



Snippets



BITS AND PIECES FROM WIVES, PARTNERS AND FRIENDS OF FREEMASONS

Hello again!

The year is well underway and the weather cooling, especially at night. There is definitely a feel of autumn in the air - but where did our summer go? The weather seems to have turned the corner very quickly and, as I write this the skies are grey and just when we think the sun might come out, we have another shower! At least the garden is looking greener now. Hopefully, that is now the same for everywhere needing rain.

Our Visits

John and I have had a number of very enjoyable visits already - the first to **New Plymouth** where John and I met some of the members of Lodge Manaia and John presented Reg Duff and Clarrie Brown with their 70-year bars. Reg and Joan (left), and Clarrie and Rona (right) were the most amazing and very lovely people. During the weekend John and I were looked after exceedingly well by Graeme and Rosemary Harvie and Graeme has kindly written about the occasion below.



LODGE MANAIA No. 286 - 70 YEAR AWARDS FUNCTION - by Graeme Harvie, Secretary

Lodge Manaia held a very special function on the 21st February to honour two of its long serving Members, Reg Duff and Clarrie Brown, who had completed 70 Years of continuous membership, Reg in November 2014 and Clarrie in February 2015. Being such an auspicious occasion, the Lodge arranged a special function to present the Bars to add to their 50 Year Jewels. The function was an opportunity to celebrate the occasion with the recipients and their wives and also to meet with our Grand Master John Litton and his lovely Lady Di.

The welcome was delivered by the Master of Lodge Manaia, Donald Stockwell, and supported by District GM Bernie Black. Entertainment was provided by a young singer Jessica Boniface who has a lovely voice and sang a number of items for the gathering, some while she accompanied herself on the piano.

The citations for the two recipients were delivered by David Lloyd, another long serving member of Lodge Manaia. After each citation was read John Litton then made the formal presentations of the Awards, and this was followed by a lovely Afternoon Tea



Front row: L to R: Rona Brown, Joan Duff, Di Litton
Back row L to R: John Litton, Clarrie Brown, Reg Duff, Donald Stockwell.

THANK YOU LODGE MANAIA FOR A VERY SPECIAL WEEKEND ☺.

Nearer to home, John and I attended the February meeting of **Lodge Waikanae** . with the presentation to Keith Dellow (left) of his 60-year bar. Keith's bar was added to his 50-year badge and what a memorable occasion it was . Keith's wife Marie was thanked for her valuable support of Keith throughout his Masonic career and fittingly presented with a very colourful bouquet of flowers.

At the beginning of March we were very honoured to be invited with Jan and Selwyn Cooper to Government House to celebrate the 125th anniversary

of the Blind Foundation.

Pictured here: The Prime Minister, The Rt Hon John Key and Bronagh Key with Chief Executive Sandra Budd, Chair Rick Hoskin, Ambassador Julie Woods and the Minister for Disability Issues Nicky Wagner.





The following weekend we were in **Napier** for the **Royal Arch's 123rd Annual Convocation**. Napier wasn't characteristically bathed in sunshine for the whole weekend but it was all of a buzz about hosting the cricket that weekend (see pic on left). As always, it provided great shopping and many exciting cafes and restaurants. We wished we could have spent longer there.

The ladies were taken first to the Arataki Honey visitor centre when we had some lovely tastings, and then to Birdwoods Gallery (left), featuring both New Zealand and African art, and finally we visited the Mission Estate Winery, NZ's oldest winery, established in 1851 by pioneering French Missionaries. The sun shone and the gardens were just a picture to behold. It was hard to rush back to the Installation! That was a most relaxed and enjoyable occasion when **Geoff Davis** was installed as the



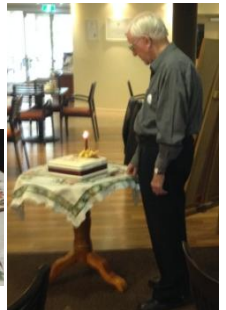
First Grand Principal.



At the banquet that evening we all toasted **Eion Wimsett** who was celebrating his **90th birthday**.

John and I

were delighted to be invited to his birthday party organised by his daughter Gillian the following weekend at the Summerset Retirement Village at Aotea.



The Patriotic Call to Yarn: In my last newsletter I talked about the appeal from the National Army Museum for knitted or crocheted poppies to honour the NZ troops who fought for the country in WWI. Many of you kindly responded to my original request and, as the weeks have gone by, the Museum has been very grateful for all the poppies they have been received, in fact they have been overwhelmed with them, so much so that they have now asked that all knitters 'lay down their needles'!



However, even though the National Army Museum don't want more poppies please don't stop the good work as I would like any you have already knitted or can still knit over the next month or so, please, as **Grand Lodge would like to have a display in Freemason House** in Wellington where every Freemason who gave his life will be acknowledged and each one honoured by being named on a poppy. It is estimated that we will need about 1500 so all poppies will be gratefully received! If you are able to assist in this way, I would be very grateful. I can email some simple knitting and crochet patterns for anyone would like them, so please contact me at diana.litton@freemasons.co.nz. If everyone could knit just a few we would be able to provide a really good quantity to give to Grand Lodge to recognise and remember the fallen Freemasons of New Zealand. Some lovely ladies have already sent me the poppies they have made and we will have the first ones displayed at

Freemason House by mid-April. I am happy to receive other poppies whenever anyone wants to mail them and I also hope to collect more at the Northern and Central Divisional Conferences in May.



Pictured here are Pamm Millage, Anna Kennett and Pat McAlister who spent some hours together recently making poppies for me.



Introducing Nyssa - our very own puppy that we sponsor for Assistance Dogs NZ.

Thank you to those of you who attended last year's Central Divisional Conference and who kindly bought silver earring from me as a fund-raiser - you all are now proud sponsors of a puppy called Nyssa! **Heather and Mike Hattie** (pictured on the next page) very kindly handed over the funds to the coordinator Wendy last year and met with Logan who is one of Nyssa's mentors.



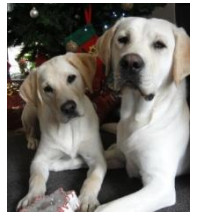


Nyssa is a very special puppy who will be trained to **help children with multiple disabilities**, and for the next year, Nyssa will continue her journey as trainee Assistance Dog which starts with socialisation with new situations and environments. Little Nyssa will venture into supermarkets, shops and cafes. She will ride buses, trains and planes and accompany her puppy raiser to the doctor, hair salon, restaurant, motel, hospitals, funerals, and everyday familiar places. It's not all work and no play for Nyssa. Assistance Dogs NZ puppies must experience fun times, play and everything a youngster would enjoy in preparation for their

role with a child or person with multiple disabilities. They will learn to chase and fetch a ball, run on the beach, swim in the pool, jump on the trampoline, and play with other dogs, and



experience many fun opportunities to interact with kids of all ages. Nyssa has grown a little over the last few months and here she is pictured with Logan at Christmastime. There will be another report on Nyssa next time.



2015 Lodge Morning Star 192 Project - Engaging Members - by Jean Park MNZM JP

Roslyn Morning Star challenges all Lodges to make a difference and to involve everyone, to raise the profile of Freemasonry, and to engage with those looking to join us. Take up this challenge and see what you can do. This project is designed to involve members and their partners and all those associated with the Lodge. It has a local, national, and international focus and will make a difference to some in our communities. It will also encourage people to become more active in the work of the Lodge and encourage people to talk about Masonic issues. Every month there will be a simple issue or task to be addressed by members, wives, widows and those associated with the Lodge. These projects will not be costly but will make a difference. While some of the tasks below are specific to Otago, you may like to substitute others which will benefit your local area. Goods may be taken to the Lodge for collection by a volunteer member who will then deliver them to the appropriate place. I ask that everyone consider how they might help with these relatively modest requests that will really raise the profile of the work that we do.



Ideas: are to deliver Freemason magazines to local doctor or dentist's waiting rooms; Bring old towels to be delivered to the Night Shelter who are in need; sheets no longer required to go to the Women's Refuge; knit a child's jersey for the charity 'Operation Coverup' the organization is Mission without Borders; knit peggy squares to be joined together and delivered to the Salvation Army; give a little cat or dog food to the SPCA; or a tin of food for the food bank. Keep a score and report to your Worshipful Master how many of these you managed to do over the year. Celebrate that you have made a difference. *Jean*

Very well done, Lodge Mana! - a very special report by Henry Child

The pool table in its original condition

After being approached by Di to investigate the possibility of getting our Lodge to sponsor refurbishing the pool table at **Margaret Stewart House** in Wellington, I as Almoner of **Lodge Mana 352** brought this matter before the Lodge and it was unanimously agreed to sponsor this project and to my surprise at that meeting 12 brethren agree to donate \$25 each towards the project = \$300. The quote to refurbish the pool table was \$600 so with a one-for-one subsidy from Grand Lodge we were able to proceed immediately.



Margaret Stewart House is an offshoot of the Cancer Society a place adjacent to Wellington Hospital where out of town people can stay when their loved ones are in Hospital undergoing Chemo therapy, Cancer or major operations. It is always in need of upgrading their establishment, so I challenge all The Wellington / Hutt Valley Almoners to take my challenge to their Lodges and take on a project to refurbish their Curtains/ Bedding / Furnishings etc.etc. To enquire towards their requirements contact Edwena ph.04 380-0300 Margaret Stewart House.

THE THREE MUSKETEERS - Pictured here: Henry Child (Almoner), Martin Houlihan, and Colin Young, Master.

The Past Mosgiel Lodge Ladies' Sunday Group - by Liz Simpson



Our home Lodge in Mosgiel is Lodge St John No 84 and the Mosgiel Lodge Ladies Sunday Group was started in the early 1990s by three of the wives of members of St John 84 as we seemed to have a growing number of Lodge widows at the time as well as more Lodge people moving into the retirement villages in Mosgiel. In 2009, we numbered about thirty ladies, half of whom were widows, and we met six times a year on the first Sunday of every second month. Four of those meetings were at 7 pm and we usually had a speaker or a demonstrator, which lasted about an hour, followed by a light supper. In June, the ladies invited the men to lunch at a restaurant and, in December, we hosted a pot-luck lunch at the Lodge hall, along with the men, or to a Christmas lunch at one of our local restaurants.

In the past, we've had the odd afternoon meeting and I remember one where we went in several cars to visit a Lavender farm with a lovely attached flower garden where afternoon tea was served for us. The interesting thing about the whole group is that, in time, we may all have become Lodge widows and it was good to know that there was a group with whom we had become friendly over the years who would help to ease our loneliness and keep us in touch with long-time friends.

This little history may be of interest to those Lodges who may be blessed with an abundance of younger Mason's wives or partners who may be interested in holding an interest group in their own cities or towns. Even simply holding a pot-luck dinner every 4 months or so in the Lodge hall would be a do-able idea as long as someone is happy to organise the event. Perhaps other wives/widows may have more ideas for keep-in-touch meetings.

Liz Simpson



Life in Uganda - by Kim Chamberlain

If you ever get the opportunity to live in - or even visit - a very different culture, then take it. If you don't get the opportunity, then feel free to create it yourself! When I was 13 at school in England in the 1970's, a missionary Nun who was working in East Africa came to school to give a talk. She was a pleasant, quietly spoken person; her visit was uneventful and

most likely quickly forgotten by most of the students. However, that brief visit inspired me so much that over three decades later, my husband and I and our two children left our comfortable, established life in Wellington and moved to Uganda, East Africa.

Despite doing two years' research and going on fact-finding trip before moving over, we ended up arriving in an alien culture with nowhere to live, no work to go to, no source of income, and no schooling arranged for the children. All we had was a suitcase each, two days' accommodation in a guesthouse, and a belief that it would all work out. For the two years we lived there we had many interesting, amazing, frustrating and life-changing experiences. We lived in four different houses; had snakes in the garden, earthquakes, regular power cuts, no water, no petrol, experienced the unbelievable inefficiency in the bureaucracy, learned why it's useful to have a big bottom, were nearly electrocuted, suffered with malaria, were the subject of a home invasion, paid bribes, learned that if I had belonged to one of the local tribes I would have to eat my son, seen beautiful scenery, experienced a country that has permanent summer weather, been to the source of the river Nile, had bugs in our underwear, seen poverty first hand, learned about child sacrifice, and realised that whatever your situation, your attitude towards it is what makes the difference. The pace of life was slower. We learned to walk slower. We connected more with people in the community. There were few shops and the income was lower so people made-do. They didn't have fancy recycling bins or second hand shops, they just recycled and reused everything they could; nothing was wasted. We lived with very few possessions and had nothing 'spare'. We didn't even have a spare duster; we used everything we had in the house. It was very freeing.



What was also interesting was that while some Western people may feel sorry for people in developing countries, they felt sorry for us. "You white people are ruled by your watches and your clocks. You never have time. You are always rushing, rushing. You do not have time to spend with the people you love. Here we have time." Before we left we bought a small piece of land in one of the villages, which we hope we can use for the benefit of the community. **Uganda**, a fascinating country with fascinating people. I am so pleased that we created an opportunity that provided us with a life-enriching experience. *Kim*

Thank you for reading this. Please send me your stories, anything and everything! Have you any war stories of your own family members who served for their country? - I very much hope I will hear from you soon, Diana.