

**The District Grand Lodge of English Freemasons
of the South Island, New Zealand
Press Release 17th May, 2017
CELEBRATIONS TO COMMEMORATE
THE FOUNDING OF MODERN FREEMASONRY
TOOK PLACE IN CHRISTCHURCH LAST WEEKEND**

2017 sees the celebration of the 300th anniversary of the founding of the United Grand Lodge of England and in Christchurch, at the weekend, one of the largest gathering of Freemasons for some years took place at Christ's College on Saturday 13th May.

The celebrations were led by the current District Grand Master, Geoffrey Rowe, who welcomed representatives from the English North Island District as well as the Scottish, Irish and New Zealand Grand lodges to the main assembly hall where a Masonic Lodge had been set up for the day. After the usual formalities non-masonic guests were invited into the Lodge to hear a presentation given by Karl Moen CBE on the history of English Freemasonry.

On the Saturday evening almost 200 people enjoyed a banquet in the historic Dining Hall at Christ's College and an entertaining after dinner address from Rear Admiral (Ret.) Jack Steer ONZM, himself a Freemason. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of a cheque for \$10,000 to Neil Porter of the College faculty. It is understood that the money will be put towards the restoration of a stained glass window in the chapel.

Passers-by were treated, on Sunday morning, to the sight of more than 50 Freemasons in full regalia parading along Montreal Street and Worcester Boulevard to attend a service of thanksgiving at the school chapel.

To celebrate the Tercentenary, over the course of the coming year, the Charity of the District Grand Lodge will be donating over 10,000 teddy bears to Hospitals, Emergency Services and a number of other South Island organisations dealing with distressed children in the hope that they may give a measure of comfort at a difficult time. The Irish Provincial Lodge of New Zealand have also generously supported this project.

Notes for Editors:

The District of the South Island comprises 13 individual Lodges, each operating under a charter granted by the United Grand Lodge of England. These lodges being the remainder of those who chose to remain under the jurisdiction of London, rather than join the Grand Lodge of New Zealand when it was formed in 1890.

See: www.ugle.org.uk United Grand Lodge of England

www.sifreemasons.org.nz District of the South Island

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OPENING OF THE DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF THE SOUTH ISLAND (ENGLISH FREEMASONS)



DISTRICT GRAND MASTER, GEOFF ROWE WELCOMES MARK WINGER,
GRAND MASTER OF THE NEW ZEALAND GRAND LODGE



BANQUET IN THE COLLEGE DINING HALL



MARCHING TO THE CHURCH SERVICE AT THE SCHOOL CHAPEL



THE CONGREGATION ON THE SUNDAY MORNING

