

# **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 R.N. CLAY, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2014 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 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May 2014

### Present:

E Comp B.J. Westhead .....	ME Grand Superintendent
E Comp J.A. Hume <i>PGStdB</i> .....	Second District Grand Principal
E Comp R.N. Clay <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>PDepGSupt</i> .....	Past Grand Sojourner
E Comp F.J. Crossan .....	Past Grand Standard Bearer
E Comp D.J.M. Miller <i>P2ndDGP</i> .....	Past Grand Standard Bearer
E Comp G.J. McKandry <i>P3rdDGP</i> .....	Past Grand Standard Bearer
E Comp J.B. Walworth .....	Past Grand Standard Bearer
E Comp R.H. Johnstone .....	Past Grand Standard Bearer
E Comp W.D. Maday .....	Past Grand Standard Bearer
E Comp R.L. Cross .....	President, District Committee of General Purposes
E Comp M.T. Bartlam .....	Past President, District Committee of General Purposes
E Comp B. McMurtrie <i>PAGSoj P3rdDGP</i> .....	District Grand Scribe E
E Comp D.A. Stuck .....	Past District Grand Scribe E
E Comp E.F. Monks .....	Past District Grand Scribe E
E Comp M.A. Chopping .....	Past District Grand Scribe N
E Comp C.A. Holst .....	Past District Grand Scribe N
E Comp J. Orbell .....	Past District Grand Scribe N
E Comp W.T. Andrew .....	Past District Grand Scribe N
E Comp D. Roberts .....	Past District Grand Scribe N
E Comp S. Boyask .....	Past District Grand Treasurer
E Comp B.M.R. Smith .....	Past District Grand Treasurer
E Comp M.J. Jensen .....	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 D.M. Lawrence .....	District Grand Sword Bearer
E Comp S. Chandra .....	Past District Grand Sword Bearer
E Comp J.C. Woodage .....	Past District Grand Sword Bearer
E Comp I. Dingwall <i>PDGDC</i> .....	District Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
E Comp J.F. Robson .....	District Grand Principal Sojourner
E Comp R.B. Bovey .....	Past District Grand Principal Sojourner
E Comp M.G. Lloyd .....	Past District Grand Sojourner
E Comp R.A.deL. Everest .....	Past District Grand Sojourner
E Comp G.E. Arnel .....	Past District First Assistant Grand Sojourner
E Comp F.A. Khan .....	Past 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 A. Gofton .....	District Assistant Grand Scribe E
E Comp J.P. Brooks .....	District Grand Organist
Comp R.F. Prothero <i>C 2300</i> .....	as District Grand Organist
E Comp M.I. Crawford .....	District Grand Janitor
E Comp W.F. Hartley <i>PDGStdB (SA Northern)</i> .....	Z C1188
E Comp E.A. Allan .....	Z C1338
E Comp A.C. Powell <i>PDGSN</i> .....	Z C2180
E Comp G. Forber .....	Z C2221
E Comp A. Koroniadis .....	Z C2300

E Comp A.A.C. Fairweather .....	H C1188
E Comp A.B. Mansfield .....	H C1338
E Comp G. Rogerson .....	H C1801
E Comp S.R. Hammerton .....	H C2072
E Comp A.P. Renton-Green <i>QSO</i> .....	PH C2300
E Comp G.N. Martin .....	PZ C2073
E Comp C.N. Hardy .....	PZ C2180
E Comp T.H. Forster .....	PZ C2300
E Comp B.J. Holland .....	PZ C1397

Also in attendance

Comp C.V. Eade .....	C1530
Comp R.D. Ellis .....	C2073
Comp S. Willins .....	C2221
Comp W.A. Wood .....	C2300
Comp S. Elliott .....	C2300

**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 4<sup>th</sup> May 2013, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

**APOLOGIES.**

Apologies were received from the following:- E.Comp's. R.R.Agnew; B.O.Belcher; R.Catlin; K.G.Edmonds; J.C.Elliott; R.R.Goldston; J.E.J.Housham; B.L.Keiller; N.Kirk; D.P.Laery; R.M.McKillop; E.H.Morris; G.W.Overton; B.L.Poole; D.C.Rosieur; A.Schenke; D.E.Scollick; R.L.Teague; D.N.Turner; D.M.Wilding.

**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 .....	Past First Principal
Sir Donald McLean Chapter .....	1646 .....	Past First Principal
United Manawatu Chapter .....	1721 .....	Past First Principal
St. George Chapter .....	1801 .....	Second Principal
Opotiki Chapter .....	1930 .....	Past First Principal
Zealandia Chapter .....	2072 .....	Second Principal
Duke of Albany Chapter .....	2073 .....	Past First Principal
Chapter of Harmony .....	2180 .....	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.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>
E.Comp. L.R. Grieve	PJ	Opotiki	1930	23/05/13
E.Comp. T.C. Brandon	DAGSoj	Aorangi	2300	31/07/13
E.Comp. B.A. Smith	PAGSoj	Auckland	1338	25/11/13
E.Comp. E.F. Edwards	PDGSE	Saint George	1801	20/01/14
E.Comp. M.F. Turner	PDGSwdB	Harmony	2180	30/01/14
E.Comp. J.R. Hedley	PDGSN	Opotiki	1930	27/02/14
E.Comp. I.E. Whale	PGSupt	Auckland	1338	19/03/14
E.Comp. K.J. Langton	PDGSE	Harmony	2180	01/04/14

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 30<sup>th</sup> April and 16<sup>th</sup> October 2013. 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. Wayne David Maday of the Zealandia Chapter No. 2072 and E.Comp. Roger Hutchinson Johnstone of Alexandra Chapter No. 1188 to the Rank of Past Grand Standard Bearer. This Rank became effective as at the Investiture meeting of Grand Chapter held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> 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. Maday and E.Comp. Johnstone before me."

The Grand Superintendent then clothed E.Comp Maday and E.Comp. Johnstone with the regalia of their new Rank and, after they were placed in their seat in District Grand Chapter, the Grand Superintendent invited them 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 2013, I have had the pleasure to represent our District at the following meetings, but first I would like to thank Ex Companions Bob Fricker, John Hume and Norm Clay for the support and time they give to our District. This Convocation draws to the retirement of Excellent Companion John Hume as Second District Grand Principal, a dedicated companion, who has served this office for four years, more to come. Thank you John.

Ex Comp Ian Dingwall of the Aorangi Chapter No 2300 will be installed as Second District Grand Principal later today.

**Auckland Chapter No 1338 Installation Meeting on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2013** at the Ellerslie Masonic Centre. I entered the Chapter supported by 16 Grand and District Grand Officers and received a very warm welcome from Ex Comp Euan Allan and, in turn, welcomed our Three Sister Constitutions. E. Comp Euan Allan was proclaimed as First Principal in a well conducted ceremony. I had the pleasure to give the Address to the First Principal and then to present to him Ex Comp Alex Russell's Past Principals Jewel.

**Auckland Ellerslie Manukau R.A.C. No 9 Installation Meeting on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2013** at Khyber Pass Masonic Centre. I was welcomed by R.E. Comp. D Craddock Grand Superintendent, where V.E Comp. G.C. Fitzpatrick was installed as first Principal.

**Ara R.A.C. No 348 IC Installation Meeting on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2013** at Ara Masonic Temple, Auckland.

I entered the Chapter supported by 12 Grand and District Grand Officers and received a warm welcome from M. Ex Comp J.M. Davies, Provincial Grand Superintendent. Ex. Comp. Garth Liddell was installed as Ex King by Ex Comp Andrew McGregor in a well conducted ceremony and I presented the Grand Chapter Warrant, Laws and Regulations.

**St Andrew Kilwinning R.A.C. No 564 SC Installation Meeting on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2013** at the Scottish Masonic Centre, Onehunga. Supported by a small contingent of Grand and District Grand Officers, I was welcomed by M.E. Comp Ian Law Grand Superintendent. M.E. Comp Nicholas Reed was installed as First Principal and I had the pleasure to give the Final Address to the Principals.

**Ponsonby Kilwinning R.A.C. No 394 SC Installation Meeting on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2013** at the Scottish Masonic Centre, Onehunga. I received a very warm welcome from M.E. Comp Ian Law Grand Superintendent and witnessed M.E. Comp J.A.A. MacGee installed as First Principal in a well conducted ceremony. I had the pleasure giving the Final Address to the Principals.

**Waitemata R.A.C. No 72 NZC Installation Meeting on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2013** at the Northcote Masonic Hall. Supported by 5 Grand and District Grand Officers, we entered and received a warm welcome from R.E. Comp David Craddock Grand Superintendent. V.E. Comp S.A. McIntosh-Dona was installed as First Principal in a well conducted ceremony.

**Auckland Chapter No 1338 Original Constitutions Meeting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2013** held at the Eden Lodge Rooms, Dominion Road, Auckland. I entered supported by 13 Grand and District Grand Officers and received a very warm welcome from E. Comp Euan Allan and in turn I had the pleasure to welcome M.E. Comp Ian Law and M.E. Comp John Davies. The work of the evening was an Exaltation Ceremony carried out in an excellent manner. Sorry to say, this meeting was not supported by as many English R.A. Chapters as I had expected, followed by an enjoyable refectory.

Brian J. Westhead, Grand Superintendent

#### **REPORT OF THE DEPUTY GRAND SUPERINTENDENT.**

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

There was no report from the Deputy Grand Superintendent, but he addressed the District Grand Chapter later in the meeting.

#### **REPORT OF THE SECOND DISTRICT GRAND PRINCIPAL**

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

Ex Companion Brian Westhead, M.E. Grand Superintendent It has been my pleasure to represent you and our district on the following occasions over the past 12 months.

#### **28<sup>th</sup> September 2013; Zealandia Chapter No. 197 S.C. Childers Road Gisborne.**

I received a very warm welcome from M.E. Companion Ian Law and the companions of this Chapter who certainly appreciate visitors from afar. I was delighted to present the final address to the Principals. This was followed by a fine meal with our wives at the local Fishing Club at their Club rooms. An excellent "long" weekend with a fast trip down to Napier to catch the All Blacks against South Africa at the local Speight's Ale House on TV.

#### **12<sup>th</sup> October 2013; Hinemoa Kilwinning No 601 S.C. Scottish Masonic Centre Stratford.**

Again I was warmly welcomed by ME. Comp. Ian Law into a Scottish Chapter with many "old friends" present and I was again privileged to present the final address to the Principals. I also responded to the final address to the Sister Constitutions toast in refectory. It was excellent to meet M. Ex. Companion G.J. Cook who will now be the Grand Superintendent for the Scottish District.

P.S. Two visits to Scottish Chapter and not a kilt in sight!

**5<sup>th</sup> November 2013; Aorangi Chapter No 2300 Johnsonville.**

What a pleasure to represent District at my Mother Chapter and to present the address to the First Principal Ex. Companion A. Koroniadis. This is a strong Chapter with continuing good prospects for the coming year. R.E. Comp. Geoff Davies Superintendent of the Wellington District N.Z.C. again attended and presented the address to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Principal. Another wonderful Masonic evening with much humour in refectory.

**13<sup>th</sup> February 2014; 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 very warmly welcomed and delighted to address the First Principal (a somewhat longer address than ours). It was very rewarding for me and the Companions accompanying me to be made so welcome in NZC Chapters in the Wellington area. A very happy and relaxed refectory completed an excellent evening.

**11<sup>th</sup> March 2014; United Manawatu No 1721. Palmerston North.**

It was a pleasure to address Ex Comp G.Walker as First Principal in this very friendly Chapter. Unfortunately both the Second and Third Principals were unable to be inducted due to illness, so a quicker than normal ceremony took place. A very convivial refectory making for a most enjoyable evening.

**26<sup>th</sup> April 2014; Sir Donald McLean Chapter No 1646 Waitara**

The long weekend kept numbers down, but a friendly welcome and meeting followed. It was great to welcome R.E. Comp W.B.Cleaver Grand Superintendent from Ruapehu/Taranaki and a number of his Grand Officers. With experienced Principals, this Chapter should go from strength to strength.

Most Excellent Grand Superintendent it has been a pleasure to represent both you and our district over the last four years and I thank you for the wonderful opportunity. I look forward to being able to assist you at any time in the future.

John Hume PGStdB, Second District Grand Principal.

**REPORT OF THE THIRD DISTRICT GRAND PRINCIPAL**

E. COMP R.N. CLAY, PGSTDB, THIRD DISTRICT GRAND PRINCIPAL

ME Grand Superintendent, it has been my pleasure to represent you and the District on the following occasions.

**6<sup>th</sup> May 2013 Eden Chapter No 1530**

I was warmly welcomed into the Chapter by E Comp Gofton. I then had the pleasure of welcoming the representatives of our sister constitutions. The ceremony was well performed as one would expect of Eden Chapter.

**18<sup>th</sup> May 2013 Zealandia Chapter No 2072**

I was greeted by E Comp Henley and made very welcome in our most Northerly Chapter. The ceremony was brief as all three Principals were staying on for a second year.

**14<sup>th</sup> August 2013 Duke of Albany No 2073**

I entered the Chapter with several Grand and District Grand Officers, where we enjoyed a very good meeting. The Duke proving to be as popular as ever.

**5<sup>th</sup> November Whangarei Chapter No 27 NZC**

I was greeted by RE Comp David Starr, Grand Superintendent for Northland. I and the Officers accompanying me were made very welcome and I had the pleasure of addressing the Second Principal.

**7<sup>th</sup> November 2013 Chapter of Harmony No 2180**

It was a great thrill to be welcomed into my Mother Chapter by E Comp Hardy and to see friendly faces that had been present the night I was Exalted, sadly there were more empty seats than there were that night 35 years ago. Although membership has dropped the standard of work has not. A very good evening was enjoyed by all.

**28<sup>th</sup> March 2014 Saint George No 1801**

I had the pleasure of welcoming ME Comp Ian Law Grand Superintendent of the Scottish Constitution, RE

Comp Graham Morris Past Grand Superintendent for Northland New Zealand Constitution, unfortunately the Irish were not represented on this occasion. As all three Principals were staying for a second year the ceremony was brief. We enjoyed a very good refectory to round off the evening.

Most Excellent that is my report and I look forward to representing you in the coming year.

Norm Clay PGStdB Third District Grand Principal.

### REPORT OF THE DISTRICT GRAND SCRIBE E.

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

M.Ex. Grand Superintendent,

#### Representative Visits.

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>
2013				
Mon 06	May E.Comp R.N. Clay	Eden	1530	Installation
Thur 16	May E.Comp. G.J. McKandry	Te Awamutu	2221	Installation
Sat 18	May E.Comp. R.N. Clay	Zealandia	2072	Installation
Sat 18	May E.Comp. J.B. Walworth	Alexandra	1188	Installation
Mon 24	June E.Comp. B.J. Westhead	Auckland	1338	Installation
Thur 04	July E.Comp. B.J. Westhead	Auckland/Ellerslie	9 NZC	Installation
Mon 08	July E.Comp. B.J. Westhead	Ara	348 IC	Installation
Thu 18	July E.Comp. G.W. Abbott	Unanimity	106 NZC	Installation
Mon 06	Aug E.Comp. J.A. Hume	Waterloo/Russell	2 NZC	Installation
Wed 14	Aug E.Comp. R.N. Clay	Duke of Albany	2073	Installation
Mon 12	Aug E.Comp. B.J. Westhead	St. Andrew Kilwinning	464 SC	Installation
Mon 19	Aug E.Comp. R.H. Johnstone	Karangahape	69 NZC	Installation
Mon 10	Sept E.Comp. G.J. McKandry	William Ferguson		
		Massey	61 NZC	Installation
Tue 17	Sept E.Comp. B.J. Westhead	Ponsonby Kilwinning	394 SC	Installation
Sat 28	Sept E.Comp. J.A. Hume	Zealandia	197 SC	Installation
Sat 05	Oct E.Comp. G.J. McKandry	Hauraki	454 IC	Installation
Sat 12	Oct E.Comp. J.A. Hume	Hinemoa	601 SC	Installation
Wed 17	Oct E.Comp. B.J. Westhead	Waitemata	72 NZC	Installation
Tue 05	Nov E.Comp. J.A. Hume	Aorangi	2300	Installation
Tue 05	Nov E.Comp. R.N. Clay	Whangarei	27 NZC	Installation
Thu 07	Nov E.Comp. R.N. Clay	Harmony	2180	Installation
2014				
Wed 12	Feb E.Comp. J.A. Hume	Brooklyn	24 NZC	Installation
Tue 11	Mar E.Comp. J.A. Hume	United Manawatu	1721	Installation
Sat 15	Mar E.Comp. R.H. Fricker	Opotiki	1930	Installation
Fri 31	Mar E.Comp. R.N. Clay	Saint George	1801	Installation
Sat 05	Apr E.Comp. R.H. Fricker	Installation of new Grand Superintent	SC	
Sat 26	Apr E.Comp. J.A. Hume	Sir Donald McLean	1646	Installation

#### Membership Statistics.

Still awaiting a return from one Chapter for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013, but am assured this will not alter the figures I have to date. The annual returns show an overall loss of 3 memberships (or 1%) for the year, from 310 to 307. Only four of our twelve Chapters had an increase in membership. There were 20

Exaltations during the year and 1 Foreign Joiner. Once again the rate of resignations was very high at 21. During 2013 there were 21 Grand Chapter Certificates issued.

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

Alexandra Chapter No. 1188	To allow E.Comp. Hartley to continue as First Principal for a third consecutive year.
Sir Donald McLean Chapter No. 1646	To change the date of the regular June 2013 Convocation.
Chapter of Harmony No. 2180	To change the date of their Installation meeting from 5 <sup>th</sup> September to 7 <sup>th</sup> November.
United Manawatu Chapter No. 1721	To change the date of the regular November Convocation.
Auckland Chapter No. 1338	To change the date and venue of the regular November Convocation to the Eden Lodge rooms on Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> November.
Zealandia Chapter No. 2072	To hold regular Convocations of the Chapter at the Masonic Hall, Clifford Street Kaikohe until such time as a permanent home is found.
Alexandra Chapter No. 1188	To change the date of the 2014 Installation Convocation to Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> May.
Sir Donald McLean Chapter No. 1646	To allow E.Comp. R.R. Agnew to be installed as First Principal while still First Principal of Opotiki Chapter.

That M.E. 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.

#### **Meetings of the Committee were held in September 2013 and March 2014.**

As I was overseas during early March 2014, E.Comp Halewood most capably deputised for me for me at the second meeting. Both of these meetings were ably supported by the District Grand Scribe Ezra, who continues to provide the routine administration and support of our Chapters and Companions.

#### **Review of Membership Statistics**

DGScribe Ezra has again provided me with the Chapter Membership Statistics as at 1<sup>st</sup> March 2014 which, first glance indicate we have sustained a reduction in Chapter membership of just 1%. Today, when increasingly, so many other attractions compete for our time and contribution to the Freemasonry, this represents a success and we must positively recognise it as such. However, the downside is that our exaltations are not evenly shared amongst our Chapters:

Sir Donald McLean Chapter, which has struggled in recent times, exalted 6 new Companions this year and attracted 2 existing Companions from other Chapters;

Aorangi Chapter added 5 Companions to its roll including 4 exaltees;

Between them, our other 12 Chapters attracted only the same total of 13.

Our number one challenge for 2014/15 is the need to increase membership in most (all) of our Chapters. This can only be done with the active support of all Lodges. In particular, the recruiting efforts of our Lodge Masters, Past-Masters and Mentors must be recognised and encouraged. Active recruiting by those of us already in the Royal Arch remains our number one challenge alongside our efforts to understand and counteract the resignation of individual Companions whenever this is warranted and practicable.



At our last Communication, I made the point that all of US have a responsibility the well-being of English RA presence in New Zealand. During the past year, on a number of occasions, when attending convocations of our constitution and those of our Companions in the NZ and Scottish constitutions, I have listened to comments regarding the gradual reductions many of our chapters are experiencing. Let us be quite sure that this is OUR fraternity and WE alone are responsible for its continued survival. No matter what OUR particular role is within this wonderful organisation, WE all receive real benefit from OUR participation in it. Accordingly, it is to OUR individual, personal advantage that WE ensure its preservation. To do this, we must reverse the gradual reduction of our numbers. Membership-wise, maintaining the status quo is not a viable option - we either grow or go (out of existence). Based on OUR personal efforts, our numbers will either sadly shrink or happily grow. We will either stand idly by and see an increasingly sad little organisation fail or we will gladly commit to doing our best to ensure the growth and survival of our wonderful institution. WE must personally accept that WE each have a role in recruiting new members and retaining the ones we've got. WE must contribute our bit ensuring our Chapter meetings are relevant, positive and conducted with the quality of work that the wonderful ritual of the Royal Arch encourages. This is one of major factors that helps to retain existing Companions and encourages them to recruit new members to join their Chapter.

### **Chapters in Strife**

Last year, I talked of my personal experience with the Opotiki Chapter in the Bay of Plenty. In 2011 & 2012 the efforts of my Alexandra Lodge Brothers and its Chapter Companions proved that we could collectively support their Lodge and Chapter. **We really did produce a remarkable result.** When I was next told that **"our wonderful old"** Sir Donald McLean Chapter that meets in Waitara was considering handing in its Charter, we just couldn't treat them any differently. So my wonderful Companion, Ron Agnew – drives from Thames to my home in Hamilton and then we sojourn for about three hours to Taranaki where we have thoroughly enjoyed working with them again proving that the dedicated effort of even a small number of determined Companions does produce sustainable results. Last Saturday, Ron was installed as their "Z" this month and I will follow him next year. My replacement, in 2016, will be a local. So this year, I can report similar (no, even better) results in respect of the Taranaki component of the English Royal Arch Masonry in New Zealand and report that the amount of support we have received from "Kiwi Masons in Taranaki" is outstanding.

### **Mentoring**

At our previous Convocation, I mentioned the role of Lodge Mentors included supporting the progression of newly-made Masons into the Royal Arch. In the Workshops this afternoon, which is looking at how we implement the District's Strategic Plan, I am hopeful that participants can also consider again how we support our Lodges in making it easier for all Brothers to become (or remain) Companions. When all of us understand the importance of being able to explain the Royal Arch to potential Exaltees and then support that explanation by conducting the quality ceremony we will have solved our recruitment/retention challenges and ensured the future of English Royal Arch Masonry in New Zealand.

### **Supreme Grand Chapter of England Bicentenary**

Having attended the celebrations in London, E.Comp Fricker will be asked to give a short talk on his visit to the celebrations.

Most Excellent, that concludes my report.

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

### **ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2013**

The annual accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013 having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and received, and are appended. E.Comp. B.M.R. Smith, PDGTreas, as the District Accountant then commented thereon. Moved E.Comp B.M.R. Smith, seconded E.Comp R.H. Johnstone, that the accounts be adopted. Carried. E.Comp. Smith then moved "that there be no increase in the District dues for the ensuing year." This was seconded by E.Comp. R.H. Johnstone, and 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.L. CROSS, ME Grand Superintendent, I nominate E.Comp. N. Kirk PDGTreas, of the United Manawatu Chapter No 1721 as District Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year. Seconded by E.Comp. R.H. Fricker.

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.L CROSS, - 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. R.H. Fricker.

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 2014/2015

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. Ian Dingwall PDGDC of the Aorangi Chapter No. 2300 as Second District Grand Principal and re appoint 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 Hume with a certificate for his services as Second District Grand Principal, and a collarette of a Past Second District Grand Principal, and thanked him for his devoted service in that Office. E.Comp Hume thanked the Grand Superintendent.

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

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

<b><u>Rank</u></b>	<b><u>E.Comp.</u></b>	<b><u>Chapter</u></b>	<b><u>No.</u></b>
President District Comm of GP	Ronald L. Cross	Alexandra	1188
District Grand Scribe E	Bruce McMurtrie <i>PAGSoj</i>	Eden	1530
District Grand Scribe N	Stanley Boyask <i>PDGTreas</i>	Auckland	1338
District Grand Treasurer	Noel Kirk <i>PDGTreas</i>	United Manawatu	1721
District Grand Registrar	Satish Chandra <i>PDGSwdB</i>	Aorangi	2300
District Grand Dir of Ceremonies	Graham W. Abbott <i>PDGTreas</i>	Eden	1530
District Grand Sword Bearer	Euan A. Allan	Auckland	1338
District Deputy Grand D of C	Thomas H. Forster	Aorangi	2300
District Grand Principal Sojourner	Mark I. Crawford <i>DGJan</i>	Duke of Albany	2073
District Grand 1 <sup>st</sup> Asst. Soj.	Clynton N. Hardy	Harmony	2180
District Grand 2 <sup>nd</sup> Asst. Soj.	David L. Christie	United Manawatu	1721
District Assistant Grand Scribe E	Roger Catlin	Sir Donald McLean	1646
District Grand Standard Bearer	Graeme N. Martin	Dule of Albany	2073
District Grand Organist	Dennis E. Scollick	Saint George	1801
District Grand Janitor	Glenn Forber	Te Awamutu	2221
<b>First Appointment to Past Rank</b>			
PDGStdB	Ronald N. Gifford	Zealandia	2072

**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. Graham W. Abbott .....	Eden .....	1530
E.Comp. Michael J. Jensen .....	United Manawatu .....	1721
E.Comp. John B. Walworth .....	Opotiki .....	1930

**ADDRESS BY THE ME GRAND SUPERINTENDENT**

Companions, welcome to the annual Convocation of this District Grand Chapter with a particular welcome to those who have travelled some distance to be here with us today.

I can't let the occasion pass without a mention of the outstanding contribution made to the District by our outgoing Second District Grand Principal, E.Comp. John Hume whose four years in this Office has set a high bench mark for his successor to follow. However, I know that E.Comp. Ian Dingwall, a very committed Freemason, is up to the challenge. Many of you will be aware that E.Comp. Dingwall is also the District Grand Master of the Mark degree, and I am extremely pleased to be able to welcome him as our Second District Grand Principal and thank him for accepting this Office.

To the Officers who have relinquished their active term today, I thank you all for your efforts during the past year or, in some cases two years. I welcome the new Officers who I have had the pleasure of appointing and investing today, and look forward to your support for the ensuing year. A reminder that with your acceptance of the Office, you have also committed yourselves to supporting me, and other District Representatives, at installation and other important meetings and I particularly hope to see you at the meetings of our Sister Constitutions.

My congratulations to E.Comp. Wayne Maday of Zealandia Chapter, and E.Comp. Roger Johnstone of Alexandra Chapter who I had the pleasure of clothing with their new rank of Past Grand Standard Bearer earlier in this meeting. Both Companions are well known within the District as keen Freemasons and are worthy recipients of this honour bestowed by the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England.

Membership in the Royal Arch is an ongoing subject and, while I am communicating now with the converted, I wish to remind all of you that it is your responsibility to make sure that Master Masons in your Lodges are aware of the close relationship between the Craft and the Royal Arch and of the desirability of them completing their Masonic experience by joining a Royal Arch Chapter. Some years ago, the then President of the Chapter Committee of General Purposes, E.Comp. Malcolm Bartlam, asked all Lodges to appoint a Royal Arch representative within their Lodge to monitor the progress of new Master Masons and make sure they were aware of the Holy Royal Arch. Some, but not all, Lodges have appointed a representative and I wonder if they are still active and those Lodges that have not appointed someone, I encourage you to do so. Statistics show us that only around 40% of the Craft Masons in our District are also Royal Arch Masons and, while I don't believe we can ever achieve 100% I would like to think that we can do much better than 40%.

While it cannot be denied that some of our Chapters are struggling with numbers at present this can be cyclical as evidenced by Sir Donald McLean to name but one Chapter that has turned around their declining numbers, so don't lose heart. I would like to suggest to those Chapters that are currently strong in numbers that they seriously consider supporting a nearby struggling Chapter by visiting and mentoring them. In fact, I encourage more inter Chapter visiting in general, which is something that has dropped off in recent years. There is nothing more encouraging to a Chapter than the welcoming of visitors to their meetings. Companions, please think seriously about this.

Brian J. Westhead, ME Grand Superintendent.

E.COMP. R.H. FRICKER PGSWDB, DEPUTY GRAND SUPERINTENDENT: Reported on his visit to London in October 2013 primarily to attend the 200<sup>th</sup> celebrations of Supreme Grand Chapter.  
(A full report will be available in the next issue of Tessellated Tales)

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 11.30 A.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 2013**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
<b><u>Income was received from:</u></b>		
Annual Dues	11,590	12,307
Fees of Honour	240	280
Regalia Hire	505	720
Sale of Rituals and Books	758	234
Interest earned	416	393
Dispensations	60	20
	<u>13,569</u>	<u>13,954</u>
<b><u>Expenditure was incurred as follows:</u></b>		
Accountancy Fees	1,233	1,152
Administration Contribution	9,000	9,000
Grand Chapter Dues Paid	260	400
Cost of Rituals	484	238
Sundry Expenses	-	17
Travel Expenses	1,167	911
	<u>12,144</u>	<u>11,718</u>
	<u>\$1,425</u>	<u>\$2,236</u>
Transfer to regalia Replacement Reserve	-	1,500
<b><u>Surplus (Deficit) for the Year</u></b>	<u>\$1,425</u>	<u>\$736</u>

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

**Accumulated Funds are:**

Opening Balance	15,548	14,812
Surplus (Deficiency) for the year	<u>1,425</u>	<u>736</u>
	16,973	15,548
Regalia Replacement Fund		
Opening Balance	6,000	4,500
Transfer to fund for Year	<u>-</u>	<u>1,500</u>
	<u>6,000</u>	<u>6,000</u>
<b><u>Total Funds</u></b>	<u>\$22,973</u>	<u>\$21,548</u>

**Represented by the Assets of:**

Accounts Receivable	63	40
Rituals on Hand	1,015	586
Westpac Bank Account	189	423
Investment Account N.Z. Grand Lodge	-	14,239
Westpac Savings	<u>14,827</u>	<u>-</u>
	16,094	15,288

**Less Liabilities of:**

Fixed Assets as per schedule	<u>6,879</u>	<u>6,260</u>
<b><u>Total Assets</u></b>	<u>\$22,973</u>	<u>\$21,548</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 2013. 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: 5 April 2014.