburton 1811 is almost final-

ised and therefore preliminary advice will be received by all lodges very soon.

On January 25th Bro Merv Gilkinson will be reinvested for a second 5 year term as District Grand Master for the Scottish Constitution. His installation is to be held in Dunedin and coincides with Burns Night. Ladies are welcome and the cost is \$60 per person.

Finally, on a sad note, I would like to acknowledge the recent passing of W Bro Bill Huyne in Ashburton. Bill was a stalwart of the Scottish Constitution Lodges and a District Officer. He had served at least 10 times as Master and was a past member of Port Chalmers Marine and Ashburton Lodges. Rest in peace our Brother.

Best wishes to all for Christmas and a Happy New Year

Cheers Ken

“Together with the assistance of the Midlands Trusts \$3750 were raised for the Life Education Trust.”

FORGOTTEN...ALMOST

Greymouth Royal Arch Chapter 1233 E.C. was constituted in 1873, and closed in 2002.

I was aware of this but not aware that Inland Revenue (Unclaimed Monies) were holding \$1890.36 from the Chapter. A few months ago the total held was \$112 million, from 211,400 people, organizations and charities that have ceased to exist, I was alerted to this from an amateur genealogist from Levin. She said that this amount existed in the name of the Chapter.

Over several months of e - mails to IRD, finally success! They shall be paying out the cash to Greymouth Lodge 1233 E.C. as the closest relative to the defunct Chapter. The effort entailed continued research, helped in no small way by W. Bro. Keith Baty, a P.M. of 1233, and at the time of closure the First Principal of the Chapter. Very members of the Chapter are still alive.

From what we can gather at the time of closure the Chapter had monies invested with A.A. Finance, which was not uplifted for some reason or the other. Under the Unclaimed Monies Act of 1971, monies left untouched such as this after a period of six years must be handed to I.R.D., and remains there until claimed.

There is quite a process to go through to get the claim recognized, but in this case well worth the effort. The cash shall be deposited into 1233 Charitable Trust account for later disbursement to a West Coast charity/charities; it was in fact local money that has been AWOL for 20 years, and fitting that it should be applied locally. Maybe among the 211,000 listing on

unclaimedmonies@ird.govt.nz other lodges may appear! Worth a try. Doug Stapleton

Winchester Lodge & Lodge Arowhenua's
Annual Strawberry Evening



SATURDAY 18TH JANUARY, 2014
 WINCHESTER HALL, AVENEL ST, WINCHESTER
TICKET PRICE \$20 PER PERSON
INCLUSIVE
 Proceeds to each Lodge's Benevolent Fund
 6:30pm (Dress Informal)
 Great food, wine, raffle and entertainment
 Tickets from Stewart Stott 03 693 9952
 Or Jeff Elston 03 684 6704

FROM THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT GM

Greetings Bretheren from the Top of the South where summer is just about to burst forth after a cool but wet winter and spring.

Following our Northern Hemisphere sojourn, Fran and I came back down to earth with a bump with regard to Freemasonry. A trip down the Coast, firstly for a formal visit to the Phoenix Lodge at the beginning of September followed, a few days later, by attending the Installation of Wor. Bro. (Ginger) Briggs who went into the chair of the Greymouth Lodge, which I think is his 5th time. The ceremony was carried out in the Lodge's new home in Shantytown. A truly remarkable occasion where approximately 60 brethren were squeezed into that small Lodge room. For the DGDC (Wor. Bro. David Marsh) a real headache, but with tenacity and determination, he did a great job under the circumstances.

As in previous years, the DDGM (Wor. Bro. Ken Borland) with the assistance and great driving skills of Wor. Bro. Bruce Russell, brought up a bus load of Canterbury Brethren and their wives/partners for the weekend. This made the weekend extremely social and enjoyable. One sad but poignant part of the weekend was a visit to the Pike River Memorial which provided a sad reminder to all who visited the site. The book of remembrance was duly noted by our visit.

From Greymouth, Fran and I went on to stay in Christchurch for a few days where yours truly was invited to visit the installation of the St John Lodge in Timaru. This ceremony was ably carried out by Wor. Bro. Richard Taylor who installed his successor, Wor. Bro. Andrew Donehue.

The months of September and October continued very busy Masonically with visits to various NZC and EC Lodges, including presiding over the Installation of Wor. Bro. Paul Wigzell into the chair of Southern Star Lodge. Congratulations Paul, may you have a wonderful year.

November 1st saw the Christmas party which had been arranged for the Kirkpatrick girls, being held at the Masonic Hall in Nile Street, Nelson. All 7 girls were in attendance along with many of the Kirkpatrick Board of Governors, school staff and Lodge representatives. After a lovely meal, Derek Nees (the Irish representative) acted as Master of Ceremonies for the evening in the absence of the chairman Tony Hunter who was out of the country.

Derek introduced the girls to the assembly, and then asked each of the Lodge representa-



The Girls: Lilly, Maggie, Samara, Taylah and Bonnie.
Missing are: Ruby and Isabella

tives to present each of the girls with a Christmas gift. The girls were then invited to give a little speech of the highlights of their year at school. This was a very rewarding experience to hear how much they appreciated the opportunity which the Kirkpatrick Trust had given them.

Finally the members of Southern Star Lodge are honoured to have one of their members, Bro. Dan Calwell, turning 100 years old on December 22nd. Dan joined the Greymouth Lodge No. 1233, being initiated on July 6th 1937, passed to the 2nd degree on October 7th 1937 and raised on February 12th 1938. He remained a member of this Lodge until October 12th 1953 when a demit was issued. He moved to Nelson and became a member of Southern Star Lodge in July 1952 and is still a member to this day, although now living with family in Auckland.



Brethren, Christmas and the New Year are not far away and I think it is appropriate for Fran and I to wish you all our very happy and prosperous greetings for the season.

“A truly remarkable occasion where approximately 60 brethren were squeezed into that small Lodge room..”

WEST COAST EXCURSION

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION
OF THE DISTRICT GRAND
LODGE OF THE SOUTH ISLAND

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Degrees South Deadlines:

January 31st for the February edition

April 30th for the May edition

July 31st for the August edition

Greymouth is arguably an "eternity" from Christchurch - that is unless you are sitting in a bus with a group of very urbane Masons, wives and their partners - in that situation the miles seem to just "fly by".

So it was indeed on Friday September 6, as we all trundled over "the hill" to the "Coast" for the installation of Leslie (Ginge) Briggs, master elect of the Greymouth Lodge. The Installation, on the following day, was to prove to be just one of the highlights in a weekend that would ultimately see a great deal of profit and pleasure.

Profit, quite apart from those who would win one of the many raffle prizes on offer, came from the enrichment in masonic knowledge complete with the making and renewing of many a masonic friendship.

Pleasure was to be found in camaraderie, social intercourse (yes I said social!), coupled with that warm feeling that we all share, our wonderful masonic bond.

For me the most poignant masonic moment came at Shantytown during the installation ceremony. At a particular moment during the ceremony, all was quiet when suddenly the delicate whistle from a small steam locomotive from just behind the lodge rooms punctured the silence with the most wonderfully tuneful whistle. It just all seemed so right - for a brief moment the illusion that we were back in the 1870's was complete.

The most sobering memory from the weekend's event however will always be the visit to the memorial to the 29 miners so tragically killed at Pike River. So sad.

I would write more but then after all, "what happens on camp, stays on camp" - grin.

So thanks then to the Borland's and the Russell's for "making it so" - you guys were magic and your efforts are greatly appreciated, for without you, it would never have happened. Roll on 2014.

Peter van Zoggel



... down to business



... thanks brethren



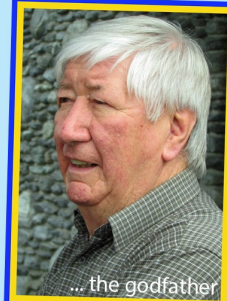
.. partners in crime



... cabin crew



at Pike River Memorial



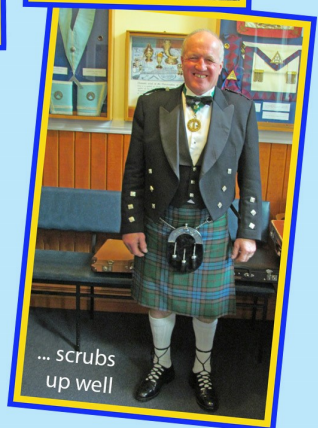
... the godfather



... shanty town



... taking a break



... Scrubs up well

Greymouth 2013