

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

DEGREES SOUTH

DECEMBER 2021



DGM THOUGHTS

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Brethren All,

Here we are, into December at the end of another difficult year. As from this week we move into a new regime of CoVid Protection, the Traffic light System, which means that our Lodges are now free to meet within the constraints of the Orange or Green restrictions.

We will be required to follow the Government guidance to ensure the safety of our members and their families, make use of the Vaccine Passports, QR scanning and be mindful of who we have at our meetings and how we adapt our work in the Lodge and at the Festive Board.

As the UK came out of lockdown three months ago, the Deputy Grand Master reminded us of the following:

"I am sure you will all experience, as I have, that individuals respond differently to the current situation. Some of our members in meetings will just carry on as normal, but others will wish to wear a mask or sit at more of a distance from others than before and I am sure there will be other responses. It is vitally important for every member of a Lodge or Chapter to feel comfortable in a meeting and we should all be entirely supportive of the choices individuals make to be

able to attend. The important thing is for everyone to want to attend, be supported to do so and to be engaged with their Freemasonry. We should also be understanding of those members who may not yet feel able to attend a meeting in person and ensure they are very much supported in their continued membership. Such an approach will very much live up to our values."

There will now be a period of "catching up" on both installations and degree work and I look forward to joining as many of you as I am able as your respective Lodges wake up from an enforced hibernation. Hopefully I will see many of you at Communications in Christchurch over the weekend of May 14th.

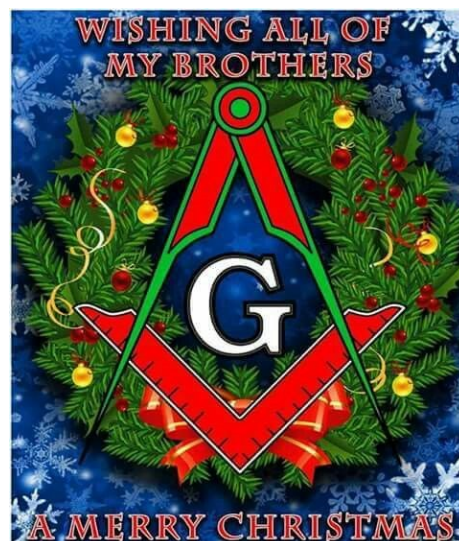
Meanwhile Elaine and I wish you all, and your families, a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

Faternally,

Richard

IMPORTANT DATES

- Installations Pacific—February
- Canterbury— March
- Lazar—March
- Conyers —March
- Communications—May



THANK YOU

Nigel Craig Donehue

To all those who came to visit us, sent cards, flowers, baking, etc – our very grateful thanks to you all in our time of need.

We would also like to thank Geoff & Bev Rowe for opening their house to us for the duration of Nigel's stay in Christchurch ICU.

For those of you who didn't know Nigel – he was our very loved oldest son – born on 19 February 1978 and passed away on 30 July 2021.

Nigel was a very shy person and kept himself to himself.

Nigel went to University in Dunedin when he turned 18 and loved Dunedin so much he stayed there for the rest of his days. He went to University to train to be a teacher but decided in the end that he didn't want to be a teacher after all.

He managed Abbey Colley – a Post-Graduate Hostel down in Dunedin. Nigel loved this job as he had degrees in French, Spanish, Maori & English so could speak to most of the Post-Grads in their own language. He started off as head of the Kitchen and Assistant Manager. When the Manager left, the position was offered to Nigel and he took it on willingly.

During COVID last year the University decided not to keep Abbey College as a Post Grad Facility and instead changed it to a Hall of Residence and renamed it Caroline Freeman College.

Nigel was kept on at Caroline Freeman and was there until he unexpectedly passed away.

Nigel had been diagnosed with high blood pressure and was put on medication but wasn't so good at taking the medication.

The week before he passed away, he woke with a really bad headache and sore neck but kept on working and when he woke on the Tuesday the headache had gone but he still had the sore neck and decided that he had just slept on it the wrong way. By Thursday evening he was once again in agony and went to Dunedin Hospital. They did a lot of tests and at 04:00 Friday morning he

was in a helicopter to fly to Christchurch as Dunedin don't have a Neurological team. We received a phone call at 06:00 from the Emergency Department in Dunedin advising us what was happening.

We travelled to Christchurch after letting our workplaces know that we wouldn't be in, and arrived at ICU to be told that only 1 person at a time could go in. Andrew told me to go in and see him so I did. After speaking with Nigel for about 20 minutes I told him I would go and let Andrew in. By the time Andrew got to his bedside Nigel has fallen asleep and didn't wake again.

We spent the next 6 days by his bedside willing him to wake up but alas this wasn't meant to be. We had come to the realisation on the following Tuesday that if Nigel was going to wake up, he would have done it by now. They had also decided not to operate to try and fix the Aneurysm and that was also an indication that the outcome wasn't going to be a good one.

On the Wednesday they took him for an MRI to see what his brain activity was like and this wasn't a good outcome. When the Aneurysm burst in Dunedin, he then had a seizure which spread the blood around the brain – effectively starting to kill off his frontal lobe brain cells. If he survived, he would not have any quality of life and we decided that Nigel wouldn't want to live like that – having to have people to help him with everyday activities.

Nigel's 2 brothers – Stephen & Michael and his sister Natasha, their partners and 1 of his nephews and 1 of his nieces arrived up to see him on the Wednesday and we were told officially on the Wednesday night that the prognosis was not good.

The rest of the family arrived back on Thursday to see him again and to say their goodbyes. We had decided that we would get the breathing tube taken out at approx 3 pm Thursday afternoon after some of his friends from Dunedin had been in to see him and to say their goodbyes as well.

We had decided to stay overnight with Nigel as we wanted to be there for him, however long it took. Nigel took his last breath at 08:46 on Friday 30 July.

Also – if you are married, not married, living with someone, have children, don't have children – please make

sure you and your partner have a will. Nigel hadn't made one, and now as his next of kin, as his partner had passed way 4 years previously and there were no children, then we have to sort everything out. This will probably take 12 months by the time Probate is granted and if he had made a will, it could have been dealt with in 2 – 3 months. People say that they don't have assets – if you have a bank account that is an asset, if you have kiwi-saver or some other superannuation fund – that is an asset, if you have a house – that is an asset, if you have life insurance – that is an asset, if you have furniture, a car, etc then they are assets.

So, please, if you have children, grandchildren, great grandchildren then make sure they have made a will if they have any of the above. I made my first will when I was 18. One of our other sons has made a will along with his partner, the other son who is married with 3 children didn't have one but his partner and himself have made one now. Our daughter didn't have a will so hopefully she has sorted one out now.

We will remember Nigel with a great deal of love, forever in our hearts.

Andrew & Janice Donehue and family

BOARD REPORT

Board Of General Purposes

By the time you receive this report, we should hopefully be very close to meeting again in person, after what has been a long time away from being together. Although the Board of General Purposes has been fairly quiet due to Covid, there have been a number of issues to deal with behind the scenes.

Because we have been unable to meet, this has been frustrating, but at the end of the day we are taught to be cautious.

Like many other organisations, businesses and clubs etc., we have anxiously been waiting for the traffic light system, coupled with people being double vaccinated, to enable us to act in a safe manner.

In recent days The North Island District along with The Mark Lodge have come up with a very credible strategy, to be able to deal with meetings, whilst Covid is present in New Zealand it was agreed, that once we are at a suitable Government traffic light level (orange) we will adapt the North Island strategy to enable us to meet. Full details will be forwarded, when we are at this stage.

Communication

Next year's Annual Communication Meeting will be held in Christchurch, hosted by Conyers Lodge 1916, with the Likely date being 14th May 2022.

Publicity

As you are aware at our last Communications Meeting WBro Tasker, was appointed District Communications Officer.

Along with WBro Stenning, he is in the process of redesigning our Website.

So far it is coming along very well, so watch this space for some exciting developments.

South Island District Masonic Charitable Trust

Because of Covid, the financial markets have been a bit up and down, but overall Craig's investments have handled our funds well.

Because we are long term investors, we expect to have peaks and troughs, but over the long term the peaks keep us in good stead to provide funds for charitable purposes, which is the reason for The Trust.

While The Trust still contributes to smaller standing grant requests, the focus has shifted slightly to aligning with larger causes, that require a reasonable amount.

This also helps us all in Freemasonry, because giving larger amounts to a worthwhile cause, can also attract valuable publicity for the craft.

In October, WBro Patterson organised a Whisky and Gin Tasting Fundraiser, for Hohepa Canterbury.

Hohepa Canterbury is a disability support and service provider, who require much needed funds.

Although possibly due to Covid fears, the event only had 11 masons in attendance along with others, the profit from the night was a very healthy \$3854.

The Trust has earmarked Hohepa for further support, so our Charity Steward is looking at running another event for them in the new year.

It is hoped (or could I say expected) that The Lodges will get behind the next event selling tickets and tables etc.

In conclusion, on behalf of The Boards and Margaret and I we wish you the very best of Seasons Greetings and for a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

John Woolcott
President of The Boards



**THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION
OF THE DISTRICT GRAND
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The views expressed in these pages do not
necessarily reflect those of the District Grand Lodge

Degrees South Deadline:
February 21st for the March Edition.

Team App

On the recommendation of UGLE, District Grand Lodge now has their own smartphone app which is 100% FREE to join. This App is used by a number of English Provinces and Districts worldwide.

It will keep you updated with all the latest news, events, schedules and much more.

A Lodge in Christchurch has been using the Messenger App to communicate with a number of the "younger" brethren. Obviously this leaves a number of "older" brethren out.

This App is being setup so Lodges can not only communicate with their members, but messages can be sent to all South Island members or simply one on one chats.

As this is a District only App, Lodges can list their summons for all to see. There is no public access.

As a number of members do not have an email address, this app will let you receive articles like Degrees South.

To get the full features of this app please go to the App Store or Google Play and download Team App onto your mobile device, then follow these simple steps:

1. Sign-up to Team App. You'll be sent an e-mail to activate your account.
2. Log-in and search for South Island, New Zealand DGL, then request to become a member.

If you don't have a smartphone or would prefer to receive e-mail correspondence, please reply to this e-mail with a request to be added manually

HISTORY FLASH BACK

The year is 2004 and the Annual Communication was held in May at the Canterbury Provincial Chambers, Christchurch.

This was the first Communication for our new District Grand Master, Geoffrey Wayne Rowe.

Conyers Lodge went on to celebrate its 125th year.



District Grand Lodge Officers



Some of the sitting Master



The dinner at Rydges Hotel