

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

# DEGREES SOUTH



JANUARY 2011

## ENGLISH FREEMASONS OFFER SUPPORT TO VICTIMS OF THE PIKE RIVER DISASTER

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### IMPORTANT DATES

- 23rd February. Pacific Lodge of Hokitika Installation
- 10th March. Conyers Lodge Installation
- 14th March. Lazar Lodge Installation
- 22nd March. Canterbury Lodge Installation
- 14th May. Annual Communications hosted by the Lodge of St John in Timaru

The Phoenix Lodge at Westport and the Greymouth Lodge have a long history of community support, each having been raising money for good causes for almost a century and a half. Collectively and with the help of the SI Island District Grand Lodge they have raised a substantial sum to be added to the

Pike River Miners' Relief Fund. A cheque was presented, just before Christmas, by Ian Allport and Peter Drummond the President and Treasurer of the SI District of English Freemasons, for \$10,000 being the District's contribution to be added to the money raised by the two local Lodges.

### GRAND LODGE QUARTERLY COMMUNICATIONS SEPTEMBER 2010

At the September Quarterly Communications the Pro Grand Master announced the setting up of a Strategic Communications Committee to agree the content and design of the various initiatives to successfully achieve the new Communication Strategy up to our Tercentenary in 2017. One of the core objectives of this Strategy will be to help members to describe Freemasonry openly to anyone who is interested. The Pro GM went on to say that although openness has been a feature of our Masonic lives for some time, not all members are clear about what they can and cannot talk about - either because they have not been told or have been incorrectly briefed. It is therefore very important, as we set out with this new communications strategy, to give clarity to the important question of "What can I talk about?"

The short answer is that there is very little in our Freemasonry that we cannot share with our families, friends and colleagues. Our principles and tenets, our traditions, our charitable activities and our history are all subjects which we can share with others - acknowledging that each of us is likely to see Freemasonry in slightly different ways because our reaction to it is a personal one.

The Pro GM also mentioned the Charities. "Brethren, we are rightly proud of our Charities and I am strongly in favour of stating publicly all the tremendous good work that emanates from them..."

The Pro GM concluded his address by mentioning the Christchurch earthquake and confirm a donation by the Board of General Purposes over and above anything the Grand Charity may give.



Ian Allport, President (left) and Peter Drummond, Treasurer (right) present a cheque for \$10,000 to Paul Pretorius, chief executive of Greymouth District Council

### ANNUAL COMMUNICATIONS - TIMARU

Enclosed in this issue of Degrees South you will find a registration form for this years Annual Communications to be held in Timaru from 13th to 15th May. Registration this year will be \$30. However this will be discounted to \$20 for all registrations received before April 29th.

If you are relatively new to Freemasonry please be do not be under the misapprehension that this event is not for you.

One of the highlights will be the Newer Members' Forum,

again facilitated by W Bro Peter Sherriff, where you will have the opportunity to voice your thoughts, concerns and experiences in general of your Masonic journey thus far.

This Forum is vital to the future and you are all urged to come along to help shape South Island Freemasonry for the years to come.

The Lodge of St John look forward to hosting both yourselves and your partners. Registration forms can also be downloaded from the SI District website.

## REFLECTIONS ON THE OLD AND NEW YEAR FROM W BRO KEN BORLAND (SOON TO BE DEPUTY DGM)

Once again the festive season has come and gone and I hope you all have happy memories of the good times spent with family and friends. No doubt the diet starts next week!!

So what about 2010? The Masonic year for me was very enjoyable and full of highlights culminating in my new promotion next year to DDGM. The installation of the Masters of the Greymouth, Phoenix, Dunedin and Southern Star lodges being very enjoyable and thanks to Bill Moffat for installing the Master of the Lazar lodge for me. I did attend all the English Lodge installations and many of the NZ Constitution installations in the Midland District. I also visited a number of our English lodge meetings on their regular meeting nights with the most enjoyable being able to present Wor Bro Carmody of Southern Star, with his 60 year certificate and ask his grandson [who had come down from Wairoa] to pin the badge on his jacket.

Accompanying Roly to a couple of Scottish Installations in Dunedin was very worthwhile to enable me to meet the Scottish brethren and acquaint myself with the workings of the ceremonies. The very sincere presentation Bro Mervyn Gilkison made to Roly after his last installation in recognition of the support he has given to the Scottish constitution over his 10 years in office had Roly almost speechless and more than a little emotional. I think it was good I was the sober driver to make sure he got home safely.

During this year I am looking forward to working with Very Wor Bro Alan Glasson, the newly appointed Midland District Grand Master and would like to thank Very Wor Bro Bill Chapman for his support and co operation during his time in office and wish him well in his fight against his serious health problems. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Bill.

On a personal note the loss of two of my very good friends, and great masons, Denis Holmes and Dick McArthur has left me with a heavy heart. 2010 has left the South Island with a number of scars. The shocking earthquake in September and its aftershocks has had a mental as well as physical effect on the whole Canterbury community, while the Pike River mining tragedy has devastated the West Coast. I know the love and thoughts of New Zealanders are with them. We can only hope there is some sort of closure for the families.

My 2011 calendar is already starting to fill up quickly so I guess it will be all go again very son. Some of my early highlights start with Barbara's Mother's 90th birthday in January so sorry Winchester we will be unable to attend your strawberry, cherry and cheese night. We hope it is the usual great success Then there are the installations of Pacific and Conyers lodges. In March the Master Mason of Scotland visits NZ to celebrate 150 years of Scottish freemasonry in NZ.

In May the big event of the year, the Annual Communications to be held in Timaru. If you have never attended a communications meeting now is the time to do it! Timaru is a lovely place and I know the organisers have everything well in hand. This is where everyone can take part, have your say on policy and direction, meet new friends, renew old friendships and above all enjoy yourselves. Make the effort to attend and support the Lodge of St John as they have supported lodges over many years.

The support that has been given to the District Grand Master's earthquake appeal by all our lodges, Districts throughout the world including the United Grand Lodge of England and the Irish Constitution has been extremely gratifying and no doubt it will be distributed wisely with hopefully some worthwhile publicity.

I believe Freemasonry has turned the corner and young men throughout the country are starting to look at organisations like ours because of the principles that we are founded on. They are looking for discipline, honesty and high moral ground all of which have been washed out of our general social standards. For instance, within the 4 Ashburton lodges there are 4 entered apprentices and 6 or 7 more to be initiated during the year. A good sign for the future. However at the same time I have noticed that visiting other lodges appears to be on the wane therefore I would like to point out that it is the same distance from Amberley, Ashburton, Winchester or Timaru to Christchurch as it is from Christchurch to Amberley, Ashburton, Winchester or Timaru!! Don't forget visiting is the lifeblood of Masonry. Just an observation.

Best wishes to all,

*Ken Borland* ADGM

"...it is the same distance from Amberley, Ashburton, Winchester or Timaru to Christchurch as it is from Christchurch to Amberley, Ashburton, Winchester or Timaru!!"

### CAPTION COMPETITION

St. Alban's Lodge charity efforts includes a night at the Princess Margaret Hospital players. The secretary Ben Parr and his wife Gillian have long been involved with the group. They have one night where they sell "tables" and this along with a raffle raised this year \$900.

We are unsure as to which particular Masonic Order Ben's regalia pertains however we would be interested to know yours thoughts on what is currently being recited in this interesting ritual. A bottle of wine to the best caption received before 1st March.

*(Editor's wife's decision final - as ever!)*



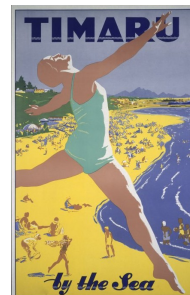
**DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF SOUTH ISLAND NEW ZEALAND  
COMMUNICATIONS 2011 TIMARU  
FRIDAY 13TH AND SATURDAY 14TH MAY  
PROGRAMME**

**FRIDAY**

Masonic Centre	2:30 - 5:00pm	Registrations
Masonic Centre	3:00	Meetings of the Board & District Charity in the Lodge Room
Seven Oaks	7:00pm	Registrations
Seven Oaks	7:30pm	Meet & Greet informal social evening (cash bar)

**SATURDAY**

Masonic Centre	10:00 - 11:30am	Newer Members Forum in the Lodge Room.
Masonic Centre	1:00pm	SIEMD Charitable Trust AGM in the Lodge Room
<b>Masonic Centre</b>	<b>1:45pm</b>	<b>District Grand Lodge Communications</b>
(To be held in the Lodge Room but proceed first to the adjacent West End Hall for robing)		
Masonic Centre	4:15pm (approx)	Photographs
Seven Oaks	6:30pm	Pre Dinner Drinks with partners (cash bar)
Seven Oaks	7:15pm	Formalities
Seven Oaks	7:30pm	Banquet with partners



Masonic Centre is located in Maltby Avenue adjacent to West End Park  
Seven Oaks Reception Centre is located at 64 Wai-iti Road

**LADIES PROGRAMME**

**FRIDAY**

Seven Oaks	7:30pm	Meet & Greet informal social evening
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**SATURDAY**

Timaru		Morning free to explore Timaru
Masonic Centre	1:00 - 4:00pm	Meet and travel out for Afternoon Tea
Seven Oaks	6:30pm	Pre Dinner Drinks followed by Banquet with Brethren

**DEGREES  
SOUTH**

**NEWS FROM SOUTHERN STAR**

**W BRO JACK CARMODY**

While the principal business of Southern Star Lodge's September meeting was to raise Brother Gareth Duncan to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree, the highlight of the evening was undoubtedly the presentation to Wor Bro Jack Carmody of his 60 year lapel badge and certificate by the Assistant District Grand Master. Wor Bro Borland. Two other visitors for the occasion were Wor Bro Carmody's son-in-law, Wor Bro Malcolm Smith and his grandson Bro Matthew Smith. WM and SW respectively of Lodge Waikaremoana. Jack was initiated at the September 1950 meeting of Southern Star, one of his proposers being his father-in-law. His occupation as a marine engineer meant that he could not be a regular attendee at lodge and it was not until he had retired that he went through the chain of office and became Master in 2002.

**SOUTHERN STAR = STARS**

Southern Star Lodge's last meeting for the year held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November became a fun occasion as they hosted both the Victory School Children's Music Group and the Nelson Academy of Dance, Ballet School. This evening's entertainment started

with a ten minute ballet performance by the senior members of the Nelson Academy of Dance Students under the ever watchful eye of their teacher Gillian Francis. They performed to a very high standard considering the limited floor space available and received loud acclamation at the conclusion. The next item on the programme was a variety of tunes performed by Nelson's Victory School Pupils. Southern Star has sponsored an Introduction to Music Programme which (through the Nelson School of Music) caters for 7 - 11 year olds.

The evening finished with a light supper for the children and the other guests. The children's enthusiasm and musical ability was equally matched if not exceeded by their ability to consume/demolish vast amounts of sandwiches, savories, cup cakes, ice cream and drinks.

Members all left that evening knowing the world was better place for what they had achieved with their charity money and equally what a very happy evening of fellowship and friendship was enjoyed by all.

**SOUTHERN STAR CLEAN UP**

Members of the Southern Star Lodge and their families took part in Tasman Bay's first annual clean up the beach event. This event is organized by DOC each year and this year for the first time Southern Star joined with other local Lodges to participate in the clean up which covered Nelson Bay from Cable Bay in the North over to Marahau a distance of some 291 Kms.

Southern Star's patch was the main beach front at Rabbit Island a popular spot over the Christmas period for many locals and visitors. This spot has always been popular as the trees and bush provides an excellent place for a BBQ or picnic. Organized by Wor Bro Rex Lucas and led by Wor Bro Murray Rolton, the Lodge divided itself into two, one half starting at the Nelson end of the beach and the other at the Mapua end. It felt good to be helping to clear litter from the coast and members were thanked by passers-by for doing it. After the collection operation the Lodge arranged for a sausage sizzle to be provided.

(Submitted)

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### Deadlines:

March 31st for the April edition

June 21st for the July edition (Editor going overseas!)

September 30th for the October edition

December 31st for the January 2012 edition

## A DAILY ADVANCEMENT IN MASONIC KNOWLEDGE

### MASTER CONTINUING IN OFFICE WITHOUT BEING ELECTED

We are all used to seeing Masters continuing in office having been elected to serve a second term. Much less common is for a Master to continue in office without being elected, but this has occurred in the Northern region of our District in each of the last two years with different rules in the Book of Constitutions applying in each case.

In 2009 the WM Elect of Lazar Lodge was unable to attend his installation because of illness and Rule 108 Book of Constitutions was applied. This provided for him to be installed within five weeks of the original date, at the next regular meeting or at an emergency meeting called for the purpose. An Emergency meeting was duly arranged but on the night before the meeting he was admitted to hospital with an unrelated health problem. Further consultation with Rule 108 showed that the WM had to continue in office with the wardens and officers appointed by the WM elect.

In 2010 the WM Elect of Dunedin Lodge suffered a stroke weeks before the installation date. While there was considerable doubt about his ability to take up office it was only a week before the installation that he moved out of the area to live with his daughter and the WM officially informed that he was

unable to be installed. Rule 107 states that if the Master is advised no more than seven days prior to the installation meeting then the Master continues in office without being installed. The Installation meeting took place with wardens and officers of the WM elect installed. Had the Master been informed more than seven days prior to the meeting Rule 106 states that a new summons must be sent out and an election held at what would have been the installation meeting, and the new WM elect installed at a meeting to held within five weeks of that date.

Needless to say, there a couple of senior members of our District, who happen to be involved in the administration of the two lodges, who are now very familiar with those Rules. It also adds relevance to the quotation "there is scarce a case of difficulty which might arise in the lodge but this Book will put you right".

*Ted Anderson*

### VISITORS FROM OTHER CONSTITUTIONS (RULE 125b)

Your attention is drawn to the above rule which clearly states that no Brother who is not subject to the Grand Lodge shall be admitted unless his certificate shows that he has been initiated

### Note from the Editor

My thanks to the senders of the many, many kind notes and messages complementing the first issue of Degrees South; it certainly makes all the work seem worthwhile to know that it is appreciated. Also my thanks to those of you who have submitted articles for publication and my apologies to those whose articles have been held over due to lack of space. I hope that you understand that, in order to maintain the high quality finish for the Newsletter we have to sacrifice space to keep within budget.

### EVERYONES' HELP IS NEEDED TO MAKE "DEGREES SOUTH" A SUCCESS

- Has your lodge installed a new Master? If so please supply a short biography – brief personal details, Masonic history, interests etc.
- Membership news – have you had new initiates, had members pass to Grand lodge Above, or transfer to another area? If we get support we can establish a personal news section.
- Anniversaries – How about supplying a list of members celebrating important anniversaries? 25 years, 40 years, 50 years, 60 years etc. Was the milestone marked in some special way.
- Obituaries – where appropriate an article on a well known departed member would be appreciated, particularly if they held District rank. Remember that a newsletter like "Degrees South" may be the only way by which members in other areas learn of their passing.
- Charitable & Social activities – Has your lodge undertaken any social or charitable fundraising activities? Sharing your successful activities may help give other lodges ideas.
- Have any of your members received recognition in other branches of freemasonry or other community institutions?
- Can you contribute an article from your lodge history that may be of interest to our members?

according to the antient rites and ceremonies in a Lodge professing belief in T.G.A.O.T.U., his certificate granted by a Grand Lodge recognised by UGLE and is able to produce proof of his good standing in his Lodge. **Be aware that it incumbent on the Master of any Lodge to which a visitor from another constitution seeks admission to satisfy himself that the visitor's Constitution is recognised.** These enquiries should be made through the District Grand Secretary.

### WORK IN LODGE CARRIED OUT BY MASTER MASONS

Allocation of work in the Lodge is entirely at the discretion of the Master and Master Masons should be encouraged to participate in the workings of the Lodge. Nevertheless it is important that the Master maintain the Past Masters' interests by involving them where possible. However, Masters must also be aware that Obligations and Secrets may only be delivered by Past Masters.

### W BRO JOHN LAZAR

The United Grand Lodge of England established a District Grand Lodge Of Westland at Hokitika in 1870 with Rt W Bro John Lazar, who was born in Edinburgh of Jewish parents, its first DGM.

This distinguished Brother held high Masonic rank in Adelaide and Otago prior to his departure for the West Coast which was practically unexplored and could not boast of any great population. He was always connected with Masonic institutions and, as an erstwhile actor, was an outstanding ritualist. He possessed a marvellous memory for it is stated that after once reading a page of any newspaper he could repeat it word for word. On June 6th, 1879, Masonry received a severe blow when W Bro John Lazar was summoned to the Grand Lodge Above. Owing to his generous nature he died a poor man and members of the craft, with one accord, united in defraying the cost of his burial. His monument is pictured below.

