

# District Grand Lodge of South Island, New Zealand

Under the United Grand Lodge of England

R.J. Sutherland District Grand Secretary, 4 Wild Dunes Place, Christchurch

## PRESS RELEASE

18th April, 2011

### ENGLISH FREEMASONS TO PRESENT CHEQUE TO MAYOR BOB PARKER

### ENGLISH FREEMASON'S LODGES COLLECTIVELY CONTRIBUTE TO THE MAYOR'S EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FUND

On Tuesday, 19th April at 3:00pm at the Arts Centre, Mayor Bob Parker will receive a cheque for \$80,000 as a contribution to the Mayor's Earthquake appeal from the SI District of English Freemasons. The sum raised has been donated not only from "English" Freemasons and other Masonic Orders in New Zealand but also from Hong Kong, Vanuatu and the UK.

The cheque will be presented by Right Worshipful Brother Geoffrey Rowe, the District Grand Master for the South Island District, himself a resident of Christchurch with first hand knowledge of the challenges faced and yet to be faced by the City.

RW Bro Rowe leaves for England shortly where he will have an opportunity to meet with senior English Freemasons and the Grand Charity, who have already contributed to the relief efforts via the British Red Cross. He will take this opportunity to update them on the current situation and how further contributions might be applied.

#### Notes for Editors:

Known as "English" Lodges the term is used to describe those Freemason's Lodges that, in 1889, chose not to join the newly established Grand Lodge of New Zealand but to remain under their allegiance to the United Grand Lodge of England. Such is the interest in Freemasonry that, of those original Lodges, 13 are still active on the South Island today. They continue to work alongside the 91 South Island Lodges currently operating under the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, both sharing a common heritage and a desire to help others through charitable works and community service.

Of those 13 Lodges four meet regularly in Christchurch itself with a fifth meeting in Amberley.