

Homewood Herald

Greetings Brethren

As mentioned I am now off to South America for 4 weeks, mainly centred in Peru and primarily to attend a friend's daughter's wedding. We start in the north in Tarapoto and what they have called a jungle program which includes coffee and cocoa plantations. Next we are in Cusco and visit Machu Picchu, Lost City of the Inca's and the Sacred Valley which is where the wedding is taking place. Then we tour round including night treks to see the mammals, farm visits, various small towns' lakes and islands, flight over Nazca Lines, Colca Canyon and Uros Island where the residents' way of life revolves around the Totora reed which they use to build floating islands, homes and boats. We then go to Iguazu falls, Buenos Aires and finish in Santiago.

Brethren, as the year winds up to Christmas, at the last standing committee meeting we discussed whether we have a dinner as we have in the past. The thought was that it's a busy time this side of Christmas and that we plan a family BBQ in the new year. Bro Miles is looking into this for us

October Regular Meeting

This will be a First degree Tracing Board; VWBro Murray Alford has kindly offered to present the tracing along with reference to how tracing boards came into being and their purpose.

In my absence WBro Ron Adams will take the chair and run standing Committee.

The video project is in the hands of WBro Ryan who started the project of creating video's to post online following the suggestion from Bro Barnes. He is looking for Budding movie stars to participate.

Visiting, is a masonic activity which I thoroughly enjoy and we as a lodge have enjoyed the benefit as brethren have visited us. It makes the lodge seem full and the "craic" at refectory is fantastic. While I am away WBro Ryan will be planning a few visits including first degree ceremonies for our Bro Callum. "What's on" can be seen on the Divisional website and I encourage everyone to have a look.

Brethren can I set a challenge to the officers in particular but also to anyone that you select one meeting a month to attend as a visitor.



Ahdut Coah Hi
Worshipful Master
Craig Fraser





TV Review – Star Trek Discovery

Being a Trekkie, there is no way I would have missed this launch, the latest Trek series has begun and it promises to be a cracker!

The existence of this one happens around ten years before James T Kirk appears in the Star Trek world, the reality here, is they have some things looking more modern than Kirk's ship, but this is not entirely unexpected.

It comes out with a hiss and a roar with the first two episodes being a double and the third leaving you on an abyss of 'what on earth is going to happen next' moment. The essential question to ask here is 'Where is this going' as it diverts into a realm not seen before in Star Trek; a cloud of shadow hangs in the air about how dark this series will get before it comes back from a brink. If you were ever a Trek fan, this is a good one to have a look at and so far is really shaping up to be one of the better Trek series to come out – this being a hotly debated issue amongst those who take it a little too seriously. Available on Netflix now and probably later free to air.

Biography – Callum Fraser

Born in Lower Hutt, I have lived my life in Wellington. I come from a family of bagpipers, drummers and pipes bandsmen. Having both my father and brother playing the bagpipes, we have competed together since 2014 and that year we competed on the highest arena in the pipe band world at the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow and competed in a number of National NZ Championships as members of the New Zealand Police Pipe band.



Piping is a major part of my life. It has taken me to many different places around the world. My first trip was in 2014 as a member of the New Zealand Police Pipe Band. I have also received a scholarship to attend the Piping Hot Summer Drummer school in Canada, run by some of the top Pipers and Drummers in the World. Other trips have taken me to Northern Ireland, Canada and of course Scotland.

Having studied Business, Management and Accounting immediately, I am just about to commence a new part in my career in accounts in the corporate travel business. When I'm not working or piping, you'll be able to find me at my second home the Sprig & Fern Tavern in Petone, where I take part in the weekly pub quiz raising money for local charities.



Destination review: Ho Chi Minh

In July I visited Ho Chi Minh with my family. This was our first trip to Vietnam and our first decision was whether to visit the capital, Hanoi, or the largest city, Ho Chi Minh. We opted for Ho Chi Minh given that it's a direct, 11-hour flight from Auckland. People who have visited both cities say that Ho Chi Minh, as Vietnam's main commercial centre, is more modern with shopping better suited for my teenage daughters, while Hanoi is a bit more conservative.

My lasting memory of Ho Chi Minh will be the millions of motorbikes/scooters/mopeds. They're everywhere and carry anything from 1 to 4 people, including stacks of merchandise. As there are so many of them (outnumbering cars), they stick in their own lanes and the cars and motorbikes have learnt to share the roads so, while there's lots of havoc and chaos, it's all organised and well behaved. Pedestrians simply walk across the roads and the motorbikes go around them. The first couple of times we tried that it was a bit frightening, but then we got used to it and it was quite fun. Parking is not a problem as the footpaths are wide, so there's plenty of space to park motorbikes outside shops and restaurants. In this sense, motorbikes are a really good space-saving device.

The most interesting moment of our stay was a visit to the War Remnants Museum. This told the story of the Vietnam war (or 'American war' as it's known in Vietnam). We're used to being on the winning side, but for once the Americans and their allies were shown as the losers and portrayed as cruel aggressors with photos of war crimes and the effects of Agent Orange. We also visited the Cu Chi underground tunnels on the outskirts of Ho Chi Minh where the Vietnamese soldiers could easily hide and confuse the enemy. There were also examples of traps, such as sharp bamboo sticks in hidden holes in the ground. The sticks would often be covered in urine to cause infection in the trapped victim.

Ho Chi Minh has many faces. It has old Asian-style buildings, stunning examples of French architecture taken right out of Paris (Vietnam was once a French territory), and modern skyscrapers. It is clearly a city that is quickly modernising. Everything was so cheap. We stayed in a two-bedroom serviced apartment for \$160 per night, while beer cost just a fraction over \$1. Naturally, the weather was hot, hovering around the 30° mark, although there were occasional rain downpours. Vietnam is a friendly, safe destination, well worth a visit.

WBro David Ryan

Interesting Masonic History – George VI

Did you know, King George VI was an active Freemason, as was his speech therapist Lionel Logue? Although not discussed in the 2010 movie 'The King's Speech', the King – whose speech impediment rarely surfaced whenever he performed masonic ritual – believed Freemasonry helped him to overcome this. After the Second World War, King George VI wrote that 'Freemasonry has been one of the strongest influences on my life'. He also helped create a postage stamp ('1946 Victory Issue') which is filled with masonic symbolism.

If you'd like to learn more about King George VI's connection with Freemasonry, read on here: <https://goo.gl/qxVYUo>



Recipe – Haggis



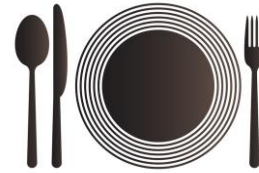
Ingredients

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).

Junior Warden's Lunch



December 1st - tba

TECH TIPS

Protecting against Malware

In light of the huge attacks of malware around the world, I thought it timely to write this, I have sourced this next bit from Kaspersky. *Malware, short for "malicious software," refers to a type of computer program designed to infect a legitimate user's computer and inflict harm on it in multiple ways. Malware can infect computers and devices in several ways and comes in a number of forms, just a few of which include viruses, worms, Trojans, spyware and more. It's vital that all users know how to recognize and protect themselves from malware in all of its forms.*

The very easy way to protect yourself from these sorts of things is in this list

1. Keep your software up to date. ...
2. Don't click on links within emails. ...
3. Use free antivirus software. ...
4. Back up your computer. ...
5. Use a strong password. ...
6. Use a firewall. ...
7. Minimize downloads. ...
8. Use a pop-up blocker.

The email one is important, as anyone who had paradise accounts will know, we were sent a lot of emails which had viruses and dodgy links inside them – if you receive an email with an attachment from someone you do not know DO NOT OPEN IT, DELETE IT IMMEDIATELY.



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