



Wickliffe District 31

District Grand Master
Newsletter MAY 2018



GAINING A WIDER VIEW OF FREEMASONRY

I am reading a book published recently called "Aging for Beginners" in which the author reminds his readers that we are living longer, working longer and also have more leisure time as a result. I dislike having to consult my diary to see when I can fit a visit in to see friends or family. It is a helpful notebook of meetings and Lodge obligations. Shamefully, I have been known to completely forget to chair a meeting a fortnight ago, and I sat blissfully at home reading the newspaper instead.

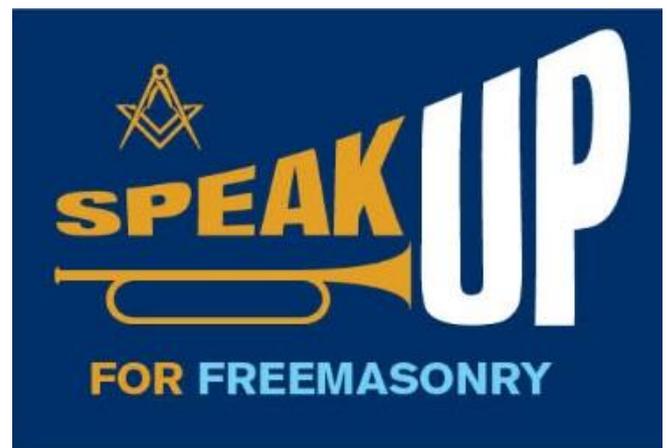
In a normal week I can attend two Lodge meetings, and sometimes three. It would be easier, as the autumn turns to winter, to stay by the fire with my slippers on. However, when I do attend a Lodge meeting, I am embraced by a strong fraternal bond, witness enthusiastic ritual work of new brethren passing through their three degrees, and feel some of the reflected positive feeling which permeates many Lodge nights.

The tone is set by the Master and his Wardens, especially when they are confident and positive. But it is enhanced by those of us who "adorn the Lodge" by our presence. Even those who merely sit and wait, serve as well.

While there have not been a great bevy of visitors at the last few Installation meetings, it was tremendous to see the Hercules Lodge filled to overflowing at the re-installation of W Bro David Roberts early in May. It was, as I have no doubt, also an acknowledgement of the constant round of visiting done by his predecessor W Bro Peter McPherson, who during his term as Master visited every Lodge in Wickliffe, Otago-Lakes and most in Southland District. It became the norm at

Lodge meetings to see Peter giving greetings on behalf of his Lodge.

Hercules is not the biggest Lodge in our small District but it sets an example of maintaining its presence in the community in which it is placed. It behoves all Lodges to make itself known. Pride in our facilities, particularly the condition of our buildings, speaks more loudly than we imagine. So does the tidiness of brethren. There must be several spare aprons in your Lodge cupboard which could be distributed to replace those which have become shabby and very well worn.



It is pleasing that permission is now being given for us to wear our regalia on specific public occasions. In a way it adds to our efforts to **SPEAK UP FOR FREEMASONRY.**

Strong fraternal relationships with our sister Constitutions are unique for our District which is not always available to most other Districts in New Zealand. It was wisely stated that within our District we have twelve Lodges, including five Scottish and an Irish Lodge. It was a great privilege to attend the recent District meeting of the Scottish Lodges when they received representatives of the District Grand Lodge of the Bahamas, especially the District Grand Master V W Bro Joseph Curry, with whom I had dinner

while attending the Victoria Grand Installation in Melbourne a week earlier.

Attending such a Grand Installation helps to remind one of the wideness of our institution. Over 1200 sat down for the Installation banquet. We are a big organisation – there are Masons everywhere. Perhaps it helps to put Freemasonry into perspective. True our District is not large; true no Lodge is bursting at the seams, but a wider view is obtained by visiting beyond our own particular Lodge.

Our fraternal relationship with Otago-Lakes District is historic and has not waned, even when the province was divided in two at the turn of the century. Statistics serves to remind us that we are both somewhat weaker in active members than we were back then. When Wickliffe was created there were thirteen Lodges, now we have seven. Informal conversations are being held between senior Grand Lodge brethren about the possibility of dissolving boundaries and becoming one again. Any alteration will not affect Lodge members, but rather Grand Lodge officers, but it is imperative that we all feel ourselves part of the whole scene.

Wickliffe has much to offer any amalgamation, but we also have much to gain. Any piece-meal tinkering with the boundaries will merely be rearranging the deck chairs. We need to be bold and determined in whatever step we take, that they be made with purpose, confidence and as another way for us to **SPEAK UP FOR FREEMASONRY**. I will keep you informed of the progress being made, but hope you feel free to talk with me about this issue, should you be so inclined.

And a final thought concerns keeping in touch with the apologies. I am wondering if we can do better at keeping in touch with brethren who apologise for their absence at Lodge meetings, or those who remain silent and invisible. Why can we get in touch via a quick telephone call, or through Facebook etc. It does seem to me that absentees are not being properly looked after – unless they are hospitalised or become terminally

ill. It is too late when they are dead! While I recognise there are several reasons for brethren not attending Lodge, we could lessen the gap by friendly contact within a day or two of the Lodge night. Why leave it to the Almoner? Can we all become mini Almoners who care for those we seldom see?

Graeme Munro

District Grand Master

ACKNOWLEDGING THE SILENT WORKERS IN OUR LODGES

In all my time as a Freemason, I have never seen a line of brethren lining up to be Secretary of any particular Lodge. I have listened intently with the investiture charge of the Secretary at a Lodge



Bro Roger Owen at the United Lodge of Otago 448 Installation

installation and believe what is said is but an outline of some of the tasks to be done. The job description could be double the size. It involves far more than merely keeping the Minutes.

Following each meeting a detailed report needs to be sent to the Grand Lodge office together with the monthly Lodge notices. This has been made slightly easier by being able to send these via the internet. The death of any brother needs to be added to the Departed Brethren on the Southern Website. The collection at Installations in aid of

Freemasons Charity also needs to be sent to the Charity pronto. Responding to numerous other requests that come over the Secretary's desk means he is seldom idle.

If the Secretary fails to fulfil a need, everyone knows. I think it time for us to give a word of appreciation and encouragement to these Lodge officers. They do a grand job. It helps keeping the machine running smoothly.

DISTRICT GRAND MASTER'S DIARY

May 8th Third degree at United Lodge of Otago

May 12th Mount Ida 150th celebrations

May 19th St Patrick's sausage sizzle in Bunnings carpark in aid of The Hospice appeal

May 22nd First degree at The Hiram Lodge

June 8th/9th Rededication of the Timaru Lodge building

June 14th Installation at Lodge Clinton

June 26th Presentation of 50/60 year badges to Alan Garth and Keith Henderson



WBro Len Coleclough receives his 50 year jewel

July 24th First Degree at The Hiram Lodge (possibly a first in our Constitution of a son initiating his father into Freemasonry)

July 28th St Patrick's Installation

All brethren are invited to accompany the District Grand Master to any or all of these occasions. He is also aware of some proposal within a few Lodges for initiation in the pipeline as well which may come to fruition within the next couple of months.

HONOURING LONG SERVICE BRETHREN

There was a good crowd of visitors and family joining the Hiram Lodge as it saluted two more of its members with long service awards at their April meeting. Welcomed by the Master of Hiram, W Bro Jonathan Laird, the presentations were made by the District Grand Master, V W Bro Graeme Munro.

In making the presentation to **WBro Len Coleclough**, our District Grand Master reminded the gathering that Len was passed through his three degrees in the Phoenix Lodge No 3236 (English Constitution) in 1968-1969 before coming to New Zealand, where he joined the Hiram Lodge in 1975, and served as its Worshipful Master in 1983 – the year after the Lodge's centennial, hence he has been an active member for 43 years.

Following the presentation of his certificate and 50 year badge the District Grand Master then invited the centennial Worshipful Master, W Bro Ken Millar to present Len with his miniature badge.

W Bro Jim Wyllie RH was a 23 year old when he was initiated into the Hiram Lodge in April 1948 – when our District Grand Master was fifteen months old! Jim was one of a number of initiates who flooded into Freemasonry following the end of WW2. It was some time before Jim became Worshipful Master of the Lodge in 1977 but the years saw him Secretary for sixteen years,

and generous with his professional skills when the Masonic Centre complex was purchased and converted into suitable premises for the Lodges of Dunedin. In recognition of his contribution Jim was presented with a Certificate of Merit in 1993. Further honours came Jim's way when a Roll Of Honour was conferred upon him in 1999 by the Provincial Grand Master, Peter Robinson.

We salute both brothers for their contribution to the Hiram Lodge, and Freemasonry in general and look forward to further awards in the coming months being made to other brethren.



WBro Jim Wylie RH with his wife and friends on the occasion of his 70 year jewel at The Hiram Lodge

VISIT FROM THE DIVISIONAL GRAND MASTER

A flying visit to our District from the Divisional Grand Master, **Right Worshipful Bro Rob Angelo** in early May was timed to include the Installation at the Hercules Lodge in Tapanui. Opportunity was taken to visit the Ripponwood Rest Home complex in Tapanui where Freemasons Charity had contributed towards the provision of a room when the new facility was rebuilt three years ago. Lodge Hercules provided finance for one of the four dependent cottages, as a centennial project in 1983, and has been generous in its on-going support of the now



functioning rest home within the same property where the cottage hospital formally stood.



WBro Kyle Parnell occupies the Chair at the Research Lodge of Otago 161. Kyle has written articles for the proceedings and set an excellent example to his brethren.



**The Freemasons
Charity**
a tradition of caring

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