

# Lodge Hillcrest 363

OF FREE AND ACCEPTED FREEMASONS

JUNE 2017



Apparently there's a third option between  
burial and cremation.



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# NOTICE PAPER



## Worshipful Master

**W.Bro. Richard Kyle**

23 Kiwi Avenue,

Hamilton

PH. 027 5298 977

## Senior Warden

**W.Bro. Dennis Mead.**

14 Lochinvar Drive

Hamilton

PH. 07 846 3801

## Junior Warden

**W.Bro Bill Newell**

Villa 19

St. Kilda Retirement Village

91 Alan Livingstone Drive

Cambridge, 3434

## Treasurer

**W.Bro. Adrian de Bruin**

265A Hakirimata Rd

Ngaruawahia

Ph. 07 829 7786 (eve )

## Secretary

**W.Bro. Trevor Service**

P.O. Box 4014

Hamilton. 3210

Ph. 07 843 7365 (eve )

0211 775710

Dear Brother,

The Master invites you to attend the Regular Meeting of the Lodge,  
to be held in the Hamilton East Masonic Centre, Grey St.,  
Hamilton East , on Thursday 15th June 2017, at 7:30 pm

Ceremony: - First degree working. - Mr Shattay Phillip

1. Confirmation of Minutes
2. Accounts for payment
3. Treasurer 's report.
4. Correspondence
5. Almoner 's report
6. General Business
7. Notice of Motion -

## Notice of Motion - Ballot for Joining Member:

A ballot will be held for W Bro Andre Schenk [GL 101433] a member in good standing who has shifted to Hamilton from the Bay of Plenty district.

Proposed: W Bro Don McNaughton

Seconded: W Bro Trevor Service

*Hon Sec. W.Bro Trevor Service*

Lodge Rooms Phone number - 021 0856 7657

# LODGE HILLCREST 363



To be Initiated - Mr Shattay Phillip

To be Passed to the Second Degree -

To be Raised to the Third Degree -

Please contact the Almoner, -

W.Bro Graham Hallam, 07 855 5198 in all cases of difficulty, sickness or distress.

Mob - 027 855 5198

Please contact the secretary to update any items, and the membership listings,

Secretary's details - W.Bro Trevor Service, 5 Bremridge Place

Hamilton, 3206. Ph - 07 843 7365 Mob - 0211 775710

e-mail address - [lodgehillcrest363@outlook.co.nz](mailto:lodgehillcrest363@outlook.co.nz)

Editor of the Plumpline - W.Bro Graham Hallam.

Ph 855 5198 (eve) e-mail - [mallah@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mallah@xtra.co.nz)

Lodge's Web page - [www.lodgehillcrest.org.nz](http://www.lodgehillcrest.org.nz)

Lodge Notices.

Master's visiting programme during June /July 2017

as seen on the monthly Lodge calendar, back page.

## Lodge Monthly Diary - June 2017

Thursday, 1st June at 7:00pm. Junior Warden meeting and practice.

Thursday, 8th June at 6:45pm. Management meeting and practice.

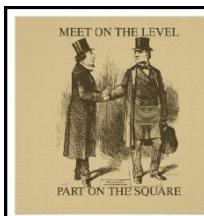
Thursday, 15th June at 7:30pm. Regular monthly meeting, 1st degree working.

Hillcrest Brethren with Masonic Birthdays in June.  
(When they were Initiated and when they joined Hillcrest)

Ted Willson - In. 12/06/1969 J. 15/07/2004 (48yrs )

Loren Rout-Brown J. 17/06/2014

Tim Heeley - In. 19/06/2014



## Special Thanks —

Lodge Hillcrest 363 would like to thank most heartedly the  
following business for their continued support throughout the year

FAIRVIEW MOTORS - JAMES R. HILL

## Master's Report - June 2017

### Greetings All,

This month was Kicked off with a Visit to Waihi to see the installation of V.WBro. Ivan Smith Past Grand Chaplain, to the Chair of King Solomon in what was a well-attended event with many representatives from the Higher ranks of Grand Lodge, as well as adjoining districts.

Lodge Alexandra EC hosted a Grand Lodge Visit for a First Degree working, which although it has some differences to our own ceremonies, proved an excellent opportunity to refresh my own mind on our own the ceremonies to come.

The installation at Alpha Lodge saw Bro. Sam Annison elevated to Worshipful status, it was good to have Bro. Loren Rout-Brown available to join me during this visit, and I understand he has made some new Masonic connections in the district during the installed board.

I attended the Building committee where it was agreed to undertake a valuation in the lead-up to amalgamation, and it was also reported that an inquiry for purchase was made at a tentative sum of \$500,000. Little else is known yet, but I will bring any new details to the Lodge at the next management committee meeting. A quote is also being sought for re-roofing the lodge rooms.

Our own lodge meeting of a simulated first degree went well, I have some more work to do to polish my own work in the lead-up to the initiation of Mr shatty Phillip.

At Hamutana Lodge this month was a shakedown and discussion of the new ceremonies of The Waikato Lodge at which several points of contention were identified for revision and reconsideration. The manner of which the Charge in the NW is conducted and deacons work were debated vigorously, and a new revision will be out in time for our own ceremonial working (no changes to the wording, so panic not about what you are learning ).

We have the lodge social coming up at the foundation bar as per usual. I will be there from 5pm onwards for anyone who wishes to join me.

Upcoming Visits are to Lodge Waihi on the 5<sup>th</sup> June to see Bro. Sam Mudgway receive his test questions and MM certificate, the Installation of W.Bro Ralph Evans back into the Chair at Beta-Waikato on the 12<sup>th</sup> and a visit to Hamutana Lodge on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. We also have the Field days stand again this year which I hope to attend to 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> June.

**Best wishes to you and yours,  
W.Bro Richard Kyle**



### Music in the Refectory ???

One of the items that is being discussed prior to the new Lodge being formed, is the question as to whether or not we have a song to sing to the visitors.

If we do ? What shall we sing ??  
We can 't have the song that Hillcrest has sung for many years,  
we need a new one for the new Lodge.

Soooooooo — I 'm putting out a challenge to you all,  
Those of you who are clever enough to write a new song, give it a go !!!!!!!!

Yes, let 's have a competition among ourselves, see who can write some good words.

So com 'on, give it a-go, You have two months, to the end of July.

One entry has been received already.  
Ed.



<b>- Lodge Hillcrest 363 -</b>
<b>2017 Annual Planner</b>
<b>June 2017</b>
1) 15 <sup>th</sup> , 1 <sup>st</sup> Deg (Mr. Shatty Philips)
2) 5 <sup>th</sup> , Visit to Lodge Waihi for 3 <sup>o</sup> Test Questions and MM Cert. Presentation for Bro. S. Mudgway
<b>July 2017</b>
1) 20 <sup>th</sup> , Table Lodge Working
<b>August 2017</b>
1) Proposed 2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree working (TBC)
<b>September 2017</b>
1) <i>Proposed Formation of New Lodge</i>
2) <i>Motion tabled to close Lodge hillcrest</i>
<b>October 2017</b>
1) <i>Proposed date for Charter Return to Grand Lodge</i>
<b>November 2017</b>
<b>December 2017</b>

**To do:**

15<sup>th</sup> June: First Degree for Mr. Shatty Philips

**Social Notes**

5:00pm Last Friday of every month, a social meeting hosted by the Junior Warden, at 'The Foundation Bar', Te Awa, The Base. Open to all members, partners/wives, friends, potential candidates and visitors from other lodges

*ALL events are subject to change please view the annual planner as indicative only.*

**Officers of the Lodge**

I.P.M. - W.Bro Murray Loft  
 Sen. Deacon - W.Bro Stephen Weller  
 Chaplain - W.Bro Keith Buick  
 Inner Guard - Bro Loren Rout-Brown  
 Ass. D.O.C. - W.Bro Bob Ancell  
 Organist - Bro Norm Weir

Dep. Master - W.Bro Don McNaughton  
 Jun. Deacon - W.Bro Darryl Gray  
 Dir. of Ceremony - W.Bro Brian Cowley  
 Tyler - W.Bro Bryan Dawson  
 Almoner - W.Bro Graham Hallam  
 Steward - Bro Geoff Cooper

## Consolidation Report

**Consolidation report for the formation of The Waikato Lodge.**

**The results of the survey findings are as follows:**

**Lodge Name: The Waikato Lodge**

**Location: Hamilton east Masonic Centre on Grey Street**

**Meeting Night: Thursday Night (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday )**

**Meeting time: 7pm or may yet be 7:30pm (however, this is open for discussion considering how close the responses were, we will need to visit this one again. )**

A detailed breakdown of these can be found in the circular consolidation committee minutes.

A response to Hillcrests questions on consolidation are also contained within those minutes as read at both the Joint Junior wardens and Management committee meeting ( 11<sup>th</sup> May ) and within the business portion of our regular lodge meeting ( 18<sup>th</sup> May )

Although I was unable to attend the last meeting of the consolidation committee as I was attending to Masonic duties at the installation at Alpha lodge, I can give an overview of where things are currently at.

Final Drafts of the documentation ( by-laws, ceremonial, etc. has been circulated by W Bro Don McNaughton, on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May for final comments, and I should have contacted each brother for any comment on these prior to the cut off for comment on the 29<sup>th</sup> of MAY back to representatives. Like all By-laws this is a living document that amendments can be made to in the future should anything within them need alteration. So, should anything be found amiss this can be rectified at a later date.

Lodge Hillcrest at our last regular meeting adopted our own position regarding funding our lodge in the time between our regular call for dues, and the formation of the Waikato lodge. Details of this have been circulated within the minutes.

A call for nominees for all lodge officers has been made, and a special meeting will be held to discuss a variety of items moving forward with The Waikato lodge, including short-listing ' Foundation Lodge officers '. At this meeting, there will be additional discussions on an array of matters pertaining The Waikato Lodge, including further discussions on tying time, and the formation of working parties to complete the work required. Details will be made available as soon as possible- this is expected to take place in the first few weeks of June.

I will continue to give verbal reports at our three regular meetings ( JW, management, and regular Lodge ), and I myself, Murray loft, and Tim Heeley are available to discuss concerns in person by Email or over the phone.

Regards,

**Richard Kyle WM**

### **ISLE OF MAN: NEW STAMPS COMMEMORATE MASONRY**

A set of six beautiful postage stamps is being issued by the Isle of Man to commemorate two important occasions of Freemasonry: the tercentenary celebrations of the United Grand Lodge of England, and 300 years of English Freemasonry.

Printed in gold foil, each stamp is filled with discreet symbols and architectural elements from the lodges of England, as well as GPS references to places important to Freemasonry and a subtle ribbon honouring the 50th year of office of our current Grand Master, His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent.

### About a Bridge

A bridge is one of the noblest structures ever devised, being formed of the greatest architectural achievement, the arch. Its characteristics are wisdom, strength and beauty. First, a bridge is undoubtedly a thing of beauty and symmetry, pleasing to the eye, and ever attractive to the artist and the photographer.

Next, a bridge must, by definition be an example of strength. Not only does it have to support enormous weights, but it often has to cross deep, swift-flowing water which makes it necessary to sink the foundations right down through shifting mud and sand into the solid ground beneath. Beauty, then, and strength are here exhibited. But more than that, here is a supreme example of wisdom; for the most important and striking characteristic of a bridge is that it is built for the purpose of joining together two sides of a river. Almost every other kind of architectural structure is built for the purpose of dividing. Every wall is erected to divide the people or property on one side of it from the people and property of the other. Every house divides the space within from the space without. Even a church or a temple tends to divide the affairs of God from the affairs of man. A bridge does none of these things. It is built for the sole and splendid purpose of joining – of promoting communication between two sides which were previously unconnected. Could there be a more useful and worthy project?

Notice further that it does this without any inconvenience to the river itself. Beneath the bridge the tide continues to ebb and flow, and ships pass, unimpeded by the traffic on the bridge above. Now, the wisdom, strength and beauty found in a bridge are also the three great qualities found in Freemasonry itself, whose nature it is to be a species of bridge, joining together just, upright and free men of different races, languages and creeds, who – in the words of our Ancient Charges – “must otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance.” Masonry has no desire to influence the affairs of the world; rather it rises above them, continuing to form strong lines of communication between men of goodwill, while the traffic of the world ebbs and flows unimpeded.

However there is one more bridge that we have not yet learnt to build – though we are beginning to make an attempt, and that is the bridge between those who understand Freemasonry and those who don’t. We find it difficult to communicate with people who seem to speak a totally different language and have somehow conceived a fear, a dislike, or even a hatred of Masonry. To change their minds will be a difficult task and will take time. But if we cannot yet build a complete bridge across the river of ignorant prejudice we can at least help by providing what one might call stepping-stones. What we need at this moment is some clear and concise statements, brief and to the point – slogans if you like – to act as stepping-stones towards a full understanding.

The author of the above article did not know the answers, nor do I. Can you provide some inspirational thought on the question? What would you say to a detractor? What can you say to a detractor?

The above article was an extract from Vol 76, No. 2 of The Cabletoe a journal of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines.

**R.W. Bro Robert Taylor**

#### AUSTRALIA: THE CRAFT COULD BECOME MORE OPEN

Freemasons in Australia are looking at throwing open lodge doors, holding some meetings in pubs, and having shorter ceremonies, according to a report in the Melbourne *Herald-Sun*. But the ancient men’s-only society insists it won’t accept women as members, saying females say they “actually don’t want to be in the Lodge room”.

*Research commissioned by the club shows part of the problem is the perception is that Freemasonry is regarded as being for “rich white men”*

## The Future for Freemasonry in New Zealand.

There is a notion that has been doing the rounds for a while now that Freemasonry is a dead duck. Some say we got things wrong in the 70 's and 80 's, lowered our admission standards and as a result we 're paying the price now by having a generation of members that perhaps weren 't fit to be freemasons, and that is affecting our ability to introduce and retain high-calibre Freemasons now.

**What utter twaddle.** What Freemasonry is experiencing now is the same as almost every other organisation in the world is experiencing. Rotary, Lions, Toastmasters, The Country Women 's Institute, the RSA are all reporting sharp downturns in both membership and attendances. Churches built in the 1950 's and 60 's were built to accommodate 300 – 400 people; new places of worship these days rarely architect for more than 100 people.

So the phenomenon that has seen Freemason numbers drop from more than 60,000 in the 60 's to less than 7,000 today has impacted numerous other membership-based organisations.

There has been extensive research undertaken worldwide on what has caused this phenomenon.

The detail would fill a number of volumes, but in essence society has changed dramatically in the past 75 years. The breakdown of the extended family, both parents having to work; changes in traditional parenting roles; less than 30% of the population claiming a belief in a God are all nails in the coffin of traditional clubs, societies and churches. Add to that the internet; the advance of technology; improved mobility, the advent of social media; the emergence of a generation that expects "instant gratification" ; and you can, like me, see that the world is a very different place now. Worse, it will continue to evolve – and if we are honest with ourselves – the pipedream of increasing membership within our organisation is a perverse trick. It simply isn 't going to happen. That 's not to say that we shouldn 't shine a light on our retention issues; it 's not to say that we shouldn 't be proactively managing aspects of the Craft that we know are causing us to bleed members – but few of us believe, in our heart of hearts, that our numbers will increase much from where we are today.

For Freemasonry this phenomenon is twice cursed. Not only are we suffering from the issues mentioned above but the nature of our institution requires a purpose-built building – and the costs associated with insuring and maintaining it. The last time our membership was at the current level was 1904. You might be surprised to know that in 1904 we had exactly half the number of Lodge Buildings we have today.

The burden of maintenance and insurance on an aging portfolio of buildings is simply unsustainable.

Most Lodges now spend more per annum per member on accommodation than they do on capitation.

Be under no illusion there is no silver lining to this cloud. The silver has been sold to pay for the insurance and the maintenance.

### **It gets worse.**

Recent research out of Victoria ( Australia ); Germany and England tells us (within a few percent ) the same story. Men become a Freemason because someone they admire is a Freemason. Men continue to be a Freemason because of the fellowship they derive. In fact – here is what the statistics say:

70% of men rate fellowship as the reason they remain in the Craft

10% are attracted by our rituals and ceremonies

10% are attracted by the educational and self-development opportunities; and

10% are motivated by our charitable and philanthropic principles.

So what does this really mean? To understand how these statistics impact on our future let 's take a look at the "average" Lodge in New Zealand. Based on Grand Lodge records (as at June, 2016) we have around 6800 members spread across 229 Lodges. That 's around 30 members per Lodge.

Again – analysing monthly Lodge reports – the average attendance per meeting is 20 members.

If we apply the off-shore research to our average attendances it quickly becomes clear that 14 men are there for the fellowship (70%); 2 are there because they love the ritual or enjoy delivering charges (10%); 2 are there because of the education and self-improvement opportunities (10%); and the last two are there because of their philanthropic interests (10%). In reality, it 's never likely to be quite as 'linear' as my example suggests.

Knowing that only 2 or 3 blokes in your Lodge genuinely attend because of the ritual or ceremonial might also help explain why you 're having difficulty filling your officer 's chairs each year; or why you have to recycle the same guy 's month on month delivering the same charges.

Over the last 5 years I have introduced 8 guys into my Wellington Lodge ( Empire Fergusson ). 1 left after his first degree as it " wasn't for him " another has since resigned because " delivering charges was way too stressful – but that it was the only way to the Master 's chair ". The remaining 6 continue to attend regularly and enjoy the masonic " value proposition ". However, of the 6 remaining 4 have made it clear that they have no interest in delivering charges or taking office. They come for the fellowship and the " feel good " factor they get from being around good men.

For a while I thought I had failed; that somehow these rough ashlar weren 't capable of being smoothed – and yet they all seemed to really enjoy coming to Lodge.

I realise now that these guys simply reflect the global statistics we 're seeing from other jurisdictions. So here 's the landscape: Our numbers will halve in the next 10 years; we won 't be able to afford our buildings; only one or two members will actively seek office; and no one will be available to deliver charges – because the guys that did that for years, month on month, are dead.

Based on this model – Freemasonry is in the final stages of a terminal illness.

Can Freemasonry rise from these ashes in an enduring and meaningful way?

**Of course it can.**

What our research also tells us is that our values and principles are as relevant to men today as they have been. In fact – some research would indicate that 60% of boys below the age of 15 don 't live with their natural father. Men need good role models more than they 've ever needed them before. Men need fellowship and the company of other good men more than they 've ever needed it before.

But we must change. That doesn 't mean we need to change our values, our rituals or our philanthropic endeavours. We must change the DNA of masonry to survive. But first... some more history.

During the 1980s and the 1990s the highest yielding companies on the Wall Street stock exchange were manufacturing VHS and Beta video recorders, cassette tape recorders and audio cd players.

If you go into any electronics shop today you 'll struggle to buy any of those products; and yet the companies that collectively made billions manufacturing them are still, by and large, flourishing – but instead they are making blue ray players, smartphones and computers. These companies all listened to the market; bowed to the evolution of technology and diversified their offerings to meet the market. They changed and evolved to meet the needs of their consumers.

At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the " Durant-Dort Carriage Company " was the biggest manufacturer of horse buggies in the world. By 1920 it became so obvious that motor vehicles ( and trains ) would revolutionise the transport industry that Durant-Dort diversified their business to specialise in the production of leather upholstery. By 1935 – they were the biggest manufacturer of motor vehicle upholstery in the world. They survived solely by diversification.

The Craft can survive ( and maybe even flourish ) as well – but we MUST diversify. Like the electronics companies of the 80 's and 90 's we need to look at how our consumers have changed – and meet the market. If we don 't we 'll end up as the best manufacturer of cassette recorders in the world that nobody wants to buy. Put another way – we risk having a product that nobody wants.

So how do we diversify without damaging our intrinsic " value proposition ".

First we get honest with ourselves on the facts. If our " target state " is having Freemasonry enjoying a resurgence in New Zealand by 2025 then we need to accept:

Our membership will be around 4,000

Few will want to actively seek office

Few will want to deliver charges and perform ritual

Few will be interested in education and personal development

In fact we know this already – the statistics tell us so!

We must diversify. We must weave into our fabric what is good and great about freemasonry ( fellowship, ritual, charity, and education ) in a way that is relevant to today 's ( and tomorrow 's ) freemason. We can only do that through fellowship – a different type of fellowship – but fellowship none the less.

### **Here 's how we can do it!**

Let 's assume for the purposes of this exercise that by 2025 we will have 15 Districts (as we currently know them ) in New Zealand; and that we have 4,000 members, or around 270 members per District. Each District will have a "Lodge of Working " (LOW ). This LOW will require a purpose-built masonic building like we have today. Just one per district though. The LOW would be registered as a Lodge with the Grand Lodge of New Zealand and would have its own Charter.

We know from our previous statistics that around 10% of masons "live " for the ritual and ceremonial; so we know that each District will have at least 27 brethren (10% of 270 ) that will actively seek office and actively volunteer for charges. Those brethren make up the core of the LOW.

Existing Lodges in each District would perform their degree workings at the LOW. They can elect to do the entire working themselves; part of the working themselves; or have the LOW perform the ceremony end to end. Installations would be performed at the LOW in exactly the same way Installations are currently performed.

In conjunction with the establishment of the LOW significant changes would be made to the way that a Lodge would meet, open and close, when not performing a ceremonial degree. The use of Lodge "furniture " (including wands, pillars, pavements, tracing boards etc ) would be eliminated; regalia would devolve to a "badge "; and the opening and closing ceremonies would be stripped back to the absolute minimum.

This would enable regular Lodges to meet virtually anywhere. They would not require a purpose-built building and could almost meet in " public ". A simple opening; regular business session, and then simple closing would then become the precursor at a regular Lodge meeting of the commencement of fellowship. This could be a game of ten pin bowls; a snooker tournament; a whisky tasting night; anything that promotes fellowship.

Meanwhile, back at the LOW a tight core of passionate masons are making ceremonies "unforgettable " for candidates because of their precision and attention to detail. Each LOW would perform up to 15 workings/installation per month creating a worthwhile enterprise from a catering perspective. Good quality ceremonial would again become the norm; which would have a natural effect of increasing visitor numbers at the LOW.

Standards at the LOW would be similar to what we expect currently in a high quality Lodge. Ceremonial would be as per the blue book (incorporating any approved local customs ). At the LOW the same dress standards would be expected as currently operate; all brethren would be required to wear regalia; the furnishings of the Lodge would be as at present.

Fundamentally, the LOW would be an exemplar Lodge that would deliver excellent ceremonies by masons motivated by wanting to get it right. It may well have a Lodge of Improvement attached to it – and may also be attached to a Lodge of Research.

Each Lodge would continue to have an Installation each year and would continue the practise of installing officers. The Installation ceremony would be held at the District LOW and be run in the same way as they are now.

For Lodges choosing to have LOW officers perform their ceremonies; being an office holder in a regular Lodge would become much more symbolic. With a much simplified open and closing ceremony for non-ceremonial meetings – the focus of Lodge Officers moves to fulfilling the masonic "value proposition" which is essentially about promoting fellowship amongst men with a sound moral compass.

Because ceremonies conducted at the LOW would follow all of the current ceremonial principles the Grand Lodge of New Zealand constitution is not compromised. None of what is being suggested would be virtual. Neither of these requirements should be barriers to capable men advancing in the Craft. The measure of a man 's ability to contribute to the future of freemasonry shouldn 't be determined by his ability to retain and deliver ritual.

Those brethren reluctant to introduce their friends to Masonry either because of the quality of the ritual in their Lodge or the appearance of their buildings can now introduce their friends knowing that the ceremonies will be exemplar; the building will be fit for purpose; and the quality of catering will be high.

The “cringe factor ” that so often plagues Lodges will be considerably diluted by reducing opportunities for such influences. Non-ceremonial meetings effectively become social opportunities for fellowship – optionally involving partners, friends and spouses. This would enable prospective masons to form a favourable impression of the institution well before electing to join.

As well as the elected officers, the LOW would maintain a list of brethren willing to give charges to ensure that those brethren who wish to continue to deliver charges but who don ’t wish to seek active office in the LOW can still do so.

So what are the barriers to introducing a District LOW. Depending on whether you see diversification as a barrier or an opportunity will depend on how this question is answered. From a governance perspective there is a lot of detail that would need to be worked through. Some of this would be onerous – but diversification is rarely easy. In fact... it is ALWAYS hard.

Change is born from acceptance. If we accept that it will be increasingly harder to fill our “chairs ”; if we accept it will be increasing harder to find brethren to deliver charges; if we accept it will be increasingly harder to maintain our buildings – then change is inevitable. The greatest challenge will be separating what we need to do going forward to be enduring; from the way we ’ve done it in the past. Masonry has never been very good at this.

So how do we bring about this change? The key is evolution – not revolution. Take two current Districts and implement a 3 year “ proof of concept ”. Use this time to expose the challenges; develop interventions and iterate the solution. Be open, transparent, collaborative and honest. This will not be easy. We will lose some people along the way. Be sure that we know what success looks like. Be brave – have courage.

It would compromise our status in the eyes of other constitutions or jurisdictions. In essence all that is happening is that the protocols for non-ceremonial meetings are being significantly relaxed.

Removing the onus of ritual will enable capable men to take office and take a greater role in the running and administering of the Lodge. Many good men elect not to move through the chairs as it can be onerous from a time perspective; and requires a reasonable level of competency in delivering

The current ‘generation ’ of freemasons may be the last unless we diversify. Without diversification freemasonry in New Zealand will devolve to maybe 20 affluent ‘city’ Lodges that have the Where-withal to ‘limp ’ on for another 50 years.

I am a 5<sup>th</sup> generation freemason. I have a 24 year old son who is now asking me questions about becoming a freemason. I have a 5 year-old grandson who believes his poppa when he is told that ‘ real men ’ wear aprons – not capes. I am hell bent on leaving this organisation that I am so proud to be a member of in a better state than I found it. The key to a sustainable future is repackaging our timeless value proposition in a way that is relevant to the current generation.

Our “product ” is as marketable today as it has ever been – but our “packaging ” is well past its “use by date ”. We are being “left on the shelf ” all around the world. So let ’s keep the “product” the same. Let ’s retain the values and principles intact. Let ’s repackage it in a way that is relevant to men today.

We aren ’t a dead duck. We are from it. We stand on the precipice of something special. But when a prospective member asks us for an ‘experience ’ akin to a shiny smart-phone let ’s not give him a cassette recorder.

**What do you think?**

*Important Note: The views expressed in this opinion piece are solely those of the author in his private capacity and do not in any way represent the views of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand or the Board of General Purposes.*

*Article written by V.W.Bro Russell Pratt, PGS.*

*“Article very appropriate to our own Lodge current happenings.” - Ed*

## United Master's Lodge No 167

Master - W Bro Brian Crone - Gr Almoner  
Secretary - W Bro Graeme Norton - P.Gr Lec.  
Treasurer - W Bro Reg Watt  
Curator/Librarian - W.Bro Alan Bevins - P.Gr Lec

### *Master's Comment.*

*United Masters was privileged to have W Bro Geoff Mather Lodge Almoner from Rotorua Lodge 153 to present a Mother of Pearl jewel. Details about this will follow but it is worthy to note that this in many ways demonstrates how the work of an Almoner enables the families of those he assists to be able to discharge the wishes of those who have passed on.*

### **NZ Expeditionary Force Masonic Association (NZEFMA) in World War 1**

W Bro Geoff Mather of Rotorua 153 joined our meeting on 27th April and presented two breast jewels to the Museum. They were:

1. The jewel designed for Association members in France and awarded after the War had ended, from Bro H Burdekin.
2. The mother of pearl pendant jewel for Association members in the Middle East, from Bro B Anderson.

In NZ, the main membership jewel with the ribbon of the French Medaille Militaire is well known.

The Association was founded in France in 1916, though 'Founded in France 1917' is shown on the Jewel.

The mother of pearl jewel is not so well known. It was created in November 1918 primarily for 31 members who travelled to attend a meeting on 6th April 1918 in a cavern under the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem. There have been many reports of that meeting in Masonic and non-Masonic media, but as a summary, here is a letter written by Brigadier General Bill Meldrum who organised and chaired the meeting fulfilling a long-cherished ambition.

This is a transcription of a letter from General Meldrum re the meeting in the chamber under the Dome of the rock in Jerusalem on 6th April 1918.

Alan Bevins, United Masters Lodge No. 167. March 2002.

Hunterville

27 June 1920.

The Rev C.J. Bush-King

St. Matthews Building, Hope Place

Dunedin.

**Dear Padre,**

Colonel Powles has forwarded me your letter of the 12th June which evidently was sent to him in error. I shall be pleased to send you the information you want about the meeting of masons held on the site of King Solomon's Temple. It was held on the 6th April 1918.

At that time the N.Z.M.R. were encamped in the Jordan Valley close to Jericho having a few days comparative rest after raids on Amman and other places across the Jordan. So we decided to have the meeting we had been looking forward to since forming our Masonic Association twelve months earlier. We drove up in 7 motor cars to Jerusalem 31 of us all told representing 27 different lodges in N.Z.

We first made the necessary purchases in the shops of Jerusalem. viz. 3 gavels made of acacia grown in the neighbourhood - square and compasses (of olive wood) a volume of the sacred law, white handkerchiefs to serve as aprons + candles.

We then moved down King Davids Street and to the Mosque Omar which is on the old temple site.

Entering the mosque we arranged with the Grand Sheikh to be shown into the chamber under the rock (said to be the rock on which Abraham was about to offer up Isaac; and also to be the rock from which Mohammed left the earth when taken up to Heaven )

I asked the Sheikh to allow us to be in the chamber for about a quarter of an hour without interruptions. I told him we were freemasons from N.Z. and that we wanted to meet as masons on the site of the Temple of King Solomon. He said he also was a mason. We paid him a few pounds + he agreed to keep visitors away. So we entered the chamber. All arrangements having been made beforehand the officers at once took their places. I was in the chair. Colonel McCarroll of Auckland SW Sergt Lovelock Palmerston North J.W. Padre Wilson of Auckland was Chaplain and also acted as Secretary. I forgot for the moment who acted as deacons + as Inner Guard and as Tyler. The two latter were armed with bayonets. The aprons were put on + the Lodge duly opened on the First Degree.

I gave a short address appropriate to the occasion. Then resolutions ( previously written out ) were carried (1) by way of greeting to freemasons in France (2) of greeting to Lodges in N.Z. (3) of regret that through wounds or sickness many members of our Association could not attend the meeting. We then formally closed the Lodge.

The attendance book had first been signed by all present.

Only N.Z. masons were present.

I hope after your very arduous labours during the war you are enjoying the best of health.

With kindest regards. I am yours sincerely + fraternally

Two papers now follow, and each adds extra indications which reflect on how our way of doing things has pleasant side effects. Firstly Bro Geoff 's introduction explains the details of the jewels and the circumstances leading up to the presentation and indicates that regular contact with sick lodge members and widows brings out of the woodwork objects which are our heritage which though of no real monetary value are priceless in what they represent Masonically and in this case allusion to the participation of Masons in the War effort.

**Here is Bro Geoff Mather 's 'script ':**

WM and learned brethren, I sincerely thank you one and all for the warm welcome you have extended to myself this evening.

This presentation of these First World War jewels has been a most rewarding and enlightening experience for myself and has come at a most fortuitous time. This year I have been given the task by our D.G.Master (Editor: District Grand Master ) of endeavouring to breathe life into our district 's Almoners general support to our brethren and widows etc.

This presentation has come about simply by a lodge Almoner doing one of the things he was invested to do, that is organising support for a failing brother—

Alan Christie was in a rest home in Mandura, Australia after a request by his sister Alison—residing in Rotorua. This was a couple of years ago.

Late last year Alison contacted me again stating that her brother had passed away. And what should she do with his Masonic bits and pieces. A member of our lodge and I examined the contents of Bro Alan 's case and found to our surprise a NZEF gold (Editor: metal gilt ) jewel awarded in France 1917 plus various envelopes etc that we did not examine as we considered them to be of a personal nature.

Alison later rang me stating that she had discovered in one of the envelopes a mother of pearl jewel and a note from her brother requesting these jewels to be donated to United Masters Lodge of Research 167 for inclusion in their Masonic Museum.

I made the point to her that these jewels could possibly be of some value—but she was quite happy to comply with her brother 's wishes. She also stated that she was most impressed with our efficiency and integrity and has written two extremely complimentary pages relating to her observations of Freemasonry—which she is happy to have published. Yours, W Bro Geoff Mather.

**The letter from Alison Masters:**

This explains succinctly the journey of the jewels to her and her thoughts on Freemasonry. Here is an extract:

### **Making a Good Man**

When my brother Alan Christie died in Mandura, Western Australia in September 2016 his personal effects and memorabilia were forwarded to me. He had been widowed some years previously, had no children and my sister and I were his next of kin.

We all feel emotions when handling the belongings of loved ones who have passed, and as I touched his books, cards, letters I was no exception. I found myself remembering his teenage years when he worked on our Dad 's farm in the Hauraki Plains, his eventual move to Auckland, and then on to his eighteenth birthday when he confessed for the first time in my hearing the difficulties he had experienced in his early school age years.

What are these? I paused in my reflections to inspect two cases—one initialled W.C. and the other A.W.C. Our Dad 's and Alan 's Masonic gear. I handled the regalia with reverence. Freemasonry was a mystery to me. My mother 's father Oswald Slye had been a member of a lodge in Ellerslie. I seem to recall, my father had become a member when farming near Thames, and Alan had joined Taimau Lodge in Auckland. That much I knew. Freemasonry was not discussed by the ladies in the family. That was for the males. I remember an occasion when my Dad and Alan were dressed in full regalia for a special event—my mother in hushed tones mentioned 'chairs ' but until I visited Masonic headquarters in Rotorua many years later and was shown around I was completely ignorant of Masonic matters.

' Fifteen years ago you would not have been permitted to come in here ' I was informed by the gentleman who was kindly showed me around, explaining that over recent years rules had been relaxed in many ways. I had visited to ask advice on what I should do with the Masonic material and could not help but be impressed, very much aware of a spirituality and calm within the premises.

So began an interesting path for me, meeting Rotorua Freemasons, being provided with information, and making interesting discoveries on the way.

Discoveries? Among the Freemasonry material were my brother 's jewels—explained to me by W B Geoff Mather, Principal Officer in Lodge Rotorua 153 and the Almoner, but there was another envelope with 'For United Masters Lodge Museum ' written on it in Alan 's handwriting. Inside was a small box with the name H Burdekin, containing a jewel: New Zealand Expeditionary Force Masonic Assn.

Founded in France 1927. There was another envelope seemingly empty, almost consigned to the rubbish bin, but fortunately I opened it casually. Alan had written donated by Bro EG Hodge. It was his father-in-law 's (Bro Anderson ) Presented to him in Palestine April 6th 1918. This jewel was mother of pearl, fragile, almost translucent, so much so that I nearly overlooked it.

These jewels have created so much interest to the Freemasonry fraternity. I am extremely pleased and relieved that they are of some importance, and the responsibility for them is being passed to the proper authority.

Upon leaving New Zealand to live in Forster New South Wales, Alan Joined the Great Lakes Daylight Lodge. But in May 2006 after moving to Mandurah he resigned. He was nursing a wife in poor health and was growing older himself. Possibly he had put his Masonic regalia away, overlooking the donated jewels he had intended to pass on.

I am confident that the jewels are now in safe hands.

One final word. It seems to me that from what I have learned and absorbed Freemasonry can only be a force for good. Alan was a shy, reserved young man when he first approached Freemasonry, but over the fifty years of his membership grew in stature, confidence and self esteem. He gained invaluable self assurance and formed lasting friendships.

The association was the making of a good man.

### ***Alison Masters.***

### **Bro Bruce Anderson**

Was Senior Deacon at that unique meeting in the cavern under the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem. Born in 1878, in the Havelock area of Marlborough, was a sheep farmer. He had been initiated in Havelock Lodge 104. He joined the 20th Reinforcements group of the NZEF in 1917 and went to the Middle East in the Machine Gun Section of the NZ Mounted Rifles. There is much about his service on Army records, too much to record here. He was discharged in 1919 and returned to Havelock He died in 1954.

#### **NEW ZEALAND: 'Simple Answers' booklets.**

A booklet entitled "Simple Answers to Leading Questions" has been issued by the Grand Lodge in New Zealand. Hopefully copies will soon be available in all lodges.

**G.L Office**

#### **Fact -**

Freemasonry exists in various forms all over the world, with a membership estimated to be around 5 million. (including 480,000 in Great Britain and over 2 million in the USA. )

There is more than 6,500 Freemasons in New Zealand.

**Webmaster (2017)**

#### **Fact -**

Over the last 30 odd years Freemasons in New Zealand have donated over \$4 million towards the tertiary education of outstanding young New Zealanders.

This makes Freemasons New Zealand one of the largest private providers of tertiary scholarships.

**Charity Administrator  
Sheila Hicking (2015)**

#### **"A Purpose"**

He who has a good purpose in mind needs no road-map to success.  
Let him go straight ahead and, at the forks, in the road, keep always to the right.  
Falsehoods not only disagree with truths, but may usually quarrel among themselves.

The prosperity of a country depends not on the abundance of its revenues, nor on the strength of its fortifications.....It consists in the numbers of its cultivated citizens, in its men of education, enlightenment and character.

Here are to be found its true interest, its chief strength and its real power.

**Martin Luther**

*From the New Zealand Craftsman - 1967*

#### **Any help needed ?????**

As we continue to progress through the year we need to keep in touch with our Masonic families and to see if there is any jobs that are needed to be done for any of them around their properties, in particular.

The year is fast moving and some gardening, hedge trimming and other jobs may need attention.

So, be aware of our families and if you know where help is needed,  
get in touch with W.Bro Murray Loft - [lofties@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lofties@xtra.co.nz) - or ph 8465577

**Ed.**

## June 2017

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1 JW	2	3	4
5 Waihi -R	6	7	8 MC	9	10	11
12 Beta -I	13	14	15 Lodge -10	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Hamutana-R	27	28	29	30		

- 1) 5<sup>th</sup> June Visit to Waihi for Bro. Mugway 3<sup>rd</sup> Deg. Test Questions & MM cert. Presentation  
 2) 15<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>o</sup>for Mr. Shatty Philips  
 3) Field days from 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> June

## July 2017

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3 Te Marama	4	5	6 JW	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 MC	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Lodge	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Lodge Social	29	30
31						

- 1) Table lodge for regular meeting  
 2) Lodge Social Held at Foundation Bar (Te Awa, the base)

Key  
 JW- Junior Wardens Committee. 7:00pm  
 MC- Management Committee. 6:45pm  
 Lodge- Lodge Hillcrest Meeting

I-Installation Meeting  
 R-Regular Meeting  
 GL-Grand Lodge Official visit  
 Named Lodges-Masters Visits

**REMEMBER**  
**HAPPINESS IS**  
**A WAY OF TRAVEL**  
**NOT A DESTINATION**

-Roy Goodman

