



Homewood Herald



Report from the Master

Greetings Brethren

It's about half way through my term as Master and it's been interesting. As part of my preparation I sat down and did my own strategic plan for the Lodge. Problem, though, is that I then saved it to the hard drive and haven't really referred back. However, a plan needs to be a Lodge creation and not just the Master's so we will address that.

Reflecting, though, on what I had put down in my plan I thought I would share a few pieces. The overarching goal was "to be a lodge where members enjoy the fraternity which supports their family and encourages professional and innovative masonic ritual, a lodge that others look to for inspiration".

Translating this into more specific actions I had the following examples:

- Membership, 3 new initiates in the next 2 years
- Development, increase members' ability to perform charges and provide a mentoring structure
- Nurture relationships with other lodges
- Look to evolve our social activities to, in particular, include families.

I had others but these were what I had as important.

To achieve these included things like social media, a mentoring structure, visiting etc.

So now again I am half way it's time for my appraisal.

Achievements:

- We have a new candidate Bro Callum who is now a Fellow Craft.
- We have performed both of his degree ceremonies with the inclusion of Brethren from outside of our Lodge.
- We have Master Masons who have performed their respective parts in these ceremonies.
- The Lodge has had a family BBQ.
- I am known around the district and have a good rapport with other masters and GL officers.

Still to achieve:

- Membership recruitment and development programmes
- A supportive mentoring structure
- An inclusive positive culture
- An evolving social programme.

I would probably give myself just a 50 % pass to be honest.

It is also time to formalise the Master and officers for the next term.

My thoughts to try and achieve my "bonus" are as follows:

- Discuss individual aspirations in the lodge
- Set up a "strategic review" session
- Develop a Master Mason "board" for want of a term who take ownership of the strategy and drive it.

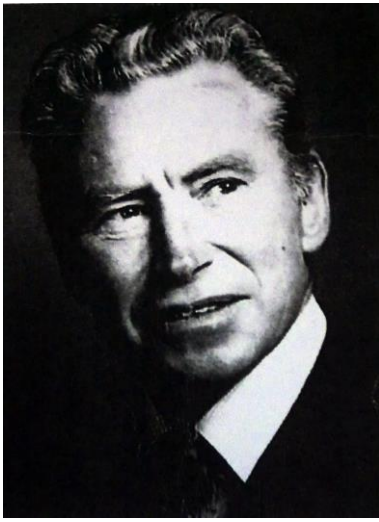
Brethren, a long piece of "prose" from me but it comes from a desire to make Lodge Homewood, the "lodge others look for inspiration".



Our next meeting: April Meeting -Thursday, 26th at the Wellesley: ANZAC Ceremony of the EMPTY CHAIR

Ahdut Coah Hi
Worshipful Master
Craig Fraser





Obituary – Bro William (Bill) Shaw

A senior member of Lodge Homewood passed to the Grand Lodge above on 18 November 2017 after a short illness.

He was 94 years of age and had been a member of the Craft for over 50 years. He did not attend Lodge for personal reasons but always paid his dues and had in fact paid his dues for the half year before he died. Bro Bill had a successful career in banking and was General Manager and Chief Executive Officer of the Bank of New Zealand prior to his retirement. He is survived by his wife Mavis who is in the hospital wing of Rita Angus Retirement Village in Kilbirnie.

Bro Logan Russell, Almoner of the Lodge, spoke at Bill's funeral service on behalf of the bank's staff who worked with Bill and it was also appropriate that Bro Logan was able to do so as a fellow Freemason.

Outward Bound – Bro Mark White

Recently, Bro Mark White attended Outward Bound with assistance from our Lodge. On day 11, he was on his solo and wrote this letter to the Lodge.



Dear Lodge Homewood

I am now on day 11 of 21 of my Outward Bound course. Today is the first day of the infamous solo. One of the suggested activities is a letter to my sponsors - but you are more than that, you are my watch back in the real world. As such, I want to share some key lessons that I have learnt so far.

On the first day after a powhiri, we were assigned to our watch - mine is McKenzie. We introduced ourselves with an action starting with the same letter as our name - a good way for remembering such a list.

We then had a roll in the mud so that, washing it off, we were symbolically removing any masks we had brought to our true selves.

Washing off the mud meant jumping off the pier into the water and since I don't like being out of my depth I wore a life jacket. I was convinced to get rid of it once in the water. So I learnt a few more lessons that day too.

- 1. "There is more in you" - with a little encouragement you can try harder and overcome your fears.*
- 2. A good watch will always support you and makes things easier.*
- 3. Life will be simpler if you just let the instructors test your boundaries - "Swallow the frog, don't just think about it".*

Day 2 was our introduction to sailing along with more group bonding exercises.

Days 3 and 4 were an overnight including off-track navigation. While I haven't done a lot of navigation with the tramping club, I still was the most skilled so people recognised me as a leader, which has given me a bit more confidence in being the centre of attention.

When we returned we had to write a song about our group values - I am not creative in that way but as a watch we managed to get the job done.

Day 5 started off with an exercise to show what we had hoped to gain from the course, followed by high ropes in the afternoon - my motivating phrase for this was "I can do this".

Days 6, 7, 8 were our sailing adventure, and in high winds most of the time. Another chance to work well as a team, and we even managed to push our luck and get free cake for my birthday!

The past two days have been service - clearing gorse on a hiking trail and mulching/collecting firewood back at Outward Bound. I would be keen for some of our Lodge charity to involve time and physical effort like this and not just monetary contributions.

My final thought is a quote I actually read before I left but I keep coming back to - "I haven't come this far only to come this far".

I can't wait to see what the next 10 days bring.

Fraternal regards, Bro Mark White

The Invisible Lodge

This Short Talk Bulletin was prepared by Worshipful Brother Walter J. Harmon, Past Master of Richmond Lodge No. 10, Richmond, Virginia, a magician for more than 28 years, and an active member of "The Invisible Lodge."

The expression "the magic of Freemasonry" takes on a different meaning when one realizes the great number of professional and amateur magicians who are and have been members of the Ancient Craft. It was only natural that these skilled performers of the art of producing baffling effects and illusions should band together to share their interests with the Fraternity.

In the strictest sense of the word, Lodge, "the Invisible Lodge" is not a Lodge. It is an international organization of Freemasons who also have as their vocation or avocation MAGIC. The Invisible Lodge was formed in 1953 by Sir Felix Korim of England, who served as the organization's first President. Membership in The Invisible Lodge has been accorded to more than 800 selected Masons throughout the world, including such notable and well known figures in the world of magic as Blackstone, Okito, Ballentine, Levanto, McDonald Hirsch and Jack Gwynne.

Joined by the common bond of magic, these Brethren who may be or have been professional entertainers, hobbyists, collectors or students of both magic and Freemasonry, combine those interests to produce the organization known as "The Invisible Lodge."

Just as the roots of Freemasonry are entrenched in antiquity, so are those of Magic. Magic is a word referring to the craft of the magi. The magi were the priests of the ancient Medes and Persians. After the rise of Zoroaster, they became the priests of the Zoroastrian religion. The ancient Greeks and Hebrews knew them as Astrologers, Interpreters of Dreams, and givers of Omens. The reign of the priests was more than eight thousand years ago. Zoroaster is believed to have lived about five thousand years before our era. He is said to have been an unusual child who was gifted to have visions at an early age. Born in Azerbaijan in Northern Persia, he taught a belief in one God, the existence of the devil, and the doctrine of immortality. It is alleged that these priests (the magi) predicted the birth of the Christ Child and were the ones who brought him the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. As ruling monarchs, the priests were referred to as "Kings of the Orient" and "the wise men."

There are certain similarities between the order of the Magi and Freemasonry which should be noted. The word, "Dao" is Persian in origin. It signifies Light and Wisdom and is the forerunner of the word Deity (Bright One). Fire or light was used in the rituals of the magi to symbolize intelligence, knowledge and wisdom. It is recorded that, during the initiation, the Arch Magus sat upon a throne of gold in the East.

The established dates of the reign of the Magi was five thousand years before the Trojan War, which took place in 1200 B.C. King Solomon began his temple in 966 B.C. This gives room for interesting speculation.

The Magi were Kings, Priests, Lawyers, Engineers, etc. In essence, they embodied most of the knowledge of their time, earning the respect of the people. It is the hypothesis of some historians that the Magi even possessed knowledge that has since been lost to man and that they possessed powers that would seem awesome to us even today.

Always in history there have been those who sought knowledge for knowledge's sake and those who sought to use it to manipulate and enslave the less informed. As the knowledge of those ancient wise ones became the specializations of medicine, law, astronomy, and philosophy, there were those who specialized in those little known principles of the miracle worker and became just that. These individuals, whether in quest for power or riches, formed a special priesthood that manipulated the ignorant and robbed the credulous.

Magic has passed through many forms and many lands until today it is deception for the purpose of entertainment with the trappings and refinements of those lands.

Masonry, in its language and ritual, retains much of the various sects and institutions it passed through before arriving at its present state.

In Masonry, as in Magic, we meet with Chaldean, Indian, Egyptian, Jewish, and Christian symbols and ideas.

It is little wonder then that at some time in history a group of men with an interest in both magic and Masonry would form an organization that would embody the two as its focus.

Many Masons are surprised to find that many of the great magicians, whose names are familiar, and many others were active Masons and active in the various appendant bodies. Many could and did tell interesting anecdotes about their Masonic experiences. One of those deals with Brother Harry Keller, famous for the floating lady illusion which he introduced in this country. Brother Keller was shipwrecked



in the Bay of Biscay and his Blue Lodge diploma went to the bottom of the sea. It was later recovered by divers who brought up baggage from the sunken steamer. He later remarked it had been viewed by Grand Master Neptune and returned.

Membership in the Invisible Lodge is limited to those persons interested in magic, who have been raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. The publication of the Invisible Lodge is called the "Trestle Board" and is published quarterly, giving information on the Masonic and Magical activities of the members.

The annual stated meeting of the Invisible Lodge is held in conjunction with the Columbus, Ohio Magic Fest. The date and time are announced annually. Additional meetings are held at the National Conventions of the International Brotherhood of Magicians and The Society of American Magicians as well as recognized Regional Conventions.

The Invisible Lodge publishes Bert Douglas' book, "Masonic Magic," which is the sole work devoted to presentation of Magic with a Masonic interpretation.

Members are encouraged to participate in Masonic education programmes by using their Magic abilities and skills to illustrate the under-lying principles of Masonic philosophy, as well as providing entertainment within the Fraternity. They are further urged to labour in the non-magical areas by the Invisible Lodge's award system.

The first of these, the ZB Award, so named after the second president of the Invisible Lodge, Dr. Zina Bennett, is a certificate presented to any member who gives a total of five certified gratis performances for the residents of a Masonic Orphanage, Masonic Home for the Aged, or the patients of a Shrine Hospital. Another award of the Invisible Lodge is the Masters Award, consisting of a certificate and wand presented to a Brother who has received the coveted 33x of the Scottish Rite. Another award is presented annually, known as the Harvey Award, based on the traditional invisible rabbit, to a Brother who has served the Invisible Lodge or Masonry with distinction.

Membership in the Invisible Lodge is not necessary to be a recipient.

The meetings of the Invisible Lodge are held at midnight, with a special ritual prepared for it that combine the elements of Masonry and Magic. At these meetings, honours are given to both the oldest and youngest members present.

Probably the most singular important lesson to be learned by the average Mason from the Invisible Lodge is that all of the great Magicians saw fit to give a certain amount of their time to Masonry and with their travel and exposure to the blandishments of the world felt that this brotherhood was of value. Another lesson lies in the origins of both Masonry and Magic. Rooted and entwined in antiquity as both are, the mystical qualities of both manifest themselves in our inner feelings and convince us of the lasting value of both.

In our hurried view of the history, we made mention of knowledge that was lost. Of course this came about as the result of persecution of both the thinking individual and the organizations to which they belonged, by those who would bend mankind to a life of superstitious slavery. The individual Mason cannot and should not lose sight of the sacrifices of our predecessors and our debt to them to preserve our ways and customs in their entirety and guard them against exploitation by the politically ambitious



Movie Review – The Lady in the Van

This film seems to have its lovers and haters but, in this editor's humble opinion, it was fantastic. Whilst watching the film, you start to wonder where it is going. This is truly Maggie Smith at her finest and, matched with 'Alan', pulls off a fantastic film. The eccentricities of both characters in the film is truly the marvel that makes this film. It is almost a competition to see which is more eccentric throughout the film. It is a story based on a real person and certainly tells us not to judge book by its cover. You can't help but feel anger towards people who, in effect, caused his downfall and destroyed a fabulous talent. It also brings into question about how we treat musicians and artists. We love the result but often treat them with disdain in our society.

It is a quiet watch and not too heavy as it were, but has a fairly serious message about what can break a person and in today's world the attention we should give to those with mental issues is heightened. I give this a 4.5 out of 5 and recommend that you watch it. If any would like to borrow this, I have it on DVD.

Recipe – A good healthy Lodge



Ingredients

Master with a bit of humour
IPM who thinks he is still in charge
A deputy who wants to run the night like he wants to drink a Tui
DC tries herding sheep with a Pekinese
Secretary, madly typing minutes
Treasurer, a good bean counter
Senior Warden who has no idea what's about to hit him
Junior Warden, not sure what's about to happen
Deacons, hoping it goes well on the night
Chaplain, waiting to say his bits
Inner Guard, how many knocks?
Tyler, waiting for those knocks.

Method

1. Put all members in a room.
2. Give the Master his agenda.
3. Stir heavily and mix together.
4. Set temperature to high.
5. Complete the ceremony.
6. Eat, drink and be merry!

Meetings

April 26th

FEDS Dinners



Looking for a coordinator

Address to the Empty Chair
Junior Warden's Lunch



Funicular
April 13th 12:00pm

TECH TIPS

New international phone scam affecting Kiwis

The latest wave of an international phone scam is affecting New Zealanders and mobile companies are warning people not to call back.

The scam appears as a missed international phone call and charges the user hefty international fees if they return it.

2degrees spokesman Paul Brislen said the scam is unsophisticated but is affecting mobile phone users from multiple international networks.

The scam is computer-generated and almost impossible to stop as the calling number changes every time, he said.

"You start off with 001001 and that doesn't ring so you go through to 001002 and that one rings. Great, we've got a live number, then they try 001003 and they just make their way up the number range until they hit our numbers.

So I presume they've reached the +64 bracket, which is New Zealand, and they're trying all the numbers they can find", he said.

Eventually the scammers will move on to target other international numbers, he said.

Customers who have returned unknown international phone calls should check their phone bills and contact their network if they've been affected, he said.

Spark said its customers have also been targeted while a Vodafone user told RNZ of getting repeated missed calls from a Canadian number for months.

Source – RadioNZ

www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/354292/new-international-phone-scam-affecting-kiwis



Don't forget to visit the Masonic Exchange, the preferred supplier of Masonic goods to Lodge Homewood.

They have everything you want for Lodge, including accessories such as tie clips, cuff links, and anything you can find on the site

www.masonicexchange.co.nz