

Homewood Herald

Report from the Master

Greetings Brethren

After 6 months of being out of town its good now to be home after migrating 140 users, 80 trucks, 10 branches, 15 applications and a gig or 2 of data.

I hear that VWBro Murray Alford gave a great presentation of the duties of officers in the lodge last month, my special thanks to Murray and to VWBro Metcalfe for stepping in as master.



I happened to be in Dunedin recently at the Pipe Band Championships and noticed a Masonic tent. I was attracted of course to the Scottish style regalia and thought hmm that would suit me?!. Change the tartan to Fraser of course.

Address to the empty chair.

This month is of course our ANZAC ceremony which we are sharing with Waikanae. Family and friends are welcome and please advise if anyone requires a ride.

The next few months till installation are looking to be busy. We have our strategic planning outcomes to put into action as a priority and the meeting program will be :

May - Second Degree, passing of Michael Sagers

June - Fraternal visit to Te Puni

July - hopefully we will have a First degree

Visiting, below are my plans for visits for the next few weeks:

Weekend just gone Bro Callum and I went to Eketahuna for Te Puni's raising of Bro Mumford.

- April 17th - Wellington EC, First Degree
- April 24th - Lodge Zetland ANZAC remembrance in music.
- May 4th - Waitohi No111 in Picton, Installation of VWBro Stables, ceremony being performed by Hutt Valley Wairarapa GL officers.

With Easter and ANZAC occurring over the next couple of weeks for those who are taking leave and having a longer break, enjoy and be safe.



Ahdut Coah Hi
Worshipful Master
Craig Fraser



Brooklyn Masonic Centre

As you all know the Brooklyn Masonic Centre has been sold as part of the process with the purchase of the new "Thorndon Masonic Centre", and will be vacated by the end of April. This meant that Thursday 12 April was the last lodge meeting at Brooklyn, and hence despite the heavy rain I went to visit Lodge Herbert Teagle Taia.

The meeting calendar had a 3rd degree listed, but unfortunately the candidate was feeling sick so they decided to have a simulated degree working instead. Since the candidate and an EA were in attendance they only went through the second half of the working so as to not spend too long with Brethren outside the door. While the candidate had made the meeting, he did still leave early so the decision to postpone his raising was justified.

As there was an Installation at Trentham that night too there was only one other visitor in attendance however we both enjoyed the evening and joined in the memories of Brooklyn during refectory. I was asked to give the reply to the visitors and hence took the opportunity to promote our Address to the Empty Chair.

Lodge Homewood used to meet at Brooklyn and that is where I completed my three degrees. I discovered that while my initiation was in Oct 2009, Harry from Taia Raukawa (now part of Herbert Teagle Taia) was only a couple of months ahead of me and remembers watching most of my ceremonies.

The site at Brooklyn was purchased in 1977 so has been lodge rooms for just over 40 years, and in its early days 120+ for installations was normal hence having the larger room which in recent years seemed to be less used. During the opening of the site there was a procession of a few hundred masons up the driveway to witness the opening (as evidenced by photos still on the walls), however the closing meeting was very low key in comparison.

One of the other pictures I was always fascinated by on the walls of Brooklyn was the one that depicted the progression of degrees in both the York and Scottish Rites in America. I hence took a photo of that as a souvenir (attached).

Lodge Herbert Teagle Taia will be meeting in Porirua for the next few months (as will St Andrews whom I visited at Brooklyn last month).

Bro Mark White

As a side note to this, Brethren of Lodge Homewood are asked to look well to the Lodges moving into the Wellesley over the next 12 months.

The Wisdom Of The Antients

In the 1600s Freemasonry was a hodgepodge of operative guild masons, alchemists, cabbalists, and "scientists";. In the early 1700s, Sir Isaac Newton and his long-time friend John Desaguliers, along with certain members of the Royal Society, reorganised it into a scientific-mystical school. This school was at the cutting edge of human understanding in the 1700s. It not only contained the most advanced scientific theories but cutting-edge social and religious ideas. Scientifically Freemasonry viewed the universe through Newtonian eyes. Socially and politically it brought the ancient Greek ideas of democracy into its organisational model. (A threatening idea to both church and state at the time.) Religiously it combined the many views of God into a single natural concept that it called the Great Architect of the Universe. This makes Freemasonry the first universalistic religious organization. This has been its strength, making it a truly universal society with the innate ability to peacefully cross boundaries and bring reconciliation and understanding. As is stated in the first constitutions, we should be good Men and true, or Men of Honour and Honesty, by whatever Denominations or Persuasions they may be distinguish and; whereby Masonry becomes the Centre of Union, and the Means of conciliating true Friendship among Persons that must have remain at a perpetual Distance. This is Freemasonry great challenge. Not reciting ritual but living its intentions. So, fellow peace maker, are you ready to undertake life as a person who is part and parcel and a living practitioner of this peculiar morality called Freemasonry?

Reproduced from Lodge Middle Harbour's monthly Newsletter.





Solstice Dinner – every year we celebrate the Solstice with a dinner, this year it is at the newly renovated Ngaio Scout Hall. Please let Hadyn know if you are coming and of course, this is open to family at a cost of \$40 per head.

Restaurant Review – Wagamama



I first went to Wagamama when it first opened and was underwhelmed by the food and speed of delivery. It was opening day when this occurred, so no doubt they had teething problems; This was also about 12 years ago. A couple of weeks ago, I was invited to attend a lunch for a colleague who was leaving the company I work at.

Not being one for noodles, I settled on the Chicken Teriyaki, the short delay on the food coming out was enough for socialising.

Unlike my first encounter, this meal was twice the size and fairly filling too. The drink service was a little sketchy and we had to remind staff of drink orders. Wagamama is designed to be a fast food type restaurant, with hard bench seats to discourage you from staying too long. That certainly works and works for them but does make it a little less appealing to go back to. Even McDonalds went away from hard seats some years ago as they realised it didn't have the desired effect.

I will have to give this place a 3 out of 5.



Why Are You A Mason?

People frequently ask, "Why are you a Mason?"; "What makes it last through the centuries?"; or "What does a Mason believe?".

These individuals, in asking these questions, are curious <but> not about Freemasonry's ritual or so-called secrets. They merely want to know what it is about it that has attracted millions of men to it over hundreds of years. They want to know why Freemasonry has earned its distinguished standing in history. They want to know why so many fine men of integrity and character are part of it. These individuals ask reasonable questions, and they can be answered in a simple, clear, easily understood response.

Freemasonry consists of a body of men banded together for the purpose of mutual, intellectual, social and moral improvement. It endeavours to cultivate and exhibit Brotherly Love, Charity and Truth, not only to one another, but to the world at large. A Mason believes in the Fatherhood of God requiring that His will be done and that He guide his life. A Mason believes in the great worth of the individual, great worth not relating to wealth, position or power, but recognising that each individual is a human being, a creation of God, a person of value. A Mason believes that each individual is under the Fatherhood of God. History has shown clearly that whenever a totalitarian government has gained power, it has sought to destroy two groups within its society: (1) religious houses of worship, and (2) Masonic Lodges. Both have stood pre-eminently for the glory of God and the worth of the individual. In the Masonic Lodge, all members meet on the same level. They are simply "Brothers"- be they bankers, doctors, farmers, lawyers, industrialists, mechanics, educators, merchants, labourers or high-ranking politicians. A Mason believes in the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God. With all members on the same level, then there are no barriers when they meet; they are all Brothers, and treat each other as such.

Taken from a U.S publication, 1978.

Recipe – ANZAC Biscuits



Ingredients

- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1 cup thread coconut
- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 125 g butter
- 2 Tbsp golden syrup
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 2 Tbsp boiling water

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180°C. Lightly grease a baking tray or line with baking paper.
2. Combine the oats, coconut, flour, and sugar together in a large bowl.
3. Melt the butter and golden syrup together. Dissolve the baking soda in the boiling water and add to the butter mixture. Pour the butter mixture into the dry ingredients and mix together.
4. Roll teaspoons into balls and place on the tray, allowing room for them to spread.
5. Bake for 12-15 minutes, cooking one tray at a time.

IF

BY RUDYARD KIPLING

*If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt
you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too
wise:*

*If you can dream—and not make dreams
your master;
If you can think—and not make thoughts
your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've
spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to,
broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out
tools:*

*If you can make one heap of all your
winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and
sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'*

*If you can talk with crowds and keep your
virtue,
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common
touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt
you,
If all men count with you, but none too
much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my
son!*