

The DGM/s Corner

DISTRICT GRAND MASTERS WORDS

Brethren, another year has passed, with Communications 2026 behind us. A big thank you to Pacific Lodge of Hokitika for hosting this year's event. It was well organised and executed.

It was a pleasure to welcome Rt. Wor. Bro. George Francis PDepGM from the UGLE to our communications and banquet. He was impressed by the progress of the district, the high standard of our communications meeting, and the strength of our charitable work within the community.

We achieve far more than might be expected. This would not be possible without the dedication of the brethren across the district who help drive this success.

George's comments made me immensely proud to serve as DGM of a district so committed to supporting those less fortunate than ourselves. That commitment is not led by the district alone, but by each lodge through the charitable work you do in your community.

On Monday 18th May Rt. Wor. Bro. Adrian Marsh, Grand Secretary PJGW arrived for a 2-day visit. It was an opportunity to have discussions on how we as a district are going and where we may need support from UGLE going forward.

On Tuesday 19th Nigel Patterson DG. Charity Stwd organised a trip to Cholmondeley House in Governors Bay for George and Adrian to see first-hand how we work with our charities in the community. It was a successful visit which was very much appreciated by the ladies at Cholmondeley. Well organised Nigel.

In total we hosted George for 6 days and Adrian for 2 days.

On the Tuesday evening, with thanks to Conyers Lodge for moving the date of their regular meeting, both George and Adrian were able to attend and were received in due form. W.Bro Phil Jackson DG Learning and Development officer (Orator) presented a very enlightening 30 min paper on the history of the DGLSI from its earliest days.

On Wednesday 20th both Adrian and George departed for the North Island to support the DGLNI celebrate the 150th year of the district in Taupo.

On Thursday 21st Both Marie and I left for the same function. It was pleasing to have the company of brethren from of our district with me which is always welcome. The weekend went well with A dinner on the Thursday night.

Friday afternoon featured the 150th meeting, during which a new banner commemorating the milestone was unveiled. This was followed on Friday evening by a meet-and-greet function.

Saturday was devoted to social activities during the day, with the main banquet held that evening.

Brethren, in May 2027 the Communications for the DGLSI will be hosted by Phoenix Lodge in Westport which is also their 150th year. I ask you all now to plan for this and make this occasion a memorable event. I am sure Phoenix will be looking at marking this milestone in style.

I appreciate for some, the cost can be a bit hard, but we must remember that this is a once-a-year occasion and is the highlight of our calendar when we can all come together, both masons and ladies to celebrate our district. I ask that you start looking at this now as Phoenix in Westport would love to see you. More info closer to the time

Brethren although this has been an extremely busy 2 weeks it has been a rewarding time for our District. It has highlighted Grand Lodge (UGLE) just how much we do to promote freemasonry in our community. Well done to everyone, let us keep up the excellent work we do.

John Soper

Communication Snap shots



Lodge Roundup

Southern Star 735

Southern Star Lodge enjoyed another busy and positive meeting in May.

We have passed Bro Daryl Arabejo to the Second Degree. The ceremony was well supported by both members and visiting brethren, and congratulations are extended to Bro Daryl as he continues his Masonic journey.

The Lodge was also pleased to welcome WBro Peter Farrell as a joining member following a successful ballot. Peter was a member of Brownrigg lodge in England, and we look forward to his continued involvement.

The meeting also saw WBro Derek Nees invested as a District Grand Steward of the District Grand Lodge of South Island New Zealand. The brethren of Southern Star extend their congratulations and wish him well in his year of office.

The meeting reflected continued strength and activity of the Lodge, with candidates progressing through the degrees, new members joining, and brethren supporting one another in the spirit of Freemasonry.

The

Dunedin Lodge 931

No information.

Canterbury 1048

No information

Greymouth 1233

An emulation of the First Degree was undertaken.

Phoenix 1690

No information provided

Winchester 1737

Held a Domestic meeting in lieu of their planned Second Degree.

Ashburton 1811

After visitors were admitted the Lodge closed, all went to the new Ashburton District Council for a presentation by Jim Henderson of Civil Defence Emergency Management in the new Emergency Operation Centre, on the topic of "The Alpine Fault Magnitude 8 Earthquake with a 75% probability of occurring in the next 50 years, and the preparations in the community and what you need at home."

Afterwards they retired to The Fine Lion.

Question for degrees south Seeing that district is donating to Cholmondeley home - where was the first named Cholmondeley town featured of the n z landscape. Clue there was an e c lodge answer next edition

Thanks

Andrew Brown

Conyers 1916

May was a very busy month for their new Master (installed March, Domestic April) with the birth of his new son, Annual Communications and then a special evening with Rt. Wor. Bro. George Francis PDepGM and Rt. Wor. Bro. Adrian Marsh, Grand Secretary PJGW from the UGLE attending.

A presentation on the history of the District.



Amberley 2007

A domestic meeting was held followed by a great meal at the Railway Hotel.

St Albans 2597

The month of May has been a busy one for St Albans Lodge, as most of the brethren were directly involved with the district communication meeting or the district in general.

At our domestic meeting, we conducted a full Second Degree ceremony as a practice run for the upcoming live Second Degree ceremony in June, for a candidate from the Scottish Constitution. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to our upcoming fellowship on the 18th of June. All visitors will be admitted at 8pm.

I look forward to seeing you all.

No meeting

St John 1137

Pacific Lodge of Hokitika 1229

Lazar 1689

Canterbury 1048 RAC

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

District Charity Update was given at the Communication meeting.

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

A big thank you to all those who attended the 'Mentor's' meeting at the recent District Communications weekend. A great turnout and a pleasure to meet with all of you.

We had a wide ranging discussion on the role of the Lodge Mentor and how myself and District can help and support Lodge Mentor's in this important role.

Additional literature and information, as shown at the meeting, has been ordered and will be sent to you all shortly.

In the meantime, please feel free to contact me if you have any feedback or would like help in anyway, to support you in your role as Lodge Mentor.

Nigel Howard
District Grand Mentor

Snippet from Solomon

The Origin of Masonic Firing by David Hughes and Paul Harper

Many Lodges follow their toasts with 'Masonic Fire'. Though 'firing' varies from Lodge to Lodge, often causing problems for the visitors who attempt to 'follow the assist'. It is, a custom which started in the 17th century, when toasts to the King were especially significant.

'Masonic Fire' is modelled upon the loading and firing a canon, or musket; with the gun replaced by a 'firing glass'; The earliest English Masonic reference is in 'Three distinct Knocks', a disclosure from 1760:

'Every Man has a Glass set ...The Master takes up his Glass, and gives a Toast to the King and the Craft, with Three Times Three in the Prentice's; and they all say Ditto, and drink all together, minding the Master's Motion; They do the same with the empty Glass that he draws across his Throat Three Times..., and then makes Three Offers to put it down; At the third, they all set their Glasses down together, which they call 'firing'; Then they hold the Left-hand Breast-high, and clap Nine Times with the Right, their Foot going at the same Time, then sit'.

Rapid fire' was simulated by striking the table three or four times in quick succession, to produce a rolling fire, or simultaneously, to produce a volley. Over time it became a Masonic custom, often with extra flourishes.

Nowadays, we often substitute, a modern version of 'firing' by using 'point-left-right' three times in the form of an equilateral triangle, an important Masonic symbol. Each is followed by the command 'One-Two' to which we respond with a clap; giving a total of twelve. Then we add three sets of three claps, a further nine, taking us to twenty-one in total. Sometimes a toast is accompanied, or even replaced, the singing of Masonic songs.

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 July for the June Edition.