



Provincial Grand Lodge of New Zealand

Under the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Ireland



December 2020



Dear Brethren,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your outpouring of sympathy and support towards me and my family at the sudden, but not unexpected passing of my father to the Grand Lodge above. My father suffered a fall and broke his hip, sadly at nearly 91 the expectancy of him surviving the operation was small, and even less when accentuated by his ill health. I am pleased for him that he went peacefully and that I was with him when he passed.

Over recent months we also lost several other brethren including VW Bro. Errol Tuffrey, (Past PSGW), VW Bro. Bernard Young (Past PG Treasurer) and W. Bro. John Aldcroft (Hon. PGL). Sadly, John could not be at the Lodge ceremony of investing him as an Honorary Provincial Grand Lodge member, but it was my pleasure to invest him at his home the day before he passed away. John was thrilled to receive the honour and it is a great sadness he is no longer with us.

All of those Freemasons were dedicated to the Craft and to their Lodges. We will always be in their debt for the contributions that they made, enabling all of us to continue to enjoy this wonderful institution.



Covid19

As we can finally see light at the end of the tunnel, I would like to remind all brethren, that we cannot quite see just how long this tunnel is.

Just one death is an unnecessary one and I would not like it to be you, me, you or someone we know, so please adhere to the rules and if feeling unwell, please treat it seriously: See a medical practitioner and keep yourself isolated from others until your condition is diagnosed and treated accordingly. At the time of my father's funeral, my stepmother's own mother sadly passed away after contracting Covid19. To make it worse, she lived in England and so, my stepmother was unable to be with her in her last days, or to be able to travel there for her committal. As I write this, I am aware of an outbreak in Sydney. Although vaccines are starting to become available, it will be a long time before any sort of normality returns to our lives. In the meantime, people will continue to fall ill and sadly, some will succumb to an unnecessary and often lonely death.

While we are starting to enjoy a good level of freedom, please also remember that for all our Lodges in Ireland and in many parts of the world, they continue to be in isolation and unable to hold meetings or visit each other. Do not lose sight that by the grace of God, we have got off fairly lightly when compared to the problems this disease has caused around the world.



The Grand Master's Council has continued to meet via Zoom. Unfortunately, due to the passing of my father, I was unable to attend the last Council meeting and I am yet to receive the minutes of this meeting. I trust that for the next Newsletter the Minutes of the meeting will have been received and I will communicate any necessary information from Grand Lodge.



I urge you to continue to access information that will be posted on the Grand Lodge website



Act of Remembrance

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them.

Remembrance is an ideal time to bring people of all ages and backgrounds together to reflect upon the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces, and to join together in the hope for a brighter, peaceful future.

The Grand Lodge of Ireland is proud to remember and honour those who have sacrificed themselves to secure and protect our freedom.

With many unable to take part in Remembrance events this year, the Grand Lodge of Ireland bought to us all a unique Act of Remembrance that was available via the Internet at 11.00 a.m. on Wednesday 11th November 2020. This link is still active and can be watched when convenient for you to do so.

<http://go.freemason.ie/e/597751/477470925-6545995d77/5f681q/316209003?h=ihfGKOVg3jhzesyWSmVgRaSTXitY9tMCqLcgTC6L1w>

As well as items played by the Grand Organist on the Grand Organ, he also played the Last Post on the Trumpet. The Grand Master was also joined by R.W. Brother Rodney McCurley, Deputy Grand Master and R.W. Brother Leslie Nixon, Assistant Grand Master in speaking to Brethren.



New Assistant Grand Secretary

David Robinson was first employed as the Administration and Support Manager at Grand Lodge. His experience with our database and leading initiatives, will help build on the Grand Lodge of Ireland's successes and deliver the important administrative changes necessary for the 21st Century. As such, The Grand Secretary recently announced the appointment of David Robinson as Assistant Grand Secretary. Please join me in welcoming David to his new role and wishing him every success.



Vision 2020

I would like to remind you that the Vision 2020 is still ongoing and any charity collections or fundraising activities should be directed to the Grand Master's Festival of Charities. This will continue until at least June 2021. Each Lodge has been asked to deposit all their funds into a special Benevolent account set up by the Provincial Grand Lodge. It is expected that deposits into this account will be made after any event, including our monthly meetings. Any amount no matter how small will be welcome.



If you have not already done so, I encourage you to visit the MSF website: - <https://www.msf.org/> where you will see exactly the vast areas around the world that MSF operates and the fantastic work they do in helping those a lot less fortunate than us.



YEMEN

Civilians wounded and killed in indiscriminate frontline hostilities

PRESS RELEASE

14 DEC 2020

Every day, members of MSF are trying to make a difference. Let our efforts help MSF make that difference.



News from around the Province

Unfortunately, due to the outbreak identified in the Auckland region during August and September several events had to be cancelled: These included Ara's Music competition, as well as our Annual Communications. I am sure that our records will show that this was the first time that our Annual Communications has had to be cancelled since WWII, but I am confident that the strength of Irish freemasonry in this Province remains strong and resolute to maintain our traditions and communications between our members. Sadly, this

period also meant that once again, the Lodge of Light had to postpone their 150th celebrations. However I am pleased to advise that this has now been rescheduled for 6th March, 2021. Please support this event. The brethren have gone to a great deal of effort to ensure that the Lodge and this Province celebrates their longevity, and may they continue.

Lodge of Light

No.  454

Founded 1870, Thames

Brethren, please note in your diaries that 454 will be celebrating 150 years of Freemasonry on Saturday, 6th March 2021.

I am also pleased to advise that since we have all returned to some sort of normality all Lodges have a backlog of degree workings – especially Entered Apprentice ceremonies. Please join me in welcoming the following:

Lodge St Patrick No. 468

September: Affiliation W. Bro. Kyle Parnell PM
United Lodge of Otago 448 NZ

October: Initiate Bro. George Owen

November: Initiate Bro. Phillip Carroll

De Burgh Adams Lodge No. 446

October: Initiate Bro. Carlos Mendoza Jnr.

November: Initiate Bro. Jey Hermino

Affiliation: W. Bro. James Stinson PM

Donald McLean Lodge No.1646, E.C.

Lodge of Light No. 454

October: Raise Bro. Stéphane Carayol

November: Initiate Bro. Tim Low

December: Initiate Bro. Stuart Hislop

Ara Lodge No. 348

August: Raised: Bro. Darren Webster

October: Affiliation: Bro. Michael Donohue
Lodge Waitakere 170 NZC



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Welcome and congratulations to all these Brethren. I hope that you will enjoy your Irish Freemasonry, as much as we do.

Congratulations to the Officers of 348 invested in November. You have all taken your next step towards the East. I trust that you will enjoy your new roles but never lose sight of the responsibilities you have to your Lodge and to yourselves.



Brethren, as already mentioned, it was my pleasure to invest RW. Bro Brian Westhead DGM, NI DGL EC and Bro. John Aldcroft RW DGM, DGL NI, Grand Lodge of Scotland with Membership of our Provincial Grand Lodge.

It is recorded in the history of this Lodge that in 1884, RW Bro Pierce commented on the growing swell of support for a United Grand Lodge of New Zealand and he thought that the three older constitutions should strive to maintain the distinctiveness of their present constitutions.

Our Grand Master, MW Douglas Grey has also commented on several occasions of the robust tripartite relationship between the three Grand Lodges and that they meet regularly to discuss matters in unison.

Ever since our first Lodges were formed in New Zealand, we have supported each other but remained strong in our convictions to be true to our own traditions. I am proud to acknowledge that this dedication extends through our respective District and Provincial Grand Lodges and is reinforced in the framework of our membership.

As with Past Provincial Grand Masters, I have been blessed by the bonds of friendship that I have developed with District Grand Masters. Not only are we resolute in maintaining our distinctiveness and to remain loyal to our Grand Lodges, but we also enjoy each other's company. I would like to take this opportunity to formally recognise the bonds between the Original Constitutions as well as those friendships.

I am confident that all Irish Brethren have, from time to time read with interest and education the Laws and Constitutions of Grand Lodge, and that they may be aware of the following precis:

“A Provincial Grand Master of any Provincial Grand Lodge outside Ireland... may confer Honorary Membership of such Provincial Grand Lodge on such District or Provincial Grand Masters of recognised Sister Constitutions having Lodge meetings in his Province as he shall consider worthy of this distinction.”

In recognition of the contributions R.W. Bro. Westhead and Bro. Aldcroft made to Freemasonry in the North Island District and in their determined effect to reinforce the values of the Original Constitutions, it was my pleasure to invest them into our Provincial Grand Lodge. This is the highest honour a Provincial Grand Master can confer onto another District Grand Master of another Constitution and to my knowledge, this was the first time such an honour had been bestowed.



District Grand Lodge of North Island, New Zealand

Brethren, I hope that you will join me in congratulating R.W. Bro. Warren Weir as the new District Grand Master for the NI Dist. Grand Lodge, United Grand Lodge of England.

Wor. Brother Weir was supposed to be invested last May, but again due to Covid restrictions that was unavoidably delayed until November.

Please join me in wishing R.W. Bro Weir every success in his role. I am very much looking forward to working with him and I am sure he can be assured of the support of all Irish Brethren in New Zealand.

I also congratulate R.W. Bro. Westhead for his seven years' service to his District and to Freemasonry. May he enjoy his retirement from office.



Teddies for Loving Care



I am pleased to advise that the TLC Trust has a new Logo and a new bear! Although the Logo is remarkably different, the changes to the bear are subtle.

Below is a Precis taken from the TLC Trust Chairman's November report.

Tribute to John Aldcroft

John made a significant contribution to the Appeal with his company supplying free storage and transport around New Zealand. We are extremely fortunate that Fliway International, in memory of John, have offered to continue to provide free storage and transport around New Zealand.

Usage of Teddy Bears

The usage over the last three years is shown below:

DHB	2017-18	2019	2020
Northland	1296	864	1008
Waitemata	360	144	72
Counties Man	1224	576	648
Waikato	1152	144	144
Bay of Plenty	1512	792	576
Rotorua	1440	504	504
Gisborne	432	144	72
Hawkes Bay	1440	1296	864
Taranaki	1440	864	576
Whanganui	360	216	144
Mid-Central	72	72	0
Wairarapa	576	144	72
Hutt Valley	1584	864	864
Capital & Coast	72	0	0
Samoa		576	0
Red Cross	126		
Total North Island	12,960	7,200	5,886

DHB	2019	2020
Nelson & Murchison	432	48
Wairau (Blenheim)	288	288
Christchurch & Kaikoura	528	504
West Coast	816	48
Ashburton	576	408
Timaru	192	0
Invercargill & Southland	864	816
Otago	384	216
Dunedin	192	96
Total South Island	4,272	2,424
Total Bears	12,960	8,310
Accumulative Total	24,432	32,742

It is evident there was a significant drop off in demand during the period of Level 4 and Level 3 COVID-19 response. Usage in 2020 was resuming and starting to reach the levels of 2019 when the COVID-19 response level was again raised. Usage has again started to rise to earlier levels.

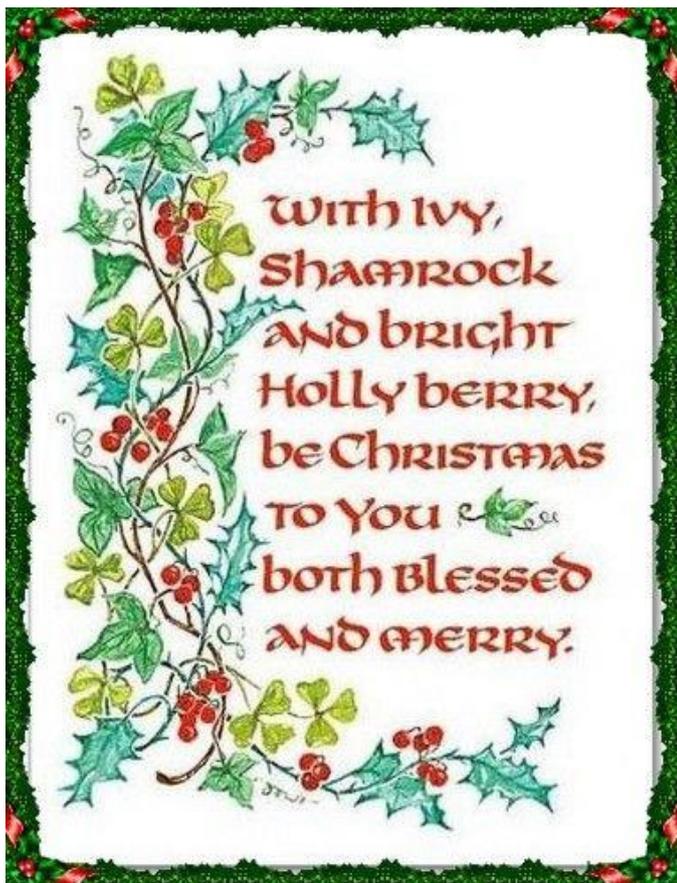
Supply of Teddy Bears

A further container of 12,960 bears was ordered in early March. As a result of COVID-19, the manufacturers ceased production for some months shortly after our order was placed. It was fortunate demand dropped in the intervening months and that we were able to prevail upon the manufacturers to treat our outstanding order as a priority. The new supply arrived in August and we started to distribute the new bears in September. We are now using the new style bears, designed in late 2019.

Our current stock is 154 boxes or around 10 months' supply.

Fundraising

The South Island English District Masonic Trust has committed support of \$5,000 per year for three years, of which the first instalment has been received. The North Island English District Masonic Trust initially declined our request but have just recently confirmed a donation of \$10,000. The Hawkes Bay Masonic Trust has contributed \$2,160 and the Erne Adams Trust (the North Island Scottish Charitable Trust) has promised \$2,000.



It is because of this Freemasonry truly embodies the idea of the Christmas season all year-round.

In our Lodges and other Masonic organisations, we daily, not just at this time of year, plan and perform acts to help the communities we are in. We teach our Members, our Brothers, to deal honestly and fairly with all whom we encounter. We stand on the level with our Brothers whether we have known them for years, or we are first meeting them on that day. We do not care what their religious affiliation is, or their political affiliation we know that if they are standing there in that room with us, they believe that we have the right to our beliefs just as we believe they have the right to theirs.

The positive energy that is generated in our lodges hopefully makes its way into the community through the acts of the individual Masons. We learn the lessons of tolerance, justice and hope so well in our meetings and Masonic activities that we instinctively act in the same way when out in the world.

Today in Masonic History it's Christmas Day.

On this special day I am taking the opportunity to talk about Freemasonry and its role in the world.

Freemasonry, as you know is not a religion. We welcome people of all different faiths and beliefs into our organization we only ask that you have a belief in a single supreme being.

This brings me to the time of year we are in, Christmas. At one time in the world this was the celebration of hope as we moved from the darkest day of the year and the days began to get brighter. We now celebrate with Christmas and the birth of Christ who taught very specific lessons when dealing with your fellow man. These lessons are taught in other religions as well.

The lessons Christ taught were of tolerance, justice, hope and kindness, to only name just a few. These lessons are taught throughout Freemasonry.

We have been accused of secretly running the world, that most certainly is not the case. I do believe we are changing it every day though, when we walk out into the world and display that Masonic Spirit, that Christmas Spirit and we make the world just that much better by being in it and sharing with the world the ideals that Freemasonry was and is founded upon.

I say this in the most secular way possible Merry Christmas to all regardless of faith, may this season bring you joy, happiness and a better tomorrow!

* Today in Masonic History www.masonrytoday.com › new_day=25

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

*RW Bro. AG McGreggor
Provincial Grand Master.*