



The Counties Hauraki No 5

# DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



June 2018



## The District Grand Master's Column

Dear Brethren & Ladies:

The month of May was one of Masonic fraternity and enjoyment with many memories and new friendships made and old friendships reinforced.

The Installation for Lodge Manurewa No.222 was a sell-out. The Lodge room was brimming with brethren and the refectory tickets were sold out in the preceding week. This was due in no small part to the Northern Division conducting the Installation of W Bro Bruce Wiig and honouring the outgoing Master W Bro Max Rendall.

VW Bro John Lukaszewicz Dist. G M

It was my honour that day to receive the VW Bro Kevin Burch Dist GM Northland District as he entered the Papakura Lodge Rooms flanked by 53 Grand Lodge Officers.

This story of this Installation and the presentation to Aileen Elliot wife of Robin by RW Bro Gary Salmon Div GM in his capacity as Head of Orders for St. John, has been told by John MacDonald in his Northtalk magazine which you can find links to on the Divisional Website and is currently a feature on the rolling pages.

Lodge Otahuhu No. 387 placed W Bro Allan Bartlett into the chair for the 3<sup>rd</sup> successive year and Allan believes that like the World Cup we will give the Lodge at the completion of his third term. The work of the evening was excellent and atmosphere convivial and the refectory amazing as we consider there is no charge for this refectory installation supper.

W Bro John Hoyte hosted our Grand Lodge visit to Lodge Whitianga No.443 "the jewel in the crown of Freemasonry in the Coromandel". This is the Districts favourite destination to a beautiful NZ town filled with warmth and character. Everyone was made welcome and the performance of the Lodge passing Bro Ani Walker from The Mangere Lodge No.330, was full of highpoints including the candidate who acquitted himself well. In refectory a presentation was made to the family of a local lad who is going places in basketball made more special by his Mother who had confirmation her illness was in remission. My wife Pam really enjoyed all the Ladies company and it was sad to say goodbye.

A Grand Lodge visit to Lodge Tuakau No.278 witnessed a 2<sup>nd</sup> degree for Bro Peter Edwards. His father W Bro Don Edwards visiting with his brethren from the Waikato told me how much he enjoyed the degree working and asked for a copy of the group photo.

Lodge Masters & Secretaries must ensure that returns and notice papers are issued 2 weeks prior to a Lodge meeting, if you are waiting for information meet the deadline and issue an update if necessary, this data is under constant review and is necessary.

At Grand Lodge visits and Installations, I will update you with the latest news on the subcommittee investigations to create a new District Masonic Centre.

Don't forget to call and look after VW Bro Dave Robinson P Dist GM, Bro Dave Skinner, Aileen Elliot, and any other Brothers and/or their family that would appreciate a call. W Bro Luke Boustridge Grandfather recently passed away – send him your regards

Make use of W Bro Paul Larsen GSD our District Education Officer. Lodges please employ W Bro Geoff Mear to enhance your charitable projects. Remember to take Brethren visiting who are unable to drive – practice freemasonry.

June is another busy Month refer to the District programme from our District Secretary.

Fraternally,

VW Bro John Lukaszewicz Dist GM

## FROM WISE CRACKS. Everyday wit and wisdom

Tell a man there are 300 billion stars in the universe and he will believe you. Tell him a bench has wet paint on it, and he'll have to touch it to be sure.



There is something to be learned about Masonry by the oldest member of the order, as long as the member is willing and capable of learning and there is someone willing and capable of imparting the lesson

Never wrestle with a pig. You both get dirty and the pig likes it.



## INVESTIGATING CANDIDATES

There is perhaps no duty pertaining to the affairs of the lodge, and to Masonry in general, or more important, than that of a proper investigation, of those who seek admission into the fraternity.

How few brethren there are, who fully comprehend the real service and the real responsibility that is implied and required, when he accepts the obligation of investigating the character of a petitioner for the mysteries of the degrees in Masonry.

This article is to outline, to some extent, the responsibilities of each member of the investigating committee, of what he should do, and for the brother, who for any reason, cannot fulfil those requirements, notify the Master at once, so that the business of the lodge, be not delayed.

Each member of the committed should be provided with the name, address and occupation of each candidate. Each should bear in mind, that he is required to meet the candidate personally and interview him. Each should proceed at once without delay, so that prompt and intelligent report may be made. Also remembering, that each investigation should be done individually and reported separately in person.

The best procedure is to call upon the candidate in his home, by appointment. By so doing, you will have the opportunity to observe general surroundings, and will, to a considerable degree, be able to learn whether or not he could afford the financial commitment, that is necessary to make him a Mason. If that is not possible, invite him to call upon you at your home, office, or at some other convenient place, that suits both your needs.

Verify his age, occupation, how long he has lived in the jurisdiction, and where previously. Ask him frankly what are his motives that prompt him to petition, what benefit, pecuniary or otherwise he expects to derive from being a Mason. If he is married, learn whether his action meets with the approval of his family. Try to ascertain whether the financial costs would be a burden upon his families needs.

Determine what his religious ideas are, particularly to a belief in God. What are his habits, especially as to temperance, profanity and associates. Where and how does he spend his evenings, learn from him as to his physical qualifications and whether he can conform to the various requirements and commitments of being a member of a lodge. Dose he understand the seriousness of Masonry, and does he realise that it is not merely a place of entertainment and amusement, or social centre.

When you have learned all you can, by personal contact, verify your conclusions and make further investigation among his acquaintances and associates.

Finally, permit no sentiment to enter into your consideration. Deal honestly on cold hard facts, and based on careful observation and diligent inquiry. Make your report positive, either favourable or unfavourable. A report that you find nothing particular against him, or that he is as good as some others, who are members, is no report at all. Such a report is sufficient grounds for rejection, and merits it, and a candidate should always possess sufficient good qualifications to recommend him, otherwise he should not be admitted.

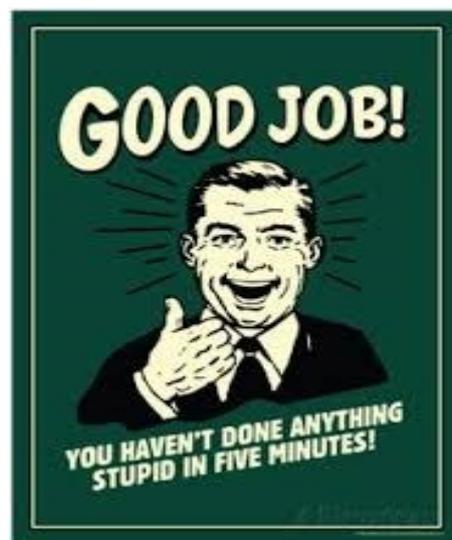
It is a deplorable fact, that three-fourths of our investigations are merely perfunctory. A little inquiry among two or three who know a little something of the candidate, a mere acquaintance in many instances, can ensure that a favourable report would be forthcoming.

Little wonder, that some lodges are frequently put to shame by the actions of some member. Little wonder that there are so many lodge trials, so much friction and ill-feeling. The facts are, and the cause may be traced directly to an investigation that did not investigate, otherwise the offending party would not be in a position to make trouble.

*Masonic Voice-Review. The New Zealand Craftsman 1942 (abridged)*

One would find it very rare today, if our investigation committees acted, as precisely as what is stated above in this article. Although, there is some sound advice, in what it has to say.

*Ed.*



### A LOOK INTO THE PAST

*This will bring back memories.*

It is sometimes astonishing to find what extraordinary ignorance and obstinacy prevails with regard to ordinary points of Masonic etiquette. For instance, it is not unusual to find brethren at the dinner table lighting cigarettes or cigars before the toast of the M.W. Grand Master has been proposed and honoured and before the W.M. has given permission to smoke. More extraordinary still it is to find a W.M. giving such permission before the toast. Yet this occurred quite recently in an important London Lodge on an installation night, and it was not until a protest had been raised by two visitors one a member of London rank that the W.M. countermanded the permission and proposed the toast of the M.W. Grand Master. One would hardly think it necessary to emphasise the fact that smoking at the festive board may not be indulged in until after this toast has been honoured in a befitting manner and then only by permission of the W.M.

*The New Zealand Craftsman 1928*

## UP AND COMING EVENTS

**INSTALLATION:** The Coromandel Lodge No 17. **Who:** VW Bro Kerry Doherty  
**When:** 16th of JUNE  
**Where:** PAPAURA  
**What time:** 3.pm. Visitors 3.30pm See profile of our new Master on the next page.



### **ARE PRESENT DAY BRETHREN, AS IMPRESSIVE RITUALISTS AS THOSE OF PREVIOUS GENERATIONS**

(From Questions and Answers, and the Editor)

The answer to this question must obviously be a matter of opinion. But the immediate answer was a qualified agreement; we can only do our best, and if we impress younger brethren, that is what matters.

When we were young Masons ourselves, we were naturally impressed by the splendid ritual work of many of our seniors. Most brethren would have little difficulty in compiling a list of outstanding ritualists of an earlier day. When we become Past Masters ourselves, we try to emulate those who so impressed us in our younger days. We can only hope that in our turn, we impress our juniors. There is no doubt, that there are in our lodges today, brethren who are able and impressive in their ritual work as those of whom we admired, in days gone by.

The style of speech and ritual delivery has changed over the years and we are less inclined to 'declaim' than some of our earlier brethren. The greater interest in dramatic work some years ago, no doubt influenced their style of delivery. The impressiveness of a ritualist depends partly on natural gifts and inclinations, and partly on training. A brother who has a deep resonant voice has an immediate advantage over the average lodge officer. However, we all have to make do with the lesser gifts with which we have been endowed, and must rely on training and advice from others to a greater extent.

The following simple guide has been found by some brethren to produce satisfactory results:

- A. Learn the ritual thoroughly. Revise every Charge *from the ritual* every time before delivering it in lodge. This is most important
- B. Deliver the Charge personally, to the candidate, rather than a display of oratory.
- C. Speak slowly and clearly, and although bearing the above in mind, make sure that everyone in the lodge room can hear you.
- D. While the style of speech in recent years has become less colourful and dramatic, than it used to be, at all times avoid the modern tendency to 'sloppy' speech,
- E. Don't over dramatise the delivery of the charge, as this will tend to make your mind go blank and you lose track of what words come next.

Other important aspects to remember are, first and foremost, UNDERSTAND what the Charge is telling you. Most charges tell a story. Know what that story is. Secondly, memorising it. There is nothing more satisfying than delivering a charge, and knowing that you did it well, without having to read it. Not everyone will get it correct, word for word, but the important thing is, is to try and deliver it without a prompt.

For most of use, learning a charge, or even the ceremonies, does not come easy, and requires many hours of repetitive reading, and the lodge is not the place for this. Although in saying this, the lodge is still a place for both, learning and practicing, but practice nights should be devoted to practicing the other aspects such as the business session, openings and closing and the three ceremonial degrees. Outside the lodge, should be the place for learning those charges and the other portions of what you need to practice for the running of the lodge and conducting the three degrees.

And lastly, to make a good ritualist, you have to be prepared to make the time, and put the effort into learning the charge and practice delivering it.

Ed



*Years*

### **In the Craft**

The Ross brothers, Ian and James (Jimmy) will be celebrating 50 years each of service to Masonry at Papakura on **Tuesday the 3rd of July 2018.**

If you will be attending the dinner after, it is important that you register your intention to do so, by the 30th of June, to RW Bro Terry McConnell.

Email:

[terryaorangi@xtra.co.nz](mailto:terryaorangi@xtra.co.nz)

This is essential, as there is limited room capacity in the Refectory and as the Grand Master will be in attendance, it is expected to be over subscribed.



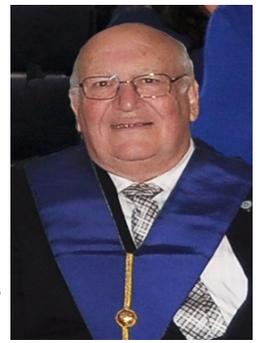
Ian Ross



James (Jim) Ross

## A Little bit about Kerry

VW Bro Kerry James Doherty, P Dist. GM  
1945 – 2018



A third generation born in Thames, attended Thames Convent School, followed by 2½ years at Thames High. Loved swimming, running, fishing, rugby, girls, **not** reading or writing. My dad got me a job with the local photographer, 16 months later I was elevated to owner operator of a photographic business in the Main Street of Thames, January 1965 called 'Sabrina Studios'

For the next 50 years Jan and I ran this business going from Black and White printing to processing Colour, good times and tough times, but still no regrets.

During that time Vice Chairman of local Athletic Club, President of Round Table 59 Service Club, 3 years Volunteer for Coromandel Peninsula Victim Support followed by 4 years as CPVS Co-ordinator. Worked for a brief period with Twentymans Funeral Service, working at present 3 days a week as Administrator for the Thames Union Parish Church.

Jan and I are proud parents of 3 wonderful adult kids, 3½ Grandkids, and one beautiful Great Grandchild. They are my life, with my Jan at the top, followed by our home, which took 45 years to get. Jan and my love go out to those near and dear to us not just family, but to all those who we come in touch with. Life is so precious and sometimes we forget it is a one-way trip, and every day is so precious not to be wasted.

Masonically, I was raised in August 1993, by March 1994 was on the ladder as Inner Guard, have held Office for the next 25 yrs. Master of SWS in 1999, 2003, 2004, 2014, 2015. Grand Steward 2000 – 01, Grand Director Ceremonies 2006 – 2007, Hauraki District Grand Master 2010 – 12, Conclave Supreme Ruler in 1999. SWS Secretary for 11 years and 4 years as Treasurer. Archivist 25 yrs.

If, I was asked what do I want? The answer would be.

**"be part of a team"**

Kerry.



*Poppa Doc & Sophia  
(This is what happens  
when you get sand in your  
pants!)*



No Comment!!

## SOUTH ISLAND VISIT

Last month, several brethren from this District attended a musical third degree in Christchurch, where they were part of the Northern Division Choir. The ceremony was performed by the United Forcers Lodge No 245, with the music supplied by both the Northern Division Choir and the Midlands Masonic Choir.

The singing and musical accompaniment performed during the ceremony was very well received. VW Bro Brian Crone on the Organ, VW Bro James Morton on the Horn along with VW Bro Ivan Smith who gave a brilliant rendition of the Ecclesiastes, given in the dark accompanied by the organ.

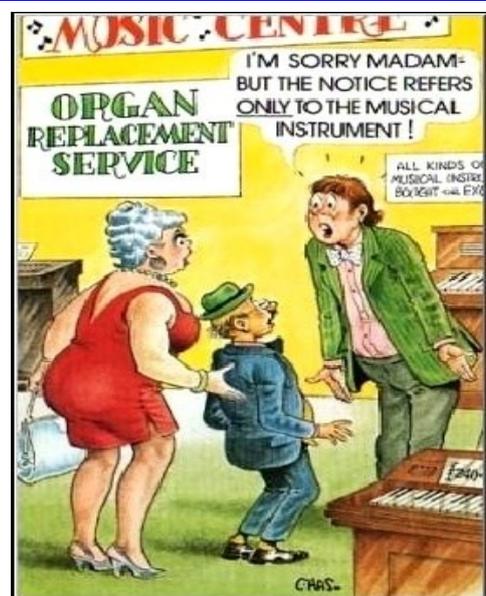
There was a very large contingent of brethren present from the Canterbury Lodges, with both the English and Scottish Constitutions in attendance. To enhance the evenings work even more, was having the Grand Master, MW Bro Mark Winger present, with him being given several jobs to perform. He even sang with the choir in the refectory after the evenings work.

Not only were there members of the Counties Manukau District present, but a mixture of others from the Auckland and the Waikato Districts.

This will be the fourth time the Northern Division Choir has performed in the South Island, and from the favourable comments received, from both those present

in the lodge room and refectory, there is every chance that the Choir will be invited back to perform another musical third degree in the future.

If you would like to be part of the choir, you will be most welcome. We are always looking for new singers, and you don't have to be from the NZC. We welcome ALL Masons from all four constitutions.





### **LODGE WHITIANGA No 433 and THE MANGERE LODGE No 330**

Brethren present at the passing of Bro Ani, EA., of The Mangere Lodge No 330, to the Fellowcraft Degree, conducted by the brethren of Lodge Whitianga No 433.



### **INSTALLATION** **LODGE MANUREWA No 222**

The installation of W Bro Bruce Wigg, as Master of Lodge Manurewa No 222

Left–Right: W Bro Trevor Hall, D.G.D.C. Northland District. V. W. Bro Kevin Burch, Dist. G.M. Northland District. W. Bro Bryan Wigg, P. Dist. G.M., Northland District. R.W. Bro Gary Salmon, Divisional G.M. W. Bro Bruch Wigg, Master of Lodge Manurewa No 222. V.W. Bro John Lukaszewicz, Dist G.M. Counties-Hauraki District. W. Bro Paul Chappel, Dist G.M., Counties-Hauraki District.



## DISTRICT EVENTS

**Above**

Second degree of Bro Peter Edwards at Lodge Tuakau No 278. A Grand Lodge visit.

**Below**

Refectory proceedings at the Installation of W. Bro Bruce Wigg, as Master of Lodge Manurewa No 222

