

# FREEMASONRY

T A S M A N I A

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Journal of the Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of Tasmania



*Pembroke Lodge*

Invites your participation in a  
**Masonic March**

at Sorell on Saturday 28th March 2009

The Grand Master has granted dispensation for Brethren to participate in a Street Parade to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of European settlement in the Sorell Area, wearing full masonic regalia, and will be joining us along with a number of Grand Lodge Officers.



**History and colour**

## FREEMASONRY TASMANIA

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## From the Grand Master

# Changes for the better

It has been another six months of change and activity since the last *Freemasonry Tasmania* and there is more to come.

The changes we have experienced I am sure will be for the betterment of Freemasonry in Tasmania and will help in consolidating our presence as an influence for good.

The overwhelming acceptance of the motion at our last Communications to change the election of Grand Lodge ceremonial officers and board members to an appointment system was particularly pleasing, making it almost certain to achieve excellent results.

Expressions of interest forms should reach the Grand Secretary's office by noon on the first Friday in September.

I encourage everyone to give serious thought to seeking involvement in either the Grand Lodge ceremonial teams or as a member of one of the two boards.

The response to my Grand Masters Victorian Bushfire Appeal was most gratifying, including very generous donations from other Orders in Tasmania. An amount of \$38 690 was raised and I offer my thanks and appreciation to all those who contributed.

Cyrene and I attended the South Australian Grand Installation in April at which Tasmania was well represented, with 25 members and partners enjoying the hospitality and making new friends.

The exchange of information relating to masonry in other jurisdictions is very valuable and helps keep us aware of new ideas and innovations.

The first street parade in full masonic regalia for many years took place in March at Sorell as part of the celebrations to commemorate 200 years of settlement in the area.

Lodge Pembroke, together with a Grand Lodge contingent and visiting Masons, joined the parade down the main street to the town centre and enjoyed the festivities.

I had the pleasure in May to lead a Grand Lodge Team to a meeting of the Launceston Lodge of Research at the Lodge Rooms at Longford where until recently Lake Lodge had met.

It was a memorable occasion at which an ongoing partnership with National Trust Tasmania was cemented.

The Tasmanian Manager of National Trust, Chris Tassel, together with

members of Norfolk Plains Group of National Trust and members of the public, were given an excellent overview of Freemasonry by W Bro Albert Kusnezo.

W Bro Ian Green presented an abridged history of Lake Lodge including excerpts from VW Bro Kerry Holloway's book *At the Meeting of the Waters*, a copy of which was presented to Edwin Kayser, president of the Norfolk Plains Group.

Following the presentation of a Huon Pine bowl crafted by W Bro Kusnezo to Chris Tassel and my explanation of the role of Grand Lodge and the operation of its boards, we all adjourned to the church hall for a tremendous supper.

The latest major event was a trip to Noumea by a group of seven Tasmanian Masons and seven ladies who enjoyed the hospitality of The Provincial Grand Lodge of New Caledonia.

Highlights were two third degree ceremonies and a reception at the British Consulate.

I am sure the friendships formed will be enduring and we look forward to a visit by the Provincial Grand Master, Tres Respectable Frere Dr Bernard Paul and his family to Tasmania early next year to participate in a Cradle Mountain walking adventure.

The rationalisation and improvement of lodge buildings is ongoing and I am particularly pleased with the changes taking place in the Derwent Valley, the West Coast, Longford, and the proposed move by Concord Lodge from Latrobe to Devonport..

There are also talks taking place among members of the Hobart Eastern Shore lodges to explore the possibility of some form of rationalisation of their buildings.

A motion to amend our Constitution to enable the Board of General Purposes to grant monies from the building fund to assist in improvements to viable lodge buildings will be promoted and explained during the next six months and debated at the February 2010 Communication.

### Front Page photos

TOP: Masonic March at Sorell...  
Story, Page 3

BOTTOM: The Grand Master and  
Tasmanian delegation at lodge  
rooms in Noumea...Page 5

## BIG BOYS TOYS ART UNION

The Coffs Coast Freemasons Association of District 52 in NSW is aiming to raise \$100,000 for the Coffs Harbour Hospital cancer trust fund through an national art union.

The major prize is a four-wheel-drive Holden Colorado dual-cab diesel utility and a family fishing boat with tackle and registration costs included.

Apart from the usual methods of ticket sales, such as shopping centre displays, the tickets, at \$5 each or \$100 for a book of tickets, will be sold over the internet.

For further details, visit the association's website at [www.coffscostfreemasons.com.au](http://www.coffscostfreemasons.com.au) or contact W Bro Geoff Greenaway, at (02) 6653 1798 (home), (02) 6651 23133 (work), or email [soniageoff@bigpond.com](mailto:soniageoff@bigpond.com)

# Celebrations - in style and regalia

The township bearing the name of one of one of Tasmania's colonial Lieutenants Governor, Colonel William Sorell, held its 200th anniversary in March, and Pembroke Lodge was there in full regalia - celebrating its 50th year (Page 1 photo and inset).

Colonel Sorell was Lieutenant Governor between 1817 and 1824.

The township's commemoration was on March 28 and 29, 2009, with a parade

through the main street, stalls and fun and rides for children and families.

Pembroke Lodge No 74TC, which incidentally was celebrating its 50th Anniversary at the same time, was invited to participate in the parade as one of the local community organisations.

In all around 30 different groups participated and provided an interesting and colourful display promoting all aspects of community activity.

The Worshipful Master of Pembroke Lodge, W Bro Paul Kregor, sought dispensation from the Most Worshipful Grand Master to have brethren participate and parade in full regalia, providing some opportunistic publicity for the Craft.

Representatives from all Lodges were invited to participate and around 30 brethren braved the cold blustery conditions to join in the fun.

Jack Clear



## New role for Lake Lodge building

The first masonic gathering in what has become known as the Norfolk Plains Heritage Centre and Lake Lodge was on May 22, 2009, when the Launceston Lodge of Research conducted a regular meeting on the premises.

It was unusual in that after masonic visitors and the Grand Master and offices of Grand Lodge were admitted, the lodge was formally closed to begin an evening for all visitors, including National Trust and Norfolk Plains Heritage Centre members, wives, spouses and friends.

The Worshipful Master of Launceston Lodge of Research, W Bro Albert Kusnezow, (pictured) gave a brief explanation of the progression of lodge members from initiation to Master, and the various duties of lodge officers.

He told of the symbolism of the furniture and pillars of the lodge, including working tools, tracing board, Volume of the Sacred Law, square and compasses, tessellated pavement and masonry in general.

*Lake Lodge, Number 29 on the register of the Grand Lodge of Tasmania, has handed in its charter, but its name lives on as the first masonic lodge in Australia which has retained its premises as both a functional lodge room and a museum.*

*The building at Longford, now known as the Norfolk Plains Heritage Centre and Lake Lodge, provides a gateway to the rich history of the Norfolk Plains district and unlocks the heritage and "mystery" of the masonic lodge, enriching the lives of the local community and creating a distinct attraction for visitors to the district.*

The Grand Master, MW Bro Norman Cooper, outlined the duties of Grand Lodge, its involvement in charities and scholarships, and its donations to medical research.

He presented Chris Tassell, managing director of the National Trust (Tasmania) with a Huon pine bowl, with plaque, which had been crafted and supplied by W Bro Kusnezow.

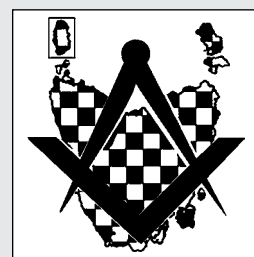
W Bro Ian Green presented a short history of Lake Lodge, using excerpts from a book written by VW Bro Kerry Holloway.

He presented a signed copy of the book to Edwin Kayser, president of the Norfolk Plains group of the National Trust.

VW Bro Holloway could not attend due to pastoral duties in his church.

Supper was served in the church hall across the street and a raffle raised \$230 which was presented to Mr Kayser for the Norfolk Plains group.

## WELCOME ABOARD



*to our new Brothers...*

W. A. Bell	Tasmanian Union
M. F. Bongard	St Helens Lodge
R. N. Clisdell	Pembroke Lodge
T. J. Egge	Lton-Laurie Abra
J. D. Fenning	Burnie Masonic
J. R. Flanagan	Hutchins Old Boys
C. L. Johnson	Burnie Masonic
M. A. McLean	Tasmanian Union
G. L. Maxwell	St Helens Lodge
C. W. Morris	Darcy Wills
K. Morris	Peace Lodge
G. A. Rawnsley	Kingston Lodge
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## Record raised for bushfire appeal

The Grand Master, M W Bro Norm Cooper, has praised the Tasmania's masonic freemasons for its generosity in helping those who have been affected by the Victorian bushfires.

On July 1, a cheque totalling \$38,690 was posted to the United Grand Lodge of Victoria, to be passed on to the appropriate authorities.

It is a record appeal amount in the history of Tasmanian freemasonry.

"I am overwhelmed by the generosity of the freemasons of Tasmania, including a significant contribution from many other Orders," MW Bro Cooper said.

"This is a truly demonstration of one of our basic tenants, the principle of charity".

The amount forwarded to Victoria includes \$5,000 from the Board of Benevolence and the Tasmanian Masonic Benevolent Foundation, which kicked off the appeal.

## Help for sick children - and their families

Lodge Bowen has directed part of its fund-raising efforts to assist Ronald McDonald House Hobart, a registered charity which helps seriously ill children and their families.

It is part of Ronald McDonald House Charities, a global organisation established in Australia in 1985 to create, find and support a variety of programmes.

In Hobart, it provides a home-like environment for families to stay while their sick children are in hospital.

The House, at 62 Collins St, is run by a voluntary board of management, a small number of staff and many volunteers.

Manager Penny Richardson, said Ronald McDonald House was grateful to the brethren of Lodge Bowen for the donation of a \$250 cheque.

It was presented to Ms Richardson by the Worshipful Master, W Bro Alan A'Church (pictured).



Ms Richardson said she would welcome inquiries about Ronald McDonald House, by phone on 6231 4877, on the internet at [www.rmhc.org.au](http://www.rmhc.org.au) or by email: [penny@rmhtasmania.org.au](mailto:penny@rmhtasmania.org.au)

## From Launceston ... to Launceston

It was a case of from Launceston (Cornwall) to Launceston (Tasmania) for W Bro Roger Clements and his wife Marion earlier this year.

The couple, whose home town is in Cornwall, England, were keen to see its namesake in Tasmania during their visit to Australia and New Zealand

W Bro Clements, who is secretary of Dunheved Lodge No. 789 of Launceston in Cornwall, enjoyed witnessing an initiation at the February 26 meeting of Launceston-Laurie Abra Memorial Lodge.

Later he presented on behalf of his own Lodge a book titled 'Thread of Gold' a history of 250 years of Freemasonry in the Province of Cornwall 1752 - 2002. The presentation was made to RW Bro Laurie Leaver (Back Page photo)

As well, and on behalf of Greystone Border Lodge No. 9449, also in Launceston, Cornwall, he presented a Past Master's jewel to RW Bro Leaver.

Launceston - Lawrie Abra Memorial has donated the book to the Masonic Library in Launceston and the Past Master's jewel is now attached to the Master's collar.

David Cullen



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## Overseas visiting



## Chance meeting leads to Noumea

A chance meeting at the New Zealand Grand Installation in Christchurch in November 2008, between the Tasmanian Grand Master Norm Cooper and the members of the delegation from New Caledonia resulted in a visit to Noumea by a Tasmanian group (pictured above).

It comprised Norm and Cyrene Cooper, Dick and Ruth McKenna, Peter and Linda Calvert, David and Christine Louez, Robert Dick, George Sanders, Jan Webberley, Mareea Spaulding, Ross and Pat Mitchelmore.

The group left Hobart on June 8 and was welcomed on its arrival at Noumea airport by New Caledonian Lodge members.

They were taken to the Ramada Plaza resort where they found their accommodation to be of a very high standard.

The next morning a four-hour orientation tour of Noumea was guided by Susan Lelo from the Provincial Grand Lodge of New Caledonia.

Members of the group were overwhelmed by the hospitality and friendship shown by members of the fraternity and the general public met during the visit.

Grande Loge Nationale Francaise lodges in New Caledonia were first

consecrated on January 24, 1987, and the Provincial Grand Lodge of New Caledonia was consecrated on the April 27, 2007.

Six Lodges and more than 200 Brethren meet in six Lodges working four different rites.

The Tasmanian members were enthralled by the two third degree ceremonies they witnessed, firstly at Laperouse Lodge No. 498 which worked an Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite and secondly at Lille de Lumiere Lodge No. 1280 which worked an Emulation Rite.

Both ceremonies were very impressive and although conducted in French the story was the same and our members recognised the various stages of the degree.

Both Lodge meetings were followed by enjoyable banquets accompanied by French wine and excellent fellowship in spite of the language difference.

On the second occasion the Grand Master Norm Cooper made a presentation (speaking French) of wooden trays he crafted by hand from Tasmanian timbers to each Lodge Master, the Provincial Grand Master, Tres Respectable Frere Dr Bernard Paul and the tour co-ordinator,

Tres Venerable Frere Max Shekleton, whose expertise in this area was greatly appreciated.

New Caledonia is located less than 2000 kilometres North-East of Sydney and the same distance North of Auckland with a population of 230,000 (a mixture of Melanesians, Europeans, Wallis Islanders, French Polynesians, Vietnamese and Indonesians).

Noumea is the Capital of this autonomous French Overseas Territory which is self-governed. The cigar shaped main island or *Grande Terre* is 400 kilometres long and only 40 to 70 kilometres wide.

The last official event of the week was a reception at the home of Tres Venerable Frere Max Shekleton, the British Consul in New Caledonia, which was also attended by Ms Anita Butler, the Australian Consul General.

**Norm Cooper**

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# Around and About

## South Australian Grand Installation

Tasmania's Grand Master, MW Bro Norman Cooper and his wife Cyrene, Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro John Wallace and his wife Elva were joined by a group of Masons and their wives to attend the Grand Installation in South Australia.

They are pictured on our **Back Page**.

The ceremony installed MW Bro Raymond Clark as Grand Master of South Australia and the Northern Territory,

Celebrations included a civic reception followed by a masonic reception on Friday April 17.

In the tradition of trying to keep some room on the credit card, organisers arranged for morning tea for the ladies on Saturday morning, leaving the men to their own devices until Saturday afternoon for the Grand Installation followed by the Installation Banquet at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre.

A church service followed by lunch was held on Sunday at the Adelaide Masonic Centre and on Monday a coach tour was arranged.

A whirlwind weekend was enjoyed by all who attended and the organisers were congratulated for a job well done.

The next Interstate Grand Installation is for the Grand Lodge of Western Australia, with activities from Thursday, October 29 to Sunday, November 1, 2009

**Jack Clear**



*Kiara-Lee Gough with W Bro Jack Clear (left) and W Bro Max Pringle after receiving her Pacific Lodge scholarship.*

## Forty years of scholarships

The Pacific Lodge has presented a scholarship annually since 1966 and while the form of the award has changed over the years in relation to the qualifications and privacy matters, the Lodge continues to support students with this scholarship, currently valued at \$400.

The recipient this year was Kiara-Lee Gough from Claremont College.

The Pacific Lodge Scholarship is awarded to selected students, male or female, who are enrolled full-time in Tasmanian Certificate of Education and/or Vocational Education Training and who attend a government senior secondary college in Southern Tasmania.

The scholarship is intended to assist those students who demonstrate enthusiasm and an aptitude for their chosen course of study, but through

financial hardship their chances of completing their senior secondary education might be reduced.

Early each year, senior secondary colleges are invited to submit two nominations from year 12 students, for consideration based on scholastic achievements in Year 11.

Criteria to be addressed in the application includes academic achievement, area of interest and study, personal qualities, future potential, contribution to college activities including sport, social and other community interest, financial circumstances and any other information which might support the nomination.

Nominations are then considered by a committee within The Pacific Lodge and a recipient chosen and awarded around March/April each year.

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## Good homes for your old PCs

Do you have a PC that is gathering dust, for which you have no further use? Or are you considering upgrading and don't know what to do with the old one?

During his annual visits to the Philippines, Bro Eric Smart of Burnie Masonic Lodge has become aware of a desperate need for working PC3 or PC4 computers in the country's schools.

"These schools receive little or no government funding for the technology which our kids take for granted," he said.

If you can assist in this matter, please contact Brother Smart by phone on 6431 1121, mobile 0421 636 714, or by post at 14 Saundridge Road, Cooee.

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# Around and About



Burnie Masonic Lodge hosted a special evening to present this year's D. I. Bartley Memorial Scholarship winners with their certificates.

The Worshipful Master, W Bro Ross Elphinstone, welcome students, educators and other guests.

The Parklands High School winner this year is Year 10 student Jess Streets, (top left) who was accompanied by her grandparents and teacher Belinda

## Special evening for Burnie awardees

Milbourne. Jess thanked the lodge members and outlined her interests and ambitions.

The Burnie High winner this year was Sarah Reeve (top right), who was supported by her mother and school principal Judith Fehey.

In addition to her academic studies Sarah excels at sport and is well known in netball circles. She spoke with confidence as she thanked the lodge for her award

The presentations were made on behalf of the lodge by RW Bro Brian Poulter wearing his Grand Lodge of Tasmania Regalia. In a short address, he outlined the history of the lodge's involvement with scholarships dating back to 1991.



The meeting was also addressed by Bryce Clarke, an ex Marist College Student and the 2008 winner of the Burnie Masonic Hilton Sharpe Memorial Scholarship. Now studying at the University of Tasmania, he outlined his first year's progress and expressed a desire to earn his degree as soon as possible.

The evening concluded with members and guests enjoying a convivial supper.

Gerry Gunton



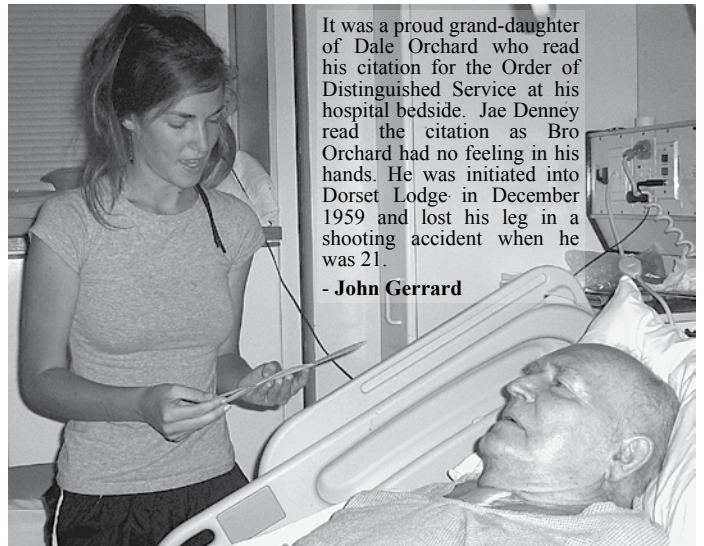
## Therapeutic puppets for children

Lodge Clarence recently made a donation to the Royal Hobart Hospital Paediatric Oncology and Haematology Clinic to assist with the purchase of therapeutic puppets.

Purchased from the United States, these are used by nursing staff to show young patients suffering from cancer and blood disorders how their treatment will be delivered.

Pictured presenting the cheque to a representative of the oncology clinic are W Bros Paul Lewis and Graeme Evans.

## Proud day for Dale - and Jae



It was a proud grand-daughter of Dale Orchard who read his citation for the Order of Distinguished Service at his hospital bedside. Jae Denney read the citation as Bro Orchard had no feeling in his hands. He was initiated into Dorset Lodge in December 1959 and lost his leg in a shooting accident when he was 21.

- John Gerrard

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# Around the World

## Hobart Pasha

The heading “Amiral ve Maresal HOBART PASA” in TESVIYE, the magazine of the Grand Lodge of Turkey might go unnoticed by someone who does not understand the language. But not if the reader lives in Hobart, Tasmania.

The gentleman referred to was Augustus Charles Hobart-Hampden. Now by coincidence, just two days before I received this magazine, the *Daily Mercury* in Hobart reported on a visit by the tenth Earl of Buckinghamshire on the occasion of the anniversary of the founding of Hobart 205 years ago. The Earl is otherwise known as George Miles Hobart-Hampden.

In 1804 Hobart Town was named after Lord Robert Hobart, Fourth Earl of Buckinghamshire, a Tory politician who was previously Governor of Madras (1793 -97) and then Secretary of State for War and the Colonies (1801-04).

Augustus Charles Hobart - Hampden (1822 -86) was an English naval captain who was given the rank of Admiral when he joined the Ottoman Navy in 1868.

He was the third son of the Sixty Earl of Buckinghamshire and had made a name for himself on the coast of Brazil as Britain sought to suppress the slave trade. He is also known to have successfully run the blockade at the time of the American Civil War, some eighteen times.

He successfully organised the blockade of Crete in 1886 and the Russian navy in the Black Sea during the 1877-78 Ottoman-Russian War. For this service he was rewarded with the title Pasha.

Hobart Pasha, as he became known, was a member of Prodoos Lodge. Sultan Murad V, prior to acceding to the throne, and his two brothers, had been initiated in this lodge.

## New Research Centre

The University of Sheffield and the European Science Foundation led the way in placing Masonic research within the scholarly community in Europe a few years ago.

Now a new, endowed multidisciplinary research centre focussing on freemasonry has been foreshadowed as a part of the University of California, Los Angeles. It is expected that the American and European Centres will complement and assist each other.



Compiled by  
**R.W. Bro. Murray Yaxley,**  
**G.M.O.H. P.D.G.M.**

Co-ordinator of Fraternal Relations for  
the Grand Lodges of Australasia and  
Past President of the ANZMRC

## Builders of Empire

The publication of *Builders of Empire: Freemasonry and British Imperialism 1717-1927* provides us with the fruits of a well researched study of the interface between freemasonry and society.

The author, Jessica L. Harland-Jacobs, who is now Assistant Professor of History at the University of Florida, undertook the study when she was at the University of North Carolina.

As freemasonry spread around the world, with the extension of the British Empire, it epitomised loyalty to the monarchy.

In turn, freemasonry prospered as a result of the involvement of members of the Royal Family and other distinguished persons in the activities of the craft.

The manner in which it included indigenous members of colonial communities contributed significantly to the strengthening of the empire.

This is in contrast to continental freemasonry which was inclined to be more radical and revolutionary in character.

The book is well illustrated.

It was published in 2007 by the University of North Carolina Press (400pages, hard cloth, \$US39.95).

For more details go to [www.uncpress.unc.edu](http://www.uncpress.unc.edu).

## Swedish Freemasonry

The first Masonic ceremonies in Sweden were conducted in 1735 after a cavalry officer returned from service in Paris.

For the first few years the candidates were drawn from the nobility but during the 1750s the membership was widened. The Grand lodge of Sweden was consecrated in 1760.

From 1774 until 1997 the Grand Masters were all from the Royal House. At present His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf is High Protector of the Swedish Order of Freemasons. The Grand Master and Supreme Governor of the Order since 2001 has been Professor Anders Fahlman.

National borders in Scandinavia have varied over the years and so we find that there are more than a thousand members of the Swedish Order in western Finland.

Swedish freemasonry is open only to Christians. It has its own distinct structure. The system is grouped in three divisions: St John's (Craft) degrees, St Andrews (Scottish) degrees and Chapter degrees.

Beyond these there are three other degrees. In 1811, King Carl established the Royal Order of King Carl XIII. It is a civil order, conferred by the King only to freemasons holding the most senior degree. It is restricted to 33 members and is not itself a Masonic degree.

The Swedish Rite is worked in Sweden, Finland, Denmark, and Iceland. There is also a German variant.

In smaller towns there are Fraternal Societies, akin to Lodges of Instruction. They provide opportunities for furthering Masonic knowledge and providing fraternal contacts but conferral of degrees does not take place.

## Hexagonal Pillars

One of the winners of the Short Papers Competition conducted by the Internet Lodge (EC) examined the information given about the diameters of the two great pillars at the porch or entrance to King Solomon's Temple.

*Kings and Chronicles*, together with the second degree lecture according to the Emulation Ritual were the sources.

Bro Bergin formerly of Dorset, UK and now of Tenerife, showed that there are good grounds for concluding that the pillars were in fact hexagonal



# Around the World

## Dressing Up – in bib overalls

If you wish to attend Farmers Lodge No. 168 of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, leave your suits and tails behind. The dress code here is bib overalls and has been that way since the lodge was formed in the mid 19th century. W Bro David Jackson explains:

“As with the imagery of freemasonry, farming carries with it the Biblical allegory of sowing and reaping, the great virtue of harvesting the benefits of one’s actions and character. There being no more basic or noble occupation, lodge members proudly adopted the traditional bib overall, the mode of dress of farmers, as their standard lodge uniform.

“So now we wear the bib overall to honour the tradition of those brothers who came before us. When Grand Lodge officers attend Farmers Lodge to assist in performing work or other special events, they don bib overalls as a show of respect to the long traditions of our lodge”.

## Blue Friars

The Society of Blue Friars is a masonic fraternity that was formed in 1932 to recognise distinguished masonic authors.

There have been only 97 members to date, 24 current.

The Society has some unusual features - one meeting per year, no dues, no ritual and only three officers -the Grand Abbot, his Deputy and the Secretary- General.

One new Friar is appointed each year but additional Friars may be appointed to fill vacancies caused by demise or resignation when the total membership is not over twenty.

The current Grand Abbot is S. Brent Morris, the tenth person to hold the office.

His predecessor was Wallace E. McLeod (Canada) who is well remembered by members of the Australian and New Zealand Masonic Research Council.

The most recently appointed Friar is also well known to us, Yasha Beresiner (England).

He was admitted to the Society when it met in Washington DC in February 2009.

Each newly admitted Friar is expected to deliver a research paper.

Yasha Beresiner chose to speak on “The Scottish Influence on the early development of Speculative Masonry.”

The membership of the Society has been , and is, substantially American (79). Other countries represented are England (nine), Canada (five), Scotland, Argentina, Israel and France.

## Canary Island Lodges

Tenerife Lodge No. No 117, Province of the Canary Islands was formed under the Grand Lodge of Spain in 2001.

Tenerife was the first provisioning port for the First Fleet in 1787. Apart from that most of us know little of the area. Tenerife is the largest of the seven Canary Islands, situated about sixty miles off the west coast of Africa, some one thousand miles south of the Spanish Peninsula.

Freemasonry has been active in Spain from the middle 1800s although it was subjected to many trials and tribulations from both church and state.

It was eventually banned by General Franco after the Spanish Civil War. After his death in 1977, freemasonry was once again permitted in Spain and in 1982 the Grand Lodge of Spain was re-consecrated in Barcelona..

The first Lodge in Tenerife, Canary Islands, Teide Lodge No. 34 was based in Puerto de la Cruz in the north of the island.

Freemasonry arrived in the southern part of Tenerife in November 1989 with the formation of Tajinaste Lodge No. 45 which held its meetings in a hotel in El Medano on the south eastern tip of the island.

Their meeting place was later moved to the Guaracarumbo restaurant in Guaza, a small village to the east of Los Cristianos and although Tajinaste Lodge later moved, Tenerife Lodge No. 117 now holds its meetings in rooms above that same restaurant.

Tenerife Lodge is a progressive lodge with side orders including Mark Master Masons, Royal Arch Chapter and Royal Ark Mariners.

## Presidential Inaugurals and Masonic Bibles

It is well known that the first President of the United States of America, George Washington, took his oath of office on a masonic Bible.

In the first place it was neither by design nor request. It was because of an oversight by those who organised this important ceremony.

With members of Congress and vast numbers of citizens of New York all waiting for the administration of the oath of office, it was found that a Holy Bible had not been provided.

As it happened, the Marshal of the forthcoming parade, Jacob Morton , was at that time the Worshipful Master of St John’s Lodge No. 1, Ancient York Masons, New York City.

Its meeting place was close by and he offered to get the altar Bible.

Chancellor Robert R Livingston, the highest judicial officer of the city who was to administer the oath, had no problems with that idea. He was Grand Master.

The rest is history.

In January 2009, 220 years later there was also masonic involvement during the inauguration of the forty fourth President, Barack Obama.

The Director of Ceremonies of the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee and Master of the Inaugural Parade was Bro Thomas Groppe.

He was no stranger to his duties. This was his ninth time in the role -ever since the inauguration of President Jimmy Carter in 1977.

As Director of Ceremonies and Special Events for the Military District of Washington, Bro Groppe’s life is one of diplomacy and logistics providing honour guards and military escorts for events and dignitaries in Washington.

He did have one additional task at this latest Inaugural - ensuring that a small carpeted platform was placed behind the podium for Sasha Obama to stand on.

Her parents are so tall that she would otherwise have been lost in any photograph of the ceremony.

# Freemasons' Homes of Southern Tasmania

The Board of the Freemasons Homes of Southern Tasmania has approved the \$1.95 million redevelopment of its Selbourne Place properties at the rear of the Freemasons Nursing Home at Lindisfarne.

The redevelopment will result in several dated weather board units being demolished and replaced with seven two-bedroom villa units.

The complete makeover of an adjoining residence at No.2 Selbourne Place into a modern two-bedroom villa unit has already commenced and will bring to eight the total number of new units in the Selbourne Place redevelopment project.

Architects BPSM have been commissioned to prepare the design and layout for the project.

The units are specifically designed for the aged and come complete with all white goods, drapes, window furnishings, security alarm and 24 hour emergency call monitoring

It is hoped the preliminary plans, which are presently being refined, will be submitted to the Clarence City Council for planning approval by the end of September 2009.

## Eight new units at Selbourne Place

The Board has made a commitment to tenants of the existing units that are to be demolished that alternative accommodation will be provided within the Homes environment in the Lindisfarne area.

Homes Chief Executive Officer, Greg Burgess, said this was another exciting stage in the on-going development of the Homes.

"We have already received strong expressions of interest for all of the proposed units from our current pool of applicants," he said.

When completed, the Selbourne Place redevelopment will bring to thirty the number of independent living units located on the Freemasons Nursing Home site at Ballawinne Road Lindisfarne.

The organisation also has seven two-bedroom independent living units at the Bowditch Hostel at Wellington Road / Beltana Street in Lindisfarne and eight one-bedroom independent living units at Maranoa Road, Kingston.

Further information regarding independent living units at Freemasons Homes can be obtained by contacting the Executive Support Officer, Mrs Joanne Merrifield, on 6282 5200 during normal business hours.

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**YOU CAN HELP!**

The Freemasons' Homes of Southern Tasmania Inc. always welcomes donations and bequests. Donations over \$2-00 are allowable as an income deduction for taxation purposes.

Any donation will be most welcome and, in truly Masonic tradition, you may be assured it will be faithfully applied.

You may assist by forwarding your donation to:

The Freemasons' Homes of Southern Tasmania Inc,  
7 Ballawinne Rd.,  
Lindisfarne 7015.

You may use the attached form if you wish.

Yours fraternally,  
Keith Graver ... *Chairman Board of Directors*

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# Northern Masonic Homes

## 'Fair-well' thanks to dedicated group

For more than 20 years the members of the Masonic Peace Haven Fair Committee have met to organise and host the Annual Fair which has been the major fundraising event for Masonic Homes of Northern Tasmania over that time.

Now, however, due to the increasing ill health of many of its members, the Fair Committee reluctantly has been forced to disband.

To acknowledge the history of this small band of dedicated workers, the Boards of Peace Haven and Fred French Home invited past and present members to a Celebratory Afternoon Tea in the Day Therapy Centre at Peace Haven on Monday, April 27, 2009.

The Chairman of Peace Haven, W Bro Ian Green, outlined the history of the Fair, from the inaugural event held in October 1988 in the grounds of Peace Haven - which raised an amazing \$18,000 - to the last fair in October 2008.

Each year the Fair has raised an average of \$10,000-\$11,000 which is put towards the purchase of equipment to enhance the lifestyle of the residents of both Peace Haven and the Fred French Home.

Representatives from lodges and ladies committees, as well as Day Centre, Outreach and Special Care Unit staff, and Queechy High School students, have contributed time and hard work to setting up and manning individual food, craft, produce and book stalls, etc.

The Friends of Peace Haven have served innumerable cups of tea and plates of goodies at the high tea venue and the major raffle each year, with goods and services sponsored by our generous community, has been a winning feature.

In the last five years of the 'Twilight Fair', food and wine have been a main attraction.

Bro Green expressed the deep appreciation and thanks of management and the boards to all members of the Fair Committee for their commitment and



outstanding achievements over the past 20 years.

In a fitting gesture, the first chairman of the Fair Committee, John Sturzaker, and the last, Geoff Wood, then jointly cut the celebratory cake (pictured above).

While the formal structure of the Fair Committee has now ceased, plans are

in hand to restructure Peace Haven's fundraising programme which may include individual elements of the Fair in the future.

In typically generous fashion, all Fair Committee members expressed their desire to continue helping out wherever possible.

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## Southern Homes AGM reminder

The annual general meeting of the Freemasons Homes of Southern Tasmania Inc. will be held on Thursday, September 17, 2009, at 1.00 pm in the Main Activities Room at 7 Ballawinne Road, Lindisfarne.

## Around and About

### Encouraging night at St Helens

There were several aspects of the initiation of Bro Gary Maxwell into St Helens Masonic Lodge on March 28, 2009 which made it a memorable night.

Firstly, Bro Maxwell is the son-in-law of the inaugural Master, V W Bro Joe Porter and brother-in-law of the second Master, W Bro Stephen Porter.

Secondly, the meeting was the first occasion on which initiates into the lodge worked as deacons - Bro Jake Cole (Senior Deacon) and Bro Harvey Lear (Junior Deacon). Thirdly, before the initiation Bro Jack Dargaville was placed in the chair of Junior Warden, creating a situation where all progressive offices were filled by Master Masons.



*Pictured at St Helen's Lodge are (from left) Bro Mike Bongard, Bro John Peeters, the Worshipful Master, W Bro Malcolm Bracey, Bro Gary Maxwell and Bro Howard Murphy.*

And finally, present in the lodge were three entered apprentices and one fellowcraft.

Unfortunately Bro Des Charles, also an entered apprentice, was unable to attend.

### Best Esk Breakfast

Sunday, April 5, 2009 was the date of the annual Lodge Esk Breakfast and it was voted the best yet.

Some 54 members of the Lodge Esk family gathered at the Masonic Centre in Launceston at 8 am for a full English breakfast.

The "Chef Exgtraordinaire", W Bro Reg Frost, was capably assisted by his two teenage sons, Alex and Robbie, in the preparation of eggs, bacon, mushrooms, tomatoes, sausages and baked beans, accompanied by toast, fruit juice, tea and coffee - and all for only \$5 per adult (children free), and we even did a little better than "break even, which was all we were hoping to do.

The "chatter level" was extremely high - when we weren't eating - a wonderful indication of how much the gathering was enjoyed by all. All good practice for our Christmas in Winter Luncheon on June 28.

Colin Moore

## Inspirational ceremony remembers the Anzacs

An inspirational Anzac Remembrance Ceremony was presented by Roland Lodge brethren at their regular meeting in April 2009 - an open gathering with ladies and friends also in attendance.

The occasion was supported by a team of Grand Lodge officers led by RW Bro M. R. Lawson, and a number of brethren from along the North West Coast, including three lodges visiting officially.

The proceedings were under the direction of Bro Scott Whiley, assisted by W Bro R. (Nugget) Diprose.

Bro Whiley used video slides to illustrate his visit to Flanders Field, described with such passion that it attracted an emotional response from all present.

Bro Diprose outlined his experiences as a crew member of a Corvette during

the Second World War, including that of being sunk.

The two presentations demonstrated that the efforts and sacrifices of service personnel are still close to the hearts of Australians.

Various odes and prayers followed and then the Last Post and Reveille played by Bro Adrian Loone, before all joined in singing the national anthem.

The ceremony concluded with the laying of a poppy and sprig of acacia by Audrey Diprose and RW Bro Lawson.

All retired to the south for refreshments and fellowship, including the singing of old war songs by Bro Gerald Badcock, accompanied on the piano by W Bro Kevin Chambers.

Kevin Chambers

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## Activity in other Orders

### Rose Croix help for Cancer Council

The Cancer Council of Tasmania has benefited to the tune of \$1,000 from the Coronation Sovereign Rose Croix Chapter, No. 66.

The cheque was presented to the north-west regional co-ordinator for the council, Lyndy Lowmow by the Immediate Past Most Wise Sovereign, Ex & P Bro Mick Roche (pictured).

It was witnessed by Em. Bro Maurice Lawson and Ill Bro Ted Priest.

At the presentation were several patients waiting for transport to the W. P. Holman Clinic in Launceston, as well as volunteer staff and the Cancer

Council nurse for the North West, Sharon Murcott.

Transport of patients from the North West to the clinic in Launceston is either by private car or bus which runs daily from Burnie from Monday to Friday, picking up en route.

More volunteer drivers are needed, and people interested in helping can make a free call to 1800 063 347.

More than four thousand patients are transported annually from various parts of the State to the Holman Clinic.

The Coronation Sovereign Rose Croix Chapter represents the North



Photo - Ted Priest

West Coast and meets quarterly at the Devonport Masonic Lodge Rooms, on the first Saturdays in March, June, September and December.

**Maurice Lawson**



### Who are 'The Operatives'?

The Worshipful Society of Operative Masons (the Operatives) has as its prime function to perpetuate the work the ritual of the old operative masons, but some variations are unavoidable - or convenient - so the organisation does not become unwieldy.

For example, in former times there was a Deputy Master Mason (equivalent to a Master in speculative - or blue lodge - freemasonry) for each lodge, while today it is convenient that a DMM rules and Assembly of Lodges Fourth to First.

There are seven degrees in Operative Lodges and the prerequisites to joining are that you are a Master Mason and a Mark Master Mason.

The three Operative Lodges in Tasmania are Barton Mill Assemblage at Newstead (DMM W Bro Geoff Herbert), Salamanca Quarry Assemblage in Glenorchy (DMM W Bro John The Duke of Avram) and Highfield House Assemblage in Burnie (DMM John Wallace - currently Deputy Grand Master in the blue lodge). The leaders are **pictured above**.

The Operative Lodges each meet four times a year. They welcome inquiries.

### Several Orders at Evensong

On Sunday, March 8, 2009, members of the masonic fraternity and their families joined the congregation of St John's Church, Devonport, for an Evensong service.

Brethren from as far away as Launceston and Wynyard attended and included the Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro C. J. Wallace, the District Commander of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for Australia, V Ill Bro G. L. Parkinson and the District Grand Prior, Grand Priory of Knights Templar, Rt Emm Bro C. Smith.

All were accompanied by their wives and contributed to the service by presenting readings.

The service was conducted by the recently-installed priest in charge, the Rev. John Graham-Freeman who was supported by choir and organ, so invaluable in an Evensong.

The customary refreshments and fellowship that followed combined to make for a most enjoyable occasion.

**Ian McK. Muir**

### 'Family affair' continues

*On Saturday April 18, 2009 at Fingal, Bro Russell Montgomery was installed by RW Bro. J. L. Cornwell as the 115th Master of Lord Carrington Lodge.*

*He had been initiated into Freemasonry in Kingston Lodge, and affiliated with Lord Carrington in 2006.*

*After many years service in the Australian Army, W Bro Montgomery worked for southern Tasmanian local government before joining the Break O'Day Council at St Helens.*

*Freemasonry has been a family affair for W Bro. Montgomery. His father and uncles were members of Victorian Lodges, and his in-laws are masons or members of the Order of the Eastern Star. His wife Michelle is also a member of the OES.*

**- Phil Corby**

## Counting the years

# More than just a “Drop Kick”

The Worshipful Master of The Pacific Lodge, W Bro Max Pringle and the Lodge Almoner, W Bro Ivan Wass, visited Guilford Young Home for the Elderly to interview the oldest member of the masonic fraternity in Tasmania and probably Australia.

Bro Noel Keith Welsh - fondly remembered as the *Hobart Mercury's* sports journalist “Drop Kick” - was born in Benalla Victoria on December 25, 1905 and is very bright and healthy apart from his legs.

While he is now wheelchair bound, his mind is sharp as a tack, and he demonstrated a phenomenal recall - recouting all the dates and occasions in this article.

Keith was married on January 26, 1933 and his wife Weedeh who was from Tumut in the Snowy Mountains in NSW.

They lived in Albury where Keith worked on the *Daily News* for ten years before it was bought out by the *Border Morning Mail*. His wage at the time was 2 pounds 4 and 6 (\$4.45) per week.

The couple moved to Melbourne where Keith worked at the *Melbourne Star* for six pounds (\$12.00) and later seven pounds (\$14.00) per week, between 1935 and 1956.

The next domicile was Wagga Wagga between 1936 and 1941 and in 1941 Keith joined the RAAF, remaining in the service until 1947.

Keith was promoted to Flight Lieutenant, became a narrator on RAAF history and was posted to India for three years.

Following his RAAF Service their daughter Noel was born. She trained as a pharmacist, worked for some time at Rex Townley's Chemist in Hobart, and still works as a locum around Tasmania.

Masonically, Keith was initiated into Concord Lodge in Albury in 1928 and transferred to Wagga Loyalty in 1936.

While retaining his membership of Wagga Loyalty, he affiliated with Victory Lodge (Tasmania) in 1947.

He was proposed by Bro Badley from *The Mercury* and seconded by Bro Doug Plaister, well known Lord Mayor of Hobart, and became the relief organist for several years.



*Keith Welsh regales the large audience at the presentation of his Eighty Year Jewel.*

He was elected Chief Steward and the following year was proposed as Junior Deacon, but work commitments prevented him from accepting the position.

These commitments placed a great deal of pressure on his attendance at his Lodge meetings and advancement was out of the question.

*The Mercury* dedicated a memorial trophy (The Keith Welsh Shield) which is awarded annually as a cash award.

His employment with *The Mercury* was from 1947, earning 19.2.0 (\$38.20) per week until 1970.

(Another Keith Welsh Award is presented annually to the State's top journalists by the Tasmanian branch of the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance, for which Keith was Branch Secretary for many years).

Victory Lodge closed and incorporated with The Pacific Lodge and Keith transferred his membership to Pacific at that time and maintains his membership of the Craft through the Pacific Lodge.

He was presented with his Eighty Year Certificate on his anniversary in October 2008 by MW Bro Robert Clarke at the Guilford Young Home.

Keith's 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday on December 25, 2008 was an occasion not to be missed, when he spoke for around 20 minutes and had the audience spellbound..

The Grand Master, MW Bro Norman Cooper, presented him with his Eighty Year Jewel, also took the opportunity of conferring the rank of Past Grand Tyler and awarding him the Grand Master's Order of Distinguished Service.

The occasion was accentuated by a great number of emails received from masons all over the world to commemorate his great achievement, all of which were relayed to the gathering by the Worshipful Master.

Sadly, as this edition of *Freemasonry Tasmania* reached the proofing stage, news came of the passing to the Grand Lodge Above of Brother Keith Welsh at the age of 103. This last interview with Bro Keith is an acknowledgement of the life and work of a wonderful man and a fine Freemason. – Editor

**Max Pringle and Ivan Wass**

## Memorable occasion at Huon Lodge

A memorable occasion at The Huon Lodge was celebrated on the second Thursday in February with the presentation of a Fifty Year Jewel to VW Bro Donald Hands by the Grand Master, MW Bro Norman Cooper. (photo, Back Page). A Forty Year Certificate was also presented to Bro Geoffrey Glanville, but space considerations prevented the photo being used in this edition.

VW Bro Hands is a stalwart of the lodge having been continuously in office for 48 of those 50 years.

He served as Master on four occasions, secretary for seven years, secretary/treasurer for another seven years and treasurer for the past two years.

Bro Glanville, though not becoming Worshipful Master, served the lodge as Chaplain for some years and has always been a much respected and dedicated supporter of the lodge.

**Horrie Hollick**

## Counting the years

### Master at 93 awarded Seventy Year Bar

As well as being honoured with a Seventy Year Bar to his long-service jewel, VW Bro Lance Strickland (pictured) has received the conferred rank of Past Grand Warden from the Grand Master, MW Bro Norm Cooper.

It was also RW Bro Strickland's second-last meeting as Worshipful Master of Macquarie Lodge (this time around), at the impressive age of 93.

The presentations were held at the luncheon following the Lodge's meeting on May 18, 2009.

The Grand Master outlined RW Bro Strickland's career in freemasonry and his working life.

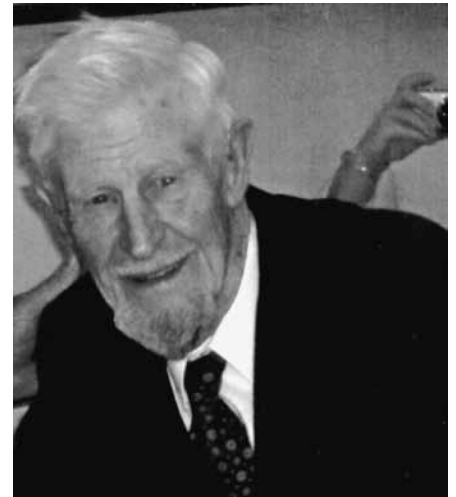
Among about sixty diners at the luncheon were Lance's son, Gerrad, and his wife, Gayleen, and Lance's two

daughters, Julie Grey, from Redpa in far North-Western Tasmania, and Sue Skinner from Queensland,

Also attending were W Bro Gordon Andrews, who is secretary of Meridian Lodge in suburban Adelaide as well as two of Lances's personal friends from South Australia who had come to Tasmania especially for the occasion.

In thanking the Grand Master for the bar and the conferral of the rank of Past Grand Warden, RW Bro Strickland gave an account of the highs and lows of his seventy years of Craft Freemasonry.

He said he hoped still to be around to qualify for the Seventy-five Year Bar but thought that he might not be here to get the Eighty-year Bar!



Tongue-in-cheek, he recommended that the Board of General Purposes emulate at seventy years membership what the Royal Automobile Club of Tasmanian does after fifty and put members onto half dues!

Jack Clear

### Pleasant surprise for long-time treasurer

As Burnie Masonic Lodge's long serving Treasurer, Bro Peter Lay, went about his duties in his usual efficient manner at the January meeting of his lodge, unbeknown to him arrangements were in place for him to be presented with a Fifty Year Jewel.

A native of Victoria, he came to Tasmania in 1946, engaged in a career in the banking industry and moving from place to place around the State.

He met and married his wife at New Norfolk where their daughter was born prior to moving on to St Marys where a casual enquiry brought a prompt response from Lodge Lord Carrington and his initiation in December 1958.

His masonic career took off but his variety of banking appointments necessitated him changing lodges and working in the south and the north east, where his son was born.



He then relocated to the north west, managing a bank at Smithton and in 1969 affiliating with Smithton Lodge.

Bro Lay's final banking move was to Burnie where he resigned from the industry and commenced a career in retailing.

He affiliated with Gill Memorial Lodge in 1975, being proposed by RW Bro Hilton Sharpe and seconded by RW Bro John Horton.

In presenting the 50 Year Jewel on behalf of Grand Lodge (pictured), RW Bro Brian Poulter referred to Bro Lay being a founder member of Burnie Masonic Lodge and its Treasurer for ten years, having previously served in the same position for eight years in Gill Memorial Lodge.

RW Bro Poulter said the recognition of Bro Lay's 50 years service was richly deserved.

Gerry Gunton



### Service to the Craft and community

At the April meeting of Lodge Clarence, W Bro Bill Judd was presented with a Sixty Year Bar by RW Bro Tony Goodluck PGW (pictured).

W Bro Judd was initiated into Lodge Harmony on January 19, 1949, and became Worshipful Master in 1965. He was Grand Steward in 1982 and Grand Tyler in 1983.

He joined Rechab Lodge in 1987 and Lodge Aquatic in 1994. When Lodge Aquatic handed in its charter, he joined Lodge Clarence, where he is Director of Ceremonies.

RW Bro Goodluck thanked W Bro Judd for his continued service to the Craft and his community.

## Counting the years

### ‘Demolay boy’ reaches Masonic 50th

At Lodge Esk’s regular meeting in March 2009, RW Bro C. W. (Bill) Carney received his Fifty Year Jewel from RW Bro C. D. Moore (pictured) in the presence of 30 Esk members and 14 visitors.

RW Bro Bro Carney’s career in freemasonry started as a teenager when he joined the Order of Demolay in New South Wales.

He was initiated into Lodge Hurstville No. 282 (NSW) in March 1956 at the age of 21 and reached the office of Junior Warden, deciding not to proceed further due to family and work commitments.

RW Wor Bro Bill later affiliated with Lodge Semper Fidelis No. 964 (NSW) and advanced through the offices to be installed as Master in October 1974.

He was appointed District Grand Inspector of Workings for No. 33 District for the 1982-84 term, during which he became a committee member of the NSW Orphan Society, a board member of the Frank Whidden Masonic Homes (NSWP) and a Life Governor of the Freemason’s Benevolent Institute.

In 1983 RW Bro Bill affiliated with Lodge Thespian Lewis and was musical director of that lodge until moving to Launceston in 2000.

He received the conferred rank of Past Junior Grand Warden in June 14, 1995, from MW Bro Noel Dunn, Grand Master of NSW at that time.

RW Bro Bill has had a great involvement in the musical world, having organised charity shows to raise funds for the Children’s Hospital and Children’s



Medical Research Foundation in New South Wales.

On coming to Launceston he affiliated with Lodge Esk where he is editor of its newsletter, “Esk-a-pades”, provided harmony and generally involved himself in the community.

Colin Moore

## Plenty of positives in this life

A “cocktail” of jobs undertaken by W Bro Frank Baxter of Poulett Lodge has been attributed to his developing a positive attitude to life.

Frank was presented with his Fifty Year Jewel by RW Bro John Windrum, who outlined the variety of jobs, starting with Frank becoming a mechanic in Morwell, Victoria, then a plant operator in an open-cut coal mine.

At the age of 19 he decided to “just visit” Tasmania, but that resulted in his meeting his future wife, Margaret, putting a hold on any ideas about returning to Victoria. Frank and Margaret married and made their home in Somerset.

Frank started at Burnie Paper Mill as a trades assistant and eventually became shift superintendent. Then, in his inimitable style, began looking around for other challenges.

He left the mill and started a taxi service, then with a colleague, John Grimwade, bought the Somerset Motel.

Two years later, Frank ditched that enterprise and formed a company to build the Seabrook Motel, before deciding to go into a form of retirement.

APPM then asked him to act as a relief gatekeeper before he decided he had enough and went into total retirement.

Frank has since had both hips replaced and unfortunately has been plagued with leg problems since the operations, curtailing his activities and limiting his social life.

Frank was initiated into Burnie Rechab Lodge on January 24, 1959 and in 1968 became its Master

He joined Burnie Masonic Lodge when Davies, Rechab and Gill Memorial Lodges amalgamated, and affiliated with Poulett lodge because of a change of residence.

*Our Back Page photo shows Frank at his home after at the presentation of his Fifty Year Jewel are with several well-wishers who are well known in the North West.*



### And two more...

*RW Bro W. J. Speddy received his Sixty Year Jewel from MW Bro R. Clarke at a meeting of St Paul Lodge on March 18, 2009 (pictured left).*

*Bro J. C. Hardy (pictured at right) received his Fifty Year Certificate and badge from RW Bro L. G. Scott in the presence of RW Bro Ted Priest and W. Bro Brown.*





# Looking back

Sadly, many of our well-known and respected brethren have been called to the Grand Lodge above in the past few years. Three of them, VW Bro Geoff Barren, RW Bro Nat Sonners and W Bro Reg Anderson were close friends of VW Bro Harry Gilbert of Bothwell Lodge.

He was in the process of preparing eulogies for all three when, tragically, he lost his wife, and the work had to be put on hold. In the next three pages, W Bro Gilbert acknowledges with great appreciation the lives and work of three widely respected freemasons.

V Wor Bro Geoff Barren, a Hobart lad, started his long working career in the Post Master General's department delivering telegrams.

He joined the RAAF and served in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands before returning to the PMG and later transferring to the Hydro Electric Commission.

He was always in control of himself, a very private man, generous with his time and having a very pleasant personality.

He was particularly suited to his position in the Hydro, where he had access to personal information on the thousands who then made up the staff.

No one could ever doubt that he ever once disclosed any information incorrectly...that private man with the very effective and gentle manner of helping people with problems really respected other people's privacy.

Before his retirement Geoff bought an electronic organ and taught himself to play...all done quietly and only when he was "nearly happy" with his playing standard did anyone outside the family become aware of the operation.

It was quite evident that, after his family, his lodges ranked a large number two in his life.

In United Service Lodge he was secretary from 1968 to 1972 when he proceeded to the position of Master, and secretary again from 1977 for 28 years until the close of the Lodge in 2005.

Geoff was correctly described by a senior member of United Service Lodge as "the backbone of the lodge. Without him its life would have been much shorter".

He was a foundation member of the City of Glenorchy Daylight Lodge and its first organist.

Grand Lodge appointed him Past Grand Sword Bearer in 1983 and in 1990 he was honoured with the title of Past Grand Director of Ceremonies.

He joined the City of Glenorchy Royal Arch Chapter in 1982 and became scribe (secretary) in 1984. He was made a Life Member of the Chapter and for the last 10 years was organist.

He was honoured by the District Grand Chapter with the title of Honorary Grand Standard Bearer.

## Vale: VW Bro Geoff Barren

### A lifetime of service



Away from Lodge activities he joined Moonah Probus in 1986 and until recently was the group historian.

He also did much work each year visiting high schools in the area to

organise competitive debating groups of students.

After his retirement from the Hydro, Geoff became a Red Cross driver and really befriended those who needed the service. Their universal comment was "He was so kind."

This rather quiet private man did have a quirky sense of humour, and no function of the 1974 Masters and Wives Association was complete until Geoff made his contribution of his selection of jokes or, in earlier days, conjuring tricks.

He was not an excitable or flamboyant person but he certainly was demonstrative: his whole life was one demonstration of his beliefs - the service, the trustworthiness, the quiet support and the love he gave to the world around him.

From that first telegram he delivered, his was truly a lifetime of service to his family and the community.

Harry Gilbert

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# Called to the Grand Lodge Above

Our "Nat" - RW Bro Nat Sonners - was born on September 13, 1914 at Hamilton, the fourth child of what was to be a family of eleven, five of whom suffered vision problems as did their father.

Significantly, as always Nat was already able to turn a negative into a positive.

At the tender age of four he, together with four of his siblings, was enrolled at the Hobart School for the Blind in Lewis Street North Hobart.

The headmaster and his wife were both blind and the headmaster, apart from being a competent teacher, had a great interest in the use of Braille and in music, both of which Nat absorbed deeply.

He later said it took him four years to master the Braille system of which he became a life-long exponent and promulgated at every opportunity.

Speaking during the "Year of the Disabled" he said "The Braille system is a victory over blindness and will give courage and confidence to continue".

Indeed, anyone picking Nat up for a meeting would hear the Braille machine working as they approached his door as he prepared another sermon or recorded something he had heard.

Back to school: his mathematical ability was such that in inter high school competitions he often outclassed his sighted opponents.

Nat left school at 16 but continued working as a cleaner there in the mornings and afternoons at the brush

## Vale: RW Bro Nat Sonners

# Concord of music, masonry and religion



factory as a "Horse Hair Drafter" , all done by feel of course.

He moved to other institutions and at 21 met and married Kitty and enjoyed a very happy ten years before she was taken from him by consumption.

After that shock and sadness Nat made a decision which determined the direction of the rest of his life and benefited so many people: he felt a call and dedicated his life to God's service.

He served as a lay reader in the Parish of Moonah from January 1940 until February 1955, studying and receiving his Associate of Theology Diploma in 1949.

He was ordained as a priest in February 1963 and altogether served in the Parish of Moonah for 25 years

In 1952 Nat married Vera and the couple enjoyed 39 years of very happy life together. She was a great supporter, excellent cook, organiser and a most reliable driver for all Nat's appointments.

After his time at Moonah Nat was invited to Ross where another of his abilities was very publicly demonstrated after his arrival in 1964 - he set about restoring the old Church of St John.

Then they moved to Tunbridge where that same inspiration and direction was transmitted to church members with similar results and again at Oatlands.

Hence the name which followed him the rest of his life: "The Restoration

Pastor". A title also very true for things other than buildings.

(To Page 19)



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## The Broken Column

*Symbol of the passing of a member of the craft*

### RW Brother

C. M. Macaulay Lord Carrington  
F. M. Hancock Lodge Rosetta

### VW Brother

S. Harris Loyalty & Hobart Research

### W Brothers

B. I. Bail Lodge Clarence  
W. L. T. Knibbs Lodge Macquarie  
N. Long Glenorchy Day  
L. H. Seidenberg Army & Navy  
T. F. Temple Glenora Lodge

### Brothers

G. W. O. Atkins Hutchins O. B.  
E. A. Bailey Lord Carrington  
I. C. Genders St Andrew Lewis  
D. A. G. Hill Lodge Merton  
R. Mainsbridge Lodge Esk  
E. A. Pickedt Lton Daytime  
J. C. Siddons Pacific Lodge  
L. J. Smith Pacific Lodge  
G. Surtees Mt Lyell Lodge  
K. Welsh Pacific Lodge

# Called to the Grand Lodge Above

## Vale: W Bro Reg Anderson

### Independent, fair and honest

W Bro Reg Anderson - who was called to the Grand Lodge Above on May 24, 2008 - was initiated into Victory Lodge on July 2, 1966 and so began a life in which Masonry played a very large part.

He was Worshipful Master of Victory Lodge in 1974 and remained an active member till the Lodge closed in 1997.

He became a Grand Steward in 1987 and he was the Foundation Treasurer of Lodge Macquarie when that lodge was formed in 1990, remaining a very regular and faithful member.

W Bro Anderson was also a member of the Tasmania Lodge of Mark Master Masons (Victorian Constitution) and the associated Tasmania Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners where he had conferred on him

rank equivalent to the Tasmanian Grand Lodge Past Grand Warden making him a Right Worshipful Brother.

Reg Anderson was 92 when he died and had been married to Gwen for 66 years. They had two sons and two daughters.

Reg was in the Australian Army for 12 years, starting as a bandsman in the reserve before the Second World War, with continuing service through the war.

He started work at Goldings Jewellers and later had forty years with the Housing Department before he retired.

Although small in stature he looms very large in the memory of so many people for his independence, fair thinking and directly honest manner.



True to his Masonic principles he was a literal example of justice and a Right Worshipful Brother. An example to all who knew him.

Harry Gilbert

### 'Our Nat' (from Pg 18)

When leaving Oatlands in 1973 Nat officially retired but spent the next two years at Geeveston "filling in". Then back to Hobart where he was an Honorary Assistant Priest in the Parish of Holy Trinity, working at St. Margaret's Church with Vera's great assistance until 1991, the same year that she passed away.

Apart from his service to his church and his people there are other memorable achievements.

From 1936 to 1965 he was the wicket keeper for the blind cricket team, as well as captain, secretary and treasurer at various times. He was very pleased to talk about the time they played in Sydney and won. Nat served as Padre for the Toc H organisation from 1955 and treasurer of the Hobart branch from 1981.

He always felt that their motto of "To think fairly, To love widely, To witness humbly and to build bravely" was one he could happily adopt.

The other civic activity for which "our Nat" was known and respected throughout the community was his long association with the national "Dawn Service" on Anzac Day for ex servicemen and women.

As Chaplain, from 1981 he conducted the service using his Braille (in the dark) but in 1998 he was forced, most unwillingly, to give it up due to the cold and frost making it too difficult for him to read his beloved Braille.

Nat received the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in January 1991.

His membership of the Masonic order was a long one which he enjoyed, particularly his participation at the annual carol service in the rather remote St James chapel at Montacute. He was,

for 29 years, the officiating minister and organist.

After living very successfully on his own (in a unit on Brother Ron's property) for quite some years Nat experienced a period of very poor health in the first years of this century, resulting in him moving to "care" in a number of suitable homes.

He still tried to keep his appointments for providing music at a number of similar homes and met Brenda. They were married in 2005.

This gave him a new lease on life.

Brenda provided that attention, assistance, transport, occasional direction, in a word, love, that brought back his smile and enjoyment of life.

Together they again provided the music to folk in homes that Nat so dearly loved to do.

Harry Gilbert

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### Back Page photos

TOP: The large Tasmanian delegation and ladies at the Grand Installation of South Australia and the Northern Territory...Story, Page 6

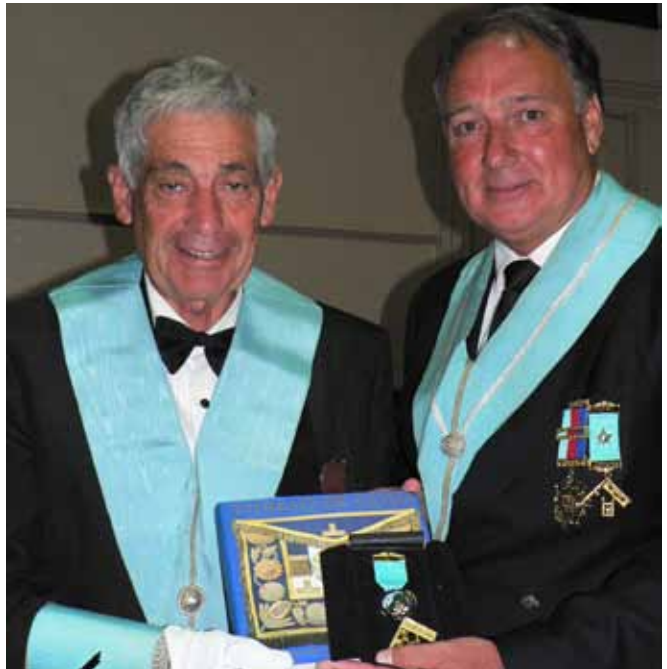
MIDDLE LEFT: Fifty Year Jewel presentation at Huon Lodge...Page 14

MIDDLE RIGHT: Launceston to Launceston - a new link forged...Page 4

BELOW LEFT: Another 50th - a life of positives...Page 16

BELOW RIGHT: Tasmanian Grand Master with Noumea Lodge brethren... Page 5

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