

# FREEMASONRY

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Journal of the Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of Tasmania



**Grand Installation 2008 – all was concord**

## FREEMASONRY TASMANIA

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## Highlights of Grand Master's address to Grand Installation

# Securing the future

A record attendance of 750 people witnessed the Grand Installation on February 22, 2008, of our new Grand Master, MW Bro Norman Cooper.

In his opening comments after his installation by the outgoing Grand Master, MW Bro Julius Kearon, MW Bro Cooper said the attendance, coupled with a slowing rate of membership decline, indicated there was growing awareness and support for freemasonry.

"Membership will continue to be one of our greatest challenges, but I am sure that we have a secure future if we continue to practice and principles and tenets which are the basis of our philosophy, at the same time maintaining the ancient landmarks of the Order," he said.

MW Bro Cooper pointed to the new St Helens Lodge and Launceston's new "dining lodge, Lodge Phoenix, as examples of freemasonry filling niches in specific areas.

He said a committee comprising the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master and the Immediate Past Grand Master would be convened to examine actions to ensure that freemasonry continued to be a viable, active and worthwhile force in the community.

"Our membership is fairly evenly spread over the State and as the three people involved in this committee are located in the North, North West and South they are ideally placed to consider the strategies that should be implemented on a state-wide basis," he said

"The terms of reference are very liberal; however, this is a good thing as it allows a degree of lateral thinking and I am confident there will be wide-ranging discussions on all topics that are associated with our future".

These would include matters relating to the three ceremonial teams and whether they should be filled by appointment.

"The need to address this situation is abundantly apparent and reinforced by the last two reports from the Grand Lodge Returning Officer which have highlighted the need for change in our current system of having some elections and some appointments of the members of the teams and boards," he said.

Another matter of particular concern to the committee would be condition and amenities of masonic centres.

"In order to gain and retain younger members we must appreciate the requirements of a new age of brethren who are not prepared to accept building standards that we have in the past thought to be quite acceptable," he said.

After announcing the appointment of RW Bro John Wallace as Deputy Grand Master for the ensuing year, MW Bro Cooper said he was optimistic about the future of freemasonry.

"Our basic aims and ideals, if earnestly applied, will surely enable us to enjoy our Freemasonry and continue to be an influenced for good in the State," he said.



The Grand Installation was a mixture of formality and weekend events featuring the lighter side of freemasonry. Here the new Grand Master accepts a bottle of appropriately-named Cooper's stout from MW Bro Graham Bollenhagen, Grand Master of South Australia and the Northern Territory, during the Laetare Gardens luncheon on the Sunday. As every good stout drinker should know, Cooper's is a South Australian invention.

## Front Page photos

A musical, formal, fraternal and social occasion - the Grand Installation 2008 and associated events in Hobart, February 21-24.

TOP: The view into the Wrest Point Tasman Room from the Plenary Hall, on Friday night. Photo - Rosemary Bruce-Mullins.

CENTRE - Our new Grand Master, MW Bro Norman Cooper, reciting his Obligation in the Tasman Room, the Grand Lodge of Tasmania banner parade, trumpets and the Tasmanian Song Company hailing the event. Photos - Ian Cutler

BOTTOM - The new Grand Master and his Deputy, RW Bro John Wallace, had much to smile about when "facing the media" earlier in the day; The Governor, His Excellency William Cox and Mrs Cox welcomed MW Bro Cooper and Mrs Cyrene Cooper at Government House on Thursday; and Mrs Anne Kearon, wife of the Immediate Past Grand Master, MW Bro Julius Kearon - presented Mrs Cyrene Cooper with flowers at the Ladies Morning Tea on the Friday morning. Photos - Ian Cutler

MORE PHOTOS on Pages 8 and 9.



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## Promotions 'on the move'

A "double-barrel" initiative of the Grand Lodge Public Relations and Information Committee is now "on the move" around Tasmania.

Using funds raised from the public relations levy on brethren, the committee has arranged for advertising signs to be placed on the rear of Metro buses in each of Tasmania's three regions. As well, car stickers (pictured) have been produced and are being distributed to every member.

## Feast fit for a Candidate

Here's something unusual for a supper following the working of a First Degree.

Professional chef and Derwent Valley Lodge member, Bro Shakas, (pictured at right) produced a feast of Installation proportions in honour of the Candidate, Bro Ian James.

The meal highlighted Derwent Valley produce, as the printed menu listed...

"Les Potage: Soup de Jour - A hearty and warm, freshly-made soup of pumpkin, finished with a swirl of sour cream.

"Les Entrees: Coq au Vin - Chicken breast sauted with mushrooms and onions, a light hint of garlic, tomato, bacon, poached in red wine, chicken stock and bouquet garni, served with a



Photo - John the Duke of Avram

pillar of rice, baked potato and Mounge tu.

"Les Fromages: A fantastic introduction from a local master cheesemaker, Glen Tuarath Dairy" - two types of Romano, plus Cheshire and Fetta styles.

(We know; you wish you'd been there! - Ed.)

## Honoured at Communication

The Grand Lodge Preceptor, RW Bro John Caulfield, has received the Grand Master's Order of Honour for service to Freemasonry and the community.

The announcement was made at the Communication meeting in Launceston on February 2008 by the outgoing Grand Master, MW Bro Julius Kearon.

The Order of Distinguished Service was made to W Bro Sam McLean

The rank of Past Deputy Grand Master was conferred on RW Bro Terry Dann for his service to Freemasonry.

As well, the rank of Past Grand Warden was conferred on VW Bros Ted Priest, Des Niel, Kevin Banfield and John Millington (for their continuing service as musicians) and on VW Bros Norbert Kirchebner and Peter Edwards (for their service to Freemasonry).

The Grand Lodge webmaster, W Bro John Webster, was made Past Grand Director of Ceremonies.

## POWs from 2/26th Btn

Looking for any members or relatives of members of the 2/26 Battalion (POW in Changi). I am writing a book giving the history of each man, along with their photos. Could you please contact Lyn Anderson, PO Box 516, Annerley, Queensland 4103, phone 07 3342 7077 or email...

[roadley@optusnet.com.au](mailto:roadley@optusnet.com.au)

## WELCOME ABOARD



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# Masonic 'Christmas Specials'

## Sparkling carols at Homes

The first-ever Carols by Candlelight at the Freemasons' Homes of Southern Tasmania was held on December 12, 2007.

The evening was warm and sunny, with many staff, their families and friends enjoying a barbecue. Cooking was in the hands of the Chief Executive Officer, Greg Burgess and the Quality Assurance Manager, Paul Stevens - with some suggesting that they should not give up their day jobs!

Residents enjoyed a sing-a-long with Margaret Chant on the organ and were delighted by the presentation of carols by members of the renowned Rosny Childrens' Choir (**pictured at right**). Santa and Mrs Claus visited all residents at the Home, bringing smiles on many faces.

Alan Swinton



## The best of festive business

A busy evening featured the best of festive business at Heather Masonic Hall in Norwood on December 4, 2007.

At seven o'clock the Hall Company AGM was held, and all officers and committee members were re-elected.



Photos - Maurice Dexter

At seven-thirty, Lodge Scotch College had its Christmas meeting, followed at eight-fifteen by a well-attended joint Christmas function involving Lodge Scotch College and Lodge Heather.

VW Bro Des Niel was the master of ceremonies, and he and W Bro Stan Merry supplied the music for carols.

This was interspersed with items from vocalists and instrumentalists Dr Frank Madill (**pictured at left**), Mesdames Linda Madill, Mavis Armstrong and Deanna Edwards and W Bro Max Berwick.

The Master of Lodge Heather, W Bro Geoff Lyons, presented a cheque for two hundred dollars to Bro George Hambly, vice-chairman of the Masonic Peace Memorial Haven (**pictured below**). The money was raised by the Lodge Heather Social Group through raffles over the previous year.

Jim Powell



## Giving Tree support strong as ever

Tasmanian Freemasons again took an active part in the ABC's Giving Tree activities from December 5 to 14, 2007, raising more than thirty-two thousand dollars or *thirty per cent* of the total funds contributed to the appeal.

The masonic contingent had previously joined the Giving Tree Walk from Burnie to Hobart. However, police imposed new safety conditions in 2007 which the participants felt made the traditional Walk impractical.

Instead, MW Bro Keith Graver and his wife Shirley - long time Giving Tree Walk participants - arranged "collection points" on the road between Burnie and Hobart over the ten-day period.

They were joined by the usual hard core of freemasons - Joe Carroll, Philip Nichols and John Williams, assisted by newcomer David McDonald and other regulars from past events.

Where practical, lodges which provided meals for the walkers under the former arrangements again played their part.

Concord Lodge put on its traditional sumptuous evening meal and Meander and Esk Lodges again provided lunches. As well, St Andrew Lewis Lodge took over the spot which the now-defunct Lake Lodge had filled for many years.

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# Letters to the Editor – the acacia

Dear Sir,

As the daughter of a deceased mason - D. R. (Rupe) Campbell - as well as the wife and mother of two very much alive ones - C.P. (Peter) Edwards and Stuart C. Edwards - I wish to comment on the letters in the last two editions

of *Freemasonry Tasmania*, from Harry Gilbert and Geoffrey Stearnes.

Mr Gilbert states that all present being invited to lay acacia on the coffin (following the Masonic Oration at funerals - Ed.) “disrupts the solemnity and the progress of this occasion for

absolutely no reason”, and that the “bereaved family cannot be amused and must be unfavourably impressed with this custom”.

Far from it!!!

At my father’s funeral, my sisters and I (and our children) were VERY impressed and proud that so many of our father’s masonic “brothers” attended and showed their respect in this way.

We also felt the warmth to our entire family as they walked past us - the smile, the touch on the arm, the shake of the hand.

In some ways, it made it all that much more bearable to know that our loved one was held in such high esteem by so many, and we understood a little more why masonry meant so much to our father.

Mr Stearnes suggests that may be the brethren could be seated together to lessen the time, “thereby presenting in an orderly manner”.

Personally, I can’t see how this would be of any benefit, and having attended masonic funerals with my husband, I would be loathe to attend if I was unable to be with him.

I belong to various organisations, none of which have such a custom, and I honestly feel that in this era when all organisations are trying so hard to survive, this is one small way that shows the world what masonry is about.

Rosemary Edwards

*Dear Sir and Brother,*

*In recent editions of Freemasonry Tasmania, views have been expressed for and against the practice of all masons at a funeral service being invited to place a sprig of acacia on the coffin in conjunction with the Masonic Oration.*

*At the service for the late MW Bro Bryce Ward, a departure was made from the normal practice.*

*It had been anticipated that a large gathering of masons would attend and, so the pros and cons of following normal tradition was canvassed among members of Bryce’s family and masons assisting them.*

*After much soul-searching, it was decided that only selected personnel would be invited to place a sprig of acacia on the coffin.*

*As it eventuated, more than four hundred people attended the funeral, of which more than half were masons.*

*At the appropriate time the Grand Master was invited to place his acacia on the coffin followed by five*

*Past Grand Masters in attendance, the Deputy Grand Master and then by a representative of each of the seven other Orders of which Bryce had been a member.*

*This was followed by two close personal friends who participated in the ceremony and finally by VW Bro the Rev Ken Wills who officiated.*

*It was generally agreed that the exercise was appropriate and well received by people in attendance. Many favourable comments were received from Masons and non-masons at the service.*

*The procedures followed on this occasion would be worthy of serious consideration for future funerals when large numbers of masons are expected.*

*In arriving at the process to be followed, the wish of the family of the deceased is paramount, after which the views and feelings of the masons and also of the nonmasons in attendance need to be considered.*

Alan Swinton

## Young drivers assisted - by the score

The masonic young driver assistance scheme associated with the Mersey Skills Training employment agency has come to an end following the withdrawal of the agency’s government contract.

However, the freemasons involved have the satisfaction of knowing they helped scores of young people in the early stages of their driving training...with more than sixty drives being undertaken in the last month of the scheme (July/August 2007) in Burnie alone.

The masonic coordinator, W Bro Ian Petty, expressed sincere thanks to the volunteers who assisted during the scheme’s two years of operation.

“I know that I personally have enjoyed my association with the scheme and I feel confident in saying that the venture has been as rewarding for volunteers and clients alike,” he said.

The MST Masonic Lodge Driving Scheme resulted from a meeting between North West lodges and Mersey Skill Training in April 2005.

Two cars purchased by MST were stationed at Devonport and Burnie, insured and maintained by the agency.

Lodges were asked to supply volunteers to sit with young drivers while they “racked up” the hours necessary to obtain their licences.

The first masonic coordinator of the scheme was VW Bro David Kay, who handed the reins to W Bro Petty later in the year.

Since the first driving lesson was given in May 2005, fifty clients passed through the scheme in Burnie alone, and masonic volunteers contributed more than thirteen hundred hours of their time.



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# Freemasons' Homes of Southern Tasmania

## In the Pink

A special afternoon tea to mark the Tasmanian Cancer Council's "Pink Day" (pictured at right) was arranged at the Freemasons' Homes of Southern Tasmania late last year.

The gathering had a "pink theme", with clothing, tablecloths and decorations in the appropriate colour.

Over three months previously, many residents of the Homes had knitted garments which were placed on a "trade table" during the Pink Day, along with other items, to raise funds for the Cancer Council. Individual donations and sales raised a total of \$1 537.



## Festive tradition varied

*It has been the practice at the Freemasons' Homes of Southern Tasmania since its establishment for the Board of Directors to host a Christmas Party for the residents each year.*

*In 2007, it was decided to vary the practice by hosting a barbecue luncheon. At both the Ballawinne Road complex and the Bowditch Hostel, directors donned aprons and set about cooking steaks, patties and sausages to accompany salads prepared by the kitchen staff.*

*The background music at Bowditch Hostel included a rare and delightful presentation by harpist Anne Potter.*

*Pictured enjoying pre-Christmas celebrations at the Bowditch Hostel in Lindisfarne are (from left) the late Harold Stevens, Beatrice Black, Keith Tomlin and Mrs Flo Stevens.*

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## Special chairs donated by Masters

The Southern Masters Association has once again directed part of its fund-raising efforts to assist the Freemasons' Homes of Southern Tasmania.

The association has given the Homes two height-adjustable chairs valued at five hundred dollars.

Association representatives led by its chairman, W Bro Craig Hughes, attended a meeting of the Homes' Board of Directors to present the chairs.

The Southern Masters Association raises funds through monthly raffles

with prizes donated by the raffle winner of the previous month, and through an annual gourmet dinner.

As well as being a strong supporter of the Southern Homes, the association also helps the Freemasons Assisting Tertiary Education foundation and contributes to charities including the Tasmania Cancer Council, the Starlight Foundation and Camp Quality.

The Association meets on the first Friday of each month, at The Willows Tavern, Risdon Vale, from 7 pm, and interested brethren would be most welcome to attend.

For further details, contact the association's secretary, W Bro Richard Plunkett, on 6228 6666.



*Pictured (left) at the handover of the special chairs are (front from left) W Bro Craig Hughes and W Bro Alan A'church and (back from left) MW Bro Alan Swinton, W Bro Richard Plunkett and W Bro David Baldwin.*

# Around the World

## Renewal of Pride

When a Grand Master chooses a theme for his term of office, there is usually a story behind his selection.

The theme for 2006 from the Grand Master of Virginia was "Dwelling together in Unity".

He said it highlighted "that sense of brotherly love and affection that has made this gentle Craft the greatest fraternal organisation in the world...and to rebuild the sense of Masonic pride, the loss of which in my opinion caused us to lose a generation of good men."

An interesting viewpoint.

## World Conference in May

The 2008 Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges will be held in Washington DC from May 7 to 10, 2008.

It will examine the need for the Craft "to expose its relevancy in today's society while at the same time reminding us of our need of self-examination". The overall theme will be "Universal Fraternity in Action".

The first discussion topic, "Standing up to darkness", will look at cultivating ethical behaviour in civil society and countering fanaticism, intolerance and tyranny.

The second topic, "Maintaining Grand Lodge Integrity", will consider countering forces said to be infiltrating lodges for their own objectives and how to prevent schisms.

The third topic, "Global Fraternal Networking", will address issues like developing and promoting cultural and academic exchanges among masons and helping civic groups to establish worldwide partnerships for the betterment of society.



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

## Always at its Meridian

The June 2007 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Scotland included the following paragraph;

"Not only does the Grand Lodge of Scotland have lodges in 42 countries but many of our brethren travel for work and holidays to the four corners of the globe.

"It is therefore very important that our brethren can be given appropriate guidance as to the status of freemasonry overseas and what is expected of them as Scottish Freemasons."

## Australia's first freemason

The name of Sir Joseph Banks has a special place in Australian history. As a participant in Cook's first voyage he was undoubtedly the first freemason to set foot on Australian soil.

A new lodge, Sir Joseph Banks Daylight No. 9828 EC has been consecrated and meets at Horncastle in Lincolnshire, England.

## European GMs meeting

A special meeting was held in London in early November last year to discuss Masonic principles and international recognition.

It was attended by Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries of Grand Lodges "working in regularity". The official representatives were welcomed by the Duke of Kent, Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England since 1967.

There were 44 European Grand Lodges represented, 41 of them by their Grand Masters. This highlights the spectacular alterations to the map of Europe since the political changes in the early 1990s.

The main topics involved the questions of regularity, sovereignty, recognition and territorial jurisdiction which have been the subject of problems and tensions in recent times.

Because the meetings were non-ritual in nature, the UGLE invited representatives of each of the jurisdictions in Italy and Greece.

In his opening address, the Pro Grand Master, MW Bro Lord Northampton, gave a very clear account of the views of the UGLE on the subjects to be discussed, and of the leadership role which has been thrust upon it. In conclusion, he said:

"Brethren, we have a wonderful diversity of Masonic practice in Europe. We are bound by the same basic principles, tenets and landmarks but have each developed in our own way. We should celebrate that diversity, so long as it remains within the bounds of regularity."

Because each Grand Lodge is sovereign and independent, no binding decisions could be made but the sharing of information and airing of views will doubtless be helpful to the leaders of European Freemasonry, particularly in the case of the new Grand Lodges.

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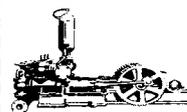
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# Grand Installation 2008 - the preparation and the events

Any Grand Installation must of necessity involve a great deal of background work by a range of people...and once that's done, the focus is to ensure that brethren and delegates "get their money's worth". (Also, it helps to put in a new Grand Master at the time!) What you have seen on **Page One** is the "public face" of the 2008 Grand Installation in Tasmania. What you see on these two pages is, well, some of the rest. Photos - Ian Cutler



A public ceremony of the proportions of a Grand Installation requires some very exact placement of "the squared pavement" and the "lodge room furnishings"...in this case Wrest Point's Tasman Room. under the watchful eyes of the Grand Preceptor, RW Bro John Caulfield...



The *Hobart Mercury* newspaper headed its coverage of the Grand Installation with "Tassie's masters of ceremony celebrate", and the Grand Sword Bearer, W Bro Sandy Thompson, was a proud participant in the incoming Grand Master's parade.



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Willing workers at the Lindisfarne Masonic Centre load fruit trays (shown right) for delivery to the hotel rooms of all 350 interstate delegates.



# Grand Installation 2008 - the preparation and the 'sidelines'



The Governor of Tasmania, His Excellency William Cox, and Mrs Cox, graciously hosted a Government House gathering for senior visiting and local freemasons and their ladies the day before the Grand Installation. Not a speech was said; rather, all the main public rooms at Government House were opened for informal perusal by the visitors, with the Vice-Regal couple evident as they mingled in an easy, friendly manner.



The staff at the Government House reception included two members of Lodge Loyalty - the Naval Aide, W Bro David Byrne is Master of the Lodge and the Air Force Aide, W Bro Alan Robertson, is the Immediate Past Master. They are speaking (below) with the outgoing Grand Master, MW Bro Julius Kearon.



St David's Anglican Cathedral in Hobart was packed on Sunday, February 24. More than three hundred freemasons and their ladies took part in the regular service at 10 am. RW Bro Terry Dann carried the masonic banner during the Cathedral parade.



The celebrations are over. Now for the hard part - but first a moment of quiet reflection for the new Grand Master and the Immediate Past Grand Master.

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## Activity in Other Orders

### Fundraising a pleasure

The Derwent Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star has been busy over the past two years raising funds for many worthy causes through kiosks, sausage sizzles, "Christmas-in-Winter" and many functions at members' homes.

Much enjoyment, fun and laughter was had by all...and the result was that \$4 959 was given to charities such as the Royal Guide Dogs for the Blind, the Epilepsy Foundation, Royal Flying Doctors Tasmania, the Multiple Sclerosis Society and the Clarence Eisteddford, to name but a few.

Our **Back Page photo** shows the winner of the Under-12 Junior Pianoforte section of the Eisteddford, Carmen Zotz-Nikolai, receiving her certificate from the Derwent OES Chapter's Immediate Past Worth Matron, Sr Myra Browning.

The highlight of the Chapter's donations was two thousand dollars to four athletes

from Tasmania who participated in the Australian softball side at the Special Olympics in Shanghai.

They won the Gold Medal by defeating the world's top side, China fifteen runs to fourteen after being down 1-10.

The four - Garry Burnside, Craig Hansen, Brian Kirkwood and Lee Medwin - ranging in age from 25 to 52 - each had to raise \$9 500 to get to the Special Olympics as they received no sponsorship or government support towards their expenses.

As a small Chapter, we are proud that so few have raised so much for charity.

Any ladies with masonic connections who would like to join our merry gang would be welcomed with open minds and hearts.

**Doreen Round**



### Athelstan Order now in Australia

A masonic order based on the historic records of the life and legend of the British King Athelstan was extended to Australia in November 2007.

A regular contributor to *Freemasonry Tasmania*, **W Bro Gerry Gunton**, learnt more about the developments during a recent visit to the United Kingdom.

The Grand Secretary of the Order of Athelstan, David Buxton, advised that it would have two "Provinces" in Australia... Australia - North and Australia - South.

Australia - North would initially cover Queensland and New South Wales, eventually extending into the Northern Territory should interest be shown.

The first Provincial Grand Master of Australia - North is RW Bro Lt Frank M. Jefferies, RN (retired).

The "local lodges" of the Order are known as "Courts".

On November 8, 2007, the Court of St John No. 32 was consecrated in Brisbane. On the same day in Perth (WA), the Court of St Cuthbert No. 30 was consecrated at Victoria Park.

The Courts of Sydney No. 28 and St David No. 29 were consecrated at Willoughby on November 10.

Six days later, in Victoria, the Court of St Eanswyth No. 26 was consecrated at East Melbourne Masonic Centre.

Victorian masonic lecturer, RW Bro Kent W. Henderson, has been nominated Grand Master for the proposed Order of Athelstan Province of Australia - South.

He is examining the potential for new Courts in South Australia and Tasmania.

### Knights of Constantine Installation

Peter Donald from Launceston has taken over over the reins of the Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine in Tasmania. At a ceremony in Ulverstone on January 19, 2008, he succeeded V Ill Knight Terry Dann as Intendent General for Tasmania. The ceremony was conducted by the Immediate Past Grand Sovereign of the Order, Most Illustrious Knight Stuart Beard from Scotland.

*Pictured (from left) are V Ill Kt Terry Dann, Eminent Knight Ian Blair from the St Andrews Conclave in Launceston, Em Kt Ray Roland from the Tasmanian Trinity Conclave in Ulverstone and Em Kt John The Duke of Avram from the Tasmanian Union Conclave in Hobart.*



Photo - John the Duke of Avram



## ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR LADIES

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# Serving Homes in the North and North West

A community model of retirement care known as the "Coming of Age project" has been established at the Northern Masonic Homes.

The Chairman of Masonic Peace Haven, Ian Green, told the February 2007 Communication that the Northern Homes was the first aged care provider in Tasmania to introduce the system.

"It provides a better care model for our residents, improved cost efficiencies and an increase in permanent staff with a consequent reduction in casual staff," he said.

## New care scheme in place

W Bro Green said the designs for a twelve-bed extension and the re-design of the high-care facility had been completed and Stage One of the \$11.4 million dollar project would begin after funding arrangements had been finalised.

He said a recently-purchased brick cottage at the Tamar Valley Retirement Village was being refurbished as a community centre.

It was hoped to use the official opening to highlight freemasonry as well as developments at the Homes.

As well, there had been good progress in negotiations for a site for a new retirement village of up to forty-five units.

As well, talks were at an early stage on the possible purchase of a site which could include one hundred units.



## Plaque honours stalwart of Peace Haven

A plaque has been unveiled in honour of the late Troutbeck "Beck" Harwood, who had a long association with Masonic Peace Haven and the Masonic Garden Village.

The ceremony in October 2007 - several months after Mr Harwood passed away - was attended by Mrs Vi Harwood and her son, Robin, who both reside in independent living units in the Garden Village.

Also attending were representatives of the South Launceston Rotary Club and from the management of the Masonic Homes.

The plaque was donated in part by the Rotary Club, and commemorates Beck's ongoing dedication with Peace Haven from its inception. (He was also a Past President of South Launceston Rotary, and a Paul Harris Fellow).

The Chief Executive Officer of the Masonic Homes of Northern Tasmania, Kerry Ollington, said it was important to have a record of the history of the Homes.

"This plaque acknowledges Beck's part in that history and is a tangible reminder of those who helped get our organisation started," he said.

The plaque presentation was followed by an afternoon tea during which friends and colleagues reminisced over Beck's many years of charitable service to the community.

*Pictured at the Beck Harwood plaque unveiling are (from left) Northern Homes CEO Kerry Ollington, Director of Care Services Jenny Hill, Mrs Vi Harwood, a representative from the South Launceston Rotary Club, and Mr Robin Harwood.*

## Levenbank presentation makes news

The presentation of a motorised scooter to an Ulverstone woman was another case of masonic benevolence which also helped publicise the good works of the Craft.

On November 6, 2007, in *The Advocate* newspaper at Burnie highlighted the presentation to Mrs Fay Charleston at the Levenbank Home. The new scooter replaced a battered vehicle she had been using for thirteen years.

*The Advocate* wrote that "duct tape held the mudguards together, and at one stage the RACT had to be called to fix the machine". Mrs Charleston, who agreed the old scooter had "a few blemishes", was delighted to receive the new machine.

The scooter, which cost four thousand dollars, was jointly funded by Leven Masonic Lodge and the Grand Lodge Board of Benevolence.

*Pictured below is the secretary of Leven Masonic Lodge, David MacLennan, Board of Benevolence president John Packham and the Immediate Past Grand Master Julius Kearon presenting Fay Charleston with her new scooter at Levenbank Home in Ulverstone.*



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# Counting the years

## 'Twenty year Sec.' turns 'Sixty'

W Bro Jim Powell, secretary of both Lodge Heather and the Heather Hall Company since 1986, was presented with his Sixty Year Bar on October 16, 2007, by the then Grand Master, MW Bro Julius Kearon (pictured below).

W Bro Powell began his masonic career at Moira Lodge No. 155 VC, which meets at Nathalia in Victoria. He affiliated with Lodge Heather in 1970 and was its Master in 1974/75.

During his 42 years in working life as a banker, he has been a member of Moira, Swan Hill and Jonadab (Ringwood) Lodges in Victoria, and Smithon, Heather, Meander and Leven Lodges in Tasmania.

Jim has also been "through the Chairs" in St Andrew Lewis Royal Arch Chapter and the Rose of Launceston Sovereign Chapter. He is a past Deputy Grand Supreme Ruler in the Launceston Conclave of the Order of the Secret Monitor.

Jim has been involved in a range of service clubs in Victoria and Tasmania and held several positions in the Uniting Church in both States.

Photo - John Gerrard



## No jewels - but happy birthday, anyway

*Here's something different - a masonic birthday without the Jewels!*

*The Mt Nelson Inn was the venue on January 7, 2008, for the 85th birthday celebrations of W Bro Alan A'Church of Bowen Lodge, organised by W Bro Peter Ford.*

*W Bro Len Garbett presented Alan with a certificate (pictured) showing one of the ships on which Alan served during an extensive naval career covering nearly four decades.*

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*MW Bro Norman Cooper with Peter and Geoff Docking and the Master of Lodge Clarence, W Bro Alan Burton at the Docking brothers' Fifty Year Jewel presentation.*

## 'Brother brethren' one hundred

Two brothers who are also brethren received their Fifty Year Jewels from M Wor Bro Norm Cooper at the December 2007 meeting of Lodge Clarence.

Peter and Geoff Docking became Freemasons on the same night, November 5, 1957, but because of different work and lifestyles have had entirely different masonic careers.

MW Bro Cooper - a Past Master of Lodge Clarence - said the Lodge was fortunate in having both "brother brethren" as members for several years.

Peter and Geoff were brought up in West Hobart, and attended the Lansdowne Crescent and Elizabeth Street schools.

Geoff started work at the Harris and Marsh store in Hobart and then developed an interest in bookshops.

He worked for many years in bookshops and newspapers before buying the Hawker Store at Kettering which he ran together with his wife Mavis for thirty years.

This curtailed his masonic activities, although he was a member of University Lodge until it closed in 1994.

Peter started work as an apprentice carriage and wagon builder at the Railway Roundhouse

in Hobart and stayed with the railways for eleven years before joining Hobart Municipal Tramways and then *The Mercury* newspaper, where he became Distribution Manager.

There have been three generations of Dockings at *The Mercury* - Peter and Geoff's father, then Peter and currently Mavis and Geoff's daughter Carolyn who is a part-time photographer.

Peter was involved with Lenah Valley Lodge even before becoming a member, having helped build the cottages in Colebrook St before work started on the lodge rooms.

He became Master in 1972 and again in 2005 - the 50th anniversary year for Lenah Valley Lodge, the year in which, sadly, the Lodge handed in its charter.

Peter was treasurer of the lodge for twenty-five years. He was awarded the Grand Lodge Order of Distinguished Service and served as a Grand Lodge Steward in 1980.

*(While we found space for the picture, unfortunately there wasn't enough to include some of Alan's famous jokes - Ed.)*



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## More Years ... and counting

### Our 'Fifty Year' columnist

Long-term columnist for *Freemasonry Tasmania*, RW Bro Murray Yaxley received his Fifty Year Jewel from MW Bro Robert Clarke at the Hutchins Old Boys Lodge meeting on October 24, 2007 (pictured at right).

Murray was educated at Kindred Primary and Devonport High Schools, later completing a Bachelor of Science at the University of Tasmania and a Bachelor of Education at the University of Melbourne.

Murray formed the Tasmanian Science Teachers Association and was its first president. He moved rapidly through the Education Department to become Principal of Rosetta High School.

In 1960 he won the AID Science Education Award for Tasmania and three years later was awarded an Education Department travelling scholarship to study science in the US, the United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand. He also served as a science consultant to the Philippines Government.

Murray's co-authored a number of geology textbooks, and as senior curriculum adviser for the Education Department compiled a series of textbooks for students of Antarctica.

From 1969 to the mid-1980s, he was a UNESCO science consultant and government advisor in Africa and South East Asia.

Murray ended his working career as senior personnel officer with the Education Department.

He has great enthusiasm for Rotary and Probus, through his membership of



North Hobart Rotary Club, and became a Paul Harris Fellow.

Murray was initiated into Old Hobartians Lodge in 1957, becoming its Master ten years later and remaining a member until the lodge closed in 1989.

He joined the Hobart Lodge of Research in 1968 and is a past president of the Australia and New Zealand Masonic Research Council.

He joined University Lodge in 1988 and on its closure joined Hutchins Old Boys Lodge in March 1994.

As inaugural chairman of the Masonic Centenary Medical Research Foundation he helped foster close relationships with the University of Tasmania and the Menzies Medical Research Foundation.

Murray was President of the Grand Lodge Board of General purposes from 1987 to 1996, and was awarded the Grand Master's Order of Honour in 1907 for extraordinary services to Freemasonry and the community.

Rob Clarke

### Jewel 'previews' Golden Anniversary

The presentation of a Fifty Year Jewel to RW Bro Brian Poulter of Burnie Masonic Lodge was a "preview" to next year's Golden Anniversary wedding celebrations of Brian and his wife Ann (shown together in our **Back Page photo**). The jewel was presented by MW Bro Robert Clarke at the North West masonic centre in Burnie on February 26, 2008.

Born and educated in Devonport, then the University of Tasmania, Brian taught in a number of high schools through the State, ending career as vice-principal of Wynyard High.

He joined Mersey Lodge in 1958 and affiliated with Gill Memorial Lodge in 1964, becoming its Master in 1974. A foundation member of Burnie Masonic in 1992, he has held office continuously and was awarded Life Membership in 2004.

For his long and distinguished services to Grand Lodge Brian was awarded the honour of Past Deputy Grand Master in 1992.

Gerry Gunton

### A family affair

The year 1957/58 was an important and busy time for the Ford family on Hobart's Eastern Shore.

W Bro George Ford was the Master of Lodge Beltana, and on his first working night in December, he initiated his son Barry. In March and August, Barry completed his Second and Third Degrees.

In December 2007, MW Bro Alan Swinton presented Barry with his Fifty Year Jewel, in the presence of Barry's wife Jenny, son, daughter-in-law, grand daughter and grandson (pictured).



Barry was Master of Lodge Beltana in 1980-81, Treasurer from 1970 to 1980, Secretary from 1983 to 1986 and Auditor since 1980. He was also a foundation member of Pembroke Lodge and its Master in 1966.

W Bro Ford was a Grand Steward in 1974 and again in 1984 and Secretary of the Masonic Ball Committee in 1967.

He joined the Holy Sepulchre Chapter in 1967 and occupied the chair in 1990.

### Sons become 'Fathers' Masters'

The earlier lodge installations of 2008 included an unusual feature, both at St Helens and at New Norfolk, In both cases, fathers who are also Worshipful Brothers proudly witnessed their sons becoming Worshipful Masters.

At St Helens, W Bro Stephen Porter became the Master on Australia Day, taking over from the inaugural Master, his father VW Bro Joe Porter (pictured on the Back Page).

The focus for a Father/Son "double" at the Derwent Valley Lodge installation on February 20 were the three Goninons - Don, Rick and Paul.

W Bro Rick Goninon handed over the chair to his brother Paul, at a ceremony during which their father, W Bro Don Goninon became Junior Warden again!

# Called to the Grand Lodge Above

## Vale:

### **MW Bro Bryce Ward PGM GMOH**

MW Bro Bryce Ward, who passed away on November 29, 2007, was a man of great intellect and unarguably the most distinguished Freemason in the State. His passing occurred only seven weeks short of receiving his Fifty Year Jewel.

He was born at Smithton, educated at Devonport, and studied at the University of Tasmania and the University of New England.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts, Master of Education, a Diploma in Education Administration and a Diploma in Education. In 1963 he gained a Fullbright Scholarship and studied in Michigan USA.

He served as principal of many schools throughout the State including, Port Arthur, Sheffield, Winnaleah, Campbell Town, Cressy and finally Brooks High School.

After only two years at Brooks High he was promoted to Superintendent of High Schools Northern Tasmania, then Southern Regional Director and eventually Deputy Director-General of Education.

Bryce made a phenomenal contribution to the community through Rotary International, Probus, the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal, the Teachers Federation, the Retarded Childrens' Welfare Association, Red Cross, the Genealogical Society and other sporting and community groups.

MW Bro Ward joined Rechab Lodge on January 19, 1958. Moving around the State as a teacher he immersed himself in Masonic activities.

He was a member of Roland, Dorset and Merton Lodges, the Launceston and Hobart Lodges of Research and The Pacific Lodge in Hobart. He was Master of Merton Lodge in 1968 and of Launceston Research Lodge in 1977. He was made a Life Member of Merton Lodge in 2005.

In 1975 he became a Grand Steward and in 1990 was elected as Tasmania's Grand Master in 1990.

During his term he was instrumental in introducing a number of changes to our organisation from which we all benefit today. He served on the Board of General Purposes and the Board of Benevolence for fifteen years.

In 1996, MW Bro Ward received the Grand Masters Order of Honour for service to freemasonry and the community.

Bryce was also actively involved in many other orders, namely Royal Arch, Knights of Constantine, Knight Templar, Royal Order of Scotland, the Order of the Secret Monitor, Knight Templar Priests, the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite up to the 32nd Degree. He occupied the chair in each of these Orders and received high honours from them all.

Apart from being Grand Master of the Craft Lodges from 1990-1992 he was District Grand Prior of the Knights Templar from 1996-2000 and Provincial Grand Master of the Royal Order of Scotland from 2001-2005.

Bryce made an outstanding contribution to the Freemasons' Homes of Southern Tasmania. He was a Director for fifteen years, serving the final six as Chairman of the Board.

In 2002 he was made a Life Member and in 2005 following the redevelopment of the Homes, a section was named the "Bryce Ward Wing" in his honour.

In June 1990 Bryce was made a Member of the Order of Australia



for his services to education and the community.

Bryce was a man of great wisdom, a true leader, a man of humility with an incredible knowledge of masonry.

His contribution to education and freemasonry has been quite remarkable and our lives have been enriched by having been associated with him.

He will be deeply missed. May he rest in eternal peace.

Alan Swinton



## **The Broken Column**

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

### **MW Brother**

C. B. Ward      Lodge Merton  
                     Lodge Dorset  
                     The Pacific Lodge  
                     Hobart Research  
                     Launceston Research

### **RW Brothers**

M. W. McDonald      Burnie Masonic Lodge  
                             Launceston Daytime  
                             Lodge Esk  
 R. B. Walters      Hutchins Old Boys

### **W Brothers**

Bruce J. Duffy      St Pauls Lodge  
 G. L. Harris      Army and Navy Lodge  
 S. R. W. Shaw      Lodge Macquarie

### **Brothers**

J. W. Dale      Darcy Wills Memorial  
 V. L. Gough      Lodge Bowen  
 H. R. Jacobson      Lodge Beltana  
 E. D. Maher      Lodge Clarence



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# Supporting scholars of all ages

## Freemates in demand

Continuing donations and bequests are needed to help the Freemasons Assisting Tertiary Education Students (Freemates) foundation to meet a substantial demand for scholarship assistance.

The President of the Board of Benevolence, VW Bro John Packham, told the February Communication at Launceston that 338 applications had been received for the 2008 Freemates scholarship. Interest in the scholarship was so great that consideration was being given to provide an additional scholarship in 2009.

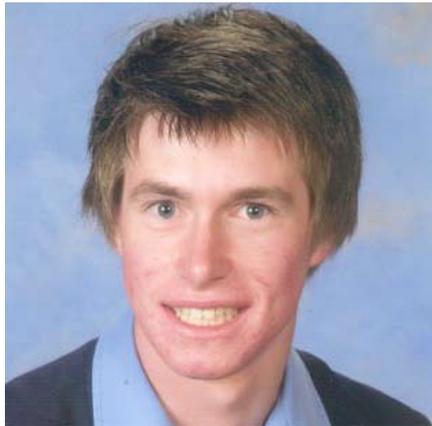
## Burnie scholarship winner

*The 2008 winner of the annual Hilton Sharpe Scholarship is Bryce Clarke of Ridgley (pictured), who was selected following interviews of candidates from the Marist and Hellyer Colleges in Burnie*

*The interviews were conducted by a panel of lodge members chaired by R W Bro Brian Poulter.*

*Bryce received the one thousand dollar bursary on commencing his studies at the University of Tasmania with the aim of gaining a degree in Medicine.*

*Gerry Gunton*



## Thanks from medical researchers

Scholars supported by the Masonic Centenary Medical Research Foundation have expressed their sincere thanks.

The new president of the Foundation, W Bro Brian Sims of The Pacific Lodge, told the February Communication this highlighted the work of the inaugural President, RW Bro Murray Yaxley, who ended twenty-two years as president at the end of last year. He remains a member of the Foundation Board.

W Bro Sims said that among expressions of thanks received was a letter from Dr Lisa Foa, who received grants from the foundation in 2002 and 2005 totalling more than twenty-eight thousand dollars.

“The progress we have made in our work would not have been possible without the MCMRF’s support and I wanted to express my gratitude,” Dr Foa says in her letter.

She adds that the results of her work showed sufficient promise to give confidence to major grant-donors to support further research.

## Glenora bursary presented

*Students at Glenora High School in Southern Tasmania have for many years benefitted from bursaries provided by their local lodge.*

*The annual Glenora Lodge bursary is aimed at helping students make the transition from primary to secondary education.*

*The 2007 winner was Seton Jubb, who received his bursary at the school’s Presentation Day on December 18, in the presence of his mother.*

*The cheque for \$120 was presented by Lodge representatives W Bro Basil Masters and W Bro John Marriott.*

## Dryden Trust extended to grandchildren

The Stanley Dryden Trust Scholarship administered by the Board of Benevolence has now been extended to include the grandchildren of brethren.

The president of the Board, VW Bro John Packham, told the February Communication it was hoped this would renew interest in the scholarship and encourage lodges to promote it.

## Back Page photos

TOP LEFT: The Hutchins Old Boys Lodge was visited by W Bro Eduardo Zaballos, a colonel in the Uruguay Air Force, who was in Hobart for an Antarctic Conference. He is pictured with the Master, W Bro Kevin East and the IPM, W Bro John the Duke of Avram.

TOP RIGHT: RW Bro Brian Poulter and his wife Ann admire the Fifty Year Jewel presented to Brian on February 26, 2008. See *Counting the Years*, Page 13. Photo - Gerry Gunton

CENTRE: When Bothwell Lodge built its new premises, it decided against including the traditional podium, to emphasise that freemasons meet “on the level and part on the square”. The Lodge regularly invites ladies and friends to social occasions immediately after lodge meetings, as at this meeting on January 19, 2008. Photo - Ian Cutler

LOWER LEFT: The Order of the Eastern Star provides a focus for many women with masonic connections, and as highlighted in this photograph, the community also benefits significantly. See *“Fundraising a pleasure”*, Page 10. Photo - Doreen Round

LOWER RIGHT: Son becomes “Father’s Master”...The Inaugural Master of St Helen’s Lodge, VW Bro Joe Porter (left) proudly handed over the chair to his son, W Bro Stephen Porter, on Australia Day 2008. See story, Page 13.

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