

This interesting item, written by V.W.Bro. Dick Williams, was part of The Masters message in the Lodge Aorangi - Mokihiui No.89 notice for February 2009. V.W.Bro. Dick has kindly given his permission for it to be used here.

Dick writes:

Earlier in the month I had a truly remarkable experience insofar as our Lodge and the fraternity was concerned.

I received a telephone call from a Past Provincial Grand Master of the Waikato District, R.W.Bro. Jack Ridley, who informed me that he had in his possession a Past Master's Jewel for W.Bro. James Johnson, a Past Master of Lodge Aorangi, that had been presented in 1927. He also had the Brother's Masonic Bible that had been presented in 1921.

My immediate reaction was to ascertain how to get this memorabilia back to the Lodge when R.W.Bro. Jack informed me that he was actually in Westport and had made a special trip, during a South Island visit, to hand the jewel and bible to me.

So we were able to meet on a Saturday morning and exchange our greetings and I was able to accept the two items. For my part I was able to provide Jack and his wife with some whitebait patties to ensure the exchange was two ways.

The jewel itself is made of solid gold and has on the ribbon a small coloured photograph of Mount.Aorangi enclosed in a casing. It was made by Spencer & Co., Masonic Manufacturers in Great Queen Street, London, which is of course close to the home of the Grand Lodge of England.

The jewel and bible came into Jack's possession from one of their neighbours as a result of a conversation when it was explained that they had these two articles, did not know how they came into their possession but felt that they were too valuable to discard. Jack rang our Grand Secretary who gave him my name and so it happened.

The last irony is that Jack's neighbour is a former locomotive engineer who I met during my working days.

Dick.