

Message from our District Grand Master



Brethren of the District of Kwa-Zulu-Natal,

We are almost at the end of another calendar year, but more importantly the end of an exceptionally exciting Masonic Year.

The dedication, support, loyalty and enthusiasm shown by the District Officers and the Brethren within the respective Lodges is beyond my wildest dreams for which I thank you one and all.

Great strides have been achieved with twenty initiates received into Craft Freemasonry. The fruit from this increase will only be reaped after a minimum period of five years.

Charity within Lodges has been more than noticed and welcomed by the respec-

tive recipients. Included are the members of the Masonic Services for their time and effort in caring for our widows and needy.

Other areas that deserve recognition are ceremonial improvement, Lodge functions, recognition of the Ladies at functions, Sister Constitution interaction, administration improvement in the submission of Installation and Annual Returns and finally the harmony that prevails.

In a nut shell the above mentioned attributes culminate in a dynamic and happy District which is a solid foundation for future development.

I extend to you and your families a Blessed Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. We await, with bated breath, to receive new challenges in 2020!

RW Bro Anthony Strong



We have come to the end of another year, and the end of another decade. But, when does the New Decade begin: on the first of January 2020, or a year from now?

In recent years there has been debate about when a decade begins and ends. For some people, the next decade will begin on Jan. 1, 2020, and end on Dec. 31, 2029. For others, it won't start until Jan. 1, 2021, concluding on Dec. 31, 2030. To the average person — well, many of us — it can be very confusing. But what is correct? Should we celebrate the beginning of a new decade now or wait until next year, when it seems a little passé?

Why is this a controversy?

In 1999, people got into a spat over when the new millennium began. At the center of this dispute was the **US Naval Observatory**, one of the oldest scientific agencies in the United States which runs the nation's master clock and whose calculations of time influence government satellites, iPhones and more. "The agency's position was that the new millennium began on Jan. 1, 2001", says Mr Geoff Chester, an astronomer and a public affairs officer at the Observatory. "That's because the Observatory uses a modification of the Julian date to measure time. The modified system is used by astronomers and geodesists, who study the size of the Earth" (the original Julian date begins Jan. 1, 4713 B.C.)

So that settled it, right?

Not quite! In 525, a monk named Dionysius Exiguus wanted to pinpoint the date for Easter. So he devised a calendar system called *anno Domini*, which was based on when he believed Jesus was born. A.D., which is Latin for "the year of our Lord," is commonly used today. One glitch: Because it identified the date of Jesus' birth as Year 1, not Year 0, there is a time gap. There is a lot of debate about this online, but timeanddate.com which studies such things, has a good explanation. Because of this, many people insist-

ed the new millennium began on Jan. 1, 2000. It was widely debated and everyone had something to say.

Did the debate make it easier to understand when a new decade begins?

Yes and no. Unlike the definition of daylight saving time, the definition of a decade is not governed by legal guidelines. But the debate got people talking. Mordecai-Mark Mac Low, a curator in the department of astrophysics at the **American Museum of Natural History**, said, "There are two different ways to designate decades."

First, there is the modified Julian date. But, he added, "people work with language more than numbers". The second way is to designate decades by popular convention and usage. An example? Most people would say the 1950s went from 1950 to 1959. "People want simple answers," Dr. Mac Low said. "But the answer is not always simple."

So, what *is* the answer?

Using a modified Julian date, the 2020s will begin on Jan. 1, 2021, according to Dr. Mac Low.

But that is out of sync with common usage. According to Emily Brewster, a senior editor at **Merriam-Webster**, a decade in popular culture is not defined by scientific convention.

Because of this, the 2020s will begin on Jan. 1, 2020, and end on Dec. 31, 2029, according to Ms. Brewster. "It is interesting that there is this arbitrariness," she said. "It's unconventional, like language."

So, can we still throw an end-of-the-decade party in December?

Most definitely. Indeed, people have already begun celebrating the end of the 2010s. "This could be a great controversy," said Peter Geiger, editor of the **Farmers' Almanac** (which has provided long-range weather predictions for the U.S. and Canada since 1818). "Or maybe it's really just a great diversion."

By the way, Masonically we are now in 6019 A.L. (*Anno Lucis*). Anno Lucis, or "Year of Light", was adopted by Freemasonry sometime in the 18th century. It was taken from the *Anno Mundi* or "In the Year of the World", which was first implemented in the 17th century by an Irish Monk. Another story for another day. So, **Happy 2020!** Or to some of us, **Happy 6020!**

Sources:

www.nytimes.com; www.usno.navy.mil;
www.timeanddate.com; www.merriam-webster.com;
farmersalmanac.com; www.masonrytoday.com



DGL KZN is moving forward!

During his annual report presented at the 244th Communication of the DGL of KZN on the 8th of June 2019 the DGM, RW Bro Anthony Strong highlighted the strategic priorities of the District, incorporating the previous year's performance level and objectives.



Submitted by RW Bro Anthony Strong, DGM

PRIORITY



Strategic priorities for 2019/2020

1. Improve on the interview standards. Directive issued including an application format;
2. Monitor financial trends, compile District and Lodge requirements for SARS;
3. Improve mentoring standards by involving and communicating with Lodge Mentors;
4. Succession plan to be compiled with emphasis on competency of the younger Brethren;
5. Introduction of the Craft website, including the Holy Royal Arch for external viewing;
6. Identify young Brethren and develop for active District rank;
7. Encourage visiting with Brethren accompanying their Master;
8. Maintain a high standard of Degree Working within the District and Lodges;
9. Create interesting Lodge meetings to instil satisfaction within the Brethren;
10. Charitable events by District and Lodges by advertising the event and outcomes.

Strengths



What are the District's Strengths?

1. Commitment by Brethren at District and Lodge level, including family support;
2. Mentoring program in its infancy, but progressing to encompass the Lodges;
3. Caring in the community by District and Lodges, including Masonic Services;
4. Increased performance levels of the Deputy and Assistant District Grand Masters;
5. Improved level in communication within District and Lodges;
6. Direction by District Grand Master to District Officers and Lodge Brethren;
7. Improved level of ritual delivery at District and in Lodges;
8. Degree Workings undertaken by District to emphasize the required level of performance;
9. Team spirit throughout the District encompassing harmony within the majority of Lodges;
10. Increase in Candidates for Initiation, hence membership, but must be retained;
11. Majority of Lodges meet within own temple, whilst a minority are renting premises;
12. Brethren appointed on merit and ability according to level of competency.

DGL of KZN is moving forward!



What are the District's Weaknesses?

1. Bridging the gap between the younger and older Brethren incorporating change;
2. Level of competency of Secretaries and Treasurers at Lodge level;
3. Statistical information on Brethren for Grand District Grand Lodge;
4. Lack of articles within the press as to Freemasonry and charitable work;
5. Communication. Ongoing process but an improvement is evident;
6. Statistical information on Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft to Master Mason;
7. Reduction in Grand Lodge Officers to perform the duties of Visiting Grand Lodge Officers;
8. Administration within Lodges with prompt submission to the District Grand Secretary;
9. Additional education for Lodge Mentors using Grand Lodge programs (e.g. Solomon);
10. Acquiring the correct candidates and retention throughout the Masonic journey;
11. Reduction in the knowledge of elderly Brethren due to finances, travelling and death;
12. Past Masters becoming dictators and hampering the progress of younger Brethren;
13. Masonic etiquette at Festive Boards/banquets to be improved.



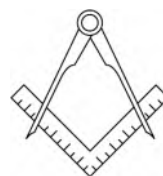
In order to make this a worthwhile exercise, the Worshipful Master of each Lodge must communicate the contents of the DGM's Report to his Brethren and proceed as follows:

1. Select a minimum of 10 items from the Strengths and Weaknesses categories
2. Brainstorm the selected items and formulate a **Plan of Action**
3. Implement and monitor progress up to and until finality
4. Evaluate effectiveness of the Plan
5. Achievements to be included in the Master's valedictory report.



District is well aware that there are items within the abovementioned categories that have never received attention, are partially in progress or are of a continuous nature, for example, communication and education.

The DGM encourages Lodges to use this challenge as a foundation to build a better Lodge and, ultimately, a better District!



TOGETHER
We are
STRONGER

Masonic Museum opens at Hayfields

On a bright, sunny Saturday morning in October 2019, the Masonic Museum at Hayfields, Pietermaritzburg officially opened its doors to an excited group of Masons from all four Constitutions, some accompanied by their families, who had been waiting patiently to see and experience the masterful work put into this museum by RW Bro Graham Grenfell (PDGM of the District of KwaZulu-Natal, 2000-2007).

“The idea of creating a museum was first mooted when RW Bro Max Castle was DGM, when I mentioned collecting regalia and jewels for recycling and it took on from there”, RW Bro Grenfell recalls. “The late RW Bro Doug Kirton was interested in the idea and he and I decided to approach the District for permission to enclose the veranda of the then board room. Thereafter, we both started to collect as much material as was available, he (Doug) from the Durban area and I, the midlands”.

“When Doug became so ill, I took the bull by the horns, as it were, and with the donation of two display cases from Umvoti Lodge and WBro Patrick Macquet and a very generous monetary donation from Port Natal Lodge, the result is what we have today”.

A special ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the official opening of the Museum by the District Grand Master of the District Grand Lodge of KwaZulu-Natal EC, RW Bro Anthony Strong. After a short address, RW Bro Strong invited RW Bro Grenfell to assist in the cutting of the ribbon at the entrance to the museum much to the delight of and with appreciative applause from those assembled at this auspicious occasion.



The fruit of his labours: the beaming smile of the Museum's Curator, RW Bro Graham Grenfell says it all!



On 3! RW Bro's Graham Grenfell and Anthony Strong cut the ribbon, officially opening the Museum at the Hayfields Masonic Complex

Masonic Museum opens at Hayfields

The attendees filed into the Museum and were greeted by a meticulously organized exhibition of an array of Masonic items and rare memorabilia.

“I was encouraged by the interest off all who supported the idea of a Masonic museum and presenting of memorabilia by Lodges and brethren”, says RW Bro Grenfell. “I have a lot of memorabilia still to be displayed and, therefore, require at least one more cabinet for the main room. Ideally, we will later expand into the passage and other rooms, when they come available”.

Security is a major problem that concerns our Curator. When more funds become available, the current burglar bars will have to be replaced or altered to properly secure the museum. “The premises does have an alarm”, says RW Bro Grenfell, “but considering the contents which are not only of considerable value, but irreplaceable, all precautions should be considered”.

After a memorable morning experiencing the new museum, attendees were treated to barbecue burgers, arranged and superbly prepared by our (local) ADGM, WBro Trevor Malibysse Smith, members of Skemersdale Lodge and the ladies.

Admission to the Museum is currently by request only. In this regard, enquiries can be directed to RW Bro Graham Grenfell or, if he is unavailable, Mrs Olga Baker in the Mark office.

For enquiries and/or donations for the museum contact the Curator, RW Bro Graham Grenfell on 082 830 1597



Camperdown Peace Lodge Centenary

Submitted by WBro Gerald Douglas-Watson, ADGM

The Centenary meeting of Camperdown Peace Lodge 4015 EC was held on the 23rd of November 2019 at the Masonic Lodge Building, Camperdown. It was a wonderful evening enjoyed by all who attended and we were very pleased to be blessed with the attendance of our ladies and some of our visiting Brethren's ladies.

After a very short Lodge meeting, the Brethren retired to the Festive Board and the loyal toasts given swiftly, yet with the necessary decorum.

A superb 3-course meal was served with wine. Before dessert was served, the Junior Warden proposed a short toast to our Visitors, the District Grand Master replying in his usual elegant manner.

The Worshipful Master, WBro Gerald Douglas-Watson, presented a short history of the Lodge after which a toast was proposed to the ladies for all their help and support over the years. The Senior and Junior Wardens presented the ladies each with a gift and, as there were non-Masons present, the Tyler's toast was not given, so ending the formalities of this festive Centenary celebration of the Lodge.

100 YEARS



**A short history of
Camperdown Peace Lodge
4015 EC, incorporating
Carnarvon Lodge 1684 EC
(Amalgamated 2007)**

The name "Camperdown Peace" originates from the farm Camperdown and the end of the Great War – World War 1.

"Camperdown" is derived from the sea battle Kampenduin, which is off the coast of Holland. Legend has it that the Van der Plank family had 3 farms all named after famous sea battles – Trafalgar, Copenhagen and Camperdown. The family is also credited with introducing the wattle tree to Natal. They donated the land which the Lodge stands on today and it is held in perpetuity by the Master and Wardens of the Lodge. The deeds are historic themselves as all the measurements are in rods and perches.

"Peace" was taken from the 'peace' that the end of World War 1 was supposed to bring– the war to end all wars!

A petition dated the 25th of June 1919 and written on a South African Railways and Harbours memorandum, was presented to the District Grand Lodge of Natal to establish a new Lodge at Camperdown. The Warrant of the Lodge is dated the 5th of November 1919.

The first 65 years of the Lodge is well documented by the late WBro Graham Barkell-Martin and a copy of a newspaper article is preserved in a frame in the festive board area.



Camperdown Peace Lodge 100 Years

The Lodge met in several venues until this Masonic hall was built. The late WBro Wally Ladbrooke was the first candidate to be Initiated in the new building and we remember him telling us how he worked on the building and believed they only let him become a member because he was an apprentice brick-layer. Other parts of the building are also in the newspaper article including WBro Brain Hogan mixing “dagha” and having the scars to prove it.

The building of the Lodge was undertaken by the Lodge members themselves who were mainly made up of railway employees in those days. The very floor we are standing on tonight in the festive board is supported by railway tracks.

The first meeting in this building was held on the 26th of April 1947. The Master’s chair was donated by the DGM RW Bro H.P. Smith in 1949, the Senior Warden’s chair by WBro H.M. Bass and the Junior Warden’s chair by WBro V.A. Reim in the same year. The carpet in the Lodge room was donated by Port Natal Lodge, the gavels by Bros. Mason and Gilliam and the DC baton by W.J. Westwood in 1950.

The newspaper article also describes the different assortment of trades members of the Lodge were made up of over the years. Barkel-Martin states that at one time he was thinking of changing the Dove of Peace on our banner crest to a plucked chicken!

The **banner crest** was originally the Square and Compasses – with the all-seeing eye and a view of a mountain over water. This was later re-designed but incorporates the original features; the lion, passant is taken from the arms of Morris - our first WM - and the lymph or boat is a reverence to the battle of Kampen-duin, from where Camperdown gets its name. The dove signifying Peace, is on the lower part and on the helm, is part of the Lodge name.

When the Lodge building in Richmond was closed, Carnarvon Lodge 1684 EC moved to Camperdown



Lodge as its new home. Carnarvon Lodge brought with them a good number of distinguished Brethren with so much knowledge, which they were only too happy to share with the members of Camperdown, and a number of Camperdown members also became members of their Lodge. This resulted in Carnarvon Lodge being incorporated into Camperdown, the amalgamation of which was approved by Grand Lodge in 2007. Carnarvon is a far older Lodge than Camperdown and you will see on the wall in the festive board an assortment of items depicting their history.

There is also a Carnarvon room which was added onto the side of the Lodge building. The magnificent columns in the Lodge room (picture above) came from the old Lodge building in Richmond. They had to be cut shorter to fit in and were originally donated by W

Bro J. Marwick, WM 1921-1922 and Bro Ernest Sink, in memory of his late father WBro William Sink, a Founder member and 1st WM in 1878.

We are very fortunate to have WBro Terry Hogan with us this evening: he was initiated in 1981 and his cousin Michael in 1977. Terry’s father and uncle were also initiated into the Lodge, but I am still looking for the exact dates. His father was WM in 1950 and his uncle Brian in 1952. So we know there has been a family connection for over 70 years, as Terry as a young boy remembers

his father going to Lodge on Saturdays.

I have been a member of this Lodge for over 33 years and could speak for hours on the men who joined the Lodge during this time, and the fun and laughter we have shared together. A lot of them have moved to other parts or have been called to Higher Service, but the most outstanding achievement of this Lodge is how we have maintained our Charity work over these many years and to see the good we have done within Masonry and in the local community. The charity work was started long before my time and Camperdown on the 8 June 1926 became a life member of the Wesley Francis Memorial education fund.



News from our Lodges



WORKINGS

In March 2019, the Lodge conducted a Second Degree working for Bro Lincoln Onsulalu on behalf of Port Natal Lodge with 20 visitors in attendance. In May 2019, Bro Anthony Hill was Raised to the Degree of Master Mason and in July 2019, Mr Daryll Reen, Bro Hill's nephew, was Initiated into Freemasonry. Bro Reen was Passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on 11 December 2019 (below).

CHARITY

The Lodge was once again involved with a number of Charity events during the year, in conjunction with the two Scottish Lodges sharing the building in Amanzimtoti, namely Lodge Fort Jameson and Lodge Grantleigh. These include food stands at the annual **Highland Gathering** (April 2019); the **Jabulani Retirement Centre Fete** (August 2019); the first **Highland Games** (October 2019) and the annual **Pensioner's Christmas Lunch** (November 2019) feeding 378 hungry pensioners, all these events happening in Amanzimtoti.



Left & below: Amanzimtoti Lodge: Working for Charity



LODGE MAINTENANCE

During December 2019, brethren have been hard at work in giving the Lodge building a much-needed cosmetic make-over. Under the direction of our own maintenance guru, Bro Allan Armitage, brethren were put through their paces: sanding, hammering, stripping, painting and plumbing. With this fresh new look, we look forward to welcoming visitors back to our Lodge in 2020!



CHARITY

On 7 August 2019, Newcastle Lodge and its Royal Arch Chapter donated R1 500 worth of nappies, cleaning items, fresh fruit, vegetables and other food items to **Home Meah** in Newcastle (below).

Home Meah Child and Youth Care Centre is the only registered baby home in the Amajuba District and renders a much needed service in taking care of abandoned, abused and neglected babies from the wider Newcastle area.



CARING

Bro Louis Eksteen’s mother, who is in hospital, was sent flowers by the members of Newcastle Lodge (above).

WBro Gary Lavarack, then WM of Newcastle and Biggarsberg Unity Lodges, leading by example by donating his 100th pint of blood in April 2019 (below).



SHARING

The original Biggarsberg Lodge banner which was sent from England over 100 years ago, was recovered by WBro Gary Lavarack from Talana Museum in Dundee. The banner was restored and is now on display at the new Masonic Museum at Hayfields, Pietermaritzburg.



CHARITY

The first-ever **Mega Pub Quiz** was hosted by **Umkomaas Lodge** in conjunction with Waves Restaurant, under the stewardship of Bro Rob Harding, at the Italian Club, Umkomaas on

Saturday, 2 March 2019.

The objectives for this event was to establish a record for the biggest crowd at a Pub Quiz here in KZN/SA; to promote Masonry and highlight what we do in the immediate area with our fundraising; to create an event that will have a huge impact on the community, so much so, that this could be an annual event; to raise as much funds for charity; to get as many lodges and families to buy into this event and to get local entrepreneurs to participate in this worthy fundraiser.

WORKINGS

Bro Stephen du Bruyn was Passed to the Second Degree in February 2019 and Raised to the Third Degree in August 2019.

The Lodge was honoured to conduct a 2nd Degree working on behalf of Port Natal Lodge on 28 Sept 2019. Besides the candidate, Bro Aviwe Edgar Ngundze seven brethren from Port Natal Lodge and eight of Umkomaas Lodge were present at this memorable working.

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

A festive social function was held at the Lodge on 5 Dec 2019. After a short Regular Meeting, the brethren were joined by family and friends, many of them Non-Masons. A wonderful evening of friendship, laughter and a great meal was had by all!



From the proceeds of this event, an amount of **R5000** was donated to **Khanya Hospice**. During a symbolic handing over event held at Waves Restaurant, Umkomaas during July 2019, an elated Mr Neil McDonald (CEO of Khanya Hospice) thanked Umkomaas Lodge and Waves for their support and generous contribution.



Mr Neil McDonald (far right) receiving the donation from the WM, WBro Peter Tanner flanked by members of Umkomaas Lodge

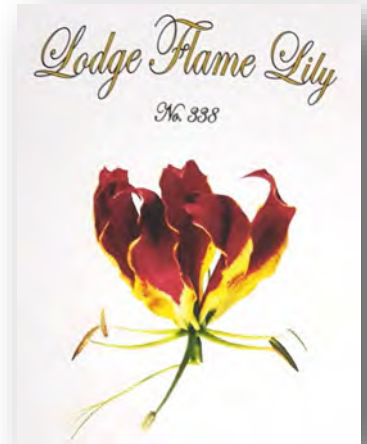


The newest Master Mason, Bro du Bruyn posing with his Proposer, Seconder and distinguished visitors



Bro Aviwe Edgar Ngundze flanked by the WMs of Umkomaas Lodge, WBro Peter Tanner and Port Natal Lodge, WBro Peter Barnard

Meet-and-greet Masons Breakfast with a difference



On Sunday 22 September 2019, a meet-and-greet Masons breakfast with a difference was hosted at Waves Restaurant, Umkomaas.

Organised by the President of the Widows Sons KZN Chapter, Tony Caloba, the quiet sea-side town of Umkomaas was the meeting place of members of the Order of Women Freemasons, the Widows Sons and Umkomaas Lodge.

The Order of Women Freemasons is a fraternity of women founded in 1908, with membership open to women of any race and religion, with the ability to profess a belief in a Supreme Being.

Lodge Protea No 337 is based in Krugersdorp and its fellow lodge, **Flame Lily No 338** in Rosburgh Durban. Our visiting brethren were down in Durban for Lodge Flame Lily's installation meeting a day before.

Our visitors were greeted with a fabulous breakfast consisting of a medley of sliced melon and fruits, cereal and assorted yoghurts and scrumptious homemade quiche, prepared by Waves Restaurant Executive Chef, Logan Nel served with grilled cherry tomatoes, chips, bread basket and hot beverages (for some, a colder beverage or two!).

Each table was beautifully laid out with keepsake menus and small gifts, with compliments of Khanya Hospice and Waves Restaurant.

The morning was thoroughly enjoyed by all but ended too soon as some of our visitors had a long drive ahead of them, back to Krugersdorp. This may become an annual event and we look forward to hosting our Women Freemasons again in future!



Widows Sons President, Tony Caloba introducing members of Lodge Protea (above) and Lodge Flame Lily (below)





Running for Rhinos



W

Bro Phil Waudby recently completed the multi-stage, self-sufficient 250km Kalahari Augrabies Extreme Marathon (KAEM) from 11-19 October 2019.

WBro Phil, a member of the Umkomaas Lodge in Scottburgh, entered the race to raise funds for OSCAP (**O**utraged **S**A **C**itizens **A**gainst **P**oaching) to assist in saving our precious rhinos and to create awareness to the poaching of these magnificent creatures.

“It’s a 1400km drive to Augrabies, but well worth it, seeing old friends from SA and all over the world as this is an international race and an opportunity to make new ones”.

On 11 October 2019 there was the usual race briefing followed by a kit check (to see if every athlete had the required compulsory equipment, food etc.), and then a chat with the medical team.

Day 1, the start of the race, with all the athletes starting at the same time. This was a 28km leg which was quite tough, with a 150m, 60° drop down to the Orange River.

From Day 2 onwards, the start for the athletes was staggered: the last-in, first-out principle was at play. Bro Phil had an injury prior to this race, restricting him to walking which - being a runner—was very difficult for him, leading to very bad blisters on the bottom of his feet, thus affecting his progress.

Day 2 was a 32km leg and it was during this leg that Bro Phil’s backpack was trapping a nerve in the back of his neck adding to the reasons in one’s head as to “why I should retire from the race”. But failure was not an option to Bro Phil. During this day, the athletes came across the first of many animals which

had perished due to the drought in the area.

Day 3 and 40km to go. By now, the terrain was becoming challenging and temperatures were extreme. Bro Phil had to dig deep, bite the bullet and go on!

Day 4: the “long day/night” leg of the race: 77km. Bro Phil started at 06h00 and completed the leg the following morning at 07h30. “I really had to dig deep and nearly got lost during the first section of the night part”, recalls Bro Phil.

Day 5 was a welcomed rest day on the banks of the Orange River. “It was so wonderful to be able to get a much needed bath and wash the running kit”, Bro Phil remarks.

Day 6: up at the crack of dawn to tackle a 50km march. “Although it was not a difficult day, it was very long and hard going; again I had to dig very deep and put away the aches and pains. I managed to limp into camp ½ hour before the 19h00 cut off time”, says Bro Phil.

Day 7, the final day. “We all know that, barring any mishaps, this race was in the bag”, says Bro Phil. “However, the 23km to the finish line still had to be negotiated. But the smell of real food and those cold beers did not stop any of us!”

This was Bro Phil’s KAEM race, albeit that this time it felt to him to have been the longest and most painful, but, “it is all worth it in a bid to save our Rhinos. The fight for these magnificent creatures is ongoing”.



Bro Phil can be contacted on the following: email: ali.waudby@gmail.com or 083 715 6098 for a pledge form

Annual Masonic Thanksgiving Service

Submitted by WBro Phil Bradbury on behalf of Masonic Services

The Annual Masonic Thanksgiving Service was held at St Cyprian's Anglican Church, Umbilo Rd, Durban on the 1st of December 2019.

The Service was arranged by Masonic Services under the direction of WBro Phil Bradbury. It was once again well supported by all four Masonic Constitutions as well as the Lady Freemasons of Flame Lily Lodge.

In 2018, the Masonic Services Committee, acting on behalf of all the Constitutions, presented St Cyprians with a donation to help in the recovery of damaged infrastructure.

This year, Masonic Services is donating R5000 to Kerr House, the Durban Hospice for Women. Kerr House has an annual budget of around R1m. "We hope that this donation will help the shelter in some small way", WBro Bradbury announced.

Kerr House is a shelter for women in crisis which was launched in 1951 and has as its vision to provide a temporary secure and homely environment for women in crisis with a view to restoring their sense of well-being and self-worth. According to Father Dane Elsworth of St Cyprians Church, the shelter currently have 12 women in their care.

"On behalf of the Masonic Services Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for supporting what must be one of the few occasions in the KZN Masonic Yearly Calendar where all brethren from the different Constitutions get together to celebrate praise and thanksgiving to the Almighty and to combine support for such a worthy cause for charity and benevolence", WBro Bradbury said while addressing the attendees after the Service. "I would like to thank Father Dane for presiding over the Thanksgiving Service today and to thank his Wardens and all those from the St Cyprian's Church who helped with the service and arrangements".

"A very special thanks go to the Ladies who are helping in the hall today at the Festive Board.



RW Bro Anthony Strong addressing the congregation

Finally a word of thanks must also go to Val of Val Kitchens who went out of her way to provide something different".

"I would like to conclude with a Freemason's Christmas wish:

*"So, to all of my Brethren from far and wide,
Whether your Christmas be snow, hot or dry;
May the Architect grant His celestial boon
And keep your good health 'til we meet again soon.*

*Take care of yourself and those you find dear.
Keep this festive spirit throughout the year.
Look forward to your next date with our happy band
'Til our next merry meeting, Apron, heart and hand"*

"I wish you all a very happy and safe festive season and look forward to meeting you all again this time next year".

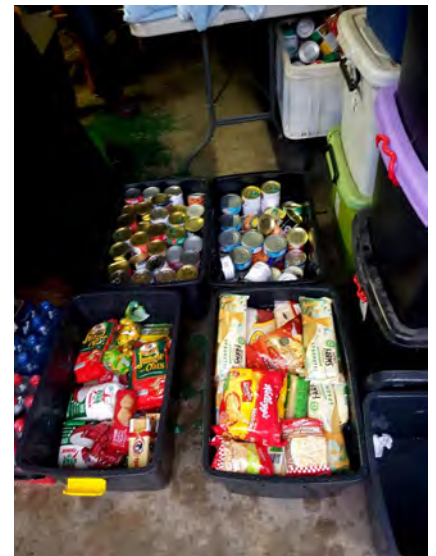


MASONIC SERVICES NEEDS YOUR HELP

Masonic Services was created over 16 years ago as the charitable vehicle of Masonry in KZN. We are a voluntary Non-profit

Committee and absolutely no funds are ever used for anything but donations to the needy.

Current Fundraising Projects



Masons Alms Charity Shop

The shop relies solely on donations. As current stocks are running low, we urgently need furniture, TVs, radios, cameras, CDs, DVDs, ornaments, antiques etc. However, we cannot sell kitchen items and old clothes as there is no market for such items in this area.

The shop is open Fridays 10:00 to 14:00, Saturdays 12:00 to 16:00 and Sundays 09:00 to 15:00.

Masonic Catering Trailer

The trailer is fully functional for catering and is available for hire on a shared profit basis.

Comrades Marshalling

Every year, we require 32 people to assist us with marshalling at the Comrades Marathon.

Monthly food hampers

The monthly food hampers consist of fresh fruit and vegetables or meat and eggs. We are currently supporting 40 Masons, their widows and the elderly.

Needy new recipients must be brought to our attention. We supply the hampers on the last Saturday of every month from the Berea Housewives Market.

We would like to call on and encourage Brethren to make personal donations—as and when one can afford it—to support this on going charity cause. If every Brother in the District could afford one hamper of

R250 per year (R20 per month), this project would be fully funded.

For any further enquiries regarding the current fundraising projects, contact WBro Carl van Heerden on 0796991972

SQUARE TALK NEWSLETTER OF THE DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF KWAZULU-NATAL



For enquiries or contributions, please contact

WBro Marco van der Hammen

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