

DISTRICT GRAND CHAPTER

NORTH ISLAND NEW ZEALAND

under the

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF ENGLAND



E. COMP B.J. WESTHEAD, M E GRAND SUPERINTENDENT
E. COMP R.H. FRICKER, PGSwDB. DEPUTY GRAND SUPERINTENDENT
E. COMP J.A. HUME, PGSTDB. SECOND DISTRICT GRAND PRINCIPAL
E. COMP G.J. MCKANDRY, PGSTDB. THIRD DISTRICT GRAND PRINCIPAL

Minutes of the annual Convocation
of the
District Grand Royal Arch Chapter, North Island, New Zealand.
Holden at the Ellerslie Masonic Centre, 9A Robert Street, Auckland
on
Saturday, the 4th day of May, 2013 at 10.15 a.m.

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**B. McMurtrie PAGSoj
District Grand Scribe E
Ellerslie Masonic Centre,
9A Robert Street, Ellerslie,
Auckland, New Zealand.**

DISTRICT GRAND CHAPTER

NORTH ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND

ANNUAL CONVOCATION

Holden at the Ellerslie Masonic Centre, 9A Robert Street, Auckland
on Saturday, the 4th day of May 2013

Present:

E Comp B.J. Westhead	M E Grand Superintendent
E Comp J.A. Hume <i>PGStdB</i>	Second District Grand Principal
E Comp G.J. McKandry <i>PGStdB</i>	Third District Grand Principal
E Comp R.H. Fricker <i>PGSwdB</i>	Deputy Grand Superintendent
E Comp P.B. Gudsell	Past Grand Superintendent
E Comp G.D. Kane <i>P3rdDGP</i>	Past Grand Sojourner
E Comp R.R. Goldston	Past Grand Standard Bearer
E Comp D.J.M. Miller	Past Grand Standard Bearer
E Comp R.L. Cross	President, District Committee of General Purposes
E Comp B. McMurtrie <i>PAGSoj P3rdDGP</i>	District Grand Scribe E
E Comp J.B. Vanstone	District Grand Scribe N
E Comp G.A. Gault	Past District Grand Scribe N
E Comp E.F. Monks	Past District Grand Scribe N
E Comp M.A. Chopping	Past District Grand Scribe N
E Comp C.A. Holst	Past District Grand Scribe N
E Comp W.T. Andrew	Past District Grand Scribe N
E Comp W.D. Maday	Past District Grand Scribe N
E Comp D. Roberts	Past District Grand Scribe N
E Comp J.B. Walworth	Past District Grand Scribe N
E Comp D.P. Laery	District Grand Treasurer
E Comp S. Boyask	Past District Grand Treasurer
E Comp R.N. Clay <i>PGStdB</i>	District Grand Registrar
E Comp D.C. Rosieur	Past District Grand Registrar
E Comp G.S. Halewood	Past District Grand Registrar
E Comp G.W. Abbott <i>PDGTreas</i>	District Grand Director of Ceremonies
E Comp J.C. Woodage	District Grand Sword Bearer
E Comp R.M. McKillop <i>MNZM VRD**</i>	Past District Grand Sword Bearer
E Comp R.L. Teague	Past District Grand Sword Bearer
E Comp I. Dingwall <i>PDGDC</i>	District Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
E Comp D.J. Ackerley	Past District Grand Sojourner
E Comp M.G. Lloyd	Past District Grand Sojourner
E Comp R.A.deL. Everest	Past District Grand Sojourner
E Comp F.A. Khan	District First Assistant Grand Sojourner
E Comp A.J.M. Macdonald	Past District Second Assistant Grand Sojourner
E Comp D.M. Lawrence	Past District Second Assistant Grand Sojourner
E Comp P. Parris	District Grand Standard Bearer
E Comp R.B. Bovey	Past District Grand Standard Bearer
E Comp R.H. Johnstone	Past District Grand Standard Bearer
Comp R.F. Prothero <i>C 2300</i>	as District Grand Organist
E Comp W.F. Hartley <i>PDGStdB (SA Northern)</i>	Z C1188
E Comp A. Gofton	Z C1530
E Comp R. Catlin	Z C1646
E Comp F.G. Henley <i>DGOrg</i>	Z C2072
E Comp G. Forber	Z C2221
E Comp T.H. Forster	Z C2300
E Comp S.R. Hammerton	H C2072
E Comp G.N. Martin	H C2073
E Comp A.B. Mansfield	J C1338

E Comp T.R. Stansfield	J C2221
E Comp R. Pemberton	IPZ C1338
E Comp M.I. Crawford	IPZ C2073
E Comp J.F. Robson	PZ C1801
E Comp M.G. Rivers <i>PDGSN (Zimbabwe)</i>	PZ C1930

Also in attendance

Comp M.J. Cameron	C 1188
Comp J.L. Bau	C 1338
Comp J.M. Boin	C 1338
Comp R.R. Wilson	C 1930
Comp R.D. Ellis	C 2073
Comp B. Beattie	C 2073
Comp S. Willins	C 2221
Comp B.J. Holland	C 1397

OPENING

District Grand Chapter was opened in form at 10.15 A.M.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.

The minutes of the Annual Convocation of District Grand Chapter held at the Masonic Centre, Barton Street, Hamilton on Saturday 5th May 2012, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from the following:- E.Comp's. I.E.Whale; G.E.Arnell; J.D.Bonifant; T.C.Brandon; P.B.Craig; F.C.Crossan; D.L.Crump; K.G.Edmonds; S.Elliott; A.A.C.Fairweather; D.E.Gibson; C.N.Hardy; Z.Horvat; J.E.J.Housham; B.L.Keiller; K.J.Langton; G.N.Martin; I.M.McGibbon; G.J.Moore; G.W.Overton; B.L.Poole; S.J.Prince; A.Russell; A.Schenk; T.L.A.Stent; I.V.Tantrum; C.M.Tisdall; G.R.S.Wilson; W.A.Wood.

ROLL OF CHAPTERS

The District Grand Scribe E called the roll of Chapters:-

Chapter	Number	Represented by:
Alexandra Chapter	1188	First Principal
Auckland Chapter	1338	First Principal
Eden Chapter	1530	First Principal
Sir Donald McLean Chapter.....	1646	First Principal
United Manawatu Chapter.....	1721	Past First Principal
St. George Chapter	1801	Past First Principal
Opotiki Chapter	1930	First Principal
Zealandia Chapter	2072	First Principal
Duke of Albany Chapter	2073	Past First Principal
Chapter of Harmony	2180	Past First Principal
Te Awamutu Chapter	2221	First Principal
Aorangi Chapter	2300	First Principal

OBITUARIES.

The District Grand Scribe E read the names of those members whose death had been advised since the last Convocation.

Name	Rank	Chapter	No.	Date
E.Comp J.D. Martin	PGStdB	Aorangi	2300	24/10/12
E.Comp J.R. Crispin	PDGReg	Saint George	1801	01/10/12
E.Comp W.I. Muller	PAGSoj	Aorangi	2300	18/01/13
E.Comp G.A. Anderson	PDGSN	Duke of Albany	2073	05/02/13
E.Comp I.W. Johns	PDGSoj	Sir Donald McLean	1646	02/04/13
E.Comp van der Maas	PDAGSoj	Opotiki	1930	12/04/13

E.COMP. B.J. WESTHEAD: "I would now ask you to stand for a moments silence in memory of our departed Companions."

COMMUNICATIONS FROM SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.

The District Grand Scribe E reported that since the last Convocation of this District he had received reports of the proceedings of Supreme Grand Chapter Convocations dated 26th April and 14th November 2012. Copies of which have been distributed to Chapters.

E.COMP. B.J. WESTHEAD: "Companions, at this Convocation we will be following the format established last year in that reports will not be presented, but have been included in your registration pack. However, on this occasion it is my pleasure to announce to you that the ME First Grand Principal has been pleased to appoint our E.Comp. Robin Norman Clay of the Saint George Chapter No. 1801 to the Rank of Past Grand Standard Bearer. This Rank became effective as at the Investiture meeting of Grand Chapter held on Thursday 25th April and nothing further needs to be done. However, it is our usual custom to mark this the occasion with a brief clothing ceremony. Comp. DGDC would you please place E.Comp. Clay before me."

The Grand Superintendent then clothed E.Comp Clay with the regalia of his new Rank and, after he was placed in his seat in District Grand Chapter, the Grand Superintendent invited E.Comp Clay to address the District Grand Chapter.

REPORT OF THE ME GRAND SUPERINTENDENT.

REPORT OF THE M.E. GRAND SUPERINTENDENT, E. COMP. B.J. WESTHEAD.

Companions, since our last Convocation in May 2012, it is my pleasure to report on the Installation Meeting of the Chapter of Harmony No 2180. But first I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Ex Companions Bob Fricker, John Hume and Graeme McKandry for representing our District at those Installation Meetings they attended. This Convocation draws to the retirement of Excellent Companion Graeme McKandry as Third District Grand Principal, a dedicated Companion who served our district with the utmost integrity. Graeme, I would like to thank you on behalf of Peter Gudsell and myself, for the hard work, those late nights and weekends out of Auckland representing our District, and I do hope you leave this Office fully satisfied with your achievements. Ex Companion Norm Clay of the St George Chapter No 1801 will be installed as Third District Grand Principal a little later today, and I do hope many Northern Companions are here for his support.

The Chapter of Harmony Installation Meeting on Thursday 6th September, 2012 at the Otahuhu Masonic Centre. It was a pleasure to represent our District at this meeting, being my Mother Chapter. I was supported by many Grand and District Grand Officers and received a warm welcome from Ex Comp C.N. Hardy. I had the pleasure to welcome on behalf of our District, Ex Comp Bernard Young,

Ex Comp Ian Law and R Ex Comp Leo Stafford Bush, a short ceremony, as H and J were proclaimed.

Ex Comp Harris was installed in a well conducted ceremony. It was a pleasure to address the First Principle and in our normal custom, retire with the company of our Sister Constitutions.

Brian J. Westhead, Grand Superintendent

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY GRAND SUPERINTENDENT.

E. COMP R.H. FRICKER, PGSWDB. DEPUTY GRAND SUPERINTENDENT:

M.E. Grand Superintendent.

It has been my pleasure to represent you and our District ten times during the past twelve months.

My first visit as your representative was on May 19th at the Installation of Zealandia Chapter No 2072 in Kerikeri. I had the pleasure of welcoming M.E. Companion Ian Law of the Scottish Constitution, M.E. Companion John Davies of the Irish Constitution and R.E. Comp Graham Morris of the New Zealand Constitution. As has become something of a custom, a quartet of consisting of E. Comps. McKandry, Abbott and Fricker together with R.E. Comp John Davies travelled together to Kerikeri staying together at the same Motel. This is not the first time we have travelled and stayed together and as a result a very strong relationship between our two constitutions has developed. As might be expected, in our unit at the after match function over a few drinks we were able to solve all the problems of Freemasonry.

I next represented the District at my own Chapter, Auckland 1338 on June 25th to witness the installation of E.Comp Euan Allan as First Principal. I had the pleasure of welcoming not only M.E. Companion Ian Law and M.E. Companion John Davies but also R.E. Companion Kerry Dalzell, Grand Superintendent of the New Zealand Constitution. This was to be the last visit to the Auckland Chapter by R.E. Comp. Dalzell in his capacity Grand Superintendent. I had managed to arrange that he would present to E. Comp Allan, the Charter and By-Laws of the Chapter, a task he enjoyed by being able to take part in the ceremony. The final act of the ceremony was for me to present to E.Comp Ron Pemberton a Past Principals Jewel that had been worn by E.Comp Jack Irvine. The significance of the presentation was that Jack had been a Second World War pilot and that E.Comp Pemberton regularly flew Harvard aircraft in his leisure time.

I then represented you at Ara Chapter 348 IC on July 9th where Comp. Garth Liddell was installed as Excellent King and on this occasion had the pleasure of presenting the Chapter Charter and By-Laws and Book of Constitutions of the Grand Chapter of Ireland.

On August 8th I travelled to Helensville for the installation of the Duke of Albany Chapter where I welcomed M.E. Comp Ian Law, M.E. Comp. John Davies and R.E. Comp Kerry Dalzell. On this occasion, E.Comp Mark Crawford installed E.Comp Graeme Martin as First Principal with a very polished performance. The highlight for me was when invited to present a Past Principals Jewel to E.Comp Crawford and on reading the back of the Jewel, I was literally blown away to find that the previous recipient had been a very good friend of mine, E.Comp Henry Grocock. This was somewhat poignant for me but was truly a delight.

August 20th saw me at Karangahape Chapter No 69 NZC. Visits to the New Zealand Constitution are something of a respite in that we of the sister constitutions are on something of a 'busman's holiday'.

At Ponsonby Kilwinning Royal Arch Chapter No 394 S.C. on September 18th I was received most cordially by M.E. Companion Ian Law. As has become the tradition, I gave the final address to the three Principals. This is a somewhat tricky piece of work and I believe it is something for you to look forward to in the very near future.

On October 18th I represented you at the installation of Waitemata Chapter No 72 NZC. Neither the Scottish nor the Irish Constitutions were represented but again it was another relaxing evening.

November 14th saw me flying to Wellington to the installation of Aorangi Chapter. I was made most welcome by all but by none more so than E.Comp Bob McKillop who transported me everywhere I needed to go. Prior to the installation I was invited to, and attended, a Chapter Committee meeting. The points discussed in Wellington although not really problematic appeared not to vary terribly from those occurring elsewhere, pointing out Masonry Universal. There was a tinge of sadness at the opening of the installation meeting in that the death of their own E.Comp John Martin had recently occurred. John was a tower of strength and will be sadly missed. The ceremony was the re-installation (not Proclamation as would be expected) of the current First Principal. The ceremony was carried out in the expected polished manner in the capable hands of E.Comp Ian Dingwall.

On Saturday March 9th I travelled to Rotorua with E.Comp McKandry to represent you and our District at the installation ceremony for Most Excellent Companion Les Borrell of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Zealand. There was representation from every state in Australia but a very sparse representation from New Zealand. Along with Graeme, I was delighted to have the company of E.Comp

Roger Johnstone who had taken the trouble to drive across from Hamilton to be with us. Mind you, the most pressing thing on his mind was how long the ceremony would take. He had tickets to the Chiefs game and was worried he wouldn't get back to Hamilton in time.

My last visit for the year was three weeks ago on April 15th to the Chapter of Peace No 98 NZC. I got caught up rather badly by the idiosyncrasies of the Auckland transport and the journey from Campbells Bay to Ellerslie which usually takes from twenty to thirty minutes took nearly an hour. Thankfully E.Comp Abbott, our D.C., was there in plenty of time and had entered and been received to represent the District.

I just snuck in and sat in the back row and could enjoy the proceedings without being observed dozing.

Finally Most Excellent, allow me to thank E.Comp McKandry for the support he has shown not only to the District but also to me on the many occasions that he has accompanied me on official visits.

Thank you Most Excellent for allowing me the privilege to represent you throughout the District. With any sort of luck this time next year I should be able to report on the special meeting in London on October 16th next to commemorate 200 years of Royal Arch Masonry.

Robert H. Fricker PGSwdB, Deputy Grand Superintendent

REPORT OF THE SECOND DISTRICT GRAND PRINCIPAL

E. COMP J.A. HUME, PGSTDB. SECOND DISTRICT GRAND PRINCIPAL:

Ex Companion Brian Westhead, ME Grand Superintendent it has been my pleasure to represent you and District on the following occasions over the past 12 months.

7th May 2012; Eden Chapter No 1530.

What a thrill to represent District at an Auckland Chapter, being greeted and welcomed by many familiar faces. A well practised ceremony saw E Comp Gofton returned as First Principal. I noted good support from the three other constitutions as well as local English Companions.

Although small in numbers a very happy refectory followed with some fine home cooking completing an excellent Masonic evening.

13th August 2012; Waterloo Russell No 2 NZC Johnsonville.

I was greeted and made welcome by R.E. Comp Brooke Past Grand Superintendant Wellington District and R.E. Comp Geoff Davies Grand Superintendant of the Wellington District and members of the Chapter. This was a most congenial evening with relaxed company.

13th October 2012; Hinemoa Kilwinning No 601 Scottish Masonic Centre Stratford.

Again a wonderful experience to represent District at a Scottish Chapter and to be greeted by M. Ex I Law Grand Superintendant of D.G Chapter of the North Island, New Zealand Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland and to witness M. Ex Comp John Moore again installed as 1st Principal. I was privileged to present the final address to the Principals.

13th February 2013; Brooklyn Royal Arch Chapter No 24 NZC Porirua.

It was a pleasure to be invited to make an official visit to this Chapter by R.E.Comp G.J. Davies Grand Superintendent Wellington District. I was warmly received and delighted to address the First Principal on this occasion. It is very rewarding for me and the Officers accompanying me to be made so welcome in the NZC Chapters in the Wellington area. A very hot evening and a relief to partake in a happy and relaxed refectory in cooler air.

20th April 2013; Sir Donald McLean No 1646 Waitara.

It was nice to see the Chapter beginning to rejuvenate itself.

E. Comp Roger Catlin - 1st Principal for the last 3 years installed E Comp David Lawrence as his successor.

A happy if somewhat informal ceremony was greatly enjoyed by all involved. It was rewarding to see a positive attitude with some good prospects for the future.

John Hume PGStdB, Second District Grand Principal.

REPORT OF THE THIRD DISTRICT GRAND PRINCIPAL

E. COMP G.J. MCKANDRY, PGSTDB, THIRD DISTRICT GRAND PRINCIPAL

ME Grand Superintendent, it has been my privilege to represent you on the following occasion:

On 17th May 2012 at Te Awamutu Chapter No. 2221 where E.Comp G. Forber was installed as First Principal by E.Comp J.P. Brooks. All Constitutions were present. An enjoyable refectory followed with a Royal Arch Fire after each toast.

On 24th May 2012 at the Alexandra Chapter No. 1188 where E.Comp W.F. Hartley was proclaimed as First Principal. Again, all Constitutions were present.

On 19th July 2012 at the Unanimity Chapter No. 160 NZC. I was warmly welcomed by RE.Comp K.W. Dalzell, Grand Superintendent for Auckland. VE.Comp T.W. Green was installed as First Principal.

On 13th August 2012 at Saint Andrew Kilwinning No. 564 SC where I was welcomed by ME.Comp I.N. Law, Grand Superintendent. ME.Comp M.J. Fearon was installed as First Principal. I was privileged to present the final address to the Principals.

On 11th September 2012 at the Ferguson Massey Chapter No. 61 NZC at Pukekohe where VE.Comp R. Thomson was installed as First Principal.

On 6th October 2012 at the Hauraki Chapter No. 454 IC where I was welcomed by ME.Comp J.M. Davies, Provincial Grand Superintendent. E.Comp R.H. O'Leary was installed as E. King by E.Comp D.L. Freedman. I was privileged to present the Grand Chapter Warrant, Book of Constitutions and By-Laws.

On 16th March 2013 at the Opotiki Chapter No. 1930 where E.Comp M.G. Rivers, E.Comp R.R. Agnew and E.Comp S.J. Prince were installed as First, Second and Third Principals respectively. It is through the hard work of E.Comp J.B. Walworth PGStdB, First Principal nine times, members of the Chapter and the assistance of members of Alexandra Chapter that we now have these three new Principals to carry on with the possibility of an Exaltation in the near future.

On 22nd March 2013 at Saint George Chapter No. 1801. Leaving Glenbrook at 3.00 P.M. the traffic woes of Auckland soon intervened. Arriving in Whangarei at 6.50 P.M. E.Comp E.H. Morris was installed as First Principal by E.Comp D. Scollick. All Constitutions were present with RE.Comp David Starr, one of our own Brethren, now Grand Superintendent for Northland Supreme Grand Chapter of New Zealand. An enjoyable refectory followed, with a much faster trip home.

I thank all those Grand and District Grand Officers who have accompanied me for their support on these occasions.

ME Grand Superintendent, as this is my last report as the Third District Grand Principal, I thank you for the privilege of being able to represent you during my term in Office, and look forward to continuing to assist you in any way in the future.

Graeme McKandry PGStdB, Third District Grand Principal

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT GRAND SCRIBE E.

E. COMP. B. MCMURTRIE PAGSOJ, DISTRICT GRAND SCRIBE E:

Since our last Convocation of this District Grand Chapter, you or your representative have attended the following Convocations.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
2012				
Mon 07 May	E.Comp J.A. Hume	Eden	1530	Installation

Thur	17	May	E.Comp. G.J. McKandry	Te Awamutu	2221	Installation
Sat	19	May	E.Comp. R.H. Fricker	Zealandia	2072	Installation
Thur	24	May	E.Comp. G.J. McKandry	Alexandra	1188	Installation
Tue	19	June	E.Comp. C.B. Graham	Research	93 NZC	Installation
Mon	25	June	E.Comp. R.H. Fricker	Auckland	1338	Installation
Thur	05	July	E.Comp. C.B. Graham	Auckland/Ellerslie	9 NZC	Installation
Mon	09	July	E.Comp. R.H. Fricker	Ara	348 IC	Installation
Tue	17	July	E.Comp. R.H. Fricker	Ponsonby Kilwinning	394 SC	Annual Older Constitutions
Thu	19	July	E.Comp. G.J. McKandry	Unanimity	106 NZC	Installation
Mon	07	Aug	E.Comp. J.A. Hume	Waterloo/Russell	2 NZC	Installation
Tue	08	Aug	E.Comp. R.H. Fricker	Duke of Albany	2073	Installation
Mon	13	Aug	E.Comp. G.J. McKandry	St. Andrew Kilwinning	464 SC	Installation
Mon	20	Aug	E.Comp. R.H. Fricker	Karangahape	69 NZC	Installation
Thu	06	Sept	E.Comp. B.J. Westhead	Harmony	2180	Installation
Tue	18	Sept	E.Comp. R.H. Fricker	Ponsonby Kilwinning	394 SC	Installation
Tue	18	Sept	E.Comp. R.H. Fricker	Ponsonby Kilwinning	394 SC	Installation
Sat	22	Sept	E.Comp. J.B. Walworth	Zealandia	197 SC	Installation
Sat	06	Oct	E.Comp. G.J. McKandry	Hauraki	454 IC	Installation
Mon	08	Oct	E.Comp. G.J. McKandry	William Ferguson Massey	61 NZC	Installation
Wed	18	Oct	E.Comp. R.H. Fricker	Waitemata	72 NZC	Installation
Thur	15	Oct	E.Comp. C.B. Graham	Ohinemuri	17 NZC	Installation
Tue	06	Nov	E.Comp. R.H. Fricker	Aorangi	2300	Installation
Tue	06	Nov	E.Comp. R.N. Clay	Whangarei	27 NZC	Installation

2013

Wed	13	Feb	E.Comp. J.A. Hume	Brooklyn	24 NZC	Installation
Sat	02	Mar	E.Comp. R.H. Fricker	Supreme Grand Chapter of NZ		Installation
Tue	12	Mar	E.Comp. D.J.M. Miller	United Manawatu	1721	Installation
Sat	16	Mar	E.Comp. G.J. McKandry	Opotiki	1930	Installation
Fri	22	Mar	E.Comp. R.H. Fricker	Saint George	1801	Installation
Mon	15	Apr	E.Comp. R.H. Fricker	Chapter of Peace	98 NZC	Installation
Sat	20	Apr	E.Comp. J.A. Hume	Sir Donald McLean	1646	Installation

Membership Statistics.

Still awaiting a return from one Chapter for the year ended 31st December 2012. Statistics to date show an overall loss of 4 memberships for the year, from 314 to 310 (11 less than 2011). Five of our twelve Chapters had an increase in membership. There were 6 Exaltations during the year and 1 Foreign Joiners. Once again the rate of resignations was high at 11. During 2012 there were 9 Grand Chapter Certificates issued.

Since our last Convocation, the following Dispensations were approved by you M.Ex: -

Auckland Chapter No. 1338	To change the date of the regular September 2012 Convocation.
United Manawatu Chapter No. 1721	To change the date of the regular November 2012 Convocation.
Alexandra Chapter No. 1188	To change the date of the 2013 Installation meeting to Saturday 18 th May 2013.
United Manawatu Chapter No. 1721	To change the date of the regular May 2013 Convocation.

That ME Grand Superintendent completes my report.

Bruce McMurtrie PAGSoj, District Grand Scribe E.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

E.COMP R.L. CROSS, PRESIDENT OF THE CHAPTER COMMITTEE OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

M.E. Grand Superintendent, I report as follows:

Committee of General Purposes Meetings:

These were held on 7th September 2012 and 1st March 2013 at the Ellerslie Masonic Centre and provided an opportunity for new members of the Committee to better understand their roles. The usual general subjects, relating to membership, support of those Chapters needing assistance, etc, were attended to and there were no contentious situations requiring action by the Committee.

Membership

In his report to this Annual Convocation, the District Scribe E has referred to the further declining numbers in our District roll of members. The importance of this subject bears some repeating from the perspective of “the Chapters away from this city hub” (that contains so much of NZ’s population).

We began the year with 314 Companions in our Chapters (*down from 370 in 2006/7*),

During the reporting year, we “lost” a total of **20** Companions through resignation, exclusion or death. Our Chapters exalted a total of only **6** Companions during the year while **9** Companions joined our Chapters from other English Constitution Chapters and **1** Companion came to us from another recognised Constitution.

Thus, we ended the year with a net loss of **4** Companions.

Whilst the assessment of “the District’s Royal Arch population” continues, the Committee has been looking at the membership trends during the past decade. At the individual Chapter level, our membership trends over the past 6 years generally range from a “25% loss” to a “3% loss” with some Chapters bucking the trend, having the same number of Companions on their rolls throughout and, in one enviable case, actually even managing to increase its membership roll by one.

In the minutes of last year’s Convocation, there is a warranted comment that Chapters of less than 20 Companions will generally experience difficulty in filling the various Offices and face heavy burdens in meeting ongoing running costs. Inflation and increased costs related to rent/rates/etc have generally worsened and many Chapters will need to monitor this aspect of their operation even more closely (and better) than in the past.

Chapter “Recoveries”

The membership statistics of recent years, referred to above, provide warning signals that should prompt us to become even more involved in the future of all of our Chapters, not just the ones to which we belong. The involvement of individual Companions in support of other Chapters should, at the very least, be as minor as “having a planned/advised visiting programme” – on a properly considered, forewarned and communicated basis, truly evidencing a personal commitment to visit and support “distant Chapters” Again, all Companions are encouraged to support their District Officers when they attend Installation Convocations. Also, forward planning and commitment should enable many more Companions make one or more journeys to those “distant Chapters” at other times during the year.

It is personally, very pleasing that I advise this Convocation of my Eastern and Southern safaris. The Opotiki Chapter 1930 has been very successful in reversing the negative trends of the falling rolls of the past few years that threatened its existence. The report of its recent Installation Convocation, records the result that follows when other Chapters support “one of ours” when difficult times prevail. Secondly, a very recent trip to Waitara’s Sir Donald McLean Chapter 1646 which had been “in voluntary recess for a while” provided an opportunity for our District Grand Almoner and myself to be their (temporarily, we hope) ‘J’ and ‘H’ – “as long as they need us, we’ll be there.” Thirdly, I must comment on the presence in Waitara of senior Companions representing our Sister Constitutions. They always add colour and substance to our installations – their presence was, and always should be, greatly appreciated. The “Two Ronnie’s” trust that we will see many more visiting District Companions in Waitara at future “ordinary meetings of extraordinary Masons.”

Mentoring

At the Workshop to be conducted following this Convocation, the subject of “Mentoring” will be vigorously debated, especially the role of Lodge and individual Mentors of encouraging all non-Companions to reconsider “their lack of completeness.” Helping newly-made Master Masons to positively consider and agree to their future Royal Arch Exaltation, in ways that are pertinent to the individual’s circumstances, are amongst the most important duties and responsibilities of our Mentors and other Lodge Officers.

The Other Meaning of “Communication”

Although Companions will justifiably rely on “their supporting Lodges” – the impact of increasingly modern (even futuristic) communication trends is a subject we all need to consider. Although this report was created without using an iPad, Facebook or a Cloud-based information retrieval system, it was drafted on a desk-top computer. A “challenge” that we will address during the coming months is that relating to how we better communicate with our District, our Chapters and our individual Companions. Those Companions, who have expertise in these areas, are encouraged to share their views with a panel of Companions that will begin working through this challenge during the remaining months of this year. Please also note that “The District’s web site works when you use it.”

Chapter Reports

Although future issues of these will no doubt be communicated via “the gizmos” referred to in the previous paragraph, we need to ensure that all of our Companions either have the opportunity to contribute to the production of these reports and can receive the resulting minutes/reports, etc or that they are made fully aware (of their contents) at the next meeting of their Chapter.

Financial Accounts

As the accounts have already been circulated to attendees and the District Grand Treasurer is about to present them in detail, they will not be further commented upon, now. It is important, however, that Companions remain aware that “the financial health of our District and its contributing Chapters” is a subject that must be communicated to those Companions unable to attend this Convocation. The accounts for the financial year ending on 31st December 2012 and the Auditor’s Certificate are shown at the end of these minutes.

M.E. Grand Superintendent, that concludes my report.

Ronald L. Cross - President of the District Committee of General Purposes

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2012

The annual accounts to 31st December 2012 having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and received, and are appended. E.Comp. D.P. Laery, DGTreas, then commented thereon. Moved E.Comp D.P. Laery, seconded E.Comp R.H. Fricker, that the accounts be adopted. Carried.

The accounts are printed at the end of these minutes.

ELECTION OF TREASURER

E.COMP. B.J. WESTHEAD, GRAND SUPERINTENDENT:

Companions, I call for nominations for the position of District Grand Treasurer.

E.COMP R.H. FRICKER, ME Grand Superintendent, I nominate E.Comp. D.P. Laery, of the Eden Chapter No 1530 as District Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year. Seconded by E.Comp. G.J. McKandry.

E.COMP B.J. WESTHEAD, GRAND SUPERINTENDENT: Companions, are there any further nominations? There being none, the ME Grand Superintendent declared E.Comp Laery as District Grand Treasurer.

ELECTION OF AUDITOR

E.COMP B.J. WESTHEAD, GRAND SUPERINTENDENT:

Companions, I call for nominations for the position of Auditor.

E.COMP. R.H. FRICKER, - ME Grand Superintendent, I nominate E.Comp. S. Boyask of the Auckland Chapter No. 1338, as Auditor for the ensuing year. Seconded by E.Comp. G.J. McKandry.

E.COMP B.J. WESTHEAD, GRAND SUPERINTENDENT: Companions, are there any further nominations? There being none, the ME Grand Superintendent declared Ex. Comp. Boyask as Auditor.

APPOINTMENT AND INVESTITURE OF OFFICERS FOR 2013/2014

E.COMP. B.J. WESTHEAD, GRAND SUPERINTENDENT: - “Companions, I will now appoint and invest the District Grand Chapter Officers for the ensuing year. First, I appoint E.Comp. John Alexander Hume PDGDC of the Aorangi Chapter No. 2300 as Second District Grand Principal and E.Comp. Robin Norman Clay PGStdB of the Saint George Chapter No. 1801 as Third District Grand Principal.”

The ME Grand Superintendent then presented E.Comp McKandry with a certificate for his services as Third District Grand Principal, and a collarette of a Past Third District Grand Principal, and thanked him for his devoted service in that Office. E.Comp McKandry thanked the Grand Superintendent.

E.Comp Clay was then installed as Third District Grand Principal and placed in his chair in District Grand Chapter.

The Grand Superintendent then appointed and invested the following Officers: -

<u>Rank</u>	<u>E.Comp.</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>No.</u>
President District Comm of GP	Ronald L. Cross <i>PDAGSoj</i>	Alexandra	1188
District Grand Scribe E	Bruce McMurtrie <i>PAGSoj</i>	Eden	1530
District Grand Scribe N	Jeffery B. Vanstone <i>PDGReg</i>	Opotiki	1930
District Grand Treasurer	Desmond P. Laery <i>PADGSE</i>	Eden	1530
District Grand Registrar	Ronald L. Teague <i>PDGSwdB</i>	Saint George	1801
District Grand Dir of Ceremonies	Graham W. Abbott <i>PDGTreas</i>	Eden	1530
District Grand Sword Bearer	David M. Lawrence <i>PDAGSoj</i>	Sir Donald McLean	1646
District Deputy Grand D of C	Ian Dingwall <i>PDGDC</i>	Aorangi	2300
District Grand Principal Sojourner	John F. Robson	Saint George	1801
District Grand 1 st Asst. Soj.	Gerard N. Paver	Aorangi	2300
District Grand 2 nd Asst. Soj.	W. Mark Neilson	United Manawatu	1721
District Grand Standard Bearer	Ronald Pemberton	Auckland	1338
District Grand Organist	Jonathan P. Brooks	Te Awamutu	2221
District Grand Janitor	Mark I. Crawford	Duke of Albany	2073

First Appointment to Past Rank

PDGStdB	Michael N. James	Te Awamutu	2221
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PROMOTIONS:

PDGSE	E. Francis Monks	Eden	1530
PDGSwdB	David J. Ackerley	Auckland	1338
PDGSoj	Robin B. Bovey	Harmony	2180

DISTRICT GRAND CHAPTER COMMITTEE OF GENERAL PURPOSES

E.COMP. B.J. WESTHEAD, GRAND SUPERINTENDENT: “I appoint the following Companions to the District Committee of General Purposes for the ensuing year. The President, as you have already heard is E.Comp. Ronald L. Cross of the Alexandra Chapter No. 1188.”

E.Comp. Dennis M. Turner	St. George	1801
E.Comp. Guy S. Halewood	Alexandra	1188
E.Comp. Robert M. McKillop	Aorangi	2300
E.Comp. Michael J. Jensen	United Manawatu	1721
E.Comp. John B. Walworth	Opotiki	1930

ADDRESS BY THE ME GRAND SUPERINTENDENT

Companions, I welcome you all here today at this annual Convocation of District Grand Chapter, particularly those who have travelled great distances to be here, and I do thank you for your support.

It is this time of year that we have a 'changing of the guard' with regard to District Officers and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those Officers who have relinquished their active Office today for the manner in which they have carried out their duties. And, of course, to welcome those new Officers who have, either been promoted in rank, or have obtained their first District Chapter rank today.

I must remind you all that in accepting a District rank you have also accepted the responsibility that that rank carries with it. You are expected to support the District Representatives at installations and other important meetings to the best of your ability. Too often, in the past, have we seen Companions accept an Office, never to be heard from again and I know that those of you appointed today do not fall into that category.

I cannot let this occasion pass without again thanking E.Comp Graeme McKandry for the excellent way in which he has carried out his duties as the Third District Grand Principal during the past three years and, prior to that as the District Grand Director of Ceremonies over the previous four years. Your dedication to duty is very much appreciated. I also welcome your successor, E.Comp Norman Clay from the winterless north who is aware that he has a class act to follow, but I know he is eminently equipped to take on the challenge, and I look forward to working closely with him.

The subject of mentoring is very much to the fore with regard to the Craft, but we must also be aware that mentoring should also include the Holy Royal Arch. While there is currently no Chapter Office of Mentor, I urge all Lodges, when appointing a mentor to consider a Brother who is also a member of the Royal Arch so that all Brethren are made fully aware of where the Royal Arch sits with Craft Masonry. I trust that you will all be attending the workshop following this meeting where mentoring, and how it applies to the Royal Arch, will be fully explained.

You will have read, in the reports made available to you, comments from both the District Grand Scribe E and the President of the District Chapter Committee of General Purposes, pointing out the number of resignations and cessations that almost negate the additions to our Chapters, I firmly believe that with proper mentoring, we can reduce the numbers lost through these categories.

All however, is not doom and gloom, and I must make specific mention of two of our Chapters that are on the positive side of the ledger; first after some time in the doldrums the Opotiki Chapter has grown in size during 2012 with the members looking positively to the future. Also, the Sir Donald McLean Chapter that was in recess for a year has had a similar resurgence and is again meeting, with a number of Exaltations to be done during this year.

Companions, I thank you for your attention and exhort you all to continue to think positively.

Brian J. Westhead, ME Grand Superintendent.

E.COMP. B.J. WESTHEAD: "We now come to any items of general business."

There were no further matters brought to the attention of the meeting.

CLOSING

The District Grand Chapter was closed in form at 1.20 P.M.

The first verse of 'God Save the Queen' was sung followed by the retirement of the M.E. Grand Superintendent and his Senior Officers.

DISTRICT GRAND CHAPTER, NORTH ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND
ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
<u>Income was received from:</u>		
Annual Dues	12,307	13,460
Fees of Honour	280	125
Regalia Hire	720	600
Sale of Rituals and Books	234	252
Interest earned	393	310
Dispensations	20	40
Donations Received	-	100
	<u>13,954</u>	<u>14,887</u>
<u>Expenditure was incurred as follows:</u>		
Accountancy Fees	1,152	1,124
Administration Contribution	9,000	8,000
Grand Chapter Dues Paid	400	466
Cost of Rituals	238	405
Sundry Expenses	17	16
Travel Expenses	<u>911</u>	<u>1,305</u>
	<u>11,718</u>	<u>11,316</u>
<u>Surplus Before Transfers</u>	<u>\$2,236</u>	<u>\$3,571</u>
Transfer to regalia Replacement Reserve	1,500	1,500
<u>Surplus (Deficit) for the Year</u>	<u>\$736</u>	<u>\$2,071</u>

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

<u>Accumulated Funds are:</u>		
Opening Balance	14,812	12,741
Surplus (Deficiency) for the year	<u>736</u>	<u>2,071</u>
	15,548	14,812
Regalia Replacement Fund		
Opening Balance	4,500	3,000
Transfer to fund for Year	<u>1,500</u>	<u>1,500</u>
	<u>6,000</u>	<u>4,500</u>
<u>Total Funds</u>	<u>\$21,548</u>	<u>\$19,312</u>

Represented by the Assets of:

Accounts Receivable	40	80
Rituals on Hand	586	824
Westpac Bank Account	423	-
Investment Account N.Z. Grand Lodge	14,239	12,243
	15,288	13,147

Less Liabilities of:

Westpac Bank Account	-	95
	<u>15,288</u>	<u>13,052</u>
Fixed Assets as per schedule	<u>6,260</u>	<u>6,260</u>
<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>\$21,548</u>	<u>\$19,312</u>

AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE

I have examined the books and records of the District Grand Chapter, North Island, New Zealand for the year ended 31 December 2012. Control over income prior to being recorded is limited, and there are no practical audit procedure to determine the effect of this limited control. In my opinion, except for adjustments that might have been found to be necessary had I been able to obtain sufficient evidence concerning income, the financial report on pages 1 to 4 fairly reflects the result of operations for the year ended on that date.

Original signed by S. Boyask - Auditor
Dated: 28 March 2013.