

Lodge Waikato 475

OF FREE AND ACCEPTED FREEMASONS

JUNE 2019



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Very pleasant night at Waikato

Lodge Waikato carried out an Initiation ceremony for Bro Mark Bunting and joins the group of young Masons coming through.

With the Master are - Bros Mark Bunting, Bailey Wilson (Tawhiri) ,
Mark Ashburner, Jacob Wallace FC., and Brent Walker.

(Note the new attire, all have whiskers.!!!)



NOTICE PAPER



MASTER

W.Bro. Graham Hallam
40 Wymer Terrace, Hamilton
PH. 07 855 5198
027 855 5198

SENIOR WARDEN

W.Bro Adrian de Bruin
265A Hakirimata Rd
Ngaruawahia
Ph. 07 824 7234 (eve)

JUNIOR 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

SECRETARY

W.Bro. Bill Newell
Villa 19 - St. Kilda Retirement Village
91 Alan Livingstone Drive, Cambridge,
021 061 8828

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 20th June 2019 at 7.30pm

**Ceremony: - Lodge - 1st degree Tracing Board/ Charge after Initiation
Lecture - 'Hiram 's Pots and Pans ' by the WM.**

1. Confirmation of Minutes
2. Accounts payable
3. Treasurer 's report
4. Correspondence
5. Almoner 's report
6. General Business
7. **Notice of Motion**

W.Bro Treasurer, "That the Annual dues of Lodge Waikato 475 be increased to \$300.00 as from the 1st July 2019. "

W.Bro Bill Newell - Hon Sec

Officers of the Lodge

I.P.M. - W.Bro Willy Willetts
Sen. Deacon - Bro Trevor Langley
Chaplain - W.Bro John Dickson
Secretary - W.Bro Bill Newell
Dir. of Ceremony - W.Bro Don McNaughton
Organist - Bro Norm Weir
Tyler - W.Bro Richard Kyle
Assistant Stewards - Bros. Jerry Newell, & Aaron Peters.

Dep. Master - W.Bro Bob Ancell
Jun. Deacon - W.Bro Dennis Mead
Almoner - W.Bro Graham Hallam
Ass Secretary - W.Bro John Evered
Ass. D.O.C. - W.Bro Kirk Spragg
Inner Guard - W.Bro Wally Lee
Senior Steward - Bro Geoff Cooper

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,
Villa 19, 91 Alan Livingston Drive, Cambridge. Ph 021 061 8828

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

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

Lodge Waikato Monthly Diary - May 2019

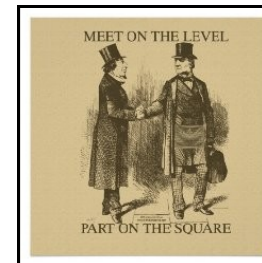
Thursday, 6th June at 7:00pm. Management Meeting
Thursday, 13th June at 7.00pm, Lodge practice night
Thursday, 20th June at 7.30pm. Regular Lodge meeting.

Lodge contact address -

Lodge Secretary, - e-mail - lodge.waikato@gmail.com
Lodge Waikato 475 - PO Box 9502, Waikato Mail centre, Hamilton 3240

Lodge Waikato Brethren with Masonic Birthdays in June.

Ted Wilson - 12th June 1962 (57yrs)
Don Seath - 7th June 1971 (48yrs)
Willy Willetts - 3rd June 1974 (45yrs)
John Pilcher - 12th June 1975 (44yrs)
Wally Lee - 7th June 1982 (33yrs)
John Hawkins - 26th June 1989 (30yrs)
Alan Harrop - 7th June 1993 (26yrs)
Tim Heeley - 19th June 2014 (5yrs)
Shatty Philip - 15th June 2017 (2yr)



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, - June 2019

Greetings Brethren,

Well, May has proved to be an interesting month with many visits and happenings for ourselves. We had a very good night with the Initiation of Mr Mark Bunting, and we look forward to follow his progress in Masonry.

I did visit Tawhiri Lodge, Waipa Lodge, Alpha Lodge Installation, and the Te Aroha Lodge where it was a Grand Lodge visit and a 2nd degree working which was actually carried out by the Grand Lodge Officers with W.Bro Peter Saunders in the Chair.

The Tawhiri meeting was a 1st degree discussion and we had several EA 's in attendance.

The Alpha Lodge had their Installation and it was the first time for some time that a "full " Installation was held, and it was good to see it done now.

Several of us (8) of Lodge Waikato went through to Whitianga to go to their Lodge meeting which was held on Saturday 25th, tiling at 2.00pm. It was a Grand Lodge visit, and the members did a 3rd degree raising. Lodge Whitianga is our sister Lodge and it was very good to meet and greet many from the South Auckland area.

The District Grand Master of South Auckland spent time explaining how they had developed their new Lodge due to six Lodges in the South Auckland area closing and forming one complete Lodge, just as we have done. They are going to look for a premises or build a new Lodge building with a business of some kind included to make it a viable continuance. Perhaps this is how we should go.?

The Waikato and Bay of Plenty Lodges held a joint Strategic meeting, held at the Airport Hotel here in Hamilton, where some 50 Masons discussed the future strategy of Freemasonry in both districts. A very interesting time together, with all having the same desire for Masonry in the future.

On 20th we had a Garage sale at the lodge rooms in conjunction with the Hamilton East business Market Day, this was not the success we had envisaged and we didn 't have the foot traffic we thought, neither did we have the amount of goods for sale that was expected. So although there was a lot of work done by a few, we did make around \$600.00, which included the sale of trailer-loads of firewood, donated by Bro Geoff Cooper.

As I stated previous we were not able to visit with Sir Peter Vela at this time, but we have left the door open if an opportunity presents itself to visit at a later time.

We didn 't have any sort of reply for the Quiz we were going to hold, so perhaps another day.

With the Installation next month of July, we need the new team to gather at the practice night to go through your open and closing perambulations, so do try to attend.

You will notice my visitings for the month of June, there are two meetings at the Barton St. Lodge rooms, so come and give support, it 's only in town, there 's a 50yr badge to W.Bro Ken Morris, on the 4th June and then there is the Installation evening with W.Bro John Sexton going in the Chair, on the 10th June. (I 'm involved in this one.)

Do try and join Susan and I by coming to the Hamilton Gardens on 23rd June and enjoy lunch together, then perhaps a walk around the gardens. Contact me during the month to give me a guide as to how many of you may wish to come, the dining area has been reserved.

Our meeting in June is my last as Master so I 'm going to speak to you via a lecture, so how about you come and hear what I have to say.

Thanks, all of you.

Look forward to our continued involvement together.

Graham WM

Lodge Waikato No 475
2019 - Remaining monthly suggested planner

June 2019 -

- 1) 1st degree Tracing board and Charge after Initiation - 20th
Training of Defribulator by Bro Jerry Newell
Lecture by Master, - 'Hirams Pots and Pans. '
 - 2) Practice on Thursday 13th June. (Installation)
 - 3) Master 's Luncheon at Hamilton Gardens. - 23rd - 12noon
 - 4) Members of our ' Sister Lodge ' will be visiting.
-

July 2019 -

- 1) Practice on Thursday 11th July (Installation)
- 2) Lodge Installation - Thursday, 18th July .

' Master 's Luncheon '

Extend an invitation to join Susan and myself to Lunch at the
Hamilton Gardens cafe, Hungerford St., off Cobham Drive.

On Sunday, June 23rd, commencing at 12noon.

This is for all brethren and ladies/partners.

There is an ordered menu, or from the counter buffet.

(I look after yourself)

The Cafe dining area has been reserved for us.

I would like to get an idea as to how many are coming by 20th June.

Let 's enjoy a time together then perhaps a walk around the gardens.

WM.

Visiting with the Master

Here is the visiting calendar of the Worshipful Master,
for the month of June - Will you be with me ??????

Tuesday 4th June - Tawhiri Lodge - Barton St., Hamilton.

Grand Lodge Official Visit - 50yr, W.Bro Ken Morris.

Monday 10th June - Beta Waikato Lodge - Barton St. Hamilton
Installation, W.Bro John Sexton into Chair.

Thursday 20th June - Lodge Waikato, last night for the Master.

1st degree Tracing Board and Charge after Initiation.

Lecture given by WM. - Hiram 's Pots and Pans.

Sunday 23rd June - Luncheon at Hamilton Gardens. - 12 noon.



' Ring someone - Bring someone? '

Management Meeting Report

May 2019

The meeting opened at 7.00pm with 13 brethren present and 15 apologies. After the minutes and correspondence were tabled, the Treasurer gave his report. There were still 17 brethren who haven't paid their last dues and an urgent follow up with the members was required before the new capitation payments were due to Grand Lodge. An increase in our dues was recommended and passed by the meeting.

The W.Master gave his report for up and coming meetings, work in May and June and also expressed his disappointment in the lack of interest for the Lodge night quiz night, (which has now been cancelled) . Unfortunately, the visit to Sir Peter Vela 's horse Stud has also been cancelled as he was unable to be there.

W.Bro de Bruin presented his list of new officers to the meeting and also gave a brief report for the next few months with him as Master.

It was agreed we ask Bro Jeremy Newell to give us a training of the defibrillator in our June meeting. Health and safety is on going and training for this should be a regular event.

A reminder for the garage sale, items and helpers required for Saturday morning setting up and Sunday morning for the actual sale. Please come along and join in what is always a good day.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm

**Fraternally W.Bro Adrian de Bruin
Acting Chairman.**

From the First Degree Narrative - 'The Apron'

The apron, originally the whole skin of a sheep, was worn with the remnants of the skin on the legs used for tying the garment around the back.

This protected the chest and the lower abdomen of the Operative Mason when carrying out his work.

The Golden Fleece is an Order of Knighthood instituted by Philip the Good, Duke of Burgundy in 1430 and became the highest honour in Spain and Austria.

The badge of the Order, the Golden Fleece, is taken from the legend of Jason and the Argonauts.

The Roman Eagle, from about 22BC, was the symbol carried on a staff by the Roman Legions, and as such it was highly honoured.

The 'Garter' is an order of Knighthood instituted in 1348 by King Edward 3rd and is still in existence today.

Ed - WM

**Positions of Responsibility
For year commencing on 18th July 2019.**

W.M. (Master elect)	W.Bo Adrian de Bruin
Deputy Master	W.Bro Steven Weller
Senior Warden	W.Bro Andre Schenke
Junior Warden	Bro Trevor Langley
Chaplain	W.Bro John Dickson
Treasurer	W.Bro Alan Harrop
Secretary	W.Bro Richard Kyle
Ass. Secretary	W.Bro Bill Newell
Almoner	W.Bro Graham Hallam
Director of Ceremony	W.Bro Don McNaughton
Ass. DOC	W.Bro Kirk Spragg
Senior Deacon	Bro Jerry Newell
Junior Deacon	W.Bro Wally Lee
Organist	Bro Norm Weir
Inner Guard	Bro Geoff Cooper
Tyler	W.Bro Willy Willetts
Senior Steward	Bro Aaron Peters
Junior Steward	Bro Jacob Wallace

W.Bro Bill Newel - Hon Secretary.



Left to right -

**Bros. John Stewart (Tawhiri), Bailey Wilson (Tawhiri), Ogechi Okoro (Tawhiri)
Jacob Wallace (Waikato), Tony Dixon, David McNab (Tawhiri)
Christopher Anderson (Copernicus) and Mark Orton (Beta)**

**A great turn-out for an explanation of the First Degree put together by W.Bro Tony Dixon,
District Education Officer, held at Lodge Tawhiri No 166, Barton St., Hamilton, 7th May 2019.**

Counties - Hauraki District No 5

Greetings brethren

It has already been well reported that for the first time in many years the membership losses have taken a small turn for the better.

A number of initiatives have already been undertaken, especially by the Grand Master, MW Bro Mark Winger, but we cannot rely on this alone to shape our district future.

As District Grand Master, I have actively promoted the concept of a single, income generating Masonic Centre and with it, the establishment of a new Lodge within the Northern area and of The Counties Hauraki District. This idea is not new and has been around for many years, but circumstances have never allowed us to execute the design.

All Lodges struggle with the number of attending active members, regularly depending on visiting brethren to assist in ceremonial work. Our brethren are doing it the hard way and we have a golden opportunity of fully enjoying our Freemasonry again.

With that in mind, two committees were tasked to investigate and set in place the ground work for this to become a reality; a building/property committee, being chaired by V WBro Graeme Norton, and a new Lodge committee being chaired by W Bro Paul Chappel.

Significant progress has been made, with the Papakura and Papatōetoe buildings having been actively marketed for sale and negotiations currently underway as I write, with the prospect of the sale of both of them looking positive.

In addition, real progress to establish the new Lodge has been made, with the petition for the Granting of a Charter almost ready to be submitted, and it is hoped that the Consecration of our Districts new ***Lodge Matariki No 476*** will take place in the second week of October this year.

The positive benefits from the realisation of this concept, is to provide for a solid base of members, who can then concentrate on enjoying the work of the Lodge without the pressures the current situation brings; equally as important, the potential income stream will see us as a District, making serious contributions to cementing the solid foundation on which we are founded - Benevolence and Charity.

Whilst there is still much work still to be undertaken, the committees have my full support and I should add that this initiative has the full support and endorsement of the Divisional Grand Master RWBro Gary Salmon and the Grand Master MWBro Mark Winger.

There are undoubtedly some questions and concerns to be answered, and I will be more than happy to discuss this with you on either a personal basis or at Lodge level.

However, it is my wish that you embrace this exciting new venture, so that together we can indeed push forward and preserve an active involvement within Freemasonry, not only for ourselves, but also for our grandchildren; we are after all, only custodians of the past with an obligation to preserve it for the future.

Fraternally Yours

VWBro John Lukaszewicz
District Grand Master
Counties - Hauraki District No 5

' Could this be us.?? '

I was very pleased to receive this information, (on previous page) and it goes to the heart of my recent activities in speaking to other Lodge Master ' s in our district about some form of future Masonic Centre here in the Waikato.

With the co-operation of the other Lodges in our area wouldn ' t this be a wonderful venture to somehow attain the possibility of having a Masonic Centre here in the Waikato.

Rather than having individuals trying to put a venture together, couldn ' t we put a team together and do something of a positive nature. ?

I ' m certainly a starter for this enterprise.

Ed. - WM



It was very enjoyable to see Bro Aaron Peters receive his Master Mason Certificate from V W Bro Don Seath who was his actual proposer.

From the First degree narrative - ' Working Tools '

At the pedestal the Entered Apprentice is given the explanation of the working tools. The 24-in gauge, the common gavel and chisel are tools of action and are used on the rough ashlar. The common gavel, which may have been a wedge-shaped axe for trimming stone, and the chisel, are listed as Mason ' s tools in the " York Fabric Rolls " of 1399. They also appear in the exposure ' Three Distinct Knocks. ' The symbolic meaning of the working tools provides us with some of the most significant lessons Masonry has to teach.

Ed - WM

True Reflections
W.Bro Sam Rountree PM Ashley Lodge No 28

How do we gauge the strength of our organisation and indeed our lodges themselves? Looking at freemasonry as a whole, it is great to see that a combination of inspired leadership and new initiations our membership is gaining strength. But are the numbers on the role a true reflection of the strength of an organisation?

I suggest that the numbers held within the lodge attendance register are a better and true representation as to the health of the lodge. Only by looking at the membership in attendance combined with the number of visitors can we really see the truth.

During my visits I have come to realise that most lodges have a far greater membership than there are brethren in attendance. It is not uncommon for lodges which show membership of 30-40 on the books, to see only half that number as active members, some may even struggle to fill the officer 's positions for their regular meetings. It is not unheard of for some lodges to have to call on the help of others outside of their lodge to enable them to perform simple workings. Whilst this is great to see the bonds of support between the relevant lodges, it is a sad reflection as to the true state of the individual lodge concerned.

Yes, there may be members that have moved away and yet still cherish the connection to their mother lodge that continued membership can provide. Some members may not be able to attend due to sickness (themselves or a family member), or old age may have simply caught up with them. However, this only accounts for a certain percentage. The simple fact is that we have members within our organisation who simply don 't attend and their reasons may vary, from lack of transport or a personal disagreement which happened so long ago that no-one can remember what it was about.

So, how do we reconnect with these brethren? It 's all too easy to say it 's the Master responsibility or the Almoner job to contact these lost brethren. But it 's not, it 's the responsibility of all of us. It may take no more than a simple phone call to rekindle the connection and spark the interest, an extra three minute drive on the way to the lodge to pick someone up. The Lodge secretaries could simply send out a contact list to all of the members, if there is a brother that you haven 't seen for a while, why not give them a call. You could even just contact the brother below you on the list, whether they regularly attendees or not (even if you don 't know them particularly well), what better way to strengthen the bonds of fellowship.

How do we limit the loss in the future? We need to build the bonds of fellowship beyond the walls of the lodge, develop and promote teamwork within the lodge, encourage happy banter in the refectory (fun and enjoyment without poor jokes), make the effort to partake of Lodge socials functions, working bees and charity events. The more you put in, the more you will gain from this wonderful organisation.

As we move forward into a new era, we must build and strengthen the bonds of friendship and fellowship, which "since time immemorial", has been the cement which binds us together.

*"I believe in everything until it's disproved.
So I believe in fairies, the myths, dragons. It all exists, even if it's in your mind.
Who's to say that dreams and nightmares aren't as real as the here and now?"
– John Lennon*

Penalties -

Freemasonry has been aptly described as a gentle Craft. Our teachings are of Brotherly Love, Relief, Truth, Love of God, Charity, Immortality, Mutual Help and Sympathy.

To the initiate, therefore, the penalty in his obligation comes often with a shock of surprise and sometimes consternation. Let it be said with emphasis; the penalties are wholly **SYMBOLIC**.

Masonic penalties go back to very ancient times; to years when punishments were cruel and inhuman, often for very small offenses.

Throats were cut, tongues torn out, bodies cut in half; men suffered extreme punishments for all sorts of offenses which seem to us much too trivial for such; looting a temple, stealing a sheep, and disclosing the King 's secrets.

Other punishments of the Middle Ages were based on religious fears.

To be buried in unconsecrated land was a terrible end for ignorant and superstitious people who believed that it meant eternal damnation. Similarly, to be interred in land which was no man 's property - between high and low water mark - was symbolic of spiritual death.

These and other horrible penalties were inflicted by law by various peoples at various times.

That the legal penalties for certain civil crimes were incorporated in Masonic obligations seems obvious. But that they ever meant or were ever intended to mean any death but a symbolic one is simply not so.

The person who cries " may God strike me dead if this is not so " does not mean what he wishes to die; but he says that he believes he will be worthy of death if he lies.

It is in such a way that the Masonic penalties are to be understood; the Entered Apprentice states his belief that he would merit the penalty of his obligation if he failed to keep it.

The only punishment ever inflicted by Freemasons upon Freemasons are reprimanded, suspension and expulsion from the Fraternity. The initiate who violates his obligation will feel the weight of no hand laid upon him. He will suffer no physical penalties whatever. The contempt and detestation of his brethren, their denial of the privileges of Freemasonry to the forsworn, are the only Masonic penalties ever inflicted.

An important note directed to the younger and/or newer Masons. -

I would like you all to know that the meetings we have on the first two Thursdays of each month are open for every member of the Lodge to attend.

Come and meet the other Brethren of the Lodge, spend time at the meeting then stay for a while at the practices.

This is where you will learn so much about the ritual of the Lodge workings, get to know the older men who have many years of experience, and for you to remember that each of them started just where you are some many years ago.

While you may attend the regular monthly ceremonies and things look to run OK., it is at the practices that all of the mistakes are made and ironed out.

These practices have helped many of the Masons to learn their lines and to gain that confidence to speak in front of others, they have helped me enormously.

So, I seriously encourage you all to come to the meetings and stay for the practice, you may even enjoy being the candidate.

W.Bro Andre Schenk - Junior warden.

Education feature - 'The Deacons'

We meet in our Lodge room so often that it is easy for us to take for granted the things that we see around us there and which just take place. There are times however, when those who are new to Freemasonry, or who are getting more interested in what we do, want to know why certain things are as they are or happen as they do.

One of these things that we can take so easily for granted is why the 2 Deacons have wands, and the Director of Ceremony has a Baton.

The Deacons -

As with the very name of the office the source of our practice lies in what took place in the Old English Parish Churches. The 2 principal lay officers of each local Church had for a thousand years been called the Wardens, which name came from the old Northern French word "wardein". meaning 'to protect' or 'to Guard; and was the word the Anglo-Saxons used. The Wardens protected the rights of the people in the church and as a sign of their authority they were given rods which were later called wands.

In the middle ages the lodge of stonemasons on a working site was ruled by a Warden who protected the rights of the working craftsmen and as a sign of his authority he too had a rod. When the masons created their trade guild they followed the church custom of having a Master, instead of a Rector, and two Wardens, and all three of them had wands.

In some old lodges the wands were further adorned with a cross for the Master, moon for the Senior Warden and a sun for the Junior Warden. The cross originally represented Christ the head or cornerstone., the moon represented the close of the day and the sun at the meridian. After the 1813 Union the new form of ceremonial encouraged by the Duke of Sussex required that the three principal officers of a lodge should not leave their places as they had done in the previous century. The office of Deacon which had been introduced into some of the Atholl, or Antients, lodges as assistants at the table, mainly for help with eating, drinking or bearing messages from the Master, were now given the duty of attending on candidates which had previously been discharged by the Wardens. To show that they were now acting with the authority of the Wardens they were given the wands of those senior officers.

It is when we understand how the Deacons originally behaved that we appreciate why, at the opening of a lodge, they are described as those who carry messages from the Master to the Wardens. It is only right that we should know why the wands held by the Deacons no longer have a sun and moon. In some 18th century lodges the knowledge of the classics suggested that the figure of the messenger of the gods, Mercury, was a most apt symbol just because he carried messages and did so with promptness.

Hence many other orders still have wands with his figure on them. Following the Union there was a happy return to a very ancient aspect of English Freemasonry, the presence of Noah in the ceremonies.

Since the Dove was the creature that symbolized peace and was also the messenger that showed Noah a leaf of a tree emerging from the subsiding flood, this was adopted as the most common new attachment to the wands.

Whilst these latter symbols accurately represent part of the Deacons' tasks they have obscured the original source of the wand's authority. At least we can now see them being used and appreciate better their significance.

What is even more intriguing is the fact that because the Worshipful Master was also not allowed to move from his place his wand or rod, was given to a new post-Union officer, The Director of Ceremonies. He was the one who now controlled the work on the floor of the lodge, made sure that all the officers were present and accompanied, or even introduced, any special visitors on entry.

It is worth noting that it was not intended that he should ever take charge of the gavel, which was placed in the hands of the Worshipful Master at his Installation.

As another matter of interest, it should be noted that the original rod or wand of a Church Rector was surmounted by a cross, so the wand entrusted to the Director of Ceremonies had a cross at its top.

It is also worth noting that the first conductors of an orchestra were provided with a wand but as this in time became unwieldy it was duly shortened to a baton or stick.

That is why Directors of Ceremonies have a baton rather than a wand.

In the end, the authority it symbolises is the Master 's and not just that of the D.C.

The latter always needs to remember whom he serves.

The earliest reference to Deacons in an English Lodge is 1773

At Swalwell, Gateshead, but since about 1810 the Deacon has been an obligatory officer in our Lodges. The word Deacon comes from the Greek, meaning servant or messenger.

In certain very old lodges such as Phoenix Lodge, the wands of the Junior and Senior Deacons are usually surmounted by a sun and a crescent moon respectively.

Before the introduction of Deacons, the sun originally belonged to the JW who marked its midday progress and the moon to the SW who perceived its approach. Other lodges adopted the sign of a messenger such as Hermes or Mercury, when the wands were placed in the hands of moving Deacons.

Eventually most lodges adopted the insignia of the dove which we see today, symbolically carrying a message of peace and hope.

M.R.H.

Educational -

The Colour Blue in Freemasonry

Blue seems to have been highly esteemed since far back in antiquity as a beneficent colour, denoting immortality, eternity, chastity and fidelity, with pale blue representing prudence and probity. Exodus 28:31 states; *"Thou shall make the robe of the ephod all of blue. "*

In Medieval times, Christians regarded blue as symbolic of immortality, of perfection, of hope, and of fidelity. It has never been discovered how or when blue became the characteristic colour of Craft Masonry, but the most probable explanation is the simple analogy to the blue dome of heaven, the clouded canopy, or star-decked firmament. In Masonry, blue indicates universal brotherhood and instructs us that those virtues should be as extensive as the blue arch of heaven itself.

No matter how the idea may have arisen, it seems that from the early 18th century, blue has been deemed the colour appropriate to the Craft degrees and Lodges, hence such terms as Blue masonry, Blue Lodge, Blue degrees have long been used, not only as a convenient method of expression but in recognition of a beautiful symbolism.

' Ring someone - Bring someone? '

Education -

What We Mean By Symbols -

Freemasonry has been defined as a beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols. But many have asked why we use symbols. Why don't we simply and plainly say what we mean. ?

The answer is that Masonic symbols serve the purpose that symbols in general perform: They are a visual shorthand, a way of conveying an idea, a concept, or a principle with images rather than words. Not only is teaching by symbols more vivid and effective, it allows us to think more deeply and consider more carefully their meaning. Some approximation of this can be understood by those who remember the old radio dramas that we heard before television became pervasive. Our imaginations supplied details that make the program so much richer than when we saw them on TV.

Many of the symbols we use in Freemasonry to teach moral and ethical principles are drawn from the tools of the operative stonemasons of the Middle Ages; other symbols are drawn from various traditions of religious and esoteric beliefs.

These symbols have different meanings at different levels. They may mean one thing to the non-Mason, who is not schooled in Masonic symbolism; have a different meaning to a new Mason, and an even deeper meaning to the educated Mason.

For example, in Operative Masonry, a tool is an implement or device which either informs its user of facts not easily available or otherwise not perceivable to his five senses, or which alter the shape, form, substance, or position of materials. But in Speculative Masonry, these tools also inform our senses and our sensibilities, and they help shape our lives with important lessons of character and ethics.

In addition to using symbols that have both open and more veiled meanings, much of our ritual was not written. In part, this was to protect it from being provided to those Unauthorized to have it. But there was another reason as well, in contemporary society, we take for granted that a large majority of the population can read. But in the late 17th and 18th centuries, at the time Freemasonry as we know it was founded, a large portion of the population could not read, and it was important to have a system of education that did not depend on the written word.

Nevertheless, in addition to the "mouth to ear" approach, there were many Masonic Rituals. These were compilations of lectures, including charts showing different collections of Masonic symbols. By using these charts, Master Masons could teach new brethren what the individual symbols looked like. By reproducing these symbols from these charts, the instruction could be performed as the ceremony was occurring.

It was felt that when Masonic Ritual was accompanied by pictures, or pleasing or intriguing representations of the symbols, the lessons of Freemasonry became easier for many to remember. And even if literacy increased, the visual display of symbols served to reinforce the lessons of the Ritual.

This is because all of us learn information in different ways and on different levels. We learn by what we hear; by what we read; by what we see, and by what we appreciate from an aesthetic point of view. When we read something from a book with an easy to read typeface, printed on pages that are not too bright or glaring, our reading experience is enhanced because it is a visual pleasure to read the information.

That pleasant experience may make us more inclined to associate positive memories with the information we are reading, and possibly makes the information easier to recall.

In the late 18th and 19th century Lodge, it was common for these symbols to be reproduced in some impermanent medium, often outlined in a box of sand or drawn on a slate with a piece of chalk or charcoal. When the meeting was concluded, it was simple to obliterate all trace of the Masonic symbols by brushing over the sand or by erasing the designs from the slate.

When the Masonic Lodges were no longer renting rooms in taverns, inns and common areas; and began to occupy their own buildings, there was no need to worry about removing the symbols when the meeting was concluded. So Tracing Boards became more permanent fixtures and began to be printed in oils, either on canvas, or directly on the walls of the Lodge room. Often the work was performed by a Brother who was not a great artist, but one who simply wanted to serve the Lodge.

But in other places, trained and talented artists were available to translate their impressions of the symbols of Freemasonry into inspiring images and to construct Tracing Boards that not only greatly beautified our Lodges and buildings but also helped to teach the new Mason.

But we must go beyond the beauty of the tracing board and the beauty of the ritual. Never was it clearer: what we get out of Freemasonry is directly related to what we put into it, for it is only by careful study of our symbols and reflection on the lessons taught in our ritual that we can grow intellectually, morally and spiritually.

Flattery -

Flattering as it may be to the human mind, and truly honorable as it is to receive from our fellow citizens testimonies of approbation for exertions to promote the public welfare, it is not less pleasing to know that the milder virtues of the heart are highly respected by a Society whose liberal principles must be founded in the immutable laws of truth and justice.

To enlarge the sphere of social happiness is worthy of the benevolent design of a Masonic institution; and it is most fervently to be wished that the conduct of every member of the Fraternity, as well as those publications that discover the principles which actuate them, may tend to convince mankind that the great object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

From the First Degree Narrative - 'Halve or Letter'

The practices in different Lodges with regards to 'lettering and halving the word' vary quite widely. In many Lodges the word is lettered with the WM, halved with the JW and lettered with the SW, and the Candidate is not given any option; he is told, letter, halve or letter.

Emulation ritual gives the Candidate a choice with the phrase, 'Which you please and begin'. The Emulation rubric then requires the Deacon to instruct the Candidate to halve with the WM, letter and halve with the JW, and halve with the SW, finishing by repeating the whole word. Steps were taken in 1813 to ensure uniformity, however the numerous variations that exist today, all stem from the single ritual approved at the time.

Ed - WM



June 2019 (New Zealand)

July 2019

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27 ☾ 3rd Quarter	28	29	30	31	1
2	3 ● New Moon ● Queen's Birthday Queens birthday holiday	4 Tawhiri Lodge GL visit 50yr Ken Morris	5	6 Management meeting 7.00pm	7	8
9	10 ☽ 1st Quarter Beta Waikato Lodge Installation.	11	12	13 Lodge practice 7.00pm	14	15
16	17 ☾ Full Moon	18	19	20 Regular meeting 1st degree final Lecture 7.30pm	21	22
23 Master's Lunch Ham Gardens 12noon	24	25 ☾ 3rd Quarter	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3 ● New Moon	4	5	6



July 2019 (New Zealand)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1	2	3 ● New Moon	4 Management meeting 7.00pm	5	6
7	8	9 ☽ 1st Quarter	10	11 Lodge practice 7.00pm	12	13
14	15	16	17 ☾ Full Moon	18 Regular meeting Installation 6:30pm	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 ☾ 3rd Quarter	26	
28	29	30	31	1 ● New Moon	2	



Relax - We're all crazy - It's not a competition !!!