

# Homewood Herald

## *Report from the Master*

*I hope you are all keeping well as we enter the colder months.*

*I would again like to start off by thanking brethren who contributed to our last meeting, which was an exploration of masonic culture. Even during a short meeting like that, it becomes obvious that freemasons have made an enormous contribution to the world over many centuries, and in many ways. That influence has had a huge impact on philosophy, music, literature, poetry and architecture. This has also been because, particularly in the past, so many influential men have been freemasons. Socrates stated that: 'the unexamined life is not worth living', and this is possibly why so many prominent men have chosen to join the Craft. They were, by nature, the sort of men that were self-reflective and were drawn to ideas of freemasonry as a way of leading better lives and making the best contribution they could.*



*The last meeting concludes a series of meeting I planned on 'Freemasonry in everyday life'. Going to lodge and enjoying workings and the companionship are vital aspects of the craft but we are enjoined to embrace a masonic lifestyle where we strive to live by the values of freemasonry 24/7. Delving into what the charges mean and taking the time to consider what our daily life looks like if we put these into practice helps us accept this lifestyle. On 7 June 2023 we had a fraternal visit to Te Puni Lodge. This involved handing over the gavel and we enjoyed a delicious refectory and quiz night. We were warmly welcomed with promises of Te Puni visiting us next year. At the next meeting, we will be handing over the proceeds from the Master's Appeal to the Wellington Samaritans. Men's mental health has been the charity theme for this year. We will also have a presentation from Dr Dougal Sutherland, who is a clinical psychologist and CEO of Umbrella Wellbeing. He has been a practicing psychologist for over 20 years and is a wonderful speaker. He will talk about mental health and wellbeing for men. Make sure you do not miss this presentation.*

*Finally, Lodge Homewood turns 40 this year. In July we will have a fitting celebration! More about this shortly.*

*Have a great month.*

*Ahdut Coah Hi  
Worshipful Master  
David Barnes*



## TV Review Ten Pound Poms

After running out of things to watch, we found this on TVNZ on Demand, saw a preview and it looked quite interesting. It is a short six episode series. It follows a family who move to Australia in the 1950's and find themselves staying in a place that is less than what was promised. They have two children, an older daughter and younger brother who have to navigate the new school and friends in the place they are staying. The scenery in the program is amazing and I never tire of seeing the outback areas of Australia including the barren areas. The inherent xenophobia they encounter is an eye opener although not surprising, the racism toward Aboriginal people is of little surprise either. There

are some fantastic characters in the program and the dynamics between the family members and those they become friends with is well written and entertaining to watch. Danny Brockhurst is the writer and a BAFTA winner. After watching the entire series, and it is excellent, the story and creating of characters and their backgrounds is outstanding. Highly recommend watching.

## Famous Freemason – Buzz Aldrin

Buzz Aldrin, the first Freemason to step foot on the moon, has an incredible life story that clearly shows his impact on history, science, and Freemasonry today. Albert Einstein once said, "two things inspire me to awe – the starry heavens above and the moral universe within." Outer space conjures up a sense of mystery and the awe Einstein references. excitement. Looking up at the starry sky at night, we are often met with a feeling that can only be described as a mix of wonder. This simple action of looking up reminds us that there is something bigger than the tiny space we currently take up in the world. Many of us remember that special day on July 20, 1969, when our feelings of awe were palpable as Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin took small steps for man and giant leaps for mankind. The historic Apollo 11 tour went down in world history and will always be known as one of the most important space missions of all time. The moonwalk was spectacularly important for NASA, science, and society as a whole. In addition, the first trip to the moon was also important for Freemasonry. Why? Because the Apollo 11 mission to the moon was piloted by none other than Buzz Aldrin, an active Freemason.



**Both Feet on the Ground** - You might know him as one of the first men on the moon, but we know him as the first Mason on the moon. Brother Edwin Eugene (Buzz) Aldrin, Jr. was an active Mason and is a member of Clear Lake Lodge No. 1417, AF&AM in Seabrook, Texas. He was born January 20, 1930 in Glen Ridge, New Jersey and attended The United States Military Academy at West Point, graduating third in his class in 1951. Brother Aldrin later went on to receive a PhD in Astronautics from M.I.T. in 1963. He served in the Korean War and is credited with two enemy fighter kills during his tour.

Brother Aldrin was initiated into Freemasonry at Oak Park Lodge No. 864 in Alabama and raised at Lawrence N. Greenleaf Lodge, No. 169 in Colorado. He is also a member of York Rite and Arabia Shrine Temple of Houston.

**Shooting for the Moon** - On the crest of the Apollo 11 mission to the moon, The Grand Master of Texas approved Brother Aldrin's request to open a Representation of the Grand Lodge of Texas on the Moon and, thereby, establish Masonic Territorial Jurisdiction there. He also asked Buzz to carry a special deputation on his journey. Aldrin signed this deputation and confirmed that it was, indeed, carried to the moon. Aldrin also carried a handmade silk Masonic flag with him on his space journey, embroidered with the words, "Supreme Council, 33°, Southern Jurisdiction, USA." After his mission on September 16, 1969, Brother Aldrin visited the House of the Temple in Washington, DC, and presented the flag to Grand Commander Luther Smith. The flag is now located in the archives of the House of the Temple.

**The Sky's the Limit** - It's no secret that there are a number of Masonic astronauts and the questions have been posed: Why are so many astronauts also Masons? And what did the first moonwalk have to do with Masonry? The answer boils down to one simple word: progress. Freemasons have always been on the cutting edge of new advancements and behind the development of impactful breakthroughs and innovations.

If the goal is to spread light wherever we go, then why not spread light past earth's boundaries and into the darkest places we can reach? Brother Aldrin did just that, proving the point that "when man reaches new worlds, Masonry will be there."

## Recipe – Chicken Soup



### Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon avocado oil or olive oil
- 6 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 yellow onion, diced
- 2 large carrots, thinly sliced
- 2 celery stalks, roughly chopped
- 1 tablespoon fresh grated ginger
- 1 tablespoon fresh grated turmeric (or 1 teaspoon ground turmeric)
- 6 cups low sodium chicken broth
- 1 pound boneless skinless chicken breast or thighs
- 1 teaspoon freshly chopped rosemary
- 1 teaspoon freshly chopped thyme, stems removed
- ½ teaspoon salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 cup pearl or Israeli couscous
- 2/3 cup frozen peas (optional, but recommended)

### Method

1. Place a large dutch oven or pot over medium high heat and add in oil. Once oil is hot, add in garlic, onion, carrots and celery; cook for a few minutes until onion becomes translucent.
2. Next add in grated ginger and grated turmeric. Saute for 30 seconds to let the spices cook a bit, then add in chicken broth, chicken breast, rosemary, thyme, salt and pepper.
3. Bring soup to a boil, then stir in couscous. You'll want the chicken to be covered by the broth so make sure you stir them down to the bottom.
4. Reduce heat to medium low and simmer uncovered for 20-25 minutes or until chicken is fully cooked.
5. Once chicken is cooked, remove with a slotted spoon and transfer to a cutting board to shred with two forks. Add chicken back to pot then stir in frozen peas. If you find that you don't have enough broth, feel free to add in another cup. Everyone likes their soup differently. Taste and adjust seasonings, if necessary

# 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](http://www.netsafe.org.nz)