

Freemason



Mark Masonry

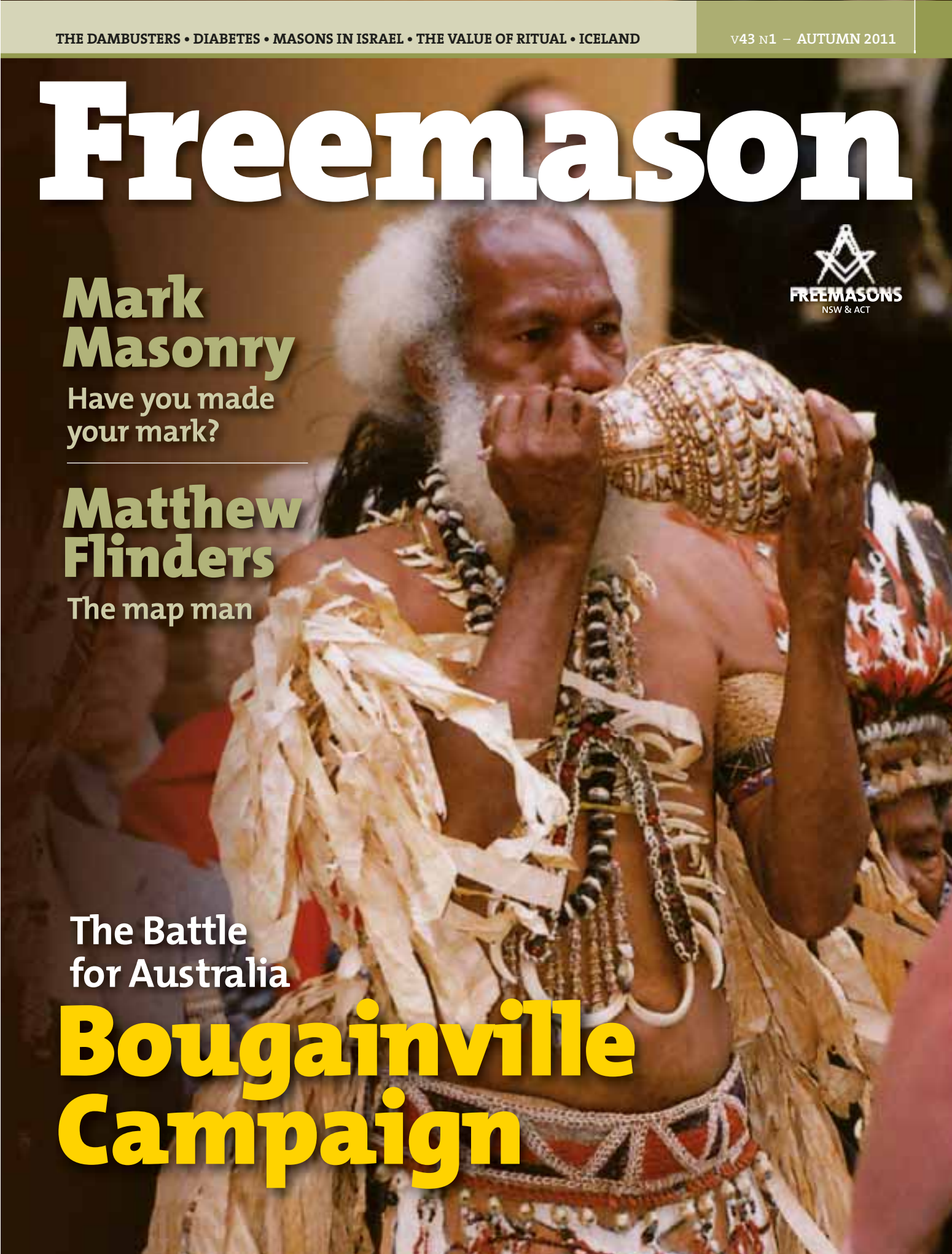
Have you made
your mark?

Matthew Flinders

The map man

The Battle
for Australia

Bougainville Campaign





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Freemason



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and Australian Capital Territory

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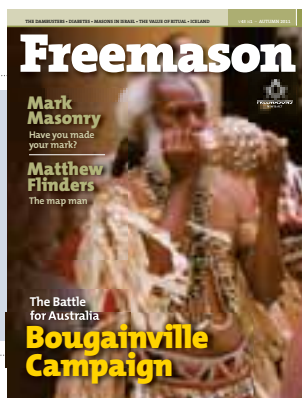
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A Fuzzie Wuzzie Angel in attendance at a ceremony commemorating the Battle for Australia.

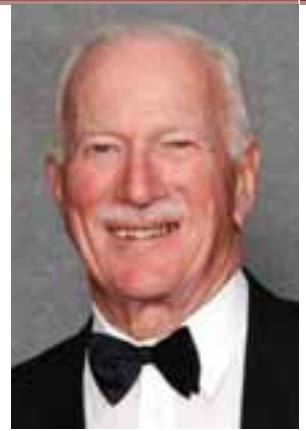
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The choice is yours

I can paraphrase the saying from Hamlet of 'To be or not to be' and change it to 'To choose or not to choose'.



Choice gives every person the opportunity to move towards an objective or target, to get what they want, to be someone and to succeed.

But with choice often there is the accompanying possibility of regret, worry, confusion and a missed opportunity. It can also make us selfish where we look only at our own desires at the expense of family and friends.

Are too many choices just stressing you out? If so, don't worry because you're not alone in this confusion.

Today's society with its technology is becoming so complex that in one sense we're being hamstrung and crippled by excessive choices. Some experts say we are turning into a people of 'undeciders', of being unable to make simple decisions and suffering some form of depression

as we consider what we didn't or couldn't do.

What is your biggest problem – Twitter, Facebook, your mobile or any of the myriad of other playtoys that now pass as a means of communication instead of the old-fashioned talking face to face? When was the last time you actually sat down and sent a real written letter to family or friends, instead of the texting or computer jargon that leaves many people totally con-


fused. Our lives are becoming so complex and top-heavy with choices that we are overwhelmed with trying to make decisions. We can't even be happy most of the time because that's also a choice, isn't it?

Every generation in the past has believed they would have a better life than their parents. Not surprisingly, many of today's 'me-generation' believe

their world will not be as good as it was for their parents. But isn't that their choice?

Making a choice is not confined to the business or outside world; it can also affect your personal life. When a man decides to become a mason, he makes a conscious choice to become involved in a better world, to be a better person and to try and help others.

There's plenty to be said for stepping back for a moment

to look at the possibility of a simpler life, to take time to be with family and friends, even to walk with our pets. Maybe to help out in the lodge instead of sitting back and watching others. Even a suggestion or two can prove helpful and may bring back other members who have lost their enthusiasm. Isn't there another saying that 'every little helps'? Just a little effort can build into a bigger effort where everyone benefits. 

What is your biggest problem – Twitter, Facebook, your mobile or any of the myriad of playtoys that now pass as a means of communication instead of the old-fashioned talking face to face?

Are you a true mason?

Can you answer 'yes' to these questions?

- 1 Have you lived up to the obligation you took in the First Degree?
- 2 Do you attend your lodge regularly?
- 3 When you asked your sponsors to propose you – you evidently believed in Masonry and your fellow-man. What is your opinion today?
- 4 If you attend your lodge regularly, you will notice there is a definite lack of attendance. Have you, as a sincere mason, approached any brother you know should attend? If you have, did you report his answers to your Master or Secretary?
- 5 What is your opinion of Masonry today? Do you think it is slipping? If so, will you let the Master or Secretary have your opinion and suggestions?
- 6 Have you ever visited a brother who is sick or reported his illness to his lodge?
- 7 If you know a brother who is in distress, have you offered him assistance or done anything to alleviate his distress?
- 8 Are you a member of a social club? If so, do you place your attendance at that club a 'must' in preference to your attendance at your lodge one night a month?
- 9 When you are on holidays or travelling, have you ever visited a lodge in the town where you stayed overnight or longer? If there is a meeting you are always welcome.
- 10 In conclusion, why not make a resolution for 2011 such as – I will attend my lodge regularly – I will do my best to bring along any brother who has been absent from the Craft – and I will give the Master, Officers and Brethren my full support during 2011.



One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the Earth abideth for ever'



Ecclesiastes, Chapter 1, verse 4

Reading this verse in the book of Ecclesiastes, I found it most appropriate to our Fraternity. It makes us wonder how we could learn the special meaning hidden in it and how King Solomon in his wisdom and knowledge of life, knew how to allow every one to interpret it according to each person's needs.

Each generation builds up a certain way of life, and in an organisation such as ours, members are practicing the aims and goals of that society. The question is how to retain the quality of that past generation and add to it further qualities to preserve the original successful ideals and active involvement of the Fraternity in our time and for the next generation.

What King Solomon was trying to tell us was that though one generation is passing away and another is coming and

whatever is happening between and after, the earth remains with its strong foundation.

If we follow this guideline and remember that our Fraternity is based on his work of building the Temple in Jerusalem, we should ask ourselves the simple question: How does our present organisation differ from previous ones? Are we attempting to compete more vigorously in strengthening our organisation to a new height or just letting it run without looking back in anger, realising that our present efforts are the source of our decline.

As we know, for everything there is a reason, whether for good or bad. The remedy for leading an organisation safely and strongly is by understanding properly the true reason behind the setback in order to find the right answer to overcoming all difficulties. If there is a strong

will to do so, there is a way.

The red light of warning is the continual shrinking of membership. It is not sufficient to only aim to halt this tendency and be satisfied with it, because eventually the future would look bleak. However, one has to look objectively at the many new candidates who are joining. I would say, frankly, in an organisation such as ours, eventually they will find out that it is not for them because of many personal reasons, involving mental adjustment and affinity.

The question is how to seek the glory of the past. It seems to me that the extreme openness of our organisation is not a blessing. On the contrary, the more the society is 'secret' and only the very fortunate to be admitted by a personal recommendation of members, it should be regarded as a big honour and privilege to be a member of the Craft. It is important that future candidates are prepared mentally and emotionally before joining and that they are sure they have found for themselves the right 'home' for life. They should also be able to commit themselves to the rules and the personal benefit they may gain by belonging to such a society. No doubt, the appetite of the future candidates would increase and remain on a solid basis.

One may paraphrase King Solomon's advice by saying: 'One generation passeth away and one generation cometh but Freemasonry remains strong forever.'

FASCINATING MASONIC FACTS

Did you know...

Around the edge of the wall of the Sydney Masonic Centre there are special steel springs supporting the building from the reverberations of the underground railway which is below the north east corner of the Centre. If you are in the ground floor Supper Rooms, you often hear and feel the trains passing underneath the Centre on their way to and from Town Hall station.

December Communication

The Grand Master, **MW Bro Dr Gregory Levenston** announced at the December Quarterly Communication in Goulburn that **he would not re-nominate for office** for the 2011-2012 year.

He has held the highest position in NSW & ACT Freemasonry for the past three years and nominations have been called to determine his successor.

“As you are undoubtedly aware, I strongly believe we would be better served by a set three year term for the Grand Master. My passion to drive Freemasonry in this Jurisdiction and across Australia and beyond is as committed as ever, but I am a firm believer in renewal, with positive consequences in leadership, directions, and those challenges that face the Craft in general and all individual masons,” the Grand Master said.

“In particular, we need to look at membership growth, talent identification and the raising of confidence and morale in Freemasonry. Through next year, we will look at the rapidly changing face of Freemasonry.

“At this time, I bring back into memory the late VW Bro David Coburn, Past Grand Organist who passed away recently. He would say, and I would agree that: “Freemasonry stands for ethics, and the values of trust, integrity, mutual respect, compassion and universal tolerance.”

The Grand Master gave details of his visits to the Order of the Secret Monitor Grand Installation of MW Bro Ian Newbury, the wonderful trip to the Holy Land in the footsteps of Freemasonry, the Grand Installation of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand in Auckland, the Installation of Lodge Silver City in Broken Hill and the centenary celebrations of the Broken Hill Synagogue and a meeting with the DGM of Grande Loge Nationale Française while visiting his daughter in Paris in late October.

“I strongly believe in sharing information and ideas, and am encouraged by reports from the Asia Pacific Conference, held in Tahiti, and by the positive experiences of other Jurisdictions in our Region,” he said.

He also spoke about the Building Certification process, the 2020 program, Image and Marketing, Regional Ceremonial teams and the negativity surrounding masonicCare’s call for Benevolence corpus growth.

The Grand Master also informed the meeting that he was calling for nominations

for the conferral of Grand Rank.

The Board of Management was pleased to note that its ‘Found it Symbol’/‘It’s No Secret...’ program had been recognised by the Public Relations Institute of NSW and the Public Relations Institute of Australia in their 2010 Annual Golden Target Awards. After winning these highly commendable awards in State and National PR competitions, the ‘It’s No Secret...’ initiative has now been voted PR Program of the Year 2010 by a panel of judges brought together by B&T Magazine – Australia’s leading advertising and media industry journal.

In addition to being a significant honour, the win has carried the UGL key message ‘It’s No Secret...’ to more than 15,000 readers in Australia’s top ranked media, advertising, marketing and PR companies!

With the continuing growth and use of internet communication, the Board reported there is an obvious need to maintain the integrity of the membership of these services and the compliance of the privacy laws as they relate to this communication medium. Therefore the development of ‘Guidelines for Masonic Internet Use’ will be produced in consultation between the Private Lodges Committee and Grand Registrar’s Committee and recommended for approval and adoption.

A review of mentoring programs has taken longer than expected, but the Board wants all publications to be consistent with the publishing protocols and that the final version reflects a quality system in content and presentation and is consistent with the Constitution.

Some lodges have been considering moving to ‘Non-Masonic Meeting Places’. It is vital that such lodges are able to comply with the requirements as set out in the publication on Non-Masonic Meeting Places before approval can be granted. The DC of a lodge may be the appropriate officer charged with the responsibility of maintaining compliance.

The Executive Council reported it shared the concerns of the Grand Master and Board as to variations in ritual and accepted protocols that are appearing within certain lodges when such enhancements are not shown to be permissible within the Ritual

Text Books or the Codification of Decisions of the Ritual Committee.

The Grand Secretary was asked to distribute a circular to note the concerns with these variations and that all future ritual work must be practised and observed in strict conformity with the Ritual Text books and Codifications and other information that may be promulgated from time to time.

A Preview of the 2011

March Grand Communication

The Grand Communication is to be held on **Saturday 5 March** commencing at **11.30am** at the **Sydney Masonic Centre**. Dress for **ALL** brethren is lounge suit. Present and Past Grand Lodge Officers to wear Grand Lodge regalia and all other members of Grand Lodge – Craft regalia. Brethren are to be seated by 11.15am.

Parking is available at Wilsons Parking Station (Goulburn Street) at a flat rate of \$10.00 per vehicle.

Brunch will be available in the Sydney Masonic Centre from 10.15 – 11.15 am at a cost of \$10.00 per person and bookings (*on forms available on the UGL website or at the Grand Secretary’s office*) are essential. Seating for the Communication will be on a ‘first come’ basis and the overflow of brethren, once the Grand Lodge Room reaches capacity will be accommodated in either the Grand Banquet Hall or the Level 1 vestibule where audio/visual facilities will be provided.

This Communication will include the election of a new Grand Master and three brethren have been nominated for this position. They are (*in alphabetical order*)
RW Bro Glenn Eley, Deputy Grand Master; RW Bro Paul Fletcher, PDGM; RW Bro Derek Robson, AM, PDGM.

This Communication will also consider any recommended changes to membership Capitation Fees.



Management milestones and Chairman's challenge

There can be no denying that many challenges lie before us as an organisation and the current administration, and in particular **the Board of Management, have not shied away from its responsibility to govern and manage effectively.**

At times decisions have to be made which might impact on the 'comfort zone' of some of our members, or bring criticism, but consideration of the overall effectiveness of measures to make positive change remains paramount. The specific challenge to me, as Chairman of The Board of Management, has been to ensure frank and robust discussion and debate within the Board, strong and appropriate decision-making, and then effective communication and implementation of the policies and programs. The Board alone cannot effect the changes; it requires dedication, application and commitment from each and every one of us. It is easy to criticise; not always easy to offer or find the solutions. The Board of Management, and its members, has always endeavoured to make a positive contribution to Freemasonry in this Jurisdiction.

The most significant change to the Board structure has been the introduction of the Image and Marketing portfolio. I believe this portfolio to be vital in promotion of our organisation both externally and internally. Initial results have proven most successful and our profile and community recognition /awareness has risen dramatically. This recognition comes at a cost, but one which is starting to pay dividends. Brethren will have seen, and hopefully be impressed by the new Membership package in the DVD style and the production of the book *It's No Secrets - Real Men Wear Aprons*. This 'Found it Symbol'/It's No Secret program conducted by the Board, produced by our consultants PPR, has been recognised by the Public Relations Institute of New South Wales and the Public Relations Institute of Australia in their 2010 Annual Golden Target Awards. After winning these highly commended awards in State and National PR competitions, the 'It's No

Secret...' initiative has now been voted PR Program of the Year 2010 by a distinguished panel of judges. This adds further to the positive media campaign that has been a highlight of the program.

The completion of the software component of the 'Son et Lumiere' project has been approved by the Board. This software is designed to be used right across the Jurisdiction so that everybody will have an opportunity to engage in 'Image and Marketing' activities. Installation of an integrated system into one of the lodge rooms at Sydney Masonic Centre is under investigation. Many more activities are being planned. My Board and the Grand Charity Board are seeking to build closer co-operation in this portfolio area into the future to strengthen our Image, Marketing, Public Relations and Promotional profile.

We have not rested with our Image and Marketing success. Within the specific Membership arena, we are developing a 'travelling promotional trailer' which will

**'Vision without action is merely a dream.
Action without vision just passes the time.
Vision with action can change the world.'**

be properly kitted with audiovisual equipment, displays, pamphlets and other promotional information and material. This unit will be made available to Grand Lodge and Regions for use at exhibitions, shows, open days and similar events throughout the State and Territory. Budgets allowing, a second unit may be built. With this resource in mind, we have entered into negotiations and planning for involvement/participation in 'O Week at Sydney University 2011'. If this proves successful, the program will be extended into other universities in 2012.

The 'O week' initiative is being managed

by the 20/20 Masons group. These enthusiastic brethren are proving to be of great assistance to our management structure. Since the restructure of the 20/20 program by the AGM and his team, I have been pleased to see 20/20 Masons offered opportunities to participate, propose input, and contribute to the various Committees of the Board. This can only bring positive outcomes for our future and identify and mentor the next generation of leaders of the Craft. New 'Membership Tip Cards' developed by the Membership Committee have been introduced to offer brethren various options to pursue in promoting their lodge - Making a connection with current and potential members! The Board continues to look at other avenues of endeavour in 'membership' and is investigating the possible development and use of a 'Unique Selling Point' phrase.

With the continuing growth and use of internet communication there is an obvious increased need for skills in this area of our operations. It is important to maintain the integrity of the membership of these services and maintain the compliance with the privacy laws as they relate to this communication medium. Therefore the development of 'Guidelines for Masonic Internet Use' will be produced by Committees of the Board, and ready for approval and adoption in 2011. I have also asked some of our brethren with IT skills to consider development of 'i-phone apps' (and similar technologies) which might be applicable to masonic use.


Education and Training remains a focal point of this Board. A mason with the appropriate appreciation and knowledge of our Order is more likely to remain an active and conscientious member, long term, and therefore masonic education cannot be overlooked. Review of roles and responsibilities of Regional, District and



Lodge Education Officers and Regional, District and Lodge Membership Officers is currently being performed and the Board is working on considering the ramifications on the Constitution and the likely impact on lodges after implementation of any new system. The amount of 'degree specific' material which is now available in the 'Members' section' of the Grand Lodge website has increased dramatically, and I, and the other Board members, encourage the members to source and use this material.

More and more, the Buildings portfolio is becoming the hot topic of discussion across the Jurisdiction. However, be assured, the Buildings Committee is there to help, not hinder! As reported to the Grand Lodge, the 'Certification of Masonic Buildings' program prepared by the Buildings Task Force has been approved by the Board of Management, and distribution of this document to interested parties has occurred, and is to be used in conjunction with the newly published 'Building Owners Handbook'. Compliance with the recommendations and statutory requirements contained within these publications will require many Masonic Centre owners and managers to re-assess the way those Centres operate. The key considerations in this 'Buildings policy and strategy' are the health, safety, comfort and income and business management levels provided to members and others who use our masonic facilities. The Buildings policy is not designed as a system of 'Grand Lodge' impressing its will on owners, but as a means of self-determination by those owners to make decisions based on sound judgement and business practices.

Unfortunately, this article can only give a very brief outline of the progress and achievements of the Board of Management. I am proud of the vast amount of work done so far, for which much praise will remain unsung, and thank the dedicated brethren who have given such honourable service to the Board and its Committees and to this Grand Lodge.

So a new challenge sits before me, as Chairman of the Board. That is, to ensure that the policies and programs this Board continues to develop will set the correct foundation and platform from which subsequent administrations can successfully work; to the strength, security and future of this wonderful Craft to which we all belong. Many more challenges lie before us all; let's meet them as we ought. 

Chris Craven

It would be hard to choose just one motivating subject, from his many interests, that keeps **RW Bro Chris Craven** active.

In a busy life, he has listed reading, photography, computers, internet, cooking, entertaining, travel and Freemasonry as his major interests.

After gaining his HSC at North Ryde and a Diploma in Teaching at Ku-ring-gai College of Advanced Education in 1973, Chris became relieving head teacher at Canowindra High School and heavily involved in the local community.

He had already been initiated in Lodge Welfare Temperance in 1974 and affiliated locally in Lodge Canowindra where he became WM in 1976. He served for three years as a Grand Steward, elected to Grand Pursuivant and then Grand Sword Bearer before switching to Masonic Administration Manager in January 2001 at Grand Lodge.


This involved preparing the agendas for Quarterly Communications, Boards and Committees, minutes, certificates and service medals. Later, it also included Grand Installations, development of the Museum of Freemasonry and of the Grand Lodge website. From September 2002 until February 2003, as Deputy Grand Secretary he was responsible for all key activities formerly managed by the Grand Secretary. He became Acting Grand Secretary in February 2003 until May 2004 when he took over the role of Deputy Grand Secretary and in August 2008 the voluntary post of Executive Secretary of the Asia-Pacific Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges.

Earlier in 1996, RW Bro Craven had been Team Leader at the New Zealand MMP general elections and in 1998 Team Leader at the ACT general election and UN Consultant for electoral system changes in the Cook Islands.

As a traveller, he has been to all States of Australia, Hawaii, South America, England, Scotland, France and the Pacific, but he gets just as much



enjoyment from cooking. 'I don't have any special meals and just enjoy cooking. Most of my entertainment is having parties at home. People like to eat,' he said.

RW Bro Craven followed family tradition as his father was a mason but he also has a lot of feeling for the Museum of Freemasonry. 'It has given me a lot of enjoyment and fulfilment in helping to develop the Museum into a major attraction,' he said. 



From the Grand Secretary

Membership Information

It was only in the last issue of the Freemason that I pointed out how important it was for Grand Lodge to maintain full and correct details on all members.

In the past month or so, a number of 'blast emails' have been remitted to all available email addresses from the Membership database. 'Blast' emails are those containing special notices, important information or provide a 'link' to a secure area where individual circulars and the like can be read, printed or even saved on individual computers.

Regrettably, the last email blast resulted in over 200 emails being returned as having incorrect addresses which would suggest address changes or changes to IT Providers. There are always a large number of 'bounced' emails received when a blast is done, but not to the number that has now been reached. Resources, unfortunately, do not allow staff to make individual contact with so many members to clarify details on hand.

Can I request that if you do have email changes (or any other for that matter), please notify your Lodge Secretary so that he can advise my office within his Lodge Monthly Return OR as a better alternative, update your own details by visiting the 'Members Area' of the UGL website (www.freemasonryns.wact.org.au)

Dual Membership

Many brethren hold membership in more than one lodge within the jurisdiction of NSW & ACT and they are to be commended for their enthusiasm and support of Freemasonry.

It appears, though, that some confusion exists in relation to Capitation Fees for these brethren.

Grand Lodge charges only one Capitation Fee amount for each brother and does not charge each lodge to which a brother, with dual membership, may belong. The lodge with the LOWEST number is the lodge which is billed each 12 months.

Brethren with membership in more than one lodge are entitled to request the higher numbered lodge/s to reduce their Dues so that they are not paying more than they need to. Obviously, they must continue to pay the balance of the individual lodge Dues once the Capitation amount has been deducted.

Brethren should approach their respective Lodge Secretaries to request any allowance.

Representatives of Sister Constitutions

Brethren who are recommended by our Grand Master to Grand Masters of Sister Constitutions as suitably qualified for appointment as Representatives near this Grand Lodge of a particular Grand Lodge, can generally look forward to opening a channel of communication with their counterpart in their appointed Grand Lodge.

Many Grand Lodges, once approval has been given by each Grand Master, will provide a 'Patent' of office to the brother from this jurisdiction as confirmation of his appointed role.

Unfortunately, a number of brethren may not have received any notification at this stage and this may be for a number of reasons which may include some jurisdictions holding only Annual Communications at which appointments are confirmed or that some Grand Lodges simply do not issue 'patents' due, perhaps, to cost restrictions.

Should any brother fail to hear confirmation or otherwise of his appointment from the Grand Lodge concerned, the Committee on Foreign Correspondence will make further inquiries on his behalf if a request is made through me.

Grand Installation

The Grand Master confirmed at the December Communication held in Goulburn that he would not seek re-election for a further term and as a result, nominations for the office of Grand Master were subsequently requested.



Traditionally, Grand Installations are held in this jurisdiction on or near the first weekend in August and to ensure that space is available, the Sydney Masonic Centre has been booked to cater for many of the events from Thursday 4 August until Sunday 7 August 2011.

Details of all events will be made available as they become known.

Goulburn Communication

The Grand Master's decision to change the venue of the December 2011 Communication to the Goulburn Masonic Centre proved most popular and successful. The venue was packed and the very few empty seats were due to brethren, particularly from the western regions of NSW, not having transport access due to road closures from flooding.

In his address, the Grand Master especially thanked RW Bro Ken Bellingham PAGM and the vast number of brethren who assisted him in preparing the Centre itself and organising the tour of the St Saviour's Cathedral and the magnificent dinner which followed at the Goulburn Workers Club.

The Mayor of Goulburn, Councillor Geoff Kettle, very kindly hosted a Civic Reception prior to the Communication which was greatly appreciated by those present.



Value of the Ritual

Our rituals are our link with the past, a preservation of the essence of the Craft including the unique way of imparting moral lessons by allegory and symbols.

Every knock on the lodge portal echoes the knocks of the Israelites on the great doors of King Solomon's Temple when going to public worship; every rap of a gavel stirs up the same dust which the ancient masons breathed as they worked the stones for the great edifice, and every step of perambulation recalls the footfalls of our predecessors going about their daily work. Our fraternity is unsurpassed in the use of dramatisation and symbolism in its ritual work. Are we out of date, throwbacks from a time long gone? No, we are not. We are timeless because the principles we believe in and stand for transcend time.

There is predictability of work – candidates are assured that they are being initiated, passed, raised, and installed in a regular manner. Brethren are assured they are part of regular proceedings. Freemasonry is spread over the four quarters of the globe and though there are variations in the actual rituals, there is none in their meaning or purpose.

I suppose we could just make a candidate come in street clothes, recite the obligation, take money off him, and then give him his membership card. He could sit in lodge anywhere he chooses and be told of next month's golf day and barbie. This might produce a mason, first made in his heart and embracing the principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth and then again, it might not. We all need to bring back our experiences of going through the degrees from time to time – how we felt

when we were prepared for initiation, passed, and then raised to master mason. The experiences are inexplicable to anyone who has not gone through them, even those who have read all about them on the internet. The participating brethren have roles to play which take them on the same journey from a different perspective and they are rewarded if they fully involve themselves. In addition, it binds the participating brethren to the candidate and to each other. The candidate, the brethren, the symbols, and the charges must all be present for the ritual to work.


It provides a valuable tool for self-improvement. Skills of memorisation, research, acting, delivery and concentration are all needed when taking on ritual work. There are charges, instructions, questions, and answers to learn and not just the words but their meanings as well. The rituals have been structured not just



to initiate, pass, or raise a candidate. They are meant to create an environment in which the candidate will be receptive to the lessons which are being taught via allegory and symbolism. There is much wisdom in our rituals and if we understand this fully then we will surely give

our ritual work more effort and attention. This can be assisted by research to understand what is behind the rituals. What is meant by some of the topics in the degree lectures? A good example would be the point within a circle which is discussed in the first tracing board. The lecture says that it is found in all regular, well formed, and properly constituted lodges and from it a mason cannot materially err. Research shows that the point within a circle was one of the earliest symbols used by man's ancient civilisations to depict the Supreme Being, further reinforcing one of the most important masonic landmarks. Another is the VSL which is constantly mentioned. When did it become one of the great lights and why?

What can possibly be new to a mason of fifty or sixty years experience as he witnesses his thousandth initiation? The candidate, of course, and all the new experiences he brings. When the obligation is spoken by a candidate, it comes alive again for all in the room, reminding them what they undertook to do on their honour as men, and as emanations of the deity. It becomes fresh for all the brethren because it is new for the candidate and that emotion fills the lodge room. In effect, all the brethren are being initiated and Masonry begins once more for all present.

I believe our rituals ought to be a landmark of Masonry for without them, it would not be Masonry. This makes them priceless to masons and it would be better to fully understand them and understand why they have stood the test of time. 



The Queensland floods – working together

January was a devastating time for thousands of Australians across the eastern seaboard, particularly in Queensland, who lost their possessions and their homes in the destruction of the floods.

An important focus in the initial recovery process was ensuring that our little Aussies could return to school on time, to get back to their routine and the new school year. Yet for most of those affected by the floods, they had lost everything; their laptop, school books, uniforms, even their sporting equipment and musical instruments. **A Start in Life** is working

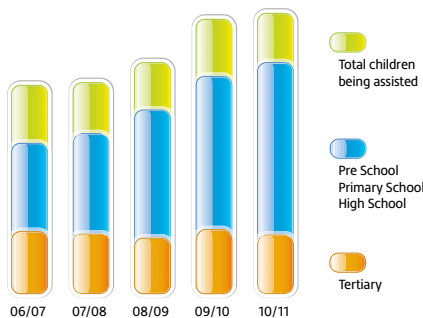
together with local community groups to help these families repair their lives by supplying their children with back to school essentials. Through the kindness and generosity of the Masons we were able to send 14 pallets of clothes to the Salvation Army to help these Australian's rebuild their lives.

We would especially like to thank all the Masons who have generously supported us in our donation period. Due to the priority of the floods and the cyclones, the decision was made not to send out donation envelopes, however we have been overwhelmed with the amount of support still received during this time.



Students we help

A Start in Life continues to increase the number of students who we support.



On Saturday 5th February over 500 participants endured the heat and competed in The Great Urban Race. **A Start in Life** was the official local charity partner of the event. As one of their clues, participants were asked to deliver kits of school stationery to the **A Start in Life** head office. The results were amazing with over 1,600 items of stationery received, which will help give hundreds of underprivileged school kids the same start to 2011 as their class mates.

Grand Sovereign re-appointed

Peace, harmony and friendship are the strength and stability of the **Conclaves in the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine.**

The Twentieth Annual Assembly of the Order was held in the Royal Arch Temple at Petersham with distinguished guests from other Orders of Freemasonry present, including RW Bro Walid Mehanna AGM of the United Grand Lodge and the Grand Sovereign of GIC Victoria M Ill Kt Terry Hodges GCC.

The Annual Assembly witnessed the Proclamation of M Ill Kt Timothy J Foster GCC as Grand Sovereign of the Order for a fifth term, the Appointment and Consecration of Rt Ill and Em Kt Keith Spencer KCC as the new Grand Viceroy and the Investiture of Officers. The ceremonial and the conduct of other business were carried out with great dignity and decorum.

In his Address, M Ill Kt Foster indicated that, in this year, there would be a special focus on the needs of the various Conclaves to assist in coping with the difficult times approaching the Order and it was

essential that ‘Harmony – Perfect Harmony’ should contribute to the strength and stability of the Conclaves.

To achieve the highest level of harmony in each Conclave, it is necessary to pose, and seek answers to the question – ‘What is it that has to be altered/done/improved so that each Knight can attend each meeting and enjoy four hours (from home to meeting to home, and a little longer in the country) of peace, harmony and friendship with Knights who hold similar life-balance values?’

By examining their Conclave, Knights will be able to determine the special requirements for improving the harmony in their Conclave.

M Ill Kt Foster said that in the process of development of the second Strategic Plan for the Order, the input of the Conclaves will provide a valuable contribution to its long term strength and stability by

M Ill Kt
Timothy J Foster
GCC



Rt Ill and Em Kt
Keith Spencer
KCC

ensuring that each Conclave offers an enjoyable experience of peace, harmony and friendship to all Knights.

For more information about the Order, please type into the address bar of your web browser www.myconstantine-nsw.org

The Order of The Secret Monitor

also known as **The Brotherhood of David and Jonathan**



relationship between David and Jonathan as one of ‘**true friendship**’ in that it called for “**Tolerance, Charitableness and Graciousness**, and then much more:

To see a friend’s fault and put up with it, is the attitude of a **Tolerant** man.

To see a friend’s fault and forgive him for it, is the attitude of a **Charitable** man.

To see a friend’s fault and love him in spite of it, is the attitude of a **Gracious** man.

Membership of the Order is by invitation only, and is renowned as ‘**The Friendly Order**’ for it is based on the Friendship of David and Jonathan as outlined in the First book of Samuel in the Old Testament.

When brethren are inducted into the Order they are immediately impressed by the strong bond of friendship which is evident among the members of the Conclave.

M H Kellerman in his *History of the Order of The Secret Monitor* describes the

This was an exalted relationship, but it is attainable by constant and diligent application to the Principles of the Order”

The Brotherhood endeavours to instil in the brethren this ideal in human relationships.



The Dambusters

Necessity is the mother of invention, the saying goes, and war creates plenty of opportunities to be creative.



As Anzac Day approaches, memories turn again to incidents of World War II and the time when the Allies needed to strike a blow in Europe which would boost morale and slow the enemy efforts. That was when the idea of the Dambusters was born.

The Dambusters, No 617 Squadron, was formed on 21 March 1943 at Scampton near Lincoln under the command of W/Cdr Guy Gibson who had distinguished himself as an outstanding bomber and night fighter during the early war years. He was granted the unprecedented privilege of selecting crews from other squadrons to fly Lancasters on a special highly secret operation.

Gibson was not told for some weeks that the task was no less than the breaching of the Mohne, Eder and Sorpe Dams, which stored more than 300 million tonnes of water vitally important to German industry.

For the Dams raid, known as Operation Chastise, No 617 put up 19 Lancasters each modified to carry a special mine designed expressly for the purpose by Dr Barnes Wallis of Vickers Armstrong. To breach the dams, the mines had to be released from precisely 60 feet at a speed of exactly 220mph (or in the case of the Sorpe Dam, from the lowest practical height and at 180mph).

The first Lancaster took off from Scampton shortly before 9.30pm on 16 May 1943 and W/Cdr Gibson's aircraft was the first to attack the Mohne Dam, releasing its mine at 28 minutes past mid-

night. Half an hour later, just after the fifth Lancaster had attacked, Gibson radioed back to England the pre-arranged code word 'Nigger' (the name of his dog), indicating the dam had been breached.

The remaining aircraft then flew on to the Eder Dam where the first two failed to breach the wall. But shortly after 2am when the third Lancaster had attacked, Gibson signalled the code word 'Dinghy', indicating success with the second part of the operation. Other aircraft attacked the Sorpe and Schwelme Dams but did not succeed in breaching them.

Of the 19 Lancasters which took off for the Dams with 133 men, eight did not return, five crashed or were shot down en route to targets, two were destroyed while delivering their attacks and another shot down on the way home. Two more were so badly damaged that they had to abandon their mission.

For his gallantry in this raid, W/Cdr Gibson received the Victoria Cross and 32 other members of the squadron were also decorated. Gibson failed to return from an attack in Germany on 19/20 September 1944 when he was flying as a Master Bomber in a Mosquito from No 627 Squadron.


No 617 Squadron became known as the Dambusters. A decision was made to keep it in existence as a precision bombing unit. It returned to operations on 15/16 July 1943 with a raid on two power stations in Northern Italy and in September the Dortmund/Ems Canal was attacked with 12,000 pound high capacity bombs being used for

the first time. In the early part of 1944, the Squadron made a series of pinpoint attacks on factories in France. The CO at the time was W/Cdr G Cheshire and it was through a low level marking technique which he evolved that the Squadron gained a high reputation for bombing at night.

Another remarkable operation by the Dambusters played an important part in the successful landings in Normandy on D/Day, 6 June 1944. Known as Operation Taxable, it was the simulation of a large 'ghost' convoy of ships crossing the narrowest part of the English Channel to confuse German radar.

A convoy of 18 small vessels steamed towards France and to make it appear to be a large convoy, the Lancasters of 617 flew overhead in a continuous wide orbit. Every four seconds throughout the 3½ hours, bundles of small metal strips were thrown out of the aircraft which produced a false echo on enemy radar screens, causing German guns to open radar predicted fire on the non-existent convoy.

On 14 March 1945, a Lancaster from 617 dropped the first 22,000 pound grand slam bomb (the biggest high explosive bomb developed by any country during the war) to wreck the Bielefeld railway viaduct in Germany.

The last operation by the Squadron was an attack on Hitler's famous mountain retreat 'The Eagles Nest' at Berchtesgaden. During its comparative short period of active service, No 617 Squadron won two VCs and more than 150 other decorations. 



Professor Jennie Brand-Miller's Low GI Diet

Professor Brand-Miller advises that 'we all should maintain a diet high in protein with more lean meat, low-fat dairy products, beans and fewer finely refined starch calories such as white bread and white rice. With this diet, you can eat until you are full without counting calories and without gaining weight...'

Low GI Diet Handbook

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Featuring 12 weeks of menus and excercises tailored to your weight and activity level, the companion guide to the *LOW GI DIET HANDBOOK* sets out how to effectively lose weight and maintain lifelong healthy eating habits, as well as providing tips on controlling your appetite and increasing your food intake without increasing your waistline.

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Low GI Diet for Childhood Diabetes

With type 1 diabetes having almost doubled in the last five years, this handy guide is a vital tool in the daily management of diabetes in young people, making it easier than ever to use the GI and help your child with diabetes enjoy the same foods as their friends and family. With clearly written specific sections for each stage of childhood, this book provides reliable information about blood glucose control and the foods that will assist dealing with toddlers and fussy eaters. A book of commonly asked questions and answers for children of every age.

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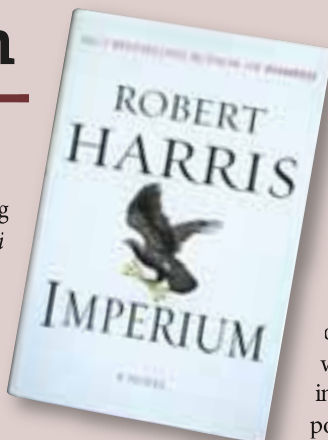
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Diabetes and you

Most people have heard about diabetes, but surprisingly few people really understand it. **Professor Jennie Brand-Miller** and **Dr Alan Barclay** provide you with a quick overview based on excerpts from their book, the **Diabetes and Pre-Diabetes Handbook**.



What is diabetes?

There are two types of diabetes, unimaginatively called type 1 and type 2, which have one major factor in common – the primary symptom is too much glucose, a kind of sugar, in the blood. The hormone responsible for controlling blood glucose levels is insulin. Type 1 diabetes, which develops mostly in the young, is an ‘auto-immune’ disease where the body destroys its own insulin-producing cells (called beta-cells), resulting in rapidly elevated blood glucose. Individuals are then totally dependent on insulin injections for the rest of their life. Type 2 occurs mostly in adults and is what we call a metabolic disorder. They still produce insulin but not in sufficient quantities to keep blood glucose levels within the normal range. Initially, all people with type 2 diabetes need to do is adopt a healthy lifestyle. Eventually, they may require oral medication or even insulin.

How does one get it?

We don't know exactly why people develop type 1 diabetes. There is usually a family history and exposure to a ‘trigger’ such as a virus. We understand much more about the cause of type 2 diabetes. Again, it occurs in people who are genetically susceptible. Lifestyle factors including excessive weight gain (particularly around the abdomen), low physical activity and poor diet are the primary triggers. When you become very overweight or obese your body becomes resistant to insulin, and this in turn means that your beta-cells must produce large amounts of insulin to keep blood glucose levels under control. This continues for a few years, but eventually the beta-cells fail and blood glucose levels rise. Eating carbohydrates that are quickly digested and absorbed (that is, they have a high GI) may hasten the development of diabetes. Despite popular perception,

consumption of sugary foods is not strongly linked to either type of diabetes.

You are at particular risk of type 2 diabetes if any of the following apply to you:

- over the age of 55
- a family history of diabetes
- overweight or obese
- high blood pressure
- had diabetes during pregnancy (gestational diabetes)
- of one of the following backgrounds: Aboriginal Australian or Torres Strait Islander, Southeast Asian, Asian Indian, or Pacific Islander.

How common is it?

One in four Australian adults has diabetes or ‘pre-diabetes’, or around 4 million people. Rates of both types of diabetes are increasing, roughly in proportion to rates of overweight and obesity.

What are the consequences of having diabetes?

High blood glucose levels will eventually damage all of the organs and tissues in the body, the most vulnerable being the heart, kidneys and eyes. Meanwhile, worsening insulin resistance also affects the metabolism of fat and salt, resulting in abnormal blood fats and high blood pressure. Depending on an individual's constitution, heart attack, stroke, impotence, kidney failure, nerve damage and blindness are typical complications.

How to manage it?

Whatever type of diabetes you have, management focuses on a healthy lifestyle: a balanced diet and regular physical activity.

From a dietary perspective, it is important to limit the intake of foods with large amounts of saturated fats such as fatty meats, full cream dairy products, takeaway


foods, cakes and biscuits. Good fats such as found in nuts, avocados, and olive and canola oils should be eaten in moderation. This improves weight control, insulin sensitivity, and blood fats.

Carbohydrate foods such as breads, rice and cereals should be spread out evenly over the day. For people taking insulin and some oral medication, carbohydrate intake should be matched with the peak action of the medication. The ideal sources of carbohydrate are those rich in fibre and/or low GI: vegetables, wholegrains, legumes, fruit and low-fat dairy products. The low GI Symbol (shown at left) makes healthy low GI shopping easier.

Until the research is clearer, it is advisable for people with diabetes to avoid high protein, low carbohydrate diets (eg. Atkins) due to potential adverse effects



and lack of evidence for long-term benefits. Finally, alcohol should be limited to no more than two standard drinks per day.

A minimum of 30 minutes of physical activity five times a week is essential for good general health and weight maintenance, but 60 minutes each day is required for weight loss and maintenance of weight loss. Choose an activity that you enjoy like walking, swimming, or even dancing. Avoid prolonged periods of sitting (eg. get up every hour) and make an effort to fit in ‘incidental’ activity like taking the stairs rather than the lift. 



Masonic sites of Sydney

Some historians claim that a meeting of Masons held in 1803 by convict Bro Sir Henry Brown Hayes was in Sergeant Whittle's cottage in what became **Macquarie Place**.

Rev William Cowper described Macquarie Place and wrote: 'Turning out of Bridge Street to the left, the first building was the large stone-built house of Mr Simeon Lord, with his stores and counting house adjoining. Next door was Mr Usher's beaver hat manufactory. Adjoining this was the parsonage house, and next to it the stores and counting house of the merchant Brown, with the Reiby cottage terminating the row.'

Simeon Lord has been stated to have been a Freemason. Bro Reuben Uther was initiated in the Australian Social Lodge No 260 Irish Constitution on 2 September 1822. In 1833 he joined the Lodge of Australia No 820 English Constitution in Sydney.

George and James Haydock Reiby, the sons of Thomas and Mary, were also members of this lodge. George was initiated on 3 June 1822 and James on 26 August 1825. Mary Reiby was a convict who, after being widowed, became a prominent businesswoman. Her house in Macquarie Place was rented by Australia's first bank, the Bank of NSW which opened its doors on 8 April 1817. Three of the first seven directors were Bros Thomas Wylde, Alexander Riley and surgeon John Harris.

Macquarie Place Park was established and named by Bro Governor Lachlan

Macquarie in 1811 by an exchange of land with owner Simeon Lord.

Originally the park extended to Phillip Street but subsequent construction of Young and Loftus Streets reduced its size. It was Sydney's 'front door' before the reclamation of the head of Sydney Cove and the building of the semi-circular quay in the 1840s.

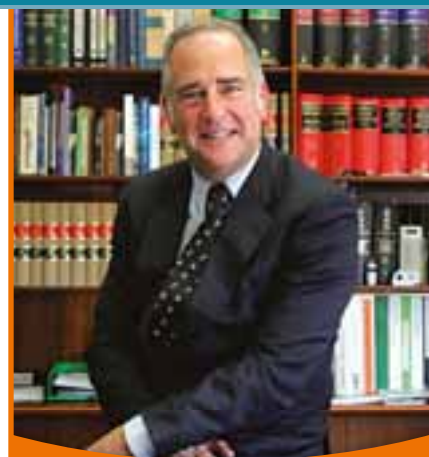


In the park is an obelisk designed by Bro Francis Greenway for the measurement of all public roads. They were measured from the General Post Office from 1846. The anchor from the first fleet ship HMS Sirius, mounted on a plinth, occupies the site of the political hustings. At one early election, Bros Wentworth and Bland were opposed to Bros Maurice O'Connell and Daniel

Cooper. Fighting broke out and Dr Bland was carried away unconscious but was consoled when he and Wentworth were named the winner.

At the Bridge Street entrance is a pair of sandstone gateposts inscribed 'Walter Renny Esq., Mayor 1869'. Bro Renny was the foundation treasurer of the Unity Lodge of Sydney.

From the book *The Masonic Sites of Sydney* by RW Bro Grahame Cumming OAM PDGM. Copies available from Grand Lodge at \$5 each.



**Worshipful Master
H.C. STATHIS**

Harry would gladly like to inform all his loyal clients that we are expanding and have merged practice with **Mr Jim Pserras** as of February 2011.

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Masonic Widows recognised in Tamworth

In what could be seen as a **unique occasion for Freemasonry** in NSW and the ACT, the Grand Master, MW Dr Gregory H Levenston, presented Foundation Membership Certificates to Masonic Widows at the first meeting of the newly formed **District 64 Masonic Widows and Ladies Association**. The meeting was held on 22 January 2011 at the Tamworth Masonic Centre.

The new Association is the brain-child of Mrs Dorothea Vaux, Foundation Secretary, who with the assistance of Dr McIntyre set the ball rolling on what is now an active group of Masonic Widows, brethren and their wives. The name of the new Association was chosen to reflect the increasing acceptance of women in the administration of Freemasonry. Whilst women members outnumber the men, the Association is fortunate to have a strong support group of brethren. Executive positions of the Association are shared between brethren and Masonic Widows.



Bro Ralph Powell with the Grand Master

The first meeting of the new Association was a huge success and the accompanying item appeared in the *Tamworth Times* on Wednesday 26 January 2011.



L-R: RW Bro Ken Bolton, W Bro Fred Towle, MW Bro Greg Levenston, Grand Master, VW Bro Don Janson and VW Bro Dick Wilson.



Special gathering in city for masons

THERE was a special gathering of masons held by the District 64 Masonic Widows and Ladies Association on Saturday.

The Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of NSW and ACT, MW Bro Greg Levenston, accompanied by his partner, Judith Morrice, attended a special meeting at the Tamworth Masonic Centre. The oldest mason in the Region, Bro Alf Powell, who is 102, also attended.

Also present from the United Grand Lodge were Dr Yvonne McIntyre, and RW Bro Alan Farrell and his wife Ann.

RW Bro Farrell was acting in his capacity as patron of the Masonic Widows' Association.

After viewing the Country Music Cavalcade, the United Grand Lodge guests arrived at the centre at 10.30 am for morning tea.

The meeting was convened and

after a welcome from Chairman VW Bro Don Janson, RW Bro Farrell spoke about the importance of such organisations and the support networks available through Grand Lodge.

Dr McIntyre presented an engraved gavel to the president, VW Bro Don Janson, on behalf of the Masonic Widows' Advisory Association.

The Grand Master spoke eloquently about the role of women in Freemasonry and the importance of such organisations as this to continue and contribute to the furthering of masonic ideals.

He stressed the need to have input at the management level of women in the lodge structure.

The Association has requested RW Bro Farrell and Dr McIntyre to enquire about Public Liability Insurance for Association members. The information gleaned will be circulated to all Masonic Widows' Associations.

Even in Iceland, it's no secret!

It is no secret to Icelanders that the first European to land in North America was the Icelander Leifur Eiriksson who did so approximately 500 years before Columbus. Similarly, **it is no secret to Freemasons that real men wear aprons.**

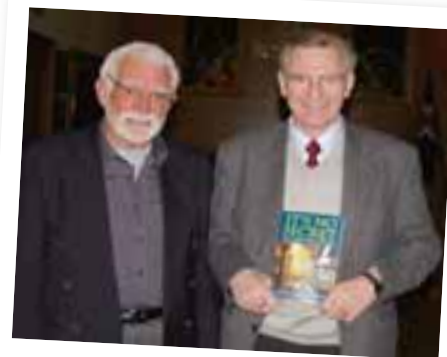
After first visiting Iceland in 2008 and being so impressed with the people, the landscape and the culture of the country, my wife and I decided to return to Iceland again in 2010 to renew acquaintances we had previously established and to see more of this widely diverse and extremely young country. Iceland certainly lived up to its description as the Land of Fire and Ice as just as we were about to leave for Iceland on 21 March the Eyjafjallajokull Volcano between the Eyjafjallajokull and Myrdalsjokull glaciers erupted for the first time in approximately 200 years causing flights in and out of the country to be cancelled. Fortunately, initially, the eruption was not as severe as expected, air traffic was soon resumed, and we were able to land at Reykjavik's Keflavik Airport as planned after obtaining an excellent view of the volcano as we flew past.

I had hoped once again to meet the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Iceland, Bro Thorsteinn Eggertsson, but as he was going to be on the West Coast with the Sovereign Grand Master

attending an installation during my visit to Reykjavik he arranged for me to meet the Grand Chancellor, Thorsteinn Stefansson in his absence.

As prearranged, with my wife, I visited the headquarters of the Grand Lodge of Iceland and met the Grand Chancellor. During our time with the Grand Chancellor we discussed developments taking place in our respective jurisdictions with regard to increasing the interaction of Freemasonry with the community. The Grand Chancellor mentioned that the Grand Lodge of Iceland had recently held an open day for the general public and were delighted with the number of people who attended. At this point, on behalf of the United Grand Lodge of NSW and the ACT, I presented the Grand Chancellor with a copy of *Its No Secret, Real Men Wear Aprons* autographed by the Grand Master MW Bro Dr Gregory Levenston.

With the volcano erupting just 75 miles from the capital the discussion turned to the impact the eruption could have on Iceland. The Grand Chancellor explained that the last time Eyjafjallajokull had erupted




Neil and the Grand Chancellor of the Grand Lodge of Iceland, Thorsteinn Stefansson with *Its No Secret*.

in tandem with a neighbouring sub-glacial volcano, Katla, it was claimed to have had a significant impact on agriculture through a drop in the earth's temperature because of the amount of ash expelled. The real worry was that Katla, a much bigger volcano, could erupt causing significant problems for Iceland and Europe.

The following day we were fortunate to be able to travel with an Icelander to view the erupting volcano and the surrounding glaciers. At the time the danger to the local population was from meltwater rather than lava flows and ash. It was spectacular and was proving a strong tourist attraction. However, it was cold, -17°C and did not encourage you to stay out of the specially adapted vehicle.

Returning from the volcano to Reykjavik we were treated to a magnificent display of the green lights of the aurora borealis.

We were able to leave Iceland before the second eruption of Eyjafjallajokull and travel to England where we remained until flights were able to continue. 

Below: View over Reykjavik



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Behind the scenes

This is the final article on how the UGL and the **Sydney Masonic Centre** operate.



This article explains the company SMCBMC Pty Ltd, which manages the shared services in the building. This building consists of three lots – Lot 1 is the Masonic Podium which is Grand Lodge Headquarters, Lot 2 is the tower upstairs and Lot 3 is the ground floor retail space.

Shared services can be a problem. For example, the main water pipe is one pipe and if it breaks, the repair cost has to be shared among the three owners.

The UGL owns the freehold for all three lots but it has given away a leasehold on Lots 2 and 3 for 125 years. It won't control them in our lifetime but Freemasonry will eventually.

Masonic Trusts Limited and Masonic Investments Ltd are Grand Lodge Corporate Trustees and Masonic Holdings Ltd is a Lodge Corporate Trustee for the benefit of hall owners. Hall properties can be held in the name of Masonic Holdings Ltd and it is purely there to help the lodges. It cannot be touched by Grand Lodge without your permission.

Masonic Investments Ltd owns the Sydney Masonic Centre Pty Ltd which runs the function business, as well as Lots 1, 2 and 3 of 279 Castlereagh St, the Ibis Hotel 384 Pitt St, Civic Hotel 388 Pitt St and some other country properties.

All properties have to be maintained so Grand Lodge is not just looking after membership statistics with a couple of staff but is a complex organisation of company structures. Now to the Sydney Masonic Centre.

A function business has operated from the United Grand Lodge premises at 279

Castlereagh St for many years in an endeavour to gain some income to offset the considerable costs involved in having the premises open and secure. Many members do not appreciate the costs involved in electricity and air-conditioning for large foyer areas such as the building contains, council rates, insurance, together with staffing costs in the car park and the concierge. These costs are present whether the building is used or not and amount to almost \$700,000 per year.

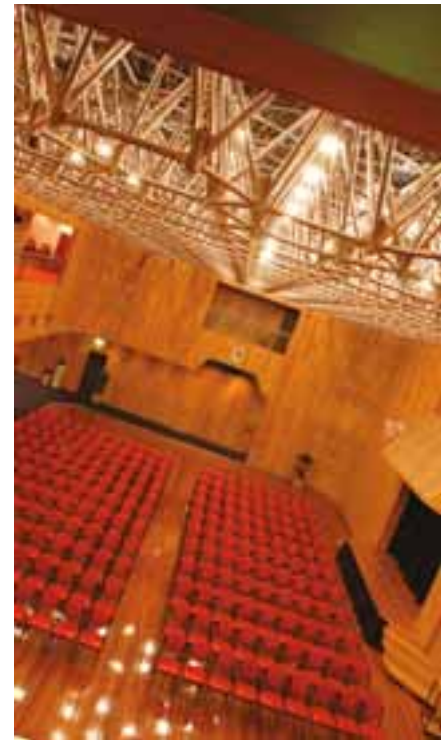
The function business established during the 1980s was almost totally wiped out by the construction of the Civic Tower in 2001–3, when construction works and associated noise drove away customers.

In response, the then Executive Council in 1993 decided to embark upon a refurbishment of the building and to establish a new company called SMC Pty Ltd. This company leases over 50% of the space within the building from the United Grand Lodge, ensuring a constant income stream for the UGL of NSW & ACT.



SMC Pty Ltd, under the stewardship of its General Manager, RW Bro Ken Taylor PJGW, is charged with providing conference and function services, including provision of food and beverages to a large range of government and non-government clients. Turnover in the financial year 2009/2010 exceeded \$3.33 million, well up from the \$300,000 turnover in 2000/2001. Revenue for 2010/2011 is expected to exceed \$3.6 million.

A condition of the licence agreement is that SMC Pty Ltd must meet the outgoing costs of the Sydney Masonic Centre building and also pay for refurbishment



of the lifts and air conditioning. These last two expenses alone cost SMC Pty Ltd over \$2 million last year. Other refurbishments have included new toilets on the ground and first floors (over \$700,000), new Boardroom furniture on Level 4, replacement of the ground floor kitchen (\$240,000), recarpeting of the ground floor, together with new lighting and ceilings in the supper rooms. None of these expenses have come from Capitation fees, but have been funded by SMC Pty Ltd.

The company employs some 10 full time staff, with over 20 casual staff. The Assistant Operations Manager and the evening Functions Supervisor are members of Lodge Castlereagh No 72 and are able to assist brethren with regard to lodge rooms. The company employs two full time sales staff and is a member of SUVA (Sydney Unique Venues Association) and MEA (Meetings and Events Australia). It exhibits at appropriate trade shows and advertises in trade journals such as CIM (Convention and Incentive Marketing).

By agreement with the UGL Executive Council, masons enjoy a discount rate on room hire for masonic business and discounted food prices. Masonic business during the 2009/2010 year totalled \$241,374 or 7.2% of the total.

Enquiries regarding bookings at Sydney Masonic Centre may be directed to (02) 9284 2888 or info@smcfc.com.au.



The Battle for Australia – Part One

The Bougainville Campaign



There are many campaigns which can rightly be nominated as part of the **Battle for Australia**. Included amongst these are the 'Battle for the Kokoda Track', the 'Battle for the Beaches' of Buna and Gona, the 'Battle for the Ridges of Kokoda' and the **'Battle for Bougainville'**.

The Battle for Australia took place between 1943 and 1945 and although the threat to Australia was finally removed with the defeat of the Japanese in New Britain, Bougainville and in Northern New Guinea, many Australian sailors, soldiers, airmen, servicewomen and merchant mariners continued to lose their lives in the clearing out operations.

This article highlights the Bougainville Campaign and is the first of a three part series involving the military campaigns now referred to as the Battle for Australia.

The term 'Battle for Australia' was first used by Prime Minister John Curtin in an address to the Nation on 18 February 1942. In August 1998, a national committee was formed to consider the possibility of consolidating the fragmented celebrations conducted by various arms of the military services to commemorate the campaigns which were considered by many to have saved Australia. As a result of the deliberations of the Committee, the 'Battle for Australia Commemoration Day' was approved to be held on the first Wednesday in September each year.

A National Council as well as State Committees, were formed and their common mission was to be three-fold, namely:

1. That national honour and commemoration be accorded on the first Wednesday in September to all those who served in the defence of Australia.
2. To educate our children to under-

stand and appreciate the sacrifice of many thousands of young Australians during World War II in the South West Pacific.

3. To build upon the existing good will between the people of Australia and our allies in those years, especially the people of Papua New Guinea.

On 19 June 2008, His Excellency, Major-General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC, Governor General of Australia, proclaimed that the 'Battle for Australia Day' was to be a national day of Remembrance.

The Australian Military Forces' Campaigns on Bougainville from 1 November 1943 to 21 August are thought by many to have been unnecessary, thus wasteful of lives and resources. While this view is understandable, it overlooks some very valid reasons for the Australian government to seek involvement. At this stage of the war, operations were not only a matter for the military, but also one of National Foreign Policy.

At the time, Bougainville was part of the Australian territory of New Guinea although geographically it was part of the Solomon Islands chain. The Bougainville campaign was, therefore, part of both the Allied New Guinea and Solomon Islands campaigns. Bougainville was occupied in 1942 by Japanese forces, who constructed naval air bases at Buka in the north and Buin in the south, as well as a naval ship base in the nearby Shortland Islands. The Japanese bases provided security for their major base at Rabaul, New Britain and



supported their forces operating at other locations in the Solomon Islands.

Bougainville claimed Australia's efforts as part of its responsibility to free the island of the estimated 20,000 (actual 40,000) Japanese troops occupying it. The opposing Australian force of mainly militia units and formations, with naval and air components, consisting of 30,000 men was allotted as II Australia Corps. General Savage was appointed as the Corps Commander. The Corps included elements of the Australian, Royal and United States Navies and the New Zealand Air Force.

Bougainville is about 120 miles long with a maximum width of about 40 miles. The maximum height of its central mountain chain is 8,500 feet. There are many streams 10 to 80 yards wide on the western side of the island which on occasions are almost impassable due to the average rainfall of 100 inches annually. Dense forests, swamps, thick undergrowth and hot and humid conditions made the conditions faced by General Savage and his fighting force extremely difficult.

By the end of the Bougainville Campaign, 516 Australians had lost their lives and 1,572 were wounded. It was responsibly concluded that 8,500 Japanese had been killed and about 9,800 died of illness.



Bougainville Campaign, a World War II military campaign fought from 1943 to 1945 between the Allies and Japan that occurred on and around Bougainville Island




The men that were never there

To the great shame of the Australian Government, many servicemen who served in the Bougainville Campaign were denied recognition because in the words of the government, 'they were never there.' My father was one who fell into that category. In 1954 he was discharged from Concord Repatriation Hospital and was admitted to Calvary Hospital, Randwick. I was quite young at the time and did not really understand the hurt experienced by my father and mother being told that my father had never seen overseas service. Nor did I understand the difficulties experienced by my mother with her small suitcase travelling to Randwick by public transport. My father died soon after being admitted to Calvary. My mother received a voucher for

one hundred pounds to help with the funeral expenses and told she was not entitled to any further assistance.

Unlike many of his comrades who lost their lives at Ambon, my father survived, but for what?

It took some thirty four years after the death of my father and following my review of his service records that I was able to convince the government that he had been treated for anorexia in Bougainville. The Department of Veteran Affairs went into overdrive and my mother received a 'gold card'. There was no compensation for the suffering and years of denial. Unfortunately my mother died six months after receiving the gold card. Her last words were 'I am a golden girl now.' 

**THE BATTLE FOR
AUSTRALIA DAY NOW
MARKS THE DAY
THAT WE REMEMBER
ALL SERVICEMEN
AND SERVICEWOMEN
– ESPECIALLY THE
MEN THAT WERE
NEVER THERE.**

LEST WE FORGET.



Flinders: the map man

Matthew Flinders had a short life of 40 years but packed a lifetime of study and action into those four decades.

Flinders was born in Lincolnshire, England in 1774 and joined the Royal Navy at the age of 15. Two years later he sailed with the famous Captain Bligh.

Bligh was between the mutiny on the *Bounty* and the Governorship of NSW when Flinders accompanied him on a two-year voyage to Tahiti. Flinders tended the chronometers and helped to compile the charts on HMS *Providence*.

Flinders was an extremely ambitious man with a fierce determination that lasted all of his life. Early in his career, he noted enviously of Captain Cook: 'He reaped the harvest of discovery, but the gleanings of the field remain to be gathered.' And this is what he set out to accomplish.

The next major opportunity for Flinders came at the age of 21 when he accompanied Governor Hunter on board the *Reliance* bound for NSW. George Bass was also on board as the ship's surgeon and this journey was the first of a number of significant adventures shared by the pair.

Flinders and Bass unravelled many of the mysteries of the east coast of the Aus-

tralian mainland. The exploits of the two daring young men included exploring Botany Bay and George's River in the small boat *Tom Thumb*. They later circumnavigated Van Diemen's Land on board *Norfolk*, discovering Bass Strait and proving Van Diemen's Land to be an island.

In 1799, Flinders was recalled to duty in England where his charts were published by Joseph Banks.

Banks persuaded the Admiralty of the importance of charting the coastline of Australia and Flinders set off in January 1801 on his journey aboard the *Investigator*, believing that 'There will be no need for other men to follow after me.'

Flinders explored islands, bays, straits and gulfs around the Australian coastline but these uncharted territories eventually took their toll on the man and the ship. Months at the masthead left Flinders almost a cripple and with the *Investigator's* hull rotting right through, the ship was deemed unseaworthy.

Surviving shipwreck, Flinders made his way back to England in 1802. Oblivious to the war between England and France,




Courtesy: Pictures Collection - State Library of Victoria

he stopped at the French colony of Ile de France (Mauritius) for provisions. He was treated as a spy and imprisoned. Banks campaigned for his release which eventually occurred in 1810.

Flinders is credited with being the first person to use the name 'Australia', which appears in a letter to his brother written in August 1804. He will always be remembered for naming Australia, although this was not officially recognised until after his death in 1814.

At the time of his imprisonment on Ile de France, Freemasonry was very much in vogue and Flinders was attracted to it and its lifestyle.

It is thought he was initiated in Friendly Cultivator Lodge, which met at Plaines Wilhems where he lived on the island. In his journal in July 1807, he refers to celebrating 'the fete of St John at the Freemasons' Lodge established here.' 



Courtesy: State Library of South Australia



Masonic clothing

The financial centre of London is a mystery to me. I don't think I have ever strolled through the district or set foot in its august institutions, **but I used to see from the top of the bus the serious-looking men with their black jackets and striped trousers,** and I seem to recall top hats or at least bowlers.

Did it worry anyone to wear the garb in the street? Any embarrassment would have been inconceivable. There were horses for courses and clothing for the occasion.

Freemasonry also has its modes of attire, though rarely paraded in public and more generally kept for lodge meetings, to such an extent that one of the lodge officers has the official duty 'to see the brethren properly clothed'. Naturally, the operative mason of long ago would have needed protective clothing with pockets or other receptacles for their working tools. One only hopes they did not look as scruffy as certain artisans of a later generation and that they had a pride in their appearance as well as their work.

Speculative Freemasonry has retained some of the sartorial styles of the operative period but added a dignity and style that become possible when a person merely philosophised about being a builder without getting his hands dirty. Certain levels of masonic clothing and regalia are now quite magnificent but they also tend to be so heavy that the wearer is weighed down, hopefully with the gravity of his responsibility and not just his uniform.

The Craft has four main items of clothing – apron, collar, gloves and gauntlets. In earlier days there was also the hat, but that has been discarded. Few masons would think of wearing a hat in lodge any more than members wear a hat in State or Federal Parliament.

THE APRON

Every mason, whatever his rank, wears an apron. It is the first gift he receives from the Craft and is the symbol and evidence of his membership. Deriving from the French 'napperon', a cloth, it would have been part of the operative mason's work clothes, affording him protection as

well as pockets for his working tools. Giving a new brother his first apron derives from the medieval custom of the badge of one's trade being provided by the employer.

The masonic apron is made of strong leather; cloth would be little protection when handling stone. These days the apron is white lambskin as a badge of innocence – honest, reliable craftsmanship. The medieval apron was full-length and not necessarily white which would soon become soiled. Today's apron, being merely symbolic, is both white and

shorter. It is said to be both 'a badge of innocence and a bond of friendship', ie. a mark of fellowship. The original apron was tied around the body by means of string and a relic of this practice is the hanging tassels. As a mason rises in the Craft, the more decorative is his apron.

THE COLLAR

Originally utilitarian with the purpose of suspending certain working tools, today's collar is like a ribbon to hang 'jewels', the symbols of office and dignity identifying one's distinctive function such as the Junior Warden (the plumb rule) or Senior Warden (the level). The blue of the collar represents 'the blue vault of heaven', a mark of constancy, scope and consistent virtue.

FORMAL DRESS

All Freemasons must wear smart clothes to indicate there is no distinction between the external rank of a mason or his social status. Local custom dictates how formal one's clothing must be: in hot climates or at daytime meetings, the rules are often relaxed. When in formal wear, Freemasons frequently wear military or national medals and decorations.

THE GAUNTLETS

These were originally part of the gloves and were a further means of protecting oneself from injury or soiling. Separating gloves and gauntlets became an additional indication of the special dignity of masonic office.

THE GLOVES

The operative mason wore gloves to protect his hands. In speculative Freemasonry, the gloves stand for dignity (compare the use of gloves in chivalry) and purity (note that the good person is described in Psalm 24 as having clean hands and a pure heart.)





DISASTER RELIEF



On behalf of all Boards and Committees of this Grand Lodge, our deepest sympathies and thoughts are sent to our brethren and all those who have been impacted by the flood devastation over parts of Queensland, NSW and Victoria.

‘The flood disaster has caused massive damage not only to homes, property, plant and equipment, but also to lives and livelihoods. In times like these, we need to provide assistance wherever we can to those in the various communities hit by one of the worst floods in recent history,’ said the Grand Master, MW Bro Dr Greg Levenston.

The Grand Master has announced that

the Grand Charity Board/masoniCare will pledge \$100,000 on behalf of NSW and ACT Freemasons, to assist the Queensland Grand Master’s Flood and Cyclone Appeal.

‘We have been in close liaison with the Grand Lodge of Queensland in relation to its Grand Master’s Flood and Cyclone Appeal, and will work with them in doing what we can to assist.’

This pledge matches the \$100,000 donated by the Freemasons of Victoria, and when added to the \$250,000 from the Freemasons of Queensland and donations anticipated from South Australia/Northern Territory and Western Australia, will total more than \$500,000.

masoniCare has also opened a Flood

Victims Appeal, a general appeal to assist NSW, Queensland and Victorian victims. Brethren, friends and families have the opportunity to make donations either online, as a direct deposit, over the phone or by post.

We also encourage lodges and masons to take every opportunity to organise fund-raising events (raffles, sausage sizzles, etc) out of their lodges and into the community to raise money for the Flood Victims Appeal under the Freemasonry and masoniCare banners.

We offer all affected by this terrible disaster our best wishes for the recovery process that will take place over the coming months. Freemasonry will do its best to assist all during this time of need.

To donate to the masoniCare Flood Victims Appeal

Please use one of the following methods:

Donate online: www.masonicare.org.au

Donate by phone: Monday to Friday 9am–5pm on 02 9284 2838

Donate by internet banking: the account details for donations are:

Account Name: Masonic Trusts Ltd – Disaster Relief Fund, Westpac Bank, Castlereagh St. Branch

BSB Number: 032006

Account number: 254876

Please include your name as the reference.

If you would like a receipt for tax purposes, please forward a request, with proof of donation to:

Flood Victims Appeal

masoniCare

PO Box A259

Sydney South NSW 1235

Donate by mail: cheque donations, rather than cash, are appreciated.

Cheques should be made payable to *masoniCare Flood Victims Appeal*

Lodge Picton’s donations sizzle

Working in cooperation with the local IGA store, which supplied all goods free of charge, the brethren of Lodge Picton conducted a sausage sizzle outside IGA premises in Picton on Friday 14 January raising over \$700 dollars for the flood relief. The Hon. Barry O’Farrell, attended the sausage sizzle, along with his press team and local councillors. Well done to all involved in this wonderful effort.



FLOOD EDITION

The North East Challenge Golf Day – supporting masoniCare's Flood Victims Appeal

It's your last chance to book your place at Region 3's North East Challenge Golf Day! It will be held on Friday, 25 March at Woodville Golf Course in Guildford, and will raise money for masoniCare's Flood Victims Appeal.

The cost is \$50 per player which covers green fees, a sausage sizzle lunch and some drinks. The day is open to all golfers (not only masons) and both genders. The event will be a four ball Ambrose, with tee-off time at 8.00am.

Opportunities for hole naming rights are available at \$200 per hole, allowing the sponsor two players on the day.

There will be a raffle on the day – first prize is a round of golf with a professional.

To reserve your place, or for more information, please contact Harry Griffiths on 0402 483 994 or Isaac McGill on 9533 5432 or visit www.masonicare.org.au/whats-on.html



Did you know...?

The NSW Freemasons' Disaster Relief Fund is managed by masoniCare and is designed to offer financial aid to communities in distress.

The Fund was originally established as the Grand Master's Flood Relief Fund by MW Bro Sir John Northcott in 1955 as a result of the catastrophic floods that occurred in NSW that year. The Fund changed its name on several occasions and in 1983 a special fund was created by MW Bro

Harold Coates OBE, the NSW Grand Masters Bushfires Fund, to assist those affected by the bushfires that occurred in Victoria and South Australia. At the September Communication in 1985, MW Bro Professor Roy Woodman announced that the Fund, as it is presently known, had been inaugurated to provide 'immediate disposal in the case of emergency'.

With the aid of the Fund, NSW and ACT Freemasons have more recently been able to assist victims of the Victorian Bushfires in 2009 and the Boxing Day Tsunami in Sri Lanka in 2004, to name a few.

The Order of the Amaranth

www.masonsconnect.com/amaranth



The Order is Targeting Growth in New South Wales

Truth, Faith, Wisdom and Charity are the Amaranth principles that help us to make a difference in the lives of those who become members.

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- ★ New Lambton: Newcastle Court
- ★ Toukley: Central Lakes Court
- ★ Windsor: Hawkesbury Court
- ★ Kiama: Sydney Australia Kiama Court
- ★ Nowra: Royal Haven Court
- ★ Turramurra: North Sydney Court

New members would be made very welcome

Contact: Mrs Betty Calvert

Ph: 02 9665 7532 Email: betty@mms.com.au

We are keen to open new Courts in New South Wales

For more information go to our website

www.masonsconnect.com/amaranth

Tivoli 2011

Lodge Thespian and masoniCare invite you to attend Tivoli 2011 to be held on Thursday, 7 April at the Sydney Masonic Centre from 6.30pm. Tickets are \$40 per person which includes a complimentary drink on arrival.

Tivoli 2011 will raise money for the masoniCare Flood Victims Appeal and will feature a fantastic line-up of entertainers.

To reserve your place, or for more information, please contact Renay Farrell at masoniCare on 02 9284 2838 or visit www.masonicare.org.au/whats-on.html



Have you made your mark?

Marks have been used throughout history to identify a person's work or the position of an element in a structure.

Marks in the stonework forming the great structures of Europe are clearly visible and are incised into the stone to identify the stonemason who worked on that part of the structure.

In a paper *The Mason Mark* presented at the inaugural Kellerman Lecture for South Australia and the Northern Territory (1992), W Bro Ken Brindall of the South Australian Research Lodge 216, refers to marks on the stonework forming the Chambers of the Great Pyramid of Giza, the Haram area of Jerusalem (including the site of King Solomon's Temple, the ruined palace at Al-Hadhr in Iraq and many others including the Taj Mahal and the Ram Bagh in Agra.

Bro Brindall goes on to say that although Masons Marks in medieval and modern Europe date from the 12th century, research into those marks appears not to have occurred until the 19th century.

The first known indication of the existence of a register of Masons Marks appears in the Schaw Statutes of 1598 where it is revealed that on admission as a Fellow of the Craft, a mark was registered against the candidate's name.

The development of Freemasonry in the mid 1600s witnessed a major change in the membership of lodges when it was no longer required that a member be an operative mason. Men who were not operative masons joined the lodge and were known as free and accepted or speculative masons. Although some lodges continued to allocate a masons mark to its members,

the custom soon became unnecessary and was discontinued. The result was that appendant orders of Freemasonry featuring the masons mark were established to maintain a link with the operative origins of Freemasonry. The foremost of these were Mark and Royal Arch Freemasonry.

Mark Masonry fell into decline following the rejection of all but the first three Degrees of Freemasonry and the Royal Arch by the United Grand Lodge of England in 1813. The Mark Mason Ceremony was revived in Scotland in 1843 and in 1854 a Mark Lodge was formed in Adelaide, South Australia under the leadership of John Lazar, Deputy Provincial Grand Master. Such was the acceptance of the revived Mark Masonry, that a Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons for England, Wales and the Colonies was formed in 1856. Dr Kent, from Kent Town, Adelaide was elected to the first General Committee of the new Grand Lodge.

The Mark Man Ceremony forms part of the Order of Mark Master Masons and in many jurisdictions is conferred as the Mark Man Degree. Whilst the administrative structure varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, in all cases, the candidate must be a Master Mason.

In New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, the Mark Man Ceremony is not treated as a Degree but is conferred in a warranted Craft Lodge. In 2005, MW Bro A R Lauer, Grand Master, authorised the introduction of the Mark Man Ceremony, which as well as offering a Master Mason the opportunity to advance



ME Companion Keenahan, HRH Prince Michael of Kent and ME Companion Gregory Mason at the 150th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England

his masonic knowledge, is also intended to make him aware of the continuation of masonic advancement beyond the Craft. Since the ceremony has been worked in Craft Lodges in this State, 572 masons have received their Mark Man Certificate and mark.


The Constitutions of the United Grand Lodge of NSW & ACT states in Chapter 1, paragraph 1.1 '*...pure Ancient Masonry consists of the following Degrees, and no more, viz: those of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the Master Mason, together with Honourable Degree of Mark Master Mason, and the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch.*' Of these Degrees, the first three are governed by the United Grand Lodge of NSW & ACT and the last two by the United Supreme Grand Chapter of Mark and Royal Arch Masons of NSW and the ACT (USGC).

Most Excellent Companion Edward Keenahan is the First Grand Principal and Grand Master of the USGC and was installed as First Grand Principal on Saturday 19 September 2009 and Grand Master on Monday 21 September 2009. ME Companion Keenahan's Installation

as Grand Master was especially significant because a Grand Mark Installation Ceremony had not been held in New South Wales since 1977. The occasion was marked by the attendance of three Mark Grand Masters representing South Australia, Victoria and Queensland.

In his address following his Installation, ME Companion Keenahan said that the event was the culmination of a steady drive to fully rehabilitate the Mark Degree to the honoured position it deserves.

His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent is the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons and is the blood brother of His Royal Highness, the Duke of Kent, Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England. In November 2007, RE Companion Keenahan travelled to England with ME Companion Gregory Mason and his wife Barbara to take part in the 150 years celebrations of the Grand Lodge Mark Master Masons of England. The Australian representatives were acknowledged as being members of the fourth oldest sovereign Grand Mark Lodge present.

For further information concerning the United Grand Chapter of Mark and Royal Arch Freemasonry, write to PO Box 134, Petersham, NSW 2049 or telephone (02) 9569 5699. Lodges wishing to work the Mark Man Ceremony should contact Dr Yvonne McIntyre, United Grand Lodge NSW and ACT, telephone (02) 9284 2844 or email: yvonnem@freemasonsnswact.org.au. 

References:

1. The Masons Mark, W Bro Ken Brindall, South Australian Research Lodge 216
2. Wikipedia Free Encyclopedia
3. The Development of Freemasonry and Mark Freemasonry – Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of South Australia and Northern Territory

Club retains president




RW Bro Graham Berry, PSGW, has been re-elected president of the NSW Masonic Club at the annual general meeting.

In his report, he gave details of the re-development of the adjoining building and the erection of a 43 storey building on the Pitt Street frontage which is expected to be concluded in 2013 and agreements reached with the builder.

He also reported that the club, for the second time since 2008, had been nominated as a finalist by the NSW Tourism organisation in the category of deluxe accommodation.

On the financial side, the club returned a profit of \$28,776 for the year despite the global financial crisis which affected the majority of clubs in Australia.

The meeting was told that over the past few years, every floor of the building has been refurbished; every bedroom and every bathroom despite the membership dropping to about 2,500.

RW Bro Berry extended his thanks to the Board, management and staff of the club for their excellent work during the year and added that a membership survey has been planned to seek further opinions. 

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In the footsteps of Freemasonry



A group of brethren, family and friends, led by the Grand Master, MW Bro Dr Gregory Levenston, **toured Israel and parts of the Middle East** late last year. This report was put together by Dianna Jamieson-Gooch and Jody Kardos with contributions from others.



It's difficult to do justice to all the sights we covered. We celebrated birthdays, wedding anniversaries, a wedding in Jerusalem and many other touching moments. Wreaths were laid for fallen Australian heroes and we learned so much about each other, the countries visited and ourselves. If you have ever considered a trip to Israel we urge you to go; we met warm, friendly people, proud and patriotic, full of fun, ready to sing and dance at the slightest provocation. What you will experience may be emotional at times, for some spiritual, but for everyone a wonderful opportunity to travel to places as old as time.

On the first day, 80 participants arrived ready for our Israeli Adventure. We toured Yaffo and 'Tel Aviv by Night' – a special atmosphere as it was our first night together and the birthday of the Grand Master's

partner Judith. Next day we went to Independence Hall where in 1948 David Ben Gurion declared Independence for the State of Israel. Later we visited Rabin Square, site of the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and a simple monument which spoke volumes. We laid flowers and an Australian flag at a memorial for Australian soldiers who died in Palestine and then visited the Diaspora Museum where we viewed various aspects of Jewish culture. That evening brethren attended Holy Land Lodge and Welcome Ceremony and dinner with the ladies on the 49th floor of Azriel Tower had breathtaking views.

We visited the Latrun Trapists monastery, an order of silent monks, the Latrun official memorial and the tank museum, and paid our respects to the fallen. We saw Caesarea Maritima on the Mediterranean coast with ancient Roman

ruins of a city built by Herod the Great. Our final stop that day was at the Usfyia Druze village where we enjoyed traditional hospitality, dinner and dancing.

Haifa was next with the Bahai Center, Stella Maris Carmelite Church then to St John of Acre (Akko) where we saw Roman, Crusader and Ottoman structures, Templar tunnels and the infamous Acre Prison. We drove to Rosh Hanikra on the border with Lebanon to ride on the steep cable car down to the grottos.

At Tiberias we swam in the Sea of Galilee and viewed Mt Beatitude where Jesus gave the Sermon on the Mount, then to Nazareth with its impressive Basilica of the Annunciation, the Church of the Child Jesus, St Joseph's and the Church of St Gabriel. Our next stop was Safed, a beautiful town inhabited by the Sanhedrin for almost six centuries and the home of Cab-



bala (or Kabbalah) where we shopped for art and jewellery and saw the still active, old Ha-Ari Synagogue.

In Old Jerusalem we walked through Templars tunnels, along the Via Dolorosa (the Way of Suffering), the route Jesus walked to his crucifixion, the Stations of the Cross to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher built over the believed site of the tomb of Jesus. We went to Mt Moriah, where Abraham brought his son Isaac for sacrifice; 1000 years later it was here King Solomon built the temple destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, rebuilt again when the Jewish people returned from exile only to be burned to the ground by the Romans. Muslims say Mohammed rose to heaven there on the back of his winged horse El Burak (Lightning) and it's where they have built a gold domed mosque, the Dome of The Rock, which sits majestically on the Temple Esplanade opposite the El Aksa Mosque, the most important Muslim site in Israel.

The Western Wall, the most sacred site to the Jewish people built over 2,000 years ago, is an open air synagogue; those of the faith come to pray and place prayer notes in the crevices of its ancient stones. Everything is in close proximity in the Old City and we saw Solomon's Quarry (Zedekiah's Cave), Mt Zion, the Upper Room of the Last Supper, the Tomb of King David and the Dormition Church.

In modern Jerusalem we saw Parliament House (the Knesset) and Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum, preserving the memory of six million Jews murdered by

the Nazis – a dignified reminder to a world which allows catastrophes to repeat themselves. The Israel Museum enclosing the Shrine of the Book is where the Dead Sea Scrolls are displayed. In the evening a Twinning Ceremony was held between Lodge Holy City in Jerusalem and Lodge Harold Herman Unity in Sydney followed by a dinner with Israelis and our Grand Master as well as brethren and ladies from both Jurisdictions.

We visited the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane and Mt Scopus, the Church of all Nations and in Bethlehem experienced the opportunity to touch the walls of holy places we had only known from history. We visited the Church of the Nativity where Jesus was born and from where the Christmas Mass is broadcast to the world.

Qumran on the Dead Sea where the Essenes wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls and the caves where they were found, was next and we floated in the Dead Sea which lies 496m below sea level. On the following day we rode a cable car to Masada, the city of the historical Roman siege of the Sicarii, who chose suicide rather than surrender. We were then served lunch in a Bedouin tent which gave us an insight to their food, music and culture and also some great photo opportunities.

The next day we were in Eliat on the Red Sea for a cruise to the point where the borders of Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Israel join. That night we dined in the Underwater Maritime Museum

continued on next page...





Scouts honour Maroubra mason

Highly respected and long serving Maroubra mason **John Sunman** has been awarded the highest adult honour in Australian scouting.

RW Bro Sunman PDGM of The Maroubra Lodge No 725 received the Silver Kangaroo medal at the Sydney South Metropolitan Region presentation night at the St George Bank auditorium at Kogarah.

Regional Commissioner Parish Hull and Regional Chairman Ron Pound jointly presented John with the medal and an accompanying certificate, pointing out it was for eminent achievement and meritorious service.

'This award is fantastic and I'm very proud and honoured. I don't look for recognition but see myself as a role model for the principles and laws of scouting,' John said.

'These principles relate to physical activity, a love of outdoors, spiritual beliefs and mental skills'

John joined the Scouts at the age of nine and has spent the past 58 years in administration as a District Leader and Commissioner and is now an Honorary Commissioner.

He has attended every Australian Jamboree since 1952, as well as one World and two New Zealand Jamborees.

John Sunman was born in Maroubra and has been a local resident for the past 51 years.

In that time, he has been organist for St John's Church Maroubra for the past 45 years, three times president of Rotary, more than 50 years service to local masonic lodges, drives coaches to transport elderly and others for local functions as well as general community activities.


He has been a member of The Maroubra Lodge since its foundation and



is the Lodge Director of Ceremonies.

John is currently involved with the Scouts Region Hall and Safety Committee where he gives advice and checks halls and equipment enabling the other Leaders to concentrate on Scouting.

There were 42 awards made on the night with high praise to the recipients for their commitment, including two husband and wife combinations.

'John is a gentleman and true Scout, held in high esteem by his peers and is setting an example for others to follow,' the citation said. 

...continued from previous page

In the footsteps of Freemasonry

Observatory, in a giant fish bowl saluted by a diver bearing a welcome sign to our group.


On our final day of the Israel leg of the tour we drove to King Solomon's Mines from where precious ore was transported to the Queen of Sheba at Ophir. Lunch was held at a kibbutz, followed by a visit to an Anzac Memorial funded by Australian Jewry only 100m from the border with the Gaza Strip.

The following morning back in Tel Aviv we waved goodbye to those not continuing on to Egypt. Our Cairo hotel was only a short distance from the pyramids which could be seen from our balconies. Cairo Museum revealed the ancient

treasures of King Tutankhamen's tomb along with many other interesting artifacts. The next day we were off to the legendary pyramids and the Sphinx where we lost brother Rob Kardos for a short time, seen riding into the distance like Lawrence on a camel. We visited Sakkara and enjoyed a pleasant River Nile dinner cruise with Dervish and belly dancers.



Next day we travelled to Alexandria and visited the Catacombs, had lunch at an Egyptian restaurant, saw Pompeii's Pillar then drove along the shore to the Alexandria Library, returning to the hotel in Cairo for dinner and a rest. The following day some visited the Coptic churches, the Citadel and the Sultan Hassan Mosque, while others indulged in retail therapy! On our final day we enjoyed a spectacular Light and Sound show at the pyramids to mark the end of our trip. What a fabulous experience!

In conclusion, we would like to say thank you to Guides David Ringler and Geoffrey Kantor, Joe Haffner and Isaac Maimon. We are truly in their debt. 

Would you like to dance?

Men have lodges to attend and visit but **what does a girl do in Sydney** when she wants to meet people and make new friends, get out of the house on a weeknight, get fitter or try something new?

UGL staffer Melanie Scott had been working at Grand Lodge for four years and wanted to expand her circle of friends in Sydney.

'I have always enjoyed a bit of a 'boogie', but have never been overly keen on the gym, and wanted to try partner dancing. My younger sister, having tried it in the UK, suggested 'Ceroc' dancing and after an internet search, I discovered the 'Ceroc & Modern Jive Dance Company' (C&MJ). I have now been dancing with them for just over two years,' she said.

'Ceroc' is a stylish blend of Jive and Latin dancing, derived from many dances including French Jive, Swing, Lindy Hop and Rock and Roll. It can be danced to almost any music with a steady beat, from 40's Swing to modern popular music. It is a male-led partner dance with simple footwork and is easy to learn particularly if you have never tried any type of partner dancing before.

'My experiences with C&MJ have been a lot of fun and I would certainly recommend people to give it a go. I have tried many new things in the past two years that I never thought I would do. I have also made some very good friends, and now my social life is the most active it has ever been with classes during the week and dance parties most weekends.

'Three months into starting dancing with C&MJ, I decided, with the encouragement of Julie Gunn, director, teacher and choreographer of the company, to do a choreographed routine for the annual Ball, which takes place in October each year.

'The last time I had ever performed a dance routine was for a ballet play in junior school, so this was a bit daunting. In general, you learn and practice the routine with your partner over a period of six weeks and then perform it at the ball.

'The whole experience was a good challenge. On the night of the ball, I felt nervous yet excited but it was an adrenalin

rush when performing the routine. The sense of achievement and elation once the performance was done was a great feeling. I have since learnt and performed another routine with C&MJ, and would like to do more in the future.

'Another challenge was to enter the C&MJ Dance Championships this year. The Championships generally take place over the June long weekend. Dancers from C&MJ and other dance companies in NSW, interstate and overseas, at various levels of dance experience, attend to compete for trophies. There are also various dance showcase performances. Dance parties and Workshops also take place in conjunction with the Championships and it's definitely a fun weekend.

'The experience of competing in the Championships was similar to learning and performing a routine for the Ball, but I found that it was more relaxed. You and your dance partner work on choreographing some dance moves to various songs, and can take the practice sessions at your own pace. C&MJ also assign one of their teachers to coach each dance couple which is very helpful. Championship Day is exciting and nerve wracking and you just try to do your best! Okay, a trophy would have been nice – maybe next time.

'Recently, I started some demonstrating for C&MJ, which involves partnering with a teacher while they teach a class (going through the moves, footwork and tech-



nique), and helping beginners with their dancing. I enjoy demonstrating and am currently considering teaching 'Ceroc' and maybe running a venue one day.'

Lodge members may be interested in staging a dance night for members, family and friends. For more information on 'Ceroc & Modern Jive Dance Company', class times, venues and dance parties go to the website: www.ceroc.com.au.



Gold, Egypt and the sun

If we are to assume that our masonic association with gold is ‘more ancient’ than the Golden Fleece, then **where better to look than ancient Egypt.**

It has long been known that gold was considered to be a divine metal by the Egyptiansⁱ as it was thought to be the flesh of the gods. Its polished surface was related to the brilliance of the sun. Gold was important to the afterlife as it represented aspects of immortality. By the New Kingdom (1540–1070 BC), the royal burial chamber was called the ‘House of Gold’. Indeed, gold had its own hieroglyph – Nebu – as shown in Figure 1 which looks like a gold crucible furnace still used today in gold refining.

As Ra (Fig 2) the sun was the primary element of life in ancient Egypt, we find this importance reflected in the art and religion. Some of the most popular gods had celestial connections. The sun was first worshipped as Horus, then as Ra and later as Amun-Ra. There are many other representations of the sun or moon, including Khepri, the great scarab who symbolises morning and the ram-headed god Khnum representing evening. During the reign of Akhenaten (the first monotheistic god in Egypt), the sun, or more correctly its rays, were worshipped as The Aten, a form of the sun disk with its rays depicted as arms holding ankh signs.

Of the three discs shown in Figure 2 hieroglyph, the middle one would appear to represent the pharaoh with the cobra on the crown and the lower representing the rays of the sun but is it possible that the top one represents the ‘point within the circle’, a distinctly masonic symbol?

Egypt was and is blessed with significant mineral resources. It is rich in building and decorative stone as witnessed in the building of the ancient monuments and pyramids. Copper and lead ores, gold, and semiprecious stones are abundant. These

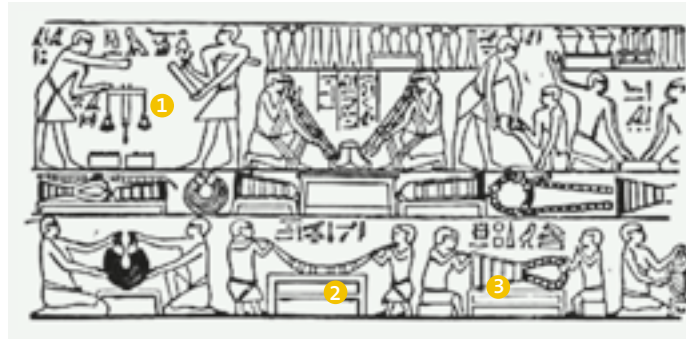


FIGURE 3
Metal-Workers’
Workshop in
Old Egypt

- 1 Gold Scales
- 2 Gold Table?
(see Golden Fleece)
- 3 Bellows?

natural resources allowed the ancient Egyptians to build monuments, sculpt statues, make tools, and fashion jewellery. Embalmers used local salts for mummification. It is reported that there were extensive gold mines in Nubia – ‘Nubia’ comes from the Egyptian word ‘nub’ – and one of the first maps known is of a gold mine in this region although today there is not much evidence of gold mining in Nubia and several modern gold exploration companies do not appear to have had much success.

Ancient Egyptians were also wonderful metallurgists as evidenced by the artifacts discovered over the past hundred years by the specialists in the select field of archeometallurgyⁱⁱ. The Egyptians worked deposits of the lead ore galena to make net sinkers, plumb bobs, and small figurines. Copper was the most important metal for tool making in ancient Egypt and was smelted in furnaces from malachite ore mined in the Sinai. Workers collected gold by washing nuggets out of sedi-

the ancient Egyptians quarried limestone all along the Nile valley, granite from Aswan, and basalt and sandstone from the wadis of the eastern desert. Deposits of decorative stones such as porphyry, greywacke, alabaster and chalcedony dotted the eastern desert and were collected even before the First Dynasty. In the Ptolemaic and Roman Periods, miners worked deposits of emeralds in Wadi Sikait and amethyst in Wadi el-Hudi.

An example of the Egyptians metallurgical ability is an iron (not stainless steel) dagger found among the artefacts in Tutankhamen’s Tomb which has not rusted one bit in 3,000 years. Metallurgists today still do not know how this was achieved by the Egyptian ‘artificers’.

We don’t know who these Egyptian metallurgistsⁱⁱⁱ were but even as early as 3400 BC the Egyptians had an intimate knowledge of copper ores and of processes of extracting the metal. During the fourth and subsequent dynasties (i.e. from about 2900 BC onwards), metals seem to have been entirely monopolies of the Court with the management of the mines and quarries being entrusted to the highest officials and sometimes even to the sons of the Pharaoh.

Bibliography

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- iii <http://www.crystalinks.com/egyptscience.html>

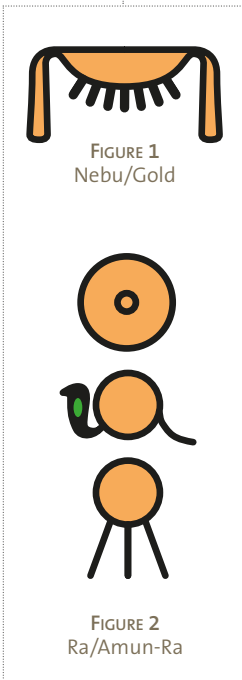


FIGURE 1
Nebu/Gold

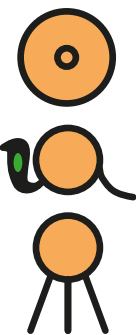


FIGURE 2
Ra/Amun-Ra

ment in alluvial deposits or by the more labour intensive process of grinding and washing gold-bearing quartzite. Iron deposits found in Upper Egypt were utilised in the Late Period. High-quality building stones were abundant in Egypt:

The 'Lone Pine' at Braidwood

This is a story about **W Bro Ray Hasler**, of Lodge Queanbeyan St Andrew 56, and his part in the story of the Lone Pine Tree at the Australian War Memorial (AWM).



The Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis*) in the Memorial's grounds (pictured top right with Ray) was planted by HRH The Duke of Gloucester on 24 October 1934 and bears the following inscription:

After the capture of the Lone Pine ridge in Gallipoli (6 August 1915), an Australian soldier who had taken part in the attack, in which his brother was killed, found a cone on one of the branches used by the Turks as overhead cover for their trenches, and sent it to his mother. From seed shed by it she raised the tree, which she presented to be planted in the War Memorial grounds in honour of her own and others' sons who fell at Lone Pine.

According to the AWM, Lone Pine or Plateau 400 was the scene of a major diversionary offensive launched by the 1st Australian Infantry Division on 6 August 1915. The Turks had cut down all but one of the trees that cloaked the ridge to cover their trenches. The ridge dominated by the single Aleppo Pine became known as Lone Pine. In three days of fighting the Australians lost more than 2,000 men and the Turks losses were estimated at 7,000. Seven Victoria Crosses were awarded.

The soldier who retrieved that pinecone was Lance Corporal Benjamin Smith. He

was one of two Australian soldiers known to have souvenired pinecones. The other was Sgt Keith McDowell. The Smith pinecone propagated two seedlings – one was presented to the town of Inverell NSW and the other to the Department of the Interior for planting in Canberra. The McDowell pinecone propagated four seedlings and all were planted in Victoria – one at Wattle Park in Melbourne, one at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne, one at the Soldiers Memorial Club at The Sisters (near Terang) and the last at the Warrnambool Gardens.

Ray Hasler was a 13-year old Boy Scout from Braidwood when he attended the tree planting in 1934. As Ray recalls, 'We travelled by bus and found ourselves at Parliament House about an hour and a half later; being a small part of a large crowd consisting of more Scouts from other areas, mounted Light Horse groups, Duntroon cadets and army personnel. After the official opening of Parliament by HRH Prince Henry, the Duke of Gloucester, all persons in uniform proceeded to walk down over Scott's Crossing towards an area near the then proposed site for the War Memorial. Cars were not common in those days, so many civilians also walked. All persons assembled around the spot prepared for the small pine tree. There was the Duke together with about five other important people. One had a very shiny spade and handed it to the Duke. He then took a spade full of earth from the chosen spot and proceeded to place the Lone Pine Tree therein. He stood to attention and saluted whilst the other men raised their hats. A few words were then spoken, and as I recall, it sounded like it was being blessed.'

Ray went on to enlist with the RAAF, serving from 1940 to 1945. He moved to

Queanbeyan following his discharge, qualified as a carpenter and joiner and worked in the building trade until retirement.

A severe windstorm in September 2008 wreaked havoc on the Lone Pine tree, which lost a huge limb from its main trunk. Ray went out to inspect the damage the next day and it was then that AWM staff discovered that he had attended the original planting ceremony.

Ray was subsequently invited to attend the 75th anniversary of the planting and AWM senior historian Peter Burness presented him with a seedling from the tree. Ray then donated the seedling to the Palarang Council for planting at Braidwood.

Needless to say Ray's offer was accepted and Braidwood turned on a fine and warm day for the planting on Australia Day 2010. It was witnessed by members of the community and by a number of masons from Braidwood, Queanbeyan and Canberra. The Mayor, Ald Walter Reynolds, introduced Ray to the assembly and he was assisted in the planting by the Australia Day Ambassador to Palarang Council, the Olympic Swimming Champion Petria Thomas (all pictured at left). The Council will also erect a commemorative plaque at the site.

The final words belong with Ray, who said at the 75th anniversary, *'I hope one day, when it's gone, like we all will be gone, they cut a section out of the butt of this tree and nominate what happened on each ring, each ring suggests a year of growth. There's 75 rings therein and they all tell a story, and it would be nice to read them.'*

As told to VW Bro Geoff Ludowyk KL mDR PDGIW, by W Bro Ray Hasler, with additional information sourced from the Australian War Memorial website.



Tip Card #6 Pride

AIM – To critically review the need for pride within ourselves and in our craft.

Target

To prove to ourselves it is OK for us to be proud of who we are and what we do and to accept responsibility for our own actions.

Reasoning

We are told that pride is one of the seven deadly sins, number one on the list, in fact. Pride, however, presents a double face to us. On the one hand pride sits comfortably with self-esteem, self respect yet also seems equally as happy nestled between conceit and arrogance.

It is socially and morally acceptable to be proud of one's achievements, to hold one's head high, stand up straight and to take pride in things we do and own. Conversely, we are warned against

haughtiness, aloofness, snobbery, to look down one's nose. What to do?

Shakespeare wrote of pride, as a thing to be desired, 'a consummation devoutly to be wish'd.'

Methodology

Looking around your average lodge today we often see soiled regalia, ceremonial jackets lying in the bottom of a cupboard (co-existing with little black books, and crumpled, musty old forms). We see members reading ritual or needing help for every line delivered; we have uninspiring food and drink served for supper and many complain they haven't had an initiate for many years. If we look a little deeper we will also probably find the building is in a poor state of repair and many other weaknesses could be quickly exposed; need we go on?

Many of us can almost certainly remember back to when every lodge was extremely proud of the amount of money they raised for charity and proud of the high standard of their ritual work – conducted in a full lodge room! Practices were well attended and lodges had a regular inflow of high standard initiates and a low call off rate. They also had a clean tidy, well-kept, presentable and safe, lodge building. Many were renowned for their high quality south with a large regular visitor roll-up and the lodge and its members were respected and admired by the community they shared for their kind caring attitude and ... for just being there. What happened to those lodges?

What happened to their drive, their passion, their pride?

No matter which way we look at it you have to admit the lodge with pride was the better one when compared to what we see around us today where laziness, indolence and apathy rule.

Pride in being a Freemason, pride in being a member of the local lodge, pride in the work (ritual) and being pleased with the help and assistance we gave to those less fortunate than ourselves can't have

been bad? And Grand Lodge; many say it is their fault that we don't have the lodges we used to have, they forced costs up and made life difficult. Did they really? Did Grand Lodge set the fees in your lodge? Did Grand Lodge suggest we don't paint and let our buildings fall into disrepair?

Did Grand Lodge order us to lower the quality of our south; tell us it's ok to read ritual and to stop initiating new members; to throw our ceremonial clothing away and then, finally, take our pride from us as well!

Did Grand Lodge really do all that for us or should we, maybe, share some of the blame?

Conclusion

Firstly, let us sort out 'who did what' then let us start a revolution and find our lost pride.

Let us reclaim and wash our ceremonial jackets and go find some more good men who are ready and willing to wear them whilst we relate our ritual to them in all its splendour. Let us throw out the old black books and upgrade our souths to their former glory. Let us revisit our ancient landmarks. Let us set our fees to practical and realistic levels. The rest will follow.

While we still have blood coursing through our veins don't we owe it to ourselves to restore our pride and our belief in ourselves and in our Craft?

Let us, once again, hold our heads up high and declare 'I am a mason and proud of it.'

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Philanthropy, entrepreneurship and disasters...

...all in the day of **Bro Joshua Shields**

Recent flooding throughout our country has been devastating for thousands of families, people and businesses. Queensland floods alone devastated nearly 70% of the state, and affected around 60% of the population – one of Australia's worst disasters.

'In hard times like this we see people's true resolve, and witness the enormous generosity of the human spirit,' said Joshua Shields, a young mason who is no stranger to managing disasters.

Freemasons will donate over half a million dollars to this cause. NSW and ACT Freemasonry alone has pledged \$100,000. 'The response of Freemasonry to the Queensland floods makes me proud to be a mason. This is a significant contribution.'

Josh, 29, has made a living out of assisting others, specifically managing disasters, through his career, years of volunteering and charity work. Ambitious and determined, he is grounded by strong values, a sense of family and a deep feeling of responsibility towards others. His life is anything but quiet!

Josh was initiated as a Freemason four years ago and is a member of Lodge Harold Herman Unity No 428. Prior to this, Freemasonry was one of those 'life mysteries', a secret that his grandfathers held very dear but would never talk about.

'I'm inquisitive, love history and I'm always searching for greater meaning and understanding in life. I saw Freemasonry as an opportunity for personal development, to be a part of something unique, and to join the men I held in great respect.'

Josh describes joining Freemasonry as a blind leap of faith that has paid great returns through the 'masonic bond' and friendship. 'I draw strength from the friendships formed with like-minded individuals, and from the depth of life experience that surrounds me in the form of role models too numerous to count.'

Prior to joining Freemasonry, Josh

spent nine years honing his emergency skills in rescue, leadership and training as a volunteer with NSW State Emergency Services (SES). As Deputy Controller of the Mosman unit, he oversaw the rescue, logistics, training and operations functions of the 60 member strong unit. Involvement in major bushfires, floods, rescues, storms, community events, training etc. led him to directly assist the community and contribute to the personal development and growth of his unit members. His experience in the SES gave him amazing friendships, memorable experiences and an abundance of life skills.

Josh is known for being an entrepreneur: breeding and selling rabbits on the street at age 10, director and founder of a number of successful businesses today. 'Continuously open yourself to opportunity' is a motto that has steered him well in his professional life to-date.

Josh started a risk management consulting firm, RiskLogic, at 24 years of age. The company has grown strongly, now employs over 30 staff and has a national presence. RiskLogic specialises in business continuity, emergency and crisis management, working with large corporations, government departments and not-for-profits. 'It is all about planning to protect a company's reputation, market share, minimise financial loss, human injury and other consequences of a disaster,' says Josh. A number of RiskLogic clients have enacted their recovery plans with the recent floods.

Charity is close to Josh's heart. As Convenor for Fundraising on the masoniCare Board (Grand Charity), Josh has a unique opportunity to bring charity to the forefront. 'Charity, if harnessed well, is Freemasonry's most powerful tool. By motivating, supporting and bringing masons together under one vision, we can achieve enormous results

that will significantly benefit our community, provide fulfilment to members and play a crucial role to increase positive perception of the Craft. My role is about engaging with masons across the jurisdiction, establishing structure and innovative tools to support our efforts, ensuring consistent, two-way communication at all times.'

Josh is also developing a NSW/ACT disaster relief program for masoniCare and Grand Lodge designed to harness the disaster relief fund and provide guidance in decision making, and response and mobilisation strategies during disasters that require Freemasonry's support.

Josh's interests include scuba diving, medieval history, property investment, food and wine (he and wife Ali own a Mediterranean café in Milson's Point) and travel, another passion Ali shares. 'Travel is about experiences that challenge, open your mind and change you,' says Josh.

Every day is a new opportunity for Josh and he looks forward to playing an active role in strengthening Freemasonry in the years to come.





Alberta, Canada – treasures the past

Heritage Park in Calgary, Alberta, Canada is exactly what the name suggests.

It is a replica of life as it existed in Canada in the early days as far back as the 1800s with buildings, banks, stores and houses faithfully reproduced and containing the goods and services of those days. It is Canada's largest living history museum and shows how the west was once.

The Park is home to an operating steam train that circles the village on one mile of track, a paddle wheeler is environmentally friendly and a roving theatre troupe re-enacts historic Canadian tales.

And amongst all of this history, on the first floor of a bank, is an early Alberta masonic lodge room, complete with original artefacts.

Securely guarded at the top of the stairs stands volunteer W Bro Jack Pidgeon to welcome masons and visitors to look at the display.

Jack, who has been a mason since 1952 and is a member of Lodge Perfection No 9, has a ready answer for all questions about the artefacts and Canadian Freemasonry.

The exhibit began in the early 1970s and lodges donated chairs, aprons, photographs and other items as they replaced old buildings.

'Masons played a big part in our history and when Heritage Park opened in the late 1960s, the masons wanted to be a part of it. They campaigned to have a room and it was duly given,' Jack said.



W Bro Jack Pidgeon welcomes RW Bro Ted Simmons to Lodge Perfection in Calgary.

'The lodge room was built by the masons of Calgary and was officially opened by the Grand Master, MW Bro Phillip Kendal on 16 May, 1970.'

There are about 18 lodges in Calgary with an active membership.

The first Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Alberta was at the town of Medicine Hat in 1906. It was held one year after the foundation of the Province.

The 100th Annual Communication was also held in Medicine Hat in 2006.

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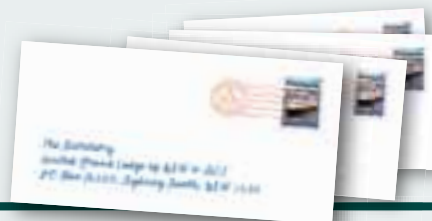


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Have your say



Friendship Rally

Further to my letter in the December issue about the Queensland Masonic Touring Club Inc about the caravanning clubs of Victoria and South Australia and the 'Hand of Friendship' Rally.

This year, commencing on Thursday 30 June 2011 the Queensland club, over a five day period, will host the rally at the Lawnton Showground on the northern outskirts of Brisbane. An extended stay is possible.

The meeting will commence with an official opening and supper and thereafter daily activities to include the Proclamation of the MW Grand Master in Brisbane, a full day coach tour of the Sunshine Coast with a luncheon at Maleny atop the Blackall Range, a scenic tag-a-long drive and BBQ

lunch, games and competitions, evening entertainment and much more. The rally will conclude Tuesday evening 5 July with a dinner and closing ceremony.

A warm fraternal welcome is extended to all Freemasons and their families who may be travelling through the area in an RV at that time to join in this very friendly masonic family engagement. This includes caravans, motor-homes, camper trailers, etc with no restriction on the type of vehicle used.

Further information and registration details may be obtained by contact with RW Bro Roy Fursman, Club President, Ph (07) 5444 0742 or email fursie@bigpond.com

RW BRO ROY FURSMAN

Making the first contact

I recently represented the Grand Master at a first degree in a Canberra lodge, and in enquiring of the candidate as to how he made his first contact with Freemasonry he replied:

'I am a postman and I was delivering a letter when I noticed the Freemasons NSW and ACT Logo on the envelope. As I had been interested in Freemasonry, but did not know who to contact, I delivered the mail to the door and knocked. When the door was answered I asked the person, could I speak to the addressee about this, and pointed to the logo. A short discussion ensued and I was directed to the Secretary of the addressee's lodge. This all proved very fruitful and tonight I was initiated.'

VW BRO WARREN BARSLEY DGIW
District 103

Charity

Charity begins at home, and as wonderful and necessary as it is to support the many worthy causes that we do, I think we need to spend a little money on the people and organisation itself.

My current concern is the age and lack of organists. I would like to see Grand Lodge offer to pay tuition fees for any Master Mason who is prepared to learn the organ. Obviously if the mason doesn't complete the course he must reimburse Grand Lodge, but I think it is necessary to do something.

RICHARD BURTON

FASCINATING AUSTRALIAN FACTS

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Organisational wide strategic planning led The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of NSW to invest considerable resources into community based services over the last 5 years. Community involvement and consultation was pivotal in the development of the group's unique Home Independence Program. This is a well recognised and established program founded on the awareness that most older people wish to remain living in their own homes. The aim of the program is to assist older people to retain vital connections within their communities and promote independence and safety in and around their home.

The philosophy of care and support is consistent through our many other community programs including the Federal Government's Community Aged Care Packages (CACAP) and Extended Aged Care at Home packages (EACH). The Whiddon Group currently operate 109 CACAP and 20 EACH packages throughout NSW. Older people on a CACAP can expect to receive services in their own homes similar to that received by clients living in a hostel. Likewise, older people on an EACH can expect to receive services in their own homes similar to that received by clients living in a nursing home.

If you require further information or would like to know more about any of our community based services please don't hesitate to call 1300 738 388.

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Through your compassion and planning you can help us provide care to future generations of older Australians. Your support for The Whiddon Group through a bequest will help us build upon the achievements of today and allow for innovation to take us to tomorrow.

Making a bequest

There are a number of ways which you can help The Whiddon Group through a bequest in your will. Here are some examples:

1. You can give a specified amount of money to The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of NSW. This is the simplest form of bequest.
2. You can provide a percentage of your estate, for example 50 per cent or 20 per cent for The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of NSW. This ensures that your family and friends are not disadvantaged by the change of the size of your estate or inflation.
3. After providing for family and friends, you may decide to leave the residue of your estate (what is left) to The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of NSW.
4. You can leave particular items such as shares, paintings, property or other items of value in your will to The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of NSW. *This option may have possible taxation ramifications and should be discussed with a solicitor.*
5. You can take out a life insurance policy or an endowment policy with The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of NSW nominated as the *sole beneficiary*. *This option may have possible taxation ramifications and should be discussed with a solicitor.*

If you have any questions regarding a bequest, or would like to make one, simply contact the Chief Executive Officer on (02) 9827 6632.

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Regional Roundup



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Keen to learn



Brethren attending the Blacktown Hawkesbury Lodge of Instruction.

More than twenty masons attended the Blacktown Hawkesbury Lodge of Instruction in November, when RW Bro Bob Handley PJGW, the Preceptor, spoke on lodge etiquette and VW Bro Ratcliff DGDC explained lodge protocol.

Among those present were two Entered Apprentices and one Fellow Craft, all of whom were from the Blacktown Masonic Centre.

Bro Adam Musselli was the Candidate

in an exemplification of the preliminary examination for the Second Degree and, despite being initiated into Lodge Alpha No 970 only ten days before, acquitted himself very well, showing both his commitment to the Craft and the support of his sponsors.

The Blacktown Lodge of Instruction is always well supported by brethren wishing to learn and the evening is rounded off with a tasty light supper prepared by the ladies.

A new euphonium for Coffs

It had been forty-five years since the Coffs Coast Regional Brass Band had bought a new instrument.

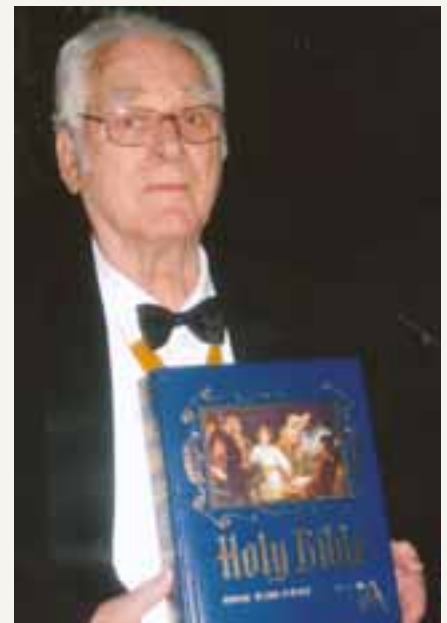
They are now the proud owners of a brand new euphonium, thanks to a donation of \$3,000 by the Coffs Coast Freemasons' Association and \$2,000 by masoniCare towards the cost of the instrument.

The euphonium, played by Bill Vitnell, took the front seat when the band played at a very successful open-air fundraiser held by the CCFA at the Coffs Harbour Masonic Centre in November.



LODGE WARRAGAMBA No 541

New Volume for Lodge Warragamba



W Bro Eric Norman with the new Volume of the Sacred Law

The 86th Installation Ceremony of Lodge Warragamba No 541 was further enhanced by the presentation by W Bro Eric Norman of a new Volume of the Sacred Law, to mark his 50th year in Freemasonry.

The original book had become somewhat worn and the replacement was gratefully received by the newly Installed Master, W Bro Kevin Stansbie.

W Bro Norman, a previous member of Lodge Auburn, has served Lodge Warragamba as Treasurer for many years.

The new Volume was suitably embossed by RW Bro Kevin Foster, PAGM, previously a curator at the Sydney Masonic Centre.



LODGE ARMY AND NAVY No 517

Lodge Army and Navy

At the 960th meeting of Lodge Army and Navy No 517, in February, the candidate for Initiation was Sgt Cameron Haynes, currently a serving commando with the Australian Defence Force.

Bro Haynes, 'Cam' to his friends, is one of the lodge's many serving brethren, from all branches of defence, whose occupation can take them to foreign climes at a moment's notice.

He said that he had been attracted to the Craft by what he had read about it and the conviction that Freemasonry offered him something that was missing in his life, and outside the limits of the army.



W Bro Scott Parker congratulates Bro Cameron Haynes on his Initiation.

The Worshipful Master of the lodge, W Bro Scott Parker, congratulated Bro Haynes on his first step in Freemasonry and welcomed him as the newest member of the lodge.

He said that the lodge was lucky to have the armed services as an extensive source of new members.

Mobile Masons to the rescue

Late last year, the Mobile Masons met up at Anna Bay to hand over a cheque for \$600 to Malcolm Milliken, the Unit Commander of Nelson Bay Marine Rescue.

The funds were collected during the year

with a view to assisting the community.

The presentation was made by Mobile Mason Collector, VW Bro David Williams and Regional Grand Counsellor, RW Bro Graham Pretty.

LODGE CRONULLA No 312

The Jewel of a lifetime

The Ladies' Night at Lodge Cronulla No 312 was marked by a special presentation to VW Bro Fred Brunning, PDGIW, and his support and mainstay, his wife Marie.

Fred was presented with a Secretary's Jewel by the WM, W Bro David Williams, as he passed over the reins to Bro Scott Chapman, after dedicating 44 years of his life as Secretary of the lodge.

In his 55 years with Lodge Cronulla, VW Bro Bunning has only missed six meetings, a great achievement.

He has been a member of Cronulla Royal Arch Chapter for 53 years; Secret Monitor for 26 years, and in the Ancient and Accepted Rite has attained 32 Degrees.



VW Bro Fred Brunning PDGIW and his wife Marie

Commending him on his dedication and commitment, W Bro Williams wished Fred and Marie well as they take on a quieter life.

DISTRICT 53

Coffs Coast BBQ



Brethren on duty and ready to serve at the barbecue.

With 'Freemasons Serving the Local Community' emblazoned on their barbecue trailer, the members of the Coffs Coast Freemasons Association are the public face of Freemasonry in District 53 and around the Coffs Coast.

Every Saturday morning for the last five years, a dedicated team of masons have set up their barbecue at the Coffs Harbour Car Market held at the Coffs Harbour Showground.

Lodges from the Coffs Coast area are rostered on and the barbecue is staffed by members and their wives or partners.

The CCFA also take the barbecue to other local shows and events.

Not only is the barbecue the main fundraising activity for the CCFA, but it is also an ideal opportunity for members of the public to see that Freemasons are 'regular guys' working in the community.

Information about Freemasonry is available on the stall and, of course, the 'guys' are available to answer any questions that people may have. Over the years this has been a fruitful method of gaining new members.

The CCFA, formerly known as The Masters and Wardens Association, has worked for over 25 years and in that time has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars that have been donated back to the local community to help provide services where funding was otherwise unavailable.



LODGE OPHIR No 17

A country welcome

On Saturday 24 October, a fraternal of 14 masons from District 34 travelled by coach to Orange for the 152nd Re-Installation Ceremony of Lodge Ophir No 17 which saw VW Bro Graham Richard Russell PDGIW regularly re-installed by RW Bro David Levesque PJGW.

A second purpose for the trip was to present Lodge Ophir with some masonic memorabilia which had been the property of W Bro Harold Ford, who was Installed as WM of Lodge Canoblas No 498 in 1927.



W Bro Marshall Partridge (left) and VW Bro Ross Partridge

Arriving at the Orange Masonic Centre, the fraternal was made comfortable and extremely welcome.

The lodge being opened, W Bro Marshall Partridge, as Director of Ceremonies, led the District 34 fraternal into the lodge room, with a proud VW Bro Ross Partridge at its head.

The fraternal was both recognised and welcomed many times during the course of the evening.

At the Installation banquet, VW Bro Partridge, in presenting W Bro Ford's effects, explained in detail the history of the memorabilia and how it came into his possession.

LODGE SAWTELL TWILIGHT No 741

Three generations



L-R: W Bro Greenaway, Bro Greenaway and VW Bro Greenaway

Lodge Sawtell Twilight No 741 was packed to the rafters for a very special occasion on Wednesday 17 November.

It had been a long time since three generations of masons had attended the lodge at the same time and the occasion was the raising of Bro Jamie Greenaway to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

Proud grandfather, W Bro Brian Greenaway, and father, VW Bro Geoff Greenaway DGIW of District 53, took part in the ceremony which was conducted on a Past Masters' Night.

After the ceremony, lodge members joined the ladies and guests for dinner in the South.

LODGE CORRECTIVE SERVICES No 1039

A rum do

Following their January meeting the brethren of Lodge Corrective Services No 1039, retired to the banquet hall of the Hawkesbury Masonic Centre for a South with a difference.

With the lodge's historical connections dating back to the First Fleet, when convicts were controlled by Guards, an enjoyable night of wine and rum tasting followed the evening meal.

The Worshipful Master, W Bro Bradley

LODGE UNITY No 6

Lodge Unity helps elderly

Lodge Unity No 6 has come to the aid of one of their masonic widows who had fallen and broken a hip.

Mrs Jean Burgess, who had been laid up for some weeks after an operation, was urgently in need of a walker to help her regain her mobility.

To assist Jean, W Bro Keith Hunt, WM of Lodge Unity, and RW Bro Aubrey Cowley PJGW, presented her with a walker as a token of esteem and in appreciation for her years of charity work.

Jean was presented with the Grand Master's Award from the United Grand Lodge of NSW and ACT in 2005, for her charity work within the Armidale District, as well as at Moonby House in Tamworth.



W Bro Keith Hunt and RW Bro Aubrey Cowley with Mrs Jean Burgess

Lawless, introduced his partner, Jade, who provided a knowledgeable commentary on the wide variety of wines, mostly from Mudgee.

As a fundraiser, a bottle of a more expensive wine was placed at one end of the room and those present were invited to try their skills by tossing, sliding or spinning a gold coin towards it; the closest being the winner of the wine.

Several varieties of rum, from a local distiller, were then sampled and relished by all.



LODGE SUTHERLAND No 585

A triple third at Sutherland



On Tuesday 2 November, Lodge Sutherland No 585, for the first time in the District, worked a triple raising without retiring any of the candidates.

Lodge Alpha No 970 had supplied two of the three candidates, and Sutherland had one of its own.

It was neither planned nor rehearsed to perform the ceremony in that way, but it was decided just prior to the meeting and went well, despite a brief confusion, overcome with the assistance of some of the visiting brethren.

With over 40 brethren seated inside the recently refurbished lodge room, the WM, W Bro Chakty, invited the DGIW of District 29, VW Bro Kabbabe, a member of the lodge who had attended the meeting as a member and not as DGIW, to occupy the chair and perform the triple raising, which he carried out with his usual precision and aplomb.

After the ceremony, the brethren retired to the South where the mood was very jovial, and all present, especially the visitors, left in high spirits promising to return to Lodge Sutherland soon.

LODGE JOSE RIZAL No 1045

A family affair

The evening of 8 January saw Lodge Jose Rizal No 1045 meet for the first time in the New Year for what was to be a family occasion.

The work for the evening was a double Raising for Bro Larry Pamplona, the son of the WM, W Bro Fidel Pamplona, and his long-time friend, Bro Daniel Placido, the son of the lodge's Senior Deacon, Bro Manuel Placido.

The significance of the evening was marked by the attendance of nearly 70 members, visitors and ladies, including one visitor, Bro Charlie De-Lara, from Anchor Lodge No 159, Philippine Constitution.

The DGIW of District 32, VW Bro Paul Larbalestier, was also in attendance.

Following the ceremony, the two proud fathers congratulated their sons on their masonic progress, and this was echoed by the DGIW.

The lodge was closed and all retired to the South for a splendid dinner prepared by the ladies.



L-R: Bro Placido, VW Bro Larbalestier and Bro Pamplona

DISTRICT 37

On track

Late in November, more than 100 people, consisting of brethren from Districts 37 and 34, their wives, families and friends, visited Wascoe Siding at Glenbrook in the lower Blue Mountains to celebrate the District 37 Christmas Family Day.

Wascoe Siding is a miniature train park where several miniature trains carry passengers around an elaborate track layout, complete with tunnels and bridges, under the watchful eye of a traffic controller. Signals, points and the delightful scenery make for a fun experience for adults and children alike.

The event was supported by District 34, under their DGIW, VW Bro Bob McCullum, with his wife Michelle, and members of District 35.

The lunchtime barbecue was in the capable hands of RW Bro George Bell PSGW and VW Bro Jim Mason OAM PDGDC, after which there was more fun on the track for everyone.

Lodge Nepean has for many years sponsored the event and on this occasion it was adopted by VW Bro Robert Moore DGIW of District 37, as the annual Christmas function – and a very successful one.



VW Bro Jim Mason and RW Bro George Bell at work on the barbecue.



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50 Years Service

ANDERSON, Alexander	Lodge Ibis 361
ARKLEY, Donald	Lodge St James 45
ARNOL, Bruce	Lodge Pacific 298
BAMBLING, George	Lodge Nambucca 271
BENNETT, John	Lodge Armidale 641
BIRD, William	Nowra Unity 60
CANTRELL, Peverill	Lodge Tomaree 878
CARTWRIGHT, Reginald	Eastern Suburbs Daylight Lodge 995
CHURCH, John	Lodge Woden Valley 974
CREIGHTON, Robert	Nowra Unity 60
DANIEL, John	Forster Great Lakes United 994
DAVIDSON, Walter	Lodge Westlake Daylight 997
DRAY, Clifford	Eastern Suburbs Daylight Lodge 995
DUNNE, Mervyn	Lodge Enterprise 400
FINKELSTEIN, Judah	Lodge Mark Owen 828
GRAHAM, Noel	Lodge Thespian 256
GRIMBLE, Rodney	The St. George Lodge 328
HOGGAN, Ronald	Lodge Burns Wentworth Tuscan 21
JONES, Evan	The Leichhardt Lodge 133
LANNIGAN, John	Lodge United St Andrew Singleton 34
MAKEPEACE, Barry	Lodge Unity 6
MALCOLM, John	Lodge Balranald 214
MASTERS, Peter	Lodge Sir Joseph Banks 300
MAY, Walter	Lodge Balgowlah 392
MCRAE, Christopher	Lodge Temora 168

NEAL, Leslie	Lodge Rudyard Kipling 143
PAYTON, Stephen	Lodge Eltham 272
PENDALL, Stanley	The United Lodge of Sydney 11
PETERSON, Gordon	Lodge Balgowlah 392
ROACH, Norman	Lodge Inverell 48
ROCHFORD, Keith	Lodge Balgowlah 392
ROFE, Harold	Lodge Celebration of Fairfield 345
SCARR, Elwyn	Lodge Independent Lewis 592
SKOLNICK, Benjamin	Lodge Mark Owen 828
SPERLING, Owen	Lodge Mark Owen 828
STEGGLES, Alan	Lodge Friendship 158
WALKER, Alan	Twin Towns Daylight Lodge 981
WEARING, Milton	Lodge Airds Campbelltown 976
WILLIAMS, Baden	Lodge Helensburgh 566
WILLIAMS, Peter	Nowra Unity 60
WILSON, Donald	Lodge Sylvania 853 LOE

60 Years Service

ALLEN, Frederick	Lodge Perfect of Canberra 951
ARCHER, Victor	Lodge Sir Joseph Banks 300
BAILEY, Errol	Lodge United St Andrew Singleton 34
BAXTER, Alexander	Balmain Lodge 23
BERRY, Albert	Lodge Rudyard Kipling 143
BOWERS, Lloyd	Lodge Dunoon 436
BUTLER, Leonard	Lodge Hastings 69
CLARKE, Jack	Lodge Laurieton Haven United 1031

COWLING, Kenneth	Lodge Liverpool 197
CROXON, Benjamin	Lodge Narromina 236
DOHERTY, James	Lodge Epping 390
DORMAN, Desmond	Lodge Dunedoo 647
EPHRAIM, Raymond	The St. George Lodge 328
GRAHAM, Ernest	Lodge Panania 845
HENSHAW, Allen	Lodge Farrer 93
JANSEN, Albert	Lodge Kensington 270
LONG, Alan	Twin Towns Daylight Lodge 981
MANSFIELD, Wallace	Laurelbank Kuring-gai Daylight Lodge 230
MATHEWS, Eric	Leisure Coast Daylight Lodge 999
MCCULLOUGH, James	The St. George Lodge 328
MOORE, Robert	Lodge Oberon 355
MOTBEY, Albert	Lodge Unity 6
MOTE, Mervyn	Lodge Sir Joseph Banks 300
NANCE, Frank	Lodge Thespian 256
RONALDS, William	Lodge Sir Joseph Banks 300
SHAW, Allan	Lodge St James 45
SMITH, Keith	Lodge Liverpool 197
STONE, Ralph	The Central Coast Lodge 2001
TATE, Edward	The Central Coast Lodge 2001
THOMPSON, Jack	Lodge Thespian 256
TURLEY, Leonard	Lodge Ibis 361
WADE, John	Lodge Sir Joseph Banks 300
WIENAND, Bernard	Eastern Suburbs Daylight Lodge 995

QUEEN'S LODGE No 229

Australia Day Special

The January meeting of the Queen's Lodge No 229, on Australia Day, was a special occasion for the WM, W Bro Terry Stock, who is also Grand Master of the Order of de Molay in Australia.

One of the four Candidates for Initiation that night was his grandson, Matthew Cunningham, a Senior Counsellor in the

Order and, to add to the significance, it was the 110th anniversary of the consecration of the lodge.

Despite the date, the meeting was well attended and following the ceremony Bro Cunningham, Bro Newel, Bro Bristo and Bro McDermid were warmly welcomed into the Craft.



W Bro Terry Stock and his grandson, Bro Matthew Cunningham

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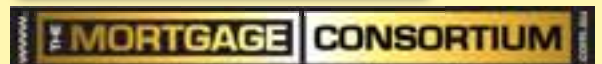
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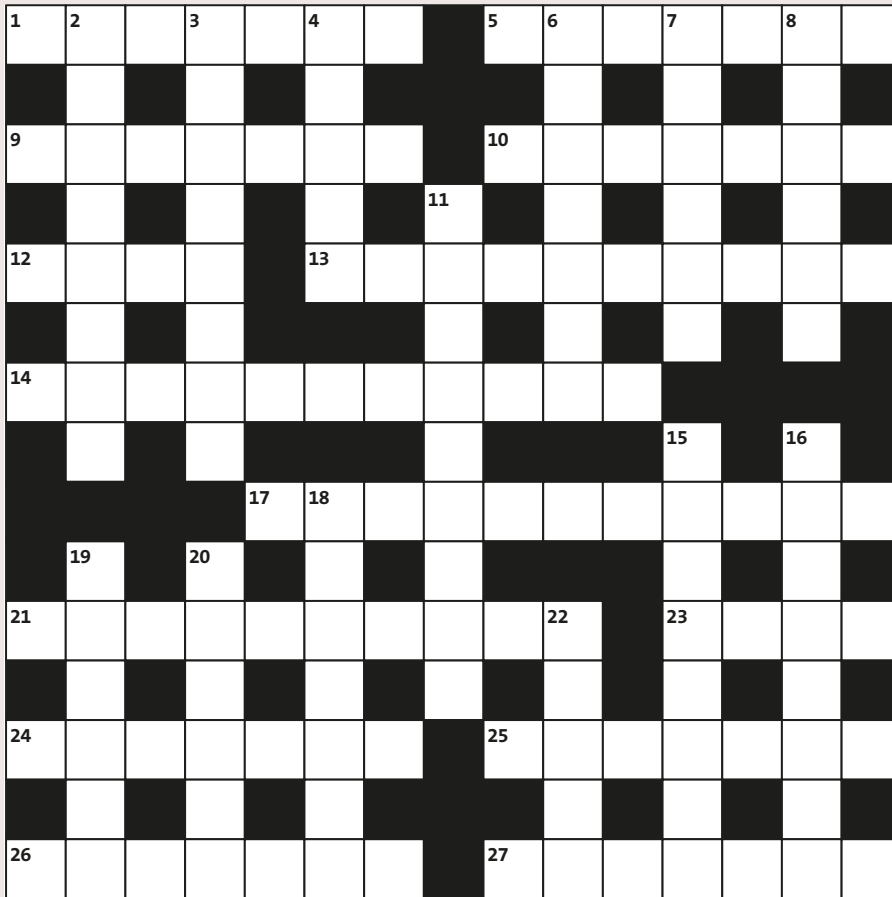
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- 25 Bookmaker goes to extremes with other characters to get a Masonic title (7)
- 26 Took possession of all pursued material as ordered (7)
- 27 Junior officer removes bee from mashed sweetbread (7)

DOWN

- 2 Recounts an arrest in certain terms (8)
- 3 Enable six Romans to become desirable (8)
- 4 Additional iron removed from tax free arrangement (5)
- 6 You are, I hear not in fearfully rude blank page (7)
- 7 No point to stipulate about a Masonic sign (6)
- 8 Watch out for the last smack? (6)
- 11 Some cooperative societies are not free and accepted? (9)
- 15 Elbow cat away as a means of restraint (8)
- 16 Browbeat Sam not involved in blatant misdemeanor (8)
- 18 Exonerate Bev also by arrangement (7)
- 19 See 9 across
- 20 Garden bower in some harbour side retreat (6)
- 22 Traps set for fish (5)

Solution next issue

ACROSS

- 1 & 13 Pretender has patience in order to be a new Freemason (7, 10)
- 5 Counterbalances even asbestos on one side (7)
- 9 & 19 down From Antiquity 1 to Transition 9999 learner deprives goat attending (7, 6)
- 10 Web lays down instruction for 9 across' regulations (7)

- 12 Dead tsar hid the facts oddly enough (4)
- 13 See 1 across
- 14 Man with buoyant object, after 4th March is senior to 1 and 13 across..... (11)
- 17 So armaments are used for the next step (6, 5)
- 21 Most rivers Cook charted contained caustic compounds (10)
- 23 Clairvoyant disguised some flashy show pony (4)
- 24 I belong disposed to dishonourable status (7)

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Freemason welcomes new members to the Craft

Name	Lodge
AGAZZI, Paul	Lodge Liverpool 197
ALEXANDER, Josh	Lodge Warringah 83
ARNOLD, Alex	Lodge Broughton 131
BADR, Abdullah	Lodge Southern Cross 91
BALA, Jade	Lodge Beauty of Cabra Vale 743
BALGOS, Ted	Lodge Celebration of Fairfield 345
BARNIER, Nathan	The Lodge of Australia 3
BINGHAM, Peter	The Hills Lodge 1025
BLACK, Andy	Lodge Corrective Services 1039
BLIAS, Alexander	Lodge Wyong Tuggerah Lakes 247
BOARDMAN, Lee	Lodge Hastings 69
BOND, James	Lodge Toukley 933
BOUDA, Simon	Lodge Centenary with Honour 373
BOUJAOUDEE, Irob	Lodge Blacktown Kildare 393
BOULAD, Fadz	The Cedars Lodge 1041
BRAGG, Brenton	Lodge Alpha 970
BROWN, Aaron	Lodge Corrective Services 1039
CALLAGHAN, Nathan	Lodge Helensburgh 566
CHIDIAC, Oscar	Lodge Castlereagh 72
CRANE, Paul	Lodge Sawtell Twilight 741
CROWTHER, Michael	Lodge Perfect of Canberra 951
CURETON, Ellis	Lodge Sir Joseph Banks 300
CUTLER, Troy	Lodge Livingstone 71
DE LA CRUZ, Mac	Lodge Blacktown Kildare 393
DE PREE, Roland	Lodge Baulkham Hills 958
DIXON, Brett	Lodge Dubbo 906
DOOHAN, Gary	Lodge Federal Burrowa 193
EID, Christophe	Lodge Liverpool 197
ELATEM, Chadi	Livingstone United 604
FARUCK, Hassan	Lodge University of Sydney 544
FILIPIAN, Ray	Lodge Sir Joseph Banks 300
FRASER, Col	Lodge Paxton 608

Name	Lodge
GALARDI, Raffael	Lodge Kensington 270
GEDDES, Iain	Lodge Woden Valley 974
GHAZAL, Gus	Lodge Liverpool 197
GREEN, Des	Lodge Morisset 441
GREENTREE, Paul	The Peel Lodge 209
HAMILTON, Wayne	Lodge Courallie 235
HARJIT-SINGH, Rajinder Singh	Lodge Enterprise 400
HERMEL, Don	Lodge St David and St John 180
HILLSON, Peter	Lodge Commonwealth of Australia 633
HOLDEN, Ashley	Lodge Southern Cross 91
HONEY, Mitchell	The Australian Lodge Of Harmony 5
HORSNELL, Ward	Lodge Middle Harbour 292
IBARRA, Danny	Antiquity 1
IOATA, Simon	Lodge Enterprise 400
JAMIL, Mohammed	Lodge Alpha 970
JOHNSON, Andrew	Lodge Horace Thompson Ryde 134
KAKAROUBAS, Gerry	Lodge Cronulla 312
KANE, John	Lodge Hurlstone Park United 288
LAKKARAJU, Sai	Lodge University of Sydney 544
LASTICA, Bobby	Lodge Blacktown Kildare 393
LEE, Anslem	Lodge Panania 845
MACDONALD, Ben	Lodge Phoenix 1034
MCCARTHY, Terry	Lodge Wagga Wagga 22
MCLEOD, Darrell	Nowra Unity 60
MELLER, Asha	Lodge Harold Herman Unity 428 LOE
MERCER, Paul	Lodge Lachlan Macquarie 1042
MILNE, Scott	Lodge Commonwealth of Australia 633
MOORE, Asher	The Central Coast Lodge 2001
MORRISON, Tom	Lodge Capitol 612
MULLER, Philip	Lodge Celebration of Fairfield 345
MUNOZ, Celso	Lodge Panania 845
MUSSELLI, Adam	Lodge Alpha 970

Name	Lodge
NEMESH, William	The Cedars Lodge 1041
PAPAIOANNOU, Terry Pappas	Lodge John Williams 148
PERKS, Danny	Lodge Macquarie 53
POLACK, Daniel	Lodge Phoenix 1034
POWER, Ernst	Lodge Caledonia of Canberra 938
PRASAD, Hirendra	The Schools Lodge 639
PRINCE, Tony	Lodge Hurlstone Park United 288
RACKLEY, Nathan	Lodge Pacific 298
RACKLEY, Beau	Lodge Pacific 298
RISTIC, Filip	The Maroubra Lodge 725
ROCA, Ed	Lodge Swansea Belmont 1030
RODRIGO, Lolo	Brundah Endeavour 429
ROSS, Dominic	Lodge Carnarvon 172
SADA, Joseph	Lodge Liverpool 197
SMAILES, Tony	The Australian Lodge of Harmony 5
SOOD, Vivek	Lodge Wyvern 813
STAMATAKIS, Nonda	The Lodge of Australia 3
STAVROU, Steve	Lodge Aviation 688
STERLAND, Matthew	Lodge Balgowlah 392
STOJANOVIC, Andreja	Lodge Castlereagh 72
STRONG, Dave	Lodge Warringah 83
TAYLOR, Stephen	Lodge Hastings 69
THOMPSON, Robbie	Lodge Caledonia of Canberra 938
TOMO, Zsoit	Lodge Castlereagh 72
TRINCA, Brent	Nowra Unity 60
VAZ, Nelson	Lodge Southern Cross 91
WANG, Bill	Lodge Castlereagh 72
WARREN, Peter	Lodge Paxton 608
WENTWORTH, Michael	Lodge Emu Plains 860
WILSON, Colin	The Hawkesbury Heritage Lodge 150
YADAEI, Attila	Lodge Horace Thompson Ryde 134
YOVAN, Yogi	Lodge Richard Coley 152

LODGE KILWINNING No 13

153rd Installation



The Bonnie Scots of Kilwinning:
L-R: Bro Gerry Moore, JD; RW Bro Reg Davis, IPM; the Worshipful Master, W Bro Stewart Sudlow; W Bro Robert Hannon, JW; W Bro Lance Westfallen, Acting SW

Lodge Kilwinning No 13, celebrated its 153rd Installation at the Oatley Masonic Centre in fine Scottish fashion, with many of the brethren wearing kilts.

The evening saw RW Bro Reg Davis, PJGW, install his successor, Bro Stewart Sudlow as the Worshipful Master in the presence of the Grand Master's Representative, RW Bro Glyn Williams PSGW.

The Grand Director of Ceremonies, RW Bro Antoine George, requested RW Bro Glyn Williams to present the Certificate of Appreciation to RW Bro Reg Davis and RW Bro Bill Stewart, lodge secretary, for their long and continuous service to the lodge. The presentation was heartily endorsed by brethren present.

A feature of the evening was a display of Lodge Kilwinning memorabilia covering 153 years of history.

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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, A Start in Life (formally Masonic Youth Welfare Fund) and the Whiddon Group 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 2,500 senior citizens in its retirement villages. The physical evidence of our 20 retirement villages is a testimony to the charitable works of Freemasonry. Be assured, all donations (tax deductible) will be gratefully received and faithfully applied.

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 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.

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



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