

# Homewood Herald

## Report from the Master

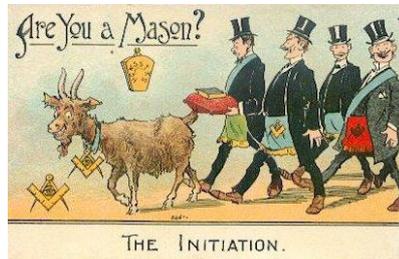
Greetings Brethren

This month, we have a Fraternal visit from Lodge Te Puni No.315. A tradition we have with Lodge Te Puni is that the travelling gavels are exchanged once a year during a visit. Last month Brother Brad Mumford was initiated at Lodge Te Puni for which Bro Callum and I were visitors at. This month VWBro Murray Alford will perform his extended version of the 1st degree tracing board for Bro Brad and any other EAs who attend.



One of my visiting highlights this month was a visit to Stokes Valley Lodge for their annual Touch of Tartan. The ceremony was a second degree and the Scots performed the officers' roles. It may surprise you that I was asked to pipe and refectory was a great mix of some Scottish favourites including THE HAGGIS.

We often hear mention of the GOAT in masonry which made me wonder what that might all be about. So I googled it and some interesting information as you can probably guess. What seems to have happened is that the goat was really a joke played on nervous initiates, comments such as to the blindfolded initiate, "A piece of advice. If you think you're going to fall off the goat, lean to the left".



It is interesting that there are lodges in the United States that actually have carts which have a goat's head on and are or were used during the ceremony. What I also found though was that since the Middle Ages, the goat has been symbolic of the devil and stories circulated of witches riding into towns on goats. As Freemasonry gained in popularity, detractors accused them of witchcraft which could be where the notion might have come from. It also didn't help that some early ritual books from the fraternity referred to God as "God of All Things" and abbreviated it as G.O.A.T. That was quickly changed.

Ahdut Coah Hi  
Worshipful Master  
Craig Fraser



## Famous Freemason - Johann Wolfgang Goethe

Johann Wolfgang Goethe was born in Frankfurt on Main on August 29, 1749. He joined Amalia Lodge in March of 1780, ten years after Lessing. Goethe had a great respect for Lessing and this could be the reason he became a Mason. Goethe is considered to be the greatest of German poets, and is often compared to Shakespeare. So much of Goethe's writings are inspired by Masonic teachings. His novel *The Society of the Tower* "is evidently based on the many Freemasons' lodge which grew up in eighteenth-century Germany, and which played a not unimportant part in its social and cultural life." Goethe also wrote several Masonic poems. His most popular is *Mason Lodge: The Masons ways are A Type of Existence And his persistence Is as the days are Of men in this world. The future hides it Gladness and Sorrow, We press still thorow Naught that abides in it Daunting us - onward. And Solemn before us Veiled, the dark portal, Goal of all mortal; Stars are silent o'er us Graves under us silent. While earnest thou gazest Comes boding of terror, Comes phantasm and error Perplexes the bravest With doubt and misgiving. But heard are the voices - Heard are the Sages, The Worlds and the Ages; "Choose well; your choice is "Brief and yet endless; "Here eyes do regard you "In eternity's stillness; "Here is all fullness, "Ye have to reward you, "Work, and despair not."*



This is a beautiful poem about the Masons' immortality, journey through life, and his freedom to choose a good life. His most important Masonic work is his drama *Faust*. "It is a magnificent work that is probably the finest of the romantic plays." *Faust* is about Goethe's life, and is written at different periods of his life. Throughout the tragedy there is a struggle between good and evil just as there is in the Masonic initiatory drama. "It is here that the keen student of Freemasonry and the lover of Goethe find so many contacts between the mind of the poet and the teachings of the Fraternity. As in the Legend of Hiram Abif, Faust at last finds that evil may not forever strive successfully with good; his final and greatest satisfaction is not in selfish pleasure, which means death for the soul, but in work for humanity. Faust and Lessing's son's in the "Parable of the three Rings" learn that true satisfaction comes from helping humanity, and not from selfish pleasure. Faust and Hiram are not unlike either. Both overcome evil and learn that the "divine is always within humanity do we but seek far enough." Faust also learns that good will triumph over evil in the end. Soon after Mozart's (also a Freemason) operatic stage success of the *Magic Flute* Goethe also brings Masonic effects to his play *Gross-Kaphta* by combining "the subject of the 'Grand-Master' of an 'Egyptian' society on the lines of the freemasons." Goethe died on March 22, 1832. His last words are perhaps most telling about Goethe as a Freemason and as a writer. His last words were "More light!" Source: Matthew M. Ryder, *Goethe, Lessing, and Schiller: German Dramatists, Freemasons, Poets, and Romanticists*; October 14, 1999

## Lodge Convenor



In the blink of an eye, we are suddenly almost at the shortest day of the year; for many years we have had a the Homewood Solstice Dinner on a Saturday closest to this da. We currently do not have a convenor and it would be fantastic if someone would step up to volunteer for this role. In the past we have had many themed events at different locations all over Wellington. The most memorable for me was at the Wright's Hill Tunnels. It was a London Blitz themed event with a a Winston Churchill lookalike and the Andrews Sisters cover

group singing. Frank Hyatt (former member) organised this one and did a great job. We had people in period uniforms and it was a fantastic night. We have also had western nights, speakeasy, and kings and queens nights. It is a lot of fun to run and we would love to have someone step up and take this on.

This also extends in part to the FEDS Dinners – the Fraternal Exotic Dining Society. This has been a long-standing tradition of Lodge Homewood. The basic premise is that a different restaurant is picked every three-four months and all Brethren invited. The mighty soul who takes on this job will need to ring around to 'corral' people into attending. These dinners and the solstice are open to anyone including friends and family attending.





## Movie Review – Solo

The long awaited Star Wars film about the life of Han Solo finally arrived in theatres. Being a geek and a Star Wars fan, it was my duty to attend and watch. The Solo movie is a prequel or what is known in movie speak as an 'origin' film, meaning it looks into the backgrounds of characters in big series films. The Star Wars series of films set a benchmark with the first three, then the second three were made which were, well, questionable at best. The darkness that existed in the original films was lost, then Disney came along and we held our breath hoping dancing elephants wouldn't be part of the repertoire.

I will give it to them - they have brought back the original good vs evil and the darkness that goes with it in the new films. Han Solo is a character that is beloved in the movies, so they brought in Ron Howard, Ritchie from Happy Days, now an outstanding director to make it. It has met with mixed reviews. I enjoyed it and liked the ideas they came up with and how they linked it to the existing series of films. I didn't walk out of the theatre thinking 'Wow' like I did with Rogue One and The Force Awakens, but I do not think that was the purpose of this movie. It is an entertaining watch and to see the creation of a young version of Harrison Ford's Solo I think was done very well. I give this a four out of five.

*Hadyn Nicholls - Editor*

## High and Exalted rank

For several years I was aware that the senior brethren of our lodge had different titles, but never troubled to clarify exactly what they signified. Now I have done so, and it occurs to me that there might be other brethren who would like to have this explained.

Freemasonry in New Zealand is organised with four levels. There are individual lodges; then there is the district (we are in North Shore); above that is the division, formerly referred to as a province (we are in Northern Division) and, at the top, the Grand Lodge of New Zealand.

The Officers of Grand Lodge are listed at article 122 of the Constitution; article 123 links their precedence, and 124 sets out their style of address.

Most Worshipful Brother; this is for past and present Grand Masters and Pro-Grand Masters.

Right Worshipful Brother: Present and Past Deputy Grand Masters, Divisional Grand Masters, Grand Wardens, Presidents of the Boards of General Purposes, Presidents of the Board of Benevolence and Past Provincial Grand Masters. Belmont Albion Lodge has two brethren of this rank; Murray Morrissey is a Past Grand Warden, Jim Williamson is a Past President of the Board of General Purposes.

Very Worshipful Brother: Present and Past Grand Chaplains, Registrars, Treasurers, Superintendents of Works, Secretaries, Superintendents of Ceremonies, Past Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, present and past Grand Lecturers and Directors of Ceremonies. Our lodge includes the Very Worshipful Brothers Keith Eaglesome (Past Grand Director of Ceremonies), Vic Fabian (Past Grand Lecturer), Geoff Foote and Noel Whiley (both Past District Grand Masters).

Worshipful Brother: other present and past Grand Officers, including Grand Almoners, Deacons, Bible Bearers, Sword Bearers and others. Present and Past Masters of Lodges.

Brother: all other brethren of the Craft.



*By Bro Chris Bilham – Belmont Albion Lodge*

## Recipe – Haggis



### Ingredients

1 sheep's stomach or ox secum, cleaned and thoroughly, scalded, turned inside out and soaked overnight in cold salted water  
Heart and lungs of one lamb  
450g/1lb beef or lamb trimmings, fat and lean  
2 onions, finely chopped  
225g/8oz oatmeal  
1 tbsp salt  
1 tsp ground black pepper  
1 tsp ground dried coriander  
1 tsp mace  
1 tsp nutmeg  
Water, enough to cook the haggis  
Stock from lungs and trimmings

### Method

1. Wash the lungs, heart and liver (if using). Place in large pan of cold water with the meat trimmings and bring to the boil. Cook for about 2 hours.
2. When cooked, strain off the stock and set the stock aside.
3. Mince the lungs, heart and trimmings.
4. Put the minced mixture in a bowl and add the finely chopped onions, oatmeal and seasoning. Mix well and add enough stock to moisten the mixture. It should have a soft crumbly consistency.
5. Spoon the mixture into the sheep's stomach, so it's just over half full. Sew up the stomach with strong thread and prick a couple of times so it doesn't explode while cooking.
6. Put the haggis in a pan of boiling water (enough to cover it) and cook for 3 hours without a lid. Keep adding more water to keep it covered.
7. To serve, cut open the haggis and spoon out the filling. Serve with neeps (mashed swede or turnip) and tatties (mashed potatoes).

## Meetings

June 28<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Tracing Board  
July 26<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Degree

### TECH TIPS

### Online Bullying - Netsafe

#### WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE?

We can offer advice for lots of different situations. This includes online/digital bullying, abuse and harassment, and when someone has put something online that:

Tries to get someone to hurt themselves  
Shares intimate images without consent (shared nudes, for example "revenge porn")  
Encourages other people to send harmful messages to someone  
Most people would think is very offensive  
Shares someone's sensitive private information without their permission  
Makes a false allegation about someone  
Shares confidential information about someone without their permission  
Puts someone down because of their colour, race, ethnic or national origins, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or disability  
Is indecent or obscene  
Threatens to hurt someone or damage their property

#### WHAT DOES NETSAFE DO?

When you contact us, our friendly team will ask you some questions to understand what's happening. Once we know what's going on, we can give advice on what you can do, and we may be able to assist you in resolving the issue.

We can give you tips on how to stay safe and discuss options you could take to stop the abuse. Sometimes we can contact the person you believe is responsible for the communications to discuss ways in which this could be resolved. We are an impartial service, which means we don't work on behalf of either party, we instead try to address the dispute that's going on.

We might also be able to contact the person or the organisation that runs the website, app or service that the content is on and ask if they can assist Netsafe.

Netsafe's role under the Harmful Digital Communications Act (HDCA) is to assist with complaints about digital communications that someone has claimed has harmed them in some way. It's important to note we are not an enforcement agency. Therefore it is not our role to reprimand or punish people and we cannot force people or online content hosts to do the actions we propose.

[www.netsafe.org.nz](http://www.netsafe.org.nz)