

The quarterly newsletter
of the District Grand
Lodge of the South Island

DEGREES SOUTH

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FROM THE DGM

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IMPORTANT DATES

- Installations
Pacific—February
Canterbury—March
Lazar—March
Conyers—March
- Board of General Purposes—
12th May 23.



Greetings Brethren,

It's been an incredibly busy few months with a significant increase in demands on my time, particularly in the run up to Christmas. In October I attended the Installation of RW Bro J. Southwick, the new Provincial Grand Master for the Irish Constitution, at the Ara Lodge Rooms in Auckland. That was followed by the North Island District Communications in Wellington at the start of November and then back to Wellington for the GLNZ Grand Installation the following week. In between and around those meetings I have attended/participated in several Lodge meetings as well as two trips to Dunedin Scottish Lodges. There was also the November meeting of the Boards that I'm sure W Bro Woolcott will talk about in this issue.

It was great to see Phoenix Lodge in Christchurch this month holding a joint meeting with Pacific lodge of Hokitika and, at the time of writing, I am looking forward to the Whisky and Gin Tasting fundraiser at the Hohepa Foundation in Christchurch on 10th December.

This is the time of year that I need to consider appointments and promotions to the District Grand Lodge and, for this year, the District Grand Secretary has been charged with writing to each Lodge Master to ask for nominations of worthy Brethren that the members of the Lodge feel deserving of consideration. I feel that this is an important change to the way that this process is enacted and is intended to give the Lodges a greater influence on the make-up of the District Grand Lodge. I should point out that a nomination is purely that alone, there can be no guarantee that an appointment will follow. Please take this opportunity to discuss the matter amongst the Lodge Members and respond to the District Grand Secretary in a positive way.

Communications this year are to be hosted by the Winchester Lodge for the first time that most of us can remember. Plans are well underway with the events and accommodation being centred in Geraldine. The evening dinner is to be held at the rural hall at Woodbury, just outside the township. The date will be 12th to the 14th May.

As we head into the holiday season I would like to wish you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year. My thanks to all of you and your families for their support through 2022 both for the District Grand Lodge and the Lodges therein. I know that in so many ways we have all been able to help to make a difference through our fundraising and giving during the year and, with a new Strategic Charity Plan now approved, we can continue that effort during the coming years.

I look forward seeing you all during the coming few months, especially at Communications in May which look like being an unmissable weekend as, courtesy of the Winchester Lodge, we venture out into the country for a new twist on an established event.

A very Merry Christmas to you all.

Faternally,

Richard



PHOENIX

This Lodge helped out local Health Board during the pandemic by providing the use of their rooms.

This was provided at no cost to them during the 2 year period.

They expected nothing in return, but possibly some money to cover the power during that time.

Much to their surprise the Board gave them \$40,000.

This money was then given to the Air Rescue Trust.

Recently the Phoenix Lodge was given an inside view of how the Trust worked.

The tour started in the jet hanger.

From their it went to the Flying Doctor section.

This service flies on average 3 flights a day with usually 1 to the Coast.

While they were being briefed, a flight was being prepared.



From their they moved to the helicopter rescue section and were given a brief on the helicopter services.

They now use their own trained medical people instead of St John staff.



This is the Phoenix team who came across and a couple from the Pacific Lodge



On a previous occasion the Phoenix Lodge donated the night vision goggles being held by the pilot.



After the visit a combined meeting was held with the Pacific Lodge of Hokitika and a very festive refectory.

Dinner with partners followed.



BOARD REPORTS

Good afternoon

Well here we go again, another year all but vanished. Having said that it's fair to state, the later part of the year has been easier than the earlier part, as covid hopefully appears to be a bit more under control.

In November The Board of General Purposes met. An item on the agenda was for District and other Lodge records stored in The Amberley Lodge rooms to be examined. These items have been there for some time and the concern was, that they may be starting to deteriorate.

A thorough examination of them was made and I'm pleased to advise, because of the secure safe they are kept in, there was no rotting or evidence of rodents involved.

Having said that, the question I ask, is how safe and what condition are your Lodge records in?

To preserve your lodge history, it's well worth taking the time to check, where, what condition and how your records are stored.

As the Board and District underwrite the Annual Communications each May, a progress report was received at our November meeting.

It's not my intention to steal the host Lodges (Winchester) thunder apart from advising plans are well underway, for what appears to be going to be a wonderful weekend.

There will be announcements in due course re venues etc for the functions and my tip would be to register as soon as registrations open, to partake in this convivial weekend.

A quick overview of the Board Of General Purposes financial movements are as follows

Statement of position (QE 30/9/22) and 2023 Budget by Treasurer. YTD – as expected.

Interest income is lower than budgeted. A general worldwide drop.

\$20,000 has been put on term deposit.

Some Lodge dues to District are outstanding, but they are in hand.

Expenditure is under budget. Major expenses have been paid.

Statement of financial position – all on track, with little expected change

Although we don't meet again for some time, that doesn't mean the Board will be inactive.

We need to keep things running smoothly and to deal with any important or urgent matters should they arise. Therefore if your Lodge requires any assistance from The Board, please do not hesitate to advise.

South Island District Charitable Trust

I'm delighted to report that The Trust in my opinion and more importantly in the opinion of our Treasurer, appears to be in good shape.

An extract from the minutes reads as follows

The Treasurer reported that investment values had been flat in 2022, reflecting wider financial market returns. He advised that our investment brokers are anticipating higher returns in the final quarter of 2022 and into 2023, as higher interest rates push up bond returns and falling inflation stimulates global sharemarkets.

The Treasurer advised that the distribution policy, which is based on the average value of investments over the previous 5 years, will allow for charitable donations in excess of \$50,000 in 2023.

In addition to the above minutes, our Grants Committee met and approved \$1000 to be sent to The Nelson Mayoral Relief Fund to assist with The Nelson floods last August.

As advised previously we have a Grants Committee, with a small discretionary amount available, in the case of an emergency, which may arise before the Board considers their yearly grants.

The District Charity Steward has been working on a Charity Plan and has made the commitment to visit all South Island EC Lodges before next Communications to communicate this plan, before our May Communications.

In conclusion on behalf of The Board and Trust, I sincerely thank you for your assistance throughout the year and on behalf of Margaret and I, wish each and every one of you, a peaceful and relaxing Christmas and New Year.

Regards

John Woolcott
President of The Boards
South island District Grand Lodge NZ



www.englishfreemasonsouth.nz

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF
THE DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF THE
SOUTH ISLAND

57 Quinns Rd, Shirley
Christchurch, 8013

Mob: 027 257 6339

E-mail:

communications@englishfreemasonsouth.nz

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February 24th for the March Edition.

Hohepa Fundraiser

The District undertook a 3 year commitment to Hohepa Homes and to run a series of additional fundraisers.

This fundraiser is on behalf of the South Island English Masonic Charitable Trust.

The evening was organised by the District Grand Charity Steward, WBro Nigel Paterson, who was assisted by a number of other volunteers.

You may notice from the photo that there was a spot guest auctioneer...



New Masters

We have 2 New non recycled Masters in our Lodges.

There are in the Greymouth Lodge and Southern Star.

W.Bro Prince of the Greymouth Lodge was installed in Shanty Town Lodge Room.

A really good afternoon which was followed by an afternoon tea with the wives and partners in the Golden Nugget Hotel.



W.Bro Adam Gray of the Southern Star Lodge was installed in the Manchester Unity Building in Nelson.

A lively refectory followed and then a dinner was held with Partners and wives.



Someone who assisted with the Installation, insisted in being in the photo as well.

