

## The DGM/s Corner

Greetings Brethren All,

The year has certainly picked up momentum in its first three months as Lodges resume normal activities and we can clearly see “Communications 2025” on the horizon.

We’re all, no doubt, busy visiting other Lodges and inevitably sharing in their festive boards at Refectory.

To my mind the execution of our work in the Lodge room reflects our proficiency of the ritual, customs and landmarks of our Lodge, and we do our very best to exhibit our best efforts and skills to each other in the Lodge room.

Our newer members learn from this, in fact that’s the way our traditions and workings have been handed down for over three hundred years- good ritual helps to keep everyone engaged.

Our visitors see just how dedicated we are to getting the workings of our shared Craft right – and even though our Constitutions in New Zealand are delightfully similar and uniquely different, good workings make for an interesting evening for all concerned.

Likewise, our Refectory proceedings ought to continue to reflect the best image of our Lodge to our visitors, and often to those outside of the craft, (partners, family, prospective members, etc).

Following on from RWBro Soper’s salient points last month around the etiquette of Refectory Toasts, Fires, etc, I feel it’s incumbent on us to ensure our refectory proceedings show our Lodges in the best possible light, and that the experience enhances fellowship, engagement, and overall enjoyment for all present.

The best practice for a successful Refectory may seem simple, but in reality, there are some very important considerations we need to meet so we can get into the habit of just “getting it right”:

**Setting the Tone:** Ensure the refectory is a warm, welcoming, and well-organised environment.

Set the room and the tables in advance, this helps create a positive atmosphere and avoids delays or confusion as people move through from the Lodge room.

Proper seating arrangements are important, knowing who will be at the Head Table and inviting them in advance is polite and professional.

**Keep Toasts & Replies Engaging:** Give those proposing and replying to toasts plenty of notice, don’t drop it on them last minute.

Traditions are very important and the D.C. ought to keep the programme moving along. Be mindful some visitors may have a distance to travel home, keep toasts and responses concise and to the point.

**Encourage Fraternal Inclusivity:** Make sure new members, visitors, and guests feel welcomed and engaged.

Seat lodge members alongside your guests so they’re not left alone or isolated.

If dinner is a buffet or self-served don’t all rush forward at once, ensure your guests and senior members are given the courtesy of being served first.

**Enhancing Culinary Experiences:** No-one visiting a Lodge Refectory is expecting a seven course, silver serviced, Cordon Bleu, Michelin gastronomic menu with matching wines offered for each course!

But somewhere between that, nuked savouries, and egg sandwiches is an enjoyable spread that will suit most guests.

Avoid repetitive or uninspired meals. Consider themed nights or varied menus. Try and cater to dietary needs, be aware of allergies, offer options that are vegetarian, nut free or dairy free as appropriate for your guests.

If some members are up for it, Lodge cooking challenges can also be fun...maybe make it a friendly competition between lodge members. Support those who do contribute from the kitchen, help them out when and where you can.

Brethren, Lodges that get into the habit of making both parts of our gatherings enjoyable ought to see happier and more proficient members, as well as contented and more frequent visitors.

Just some "food" for thought to "chew" over Brethren, see you at around the District!

Fraternally,

Frans van Zoggel (Zoggie)  
DDGM

## Lodge Roundup

### Southern Star 735 –??

**Canterbury 1048** - On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2025 WBro Woolcott was installed into the chair of King Solomon It was his 7<sup>th</sup> time to be installed as Master of The Canterbury lodge

In attendance were the four Constitutions

R WBro Milner Jacob Provincial Grand Master Midland District NZ Constitution , accompanied by W.Bro Gordon, Bro Grant Riddell Substitute District Grand Master New Zealand South Scottish Constitution

VW Bro j Hazeltine Provincial Grand Director of Ceremony's . Provincial Grand Lodge of Ireland NZ

Rt WBro J Soper Accompanied by Grand and District Grand Lodge Officers

The WM of St Albans Lodge accompanied with three past Masters , was in attendance

The WM of Methven Lodge no 51 NZ was also present

There was a pleasant time in the refectory , where was stated , the Canterbury Lodge , thanks to the assistance of a number of people , is back in good heart



**Greymouth Lodge 1233 – ??****Lazar1689**

Our Installation in March was held in the new Masonic Centre in Stoke and the short Proclamation Ceremony was ably conducted by Wor Bro Ray Moroney. We were joined by representatives from both the New Zealand and Irish Constitutions. A buffet meal followed.

Our next meeting will be in early October.

In February, our first meeting for the year, was held at Willowbank Historic Village in Wakefield. The D.G.Master, Wor Bro Soper, attended the Lodge meeting which was followed by a barbeque with wives and partners in the Village Church.

In 2020 Wor Bro Hazan approached Willowbank with the idea of erecting a tiny Lodge room as part of their village. Several months work followed and with volunteer labour from freemasons in our district the project was completed and the building dedicated in November 2021

The pictures below show a group of craftsmen enjoying “smoko” and the completed building. Check out Willowbank at <https://www.willowbankwakefield.co.nz/>

**Phoenix 1690**

A regular meeting held.



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

Tuesday 18th March: **The Ashburton Lodge No. 1811 EC** conferred a Third Degree on Bro Nick Huggings.

*L to R:*

WBro David McKay, Senior Deacon. WBro MaxCawte, Senior Warden. The Master, WBro Jebbu Gabonada.

Bro Nick Huggings, Candidate. WBro Aird Muir, Junior Warden. VWBro Ray Guddex, Junior Deacon (filling in).



Bro Nick will be building a bookcase to accommodate the many books he was presented.

In refectory the Grand Superintendent, RWBro John Sopper, asked the English Lodges to give courtesy to the recipients of toasts by standing for each separate toast and not get in the habit of *"...you will remain standing while the next toast is given..."*.

**Conyers 1916**

Installation of Bro. M. Tan. This was held on Saturday 22 March as number of visitors travelled from all parts of NZ, Australia and the Philippines. The Lodge room was full.

For what could be a first, 5 Constitutions were present: New Zealand, Irish, Scottish and the Grand Lodge of the Phillipines. Of course English.



Chris Thorndycroft, Grant Riddell, John Soper, Mik Tan, Steven Elliot, Peter Hobson, Bob Suarez



### Amberley 2007

At Amberleys last meeting in March, we enjoyed a very informative lecture and discussion from out Deputy District Grand Master W Bro Frans van Zoggel on: "Shattering the Great Myths about Freemasonry"



**St Albans 2597 – ??****No meeting**

Dunedin Lodge 931

Pacific Lodge of Hokitika 1229

Lodge of St John 1137

Canterbury 1948 RAC

**District Charity** (Nigel Paterson – [nigpat@extra.co.nz](mailto:nigpat@extra.co.nz))

**Reminder** - Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Membership Officer** (Alister MacPherson - [alistermacnz@gmail.com](mailto:alistermacnz@gmail.com))

Action plan in development with the god information coming out of London.

**District Mentor** (Nigel Howard – [nigelflyer@extra.co.nz](mailto:nigelflyer@extra.co.nz))

Action plan still in development.

**The History Place**

How well do you store/protect your history items?

Recently several items ended up on Facebook Marketplace. On closer inspection they appeared to come from one source.

What happened was we had an earthquake in Christchurch and the items were stored in a container on private property. The Mason died and his relative didn't know what to do, so they auctioned them.

The person then put them on Facebook with some interesting prices.

I went and viewed them and retrieved the history photos, at no cost, for the Lodge concerned. He also had the Wardens chairs, desks and many other items.

Also included was an English Lodge Charter dated 1896. This Lodge eventually became a New Zealand Lodge and later combined with another.

I guess the message here is take care of what you have and make sure people know where it is.

Ed.

THE PUBLICATION OF THE DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF THE  
SOUTH ISLAND

Editor - Murray Tasker

57 Quinns Rd, Shirley, Christchurch, 8013

Mob: 027 257 6339

E-mail: [communications@englishfreemasonsouth.nz](mailto:communications@englishfreemasonsouth.nz)

**Degrees South Deadline:**

**4<sup>th</sup> May** for the April Edition.