

## **A SUMMARY**

### **Masonic Degrees in New Zealand**

**By W Bro. B. R. MacConnell, WM**

In his summary of the topics covered by the previous speakers, the Master expanded upon the masonic degrees and orders available for a Master Mason to partake of, or to join in New Zealand.

First there were the orders to which a candidate asks to join, viz., the craft lodge, the Royal Arch Chapter and the Cryptic Council. These are the progressive degrees, from Entered Apprentice through Fellowcraft; Master Mason; Mark Master Mason; Excellent Master; Royal Arch Mason; Royal Master; Select Master and Super Excellent Master. Available "side" degrees of the Royal Arch include Ark Mariner and Knights of the East & West.

The next group requires a Master Mason to be invited to join. They include Princes Rose Croix of Heredom (which has up to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree); Knights Templar Priests (KT Priests); Order of Constantine; Secret Monitor and an amalgamation of one off masonic degrees known as the Allied Degrees.

There are also several orders with a masonic connection practised in New Zealand. These include the Royal Order of Scotland; the Rosicrucians and the Operatives. The Order of the Eastern Star, to which ladies with a masonic family connection are eligible to join, has recently started Pania Chapter in Napier.

#### **Discussion Topics...**

Questions and comments from the brethren present were answered by the appropriate speaker for that subject.

Tassels — it was pointed out that in the Ruahine Lodge No.80's lodge room in Woodville, a tassel is fitted at the ceiling corners. This indicates that the area of the lodge was the whole room and not just the pavement. VW Bro. Jones expanded upon the symbolism of the tessellated border. Apprenticeships were discussed allied to what an apprentice stonemason of old experienced. Many anecdotes were recounted.

Brethren are enjoined to "perambulate the lodge" indicating that they should not walk upon the pavement.