

FREEMASON

V41 N2 Apr 09



FREEMASONS
NSW & ACT

**ANZACS
of TODAY**

**SMC
turns 30**

**Grand
Master
Re-elected**



FREEMASON



The Official Journal of

**The United Grand Lodge of New South Wales
and Australian Capital Territory**

Grand Lodge Website:

www.uglnsw.freemasonry.org.au

This issue of the Freemason
is produced under the direction of:

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*FREEMASON is the official journal of The United Grand
Lodge of New South Wales and Australian Capital
Territory of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons.
Telephone: (02) 9284 2800.*

The journal is published in February, April, July,
October and December. Deadline for copy is
1st of the month preceding month of issue.

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FREEMASON is proudly produced for
The United Grand Lodge of NSW & ACT
by APM Graphics Management
47 Picnic Parade, Ettalong Beach, NSW 2257
ABN 16 434 998 150
Printed by Offset Alpine Printing P/L, Lidcombe, NSW.

Circulation: 17,000

Distributed to all New South Wales and ACT brethren
and sister Grand Lodges in Australia and throughout
the World.

ISSN 1836-0475

Print Post Approved PP255003/01651

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INSERTS: RFBI Envelope

COVER: Lance Corporal Clint Pearce at the Talani School in Oruzgan Province,
Afghanistan. Photo by Leading Aircraftman Rodney Welch

By RW Bro Rabbi Raymond Apple, AO, RFD, PJGW, PGC.

Easter, Passover and brotherly love



Jews and Christians both celebrate an important calendar occasion at this time of year. For Jews it is Passover; for Christians it is Easter. There are Jews who are known to mark Easter by means of Easter eggs, and Christians who are known to mark Passover by means of eating matzah (unleavened bread).

On a deeper level, however, each festival has its own cultural content unique to its particular faith.

True, there was a point in history at which the coincidence of Passover and Easter created an initial point of contact between the two festivals. But after the parting of the ways between Judaism and Christianity there followed countless centuries of hostility and suspicion.

Jews feared the arrival of Easter because it generally brought with it an excess of intolerance on the part of the Christian powers that be. Not until the late 20th century did a constructive dialogue commence between the two faiths.

The legacy of suspicion tended to linger, but now some common ground emerged. It is not that either faith is a clone of the other, but both faiths share so many great ideals. They also share the duality of suffering and redemption which are inherent in both Passover and Easter.

The ritual of Freemasonry in its own way – especially in the Third Degree – works on the same suffering/redemption duality.

For Freemasonry, the world has the capacity to lift itself up and rise above suffering and find its own redemption. Our movement insists that vision, energy and dedication can be harnessed to build a society in which human suffering can be replaced by concern, caring and

compassion. We do not believe that the world is intrinsically evil or that people are born to suffer.

Instead we stand for the principle that freedom, opportunity and justice can make all the difference. They will not automatically abolish all suffering but they can help to alleviate its effects and if it cannot be entirely eradicated then, at least, it can be handled with courage and confidence.

Our movement insists that vision, energy and dedication can be harnessed to build a society in which human suffering can be replaced by concern, caring and compassion.

What Passover Is

Passover marks the Exodus of the ancient Israelites from a long period of slavery in Egypt.

After ten plagues weakened the Egyptians, the Israelite slaves were able to escape under the leadership of Moses. They crossed the Red Sea (possibly it was one of the Great Lakes). After a strong wind had blown a path in the waters, with the sun beating down and baking the dough carried on boards on their backs, they began the long trek to the Promised Land.

Their slavery and Exodus forged them into a nation and at Mount Sinai they

received the charter on which their national life was to be built.

The great events they experienced are celebrated by Jewish families and communities in ceremonies in which sour foods re-enact the agony, and sweet foods re-enact the ecstasy. 🇺🇸

Brotherly love

It is a sad thought that after two major and disastrous world wars and other conflicts, we are still far from the peace they were supposed to bring, still far from being able to live our lives as we would like to do and still far from creating that world free from war, fear, hunger and poverty which we desire for our children and grandchildren – a world of peace, plenty and opportunity for all.

All over the world there is discontent with dismal tales of war, revolution, unrest, violence and racial friction. But let us not be despondent. The march of man towards his ultimate destiny is not so easily diverted and although the ideal of the Brotherhood of Man might seem a pipe dream, it still has a solid foundation.

This Anzac Day think of a better life for all and try to put into practice the habit of treating one another with kindness and consideration at all times and in spite of every provocation.

The exercise of brotherly love is not a hope or a dream but provides opportunities for us to have such fellowship and encourages us to understand and practice it. Brotherly love is one of the supreme values without which life is lonely, unhappy and ugly. Which would you prefer? 🇺🇸 *The Editor*

By RW Bro Rev Dr Jack Hely CBE, PJGW, Grand Chaplain

Freemasons: Revisit compassion!



As a Grand Chaplain I am involved in a study investigating the community understanding of 'Freemasonry as an organisation of high moral and social standards that benefits its members and the community' – The Freemasonry Vision Statement. What does the community and Freemasonry understand by 'high moral and social standards'?

One challenging conclusion is that the community will appreciate the role of Freemasonry in the community when Freemasonry is seen to actively practice compassion.

Then again, what does the community and Freemasonry understand by compassion and how is compassion related to 'high moral and social standards'?

My current urgency for a closer understanding of the depth of the meaning of compassion rises from an extract from the wording in the February 2009, 'A Message from the Grand Master' – *Freemasonry represents ... a journey of a group and individual ... That it is in our good character, exemplary conduct, righteous morality, respect for one another, love of each other, and through the constancy and compassion of our relationships, that we discover the beneficial and happy effects of our ancient, noble and honourable Institutions.*

I believe that it will only be from an in-depth understanding and practice of those words 'the constancy and compassion of our relationships' that Freemasonry will grow within itself and within the understanding of, and acceptance by, the community.

What do we really understand by the word 'compassion'? The word compassion generally evokes positive feelings. Sometimes we like to think of ourselves

as compassionate people who are basically good, gentle, and understanding. We identify compassion with being human. But if being human and being compassionate are the same, then why is humanity torn with conflict, war, hatred and oppression? The word 'compassion' is derived from the Latin words 'pati' and 'cum', which together mean, 'to suffer with'.

... the community will appreciate the role of Freemasonry in the community when Freemasonry is seen to actively practice compassion.

An understanding of compassion is fundamental to the meaning of our masonic teachings

Compassion asks us to go where it hurts, to enter into places of pain, to share in brokenness, fear, confusion, and anguish. Compassion challenges us to cry out with those in misery, to mourn with those who are lonely, to weep with those in tears. Compassion requires us to be

weak with those who are weak, vulnerable with the vulnerable, and powerless with the powerless. Compassion means full immersion in the condition of being human. When we look at compassion this way, it becomes clear that something more is involved than a general kindness or tenderness.

It is not surprising that compassion, understood as suffering with, often evokes in us a deep resistance and even protest. Most people want to avoid it at all costs.

An understanding of compassion is fundamental to the meaning of our masonic teachings. Just two examples – All masons in their Initiation ceremony experience that challenge: 'Are you willing to contribute to the relief of poor and distressed Brethren?' The answer, 'I would if I could' is much more than an indication of charitable intent. The response commits one to the above involvement – a full immersion in being human.

Explore the meaning and commitment of the masonic definition of 'Brotherly Love' – *By the exercise of Brotherly Love we are taught to regard the whole human species as one family, the high and low, rich and poor, created by One Almighty Being, and sent into the world for the aid, support and protection of each other.*

How can this be achieved unless Freemasons believe in and are seen to practice this teaching of compassion both within Freemasonry and in the community?

My challenge is for all our masonic education programs to be reviewed to include an understanding of compassion – and this includes the preparation of candidates for acceptance into Freemasonry. 🏰

Happy Birthday SMC

The Sydney Masonic Centre, home to the United Grand Lodge of NSW & ACT, celebrated its 30th birthday in March. MW Bro Noel Dunn, OAM, PGM, was a participant in the building's official opening and presents this background.

The first Masonic Hall was used in York Street in 1872 and the first Hall built in 1884 as the home of The Grand Lodge of NSW until the UGL of NSW was established in 1888. At that time, the Castlereagh Street Hall was owned by the 'Masonic Hall Company' until 1912 when the UGL purchased the property.

By 1954 membership had grown to 130,000 and the Centre had reached saturation point. It was felt the time was right for a new Masonic Centre worthy of the largest Grand Lodge in Australasia.

In June 1956 the Grand Master MW Bro Thomas Warren established the War Memorial Temple Building Fund expecting a new centre could be completed in approximately 10 years. Progress was slow due to financial limitations and a contract to construct a new Masonic Centre was not signed until 17 July 1975.

It was the aim of the Grand Lodge to develop the Castlereagh Street site in two stages – a Masonic Centre as headquarters of the Craft in NSW and a tower in the air space over the Centre possibly to house a hotel.

By 15 May 1976 the building structure had reached a stage to permit the setting of the Foundation Stone. A procession with 6,000 brethren assembled at the Sydney Town Hall and the Grand Master, MW Bro VCN Blight CBE led the march in full regalia, via Park, Elizabeth and Goulburn Streets to the building site in Castlereagh Street where a further 4,000 were waiting.

The Grand Master set the Foundation Stone and a time capsule containing documents and coins was placed at the rear of the Foundation Stone.

With the building construction well underway planning commenced for the

opening of the new Centre as the principal event combined with an International Masonic Festival and Conference. The major building work was completed in October 1978 and the opening set for 10 March 1979 with the Festival in the same week.

A program to promote a wider understanding of Freemasonry had newspaper items on masonic subjects published each Saturday for some months as well as TV and radio interviews. Activities included conducted tours, official receptions, functions at the Sydney Opera House and the Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes. Papers were presented daily and appropriate church services were arranged to open and close the Festival.

On Monday, 5 March, the Commemorative Tablet, in the Centre foyer was unveiled by Sir Colin Hines OBE, President of the Returned Service League of Australia (NSW Branch), in the presence of about 750 brethren and ladies.

The highlight preceding the opening was the Dedication of the Grand Temple (as it was called at that time) when the Grand Lodge Room was filled to capacity by 600 brethren with 1,000 viewing the ceremony throughout the building. Twenty three representatives from other Masonic Orders and Sister Grand Lodges were received by the Grand Master MW Bro Warren.

The March Grand Lodge Communication was held during Festival week. Due to the forecast of a large attendance, the Sydney Town Hall was hired and filled to capacity with the ladies entertained at the State Theatre. The number of guests registered to attend the Festival Dinner on 8 March, was so large that it had to be held simultaneously in two venues.

On Saturday 10 March, 11,000 Freemasons marched in regalia from the Archibald Fountain in Hyde Park to the corner of Castlereagh and Goulburn Streets for the Centre opening ceremony and the city turned out in great numbers to witness this rare and colourful spectacle of Freemasonry on parade.

Prior to the commencement of the procession, police said a woman from a

feminist movement had advised that red paint would be thrown over the marchers. The formation of the Grand Stewards was changed to give protection to the Grand Master and his standard. There was no incident, but when the Grand Master arrived at Goulburn Street the police advised him there was a 'bomb' threat within the Centre but it was decided to proceed with the ceremony.

On arrival, MW Bro Warren proceeded through a guard of honour of Grand Officers to the main entrance of the centre in Castlereagh Street where MW Bro Blight, PGM and Chairman of the Masonic Centre Building Committee, presented the key of the front door to the Grand Master who unlocked the door and formally declared the Masonic Centre of The United Grand Lodge of NSW open.

The Grand Master and senior Grand Officers entered the Centre and the door was closed but once inside a police officer pulled the Grand Master into the lobby while directing the Grand Director of Ceremonies (MW Bro Dunn) to disperse the crowd as quickly as possible. The Salvation Army Band struck up the hymn, and the ceremony concluded with the Benediction, the national anthems and all dispersed in an orderly manner.

Even before completion of Stage 1, developers were approaching Grand Lodge with proposals to develop the air space above the building and then Grand Master, MW Bro Harold Coates, OBE, in May 1982 appointed a special Committee known as the Air Space Committee to implement Stage 2.

On 12 August, 1988 the Board of General Purposes reported 'The Grand Lodge has sold to Ipoh Garden Development (Aust) Pty. Ltd for six million dollars the rights of the existing development approval for a building over the Masonic Centre'.

The purchaser was granted a lease of 125 years over the airspace and a rental was payable from 17 August 1991 or from completion of the building, whichever was the earlier. The proceeds of this sale were sufficient to discharge all borrowings on the Masonic Centre Building.

By Bro Dr Bob James, EA, Old Sydneians Lodge



I have had a serious interest in Freemasonry for around 25 years but it was only in 2008 that I took my first Degree. So, I'm young in the ways of Freemasonry but too old to be considered 'a young Freemason'.

I have some strong opinions about the potential for Australian history to revitalize the whole of the masonic institution and in the context of concern about diminishing member numbers and their increased average age, I seek leave to set out a summary of those opinions.

We all know how important a role British history has played in the three centuries or so of Freemasonry since the early decades of the 18th century. We know that Freemasonry has gone to all British colonies and grown with the social, educational and political institutions in those colonies. We have heard or read the stories of the many well-known figures who have been Australian Freemasons, such as Don Bradman, W.C. Wentworth, and Edmund Barton. Much of the necessary work of keeping these memories alive has been carried out by the Masonic Historical Society, and by the Masonic Museum.

It's my belief that these efforts could, and should be expanded, and that our own history could play as important a part in 'our' Freemasonry as British history has played in 'British' Freemasonry.

After all, we look for a personal connection in lodge – what stronger link

could there be with Freemasonry than the personal stories which we all bring to lodge? Some of these stories will provide links to past generations of masons, and some will link the present to past 'Great Men'. But all will tell of the growth of Masonry as Australia has grown and developed.

Of course, masons will have to take on board the lessons currently being learnt overseas about the need for the full masonic context to be discussed and made available. This means understanding that Freemasonry's history has political, economic and social parameters, as well as religious, symbolic and esoteric parameters.

It means asking 'why Freemasonry?' alongside 'when, where and who?' It means coming to grips with the trials, tribulations, weaknesses and failures of Freemasonry, and its very human representatives.

Most of all it means 'seeing' Freemasonry as the same sort of social phenomenon as slavery, the steam engine or the industrial revolution, and as one part only of a fraternal tapestry alongside friendly societies, trade unions and groups such as the Order of the Golden Dawn, the Improved Order of Imps or the Ancient Order of Froth Blowers.


Australian history has been badly taught and we all probably think of it as boring, irrelevant to today and quite foreign to our lodges.

I'm arguing that not only is 'our' history exciting, controversial and relevant, but that when brethren know more about fraternal involvement in Eureka Stockade, of Federation or of Kangaroo Tours of England, they will begin to see that the way forward to a younger and stronger Freemasonry involves acceptance and celebration of the bridges between 'then' and 'now'. History is not a hobby or a side-issue, it is what brought us all to where we are.

Certainly, we can't get 'the answer' right if we don't get 'the question' right, and to get the question right we have to be much better informed than we are at present of how Freemasonry came to Australia, who was involved, both for and against, and why some people have joined and some have not.

The problems of 21st century Freemasonry are not just about TV and materialism, a loss of religion and fragmented families. As a trained historian I'm arguing the issues are much more complex, but are also ones in which all brethren can be involved if structures can be put in place to really bring lodge and learning together.

We have to overcome a persistent cultural cringe and to look at 'history' differently than we have in the past.

I believe strongly that Freemasonry is its history, and in our case, 'our' Freemasonry is 'our' history. 

By RW Bro Kevin McGlenn, PDGM, Grand Secretary

From the Grand Secretary

GRAND MASTER'S APPOINTMENTS

The Grand Master holds the privilege of electing to attend all official masonic functions and, obviously, neither he nor his Deputy and Assistant could be expected to be present at all events throughout the jurisdiction. Because of this the Grand Master selects a suitably qualified brother to represent and he may often agree to the preferred brother named by the lodge or function organiser to fill this role.

The Grand Master takes this selection process very seriously to ensure the brother chosen can not only carry out the responsibility with honour and dignity but is also appropriately skilled to communicate relevant messages of importance.

Each and every representative is personally chosen and appointed by the Grand Master and the decision he makes should always be treated as final. Notwithstanding the Grand Master will always endeavour to give favourable consideration to the brother suggested by the Lodge or event organiser, this may not always be suitable to the Grand Master for many reasons.

RECOGNISED PROTOCOLS

Whilst most worldwide Regular Grand Lodges have their own website, most maintain strict observance to protocol in relation to communication between jurisdictions and, particularly, to individual brethren of other jurisdictions.

In other words, contact to other jurisdictions on matters masonic rather than of an inquisitive nature, will often be declined and may respond seeking that request be made through the brother's own Grand Lodge.

This is not to make things more difficult than they should be, but rather to ensure any contact is of a genuine nature and from genuine members of the Craft.

VICTORIAN BUSHFIRES

There was never any doubt that the Grand Master would commit this jurisdiction to do whatever was possible to assist our fellow Australians so tragically affected by the devastation that caused so much havoc to our southern friends and neighbours.

The Grand Master's Victorian Bushfire Appeal has already received substantial contributions from masonic groups and individual brethren and the response to date has been outstanding. Please continue to send your contribution, no matter how big or small, to PO Box A 259, SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235, making cheques payable to 'NSW Freemasons Disaster Relief Fund'.

There is to be a special 'TIVOLI 2009' night of entertainment in the Grand Banquet Hall of the Sydney Masonic Centre on Monday 27 April 2009 at 7.30pm. The artists performing on the night will be doing so voluntarily and all proceeds from this spectacular will be added to the Grand Master's Appeal Fund.

So many brethren and groups are contributing in some way to the organisation of this very special effort that this article could not endeavour to name them individually but their time and expertise are truly appreciated.

Please make every endeavour to join us on 27 April.

BUSHFIRE HELP

The Grand Secretary of Victoria has sent this message.

'I just want to take this opportunity to give you an update regarding the son of a member in your jurisdiction who has lost his house in the recent bushfires.

An application for assistance was received by the GM Bushfires Committee, which met and resolved to grant the son \$7,500 – to assist him in restoring some semblance of normality into his life. Arrangement will be made to present him with a cheque. At this stage he is not aware of the outcome of the application.'

I think this demonstrates what a wonderful organisation Freemasonry is and how we can help in so many ways. I think it is wonderful that our sister jurisdiction has acted in this way and I am so pleased that together we can add to the growing fund that Victoria instituted. Our southern brethren will also ensure the fund is spent wisely.



ANZAC SERVICE

of thanksgiving and remembrance

Commemorating

The Tradition of ANZAC and especially remembering the wonderful service of the Women in the many Women's Services of our Armed Forces, in the Land Army and other civilian groups in the times of war.

Sunday 19 April 2009 at 10am

at St Stephen's Anglican Church
(cnr. Mowbray Rd. & Sydney St. Chatswood)

Guest of Honour

Mrs Amy Taylor AM – Chairman of Council of Ex Service Women's Associations (NSW)

Special Speaker

Rt Rev Bishop Glen Davies Anglican Bishop of the Northern Region (NSW)

Music by

Australian Army Band Sydney
– supported by St Stephen's Singers.

Morning Tea will be served after the service.

Medals to be worn


Rector

Rev Graham Wintle

VOLUNTEERS

Voluntary assistance is always welcome in this Grand Lodge.

Your particular skills and qualifications may be of assistance in, say, the Library, Archives, Museum, Publications/Editorial Committee or even on a sub-committee of the Board of Management.

If you feel you may be able to contribute in any way, please do not hesitate to contact this office by email (melanies@ugl.nsw.freemasonry.org.au) or in writing (The Grand Secretary, PO Box A259, SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235) with details. 

Grand Master's Report to March Quarterly

Grand Master Re-elected

The Grand Master, MW Bro Dr Gregory Levenston was re-elected for another term at the March Quarterly Communication as the leader of Freemasonry in NSW & ACT.

In his acceptance, he thanked the brethren for their confidence and support and said his administration promises to make a difference, and make it happen.

In a special ceremony, the Grand Master welcomed Most Excellent Companion Samuel Gregory Mason, and his Grand Chapter delegation, to the Communication. It was the first official visit of a First Grand Principal and delegation from the Royal Arch to a Quarterly Communication. MW Bro Levenston said it masonically confirms the mutually outstretched hands of fellowship, support and trust felt by both Orders as they work together for the future good of Freemasonry and brethren and companions. It is a cornerstone of the 'new era' of Freemasonry in this jurisdiction.

He then informed the Grand Lodge of the passing of RW Bro Gary Alan Green, PAGM, Grand Architect, on 3 January this year, after a long illness. He said his sense of duty, and his being a downright nice guy, were an inspiration to us all. In

another announcement, the resignation of RW Bro Joseph Haffner PAGM was submitted as Grand Librarian, a position he has held for six years in which he has overseen and driven innovations and developments in relation to the Grand Library.

'Tonight marks the first budget of my administration. This budget is about the next 12 months, but a statement of intent for the next five years. This moment is full of perils and possibilities for this organisation. We have a lot to do in facing real pressures, hard times and big challenges,' the Grand Master said.

'The Deputy Grand Treasurer will present a comprehensive package needed to support the economic and structural growth of this Grand Lodge, including an increase in the capitation fee of 16.5%. The budget is framed against a background of world recession, diminished returns and a real drop in asset values, and a pessimistic corporate and business outlook for the next two years. Our future will require

budgeting for transformative changes and contingency reforms, and over the next five years we will need to raise even further funds in a structure with a still falling membership base.

'We will conduct a professionally run membership development program which in the first year will be funded from UGL reserves. We need to bring good men to Freemasonry in a way that sustains a viable membership. Later this year I will also announce the Grand Master's Taskforce on Membership.

'No matter how difficult, now is not the time to walk away or say you've had enough. No matter how long you've been a mason, young and old, this organisation needs you to go the extra yards. The pain will be financial and personal but the rewards will be generational as we pass on a strong Freemasonry to our children and grandchildren.'

The Grand Master will seek the benefits to future streamlining of upper level administration and governance while the Grand Officers' Committee of the Board of Management reviews Regional and District boundaries, with a view to more effective use of middle management resources.

The Ritual Advisory Committee will be asked to review the style of the Obligations in the three Degrees and Installation ceremony, and have them consider the choice a lodge may make in allowing the Candidate to read these declarations.

In other items, the Grand Master said the status quo of *God Save the Queen* and *Advance Australia Fair* will remain for the time being; in future, the honour of Past Senior Grand Warden will be reserved to those members of the Ceremonial Team who have served the Office; work is still in progress on refurbishment of Lodge Rooms 3 and 5 and a new set of toilets



At the Quarterly Communication, RW Bro Vinicio Pavincich, secretary of The Hills Lodge presented a cheque to MW Bro Dr Gregory Levenston for the victims of the Victorian bushfires as part of the Grand Master's Appeal. It was raised by the brethren of Lodge Cloverdale of British Columbia and Yukon. (Full story on page 27)

have been completed on Level One along with complete refurbishment of the ground floor toilets. He also extended congratulations to Lodge Resurgo No 223 on achieving Lodge of Excellence Accreditation.

He concluded his address with the following statement.

‘Concerning The United, Religious and Military Orders of the Temple and the Order of St John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta under the Great Priory of **Scotland**, commonly known as the Order of Knights Templar of **Scotland** and not to be confused with the separate and sovereign Order of Knights Templar of **New South Wales and the Australian**


Capital Territory with which United Grand Lodge has signed a Fraternal Agreement and exists in a state of mutual amity and happy friendship.

United Grand Lodge has negotiated over a period of more than a year with the Great Priory of **Scotland**, which governs a subordinate District Grand Priory here in NSW, requesting their acceptance of the Grand Master’s Three Principles which form the basis for the 15 agreements concluded to date between United Grand Lodge and other Masonic Orders within its geographic jurisdiction.

However, the Great Priory of **Scotland** has rejected acceptance, despite all requests, reasons and compromise

proposals submitted on behalf of United Grand Lodge and has closed all doors to further consideration of the issue including that of contact with the local brethren of their District Grand Priory of NSW.

This position has created a situation unacceptable to United Grand Lodge and has left no alternative to the present action.

I therefore determine and proclaim that until further notice The United, Religious and Military Orders of the Temple and the Order of St John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta under the Great Priory of Scotland is a designated Order, the members of which are subject to sanctions.’ 

Deputy Grand Master’s Report to March Quarterly

The next major Men’s Health campaign to be conducted by the Freemasons of Australia will be called ‘Waste the Waist’.

The seminars are designed to recruit participants who will take part for approximately six months in a program of activities to improve their eating habits and physical activity levels. It will be fun, practical, social and is designed to have a high chance of effectiveness in terms of waist size reduction. However, the hoped-for October start may not occur until the end of the first quarter of 2010.

The Review of Accommodation for Lodges is still to be completed, due principally to the reluctance or inability of building owners to provide the level of data requested (particularly the Five-Year Financial Plans). The insights gained already by the Review Committee indicate that generally, across the jurisdiction, many masonic meeting places:

- fall well short of accepted safety standards;
- provide an unsatisfactory level of comfort to the members of the Craft and the local community who use the facility; and
- are in a poor financial position, with insufficient income streams and no reserves to meet the cost of even minor repairs.


Apart from membership, no other challenge is greater than accommodation for lodges. The Grand Master has directed formation of a Task Force to be convened for three years which will be responsible for framing acceptable standards for masonic meeting places. These include: fire safety, particularly entry and exit, electrical fire safety services and hydraulic fire safety services; comfort in lodge rooms and for the community in the public areas, such as banquet areas and kitchens; access for people with disabilities; toilets; development of Five-Year Financial Plans and Five-Year Business Plans and setting of financial targets. Other areas include setting minimum requirements to sell masonic meeting places, reviewing meeting places, reviewing and initiating sources of funding, supplying expertise and support to interested parties for building rationalisation; and working in co-operation with the Committees of the Board of Management to develop business tools for Regional Building Officers and building owners.

We must do all that we can to ensure the safety of our members when they meet. All building owners are advised that a comprehensive fire safety campaign will be put in place at the end of the Review and owners and the Hall directors will be given 18 months to improve the fire safety of their building. This will apply to all

buildings, including those on the State Heritage Register.

The next two years will be a time of unprecedented challenge. But, if the operative masons of the 13th century found a way to erect a 404 foot high stone spire at Salisbury Cathedral, surely the speculative Freemasons of the 21st century can find a way to make our buildings safe, comfortable and financially secure.

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin and the 150th anniversary of the publication of his great work: *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection: Or The Preservation of Favored Races in the Struggle for Life*. Darwin isn’t on the list of Famous Masons on the website of the United Grand Lodge of England – so he wasn’t a Freemason. But Charles Darwin can provide a message to every Freemason in our jurisdiction, a message of vital importance as we contemplate how our Craft will face the challenges ahead. In discussing the survival of particular species in the face of competition and threat, Darwin wrote these words:

“It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is the most adaptable to change.” 

By RW Bro W P M Caukill PJGW, PGO

ANZAC reflections



It was very pleasant to walk home from church on a Sunday morning along tree lined Eastgate in the small seaside town of Hornsea in East Yorkshire where I spent my teen years. Not far away from the Saxon Church there was a stone seat erected as a memorial to those who died in the 1914–18 war. The seat had a view over the road towards the church and into the park which was a central feature of the town.

On the seat was an inscription, taken from a poem called *The Soldier* by Rupert Brooke (1885–1915). The words read: ‘If I should die, think only this of me: That there’s some corner of a foreign field that is for ever England’.

And there are many such corners in many such fields which are for ever whatever country you may care to name and where the remains of young men, many of whom had no or little choice, yet served their country as they were required to do and paid the price with their lives. You have probably visited some of the war cemeteries with the ranks and files of gravestones almost as if they were on parade. On these stones are inscribed the names of many young people far from home and some even whose relatives have not been able

to read, and grieve. You perhaps have experienced the strange quietness and tranquillity that seems to pervade such places, in stark contrast to the noise and clamour under which the lives were taken. This was our experience when we visited ANZAC Cove in September 2004 and some days later Souda Bay near Chania in Crete.

The experience was even more powerful as we were almost alone on both occasions, the sound of trees blown by a gentle breeze and the small waves breaking on the nearby beach being all we could hear.


But still we have young men and women dying all over the world. Young people on the one hand who have been taught by elders that the short way to paradise is a martyr’s death, other young people of different faiths who are in a foreign land, many of whose citizens regard them as intruders but who none the less are sacrificing their lives because they have been sent there.

But they have in common a life curtailed, a life which they were entitled to live out naturally just as we do, a life in which so much good could have been achieved, a life given by God – the same God, and sacrificed to God – the same God.

During April, we will once again remember ANZAC, that proud day in our national life when we can point to the birth of our nationhood. Thankfully the day seems to be more and more regarded by young and old for its significance. We must guard however against the glorification of war.

I was fortunate to have missed the various calls to military service, but knew as a living fact the all consuming nature and consciousness of war during childhood. But anyone who has been on active service to whom I have spoken can tell of the horror of seeing friends and comrades cut down before their eyes, of enemies dead and dying in agony. There is little glory to be seen there.

So why do we continue to experience war and bloodshed? Are we fed words like ‘freedom’ and ‘democracy’ to hide a more sinister truth? Is it better or worse to send a young person to a martyr’s death in the name of Allah than it is to send another of a different race to die ostensibly for freedom and democracy? Both die, but do their deaths change the world?

I have no answers, but we must continue to ask the questions and act according to our conscience. 

The Hyde Park Memorial

During the month of April, people from all walks of life will devote a moment of their time to visit the War Memorial in Sydney's Hyde Park to reflect on the bravery of Australian servicemen and women during world conflicts.

The Memorial dominates the southern end of Hyde Park and stands out as a tribute to a mason who had to survive strong criticism to complete his architectural dream.

Art, in all its forms, is a controversial subject but it is the sculpture which perhaps generates the greatest differences of opinion. Not infrequently we hear such comments as 'it's beautiful' or perhaps 'it's symbolic' or 'it's meaningless'.

These descriptions and others were frequently applied to the work of Bro George Rayner Hoff who was initiated into Freemasonry on 8 December 1927 in Lodge Literature No 500, UGL of NSW.

Hoff was born in 1894 at Braddon on the Isle of Man and received his early training from his father who was a wood carver and engaged on the restoration of ancient buildings. The family moved to Nottingham and young Rayner worked in a stonemason's yard after school and at age 14, he began work in an architect's office and commenced the study of drawing and design.

In 1915, Hoff enlisted in the British army and saw active service in France. After the war, he studied at the Royal College of Art, London and in 1921, he won a scholarship which enabled him to visit and work in Italy. At Naples, he met Australian architect Hardy Wilson who obtained for him an appointment as teacher of drawing, modelling and sculpture at East Sydney Technical College.

He reorganised courses at the college and became an outstanding administrator. In 1931 he was placed in charge of the entire art department. He joined the Society of Artists in Sydney and developed a friendship with Norman Lindsay.

Hoff entered a number of exhibitions and won the Wynne prize in 1927. From 1930 to 1934, he produced a series of highly controversial sculptures for the Anzac War Memorial in Hyde Park. In



1932, he became embroiled in a bitter argument with the Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, Archbishop Kelly, the Master Builders Association and the Royal Australian Institute of Architects concerning the form of symbolism of his three works 'Sacrifice', 'Crucifixion of Civilisation' and 'Victory'.


The work which caused the greatest outcry was his 'Crucifixion of Civilisation' which showed a nude figure of a woman stretched on a cross formed by the sword of Mars held behind her. Wounded and dead soldiers lay at her feet.

Hoff was stunned by the criticism. He replied that Australian soldiers sentenced to field punishment were lashed to a cross and the Vatican was full of nude figures.

When the War Memorial building was completed, the 'Crucifixion' sculpture was not used and in its place in the 'Hall of Silence' is a bronze sculpture which

portrays the body of an Anzac borne on a shield by his mother, sister, wife and child, surrounded by bronze paving symbolising flames. Hoff was also the sculptor who worked on the famous Egyptian Room which was first erected in College Street, Sydney.

His health deteriorated as a result of excessive drinking and shortly after being dumped by a wave while surfing, he died of pancreatitis in November 1937, aged 43.

As Australia remembers more than 60 years after the end of the second World War, thousands will enter the Anzac War Memorial in Hyde Park, erected to the memory of those who fell during the first World War, and they will silently ponder the work of Bro George Rayner Hoff. 

(Research by the Masonic Historical Society of NSW)

A HELPING HAND IN IRAQ



As an Australian Army Captain, I was deployed for a six month tour to Iraq in November 2006 where I served as a member of Operation Catalyst in the Overwatch Battle Group West – Two (OBG (W) 2).

At the time, Operation Catalyst consisted of approximately 1,400 Australian Defence Force personnel and I joined the Army's 450-strong OBG (W)-2 based at Camp Terendak, Tallil Air Base in Southern Iraq.

The OBG(W)-2 comprised personnel drawn mostly from Darwin's 1st Brigade and operated in the Al Muthanna and Dhi Qar provinces as part of the Multi-National Division (South-East) which included American, British, Australian, Romanian, Danish, Portuguese, Czech and Lithuanian troops.

There were a number of American Freemasons deployed within the Tallil Air Base area, and although we never had the chance to hold regular meetings, we did sit together whenever possible at meal times.

Tallil Air Base was located in the ancient city of Ur, and I had the opportunity to visit the Ziggurat (a pyramid-shaped tower) as the site was within the security perimeter of the airbase in Southern Iraq.

Although the overnight temperature was often freezing, the midday temperature regularly reached 45°C in the latter months, which made wearing the 32kg body armour very uncomfortable.

W Bro Captain Adel Amin, Worshipful Master of Lodge Army & Navy, No 517, standing by the command ASLAV in southern Iraq

The mission of the operation was to support the implementation of provincial Iraqi control (PIC) in Al Muthanna and Dhi Qar Provinces and contribute to rehabilitation and reconstruction.

This involved regular engagement and activities with Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and provincial and local authorities, including meetings with local tribal and government leaders, exercising with the ISF and supporting and mentoring them as they consolidated their capabilities.

Another key role was the battle group's ongoing Civil Military Co-operation Program. This provided project management assistance to various reconstruction tasks in Al Muthanna and Dhi Qar Provinces. Australian Army members also trained Iraqi Army personnel at a Basic Training Centre in Tallil.

My specific role as a qualified Advanced Arabic Linguist was to act as the Senior Linguist for the Battle Group and to recruit and manage two teams of 26 Locally Employed Civilians (LEC), one employed within the province of Al Muthanna and one in Dhi Qar.

The reality of being on active service and working within a war zone hit home when, returning from a meeting with a local government official, the patrol was attacked in an ambush where an explosive device was detonated.

The patrol comprised a number of

Australian Light Armoured Vehicles with one vehicle extensively damaged and destroyed by a subsequent fire.

There were no fatalities but two crew of the seriously damaged vehicle were wounded and evacuated by aircraft to the Tallil Air Base hospital. It was testimony to the high level of training and robustness of the equipment that outcomes of this attack were not more severe.

Time apart, due to deployments, training or other requirements, is a feature of being a member of the ADF and these periods of separation can be challenging.

While regular phone calls helped maintain contact while separated, returning home to my wife and family in May 2007 needed a period of adjustment to re-establish old patterns and deal with various emotions.

My wife, Rowena, found at times it was easier to see the negative side of my absence but challenged herself to identify the positive aspects and consider the separation as a chance to grow. She tried to stay busy outside work hours and enjoyed participating in a course offered by the local Community College and spending time with friends.

I am an Egyptian born Muslim but have never been asked if relatives or friends criticised me for helping the coalition in Iraq. It was my observation

Brethren attend young soldier's funeral

As one of many Freemasons who have served, or serve, in the Defence Forces, I would like to thank the many brethren who attended Bro Rifleman Stuart Nash's funeral in Richmond following his death before Christmas on active service with The Rifles Regiment of the British Army in Afghanistan.

To see masonic regalia being worn at the funeral of one of our own (especially one so young and promising) reinforces our proud tradition of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

W Bro Andrew St John-Brown
Senior Warden, Lodge Unity No 6

Are you an artist?

I was wondering just how many masons are artists. So I would like to ask our readers for an 'expression of interest' – how many are out there?

All mediums – oils, watercolours, paper mache, sculpture, woodwork, metal work, no real exclusions I guess.

If enough are interested we could have an exhibition (venue arranged already) and entry fee and prize money, and above all a name for the exhibition – any takers?

Bro Edwin Power (artist)
02 4845 9030

Masonic fatigue

Is 'Masonic Fatigue' killing off our dearly beloved brethren?

Ie: Too many late nights out listening to long winded (but very interesting) speeches, followed by bloodshot starts in the workplace next morning.

Suppose we were to: Tyle 7pm sharp, close the lodge 9pm sharp, Junior Warden's toast 10pm sharp – enforced by a timer connected to a siren.

But some brethren prefer their emphasis to be in the South!

Okay, let's be fair. If we close the lodge at 8.30pm sharp that gives 90 minutes in lodge and 90 minutes at the Festive Board. If we can't run a business meeting in one and a half hours then why do we bother being masons.

Naturally we need to tyle earlier for Installations which take longer to perform but they are once a year for each lodge.

So I put this idea to you for consideration. If it happens to be favourably received, perhaps it might be worth uniform adoption across the Jurisdiction one day. Not so much the tyle time but the 90 minute lodge/90 minute south. Even football matches have a timeframe to run things smoothly so people know when to go home.

W Bro David Halliday, IPM
Lodge Artarmon United No 285

To see masonic regalia being worn at the funeral of one of our own (especially one so young and promising) reinforces our proud tradition of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.




Australian soldiers



W Bro Captain Adel Amin, Worshipful Master of Lodge Army and Navy, No 517 (right), with W Bro 'Monty' Montgomery, WO 2, Worshipful Master of Lodge Army (V.C.) with the Travelling Gavel that these two lodges have exchanged for many years.

that the local sheiks are grateful for Australia's help and do not condone, or support terrorist attacks at all.

In my opinion, Iraq is as bureaucratic and slow to change as any Middle Eastern country, but there are many individuals who want to be democratic. Real progress is being made in Iraq, it will just take time. 



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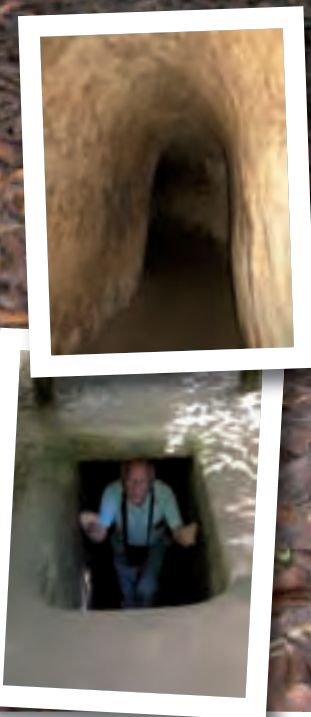
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HOW TO HIDE AN ARMY

The world's trouble spots are again receiving the benefit of today's Anzacs who quietly give assistance where needed and work with international forces to try to maintain peace.



Instead of the world wars of the past, Australian forces are currently posted in Afghanistan, Iraq, East Timor and other areas where their services have been requested.

In the past century, Australians have been prominent in action overseas, ranging from Europe to Korea and Vietnam.

In Vietnam, the memory of the battles between the Allied forces and the Viet Cong are based on visits to an area 75 km northwest of Saigon known as Cu Chi where a highly complex tunnel system was built and is now a major tourist attraction.

At the height of the Vietnam War, the tunnel system stretched from the outskirts of Saigon to the Cambodian border – something like 250km of tunnels. The system, built over 25 years and starting in the 1940s, let the Viet Minh and later the Viet Cong control a huge rural area and enabled them to survive and fight against the overseas troops.

The 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment took part in 19 major operations during their Vietnam stay. One operation in January 1966 resulted in one of the biggest intelligence coups of the war to that time. During a sweep of the area near Saigon, the Australians

discovered a vast complex of tunnels, dug 20 metres deep in some places, which turned out to be a Viet Cong headquarters. They also discovered 6,000 documents, many revealing the names and locations of Viet Cong agents.

The Cu Chi tunnel complex was an underground city several stories deep with living areas, kitchens, weapons factories, field hospitals and could cater for up to 10,000 people. A major staging ground for both sides during the war, it was devastated by bombs but today, the trees and bushes have grown back and sections have been open for tourists since 1988.

The introduction to the Cu Chi Tunnels consisted of a video showing scenes from the Vietnam War and a narration frequently referring to 'the foreign invaders' which was bound to upset some of the overseas tourists.


Then it was time to visit the tunnels area and try to experience some of the life led by the Viet Cong during the war years. The first stop on the hike around the complex was 'Try to find the tunnel', a tunnel so cleverly concealed that a person could walk across the top and not realise it was there. Wriggling into this tunnel and pulling the lid over the top was the first indication of the cleverness needed

to be hidden and the complexity of the site.

Proceeding on, the next visit was to a larger tunnel where tourists can more easily enter and get a closer look at bunkers and other quarters about three metres down. There were tables and chairs, crude cooking stoves, dummies outfitted in guerrilla gear. A special system took the smoke from cooking to an exit point 25 metres or further from the tunnel so that the entrance could not be pinpointed.

There were several opportunities to crawl through the tunnels, although at times it was a narrow squeeze on hands and knees and not good for anyone who didn't like to be enclosed or get their hand and clothes dirty.

A good look at various man traps, weapons and photos completed the tour in high humidity and heat which found part compensation in cups of green tea and a snack of taro or cassava. It is a fascinating tour but also a grim reminder of the downside of war.

Nowadays, the area is dotted with lush green rice paddies, new rows of rubber trees and is home to more than 250,000 people spread among small villages and countryside as Vietnam continues its rebuilding process. 

Why chaplaincy?

MW Bro Reverend Ray Green PGM has been appointed as Senior Chaplain to NSW Ambulance on a permanent part-time basis. Chief Executive Greg Rochford says this is a first for Ambulance and brings them into line with NSW Police and NSW Fire Brigades, which already have permanent senior chaplains.

He added that Rev Green will provide information to senior management on spiritual and pastoral matters, the performance of the Chaplains' team and assist in selecting new chaplains. In the event of a major incident or disaster, Ray will play a major role in deployment of our chaplains to support staff, patients and their families.

MW Bro Green explains his role in the following article.

Throughout my ministry of 40 years, I have always been involved in some form of Chaplaincy. There are many reasons for this involvement but the best way I can describe it, is a desire to be where the people are. Chaplaincy is an extension of pastoral ministry; it places you in situations which you may not find in the usual parish setting. It is at times risky and challenging because you are dealing with people who have different expectations. It takes you out of your comfort zone. It places you in situations which stretch your faith and commitment. It is an opportunity to serve people who perhaps have no contact with the established church or sometimes without any acknowledged faith. You meet them in all different circumstances and that is the challenge.

Since early 1998 I have been privileged to serve in a voluntary capacity as a Chaplain in the Ambulance Service of New South Wales. This followed my 10 years as an RAAF Reserve Chaplain. My additional tertiary training in bereavement counselling, suicide awareness and intervention and crisis counselling qualifications, suited the Ambulance Service. It was felt that the current and new members of the Service should be aware of the stresses and problems they would encounter as part of their employment and asked me to prepare some lectures to assist in this area.

MW Bro Reverend Ray Green PGM with Chief Executive Greg Rochford of NSW Ambulance



I am still giving lectures to every new ambulance paramedic who enters for initial training.


In January 2009 the Ambulance Service decided to appoint a full time Senior Ambulance Chaplain. This was in keeping with the policy of other Emergency Services who have for many years appointed Senior Chaplains on a full time basis. Most Chaplains are in an honorary capacity, that is, they do their Chaplaincy duty in addition to their parish duties. This new position is the first time the Ambulance service has appointed a full time employed Chaplain.

I am honoured that they made this position available because it acknowledges the hard work and commitment of all Chaplains and the individual uniqueness in their training, usefulness and value to the Service. I now have the responsibility of pastorally caring for all the Ambulance Chaplains, engaging new Chaplains and deploying them in the event of a major incident.

Although the primary concern of the Ambulance Chaplain is ministering to the members of the Service, he or she also

serves the families of staff, patients and community. The Chaplains currently serving the Ambulance Service have a good understanding of the relationship between faith, illness, the emotional, mental and spiritual factors that arise in traumatic situations; they seek to motivate and invite a healthy, meaningful use of an individual's spiritual beliefs and attitudes. The Ministry of Chaplain is a ministry of presence. To be there in service for all people regardless of their race, colour, gender, spiritual beliefs, or Church affiliation. It is a shared ministry within an inter-faith ecumenical setting.

I would have to say that it is an enormous privilege to be a Chaplain within the Ambulance service of New South Wales. The working environment can be difficult, frustrating, at times demanding and alien, but it also affords me deep satisfaction in knowing that just possibly, the contribution I and other Chaplains make could well make some difference.

Why Chaplaincy? Because in the final analysis it is comforting to know that your 'being' and your 'doing' may help others in need. 

An Association for all seasons



Left: RW Bro Chris Craven, guest speaker at the Freemasons' Association Lunch on 10 February

Right: The Grand Master with RW Bro Walid Mehanna, President of the Freemasons' Association (right) with RW Bro Rev Dr Jack Hely, CBE and Mrs Hazel Hely celebrating their anniversary.



More than 30 ladies and brethren including the Grand Master, MW Bro Dr Gregory Levenston, attended the Freemasons' Association's first regular lunch meeting for 2009 on Tuesday 10 February at the Sydney Masonic Centre. The guest speaker was RW Bro Chris Craven, PAGM, Deputy Grand Secretary and Director of the Museum of Freemasonry who spoke on the extent and value of the Museum's collection.

In inviting RW Bro Craven to be the guest speaker, the Association is continuing its objective of supporting those areas of Freemasonry which are outside Grand Lodge administration or which are largely dependent on financial support other than through the Grand Lodge budgetary system. The Museum of Freemasonry comes under the latter of the two categories.

Mrs Susan Williams, Chief Executive Officer, Masonic Youth Welfare Fund, was the guest speaker at the October 2008 Association Luncheon and featured in an article in the December 2008 issue of the magazine.

In his talk, Bro Craven paid tribute to those lodges who have supported the Museum and in particular Lodge Castlereagh and Lodge Artarmon United. Both lodges have made significant financial contributions and have challenged other lodges to take similar action.

A highlight of the luncheon was a presentation to RW Bro Rev Dr Jack Hely, CBE, PJGW, Grand Chaplain and his wife Hazel who celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary the previous day. Both are held in high regard by members of the Association and are regular attendees at Association functions.


There are a number of events being organised by the Association in its role as the social arm of Freemasonry. Some will have been held by the time this issue of the magazine has been printed and will be detailed later. They include:

1. An ANZAC Day Commemorative Service and Dinner to be held on 1 April 2009 at the Sydney Masonic Centre. Wreaths will be laid at the Memorial Wall of the Centre under the direction of RW Bro Commander Derek Robson AM PAGM (RAN ret'd). RW Bro Leonard Werman will be the guest speaker.
2. For what is believed to be the first time, the Freemasons of NSW and the ACT will lay wreaths at the Sydney Cenotaph on ANZAC Day. The Grand Master will lay a wreath on behalf of the Freemasons and the President of the Freemasons' Association will lay a wreath on behalf of the ex-service women of the Association and the family of Freemasonry. This will be a memorable occasion for Freemasonry.
3. Mothers Day will be celebrated in May by a special function and details

will be advised as soon as the event has been finalised.

A major aim of the Association is to arrange meetings for members to share ideas, information, advice and experiences and for fraternal and social interaction. Other objectives include the dissemination of ideas, information and advice among members; to make donations to masonic and other charitable organisations and to make such presentations to worthy masons as members may from time to time determine.

If you have any suggestions on how this can be achieved to the benefit of all masons, their families and the widows of deceased masons, please write to the Secretary, VW Bro Garry Sayed, PDGDC, C/o Dr Yvonne McIntyre, PO Box A259, Sydney South NSW 1235.

Membership of the Association is open to Master Masons and above, their wives/partners and widows of deceased masons. The annual membership fee is \$5.00. If you are not a member and would like to join the Association, please contact Dr Yvonne McIntyre, Membership Officer and Registrar, PO Box A259, Sydney South NSW 1235. 

A Good Education Provides the Safety Net

Recently released official employment figures have revealed that unemployment in Australia has hit 5.2% - up from 4.8% in January. According to the ABS, the economy suffered the biggest monthly drop in full-time jobs since July 1991, when 79,400 full-time jobs were lost - and the nation was officially in recession.

While companies are considering their options, the workforce has also had to take a hard look at itself in what is now a very competitive job market. **There is no denying that well-educated, trained personnel will have the competitive edge in a shrinking job market.**

That is why Compass Youth Education, a program of the Masonic Youth Welfare Fund, focuses on providing a strong education foundation for young people. **A good education provides a safety net and security for the future, no matter what that future may be.**

Another by-product of the tough economic climate is that more and more families are in need of assistance.

Families in metropolitan and country areas are not immune to the economic downturn and we are receiving more and more calls for assistance as struggling Mums and Dads try to shield their children from the harsh realities of current times.

We ask for your support so future generations are given the same benefits of a good education most of us have enjoyed. We encourage you to invest in Australia's future through our new Sponsor a Student campaign or by making a bequest or donation.

Your sponsorship, however small, can make a big impact on the life of a child by providing education assistance which could make all the difference to that child's future ... and that of Australia's.



We ask you to consider the long-term benefits of fostering a child's intellect, pride and sense of achievement through education assistance. It's a wonderful investment for that child, their family and indeed all of Australia.

News Roundup

We are absolutely thrilled to have the Governor General, Her Excellency, Ms Quentin Bryce attend our Canberra Voice of Youth Gala Concert on Tuesday 7 April at Wesley Uniting Church. Featuring VOXSynergy and numerous choirs from Canberra and the surrounding district, the event is one of three Gala fundraising events with VOXSynergy being staged in Sydney - 4 April, Orange - 6 April and Canberra - 7 April. A night filled with music to remember from our Voices of Youth is promised for everyone.



The past few months have seen more and more lodges and organisations booking visits and Guest Speaker presentations from the Masonic Youth Welfare Fund President, RW Bro Olly Bergstrom and the Fund's CEO, Susan Williams.

Recently, Susan presented to Lodge Wagga Wagga, Lodge Longueville and Menai High School staff; with Olly presenting our Compass Youth Education Program story to Lodge Artarmon United. Again through the generosity of these masons, we have more students' education sponsored under our Sponsor a Student Program.

www.compassyouth.org.au - ph: 02 9264 3017



Purchase a CD or DVD and help support young Australians...

VoxSynergy, the choir of gifted young Australians who were finalists in the **Battle of the Choirs** program on Channel Seven, are the Compass Youth Education Ambassadors - our **Voice of Youth**.

They have produced a glorious CD and DVD of music to assist us in raising money so we can meet the education needs of many more young Australians. **A perfect Mother's Day gift**, you can purchase a CD for \$15 or a DVD, which features their beautiful music and provides a history of the work carried out by Compass Youth Education, for just \$30. To purchase this **Voice of Youth**, call us on 02 9264 3017 or email: events@compassyouth.org.au



Masonic Youth Welfare Fund
of NSW & ACT

The Fund is an independent Masonic charity working with the wider community to give needy young students an equal opportunity in life.

More news from Masonic Youth Welfare Fund next issue



We need YOU!

If you are looking for your 'Next Regular Step' in Freemasonry then the Ceremonial Team of UGL of NSW & ACT needs YOU!

Why choose the Ceremonial Team?

What do they do?

How can I find out more about the 'Team'?

How many meetings do I need to attend in a month?

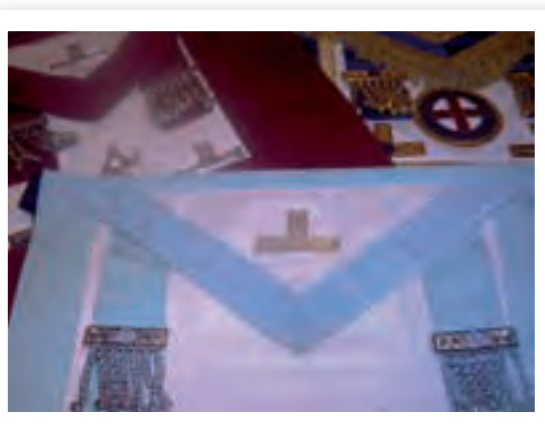
These are a few questions asked when a Past Master enquires to join the Ceremonial Team.

The Ceremonial Team is as a journey which could be described as self discovery, a journey that will create new friendships and ultimately assist in the culmination of many years of hard work for a Master Mason by assisting him as Grand Director of Ceremonies to be installed into the Chair of King Solomon.

The first step of this journey is to be invested as a Grand Steward.

A Grand Steward is an integral part of the ceremonies of Grand Lodge, whilst assisting the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Assistant Grand Master in their official duties within the jurisdiction.

The duties of a Grand Steward are varied. Under the guidance of the Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, the Grand



Steward works through a graduated training program, initially attending lodges with a senior member of the Team, developing new skills that will culminate in becoming a Grand Director of Ceremonies for Installation ceremonies.

The Ceremonial Team is seeking brethren who are looking for the 'next

step' in their masonic career. The term of Grand Steward is an opportunity for those brethren who have recently completed their time as Master of their lodge to those with more experience to continue their daily advancement and acquisition of masonic knowledge.

The question of time commitment, with reference to lodge attendance is relevant to today's society and the need to understand the ever increasing demand of work and family commitments.

The Grand Director works very closely with all members of the Ceremonial Team, to ensure that their duties for the Team fit in with their personal commitments.

The Grand Director in conjunction with other members of the Ceremonial Team will be looking to conduct information evenings to enable brethren to ask questions first hand about the exciting opportunities of joining the Ceremonial Team.

For information, please email Peter Read, The Grand Director of Ceremonies at: GDC@uglnsw.freemasonry.org.au

THE BALMAIN LODGE No 23 will celebrate its 150th Anniversary meeting with a special Re-Consecration enactment and Banquet on Saturday 16 May, commencing at 5.00pm at the Laurelbank Masonic Centre, Willoughby.

The Grand Master MW Bro Dr Gregory Levenston and many of his Senior Grand Officers will conduct the ceremony and later be present for the Banquet.

Please note banquet room space precludes attendance exceeding 110 brethren.

Therefore, the lodge must issue numbered banquet tickets on a first received basis at \$35.00.

KINDLY DIRECT YOUR PAYMENT REQUEST TO:

The Secretary, VW Bro Neale Norman, 8 Iluka Road, UMINA NSW 2257
Phone 4342 4509 for return post tickets.

Wish to perfect your Masonic experience with Degrees 4 to 18?
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www.rosecroix.org.au
Omnes Sancti Sovereign Chapter 193 meets four times a year at Hunters Hill

Honours for Freemasons

Freemasons again were prominent when the Australia Day Honours were announced by the Federal Government.

Dublin-born entertainer and Bella Vista resident RW Bro John O'Connor PJGW, better known as Dee Donovan of Lodge Thespian, headed the list of members who received the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM).

He received his medal for services to the community as an entertainer, particularly for his fundraising efforts for children's charities.

'Show business has been very good to me and I wanted to give something back and help needy people in the community,' he said.

Other recipients of the OAM were VW Bro William Crawford, PDGDC, Lodge City of the Plains No 607, and W Bro Keith Campbell, of Lodge Harold Herman Unity No 428, while Bro John Price of Lodge Sincerity No 233 became a Member in the Order of Australia (AM).

Bro Price received his award for his service to the Parliament of NSW and to the community through executive roles with youth, educational, church and broadcasting organisations.

VW Bro Crawford was recognised for service to the community of the Bathurst



RW Bro John O'Connor – Dee Donovan

region through a range of roles with local government and service organisations, while W Bro Campbell was honoured for his service to veterans, particularly through the Bomber Command Association Australia, and to the community.



THE Castlereagh
Boutique Hotel ★★★★★



Since 1926, the Castlereagh has been home to the New South Wales Masonic Club. Described as the best kept secret in Sydney, the Club currently has 3,000 members who enjoy the magnificence of this unique heritage listed building.

The interior features an imposing marble entrance and foyer, period dining and board rooms, bars, bistro and conference facilities.

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There could be many non-masonic community projects and organisations that have benefitted from you choosing where the dollars go – more than 180, in fact, ranging from helping to purchase a bus for a community centre to providing equipment for a rescue service, from giving respite for the parents of terminally ill children to providing disadvantaged pre-school children with a boost to enable them to cope with education when they do start school.

The organisations have been as diverse as our own membership in terms of ethnicity, geography and demographics. Most important of all though, is the fact that whatever masoniCare has been asked to donate, you, the workers at the coalface of charity, match that donation. It's a great selling point isn't it? It has always been accepted that masoniCare matches what you raise but we often lose sight of the fact that you match what masoniCare donates. It's a two-way street with the one helping the other to better the communities we live in and to 'convince mankind of the goodness of the Institution' – a two-way street on which we both go in the same direction.

Keep telling masoniCare where to put its dollars – with yours!


Soldiers bring a little magic to Talani School



Lance Corporal Clint Pearce and his colleagues are part of the Reconstruction Task Force (RTF) deployed by Australia to the Oruzgan Province in southern Afghanistan. The RTF forms part of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force. Australia's contribution is an important component of the Australian Government's commitment to assist Afghanistan achieve a stable and secure future.

The RTF comprises approximately 370 Australian Defence Force personnel from predominantly Queensland based units. It includes elements to provide command, security, engineering and administrative support and is equipped with Bushmaster infantry mobility vehicles, Australian light armoured vehicles and armoured engineering plant equipment.

The RTF has a clearly defined role to work on reconstruction, improvement of provincial infrastructure and community based projects. It also provides trade training to the local population and military engineering training to the Afghan National Army. This type of assistance is designed to offer long-term benefit to the Oruzgan Province by helping to build a stable and prosperous community.

Reconstruction work at the Talani School has seen the RTF working hand in hand with the Afghan National Army. Their efforts have provided new desks and tables for the classrooms, bookshelves, window repairs, a 5,000 gallon water tank, football goals, a swing, monkey bars and a see-saw for the play yard behind the school. 

Information and photo courtesy the Australian Defence Force

URGENT HELP REQUIRED

The Masonic Auxiliary urgently requires volunteers to help operate the kiosk at the former Masonic Hospital in Victoria Street Ashfield.

- The Auxiliary has operated the kiosk for almost 50 years and in doing so have raised thousands of dollars for the Auxiliary's Charity Fund.
- The kiosk is open Monday to Friday from 8.30 am to 4.00 pm.
- Activities involve the sale of a wide range of merchandise suitable for hospital patients and their visitors together with papers and magazines. Snacks including pies, sandwiches tea and coffee are also sold.
- The work is satisfying and the social contacts rewarding.
- Whilst the kiosk can be operated by one person, it is far more congenial for volunteers to operate in pairs. For this reason you and a friend may wish to volunteer on the basis that you work together.

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO ASSIST THE MASONIC AUXILIARY IN A VOLUNTARY CAPACITY AND WOULD LIKE FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

**RW BRO DON MEALING, PAGM, PRESIDENT, PH: (02) 9150 5323
OR MRS DOROTHY STEVENS PH: (02) 4285 7697**

Your involvement will provide a much needed service for hospital patients and at the same time enable the Auxiliary to continue its work in the name of Freemasonry.

In May, many lodge members will take a moment to present a special gift to their wife or mother as a token of affection and to say thanks for the continuing work of years past. The role of mother has been defined in many ways and it is still one of the most important functions of a family.

Mother -

a word that means
the world to me

How many of you recall the following words of a song which was extremely popular but is rarely heard these days:

M is for the million things she gave me,
O means only that she's growing old,
T is for the tears she shed to save me,
H is for her heart of purest gold;
E is for her eyes, with love light shining,
R means right, and right she'll always be.
*Put them all together, they spell
 'Mother', a word that means the
 world to me.*

The story of Mothers Day is a long one. It is not a recent phenomenon as many people believe nor the creation of card and gift marketers as assumed by many.

The tradition of Mothers Day started with the ancient Greeks who celebrated their annual spring festival in honour of Rhea, the mother of many gods and goddesses in Greek mythology.


Ancient Romans celebrated a spring festival by the name of Hilaria in honour



Mothers Day. A coloured carnation signifies that a person's mother is living while a white carnation is used to honour a deceased mother.

In Australia, Mothers Day falls on the second Sunday in May and is celebrated with a great deal of enthusiasm and joy. It is a day when families get together to express their love and gratitude to their mother through flowers, cards and gifts.

Besides their own mothers, children honour their grandmothers and other women who love and care for them as a mother does. The day gives children the chance to ponder over the role of mothers in their lives and to acknowledge the hardships their mother goes through while raising them. It is now traditional for children or fathers to pamper their mother/wife on Mothers Day by giving them breakfast in bed.

Mothers Day is celebrated in more than 46 countries around the world though at different times of the year and month. It is now internationally recognised as the day to honour all mothers and thank them for their love and care for their children and consequently to the development of mankind. 

*To all mothers,
we wish you a Happy
Mothers Day*



of Cybele, a mother goddess, some 250 years before Christ was born.

In the 1600s in England there was an annual observance called 'Mothering Sunday'. It was celebrated during Lent, on the fourth Sunday. On Mothering Sunday, the servants, who generally lived with their employers, were encouraged to return home and honour their mothers. It was traditional for them to take a special cake to celebrate the occasion. The most favoured cake was, and still is in some families, the 'simnel cake' – a deliciously moist fruitcake topped with a layer of sweet almond paste and a traditional sweet treat in the United Kingdom. The recipe is re-printed on the opposite page.

In the United States of America, Mothers Day is a holiday celebrated on the second Sunday in May. It was first observed in Philadelphia in 1907 and was based on suggestions by Julia Ward Howe in 1872 and Anna Jarvis in 1907. There is a tradition of wearing a carnation on

Simmel Cake Serves 20

This Simmel cake is decorated with 11 almond-paste balls, one for each of the true apostles (Judas is not included).



- 2 1/3 cups (360g) icing sugar mixture
- 100g almond meal
- 2 tbs bran 2 egg yolks
- 1 tbs lemon juice
- 100g butter, at room temperature
- 1/2 cup (100g) brown sugar
- 1 tbs golden syrup
- 1 egg
- 2 cups (300g) self-raising flour
- 1 tsp mixed spice
- 450g dried mixed fruit
- 2 tbs apricot jam

1. Preheat oven to 180°C. Grease a 17cm round (base measurement) cake pan. Line the base and side with 2 layers of baking paper.
2. Place icing sugar, almond meal, brandy, 1 egg yolk and lemon juice in a bowl and stir until mixture just comes together. Turn on to a clean surface and knead until smooth. Wrap in plastic wrap. Set aside.
3. Use an electric mixer to beat butter, sugar and golden syrup in a bowl until pale and creamy. Add egg and remaining egg yolk, and beat until just combined. Add flour and mixed spice and stir to combine. Stir in mixed fruit.
4. Spoon half the fruit mixture into the prepared pan and smooth the surface. Use a rolling pin to roll out one-third of almond mixture into a 17cm disc. Place disc on top of fruit mixture in pan. Spoon remaining fruit mixture over almond disc and smooth the surface. Bake in oven for 30 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 150°C and bake for a further 1 1/2 hours or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Set aside in pan to cool completely.
5. Turn cake on to a clean surface. Heat jam in a small saucepan over low heat until melted. Strain through a fine sieve into a bowl. Brush top of cake with warm jam. Divide remaining almond mixture into 2 equal portions. Use a rolling pin to roll out 1 portion into a 17cm disc. Place on top of cake and use the palm of your hand to smooth. Roll remaining almond mixture into 11 balls. Arrange on top of cake.
6. Preheat grill on high. Place cake under grill for 1-2 minutes or until caramelised. Place on a plate and decorate with ribbon.

Q & A

This column is intended to answer the most frequently asked questions about Freemasonry. If you have any questions, send them to the Editor.

Are masons some type of religion?


Absolutely not. Membership is made up of people who belong to many different religions. Every member is encouraged, and is completely free, to follow their own private personal beliefs. Religion, as such, is not permitted to be discussed in any lodge. Freemasonry is supportive of morality and virtue, it does not have dogma or theology but teaches that it is important for every man to have a religion of his own choice and to be faithful to it in thought and action.

You have a Bible in your lodge room. Why is this?

As a standard rule we do. However, any lodge can determine, based on its membership, which Holy Book (or Books) it will use. This is because we

are a truly non-sectarian organisation. Many of Masonry's noblest and beautiful teachings are from both the Old and New Testaments. The Bible holds the central position as the great light of Masonry.

What do you do in 'lodge'?

A lodge meeting is run like any other normal business or social meeting. Minutes and correspondence are read, financial statements, general business and membership proposals are considered and voted upon, 'Caring Officers' report on current charity work and on members who are ill, candidates are advanced on merit through the various appropriate levels, the meeting is concluded and the lodge is closed. Supper is then served as the brethren meet together in unity. 



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The Order of the Secret Monitor

also known as

The Brotherhood of David and Jonathan

The above article was printed in the June 1945 issue of the *NSW Freemason* with acknowledgements to un-named authors, and has been adapted for current publication by R.J.Donsworth, Grand Recorder.

This is a very interesting and withal a relatively little known branch of Freemasonry.

The bond of brotherhood is based upon obligations of a kind which go further into human nature than any other, either in the Craft or any of the concomitant orders. He who acts upon his Craft obligations will hold out his hand to help his brother out of the mire, but he who acts upon that of a Secret Monitor will hold out his hand when he sees his brother about to fall in. The legend narrated during the admission of candidates is the good old story of the friendship which existed between David and Jonathan. This friendship was all the more remarkable because King Saul, the father of the latter, hated David with almost unequalled intensity, and on more than one occasion sought his life. Meetings of the two friends, therefore, were attended with considerable risk, and it became necessary to devise some form of warning which should convey information to David without necessarily enlightening any one else. The whole story can be read in 1 Samuel xx, v.18 et seq.; and in accordance therewith it is the duty of obligation of every Secret Monitor to convey notice of impending danger to his brother, and even to warn him when he appears to be embarked upon a wrong course of conduct likely to entail disastrous consequences. In saying all this no



The Grand Supreme Ruler of the OSM, MW Bro Michael Stuart Shearer

obligation of secrecy is violated for the ritual is published by authority.

The first references to such an association are to be found in a code of rules of government found in Amsterdam in 1770. What the history of the Order was in Holland is not known. Kloss gives the title of a book published in 1778 at Amsterdam which gives its statutes and formulary of reception. It did not become an effective masonic tie until the period of the Civil War which devastated the United States of America. Dr. I. Zacharie, the first Supreme Ruler of the Order as established in England, had a very

adventurous career during the period referred to. In his medical capacity he was constantly in the camps of both parties to the strife, and had frequent opportunities of seeing how Freemasonry could ameliorate even the horrors of Civil War, when brother's hand was against brother's instead of being clasped in it.

The degree of Secret Monitor, which had been carried to the New World by Dutch immigrants, appeared to Dr. Zacharie to afford the means of cementing a closer fraternal union than even that which held the Craft together. It had existed up to the period under reference in a somewhat slipshod manner, with no organisation and with no ceremonies. The neophyte was simply taken 'aside' and the several degrees communicated to him.

The Order in England dates from 1887. There are now Jurisdictions of the Order, with numerous Conclaves in many countries throughout the world.

Their registers contain many distinguished and illustrious names which are quite sufficient to prove the Order is highly esteemed in the Craft.

The government of the Order is vested in a Grand Council, which is composed of Grand and Past Grand Officers. Among the officers are those called Visiting Deacons. These are officers peculiar to this Order, and there is nothing exactly analogous in any branch

of Freemasonry. What their duties are is well described in the following circular, which is sent out officially to every Supreme Ruler of a private Conclave immediately on registration, and is besides ordered to be given to every Visiting Deacon when invested. The principles therein laid down, go far to prove that quality rather than quantity is sought for every extension of the Order. To this circular we have prefixed the introduction to the Constitutions, and after reading both extracts no one will deny that a brother who is invited to become a Secret Monitor must have formed and lived up to a very high ideal of Freemasonry.

'Inasmuch as the peculiar characteristic of this Order consists of giving friendly monition and warning to its members in time of danger, and in affording support and assistance to them in time of sorrow and distress, it is expressly enjoined on the Visiting Deacons as the chief duty of their office is to search out and warn any brother who may be exposed to danger, whether secret or apparent, and to visit those afflicted with sickness or sorrow, or otherwise in

need of fraternal help and consolation. A Statement that this duty is specially recognised as a distinguishing feature of the Order shall appear in the by-laws of every Conclave; and the officers of every Conclave shall be specially charged at their appointment and installation to see that this **fundamental principle** of the Order be **practically carried into effect** during their term of office.'


'The Grand Visitors point out the fundamental principle underlying all the teachings of the Order, with regard to the duties of Conclaves, may be summed up in an affirmative reply to the old question, "Am I my brother's keeper?" and that the function imposed upon Visiting Deacons at their appointment is that of officers selected to discharge, on behalf of the Conclave, this duty of keeping in constant touch with the rest of the brethren (if deceased, with those depending upon them), and of conveying to the Conclave, at its periodical meetings of their welfare, or should providence so will it, their ill-fare.'

The Order of the Secret Monitor possesses its own phraseology. Its lodges are 'Conclaves'. Members are 'inducted'

in the first degree, 'admitted' to the second degree and the Supreme Ruler is 'commissioned'.

Every brother is placed in the charge of a Deacon. It is the duty of the Deacon to write or visit them at intervals between the meetings, and at each meeting to report to the Conclave. Should any trouble befall a brother, he should apply for help to his Deacon, who is bound to do all he can for him. It is an admirable scheme, but its success depends almost entirely on the conscientiousness of the Deacons.

The first Conclave in NSW was The Sydney Conclave, consecrated by RW Bro G.C. Kingscott PGC, District Grand Supreme Ruler of the Southern jurisdiction of Australia, on 23 June 1945.

The first autonomous jurisdiction in Australasia was that of NSW & ACT formed in 1958 with the first Grand Installation held in 1959. This Grand Council of NSW & the ACT will celebrate its Golden Jubilee Installation on 10 October 2009 at The Sydney Masonic Centre. 

MEET THE STAFF

Brenda Chin *Receptionist*



A friendly voice and a smile always go a long way to impressing people with inquiries and BRENDA CHIN has the happy disposition to meet these requirements.

Brenda was born in Wellington, New Zealand and came to Sydney more than 25 years ago. As the voice of Grand Lodge and the first person to be seen when arriving at Grand Lodge reception, Brenda has the right attitude to provide a friendly and helpful service.

This attitude was developed after a 15 year term as a store manager with McDonalds and finding methods of satisfying customers, especially those with complaints.

Travel, theatre, swimming are all included in her major interests as well as her philosophies to always smile, work hard and enjoy your job.

'I've been with Grand Lodge nearly seven years and really enjoy meeting and talking with people,' Brenda said.

'I'm definitely a talker which goes with the job but I'm also a good listener. Being a receptionist, the most important part is being personable.'

Brenda is a big traveller and has a sister in Monaco who has helped show her the sights of Europe.

'I won't say I've been everywhere but I have travelled around most of the world or it seems like it. It's been like a history lesson and I'm lucky to have had the opportunities.

'My big ambition and the project for this year is to complete the renovations at my home. Some of the harder work will be delegated but I will also be a "hands-on" person to make sure it is completed the way I want it,' she said.

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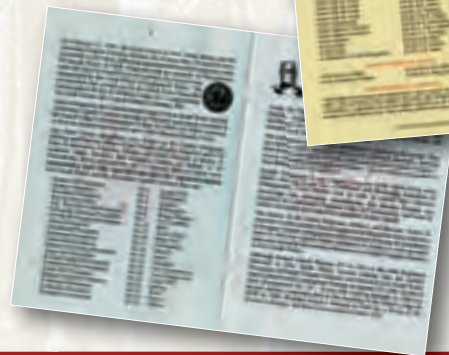
If you'd like to have an inside glimpse of our Order as it is today, send for this obligation-free and post-free booklet. It will give you an insight into the Knights Templar and Knights of Malta members of the Great Priory of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, especially over the last 25-years.

Our Great Vice-Chancellor, Rt.Em.Kt George E. Palmer, GCT, will be happy to send you a copy, just write to him with your name and address details, at:

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The Great Priory of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory

OF THE UNITED RELIGIOUS, MILITARY AND MASONIC ORDERS OF THE TEMPLE AND OF ST JOHN OF JERUSALEM, PALESTINE, RHODES AND MALTA

20-20 takes steps

The first seminar for members of the 20-20 campaign was successfully staged at the Laurelbank Masonic Centre at Willoughby in March.

The Assistant Grand Master, RW Bro Barrie Wild reported to the March Quarterly Communication that more than 60 brethren were in attendance, some travelling huge distances from Tweed Heads in the north to Canberra in the south.

In his report, he also detailed meetings of the Grand Officers' Committee, the Grand Charity with special reference to Stewart House and spoke of a possible review of regions and districts.

At the seminar, four groups were formed, each given different tasks for analysis and after a short mid-morning break, resumed as three discussion groups with the specific topics of Information, Technologies and Communications, Education and Marketing.

At the end of an allocated time frame, a nominated member for each group put forward their thoughts and ideas.

A temporary committee was selected and the final committee will be chosen after the next 20-20 seminar on 4 April at Dubbo with attendees from both city and country areas.

'Growing our membership is high on the priority list of the Grand Master and the enthusiasm, motivation and positive




Participants at the 20-20 seminar

results of the 20-20 members is encouraging,' RW Bro Wild said.

'This project will not make changes overnight. It will require an ongoing commitment over time not only from the 20-20 members, who will be our sounding board, but from the fraternity as a whole.

'Every organisation needs to have direction and plans in place in order to

secure its sustainability. Freemasonry is no exception and needs to have direction and a clear vision of where we hope to be in the future. There were many positive thoughts from this first seminar with an email address set up and a web page being considered. To sustain our future, we must get this right.' 




Canada helps

An unexpected gift has been donated from Canada to the victims of the Victorian bushfires as part of the Grand Master's Appeal.

RW Bro Vinicio Pavincich, secretary of The Hills Lodge and director of the Castle Hill Masonic Hall Company, presented a special cheque to MW Bro Dr Gregory Levenston Grand Master at the Sydney March Quarterly Communication.

He said the sum of \$2,000 was raised by the brethren of Lodge Cloverdale of British Columbia and Yukon, organised

by a current foundation member of The Hills, RW Bro Leroy Nigh, who now lives in Canada. It is believed other lodges would also like to contribute and RW Bro Nigh will work with them.

RW Bro Nigh also donated \$200, The Hills Lodge and the Ladies Auxiliary \$1,500 and the Castle Hill Masonic Hall Company \$5,000. 

Hell's Heroes

By Roger Maynard

For the past half century, the history of the ill fated 8th Australian Infantry Division of the 2nd Australian Imperial Force (2nd AIF) has been widely covered in official and military histories.

In particular Japanese brutality towards prisoners of war on the Burma-Thai railway, the Bataan death march and Changi Jail has been extensively researched and documented.

Much less well known is the fact that the Japanese also exploited prisoners of war by transporting them to Japan. Here they were housed in local POW camps and made to work as slave labour in Japanese factories. Such was the importance of this slave labour to the Japanese War Machine that, at its peak, there were 130 POW camps throughout Japan.

It is about one of these POW camps in Japan, 4B at Naoetsu, and the soldiers of 'C Force', mainly from the 2/20th Australian Infantry Battalion, imprisoned there that Mr. Maynard has chosen to write about in *Hell's Heroes*.

Roger Maynard, a distinguished journalist, has essentially taken the war history of a single battalion and used it as a backdrop to recount many individual stories. The central narrative of *Hell's Heroes* focuses on what happened to the men of the 2/20th Australian Infantry Battalion, 22nd Australian Infantry Brigade, commencing with its establishment at Wallgrove Army Camp on 15 July 1940, its war history in Malaya, Jahore and Singapore Island, and continuing to the battalion's internment in Japan at Naoetsu, an industrial town about 320kms north west of Tokyo.

The three part 'personal history' of the 2/20th Australian Infantry Battalion in *Hell's Heroes* is set out in fifteen chapters. The first five chapters, making up part one, tell the story of the raising of the



battalion, what happened in Malaya and Singapore and how the battalion became prisoners of war in Japan. Part two, comprising chapters six to eleven, is the dreadful story of the battalion's incarceration in the hands of the Japanese. The third and final part, chapters twelve to fifteen, deals with the liberation, repatriation, subsequent war trials and recent 'peace overtures' between Australia and Japan.

Central to narrative, and in particular to the Japanese brutality towards prisoners of war, is the fact that at Camp 4B at Naoetsu working at the Shin-Etsu Chemical Company and Nippon Steel (now called Sumitomo Metals) 60 prisoners of war out of 600 died (10%). While not comparing with death numbers of prisoners of war in other conflict areas, the fact remains this was a higher per capita figure than in any other Japanese mainland prisoner of war camp.

Mr Maynard provides excellent word picture background notes on the former (and latter) status of the soldiers he interviewed, thus making them come alive

to the reader. These notes and personal stories are woven into the battalion history to make a very readable story.

Hell's Heroes makes much of the fact that these men were citizen soldiers. As the author points out, in 1938/39 the Permanent Force (PMF) was less than 3,000 men (2,795) and the Militia (AMF) 42,335. However, by 1945 the Australian Army (PMF, AMF & 2nd AIF) totalled 419,335. Clearly a large number of civilians had gone to war and some of their stories, compiled by Mr Maynard, make this war history very understandable in terms of personal perspective.

The author acknowledges that the men of the 8th Australian Infantry Division were ill equipped and inadequately trained for their active service tasks. However

he demonstrates that once together, although not maintained as a fighting force, the soldiers of the battalion drew strength from one another in dreadful adversity.

A single criticism of *Hell's Heroes* might be that a map of Japan showing the exact location of the town of Naoetsu would have been helpful.

In summarizing this review one must appreciate the long hours of research necessary to complete even a single chapter (let alone fifteen!) of a non fiction war history.

Using the criterion that, 'History brings the past into the present' there is no doubt that in the very readable *Hell's Heroes*, Roger Maynard has done just that.

Published by HarperCollins Australia

ISBN: 9780732285234

RRP \$32.99

360 pages. illus. Trade P/B.

Available at all booksellers from mid April 2009.

**Book Feature Review by: VW Bro
Major Roland Millbank, PDGIW**

Still Alice

By Lisa Genova



What if you were to lose every memory you ever had?

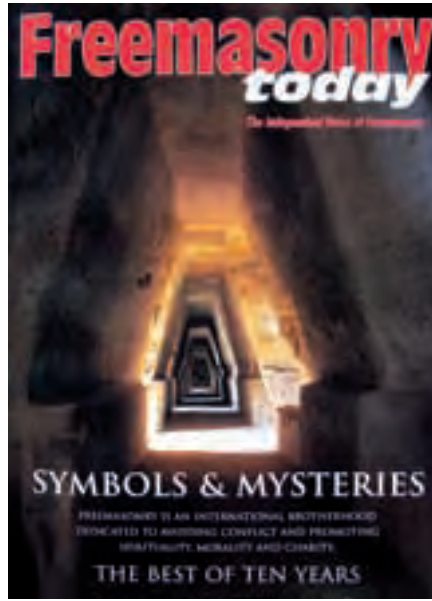
Alice is a fifty-year-old cognitive psychology professor at Harvard and a world-renowned expert in linguistics, with grown children and a satisfying marriage, when she starts to experience fleeting forgetfulness and disorientation. She initially attributes these episodes to normal aging or menopause. But as her symptoms worsen, she decides to see a neurologist and is given the diagnosis that will change her life forever: early-onset of Alzheimer's Disease.

With no cure or treatment, Alice struggles to find meaning and purpose in her life as her sense of self is gradually stripped away, leaving her unable to continue in her profession, to take care of herself, recognise her loved ones or even understand that she has a neurodegenerative disease. Without memory or hope, Alice is forced to live in the moment, a way of life she finds beautiful, terrifying and maddening.

While she once placed her worth and identity in her celebrated and respected academic life, she must now re-evaluate every part of her life, including her husband's inability to cope with her rapid deterioration, her relationships with each of her children, and how she views her own identity and her place in the world.

Heartbreaking, inspiring and terrifying, *Still Alice* captures in remarkable detail what it's like to lose every memory you ever had, staying with you long after you've read the last page.

Published by Simon & Schuster Australia
Available at all booksellers
ISBN: 9781921479264
RRP \$29.95. Trade P/B.



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England's 'FREEMASONRY Today: Tenth Anniversary Edition' contains 72 of the best articles received and published over the last ten years.

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THE BUS FINALLY ARRIVED



The bus has finally been delivered to Narrabri. You may recall there were three intrepid cyclists Peter Gowers (Board Member), Brian Hargraves (Logistics Manager and Karen Slater (DCS Laurieton) who set out on the 618km "Tour De Frank" from Glenfield to Narrabri in September 2008 to raise funds for a bus suitable for the clients at Narrabri, Wee Waa and Walgett. In early March the dream came true with Maree Taylor taking delivery of a brand new Toyota Coaster Bus at Narrabri.

This wonderful result attests to the generosity of the people involved in the ride (pictured above)", RW Bro John Couper, Chairman of the Homes said. He further went on to say, "We (the Board) acknowledge the three riders whose goodwill and endurance certainly made it happen".

"The new bus will be a great asset for the residents of the three facilities adding to their independence and mobility".

\$130,000 was raised by the supporters of the Homes. The three major donors were Kell and Rigby, A&T Puckle Electrical and Hicksons Lawyers.

NEW TAYLOR HOUSE

The second stage of the New Taylor (Christie Wing) will officially take in new residents on May 1. This will bring to an end a major rebuilding of the old Taylor House which had outlived its usefulness. The new building is one of the most technologically advanced aged care facilities in Sydney and will last long into the 21st century. Many staff have commented on how well it has been planned and the residents and their families are looking forward to occupying the building. As well as having single rooms it incorporates a theatre capable of showing the latest release movies. For enquiries telephone Mrs Stacy Wake on 9827 6666.

Name Badges

The Homes are able to provide name badges for brethren of a number of different Orders including Craft Lodges, Royal Arch, Rose Croix, Secret Monitor – all with the appropriate insignia.
Name badges for other organisations are also available.

Ladies' name badges with a magnetic clip are available	\$13.00
Styles of badges are as follows:	
1 LINE (name only)	\$7.70
2 LINES (Lodge and name)	\$9.90
2 LINES (as above)	
plus square and compasses	\$13.00
Serviettes – Craft/Chapter	\$10.00

Inquiries for name badges and serviettes – contact Renee Adams on: 9827 6623 or fax: 9827 6699

Make a Bequest in your Will

A specific legacy or residential request could be made in the following form but we recommend that you consult a legal adviser.

LEGACY – 'I give and bequeath to The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of New South Wales (ABN 49 082 385 091) the sum of free from all death probate estate and succession duties, to be applied in such manner as the Board of Directors may determine, for the use and benefit of the organisation, and I direct that the receipt of the Secretary for the time being shall be a complete discharge to my executors'.

BEQUEST – 'I give devise and bequeath to The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of New South Wales (ABN 49 082 385 091) the rest and residue of my estate to be applied in such manner as the Board of Directors may determine, for the use and benefit of the organisation, and I direct that the receipt of the Secretary for the time being shall be a complete discharge to my executors'.

If you need advice or further information, please contact the Chief Executive Officer.

Off to a hot start!

Forty plus degree heat did not stop over 120 Freemasons witnessing an historic day for Freemasonry on Saturday, 31 January 2009, when the Grand Master, MW Bro Dr Gregory Levenston, officiated at the consecration of Lodge Central Tablelands No 1043 at the Bathurst Masonic Centre.

In a progressive, and unique approach to Freemasonry, encompassing a high standard for ritual work, masonic education and social interaction for the brethren of Districts 91 and 92 in Region 9, the newly consecrated Lodge Central Tablelands will hold only six meetings per year, and the meetings will alternate between Lithgow and Bathurst in the Central Tablelands region.

The January heatwave coincided with a warm welcome from the Mayor of Bathurst Regional Council at a civic reception to mark the historic event.

The sponsoring lodge, City of the Plains No 607, took this opportunity to present \$4,000 to the two local Whiddon Group Retirement Villages which was made possible with the assistance of an interaction grant from masoniCare.

During the ceremony, the Grand Master also congratulated VW Bro Bill Crawford OAM on his recent award for services to the community as part of the Australia Day honours.



From left: W Bro Laurie Ruhan (Foundation Master of Lodge Central Tablelands No.1043), MW Bro Dr Greg Levenston GM, RW Bro Chuck Frame RGC Region 9, Mayor of Bathurst Regional Council Paul Toole, Installing Master W Bro Geoff Finall, RW Bro Paul Fletcher DGM, RW Bro Barrie Wild AGM at the civic reception.

The ladies spent their afternoon enjoying a sample of the region's produce on a tour of a local vineyard, before joining the brethren at the banquet.

The venue for the banquet was the historic Carrington House, the home of Freemasonry in Bathurst for the better part of a century, and whose keystone was laid in 1889 by Lord Carrington, Governor of NSW and first Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of NSW.

Lynette Quirk carries on

The fact that Lynette Quirk had a very nasty fall and a mild stroke did not deter her from carrying on with her secretarial duties for her husband RW Bro Bruce Quirk, Regional Counsellor for Region Three, during her stay in hospital. Those who rang to inquire were amazed that she answered from her bed in Nepean Hospital (phone diverted) and those who visited her were confronted with notice papers from all over the region being listed, marked, and filed away.

Lynette has become a familiar figure within the region during Bruce's term of



office and has accompanied him to all lodge meetings since he took up the appointment. Sometimes when ladies are present she enjoys a chat; other times she finds a quiet corner and reads her book before joining her husband at the main table for the meal.

Such has been the 40 years of marriage between Bruce and Lynette whether it be

A big day at Blackheath

With the temperature outside reading over 40 degrees, more than 40 masons attended at the Blackheath Masonic Centre to witness the 84th Installation of Lodge Blackheath No 370.

They came from lodges as far apart as Sutherland, in Sydney's south, and Orange in the state's central west.

Lodge Alpha No 970, from Blacktown, was present with a sizeable fraternal.

The Grand Master's representative, RW Bro Bob Handley, PJGW led a delegation of 18 Grand Lodge officers.

The ceremony that followed saw VW Bro Michael Hoar, PDGIW, duly reinstalled at the capable hand of W Bro Colin Bray.

The newly re-installed Master then welcomed RW Bro Handley, who, in responding, spoke on masonic education, a topic in which he was well-versed having recently relinquished the post of Regional Education Officer, Region Three.

He then gave VW Bro William McBey, the DGIW of District 35, the pleasure of presenting the Installing Master with his Past Master's jewel.

Meanwhile, the ladies were being entertained by Dr Yvonne McIntyre, who spoke on micro-chipping and the progress being made in gene therapy.

A splendid south followed at nearby Closeburn House, and promises were made to return next year for the lodge's 85th installation.

mustering sheep, working the wool shed, driving wheat trucks, serving petrol, or going to lodge – where there is one, you can be assured the other is not far away.

Lynette wishes to thank the people who rang and inquired about her wellbeing, and those who visited her in hospital, one family travelling many kilometres to see her. This is Freemasonry at its best.

Dungog welcomes Lodge Cornucopia

On Saturday, 8 November last year, Lodge Cornucopia No 1037, which normally meets at Nelson Bay, held its meeting in Dungog.

Lodge Hiram had met in Dungog for more than a century but has now consolidated with Lodge Hunter in Raymond Terrace (now Lodge Hunter Hiram No 246).

Having received the enthusiastic support of former members of Lodge Hiram when the idea was first floated, the Worshipful Master and brethren arranged for a local hall to be inspected and subsequently approved by the Regional Building Officer, sought and received dispensation from the Regional Grand Counsellor, and packed the necessary furniture and regalia to hold the meeting and pass brothers Daniel Cahill and Geoffrey Brown to the Second Degree.

W Bro Brian Johnson, the Worshipful Master of Lodge Cornucopia, also had the pleasure of congratulating W Bro Col Sheather on his 60 years in Freemasonry.

After the lodge was closed, the brethren and their ladies attended a banquet at the Dungog RSL.



W Bro Johnson congratulating W Bro Sheather

A masonic moment

The members of Lodge Oxley No 225, meeting at Nyngan in Western NSW, witnessed one of those special masonic moments at their December meeting.

Zachary Marr was initiated into the lodge, with his father, W Bro Hiram Marr as Junior Deacon and grandfather, RW Bro Jim Marr as Chaplain.

Several other milestones were passed on this special night, with RW Bro Marr celebrating his 60th year in the Craft, W Bro Marr his 24th year (to the day), and the brethren presented VW Bro Charlie Dicker with his 70 Year Jewel.



L-R: RW Bro Jim Marr, W Bro Hiram Marr, Bro Zachary Marr, VW Bro Charlie Dicker and RW Bro Bill Morley

A musical fiesta

It was more like a theatre restaurant than an Installation but there was an absence of complaints at Lodge Kensington's big night in February.

An emotional Bro Gonzalo was very capably installed by W Bro Branko Zguric in a night of many highlights.

The first surprise was a special musical treat in the lodge room by Bro Victor Valdez of Lodge Antiquity who set up and played a harp to the delight and appreciation of the members and visitors.

But the surprises did not end there. At the festive board, Bro Daniel Rojas, an

Excellence at Excalibur

Many members of Lodge Excalibur No 737 had worked long and hard towards the objective of Grand Lodge Accreditation, perhaps none more than RW Jack Hely CBE, Grand Chaplain.

So it was gratifying for all concerned when, at long last, the then DGIW of District 31, VW Bro Graham Painton, presented the Worshipful Master of the lodge, W Bro Anthony Calladine, with the lodge's Certificate of Excellence.

A letter of congratulations from RW Bro Stephen Green, the then Chairman of the Private Lodges Committee, was read out by the RGC of Region Three, RW Bro Bruce Quirk, who added his own appreciation of this achievement.



W Bro Anthony Calladine accepts the Certificate of Excellence from VW Bro Graham Painton, DGIW, District 31

EAF from Lodge Miguel de Cervantes, silenced the room with a classical piano item and Bro Valdez continued the entertainment with further harp music and songs.

W Bro Galliani was then presented with a gold gavel as a token of appreciation from Freemasons in his native Peru by W Bro George Longa of Double Bay. W Bro Galliani said he joined a long family history in the Craft as his four brothers were all PMs in Peru.

Robbie Burns Night at Lodge Pacific

At Tweed Heads, each lodge has its own special day during the year: Lodge Dawn has Oktoberfest, Lodge Coolangatta runs Remembrance Day, Lodge Pacific has a Robbie Burns Night.

At their January meeting, Lodge Pacific No 298 had their Robbie Burns Night where 76 people sat down to watch as the piper, W Bro Iain Johnson, led the parade into the south, followed by the Sword Bearer, Brigadier W Bro Eugene Bryson, with Able Seaman Bro Nick Mainey holding the Haggis and then Lodge Secretary, W Bro John Fraser carrying the liquid tray.

The Haggis was addressed and dissected by W Bro Jim Rae, and then toasted



Parading the haggis at Lodge Pacific's Burn's Night

enthusiastically with the shots of scotch.

A feast followed of 8 kilos of haggis, 12 kgs of tatties, 6 kgs of neeps, plus sandwiches and Scottish shortbread for non haggis-eaters.

The brethren and ladies were then entertained by two talented dancers, and afterwards listened to the beautiful voice of W Bro Sam Hunter, delivering some of our favourite Scottish songs.

The brethren of Lodge Pacific were given high praise by all, for the work they had done towards a most entertaining night.

Flourishing Cedars

Named after the cedars of Lebanon, The Cedars Lodge No 1041 has flourished.

In an evening with the 150 brethren fortunate enough to be present, The Cedars Lodge No 1041 commenced its second year of existence with the Re-Installation of VW Bro Garry Sayed, PDGDC at the Punchbowl Masonic Centre, on Saturday 28 February.

The Installing Master, VW Bro Antoine Georges, AGDC, led the officers taking part in the ceremony in a night which any Grand Director of Ceremonies, in this case VW Bro Bruce Balmond, AGDC, can only dream of. The work was a tribute to the lodge and to its mentor, RW Bro Walid Mehanna, Senior Grand Warden.

The Assistant Grand Master, RW Bro Barrie Wild, was supported by a delegation of 30 Grand Officers.

The packed lodge room boasted seven Entered Apprentice Freemasons and five Fellowcrafts with eight 20/20 Masons also present, four from the Cedars Lodge.

The Worshipful Master, VW Bro Sayed, carried out his role in the ceremony with great finesse. The lodge has obvi-



The Assistant Grand Master, RW Bro Barrie Wild, meets five Fellowcraft Freemasons at The Cedars Lodge Installation

ously prospered under his leadership in its first year and, judging by the enthusiasm of its members, will continue to do so.

In his response to the toast to the Worshipful Master and his officers, VW Bro Sayed paid tribute to his wife Noah and the ladies of the lodge, who he said 'not only support the members, but actively participate in lodge activities'.

Clarence Valley fundraising

Members of the masonic community met on 3 February in Grafton to establish a new fundraising committee, to be known as the Clarence Valley Freemasons.

All monies raised will benefit the Clarence Valley community.

The Clarence Valley Freemasons have the support of masoniCare who have pledged to match all funds raised in support of projects of a charitable nature.

This wonderful offer is a great incentive for the newly formed group, who have chosen to fund the purchase of a bladder scanner for the Grafton Base Hospital as their first project.

Two more for Fire Brigades

At their 25 February meeting, Lodge Fire Brigades No 940 initiated two new brethren, namely, Bro Tim Climo and Bro Graeme Fairchild.

They were warmly welcomed into the Craft by both the Worshipful Master, W Bro Paul McGuiggan, and DGIW of District 124, VW Bro Tony Piggott.



Bro Tim Climo, VW Bro Tony Piggott DGIW, Bro Graeme Fairchild and W Bro Paul McGuiggan, Worshipful Master of Lodge Fire Brigades

Five generations at Cavanbah

On 20 November at Lodge Cavanbah No 231, a fifth generation Freemason was brought into the Craft.

The Candidate, Jake Ethell, was initiated, with his father W Bro Duncan Ethell, his uncle (Duncan's brother) Bro Gryff Ethell, and grandfather Bro Athol Stroud-Watts, being present.

W Bro Guy, like his son Duncan, was a Past Master of the lodge, and was Secretary for 10 years in the 1980s. Guy's father was also a mason in the Queensland constitution.



L-R: W Bro Duncan Ethell, Bro Jake Ethell, Bro Athol Stroud-Watts, Bro Gryff Ethell

W Bro Duncan delivered the North East charge to Jake. A member for 28 years, he has been Treasurer of Lodge Cavanbah for over 14 years, and travels from Elanora in Queensland every month to attend lodge meetings at Byron Bay.

In addition, Bro Jake's masonic family ties stretch back to Bro Athol's father and grandfather; thereby completing five generations of Freemasons.

Information Day for Nowra

Before a packed Nowra Masonic Centre recently, some of the mysteries surrounding Freemasonry were lifted when several Masonic Orders gave brief outlines of the ceremonies which take place at their meetings. As the day progressed it became obvious to all present that Freemasonry is not just for men but there are Masonic Orders which women and teenagers can join.

The first Masonic Order to outline its objectives was the Craft which is the foundation of Freemasonry in Australia. The WM, W Bro Graham Burke, opened the lodge with the Deputy Grand Master RW Paul Fletcher, accompanied by the RGC, RW Bro Rey Porras and the DGIW, VW Bro Leonard Samuels, making a ceremonial entrance. During the following proceedings, RW Bro Syd Weller PAGM explained to the audience the significance of what was taking place. He then gave some details of the lodge room and the positions and significance of each Officer as well as the charity work done quietly by the members and lodges of the district. Folk were made aware that the Freemasons built and manage Basin View & Berry Masonic Retirement Village and some years ago the chapel room at the Shoalhaven Hospital.

One of the organisations for ladies, The Order of the Amaranth, entered the lodge

room and explained the role of its officers with assistance from Mrs Carol Weller.

John Robb, head of the Masonic Order of De Molay, outlined the history, aims and goals of the De Molay whose membership is open to young men from the ages of 12 years to 21 years.

Girls are not ignored in Freemasonry. Those between the ages of 11–20 years, regardless of race or religious background are able to join the International Order of the Rainbow while girls younger than 11 years can join the Pledges. This was explained by representatives from the Rainbow who had travelled to Nowra to take part.

Displays were exhibited from masonic Care, the charitable arm of Freemasonry, Craft Freemasonry, Royal Arch Chapter, Knights Templar, and the ladies Orders, Amaranth, Eastern Star and the Rainbow Girls.

Deputy Mayor Gareth Ward enhanced the charity work that Masonry does around the district as he was the recipient of the Youth of the Year award some years ago.

The Order of the Amaranth also announced it had given \$2,000 to the Victorian Bush Fire Appeal.

A tasty sausage sizzle followed cooked by members of Lodge Nowra Unity.

Setting the pace

On Monday, 12 January, the Assistant Grand Master, RW Bro Barrie Wild, led 20 Grand Lodge Officers into Lodge James Kibble No 965 to witness the initiation of Bro Robert Bethel; over 70 but young at heart. The delegation joined 45 members and visitors, including a Fellowcraft, Bro Luke Parsons, from Lodge Saratoga No 937.

With the ceremony, various investitures and ballot smoothly executed, the Assistant Grand Master quizzed the brethren present on the history of the lodge, its foundation officers and dates of significance.

Exactly a month later, on 12 February, at Lodge Lakehaven No 1017, the WM, W Bro John Cox, initiated Bro Cornelio De Los Santos, a young man 30 years old, very keen to join the Craft as his male relatives in the Philippines are all involved in Freemasonry.

Clearly, the daylight lodges of District 18 are setting a cracking pace in membership for others to match.



Above L-R: RW Bro Brian Sullivan, RW Bro Tim Anderson RGC, RW Bro Barrie Wild AGM, initiate Bro R Bethel, VW Bro John Rogers DGIW, VW Bro Noel Pollard WM.

Below: Bro De Los Santos with VW Bro John Rogers, DGIW, District 18, and W Bro John Cox, WM of Lodge Lakehaven No 937



CBD Masons prove their worth

Now boasting over 120 members, the Sydney CBD Masons email group has clearly demonstrated that even in these difficult times there are opportunities for the Craft to make a valuable contribution to raising ethical standards in business life.

Founder of the group, Bro Tom Nott from Lodge of Australia No 3, Lodge Southern Cross No 91 and Lodge Kellerman No 1027, said, 'To reach 120 members so early in 2009 provides real support to recent calls from young Freemasons for a social and business networking outlet'.

'We are proud Freemasons, ready to take on challenges laid down by the local community who are tired of sharp business practices and who want some ethical direction from men who clearly work for more than just personal gain,' he added.

The group recently raised \$2,550 during the 'Movember' men's health initiative.

Congratulating the group on its rapid progress, VW Bro David Coburn, JP GO PDGIW, District Education Officer of District 124 said, 'One of the key components of the new education program has been a new focus on community development undertaken individually. By engaging young masons in the Sydney CBD the

Charity appreciated

During the installation dinner at Ulmarra Lodge No 186 for W Bro Des Avery, Mrs Maureen Campbell was singled out by the IPM's wife, Mrs Lorraine Cooper, who presented Mrs Campbell with a certificate and an item of jewellery as a token of their appreciation for Maureen's contribution to Freemasonry in the Clarence Valley.

Mrs Cooper surprised Mrs Campbell with this presentation and addressed the audience, detailing all the good works that Maureen selflessly does voluntarily for Freemasonry in District 53. Mrs Campbell's husband, VW Bro James Campbell, was recently promoted to DGIW for District 53.

At the dinner Mrs Cooper stated that Maureen had been a great support to her when her husband W Bro Captain Edward Cooper, experienced his first opportunity to become Worshipful Master of the lodge.

coordinators have provided a worthwhile networking and social service for Freemasons that is visible to the community'.

For further information on Sydney CBD Masons contact Tom Nott (20/20) on 0403 232 975. To subscribe to Sydney CBD Masons, send an email to sydney_masons-subscribe@googlegroups.com



The Gravolin children wait backstage for their cue.

Christmas 2008 also mirrored 120 years of the masonic community at Lodge Ulmarra, as members, family and friends from all the Clarence Valley lodges arrived to celebrate the festive season.

W Bro Des Avery got the night rolling with the traditional toast to the Queen, which was quickly followed by the many visitors, friends and members enjoying traditional Aussie fare of BBQ sausages, combined with a generous smorgasbord provided by the ladies of the lodge.

Members, family and friends of Lodge Livingston No 71 were brought together by the usual dynamic organisation of Denis and Sandy Gravolin as the entertainment crew for the Christmas Party night.

Those present were delighted with the music, song and pantomime of team Gravolin with an appearance by Santa Claus (Bro Jimmy Burbank), who was pursued by pretend traffic officer (Bro Harvey Lee), who found Santa's sleigh double-parked outside.

Santa was given a dispensation when the Good Fairy's (Sandy Gravolin) magic smoothed over the troubled situation, and then handed out small parcels of sweets to the children and ladies, before leaving to continue his journey.

The Ulmarra Christmas party is becoming a tradition of goodwill for Clarence Freemasons and the community as a whole; this year over 100 visitors filled the hall to capacity and beyond.

Keeping on keeping on

When Bro Alwyn Drover, who received his 50 years Certificate in February this year, celebrated his 100th birthday on 14 March, the Grand Master, MW Bro Greg Levenston, added his own letter of congratulations to the many other accolades appropriate for such an achievement.

Bro Drover is still a keen and active member of Lodge Queanbeyan-St Andrews No 56, and is ably supported by



Bro Drover, still loving the Craft

his daughter, Michelle Cook, who reads the lodge notices and the Freemason magazine to him.

The consensus of the lodge is that 'Bro Alwyn and Michelle are special'.

Lodge Victoria Cross 928

In a ceremony which would have made its Foundation Members proud, Lodge Victoria Cross 928 was Re-Consecrated by the Grand Master, MW Bro Dr G H Levenston and the Ceremonial Team on Saturday, 17 January 2009. The GM was supported by Past Grand Masters, MW Bros Rev R C Green, A Lauer APM Police Commissioner (Retd) and R B Brooke.

The lodge was initially Consecrated on 31 October 1958 and went into voluntary recess in 2005.

Prior to the opening of an Occasional Lodge, the Grand Director of Ceremonies, RW Bro Peter Read, reminded brethren of the influence the late W Bro Bill McIntyre had on the lodge during his life and of the efforts of his widow, Dr Yvonne McIntyre, in bringing about the Re-Consecrated Lodge.

The ceremony was carried out in the Edmondson VC Memorial Club, Liverpool, named in honour of Corporal Bro John Hurst (Meggsy) Edmondson VC, 1914-1941.

Bro Edmondson VC was initiated in Lodge Liverpool 197 on 3 April 1935. He died on 14 April 1941 from wounds received in action on the previous day and from which he was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously.

More than 150 masons attended the ceremony including RW Bro Major General RJ Sharp AO RFD ED (Retd), PAGM representing the Armed Forces of Australia and RW Bro Commander Derek Robson, AM RAN (Retd), PDGM, representing the Returned Soldiers and Sailors League of Australia.

Also in attendance were 12 Entered Apprentice Freemasons and six Fellow Craft Freemasons. The Re-Consecration Ceremony was followed by the Re-Installation of W Bro Douglas W Cooke by the Installing Master, RW Bro Andrew B Conlon PSGW.

70 YEARS SERVICE

BERTRAM, JOHN	Lodge Mayfield 493
O'BRYAN, JOHN	Lodge Mulwala "The Scott" 184
WARNE, REGINALD	Lodge Beecroft 359

60 YEARS SERVICE

ANDERSON, STANLEY	Lodge Silver City 141
ANDREWS, KEVIN	Lodge Wahrenoonga 674
BAILEY, RAYMOND	Lodge Hastings 69
BALL, GEOFFREY	Lodge St John's 16
BALL, JOHN	Lodge St John's 16
BARTHOLOMEW, TREVOR	Lodge Lismore City United 77
BOCK, CHARLES	Lodge Wagga Wagga 22
BOWRON, ALBERT	Lodge Kensington 270
BRYANT, EDWIN	Lodge Macquarie 53
BUCKMASTER, EDWIN	Lodge Liverpool Plains 191
DOUGLAS, KEITH	Lodge Resurgo 223
DRAYTON, WILLIAM	Lodge Cessnock 252
ELLIS, ALAN	Great Lakes Daylight Lodge 994
FAIRFIELD, EDWARD	Livingstone United 604
FRAME, ROBERT	Lodge St James 45

A poignant moment of the ceremony occurred when Bro William Nash, a member of the lodge, was presented to the Grand Master so that he could pass on the condolences of all present to Bro Nash on the loss of his son, Bro Stuart Winston Nash who was killed in action whilst fighting with the British forces in Afghanistan on 17 December 2008. The late Bro Stuart Nash was a member of the Re-Consecrated Lodge Victoria Cross 928.

During the Re-Consecration and Re-Installation ceremonies, the ladies were entertained by Sue Lamb, who spoke on 'Fragrances, Cosmetics and Fashion'.

At the Consecration Dinner Bro Korsita Beggs presented a Toast to the Fallen. Although normally a silent toast, on this occasion it was responded to by RW Bro Major General Sharp who highlighted the many changes which have occurred in Masonry and the military over the years.

The night became all the more significant with the award of the Australian Victoria Cross on the previous day to SAS Trooper Mark Gregory Donaldson for heroism under fire in Afghanistan.

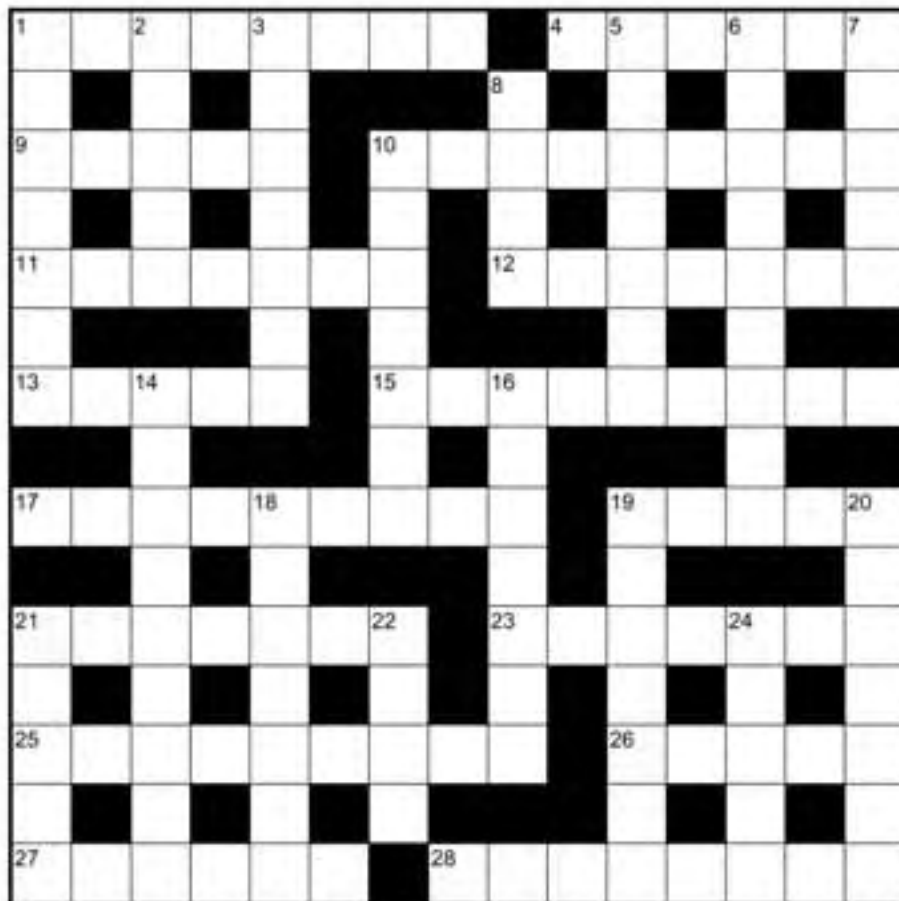
GIBSON, DARRELL	Concord Technology 432
GIBSON, OWEN	Concord Technology 432
GOODYER, DAVID	Lodge Resurgo 223
HART, RAYMOND	Lodge Cronulla 312
HEAPS, RAY	Lodge Lismore City United 77
HIPWELL, LESLIE	Lodge Speers Point 538
HOWARD, WILLIAM	Lodge Hastings 69
JENNER, GEORGE	Concord Technology 432
LANDORF, WILLIAM	Lodge Silver City 141
LAYZELL, CHARLES	Lodge Blacktown Kildare 393
LEMCKE, BASIL	Lodge James Colley Daylight 395
LOCKER, VOLNEY	Lodge Hastings 69
LUMLEY, FRANK	Lodge Gloucester 291
MARR, JAMES	Lodge Oxley 225
NORTON, ROGER	Lodge Silver City 141
PATERSON, RONALD	Lodge Thistle Kilwinning 54
PATRICK, JOHN	Lodge Leeton - Yanco 313
POTTER, BRIAN	Lodge Silver City 141
PRIEST, GEORGE	Lodge Glen Innes 44
SPARGO, HENRY	Port Macquarie Daylight Lodge 991
STANLEY, JOHN	Lodge Jersey 204
STEVENS, BRUCE	Great Lakes Daylight Lodge 994
STEVENS, COLIN	Great Lakes Daylight Lodge 994
THORNHILL, HARRY	Lodge Lismore City United 77
THURGATE, LEMUEL	Lodge Chelmsford 261
TILSLEY, HAROLD	Lodge Illawarra 59
TURNER, MAURICE	Lodge Resurgo 223
WEISMANTEL, COLIN	Lodge Gloucester 291
WHITTEN, HENRY	Lodge Glen Innes 44

50 YEARS SERVICE

ADAM, THOMAS	Lodge Hunter Hiram 246
ANGUS, IAN	Lodge Commonwealth Of Australia 633
BARSLEY, WARREN	Lodge Commonwealth Of Australia 633
BECKER, RONALD	Lodge Hornsby 262
BOXALL, RONALD	Lodge Resurgo 223
BRAND, DONALD	Lodge Rudyard Kipling With Langlea Assembly 470
BROWN, GEORGE	Lodge Tomaree 878
BROWN, HARRY	Lodge Lismore City United 77
BROWN, RUPERT	Lodge Lismore City United 77
BURNS, ROBERT	Lodge Chelmsford 261
CHAPMAN, THOMAS	Lodge Balgownie 944
CHILTON, RAYMOND	Lodge Lismore City United 77
CLARK, DAVID	Lodge Beecroft 359
CLAYTON, SAMUEL	Lodge Wyong Tuggerah Lakes 247
COX, ALAN	Lodge Macquarie 53
DAY, PETER	Lodge Carlton Kogarah 305
DINSDALE, JOHN	Lodge Woden Valley 974



- DONSWORTH, ROGER Lodge West Epping 731
 DROVER, ALWYN Lodge Queanbeyan St Andrew 56
 DUNK, JAMES Lodge Eurobodalla Daylight 989
 DYCE, ALAN Lodge Wahroonga 674
 FELTON, DONALD Lodge Friendship 158
 FLANAGAN, MARTIN Lodge Star Of Wauchope 310
 FULLER, CLETUS Lodge Prince Leopold 87
 GAVEL, RICHARD Lodge Condobolin 185
 GIBBINS, THOMAS Nowra Unity 60
 GREEN, PHILLIP The St. George Lodge 328
 GRIFFIN, ALFRED Lodge Silver City 141
 HANSEN, HAROLD Lodge Wahroonga 674
 HENNESSY, ERNEST Lodge Macquarie 53
 HETHERINGTON, ATHOL Lodge Temora 168
 HYLAND, WILLIAM Lodge Lake Macquarie 243
 KATTE, RAY Lodge Panania 845
 KENNEDY, LESLIE Balmain Lodge 23
 KNOX, ARTHUR Lodge Resurgo 223
 LE CORNU, PHILIPPE Lodge Lismore City United 77
 LEE, COLIN The St. George Lodge 328
 LOUIS, EDMUND Lodge Lismore City United 77
 LUSTED, JOHN Lodge Wyong Tuggerah Lakes 247
 MARCH, STANLY Lodge Glen Innes 44
 MARTIN, RONALD Lodge Challenge 284
 MCAUSLAN, MALCOLM Lodge Ibis 361
 MCDONALD, THOMAS Lodge Toukley 933
 MCILHAGGA, NORMAN Lodge Panania 845
 MORRIS, JOHN Lodge Duke of Edinburgh 76
 PICKETT, AUBREY Lodge Wyaldra 238
 PRESCOTT, GILES Lodge Fidelity King Solomon 101
 PRICE, RONALD Lodge Macquarie 53
 REID, THOMAS The Sir Walter Scott Lodge 123
 REX, ANTHONY Lodge Commonwealth Of Australia 633
 ROBERTS, BRIAN Lodge Lismore City United 77
 ROSE, OWEN Lodge Silver City 141
 RUSSELL, JOHN Lodge Kensington 270
 SADLER, WILLIAM Lodge Sylvania 853
 SHAW, RAYMOND Lodge Kensington 270
 SIMONS, ALAN The Old Sydneians' Lodge 639
 SMITH, JACK Lodge Thistle Kilwinning 54
 THURGAR, RONALD Concord Technology 432
 TILSLEY, HAROLD Lodge Illawarra 59
 WATSON, FRANK Lodge Thistle Kilwinning 54
 WHIDDON, MAXWELL Lodge Harold Herman Unity 428
 WILLINGS, ALFRED The Old Sydneians' Lodge 639
 YARROW, HAROLD Lodge Tomalpin 253



ACROSS

- 1 Our Master's noon time custom. (8)
 4 Last of hot spur, but smoother. (6)
 9 Normal tariff used in cross island location. (5)
 10 Worldly possessions adding worth mostly to sable wrap. (9)
 11 Literally landlords or their correspondence. (7)
 12 Time and era unite in Islamic fiefdom. (7)
 13 Being childishly tasty at first you underestimated my mango yoghurt. (5)
 15 Each corpse or the whole world. (9)
 17 Where trans-oceanic cargoes are carried (6,3)
 19 A fix the tyler carries out in lodge. (3,2)
 21 Pith tee crooked could produce one from golfer (7)
 23 How to let a girl know you care. (4,3)
 25 Heavenly repast (9)
 26 Signs of masons and sound of philosopher. (5)
 27 Asters prepared to shock and stop. (6)
 28 Granny back to shuffle mail pony is one. (2,6)

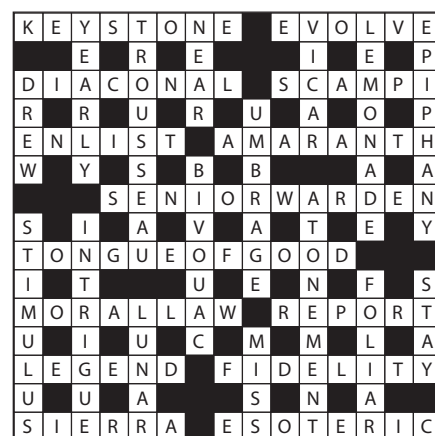
DOWN

- 1 Dole may be required by early Grand Master in hiding. (2,5)
 2 A man's man in farewell talks at first. (5)
 3 Vestige on track of embellishment. (7)
 5 Tearily upset the status quo. (7)
 6 Where the Israelites went for some time. (9)
 7 Initially Long Island yarn. (5)
 8 This is one down. (4)

- 10 Ships? Employed in the Temple service and cast by Hiram. (7)
 14 Unions occasionally made in heaven. (9)
 16 Once played and levied (7)
 18 Other ranks clash over pupil. (8)
 19 Lone Scots builder who headed a trio. (7)
 20 Soldier with sort of lanyard initially used to keep the sun off. (7)
 21 Romantic knight finds common credit at heart (5)
 22 Too long for a mason to use (4)
 24 Greeting to sheepish male or widow's son. (5)

Solution next issue © adsXwords

SOLUTION No 37





The NSW Freemason welcomes new members to the Craft

NAME	INITIATED	LODGE
O'TOOLE, Terrence	28/6/08	Lodge The Star Of Australia 200
GALINDEZ, John	23/8/08	Lodge The Star Of Australia 200
REYES, Fernando	27/9/08	Lodge The Star Of Australia 200
DODD, John	15/10/08	Lodge Silver City 141
ECARINAL, Emilo	25/10/08	Lodge The Star Of Australia 200
HILARIO, Manuel	25/10/08	Lodge The Star Of Australia 200
TUTAAN, Maximino	25/10/08	Lodge The Star Of Australia 200
KHARITOU, Nicolas	5/11/08	Lodge Como 738
PETERSEN, Ed	11/11/08	Lodge Excalibur 737
LINNANE, Michael	28/11/08	Lodge Baukham Hills 958
ROULSTONE, Shane	2/12/08	Lodge Albert C. Petrie 954
ARTSIVOURTISIS, Theo	5/12/08	Lodge Sydney St. George 269
NETTLEFOLD, Thomas	17/12/08	Lodge Wahroonga 674
BETHEL, Robert	12/1/09	Lodge James Kibble (Daylight) 985
HAMMAM, Joy (Joe)	13/1/09	Lodge Guildford 321
FRASER, George	15/1/09	Lodge Scone 183
STEEL, Kevin	15/1/09	Lodge Woronora 414
CASSELL, Paul	19/1/09	Lodge Capitol 612
MUDGWAY, Carl	19/1/09	Lodge John Williams 148
SAMANIEGO, Edgardo	21/1/09	The United Lodge of Sydney 11
MCLLWAIN, Adrian	22/1/09	Lodge Ophir 17
BROWN, Matthew	23/1/09	Lodge Corrective Services 1039
COSTELLO, Graeme	23/1/09	Lodge Corrective Services 1039
JUROTTE, Kenneth	23/1/09	Lodge Corrective Services 1039
PEEK, Timothy	23/1/09	Lodge Corrective Services 1039
TURTON, Phillip	23/1/09	Lodge Corrective Services 1039
BURLEY, Scott	27/1/09	Lodge Castlereagh 72
GEE, David	27/1/09	Lodge Castlereagh 72

NAME	INITIATED	LODGE
KOVACIC, Felipe	27/1/09	Lodge Castlereagh 72
MACKINLAY, Douglas	27/1/09	The Jubilee Southern Highlands Daylight Lodge 162
NIELSEN, Arnfinn	27/1/09	Lodge Burnside 729
SCHUBACK, John	27/1/09	Basin View Daylight Lodge 1015
VASSALLO, Alfred	27/1/09	Basin View Daylight Lodge 1015
AZZI, Tom	2/2/09	Great Lakes Daylight Lodge 994
ELIAS, Naseem	3/2/09	Lodge Sutherland 585
MAGANN, Keith	4/2/09	Lodge Inverell 48
PETHICK, Christopher	4/2/09	The Lachlan Waugoola Lodge 142
SVENSSIB, Conny	4/2/09	The Australian Lodge Of Harmony 5
ALVARO, Josiph	6/2/09	Lodge Sydney St. George 269
LULHAM, Mark	7/2/09	Lodge Thespian Lewis 804
HARRIS, Wayne	9/2/09	Lodge Canoblas Lewis 806
JOHNS, Phillip	9/2/09	Lodge Paxton 608
CHAPMAN, Scott	10/2/09	Lodge Cronulla 312
TOMASSIAN, Levon	10/2/09	Lodge Horace Thompson Ryde 134
CORMACK, Noel	12/2/09	Lodge Barham 561
FARLEY, Gregory	12/2/09	Lodge Tweed United 136
MORRISON, Silas	12/2/09	The Royal Empire Lodge 613
ACEBES, Edgar	13/2/09	Lodge Beauty of Cabra Vale 743
MARANO, George	13/2/09	Lodge Alpha 970
MARTINEZ, Manuel	13/2/09	Lodge Lightning Ridge 595
MORAN, Val	13/2/09	Lodge Beauty of Cabra Vale 743
TRACEY, Guy	13/2/09	Lodge Alpha 970
LE MIERE, Jean-Christophe	16/2/09	Lodge France 1021
REID, Ricky	16/2/09	Lodge Nepean 29
SHEEAN, Wayne	6/2/09	Lodge Tomalpin 253
KASHUBS, Bernd	17/2/09	Lodge Sylvania 853
DIESTRO, Jose	18/2/09	The United Lodge of Sydney 11
FISHER, Phillip	18/2/09	Lodge Pacific 298
GREEN, Kenneth	18/2/09	The United Lodge of Sydney 11
HADID, Charbel	18/2/09	Lodge Burns Wentworth Tuscan 21
AFYOUNI, Hazem	19/2/09	Lodge Warringah 83
CHARLES, Phillip	20/2/09	Lodge Blacktown Kildare 393
EUSEBIO, Richard	20/2/09	Lodge Blacktown Kildare 393
MALLINSON, Bradley	20/2/09	Lodge University of Sydney 544
SHAVE, Timothy	20/2/09	Lodge Millennium 2000
SWEET, Russell	20/2/09	Lodge University of Sydney 544
CLIMO, Timothy	25/2/09	Lodge Fire Brigades 940
FAIRCHILD, Graeme	25/2/09	Lodge Fire Brigades 940
LIEWELLYN, Rhys	26/2/09	Lodge Caledonia Of Canberra 938
BAINBRIDGE, Craig	27/2/09	Lodge Ingleburn 815
WADDELL, Gary	27/2/09	Lodge Corrective Services 1039
YARTON, Dean	27/2/09	Lodge Corrective Services 1039
CHAMBERLIN, Nicholas	3/3/09	Lodge Sutherland 585
DAVIS, Bradley	3/3/09	Lodge Sutherland 585
MITCHELL, Mark	4/3/09	Lodge Dawn 511
LAL, Vivian	6/3/09	Lodge Sydney St. George 269
SCOWCROFT, Leif	6/3/09	Lodge Sydney St. George 269
MARTINEZ, Nelson	7/3/09	The Lodge Federation 196
FERREIRA, Flavio	11/3/09	Lodge Mark Owen 828

Years of music

The Masonic Ensemble attended the February meeting of Lodge Kilwinning, No 13 at the Oatley Masonic Hall, to celebrate 70 years membership of VW Bro George Harvey, PDGDC.

After the meeting, 75 members, ladies and friends were invited into the lodge room for the presentations to George. The WM, RW Bro Reg Davis PJGW, invited the RGC, RW Bro Colin Glenn, PJGW and RW Bro Colin Gill PSGW, GDM, to present the 70 Year Service Certificate and Jewel respectively.

Guest of honour was Mrs Joyce Harvey, whom George married 70 years ago.

VW Bro Harvey is currently Treasurer of the lodge and at the age of 93 he remains an active member of the Ensemble.



RW Bro Colin Gill and VW Bro Harvey



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Marty Morton
Shannon Eacall
Johnny Face
Eoss Maio
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The Celtic Dancers
production
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The Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution of NSW

Established in 1880

Each March, April and May the Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution conducts its **APPEAL QUARTER**. This is the time of the year when the **RFBI** appeals to masons to support its work. Our other masonic friends, Masonic Youth Welfare and Frank Whiddon conduct their appeals in other three month periods during the year. I encourage all masons to support these charities as well.

The **RFBI APPEALS** to masons to assist in continuing the caring work begun in 1880. Today, in addition to the Annuity and the Benevolent Assistance Schemes where assistance is granted to those in need, the **RFBI** provides accommodation for more than 2,300 senior citizens in its retirement villages. The physical evidence of our 20 retirement villages, including the newly acquired Glenwood Gardens at Glen Innes, is a testimony to the charitable works of Freemasonry. Be assured, all donations (tax deductible) will be gratefully received and faithfully applied.

The **RFBI** invites you to leave a **BEQUEST IN YOUR WILL** to enable the charitable works of the Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution to continue. Please contact Head Office for the appropriate form.

The **RFBI** is keen to seek assistance from Volunteers. The scope of involvement is limitless.

Likewise the **RFBI** is able to organise Speakers for lodge meetings or any like minded masonic function. Please contact Alex Shaw.

There is an **RFBI ENVELOPE** included in this edition of the Freemason. Please use the replied paid envelope and return same to the **RFBI**.

Your donation will be gratefully received and faithfully applied.

The **RFBI** has vacancies in its self care complexes at Basin View, Goulburn and Lakemba. For retirement village inquiries, please contact Alex Shaw or Ann King on 9264 5986

SMC turns 30



The Museum of Freemasonry has an exhibition of photographs of the original Grand Lodge building to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Sydney Masonic Centre.

