



1521 NEWSVIEW

A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF EVENTS IN
WELLINGTON LODGE
No. 1521

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REFECTORY

Meal bookings are essential and can be made on Wellington Lodge's Facebook page where you will find the next meeting listed among the events with a box marked **GOING**. If you are attending the next meeting and staying for refectory, click on the GOING box and a meal will be automatically booked for you. If you are not on Facebook, you can send an email to Bro. Wade Craze wade.craze@gmail.com to request a meal. Facebook is easier!

ALL CHANGE HERE !

Suddenly, it was upon us again – Installation Night – it's amazing how quickly it seems to come around. As the retiring Master was away from Wellington on the night, W. Bro Chris French IPM took the Chair as Installing Master. There was a healthy attendance of close on sixty, among them the sitting Masters of five Lodges and representatives of seven others.'

We were very pleased to see W. Bro. Karl Moen, a former member and Past Master of this Lodge, now with Conyers Lodge in Christchurch and District Grand Secretary of the District Grand Lodge of the South Island. Also very welcome was Rt. Wor. Bro. Peter Benstead, President of the Board of General Purposes of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand and, as a Past Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works under the Provincial Grand Lodge of Lancashire, with a history in the English Constitution as well. Both were attending as the personal guests of the Master Elect, John Rapanut, together with W. Bro. Steven Kelsen, the South Island District Grand Treasurer, who had originally proposed him for initiation into Conyers Lodge. When Bro. Rapanut was transferred to Wellington, he applied to join this lodge on the recommendation of W. Bro. Moen, and worked for a period with Rt. Wor. Bro. Benstead. These two were

to take the roles of the temporary Wardens in the ceremony of Installation.

The business session was whipped through very efficiently and led into the reception of the official guests from the other constitutions. In turn, the representatives of the New Zealand Grand Lodge, Irish and Scots District Grand Lodges entered and were welcomed - the Scots being piped in by W. Bro. Craig Fraser, Master of Lodge Homewood, who is becoming a familiar face (and sound) at Installations where the Scottish constitution is represented. The officers of our own Grand Lodge and District Grand Lodge of the North Island then retired in order that they might accompany our District Grand Master, Rt. Wor. Bro. Brian Westhead, on his official entry.

All participants and observers in place, the lodge then proceeded to the ceremony of Installation. Once again your Editor, in his other capacity as Lodge Mentor, having withdrawn with the Entered Apprentices, is not in a position to comment upon its performance though, from remarks made by the visiting dignitaries before they retired, it appears it went very well and W. Bro. Chris French was complemented on his handling of the proceedings from the Chair. I can however report, from the time when I returned with the Entered Apprentices, that the newly-installed Master, W. Bro John Rapanut, carried out the investiture of his officers impeccably and that his address, while somewhat fuller than is usually the case, had obviously been very carefully prepared. A healthy omen for the coming year.

The same can be said for the officers on the formal "ladder". With the exception of Senior Deacon, all those positions are filled by Master Masons under the age of 40, with the brothers Craze as Wardens. The Lodge is fortunate in that W. Bro. Gerard Paver



UNITED GRAND LODGE
OF ENGLAND



Left to Right: Rt. Wor. Bro. Garth Richard Liddell, Provincial Deputy Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Ireland
 Rt. Wor. Bro. Brian Westhead, District Grand Master - North Island, United Grand Lodge of England
 Wor. Bro John Rapanut, newly-installed Master of Wellington Lodge
 Bro. William Matheson, Past Depute District Grand Master – North Island, Grand Lodge of Scotland
 Rt, Wor. Bro. James Watt, Divisional Grand Master – Central Division, Grand Lodge of New Zealand
 (Photos: Bro. Cameron Macfarlane)

accepted the position of Senior Deacon, which previously had been expected to be held by Bro. Brooke Butler before he took up a position in Wanganui. So all chairs are filled, with our newest Master Mason, Bro. Daire Queenan coming in as Junior Steward. An energetic young Master, backed by an almost completely young ladder, champing at the bit.

All change here !

DOWNSTAIRS

It was looking as if it would be one of the largest refectory attendances of the year. So much so that, when a quick count of those seated in the lodge room indicated that we might have to seat more than we had

originally planned for, some of the Master Masons who had retired from the ceremony during the Board of Installed Masters were despatched downstairs to set up another table in case it would be needed. In the final event, we had one or two empty places, but everyone was accommodated.

The atmosphere was extremely convivial and the relatively large contingent of visitors seemed to be thoroughly enjoying themselves. The extended toast list was worked through efficiently with both toasts and replies being succinct and appropriate. One measure of the success of the evening was the number of those who lingered conversing after the Tyler's toast.

FROGS IN APRONS Pt.1

Freemasonry in France is *différent*.

Take, for example, the *Grande Loge Feminine de France* – a Grand Lodge composed solely of women with, in 2008, no less than 360 lodges and a total of over 11,700 members – more than the Grand Lodge of New Zealand at that time. And the *Grande Loge Feminine de France* is only one of, at the last count, no less than fourteen different Grand Lodge systems operating in France! Of those fourteen, there is only one we are allowed to visit – naturally that one is **not** the *Grande Loge Feminine*. More about that later.

The reason for such a plethora of Grand Lodges is to be found in French masonic history.

The Beginnings

In the case of England, there is still a great deal of dissention about where speculative freemasonry came from – as a development from the old operative lodges, or set up separately on its own, or – a theory which receives increased interest from time to time – as a borrowing from Scotland.

In the case of France, however, there is no doubt where it came from - it came from England.

There is a rumour that the first lodge in France was founded by members of the Royal Irish Regiment who followed James II into exile when he was expelled from England – but it cannot be said to be more than a rumour. A bit more credibility can be given to an English Lodge formed in Dunkirk in 1721, only four years after the founding of the Grand Lodge of England, and also to another said to have been formed by British Freemasons in Paris in 1725.

These French Lodges started as pastimes for English and Scottish expatriates, but eventually French nationals were admitted as members. The number of lodges increased rapidly in France in a few years, some of them holding warrants from the Grand Lodge of England or the Grand Lodge of Scotland, or occasionally just set up without any warrant at all.

From the start there was a very strong influence from the Scottish Jacobite exiles. In 1728, the renegade ex-Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England, the



The newly-installed Master's special guests
Left to Right: W. Bro. Steven Kelson of Conyers Lodge
(proposed him for initiation in Conyers)
Rt. W. Bro. Peter Benstead
(former business colleague in Wellington)
The Master
W. Bro. Karl Moen of Conyers Lodge
(recommended Wellington Lodge to him)



Bro. Ward Craze, Junior Warden, proposing
The Toast to the Visitors

NEXT MONTH

Wednesday 17 July is to be a domestic meeting for all – Fellowcrafts and Entered Apprentices especially welcome to consider and discuss our programme for the next 12 months.

Duke of Wharton, who had been declared a Jacobite traitor, stripped of his title and estates in England and exiled, was unofficially recognised by the French Lodges as “Grand Master of Freemasons in France”. This unofficial title later passed to a James Hector McLean and then to the Earl of Derwentwater, another exiled Scottish Jacobite nobleman. In time, the English and Scottish Lodges in Paris met and formed themselves into the first Grand Lodge of France, so separating themselves from their former English and Scottish allegiances. The date when this happened is obscure, some sources quoting 1733 and others 1738.

All very well, but something was now about to happen in France, which was not happening in Britain – the masonic degrees were about to explode!

Explosion!

In 1736, yet another Scottish exile, known as the Chevalier Ramsay, prepared an oration for a gathering of eminent French freemasons. This oration, later published, is of considerable importance, not only in France, but throughout the world.

In it, he suggested that Freemasonry came to Europe from the Holy Land, by way of returning Crusaders. This suggestion, for which there is no supporting evidence, was the beginning of the myth of the Templar origin of Freemasonry, which has now been well rubbished by the Librarian of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, Bro. Bob Cooper, in a paper presented at the Quatuor Coronati Lodge of Research in London in 2002.

Ramsay’s aim was apparently to give a romantic heraldic aspect to the Order, and so to make it more attractive to the French upper classes, whose increased support was needed to bolster the membership of the Paris lodges. English aristocrats were known to be massive snobs, but they were as nothing compared to the French nobility. Ramsay was successful and the French minor aristocracy began to flock into the lodges as a new and chic pastime. To accommodate their needs, it appeared that the three simple degrees of Craft masonry were not sufficient – especially as they were based on the practices of – ugh! – common tradesmen.

So suddenly additional new degrees began appearing in France, with much more glamorous legends and ceremonies, and high-flown titles including words like “Royal”, “Prince”, “Knight” and even “Emperor”.

The Scottish exiles gleefully joined in this process which gave them standing in their lodges among the noble members who were coming in, attracted by the new degrees – so much so that, as a group, these degrees became known as the “*Écossais*” (Scottish) Degrees, often with a spurious history of being introduced from Scotland – whereas, in reality, they were invented in France.

In the meantime, Freemasonry edged eastwards into the German states and the Austrian Empire, where further degrees were eventually developed, a number of them flowing back into France.

These so-called “higher degrees” were eventually practiced in the French territories in the West Indies and from there, sneaked into North America. But the Grand Lodge of England would have none of these foreign inventions – in the 1750s it was having enough difficulty dealing with the Royal Arch Degree which had been introduced by the rival “Ancients” Grand Lodge.

(to be continued in our next issue)

DIARY

WBH = Wellesley Boutique Hotel, JMC = Johnsonville Masonic Centre

Tuesday 2 July 2019 at 6.30pm Aorangi Royal Arch Chapter JMC

Monday 8 July 2019 at 5.30pm Wellington Lodge rehearsal WBH

Wednesday 10 July 2019 at 6.00pm Aorangi Lodge Third Degree JMC

Monday 15 July 2019 at 5.30pm Wellington Lodge rehearsal WBH

Wednesday 17 July 2019 at 5.15pm Wellington Lodge Committee Meeting WBH

Wednesday 17 July 2019 at 6.30pm Wellington Lodge Domestic Meeting WBH

Friday 2 August 2019 at 6.00pm District Grand Lodge
Mark Master Masons Meet and Greet Bluewater
Hotel Napier

Saturday 3 August 2019 at midday District Grand
Lodge Mark Master Masons luncheon, Bluewater
Hotel, Napier.

Saturday 3 August 2019 at 1.00pm District Grand
Lodge of Mark Master Masons Communication,
Bluewater Hotel, Napier.

Saturday 3 August 2019 at 5.00pm Pre-dinner drinks
followed by dinner, Bluewater Hotel, Napier.

Tuesday 6 August 2019 at 6.00pm Aorangi Lodge of
Royal Ark Mariners, JMC

Tuesday 6 August 2019 at 7.30pm Aorangi Lodge of
Mark Master Masons, JMC

**Monday 12 August 2019 at 5.30pm Wellington
Lodge Rehearsal WBH**

Wednesday 14 August 2019 at 6.00pm Aorangi Lodge
Lecture by Richard Hall and Kay Leather.

**Monday 19 August 2019 at 5.30pm Wellington
Lodge Rehearsal, WBH**

**Wednesday 21 August 2019 at 5.15pm Wellington
Lodge Committee WBH**

**Wednesday 21 August 2019 at 6.30pm Wellington
Lodge Second Degree, WBH**

Friday 1 November 2019 at 6.00pm Meet and Greet
for District Grand Lodge Communication, Wairakei
Hotel, Taupo

Saturday 2 November 2019 at 10.30am District Grand
Chapter Convocation followed by luncheon at
12.00pm, Wairakei Hotel, Taupo

Saturday 2 November 2019 at 1.00pm Membership
workshop Wairakei Hotel, Taupo

Saturday 2 November at 1.30pm AGM North Island
English Masonic District Charitable Trust, Wairakei
Hotel, Taupo

Saturday 2 November 2019 at 2.30pm District Grand
Lodge Communication, Wairakei Hotel, Taupo

Saturday 2 November 2019 at 6.30pm District Grand
Lodge Communication Dinner, Wairakei Hotel,
Taupo



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