

Homewood Herald

Report from the Master

Greetings Brethren,



And welcome to the Lodge, Bro Percy! Our last meeting saw Bro Percy initiated into Freemasonry with several of the charges delivered by members of Lodge Te Puni on their fraternal visit. It was a great night, and great to see the lodge rooms well attended too.



WBro Neil delivered the travelling gavels back to Lodge Homewood in refectory. These gavels began with Lodge Endeavour and Lodge Te Puni in 1961 and also contain a record of all the Worshipful Masters of both lodges since that time.



The previous week I was also the working Master for the district young masons' night, passing Bro Simes, of Empire Fergusson Lodge, to the second degree.

This week we have taken Bro Percy to his first lodge visit – a first degree for Bro Wilson at Lodge Te Puni! It was another great evening, and involved a number of familiar faces and charges 😊

Our Installation is on 27 August when I will hand the gavel over to WBro Nicholls. Overall, I have enjoyed my year in office, even though there have been a few more unexpected events than usual this year. I hosted 11 video meetings in addition to 7 regular meetings and a planning afternoon. Having taken part in the young masons evening means that I was able to complete each degree working, in addition to running our Cockney mock degree and QI quiz night – unfortunately our Address to the Empty Chair evening was not able to proceed.

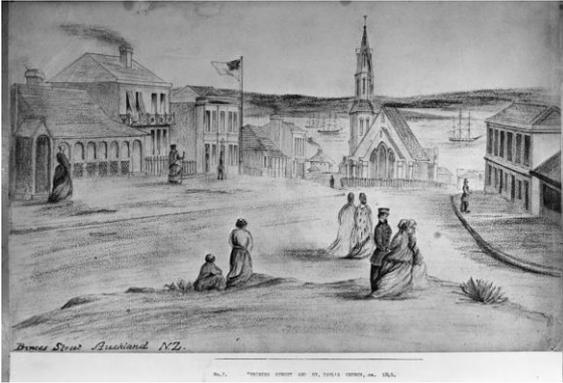


Thank you everyone for the support you have given me during this past year. I think that our lodge is in good shape and will be in good hands going forward next year too.

*Ahdut Coah Hi
Worshipful Master
Mark White*

Masonic Buildings – An inside view of Freemasonry from Auckland's United Masters Lodge No. 167

The history of freemasonry in New Zealand goes back to the 1830's and includes members such as Sir George Grey, former Prime Minister William Ferguson Massey, Sir Peter Buck and Sir Mason Durie. Now 100 years of local and international Masonic history is available to view on a CD-ROM containing Auckland's United Masters Lodge No. 167 Transactions periodical, 1909-2009, revealing a detailed picture of Freemasons' ethics, ceremonies and symbols. Several items document early Freemasons activities in Auckland including the first recorded meeting at which members were present - the laying of the foundation stone of St Paul's Anglican Church, then in Emily Place, in 1841.



The first Lodge in Auckland to build its own meeting place, Ara Lodge, held their meetings in the Exchange Motel, Shortland Street, before moving in February 1844 to the Royal Hotel, where the Northern Club now stands. In 1845 they decided to build their own premises and bought a £150 section in Princes Street, building the Masonic Hotel. This was let to a hotelier - with one room being exclusively reserved for Lodge meetings.

However, the first Masonic hall was built by Eden Lodge - who began meeting at Karangahape Road's Rising Sun Hotel. The Eden brethren bought a section on Karangahape Road and built a 40' x 25' temple, with a heavily moulded

ceiling. Members had great difficulties travelling to meetings at that time. "Some of the brethren were farming at Epsom and that involved a journey by horse of at least four miles, with a corresponding effort of unsaddling, feeding and stabling at the journey's end." Consecrated in 1879, this building was still standing in 1958, partly used as a milk bar, and partly as a bank - and the ceiling was still recognisable.

An article in the Auckland Star, 1889, mentions a meeting for a proposed Freemasons' Hall in Princes Street to be built by Ara Lodge, noting that the organisation hoped "the meeting will be conducted in a harmonious manner, without personalities or factious opposition".

Ref: Former Freemasons hall, 7 Princes Street, Auckland, June 1986, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, 1052-E4-12.

The Hall opened the following year. In 1930 the Lodge moved to the Masonic Centre at St Benedict's Street, subsequently shifting to Khyber Pass Road in 2008. At its highest, membership of this Lodge reached 3,600.



The CD-ROM includes papers about the early history of Freemasonry on the North Shore, too, recording in the early days, "difficulty was sometimes experienced in finding sufficient members formally to open the Lodge. It did happen that on more than one occasion a Brother was brought in from the streets wearing informal clothes and carpet slippers so that the proceedings could be opened in due form." A 1972 paper investigated Maori Freemasons providing brief biographical details of many men who were high achievers in all sectors of society from banking to police, arts to politics.

A 1948 paper details reasons for and against the inclusion of women as Freemasons with viewpoints stretching back to the secret societies of Ancient Egypt. In 2004, in the Question and Answer section of



LODGE ARA, 348, I.C.—Emergency Meeting of the above Lodge will be held at Freemasons' Hall, Princes-st. TO-MORROW (Saturday) EVENING at 7.30 p.m. punctually. Visiting brethren of recognised constitutions invited to attend.

A. BROCK, P.M., Sec.

PROPOSED GRAND LODGE FOR FREEMASONS.

The general meeting of Freemasons of all the constitutions is to be held to-night at the Freemasons' Hall. As the requisition calling this meeting has been signed by nearly every Master of the lodges of the district, and a very large number of Past Masters and brethren, it shows the movement for the formation of the United Grand Lodge for New Zealand is receiving a large amount of support, and it is expected a large gathering of Freemasons will be the result to-night to hear the reasons in favour of the proposed change that will be brought forward by the various speakers, who will submit resolutions bearing on this subject. It is to be hoped these will receive the careful consideration by the brethren present that they deserve, and that the meeting will be conducted in a harmonious manner, without personalities or factious opposition on either side.



Transactions, a member asked why the regulations forbade the admission of women as members and the answer was that historically some guilds did admit women, "usually the wife or daughter of a member or a deceased member. Bakers did and so did dyers, though for reasons of decency the dyers prohibited men and women treading in the same vat."

Transactions also includes histories of Freemasonry in other parts of New Zealand - as well as the world: Fiji, Sweden, Venezuela, Russia, and the Philippines. The CD-ROM is available for use in the Central Auckland Research Centre. For further information on Lodge No. 167, Auckland Libraries hold copies of Alan Bevin's "History of United Masters Lodge No. 167: Lodge of Masonic Research, Auckland, New Zealand, 1909 to 2009".

In the early decades of last century Herman Schmidt took some wonderful portraits of men in full Freemasons' regalia like the one below. To browse these images go to Heritage Images and search 'masons'.

Masonic quote

"Professor Langdon,' called a young man with curly hair in the back row, 'if Masonry is not a secret society, not a corporation, and not a religion, then what is it?'

'Well, if you were to ask a Mason, he would offer the following definition: Masonry is a system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols.'

'Sounds to me like a euphemism for "freaky cult."'

'Freaky, you say?'

'Hell yes!' the kid said, standing up. 'I heard what they do inside those secret buildings! Weird candlelight rituals with coffins, and nooses, and drinking wine out of skulls. Now that's freaky!'

Langdon scanned the class. 'Does that sound freaky to anyone else?'

'Yes!' they all chimed in.

Langdon feigned a sad sigh. 'Too bad. If that's too freaky for you, then I know you'll never want to join my cult.' Silence settled over the room. The student from the Women's Center looked uneasy. 'You're in a

cult?' Langdon nodded and lowered his voice to a conspiratorial whisper. 'Don't tell anyone, but on the pagan day of the sun god Ra, I kneel at the foot of an ancient instrument of torture and consume ritualistic symbols of blood and flesh.'

The class looked horrified.

Langdon shrugged. 'And if any of you care to join me, come to the Harvard chapel on Sunday, kneel beneath the crucifix, and take Holy Communion.'

The classroom remained silent.

Langdon winked. 'Open your minds, my friends. We all fear what we do not understand.'

— Dan Brown, *The Lost Symbol*



Master on the move

Our Worshipful Master was in Cromwell and had his photo taken outside this very cool looking Lodge building.

I found a little bit of information about the Lodge building from Heritage NZ:

The Cromwell Kilwinning Lodge No. 98 was founded in 1869 for the Freemasons of Cromwell, with the Lodge building constructed in 1900. The Lodge is a small but impressive building, constructed of local stone set in the old part of Cromwell, immediately adjoining 'Old Cromwell Town' which is the surviving section of the largely flooded historic Cromwell business district. The Lodge has provided a meeting place for its members for over 105 years.

Recipe – COQ AU VIN



Ingredients

- 3 rashers streaky bacon, chopped
- 8 small shallots or onions
- 650g chicken thigh cutlets and drumsticks
- 1 Tbsp flour, seasoned with salt and pepper
- 1 cup red wine
- 2 Tbsp Wattie's Tomato Paste
- 1 tsp Gregg's Rubbed Thyme
- 1 ½ cup reduced salt chicken stock
- 150g small button mushrooms
- 2 Gregg's Whole Bay Leaves (optional)

Method

1. Preheat oven to 160°C (fan assisted). Heat a dash of oil in a flameproof casserole dish. Add bacon and shallots and stir-fry over a medium heat until onions are golden and bacon crispy. Remove from the pan and set aside.
2. Dust the chicken pieces in the seasoned flour. Add a little extra oil to the pan if necessary and add the chicken. Saute over a medium heat until chicken colours. Return the onions and bacon to the dish. Pour over red wine and allow to boil until it reduces by half.
3. Stir in Wattie's Tomato Paste, Gregg's Rubbed Thyme and chicken stock. Add button mushrooms and Gregg's Whole Bay Leaves. Bring to the boil. Cover. Transfer casserole to the oven. Cook for 1 ¼ hours, until chicken is tender. Garnish with chopped parsley leaves.
4. Serve with creamy mashed potato and your favourite green vegetables.

Shout out for articles!

If you have been to a restaurant, read a book, watched a movie or good TV series, or travelled somewhere interesting please send something to Hadyn for the Herald



An Old Masonic Toast

"To him that all things understood,
To him that found the stone and wood,
To him that hapless lost his blood
In doing of his duty.
To that blest age, and that blest morn
Wherein those three great men were born,
Our noble science to adorn
With Wisdom, Strength and Beauty."

- Anonymous