

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

DEGREES SOUTH



OCTOBER 2010

BUMPER YEAR FOR CHARITABLE CAUSES

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At the August meeting of the Board of the South Island English Masonic District Charitable Trust requests were considered from 12 lodges on behalf of 17 worthy causes.

The Board applied the rule of doubling the individual lodge's contribution for the first \$400 and thereafter matching the remainder of the contribution.

This means that the Lodges and the District together will be distributing over \$21,000 to the following:

- Nelson School of Music
- Abbey Field House

- Nelson Cancer Society
- Nelson Hospice
- Blenheim Women's' Refuge
- Cholmondely House
- Westpac Helicopter
- West End Hall (Defibrillator)
- Training Aids for Ambulance Cadets
- The Shed (Young People in Greymouth & Kumara)
- Victim Support Nelson
- St John's Ambulance Temuka
- Ashburton College Student Support
- Ashburton Victim Support

- Horizons Day Trust
 - Amberley Fire Brigade
 - Asthma Society Canterbury
- In addition the District will continue with a further seven Standing Grants to the value of \$1,550.

The new President of the Board, W Bro Ian Allport, expressed his pleasure that the District has been able to help such a diverse range of good causes and, in view of the recent difficulties encountered by the finance sector, the District's ability to distribute such a large sum of money.

FOREWORD FROM THE DISTRICT GRAND MASTER

Fraternal greetings to all Brethren and their families, I am pleased to be able to contribute in some small way to this first production of our new District Masonic Newsletter.

In doing so I want to acknowledge on your behalf as well as my own the very real contribution made by Wor. Bro. Rex Lucas in keeping our newsletter "UGLE SINZ" running for as long as he did, tirelessly, uncompromising (except when I was late with my contribution - and quite right to!) and totally selflessly - Rex on behalf of all I thank you for your tremendous efforts.

Since our last Communications and subsequent Board Meeting, Wor. Bro. Richard Taylor has volunteered to take up the production of this new publication and I look forward to the new missive with anticipation. Of course Brethren, it needs your input to guarantee the success of a venture such as this so please put pen to paper - suggestions, articles, stories (that you could tell your

grandmother) and even sponsoring advertisements will, I am sure, be considered.

I had occasion recently to write to all of our Lodges in the South Island District re the effects of the earthquake that has so devastated parts of Christchurch and the surrounding districts and in turn many of our Brethren. After prompting from Bev and a timely e-mail from Rt. Wor. Bro. Roland Whyte, Provincial Grand Master, Irish Constitution I decided to put into place the 'District Grand Master's Earthquake Relief Fund.' The response has been nothing short of fantastic with the Lodges coming to the fore, individual contributions from members, donations and pledges from the District Grand Lodges of Hong Kong and Singapore, from the Discovery Lodge in Vanuatu and from the Grand Lodge Charity and still to be finalized from the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes. Currently I would estimate that the fund will realize in excess of \$100,000.00 - part of this will

be subsidized by our own charitable funds in response to a request from Grand Lodge. It is intended that initially we will look after our own Brethren by attempting to relieve any disadvantage that they may have and then contributing to the Mayors' Fund in the Christchurch, Selwyn and Waimakariri Districts.

In respect of this I need every Master of a Lodge whose Brethren have been affected by the earthquake to ascertain from their Brethren what their needs are and what we can do to assist - in any way whatsoever. I know that many of the Brethren will not come forward believing that there are others worse off than themselves but this is not the time for false modesty - we need to know what you need to make your lives more comfortable as we endeavour to return to the status quo.

Brethren, on behalf of all those affected I offer my personal thanks for your generous response at this traumatic time. Fraternally yours,

Geoff W. Rowe
District Grand Master

IMPORTANT DATES

- 19th October Ashburton Lodge Installation
- 20th October. South Canterbury Mark Lodge Installation
- 21st October. St Albans Installation
- 26th October. Southern Star Installation
- 28th October. Canterbury Chapter Installation
- 14th May, 2011. Annual Communications hosted by the Lodge of St John in Timaru

WINCHESTER LODGE MOURNS THE LOSS OF 128 YEARS CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP ON THE PART OF TWO BRETHREN

The members of the Winchester Lodge No 1737 are still coming to terms with the loss of their two longest serving members, within a few months of each other last year, in Worshipful Brothers Ken Payne and Ian Chapman.

W Bro William 'Ken' Payne was initiated into the Winchester Lodge on 24th January 1944, passed two months later and was raised to the degree of a master mason on 28th August that year.

W Bro David 'Ian' Chapman followed into the Lodge just three years later in January of 1947 and was raised at the May meeting that same year. Both of these distinguished Brethren went on to become Master at Winchester Lodge with Ken occupying the chair in 1952 and Ian in 1955.

We do know that Ken was a member of the Canterbury District Grand Lodge, serving as District Junior Grand Deacon in 1966 but it is likely that he was a member before this date. He went on to become a member of the District Grand Lodge of the South Island as Past District Grand Chaplain in 1975 and

was eventually promoted to Past District Senior Grand Warden.

We also know that Ian went on to become a member of the old Canterbury District Grand Lodge in 1965 as District Grand Standard Bearer and subsequently Past District Grand Registrar in 1972.

As with W Bro Payne, W Bro Ian was honoured by the District Grand Lodge of the South Island and eventually elevated to Past District Senior Grand Warden.

W Bro Ken did sterling work for many years as Lodge Chaplain for which he was awarded the District Grand Chaplain's Jewel on his 50th anniversary.

Whilst Ken administered to the member's spiritual needs, W Bro Ian completed many years as Lodge Secretary; this too was recognised in the form of a District Grand Secretary's Jewel on the occasion of his completing 50 years.

The senior members of the Winchester Lodge reminisce that both these exemplary Brethren were looked to for help and guidance in all things Masonic as there was not a single office in which



W Bro Ken Payne



W Bro Ian Chapman

they had not served; in many cases several times over. The commitment of both these members to a small, provincial Lodge such as Winchester continues to serve as a reminder of the traditions and heritage of the Craft and their example continues to cast an impressive shadow on all the Lodge's current undertakings. They are truly missed.

VW BRO RICHARD ANTHONY MCARTHUR PDGM(NZC)

Early in September the Freemasons of the Midland District were saddened by the death of VW Bro "Dick" McArthur, Past District Grand Master of the Otago Lakes District NZC. Dick's death came after a fall at his home some 22 months ago had left him completely paralysed. Dick was initiated into Lodge Dunstan in 1958 at the age of 18 (following his father, Wiff, and grandfather James. He was appointed to Grand Lodge as a Steward in 1994, four years later he became Assistant District Grand Master and later still appointed District Grand Master. A stalwart of Otago Rugby, Rowing and Curling, Dick will be missed by many, many, friends. Our sympathy and love are extended to Beth and his family.



"The commitment of both these members to a small, provincial Lodge such as Winchester continues to serve as a reminder of the traditions and heritage of the Craft"

ASSISTANT DISTRICT GRAND MASTER'S TRAVELS

Our much travelled ADGM, W Bro Ken Borland, reflected on how time flies when one is having fun and suddenly Christmas is just around the corner. Since this year's communications in Nelson he has already installed the Masters of Phoenix and Greymouth Lodges. "It is always a pleasure to go over to the Coast where the hospitality and friendship extended to both Barbara and myself is much appreciated," says Ken. He has also been able to attend the installations at Winches-

ter and the Lodge of St John in June and September and is looking forward to Ashburton Lodge's own installation on 19th October. This latter occasion will be the last installation to be carried out by Roly Veitch prior to his retiring as DDGM. Ken continued "Roly has done a great job promoting English Freemasonry in the Midland District as well as supporting the Scottish and Irish Lodges in Otago where he has made frequent visits".

W Bro Ken was also officially received at the St Augustine

Lodge installation in Waimate and has visited several NZ Constitution lodges in the Midland District as well as the English lodges in Canterbury.

"In the very near future I am looking forward to my official visit to Southern Star No 735 and the Dunedin Lodge No 931 in Blenheim the following day. I am grateful to those Brethren who had the foresight to change the timing of the Dunedin installation to suit my travel plans"

Finally "Learn your work and enjoy your masonry."

ANNUAL COMMUNICATIONS HEADS SOUTH FOR 2011



Annual Communications for 2011 will be hosted by the Lodge of St John in Timaru. Please keep the weekend of 14th May free to join with Brethren from all over the South Island. More details to follow nearer the time but we are assured by the members of the Lodge of St John that a good time will be had by all who attend. Why not take

advantage of travelling to South Canterbury for an Autumn break before the onset of winter? Timaru is just 35 minutes from the gourmet and artists' town of Geraldine, an hour and a half from beautiful lake Tekapo and for the more adventurous try taking a white-water raft down the Rangitata river.

EXCURSION TO GREYMOUTH

This year's trip to Greymouth was one to remember for more reasons than one.

On Friday Sept 3rd 28 of us boarded the Tranz Alpine to go to Greymouth to attend the Greymouth Lodge Installation meeting, to enjoy the leisurely scenic train journey, have a bit of fun and frivolity, to develop new friendships and to rekindle and cement others. However not one of us had an inkling that Mother Nature was to play the "trump card" and throw our weekend into turmoil. Most of us were woken by a gentle shaking of the hotel which carried on for

about 40 secs. It was only when the cellphones started to ring did we realise that something very serious, with horrific consequences, had happened on the other side of the Alps.

Only as the information filtered through via TV, radio and cellphones did we realise just what a state of chaos had been caused in Christchurch and the surrounding areas. A number of our party were dreadfully affected as are many Brethren throughout Canterbury. Our heartfelt thoughts are with you all—how lucky it was that nobody lost

their lives.

We in Ashburton who escaped with little or no damage are available to help in any way that we can but cannot do so unless we are contacted. My thanks to the Brethren of Westland and Nelson who so willingly took office to enable the Installation to proceed, especially to W Bro Rex Lucas for a job well done. The weekend was enjoyed despite the efforts of Mother Nature and no doubt will be repeated next year, first weekend in September See you on the train!

Ken Borland ADGM

**"WHERE
THERE'S A
WILL –
THERE'S A
RELATIVE"**

ADGM

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Note from the Editor

So it's farewell to UGLE SINZ and a warm welcome to Degrees South — your new quarterly newsletter. We extend enormous thanks to Rex Lucas for the tireless work he carried out to produce the UGLE SINZ newsletter and we hope now that he can put his feet up and reflect on a job extremely well done.

Now that you have reached the back page of this first issue of Degrees South, I have a small request. Please let me know what you think of the publication, what you'd like to see included, what you'd like to see left out and if the quantity is too much or too little.

If you have items of interest please send them on for publication. I have set deadline simply because if there were no deadlines I would never have written a single book — these are:

31st December for inclusion in the January edition

31st March for inclusion in the April edition

30th June for inclusion in the July edition

30th September for inclusion in the October edition

Richard Taylor

A DAILY ADVANCEMENT IN MASONIC KNOWLEDGE

When Harry Carr became secretary and editor of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge of Research, the answering of questions became a major part of his duties. In a style that became the hallmark of all his Masonic writing, he always answered a little more than the original questions. It is hoped that over the next few editions of Degrees South we can reproduce some of the questions and answers that are sure to be of interest to both experienced and newer brethren as they each seek to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge.

Q: What are 'cowans' and why were they excluded from the craft?

A: The O.E.D. definition is: 'One who builds dry stone walls (i.e. without mortar); a dry stone dyker; applied derogatorily to one who does the work of a mason, but has not been regularly apprenticed or bred to the trade'.

Cowan is essentially a Scottish trade term, and it belongs to the time when lodges, as trade controlling bodies, put

restrictions against the employment of cowans, in order to protect the fully trained men of the craft from competition by unskilled labour. The earliest official in 1598:

Item, that no master or fellow of the craft receive any cowans to work in his society or company nor send any of his servants to work with cowans, under the penalty of twenty pounds so often any person offends hereunder.

The first record of a breach of this rule is the oldest surviving minute of the Lodge of Edinburgh (Mary's Chapel) dated 31st July 1599; [word for word in modern spelling]:

George Patoun, mason, granted and confessed that he had offended against the Deacon and Masters for placing a cowan to work at a chimney-head for two days and a half...

He made 'humble submission' offering to pay whatever fine might be imposed. Having regard to his 'estait' the offence was pardoned but with a strict warning to all future offenders. The minutes suggest that the Edinburgh masons were very well behaved in this respect, perhaps because of the limited

and clearly defined area under the control of the Lodge. At Kilwinning, where the Lodge has jurisdiction of a wide territory, with consequent difficulties of proper supervision, a larger number of breaches were recorded and substantial fines were paid in each case. Cowans also appear regularly in the minutes of several other old Scottish lodges.

Nevertheless, there are several records for Edinburgh Castle, in 1616 and 1626 where cowans were permitted to work, apparently on certain special duties and 'when no masons were employed in the same weeks.' Some of these unspecified jobs must have been exceptional, because 'One cowan received 16s 8d a day, one 13s, one 12s, one 10s and two 6s, as compared with a mason's normal rate of 12s a day on the same building operations. In the Burgh of Cannongate, adjoining Edinburgh, cowans were able to attain to a higher status and the minutes of the Incorporation of Wrights, Coopers and Masons &c show how readily the ban against cowans could

be lifted when trade conditions (or local circumstances) permitted. On 27th May 1636, John McCoull was admitted to the Freedom 'during his lyfytyme to work as a cowan any work with stone and clay only and without lime'. For this privilege, he was to pay £4 a year to the Craft or the boxmaster (treasurer) in four installments, with a doubled fine if he failed to pay.

In 1705, the minutes of the Lodge Mother Kilwinning indicate that although there were still some restrictions, the employment of cowans was occasionally to be permitted in the territory under its jurisdiction, but always depending on the availability of labour. The Lodge resolved:

...that no man shall employ a cowan which is to say without the (Mason's) word to work; if there be one mason to be found within fifteen miles he is not to employ a cowan under the penalty of forty shillings, Scots.

Reproduced from 'The Freemason at Work' by Harry Carr, published by Lewis Masonic, Runnymede, England