

The DGM/s Corner

DISTRICT GRAND MASTERS REPORT

Merry Christmas to all

Brethren How fast time goes when you are busy, with yet another year coming to an end.

It is a time to remember the loved ones we have lost over this last year and the empty seats they will leave. They will always be with us in our hearts, never forgotten.

When I look back at the work you have done, it is pleasing to see the number of initiations being conducted. It is more exciting when those lodges have not had new candidates for many years. It allows our district to finish off the year in a positive way.

To all the district and Grand Officer's past and present I thank you all for your support during the year. Your company when visiting has always been welcomed and appreciated.

To the masters and brethren of all our lodges I thank you all for your hard work this year. It does not go unnoticed and is always appreciated.

And the most important one is to our ladies, partners, wives and families all. I thank you for allowing your men to be able to enjoy their freemasonry by leaving you at home on occasions during the year. It can only be said that their absence from you is helping to make the world a better place.

Marie and I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous new year. Enjoy the extra time with your families, enjoy the festivities, especially with the children watching them open their presents and seeing the look in their eyes.

Eat well, drink well (not if driving of course) and stay safe.

We will all catch up in 2026

John Soper

Lodge Roundup

Southern Star 735

Our November Meeting brought us together for a steady close to the Masonic year, with great atmosphere in the lodge.

Bro Gaby van den Boom gave a very interesting presentation on his long-term project to dismantle and rebuild a stone house. He walked us through how he labelled, restored, and stored every part of the house, as well as the engineering work behind the new build. The talk was well received, and many appreciated

seeing the scale of the project. We also learned that the build has been picked up by Grand Designs New Zealand.



VWBro Ted spoke about mentoring in Freemasonry, explaining where the idea comes from and the value it brings to the Lodge. He encouraged newer members to reach out when they need support and reminded senior brethren to stay approachable and involved.

To end the night, the Worshipful Master shared a short message reflecting on the year. He thanked the officers for their work, welcomed the new team, and encouraged everyone to enjoy the break and return refreshed in the new year.

It was a solid and enjoyable meeting, and a nice way to close out our Lodge activities for the year.

Lodge of St John 1137 and Pacific Lodge of Hokitika 1229

Pacific opened their Lodge, completed the business and then closed. St John opened, conducted their business and with the assistance of Pacific completed a First Degree on Matthew Smith under the direction of the WM Murray Tasker.

A great afternoon where two Lodges combined to make this a memorable day for Mathew.

They then went to the Fox & Ferret for an enjoyable evening meal.



Lazar Lodge 1689

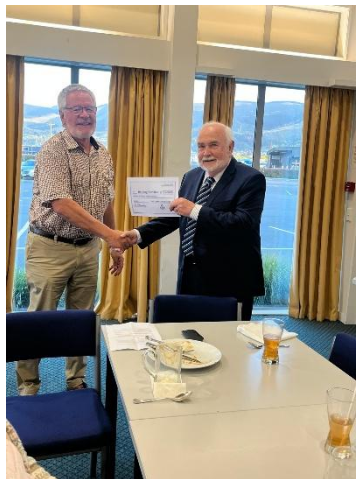
The Lazar Lodge comes out of winter hibernation in October of each year to share fellowship and dining together over four meetings during the summer.

The lodge has finalised a very favourable tenancy agreement for 2025/26 with the Nelson Masonic Hall Company for the use of the Nelson-Tasman Masonic Centre in Nayland Road, Stoke, Nelson.

Regrettably, our Senior Deacon passed to the Grand Lodge above during the course of winter and we also suffered one resignation as a consequence of work pressure. Offsetting these losses, we had two new joining members in October and a further new member in November.

For the October and November meetings we dined at Club Waimea with 24 in attendance in October and 19 in November. On both occasions a two course meal with two options for both the main and dessert was available for just \$28 a head.

At the November meeting, our Worshipful Master W. Bro. Robin Johansen made a presentation of \$1500 to the Helping Families charity who were represented by board member Lindsay McKenzie.



Lindsay gave a short presentation to the ladies and brethren about the charity and its work within the community.

For the next meeting in February, the lodge will meet in the Tiny Lodge room located at the Willow Bank Heritage Park in Wakefield, followed by a barbecue.

Phoenix 1690

Just a general meeting this month nothing special

Re roofing of Lodge rooms is underway, we have 95% of our past masters' pictures on display in our refectory. Some of the older ones we were unable to find

Winchester 1737

Monday 24th November: The Winchester Lodge No. 1737 EC conferred a First Degree on Mr. Christian Varquez a dairy worker at Orari.



A group came from Harmony Lodge No 325 in support of Christian. The Degree had the assistance of The Caledonian Lodge No. 16 and Aorangi Timaru No. 196.

RWBro John Soper, Grand Superintendent EC, was in attendance and willingly acted as Tyler. John did not think it below his station of 'exchanging the septon for the trowel'.

A pig was devoured, supplied by Christian.

Ashburton 1811

No details provided.

Conyers 1916

This meeting was held as an Emulation of the Second Degree which was performed by the normal Officers.



Conyers held a charity dinner with a good turnout.

Charity presentation It takes a Village

Our Purpose ITAV

A charitable organization that will provide Canterbury communities with a support network, resources and other free services that will enable members of the communities to better themselves as individuals, their families, neighbours and friends; bringing the community together in a modern world, as a village of support.

Our Mission Statement

To provide support, resources and service that is free from judgement, within a safe, respectful and understanding environment, to the best of our ability, to members of the Canterbury regions. We will not

discriminate against any individual, family or community, no matter their religious belief, political preference, racial background, status. personal preference or history.

We aim to create a Village of support in the Canterbury Region that is readily available to anyone who needs us.



Mic Tan, WM presenting Danielle Petterd, Director ITAV with \$3500.

Amberley 2007

A 3rd Degree was held on Bro Mark Woods. A good evening.



A special ring of gold and pounamu was presented by WM Ben Smith to Brother Paddy Grundy, as a rough ashlar, to assist him on in his journey.



Jason Young (soon to be Paddys father-in-law), Paddy Grundy, WM Ben Smith

The Amberley Lodge meet with the Brain Injury Association to present our donation of \$2500 and received the below response.

Kia ora Amberley Masonic Lodge,

On behalf of The Brain Injury Association, I would like to extend our gratitude for the donation of \$2500.00 from The Amberley Masonic Lodge provided in support our Canterbury Liaison Officer Jane Cawood.

Your donation plays a vital role in enabling us to continue providing essential services, education, and advocacy for individuals and families impacted by brain injuries in the Canterbury region. This contribution helps us achieve our mission of fostering a supportive environment where individuals can recover, thrive, and achieve their goals despite the challenges they face. Thanks to donors such as yourself, we can offer education, support groups, and awareness initiatives that help create a more inclusive and understanding community.

In addition, your donation supports ongoing advocacy work and personalized assistance for those navigating the complexities of living with a brain injury. Your belief in our mission inspires us to continue striving for better outcomes for the individuals and families we serve.

Please look at our website to see what services we provide our local communities:

<https://www.braininjuryotagocanterbury.org.nz/>

Thank you once again for your thoughtful support. Together, we can make a significant difference in the lives of those affected by brain injuries.

With sincere thanks,
Shannon Campbell
Manager



Canterbury 1048 Royal Arch Chapter

Canterbury Royal Arch Chapter – Installation Update

The Canterbury Royal Arch Chapter reconvened on 26 November for a much-anticipated evening: the installation of its Third Principal, Companion Karl Polaschek—better known to many as *Young Poly*.

This meeting came after an unexpected delay in October, when our MEZ, Dave Mackay, was called into the Emergency Operations Centre as Civil Defence declared an emergency in response to the extreme winds battering Timaru. Duty called, Masonry adapted, and the Chapter picked up right where it left off a month later.

The November convocation was marked by good humour, and the characteristic camaraderie that defines the Chapter, and we were honoured by a visit from ME Companion Alan Stack, Grand Superintendent of New Zealand South (Scottish Constitution).



St Albans 2597

Domestic evening.

No meeting

Dunedin Lodge 931

Canterbury 1048

Greymouth Lodge 1233

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

More exciting news next month.

Fraternally,

Nigel Paterson

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

A revised plan being worked on.

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

Greetings Brethren

As you know the SW is now the Ostensible Mentor of the Lodge.

Our DGM has mandated that all Lodges must have a suitable Mentor appointed to ensure that all Brethren within each Lodge are cared for and helped to fulfill their Masonic desires, and to help grow and retain membership.

I am in the process of contacting all SW's, to discuss the situation within their Lodge regarding their Lodge Mentor.

My aim is to deal with each duly appointed Lodge Mentor and if a Lodge does not have a Mentor currently appointed, then in the meantime the SW will assume that responsibility.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Nigel

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 January the December Edition.