

Homewood Herald

Report from the Master

Greetings Brethren

As you will have seen we have a proposal from the Wellesley Hotel to review. Initially there was a tight timeframe which was why I called an emergency meeting. However, this urgency has now been addressed. The proposal has been circulated to all members. This is an important decision and has future effects on the Lodge so, if you are unable to make our May regular meeting, can you please let me know your thoughts and any queries you have.

On the weekend following our ANZAC service, Bev, Callum and I went to Picton for Waitohi No.111's installation. The Master-elect, Bill Pickering, is a Railway Craftsman so there was a large contingent from the greater Wellington districts. Waitohi always put on a great event with the partners and wives meeting while the Lodge business is performed and then they join us in refectory. Next morning we all met again for a full cooked breakfast.



Last Monday Callum and I were at Lodge Zetland's installation. Matt Dwyer went back into the chair. Great night and I had the pleasure of piping in the Norsemen.



Te Puni initiated Bro Bradley Mumford on Wednesday and Callum and I were there to welcome Bro Bradley after his initiation. Te Puni will be having their Fraternal visit in June where the gavels will be exchanged. Originally we were to perform Bro Bradley's second degree but it has since been decided that he needs to enjoy being an Entered Apprentice for a while first so we will look to do the 1st degree tracing board.

This Saturday 12th, I am off to Eketahuna for VWBro Glen Houlihan's installation at 1.30pm. I can take a couple of passengers if anyone is interested.

Ahdut Coah Hi
Worshipful Master
Craig Fraser



Travel Report: The Northern Explorer

In April I went with my family on the train (Northern Explorer) from Wellington to Hamilton. My wife, whenever seeing the adverts on TV, had always said that she would like to go on the train one day, so it was an obvious wedding anniversary present. We decided to go to Hamilton, instead of Auckland, as my wife and daughters had never been to Hamilton, so that was yet another new experience for them. The trip took 8 hours and 10 minutes, which is quite long, so take plenty of books. At the start of the trip the conductor joked that there was no wifi as the train was running on Windows, i.e. just look out the windows at the view! Parts of the view are simply amazing, particularly in the middle of the trip around the National Park area. New Zealand certainly is a very beautiful country.

The train has a cafeteria wagon selling coffee and mostly packaged Wishbone meals, and the prices are more or less reasonable. The service was good, and the train was overall clean and comfortable. At the back of the train there was an open viewing wagon where we could take photos without having to worry about reflections off windows. We left Wellington three minutes late, but arrived into Hamilton 20 minutes ahead of schedule, despite the fact that along the way we had to slow down in a few places due to work on the tracks or signals.



I recommend the trip if you haven't done it already and are not in a hurry. It is a very long time sitting in one place. Certainly it's quicker to go by plane and, in fact, the plane is cheaper, although by train you do avoid the expensive taxi fare to/from the airport. It seemed that the passengers were a mixture of overseas tourists and locals taking time off

during the school holidays in no particular hurry.

WBro David Ryan

Masonic Gavel

The Masonic gavel is an emblem of authority used by the Master of the Lodge to show his executive power over the assemblage by punctuating its actions.

In this capacity, order is maintained and a structured outcome to the proceedings is achieved.

The common gavel is also one of the working tools of the Entered Apprentice.

Operative Gavel

In the operative stonemason era, the common gavel was a tool used to hew (break) the rough edges from the stones (ashlars) in order to perfectly fit them into place.

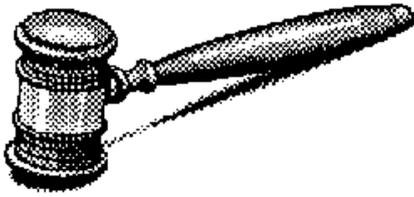
Speculative Gavel

In speculative Freemasonry, the Masonic Gavel is used to symbolically divest the heart and consciousness of all the vices and superfluities (excesses) of life in order to ready ourselves as if we were living stones, open to be shaped into a spiritual being that is pleasing to our Creator.

A True Masonic Gavel

What does a true Masonic gavel look like? The head of the gavel is rectangular, flat on one end and can be slightly pinched (as you see, below) or come to a point on the other end.





Not An Auctioneer's or Judge's Gavel

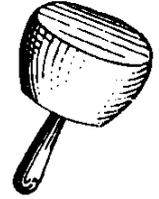
The lightweight, rounded-end gavels such as this one, commonly used by auctioneers and presiding judges are inappropriate for use in a Masonic lodge.

If your lodge is currently using a gavel which looks like the one, above, please give thoughtful consideration to replacing it with its

correct and historic Masonic counterpart.

Not a Setting Maul

A Masonic gavel should not be confused with the Setting Maul, which is one of the working tools of the Fellowcraft. The setting maul is a heavy wooden hammer with which the operative mason set (knocked) the polished stones into proper alignment.



Traveling Gavel Programme

In the United States, some districts or groups of lodges which are geographically close to one another have what is called a "traveling" gavel.

Note: This gavel is not the Master's gavel. This traveling gavel is usually engraved with the district or area's name on it.

The traveling gavel program is designed to promote visitation of other lodges, as a group. Different districts and areas have varying rules on how to obtain the gavel.

Traveling Gavel Programme Basic Rules:

- As a courtesy to the Master, he must be informed of the intention of the visiting lodge members to attempt to obtain the gavel, previous to the visit.
- Each visiting member must be able to show his dues card to the Master.
- A minimum of 4 visiting members from the visiting lodge must be present in order to obtain the gavel.
- Should 4 or more members from 2 different visiting lodges attend another lodge's meeting, (and be in possession of their dues cards), the lodge with the highest number of visiting members "wins" the gavel.

If these requirements are met, the lodge in possession of the traveling gavel "loses" it to the visiting lodge members, who take it back to their lodge...fully expecting a visit by another lodge, who, again, if they meet the requirements, will then take the traveling gavel back with them to their own lodge.

The traveling gavel programme promotes fellowship and social interaction between lodges, each of whom compete to see how long their lodge can be in possession of the traveling gavel.

Hand-Made Solid Hardwood Masonic Gavels

Masonic Gifts

A Masonic gavel may be purchased from numerous vendors who sell wooden and Masonic gavels. Some lodges purchase a gavel as a Masonic gift to an outgoing Master, for a Past Master, or as a personal keepsake for use during your year as Master.

Gavels may be made of a variety of hardwoods, such as cherry, mahogany, walnut, hickory, maple, oak, ash, acacia or teak. Some are heirloom gavels that can be handed down to your sons and your sons' sons...used within the lodge, given as Masonic gifts or used as traveling gavels.

As Masonic gifts, they are also an excellent token of appreciation for a Grand Master, outgoing DDGM, (District Deputy Grand Master), DDGL (District Deputy Grand Lecturer) or other visiting dignitaries.

In addition, some wives purchase a custom gavel for their husbands during his year as Master of the lodge as a Masonic memento to commemorate his ascension into the East. After their year as Master is over, some also choose to frame it under glass and hang it in a prominent place in their home or office.

Recipe – Apple Pie



Ingredients

1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup packed brown sugar
3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
6 to 7 cups thinly sliced peeled tart apples
1 tablespoon lemon juice
Pastry for double-crust pie (9 inches)
1 tablespoon butter
1 large egg white
Additional sugar

Method

1. In a small bowl, combine the sugars, flour and spices; set aside. In a large bowl, toss apples with lemon juice. Add sugar mixture; toss to coat.
2. Line a 9-in. pie plate with bottom crust; trim pastry even with edge. Fill with apple mixture; dot with butter. Roll out remaining pastry to fit top of pie. Place over filling. Trim, seal and flute edges. Cut slits in pastry.
3. Beat egg white until foamy; brush over pastry. Sprinkle with sugar. Cover edges loosely with foil.
4. Bake at 375° for 25 minutes. Remove foil and bake 20-25 minutes longer or until crust is golden brown and filling is bubbly. Cool on a wire rack. Yield: 8 servings.



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

Meetings

May 31st

FEDS Dinners



Looking for a coordinator

THE MODEL MASON

By Bro. ROB. MORRIS

Domestic

Junior Warden's Lunch



June 1st 12:00pm

There's a fine old Mason in the land, he's genial, wise and true,

His list of brothers comprehends, dear brothers, me and you;

So warm his heart the snow blast fails to chill his generous blood,

And his hand is like a giant's when outstretched to man or GOD;

Reproach nor blame, nor any shame, has checked his course or dimmed his fame

All honour to his name!

This fine old Mason is but one of a large family:

In every lodge you'll find his kin, you'll find them two or three;

You'll know them when you see them, for they have their father's face,

A generous knack of speaking truth and doing good always;

Reproach nor blame, nor any shame, has checked their course or dimmed their fame

Freemason is their name!

Ah, many an orphan smiles upon the kindred as they pass;

And many a widow's prayers confess the sympathizing grace;

The FATHER of this Brotherhood himself is joyed to see

Their works -they're numbered all in Heaven, those deeds of charity!

Reproach nor blame, nor any shame, there check their course or dim their fame -

All honour to their name!