



# The Discoverer

The Monthly Newsletter of the Lodge of Discovery

## In this Issue

Masonic Quotes 1

Entered Apprentice 2

From the South 4

Life & Times of Jock 5

Humour 7

## Greetings Brethren,

We start with some memorable Masonic quotes from various esteemed Brethren. Then we have an address to our newly-initiated Entered Apprentices.

On Page 5 is an account of the life and times of Jock Hannaford—enjoy!!

Being persuaded that a just application of the principles, on which the Masonic Fraternity is founded, must be promote of private virtue and public prosperity, I shall always be happy to advance the interests of the Society, and to be considered by them as a deserving brother.

**GEORGE WASHINGTON**

Editor:

W. Bro. Alan Churchill

P.O. Box 235

Port Vila, Vanuatu

Tel: 678 55 64486

achurchill@vanuatu.com.vu

www.LOD8737.org

Brother, I, too, own a television set, but that does not keep me at home on Lodge night. I have never yet had one of the characters on television come off the screen and shake my hand. They have never offered me the warm friendship that my Lodge brothers do. They have never handed me a cup of coffee or a doughnut. No! Never!

**ANONYMOUS**

Freemasonry embraces the highest moral laws and will bear the test of any system of ethics or philosophy ever promulgated for the uplift of man.

**DOUGLAS McARTHUR**

Freemasonry is an institution essentially philanthropic and progressive, which has for its basis the existence of God and the immortality of the soul. It has for its object the exercise of benevolence, the study of universal morality, and the practice of all the virtues.

**CONSTITUTION GRAND ORIENT OF FRANCE**

Freemasonry has tenets peculiar to itself. They serve as testimonials of character and qualifications, which are only conferred after due course of instruction and examination. These are of no small value; they speak a universal language, and act as a passport to the attentions and support of the initiated in all parts of the world. They cannot be lost as long as memory retains its power. Let the possessor of them be expatriated, shipwrecked or imprisoned, let him be stripped of everything he has got in the world, still those credentials remain, and are available for use as circumstances require. The good effects they have produced are established by the most incontestable facts of history. They have stayed the uplifted hand of the destroyer; they have softened the asperities of the tyrant; they have mitigated the horrors of captivity; they have subdued the rancour of malevolence; and broken down the barriers of political animosity and sectarian alienation. On the field of battle, in the solitudes of the uncultivated forest, or in the busy haunts of the crowded city, they have made men of the most hostile feelings, the most distant regions, and diversified conditions, rush to the aid of each other, and feel a special joy and satisfaction that they have been able to afford relief to a Brother Mason.

**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN**

## An address to New Masons — THE ENTERED APPRENTICE

You are now an Entered Apprentice Freemason – the first step in your journey through what is known as The Craft Degrees. The word ‘apprentice’ means ‘learner’ or ‘beginner’ – one who is taking his first steps in mastering a trade or profession.

The builders of the Middle Ages we call ‘Operative Masons’ because they were builders in the literal sense, hewing stone from the quarries, dressing to shape, and laying into walls and creating some of the most remarkable structures the world has ever seen.

As a modern Entered Apprentice Freemason you are a beginner in what we call ‘Speculative Masonry’. This means that we do not build in stone – we build in the hearts and minds of men ‘a system of morality’.

We do this with a series of interesting stories that contain symbols to help us illustrate and understand moral truth and justice.

Today you are an Entered Apprentice, in a short while you will become a ‘Fellowcraft’ and, in due time a ‘Master Mason’ and the day will come when into your hands will be placed the responsibility of your Lodge as Master.

What Freemasonry is to be in the future depends upon what you are now, as an Entered Apprentice. You are a symbol, a cornerstone on which Freemasonry of the future will be built. It is hoped that you will prove to be a solid foundation, true and tried, set four-square, on which our great Fraternity may safely progress.

This world of Freemasonry into which you have entered is dedicated to Brotherhood. Unless you, as an Apprentice, are willing and qualified to lead a brotherly life, you will never really learn the genuine secrets of our Order. It is therefore extremely important that the obligation into which you have entered will pledge you with heartfelt sincerity to live ‘a brotherly life’.

In this First Degree, an Apprentice takes his first step into this life. He passes through the portals of birth into this remarkable new sphere. He leaves the darkness of ignorance and helplessness of the ‘popular world’ for the light and warmth of this new experience.

This is the most important and great meaning of the First Degree. The ceremony is not an idle formality, like joining some social club or society, but a unique and genuine experience, the beginning of a new career, in which duties, rights and privileges are real and long-lasting.

It is most important that you are not an Apprentice in name only. You must be ready at once to begin to examine your own nature, and to work upon it to make you a different and better man.

It is wise to begin at once to make that Daily Advancement in Masonic Knowledge. This does not mean learning the ritual, it means to study a little Masonic literature, not necessarily at length, but enough to familiarise yourself a little with its history, philosophy, laws and regulations.

To become a Freemason is a serious and solemn undertaking. Once this step is taken it may well change the course of your life.

The principal tenets of Freemasonry are Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

It is necessary not to overlook the word ‘principal’, for it signifies that whilst our Fraternity lays the greatest emphasis on these three teachings, yet there are others of almost equal importance.

By a 'tenet' we mean some principle so obviously true, and so universally accepted, that we all believe it without exception. For example, that day follows night. Everyone takes that for granted. That is a 'tenet'.

What then is 'Brotherly Love'? Manifestly, it means that we place on another man the highest possible valuation as a friend, a companion, an associate or even a neighbour.

We do not ask that from our relationship we shall make money, or further our business interests or achieve any selfish gain. This is not a hope or a dream, but a fact.

'Relief' is one form of charity. However, the Masonic concept of the word 'Relief' is different. Masonic Relief takes it for granted that any man, no matter who or what he may be, through sudden misfortune or conditions outside his control, becomes unable to support himself and his family, may temporarily be in need of a helping hand.

To provide that help is not what is generally described as charity. It is one of the natural and inevitable acts of Brotherhood.

The third and last of the principal tenets is 'Truth'. It means something more than the search for truth in the intellectual sense. Freemasonry's Motto is "Let there be Light". In a Brotherhood such as Freemasonry, members must be truthful in character and habit, dependable, men of honour as well of honesty, men on whom we can rely to be faithful fellows and loyal friends.

These are the principal tenets of the Craft, teachings so obvious that argument is never necessary to sustain them. It is important to remember that they are the tenets of Freemasonry for the simple reason that always and everywhere they have been the tenets of successful human life.

There is not an item contained within a Masonic Lodge, or a facet in the jewel of Masonic ritual that does not have a symbolic meaning. It is going to take you a Masonic lifetime to discover what they are.

Then, this fleeting opportunity will not enable you to fully complete your task. This article is too brief to give a complete explanation of even The First Degree.

It can be no more than a simple example. The 'hoodwink' not only represents the darkness in which a candidate stands with regards to his Masonic life, it is more than that. It is:

**The anticipation of Masonic illumination of knowledge to come.**

**Its removal – a reminder of the treasures of darkness.**

**Its revelation of the hidden riches of secret places.**

'Slipshod' reminds us of two important extracts from the Bible:

"Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground."

"...a man plucked off his shoe, and gave it to his neighbour and this was a testimony of sincere and truthful intentions."

The 'cable tow' is a symbol of all those external restraints by which a man is controlled by others, or by forces outside himself. If a man does not keep the law of his own free will, he must be compelled to do so. The removal of the cable tow signifies that when a man becomes a Freemason, he learns to be master of himself. By his own character he will keep the law instinctively.

We hope that these few examples of our symbolic meanings will lead you to seek for more Masonic light, not only to progress your Masonic knowledge, but also for their value to you as a citizen in the world outside.

As an Entered Apprentice you are now not only a member of your Masonic Lodge, but belong to the Antient Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons under the United Grand Lodge of England, and you are therefore bound by its laws and regulations.

Your duties require that you remain faithful to your Obligation that clearly describes what is now required of you. You should study this Obligation very carefully, because both its words and their meaning will remain with you for as long as you live.

You now possess certain privileges that entitle you sit in a Masonic Lodge opened in the First Degree. You are now permitted to attend as a visitor other Lodges within our Constitution, but you would be wise, at this very early stage, to attend only when accompanied by your Proposer, Secunder or Lodge Mentor.

You are now expected, as part of your duties, to begin to learn, and above all understand, the required portions of Masonic ritual so that you can prove yourself to be proficient in order to advance to the next stage of your Masonic career.

From now on, and throughout your Masonic career, make it your personal objective to make your Daily Advancement in Masonic Knowledge. There is so much to learn, and there is no time to be wasted.

To begin with, find out what is meant by "The Grand Charity". There is an officer in your Lodge called the 'Almoner' – ask him for some information.

Finally, you should have received, at your Initiation, a Book of Constitutions. This is the set of rules and regulations. You may find to read it is hard going. Just taking a few 'snippets' from time to time will be helpful.

*by Raymond Hollins Published in MQ MAGAZINE - JULY 2005*

## From the South

During the last week of July W. Bro. George Vasiliev and wife, Kathy, were in town on a short visit, unfortunately it didn't coincide with a Lodge meeting. In July we carried out an Initiation ceremony for Mr. Garry Jordan, Manager Poppy's Resort. A welcome visitor was Bro. Colin Cooper a member of Lodge Hiogo & Osaka No. 498 S.C. Colin is a retired Civil Servant (UK Foreign Office) while his wife, Bridget, is with the Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) here in Vila for a period of 6 months engaged in an HIV project funded by Ausaid.

### Masonic Birthdays

George Vasiliev	17
Sean Griffin	11
Rick Burns	3
Larry Dvoracko	1

## Getting to know our Founder Members — Part 2

### W. Bro. John William Hannaford (Jock)

Born in Wellington, New Zealand on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 1936, of an English, (Liverpudlian/Scottish) father and a New Zealand mother. This probably accounts for my love of Celtic music and culture, although I must admit my father did NOT like the bagpipes at all, and forbade me to learn them while I was still at home.

At the age of three years we moved to Nelson, where I eventually began my Secondary education at Nelson College. It was in Nelson, at the age of 12, I joined the City of Nelson Highland pipe Band as a drummer; a compromise which I think was engineered by my mother at the time.

In 1952 after three years at College, my parents moved to Murchison, a small town on the West coast where I attended Murchison District High School, becoming Head Boy for two years. However, it was just before leaving Nelson where I was boarding at a friend's home to finish the academic year out, that my first experience of Freemasonry happened. Two days before we were to sit School Certificate Exams, my friend's father, (whom I know now to have been a very Eminent Freemason, and a New Zealand Grand Master), suddenly passed away.

Three days later at the Crematorium, his three sons and myself were approached by a very quiet, and austere gentleman who said, "We are about to have another small Service inside, would you young gentlemen like to join us?" We did, and it was a full Masonic Funeral to which we had been invited.

These ceremonies are not held any more in the English or NZ Constitutions, but it impressed me so much that I can only say that it rivalled a full military funeral for its splendour and ambiance, and I have never forgotten it.

At the beginning of 1955, after spending three months on Government Red Deer control in the deep bush behind Lake Rotorua, I joined the RNZAF on No. 19 Combined Aircrew Course for Pilot Training at RNZAF Station Taieri, near Dunedin. We started on Tiger Moths, and after three months were posted to RNZAF Wigram near Christchurch, to continue training on Harvards. Unfortunately, after 260hrs flying, and only 10 days before Pilot Graduation I was grounded through balance troubles during Instrument flying. A big disappointment, but after two months realising that the Service was my life, I rejoined as a Weapons, Field-craft & Aircrew Survival Instructor back at Taieri, eventually instructing NCO Courses and Ex-UK Courses. (Ten pound Poms as they were known as!!!), until being transferred as an Air Training Corps Instructor in Wellington, Palmerston Nth and Wanganui. It was during the Wellington Posting that I married Dawn, an ex - WAAF whom I had met at Taieri, and it was during my Palmerston and Wanganui postings that my daughter and eldest son were born. I was able to represent the RNZAF/RAF four times in the shooting team, and was runner-up for the Queen's Medal in 1957. Perhaps this, and Bristol Freighters later, account for my two hearing aids now..! In 1963 while in Wanganui, I once again applied for Aircrew Training as an Air-Signaller, and was accepted. We returned to Wigram on No.38 Aircrew Course, and after having another son, eventually graduating top of the course in May 1964, I was posted to Transport Support Unit at RNZAF Whenuapai on Bristol Freighters —a truly reliable aircraft, (and the butt of many jokes around the world). But in six months it got me to most of the South Pacific Islands and Australia. However, on Christmas Day I found out that I was to be posted within three weeks to No.41 Sqn. based at RAF Changi in Singapore. Good trick, good trick!! How does a family pack up house over the Christmas shut-down??

Then after 3000hrs flying, and 13 yrs as a regular serviceman, I joined Civil Aviation as an Air Traffic Controller, and ironically, after my ATCO Course at Christchurch Airport, was posted back to the Air Force Base I was discharged from as a Flt.Lt. ATCO...Whenuapai. Apart from relieving periods at Hamilton & Rotorua, I remained there until April 1976, joining the BNS as an ATCO to the New Hebrides Civil Aviation Dept. with an initial posting to Pekoa Airfield. By the time I left Vanuatu, I had been in Vila and then back to Santo as the Regional Director Northern Airfields.

A lot of my life's time at Santo is too lengthy for this narrative, but it can be revealed now, that as a very active Amateur Radio Operator at the time, I was "assisting" Bro. Gordon Haines in his British security operations, by monitoring and reporting on the radio transmissions from the Phoenix Foundation/French backed pirate radio station at Vanafo, which was very active before Vanuatu's Independence. Very interesting, seeing that my own boss at work was one of those involved and deported after July 1980! I was also known as "that mad New Zealander", as I bought a 40ft cutter with a 35ft hole in its side, from an American who had wrecked it on a Santo reef in 1974. After lots of drama, and support from the Santo populace, I eventually repaired it and sailed it to Vila. It was used regularly for Masonic cruises on Mele Bay. One cruise being with Lord Cornwallis, the Pro. Grand Master, who was visiting the EC Lodges in the South Pacific at the time. I remember him attending the Lodge wearing a MM apron, as the airlines had lost his suitcase with all his GL regalia.

Very soon after starting work in Santo Tower, a dapper wee, smooth-talking chap with a long name came up to the cab, and started talking about being cautious, (and such things!). This became my early involvement in the forming of the Lodge in Vila, and being one of the Founder Members. One thing about those early circle-meetings which has stuck in my mind, is the great bowl of chips which was supplied by the lady host of the bar whenever we used to gather for "one or eleven", and suitable discussions. This custom was carried on in the later Refectory proceedings for a while, but has lapsed over time. Another "custom" we had for a few years, was the custom of someone being in a kilt for the Installation. This took its rise because, at our first meeting, I had no formal gear, due to the fact that in true French custom, my container of household belongings had been "unavoidably" off-loaded on to the wharf at Noumea, and indeed, was not forwarded to Santo for about six months afterwards, complete with about six million French-speaking cockroaches. All I had that was formal was my kilt, so I had to wear this; so Robbie Willcock from Fiji, wore his as well.

Since then, I have always worn Highland Dress for the Installation, and W. Bro. Andy Donaldson carried on the custom for some time before he returned to the UK.

In effect, I actually completed three wonderful years as WM of the Lodge.

My first in 1981, and my last In 1988. But in 1982, my successor W. Bro. Robin Bibby returned to the UK after only doing one or two meetings as Master, so being the IPM I had to step back in until W. Bro. Ross McDonald took over in February 1983.

I joined the Rotorua Rose Croix Chapter while home on leave in 1984, and rejoined in the Lathom Chapter in Wanganui in 1998, presently holding 30\* rank. While in Kingaroy in 1991, I joined the South Burnett Lodge No. 427 UGLQ, and served as JW, until returning to NZ in 1993. I was also a member of the Kingaroy Royal Arch Chapter. On returning to NZ, I joined the Auckland RA Chapter No.9. and The Waiheke Lodge No. 367 serving as DC & SW then moved to Wanganui in 1997. I was also a member of the Royal Order of Scotland, NZ Nth. until transferring to ROS NZ Central in 1998, an Order in which I am now the Provincial Grand Master in my 4<sup>th</sup> year of a 5 year tenure.

In the craft lodge, I was a member of Lodge Rutland No.398 until it amalgamated with Lodge Whanganui to form The United Lodge of Whanganui No. 468. I am also a member of the St. Andrew-Kilwinning Lodge No 79 (ex SC). I was the District Grand Marischal for the Whanganui Knights Templar Ruapehu District, having served for two years as Preceptor for the Whanganui Preceptory No.23. I had to resign from the Wanganui RA Chapter in 2000, & the KT in 2005 due to my work in Wellington, and the fact that my marriage of 40 years had come to an end in 2000. In 2003 I was introduced by a Bro. to a lovely English girl whom I married in 2004. Sue and I are now very happy indeed.

My interest in music and woodworking is still very much to the fore, and I'm fortunate to be able to say that I've made Masonic gavels and other accoutrements for Lodges and individuals in 9 different Countries now. Something I am very proud of is having been able to furnish LOD with most of its fittings etc. In my piping, I was a member of the Wanganui Highland Pipe Band and Drum Major until work forced me to give up Band work. Nearly all of my piping now is for Lodges, Weddings, and more now frequently for funerals.

Finally, may I pass on a great piece of advice which was given to me by an old and respected GL Officer, just after I was raised. He said, "Jock, when you get your GL Certificate, just annotate on the back, the name and date of all the first visits to the various Lodges you go to. You will be surprised when you read it later in life, where Masonry has taken you." I did. And I now have 114 names on two certificates. Names from all over the world, including Kathmandu, with Bro. Neil, originally from this LOD. Maybe some of the young Masons reading this would like to emulate that advice as well.

I have thoroughly enjoyed Freemasonry in its various forms, but I must say that the hardest job I have ever had to do is, at his family's request, was to conduct the burial service for my Bro. Hans Mol at the Vila Cemetery. Hans ceased from Labour only an hour before my second Installation in 1988. A truly good man. When one thinks about it there are, as far as I can make out, only three, (maybe four), of the original Founder Members still with us today, 19/6/2011. Even the wisest of us knows not when....!

*Editor's Note: I sat alongside Jock in the control tower at Vila for about 12 months listening to Jock's tales of people who were Masons when, for some inexplicable reason, I suddenly asked Jock "How can I become a Mason?" Jock replied, "I've been waiting months for you to say that". And that is how my Masonic career started—I'm eternally grateful Jock!!*

## Humour

A ragged tramp stopped a Mason on his way home from the lodge and asked him for money for food. "I'll do better than that!" said the Mason. "Come into the pub, and I'll buy you a drink!" "Thank you!" said the beggar. "But I've never drunk and I never will!" "Well, let me buy you some cigarettes then!" said the Mason. "No, thanks!" said the tramp, "I've never smoked and I never will!" "Okay", said the Mason. "Come back to the lodge with me and I'll see you get a meal!" "No, thanks", said the man. "I've never entered a Masonic lodge and I never will!" "Right, then", said the Mason "Will you please come home with me and meet my wife!" "Why?" asked the tramp. "Well", said the Mason. "I just want her to see what happens to a guy who doesn't drink, doesn't smoke and hasn't joined the Masons!"

Bro. John and Bro. Mike are getting dressed and ready for a lodge meeting. When John takes his apron out of the case, Mike notices a pair of silk stockings unrolling and hanging out of the case. Mike asks: "I say, John, what's this with the ladies stuff?" John gives a quick look and whispers: "You remember the installation meeting last year?" Mike acknowledges and John goes on: "Keep it a secret, but on the way home I stopped at the pub where I met this lovely woman. Apparently she lost her stockings in my car, and my wife found them. I told my wife I was passed to a higher degree, and ever since she takes 'm out of the case washes them and puts them back in with my gloves!"