

The DGM/s Corner

DEPUTY DISTRICT GRAND MASTERS REPORT

Hooray! Spring is here, and Summer isn't far behind. Lambs are frolicking, daffodils, tulips, and the odd weeds are popping up everywhere, and everything feels fresh and new. (We'll soon be able to get over the Alpine Passes to the winterless West Coast!)



But over the winter months we sometimes find our Lodges, gatherings, enthusiasm, and cheer somewhat underwhelming... that's not unusual... our batteries are a little low, our eagerness a bit jaded, and the warmth of the lounge at home often feels more appealing than a drive through the rain to a meeting room across town.

This is natural, and I'm sure at times we've all felt differing levels of energy and motivation during the colder months.

But there are a few considerations in these circumstances:

- Winter Illnesses will mean that not everyone can attend Lodge, in fact if you're unwell please stay home and get well.
- The pressure for a Lodge to do any substantial work for want of Officers, or attendance at Lodge of Instruction, is increased considerably.
- If you're fit, healthy, and able, please consider this: We're all Freemasons - all the time; it's not a part time or casual thing. Our Lodges rely on our attendance at Lodge of Instruction and at our Regular meetings, and our brethren need our support.

Our Lodges rely on our full participation, our primary requirement ought to be for each Lodge to be willing, prepared, and able to carry out the work that is essential to the wellbeing of it and its members.

As Freemasons, our strength comes from working together and looking out for each other.

When we support a Brother in need, whether it's sharing advice, offering help, or just being there for him, we honour what Freemasonry is all about.

When we attend our meetings, we honour each other and our obligations.

When we complete benevolent or charitable work, we help the vulnerable in our community.

Brethren, now that the days are warmer and longer, the chills have gone and our jackets have been hung in the back of the wardrobe, let's renew our commitment to supporting each other and making brotherly love a priority; every bit counts...when one of us succeeds, we all do.

You might be surprised at how much more energy and motivation you'll feel when you're surrounded by friends at a lively meeting.

We need each other, our Lodges need us, and the Craft needs active vibrant lodges.

And next winter, let's endeavour to turn up our collars, roll up our sleeves and do what we do best... be proud, active and engaged English Freemasons.

Fraternally,

Frans (Zoggie) van Zoggel.

Lodge Roundup

Southern Star 735

Southern Star held its regular meeting this month with WBro Ted Anderson standing in as Acting Master. The evening began with a moment of silence to honour the late WBro Murray Rolton, whose 76 years of Masonic service were remembered fondly. The business of the evening was the election of WBro Adam Gray as Worshipful Master for the 2025-2026 year, with full support from the brethren. A Past Master's Jewel was also presented to Adam in recognition of his previous service in the chair.

A special highlight of the evening was a First Degree Tracing Board presented by WBro Ian McEwan to two EAs. This was his first time delivering this lecture, which had traditionally been presented by the late WBro Murray Rolton. WBro McEwan's effort was greatly appreciated by the brethren, and his willingness to step into the role was warmly acknowledged.

WM Andrew Preece sent warm greetings from Spain, thanked the officers and brethren of the lodge, and sent his warm wishes for the upcoming Installation on 11th of October at the Nelson Masonic Hall. A good showing of visitors from Lodge Nelson and Forest Lodge added to the spirit of the evening, which ended with refreshments and fraternal fellowship in the refectory.

Canterbury 1048

A regular meeting held.

Lodge of St John 1137

Installation Saturday 13th September: The Lodge of St John No. 1137 EC held its Installation with WBro Murray Tasker being installed as its Master. WBro Tasker is also a PM of Conyers Lodge No. 1916 EC.

The Lodge of St John also celebrated 160 years and a huge cake was cut to celebrate that milestone.



The cutting of the cake was expedited by (L to R)

- Bro Merv Gilkinson, RW Honorary SGW, IPDGM, District Grand Lodge NZ South, Grand Lodge of Scotland, • WBro Murray Tasker, Master, • RW Bro John Soper, District Grand Master, District Grand Lodge, South Island, UGLE, • RW Bro Mel Darling, Provincial Assistant Grand Master of NZ, Grand Lodge of Ireland.
- RW Bro Soper was the Installing Officer.



Greymouth Lodge 1233

Phoenix 1690

Nothing special from Phoenix, we have 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 16th September: The Ashburton Lodge No. 1811 EC hosted its own Master, WBro Jebbu Gabonada talked on his life. It was his last night as Master. (Installation 21st October.)

Conyers 1916

A Domestic meeting held where an Emulation of the First Degree was performed.

Amberley 2007

Amberley provided the candidate to the St Albans Lodge for them to perform a Second Degree.

St Albans 2597

It was a night of celebration for RTWBro Geoffrey Wayne Rowe

At the St Albans Lodge 2597 September regular meeting RTWBro Rowe received two acknowledgments, for the effort he has provided in serving Freemasonry and his Lodge and the South Island District in particular.

RTW Geoff was awarded honorary membership of The St Albans Lodge.

It's not a secret, Geoff hasn't been so well, and it was a chance for members to show their appreciation for what he's done for his Mother Lodge.

On the night St Albans Lodge passed a candidate Bro Watt, who was kindly provided to us for the occasion by The Amberley Lodge 2007.

After the Ceremony for Brother Watt, a presentation was attended to.

This was a very special occasion , as Rt WBro Rowe was presented with his 40 year badge.

The Acting Master WBro Woolcott explained to the Lodge, that he has known Geoff for 70 years as they went to the same primary school and High School in Wellington.

When Geoff shifted to Christchurch , he worked for a while at The Kaiapoi Woollen Company , where WBro Woolcotts Father was the Manager.

Our RtWBro John Soper travelled to Christchurch for RtWBro Rowes presentation , so it was a wonderful occasion , in that he was able to present the badge , as one Rt WBro to another one Rt WBro Soper spoke very kind and meaningful words re RTWBro Rowe , and the respect he has throughout Freemasonry throughout New Zealand and beyond.

He noted that RTWBro Rowe was the current District Grand Master for fourteen years , and in that time represented us all with dignity and decoram.

It was also fitting that Bro Tony Rowe, Geoff son was in attendance on the night.

Canterbury 1048 Royal Arch Chapter – Looking Ahead to a Golden Milestone

The Canterbury 1048 Royal Arch Chapter has had an eventful few months, with important changes in leadership and some exciting celebrations on the horizon.

At our August Convocation, Excellent Companion Dave Mackay was installed as First Principal, with Excellent Companion Frans van Zoggel moving into the Second Principal's chair.

Our October Convocation, to be held on **Tuesday 22 October at the Canterbury Freemasons Centre**, will see Companion Karl Polsachek installed as Third Principal, alongside the installation of several officers who were unable to be invested in August. To mark the occasion, the evening will conclude with a light-hearted **Royal Arch pub-quiz in Refectory**—a chance to test your knowledge and enjoy fellowship. We will also celebrate a very special milestone for Canterbury 1048, as the Chapter celebrates its **50th anniversary** in December.

We warmly encourage Companions who have not attended recently to come along to our October Convocation, reconnect with the Chapter, and enjoy the special atmosphere of the evening. For Brethren interested in learning more about the Royal Arch, please don't hesitate to contact one of our Principals or our Scribe Ezra, Excellent Companion Steve Kelsen, who will be glad to provide further information.

No meeting

Dunedin Lodge 931

Pacific Lodge of Hokitika 1229

Lazar1689

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

September was a fun month for charity!

Here's a quick update on our district charities and how we partnered with them:

Cholmondeley Children's Charity

Their Little Gems annual party was one of the most successful yet. After expenses, the profit exceeded expectations, raising an incredible \$121K. Next year, it would be wonderful to see a few of our members attend—you won't be disappointed!

For the gin enthusiasts, a special Centenary Commemorative Bottle has been released in support of Cholmondeley. With every purchase, a portion goes directly to the Charity, and it can be delivered to your doorstep anywhere in New Zealand. You can find it here: Centenary Commemorative Gin. [KJ & Co Distillery](#) – [KJ & Co Distillery](#)

You can also read about the South Island English Freemasons in Cholmondeley's August newsletter here: [August 2025 — Cholmondeley](#)



One Mother to Another (OMTA)

As part of our annual contribution, we've requested that a portion be directed towards their Christmas Appeal. This will give us prime visibility as we match donations up to \$1,000 when the campaign launches in December. I'll keep you posted as we get closer.

I'll also be checking in with OMTA during October to see how things are progressing and to explore ways we can further promote our partnership.

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

Fraternally,

Nigel Paterson

Charity Steward

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

Details to follow.

District Mentor (from the RW.Bro John Soper, DGM)

Appointment Of Lodge Mentor

Brethren you all know that my ambition during my tenure as your DGM is to improve our district to a point where we are proud of who we are as masons as well as how we conduct ourselves in our private lives. The way to achieve this as I see it, is to ensure that we work within the framework set out to us as freemasons from the moment we take our first obligation. We have a commitment to protect our constitution as it has been done for over 300 years.

For this to work we have been given by UGLE, the guidelines to which we must operate. There are a set of officers within each lodge that are mandatory and some which may be considered optional. Among those that are mandatory is the office of lodge mentor.

Some of our lodges do not have one for various reasons ie;

(1) WE DO NOT NEED ONE AS EVERYONE IS A MENTOR.

(2) WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH MEMBERS.

OR (3) IT IS TOO LATE FOR OUR LODGE.

There are probably others, but these are the ones we hear most. Let's look at these 3.

(1) It is correct that we are all mentors and should be looking after each other. The role of lodge mentor is not to mentor each member himself but to oversee the health of the lodge to ensure that no one is missing out on vital training and not slipping under the radar. To ensure that they are being integrated into your lodge.

His role is to ensure that the lodge is looking after its own membership as needed.

(2) The fact a lodge says it does not have enough members in my mind is defeatist. Whilst your lodge is meeting it is alive and therefore has members who may need support and, who knows, these may be the future of the lodge's growth. If you want to see how a lodge can turn around talk to the WM of the Greymouth Lodge 1233. They have been taking on board my requests with vigour and are starting to reap the rewards.

(3) Brethren it is never too late. Again, as long as your lodge is meeting you can turn it around. It just needs members of your lodge to gain the energy and the foresight to make it happen.

Again, the WM of the Winchester Lodge 1737 has taken the initiative and has applied a radical approach with different advertising, with the initial response being very positive. These 2 lodges were on the brink of handing in their charters, but with the energy of the masters and members of those lodges, they may now be viable for years to come.

Brethren with some lodges being unwilling to appoint a mentor which is a mandatory office under the constitution, I will be implementing the rule that the senior warden will assume this role by default of his office, just as the Junior Warden is the ostensible steward of the lodge.

In doing this it gives the SW an opportunity, assuming he will be next master, to sit and observe his brethren and see who may need assistance before their next step. I see this as a positive move and hope that all lodges will look at this as a way forward to ensure the education of not just new initiates but all brethren. The District Grand Mentor will support all lodge mentors and give any assistance required.

Kirkpatrick Centenary

Celebrating 100 Years of the Kirkpatrick House Trust

This October, the Kirkpatrick House Trust marks 100 years of transforming lives. What began as a bequest from Nelson businessman and philanthropist Samuel Kirkpatrick has grown into a living legacy that has supported more than 350 young women, giving them education, stability and a strong sense of community.

Upon his death in 1925, Mr Kirkpatrick's instructions were explicit. The successful founder of the K. Iam factory, and a prominent Freemason, left not only financial resources but also his own home on Mount Street. Built around 1903, the house was gifted to the Freemasons under the condition it be used to support the daughters of deceased Freemasons, later becoming any girl whose family was suffering hardship.

On 4 April 1926, the Edwardian home originally opened as the Kirkpatrick Masonic Institute, welcoming six girls into residence. Girls as young as five were provided with clothing, uniforms, and educational materials, creating a stable foundation for learning and growth. Permeated the Kirkpatrick House Trust, over the next six decades 252 girls called Kirkpatrick House, home.

By the early 1990s, however, government subsidies were withdrawn, forcing the sale of the Mount Street property. The Kirkpatrick Girls were given scholarships to board at C.J. House, Nelson College for Girls, to aid with the transition. Though the setting changed, the values and vision of Samuel Kirkpatrick remained intact.

Since the beginning, the Trust has been governed by six senior Freemasons. Their stewardship has safeguarded Mr Kirkpatrick's original bequest through shifting economic and political climates, ensuring the scholarship could adapt and endure. Today, up to six scholarships are awarded each year to secondary school students from Year 9 to Year 13.

A Weekend of Celebration

To mark the centennial, the Board of Governors is hosting a Celebration Weekend, from October 3 to 5, gathering both past and present Kirkpatrick Girls, their families, teachers, and supporters. The weekend begins on Friday with a general meet and greet. On Saturday, guests will enjoy lunch followed by a guided tour of Nelson College for Girls and its boarding house, led by current Kirkpatrick Girls. That evening, the celebrations step up with a formal dinner featuring guest speaker Nelson Mayor Nick Smith, S.Kirkpatrick 1890's the cutting of a centennial cake with an 1843 Infantry Officer's sword, and live music. The weekend concludes on Sunday with a wreath-laying service at Samuel Kirkpatrick's grave at Wakapuaka Cemetery, before closing with a visit to the newly renovated Kirkpatrick House. Chairman of the trust, Jeff Gormett, says the centennial is a celebration and a commitment for the future of the scholarship. The milestone is a chance for all to reflect on shared memories and honour the vision of a man whose entrepreneurial spirit and generosity planted the seeds of opportunity for generations to come. From the Edwardian halls of Mount Street to the vibrant lives of today's scholarship recipients, the Kirkpatrick House Trust remains rooted in Samuel Kirkpatrick's vision: that every child deserves a place in the sun.



KPH early days

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

Degrees South Deadline:

4th November for the October Edition.