

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 123 April 2022



Most Worshipful Brother John Smith OSA MSA.

Freemasonry in South Africa: 1822 – 1872

South African Freemasonry began with the formation of Lodge De Goede Hoop on 2 May 1772. This was under the GEN in Cape Town. By 1822 there were only 5 Masonic Lodges, all in Cape Town. 2 were under the GEN, 2 under the UGLE and 1 under both jurisdictions. During the next 50 years, 36 Lodges were formed: 15 under the GEN, 18 under the UGLE, 2 Scottish Constitution and 1 French Constitution. 8 Lodges were formed in the Western Cape, 15 in the Eastern Cape, 2 in Natal, 7 in the Free State and 4 beyond the Vaal River.

In 1823 Lodge De Goede Hoop formed a property committee to administer the property - and it still does so today. They petitioned the Grand Orient of France, in 1824, to establish a local French Lodge for its French speaking members. Warrants for Lodge L'Esperance and for the Council Kadosh L'Esperance were received in 1826 and the French Rose Croix Chapter L'Esperance in 1827. This Lodge, council and chapter followed the same principle as The Hope Lodge regarding adherence to the different statutes. The Presiding Master of Lodge De Goede Hoop and The Hope Lodge, Bro Neethling, was elected as the first Presiding Master of Lodge L'Esperance, making him the Master of 3 Lodges at the same time, being Dutch, English and French. The members of the Lodges in Cape Town participated in laying the foundation stone of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Somerset Road, which still exists today. In 1828 Sir John Truter was appointed by the UGLE as the first Provincial Grand Master of its Provincial Grand

Lodge. He appointed Bro Neethling (GEN) as his Deputy and Bro Burton (EC) as the Provincial Grand Secretary. In 1828 the first Lodge was formed in the Eastern Cape, the Albany Lodge (EC). In 1830 about 400 Freemasons participated in laying the foundation stone of St George's Cathedral in Adderley Street. In 1834 the third GEN Lodge was formed in Graaff-Reinet, being Lodge De Vereeniging. In 1835 Bro Burton was appointed as the PGM of the EC.

In 1840 Lodge De Goede Hoop built a refectory next to the temple in which the first Cape Parliament later held its meetings. In 1844 Sir Andries Stockenström was initiated in Lodge De Goede Hoop and Bro Schutte, the builder of the De Goede Hoop temple, passed away. In 1845 Sir John Truter passed away. On Saturday, 26 June 1847 Lodge De Goede Hoop celebrated its 75th anniversary in the De Goede Hoop temple. The first Masonic book ever published in the Cape Colony, referred to as the Yearbook of Freemasonry, was compiled by Bro De Lima, a member of the Lodge. It comprised 88 pages of articles of Masonic interest. In 1847 Bro Christoffel Brand was appointed as the Deputy Grand Master of the GEN, a position he occupied for 27 years. In 1851 the Rose Croix Chapter de Goede Hoop was formed under the AASR of the Netherlands. This Chapter still exists today, but now under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Council for the AASR for South Africa. Lodge De Goede Trouw sold its property on Bouquet Street and bought a property in St John's Street and built a temple there, which was consecrated on 4 August 1853.

In 1854 the Cape Colony elected a representative government and it met for the first time in the banqueting hall of Lodge De Goede Hoop. It continued to meet there for the next 40 years. The first meeting was presided over by Sir George Grey, the Governor and a Freemason (EC). Bro Christoffel Brand (GEN) was elected as the first Speaker of the Cape Parliament. At a meeting between the GEN and EC Rose Croix Chapters, it was agreed that EC members holding the degree of Knights Templar would be admitted to the GEN Chapters working in the Elu degree and those holding the Royal Arch degree would be admitted to workings in the degree of "Scottish Master". The GEN members would be admitted to the EC Chapters.

In 1858 Bro Johannes Brand, a son of Bro Christoffel Brand and later the President of the Orange Free State, was installed as the Presiding Master of Lodge De Goede Hoop. In 1858 the first Lodge was formed in Natal, the Port Natal Lodge (EC). The members of Lodges De Goede Hoop, De Goede Trouw, British and The Hope participated in laying the foundation stones of the South African Museum and Library in 1858 and the Somerset Hospital in 1859. In 1860 Bro Christoffel Brand was knighted by Queen Victoria and certain members of Lodge De Goede

Hoop petitioned the Grand Lodge of Scotland to grant a warrant for the formation of the first Lodge under the Scottish Constitution in Cape Town. Lodge Southern Cross was consecrated in the De Goede Hoop temple by Sir Christoffel Brand, who also installed its first Presiding Master. Later in 1860 the members of the Masonic Lodges assisted Prince Alfred, Queen Victoria's 16 year old son, to lay the foundation stone of the Sailor's Home. In 1862 Bro Marthinus Wessels Pretorius, the President of the Zuid-Afrikaanse Republiek and later the President of the Orange Free State Republic, became a "Meester van Eer" (Honorary Master) of Lodge De Goede Hoop. In the same year Royal Alfred Lodge, the second Lodge under the Scottish Constitution was formed in Cape Town.

In 1863 Sir Christoffel Brand formed the Provincial Grand Lodge of Southern Africa under the GEN. He was supported by the PGM of the EC, Bro Thomas Maclear. Bro Oloff Truter, a Past Master of Lodge De Goede Hoop and Sir John Truter's son, was appointed as the first PGM. In 1864 the first Free State Lodge was formed, The Rising Star (EC). This was followed by Losie Unie (GEN). In 1866 the first Lodge beyond the Vaal River was formed, Lodge Flaming Star (GEN). The PGM of the EC's title was changed to District Grand Master (DGM) to distinguish the areas of Masonic jurisdiction abroad from those in England. In 1868 the Lodge De Goede Hoop by-laws were translated into English and the meeting's minutes were thereafter recorded in English as most of the members could not understand Dutch. In 1870 Lodge De Goede Hoop resolved to meet on the second Wednesday of the month, which is still in force and every meeting was followed by a dinner. The gardens of the Lodge were a popular outdoor venue for the public and promenade concerts were held there. In 1872 Lodge De Goede Hoop hosted a special ceremony in the De Goede Hoop temple to commemorate its 100th anniversary, which numerous Brethren attended.

**MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA
Grand Master**

Grand Master promotes 3 Senior Officers

As the new Masonic Year approaches, the Grand Master has updated his senior Grand Lodge team.

RW Bro Godfrey Place has performed extremely well as Provincial Grand Master – Northern Division and is promoted to an Assistant Grand Master.



RW Bro Godfrey Place with the Northern District heads of our Sister Constitutions – RW Bro Nick Benson (Irish), Bro Jim Kerr (Scottish) and RW Bro Chris van Gaalen (English).

RW Bro Johan Britz MSA was outstanding as the First Grand Principal of the Royal Arch and Grand Senior Warden. He is also promoted to the very demanding role of Assistant Grand Master.



VW Bro Simon Nash has been Deputy PGM of Northern Division. He is a tireless Masonic worker and, will now take over as Northern Division Provincial Grand Master.

RW Bros Place and Britz will be installed in their new roles at the GLSA AGM in Cape Town on 25 June 2022, while VW Bro Nash will be installed at the Northern Division AGM on 23 July 2022.

A Memorable Day in Port Alfred

The morning of Saturday 2 April 2022 saw First Grand Principal, MEC John Smith OSM MSA, and the RA Grand Chapter Officers perform a 50 year Rededication ceremony for Chapter Fiat Luxe and then Grand Superintendent, MEC Mahmoud Patel, and the PGC team Installed MEC Mark Hiles and his Officers.



MEC Mark Hiles and the Officers of Chapter Fiat Luxe

After lunch, RW Bro Keith Hutton and his PGL team re-installed Wor Bro Marius Terblanche as the Worshipful Master of Lodge Vereeniging. The Grand Lodge delegation was led by MW Bro John Smith.

The day finished with a mixed formal festive board which was much enjoyed by all present.



Wor Bro Marius Terblanche, with MW Bro John Smith, RW Bro Alf Brönnner, RW Bro Keith Hutton, Grand Lodge and PGL Officers, Sister Constitutions and Brethren.

AASR “Crown” 4 new 33° members

Friday 25 March was an important day for the AASR for South Africa as they performed a 33° working for 4 members, including the Grand Master. In the absence of the Sovereign Grand Commander, the working was conducted by Lieutenant Commander, P Bro Vic Muhlenbeck and his team. Of the new 33° members, M Ill Bro Simon Nash was immediately appointed to the Executive as the AASR Treasurer.



V Ill Bro Ron Smith, M Ill Bro Simon Nash, P Bro Victor Mühlenbeck, V Ill Bros John Smith and Reuven Coenen

AASR AGM – an interesting and exciting day!

Saturday 26 March saw the AASR AGM held at de Goede Hoop Temple. MP Bro Boet du Plessis’ Opening Address, delivered by P Bro Vic Muhlenbeck, was followed by a most interesting talk on “Ethics and Professionalism” by Ms Fazela Mahomed. We then had updates on Finances, our NPO Status, Strategic Plans, Amity and “Not just a Man, a Mason”.

A Presentation Ceremony followed during which M Ill Bro Geoff Edwards received his MA and M Ill Bros Cor van Zyl and Henry Selzer were both awarded outstanding performance jewels. The SGC has also introduced a new floating trophy, the “MP Bro Boet du Plessis Award for Outstanding Service to the AASR” and this was presented jointly to M Ill Bro Geoff Edwards and V Ill Bro Cedric Moroukian.



The afternoon finished with Chapter de Goede Hoop advancing 9 Brethren through the Elu degree.

In the evening the Brethren and their partners sat down to a Banquet in the de Goede Hoop Refectory and the general ambience and enthusiastic chatter tended to confirm that a thoroughly memorable time had been enjoyed by all those who attended.



Bro Duwayne Brown, M Ill Bro Cor van Zyl and partners

Freemasonry around the Lodges



Wor Bro Tyson Mukendi with Bro Levi Mulegwat

On Monday 4 April Lodge Cape Town passed Bro Levi Mulegwa to the Fellowcraft degree. The Lodge has a number of senior Brethren in its ranks and offers much practical knowledge to its members.



Wor Bro Donovan le Roux with Bro Marco van der Merwe

Parys is an up and coming Lodge in the far reaches of Central Division. On 31 March they passed Bro Marco van der Merwe to the Fellowcraft degree in front of a good selection of Brethren.



RW Bro Godfrey Place with Bro Ricardo Maggioli

Prins Frederik were particularly proud of their initiation of Bro Ricardo Maggioli on 22 March. Most of the work was performed by the younger Brethren and I’m advised that they truly excelled!



Bro Rob Boyd with RW Bro Tommy Hardiman

Westerford pride themselves on performing really high standard workings. On 31 March they showed Bro Rob Boyd, just how good it could get when they initiated him into the Lodge.

250 Year Celebrations Reservation Form

On 24 – 26 June, we celebrate 250 years of South African Freemasonry. Click below for details.

[250 year celebration details](#)

In the Eastern Cape, dreams do come true!

A few months ago we introduced you to the old synagogue which Eastern Cape Division were looking to purchase for use as a Temple. Well, the purchase is complete and upgrades to the building are so advanced that the Brethren are able to work in it.



RW Bro Keith Hutton and the Eastern Cape work force

On Tuesday 12 April Bro Damian Marais (Tolerance) had the unique privilege of being the first Brother to have his working in the Temple., being raised to Master Mason. Sonheuwel opened and closed the meeting, with Tolerance doing the working itself. I'm told that the Port Elizabeth Masonic community turned out in force and all were hugely impressed.



Bro Damian Marais after his 3rd degree working

Neerlandia's Busy Day

On the morning of 2nd April 2022 Neerlandia (Eastern Division) initiated Bro Jon MacGillivray at the Rosburgh Temple. This was the Lodge's first real working since the Covid interruption and the Brethren were grateful for the assistance that they received.



Wor Bro Bushy MacKelvey, Bro Jon MacGillivray, Wor Bros Schalk Jacobs, Andrew Pover, Henry Selzer

In the afternoon a Lodge of Mourning was conducted for RW Bro George Schuitemaker OSM and Wor Bro Eugene Rawstone. They will be missed,

Almoner's Report

Wor Bro Frank Begot (de Goede Hoop) had a mild heart attack recently and is recovering at home. Relax, Frank, we'll be there waiting for you when the Doctor says okay! Frank says to please give him a call!

Wor Bro Paul Nash (Star of the Rand) is having laser treatment for a detached retina but assures us that he can see light at the end of the tunnel.

Wor Bro Jan Venter (Perseverance) is recovering well after his recent back operation and advises that he is not having the pain he was experiencing before. All praise to the GAOTU Jan – but please be careful.

Wor Bro Frans Roodt (Meerensee) is very much back to normal after his recent procedure. That's really great news, Frans, you are very important to us.

Wor Bro Jock Wood (Marina) has been back in hospital after another mild stroke. He is home again now, and hopefully having a sensible rest!

RW Bro Boet du Plessis (Star of the East) was disappointingly forced to miss the AASR AGM as his Doctor wouldn't let him fly. He's making great progress though and sounds better by the day.

RW Bro Jim Duggan (de Goede Hoop) is steadily recovering from his knee replacement operation. It's been a tough time, but he's getting through it. "Vasby" Jim, you'll soon be back to your best.

No Covid horror stories, thank goodness, but it is still around. I'm told that Wor Bro Ignatius Muthien has been down with Covid but is recovering well.

We did get news from Eastern Division that an English Mason, Wor Bro Susman, had lost his sister, her husband and their 2 children when the floods saw the house on the slope above to collapse on to their home. Life can be very cruel, Brethren. Our thoughts and prayers are with Wor Bro Susman.

If anything is known about a Brother in distress, please share it with your Divisional Almoner.

Southern Wor Bro Cobis Wilson	083 2844684
Northern Wor Bro Paul Nash	083 3774843
Central Wor Bro Johnny Cambanis	083 9865397
Eastern Wor Bro Marais Viljoen	083 4413670
E Cape Wor Bro Ian Hetherington	082 9545297

Coming Events Highlights

Brethren, this list encompasses major events and all Grand Lodge call-outs to Installations.

- Sat 23 Apr – 11h00 @ Rustenberg
Lodge Orange Installation.
- Fri 5 May - 19h00 @ NMR Durban
"What is Freemasonry?" for YPO,
Then, Banquet at Durban Country Club
- Sat 6 May - 9h00 @ NMR Durban
Neerlandia 100y Rededication & Installation
- Sat 6 May - 14h00 @ NMR Durban
Eastern Division AGM.
- Sat 4 Jun - 14h00 @ Orange Grove
Royal Arch Northern Division AGM