

The DGM/s Corner

DISTRICT GRAND MASTERS REPORT

Brethren I greet you all well.

It is hard to believe how fast this year is passing by. September already and still a lot of work to be done in the district.

Since my last newsletter I have had a reasonably busy time travelling the South Island visiting all 4 constitutions and assisting with their installations.

St Patricks Inst in Dunedin (Irish)

St John Inst in Milton (Scottish)

Concord Inst in Christchurch (NZ)

Dunedin Inst in Blenheim EC

Canterbury RA Inst Christchurch

I have coming up the following. Your support to the district would be appreciated.

Sat 30th Aug board meeting where charitable applications are approved.

Sat 6th Sept Greymouth Lodge installation.

Thurs 11th Sept Avon Shirley Installation NZ.

Sat 13th Sept Lodge of St John Installation Timaru.

I thank those brethren who have accompanied me on these occasions.

I have to say a big thankyou to the District Officers who are out there giving support to our lodges. Again, I cannot emphasise too much the importance of utilising these officers when they make contact to assist you in any way they can. But do not wait to be contacted if you need support all you have to do is ask.

In August I invited all the masters of the district to a zoom meeting to have a general catchup and to find out how each lodge is coping. This is a new initiative and is intended to give the Masters an opportunity to put forward any issues they may have and talk to each other on how each lodge is solving its issues. I feel this first meeting was very successful with the group agreeing to hold this meeting every 3 months.

It is heartening to see most of our lodges bringing in new members to their lodges by way of initiations or joining members. Initiations are always better as that increases the number of masons overall.

Lodge Roundup

Southern Star 735

Our August Regular Meeting was a memorable evening, marking the final meeting in the Chair for WBro Andrew Preece. The Lodge extended its sincere thanks to him for a successful and steady year, which included a strong calendar of degrees, social events, and excellent support at practices. His leadership has been deeply appreciated.

WBro Preece has since departed for the UK for a few months to visit family. The Lodge wished him safe travels and looks forward to welcoming him back in due course.

The highlight of the night was the Initiation of Bro Daryl Arabejo. The ceremony was delivered with sincerity and warmth, and Bro Daryl was welcomed into the Craft with enthusiasm from the brethren.

We also conducted the second reading for Mr. Emiliano Garcia and the first reading for Mr. Louis Picot, both in good stead.

Before closing, the Lodge gathered for a group photo, a “class picture” of sorts to mark the end of the Worshipful Master’s term. The meeting then concluded in peace and harmony, followed by a cheerful refectory with singing and target-shooting.



Dunedin Lodge 931

Dunedin Lodge 931 had its installation meeting on Saturday 16th August 2025, RW Bro John Soper DGM SI was in attendance with W Bro Ray Moroney as Installing Officer. The event was slightly shorter than a full installation as all officers with the exception of the two deacons were to remain in office, so a shortened program could be observed. The installation ceremony was concluded inside of an hour leaving plenty of time for a relaxed toast list followed by a hearty buffet at the Woodbourne Tavern in Renwick.

Dunedin Lodge is in relatively good stead, with a significant number of brethren being regular attenders to meetings and dining events accompanied with our ladies.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday 19th November 2025 and would welcome any visitors.

Pacific Lodge of Hokitika 1229

Pacific held an Emulation of the First Degree, using their specific Pacific ritual.

It was interesting as parts of it were from true English ritual.

Phoenix 1690

We just had a regular meeting and are doing a 3rd on October 2nd

Phoenix Sunday outing for friends and family on the Nile River Train.

We even had our own Fat Controller W. Bro. Ray Moroney.

**Winchester 1737**

A Domestic meeting was held.

Ashburton 1811

Invited three brethren to speak on "This is your Life"

Conyers 1916

A Domestic meeting held where an Emulation of the First Degree was performed.

Amberley 2007

The Wm has sent in place a programme for each Office holder to give a presentation on their role. W.Bro Polaschek, the SW, gave a very good explanation on what this meant from being invested at Installation and the significance of it. He also used information from Solomon to expand the role.

Followed by a discussion from W.Bro Frans van Zoggel on "Masonic Prisoners of the Anglo-Franco Wars".

St Albans 2597

No information received

Canterbury 1048 RAC

Companion David Mackay was installed into the First Principals chair and Companion Frans van Zoggel into the Second Principals chair.

Visitors were welcomed from the NZ Royal Arch District and Chapters and the Scottish.

No meeting

Lodge of St John 1137

Canterbury 1048

Greymouth Lodge 1233

Lazar1689

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

“We successfully had the quarterly SIEDCT board meeting this week and, as usual, it proved good for charity. The charity plan was discussed, and it was agreed that although it is working well there is an opportunity to enhance it by reviewing the 3-year partnerships. It has been agreed that 5-year partnerships will bring more impact to the charities and our visibility in the community. Both charities are thrilled about the decision.

Here is a glimpse at the district charities and how we partnered with them in August.

Cholmondeley Children's Centre

They have their annual ‘Little Gems’ fundraising gala coming up on 6th September and tickets are available for sale now! Being that it’s their 100th anniversary I can assure you this will be a big celebration. I highly recommend this event and encourage attendance.

<https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2025/little-gems-centenary-party/christchurch>

**One Mother to Another**

OMTA are looking for businesses to support them as match funders for their Christmas appeal. This means your business will be highlighted as donations come in up to the amount you have pledged. Part of the annual donation from the district will be used for this campaign. This is a great highlighted in the community.

Check out their annual report below.

[OMTA Annual Report 24/25](#)

I look forward to updating you next month!

Nigel Paterson

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

Details to follow.

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

ATTENTION LODGE MENTORS

To all Lodge Mentor's, further to my article in the July issue of Degrees South , I am still waiting to hear from many of you.

I am here to help you in your important role within your Lodge. I am keen to talk to each of you on a one to one basis, to discuss in detail how being the Lodge Mentor is working for you, to offer guidance and support from both myself and District and to ensure a degree of consistency throughout our District.

I am aware that some of our Lodges do not currently have a Mentor appointed. To all Lodge Secretaries, please remind your Lodge Mentors to contact me and if no current Mentor, please advise whom within your Lodge will be appointed. The deadline is by your next installation, preferably now. Our DGM has rightly decreed that all Lodges must have a duly appointed Lodge Mentor.

The role is of vital importance, not just to foster and to care for new Brethren, but to ensure that senior members of our Lodges are cared for and fulfilled within their Lodges. I wonder how many of our Lodges have Brethren who no longer regularly attend Lodge meetings. We cannot afford to lose good Brethren. Can you think of anyone within your Lodge? I know the answer.



A visitor

WBro W Les Joynes, PM Columbia Lodge No 1190 in New York was a visitor to Christchurch last week and Frans took the opportunity to meet with him and show him around the CFC where he met John and Dave Stenning. (Photo of him presenting a GLNY PIN to the boys!)

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The views expressed in these pages do not necessarily reflect those of the District Grand Lodge

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