

# PORTCULLIS

The newsletter of Westminster Lodge No. 308



October 2019



*IPM Geoff Todd receives his PM Jewel and Book of Record from VWBro Warwick Bell.  
Kent Chamberlain and Grahame Woods look on*

**Master: WBro Terry Wellington**  
23/125 Grant Road, Thorndon 6011  
Tel. 021 652 969  
Email: [terry\\_wellington@xtra.co.nz](mailto:terry_wellington@xtra.co.nz)

**Secretary: WBro Tony Fryer**  
3 Gannet Way, Whitby 5024  
Tel. 234 8690 021 434091  
Email: [nafryer@xtra.co.nz](mailto:nafryer@xtra.co.nz)

**Treasurer: WBro Steven Molotsky**  
29 Patrick St. Petone 5012  
Tel. 970 6011 027 6554270  
Email: [molotskys@gmail.com](mailto:molotskys@gmail.com)

**Editor: WBro Morris Robertson**  
PO Box 22249 Khandallah, Wellington 6441  
Tel. 4792436 021 025 22033  
Email: [mrps6T@gmail.com](mailto:mrps6T@gmail.com)

**Asst. Secretary/Photographer:**  
**Bro Rob Taylor**  
12 Ramphal Tce. Khandallah 6035  
Tel. 021 426 240  
Email: [rob.taylor@mac.com](mailto:rob.taylor@mac.com)

## COMING UP

Friday 4 October – Luncheon 12.30 at 1815

**NEXT LODGE MEETING,**  
22 November 2019. First Degree  
Candidate to be balloted

**GRAND INSTALLATION**  
Wellington 17-19 November 2019  
Registration forms available on Freemasons  
NZ web site.

## LODGE CHRISTMAS DINNER



Mark the date – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December  
at the Wellesley Boutique Hotel.

Pre-Dinner drinks 5.30 – 6.30pm  
Guests seated 6.30pm  
Welcome by Master  
Introduction of widows by Stuart Brooker

7.30 – Entertainment – Barbershop Style



**Wellington City Chorus**, Thirty minutes  
from an all-female A Capella Group

*“Barbershop harmony is sung unaccompanied in four parts, with the aim of producing beautiful ringing chords. Our Master Co-Directors, David Brooks & Henrietta Hunkin help us work towards this. Many years ago, barbershop was a purely male dominated craft born in the southern States of USA, but now nearly 27,000 women participate around the world under the guidance of Sweet Adelines International. Wellington City Chorus currently has around 60 members, having grown by leaps and bounds since its inception in 1998.”*

8.15pm Desert, crackers, tea and coffee  
**Price for the evening to be advised**

## MASTER'S VISITING PROGRAMME

5th November – Mana  
15-17th November – Grand Installation  
30th November – St. Andrews for  
Installation of Laurie Bond  
4<sup>th</sup> December – Te Puni

## THE MASTER'S PEN



## Greetings Brethren

With our first meeting under the belt, thanks to my team and the Narrators who delivered what was a very interesting Durham First Degree explanation. Thanks to the three presenters for their part in refectory. The preparation that went into this and the content has set a platform for the year ahead.

My intention is to give attention to the enjoyment of all of our members in both the ritual inside the Lodge and the fellowship outside the Lodge. To this end encouraging attendance and participation is a priority.

I do have the opportunity to wave the flag of Westminster around the District and to encourage others to visit us. When you may be available please let me know.

One activity which I will promote to start in the New Year will be that of getting to know each other better. I will be asking two brothers to meet each other in the lead up to the meeting and for them to introduce each other to the members in refectory. More details at the next meeting.

We have the Grand Installation in November so please put this in your diary and look out for more communications on the subject. Note the Meeting date as 22<sup>nd</sup> November which will be a First degree. Refectory will feature the traditional Burns Night ceremony, pipes, haggis and all.

Yours fraternally

*Terry*

## OCTOBER MEETING

After a ballot Sean Muller was admitted to the Lodge as a joining member.

As explained in The Master's Pen, the next part of the evening was devoted to the explanation of the Durham First Degree explanation with Grahame Woods acting as Candidate. The commentaries provided a valuable insight into the history of the Degree.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Immediate Past Master, Geoff Todd, was presented with his Jewel, Certificate and Book of Record by VWBro Warwick Bell, who had been his Installing Master.

## REFECTORY



Martin Coomber proposed the toast to Sean Muller, whom he had met through a work connection and was surprised to learn

that he had been a Freemason in Florida. A former US Marine, Sean had seen service in the Middle East and South America. Following an earlier visit to New Zealand, Sean and his family moved here in 2014.

The Master then introduced the programme of three presentations to take place during the course of the evening with the objective of greater engagement by all members of the Lodge.



First up was Stuart Brooker, who gave a potted history of the Wellesley Building and its former owners, including the Wellesley Club and the NZ Timber

Federation. He described how the Wellesley Club had been initially founded as a "Junior Wellington Club" and went on to talk about its Presidents over the years.

There was an enquiry, following the presentation, for a copy of the talk. This is not feasible but, the full story is covered in the book *The Wellesley Club 1891-1991* by Arthur Manning. The Portcullis Editor would be happy to loan his copy to the enquirer.



Next up was Dexter Bambery, Convenor of the Investigation Committee, who gave an explanation of the membership process. An important factor in the process was

ensuring that a prospective member would be compatible with the Lodge.

The final speaker was Morris Robertson, who presented a paper on

engagement and retention of members. With reference to the

four Ancient Gangs of Corinth, he had broken the membership into four participation categories. He went on to propose a number of roles which could stand alongside the ladder and provide opportunities to participate in the wider functions of the Lodge such as Charity, Communications, Social, Training and Aspirations mentoring.



A full copy of the paper is available on request to [mrps6T@gmail.com](mailto:mrps6T@gmail.com)

## OUR 750 YEARS OLD LINK



750 years ago, on 13 October 1269, the present Westminster Abbey was consecrated. Our Westminster Lodge No. 308 ashlar is made from stone used in the original building. That must make them one of the oldest Masonic items (and immovable jewels) to have been part of a consecrated place in the world.



Her Majesty the Queen and HRH The Duchess of Cornwall attended a service to celebrate the 750th anniversary of the re-building of Westminster Abbey, at 11.30am on Tuesday 15th October 2019.



*Our historic rough and smooth ashlar obtained from Westminster Abbey WW2 bomb damage*

*FROM THE WHERE'S MARTY ARRELL FILE- abridged*  
**CHASING HEIFERS IN NORTHLAND**



Having left Wellington 27th May, Caroline and I are slowly making our way up to Cape Reinga to embark on one of my bucket list items which is walking the complete length of New Zealand along the Te Araroa trail. Having seen an advert, and were accepted, for a competent couple to farm sit a 36-acre lifestyle block in Waipu, we headed on up to the winterless North to live on a little slice of paradise for two months. The Owners are both marine engineers from Florida who have lived in NZ for the last 34 years. They return to Florida for two months every year.

We started living in this beautiful clifftop property that overlooks Bream Bay. We are midway between Waipu Cove and Laing's Beach, 35m up on top of the limestone cliffs, which are very similar to the geological wonder of Pancake rocks of Punakaiki. All we have to do is feed two

cats, plus a dog and keep an eye on 10 Black Angus Heifers. Not being the sort of people to sit around and admire the view we got stuck into some jobs around the place. Caroline started on the gardens and I got stuck into the farm work.

My day consists of fixing broken fence posts and battens, putting in new strainers, running water lines for additional troughs, sorting out the electric fence system to stop the ground shorts and break feeding the Heifers. These Heifers had been used to the run of the all the paddocks, so my regime of break feeding was not without a few electric shocks for both them and me. The property has a 2-acre pond which has oriental Carp in it that are fed on lawn clippings. After mowing the lawn it's easy to dispose of the clippings in the pond. When dumping the clippings, the normal tranquil pond, suddenly becomes a boiling pool as the Carp feed on the spoils. They grow up to 3Kg in 3 years and are then sold to Chinese restaurants as a delicacy.

It has been great to have the Waipu community experience for a while and to appreciate what the surrounding area has to offer. We have visited the Waipu Cave and seen its stunning glow worms, climbed Mt Mania to see the view of Bream Bay, Ruakaka and Marsden Point and completed the Mangawhai Coastal Walk, reputed to be the best Coastal trail in NZ and I can see why.

All things come to an end on 31 October, when our travel to the far north will continue onto the adventure of the Te Araroa trail. Until we next meet again I toast at 9:30pm every third Friday of the month, to absent Brethren. *Marty*



**REMINDER**

If any brother is aware of the passing of any brother or widow, urgent notification to the Worshipful Master is requested. Brethren are also requested to notify the Worshipful Master and/or Almoner in the case of any sickness or distress among brethren, family or widows.

ALMONER – VWBro Stuart Brooker, Phone: 973 5599 or 027 486 8249