

The DGM/s Corner

Greetings Brethren and welcome back to another year of freemasonry.

I hope you have had valuable time with family and enjoyed what summer we have had.

Brethren we are an organisation in my mind above all else. We have strong values that inspire young men to grow and become better as individuals. We are one of, if not the only true organisation that has never wavered from its foundations and survived for so long. Our constitution was set in stone by those who have come before us. For this we must acknowledge their sacrifices. First for creating and then in holding freemasonry together through wars and persecution so that today we can continue to enjoy freemasonry as it is meant to be.

Sometimes when you think about it, it is hard to believe that when those original masons over 300 years ago, (when human life had little value), set about to create an organisation that was founded on brotherly love relief and truth that it would survive through some of mankind's most violent periods through time. That we are not judged by our wealth or station in society but for who we are as men. Brethren with this in mind, we must ensure that as modern-day masons belonging to a lodge and practicing freemasonry from its original form that we do not waver from those foundations.

Modernising is fine to make it a bit more appealing in today's modern society, but we must never forget how we got here and why we still exist.

Brethren we have two parts to our masonic meetings. There is the business part within the portals and then there is the refectory. Some believe refectory is just to have a cup of tea, a beer or whiskey have a chat and go home. Refectory is an official part of our lodge and should never be treated any less. The first part of the refectory is grace. We must always give thanks to what we are about to receive. This is given regardless of where you hold refectory. Then we have the toasts. The timing is usually after all have eaten. All toasts are official and must always be given in full as listed by UGLE. Each lodge should have the official list, if not contact WB Dave Stenning DGSECT and he will send it to you. If refectory is going to be in public, then have the toasts at the lodge rooms before departing. Grace should be just before dining starts regardless of venue.

Brethren the reason I have picked on this is so often the toasts are cut short, especially the third toast which is a list of grand officers from the Pro Grand Master down, including those that may be in your lodge. If toasting someone present say something it does not need to be a lot, but something is better than standing and saying I give you the toast-----. When someone is replying to a toast it is easier if they have something to reply to.

Often, I hear someone say we will remain standing between toasts. This is an absolute no, no. every toast that is given is official to the recipient/s whether they are present or not. We never stand between each toast to honour not just those brethren we are toasting today but those who have gone before us as well as those who will receive them in the future.

the only exception to the toasts is we exclude all fires and delete the Tyler's toast when our ladies and non-masons are present.

Everyone present stands for grace.

A reminder we have communications coming up on 17th May. This year they are being hosted by the Dunedin Lodge in Blenheim. I look forward to a good turn out to acknowledge those brethren being welcomed into district for the first time, those being promoted and those receiving past rank. Registrations will be out shortly. The format this year will be similar to last year so please encourage your Master Masons to come along as they are our future. All master masons raised since our communications last year will be personally welcomed as members of our district.

Remember Brethren this is the time to find out who is who in your district and to keep up to date with constitutional changes.

Fraternal Regards
R.W. Bro. J.O Soper
District Grand Master

Lodge Roundup

Southern Star 735 – Our February meeting featured a double Second Degree ceremony for Bro. Paul Pascua and Bro. Anthony Surbano. A memorable night filled with Masonic friendship and camaraderie. Newly invested Steward, Bro. Harold Pangilinan, wasted no time in getting to work—his apron was already off as he helped prepare supper!



Dunedin Lodge 931 – ??

Pacific Lodge of Hokitika 1229 - Installed Wor Bro Allen James Glasson as their new Master.

Greymouth Lodge 1233 – ??

Lazar1689 - ??

Phoenix 1690 – A Regular meeting held

Winchester 1737 – a Domestic meeting held.

Ashburton 1811 - a Domestic meeting held.

Conyers 1916 – A lecture was delivered by W.Bro D Lyons of Masters & Past Masters Lodge No 139. The Lecture was adapted from the transactions of QC in 1969. The lecture was titled Just, Perfect and Regular.

Bro m Tan was confirmed as the WM Elect. Here seen with some of his new Officers.



Amberley 2007 – A Domestic evening held where some planning took place for the upcoming Installation.

St Albans 2597 – ??

No meeting

Canterbury 1048

Lodge of St John 1137

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

February has been a busy month fraternally and personally, but charity is still a strong focus.

One Mother to Another

They had a big month distributing more care packages across the South Island and spent some valuable time celebrating International Women's Day. It was a good reminder that what we achieve as masons is off and only achieved by the support we have from our wives, partners and family.

- There are still limited tickets to their gala dinner on the evening of Saturday 22nd March so if you are interested check it out on their [events page](#) or call me for more info
- Saturday 5th April we are running a Whisky & Gin tasting at the Canterbury Freemason Centre where all profits will be given to One Mother to Another. This is an opportunity for us to show support by attending! I also still looking for items to put on the auction table. [Get tickets here](#) or call me for more information!

Cholmondeley Children's Centre

This year is the 100th anniversary of the centre and they have had a number of different events happening with more to come. The night on HMNZS Canterbury was a highlight in February. I attended their annual golf tournament on Friday 6th March also.

Plans to run an event that we could link in Blenheim and the West Coast are in planning stages so when I know more I will let you know.

Remember brethren that having a focus on charity not only makes a massive difference to the charities but also increases or visibility in the community! Please let me know any successes and stories you may have.

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

At a time when we are getting back into the swing, we should look at our recruitment for our Lodges. UGLE has produced some good information to help. We are making this more our District focus. Watch this space.

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

Action plan still in development.

The History Place

Nothing to report this issue.

THE PUBLICATION OF THE DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF THE SOUTH ISLAND

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

Degrees South Deadline:

4th April for the March Edition.