



# 1521 NEWSVIEW

A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF EVENTS IN  
**WELLINGTON LODGE**  
No. 1521

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## COVID-19

Will it ever go away? Yet again our plans for August were put on hold and the most recent outbreak of what is being described as “this tricky little virus” kept us at home. Realistically, we should feel for our Auckland brethren who are most affected by the August recurrence of it. You simply have to be impressed by the very significant increase in the number of tests that have been undertaken – now in excess of 700,000 with as many as 7000+ being processed in the laboratories in a single day. There has been the odd glitch. The lack of testing at the borders, particularly the two biggest ports in Auckland and Tauranga but the negative results were a welcome bonus and the testing regime will meantime prevent that happening again. But there are still questions that I am sure everyone would like to see answered, particularly the source of the outbreak leading to the present cluster of infected people. Thus far nobody has died in this second outbreak, but it is of interest to reflect on the numbers as at 31 August 2020.

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| Deaths                 | 22         |
| Active cases in NZ     | 137        |
| Confirmed and Probable | 1729       |
| Global Cases           | 24,917,549 |
| Global Deaths          | 841,549    |

We continue to be managing well by comparison with other countries.

From the perspective of the Lodge, it has been a frustrating period. Happily, the District Grand Lodge has not felt it necessary to activate the COVID-19 committee that operated so effectively during the first outbreak, but the structure is still in place should it be required. We, in Wellington Lodge have felt for the four new candidates who have been waiting in the wings. One, Aidan Doyle was balloted in December 2019 and every time we had him on the calendar the tricky little virus got in the way.

We are hopeful that we will have a double first degree on 16 September 2020 and another double first degree on Friday 25 September 2020. Friday of course means parking charges until 8.00 pm so don't say you weren't warned! Subject to the dispensation being granted it will be a shorter emergency meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> and as far as I know we will be dining that night in the Club Lounge on the Third Floor. Come October we will be conducting Lloyd Perez through his third degree and in November Kyle Sia through his second degree. All we can do is keep our fingers crossed for a return to Level 1 after 6 September 2020! After that, it is Christmas.

We should now also be conscious of the fact that the ring fence around Auckland has been lifted and travel to other parts of the country permitted. That does remind us to be vigilant, to wash our hands, use hand sanitiser, use face masks on public transport and otherwise try and stop the virus migrating south. The Wellesley has implemented some strict measures to try and accomplish just that. The New Zealand lodges have been given the OK to resume their meetings in Level 2, but it comes with very clear guidelines about our conduct in the building, in the lodge room and in the dining room. They will be circulated with the summons and we will observe them if they are still in force when we resume labour.

1521 Newsview makes no apology for devoting most of page one to COVID-19. It is probably the most important event in our history since WW2. The country has done well in the past to eradicate diseases with the potential to not only harm the population but to impact upon the economy. Even recently we have seen the return of Measles and Rheumatic Fever, both of which should not have reappeared. Now is not the time to drop our guard.

## THE FORWARD PROGRAMME

Assuming we get through the remainder of 2020 unscathed after workings for six candidates, we are likely to have another candidate for initiation in the early part of 2021 as well as one and perhaps two joining members. We are therefore likely to have work to do in the lead up to the installation meeting in June 2021.

At the District Grand Lodge level we still expect to have the installation of the District Grand Master Designate W Br Warren Weir over the weekend 20-22 November 2020 but as of this morning we are informed that it will no longer be at Wairakei but at Auckland with up to 100 brethren in attendance. All that of course is subject to the status regarding COVID-19 in the latter part of the year.

## THE DIARY

WBH=Wellesley Boutique Hotel, JMC=Johnsonville Masonic Centre, EMC=Ellerslie Masonic Centre

[Wednesday 9 September 2020 at 6.00pm](#)

[Aorangi Lodge Regular Meeting at JMC](#)

[Second degree Br Hamish Murphy](#)

[Thursday 10 September 2020 at 5.30pm](#)

Rehearsal for double first degree at the WBH

[Monday 14 September 2020 at 5.30pm](#)

Rehearsal for double first degree at the WBH

[Wednesday 16 September 2020 at 5.15pm](#)

Wellington Lodge Committee Meeting at WBH

[Wednesday 16 September 2020 at 6.30pm](#)

Wellington Lodge regular meeting at WBH,

double first degree for Mr Benjamin Dobbie and Mr Daniel Wass

[Thursday 24 September 2020 at 10.00am](#)

[NIEMDCT Board meeting by video](#)

[conference](#)

[Friday 25 September 2020 at 6.30pm](#)

Wellington Lodge Emergency Meeting at WBH, double first degree for Mr Greg Main and Mr Aidan Doyle

[Tuesday 29 September 2020 at 6.30pm](#)

[Aorangi Royal Arch Chapter meeting at JMC](#)

[Exultation of W Br Peter Cross](#)

[Tuesday 6 October 2020 at 6.00pm](#)

[Aorangi Royal Ark Mariner Installation](#)

[Meeting at JMC](#)

[Tuesday 6 October 2020 at 7.30pm](#)

[Aorangi Mark Master Masons Installation Meeting at JMC](#)

[Wednesday 7 October 2020 at 7.30pm](#)

[United Manawatu Lodge Installation Meeting at Church Street, Palmerston North](#)

[Monday 12 October 2020 at 5.30pm](#)

Wellington Lodge rehearsal at WBH

[Wednesday 14 October at 6.00pm](#)

[Aorangi Lodge Regular Meeting at JMC](#)

[Third degree Br Erik Phillips](#)

[Monday 19 October 2020 at 5.30pm](#)

Wellington Lodge rehearsal at WBH

[Wednesday 21 October 2020](#)

[Two hundred and fifteenth anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar](#)

[Wednesday 21 October 2020 at 5.15pm](#)

Wellington Lodge Committee Meeting at WBH

[Wednesday 21 October 2020 at 6.30pm](#)

Wellington Lodge regular meeting Br Lloyd Perez third degree

[Monday 26 October 2020 Labour Day](#)

[Tuesday 3 November 2020 at 6.30pm](#)

[Aorangi Royal Arch Chapter Installation](#)

[Convocation at JMC](#)

[Monday 9 November 2020 at 5.30pm](#)

Rehearsal for second degree at WBH

[Monday 16 November 2020 at 5.30pm](#)

Rehearsal for second degree at WBH

[Wednesday 18 November 2020 at 5.15pm](#)

Wellington Lodge Committee Meeting at WBH

[Wednesday 18 November 2020 at 6.30pm](#)

Wellington Lodge regular meeting at WBH, second degree Br Kyle Sia

[Friday 20 November 2020 to Sunday 22](#)

[November 2020](#)

DGL Communication and Installation of W Br W E Weir PAGDC as District Grand Master. Full details to be promulgated shortly.

## REFECTORY BOOKINGS

**Refectory bookings are essential and should be made by email to W Br Bob McKillop at**

[rmmck@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rmmck@xtra.co.nz)

**by Thursday 10 September 2020. You can pre-pay for your meal by depositing \$35.00 to the Lodge account with BNZ. The account number is 02 0500 0025108 00. Be sure to add your surname as the reference.**

## **OTHER ORDERS IN FREEMASONRY**

We often hear of brethren who are members of other orders of Freemasonry and there seem to be a lot of them. Indeed, there are many and the following list is unlikely to be complete. "You've missed .....", I hear them say! The following and probably incomplete list is in no particular order.

1. Supreme Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of England and Wales etc
2. Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and its District and Lodges Overseas
3. The Antient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners
4. Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia
5. Royal Order of Scotland
6. Antient and Accepted Rite (Rose Croix)
7. Order of the Secret Monitor
8. Royal Order of Eri
9. Order of Athelstan
10. Order of the Knights Templar and Knights of Malta
11. Order of the Red Cross of Constantine
12. Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees
13. Order of the Royal and Select Masters
14. Order of the Knight Masons
15. Order of the Scarlet Cord
16. Order of the Holy Wisdom
17. Order of the Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests
18. Order of St Thomas of Acon
19. Order of Knights Beneficent of the Holy City
20. Order of the Silver Trowel
21. The Operatives (The Worshipful Society of Free Masons, Rough Masons, Wallers, Slaters, Paviers, Plaisterers and Bricklayers)

## **SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF ENGLAND AND WALES ETC**

The origins of Royal Arch Masonry are unclear but there is evidence to show that it was being worked not only in London, York and Dublin by the late 1730s but that in the 1750s it was being worked in lodges under the Grand Lodges of Ireland and Scotland. In 1765 there is a minuted independent meeting of a Royal Arch Chapter in London and it was known that the degrees was being worked in both Grand Lodges, viz the Premier Grand Lodge

(Moderns) formed in June 1717 and the Antient and Honourable Society of Free and Accepted Masons (Antients). The Premier Grand Lodge regarded the Royal Arch working as an innovation, objecting to it being worked in their Lodges, as a consequence of which the first Grand Chapter was formed in July 1766. By 1813 it had chartered 120 Chapters. Provincial Grand Superintendents were introduced in 1778 By contrast the Antients regarded the Royal Arch Degree as an integral part of their system; a fourth degree and indeed worked other degrees within their Craft lodges. The Antients too formed a Grand Chapter, but it was in reality only a committee of their Grand Lodge since they held that the degree was properly worked within their lodges.

The union of the two Grand Lodges occurred 27 December 1813, but the matter of the Royal Arch was not addressed until 1817 when members of both former Grand Lodges were summonsed by the Duke of Sussex, with the intention of forming a United Grand Chapter. As there had never been an Antients' Grand Chapter, again in reality its Royal Arch members simply joined the (Premier) Grand Chapter of 1766 which in due course restyled itself as the Supreme Grand Chapter. The union started with a committee charged with recommending the future of the Royal Arch in English Freemasonry, the outcome of which was to accord certain Grand Lodge Officers equivalent title in the Royal Arch and attach Chapters to Craft Lodges with the same name and number of the sponsoring Craft Lodge. The Grand Chapter thus formed met four times in each year but over a long period this was changed until a single annual convocation was held in November of each year. Grand Superintendents are appointed at the pleasure of the First Grand Principal. Grand Superintendents were required to hold an annual Provincial or District Grand Chapter convocation and appoint Provincial or District Grand Officers. Ritual was not addressed in the formation of the Supreme Grand Chapter but in 1820 chapters unsuccessfully sought guidance until in 1834 a committee was formed to develop the rituals of Exultation and Installation but these were not allowed to be committed to print, resulting in the formation of a Chapter of Promulgation to demonstrate them to Grand Chapter. They were adopted but inevitably gathered variations that are

reflected in the several rituals that now exist. It should be remembered that the act of union between the two Grand Lodges acknowledged the Royal Arch by stating that there were just three degrees; those of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason including the Royal Arch. The ritual thereafter remained unchanged, until in the 1970s the matter of sharing the ritual of the Principals and the Principal Sojourner with other companions was raised. Grand Chapter suggested how that might be accomplished but left the detail to the Chapters to resolve themselves. In 2004 some further changes were made removing a small number of words from the Exultation ceremony and the requirement that Third Principals must of necessity have been Installed Masters in a Craft Lodge. Other changes to the wording of the lectures were optional. For about sixteen years the Aldersgate Ritual Book fragmented the two resultant rituals (Traditional and Alternate) but published them as two complete ceremonies in the most recent edition.

The Royal Arch Chapter is therefore a degree that has more or less developed in tandem with the Craft since the union of the two Grand Lodges. It was not however accorded the same status by the two original Grand Lodges. The degree builds upon the allegorical lessons of the Craft. *It is a Degree in which there is complex symbolism in an interactive narrative that has some of the most beautiful prose in Freemasonry.*

So, what is the current status of the Royal Arch Degree. Most Excellent Companion, His Royal Highness, Prince Edward, Duke of Kent KG GCMG GCVO ADC is First Grand Principal. Most Excellent Companion Peter Geoffrey Lowndes is Pro Frist Grand Principal. Most Excellent Companion Russell Race DL is Second Grand Principal and Most Excellent Companion Gareth Jones is Third Grand Principal. That structure of three rulers is reflected in both the Provincial and District Grand Chapters and in the individual Chapters themselves.

The status of the Degree in English Freemasonry was very clearly spelled out in an article by ME Companion Peter Geoffrey Lowndes in the Winter 2019 edition of FMT – Freemasonry Today (Issue 48, Page 49)

which you can find on line in the website of the United Grand Lodge of England. The link is

[www.ugle.org.uk/about-freemasonry/freemasonry-today](http://www.ugle.org.uk/about-freemasonry/freemasonry-today)

You can paste that into your browser.

Perhaps more of this Degree and the others listed in coming editions!