

fraternally yours

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Grand Masters Message

Anne and I extend to all members our best wishes for the coming year. May 2010 be a bright year for you all.

As MUNZ starts the new decade, we look forward to new life in our fraternal side of our Order.

The setting up of the Fraternal Council emphasised the Board's determination to breathe new life into our fraternal structure. Without a strong fraternal side, the lodge structure as we know it will wither away and eventually die.

The business side of our Order is in good hands, and is continuing to strengthen. It is up to us to lift the fraternal side.



Maybe it is time to ask ourselves a few questions, such as: Do we attend our lodge meetings? If not, why not? Do we suggest ways to improve the social side of our meetings? Do we arrange functions and outings outside of the lodge room? Do we "sell" MU to others? What do we do to encourage the under 50s to attend lodge functions?

The Fraternal Council will be visiting all lodge centres in the country during the next two years, to listen to you and to assist you in re-vitalising our fraternity. We are always available to talk to you at any time, just pick up the phone and ring one of us!

I look forward to meeting with you at the various functions arranged for me during my term of office.

Yours fraternally

Peter Courtney
Grand Master

Nelson District

At their meeting in November, Nelson Past Grands brought along used clothing and tinned or packaged food for the Samoan Tsunami appeal. The items were bagged and delivered to Mondo Travel Motueka branch by Past Grand John Tomlinson, to be added to their large collection for delivery and distribution in Samoa.

Christmas time has seen the social gathering of the members at the various Lodge Christmas Dinners. Nelson Lodges was on the 5th December in the Lodge rooms with over 35 members and friends enjoying a buffet meal. Marlborough Lodges was on the 2nd December at the Heartland Hotel and was well attended by Marlborough and Nelson members including District Grand Master Sis Betty Lark.

These social events bring members together to celebrate Christmas, farewell 2009 and talk about what 2010 will bring.

2010 for 10 Nelson Lodge members, sees the long planning for their trip to Manchester U.K. for the 200th Anniversary of Manchester Unity in June getting that much closer. After the celebrations, these members will take the opportunity to visit Ireland, Wales, Scotland and central England. Some of the members are also taking a trip through several countries in Europe with others catching up with relations in the U.K.

John Simpson P.D.G.M

Reminder - 150th Anniversary Celebration of Marlborough Branch

Marlborough Branch of the Nelson Lodge (Formerly Loyal Marlborough Lodge 4929), will be celebrating its 150th year of Manchester Unity in Marlborough on the weekend of the 11th & 12th September 2010.

Part of the celebrations will include a meeting and dinner. In addition there are a number of other activities that members can do in the area including visits to:-

- the Chocolate Factory
- the Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre (this has to be seen to be believed!)
- Marlborough's vast wine trails
- Country Preserves

The program and organised visits are just in the planning stage. To assist with this, please express your interest by filling out your information below and posting as soon as possible and before the end of February 2010 to:

Julie Lammas
20a Dillons Point Road
Blenheim, 7201

Your early response would be appreciated so we can organise something spectacular for you all.

Marlborough Branch: 150th Celebration

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____

E-Mail: _____

Fraternal Manager



2010 is here and who would believe that it is a decade since the turn of the century. It is the beginning of the New Year, a new decade and a time to look forward to new things.

Manchester Unity is also entering a new era. The Operational Plan for the Future is in place and several Lodges have already voted to join the plan and are undergoing the final stages of this move.

We have the Fraternal Council in place and this is totally new to Manchester Unity. The Council members are already coming to grips with their role and the challenges we all face in reinventing our great organisation.

At the MC last year, Bro. Peter Courtney was elected our new Grand Master. Peter is our first true Fraternal Grand Master as he decided not to stand for Chairman of the Board. Paul Haglund was re-elected Chairman of the Board. Peter's first official visit as Grand Master will be to the Auckland District on the 20th of March 2010. Details are not available at this stage, but if you are interested in coming along, please keep in contact with your Lodge Secretary as they will be

receiving more information.

With Lodges commencing their meetings in the New Year, I look forward to starting my visits and catching up with you all again. Now is the time to let me know if there are any Lodge or District activities or celebrations coming up that you would like me, any of the Board members or Fraternal Councillors to attend. Let me know early and I will see if it can be arranged.

Just a reminder of my contact details:

Free phone 0800 MUSO4U (0800 68 76 48)
Cell phone 021 419 425
email ianf@manchesterunity.org.nz

The 0800 number should divert to my cell phone when I am away, so try that number first. Wishing you all the best for the coming year.

Bro Ian Fitchett
Fraternal Manager

Fraternal Council

The Fraternal Council met on the 11th of December 2009 in Christchurch. All the council were present and they tackled a full agenda. Prior to the meeting the Council had lunch at the Christchurch Service Centre. The members enjoyed the opportunity to see the heart of Manchester Unity's presence in Christchurch and meet our very capable staff.

After lunch the Council members travelled to Sierra Lounge for their meeting. The agenda was a full one and included reports from the councillors, White Star Jewel criteria, Awards for Higher Education, Strategic Plan, "People Talking to People", Ritual and Communications. This is just a start of the items that the Council will be considering in the coming months. At this stage the members only looked at an overview of these items and members undertook to work on these items for the next meeting.

After the meeting the Council attended the MU Club in the Riccarton Lodge rooms. This meeting involved a BYO tea followed by a variety of games. This was a great meeting with approx 60 members present. After the tea there was a chance for each of the Council members to address the meeting, telling those present a bit about themselves and answer a few questions. With this over the councillors joined in the games or just took the time to meet with more members and have a chat.

The next meeting of the Council will be in Auckland on the 10th of March 2010. After the meeting the Council members will attend the Akarana Lodge meeting. We would like as many members as possible to attend the Akarana meeting, meet the Council Members and find out what is going on. Mark this date on your calendar now and come along for a chat.

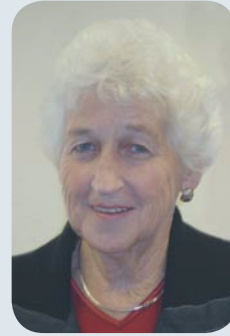
Napier and Hastings members, your opportunity to meet with the Fraternal Council will be on Monday 10th May at a combined meeting to be held in the Napier Lodge rooms. More details as to times etc. can be obtained from your respective Lodge Secretaries. After this meeting, the Council will attend the Napier Lodge meeting. Please mark the date in your diaries, as we would love to see you all.

If anyone would like to pass on their thoughts on any of the Council agenda items or has something that they would like the Council to consider, then please let me know as soon as possible.

Ian Fitchett
Fraternal Manager

Farewell to Marie Mumford

Sadly we said goodbye to Marie on the 20th January. Marie has been with the Society Office in Wellington for 14 years and she has seen many changes over this time. She will be making Feilding her new home with her husband Leo – moving closer to their children. Marie will be sadly missed and we wish her all the best for her retirement.



Loyal Egmont Lodge/Taranaki

The Trustees of the Loyal Egmont Lodge are pleased to announce Sharleen Potroz our current Noble Grand, has been appointed as our Financial Secretary, we also welcomed Mark Long in November to complete the office team venturing into 2010 and beyond. The Trustees welcome these appointments and congratulate the recipients for a progressive joint year to the benefit of our members.

We continue to have regular Lodge meetings on the 3rd Monday of the month with the next meeting taking place on the 15th February in Eltham. Meetings and fraternal activities have been well supported through the past year and will continue in 2010. The Senior Luncheon meetings are well organised by our phone tree and Trustees attend on most occasions. We have a Family Picnic Day planned for late March.

Movable Conference 2009 was held at the Waipuna Hotel and Conference Centre, Egmont Lodge was represented by our Noble Grand and Trustee Peter Coombe. Congratulations to our Grand Master of the Order Bro Peter Courtney and to the organisers on their choice of venue and attention to detail. The business presentations with accompanying powerpoint overheads, provided a fine rendition of our "state of affairs" to the delegates in attendance. Thank you Auckland for your social choices – well done!!!

A first for some years for Egmont Lodge was our participation in the annual New Plymouth Christmas Parade with a theme of "T'was the night before Christmas". Led by our energetic Noble Grand along with a dedicated team of helpers, over 200 balloons and MU grab bags were assembled for the occasion. Heather and Peter's motor home sporting a large banner towed a well decorated tandem trailer complete with a huge Christmas tree, Heather our motherly story teller and 20 pyjama clad children. Approval of our efforts was endorsed by Mayor Peter Tennant who gladly exchanged his mayoral chains with Heather. Approximately 20,000 spectators lined Devon Street and there has been some extremely positive feedback from the community, it really was a fantastic day and a big thank you to everyone that helped out. Without those dedicated members that continuously step forward and give so generously of themselves, participation in these events wouldn't be possible. Thank you to you all.

From the Trustees and Staff, a very Happy New Year to you all

2010 Upcoming Events:

10 March	Fraternal Council Meeting – Auckland – Akarana Lodge
20 March	Grand Master's visit to Auckland
10 May	Fraternal Council Meeting – Napier – Napier/Hastings Lodge
11-12 September	Marlborough Lodge 150th celebrations
29 October	MU Special Conference - Wellington

If you would like more information on any of the above, please contact the Fraternal Manager.

Senior Members' Party

This annual event was again held on Sunday 8th November 2009 at the Riccarton Lodge Rooms. The afternoon started with 86 members congregating in the main lounge to chat with one another over a drink of cordial. Later they moved through to the Hall where they took their seats to listen to Heather Mitchell playing her large piano accordion on stage and her smaller one that she walked with.

The District Grand Master welcomed all members. Afternoon tea was served later by members of the committee and helpers. This year there were 3 lucky number prizes. The second prize a bottle of wine was donated by the District Grand Master and congratulations were received for another successful occasion.



Paul Hopewell & helpers setting up

North Canterbury District, Children's Christmas Party

The Christmas Party was held at Holmes Park, English St, Christchurch from 1-15 to 4-15pm on Sunday 13th December, 2009.

We had a fine sunny day, but with a strong north-westerly wind which threatened to disrupt the entertainment but in the end did not pose a problem.

A very good attendance with 87 children being registered and 82 actually attending. This compared with 66 children at last year's picnic. With parents, grandparents and others, total attendance, judging by the number of ice-creams dispensed by Tony Chimes, was approximately 180.

Good support from District Committee members meant light work was made of the preparations required and with Sister Bern Cooper having already prepared "loot" bags for each child, set up work was kept to a minimum.

The programme opened with ice-creams and Tony Chimes' representative Kay Baker had a solid 45 minutes work handing these out.

This was followed by entertainment from "Natural Magic", a very capable duo who kept the young and not so young really well entertained for nearly an hour.

The arrival of "Santa", very ably covered by Bro. Trevor Shatford, was the next highlight, with "Santa" handing out presents to the under 5's while committee members gave presents to the older children.

The afternoon concluded with the giving of the "loot" bags, containing a selection of sweets, an uninflated "MU" balloon, a "Save2Learn" bookmark, a small whistle, a bag of chips and a small bottle of drink. An inflated "MU" balloon rounded out the giveaways.

All in all, a very successful afternoon, with a very good attendance and good support work from District Committee members.

Bro. Ernie McNicholl, D.D.G.M. (Convenor)

Ashley District

Sis Margaret Dempsey and myself were deputies to the Movable Conference in Auckland and this was most enjoyable and a wonderful experience to learn the deeper workings of the Society. I am sure with Grand Master Peter Courtney at the helm, things will sail along well. I was lucky to be able to spend a further 5 days with family after the Conference and this was very well appreciated, having only moved house at Labour weekend.

We held our usual swimming night at Kaiapoi with just on 150 adults and children attending, this is a free night and also lots of fun. Our annual dance in September had a Western Theme and although the ticket sales were down a little on other years, we still had fun.

Seniors day was another annual function which was well attended being on a Sunday afternoon, the senior members like to come and catch up with one another. Certificates were also handed out at this function.

Our November meeting consisted of a pot luck meal with a visit from Santa's "Fairy" and the sharing of our small presents.

Events to look forward to are: February Regional Council Picnic at Ferrymead. 6th March, day in the Country. 29th March DGM visit. 15-18th October is a celebration of 150 years for the Loyal Rangiora Lodge.

Happy New Year to you all.

Janet Sheppard, District Secretary

Awards for Higher Education

It is with pleasure that we announce the successful Award and Grant winners. In 2010 a Degree Award of \$2,500 has been granted to James Bonifacio of Christchurch District, for the duration of his degree. James will be commencing study for a degree in Bachelor of Science and Maths this year, which will take him approximately 4-5 years to complete.

A one off grant of \$2,500 has also been awarded to Katherine Jenkins of Palmerston North. Katherine is currently studying a Veterinary Science degree and has done extremely well in her studies to date. 2010 is her final year and we wish Katherine the best of luck in completing her studies.

Congratulations to both of our recipients and we wish them well in their studies.

Editors note:

Apologies for the error made in the November 2009 issue regarding the 150th Anniversary Celebration. This heading should have read "Marlborough Branch: 150th Celebration". The Article is repeated in this edition.

To contact the editor please email: christinem@manchesterunity.org.nz or 0800 101 842



have a great summer!