

# fraternally yours

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## Grand Masters Message

### Greetings to you all

With daylight savings now finished, and the weather moving toward winter, thoughts turn to our lodge meetings. I know how easy it is to miss a meeting or two when the nights are wet and cold, but our fraternal side needs the support of us all if it is to continue. Please make that extra effort to attend.

The Fraternal Council has had two formal meetings, in Christchurch and Auckland, with the next meeting being in Napier in May. At these meetings members discuss ideas for encouraging fraternity, bring back ideas given to us by members, and look at all aspects of the Fraternity. An important part of these meetings is the visit to lodges after the meeting, where members talk freely to us about their thoughts on fraternity.



The interaction the Council has with members at these visits is important as we gain valuable insights into members thoughts and ideas. I look forward to meeting with you when we are next in your area.

My official visit programme is being finalised and includes visits to lodges celebrating significant milestones. These functions are wonderful opportunities for members to gather, meet old friends and reminisce about old times. I hope I have the chance to meet and talk with you at one of them.

***Yours fraternally***

**Peter Courtney**  
**Grand Master**

## Fraternal Manager



As the Grand Master has mentioned, daylight savings goes again and generally it will be dark when we head out to most Lodge meetings. Also we start to notice the cold and more often wet weather. Because of these facts we also start to see, or more correctly, not see some members at our meetings. What is worse some of these members forget to come back later in the year when it warms up and it is lighter. What can we do to keep these members involved?

Well actually there are a number of things you can do. Have you thought of having a daytime Lodge that these members could attend? This could either be during the week or at the weekend. There are now 2 Saturday Lodges in the Auckland District and they are well supported. Another thing you can do is arrange to collect those members who don't like driving at night. Take them to and from the meeting. Not only do you keep them involved but you might make a new friend! A further way to keep members involved might be to have coffee meetings. Select different cafes for each meeting and you will have lots of fun.

While thinking about the change of the season, have a thought for some of our older members who can really feel the cold but can be afraid to turn on a couple of heaters because of the cost of running them. The increasing cost of heating can be of great concern to many people to the extent that they will suffer in the cold rather than get warm. Please talk to people and listen to what is happening. If you hear of a member who is having problems, then please let your Lodge Secretary or me know. If we can help, we will.

I would like to take a moment to record my thanks to Lodge and District Sick and Hospital visitors. The volunteers give up their time to visit members who are sick or injured, at home or in Hospital. Often at their own expense they bring cheer and companionship to those who need a bit of company when they are feeling down. These are great people and if you get a chance just say a quick thanks to them for their efforts.

In June this year, Rose and I are travelling to the UK to represent NZ at the International Conference of Manchester Unity. It is the bi-centennial of Manchester Unity and it will be an interesting time meeting with representatives from around the world, finding out their successes and failures. It will be a time to look back and more importantly we hope it will be a time to look forward to the future of Manchester Unity. We hope to come home with lots of good information and contacts that will help Manchester Unity New Zealand move forward into the future.

If you want to contact me, below are my 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.

**Ian Fitchett**  
Fraternal Manager

### 2010/11 Upcoming Events

10 May	Fraternal Council Meeting – Napier (attending Napier/Hastings Lodge afterwards)
30 August	Fraternal Council Meeting – Wellington (attending Britannia Lodge afterwards)
11-12 Sept	Marlborough Lodge 150th celebrations
16-18 October	Rangiora Lodge 150th Celebrations
29 October	MU Special Conference – Wellington
30 October	Grand Master Visit – Wellington District
22-23 Sept 2011	Riccarton Lodge 125th Celebrations

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

## Welcome to Cheryl Robertson



We had pleasure in welcoming Cheryl Robertson to the Society Office in March, as Receptionist/Member Services. Cheryl came from a customer services and administration role at Shell and was there for many years and it is wonderful that she has now become part of our team. Shelley Currier did a fine job in filling in when Marie retired and she has now departed to another assignment. Cheryl will be the first point of contact for holiday bookings for members and general enquiries.

## Fraternal Council

My how time flies when you are having fun - hard to believe that 6 months have passed since being appointed a Fraternal Councillor and the amount of business that we have dealt with or are in the process of dealing. This included looking at a new format for White Star Jewel nominations, revision of Funeral Ritual and recommendations to the Board on the Awards for Higher Education to name just a few

After attending a Council Meeting, the Council attend a meeting with members in the area. This can take the form of a Lodge Meeting or other fraternal gathering in the area. The last Council meeting was held in Auckland after which we were treated to a BBQ tea followed by a meeting of the Akarana Lodge. It was a pleasure and a delight to see so many members attending this evening - around 30 and the fellowship that emanated from that meeting was terrific. It was also a privilege to see the Traditional Ritual so well presented and the Officers concerned are to be congratulated for their efforts.

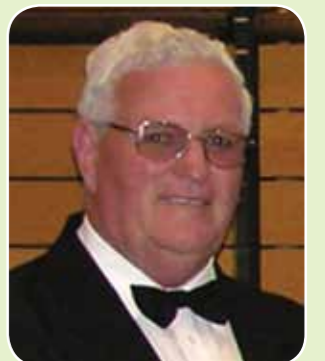
The following night I accompanied the Fraternal Manager to a meeting of the Waikato Lodge. Again a very friendly evening with members interested in the work of the Council. It was their Installation of Officers to which the Fraternal Manager & myself were privileged to participate in. Here again the Traditional Ritual & Installation of Officers was presented to a very high standard. The social gathering that followed the meeting (novelty bowls) again gave opportunity to speak informally with the "Grassroots of the Membership".

The 20th March saw Fraternal Councillors accompany the Grand Master on his official visit to the Auckland District, a very well attended luncheon and meeting held at Wrights Water Lily Gardens in Pukekohe. A grand occasion and a further opportunity to mix with and listen to what the members have to say.

All in all while the past six months has been a steep learning curve for the Fraternal Councillors, I believe that we are on the right track and should the pattern of well attended meetings at the Lodges we visit continue, I am confident that progress will be made in creating Lodge environments that will appeal to a majority of the members of the Manchester Unity Friendly Society.

The next meeting of the Fraternal Council is Monday 10th May to be followed by a combined meeting that evening of the Loyal Napier & Hastings Lodges in the Napier Lodge Rooms commencing at 7.30 p.m. This will commence with the SGM for Napier Lodge as they are voting on Consolidation. It should be an interesting evening and if you are in that area, we would be delighted to meet with you on that occasion.

**Bryan Rudd, Fraternal Councillor**



visit: [www.manchesterunity/fraternal](http://www.manchesterunity/fraternal)

## Nelson District

District Grand Master Sis Betty Lark made her official visit to Marlborough branch Lodge with her officers, District Deputy Grand Master Sis Julie Tomlinson and Immediate Past District Grand Master Sis Jan Simpson on 3rd February 2010. There was a good attendance at the meeting, which included Fraternal Councillor Bro John Simpson. Some time was spent talking through the arrangements for the Lodge's forthcoming 150th celebrations in September.

On 14th February Loyal Nelson Lodge's Mini Golf and Pot Luck meal was held with a good attendance. After the exhausting hour of playing golf, the members retired to the Lodge rooms for an enjoyable pot luck meal.



Master Sis Betty Lark installing Sis Phyllis Ager as Noble Grand, Sis Susan Baker as Vice Grand, Sis Julie Tomlinson as Elective Secretary And Bro Don Shirley as Warden. Bro John Tomlinson was thanked for his service to the Lodge and received his Past Grand's collar, jewel and certificate for completing the Lodge chairs.

The Annual Progressive Dinner on 21st March was well attended with Bro and Sis Winter providing the entrée course, Bro and Sis Tomlinson the main course and Bro and Sis Simpson the dessert course followed by a cuppa. A very successful event – roll on next year's one.

They say it comes in threes – well Nelson Lodge had three attending members celebrate their 80th Birthday recently, Sis Val Jones, Sis Jean Stringer and Bro John Smaill. We trust you all had a very happy birthday.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Bro Bob Welsh. Bob was a member of our Marlborough branch and was a regular attender at Lodge meetings until a few years ago. Even when he was well into his nineties, he would be seen riding his bike around Blenheim.

**Bro John Simpson P.D.G.M.**

Sunday 7th March several Marlborough members came to Nelson for the day. We met at the new B.B.Q. area at Tahunanui Beach and enjoying barbequed steak, sausages and onions for lunch. After setting the world right with conversation we all went out to the Richmond Sports complex for the challenge of Mini Golf. It was a very relaxing day, in the usual Nelson sunshine.

The six monthly change of Loyal Nelson Lodge's Officers was held on 10th March with District Grand

## Rangiora Lodge 150th Celebration – 16-18th October 2010

A tentative programme follows:

Saturday 16th. October - catered dinner at Rangiora R.S.A. Kippenberger Lounge, Victoria Street, Rangiora commencing 5.30 p.m. Cost \$25 per person

Evening function will commence 8 p.m.- Cost for evening only will be \$5 per person. Social time and dancing.

Sunday 17th. October - meet and greet 10.30 a.m.  
11 a.m. - church service followed by finger food luncheon---cost \$15 per person  
2 p.m. - annual senior members day and presentation of 50 year awards and any other special jewels etc.

Monday 18th. October - 150th anniversary lodge meeting.

All these functions are being held at the R.S.A. Club. All functions will be notified to Rangiora lodge members and all other lodges in N.Z. in mid-July along with a registration form to complete and return to the Rangiora lodge secretary by 1st. October, together with the appropriate monies.

If anyone from other areas requires billeting and for any further enquiries at this stage, contact Anne on 03-3138692 or e-mail rangiora@manchesterunity.org.nz

## Loyal Riccarton Lodge

What a great District Picnic on Sunday, March 7. Thank you to the District Committee for the organisation, everything ran like clockwork, even the weather was in favour, and the venue at Spencer Park is ideal. We need to support and attend these fraternal activities. It was great that Brother Jim Brine guessed the number of sweets in the jar, keeping up the tradition of Riccarton winning this challenge. Brother Jim also had the closest distance in the Turkey Trot. Sister Bern Cooper took out the pegs off the line challenge. Congratulations to all winners.

The Lodge has set the dates for our 125th Anniversary. They are Thursday, September 22, (a Lodge night) and Friday, September 23, 2011, more details to be decided. We will keep you informed.

The guest speaker at our last meeting was a real delight; even the gentlemen at the meeting are now capable of putting together a basic flower arrangement.

## Lodge or District Special Occasions

Please remember that if your Lodge or District has a special occasion coming up and you would like Society Officers to come along, you need to let us know. There is no point in saying afterwards that it would have been nice to have someone from Society come along.

All our Fraternal Councillors are keen to get out and about, meeting members and hearing what you have to say. All you need do is ask. Bryan Rudd in Napier is particularly keen on meeting members in the North Island, John Simpson in Nelson has pointed out that with a bit of notice he can get to Wellington almost as cheap as I can to drive there. Sue Meikle in Christchurch is already visiting Lodges in the Canterbury area but is happy to add another visit to her schedule. The other Society Officers are also happy to come along if you would like them to participate in your special occasion. Remember we have G.M. Peter

Courtney in Auckland, D.G.M. John Lowe in Waipukurau, Board Chairman Paul Haglund in Christchurch, as well as Directors, Ingrid Taylor in Christchurch and Graham Allanson in Feilding.

It does not have to be a special occasion either. If you would like a Fraternal Council member or Board member to come along to one of your meetings, just let me know and I will try to arrange someone. This could be to speak with members about something specific or it could be just a chance to catch up with matters at a national level from the horse's mouth!

If you don't ask then it won't happen. Give me or one of the above a call or drop them an email.

Free phone: 0800 MUSO4U (0800 68 76 48)  
email: ianf@manchesterunity.org.nz

**Ian Fitchett, Fraternal Manager**

## Loyal Egmont Lodge/Taranaki

I hope you all had a safe and enjoyable Easter. It appears the weather knows that daylight savings has come to an end, with a couple of light dustings of snow on the mountain, we have had some very chilly mornings and evenings; possibly a sneak preview of the winter to come!

Lodge meetings continue to be held on the 3rd Monday of the month and your continued support is very much appreciated.

Saturday 7th August 2010 will be our AGM, details will be in the Egmont Lodge Broadcaster but please feel free to contact the office if you require further information.

**Sis Sharleen Potroz**

## Ashley District

We seem to be well into the swing of Lodge things now after the Christmas break. It started with a Christmas BBQ at Bro and Sis Crofts' home with a good attendance of our members, although the weather was not good. Ashley had cleaned out his very large garage and we all sat down at tables (cloths and all) and shared a wonderful meal. It is amazing how many different salads there were to go with our meat. Ashley had a baked spud covered in foil for each of us baked in his lovely camp oven (yummy). Then out came the desserts and again what an array there was.



The Regional Council picnic was held at Ferrymead and those that went had a great time. On 22nd February we had a challenge night with Riccarton for "the Trophy" and on the final count Riccarton won by one point. Very close and lots of fun. On the 6th March, The Day in the Country members headed north with their

lunch on board and went to an "iron sculpture" who showed his work and then on to an "organic" garden and working with wool. The Grand Master Sis Margaret Dempsey has attended one of her outlying visits to Waiau and this is always a good night with 25 attending this. There are two more to go - Oxford, and Amberley. Also one this month to her home Lodge Rangiora.



**"go biggles"**

As Deputy Grand Master this year, I am on the Regional Council meetings and we attended a meeting in Ashburton. Sis Margaret Dempsey DGM, Sis Suzanne Inkson PDGM and myself took the opportunity to spend the afternoon browsing in the shops. We all met for a meal and then went to Bro. Don Hopwood for the meeting.

I thought I would enclose this photo of what the District Secretary/Deputy Grand Master does in her spare time!!

In friendship,  
Janet Sheppard, District Secretary

## Note of Thanks from Marie Mumford

To all the members, Secretaries, Board Members and Accommodation caretakers of Manchester Unity who so very kindly phoned me and sent emails and messages on my retirement, I would like to say a very sincere thank you. Time was not on my side in the short time we had between selling our home and moving and I would like to have caught up with a lot more people.

I had a very special fourteen years working with you all and made so many friends, especially when working with the Credit Union. Leo and I are very happy in Feilding and it is great being so close to our family. Best wishes to you all in the future.

Kind regards, Marie Mumford