

The DGM/s Corner

ASSISTANT DISTRICT GRAND MASTERS REPORT

Did you hear the one about.....

We are told that Freemasonry is a serious thing — and indeed it is.

But sometimes, I think we can take it just a little too seriously.

Only in Masonry can a group of grown men stand in a hall, wearing white gloves and aprons, reciting passwords we mustn't write down but can find on Google, and call it "a normal Thursday night."

We are, after all, the only organization where you can be reprimanded — politely — for wearing the wrong shade of blue. Now, don't get me wrong. I love the solemnity, the dignity, the history. But there are times I suspect our founders are looking down from the Grand Lodge Above, shaking their heads, tut tutting and saying, "Lighten up, Brethren — we were only trying to build character, not create a dress code!"

I once heard a Brother say that Masonry is a "serious system of morality, veiled in allegory." And I thought — yes, but perhaps the veil could use a few air holes! After all, what is fellowship without laughter? What is brotherly love without a bit of teasing? And what is the festive board without that one Brother who starts every story with, "Now, I shouldn't really tell you this..."?

The truth is, humour is as Masonic as the square and compasses.

The square reminds us to act justly - the compasses remind us to keep our passions within due bounds — and humour reminds us to enjoy being human while we're at it, (and while we still can).

So, Brethren, next time we find ourselves taking the ritual — or ourselves — a little too seriously, let's remember that even Solomon, wise as he was, must have cracked a smile once in a while.

Because laughter, like Masonry, builds — it builds friendship, harmony, and the sense that, serious as our work may be, we are still a band of happy men, bound by light, love... and occasionally, very slow minutes.

So, if you are enjoying a wee dram of single malt (or poison of choice) as you read this, raise your glass to a toast.....

To the Craft — serious in purpose, but never in spirit.

Cheers,

Ray



Lodge Roundup

Southern Star 735

The highlight of the month for Southern Star Lodge was the Installation of W. Bro. Adam Gray into the Chair of King Solomon on Saturday, 11th October 2025, held at the Nelson Tasman Masonic Centre.

The event was attended by brethren and Worshipful Masters from lodges across the District, including representatives from the sister constitutions. W. Bro. Ray Moroney conducted the ceremony, and the presence of R.W. Bro. John Soper, District Grand Master, graced the occasion.

A wonderful evening of fellowship followed at the refectory room for light refreshments and then at The Bach Restaurant for the dinner proper.

Southern Star extends sincere thanks to all who attended and supported the evening and looks forward to a successful year ahead.

Phoenix 1690

Nothing special from Phoenix, they had put the 3rd degree back until early next year at the candidate's request.

We have a committee together looking at our 150th celebrations in 2027 also for communications that same year

Winchester 1737

No meeting held due to sickness.

Ashburton 1811

Tuesday 21st October was the Installation of WBro Luke Sutton as Master. No further details provided.

Conyers 1916

This meeting was held as an Emulation of the Second Degree which was performed by the Past Masters.

Our normal SD acted as the candidate to help with his mentoring in that role.

Amberley 2007

Marty Gerkin gave an excellent interactive lecture followed by a discussion on the First-Degree Tracing Board.



St Albans 2597

On the 16th of October, WB sagati was proclaimed WM of St Albans Lodge 2597.

The proclamation was conducted by our District Grand Master RTWBro Soper, who was accompanied with Grand and District Grand Lodge Officers.

It was appreciated by the Lodge members that VWBro Thorndycroft and RTWBro Patrick OSM , were also in attendance.

Geoff Rows Presentation.



The picture on the right is Geoff's son.

No meeting

Dunedin Lodge 931

Canterbury 1048

Lodge of St John 1137

Pacific Lodge of Hokitika 1229

Greymouth Lodge 1233

Lazar1689

Canterbury 1048 Royal Arch Chapter

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

Here's a quick update on our district charities and how we've partnered with them in the lead-up to Christmas:

One Mother to Another (OMTA)

Their Christmas crowdfunding campaign is now underway, and this year the South Island English Freemasons have contributed \$1,000 as a match funder.

Here's the message directly from OMTA:

"While most of us will be celebrating Christmas with loved ones, some parents won't have that opportunity and will instead be spending the holidays in hospital caring for a seriously ill child or newborn. Our care packages (chokka full of essentials, Christmas treats, and a handwritten note of encouragement) remind them they're not forgotten.

Each pack costs \$25, and thanks to our incredible match funders, every dollar donated will be doubled."

You can donate directly here: Give a Little – [Give a little hope this Christmas - Givealittle](#)

Watch their campaign video here: [Crowdfunding Campaign 2025](#)

Cholmondeley Children's Charity

In October, Cholmondeley held their annual Sailing Regatta at the Naval Point Club in Lyttelton. It was a fantastic day—great weather, a sell-out crowd, and plenty of community spirit. I helped out on the BBQ and hosted the auction at the afterparty, and our very own WBro Phil Jackson skippered one of the boats on the day.

Looking for a unique Christmas gift?

- Centenary Commemorative Gin: Perfect for gin enthusiasts, this special release supports Cholmondeley, with a portion from each bottle going directly to the charity. Delivered anywhere in New Zealand.

Centenary Commemorative Gin

- Christmas Car Raffle: Tickets are available now – get yours [Upcoming Events | Join Our Celebrations – Cholmondeley](#), or contact me directly as I have a few books for sale.

I look forward to sharing more updates with you next month.

Fraternally,
Nigel Paterson

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

Brethren PLEASE be mindful of the need for growth & the continuance of both our lodges & District as a whole. Don't leave it to someone else. There are a number of relatively affordable things that can be done, to attract & retain members. So if anyone or any lodge has any ideas or input PLEASE contact me or if I can assist PLEASE let me know. Thanks.

And now for something different.

Our Membership Officer at his Installation as the First Principal of Harmony Chapter 2180



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

As you will all be aware, a much greater emphasis is now being put into the important role of Lodge Mentor.

Our DGM has recently issued a directive that all of our Lodges must appoint a Mentor who is willing and capable of doing justice to this position. Not all Lodges have yet done so and to ensure greater control, as per the DGM's mandate, the Senior Warden is now the ostensible Mentor of the Lodge. He will be my initial point of contact until such time that I am advised of who is the Mentor in each Lodge. If for whatever reason a Lodge fails to appoint a Mentor, the Senior Warden will assume this role until a Lodge Mentor is appointed.

Nigel

Kirkpatrick House Centenary

From the recent 100 year celebration

Day 1 - Friday 3rd October

Eventually around eighty people must have been in the Masonic Centre at some time during the afternoon & evening. Hugs, cries of 'haven't seen you for years', tears - whole place was buzzing with happy energy. Two Girls gave a rundown on how their life had developed after Kirkpatrick House: one Girl had big ups & downs – stopped on occasion with tears running down her face - total quiet in the room, but everyone, everyone, supporting her in the silence. Her story ended on a real high with lots of laughter. We had prepared three PowerPoint presentations for delivery, in case there was a lull in proceedings - no chance, so much chatter and excitement.

Image of Samuel - with District GM of left, and 30 year KP accountant on right.



Day 2, Part 1 - Saturday 4th October

Back to school. The Principal and CJ House [Nelson College for Girls boarding house] manager gave warm welcome addresses in the dining room before lunch. A surprise award for a 2025 Kirkpatrick Girl who came top of her group at NMIT. Her father gave a bilingual speech of thanks on behalf of his daughter who had just completed the four years of the Kirkpatrick scholarship: he also sang in Māori to say 'thank you and goodbye' - strong voice as he is a pastor in Northland. Then a Girl from the 1980s stood up, she also sang - turns out that she had been a professional singer for a while. After lunch, the present KP Girls conducted the guests on a school tour.

Ever tried getting 26 Girls to behave for group photo? (On Kirkpatrick House veranda).



Day 2, Part 2 - The formal dinner.

Eighty folk in their finery gathered in the Beachside Centre at Tahunanui for dinner. All KP Girls were greeted with a corsage whilst everyone received a glass of bubbly - a trio played during this reception and later throughout the evening. After the meal, the Mayor of Nelson City gave an excellent speech - followed by a former NCG Principal who talked of her pride in our Girls, and finally by a Girl who spoke on behalf of ALL Kirkpatrick Girls. Later the Kirkpatrick 100th birthday cake with sparklies (couldn't manage one hundred candles - Elfinsafety) was escorted into the quickly darkened room by a sword carrying Mason, to the band playing and everyone singing 'Happy Birthday Samuel'. Cake cut - on Samuel's behalf - by a KP Girl who entered the House in 1948.

To conclude the evening and to say goodbye to the last one hundred years of the Kirkpatrick Trust, and to look forward to the coming one hundred years, a fortissimo rendering by all of Auld Lang Syne.

Senior Kirkpatrick Girl cutting birthday cake with Tyler's sword, flanked by two KP Trust Governors.



Day3 - Sunday 5th October & Samuel Kirkpatrick Birthday.

Weather looked threatening but forty hardy souls were shuttle-bussed up to Samuel's final resting place in Wakapuaka Cemetery. There waiting was the Cathedral priest and two Scottish pipers, to deliver a moving service of thanks for Samuel's life. As the wreath was laid (by our 2025 young Girls), the pipers played "Amazing Grace" in the still Sunday morning air.



Back to Founders Park cafe for coffee - the rain and black clouds still holding off. Then onwards to Kirkpatrick House in the city centre - where it was pouring, with a bit of hail thrown in for good measure. But certainly, unable to dampen spirits of the sixty or so who enjoyed a tour of the now restored family home that was the home for decades of many Kirkpatrick Girls. Lunch, more animated chatter and photographs. Beautiful and emotional singing by another KP Girl, and our senior KP Girl told of her ten-year experience at the House beginning at age six - life was for some was far from easy. Unfortunately, unable to recreate the 1930s 'Girls in the Garden' image due to drizzle, but eventually the Kirkpatrick Girls were marshalled onto the veranda for one final picture for posterity.



So ended the Centennial weekend. Charged with emotion and certainly made memories.
The Board may have organised the events and facilities - but the Kirkpatrick Girls furnished the occasion.
"Once a Kirkpatrick Girl, always a Kirkpatrick Girl".

**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 December for the November Edition.