

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 I. DINGWALL, 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 16th day of May, 2015 at 10.15 a.m.

**P.O. Box 11-081, Ellerslie,
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New Zealand.
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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 16th day of May 2015

Present:

E Comp B.J. Westhead	ME Grand Superintendent
E Comp I Dingwall	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 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 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 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 S. Boyask	District Grand Scribe N
E Comp G.A. Gault	Past District Grand Scribe N
E Comp M.A. Chopping	Past District Grand Scribe N
E Comp W.T. Andrew	Past District Grand Scribe N
E Comp B.M.R. Smith	Past District Grand Treasurer
E Comp D.P. Laery	Past District Grand Treasurer
E Comp S. Chandra	District Grand Registrar
E Comp M.J. Jensen	Past District Grand Registrar
E Comp J.E.J. Housham	Past District Grand Registrar
E Comp G.W. Abbott <i>PDGTreas</i>	District Grand Director of Ceremonies
E Comp E.A. Allan	District Grand Sword Bearer
E Comp R.M. McKillop <i>MNZM VRD**</i>	Past District Grand Sword Bearer
E Comp J.C. Woodage	Past District Grand Sword Bearer
E Comp D.J. Ackerley	Past District Grand Sword Bearer
E Comp D.M. Lawrence	Past District Grand Sword Bearer
E Comp T.H. Forster	District Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
E Comp M.G. Lloyd	Past District Grand Sojourner
E Comp R.A.deL. Everest	Past District Grand Sojourner
E Comp D.M. Turner	Past District Grand Sojourner
E Comp C.N. Hardy	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 R. Catlin	District Assistant Grand Scribe E
E Comp G.N. Martin	District Grand Standard Bearer
E Comp G.R.S. Wilson	Past District Grand Standard Bearer
E Comp P. Parris	Past District Grand Standard Bearer
E Comp R. Pemberton	Past District Grand Standard Bearer
Comp R.F. Prothero <i>C 2300</i>	as District Grand Organist
E Comp F.G. Henley	Past District Grand Organist
E Comp G. Forber	District Grand Janitor
E Comp A.C. Powell <i>PDGSN</i>	Z C2180
E Comp A.A.C. Fairweather	Z C1188
E Comp A.B. Mansfield	Z C1338
E Comp T.R. Stansfield	Z C2221
E Comp G. Rogerson	H C1801
E Comp R.R. Wilson	H C1930
E Comp P.A. Moston	PH C2073
E Comp A.C. Grant	J C1530
E Comp K.W. Gardiner	J C1930
E Comp D.J. King	PZ C1646
E Comp M. Russell-Owen	PZ C1801

E Comp M.G. Rivers *PDGSN (Zimbabwe)* PZ C1930

Also in attendance

Comp P.R. Mounsey C1188
 Comp S.E. Roberson C1188
 Comp J.L. Bau C1338
 Comp C.V. Eade C1530
 Comp A.G. Cochrane C2221
 Comp S. Willins C2221
 E Comp S. Elliott C2300
 Comp R.J.P. Buxton C2300
 Comp R.W. Hetherington 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 3rd May 2014, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from the following:- E.Comp's. R.R.Agnew; G.E.Arnell; R.B.Bovey; M.A.Crawford; K.G.Edmonds; R.R.Goldston; G.S.Halewood; T.H.Hallen; S.R.Hammerton; B.J.Holland; C.A.Holst; J.A.Hume; W.D.Johnston; G.D.Kane; N.Kirk; J.Orbell; B.L.Poole; A.P.Renton-Green; I.V.Tantrum; R.L.Teague; J.B.Walworth; W.E.Weir.

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	Third Principal
Sir Donald McLean Chapter	1646	First Principal
United Manawatu Chapter	1721	Past Principal
St. George Chapter	1801	First Principal
Opotiki Chapter	1930	Second Principal
Zealandia Chapter	2072	First Principal
Duke of Albany Chapter	2073	First Principal
Chapter of Harmony	2180	First Principal
Te Awamutu Chapter	2221	First Principal
Aorangi Chapter	2300	Past 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. E.A.C. James	PDAGSoj	Harmony	2180	13/06/14
E.Comp. R.J. Parr	PDGSN	Auckland	1338	26/06/14
E.Comp. I.M. Joll	PDAGSoj	United Manawatu	1721	23/08/14
E.Comp. P.B. Craig	PDGSN	Opotiki	1930	26/11/14
E.Comp. D. Roberts	PDGSN	Auckland	1338	20/12/14
E.Comp. E.A. Gibbs	PDGSE	Te Awamutu	2221	11/01/15

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 1st May and 12th November 2014. 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 read, but have been included in your registration pack.

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 2014, I have had the pleasure to represent our District at the following meetings, but first I would like to thank Ex Companions Bob Fricker, Ian Dingwall and Norm Clay for all their effort and time in supporting our District of the North Island New Zealand.

The Research Chapter No 93 NZC Installation Meeting on Tuesday 17th June, 2014 at the Khyber Pass Masonic Centre. Accompanied by Four Grand and District Grand Officers, I received a very warm welcome from R.E. Comp D. Craddock Grand Superintendent. V.E. Comp Larsen was installed as First Principal, followed by an enjoyable refectory.

The Duke of Albany Chapter No 2073 Installation Meeting on Wednesday 13th August, 2014 at the Freemasons Hall, Helensville. Accompanied by a strong contingent of Grand and District Grand Officers, I received a warm welcome from E. Comp M. Puckett and had the pleasure to welcome M.E. Comp Ian Law, M.E. Comp John Davies and R.E. Comp. David Craddock on behalf of our district. After E. Comp G. Astrop was installed as First Principal I had the pleasure to give his address. A most enjoyable refectory followed.

Ara Royal Arch Chapter No 348 IC Older Constitutions Meeting on Monday 8th September, 2014 at Airedale St Masonic Hall. Accompanied by fourteen Grand and District Grand Officers I received a very warm welcome and witnessed an excellent Irish Exaltation Ceremony, a most enjoyable refectory followed.

Waitemata Royal Arch Chapter No 72 NZC Installation Meeting on Thursday 16th October, 2014 at the Masonic Hall, Northcote. Accompanied by a small contingent of Grand and District Grand Officers, I was given a very warm welcome from R.E. Comp David Craddock Grand Superintendent where V.E. Comp David Weatherley was installed as First Principal. The refectory was of good standard and an enjoyable time was had by all.

The Chapter of Peace No 98 NZC Installation Meeting on Monday 20th April, 2015 at the Ellerslie Masonic Centre. Accompanied by 2 District Grand Officers I entered to receive a very warm welcome from R.E. Comp David Craddock Grand Superintendent and enjoyed the ceremony of V.E. Comp John Mansfield's installation and the refectory that followed.

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 seven times during the past twelve months.

My first visit was on May 3rd 2014 at the Installation of Eden Chapter No 1530. I had the pleasure of welcoming M.E. Companion Ian Law of the Scottish Constitution who was making his last visit as the Grand Superintendent of the Scottish Royal Arch District, M.E. Companion John Davies of the Irish Constitution and R.E. Comp David Craddock of the New Zealand Constitution.

The following weekend, May 10th I represented you at the Installation of M.E. Companion Gavin Cook as successor to Ian Law as Grand Superintendent under the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland which was held at the Eden Lodge Rooms.

The ceremony was well attended by R.A. Masons from the four Constitutions some of whom had travelled from Scotland as representatives of the Grand Chapter of Scotland. The after match function was a well catered and most enjoyable meal even though the speeches were inclined to go on a bit.

I next represented the District at Alexandra Chapter 1188 in Hamilton on May 24th. This date change caused a conflict with the Installation of Zealandia Chapter 2073 in the far north, an event which precluded many from making their

annual sojourn to the sunnier climes. One hopes more thought is given to the avoidance of clashes of this nature in the future.

On August 11th I represented the District at the Installation of St Andrew Kilwinning R.A. Chapter 564 S.C. where I was received most cordially by M.E. Companion Gavin Cook and as has become the tradition, I gave the final address to the three Principals.

September 4th saw me at the Installation of your own Chapter, Harmony 2180. Visiting Harmony Chapter has become somewhat difficult for me due to conflicts with duties as Preceptor of my Lodge but when I was invited to attend I accepted with the greatest of pleasure due not only representing you at the Installation but also by being asked to make a 60 year presentation to E. Comp Fred Crossan, not only a stalwart of the Chapter but of Masonry in general. I was absolutely delighted.

September 4th saw me travelling to Thames for the Installation at Hauraki Chapter 454 under the Irish Constitution. The strong connection between the two constitutions was again illustrated with our own WBro Ron Agnew taking office in that Chapter.

On Tuesday November 4th I attended the Installation of Whangarei Chapter No 27 N.Z.C. This has become something of a most pleasurable event and was even more so on this occasion in that I was welcomed into the Chapter by R.E. Companion Dave Starr, Grand Superintendent for northland under the Supreme Grand Chapter of New Zealand and also R.E. Companion Starr is a Past Master of Rodney Lodge 1711 and is their current Treasurer. It has become the norm for the English representative to give the Robe Address to the Second Principal and on this occasion he was absent which meant I had a very easy night.

My last visit for the 2014/15 year was to Opotiki Chapter 1930 on March 21st. This visit has given me the greatest of pleasure many times when acting as the District representative as it is without doubt a very pleasant trip to the Eastern Bay of Plenty. The occasion was quite special in that for the first time I welcomed R.E. Companion Brian White of the Hauraki District N.Z.C. who was making his first official visit to Opotiki, a visit thoroughly enjoyed. I also Welcomed R.E. Companion Harding of the Scottish Constitution. Again I witnessed E. Comp Ron Agnew taking a major part in a R.A. Ceremony this time as an English R.A. Mason becoming the I.P. First Principal of Opotiki Chapter and to whom I had the pleasure of presenting his Past Principal's Jewel.

Finally Most Excellent, I thank you for allowing me the privilege of representing you throughout the District during your time as Grand Superintendent to date. May I also thank the many District Officers who supported me over the many years I have had the privilege to serve.

Bob Fricker PGSwdB, Deputy Grand Superintendent

REPORT OF THE SECOND DISTRICT GRAND PRINCIPAL

E. COMP I. DINGWALL, SECOND DISTRICT GRAND PRINCIPAL:

ME Grand Superintendent, following my installation as Second District Grand Principal at the 2014 District Grand Chapter Convocation in Auckland I represented you, and the District Grand Chapter, on the following occasions:

On the 30th June 2014 I visited the Auckland Chapter No. 1338 at their Installation meeting held in the Ellerslie Masonic Centre. The Chapter was well attended by its own members and there were also a good number of visitors. Among the visitors were several holders of District Grand Rank. There were representatives from the Scottish, Irish and New Zealand Constitutions. I gave the address to the First Principal following his installation. The meeting was well organised and enjoyed by all who attended. The Chapter is in good heart and attracting new members.

I represented at the Installation Meeting of the Hinemoa Chapter No. 601 Scottish Constitution, which was held in Stratford on the 11th October 2014. The lodge has very few members and really appreciates the support it receives from our Constitution. I have visited Hinemoa on several occasions in the past and we are always accorded a very warm welcome. I delivered the Scottish version of the Address to the 3rd Principal.

Aorangi Chapter No 2300 held its Installation meeting on the 4th November 2014 in Johnsonville. I attended this meeting as the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent's representative and delivered the Address to the First Principal. The meeting was well supported by its own members, but it was unfortunate that there were very few visitors from our constitution. However, the New Zealand Constitution turned up in good numbers to support their District Grand Superintendent. Aorangi Chapter is flourishing with a constant supply of both new and joining members.

On the 11th of February 2015 I was invited to represent at the Brooklyn Royal Arch chapter in the New Zealand Constitution where I delivered the Address to the 3rd Principal. I was made most welcome and the cordial relationship between the two Constitutions in Wellington was further enhanced by this visit. Eight members of our District supported me on this occasion and it was much appreciated by the New Zealand Constitution.

The recently Installed Grand Superintendent of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Zealand, Geoff Davies invited me to attend his first official duty which was a visit to the Wellington Chapter on the 18th March 2015. Once again I was afforded a very warm welcome and I and the three members of our District who attended were officially received into the Chapter.

Sir Donald McLean Chapter, which meets in Waitara held its Installation meeting on the 18th April 2015. Excellent Companion Ron Cross was installed as 1st Principal and I delivered the 1st Principal's Address to him. I was accompanied to this Meeting by Excellent Companion John Hume who at a minutes notice was press ganged into acting as the Chapter Director of Ceremonies. Sir Donald McLean has very few members and would really benefit from the support of visitors from other Chapters and perhaps a few joining members if that could be arranged. Waitara is within commutable distance from both Wanganui and Hamilton.

I have enjoyed my first year in office and I offer my thanks to the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent for the opportunity to undertake the above mentioned visits.

Ian Dingwall, 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.

15th May 2014 Te Awamutu Chapter No 2221

I was warmly welcomed into the Chapter by E Comp G Forber, accompanied by 17 Grand and District Grand Officers. I then had the pleasure of welcoming ME Comp Gavin Cook, of the Scottish Constitution, ME Comp Bernard Young, Irish Constitution and RE Comp David Craddock, New Zealand Constitution. The ceremony was well conducted and I had the pleasure of delivering the address to the First Principal.

14th July 2014 Ara No348 Irish Constitution

I entered the Chapter accompanied by a large number of Grand and District Grand Officers and was warmly welcomed by ME Comp John Davies. I had the honour of presenting the Grand Chapter Warrant, Laws and Regulations to Ex King C.A. Barnett. A very pleasant evening was enjoyed by all.

13th September 2014 Ponsonby Kilwinning No 394 Scottish Constitution

I received a very warm welcome into the Chapter by ME Comp Gavin Cook, Grand Superintendent. I was supported by a small number of Grand and District Grand Officers. This meeting being their centennial installation it was a very special occasion, I had the pleasure of delivering the Final Address to the Principals.

Most Excellent that is my report and I am looking forward representing you in the future.

Norm Clay PGStdB, Third District Grand Principal.

REPORT OF E.COMP. ROGER H. JOHNSTONE, PAST GRAND STANDARD BEARER.

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

On Saturday, 27th September 2014 I attended the Installation Meeting of the Zealandia Royal Arch Chapter No 197 Scottish Constitution.

I had the honour to represent you and our District at the Installation of Most Excellent Companion J H Keywood as First Principal by Most Excellent Comp G Cook, Grand Superintendent and the Installation of the Co-Principals and investiture of other Officers.

The New Zealand Constitution was represented by Right Excellent Companion R Bray, Grand Superintendent, Hawkes Bay District and the Irish Constitution by Most Excellent Companion John Davies, Provincial Grand Superintendent for New Zealand.

We witnessed an excellent ceremony followed by a very enjoyable refectory.

On Thursday 23rd October 2014 I attended the Installation meeting of the Ohinemuri Royal Arch Chapter No 17 New Zealand Constitution.

I had the honour to represent you and our District at the Installation of Excellent Companion J C Dugmore as First Principal by Right Excellent Companion R B White, Grand Superintendent of the Hauraki District and the Installation of the Co-Principals and investiture of other Officers.

The Irish Constitution was represented by Most Excellent Companion John Davies, Provincial Grand Superintendent for New Zealand.

We observed an excellent ceremony followed by a light supper. This was somewhat enhanced by an electrical fault which resulted in us returning to the way these were done in the early days of Masonry. That is, we dined by candlelight.

This concluded a most enjoyable and enlightening first year as a Grand Chapter Officer.

Roger H Johnstone, PGStdB

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>
2014				
Mon 05 May	E.Comp R.H. Fricker	Eden	1530	Installation
Thur 15 May	E.Comp. R.N. Clay	Te Awamutu	2221	Installation
Sat 17 May	E.Comp. W.D. Maday	Zealandia	2072	Installation
Sat 24 May	E.Comp. R.H. Fricker	Alexandra	1188	Installation
Tue 17 June	E.Comp. B.J. Westhead	Research	93 NZC	Installation
Mon 30 June	E.Comp. I. Dingwall	Auckland	1338	Installation
Thur 03 July	E.Comp. G.J. McKandry	Auckland/Ellerslie	9 NZC	Installation
Mon 14 July	E.Comp. R.N. Clay	Ara	348 IC	Installation
Thu 24 July	E.Comp. G.J. McKandry	Unanimity	106 NZC	Installation
Mon 11 Aug	E.Comp. R.H. Fricker	St. Andrew Kilwinning	464 SC	Installation
Wed 13 Aug	E.Comp. B.J. Westhead	Duke of Albany	2073	Installation
Mon 18 Aug	E.Comp. G.D. Kane	Karangahape	69 NZC	Installation
Thu 04 Sept	E.Comp. R.H. Fricker	Harmony	2180	Installation
Sat 13 Sept	E.Comp. R.N. Clay	Ponsonby Kilwinning	394 SC	Installation
Sat 27 Sept	E.Comp. R.H. Johnstone	Zealandia	197 SC	Installation
Sat 04 Oct	E.Comp. R.H. Fricker	Hauraki	454 IC	Installation
Sat 11 Oct	E.Comp. I. Dingwall	Hinemoa	601 SC	Installation
Mon 13 Oct	E.Comp. G.J. McKandry	William Ferguson		
		Massey	61 NZC	Installation
Thu 23 Oct	E.Comp. R.H. Johnstone	Ohinemuri	17 NZC	Installation
Tue 04 Nov	E.Comp. I. Dingwall	Aorangi	2300	Installation
Tue 04 Nov	E.Comp. R.H. Fricker	Whangarei	27 NZC	Installation
2015				
Wed 11 Feb	E.Comp. I. Dingwall	Brooklyn	24 NZC	Installation
Sat 21 Mar	E.Comp. R.H. Fricker	Opotiki	1930	Installation
Mon 13 Apr	E.Comp. B.J. Westhead	Peace	98 NZC	Installation
Sat 18 Apr	E.Comp. I. Dingwall	Sir Donald McLean	1646	Installation
Mon 05 May	E.Comp. G.J. McKandry	Eden	1530	Installation
Mon 11 May	E.Comp. R.H. Fricker	United Manawatu	1721	Installation

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

United Manawatu Chapter No. 1721	To change the date of the regular May 2014 Convocation.
Eden Chapter No. 1530	To change the date of the regular November 2014 Convocation.
United Manawatu Chapter No. 1721	To change the date of the regular November 2014 Convocation.
Auckland Chapter No. 1338	To change the date of the regular April 2015 Convocation.
United Manawatu Chapter No. 1721	To delay the annual installation convocation from Tuesday 10 th March to Monday 11 th May 2015.
Eden Chapter No. 1530	To elect E.Comp. Andrew Patrick Conlan as First Principal for the third successive year.

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 2014 and March 2015.

Both of these meetings at the Ellerslie Masonic Centre were well attended and ably supported by the District Grand Scribe Ezra, who continues to provide the routine administration and support of our Chapters and Companions. As I was overseas at the time of the September meeting, I would like to acknowledge the support of EC Guy Halewood, who conducted this meeting for us. Separate minutes of these meetings have been distributed.

Review of Membership Statistics

DGScribe Ezra has again provided me with the Chapter Membership Statistics as at the end of 2014. At first glance, the statistics indicate we have sustained a reduction in Chapter membership of just 1%. As previously reported, while "other competing demands on the time we can make available for our Masonic commitments" continues to grow, the dedication of our Companions to the Royal Arch remains most admirable. Although the District statistics indicate the continued success of our leadership in our chapters, and it should be positively recognised as such. We must also acknowledge that some chapters continue to struggle to the extent that without visitors from other chapters (including those of other Constitutions) they would not have sufficient Companions present to open their Chapter.

Whilst it looks like the overall statistics are favourable, the downside is that our exaltations are still not evenly shared amongst our Chapters:

The support by long distant travellers (real modern-day sojourners) to the Opotiki and Sir Donald Mclean Chapters) remains an encouraging sign; I think it is appropriate to acknowledge the Aorangi Chapter, who added 5 Companions to its roll including 4 Exaltees;

Between them, our other 10 Chapters attracted a total of 13 Exaltees.

Our number one challenge for 2015/16 remains 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 a previous Communication, I made the point that we all have a responsibility for the well-being of the English Royal Arch 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 New Zealand and Scottish Constitutions, I have listened to comments regarding the gradual reductions many of our chapters could be 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 and collective 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 must grow. Based on our personal efforts, our collective number of Companions will either sadly shrink or happily grow. We cannot just stand by and see our diminishing organisation fail. Instead, we must gladly commit to doing our best to ensure the growth and survival of our wonderful institution. Each of us, personally, must accept that we each have a role in recruiting and retaining members. We all must contribute to 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 their Chapter.

Chapters in Recovery Mode

Following on from our success in supporting the Opotiki Chapter in the Bay of Plenty in 2011 & 2012, when the Sir Donald McLean Chapter that meets in Waitara advised us that they were considering handing in their Charter, E.Comp Ron Agnew, who drives from Thames to my home in Hamilton, and I began our sojourning (about three hours each way) to Taranaki where we have thoroughly enjoyed working with the local Companions and visitors from the region. Also, I must recognise the dedication of E.Comp Dennis King, who with our support, has again proved that the dedicated efforts of even a small number of determined Companions will produce sustainable results. Recently, I succeeded E.Comp Ron Agnew as their First Principal. 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 continued support of our Companions from "the South of NINZ" and "the Kiwi Companions 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 today, 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. We need to understand

the importance of being able to explain the Royal Arch to potential Exaltees and then support that explanation by conducting the quality ceremonies for them. Thereby, we will have solved our recruitment/retention challenges and ensured the future of English Royal Arch Masonry in New Zealand.

Representation

M.E. Grand Superintendent, it was my distinct pleasure to represent you and our District on my first visit as your representative. This was on 25th May 2014 at the Installation Convocation of Chapter of Peace, when I was accompanied by E.Comp Roger H. Johnstone PGStdB of the Alexandra Chapter 1188. As I was a Companion of the NZ Constitution and The Chapter of Peace was my Mother Chapter, this was a special thrill for me to able to represent you. The installation ceremony was performed with distinct style and the refectory afterwards provided an enjoyable opportunity to continue the fellowship we enjoy with our Sister Constitutions.

Moving On

As I am about to pass the role of President of the District Committee of General Purposes to my successor, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many senior Masons and Companions, here in Auckland and in the District generally, for the encouragement they have given me and for the support that they have quietly and successfully provided to me and those Masons and Companions who work so steadfastly on behalf of all of us.

Most Excellent, that concludes my report.

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

E.COMP. BRIAN J. WESTHEAD, ME GRAND SUPERINTENDENT: "E.Comp. Ron Cross, please accept my, and the District's, sincere thanks for your efforts as President of the Chapter Committee of Gebneral Purposes during the past three years."

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2014

The annual accounts to 31st December 2014 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 M.A. Chopping, 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. Fricker, 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.H. FRICKER, "ME Grand Superintendent, I nominate E.Comp. J.C. Woodage PDGSwdB, of the Auckland Chapter No 1338 as District Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year". Seconded by E.Comp. B. McMurtrie.

E.COMP B.J. WESTHEAD, GRAND SUPERINTENDENT: "Companions, are there any further nominations?" There being none, the ME Grand Superintendent declared E.Comp Woodage 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. D.P. Laery.

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 2015/2016

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 re-appoint E.Comp. Ian Dingwall 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 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	Michael A. Chopping <i>PDGSN</i>	Auckland	1338
District Grand Scribe E	Bruce McMurtrie <i>PAGSoj</i>	Eden	1530
District Grand Scribe N	Michael G. Rivers	Opotiki	1930
District Grand Treasurer	John C. Woodage <i>PDGSwdB</i>	Auckland	1338
District Grand Registrar	George E. Arnel <i>PDAGSoj</i>	Alexandra	1188
District Grand Dir of Ceremonies	Graham W. Abbott <i>PDGTreas</i>	Eden	1530
District Grand Sword Bearer	W. David Johnstone	United Manawatu	1721
District Deputy Grand D of C	Thomas H. Forster	Aorangi	2300
District Grand Principal Sojourner	Glenn Forber <i>DGJan</i>	Te Awamutu	2221
District Grand 1 st Asst. Soj.	Maxwell Russell-Owen	Saint George	1801
District Grand 2 nd Asst. Soj.	Errol H. Morris	Saint George	1801
District Grand Standard Bearer	Anthony B. Mansfield	Auckland	1338
District Grand Janitor	Andrew P. Conlan	Eden	1530
Promotions:			
PDGSN	Graham W. Abbott <i>PDGTreas</i>	Eden	1530
PDGTreas	David J. Ackerley <i>PDGSwdB</i>	Auckland	1338
PDGDC	Thomas H. Forster <i>DDGDC</i>	Aorangi	2300
PDGPrincSoj	Fred G. Henley <i>PDGOrg</i>	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. Michael A Chopping of the Auckland Chapter No. 1338."

E.Comp. R. Norman Clay	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.

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. This is something I remind Officers about every year, but I am very disappointed that many do not consider they have any responsibility to perform in this way.

I would like to remind all Companions about the annual Older, or Original, Constitutions meeting that is hosted alternately by the English, Scottish and Irish Chapters in Auckland. Attendance at these meetings has been low in recent years, and I wish to remind all who belong to Chapters in and near Auckland that these meetings are a very important support mechanism for the original Constitutions in this country, and I expect to see representatives from every Chapter within visiting distance. It is expected that District Officers will also make every effort to attend. The meeting this year will be hosted by the Saint Andrew Kilwinning Chapter No. 564 of the Scottish Constitution on Tuesday 21st July with the work of the evening being a Scottish Exaltation.

You will have noticed that there were no appointments to Grand Rank this year, which is due to the policy that is strictly adhered to by Supreme Grand Chapter. Available appointments to Grand Rank depend on the number of Companions in a District or Province and, this District with just over 300 members only qualifies for two Grand ranks over a three year period. No doubt I will have one available next year.

Finally, I wish to make an announcement of my intention to appoint E.Comp. Graeme McKandry PGStdB, a Past Third District Grand Principal as the Deputy Grand Superintendent at the District Convocation to be held in May 2016. E.Comp. Fricker has indicated to me that he intends to step down from this role and I thank him for his considerable support and expertise over the last five years. I will have more to say about E.Comp. Fricker next year.

Thank you Companions for your attendance today.

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 11.00 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 2014
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
<u>Income was received from:</u>		
Annual Dues	12,986	11,590
Fees of Honour	120	240
Regalia Hire	895	505
Sale of Rituals and Books	1,030	758
Interest earned	476	416
Dispensations	160	60
	<u>15,667</u>	<u>13,569</u>
<u>Expenditure was incurred as follows:</u>		
Accountancy Fees	1,226	1,233
Administration Contribution	9,500	9,000
Grand Chapter Dues Paid	750	260
Cost of Rituals	513	484
Maintenance	141	-
Travel Expenses	<u>1,472</u>	<u>1,167</u>
	<u>13,602</u>	<u>12,144</u>
<u>Surplus Before Transfers</u>	<u>\$2,065</u>	<u>\$1,425</u>
<u>Surplus (Deficit) for the Year</u>	<u>\$2,065</u>	<u>\$1,425</u>
<u>STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION</u>		
<u>Accumulated Funds are:</u>		
Opening Balance	16,973	15,548
Surplus (Deficiency) for the year	2,065	<u>1,425</u>
	19,038	16,973
Regalia Replacement Fund		
Opening Balance	<u>6,000</u>	<u>6,000</u>
<u>Total Funds</u>	<u>\$25,038</u>	<u>\$22,973</u>
<u>Represented by the Assets of:</u>		
Accounts Receivable	-	63
Rituals on Hand	884	1,015
Westpac Bank Account	177	189
Westpac Savings	<u>17,098</u>	<u>14,827</u>
	18,159	16,094
<u>Less Liabilities of:</u>		
Fixed Assets as per schedule	<u>6,879</u>	<u>6,879</u>
<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>\$25,038</u>	<u>\$22,973</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 2014. 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 2015.