

*Lodge Waikato 475*

February 2023

.HAPPY.  
New Year

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## NOTICE PAPER



### MASTER

**WBro. Darryl Gray GS.**

3 Wymer Terrace, Chartwell, Hamilton.  
Ph 027 478 2574

### SENIOR WARDEN

**WBro. Alan Harrop**  
18 Cherrywood St.  
Pukete, Hamilton  
Ph 027 499 5733

### JUNIOR WARDEN

**Bro. Robin Dunmall**  
21 Keswick Place  
Huntington, Hamilton.  
Ph 0

### TREASURER

**V.WBro. Don Seath P.DGM**  
14 Carnachan Street  
Norfolk Downs, Cambridge.

### SECRETARY

**Rt.WBro. Gary Salmon P.DivGM**  
114 Briarwood Drive,  
Flagstaff, Hamilton.  
Ph 027 493 8709

Dear Brother,

**You are hereby summoned to attend the Regular Monthly Meeting of  
Lodge Waikato, to be held in the Hamilton East Masonic Centre,  
285 Grey St., Hamilton East, on Thursday 16th February 2023 at 7:30pm**

**Ceremony: - First Degree Ceremony, Mr Benjamin Ansell**

1. Confirmation of Minute
2. Accounts payable
3. Treasurer's report
4. Correspondence
5. Almoners Report
6. **Ballots**
7. General Business
8. **Notice of Motion**

***Rt.WBro. Gary Salmon - Hon Secretary***

### Officers of the Lodge

I.P.M.- **WBro. Andre Schenk GS**

Sen. Deacon - **Bro. Mark Bunting**

Chaplain - **WBro. Dennis Aplin PGBB**

Organist - **Bro. Norm Weir OSM**

Dir.of Cere - **WBro. Mike Tribe GS**

Inner Guard - **WBro Bruce Lye**

Stewards - Bros. - **Lowell Daquiaoag, Jomar Figuerres, Geoff Taylor,**

Dep.Master - **WBro. Dennis Aplin PGBB**

Jnr. Deacon - **Bro Jed Guinto**

Almoner - **WBro. Wally Lee PGS**

Ass Secretary - **V.WBro John Evered**

Ass. D.O.C.– **WBro. Kirk Spragg**

Tyler - **WBro. - Graham Hallam RH**

**Lodge contact address -**

**Lodge Secretary, - e-mail - [lodge.waikato@gmail.com](mailto:lodge.waikato@gmail.com)**

**Lodge Waikato 475 - PO Box 9502, Waikato Mail centre, Hamilton 3240**

**Lodge Rooms address, 285 Grey St. Hamilton East.**

## LODGE WAIKATO 475



**To be Initiated -**

**To be Passed to the Second Degree -** Bro Quintin Smith & Bro Patrick Salmon.

**To be Raised to the Third Degree -** Bro Mark Black & Bro Johnathan Gensik.

Please contact the **Lodge Almoner**, - WBro. Wally Lee, in all cases of difficulty and where any help is needed. - **ph 07 824 4862. e-mail - wfnlee@gmail.com**

Please contact the **Secretary** to update any items. Rt.WBro. Gary Salmon,  
**027 493 8709 - e-mail - lodge.waikato@gmail.com**

**Chairman of Management Committee -** WBro. Andre Schenk  
**Ph 027 578 4060 - e-mail - andreschenk@xtra.co.nz**

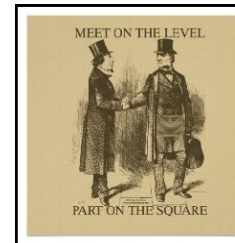
**Editor of the Plumline -** WBro. Graham Hallam. RH.  
**Ph 027 855 5190. e-mail - mallah@xtra.co.nz**

**Lodge Waikato Monthly Diary - February 2023**

**Thursday, 2nd February at 7:00pm - Management meeting .**  
**Thursday, 9th February at 7:00pm - Lodge Regular Monthly meeting.**  
**Thursday, 16th February at 7:30pm - Regular Lodge meeting night.**

### **Lodge Waikato Brethren with Masonic Birthdays in February.**

Norm Weir - 19th February 1970 ( 53yrs)  
Bill Newell - 4th February 1985 (38yrs)  
Steve Weller - 16th February 1995 (28yrs)  
Jomar Figuerres - 18th February 2021 (2yrs)



**Special Thanks —**

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

*James R. Hill.*

## **Hello Brethren,**

Happy new year to you all, I trust you and your families have had a great festive season and are looking to get back to some form of normality.

The December Xmas function was well attended and those who came gave some great feedback, thank you to all those whom attended, we will have another social event and are in the throws of planning this before too long.



This February we have a first degree locked in for Mr Ben Ansell who attended our Xmas meeting with his family, he's been waiting for his first step for some time due to the back log of candidates, so we are all looking forward to his big night on the 16<sup>th</sup> February.

March we will having our regular meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup>, Rt WBro Gary Salmon will be in the chair for this, then we will have another third degree on the 30<sup>th</sup> March, I will keep you all updated on the details closer to the time.

I have not a lot of visiting planned as most of the district is still getting back on their feet post Xmas, but March looks like we have a few events to look forward too.

Please keep your blue book handy and we will start allocating charges out, I will be having a phone around in the next few weeks.

**Kind wishes,  
Darryl Gray WM.**

### **'The Ashlars'-**

*The rough and perfect Ashlars as we know them came into use in the late part of the 18th century, though they were not in general use until after the Union in 1813.*

The 'Perfect Ashlar' is often said to be a corruption of the "Perpend or Perpent" Ashlar which we read of in the 18th Century Masonic works. The immovable Jewels in the time of Prichard in 1730 were the "Tarsel Board, rough Ashlar and Broached Thurnal." The Broached Thurnal was a pointed stone with a square base, similar apparently to the "Perpend Ashlar."

It was said to be used for the entered apprentices to try their tools on.

The Ashlars usually stand on the pavement, the Rough Ashlar in front of the Junior Warden and the Perfect Ashlar in front and to the right of the Senior Warden.

In London, where many lodges use the same temple and all their furniture has to be packed away, the custom has sprung up of having the Ashlars and the tripod and Lewis in miniature standing on the Wardens Pedestals.

***New Zealand Craftsman 1937***

**Lodge Waikato No 475**

**Monthly planner**

**Proposal for Lodge Work for 2023**

The following is a proposed schedule for ceremonies for the coming months.  
This proposed programme is based on the monthly meeting that is normally  
on the third Thursday of each month.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Proposed ceremony</b>	<b>Brother/Brethren</b>
January		No meeting	
February	16	First degree	Mr Ben Ansell
March	16	Rt WBro Gary Salmon (Master)	
March	30	Third degree	
April	20	TBA	
May	18	TBA	
June	15	TBA	
July	20	Installation	

**Brethren who are presenting charges on 16th -**

Master                WBro Darryl Gray  
Obligation            WBro Bob Ancell  
Lesser Lights        WBro Brian Dawson  
Secrets                WBro Don Seath  
Investiture            WBro Dennis Mead  
Charge after Inv.    Bro Mark Namuag  
North East Corner   Rt WBro Gary Salmon  
Reasons for prep.   WBro Kirk Spragg  
Working Tools        Bro Mark Bunting  
Charter Charge       Bro Mark Ashburner  
Charge after Ini.     WBro Dennis Mead

**Practices on First and Second Thursday, try to attend at least one.**

**WM.**

## Freemasons Charity at its best -

*21st December 2022 - Press release*

### Freemasons help Citizens Advice Bureau to help the Community -

Just in time for Christmas, Lodge Waikato and the Freemasons Charity have come to the aid of the Hamilton Citizens Advice Bureau with a donation of over \$3,000 for well needed computer equipment.

CAB Manager, Vicky Haden-Jones says -

“We’re very grateful for this. Our computers have been used every day for over ten years, and naturally some are looking worse for wear - keys falling off, worn out monitors, their on their last legs.”

Citizens Advice bureau run the largest and most up to date community directory in the country and are updating it every day.

“While many funders are kind enough to help our operations, our hardware is harder to fund, so this has turned up at a great time” Vicky says.

Master of Lodge Waikato Darryl Gray said -

“It’s a no brainer to help organisations who help our community in such a practical way, and like Freemasonry, Citizens Advice Bureau are a voluntary organisation who care deeply for the community. Their work is often unnoticed, so we just want to say thanks.”



L-R

*Emily Stevens, CAB Manager Vicky Haden-Jones, Master of Lodge Waikato 475 Darryl Gray, Gary Salmon, Trish Pascoe, Margaret Price, Amina Mofassir.*

**'This is Your Lodge.'**

While a good many of you come to the regular monthly Lodge meetings, it would be good if more of you also came to the regular management Meetings, which are held on the first Thursday of each month. I point this out to you newer lodge members, in-particular, and invite you to come to these meetings, where your voice and opinion is always accepted.

**'YOU are the future of the Lodge.'**

It's at these meetings where decisions for the lodge and lodge brethren are made and where any progress is formulated and suggested.

Please know that you have every right to attend these meetings and I encourage you to do-so.

This is where you get to know each other away from the lodge meetings, and where you can stay and join in the practices for the next candidate.

This is where you learn to speak in the lodge, where you learn about the ritual, and where you learn to attain the confidence for yourself.

If you stay for the practice you may find they have you as the candidate and this is a very great learning curve, for both you and for them.

They may even invite you to learn one of the many charges.

Visiting -

During these past months Our Master has been visiting many other Lodges where several of our own brethren have been passed to higher degrees.

He has had very good numbers of brethren accompany him, which has made his visitations very worth-while.

These have been very enjoyable evenings and I comment here to suggest and encourage more of you to accompany the Master, you will find it most enjoyable. Transport is always available, just give the JW a ring.

**Think on it - Ed.**

**A Christmas message from my brother Mervyn, P.Dep Gr Master. (Victoria)**

"I would like to share an experience with all of you, about drinking and driving in this festive season. As you well know, some of us have been known to have had brushes with the authorities on our way home from the odd social session over the years. A couple of nights ago, I was out for a few drinks with some friends and I had a few too many beers and some rather nice Shiraz.

Knowing full well I may have been slightly over the limit, I did something I've never done before - I took a bus home.

I arrived home safely and without incident, which was a real surprise, as I have never driven a bus before and am not sure where I got it from!"

**Merv.**

## The Search For Truth

The search for truth, too, lies at the heart of the children's classic, Pinocchio, the tale of a puppet who finally gains the humanity through the practice of selfless 'brotherly love'. Its author, Carlo Collodi, was a follower of Mazzini whose struggle for political freedom helped inspire the Belgian novelist and Freemason, Charles De Coster. De Coster skillfully utilized a folklore hero as a vehicle for an impassioned defence of liberty and came forward with the motto, which could ultimately be taken up by all Freemasons: -  
"I am not body but spirit."

The same motto might also be given to another Masonic creation for children, in the sense that its essence continues to outlive its multitude of physical forms; as ubiquitous and enduring as any literary creation and an object of more love and affection for children than any book ever written: the Teddy Bear.

In November 1902 President Theodore Roosevelt was in the Southern States to settle a boundary dispute between Mississippi and Louisiana. As a keen sportsman, he also spent ten days hunting, and although he failed to find a single bear, in desperation and disappointment, his hosts set up a small tethered bear-cub as a target, Roosevelt refused to shoot it, saying, "I draw the line, if I shot that little fellow I couldn't look my own boys in the face again."



The incident might have passed unrecorded had it not been for the presence of Clifford Berryman, the foremost political cartoonist of the day, who preserved it for posterity with his cartoon 'drawing the line in Mississippi.' Immediately that pitiful little cartoon bear - and the toy bears that became instantly popular as a consequence — became known as **the 'Teddy bear.'**

Roosevelt's chivalry was part of his character, but also mirrored the Masonic principles by which he lived. But Berryman was also a mason, and it is a measure of his altruism that he refused to copyright his creation. His reward came in another way, "I have made thousands of children happy" he said, "that is enough for me." Beyond all question, **the Teddy-Bear**, beautiful or not, is a joy forever.

*Wisdom might epitome the purpose of Freemasonry, and Strength might emphasise the sureness of its foundations; But more than these, Beauty - elusive as it is - represents the true Spirit of Masonry. Through its infinite variety of human expression it encapsulates in abstract form the essence of the great Masonic principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, and in so doing presents to the world at large the true face of the Craft.*



### The 'Forget-me-not'

Most brethren will know the forget-me-not, or Vergiss-mein-richt, lapel pin, and some may know why and how it became a symbol of German Freemasonry.

- If not, it is well worthwhile repeating —

In 1935, almost 200 years after the founding of the first German Lodge, the Nazi Regime declared the Masonic fraternity to be an enemy of the State, and the years of darkness followed. Many brethren, whose only crime was merely being members of the order, were sent to concentration camps. Masonic Temples and Lodge buildings were looted and destroyed, and records and property confiscated.



So at a time when Freemasonry was strictly forbidden and its followers being hounded, incarcerated and persecuted, street collections for worthy causes were frequent and it was customary for donors to receive a small lapel pin as a token of their donation.

For one such collection a small blue flower, the 'forget-me-not', had been chosen and the Grand Lodge of the Sun, quick to recognise the symbolic yet inconspicuous value of this pin, obtained a larger supply and adopted the 'Vergiss-mein-nicht' as an emblem to provide recognition whilst reducing the risk of exposure. Long after that particular street collection, in the towns, cities and concentration camps, the 'Vergiss-mein-nicht' identified those who refused to allow the light of Freemasonry to be extinguished.

It was thus that that simple blue flower evolved into a meaningful emblem of the German Masonic Fraternity, and after WW2 it was adopted as an official symbol the order. It is now the pin most widely worn by German Masons and this usage amongst brethren has spread far and wide beyond the countries borders. Freemasonry arrived back in Germany with the liberating Allied Forces, when the Nazi Regime had been defeated.

Ed

#### Editors Comments:

**Here we are at the start of a new year and I could always do with new stories and articles, some of which can be personal.**

This newsletter (Plumblin) is not an official Masonic publication and does not express the policies or opinions of any specific Masonic Lodge, District or Grand Lodge. So go ahead and enjoy it as my gift to you. If you have any ideas or suggestions to improve it let me know -

— *I will always listen, I may not do anything about it, but I will listen.*

I would love to print some of the stories from around the District. Stories about individuals, Lodge happenings or histories of Lodges, just let me know.

This Lodge newsletter (Plumblin) is usually sent via internet and small numbers are published in paper format and sent via mail, but feel free to print it out and pass on to a brother, or to anyone who may like to read it.

If you know a brother who is not getting this newsletter let me know and I can arrange either paper format or via internet.

***"This Plumblin never goes anywhere - It's just helps point the way."* Ed.**

### WHAT IS YOUR MASONIC MEMBERSHIP WORTH ?

Have you ever paused to consider what your Masonic membership is worth to you- not in dollars, but in the things that dollars cannot buy?

Was there ever a passport into more wonderful friendships than that represented by your membership in Masonry? Has the thought occurred to you that you extend your hand in fellowship and understanding, and it is received not by a limited group, but by millions?

Do we give thought to the strength and inspiration that we receive from the lessons of Masonry, and how those lessons enrich our lives, and broaden our vision?

Yes, they even make possible an education, the like of which is not possible through any other course of instruction.

Have you ever thought how Masonry makes you tolerant of the other fellow's faults and weaknesses because Love has brought Wisdom from the Great Light of Freemasonry?

Have you ever thought of the privileges of service that Masonry offers- the happiness derived from such service and sacrifice?

When we entered the portals of Masonry we had certain qualifications necessary to become a Mason, but do we take stock of ourselves and find that we have grown spiritually and mentally over years that we have worked in Masonry?

Have you ever looked upon the face of a brother who is about to receive a badge for 50 years of service to Masonry? What do you suppose Masonry has meant to that brother?

***Let us take our Masonic membership to our heart. Let us thank God for the privilege of our Masonic membership.***

### DATES OF INTEREST TO FREEMASONS IN FEBRUARY

4th Born on this day in 1902: Charles Lindbergh, who would grow to be a leading United States aviator and Freemason.

6th Died on this day in 1952: King George VI, who was a much loved sovereign and Freemason.

7th Grand Lodge of Alaska organized this day in 1981.

9th Harry S. Truman receives his first degree this day in 1909.

11th Born this day in 1904: Keith Jacka Holyoake, later to be Prime Minister (and Governor General) of New Zealand. Keith became a Freemason in 1931 and later became Grand Master and received his 50-year service badge.

15th Born this day in 1874: Ernest Shackleton, British explorer, who would one day become a Knight of the realm and Freemason.

18th This day in 1909, US President William Howard Taft received his first degree.

19th Grand Lodge of District of Columbia is formed on this day in 1811.

23rd This day in 1887, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle received his second degree.

24th Died on this day in 1815: Robert Fulton, US engineer and Freemason.  
Also on this day in 1853 the Grand Lodge of Minnesota was formed.

26th On this day in 1903 is born Richard Gatling, would grow up to be a Freemason and inventor of the famous "Gatling Gun"

### BRINGING MASONRY TO LODGE

We must ever remember that Masonry is men who are Masons.  
The good of an institution must always result from the acts and deeds of the members of such an organization. The Masonic Institution is the achievement of Masons.  
Many times the question is asked: "What degree are they going to work tonight?"  
Perhaps the brother who asks the question is interested in witnessing one particular degree and prefers not to attend unless that degree is going to be conferred.  
Still, there is a mighty impersonal ring to the word "they." Many other times the question is: "What are they going to do tonight?"

We cannot leave ourselves out of the lodge. Whether or not we attend regularly, we are forever a part of the lodge. We are its success and its failure.  
We contribute, or we fail to contribute to its welfare.

The degree that is to be conferred, the business meeting that is to be held, or the program that is to be presented -all are important, but they are secondary to the question: "What will I bring to lodge tonight?"

***The spirit of brotherly love, the warm and friendly handshake, the smile that reflects the Mystic Tie - all that I am capable of bringing to lodge -  
- are the important factors.***

### WHEN A MAN BECOMES A MASTER MASON

**When a man becomes a Master Mason** he immediately assumes a dual role, he is an individual as before, but he is also obligated to represent in his life all that Masonry has placed in his care.

**Many times the question is asked: —**

**“What can the Mason tell the non-mason about Masonry. ??**

Nothing that we can say to one who is not a Freemason will be more effective than the actual living of Masonry by Masons in their daily lives.

Masonry is not a mass medium. It works only with and through the individual member. It makes its impact upon the community by strengthening the character of the individual. It impresses upon its members the principles of personal righteousness and personal responsibility, the worship of God, truth and justice, fraternity and philanthropy, and orderly liberty, civil, religious, and intellectual.

Every Master Mason has a tremendous responsibility to the Craft. In a very real sense, he represents Freemasonry in the community; and the image it acquires is but a portrayal of the kind of man his neighbors believe him to be. Masonry either gains or loses public acceptance and standing depending upon how well we express its precepts and ideals in our daily lives.

***If we all dedicate our lives to Masonic Service, and continue to be a vital part of the Masonic Movement, our beloved fraternity will flourish as never before.***

**Articles by W.Bro Robert McC. Figg PGM Carolina.**

### THE GREAT SECRET OF FREEMASONRY

Recently I called at the home of a friend and found his wife reading a Masonic Paper. Since she and her people had long been a bitter anti-Masonic family, I asked her the reason for her change in reading material. She replied she had discovered the grand secret of Masonry; and related to **me** (*the original writer*) **as follows:**

“Soon after you were here last, I learned to my mortification, my husband had become a Mason. I felt it was because of you and I need not say how I felt toward either of you. I at once decided that my domestic happiness had come to an end. Some time later a circumstance occurred that for the first time gave me reason to doubt his integrity. Late on one of the coldest nights last winter my husband came in and asked, “Margaret, can you do without your blanket shawl?” I answered yes and he asked me to get it, also a bed comforter. I handed them to him and he left the house to join a friend who was waiting for him with a very large basket. My husband returned shortly with no explanation, either then or later for his actions. I decided to watch for my shawl, for if I once caught sight of it I could unravel this whole mystery. Soon afterward a female whisked past me on the street wearing my shawl.

“The good for nothing huzzy,” I thought; and excitedly started in pursuit. I followed closely from street to street and into the fourth story of a bindery. As she sat down to work I immediately set about locating her residence to get a clue to my husband’s perfidy. On arriving at her home I saw that I was not mistaken for I found my comforter there.

“The who” secret flashed on my mind at once, as clearly as if it had been written with a sunbeam from heaven. There I found a widowed mother in the last stages of consumption, and three children dependent upon the scanty pittance earned by the elder sister, whom I had followed. I learned from the dying woman a lesson, that in all my philosophy I had never dreamed of—such a tale of sorrow as I had never before listened to—and when she had related the deed of charity that had been the cause of all my unhappiness, I felt there was not room in my bosom to appreciate the disinterested benevolence of my husband. She said, “I do not know how we should have lived, but for the kindness of two persons who came here late one night, and left a basket filled with provisions, some bedclothes, a shawl and five dollars. They just opened the door and set in the basket, saying, “Accept this and ask no questions”; and left before I had time to inquire their names. I do not know who they were, and I have some doubts from where these things came. But I never forget in earnest prayers to Him, Who opened His hand and filleth the poor with bread, to ask, if these were men, He will keep them and theirs from the sorrows and afflictions with which I am visited.

I left the house a better woman than when I entered it.”

***“But the grand secret of Masonry,” said I, “I thought you were to tell me what it is.” She replied, “It is this—to do good and not tell of it.”***

***“Without neglecting the ordinary duties of your station, endeavour to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge.”***

### THE TWENTY FOUR INCH GAUGE

A distressed brother is not always a brother in need of material assistance.

To understand this is to understand the lesson of the twenty-four inch gauge. The very simplicity of a statement will often hide the meaning, and a great teaching will thereby escape our serious consideration.

So important is the study of the twenty-four inch gauge that from it a philosophy complete within itself is possible of attainment. Time cannot be saved, that is, you cannot save two hours from today and spend them tomorrow. — Time can only be spent.

Neither can we take four hours from one part of the gauge and use it advantageously by bringing it forward to an entirely different part and use.

The happiness derived from the study of the twenty-four inch gauge depends upon the application of the total into its proper and equal parts. In taking away from God and our brothers it may appear that we are very busy in our affairs, yet the fact remains that we are working against the Rule.

God and man stand together as one part because unselfish service to man is the only true path to the service of God.

If the twenty-four inch gauge intended to teach that we must only administer to a brother's physical need, there would be an excess of hours to spend.

The truth is that our brothers need us, not our material gifts, and we need our brothers.

***To give ourselves means to give "that" many hours daily.***

***The Rule is for our happiness. Service to God and man is a Divine Privilege.***

### A FREEMASON LOOKING GOOD AT LODGE

As a freemason, you're expected to understand the importance of looking your best. But what exactly is the Masonic dress code? For those of you new to the Lodge, or for anyone who's curious to know, here we give you the lowdown on how to dress to fit in at the not so secret, secret society.

Freemasons are known for their smart dress, but why is it so important?

***"To dress without effort is to dress without respect for one's fellow man."***

You'll be found acceptable at most lodges as you follow a few simple dress rules.

Generally speaking, according to the Lodge rules, a simple, standard dress code of:

***"dark suits, black shoes, black ties and white shirts...worn in remembrance of those who died in the service of their country during the two World Wars."***

It is also remarked to say that sober formal dress helps maintain a certain uniformity that ensures equality. The key is to keep it simple and keep it smart.

A smart, black or dark suit is the Freemason's best friend, Quite simply, it's an essential addition to any Freemason's wardrobe.

*"you don't need to spend a fortune on your attire"* because meetings aren't a fashion show. But that doesn't mean you won't want to look good.

## **“We didn’t have the Green Thing.”**

As she was checking out at the store, the young cashier suggested to the much older lady that she should bring her own grocery bags, because plastic bags are not good for the environment. The older woman apologized to the young girl and explained, "We didn't have this 'green thing' back in my earlier days." The young clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations." The older lady said that she was right -- — our generation didn't have the "**green thing**" in its day.

### **The older lady went on to explain:**

Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled.

**— But we didn't have the "green thing" back in our day.**

Back in my earlier days. "Grocery stores bagged our groceries in brown paper bags that we reused for numerous things.

Most memorable besides household garbage bags was the use of brown paper bags as book covers for our school books. This was to ensure that public property (the books provided for our use by the school) was not defaced by our scribbles. Then we were able to personalize our books on the brown paper bags.

**— But, too bad we didn't do the "green thing" back then.**

We walked up stairs because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine 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 diapers because we didn't have the throw away kind. We dried them on a clothes line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 220 volts. 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.

**— But that young lady is right; we didn't have the "green thing" back in our day.**

Back then we had one TV, or radio, in the house -- not a TV in every room, and the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the state of Montana. 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 mail, 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 gasoline 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 health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity.

**— But she's right; we didn't have the "green thing" back then.**



**Continued -**

We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blade 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 then.**

Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service in the family's \$45,000 SUV or van, which cost what a whole house did before the "**green thing.**"

We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen Appliances, and we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 23,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest burger joint.

**— 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?**

**We don't like being old in the first place, so it doesn't take much to piss us off, especially from a tattooed, multi-pierced smartass who can't make change without the cash register telling them**

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It began with an overheard snatch of conversation in a street one day,

One woman was speaking to another -

"It's all very well saying I should count my blessings but....."

Then they were gone out of earshot --- well, all the way home that partial sentence stayed with Agnes, so she spent an hour searching her book shelf, she came up with these words from Lord Allton.....

"If you have never been in war, imprisoned, or suffered from starvation, then you are better off than five hundred million other people.

If you can read, then you are better off than two billion who are unable to do so.

If you can attend a Church without fear of harassment, or worse, then you are better off than three billion people in the world.

If you have food in the fridge, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, then you are richer than three quarters of your fellow human beings.

If you have money in the Bank or your wallet or purse, then you are among the top eight per-cent of the worlds wealthy."

When it comes to counting your blessings..... there is no "but."

"Hope smiles on the threshold of the year to come, whispering that it will be happier."

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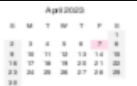
# February 2023 (New Zealand)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2 Management meeting and practice. 7pm	3	4
5	6 • Waitangi Day	7	8	9 Practice night 7pm	10	11
12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16 Monthly meeting 1st degree 7:30pm Mr Benjamin Ansell	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	1	2	3	4



# March 2023 (New Zealand)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	1	2 Management meeting and practice. 7pm	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Practice night 7pm	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Monthly meeting Rt WBro Gary Salmon in the Chair, 7:30pm	17	18
19	20	21	22 Visit Lodge TeAroha Installation Morrinsville	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 April Fools



Speak - up - Step - up - Show - up

