



1521 NEWSVIEW

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WELLINGTON LODGE
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A STING IN THE TAIL

During the Summer break, COVID-19 came back to haunt us. Our first case in New Zealand was reported 28 February 2020, Alert Level 4 was introduced 25 March 2020 (the day after the landscapers hadn't finished – Ed) and the first death was recorded 29 March 2020. A month later we moved to Alert Level 3 but it was not until 7 October 2020 that the whole country was back to Alert Level 1. It all started again 14 February 2021 with Auckland at Alert Level 3 and with a return to Alert Level 1, 12 March 2021, in time for us to win the Americas Cup. Apart from the dispensations to the film and sporting industries, the borders remain effectively closed. We are still encouraged to use the tracing application to record our movements. We have thus far much to be thankful for.

John Barry's account of the 1918 Influenza epidemic in "The Great Influenza" is sobering reading. It was characterised as the "Spanish Flu" although all the evidence suggests it originated in Haskell County, Kansas, USA. It became known as the Spanish Flu only because neutral Spain was the only European country to publish the number of deaths from the virus. The other countries engaged in the Great War suppressed the information. The USA having entered the war, mobilised thousands of young servicemen and conscripts, drafted them into camps throughout the country, providing an ideal environment in which the contagious disease could flourish. In 1918 the world population was 1.8 billion and the many studies that have been conducted in the intervening period estimate the death toll at as much as 100 million or 5% of the world population. It was the war that brought the disease to New Zealand where it claimed 9000 lives, most of them in the period from October to December 1918.

Indeed, the epidemic or pandemic reached its height during the Northern Autumn.

COVID-19 of course, is not all over. We have some way to go before we have everyone, who wishes to do so, vaccinated which will be a step in the right direction, but the Corona virus, as Dr Bloomfield has said on a number of occasions – is a tricky little virus and we have already seen it mutate into the so-called UK and South Africa variants. There is much information on the subject, from reputable authorities readily available on the internet. Now, it seems, is not the time to drop our guard!

ANZAC

At a time when we again remember those who went to war on our behalf in a number of conflicts, we might also remember that significant number of those who volunteered or were conscripted, lost their lives to influenza and not on the battlefield. Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Holmes m.i.d. a surgeon, left New Zealand in the first draft to occupy (German) Samoa and served thereafter in troopships and in the New Zealand hospital in Egypt, in the New Zealand Hospital Ship MAHENO, with the New Zealand Field Ambulance in Rouen in France before becoming himself a patient in the New Zealand Hospital at Walton-on-Thames. After being invalided back to New Zealand, he contracted the influenza virus in Wellington and died a week later. He is buried in Karori Cemetery and had been a member of Aorangi Lodge No 2300 and St Mary's Chapel Lodge No 1. In Edinburgh where he studied. One of the bells in the War Memorial Carillon is dedicated to Francis Davison and Mathew Holmes by their father-in-law, Herbert Rawson. Aorangi brethren keep an eye on Matthew Holme's grave along with those of fifteen others who served in World War One.

Aorangi Lodge lost as did we, three of its Brethren in World War One. It is right that we should be reminded of those from our Lodge who died in the Great War.

COLONEL CHARLES MACKIE BEGG

Companion of the Order of the Bath
Companion of the order of St Michael and St George
Croix de Guerre (France)
Mentioned in Dispatches three times.
Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons (Edinburgh)
Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (Edinburgh)



Colonel Charles Mackie Begg graduated with First Class Terms in Physics, Botany, Biology and Zoology from Otago University in 1898 before studying medicine at Edinburgh University, graduating with distinction Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery in 1905. He returned to Wellington in 1905, establishing a private practice in Hill Street and later in Willis Street. He was Assistant Director of Medical Services for the Wellington Military District at the outbreak of World War One and joined the main Expeditionary Force in command of the Field Ambulance. Colonel Begg was at Gallipoli by 25 April 1915, ultimately establishing a dressing station on the beach at ANZAC Cove whereby early August, 15,000 casualties had received

treatment. He contracted para-typhoid fever and was evacuated to a hospital ship, but returned to Gallipoli in November 1915, assisting in the preparations for the successful withdrawal of all allied soldiers the following month. He went on to serve in France where the medical corps was faced not only with battle wounded, but with the problems of respiratory and enteric diseases, infectious fevers, venereal disease, scabies, trench foot and battle fatigue. The Battle of the Somme in October 1916 tested the skills of the medical teams who won high praise for the treatment of the wounded. At Messines in June 1917, 9,735 casualties were evacuated but in October of that year at the Battle of Passchendaele torrential rain immobilised vehicles and stretcher bearer teams of six, battled knee-deep mud for up to seven hours to evacuate wounded between three and five kilometres to a dressing station. At this time Begg was given responsibility for the treatment of wounded from the French Fifth Army. In November 1918 after four and a half years in the field, Colonel Begg was promoted Director of Medical Services in London but shortly after developed influenza, then acute pneumonia and died in Twickenham Hospital 2 February 1919. His two sons likewise had distinguished medical careers. Sir Neil Begg was a noted paediatrician who wrote the book "The New Zealand Child and his Family". Dr Charles Begg was Associate Professor in Diagnostic Radiology at the Otago Medical School. The two brothers co-authored three books on the exploration and history of Fiordland as well as a book on the New Zealand voyages of Captain James Cook.

SERGEANT WILLIAM JAMES VERNON BERRY

Sergeant William James Vernon Berry was born in Portsmouth 20 October 1884 and after completing his schooling, served four and a half years as a Midshipman in the Royal Navy. It is not clear when he came to New Zealand, but he was employed as a commercial traveller by Macky Logan Caldwell Limited, a business based in Auckland but with branches throughout the North Island. They manufactured clothing from four Auckland factories with a substantial warehousing operation and a focus on high quality locally manufactured items under labels such as

“Classic” and “Cambridge”. The founding families came to public attention, firstly when James Cochrane Macky and his wife were lost in the sinking of the LUSITANIA in 1915 and secondly because Keith Caldwell the son of one of the founders distinguished himself as a pilot during World War One. William Berry enlisted in the New Zealand Army 1 May 1916 and left for the United Kingdom in HMNZT 66 WILLOCHRA (Adelaide Steamship Company Limited) 16 October 1916, disembarking at Devonport in England 29 December 1916 as part of B Company 18th Reinforcements. By this time, he had been promoted Sergeant and was posted 3 March 1917 to the New Zealand Infantry and General Depot at Etaples in France. Towards the end of June, he was posted to the Second Battalion Wellington Regiment. He was killed in action at Ypres in Belgium 31 July 1917 and his name is engraved on the Messines Ridge (New Zealand) Memorial.

LIEUTENANT ERIC GUY STUBBS



LIEUT. ERIC G. STUBBS.
OF KARORI, WELLINGTON.
DIED OF WOUNDS.

Lieutenant Eric Guy Stubbs was born in Wellington in 1892, the son of Charles and Helena Stubbs who lived in Hatton Street in Karori. He attended Karori Primary School and later Wellington College. After leaving school he joined the staff of Messrs Murray Roberts and Company Limited, but later took up fruit farming in the Nelson/Tasman district. He was Area Officer and Adjutant of the Tenth

(Nelson) Mounted Rifles in January 1916 when he went into camp at Trentham, having been commissioned in the Twelfth Nelson and Marlborough Regiment. After training, he left New Zealand 22 September 1916 as part of the Seventeenth Reinforcements Machine Gun Section in HMNZT65 PAKEHA (Shaw Savill and Albion Co Ltd) disembarking in Devonport in England. His service records show that he married Eileen Cole in London 28 August 1918. Indeed, Major L C Chaytor the officer commanding the Wellington Machine Gun Company noted in a letter to Stubb's father that he had just returned from leave during which he married. He was noted as having done particularly good work in the advance to Crevecourt and later exceptionally good work in arranging the defence of the right flank of that village which would have earned him a recommendation for the Military Cross, had he lived. In March of 1918 Lieutenant Stubbs handled his machine gun section in a brilliant manner at La Signy Farm holding a gap in the line against a German counter-attack. He and Lieutenant Chaytor had just completed a round of their guns and were discussing his plan for the defence of a canal, when they encountered shelling and had detoured to avoid that when a German machine gun fired, wounding Lieutenant Stubbs in both legs. Chaytor carried him to safety, and he was evacuated to Grevillers near Bapaume where he died 3 October 1918. He is buried in Grevillers British Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais.

THE CHRISTMAS MEETING

It seems such a long time ago that we had the three thespians (Sam Williamson, Cameron Macfarlane, and Dale Pavis-Hall) add their sense of humour to our Christmas meeting, at which we had wives, partners and at least one prospective candidate (who is now the confirmed candidate for the April Meeting) and the Right Worshipful District Grand Master Warren Weir.

There were some absentees, so W Br Haultain was in the Chair and W Br Everson was facing him from the West. As is our usual custom, we made a Christmas Donation, this year it was again to the “Teddis for Loving Care” which has been a real success. Hutt Hospital are very impressed not only by the scheme but by

the excellent service they receive from W Br Colin Douch of Aorangi Lodge who maintains contact with them and arranges replenishment of their stocks. There was a ballot for a new candidate, Michael McCulloch who will be the centre of attention at the April meeting and was as we mentioned, a guest at the Christmas Refectory. The Grand Lodge Certificate for Br Lloyd Perez reached us by a somewhat circuitous route, Auckland to Marton to Palmerston North to Wellington, but it was a pleasure to have RW Br Weir present it to him. Then it was off to the Grand Dining Room to join the guests for Christmas Refectory. We had no idea what we were in for! Br Sam Williamson had been tasked with the evening entertainment; say no more! It could best be described as gently taking the Mickey out of Masonry. Sam, Cam, and Dale the three builders, suitably attired in hard hats and visibility vests, having identified their favourite working tools, were briefly joined by "THE GREAT FOREMAN" (TGF) aka W Br Murray Harley Alford who as you might expect cast down pearls of wisdom and an inevitable mention of the "good old days" which is always destined to capture the attention of the younger brethren. It seemed that the selected tools – the hammer, chisel and tape measure lacked the mystique which attaches to the names which appear in our ceremonies. (Happily, there was no mention of a four-foot length of four by two which is much more effective than a one point two three metre length of one hundred by fifty millimetre). Act 1 Scene 1 begins with the three principal actors discussing building matters over a cup of morning tea and a focus on their favourite tools. Act 1 Scene 2 TGF intervenes briefly, speaks knowingly about the moral significations of tools, and departs leaving the trio utterly mystified. The first act closes with some totally unjustified observations about the wisdom of TGF. Act 2 Scene 1 opens with Sam, Cam, and Dale aka Huey, Dewy, and Louie entering, carrying their lunch boxes (although one has been known to carry his lunch in his dressing gown pocket). There follows, some deep and meaningful reflections on the observation of TGF ending up in signs tokens and words straight out of a James Bond movie. Act 3 Scene 1 is an evening meeting of the three complete with the inevitable tankards of beer. They then embark on a totally



unwarranted attack on Br Bolivar in which he becomes the subject of a ritual that vaguely unreminiscent of anything remotely Masonic. It could hardly be described as a "Happily Ever After" drama, nor is Circa negotiating for the chance to stage the production, but the Christmas audience enjoyed the vignette and laughed every time Sam held up a notice saying "Laugh". Then it was on to the Mellowcrafts and the first bracket of Christmas Carols, W Br Trott absented himself on this occasion and left the duties of Organist and Choirmaster in the capable hands of W Br Prothero. Clearly, his hearing is deteriorating as he stopped in the middle of the first verse of the first carol to enjoin the choristers to sing more loudly. W Br Haultain again sang to verses of the Lodge Christmas Song, although he seeks to retire from this role and was clearly noting those younger members who might be shoulder-tapped to replace him next year. It is unclear if the auditions identified a successor! The toast to the District Grand Master was responded to by RW Br Warren Weir and that to Aorangi Lodge by W Br Steven Elliott on behalf of W Br Andrew Vincent who was dealing with a minor medical emergency.

LOYAL MANOR LODGE No. 6445

Over the Christmas period, Br Secretary exchanged emails with W Br Brian Barton, PGStdB, a Past Master of Loyal Manor Lodge No 6445 which meets in the Masonic Hall, Victoria Square, Portland, England. W Br Barton was keen to have contact with Lodges in New Zealand that had perhaps a Naval background and I was able to tell him that when I joined the Lodge, 10% of the members were connected with the Navy in some way. He wished to offer us a Naval Cable Tow which duly arrived before Christmas. In England they are part of a charitable project, He was made aware of the Naval Craftsman's Group in New Zealand; it is operated by W Br Colin Heyward in Waipara, and he and W Br Barton have been in contact with the result that four or five of the UK brethren have become members of the Naval Craftsman's Group. The Cable Tow will be presented on behalf of Loyal Manor Lodge at the April meeting. It comes with a certificate which describes the Cable Tow as follows:
It is made from Seamen's knots to which we attach Masonic significance. It is

formed from a single length of white rope to denote purity and innocence. The noose is formed from a running "Turk's Head", a three-parted knot to represent the three who rule the Lodge. At the end are five consecutive "Wall" knots to represent the five who hold a Lodge and when fully extended has an overall length of seven feet to represent the seven who make it perfect. Further, the five consecutive "Wall" knots, each being a three-parted knot, represent fifteen Fellow Craft who went in search of our Master Hiram Abif. Finally, the tasselled end, formed of many separate strands emanating from the globe, represents Freemasonry universal.

AORANGI LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS No.1101

Aorangi Lodge of Mark Master Masons held a "Make your Mark" presentation at Johnsonville 2 February 2021 which was well attended and resulted in four new members. Although it normally meets four times a year, it will be necessary to add two emergency meetings to avoid candidates waiting until October to join. The Lodge has its installation 6 April 2021 and will have workings in June, July, and October which may also be an additional working when the lower North Island Lodges meet again in Palmerston North at the end of October. The Lodge hopes to have forty members by the end of the year which is very commendable for a so-called side order.

DIARY

[Friday 2 April 2021 Good Friday](#)

[Sunday 4 April 2021 Easter Sunday](#)

[Monday 5 April 2021 Easter Monday](#)

[Tuesday 6 April 2021 at 6.00pm Aorangi Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners Installation of Br Nicholas Font, JMC](#)

[Tuesday 6 April 2021 at 7.30pm Aorangi Lodge of Mark Master Masons Installation of Br Andrew Vincent, JMC](#)

[Wednesday 7 April 2021 at 7.30pm United Manawatu Lodge Regular Meeting, Church Street, Palmerston North](#)

[Monday 12 April 2021 at 5.30pm Wellington Lodge Rehearsal, WBH](#)

[Wednesday 14 April 2021 at 6.00pm Aorangi Lodge Regular Meeting, Second Degree Br Jason Andrews](#)

[Monday 19 April 2021 at 5.30pm Wellington Lodge Rehearsal, WBH](#)

[Wednesday 21 April 2021 at 5.15pm](#)

[Wellington Lodge Committee Meeting, WBH](#)

[Wednesday 21 April 2021 at 6.30pm](#)

[Wellington Lodge Regular Meeting, First Degree Mr Michael McCulloch](#)

[Sunday 25 April 2021 Anzac Day](#)

[Monday 26 April 2021 Anzac Day Holiday](#)

[Friday 30 April 2021 at 6.30pm Pre-Comm](#)

[-unication Dinner at the De Grand Thai Restaurant, 93 Great South Road, Auckland.](#)

[Saturday 1 May 2021 at 10.00am DGC](#)

[Rehearsal, EMC](#)

[Saturday 1 May 2021 at 10.45am, DGC Con- vocation, EMC](#)

[Saturday 1 May 2021 at 12.00pm DGC Con- vocation Luncheon, EMC](#)

[Saturday 1 May 2021 at 1.45pm DGL](#)

[Rehearsal EMV](#)

[Saturday 1 May 2021 at 2.30pm DGL Comm- unication EMC.](#)

[Saturday 1 May 2021 following the Comm- unication AGM of the NIEMDCT](#)

[Saturday 1 May 2021 at 6.00pm for 6.30pm DGL Communication Dinner](#)

[Tuesday 4 May 2021 at 6.30pm Aorangi Royal Arch Chapter Convocation JMC](#)

In May we will have a double First Degree and in June the installation meeting followed in July by a presentation of the First Degree Tracing Board by W Br Alford.

W Br DAVID LONGTON CRUMP

At the installation meeting of the Aorangi Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 1101 on Tuesday 6 April 2021, W Br A B (Tony) Mansfield presented a certificate to W Br Crump acknowledging his fifty years of membership of that Lodge and of Mark Masonry. He is a Past Deputy District Grand Master of the District Grand Lodge. He is a foundation member of the Aorangi Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No. 1101, which is linked to the Mark Lodge and which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. The occasion was suitably marked in refectory following the presentation of the certificate. Congratulations and best wishes are extended to W Br Crump

W BR MURRAY HARLEY ALFORD

At the installation meeting of the Aorangi Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 1101, W Br A B (Tony) Mansfield announced the intention of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, HRH Prince Michael of Kent to accord W Br Alford Grand Rank in the Mark Degree. W Br Alford already holds Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank, and the news of this promotion was received with acclamation by his Lodge. The congratulations and best wishes of Wellington Lodge are extended to W Br Alford.