

Homewood Herald

Report from the Master

Greetings Brethren

While we have the 3 degrees in freemasonry of course at one point there were only 2, that of the Initiate and the Fellow Craft. The Fellow Craft was therefore very important. Since the inclusion of the third degree of Master Mason the Fellow Craft degree has perhaps diminished in importance. Of the three ceremonies currently practised the Fellow Craft's is the shortest and is often considered merely as a stepping stone from one degree to another. This does a great injustice to the significance of the Fellow Craft degree of which will be the focus of this month's meeting.

Having had the pleasure of talking with potential candidates recently, it's a timely reminder of what is Freemasonry and why am I a FM. So I thought I would share some of the discussions.

The topic of belief in a superior being came up and the discussion centred around belief's and faith and the connection to The Great Architect. I came across reference that the GA can be seen as a metaphor alluding to the potentiality of every individual. That invisible power which exists is understood by many different names, such as God, Spirit, Supreme Being, Intelligence, Mind, Energy, Nature and so forth.

Principles of Truth, Relief and brotherly love, what do these mean?

Brotherly Love

We show tolerance and respect for the opinions of others and behave with kindness and understanding to our fellow creatures. We consider each other as "brothers" and that all men, no matter what their talents and their social standing, are born with the same rights. This extends to the Lodge which is a peaceful and neutral place where the contradictions and emotions of everyday life have no place.

Relief

We practise charity and to caring, not only for our own, but also for the community, both by charitable giving, and by voluntary efforts and works as individuals.

Truth

We strive for truth, requiring high moral standards and aiming to achieve them in our own lives and believe that these principles represent a way of achieving higher standards in life.

Interesting going back to the basics as I often hear the reference and comparisons to "Masonic behaviour"! As my term as Master draws to an end, I thought I would create a collage of photo's. If anyone has any photos from the last 2 years could these be saved to the Drop box or email them to me directly.



Ahdut Coah Hi
Worshipful Master
Craig Fraser



Movie Review – Rocketman

I have been listening to Elton John for as long as I can remember. So, when my Scout Group decided to do a fundraiser, it was a no brainer to attend.

The very first scene in the movie is probably one of the best bits with his bright orange outfit and massive red and orange wings. The outrageous costumes only get more unusual as the film goes on.

I will say if you don't like musicals, this is probably not your thing, as it breaks into song and a bit of dance quite often.

Taron Egerton plays Elton and looks a lot like him which makes the film easier to see and believe. I was not sure what I would be watching, but was pleasantly surprised, it didn't hide the fact he was gay but certainly made secret of his disdain for his parents and the dysfunctionality of his family.

What it dealt with very well was his spiral in to sex, drugs and rock'n'roll. The cinematography around this was extremely well done and included him forgetting which country he was in at the height of his drug fuelled ways. A lot of biopics have come out over the years, this is one of the better ones, but they have all been pretty good including Bohemian Rhapsody, Walk the Line and Ray. I will say this is a film you could watch on small screen at home and have the same affect.

I will give this a 4/5

Matariki

The Maori new year festival, Matariki is on later this month which centres around the star cluster known as Matariki. This cluster is also called Pleiades in Greek, and it is the same cluster adorning the ceiling of our Lodge rooms. Here are some interesting facts about Matariki:

There are about a thousand stars in Matariki (also known as the Pleiades), but only about seven are visible to the unaided eye:

- Alcyone – Matariki, eyes of Tāwhirimātea
- Atlas – Tupu-ā-rangi, sky tohunga
- Electra – Waipuna-ā-rangi, sky spring
- Taygeta – Waitī, sweet water
- Pleione – Tupu-ā-nuku, Earth tohunga
- Merope – Ururangi, entry to the heavens
- Maia – Waitā, sprinkle of water

The relatively young 'teenage' stars were born together in a nebula at about the same time. They are much larger than our Sun and are blue because they are hot. Blue stars are the hottest, yellow are medium hot and red stars are at the cooler end of the spectrum.

Matariki is visible in many locations so has lots of names across different cultures. The Greek name is the Pleiades, in Japan it is called Subaru and in China it is Mao, the Hairy Head of the White Tiger of the West.

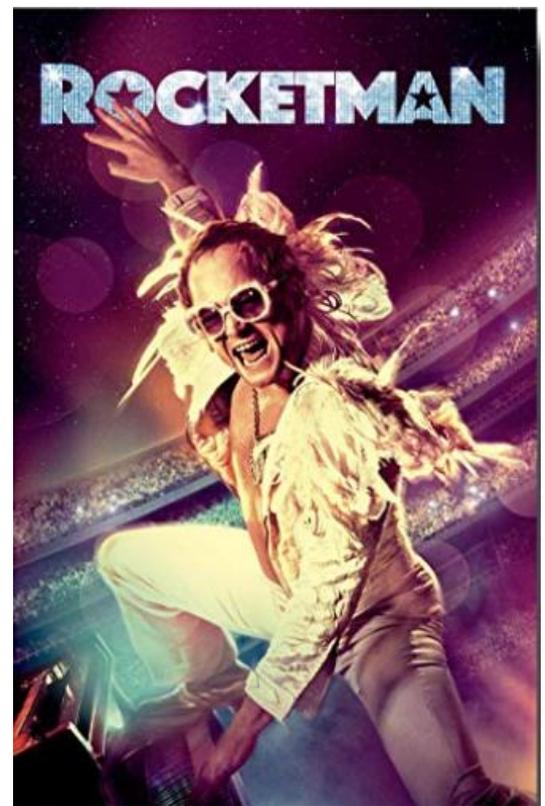
Māori ancestors possessed a wealth of astronomical knowledge that they referred to as tātai arorangi. Maori use the stars and moon as a calendar with each phase of the Moon indicating the favourable times for planting, fishing or eeling.

Matariki is used to reset the Maori calendar, which is a lunar calendar. The cycle of the Moon around Earth is different to the cycle of Earth around the Sun. The Moon cycle is around 11 days shorter than the solar cycle, meaning that, after 12 months, there is still about 11 days until Earth returns to the same position in its orbit. Stars can be used to reset the lunar calendar because they are in the same place in the sky at the same time in Earth's orbit.

The Pleiades is one of the nearest star clusters to Earth – it's just 444.2 light years away. The distance to the Pleiades is used by astronomers as a marker to help calculate distances to other stars.

After Matariki, the star cluster gets easier to see as it rises earlier and earlier in the morning, then later and later at night. The cluster can be found by looking north-east after the festival of Matariki – find Orion's Belt and follow the three stars across the sky to the left until you find Matariki. Once you find it the first time, you'll always be able to spot it because of its distinctive grouping.

There is also an explanation of Pleiades on the wall in the Lodge rooms that explains their meaning in Freemasonry. Credit - <https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/2322-the-matariki-star-cluster>



Murder in the Lodge: A Masonic Whodunnit

The candidate was being led around the pavement by the Junior Deacon. As he was advancing across the north, suddenly thunder struck the city and the lights went out across several central city blocks. There was a noise of hurried movement and a thud was heard. A few seconds later the lights came back on. There, face down lay the candidate on the floor.

The Organist rushed over to the candidate saying 'Let me through. I've got a First Aid certificate.' He examined the candidate and, with a grim look on his face, reported to the Master: 'I'm afraid the candidate is dead'. Gasps of horror rose up from around the Lodge room. 'Look here,' said the Organist pointing to the body. 'The candidate has been stabbed through the heart ... with a compass. I believe there has been a MURDER!'

Pandemonium broke out. Younger brethren were heard crying. The Master stood up and gavelled: 'Brethren, order, order, who committed this crime?'

'It wasn't me,' replied the Treasurer. 'I hope there's no blood stain on the carpet. They'll charge us to get it cleaned. Can I recover depreciation on that?'

'It wasn't me,' replied the Secretary. 'How on earth would I report this to Grand Lodge? There's no category on the drop-down menu for a murder. What an administrative nightmare!'

'It wasn't me,' replied the Immediate Past Master. 'My job is to do nothing in the Lodge. I just sit here in the East looking handsome. Can we hurry up please? I need to get home to wash my hair.'

'It wasn't me,' replied the Tyler from outside the door of the Lodge. 'Only an amateur would use a compass to murder someone. I would have used my big sword.'

'It wasn't me,' replied the Piper. 'I was sitting here with my pipes in my mouth and, well, er, um, the bag is full of whisky and I was minding my own business enjoying a light refreshment. Cheers!'

'It wasn't me,' replied the Junior Deacon. 'Holding the candidate's hand makes my hands sweaty. How on earth could I keep hold of a compass?'

'It wasn't me,' replied the Almoner. 'We certainly don't want more Lodge widows.'

'It wasn't me,' replied the Communications Officer. 'I would have waited for the lights to go back on to get a photo.'

'It wasn't me,' replied a senior member of lofty rank. 'Perambulations within the Lodge room, in accordance with Rule 162(1), subsection (b) of the Book of Constitution, amended in 1931 by Rule 37(c) ...'. A few moans were heard cutting him off.

'It wasn't me,' replied the Master. 'I would have first consulted with the Deputy Master. For example, would I need to gavel first?'

The Chaplain shot up. 'Brethren, brethren, settle down. You're worse than a group of giggling teenage girls,' he said. 'I have a bit of experience with the Police. I have reviewed the evidence and the crime scene and I know who is responsible for this disgraceful deed. I invite the guilty party to do the honourable thing, to stand, and to confess his crime'.

Dozens of pairs of eyes surveyed the Lodge room. Slowly but with dignity, a brother stood up. To everyone's utter surprise, it was the ... Director of Ceremonies. 'Oops, the candidate fell over the kneeler. You've got to be careful where you leave it. You can cause yourself serious harm. Thank goodness this is just a rehearsal. Brother Organist, you're not wearing your glasses. That's not a compass and the candidate is not dead. That's just his Epipen poking through his top pocket. Right, Brethren, back to the rehearsal. Let's get it right this time.'

David Ryan

Recipe – Ambrosia



Ingredients

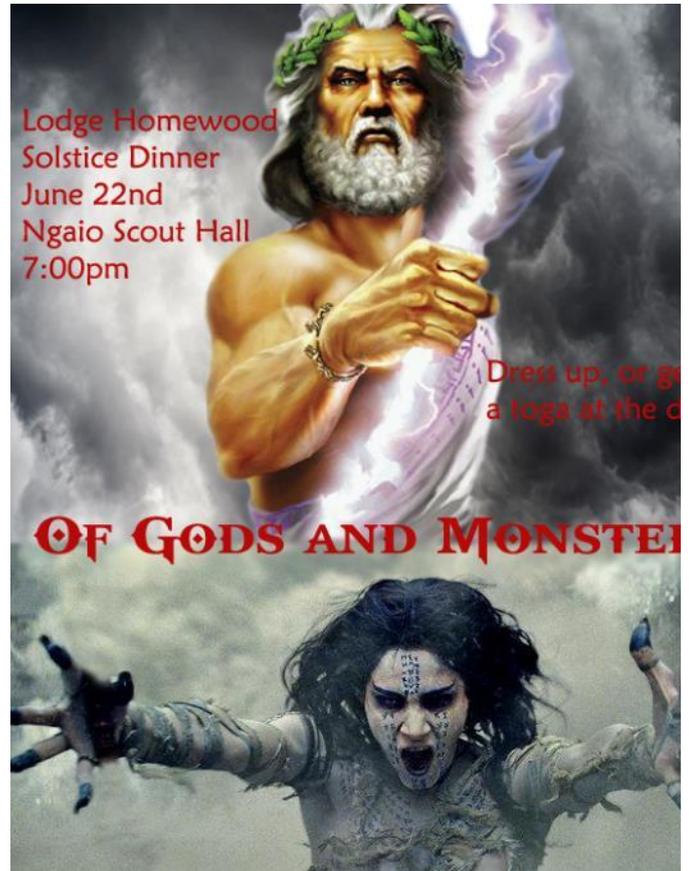
- 1 litre yogurt
- 500 ml cream
- 1 can raspberries (mostly drained, leave a little juice for pink colour)... You can use fresh raspberries if
- 1 bag marshmallows (whole or chopped)
- 2 or 3 small bars chocolate (suggestions are crumbled Flake or chopped up Moro)

Method

1. Put 1 yogurt in a large bowl.
2. In a separate bowl, whip cream until it forms soft peaks.
3. Stir cream into yogurt.
4. Stir raspberries, marshmallows and chocolate into yogurt/cream mix
5. Chill for 2-4 hours.
5. Serve.

Simple (though if you want to get sophisticated, you can garnish dessert bowls/glasses with strawberry/kiwifruit to garnish, maybe mint, perhaps a swirl of leftover raspberry juice!)

Optional: strawberries/kiwifruit and mint to garnish



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.

