



FREEMASONS
New Zealand



Otago Lakes District 30

Newsletter 2018/3

Are we through Winter 2018 already?? It's perhaps too early to throw away the winter woollies in favour of shorts, tee shirts and sandals, as all too often, Mother Nature changes her mind and whacks in a cold period.



Where, oh where, has the District Grand Master been? Not to London to see the Queen!!

In May, my wife and I headed to the USA for a short break, principally to attend our eldest granddaughter's graduation ceremony for her completion of High School – America certainly knows how to celebrate these occasions, as it has "*graduation ceremonies*" when a child finishes kindergarten to go to school, another when the child "*graduates*" from junior school to middle school, from middle school to high

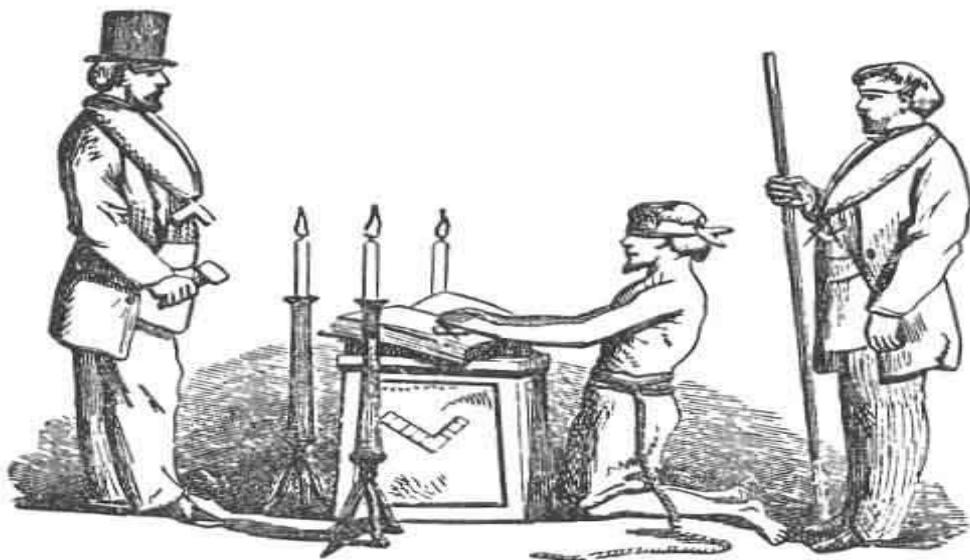
school, and from high school before heading to college (university) or to work. The graduands looked resplendent in their gowns, sashes, and mortar boards (just as do university and polytechnic graduands at their capping ceremonies in New Zealand); there were 500 graduating at our granddaughter's ceremony – that is only one school, so some impressive school class numbers at the institution.



Prior to our departure, I had the pleasure of being the Installing Officer at Lodge Hercules 36, when our District conducted the ceremony on behalf of V W Bro Graeme Munro Dist GM (Wickliffe 31) and his Grand Lodge officers. It was a reinstallation of W Bro David Roberts and we were also graced by the presence of R W Bro Rob Angelo Div GM (Southern) who was formally received by V W Bro Munro Dist GM.

Whilst I was overseas, the installation ceremony at Lodge Arrow Kilwinning 86 was

undertaken by V W Bro Ken Broad Dist GM (Southland 33) and his Grand Lodge officers – W Bro Marc D'Andre was reinstalled as Master. Later in May 2018, R W Bro John Pritchard P Dep GM accompanied by Otago Lakes Grand Lodge Officers carried out the installation at Lodge Waikaka 151 on my behalf (as part of the reciprocal arrangement we have with the District Grand Masters of our neighbouring Districts – Southland, Wickliffe, and Midland).



Whilst I have not been able to attend too many Lodge meetings in the May-June-July 2018 period, it is pleasing to note that we continue to have initiation ceremonies throughout the District, or we have them scheduled for the future as a result of new candidates being interested in joining our craft. This

is a very pleasing aspect for the development of our individual Lodges and for the craft at large – many thanks to those Lodges and their Brethren who are giving more than lip service to the “*Speak up for Freemasonry*” campaign.

At its May 2018 meeting, Lodge Manuherikia Kilwinning 109 carried out an initiation ceremony on Bro Chris Fisher and at its June meeting, the Lodge raised Bro William Kraakman to the Master Mason degree.



Lodge Dunstan 103 held its annual whisky night at its June 2018 meeting and I am assured that its range of refreshments was again of very high calibre; I understand also that the guest speaker at the whisky night has since expressed an interest in joining the Craft, so that was an added bonus to the evening. During Queen’s Birthday weekend, the Lodge hosted a display of 20 jigsaw puzzles completed by its Master (W Bro Rory Butler) – these puzzles each have 4000 pieces and for those of us who struggle with puzzles containing only 100 pieces, that reflects a massive example of dedication and attention to detail by W Bro Rory. The display was open to the public and was part of the Lodge’s contribution to the District fundraiser [First Response Kits for St John]. Lodge Dunstan’s July meeting included a Lodge of Sorrow for W Bro John (JD) Lines, a stalwart of that Lodge, a very good visitor throughout the District, and the Lodge’s Tyler for more than 25 years.

A busy period has continued for Lodge Cromwell Kilwinning 98 when its June 2018 meeting involved the initiation of Bro Noel Macalintal and at its July meeting, Bro John Carter was initiated. In the spirit of Brotherly love and support, the Teviot Lodge 148 carried out the ceremony of raising Bro Martin Charleson to the sublime Degree of Master Mason on behalf of the Cromwell Kilwinning Lodge.



Bro Noel Macalintal EA, W Bro Angus Woodhead, Bro John Carter EA



W Bro Daniel Prew, Bro Martin Charleson, W Bro Angus Woodhead

Lake Lodge of Ophir 85’s June meeting involved the ceremony of passing to the Second Degree for Bro Stephen Rooney.

At the start of July 2018, Lodge Wanaka 277 carried out a Second Degree ceremony on Bro Adam Evans – the previous month, Bro Mark Ebbins had been raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Of particular interest at the Fellowcraft ceremony of Bro Adams was the fact that the Master for the night was W Bro Henry Thayer RH, who at the tender age of 93 years young not only fulfilled the role of Master for the evening but also undertook the Obligation and subsequently explained the Second Degree Tracing Board; this was a wonderful example of Freemasonry at work with a Brother of coming up 75 years' service supporting a Brother taking his second formal step into Freemasonry.



W Bro Henry Thayer RH, Bro Adams Evans

At its May 2018 meeting and in the annual spirit of mutual support amongst the North Otago Lodges, Lodge Oamaru Kilwinning 82 hosted a “*joint Masters’ meeting*” where the Masters of Palmerston 26 (W Bro Graham Robson), Ngapara 68 (W Bro Chris Borrie), Kurow 164 (W Bro Will Spry Dist GDC), and Midland District’s St Augustine 99 (W Bro Arthur Mahan) as well as Oamaru Kilwinning’s Master (W Bro Bruce Daniell GS) carried out the passing to the Fellowcraft Degree of Bros Kevin Ray Pananiban and Albert Macumo of Lodge Ngapara No 68.

Lodge Oamaru Kilwinning conducted an initiation ceremony at its June 2018 meeting when Bro Jacque [aka Jess] Smit was initiated into Freemasonry. The Lodge’s July 2018 meeting acknowledged the service to Freemasonry of W Bro Murray Mercer when V W Bro John Rudduck P Dist GM outlined W Bro Murray’s Masonic service before presenting W Bro Murray with his 60 year bar, and W Bro Bruce Daniell GS (R W Master) presented W Bro Murray with his 60 year miniature lapel badge.



W Bro Gordon Pringle, W Bro Murray Mercer, W Bro Bruce Daniell GS, V W Bro John Rudduck P Dist GM

At its June 2018 meeting, Lodge St Bathans 126 initiated Bro Sandy Stoddard into Freemasonry; Bro Stoddard is a business partner of Bro Miles Dixon who was initiated, passed and raised in 2017 – a very good example of Freemasonry at work at a very local level!!!

I wish to apologise if I have omitted any workings within Lodges since my last Newsletter but I do place some reliance on the Lodge minutes for some of my information (if I am unable to actually attend a meeting) and if I do not receive the minutes, I can overlook some progress within a lodge. Likewise, it is important for Lodges to forward their meeting notices in a timely manner (not just to the District Grand Master but also to all other Lodges) so that Brethren have sufficient time to plan for their attendance at meetings in support of other Lodges.

Otago Masonic Charitable Trust grants



In June, the Trust's annual grants were disbursed at three ceremonies in different locations - \$10990 in grants were handed out at Oamaru, for North Otago based groups [6 recipients] whilst at Alexandra, \$21000 was provided to Central Otago groups [7 recipients]. Overall, some \$75000 was distributed throughout Otago, so it can be seen that Central and North Otago Lodges have been active in encouraging groups to apply for the annual grants.

Recipients in North Otago included Oamaru Heritage Fencers, The Whalan Lodge Trust, North Otago Youth Support Trust, Alzheimer's North Otago Branch, Palmerston Playcentre, and the Oamaru Steam & Rail Restoration Society, whilst in Central Otago, the following were successful in their applications: Alexandra Rural Community Patrol, Central Otago Riding for the Disabled, Friends of Dunstan Hospital, Omakau & Districts Playcentre, Teviot Valley Rest Home, Wakatipu Yacht Club, and the Wanaka Community Toy Library [Central Otago recipients in the photo [hereunder](#)].



Mr. Grumpy-Pants

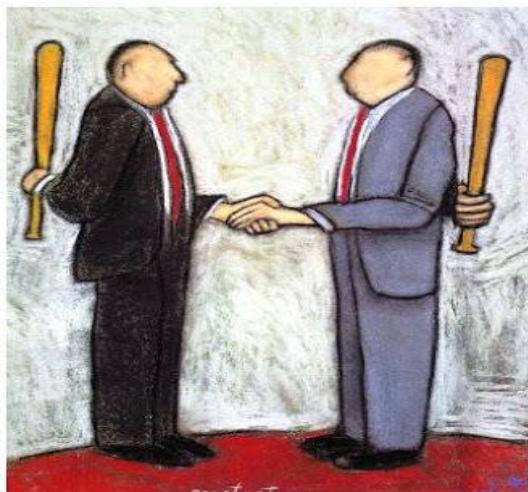


Grouch time again 😞

A minor matter but it does not look good in the Refectory. When responding to the invitation to a toast, Brethren should give effect to the start of the toast which traditionally is along the lines of a request to "Brethren, charge your glasses – the toast is 'to'" (eg, "the Queen and the Craft", "the

Most Worshipful, the Grand Master", and so on). The important thing here is "charge your glasses" – it would be preferable that where glasses are available, they be used, rather than Brethren raising a beer bottle as part of the toast.

District Boundaries



Negotiation
Doug Kerr

We need to shift from
What's available to
What's possible.



picpired.com

As previously noted, we have received an invitation to consider merging with the Wickliffe District in order to strengthen Freemasonry in the wider Otago region – it really is a case of considering a "*back to the future*" option. It is my intention to get around Lodges over the next couple of months so that we can discuss this proposal – it is not a "*cut and dry*" concept but we need to consider the proposal seriously and without predetermination. As I have previously suggested, the actual boundaries of the District are unlikely to have any real impact on individual Lodges, so long as the Lodges receive the support which they seek from their District Grand Master and the District's Grand Lodge Officers.

It is possibly more appropriate that I attend "standing committee" meetings of the Lodges vis-à-vis formal Lodge meetings but that will be discussed with the Lodge Master or Secretary to ascertain the individual Lodge's preference.



District Fundraiser

As previously noted, we are looking at the St John First Response Kits project as our District's fundraiser for 2018-19. The primary object is to achieve a collective minimum of \$15,000 from amongst our 13 Lodges; if we can achieve that minimum (more hopefully), then we will be looking to provide at least \$35,000 to the St John project. We never know when we, nor any member of our family or extended family, nor any friend, neighbour or acquaintance may need the St John service, so I look forward to your individual and collective support for this project.

Funds should be forwarded to the following ANZ bank account: **010867-0067996-46**

Please ensure that your Lodge name is included as a reference. Together we can make this work – thank you.



Upcoming Installations:

August – Wanaka 277 (Wednesday 1st); St Augustine 99, Waimate (Wednesday 8th); Palmerston 26 (Saturday 18th)

September – Cromwell Kilwinning 98 (Wednesday 12th); Kurow 164 (Thursday 27th)

October – Teviot (Thursday 4th); Ngapara 68 (Monday 8th); Oamaru Kilwinning 82 (Wednesday 17th)

Pat Cooney
DISTRICT GRAND MASTER, OTAGO LAKES 30

24 JULY 2018