

Homewood Herald

Report from the Master

Brethren,

Welcome to this bumper summer edition of the Homewood Herald. Well, not quite a summer-like photo but, never mind, here's a lovely picture with my daughters in Ottawa in December. Everything was covered in thick snow and it was quite magical. The Parliament building is in the background.

I've started writing this while lounging by the bar and pool at our hotel at Playa del Carmen on the Caribbean coast of Mexico. It's 8pm but it's still a warm 24 degrees Celsius. Today we've been swimming, shopping, and engaging in the favourite Mexican pastime of enjoying a long lunch followed by a long siesta. I hope that all of you have also enjoyed your holidays along with plenty of sunshine.



I would like to start the year by thinking Bro Frank and Wynn Hyatt for organising last year's Christmas dinner which was well attended by Brethren, family members, and widows. At one point during the dinner a strange man in a red suit turned up and started handing out presents, clearly to the delight of many. For those not there – a chocolate fish award for whoever can guess which member of the Lodge had a striking similarity to the strange man in the red suit. I would also like to thank WBro John and Mary Nimmo who delivered presents to our widows just before Christmas.

A very busy schedule over the next few months

I am very excited about the year ahead. We have a full list of activities.

February: for our February meeting, I'll be doing something that I have longed to do for years. One of my personal passions is cathedrals (yes, I know that sounds odd but I make up for it by listening to Taylor Swift). I plan to do a presentation on cathedrals and operative masons, bearing in mind that Freemasonry evolves out of operative masonry. We will open and close in the first and second degrees, and go down to refectory at 7pm. My presentation will have lots of pictures and it will be fun - I promise that it will not be long or detailed. Family members, friends, and non-Masons are invited, so please bring along your loved ones so that we can start the year in a friendly, social manner.

Also in February, Bro Frank and Wynn Hyatt have invited us again to their home at Waikanae Beach on 12 February for an afternoon of a little bit of petanque, but I suspect it will be mostly sitting around in the sun eating and enjoying a glass or two.

On Tuesday, 14 February we have been asked by Te Awahou Lodge in Foxton to help with their third degree. You'll remember that we had some visitors from Te Awahou Lodge at our November meeting. Please let me know if you would like a ride. The meeting is at 7:30pm, which means that we'll need to leave Wellington at about 5:00pm.

I may also travel to Lodge Eketahuna on Saturday, 18 February where Lodge Windsor will be holding a third degree for their candidate, Renie. Renie and other brethren from Lodge Windsor have attended our meetings over the last few months, so it would be good to support them. The Grand Master will be attending, so it is bound to be an amazing experience for Renie. If you would like to attend, please let me know and I can give you a lift.

March: we have been asked by Lodge Te Puni to provide some support for their second degree working on Wednesday, 1 March. We'll make this our fraternal visit, so it would be good to get together a good delegation from Lodge Homewood. WBro Nicholls will send out an e-mail later to arrange our visit.

Further ahead: as for the year ahead, there are several things in the pipeline: a second degree for Bro Jonathan Eames, an important third degree for Bro David Barnes, and our address to the empty chair on ANZAC Day. I have also just been contacted out of the blue by a potential candidate and will be meeting him in early February, so potentially there may be a lot more that comes out of that.

You'll find on the next page a calendar of events up to the next installation. Note that the installation will probably be on a Saturday night in early September, not our usual Thursday night.

There are also scheduled dates for rehearsals. Attendance over the last few months at our rehearsals has been erratic. We



need to be more focused on this.

What it means to be a Freemason

As I sat by the pool in Mexico I received the usual Central Division e-mail with the newly named Proud to be a Freemason newsletter. There was an article in there that really brought it home to me about what it means to be a Freemason and it is reproduced below. If you have not read it before, please take a couple of minutes to read it now. It will make a lot of sense. Thanks to the many brethren who have provided me with advice and support since my installation in August. Your support is much appreciated. I would like to make a special mention of Bro Mark White who has done some amazing work on our website. Go and check it out: www.homewood-lodge.net.nz. Is there any other Lodge in the district that has such a good website? Mark would like to branch out now into Facebook, but I'm encouraging him to think big and to work on an iPhone app!

Master's appeal

Please also remember that this year's Master's appeal is for the New Zealand Stroke Foundation. Sadly, the day before we arrived in Mexico in December, one of my wife's uncles suffered a stroke and, as I write this, he is still lying in a coma in hospital. I am pleased to advise that, at our February meeting, a representative of Stroke Central Region will give a brief presentation about stroke awareness.

Lodge Homewood: important dates for the year ahead

February

Tuesday, 14 February Visit to Te Awahou Lodge, Foxton
Thursday, 16 February 6pm: Standing Committee meeting
7pm: Rehearsal: first and second degree open/close
Saturday, 18 February Visit to Eketahuna Lodge, Eketahuna
Thursday, 23 February 6.30pm: Regular meeting: first and second degree open/close
7pm: Refectory/presentation – open to all family members, friends etc

March

Wednesday, 1 March 7:00pm: Fraternal visit to Te Puni Lodge
Thursday, 16 March 6pm: Rehearsal: second degree
Thursday, 23 March 6pm: Standing committee meeting
7pm: Rehearsal: second degree
Thursday, 30 March 6:30pm: Second degree – Jonathan Eames

April

Thursday, 20 April 6:00pm: Standing committee meeting
Tuesday, 25 April 6:00pm: Address to the empty chair, Trentham Lodge (Date for rehearsal to be advised)

May

Thursday, 18 May 6:00pm: Standing committee meeting

June

Thursday, 22 June 6:00pm: Standing committee meeting

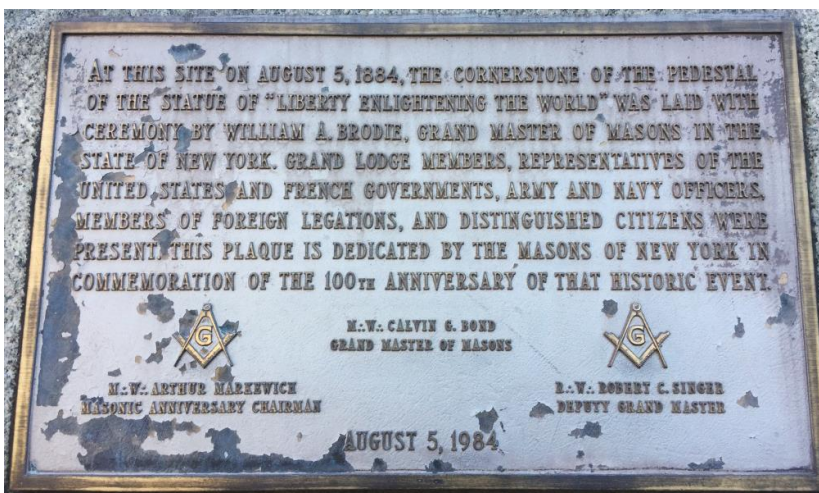
July

Thursday, 20 July 6:00pm: Standing committee meeting
(For May, June, and July we'll confirm the order of events shortly – will include the third degree for Bro David Barnes)

August - September

Thursday, 31 August 6pm: Standing committee meeting
7pm: Rehearsal: installation
Saturday, 2 September 6pm: Installation

Drinks in the downstairs bar at 5:30pm before all rehearsals and standing committee



Discovered during my visit to New York in December, much to my surprise

Ahdut Coah Hi
Worshipful Master
David Ryan

Movie Review – Criminal

Straying far from his stereotypical role of the good guy, Kevin Costner takes on the character of Jerico Stewart, a dangerous criminal who has the memories of a CIA agent implanted into his brain. The idea is not new for movies, but this one takes things on a different angle. It is a fairly intense film to watch but well written and directed. The film draws you into the main character and, not knowing whether you should like or dislike him, you become his advocate by the end of the film. This film is brilliant in its portrayal of the characters and includes two of my favourite actors, Tommy Lee Jones and Gary Oldman. Ryan Reynolds plays the character whose memory is implanted in Jerico.



I have to give this a 5 out of five



What it means to be a Freemason

From the Christmas edition of *Proud to be a Freemason*:

Here's a true story about a farmer in Taihape during the 2nd World War. Can you relate to this?

"Mary, you have a shawl you never use, may I have it?"

She looked at him strangely, but got the shawl. He thanked her and left the house. She was not only puzzled, she was suspicious. Several evenings during the last couple of months, he had left after dinner without any explanation. He hadn't stayed away long, and when he returned he had a strange air about him. He seemed to have an inner peace. He said nothing; neither did she.

About a week after this latest incident Mary was shopping in Taihape when she saw her shawl again. She was shocked. It was on the shoulders of a beautiful young lady. Angrily Mary followed the girl to a shabby house on the outskirts of town. After the girl had entered, Mary knocked on the door. The girl opened it and smiled when she saw her visitor. She held the door open and Mary stomped in.

As she looked around she saw an elderly lady propped up on a single bed. The lady smiled and said "How nice of you to visit us." Mary was stunned. She didn't really know what to say, so she just looked from the elderly lady to the girl. The girl asked if she could fix her a cup of tea. Mary nodded and the girl turned to put a kettle on the stove.

While the water was heating Mary sat in a chair beside the elderly lady. I don't know exactly what to say, so I will tell you the truth," she said. "I saw my shawl on your daughter and I was furious. Last week my husband asked me for it, but didn't tell me why. I'm sure now that he did not have an ulterior motive, but I still don't understand how you have it."

The girl and her mother looked at each other. Then the mother said: "We have no idea who left it. We have no idea who has been doing some nice things for us for the past several months. Perhaps now we can solve the mystery. It started soon after my husband died. We had no money and I am unable to work. And Nancy couldn't find a job. We were desperate. We had no food and no fuel. Then one morning when Nancy opened the door she found several packages of food, clothing and coal on the doorstep. You have no idea what that meant to us.

"A short time later, along with more packages, Nancy found a note telling her to see Mr. Tompkins, the lawyer, if she would like a job. She did and Mr. Tompkins hired her. He sent a doctor to see me. He has been coming regularly to see me ever since, and he won't take any money. And we still find packages, but have no idea where they come from."

They drank their tea and chatted pleasantly for some time. The mysterious packages were mentioned from time to time. Suddenly Mary asked: "Was your husband a Mason?"

"Yes he was," said the lady. "He loved his Lodge. I don't think he ever missed a meeting." A short time later Mary left, promising to visit often. After dinner that evening, Mary worked on the quilt she was making while her husband read. She looked up from her work and said: "I think I learned the great secret of Masonry today."

Her husband looked at her in alarm and asked: "Oh! And what is it?"

Mary answered: "To do good and not say anything about it!"

Mary's husband and the members of the little Lodge in Taihape, plucked off their shoes to help those in need. Should we do anything less?



Recipe – Lemonade Scones



Ingredients

4 cups self-raising flour
300ml cream (1 small bottle of cream)
¼ cup Chelsea White Sugar
300ml lemonade
½ tsp salt

Method

Preheat oven to 220°C. Cover an oven tray with a sheet of baking paper or spray well with non-stick baking spray.

Mix all ingredients in a bowl to form a smooth dough (the mixture is quite sloppy). Tip out onto a floured bench and form into a 'round'. Carefully lift and place onto baking tray (a dough scraper helps) and cut into wedges (leave with sides touching - scones will pull apart after baking). Alternatively, use a cookie cutter or knife to cut into rounds or squares.

Bake for about 15 - 20 minutes until starting to colour pale golden. Check they are cooked through and cool on a wire rack, covered with a clean tea towel (this keeps the scones lovely and soft).

Cut in half and spread with butter, jam and whipped cream whilst still warm.

SCONE VARIATIONS:

- Add 1 cup of dried fruit to the mixture e.g. chopped dates, sultanas, raisins or dried cranberries.
- Add 1 cup of chocolate chips to the mixture.
- To make savoury scones, replace the lemonade with soda water and any of these optional extras:-
 - 1 large onion, finely chopped
 - 1 cup grated tasty cheese
 - 6 rashers lean rindless bacon, chopped
 - 3 tablespoons chopped parsley or fresh herbs
- To make a cinnamon pinwheel scone, mix 2 teaspoons cinnamon with ¾ cup caster sugar. Lay the dough mixture out flat on a well floured bench. Pat out to be a rectangle approximately 30 x 20 cm. Sprinkle the cinnamon mixture over the surface. Roll up from the long side into a sausage shape then cut into slices. Lay the slices on a prepared tray so they just touch each other, cook and cool as above. The lovely sticky cinnamon filling can be quite hot so remember to cool them down before biting in. - See more at: <http://www.chelsea.co.nz/browse-recipes/lemonade-scones>

Meetings

February 23

Family Dinner and Presentation

March 30

2nd Degree

FEDS Dinners



Social drinks



TECH TIPS

Phishing emails

Recently a friend of mine managed to get infected by a virus. The way this occurred was through an email to his company looking like a standard invoice or spreadsheet. The virus his machine was then infected with was called 'Locky'. This virus encrypts your files and installs software telling you to contact an email to pay money to get access to your files back. Also known as 'Ransomware', Locky is one of the worst virus currently around and is difficult to deal with. Should you have this occur, contact your IT person immediately as they will know how to assist you. The worst part about this virus, is that you can lose a lot of data, even if most is recovered.

If you receive an email with files attached and you are not sure – delete it or call the person who is meant to be sending it – **do not open the file.**