

Homewood Herald

Report from the Master

This is my last column as Master and I can't believe how quickly this year has gone by. It has been a privilege serving you as Master and I am grateful to all of you for helping and supporting me. I pay a special tribute to the officers of the Lodge.

This year has focused on men's mental health and the theme of making Freemasonry meaningful to us in every day life. I appreciate the Brethren who led or took part in the activities and education series we had over the past year.

We are all looking forward to Bro Callum Fraser going into the Chair this year. I am sure we would all agree that Callum is young mason to watch out for in the future and he has a promising masonic career ahead. No doubt Callum will bring a fresh perspective to the lodge as well as valuable connections.



In my last column, I wanted to share my thoughts on what Freemasonry will look like in the next decade or so. Well, it is going to look different:

First, there will be far fewer of us due to an aging population, competition for time and the wide range of activities available in our society. Freemasonry will be a niche interest. Those involved will really want to be there and will not be involved through peer pressure.

There will be far fewer lodges but the lodges will be larger than now. We can expect lots of mergers or closures and Brethren joining other lodges. This will achieve consolidation but will also hopefully return us to greater scale which will make it easier for lodges to function. We will need to take care this consolidation process is done well so this does not lead to Brethren dropping out.

Another trend I expect is much more use of simulated degrees as we adapt to most meetings being without candidates. Some brethren don't like simulated degrees because they see them as inauthentic or suggestive of a declining lodge. The reality is many lodges in the future will never do any more degree work without simulations so we will need to approach this with a more open mindset. Without simulated degrees, many Brethren will also lose skills and not get an opportunity to learn charges and perambulations.

Accompanying this will be much more joint work between lodges and more emphasis on education about what our degrees and charges mean. We have started doing this in our lodge and the feedback I have received is that it makes Freemasonry more real and purposeful. Also, lectures and discussions are engaging and provocative and mean that we are active participants and not just spectators in lodge workings. I see this as expanding the intellectual activity of a lodge from simply rote learning and delivery (challenging though that might be) to chewing over and studying what our charges actually mean. In turn, this could generate new insights into why Freemasonry has much to offer in the modern world.

Finally, I expect much more digitalisation of the management of lodges, making administration and organizations activities less onerous.

Again, thanks for your support and putting your trust in me to lead this wonderful lodge, and very best wishes to you all.

Have a great month.

*Ahdut Coah Hi
Worshipful Master
David Barnes*

Some memories from Worshipful Brother Barnes' year in office



The Master's Apron Robert Burns

There's many a badge
that's very grand
With ribbon, lace and
tape on
Let kings and princes
wear them all,
Give me the Master's
apron!

The honest craftsman's
apron,
The jolly Freemason's
apron,
Be he at home or roam
afar,
Before his touch fall bolt
and bar,
The gates of fortune fly
ajar,
When he but wears the
apron!

For wealth and honor,
pride and power
are crumbling stones to
base on
Eternity should rule the
hour,
and every worthy
Mason!
Each Free Accepted
Mason,
Each Ancient Crafted
Mason.

Then Brethren, let a
wholesome song
Arouse your friendly
ranks along.
Good wives and children
blithely sing
To the ancient badge
with the apron string
That is worn by the
Master Masons!

Recipe – Vegetable Slice



Ingredients

- 5 Eggs
- ½ cup Milk
- 1 Zucchini (Grated)
- 310 gram can Corn Kernels, drained
- 1 Capsicum, seeded and chopped
- ½ cup grated Cheese
- ½ cup self-raising Flour
- ¼ cup shredded Basil
- Salad, to serve

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180 C
2. Lightly grease a 20 x 30 cm slice pan. Line base and to long sides with baking paper
3. In a large bowl, whisk together eggs and milk. Stir in zucchini, corn, capsicum, cheese, flour and basil. Season to taste.
4. Pour mixture into the prepared pan. Bake for 30 – 35 minutes, until golden and firm. Cool in pan, cut into slices and serve with a salad.

Tips for Surviving Winter

1. Develop a winter plan with your family, an idea is to have a “Winter Kit”, this can include: cold and flu medication, a thermometer, tissues, etc.
2. Rest when you’re not feeling well. One thing that people tend to do is to overexert themselves, this can cause you to experience feeling worse.
3. Look after your mental health – stay connected with friends and family, stick to a schedule as much as possible, move your body and stay active.

Te Whatu Ora’s website has more information regarding this on the link below.

[Te Whatu Ora – Ministry of Health Website](#)

samaritans

Aotearoa New Zealand

If you are experiencing loneliness, depression, despair, distress or suicidal feelings, call 0800 72 66 66 now.

Samaritans operates a 24/7 crisis help line. Our phones are operated by volunteers from the community for the community. We receive no direct government funding.

“There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you”

Maya Angelou

TECH TIPS

An online scam is any scheme designed to trick people out of money or steal their personal information that uses, or is delivered via, digital communications. Here are a few tell-tale signs you might be being scammed:

Contact that is out of the blue – even if the person says they’re from a legitimate organisation like the bank, an embassy or your internet provider

Getting told there’s a problem with your phone, laptop or internet connections – often they will offer to fix your device or say they are from your phone or internet company

Being asked for passwords – legitimate organisations will never ask for the passwords to your online accounts

Needing to verify your account or details – don’t respond or click on any links in the communication even if it looks like it’s from a real organisation

Trying to get you to move outside of an online trading or booking website or app (like AirBnB) – don’t pay outside of the normal website or app processes

Offering money or a prize in exchange for something up front – they might say that it’s a “processing” fee or something similar

Being asked for money by friends/partners you’ve met online – this is a very common tactic, do not pay the money

Unusual ways to pay for something – scammers try to use payments that can’t be traced such as pre-loaded debit cards, gift cards, bitcoins, iTunes cards or money transfer systems

Asking for remote access to your device – never do this unless you have actively sought out the service they are providing

Pressuring you to make a decision quickly – this could be to avoid something bad (e.g. account being closed, trouble with the IRD) or to take advantage of something good (a deal or investment)

- www.netsafe.org.nz