



# 1521 NEWSVIEW

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 2 MAY 2015

Editorial Staff Care 27B Lynmouth Avenue, Karori, Wellington 6012

## BOOK IN FOR YOUR MEAL

If you are attending the May meeting, do not neglect to book in for your meal. Without a booking, we cannot guarantee there will be a meal for you. The more accurate numbers we have, the less it costs.

E-mail the Master for bookings

[Tony\\_Cross@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Tony_Cross@xtra.co.nz)

(Note: there is an underscore \_ between “y” and “C”)

## INTO THE NEW YEAR

The famine is over ! After four months of meeting-starvation, April was upon us, bringing with it the first Wellington Lodge meeting for 2015. Another famine is also showing signs of waning, with a growing influx of candidates.

Not only did our newest member, Jack Robinson, pass through initiation with considerable aplomb, but we heard the proposal of another young candidate to be voted on at the May meeting (his name is in the minutes of which all members will receive a copy with this mailing). I can now reveal that application papers for a further candidate (this time of more mature years) are also in the process of completion.

The more perspicacious of the members who were present at the meeting will have noted that two Brethren, whose names appeared on the summons for ballot as joining members, did not actually proceed to ballot on that night. There was nothing sinister about this. It is a requirement of our Book of Constitution that, before an application for joining membership is balloted upon, a certificate of good standing or clearance must be sighted from each of the Brother's past or present lodges. In our case, although we knew the certificates were underway, one of them for each applicant had not been received by the date of meeting, and so the ballot could not be held. By the operations of Murphy's Law (“anything that can go wrong

will do so”) one of the certificates arrived by mail the following day and it is hoped that the other, which had to come from West Africa, will be with us by the next meeting to enable both applicants to be re-proposed. (A couple of days after this was written, the certificate arrived)

The evening was also notable for the first appearance of W. Bro. Nick Griffin in the starring role of Acting Treasurer, subsequent to the departure of Bro. Lindsay Bluck and his wife for a year's service with a missionary organization in Cambodia. Lindsay will be working as bursar/treasurer of a school in Pnom Penh.

We passed the 2014 Annual Accounts noting an improved result mainly due to more effective recovery of refectory charges.

Following information received from our W. Bro. Russell Chilton on the effects of the cyclone in Vanuatu where he is with his wife the NZ High Commissioner, we had approached our District Grand Lodge on whether a masonic relief appeal might be organized in our District. In response, the District Grand Lodge sent out a call to Lodges for donations. \$300 having been subscribed by individual members, the Lodge voted another \$700 from its general funds, so that a total of \$1,000 might be sent on to Vanuatu through the District Grand Lodge appeal.

The initiation ceremony flowed smoothly and efficiently and was obviously appreciated by our new initiate.

Before the closure of the meeting, Bro Peter Cozens, former Head of Strategic Studies at Victoria University, delivered an address on the course of world affairs and military policy in the one hundred years since the first Anzac Day.



It had been a very busy evening but at 8.45 we trooped off to refectory.

-----

### CLOSE QUARTERS

Down in refectory the tables had been set up close together down one end near the serving table – while it may have been a little closer than was strictly comfortable, it certainly increased the intimacy of the proceedings.

The toast to sister-lodge Aorangi and the reply by W. Bro Jim Lewis passed easily and swiftly. While some members might regret the passing of the fraternal sniping which for so long was a feature of these toasts, perhaps the time has come to emphasise our joint solidarity as the only two English Constitution Lodges in the Wellington area.

The toast to the new initiate, Bro. Jack Robinson, was delivered by his proposer, Bro. Steve Haultain. In the opinion of senior members present, this toast was the best welcome given to a new member in refectory for many years – so much so that it is printed in its entirety below. Bro. Robinson's reply was succinct, expressing his thanks for the reception he had received as a member.

As a memento of the occasion, the W. Master presented an Anzac coin to each of Bro. Jack Robinson, Bro. Peter Cozens, W. Bro. Chris Bryant (Master of Lodge Tawera-o-Kapiti) and to the most senior of our visitors. W. Bro. Chris Bryant also replied to the toast to the visitors, proposed as is customary, by the Junior Warden.

Then, just as in years past, came the classic ending to a Wellington Lodge April refectory – the reading from John Masefield's "Gallipoli" delivered this year by W. Bro. Murray Alford. As always, Masefield's evocative phrases, describing the departure of the Gallipoli landing-force from the harbour at Mudros, cast their spell and at the end there was the usual meditative silence ended by the poignance of the Tyler's Toast.

And so to bed.

-----

### THE TWENTY-SEVENTH GRAND MASTER

We know less about our twenty-seventh Grand Master than about any other. James, 6<sup>th</sup> Lord Cranstoun's birth-date is not recorded. The barony was a Sottish title, originally created in 1609, and came to James on the death of his father in 1727. We do not know where he was initiated into Freemasonry – most likely in Scotland, but in 1747, at the end of his Grand Mastership, he joined the Lodge meeting at the Bear and Rummer tavern in London.

He was installed as Grand Master in April 1745. One year later, on 14 April 1746, Grand Lodge resolved to defer the Annual Feast and to ask Lord Cranstoun "to continue in his office some time longer, as many Brethren, as well as of the Nobility as others, being in Flanders" (with the army keeping an eye on the French forces while mopping-up operations after Bonnie Prince Charlie's attempted rebellion continued in Scotland). In the event, he continued in office for a full year until April 1747.

It was also in 1747 that he married a Sophia Brown, who brought with her an estate in the West Indies and £12,000. There were five sons and two daughters of this marriage.

It is recorded that Cranstoun for a period held the ceremonial position of Master of the Royal Foxhounds. He died in July 1773, was succeeded by his eldest son and was buried in Westminster Abbey. The title became extinct for lack of any surviving male descendant of the 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Cranston, with the death of the 11<sup>th</sup> Lord in 1869.

And that, basically, is all we know about Grand Master Cranstoun.

-----

**TOAST TO A NEW MASON**  
(as delivered by Bro. Haultain 15.04.15)



**Br Jack Robinson**

It is my pleasure to say a few words about the star of tonight's work, Brother Jack Robinson. I could start reeling off his CV to show how worthy and honourable a mason and a person he is. But the fact he was accepted in Wellington Lodge is proof enough and anything else that I might add would only embarrass and that's certainly not my intention.

Although I will mention that Jack is an excellent house-sitter if you ever need one. And I think if we ever have a masonic ritual which requires the folding of a fitted sheet, then we shall be sure to use Jack as our key instructor !!

Initiation alone never did, nor ever can, make a man a true mason, it gives the key but mere possession of the key does not constitute ownership of the treasure, it sows the seed but unless the soil be good and carefully cultivated fruit will not be produced. It opens the portal, but unless the road be traversed the goal can not be attained; it lays the foundation but without labour the construction cannot be raised.

So, Brother Robinson, this evening we have given you the key, we have sown the seed, opened the portal and laid the foundation; it is for you, with such assistance as amongst masons can always be obtained by seeking for it in the proper quarter, to complete the work and I sincerely trust that, in this, you will not be found wanting.

Brethren, I ask you to stand and drink the good health of our new member, Brother Jack Robinson.

-----

**A BEER A MONTH FOR CHARITY**

It is time to raise, once again, the matter of our North Island masonic charity – the English Masonic District Charitable Trust or, more familiarly, the EMDCT.

Set up by our North Island District Grand Lodge and governed by a Board of Trustees elected by Lodge representatives, this Trust does sterling work, quietly and discreetly within New Zealand, including providing support and assistance to Brethren and their families in times of need. Your Editor is personally aware of three such cases in recent years where such aid was quietly given in the Wellington area and he is certain there will have been many more of which he is not aware.

But money for such relief action does not come out of thin air and the call goes out regularly for donations to the Trust. For many of us, it is tough to make a sizeable donation to charity. Not everyone can reach into his pocket, on the spur of the moment, and bring out 50 or 60 dollars as a donation to charity.

**BUT THERE IS ANOTHER WAY**

You may find it difficult to hand over a donation of 60 dollars, but could you afford to buy a Brother a beer or a cup of coffee once a month? Then how about an automatic bank transfer of \$5 to the EMDCT on the first of each month? It adds up to \$60 a year and is relatively painless. Each month, your bank statement will show a transfer of \$5 to the EMDCT and, in April, you receive a receipt for the amount you contributed over the last 12 months, which you may use to claim a tax rebate.

**HOW TO GO ABOUT IT**

The Secretary has forms for setting up an automatic payment to the EMDCT – a call to him (934-7539 or [malford@paradise.net.nz](mailto:malford@paradise.net.nz)) will get one sent to you. You just fill it out for \$5 a month (or whatever other sum or period you feel comfortable with), drop it in to your bank and then you can sit back secure in the knowledge that, in terms of a charge we were all given on the night of initiation, you have “cheerfully

embraced that virtue you have professed to admire". Two members of Wellington Lodge have already gone this route and have received their receipts for their last 12 months' donations.

**WHAT ABOUT YOU ?**

We just ask you to think seriously about this as Freemasons – and then to do what your heart prompts you

**IT'S ONLY ONE BEER ONCE A MONTH**

-----

**CONGRATULATORY P. S.**

Heartfelt congratulations to Bro. Leon Craze and his wife Emma on the birth of their first child, a daughter, who arrived on Thursday 23 April.

=====