

# DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF NORTH ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND

UNDER THE  
UNITED GRAND LODGE  
OF ANTIENT, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF ENGLAND.



**R.WOR. BRO B.J. WESTHEAD DISTRICT GRAND MASTER**  
**VW.BRO D ROBERTS PGSWDB DEPUTY DISTRICT GRAND MASTER**  
**W.BRO R.M. MCKILLOP MNZM VRD PAGDC ASSISTANT DISTRICT GRAND MASTER**  
**W.BRO W.E. WEIR PAGDC ASSISTANT DISTRICT GRAND MASTER**

**Minutes of the Half-Yearly Communication  
of the  
District Grand Lodge of North Island, New Zealand.**

**Holden at the Ellerslie Masonic Centre,  
9A Robert Street, Auckland  
on  
Saturday, the 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2012 at 3.15 P.M.**

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# DISTRICT GRAND LODGE

## NORTH ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND

### HALF YEARLY COMMUNICATION

**Holden at the Ellerslie Masonic Centre, 9A Robert Street, Auckland, New Zealand  
on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 2012.**

#### Present:

RW Bro B.J. Westhead, .....	District Grand Master
VW Bro D. Roberts <i>PGSwdB</i> .....	Deputy District Grand Master
W Bro R.M. McKillop <i>MNZM VRD PAGDC</i> .....	Assistant District Grand Master
RW Bro P.B. Gudsell, .....	Past District Grand Master
VW Bro C.A. Holst <i>PDDGM WM L1878</i> .....	Past Grand Sword Bearer
W Bro E.R. Hughes .....	Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro W.T. Andrew .....	Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro G.D. Kane <i>PJGD PADGM</i> .....	as District Senior Grand Warden
W Bro K.J. Langton .....	Past District Senior Grand Warden
W Bro G.A. Gault .....	Past District Senior Grand Warden
W Bro C.V. Eade .....	Past District Senior Grand Warden
W Bro M.A. Chopping .....	Past District Senior Grand Warden
W Bro S.G. Allport .....	Past District Senior Grand Warden
W Bro A. Gofton .....	Past District Senior Grand Warden
W Bro E.F. Monks .....	Past District Senior Grand Warden
W Bro G.J. McKandry .....	Past District Senior Grand Warden
W Bro J.A. Hume .....	Past District Senior Grand Warden
W Bro P.J. Lenihan .....	District Junior Grand Warden
W Bro P.B. Hindle .....	Past District Junior Grand Warden
W Bro D.C. Rosieur .....	Past District Junior Grand Warden
W Bro W.D. Maday .....	Past District Junior Grand Warden
W Bro R.L. Teague .....	Past District Junior Grand Warden
W Bro T.L.A. Stent .....	Past District Junior Grand Warden
W Bro D.M. Lawrence .....	District Grand Chaplain
W Bro J.C. Woodage .....	Past District Grand Chaplain
W Bro J.B. Vanstone .....	Past District Grand Chaplain
W Bro B.M.R. Smith .....	District Grand Treasurer
W Bro M.F. Turner .....	District Grand Registrar
W Bro J.B. Walworth .....	Past District Grand Registrar
W Bro W.E. Weir <i>PAGDC</i> .....	President, District Board of General Purposes
VW Bro B. McMurtrie <i>PGSwdB</i> .....	District Grand Secretary
W Bro G.M. Byrne <i>PDJGW</i> .....	District Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro M.T. Bartlam .....	Past District Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro G.R.S. Wilson .....	District Grand Sword Bearer
W Bro W.E. Streater .....	Past District Grand Sword Bearer
W Bro F.A. Khan .....	Past District Grand Sword Bearer
W Bro I. Dingwall <i>PDGDC</i> .....	District Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro R.R. Agnew <i>PDGChap</i> .....	District Grand Almoner
W Bro R.A.deL. Everest <i>PAGDC PADGM</i> .....	District Grand Mentor
W Bro A.J.M. Macdonald .....	District Grand Charity Steward
W Bro R. Pemberton <i>PDSGD</i> .....	as District Senior Grand Deacon
W Bro R.L. Cross .....	Past District Senior Grand Deacon
W Bro K.E.W. Staton .....	Past District Senior Grand Deacon
W Bro R.N. Clay .....	Past District Senior Grand Deacon
W Bro G.E. Arnel .....	Past District Senior Grand Deacon
W Bro M.I. Crawford .....	District Junior Grand Deacon
W Bro G.N. Martin .....	District Assistant Grand Secretary
W Bro T van der Nest .....	District Grand Organist
W Bro R.F. Prothero <i>PDGChap</i> .....	acting District Grand Organist
W Bro T.J. Warren .....	District Grand Standard Bearer
W Bro P. Parris .....	Past District Grand Standard Bearer
W Bro J.L. Bau .....	Past District Grand Standard Bearer
W Bro R.H. Fricker <i>PDSGW</i> .....	as District Grand Pursuivant
W Bro M.L. Puckett .....	Past District Grand Pursuivant
Bro K.J. Thompson <i>JW 2180</i> .....	District Grand Steward
W Bro N. Kirk <i>PDJGW</i> .....	WM L705

W Bro S.W. Wood .....	WM L1188
W Bro A.B. Mansfield .....	WM L1338
W Bro S.A.T. Farley .....	WM L1530
W Bro D.M. Turner <i>PDSGD</i> .....	WM L1647
W Bro T.R. Stansfield .....	WM L1710
W Bro F.L. Gillies .....	WM L1711
W Bro R.R. Wilson <i>PDGStdB</i> .....	WM L1930
W Bro S.R. Hammerton .....	WM L2072
Bro M.J. Cameron .....	SW L1188
Bro J.P. Pallett-Frame .....	SW L1721
W Bro F.G. Henley .....	SW L2072
W Bro T.A. Stanbridge .....	SW L2180
Bro R.J. Cranston .....	JW L2073
W Bro G. Forber .....	IPM L1801
W Bro B. Beattie .....	IPM L2073
Also in attendance	
W Bro D.E. Scollick .....	PM in L2138
Bro J.A.J.D. Karaka-Hazledene .....	L1710
Bro T.H. Hallen .....	L2180

District Grand Lodge was opened in due form at 3.15 P.M.

The District Grand Master was saluted.

The Past District Grand Master was saluted.

The Deputy District Grand Master, the Assistant District Grand Masters and Past Grand Officers of the United Grand Lodge of England were saluted.

#### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.

The minutes of the Annual Communication of the District Grand Lodge held at the Ellerslie Masonic Centre 9A Robert Street Auckland on Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2011, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

#### APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from the following Brethren:- D.J.Ackerley; G.A.Anderson; A.S.Bolton; R.B.Bovey; S.Boyask; T.C.Brandon; J.P.Brooks; R.Catlin; K.G.Edmonds; J.C.Elliot; S.Elliott; A.A.Fairweather; R.S.Froude; R.N.Gifford; R.R.Goldston; J.Gozdz; C.B.Graham; G.S.Halewood; M.T.O.Harding; C.N.Hardy; W.C.Harris; R.B.Hayes; E.A.C.James; M.J.Jensen; R.H.Johnstone; D.P.Laery; D.J.M.Miller; G.S.Moser; R.K.Parker; K.R.Perkinson; C.L.Perry; B.L.Poole; A.Renton-Green; G.Rogerson; A.P.H.Rutter; A.Schenk; D.A.Stuck; R.H.Swinbourne; I.V.Tantrum; C.M.Tisdall; A.O.Watts; D.M.Wilding; R.M.Wilson; B.J.Winfield.

#### ROLL OF LODGES.

The District Grand Secretary called the roll of Lodges:-

Lodge	Number	Represented by:
Mount Egmont Lodge .....	670 .....	Not Represented
Waitemata Lodge .....	689 .....	Past Master
Tongariro Lodge .....	705 .....	Master
Port Chalmers Marine Lodge .....	942 .....	Past Master
Alexandra Lodge .....	1188 .....	Master
Prince of Wales Lodge .....	1338 .....	Master
Turanganui Lodge .....	1480 .....	Past Master
Wellington Lodge .....	1521 .....	Past Master
Eden Lodge .....	1530 .....	Master
Sir Donald McLean Lodge .....	1646 .....	Past Master
Star of the North Lodge .....	1647 .....	Master
Corinthian Lodge .....	1655 .....	Junior Warden
Remuera Lodge .....	1710 .....	Master
Rodney Lodge .....	1711 .....	Master
United Manawatu Lodge .....	1721 .....	Senior Warden
Saint George Lodge .....	1801 .....	Past Master
Northern Light Lodge .....	1878 .....	Master
Opotiki Lodge .....	1930 .....	Master
Zealandia Lodge .....	2072 .....	Master
Duke of Albany Lodge .....	2073 .....	Junior Warden
Lodge Franklin .....	2138 .....	Past Master
Lodge of Harmony .....	2180 .....	Senior Warden
Te Awamutu Lodge .....	2221 .....	Past Master
Aorangi Lodge .....	2300 .....	Not Represented

### OBITUARIES.

The District Grand Secretary read the names of those members whose death had been advised since the last communication.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Lodge</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>
W.Bro. D.J. Cuthell	PDGPurs	Saint George	1801	18/12/11
W.Bro. A.H. Burrows	PDSGD	Saint George	1801	01/01/12
W.Bro. H.W. Meyer	PDSGW	Aorangi	2300	29/01/12
R.W.Bro. R.M. Collins	PDGM	Te Awamutu	2221	12/04/12

R.WOR. BRO. B.J. WESTHEAD, DISTRICT GRAND MASTER: "W.Bro. Chopping, would you please present a eulogy for the late R.W.Bro. Collins."

W.Bro. Chopping spoke of the Masonic career of the late R.W.Bro. Collins, after which the District Grand Master asked all those present to stand in silence for a few moments in respect of those Brethren who had been called to the Grand Lodge Above since the last meeting of this District Grand Lodge.

### COMMUNICATIONS FROM GRAND LODGE.

The District Grand Secretary advised that since the last Communication he had received reports of the proceedings of the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge held on 14<sup>th</sup> September and 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011; UGLE Statement of Accounts; Grand Charity Report and Accounts. Copies of these have been distributed to all Lodges.

### REPORT OF DISTRICT GRAND MASTER

R.WOR. BRO. B.J. WESTHEAD, DISTRICT GRAND MASTER:

Brethren, since our last communication in November I have attended the following meetings:

**Onehunga Maungawhau Lodge No 168 NZC Installation Meeting on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2011** held at the Onehunga Masonic Centre.

Supported by a small contingent of Grand and District Grand Officers, I received a very warm welcome from the Installing Master VW Bro Roy Stephen and witnessed Bro. Peter Duynstee being installed in a well performed ceremony. The Grand Master attended, supported by a strong contingent of Grand Officers. We retired to an enjoyable refectory where I responded to the Toast of the Sister Constitutions.

**St Andrew Lodge No 418 SC 150 Year Anniversary and Banner Dedication Ceremony on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2011** at the Scottish Masonic Centre, Grey St Onehunga supported by a contingent of Grand and District Grand Officers. We were piped in and received a grand welcome from the RW Master Bro Charles MacLeod and witnessed a well conducted Banner Dedication Ceremony and a summary of St Andrew Lodge's 150 years. A most enjoyable afternoon was had by all. We retired to our Ladies and met at the Eden Lodge Rooms to enjoy the great Scottish hospitality and a special Anniversary Dinner.

**Northern Light Lodge No 1878 Installation Meeting on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2012** held at the Ellerslie Masonic Centre, well supported with no fewer than 6 Grand and 11 District Grand officers. I received a very warm welcome from the Installing Master W.Bro Malcolm Turner and in turn had the pleasure to welcome RW Bro Rex Newton and Bro Bill Matheson on behalf of our District. It was a pleasure to witness W.Bro Turner install VW Bro Charles Holst PGSwdB-PDDGM into the Master's Chair, in a well conducted ceremony and in turn VW Bro Holst, in his usual professional manner, investing his Officers, all of whom are present and past District and Grand Officers. I had the pleasure to address the Master and to present to W.Bro Turner his Past Master's Jewel. Retiring to a well laid table of fine wine and a most enjoyable lunch.

R.W. Bro B.J. Westhead

R.WOR. BRO. B.J. WESTHEAD, DISTRICT GRAND MASTER: "It is my pleasure to announce to you that our MW Grand Master HRH The Duke of Kent has recently appointed W. Bro David Roberts PAGDC to VW Bro David Roberts Past Grand Sword Bearer. This appointment became effective at the Grand Lodge Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

It is our usual custom with such appointments to Grand Rank, to mark the occasion by a Clothing Ceremony. Bro District Grand Director of Ceremonies would you please place VW Bro David Roberts before me."

The District Grand Master then proceeded to clothe VW.Bro. David Roberts with the regalia of his new Rank.

**REPORT OF THE DEPUTY DISTRICT GRAND MASTER****VW.BRO. D. ROBERTS PGSwDB**

RW. District Grand Master.

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011:

I had the privilege of representing you, at the installation of the Alexandra Lodge No. 1188. At their Hamilton lodge building.

I, and the Grand and District Grand Officers accompanying me, which numbered 25, were made to feel most welcome.

The Grand of Ireland, was represented by RW Bro. R.J. Whyte, Provincial Grand Master. The Grand Lodge of Scotland by Bro. G. Imlah Hon. G Jeweller, R.Wor. Substitute District Grand Master and the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, by RW Bro. E.J. Eeles. Divisional Grand Master.

The ceremony was of a high standard, with most of the principle Lodge Officers appointed being Master Masons with many young Brethren in attendance.

The refectory was of a very good standard, and the incoming Master's family were also very apparent, his wife and several siblings acting as stewards. An enjoyable time was had by all.

The Lodge is in good heart, and with the younger Brethren, can look forward to a promising future.

On Monday the 26<sup>th</sup>. March 2012. I had the pleasure of representing you at St. George Lodge No. 1801.

I was ably assisted and supported by 24 Grand and District Grand Officers, into this nice old lodge building.

The Grand Lodge of Ireland was represented by RW Bro. G. Drury Hon. PGD. Provincial Deputy Grand Master. The Grand Lodge of Scotland was represented by Bro. G. Imlah Hon. G Jeweller, R.Wor. Substitute District Grand Master.

The installation of W.Bro. John David Hurst LGR. was performed in a very professional manner by Installing Master W.Bro. G. Forber.

During the installation of the Lodge Officers for 2012 - 2013, it was heartening to see six of the brethren, were not Past Masters, a welcome sight in any of our English lodges.

The working tools were of the necessary standard, and a very pleasing performance of the long second degree tools by the Master of the Lodge of Harmony.

The refectory was of a good standard, the toasts delivered in a satisfactory manner.

It would be nice for some Installed Masters, to contribute some dialogue towards the toast to the District Grand Officers. So that the response to the toast, could be an enlightenment with some meaning, rather than the rehearsed response we do at present.

Lodge D.C's please take notice !

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2012

I had the privilege of representing you, at the installation of the Lodge Franklin No. 2138. at the Hikurangi lodge building. This meeting had been changed from their usual Wednesday to move away from Anzac Day.

I was escorted into the lodge room with ten Grand and District Grand Officers, and greeted in the appropriate manner. The Grand Lodge. of Ireland was represented by VW Bro. T.M. Bertram. Provincial Junior. Grand Warden. The Grand lodge of Scotland by Bro. Angus Graham Hon. SGW Immediate Past RW District Grand Master. The Grand Lodge. Of New Zealand by VW G. Morris. VW Bro. B. Wiig District Grand Master for Northland did attend, but was late.

The ceremony was of a good standard, the Master Elect was a Master Mason. The majority of the Brethren also being members of Northern Light Lodge.

The sumptuous refectory was prepared by the wives of members, who give great support to their men folk. This old lodge is in good heart, but needs some younger blood, to give the lodge some future assurance.

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at Rodney Lodge No. 1711.

I had much pleasure in representing you at the installation of the Master of the Rodney Lodge No. 1711.

I was greatly assisted on my entry into the Lodge by nineteen Grand and District Grand Officers.

The distinguished guests were as follows: The Grand Lodge of Ireland was represented by VW Bro.T.M. Bertram. Provincial Junior. Grand Warden. The Grand Lodge of Scotland by Bro. R.M. Russell Hon SGW, Past RW District Grand Master.

The Master Elect was Bro. F. Gillies, an old acquaintance of mine and it was very pleasing to see another Master Mason taking Office as Master of this old Lodge. W.Bro. M.G. Lloyd PDGSptWks did a very capable job of installing his successor. Unfortunately, all the other officers were filled by Past Masters. This did not detract from the enthusiasm shown by all the members.

I enjoyed the refectory, which was held in the room on site, and I am certain, this has not happened for several years.

All in all a very pleasant installation, which everybody enjoyed.

David Roberts PGSwdB

### **REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT GRAND MASTER**

#### **W.BRO. R.M. MCKILLOP MNZM VRD PAGDC, ASSISTANT DISTRICT GRAND MASTER:**

RW District Grand Master, I have the honour to report as follows;

Since our last Communication in November 2011, I have represented you on one occasion at the installation of W. Bro Noel Kirk, PDJGW as Master of the Tongariro Lodge No 705 at Wanganui on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2012. The meeting was, as is usually the case, well attended and I was supported by nine District Grand Officers including the Deputy District Grand Master, W Br David Roberts, PAGDC.

The only conflict which might have precluded attendance was the concurrent meeting of Port Chalmers Marine Lodge No 942 at Taradale. This meeting was the first one occasion on which the Lodge I was attending was not able to formally receive a representative of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, but VW Bro. Colin Making, District Grand Master, Ruapehu District, Grand Lodge of New Zealand attended and was welcomed both by Tongariro Lodge and by myself on behalf of the District Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge of Scotland was represented by Bro. Clive Perry, RW Substitute District Grand Master, District of New Zealand North, Grand Lodge of Scotland and the Grand Lodge of Ireland by RW Bro. Bruce Guddopp, Hon Past Grand Senior Deacon, Past Provincial Assistant Grand Master, Province of New Zealand, Grand Lodge of Ireland.

The ceremony was conducted by W Bro. Garry R Spooner, PAGDC-PADGM. His experience and skill make such ceremonies a great delight to witness. W Bro. Kirk was Master of the Lodge in 1993 - 1994 and has been the Secretary of the Lodge for many years. It will be in his good hands for the ensuing year, supported by a very experience team of Officers. Significantly, the Offices of Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Senior Deacon and Junior Deacon are occupied by Brethren who are progressing through the Lodge hierarchy for the first time. Again one was made aware by those attending of the strong links that exist between the Taranaki and Manawatu Lodges of all Constitutions. There were a number of members of the Lodge who were absent mostly because of employment matters.

The Lodge has for many years held its installation meeting on Saturday but there was a suggestion that it might be necessary to review this. A very pleasant refectory followed the installation and included in the toast list was that which is always proposed, to The New Zealand Lodge No 5175 London.

Robert M. McKillop PAGDC

#### **W BRO. W.E. WEIR PAGDC:**

RW Bro. Brian Westhead, District Grand Master, since the last communications I have had the pleasure to represent you on the following occasions;

Lodge Sir Walter Scott – Thames: The installation of Wor. Bro. Donald Creswell on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2012.

The installation was carried out by Officers of the Grand lodge of New Zealand lead by MW Bro. D.B McLaggan PGM in a very professional manner. The lodge room was full and all Constitutions were warmly greeted and made to feel very welcome. Not having any work to preform made the evening a very relaxing one. On retirement of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, the Older Constitutions representatives were also invited to retire with him in the first rising. A generous gesture when the order of precedence is such an issue. Ladies were also present in the refectory. I was grateful for the company of five Grand and District Grand Officers

The Star of the North - Whangarei Masonic centre: The installation by proclamation of W. Bro. Dennis Turner on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

This was a very pleasant evening in which the sitting Master continued for a second year. While the Lodge is small in numbers the ceremony was a real pleasure to be part of and the Lodge room full of visitors. The Officers and Master had put a lot of work into the preparation of the ceremony and it showed in their performance. The Master's use of an iPad to be able to play music all through the different parts of the ceremony was not only innovative but added a quality to the evening that was outstanding. The large quantity and range of music which flowed as perambulations and various segments of the ceremony were carried out that just would not be possible with an organist playing. It is a real credit to him and the Lodge for this use of an electronic device which added to the dignity and enjoyment of the evening.

Other Lodges could do well to learn from this lodge on how a little thought and imagination can make a vast difference to a lodge meeting. The lodge provided a lovely buffet refectory for their guests and ladies. A very enjoyable evening. I was accompanied by eight Grand and District Grand Officers for which I was again most grateful.

Warren E. Weir PAGDC

### REPORT OF THE DISTRICT GRAND SECRETARY.

#### VW BRO B. MCMURTRIE, PGSWDB, DISTRICT GRAND SECRETARY:

R.Wor. District Grand Master it was my very great pleasure to be able to represent you, and the United Grand Lodge of England, at the installation meeting of Te Awamutu Lodge No. 2221 on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2011. I was accompanied into the Lodge room by 18 Grand and District Grand Officers. There were representatives of the Irish and Scottish Grand Lodges in attendance but, unfortunately the Grand Lodge of New Zealand declined the invitation.

The current Master, W.Bro Brian Stanney continued in Office for a further term, and he was proclaimed as such by W.Bro V.R.C. Warren PDGStdB. This Lodge is unfortunately going through a lean time, but with the core of enthusiastic Masons who have taken Office, I am sure it will weather the storm and will once again become a force in the District. The positive attitude among the small number of members present was very evident. All in all, the ceremony was carried out extremely well, and we all had a very good time among the members of this fine old Lodge.

#### Representative visits.

Following is a list of all meetings since our last Communication meeting, at which you, or your representative, have attended: -

<u>Date</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Lodge</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
2011				
Mon 21 Nov	R.W.Bro. B.J. Westhead	Saint Andrew	418 SC	St. Andrew's Night
Thu 01 Dec	W.Bro. D. Roberts	Alexandra	1188	Installation
2012				
Thu 01 Mar	W.Bro. W.E. Weir	Sir Walter Scott	15 NZC	Installation
Tue 13 Mar	R.W.Bro. B.J. Westhead	Northern Light	1878	Installation
Sat 17 Mar	W.Bro. R.M. McKillop	Tongariro	705	Installation
Mon 26 Mar	W.Bro. D. Roberts	Saint George	1801	Installation
Wed 11 Apr	V.W.Bro. B. McMurtrie	Te Awamutu	2221	Installation
Sat 14 Apr	W.Bro. A.A. DeCosta	Montrose	722 SC	Installation
Wed 18 Apr	W.Bro. W.E. Weir	Star of the North	1647	Installation
Sat 21 Apr	W.Bro M.T.O. Harding	Gisborne	233 NZC	Installation
Mon 23 Apr	W.Bro. D. Roberts	Franklin	2138	Installation
Sat 28 Apr	V.W.Bro. C.A. Holst	Saint Andrew	418 SC	Installation
Wed 02 May	V.W.Bro. D. Roberts	Rodney	1711	Installation

#### Membership Statistics:

Annual returns have been received from all our Lodges, and the figures to date show a decline in memberships of 61 with a total membership as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 of 748; down from 809. There were only 17 initiations during 2011 as compared with 30 for the 2010. There were 31 Grand Lodge Certificates issued during 2011; 1 more than 2010. Once again the figure for resignations and cessations was very high at 49 and 21 respectively The total number of members, as opposed to memberships, in the District as at 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012 was 716.

I also noted a number of resignations and cessations of Brethren who had joined within the last two years, and did not complete the three degrees.

#### Dispensations:

The following dispensations have been issued since the last Communication meeting in November 2011.

Prince of Wales Lodge No. 1338

To meet at the Ellerslie Masonic Centre until the by-laws have been altered.

Eden Lodge No. 1530

To wear regalia during the Annual Anzac Memorial Service while non Masons are present.

Sir Donald McLean No. 1646

To elect, and install the current Master for a third successive year.

That completes my report R.Wor. District Grand Master.

Bruce McMurtrie PGSwdB, District Grand Secretary.

### **REPORT OF THE DISTRICT BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.**

#### **W BRO W.E. WEIR PAGDC, PRESIDENT, DISTRICT BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES:**

Rt. Wor. District Grand Master it is my pleasure to present this report on the activities of the District Board of General Purposes.

The Board met on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2012. A large number of issues were discussed but the focus of the meeting was the final planning for May Communications.

#### **Order of Precedence of Grand Lodge's:**

Subsequent to the communication from Grand Lodge on the Order of Precedence, when receiving Grand Lodge representatives into Lodges, the District wrote to the Grand Lodge of NZ advising them of our Grand Lodge's Direction. The Grand of NZ has in turn written to the United Grand of England about the matter. We have been advised that a letter is being prepared by London in reply. We are also aware the matter will also be further discussed at the Tripartite meeting of the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland and Ireland later in the year.

In the meantime it has been decided to continue with the old order of Precedence until further clarification has been received by Grand Lodge. The matter will be discussed with our Brethren in the Older Constitutions when the clarification is received and Lodges will be advised of Grand Lodge's expectations as soon as possible.

#### **Membership:**

In the ebbs and flows of Lodge membership, the District after three years of stability and quiet growth in some areas had one of its largest declines for a number of years. A net loss of 68 with an overall change in membership of 55 (Allowing for initiations and joining members)

The number of initiations halved from 2010. (2008-18, 2009-28, 2010-30, 2011-14). This is the lowest number since 2004.

- Resignation numbers after dropping from 30 in 2009 to 22 in 2010 jumped to 45 last year.
- Cessations after being static at 11 for the past two years jumped to 16.
- Deaths accounted for a loss of 17 members (2008-19, 2009-23, 2010-22)

It cannot be stressed enough the value of Lodge mentoring systems in the retaining of members. Where Lodges are practising some form of mentoring (either formal or informal) they are seeing the results in lower membership losses. Equally large Lodge numbers on paper don't always indicate the number of members attending meetings or prepared to take active Office.

While it is easy to become disheartened with this negative change it is not an indication of the heart of our Lodges or their future. The last few years have shown that there are clear patterns of growth and decline for Lodges which are often affected by influences beyond the control of any Lodge or the District but which can be reduced by an active, enthusiastic Master and happy Lodge membership.

#### **The Office of District Grand Mentor:**

Many Lodges have indicated they are planning on appointing a Mentor. This is encouraged by the Pro Grand Master as a tool to be used for the retention of members. The District Grand Mentor, Wor. Bro. Roger Everest has given much thought to suitable wording for the Master to use when investing the Mentor. Copies of the recommend wording has now been forwarded to all Lodges, however if you need further copies please contact the District office. New jewels for this office have also been ordered by the District Office, but will not arrive until July this year.

#### **The District financial Report:**

Shortly the District Treasurer will be presenting the Districts accounts. It is very pleasing to see that even after the installation of our District Grand Master, costs were managed so that the amount needed from the District's reserve fund was kept to a very acceptable amount. The Board has also reviewed the District's costs and decided that dues would be held at the current level for the coming year. However, the rising costs means they will again need to be reviewed in the near future.

#### **Ian Souster Memorial Lecturer:**

I am pleased to announce that the lecturer for the 2012 year will be;

W. Bro. Fricker of the Prince of Wales with the lecture " Landmarks of the Order"



For Lodge Masters planning this year's work the inclusion of these lectures promises a night of stimulating information. Lodges wishing to book the district lecturer please contact them directly.

### **The future of Freemasonry - Grand Lodge's Report:**

As three hundred years since the formation of the United Grand of England approaches, Grand Lodge felt it important for there to be robust and open debate into what it means to be a Freemason in contemporary society and what it will mean for future generations to come. Grand Lodge commissioned a report by an independent body for an impartial assessment hoping that it would shape discussion which would offer and open a transparent account of Freemasonry to those outside the organisation and provide a fresh viewpoint to those within it. Accordingly the Social Issues Research Centre was tasked to explore the role and relevance of Freemasonry in society today and in the future.

This report looks at; the reasons why we belong to Freemasonry, issues around charity, ritual, the future of Freemasonry and why we exist at all. For those who have not heard of, or read, this important report released by the Grand Lodge in March please make an effort to do so especially if you are in, or intend to be in, a position of leadership. If you have not read an electronic copy or require a physical copy please contact the District Office. It is most beneficial to read and be used for discussion when considering matters of where your Lodge is going.

### **District Questionnaire:**

Thank-you to all those members who completed the District Questionnaire. The questionnaire was given out at the November Communications. The results of the responses are being studied and will influence the District in its future planning. The results will be published in a future copy of the District Newsletter.

### **Next District Communication:**

The next District Communication of this District Grand Lodge will be held in Napier on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 2012. On this date we will also be celebrating Port Chalmers Marine Lodge's 150 years. I am pleased to say that the Port Chalmers Brethren are well ahead in their planning for this weekend and Lodges also need to be making plans to join with them in what is looking to be a very memorable weekend.

In 2013, May Communication will be held in Auckland and the November Communication in Kerikeri.

### **Farewell:**

Finally I would like to thank all Board members current and past with whom I have served during the past seven years for their support and the work they have done on behalf of the District. I especially wish to thank my two Vice Presidents over that period - Wor. Bro Trevor Stent and Wor. Bro. Farouk Khan. Above all I wish to thank the District Grand Secretary, VW Bro. Bruce McMurtrie, for all his quiet guidance and assistance. The service he provides to the District is outstanding. It truly has been a privilege to have served with you all. May I also wish my successor Wor. Bro Khan my congratulations and total support.

That, Rt.Wor. District Grand Master, completes my report.

Warren E Weir PAGDC

R.W.BRO. B.J. WESTHEAD, DISTRICT GRAND MASTER: "Thank you Bro. Weir for your well thought out, and comprehensive report. I give you a big thank you from the District, and am sure you will put the same enthusiasm into your new role as one of my Assistant District Grand Masters."

## **REPORT OF THE DISTRICT GRAND ALMONER**

### **W.BRO. R.R. AGNEW PDGCHAP, DGALMONER:**

R.W.Bro. Brian J. Westhead, RW District Grand Master, may I report as follows :

It is with amazement we find ourselves into a new year, and nearly half way through it !! 2011 brought its many tragedies, and accompanying sadness, especially for our southern brethren, however it also brought many joys, especially the wonderful ceremony here in October.

Reflecting on the tragic events in Christchurch, brings the realization that these events have affected us all in one way or another. We have also lost a number of valued brethren, which deeply saddens us, as the bond we all share is a deep one. This leads us to think of the devoted wives, who will still be grieving, as time passes, as it does. It is an important function of our almoners to maintain a strong link with our widows, and their families, and support them in the best manner we can. This could involve recognizing birthdays, and family celebrations. As almoners we have the privilege of being part of their mixed emotions, our role being a privileged one, and a necessary one.

One matter I would like to pursue, involves the subject of hospital visiting. We have about eleven main hospitals in our District, and quite a number of our brethren are admitted to these, each year. It is our habit to contact the almoner of the lodge nearest the relevant hospital, to visit or arrange visits, to see admitted brethren. I am sure it would make the process of contacting foreign almoners near hospitals easier, if we worked from a list which identified a dedicated

almoner for each hospital, who could arrange visits by local brethren. I will contact relevant almoners shortly to explore this concept.

The opportunity to meet our brother almoners, in the scheduled Almoner's Workshop, this Communication, will allow us to explore these and other ideas, to make the way we function easier.

RW District Grand Master, our almoners put in an amazing number of hours serving the district. We receive wonderful support from our District Grand Secretary, and know that the work we do makes a difference. However, to use an old saying - 'An almoner's work is never done !!'

We wish you RW District Grand Master, and the District well for the remainder of the year.

W.Bro. Ron Agnew PDGChap, District Grand Almoner.

R.W.BRO. B.J. WESTHEAD, DISTRICT GRAND MASTER: "Thank you also, Bro. Agnew for your extensive report."

R.W.BRO. B.J. WESTHEAD, DISTRICT GRAND MASTER: "Brethren, you will no doubt recall that, at my installation last October, I announced that I would be appointing W.Bro. Warren Weir as one of my Assistant District Grand Masters, and I now so announce it.

Bro. District Grand Director of Ceremonies, would you please place W.Bro. Weir before me."

The District Grand Master then proceeded to install W.Bro. W.E. Weir PAGDC as Assistant District Grand Master, placed him in his seat in District Grand Lodge, and called on the Brethren to salute him.

R.W.BRO. B.J. WESTHEAD, DISTRICT GRAND MASTER: "Brethren, I now appoint W.Bro. Farouk Khan PDGSwdB as President of the District Board of General Purposes.

Bro. District Grand Director of Ceremonies, please place W.Bro. Khan before me."

The District Grand Master then invested W.Bro. Khan as the President of the District Board of General Purposes.

#### ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The Annual Accounts for District Grand Lodge for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 having been distributed to members present were taken as read and received.

W.Bro B.M.R. Smith DGTreas, explained the accounts, which show a clear comparison with the previous year. He commented that, without the one off cost of the installation of the District Grand Master, the final result would be similar to the previous year.

W.Bro. B.M.R. Smith DGTreas: "R.Wor. District Grand Master, I move that the audited Annual Accounts of this District Grand Lodge for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009 be adopted." Seconded by VW.Bro. D. Roberts PGSwdB, and carried. The Annual Accounts are printed at the end of these minutes.

#### DISTRICT GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS

##### ADDRESS BY THE DISTRICT GRAND MASTER, R.WOR. BRO. B.J. WESTHEAD.

Brethren, welcome and thank you for your participation, especially those who have travelled a great distance.

A highlight of this meeting would be the Clothing Ceremony celebrating VW Bro Dave Roberts' promotion and then to Install W. Bro Warren Weir as my Assistant District Grand Master, a Brother who has served this district as President of the District Board of General Purpose for the last five years and, as you witnessed I invested W. Bro Farouk Khan as his successor.

In July coming VW Bro Dave Roberts and myself, with our ladies, are travelling to Sri Lanka for the Installation of their new District Grand Master and Grand Superintendent, an experience we are all looking forward to and a chance to experience their practices and customs. I will report on this meeting in my November address.

Thank you to the team of supporters for your time and effort given to the Friday evening Meet and Greet; the Members Workshop and the setting up for our communications, your support is truly appreciated.

1862, a time in history, the consecration of Port Chalmers Marine Lodge No 942, this Lodge will celebrate its 150 years of age this coming November, in conjunction with the District Grand Lodge Communication meeting. So please, a note in your diary for a weekend in the Hawkes Bay and bring your partner as it will be a fun time.

District Grand Lodge has an Honours' Board displayed at Ellerslie Masonic Centre, naming Brethren who have performed duties or given service to the Craft beyond the call of duty, and have been honoured with the District Grand Master's Certificate of Service to Freemasonry. Please bring to our notice, Brethren of your Lodge whom you consider are worthy to be so recognised.

Precedence of Grand Lodges, the annual Tripartite Meeting between the English, Irish and Scottish Constitutions. An important agenda item was the matter of precedence.

This District of the North Island N.Z. was instructed by the United Grand Lodge of England that the order for receiving our Distinguished Guest would be the Grand Lodge of New Zealand; Scotland and Ireland and accordingly we informed the Grand Lodge of N.Z. Their response to our District, was that they would take this matter up directly with the Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge of England and until such time, they will not attend our Installation meetings.

I have since spoken to a Divisional Grand Master N.Z.C. and advised we would reinstate previous protocols until we have further confirmation from U.G.L.E. and their reply to our district, "The Board is waiting for written clarification from U.G.L.E. before visitation would recommence. So, brethren, the district will keep you up to date on this matter.

### **Report examining the Future of Freemasonry**

The "Future of Freemasonry" report commissioned as part of the build up to the United Grand Lodge of England's tercentenary of 2017 (300 year celebration)

- The report highlights that Freemasonry acts as a 'constant', providing members with a unique combination of friendship, belonging and structure, with many Masons saying they have made valuable lifelong friendships.
- The report also highlights the importance that Freemasonry places on charitable giving, the part that many Freemasons play in their local communities and the central role of the family. As well as instilling in its members a moral and ethical approach to life – including thoughtfulness for others, kindness in the community, honesty in business, courtesy in society and fairness in all things – Freemasons are the largest charitable givers after the National Lottery, and also make major contributions to International disaster relief funds.
- The role of ritual is shown to be an important part of Freemasonry for many members, with the report concluding that it provides both structure and familiarity, in just the same way as the normal rituals of daily life do for many people.
- 

This report is the first ever independent study conducted by a non Masonic body, produced by the Social Issues Research Centre in Oxford. Peter Marsh, Co-director of Social Issues Research Centre said "The Future of Freemasonry" provides an insightful commentary, not just on the organisation, but also on modern society. Despite the many changes taking place – or perhaps because of them – our desire to be part of something and to help other people is undimmed. It's here that Freemasonry has an important part to play".

Nigel Brown concluded "This report will form an important part of our discussions as to how best to ensure that Freemasonry continues to evolve and adapt to meet the needs of its members and also of wider society, while at the same time retaining the distinctive character and intrinsic values that have attracted members for centuries and continue to appeal to people today."

R.W. Bro Brian Westhead

As there was no further business, the District Grand Lodge was closed in due form at 4.20 P.M.

**DISTRICT GRAND LODGE. NORTH ISLAND. NEW ZEALAND**  
**ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011**

**AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Readers of the Financial Report of the District Grand Lodge, North Island, New Zealand for the year ended 31 December 2011.

I have audited the financial report on Schedules 1,2 and 3. The financial reports provide information about the past financial performance of the District Grand Lodge, North Island, New Zealand and its financial position as at 31 December 2011. This information is stated in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 4 and 5.

**District Grand Lodge, North Island, New Zealand Responsibilities**

The District Grand Lodge, North Island, New Zealand is responsible for the preparation of a financial report which fairly reflects the financial position of the District Grand Lodge, North Island, New Zealand as at 31 December 2011 and of the results of operations for the year ended 31 December 2011.

**Auditors' Responsibilities**

It is my responsibility to express an independent opinion on the financial report presented by the District Grand Lodge, North Island, New Zealand and report my opinion to you.

**Basis of Opinion**

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. It also includes assessing:

- The significant estimates and judgements made by the District Grand Lodge, North Island, New Zealand in the preparation of the financial report, and
- Whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the District Grand Lodge, North Island, New Zealand circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in New Zealand except that my work was limited as explained below. I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which I considered necessary. I obtained sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial report is free from material misstatements, whether caused by fraud or error. In forming my opinion I also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial report.

Other than in my capacity as Auditor I have no professional relationship with or interests in the District Grand Lodge, North Island, New Zealand other than as a member of that organisation.

**Unqualified Opinion**

I have obtained all the information and explanations I have required.

In my opinion the financial report on Schedules 1,2 and 3 fairly reflects the financial position of the District Grand Lodge, North Island, New Zealand as at 31 December 2011 and the results of its operations for the year ended on that date.

My audit was completed on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2012 and my unqualified opinion is expressed as at that date.

(Original signed)

B.W. Rogers ACA (Retired) ACIS  
Associate Chartered Accountant

**AUDITOR**

**DISTRICT GRAND LODGE. NORTH ISLAND. NEW ZEALAND**  
**ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE - SCHEDULE 1**

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
<b><u>Income was received from:</u></b>		
District Grand Lodge Dues	50,714	47,776
Fees of Honour	280	240
Regalia Hire & Sales	848	978
Dispensations & By-Laws	268	316
Sundry Income	-	1,059
Donations Received	<u>1,236</u>	<u>-</u>
	53,346	50,369
<b><u>Investment Income</u></b>		
Interest	9,461	5,919
<b><u>Contribution for Administration Costs:</u></b>		
E.M.D.C. and D.G. Chapter	<u>22,237</u>	<u>27,000</u>
<b><u>Total Income</u></b>	<u>\$85,044</u>	<u>\$83,288</u>
<b><u>Expenditure from this was:</u></b>		
Accountancy	1,247	1,210
Insurance & Accident Compensation Levy	(250)	467
(Surplus)/Loss on Communications & Functions	(431)	54
Office, Rent & Power	4,356	4,177
Printing, Stationery & Postage	7,905	8,162
(Surplus) / Loss on Sales of Rituals, etc	659	(695)
(Surplus) / Loss on Sale of Ties	95	(317)
Characters of Freemasonry Costs	261	-
Donations - CHCH Earthquake net	5,609	5,250
Maintenance	1,157	240
District Grand Master Installation	8,198	-
Salary & Honoraria	38,897	39,078
Sundry Expenses	979	1,704
Telephones & Tolls	1,780	2,069
Travel & Car Expenses	7,844	9,352
Equipment Lease	5,795	5,760
Contribution to building security system	<u>2,472</u>	<u>-</u>
<b><u>Total Expenditure</u></b>	<u>\$86,573</u>	<u>\$76,511</u>
<b><u>Leaving an Operating Surplus/(Loss) of</u></b>	(1,529)	6,777
Against which Depreciation was charged	<u>1,044</u>	<u>1,050</u>
<b><u>Net (Loss) Surplus Before Tax</u></b>	<u>\$(2,573)</u>	<u>\$5,727</u>
<b><u>Less:</u></b>		
Provision for Taxation	428	109
Transfer to Regalia Replacement Fund	-	1,598
<b><u>Net (Loss) Surplus after Tax</u></b>	<u>\$(3,001)</u>	<u>\$4,020</u>

**DISTRICT GRAND LODGE, NORTH ISLAND. NEW ZEALAND****ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011****STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2011 - SCHEDULE 3**

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
<b><u>Capital is made up of:</u></b>		
<b><u>Accumulated Funds</u></b>		
Opening Balance	320,154	316,134
Taxation Adjustment 2010	(11)	-
Surplus (Loss) for the year	<u>(3,001)</u>	<u>4,020</u>
	317,142	320,154
Regalia Replacement Fund		
Opening balance	3,000	1,402
Transfer to Fund from Current Year's Surplus	<u>-</u>	<u>1,598</u>
	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>
<b><u>Net Funds</u></b>	<b><u>\$320,142</u></b>	<b><u>\$323,154</u></b>
<b><u>Investments of these Funds are:</u></b>		
Ellerslie Masonic Centre Limited Shares	105,000	105,000
Investment Account - N.Z. Grand Lodge	39,372	49,492
Westpac Term Deposit	150,536	140,000
Investment Account - Westpac	<u>133</u>	<u>133</u>
	<u>295,041</u>	<u>294,625</u>
<b><u>Current Assets are:</u></b>		
Accounts Receivable	206	317
Stock of Publications and Ties	4,369	5,542
Westpac Bank	4,016	4,566
GST Receivable	<u>1,077</u>	<u>1,215</u>
	<u>9,668</u>	<u>11,640</u>
<b><u>Fixed Assets are:</u></b>		
Regalia at cost	16,808	16,808
Other Fixed Assets at Net Book Value	<u>339</u>	<u>1,383</u>
	<u>17,147</u>	<u>18,191</u>
<b><u>Total Assets</u></b>	<b>321,856</b>	<b>324,456</b>
<b><u>Current Liabilities</u></b>		
Accounts Payable	1,406	1,193
Provision for Taxation	<u>309</u>	<u>109</u>
	<u>1,714</u>	<u>1,302</u>
<b><u>Net Assets</u></b>	<b><u>\$320,142</u></b>	<b><u>\$323,154</u></b>