

The quarterly newsletter  
of the District Grand  
Lodge of the South Island

# DEGREES SOUTH

SEPTEMBER 2023



## DGM REPORT

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| DGM REPORT                    | 1 |
| BOARD REPORT                  | 3 |
| 60 YEAR JEWEL AND CERTIFICATE | 4 |
| SOLOMON                       | 4 |

### IMPORTANT DATES

- Installations  
Greyhound—September
- St John—September
- Southern Star—October
- Ashburton—October
- Amberley—October
- Board of General Purposes—November

Brethren I greet you all well.

Brethren with the government now dropping all covid mandates and society returning to normal so far as covid goes, we still need to take care if not well. If there is one thing that this time has taught us and that is how to look after each other and not unnecessarily put others at risk.

It is now 3 months since the grand installation and has time flown. I would like to thank all those involved leading up to and during the installation for your help and support. I would like to thank those masters who took part in the honour guard during my entrance into the lodge rooms, what a fine body of men. A very special thanks and congratulations goes to Bro. Ken Lipscomp for being my chain bearer. It was for me a great honour to have Ken carry out this duty and at 94 years of age did a splendid job.

In this time I have I have represented our district at installations at Dunedin 931 Blenheim {EC}, Winchester 1737, St Patricks Dunedin{ Irish}, St John Milton {Scottish} and Concord {NZ} ChCh. We have also received an invitation to attend the Avon Shirley inst on Thursday 14 Sept. I have slowly been visiting our own lodges Ashburton 1811, St Albans 2597, Conyers 1916, Canterbury 1048, Phoenix 1690, With Lazar 1689. Inst earlier in the year. In June I represented our district at the ½ yearly communications of the Eastern Archipelago in Singapore. This was a full-on weekend with numerous meetings.

We have recently had the honour of recognising the time put into freemasonry by members of our district. Both Bro's Phill Jackson and David Stewart of the St Albans Lodge 2597 received their 40-year jewels at a presentation at their regular August meeting. This was conducted in my absence by Bro. Frans van Zoggel DDGM. I

## DGM REPORT CONTINUES

congratulate you both for your undisputable service to our order and for all the hard work you have both put in during this time.

On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August St Albans had a dining night out to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Bro. Ben Parr. A very masonic gesture for the lodge to celebrate a high birthday with Ben.

During his visit to NZ for the grand installation RW Bro. Sir David Wootton Deputy Grand Master UGLE was very impressed with how we conducted ourselves and how he was looked after during his visit. I do believe he would have no hesitation in returning in the future. Well done everyone.

As a district we have a busy time coming up, some of which will have happened by the time you receive this. On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept we have Greymouth Installation. I encourage to attend if you can, they do need your support. On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> Sept we have a double header with the Lodge of St John installation in Timaru followed by the Canterbury meeting in Ashburton. The Canterbury meeting has been set back

half an hour to enable people to travel from Timaru to Ashburton. We also have Installations coming up in Ashburton Lodge 1811 Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Oct. Southern Star 735 Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Oct. St Albans Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Oct

Brethren I ask that all members and especially District and grand lodge past and present make yourselves available as much as you can to attend our installations. Our lodges need your support.

Brethren I look forward to catching up with you all in due time.

RW. Bro J O Soper  
District Grand Master  
South Island



## BOARD REPORT

President of Boards Report 28/8/23

Greetings Brethren

Since last writing , WBro John Soper has been installed as our District Grand Master He has already visited a number of lodges and Masonic functions and his presence has been very visible

While we welcome John as our District Grand Master , and wish him a fantastic term in office, we must reflect and thank RWBro Richard Taylor , for the sterling effort , he put into the district , when it was under his banner

Nobody gets to or takes on the role of District Grand Master , unless they have a true and relentless passion for The Craft

This was and is 100% the case , with both John and Richard

Whilst acknowledging people , I must mention well known EC District members WBro Bruce Russell , who recently received a 50 year badge from the New Zealand Constitution and WBros David Stewart and WBro Phil Jackson 40 year badges for service in our constitution

Since May Communications and our District Grand Masters Installation in June, the Board has been relatively quiet.

Recently Steve Kelson the District Treasurer and I met with Craig's Investments , for an update of the Funds invested by the Board , on your behalf Whilst everyone is aware , it hasn't been an easy year for the global financial markets , we left assured our funds are in good hands , and for the time they have been invested have shown very reasonable average re-

turns, with an average of over 8% PA On behalf of the Board ,

I thank The Winchester Lodge 1737 , for the effort they put into , hosting this year's Annual Communications

This magnificent weekend was put together by a very small team , and the result was a credit to them I must confess , when it was raised at the board meeting twelve months prior to the event , I had my doubts , how successful it would be My reasons were that the Lodge rooms , are very small and with functions at Geraldine and Woodbury , it may be too fragmented I'm delighted to state , I was totally wrong and that the general consensus was , that a great time , was had by all .

Last Saturday The Boards met, for our August meeting where annual grants and charity requests are reviewed and distributed The total amount distributed to various charities totalled \$45345

The Trust has an ongoing relationship to assist Hopeppa Trust , Cholmondeley Children's Centre and the TLC Teddies appeal

I will have more to add from our meeting in my next report , once matters discussed are finalised

In the meantime , please do not hesitate to contact our District Charity Steward (Nigel Patterson) or myself , or the District Secretary , if your Lodge requires assistance for a Brother in need , or any other urgent charity requests , that the Trust maybe able to assist with Fraternal regards

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### Degrees South Deadline:

November 24th for the December Edition.

Ray Bennett of the St John Lodge 1137 receiving his 60 year certificate from our DGM .

Ray has completed 66 years as a Mason.

Well done.



## Solomon

The module "[Getting Started on Solomon](#)" is also guest access. In order to gain access to the system you need to:

1. Register an account
2. Enrol on relevant modules.

When you do enrol, be sure to scroll past down to the bottom of the screen and press the 'Enrol' key. It is a bit hidden at the bottom of the screen, and we are working to make this more obvious. The system is open to everyone and you can access any module. However, we recommend that you do not look at anything relating to the First Degree, Second Degree, Third Degree, or Royal Arch until after you have experienced your ceremony. Otherwise, it will ruin the impact, a little bit like a "plot spoiler".

Freemasonry is one of the world's oldest social and charitable organisations. Its roots lie in the traditions of the medieval stonemasons who built our cathedrals and castles. For Freemasons, there are four important values that help define their path through life: Integrity, Friendship, Respect, and Charity. In today's world filled with uncertainty, these principles ring as true as they have at any point in the organisation's history.

The documents are available both in HTML 5.0 format (which makes them easier to access) or as a PDF if you want a document you can print and/or pass it on to someone.