

Homewood Herald

Report from the Master

Greetings Brethren,

I have now had just over a month as Master of the Lodge and during that time I have already had a few successes and a few failures and hence have both a list of to-do's and to-don'ts for the rest of my time in charge.

I am writing this on school holidays, currently in a campervan at Milford Sound, so hopefully I find cell coverage over the next day or so to get this to the editor on time. Although being disconnected is also a rare but welcome privilege these days too. Today we went on one of the cruise boats on yet another fine day in Milford (apparently, they are rare) but still had the opportunity to get completely soaked when they drove under the waterfalls – but how else would you drink fresh glacial water if not straight from the sky above?

Our last meeting was the QI night and I think that WBro Charles and the panellists all did a fine job. I researched many of the questions myself, but even so I still learnt something new from the evening.

Unfortunately, it was also the last night for our EA, Bro Dennis Fyck as his work status means he has to return to Canada for the moment, although we hope he can return to NZ soon. The beauty of Freemasonry

being a universal science is that he is already looking at Lodges in Canada to join and complete his degrees.

But as one EA leaves us for now, we have another candidate for initiation this month – Mr Glen van Echten who has been proposed by his friend, Bro Miles Crawford. This month's meeting will also be 10 years since I myself was initiated into Freemasonry at Lodge Homewood so it will be a nice touch for me to be on the other side.

On the social front, we had a FEDS dinner arranged by Bro David Barnes last month and this coming month there will be a JW lunch too.

With our first degree working we will have a number of rehearsals so please ensure that you check with the DC for charge allocations and attend as many rehearsals as you can – it really does make a difference on the night if rehearsals are full. VWBro Metcalfe will be in Australia for the second half of the month so WBro Nicholls will be acting DC for the working.

Brethren enjoy your month, consider visiting another lodge, and I hope to see you all at the rehearsals and on Halloween for this month's meeting.



*Ahdut Coah Hi
Worshipful Master
Mark White*

Rakiura Great Walk

On Monday October 7th, Marion and I travelled by plane to Queenstown and met up with WBro Mark and his wife Amelia. After a fantastic lunch, we drove to Invercargill, and picked up some supplies for the rest of the week. On Tuesday we travelled via ferry from Bluff to Oban, Marion and I started the walk heading out along the beautiful coastline.

The views were outstanding the whole way along leg one of the track, it is worth the walk. We arrived at the first hut, Port William later that day. Mark and Amelia with their son Lucas arrived via water taxi. Unfortunately, I was not able to go on the next morning and returned to Oban and the others went from there – this is where our WM takes over the story.



The second day was a long walk through the Rimu, fern and kamahi forests of Stewart Island to get from the coast across to the inlet that Oban is located on. There are a couple of spots where log-haulers from the sawmilling days are still located and the track follows some of the old tramway lines in part too. The day was best remembered for the mud, even though a lot of the track is gravelled it does get wet and so frequent games of "bog or log" were needed to ensure we didn't get too muddy. Finally, we got to a track junction that said 5 minutes to the North Arm hut which was a good relief from a day of drizzle, and surprisingly empty with only 9 people in total making it in for the night. Unfortunately, as it was wet both nights, we did not hear any local kiwi, so we did not go out hunting for them either. But there were white-tailed deer, tomtits, robins, kaka, a kereru, and a few live rats to be seen around the huts. The last day the rain was a little heavier as we followed along the shore of Paterson Inlet back to Oban. We managed to keep perfectly with DOC time despite having a tired 6-year old in tow. At the stream crossings we could clearly see the impact of the rain as the water was fast flowing under the bridges and the wind had picked up too. This explains the bumps and swells on the ferry home later that day.



Back to Hadyn - Meanwhile I was on Oban at the local hotel, lovely little place and brilliant staff, not feeling great, they were fantastic, and I was lucky to get a room. A flight out was cancelled, and the hotel filled up only a couple of hours later and was packed all night. I will say the Blue Cod at the restaurant there was something else. The others arrived the next day around 2pm and we took a rough ferry out of town which I for one won't be repeating.



We stayed at the Top10 again that night on the way back in Invercargill. On the way there, Mark and I did hunt out the Masonic centre there which has in fact been sold. It is a shame, as it is a beautiful building. Invercargill is a good size city with many old buildings and is home to Burt Munro's Indian Motorcycle. I hope to get back one day to have a better look around, as time did not permit on this trip. We left Invercargill the next morning and made our way back to Queenstown.

Having not been there before I can only say it is like a town that is out of place in NZ, more like something you would find in Europe. To the right is a picture of the Steamer Earnslaw on Lake Wakatipu at the waterfront in Queenstown. This is a beautiful spot to sit and watch boats just going in and out of this small harbour.



Masonic History – Chee Kung Tong Chinese Freemasons

The Chee Kung Tong Chinese Freemasons (Wellington Chinese Masonic Society Inc) was established in 1907 as the New Zealand branch of the Hung League (itself an offshoot of the Yee Hing Secret Society), an international Chinese movement founded in the 17th century to overthrow the Manchurian Qing Dynasty. Chee Kung Tong located in 81 Vivian Street, and was later located at 23 Frederick Street, this is one of only three remaining buildings from the original Chinatown which remains standing today. The building was opened on 10 October 1925. Following a procession (for which permission was sought) from 81 Vivian Street to the new hall, fireworks were set off, and the gala event was attended by "the Mayor and Archdeacon of Wellington, a cabinet minister and a 'high office bearer of the Wellington Grand Lodge Masonic Order'" was held. The building is considered by the Wellington City Council of having cultural significance to the Chinese community. Chee Kung Tong in Wellington was known for being philanthropic, and membership appealed mainly to "average Chinese", including



Flag of Wellington Branch



miners, merchants and market gardeners. Senior office holders would often speak at events of significance to the Chinese community, including Double Tenth celebrations, such as that held in 1922. New Zealand branches of Chee Kung Tong were formally disbanded in 1975.

Chee Kung Tong Chinese Freemasons procession, Frederick Street, Wellington. Chung, Doris: Photograph of Chinese Freemasons in Frederick Street, Wellington, 1924 :Photograph showing a group outside the Embassy of the Republic of China, Wellington, 1920s. Ref: 1/2-169003-F. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. /records/22792532

Blue Cod Curry Pots



Ingredients

800g blue cod fillets, skinned, boned and diced into 3cm chunks
20mls olive oil
1 red onion, diced
1 clove garlic, minced
1 tsp green curry paste
4cm ginger root, grated or cut into small matchsticks
1/2 red chilli, finely sliced - optional
5cm lemon grass stalk, sliced and pounded in a mortar and pestle
1 tin coconut cream
1 whole coriander root
2 tbsp fish sauce (approximately, adjust to taste)
1/4 cup water (if necessary)
chopped coriander to garnish

Directions

1. Place a large frying pan on a medium heat. Add oil, onion and garlic and sweat for 5 minutes until soft and transparent.
2. Add green curry paste, ginger, chilli and lemon grass and cook for 1 minute to release flavours, stirring with a wooden spoon.
3. Pour in coconut cream, add whole coriander root and simmer gently for 15 minutes.
4. Place fish into the sauce and simmer for 5 minutes until cooked. Add a little water if the consistency is too thick. Add fish sauce to taste (in Thai cooking this is the equivalent of salt) and remove coriander root.
5. Serve in warm bowls accompanied with a side dish of steamed jasmine rice, garnished with chopped coriander leaves.

Upcoming Meetings

October 31st

1st Degree

November 28th

3rd Degree

Junior Warden's Lunch

Christmas Function



Thursday 17th
Contact Editor to confirm

This is likely to be on Sunday December 8th
Please keep your diary free for an event during the day around lunch

Black Tie vs White Tie

Every wondered what to wear when it comes to clothing at lodge and what these terms mean?



While a tuxedo is ideal for both, it only requires tails for a **white tie** occasion. Also, while **white tie** requires a **white** waistcoat, **black tie** needs a **black** waistcoat or cummerbund. Likewise, as the name suggests, a **white bow tie** is worn for **white tie** events while a **black bow tie** suits **black tie** functions.

At our General meetings, lounge suit or what is known as a standard suit and tie is the minimum.

As a general rule and tradition, Homewood Officers wear white tie when possible at degree workings.

However, it is important to know the Book of Constitution rule 36c states:

The circumstances in which departure from this rule is justifiable are left to the sound judgement of the individual concerned. Inability to appear in dress as set out in this rule should in no case deter a Brother from attending Lodge.

It is important that no member be denied entry if he is not dressed to any particular standard



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