

# The Discoverer

The Monthly Newsletter of The Lodge of Discovery

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## Greetings Brethren,

Another very successful Installation with excellent charges enhanced by a host of visitors from Fiji, New Zealand and Glasgow.

Apologies for a shortage of photographs—this will be rectified in the May Discoverer.

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## Membership e-mail address list

A list of current members and their e-mail addresses is available on request.



**Our new Master—**

**W. Bro. John Warmington**

## INSTALLATION 2018 (incl. Visitors)



Bro. Euan Munro, Sword Bearer, Lodge Kenmuir, Springburn, Glasgow, No. 570, Grand Lodge of Scotland



W. Bro. Graeme Martin, PAGDC, President of the Board of General Purposes, District Grand Lodge, North Island, New Zealand.

## **An Explanation of the three *irregular steps* in the first degree of Freemasonry**

To understand the significance and meaning of the three irregular steps in the first degree we need to set the scene. Consider the following points and see if you agree that they will cause any man to be anxious, concerned and fearful to some extent:

The Candidate knows that he is about to endure a rite of passage into a society of men he really wants to join. He knows nothing of what is about to happen. He is probably feeling humiliation at being in a state of semi-undress. He cannot see because of the blind-fold.

He is probably having grave doubts about the whole experience but having come this far is unwilling to back out – although it has been known and some do.

He hears the knock and the doors open and he hears the voices of people inside the Lodge. The doors close and he is still outside feeling confused. The doors open again and he is now taken by the hand and lead over the threshold.

At this point his heart is probably thumping, he is probably feeling really confused and doesn't know what is happening to him. He finds he is dependent on his guide (the Junior Deacon) who he may not know or trust at this stage.

He is questioned and his guide whispers words in his ear and he copies these words as his answers to the questions. Then follows a series of events where he is guided around and hears people talking about him and what he is there for. He gets used to being led by the hand in a firm way.

Then he hears someone addressing the Worshipful Master and hears a reply and a series of questions and again a friendly voice prompts him with answers. Then he hears the WM telling the SW to direct the Deacons to instruct him in the proper steps and gets led off again on another blind journey. He is told to stop or at least his guide stops him and now whispers in his ear how to position his feet at right angles and tells him to take a step forward.

How do you think the Candidate feels right now? He has been pushed and pulled about all around the Lodge, which he cannot see, heard people speaking about him and now he is told to step forward. He is probably thinking – WHERE? – WHY?

**This is where we are at when trying to understand the question about the irregular steps.**

An answer to the question emerges as follows:

Freemasonry appreciates all the above and so asks each Candidate to take a short step with his left foot because he is anxious, unsure, worried about what might happen to him. He is taking a step into the unknown.

When he has done this and feels that nothing bad has happened because of this step, he is asked to take another a little longer and because he is learning to trust his guide – he does take another, slightly longer step.

The third step is even longer and represents the enormous step into Freemasonry where he arrives at the pedestal (even though he does not know this yet) where he is about to take his Solemn Obligation and become a Freemason.

Some masons attach significance to the fact that there are three steps – they say the number represents the three degrees. It is more probable that there are three steps and three degrees because the number three was and still is regarded as significant in many ways to do with human life. In the original Masonic ceremonies there were only two degrees, that of Apprentice and that of Fellow of the Craft. A freemason was not regarded as a Master Mason until he had been installed in the Chair of his Lodge.

Another modern add-on is the belief that the steps should be 9 inches, 12 inches and 15 inches representing a right-angled triangle. This is a misconception and was never laid down in the original ritual books.

I hope this helps some of us understand why we take three steps of unequal length.

*George Allan  
January 2016*

## The Worthy Mason

Here's to the worthy mason,  
As worthy he must be  
To travel far and wide at night  
His brethren for to see  
To don the simple lamb skin  
Is done with lots of pride  
And witness ancient ritual  
With his brethren by his side.

The warmth of friendly greeting,  
The clasping of the hand,  
The small talk in the foyer  
Is something oh so grand.  
The stuffy heat of summer,  
The cold wet winter's night,  
Are things we take within our stride  
To see the wondrous sight

Of brethren standing side by side  
All in regalia dressed,  
Has been from time immemorial  
A witness to the test  
Of meeting on the level  
And parting on the square  
And all that goes on in between  
Is done with lots of care.

The merriment at supper,  
The solemnity of the toast,  
The honours to the visitors  
Presented to the host  
Are things that we all cherish  
And things that we all see.  
So here's to the worthy mason  
As worthy he must be.

*With acknowledgement to W. Bro. Joe Bau*





## MARCH ANSWERS



Q 1. What are the working tools in the 1st degree? **24 inch gauge (ruler), common gavel (mallet or hammer), chisel.**

Q 2. Where would you find the phrase "the all seeing eye observes us" ? **Closing prayer in the 2nd Degree.**

Q 3. On many Lodge tracing boards the middle chamber is shown as being inside King Solomon's temple. Why is this incorrect? See the following link <http://www.freemasons-freemasonry.com/saltemp.html>

Q 4. Where in our ritual could you show this error? **Second degree tracing board.**

Q 5. The art of Geometry is regarded as important in freemasonry - why? **For erecting buildings with square corners.**

Q 6. A man presenting himself for initiation into Freemasonry is received on the part of a s... i..... Give two reasons for this unusual event. **The first reason is to check that the Candidate is not female, the second is to emphasise the seriousness and solemnity of what is about to be undertaken.**

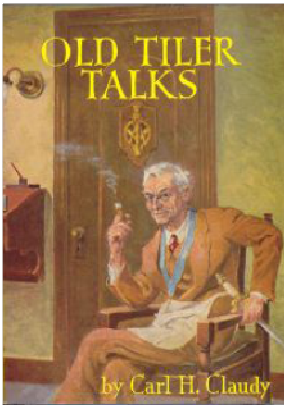
Q 7. In life we use the term "being given the third degree" to indicate what sort of happening? **A challenging line of questioning.**

Q 8. Somewhere in almost every Lodge room in New Zealand there is a point within a circle with two straight and parallel lines touching that circle. What do these two lines represent? **The two patron saints of Freemasonry - St John the Evangelist and St John the Baptist.**

Q 9. What does that point represent? **There are various opinions on this one but most believe it to be a belief in a Supreme Being.**

Q 10. What does that circle represent? **There are various opinions on this one too, infinity is one, continuous brotherly love is another**

*With acknowledgement to the Craft Masonry Education Website New Zealand*



## Old Tiler Talks— INNER MEANING

Does the third degree of Masonry mean something else than what it says?" The New Mason sat beside the bearer of the sword in the anteroom and offered his cigar case.

"What does it say?" inquired the Old Tiler, extracting a cigar and lighting it.

"Why, you know what it says. Fancy asking me that! Any one would think you never saw one!"

"Oh, I have seen many a third degree," answered the Old Tiler. "So have a lot of other men. But the third degree seems to say something different to each man who receives it, and to all who see it. So before I answer as to whether it means something different to what it says, I will have to know what it says to you, won't I?"

"But that's just the point! I don't know what it means to me!" cried the New Mason. "It's all so new and strange. It must have a deeper inner meaning than just the ceremony. It can't be just a repetition of what may or may not have been a historical fact!"

The Old Tiler puffed at his cigar. "I think the third degree of Freemasonry is one of the most beautiful of the symbols which mankind has ever erected, to teach himself what he already knows, to teach others what they must know. Its immediate and obvious lessons are fidelity to trust, fortitude in face of danger, the fact that the good a man does lives after him, the inevitability of justice. But there are other teachings-immortality, for instance."

"I can see that the Master degree teaches immortality," responded the New Mason, eagerly, "and that the drama can be interpreted as one of resurrection. Indeed, the ritual so explains part of it."

"There is an inner meaning to the teaching of immortality," continued the Old Tiler. "Have you a piece of string with only one end?"

"What? There isn't any such thing! It either has no ends, if it is in a circle, or two ends."

The Old Tiler looked his questioner in the eye. "Immortality can't have one end only, either! Anything that is to continue to live forever must always have lived. If it had a finite beginning, it must have a finite end."

"Do you mean that Freemasonry teaches the theory of reincarnation-that we have all lived before, and will again?" demanded the New Brother, aghast. "I am no Buddhist!"

"I don't mean anything of the kind!" explained the Old Tiler. "The Buddhist theory of reincarnation is only one way of using the idea of immortality which has neither beginning nor ending. Surely it is possible to believe that the immortal part of us, which must have come from God, has always lived, without thinking that it has lived in the body of some other man, or in an animal, as the animists believe. But I do not see how anyone who believes in endless life, can also believe that our souls began when our bodies were born.

"If I am to be immortal in the future, and have a soul which has been immortal in the past, I must have an immortal soul now. I am just as much in immortality and eternity at the present moment as I will be when my body is in the brow of a hill, and the brethren have invested my mortal remains with a lambskin apron and a sprig of acacia has been dropped upon my lifeless form.

"So that I must hunt farther than a mere teaching of immortality to extract the inner meaning of the third degree. I do not need a Master Mason degree to teach me the common sense of a piece of string which has only one end!

"All men are, in one sense, haunted houses. The ghosts of their long dead ancestors rise up and walk with them, The good man who does something wrong, the clever man who does something stupid, the stupid man who does something enormously clever, is haunted with the ghosts of those from whose loins he sprang. We are not just one person, but a lot of persons. We have an everyday self, and a better self; a selfish, self-seeking self, and a self-sacrificing, loving self. Sometimes one is in control and sometimes another.

"The third degree is to me not only the teaching of immortality of the soul, but the raising of my better self in my own house-my 'temple not made with hands.' It teaches me how to subdue my passions-my selfish and inconsiderate self-and to allow my better self, my Master Builder self, to rise from wherever my 'brow of a hill' is, in which the ruffians of selfishness, meanness, dishonesty have buried him, to shine eternal as the stars, within me."

The Old Tiler paused. The New Mason broke his spell to ask, "Old Tiler, did you ever study to be a preacher?"

"I don't know enough!" he answered laughing. "What put such an idea in your head?"

"Maybe you don't know enough to preach," was the slow answer. "But you certainly know enough to teach. When next I see a third degree it will be with new eyes."

"That's nice of you." The Old Tiler was pleased. "My ideas are just thoughts of a common Mason."

"They are the common thoughts of the best Mason!" declared the New Brother.



## PERPENDICULARS

In the first degree the following passage is communicated to the candidate; 'premiering for your general information that all squares, levels and perpendiculars are true and proper signs by which to know a Freemason'.

Perpendicular in a geometrical sense is that which is upright and erect leaning neither one way or another.

Symbolically, it represents integrity or rectitude and uprightness of bearing and attitude. Indeed, the ritual explains that in adopting an erect, or perpendicular stance, a brother's body may be considered as an emblem of his mind and his feet of the rectitude of his actions.

The real lesson of perpendicularity is presented in the working tools charge in the second degree when the Fellowcraft is told that 'as the builder raises his column by the level and perpendicular, so ought every Freemason conduct himself towards this world...'

Additionally, the apparent 'Ts' on the aprons of Masters, Past Masters and Grand Lodge officers are, in reality, perpendiculars upon horizontals, as described in the Book of Constitutions.

### Lodge Birthdays

<b>Andy Donaldson</b>	<b>36 (HM)</b>
<b>Brian Mott</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Tony Ryan</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Don MacQuoid</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Keith Thomas</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Peter Phillipps</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>James Kluck</b>	<b>8</b>

### News from the South

W. Bro. J. Warmington became only the fifth brother of the Lodge of Discovery to have been installed twice into the chair of King Solomon.

The Installation ceremony was the farewell to W. Bro. Russell Chilton who is now domiciled in New Zealand. We thank him for all he has done during his three years in Vanuatu and wish him every success in his new Lodge in NZ.



## OUR NEW MASTER—revisited

*This is an updated version of what originally appeared in the April 2014 edition.*

Our W. Bro secretary has asked me to give you a brief background and an update on my life thus far. Having done this previously for LOD in 2014 there have been a few changes.

With is in mind ---- my life started some 52 years ago, on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 1965 in the town of Banbury in Great Britain, yes that is the one in the nursery rhyme and yes I started out as a pom! As I have never been a great cricket fan I have never found this a hindrance. Clearly this means I hit 50 since my last story!

My parents, Chris (an agronomist and later advertising and promotion agency owner) and Adrienne (a teacher, later advertising agency owner) made the decision to take the family, which by then included my brother, Mark (11 months my junior) to Uganda in East Africa in June 1971 where Dad worked in the seed industry and we lived there for a number of years in a village called Masindi, which had very few expats and was situated very close to large game parks. My childhood could be called exciting, adventurous and "out there". As kids, Mark and I spent much time travelling through those game parks, camping, meeting the wildlife etc. I guess this set the scene for both of us for the rest of our lives, particularly our love of the outdoors and nature. We frequently visited the parks of Para and Chobi, went to Kidepo on the Sudan Border and Queen Elizabeth in the south west, neighbouring Rwanda, Kenya etc. etc.

My youngest brother, Steve, was born in Uganda, and is now 46.

Later in our Ugandan adventure, matters were getting tricky with Idi Amin, and we eventually moved to a research station near the capital, Kampala. I went to school there for a short while but eventually had to return to home schooling as there were too many road blocks and gun toting Idi supporters, preventing us from getting there!!

We returned to the UK in June 1973 as government aid contracts could not be renewed and then later that year in November 1973 we arrived in Adelaide as Ten Pound Poms, following in the footsteps of my mum's brother Clint who was a geologist in Whyalla but was very sadly killed in a car accident soon after we arrived.

Dad started work in the seed industry again. His work saw us later move to Dubbo in NSW and onto the thriving metropolis of Narromine (pop. 2000). From there, in 1976 it was off to Toowoomba in Queensland, which has become the family base. I started high school there and went to Toowoomba Grammar School and later the DDIAE, now called the University of Southern Queensland. ... and – for those who may be interested – yes I was pasteurised and homogenised and became an Aussie at age 18 and now hold dual citizenship – but that still makes no difference with the cricket!

My grandparents on both sides also moved to Australia, sadly we have lost my Nan, Grandpa and Granny in the last 4 years but Pop, my mentor, is still giving `em curry at 99. I have just returned from visiting him for Christmas.

Mark is still an agronomist with two children and still based in Kunnunurra, WA. Steve is currently living in Ayr North Queensland. Sadly due to serious illness he has stopped work as ---- an agronomist! Luckily there is only one bean counter in the family.

My daughters Kelsey (25) and Arielle (23) are still both living on the Sunshine Coast, in Australia. Arielle has become engaged to her long-time beau, Colby and they have bought a home on acreage at Moy Pocket. Kelsey is completing her degree in teaching and Arielle is still mad about horses.

Career wise, I always started out wanting to be Marine Biologist but somehow ended up taking the accounting road as at that time, as at least there was some prospect of actually having a career in that field and positions as a biologist were few and far between! I completed a Bachelor of Business in 1988 and then started work in the audit division of what was then known as Peat Marwick, later to become KPMG. I was based in Brisbane, but after 3 years and completing my qualifications as a chartered accountant I had had enough of city life and returned to Toowoomba, then on to Mackay for 5 years and ultimately becoming a partner in a small accounting practice in Maryborough, Queensland. I also spent some time lecturing and tutoring in accounting at university level.

It was at that time that life took a bit of a right hand turn, following a family breakdown, and ultimately I ended up getting away to Darwin in the Northern Territory where I honed my fishing skills on barramundi and wrestled wild crocs.

But it was lonely up there, so what does one do? I saw an ad for tropical Vanuatu and I applied! Why --- well at the time my thought was – why not – great diving, fishing, the Ocean, a new culture, expat lifestyle --- so after an interview in Australia 3 months later I arrived in Vila in early 1999 with a suitcase and no idea what I was getting myself into. The rest is history!! I spent 3 years at Moore Stephens before moving onto BDO (now Barrett Partners.). Then in 2006 I had the chance to take on the role as CFO of a Pacific hotel chain which lets say was challenging, very time demanding but a great experience. I spent a lot of time in Fiji and also in Tonga and Samoa. Unfortunately the owner of the group and I had, let's call it a division of opinion, and I left the group in November 2009. In that period I also managed to complete an MBA with University of Southern Queensland.

It was at this time that I started my business "The Bottom Line" which is a small accounting and consulting practice operated and staffed by me, me and me! Sad to say, nothing has changed there in 4 years and it is still me plodding away.

Of course during these initial years in Vila, I became very adept at the expat lifestyle and indulged in my passion for fishing (Fishing club committee over 10 years, President 6 times) and diving. In my last update I mentioned diving every Sunday with Bro Dave Barrett. Sadly we lost Dave 3 years ago and I miss him every day. I do still dive every week however and it is the one activity that keeps me sane! As many of you would know I have also taken up underwater photography with a passion. Anyone that has seen my latest camera gear will attest to this!

Sandy has now been with me here in Vanuatu for 6 years and together we have now built a new home at Havannah Harbour. We all know how that works here – take your budget and multiple by 3 then set a move in date and add 12 months! But we have made it and as I write we are relocating to Havannah. Sandy has been instrumental in seeing the project through as the project supervisor and her work on the gardens is nothing short of spectacular!!

I am very happy to report that we sold the hair and beauty salon and regained some normality of life!

My journey as a mason began in July 2005 after I was proposed by W Bro Don Macquoid. I was initiated on 12 July 2005, passed on 11 July 2006 and raised on 11 September 2007.

In 2014 and was given the honour of being installed into the Chair of King Solomon, and it was a fantastic year!! Roll on four years and having done another stint as your Junior Warden I again have the honour of acting as your master.

My comments remain the same ----- and as my good friend W. Bro. Doug once told me – you don't just become a mason, you always were a mason. It is a way of being, a quality which we get to see in all our brothers. When I joined I was amazed that many of the people I respected and liked the most in Vila were already at the lodge. Nothing has changed in that regard!!

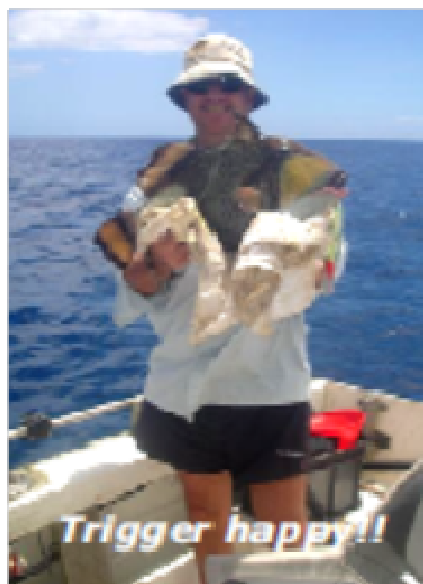
I have enjoyed, and continue to enjoy every moment of my time in the lodge, I have made life-long friendships and strongly believe in our brotherly principles. Yes at times the ritual work can be challenging, but the personal satisfaction and sense of achievement of being so involved, and indeed of belonging, make it all so worth- while.

Here's looking forward to another great year!!

*A final quote from the WM—*

*I am same old same old – nothing has changed – just more grey hair !*

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**John & Sandy  
Race Day**



## APRIL QUIZ



1. Name two of the immovable jewels of the Lodge.
2. Freemasonry is supposed to imprint on our hearts three sacred dictates, what are they?
3. The four corners of the flooring represent the four cardinal virtues? Name them.
4. Explain any two of them to yourself in the mirror? This will surprise you and make you smile.
5. Name the pieces of the Ritual furniture of the Lodge
6. You should all know yourselves to be Masons by the regularity of your initiation, what does this mean in modern life?
7. You demonstrate the proof of being a Mason by signs, tokens and the perfect points of your entrance. The signs are all squares, levels and perpendiculars so how should this be used in modern life to demonstrate you being a Mason?
8. Name the perfect points of your entrance.
9. When closing the Lodge in the first degree how many knocks are heard?
10. What is the last word spoken and who speaks it when closing the Lodge at the end of a Masonic meeting? [Read this question very carefully before answering].

*With acknowledgement to the Craft Masonry Education Website New Zealand*



## Humour

If you're not familiar the work of Steven Wright, he's the famous Erudite (comic) scientist who once said:

"I woke up one morning, and all of my stuff had been stolen and replaced by exact duplicates."

His mind sees things differently than most of us do. Here are some of his gems.

- 1 - I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.
- 2 - Borrow money from pessimists--they don't expect it back.
- 3 - Half the people you know are below average.
- 4 - 99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
- 5 - 82.7% of all statistics are made up on the spot.
- 6 - A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.
- 7 - A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
- 8 - If you want the rainbow, you have got to put up with the rain.
- 9 - All those who believe in psycho kinesis, raise my hand.
- 10 - The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
- 11 - I almost had a psychic girlfriend ... but she left me before we met.
- 12 - OK, so what's the speed of dark?
- 13 - How do you tell when you're out of invisible ink?
- 14 - If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.
- 15 - Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.
- 16 - When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- 17 - Ambition is a poor excuse for not having enough sense to be lazy.
- 18 - Hard work pays off in the future; laziness pays off now.

- 19 - I intend to live forever. So far, so good.
- 20 - If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?
- 21 - Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.
- 22 - What happens if you get scared half to death twice?
- 23 - My mechanic told me, "I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder."
- 24 - Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?
- 25 - If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.
- 26 - A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.
- 27 - Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
- 28 - The hardness of the butter is proportional to the softness of the bread.
- 29 - To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.
- 30 - The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.
- 31 - The sooner you fall behind, the more time you'll have to catch up.
- 32 - The colder the x-ray table, the more of your body is required to be on it.
- 33 - Everyone has a photographic memory; some just don't have film.
- 34 - If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.
- And the all-time favorite:
- 35 - If your car could travel at the speed of light, would your headlights work?

