

ORANGE NEWS

NEW ZEALAND

CHRISTMAS

EDITION

2017

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR GREETINGS TO YOU ALL

At this time of the year we see the retail sector (and I'm sure it is getting earlier every year) putting up the tinsel, lighting up the Christmas trees and decorating the shops to remind us that it is time to start preparing for the celebration of Jesus's birth, although I think they may have alternative reasons such as encouraging shoppers of all ages to purchase their wares as Christmas gifts.

Of course, the tradition of giving gifts goes back to the time when the Wise Men from the East brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh as part of their act of worship to the infant Christ.

This year was the 500th anniversary of the Reformation which was started by Martin Luther and carried on by many other religious scholars including John Calvin who taught that these gifts symbolised the 'Threefold Office of Christ'.

Gold signified Christ as our King – (Acts 17:7)

Frankincense signified Christ as our High Priest - (Hebrews 8:1)

Myrrh signified Christ as our Prophet - (Matthew 13:57)

The Westminster Shorter Catechism summarises Calvin's teaching:

Christ operates the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

Christ operates the office of a priest, in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, to reconcile us to God and in making continual intercession for us.

Christ operates the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by his Word and Spirit the will of God for our salvation.

Christ as our Redeemer, operates in all these offices both in his earthly and heavenly states.

The question remains what can we offer in return for these great gifts that we have received?

This Christmas let us take the time to worship, offer prayer and to give thanks to the risen Lord for the very many and great benefits which the Reformers rediscovered for us who would believe.

As we go into another New Year let us remember the grace, joy and peace of family and friends that has been so freely given to us over many Christmas Seasons.

May the Blessings of God be with you all. Elva J Brash GM

Editorial

We live in exciting times.

Since our last edition we have seen the fall of the dictator Mugabe making our beloved Queen the longest serving ruler in modern times as well as the oldest ruler in modern times (beaten by the King of one of the native kingdoms in South Africa). Her Majesty continues to set an unbelievable example. Long may she continue.

The engagement of Prince Harry and Meaghan has been announced to genuine joy (except by those females who had high hopes I guess). No doubt the media will be in a frenzy every time they move but perhaps the general public are getting sick and tired of this as there have been calls for them to be left alone.

In the wider world the dictator of North Korea and President Trump continue to face off against each other and we can only hope that sense will prevail but no matter what your politics perhaps there is a time to draw a line in the sand and cry "enough".

In our own small corner of the world we have a new government and again no matter what your politics and your understanding or misunderstanding of MMP they have taken the reins of government. For the sake of our country we must wish them well for we will all suffer if they prove incapable of governing wisely for all.

Her Majesty's loyal Opposition have promised to make life difficult for them. Is that the duty of the Opposition? They have asked over 3600 questions for this sitting. If, as has been suggested, they are "spam" questions that is surely a complete waste of money and bureaucrats time. National needs to take care it doesn't back-fire as most kiwis believe in a "fair go".

As all New Zealanders look forward to summer holidays with good weather and celebrating the season irrespective of their religion may the NZ Orange Family extend the love of Christ to all of the wider world but especially our internationally spread Orange family.

Around the Lodges

From the NorthERN DISTRICT

L. O. L. No. 2 Royal Albert have had an interesting five months starting in August. As one of the last single-sex lodges in the country the Grand Master wrote to the Lodge inviting them to consider this matter. After robust discussion all the members were then written to and asked to vote on the motion for or against. The result announced at the September meeting was a clear vote in favour of permitting ladies to join Royal Albert Lodge.

Their November meeting was designated for discussion on some of the major issues sent to lodges by the Grand Executive and requiring a response by mid-January 2018. They attempted to cover the issues of:- Euthanasia; Maori Parliamentary Seats; Saudi Arabian sheep imports from NZ.

The secretary reports "Euthanasia. We all agreed that this was a very complex Medical decision It involved quite a number of issues in the Health system especially among the elderly such as Geriatric Long Term Suffering Coma among others. Our own views were not conclusive It was suggested that this might be a good opportunity for all Lodges to contact a Dr and ask him to give us a talk re the subject in Question. It would certainly be interesting and informative.

Saudi Sheep Scandal This being an issue of the previous Govt. and no detailed explanation there were no comments.

Maori Seats (Parliament) We may we think ahead ? Who knows there could well be calls in future years for Asian Seats or even Moslem seats. Perhaps Enough is Enough

The December Meeting is a Social Harmony Night. Brethren and friends are all welcome and who knows what may come of that.

L. O. L. No. 15 Renown report that they are holding their December meeting conjointly with the Auckland District Lodge No. 2.

Past Installed Mistresses Lodge No. 2 gathered with a few friends to celebrate their end of year. This year it took the form of a Luncheon held at the end of November in a café in Royal Oak. It is reported a "great time was had by all".

FROM THE CENTRAL DISTRICT

L. O. L. No. 20 Onward had a meeting with the people involved in the organization for this 2 year appeal. The following is an outline of their report

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The following is a report on the wonderful work my nephew , Chilai (23 yrs) and son Ezra (22 yrs) are doing with The InOvation Trust on Suicide Awareness on a regional, National and International level in New Zealand. I pray this is read and understood with Godly intent.

This is all done by our young people of New Zealand whom have all experienced the lows and highs of the danger of the risk of suicide awareness and suicide prevention here in New Zealand.

The InOvation Trust operates and exists specifically to provide both a positive pathway for our young people to harness their God-given gifts and to be able to let God divinely inspire others to remember He not only knows every person by name, but that He deeply cares for each and every one of us especially during times of spiritual, emotional, mental and physical disconnectedness.

The InOvation Trust would humbly appreciate potential pathways to allow God to amplify the to tackle the most challenging area in mental health but also to be able to bring more young people to stay connected through what The InOvation Trust promote so the Youth of today can stay connected in their faith in God.

Currently the InOvation Trust are looking for sponsors and or donations to support them in their last Tour for 2017 (Dec 2017) which is a New Zealand Tour in the North Island for their play on Youth Suicide called, "A letter from a brother".

Thank you for your support and prayers. Brother Rob Ngan-Woo

L. O. L. No. 2 Maranui . The guest Speaker of Maranui Lodge was to be Cee Jay a nephew of Rob Ngan Woo to up date the Lodge on his ministry with young people. On the night he brought the whole team of 14 to John's home where the meeting was held. Each one of them had a message to give on the work they are doing which covered many parts of New Zealand, What they had to share was very much what was in Robs report and was a very moving experience to listen how help was given to those with the high and lows of the danger of committing suicide.

After they shared inside they went outside and performed a moving haka for the one that had taken their life. It was a night never to forget and Two Cheques one for \$100 and another for \$500 was given towards their ministry and work.

L. O. L. No. 20 Onward's other meetings have included a talk by Wor. Bro. Keith Ferrel on his time in the teaching profession and how it has changed over the years. The members especially the others of the profession found it very interesting. Others have been a Quiz and a visit by the local constable talking about dealing with youth in the local malls. The December meeting will take the form of a Christmas dinner at the Petone Workingmen's Club

Grand Lodge

Sisters and Brethren are reminded that the next meeting of Grand Executive will be at the end of January in Auckland.

Any issues should be communicated to the Grand Secretary before that time.

Next Issue

The next issue of the NZ Orange News will be in June 2018.

All lodges are requested to supply a summary of their events of the first half of the 2018 year to the Editor by May 31st.

InOvation Trust

2 Face Drama is a leg of The InOvation Trust which is a non-profit organisation that has been created to support and raise awareness of Youth Suicide in New Zealand.

<https://www.facebook.com/2FaceDRAMA/>

Please see more details for areas, gender and ethnic groups are a largely affected by a lack of Wellness and Wellbeing Prevention awareness on:

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/96217175/national-suicide-numbers-rise-three-years-in-a-row>

CEO of The InOvation Trust, Charlizza Harris, and her youthful group of leaders (aged between 12 years to 24 years) have been boldy tackling the issues young people face particularly Maori and Pacific Island youth throughout New Zealand in terms of Youth Suicide Awareness. They have been touring around

New Zealand each year creating new cultural theatre productions based on Youth Suicide and the challenges and barriers young people face using their own personal tragedies to draw out the best within themselves.

The InOvation Trust use their cultural backgrounds to create cultural workshops, organise National Hui/Conferences for Youth (May, 2017), Whole Day Workshops for secondary schools July 2017) International visits to secondary schools (Hawaii Suicide Awareness campaign September 2017) aimed at empowering them with pride and self-esteem using Christian based principles, implementing cultural values and making this relevant through haka, poi, dance, music writing, poetry and rap music, theatre performance. This is all done by our young people of New Zealand whom have all experienced the lows and highs of the danger of the risk of suicide awareness and suicide prevention here in New Zealand.

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Brother Rob Ngan-Woo