Lodge Waikato 475

OF FREE AND ACCEPTED FREEMASONS

AUGUST 2019



P L U M B L I N E

Installation as Master -W.Bro Adrian de Bruin V.W Bro Don Seath, District Grand Master.

18th July 2019

NOTICE PAPER



MASTER W.Bro Adrian de Bruin

265A Hakirimata Rd Ngaruawahia Ph. 07 824 7234 (eve)

SENIOR WARDEN W.Bro Andre Schenk

11 Beaufort Place Flagstaff, Hamilton. Ph 027 5784 060

TREASURER W.Bro. Alan Harrop

18 Cherrywood St Pukete, Hamilton Ph 027 499 5733 JUNIOR WARDEN Bro Trevor Langley

16 Cashmere Place Flagstaff, Hamilton. Ph 027 2797696

SECRETARY W.Bro Richrd Kyle

> 23 Kiwi Ave Hamilton 027 529 8977

Dear Brother.

You are hereby summoned to attend the Regular Monthly Meeting of Lodge Waikato, to be held in the Hamilton East Masonic Centre, Grey St., Hamilton East, on Thursday 15th August 2019 at 7.30pm

Ceremony: - Lodge - Second degree working - Bro Brent Walker

- Confirmation of Minutes
- 2. Accounts payable
- 3. Treasurer 's report
- 4. Correspondence
- Almoner 's report
- 6. General Business
- 7. Lodge Notices

Lodge Notice -

Joining member - W.Bro Len Morland, 2b Tui Place, Perrinpark, Hamilton. Lodge Pak A Ma No 319, Palmerston North. NZ.

W.Bro Richard Kyle - Hon Sec

Officers of the Lodge

I.P.M. - W.Bro Graham Hallam
Sen. Deacon - W.Bro Wally Lee
Chaplain - W.Bro John Dickson
Secretary - W.Bro Richard Kyle
Dir. of Ceremony - W.Bro Don McNaughton
Organist - Bro Norm Weir
Tyler - W.Bro Willy Willetts

Ass. Steward - Bro. Jacob Wallace,

Dep. Master - W.Bro Steve Weller Jun. Deacon - Bro Jerry Newell Almoner - W.Bro Graham Hallam Ass Secretary - W.Bro Bill Newell Ass. D.O.C. - W.Bro Kirk Spragg Inner Guard - Bro Geoff Cooper Senior Steward - Bro Aaron Peters

LODGE WAIKATO 475



To be Initiated -

To be Passed to the Second Degree - Bro Brent Walker, Bro Mark Ashburner, Bro Mark Bunting

To be Raised to the Third Degree - Bro Jacob Wallace,

Please contact the Almoner, - W.Bro Graham Hallam. W.Bro Wally Lee, and W.Bro Rod Harper in all cases of difficulty and where any help is needed.

Please contact the secretary to update any items, and the membership listings, W.Bro Richard Kyle, 027 529 8977 - e-mail - rgkylenz@gmail.com

Chairman of Management Committee - W.Bro Michael Tribe Ph 027 249 8630 - e-mail - mtribe@xtra.co.nz

Editor of the Plumbline - W.Bro Graham Hallam. Ph 07 855 5198 (eve) e-mail - mallah@xtra.co.nz

Lodge Notices. - Master 's visiting programme during August 2019 as seen with his monthly report., and as on calendar on back page.

Lodge Waikato Monthly Diary - August 2019

Thursday, 1st August at 7:00pm. Management Meeting & Practice Thursday, 8th August at 7:00pm, Lodge practice night Thursday, 15th August at 7:30pm. Regular Lodge meeting.

Lodge contact address -

Lodge Secretary, - e-mail - lodge.waikato@gmail.com
Lodge Waikato 475 - PO Box 9502, Waikato Mail centre, Hamilton 3240
Lodge Rooms Phone number - 021 0856 7657

Lodge Waikato Brethren with Masonic Birthdays in August;

Don Morgan - 24th August 1972 (47yrs)
John Sowerby - 28th August 1972 (47yrs)
Keith Buick - 20th August 1979 (40yrs)
Dennis Aplin - 20th August 1979 (40yrs)
Ivan Smith - 19th August 1991 (28yrs)
John McIntosh - 19th August 1999 (20yrs)



Special Thanks —

Lodge Waikato 475 would like to thank most heartedly the following business for their continued support throughout the year

FAIRVIEW MOTORS - JAMES R. HILL

The Master 's report, - August 2019 Greetings Brethren,

I would like to thank everyone who was able to attend my Installation - It was a great night and I know I enjoyed it more this time round as I felt way more relaxed.

I would also like to thank the I.P.M. W.Bro Hallam for the work he has done over the last year and especially the support he gave me as S.W. I am looking forward to the year ahead with your continued support.



I am in Samoa from the 1st August to the 12th August so W.Bro Hallam will take the second degree practices, so those that have a charge - please attend practice. We will be holding a special meeting on Wednesday the 28th August for our strategic plan as part of Grand Lodge requirements and our own on going direction. I would urge you all to attend this informal meeting to give your support and input.

A wonderful night was had on Monday 22nd July in Taupiri Lodge. I was very pleased to see 18 Lodge Waikato brethren support Bro Norm Weir in receiving a special "Order of Service" jewell from the Grand Master for his 49 years of service to Freemasonry playing the organ in the Waikato District. Well done Norm.

A very pleased Dick and Lyn Morgan were well pleased with the small band of brethren who went to their home recently and gave a tidy-up of their section. Both Dick and Lyn are unable to do a lot of work outside just now, and this time given was a real shot in the arm for them.

Members of their family do help from time-to-time, but this was just that extra step.

A sincere thank-you to those brethren who were involved.

Please see my visiting for the month of August, Graham will be representing me at the Lodge Pukemiro meeting on the 12th, where Bro Mark Ashburner is the candidate to do his second Degree. If there are any of you free to attend, that would be great.

Thanks to you all,
W.Bro Adrian de Bruin, - Master.

My Planned Visiting - August

12th Lodge Pukemiro No 301, Grey St. Hamilton East. 11.30am. 2nd degree working

14th Waipa Lodge No 119, Albert Park Drive, Te Awamutu, 7.30pm 2nd degree working

21st The Taupiri Lodge No 118, William St. Huntly. 7.00pm 3rd degree working, Te Marama PM 's involved.

29th Lodge Waitomo No 469, Tawa St. Te Kuiti 7.30pm Installation, W.Bro Dennis Sharpe.

28th Lodge Waikato No 475 Grey St. Hamilton East 7.30pm Strategic Plan meeting

Please contact JW to arrange transport or arrange a ride, always a seat available Do try and come with me. WM.

Lodge Waikato No 475

2019 - Monthly suggested planner W.Bo Adrian de Bruin

August 2019 -

- 1) 7.00pm management meeting and practice, Thursday 1st August
- 2) 7.00pm Practice on Thursday 8th August
- 3) 7.30pm Lodge regular meeting night, 15th August 2nd degree working.
- 4) 7.30pm Strategic Plan meeting, you should attend.

September 2019

- 1) 7.00pm management meeting and practice, Thursday 5th September
- 2) 7.00pm Practice on Thursday 12th September
- 3) 7.30pm Lodge regular meeting night, 19th September

Lodge Te Aroha No 52

On visiting Lodge Te Aroha recently, at Morrinsville, it was a pleasure to witness the Lodge Brethren doing a 1st degree working, their candidate being a gentleman from Japan, Bro Taki.

The Master, W.Bro Alan Wilkinson, led the working well and all other brethren did their charges word perfect.

In particular, a young Freemason of the Lodge, Bro Ben Redder, presented the 'Charge After Investiture' to the candidate, speaking in Japanese.

"Extremely well done."

Another young Freemason of the Lodge, Bro Alex Daroux, presented the Tracing Board to the three EA's and he also gave an excellent rendition, very articulate, quietly and with complete ease.

"Extremely well done."

These brethren are very much the future of Freemasonry here in the Waikato and I and others with me thought the working of the night was extremely well done.

- 'Real young Masons, talking to other young Masons.'
 - "Well-done Alan and brethren of Te Aroha."

Ed.



Report on Management Committee Meeting Thursday 4th July

The minutes of this meeting have been circulated. Those minutes are a summary of what was discussed and resolved.

there had been some confusion regarding the agenda as whilst the Chairman believed he had circulated an agenda with associated reports, this was not the case and the order of meeting was unknown by those in attendance. The meeting was planned to be short as there was a need to hold a practice in preparation for the installation.

The key points from the July meeting include -

Andre Schenk gave a brief report on health and safety; these centred on smoke detectors and sensors and processes to follow in regards ta power failure when the Lodge is being used. Catering for the installation is under control.

A Deputy Chairman was nominated. However, the nomination has been withdrawn. The Action Plan needs to be urgently addressed. It was resolved that there will be a special meeting, called by the Worshipful Master, in August.

W. Bro Evered raised the proposal for Lodge Waikato 475 Protocol. This paper was distributed with the minutes. The lodge hall cleaning is currently undergoing review. W.Bro. Hallam will co-ordinate a time for members to assist a brother with some home/section maintenance. M Tribe will look into why his e-mails were not being received the meeting closed at 7:35 pm

Michael Tribe Chairman

The Master of a Lodge

Bernard E. Jones writes: "The custom in every lodge of electing by ballot a new Master each year is of time-immemorial, although there is evidence to show that in many of the early eighteenth-century lodges Masters were elected to serve six instead of twelve months. The Master is elected from those of the members of the lodge who have served the office of Master or Warden, or who, in very exceptional cases, have been rendered eligible by dispensation. The Old MS. Charges appear to indicate that the Master, many centuries ago, was simply an experienced craftsman presiding over the lodge, and, so far as we can see, the idea of his ruling his lodge by virtue of his possession of peculiar secrets was not within the comprehension of our ancient brethren; but in this matter there is room for many different opinions.

The same appears to apply to the old Scottish operative lodges. To-day, in the speculative lodges throughout the world, a Master is one who has been elected to the office by his Brethren, and who has passed through a special ceremony of Installation, in the course of which secrets peculiar to the Master 's chair have been communicated to him; but essentially the Master must always be a Brother who is well qualified by years of service as member and officer of the lodge to govern his Brethren in wise understanding.

"The rule that a Master should first have served as a Warden is also an old one. It was not always observed in the early speculative lodges, but it goes right back into the history of the craft guilds from which masonry draws its system of government by Masters and Wardens. Every Master in the old days, as in the new, solemnly pledged himself to observe the ancient usages and customs, and strictly to enforce them within his lodge. It is he who is responsible for the due observance of the Masonic laws by the lodge over which he presides."

VW.Bro Gary Kirkin. PGLec.





Most W.Bro Mark Winger

Award night at Lodge Taupiri No 118, Huntly, on Monday 22nd July 2019.

M.W.Bro Mark Winger spoke so well about Freemasonry and involved the Entered Apprentice and the two Fellowcraft Masons to assist him throughout.

There were some 80 attending the evening including 15 ladies.

There were three presentations, firstly to V.WBro Dene Richards, whom he invested as Past Grand Warden, recognising his commitment to Freemasonry, and raising him to the rank of Rt W.Bro.

He then Invested Bro Norm Weir with the "Certificate of Merit" Jewell, recognising nearly 50yrs of dedicated service to Freemasonry in the Waikato as Organist.

He then bestowed the MW Bros coat if arms shield to W.Bro Morton, in recognition of his dedicated work with the Masonic Choir, of whom were also present.





' Fred Hollows Donation'

Freemasons, Lodge Waikato No 475, of Hamilton, has now completed this years annual appeal of used prescription glasses and reading glasses to be donated to the -

'Fred Hollows Foundation' in Vanuatu.

We are fortunate that we have been able to have the co-operation of Ms Stacey Richards and Pieter (P eter) du Plessis, Directors of ' S pecsavers ' Optometrists, in Hamilton CBD.

It is with their help and advice that we have been able to donate some 65 pairs of glasses, of which Specsavers will send to Vanatu on our behalf, which we hope will enable the people of Vanuatu to enjoy better eye-sight through this donation.

The Worshipful Master , W.Bro Graham Hallam, (at that time) was able to present these glasses to Peter knowing full well that they are going to be received with much pleasure in Vanuatu where many people in their villages have no access to eye support of any nature. This is now the fourth occasion we have had the opportunity to do this venture.



The Fred Hollows Foundation New Zealand works in the Pacific region. Its achievements include eye-health programmes in Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste, and a 'Pacific Eye Institute' in Suva, Fiji, that trains eye doctors and nurses and supplies them with equipment to take back to their home countries.

Worldwide, the Fred Hollows Foundation is active in more than 20 countries. Well over a million people have had their sight restored as a result of Fred Hollows' life's work.

"Keep bringing your glasses , as the box at HEMC is still open for donations."

Ed

"Your input"

Brethren, you will note recently that articles in the Plumbline have been Introduced by brethren other than myself, the Editor.

As you will have noted, several articles are sent to me from many brethren.

This is YOUR Lodge newsletter, with details about your Lodge, If you have articles or items of points of interest you may consider worthy of having in the Plumbline please send them to me by mail or e-mail.

Thanks, Ed.

Inia Te Wiata

Bro Inia Te Wiata was Initiated into New Zealand Lodge No 5175 EC - In 1959

He was a world renowned singer, Master Carver, and one of his works is in New Zealand House, in London, UK

Inia Te Wiata was born in Otaki, New Zealand, on the 10th June 1915 into the Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga iwi.

His father, Watene Te Wiata, died in the 1918 influenza epidemic. His mother Constance Helena Johnson remarried soon afterwards and Inia was brought up by Pairoroku and Rakate Rikihana, relatives of his father. He developed an interest in singing and first performed on stage at the age of 7. He attended the Otaki state school and was taught music by Miss Edith Miller. After primary school he attended Otaki Māori College. At the age of 13 his voice broke and settled into



a bass-baritone. Afterwards he joined his cousin's quartet, which included Wi Nicholls, Henry Tahiwi and Dan Rikihana. Other family members encouraged Te Wiata in his singing – particularly Mrs Mihi Taylor, a member of the Rikihana family. She taught both Te Wiata and his cousin to sing duets.

Te Wiata moved to Tūrangawaewae at Ngaruawahia in the Waikato region to pursue an interest in Māori carving, whakairo. He was taught by Piri Poutapu^[2] and was employed for three years assisting with the carving of *Turongo*, the house of the Māori King, which opened in 1936. During his time in Ngaruawahia he married Rose Evelyn Friar known as Ivy. They had six children Iwikau, Kirikowhai, Hinemoan', Gloria, Budgie (who died as a toddler) and Inia jnr. He also did seasonal labouring work at the Horotiu Freezing works, near Hamilton. He continued his public singing during this time and was a very active member of the Waiata Māori Choir. This choir was organised by the Superintendent of the Methodist Māori Mission, Reverend A. J. Seamer, and it toured all over New Zealand. Te Wiata's work on *Turongo* prevented him from joining the Choir when they toured Great Britain.

Te Wiata began to develop a circle of supporters who wished to help him further his singing education. Mr Grant of Hamilton, Mr H. D. Caro – the then Mayor of Hamilton, Dame Hilda Ross, Sir Joseph Hannan, Stewart Garland and the conductor Anderson Tyrer were all impressed by his talent. A favourable professional opinion of Te Wiata's voice was acquired from Australian singer Peter Dawson, and Anderson Tyrer was put in charge of arranging Te Wiata's study overseas. Fundraising began and a government grant was added to this and, in 1947 Te Wiata left for London for three years study at the Trinity College of Music.

Te Wiata worked hard at his craft. In addition to his studies at Trinity College he also took private lessons from James Kennedy Scott and language lessons at the Berlitz School of Languages. To gain more experience with opera he joined the opera company run by the English soprano Joan Cross and had a resounding success with his portrayal of Sarastro from Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. As the end of the three-year study grant was approaching, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Peter Fraser, visited England and Te Wiata took the opportunity to apply for a grant for a fourth year. This was successful.

While Te Wiata returned to New Zealand periodically, he did not settle there but continued with his singing career in the United Kingdom, living in London and creating a life there with his wife and child. Te Wiata was a popular man and had a large circle of friends and acquaintances including the comedian Spike Milligan. Te Wiata remained extremely fond of New Zealand and talked of returning there on his retirement. He maintained close links with New Zealand House in London, attending and singing at the opening of the House in 1963 and also working in the basement of New Zealand House on carving projects.

Inia died of natural causes on 26th June 1971, in London. UK. Aged 56yrs.

Mozart and Freemasonry

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born on 27 January 1756 to Leopold Mozart (1719 – 1787) and Anna Maria, née Pertl (1720 – 1778), at 9 Getreidegasse in Salzburg. This was the capital of the Archbishopric of Salzburg, an ecclesiastic principality in what is now Austria, then part of the Holy Roman Empire. He was the youngest of seven children, five of whom died in infancy.

His elder sister was Maria Anna Mozart (1751 – 1829), nicknamed "Nannerl". Mozart was baptised the day after his birth, at St. Rupert's Cathedral in Salzburg. The baptismal record gives his name in Latinized form, as *Joannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart*.



He generally called himself "Wolfgang Amadè Mozart" as an adult, but his name had many variants. Leopold Mozart, a native of Augsburg, Germany, was a minor composer and an experienced teacher. In 1743, he was appointed as fourth violinist in the musical establishment of Count Leopold Anton von Firmian, the ruling Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg. Four years later, he married Anna Maria in Salzburg. Leopold became the orchestra's deputy Kapellmeister in 1763.

When Nannerl was 7, she began keyboard lessons with her father, while her three-year-old brother looked on. Years later, after her brother's death, she reminisced: He often spent much time at the clavier, picking out thirds, which he was ever striking, and his pleasure showed that it sounded good.... In the fourth year of his age his father, for a game as it were, began to teach him a few minuets and pieces at the clavier.... He could play it faultlessly and with the greatest delicacy, and keeping exactly in time.... At the age of five, he was already composing little pieces, which he played to his father who wrote them down.

Mozart's career in Vienna began well. He performed often as a pianist, notably in a competition before the Emperor with Muzio Clementi on 24 December 1781, and he soon "had established himself as the finest keyboard player in Vienna". He also prospered as a composer, and in 1782 completed the opera *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* ("The Abduction from the Seraglio"), which premiered on 16 July 1782 and achieved a huge success. The work was soon being performed "throughout German-speaking Europe", and fully established Mozart's reputation as a composer

In his early years, Wolfgang's father was his only teacher. Along with music, he taught his children languages and academic subjects. Solomon notes that, while Leopold was a devoted teacher to his children, there is evidence that Mozart was keen to progress beyond what he was taught. His first ink-spattered composition and his precocious efforts with the violin were of his own initiative, and came as a surprise to Leopold, who eventually gave up composing when his son's musical talents became evident.

Near the height of his quarrels with Colloredo, Mozart moved in with the Weber family, who had moved to Vienna from Mannheim. The father, Fridolin, had died, and the Webers were now taking in lodgers to make ends meet.

Aloysia, who had earlier rejected Mozart's suit, was now married to the actor and artist Joseph Lange. Mozart's interest shifted to the third Weber daughter, Constanze.

The courtship did not go entirely smoothly; surviving correspondence indicates that Mozart and Constanze briefly separated in April 1782. Mozart faced a very difficult task in getting his father's permission for the marriage. The couple were finally married on 4 August 1782 in St. Stephen's Cathedral, the day before his father's consent arrived in the mail.

The couple had six children, of whom only two survived infancy:

Mozart fell ill while in Prague for the 6 September 1791 premiere of his opera *La clemenza di Tito*, written in that same year on commission for the Emperor's coronation festivities. He continued his professional functions for some time and conducted the premiere of *The Magic Flute* on 30 September. His health deteriorated on 20 November, at which point he became bedridden, suffering from swelling, pain, and vomiting

Mozart died in his home on 5 December 1791 (aged 35)

Mozart was interred in a common grave, in accordance with contemporary Viennese custom, at the St. Marx Cemetery outside the city on 7 December. If, as later reports say, no mourners attended, that too is consistent with Viennese burial customs at the time; later Otto Jahn (1856) wrote that Salieri, Süssmayr, van Swieten and two other musicians were present

Mozart was admitted as an apprentice to the Viennese Masonic lodge called "Zur Wohltätig-keit" ("Beneficence") on 14 December 1784. He was promoted to journeyman Mason on 7 January 1785, and became a master Mason "shortly thereafter". Mozart also attended the meetings of another lodge, called "Zur wahren Eintracht" ("True Concord"). According to Otto Erich Deutsch, this lodge was "the largest and most aristocratic in Vienna. ... Mozart, as the best of the musical 'Brothers,' was welcome in all the lodges." It was headed by the naturalist Ignaz von Born.

Mozart's own lodge "Zur Wohltätigkeit" was consolidated with two others in December 1785, under the Imperial reform of Masonry (the Freimaurerpatent, "Masonic Decree") of 11 December 1785, and thus Mozart came to belong to the lodge called "Zur Neugekrönten Hoffnung" (New Crowned Hope). At least as far as surviving Masonic documents can tell us, Mozart was well regarded by his fellow Masons. Many of his friends were Masons.

During his visit to Vienna in 1785, Mozart's father Leopold also became a Mason.

Mozart's position within the Masonic movement, according to Maynard Solomon, lay with the rationalist, Enlightenment-inspired membership, as opposed to those members oriented toward mysticism and the occult. This rationalist faction is identified by Katharine Thomson as the Illuminati, a masonically inspired group which was founded by Bavarian professor of canon law Adam Weishaupt, who was also a friend of Mozart. The Illuminati espoused the Enlightenment-inspired, humanist views proposed by the French philosophers Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Denis Diderot. For example, the Illuminati contended that social rank was not coincident with nobility of the spirit, but that people of lowly class could be noble in spirit just as nobly born could be mean-spirited. This view appears in Mozart's operas; for example, in The Marriage of Figaro, an opera based on a play by Pierre Beaumarchais (another Freemason), the low-born Figaro is the hero and the Count Almaviva is the boor.

The Freemasons used music in their ceremonies, and adopted Rousseau's humanist views on the meaning of music. "The purpose of music in the [Masonic] ceremonies is to spread good thoughts and unity among the members" so that they may be "united in the idea of innocence and joy," wrote L.F. Lenz in a contemporary edition of Masonic songs. Music should "inculcate feelings of humanity, wisdom and patience, virtue and honesty, loyalty to friends, and finally an understanding of freedom." These views suggest a musical style quite unlike the style of the Galant, which was dominant at the time. Galant style music was typically melodic with harmonic accompaniment, rather than polyphonic; and the melodic line was often richly ornamented with trills, runs and other virtuosic effects. The style promoted by the Masonic view was much less virtuosic and unornamented. Mozart's style of composition is often referred to as "humanist" and is in accord with this Masonic view of music.

The music of the Freemasons contained musical phrases and forms that held specific semiotic meanings. For example, the Masonic initiation ceremony began with the candidate knocking three times at the door to ask admittance. This is expressed musically as a dotted figure:

The following is a partial list of family members, patrons, and colleagues who were Masons.

Joseph Haydn - friend and colleague (attended only one meeting)

Joseph Lange – brother-in-law of Mozart's wife

Leopold Mozart - father

Michael von Puchberg - friend and lender of money

Gottfried van Swieten - patron

Angelo Soliman - Royal Servant and Masonic Leader

Otto Heinrich von Gemmingen-Hornberg - friend, brother and founder of Wohltätigkeit

Emanuel Schikaneder – Librettist of The Magic Flute

Mozart's grandfather Johann Georg, a bookbinder, was raised among the extended Mozart family in Augsburg, in the house of Johann's own grandfather David Mozart.

Our TERRIBLE English Language

We all know that English is a tough language.

It contains paradoxes in both pronunciation and in meaning.

For instance, — quick-sand actually is very slow.

Boxing rings are square, and a guinea pig is neither

from Guinea or a pig.

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same thing.?

Yes, a wise man and a wise guy are opposites.?

Why is it that when the stars come out at night they are visible,

but when the lights are out they are invisible.?

How can your house be raised to the ground, when at the same time it burns down.?

Why does an alarm go off by going on.?

So consider the following -

The bandage was wound round the wound

The farm was used to produce produce.

I did not object to the object.

The insurance was invalid for the invalid.

They were to close to the door to close it.

The wind was to strong to wind in the sail.

The soldier decided to desert his desert in the desert.

After a number of injections, my jaw got number.

On seeing the tear in the painting, I shed a tear.

I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.

When I shot at the dove, the dove dove into the bushes.

The oarsman had a row about how to row.

" My Fence Bar "

I'm sure if any of you want a 'Fence Bar'
Andre is taking orders. !!!



The Green Thing

Checking out at the store, the young cashier suggested to the older woman that she should bring her own shopping bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment.

The woman apologised and explained "we didn't have this green thing back in my earlier days".

The cashier responded "that's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations."

She was right - our generation didn't have the green thing in its day. Back then we returned milk bottles, soft drink bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed, sterilised and refilled so it could use the same bottles over and over.

So they were really recycled. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen and we replaced razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

We walked upstairs because we didn't have an escalator in every shop and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a car every time we had to go two blocks. But she was right. We didn't have the green thing in our day.

Back then we washed the baby's nappies because we didn't have the throw away kind. We dried clothes on a line not in an energy gobbling machine - wind and solar power really did dry our clothes back in our early days. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand new clothing.

Back then we had one TV or radio in the house - not a TV in every room. The TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief not a screen the size of a wall.

In the kitchen we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the post, we used wadded up old newspapers to cushion it, not styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then we didn't fire up an engine and burn petrol just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a gym to run on treadmills that operate on electricity.

We drank water from a tap when we were thirsty instead of demanding a plastic bottle flown in from another country. We accepted that a lot of food was seasonal and didn't expect it to be flown in from thousands of air kilometres. We actually cooked food that didn't come out of a packet, tin or plastic wrap and we would even wash our own vegetables and chop our own salad.

Back then people took the tram or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their mothers into a 24 hour taxi service. But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the green thing back then.

"Who knows"





