

The DGM/s Corner

The Importance of Mentoring New Members in Freemasonry

At the very heart of our Craft: the importance of mentoring new members in Freemasonry. As Masons, we are called not only to improve ourselves in Masonry, but to ensure that those who follow in our footsteps are guided, supported, and inspired as they undertake their own Masonic journey.

Freemasonry is not merely a collection of rituals or ancient symbols—it is a living, breathing fraternity. Our strength does not lie in the number of our members, but in the depth of our brotherhood. That brotherhood is sustained through mentorship. When a man first enters our Lodge, he is often filled with wonder, curiosity, and perhaps a little confusion. He may not yet grasp the meaning of our rituals, the symbolism of our tools, or the profound depth of our teachings. It is through mentorship—through the steady hand of a Brother who walks beside him—that the new initiate begins to see with Masonic eyes and understand with a Masonic heart.

The teachings of our Craft are not passed on like common knowledge. They are veiled in allegory, illustrated by symbols, and meant to be explored with care and reflection. Without proper guidance, a new Brother may miss the deeper significance of our work. But under the tutelage of a mentor—a trusted guide—those teachings come alive. A mentor helps interpret the symbolism, answers questions with patience, and connects the lessons of Masonry to the realities of daily life. Through this process, a new Mason is not simply taught *about* Masonry; he is transformed *by* it.

Mentorship also strengthens the bonds between Brethren. In sharing time, wisdom, and encouragement, the mentor and mentee forge a genuine connection. This is not merely an instructional relationship—it is fraternal. When mentorship is strong, the Lodge is strong. A mentored Brother is far more likely to stay active, take on responsibilities, and develop into a future leader of the Craft. He feels seen, supported, and connected. He knows that he is not alone on this journey, but walks among friends and Brothers.

We must also consider the future. Freemasonry has endured for centuries because each generation has taken seriously the duty of instructing the next. The world changes, but the need for truth, virtue, and brotherhood remains constant. If we are to remain relevant, vibrant, and meaningful in modern society, we must ensure that our newer members are not left to find their way alone. The sustainability of Freemasonry depends on the careful cultivation of Masons—not just through initiation, but through education and mentorship. When we invest our time and wisdom in others, we preserve the legacy that was entrusted to us.

Let us not think of mentorship as an abstract ideal. It is a living duty, and every Brother here can take part in it. Whether you are an officer, a Past Master, or a Fellowcraft, you have something to offer.

Here are a few simple ways to begin:

- **Adopt a new Brother:** Take a personal interest in one newer member. Invite him to lodge events, answer his questions, and check in regularly.
- **Lead by example:** Let your own conduct be a model of Masonic values—honesty, humility, and charity.
- **Encourage study and reflection:** Share books, articles, and lectures. Engage in discussions about Masonic philosophy and practice.
- **Listen:** Sometimes, the best mentorship is simply being present and truly listening.

Brethren, to mentor a new Mason is to hold a torch high, lighting the way for another as others once did for us. It is an act of service, an expression of love, and a fulfilment of our Masonic obligation. Let us remember that the future of the Craft does not rest in monuments or records—it rests in men. In hearts and minds shaped by the Light of Masonry, and kindled by the care of a Brother.

Let us each resolve, in our own way, to be that guiding light.

Fraternally,

Ray Moroney
ADGM

New Assistant Grand Master

Congratulations to

RWBro. John Paul Thompson on his appointment as the third Assistant Grand Master

He is listed on your charge list and now you can see who he is.



Lodge Roundup

Southern Star 735 –??

Canterbury 1048 - On Saturday 8th March 2025 WBro Woolcott was again installed into the chair of King Solomon

Pacific Lodge of Hokitika 1229 & Lodge of St John 1137

A combined meeting held in the old Lodge rooms in Hokitika.

Pacific opened the Lodge, conducted their business, visitors admitted and then closed.

St John then opened their Lodge and the business was conducted.

A presentation was given by RW.Bro Richard Taylor on "White Rabbits in Masonry".



Greymouth Lodge 1233

Greetings Brethren All.

The Greymouth Lodge held its regular April meeting (Saturday 05th April), with a good turnout of membership from both the Lodge, but also by a good number of visiting Brethren from other Lodges, incl. our sister (NZC) Constitution.

The April meeting was a "VERY" special meeting for our little Lodge, & I say this as it has been some time since our Lodge has either had a candidate & or preformed an "Initiation" Ceremony, with the last occasion being way back in 2017.

I was very fortunate to be the current sitting Master for this most joyous occasion, being a First Degree "Initiation" Ceremony for our new Candidate, Samuel Townley Hillier.

The Ceremony was preformed to a high standard & I was exceptionally proud of our membership for stepping up when our Lodge needed it the most. The way the members conducted themselves, it was evident & commented on by a number of visiting brethren, that there had obviously been a great deal of effort put into both learning & rehearsing the charges.

I was also extremely gratefully for the inundation of support from not only other Lodges on the Coast, namely Phoenix Lodge #1690, but I must pay a special mention & Thankyou too Wor. Bro. Colenso from Lodge Torea (NZC), for an absolutely fantastic explanation of the 1st Degree Tracing board, plus members from Souther Star Lodge #735 (Nelson), Thankyou on behalf of our Lodge for not only travelling down but also for your support in taking up offices for the Ceremony. The support our Lodge received can only but be admired & respect & I THANK you all.

I would also like to take the opportunity to THANK all of our own brethren both near & far, for making the effort to travel for this meeting, it was fantastic to see so many of our own brethren, one of which (Wor. Bro. McPherson) even flying down from Auckland, but also those others who had come over from either Nelson or Christchurch, thank you so very much.

The Lodge is now looking forward to conducting a 2nd Degree Ceremony (Passing), at our next regular meeting to held in the Masonic Lodge at Shantytown in Greymouth, on Saturday 14/06/2025. Needless to say, the bar has now been set in terms of expectations & I am only too sure the brethren will put in the same commitment to this 2nd Degree as they did the 1st. I as I'm only to sure our brethren are, very much looking forward to this next meeting.

Faternally.

Wor. Bro. Brewer. DAGDC. WM. Greymouth Lodge #1233 E.C.



Phoenix 1690

A regular meeting held.

Winchester 1737 – ??**Ashburton 1811 -**

Tuesday 15th April they hosted WBro Luke Sutton who talked on Air Training Corps.

Conyers 1916

Domestic meeting held. We had a visitor from the UK Wentworth Lodge 737 where Matthew Honeywood had been the SW. Our Brother, Gareth Pethig was visiting from Australia. Gareth outlined what was happening in his Lodge and District.

Amberley 2007

Installation of Ben Smith by W.Bro F van Zoggel and assisted by W.Bro D Mackay.

A great evening for a well deserving Brother.

**St Albans 2597 –**

They were going to raise a candidate from Lodge Doric New Brighton , but unfortunately the candidate was not available due to illness, instead they performed an emulation 3rd Degree.

Canterbury 1948 RAC

An evening where Bro Mark Pitogo completed the Royal Arch Degree.



No meeting
Dunedin Lodge 931
Lazar1689

District Charity (Nigel Paterson – nigpat@extra.co.nz)

Look for the next District charity event.

Membership Officer (Alister MacPherson - alistermacnz@gmail.com)

Action plan in development with the good information coming out of London.
Alister is looking forward to catching up with you and looks forward to any suggestions you may have.

District Mentor (Nigel Howard – nigelflyer@extra.co.nz)

Action plan still in development.

The History Place

Have you noticed this jewel on the Master Collar and wondered what it is telling you.

On 14 June 1967, the 250th anniversary of Grand Lodge was celebrated at the Royal Albert Hall. Centrepiece of the celebrations was the installation as Grand Master of HRH The Duke of Kent, who still holds that office today.

In 1966 in celebration of Freemasonry's 250th anniversary, Lord Scarbrough, launched a charitable appeal in February 1966 to mark the 250th anniversary of the founding of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons. It was marked with a massive donation by the Craft to the Royal College of Surgeons to endow a research chair at the College for the benefit of mankind as a whole.

"The College has a long and special relationship with Freemasonry in England with the advancement of surgery, owing much to the generosity and constant support of Freemasons, who have contributed money and time to the College over many years.

"He proposed that every English Freemason should give £1 towards 'the betterment of human health and 'happiness."

The purpose of the appeal was to establish a charitable fund with the income being made available to the College for research. The appeal was enthusiastically embraced by Freemasons, and resulted in the establishment of the 250th Anniversary Fund for "research into the science of surgery".

This fund is used for non-Masonic charities and endows research units under the auspices of the Royal College of Surgeons. More than £580,000 was raised, and used to create the first Masonic charity with exclusively non-Masonic objectives.

In its first years, the fund gave £25,000 to the Royal College of Surgeons of England, financing the first three Freemasons' surgical research fellowships, a dental research fellowship and a library grant to help with the research process.

The donation took the form of a collection equal to £1 per member of the Lodge to the Grand Master's Fund. Lodges achieving their own target in this respect were accorded the right to a 250th Anniversary Commemorative Jewel; to mark this event the Jewel now adorns the Master's collar.

The medallion is in 'Red and Blue' enamel showing the Arms of the Premier Grand Lodge and the years 1717 to 1967.

The charity's objectives remain 'to further, in conjunction with the [Royal College of Surgeons](#), research in the science of surgery'.

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