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FREEMASON



The Official Journal of

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

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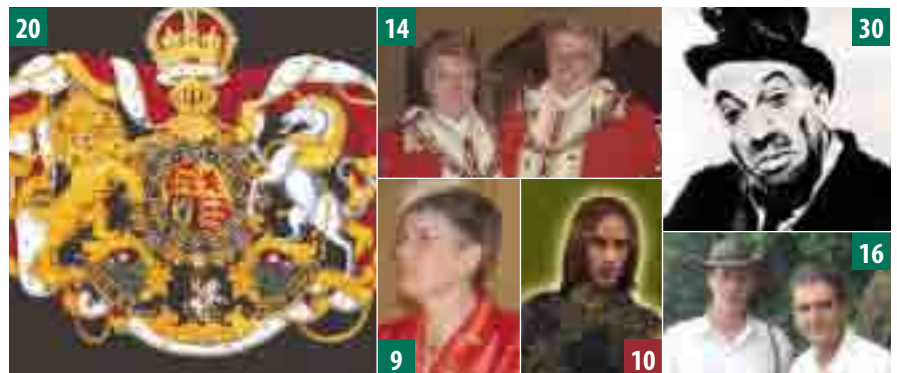
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INSERTS: MYWF Annual Report and UGL Annual Report

COVER: The State Coach *Britannia*, to be presented to Her Majesty. *Photography by Yvonne McIntyre*

Seasons Greetings



Dear Brethren and Families,


Seasons Greetings and Happy New Year from Judith, Harriet, Sybilla and myself and may you and yours find peace, health and happiness in 2009.

As masons, we understand this time of 'light' in the world. This is the light which can shine through that mysterious veil which the eye of human reason cannot penetrate, unless assisted by that 'light' which is from above. In the light of the Great Architect of the Universe's presence, we find fullness of life, love and charity, compassion and peace. We share a bond of hope.

As masons, this season of goodwill affords in all of us a generosity of spirit and an attitude of caring and I wish to acknowledge the kindly acts of our Caring Officers to our fellow brothers, wives, our widows and families. Their activities have had a wonderful influence on our Craft. To care is a strength and a virtue. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them on your behalf for their 'making a difference'. I proffer that the happiest people are those who find a need to willingly give of their time and lives in helping others. This is happiness that comes from the heart. This is Freemasonry at the heart of life.

Let us as a masonic family take our Craft values where they are most needed – to the disaffected, the unattached, the disillusioned. Let us look inside ourselves, to go 'outside'. Put out a hand of fellowship, and at this time of the year, love one and love all.

A kind word, a thought, a reason to celebrate one's humanity, of being part of a bigger picture. Away from the safe and singular, be part of the unfamiliar. Extend yourselves by caring and as a consequence, extend your Freemasonry.

At this time of family and friends, Judith and I again wish you 'Seasons Greetings' and a New Year of universal benevolence. ...



Faces of Poverty

How do we, as masonic brethren, react to the title 'Faces of Poverty' when we consider the first of the principles on which the Masonic Order is founded:

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

Certainly we should all give charitable assistance in the Christmas Season, and at all times, to those that are in need of food and other essentials of life, but how often do we consider other 'faces of poverty'? Consider those whose workloads, pressures of leadership, or other debilitating physical effects cause stress build up contributing to break down in health?

Does our heart ache for someone we know who experiences this form of poverty? Our masonic charge on Brotherly Love reminds us that *'we are sent into the world for the aid, support and protection of each other'*.

The Apostle Paul, in the Book of Philippians 2, urges us to avoid thinking of ourselves as being different to those caught up in poverty situations – let alone to think of ourselves as better people. He also calls us to live in humility; to put others' needs ahead of our own.

The challenge of this Christmas contribution is for masonic brethren to consider our responsibility *'for the aid, support and protection of each other'*, **and to make it happen.**

RW Bro Rev Dr Jack Hely CBE



Self Improvement

When the world is in turmoil and the fear of recession hovering, one may ask: Why is this situation turning the world topsy-turvy? On an individual level more and more people suffer depression, whether from external or personal reasons.

How can we improve our quality of life, be happier and healthier physically and mentally and influence, individually, our world? The secret is to allocate time wisely; avoid overwork (but no work and boredom are equally bad) and allow for leisure time to recover from physical fatigue and enrich our spirits, making life more interesting and rewarding. King Solomon gave us the right advice: *To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.*¹

Society is made from individuals. When we think with clear minds and restrain greedy inclinations, we make the world a better, more enjoyable place. There is always a reason behind times of peril.

As we welcome the New Year, it is wise to look back and examine past events and consequences in our lives and endeavour to correct any damage – to not make the same mistakes again. Soul searching is the best vehicle for self improvement. How lovely to behave kindly and happily, equally to all, to perform positive deeds, be useful at home and helpful to the needy wherever and whenever it is required. *Le bon temps viendra* – The good time will come. *A good time looms before us/Let despairing thoughts depart/Hope spreads its bright beams o'er us/Imparting courage to the heart.* (Anon)

The prophet Micha summarized it: *He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.*²

RW Bro Rabbi Dr Samuel Hay Tov-Lev

¹ Ecclesiastes, Chp.3, verse 1 ² Micha, Chp.6, verse 8




Christmas Cards

Last year, I wrote about Christmas music which to me is inseparable from the celebration of Christmas.

Christmas cards are also an important part of celebration for many families. The gospels of Matthew and Luke record people making journeys to see the Christ child. Luke tells of shepherds in the fields who saw a great light and heard an angelic message. Inspired by this vision they went to Bethlehem and there saw the baby in the stable attached to the inn where, famously, there was 'no room'. Matthew records the visit of wise men from the East who followed a star to Bethlehem. It guided them to a house where they saw the child.

We live in a world where distance often separates us from family members and friends. Christmas has traditionally become a time to remember and contact friends and relatives.

In the years when I served as Pastor of a church, we made a point of sending Christmas cards to all members of our congregation as a reminder of our appreciation for their support during the year. In my 'retirement' the list has diminished, but there are people whom I have known since my teenage years on our Christmas card list. A recent development in cards has been the addition of a letter giving family news and we have now adopted this as a regular practice. We have kept in touch with long-standing friends whom we may not see from year to year.

Christmas has a family emphasis and the exchange of cards promotes this aspect of our annual celebration. ...

RW Bro Rev Peter Kilkeary

A masonic togetherness

Masonry took a giant step forward in NSW on Tuesday 28 October when the historic Heads of Other Orders Conference was held at the Sydney Masonic Centre.

It was the first time a meeting had been held to bring together all of the Masonic Orders in the State for a general discussion on their future.

The Grand Master, MW Bro Dr Gregory Levenston welcomed the delegates, stating it was the culmination of many years of hard work, understanding and commonsense by saying:

'It has been focused by a diminishing membership base, financial imperatives, and in the early 21st Century, a desire to understand the challenge "What is Freemasonry?" not only within the Orders, but in our Community as well,' he said.

'In this room today, we are a family, albeit with some distant relatives not convinced of the sincerity of the reunion, and their apologies for non-attendance have obviously not been received.

'And, even for those attending, at times we are a dysfunctional family, in need of a Medicare "Mental Health Care Plan" to treat stress and anxieties. But we are a family. The family of Freemasonry, bringing to the table today strengths and experience learned and tempered by the test of time. Today is a major step forward, as we work towards a real productive family, in harmony, and caring of each other.

'Together we stand, divided we fall.

'It is this group today that will be seen to have made the difference. We must explore what is possible, and remain very focused.


'In my administration, there is no "Us and Them". Most certainly, "One size does not fit all". We must celebrate our differences, our individuality and at the same time acknowledge the importance of the whole. We must be flexible and accommodating, trusting the integrity and goodwill of all the participants.

'We are here to protect a "journey of light", where Freemasonry is at the heart of life.

'As Grand Master, my mission is to see Freemasonry enter a "Golden Era"; for Freemasonry to be an enjoyable, quality experience and to see the links that bind us as the family of Freemasons strengthened, understood and appreciated by all. Today is about starting the journey, a common shared journey for all the Orders of Freemasonry.

'As the day unfolds, I see many issues of commonality, and as Grand Master, may I state that the Craft is here to listen to, to support and to lead this partnership to our future. The Craft has no plan, nor any intention, to infringe the sovereignty of other Orders, or to interfere with their internal affairs.

'Thank you for your time and energies, and I look forward to the work ahead. In the long term, I ask that this day be a day of positives, progress and peace.'

At the conclusion of the meeting, the delegates left to report to their respective organisations with another meeting planned for May next year. 





A sword and Lodge Murdoch

Among the regimental property of the Darwin-based 8/12th Medium Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, is an artillery officer's sword which was presented to Lodge Murdoch by a Ted Magee as inscribed on the hilt of the sword. No date is apparent.

The Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company is assisting the Commanding Officer of the Regiment to better determine the provenance of the sword.

It's quite likely that Ted Magee was Edward Francis Martin Magee who was initiated into Lodge Kensington in January 1930, passed in May 1930 and raised in August 1931. He also affiliated with Lodge Olympus when it formed in 1953. Army sources suggest Ted Magee was a militia officer with 1st Australian Fire Command in 1943 or Major Magee, Fire Commander of the Coastal artillery defending Port Jackson.

While the military history is being pursued, what was the background to the formation of Lodge Murdoch, did it have any military connection and why would Ted Magee present his sword to Lodge Murdoch?

Grand Lodge archives reveal Lodge Murdoch was formed in May 1953, the lodge met in Artarmon and surrendered its charter in September 1979. Any information would be appreciated.

RW Bro John McPherson

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A 'thank you' to Dot

I have recently read the interesting tribute (to Mrs Dot Whitford) in the September edition of the Freemason and should like the opportunity to add some personal notes.

I joined The Maroubra Lodge in December 1959 and as a church organist was quickly approached by various lodges, the first being your husband Ron in early 1960. I also knew you from the shop and the result was I began as organist at Lodge Honour.

I'm sure you will recall that you and the family met up with me and a party of friends at the Richmond Bridge in Tasmania in 1965. It was quite a coincidence as there was only one picnic table and we both came upon it at the same time.

Over the years, I have read of your activities in the Freemason and have often felt the need to write and say 'hello' again. I was WM of Lodge Warrumbungles in Gilgandra during 1997 and 2006, DGIW of District 73 in 2002 but these days I have relocated to Katoomba where I teach music locally and am still a lodge organist.

Your contribution to Freemasonry must be something of a record. No doubt you have seen many masons come and go over the years. Things seem to be improving lately in the city and I feel confident an organization with the principles of Freemasonry will always be with us.

May I wish you every blessing in your life and future work. It has been a delight to write to you and I hope we meet again some time in the future.

Jim Giddens

Katoomba

On the right track

In response to the article by RW Bro Jack McNaughton, Masonic Buildings Committee, I would like to say that you don't know me from a bar of soap, but I liked your article in the Freemason.

I believe you are correct and to that end we have been working slowly but surely down that track. I have a thought though about small lodges, like my lodge, which doesn't have much funding to do any major repairs, modifications, upgrades or changes. We have to do small changes which I hope will pay dividends by bringing in new men to

the Craft, which in turn slowly gives us more money to do more with, otherwise the building stays as it is simply because of lack of funding.

Which brings me to my question of what can Grand Lodge do for us in funding to improve our magnificent lodge building?

If you are unfamiliar with our lodge, speak to our new Grand Master as he was here recently and I believe quite enjoyed the visit and the building.

Thank you for your time and if you are in the area drop in and I will shout you a cuppa or beverage.

Bro Greg Dunningcliff, CSM JP

Lodge Wyaldra No 238 Gulgong

Membership costs

The article in this month's Freemason on retaining our candidates was certainly spot on if we are to progress into the future, but where is our plan to retain our older masons?

A vast number of our Past Masters who are now on the pension have disappeared as the dues are increased every year along with the cost of the south and transportation and, to many who remain, visiting is out of the question.

With this in mind I approached our local Grand Counsellor to inquire why, when our pensioner members only receive CPI increases, Grand Lodge has no hesitation to exceed this amount. His reply was that if you wanted the best leadership you must be prepared to pay for it, and the amount was only a matter of a few cents a week and if they cut out a couple of beers a week they could afford the increase. The rest of our conversation was not harmonious, and it was only when I saw the article in the Freemason that I decided to make a direct approach to Grand Lodge in order to obtain a balanced reply.

When I joined Masonry I heard, and I quote: 'A man is not esteemed on account of his worldly possessions etc'. This will remain in my memory till I die but now I am starting to wonder.

I will be interested to hear what you have to say on this subject, but I must admit I have no great expectations.

R.J. Dawson PM

Lodge Tweed United No 136

By Bro Allan Mason MM, Lodge Central Coast 2001

What is the purpose of Freemasonry?

This is a question often posed by those seeking to know more about the Craft. We are not a secret society, as many believe, but a group that has secrets. Given the secrecy surrounding the Craft, it becomes hard to fathom from this why Freemasonry exists and what is our purpose for existing. Some consider that it is a fellowship of men. However this is limiting and does not fully explain why a lodge meets each month and what is the purpose of the work the lodge performs.

It is useful to re-examine exactly why we do what we do, both for those seeking to join, and for those who have been in Freemasonry for some time. It seems that many long termers have lost sight of the ultimate goal of Freemasonry.

In the second degree Freemasonry is defined as 'a peculiar system of morality veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols'. What does this mean?

In any pursuit there is a beingness in order to have something. The be, do, and have process. Hence to be a mechanic you must do what a mechanic does. The end product of being a mechanic is fixed cars. The doingness is fixing cars.

In the case of Freemasonry the end product is a person of high morals who is a worthy member of society. How is this achieved? It is achieved by learning the various charges and partaking of the rituals associated with each degree. In this way it is hoped that some of the lessons associated with these activities will somehow rub off and form the fabric of the person. Education turns a person in their rough and unshaped state into a civilized and enlightened being, capable of appreciating, and performing, his duty to God and man: transforming rough shapeless matter into a thing of beauty to discover the latent qualities of the mind.

To understand the reason for Freemasonry, it is important to understand a further point about learning. That is the games philosophy. Everything we do in life has its root in this philosophy. A

game is composed of three parts: freedom, barrier and purpose – the freedom to choose what to do, barriers in doing something and the end result of the activity. Hence in Freemasonry there is the freedom first to join, to take office and to be active in the lodge. The barriers are the learning of charges and rituals. The goal is to make you a better person.

In the pursuit of this goal we play the game of Freemasonry.

Man in his natural state must have freedom. This is part of self-determinism. Freedom to choose. With this freedom comes the happiness. Happiness is the

conquering of obstacles. The conquering of barriers. Those who have learned charges will know what this means. Learning a charge verbatim can be hard, but when delivered with clarity and precision a certain feeling of euphoria is achieved. This is happiness, the overcoming of not unknown obstacles towards a known goal. This is the definition of happiness.

So Freemasonry achieves happiness by the pursuit of a game of learning. The end product, I believe, is to make you a better person. Along the way have fun. The fellowship and friends we make along the way are icing on the cake. ...

Do YOU have a contribution?

The magazine is seeking articles of interest from masons relating to their travels or involvement in community affairs. It is also looking for stories from Young Masons who are new to the Craft and would like to express their opinion on joining this worldwide organisation. **Please keep general stories to 700 words and Young Mason stories to 400 words.**



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You are never too old to change

In December 2008, it will be 100 years since the formation of the Present and Past Grand Lodge Officers' Association (P&PGLOA); however, at the Annual General Meeting in August this year, members voted on a change of name.

The new name is the 'Freemasons' Association (NSW & ACT)'.

The reason for the change in name is that membership is no longer restricted to present and past Grand Lodge Officers and is now open to Master Masons, Past Masters, wives, partners and widows of masons of the NSW and ACT jurisdiction.

A further change to the Association Rules re-established the automatic appointment of the Senior Grand Warden as President and the Junior Grand Warden as one of two Vice Presidents. The current President is RW Bro Walid Mehanna, Senior Grand Warden. The automatic Vice President is RW Bro Ray Johnson, Junior Grand Warden. The Grand Master becomes the Patron of the Association and for the first time in the 100 year history of the P&PGLOA, the Committee of Management has two ladies as members – Ms Judith Morrice and Dr Yvonne McIntyre, Membership Officer.

The aim of the revitalised Association is to become the social arm of Freemasonry – an aim fully supported by the Grand Master.

There has been a remarkable turnaround in the first 100 days following the return to the former structure. Membership has increased by 23% and two highly successful social functions have been held.

The first of these was a Celebration Dinner held on the evening of 7 October

to welcome ladies as members of the Association. The function, which included entertainment by the Sweet Mojo Trio, was held at the Sydney Masonic Centre and was attended by 150 masons, their wives/partners and Masonic Widows. The highlight of the evening was a talk on the Women's Advisory Committee (WAC) by its Chairperson, Ms Judith Morrice, partner of the Grand Master, MW Bro Dr Gregory Levenston. The Grand Master was in attendance to hear Judith's talk, details of which appear on the opposite page.

The proceeds of more than \$2,000 from the function have been donated to Judith for inclusion with other funds raised for Stewart House, her nominated charity. The result was possible due to a raffle for which the prizes were generously donated by The Cedars Lodge No 1041 through its Worshipful Master, VW Bro Garry Sayed, PDGDC.

The Association's second function was held on Tuesday 14 October as a regular lunch meeting and was attended by 38 Association members and friends. Mrs Susan Williams, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Masonic Youth Welfare Fund, was the guest speaker and spoke on the role of the Fund and its




Dr Yvonne McIntyre, Membership Officer and President RW Bro Walid Mehanna, SGW

achievements. In particular, Mrs Williams spoke on the 'Sponsor a Student' program and the need for lodges and/or brethren to join the MYWF's pledge program or to simply make a donation to the Fund.

Mrs Williams was appointed to the role of CEO following the retirement of RW Bro Bruce Whittet and a brief resume of her background and experience appear in the July 2008 issue of the *Freemason*. It is quite obvious from her presentation, that the MYWF has made a wise choice in the appointment of their new CEO.

By the time this issue of the *Freemason* is published, the Association will have held two further functions – a lunch meeting on 4 November to discuss proposed changes to the Rules of the Association and its future directions and an evening dinner on 11 November to celebrate Remembrance Day. MW Bro A (Tony) Lauer, APM, PGM and former Police Commissioner of NSW will be the guest speaker at the dinner. A report of these events will appear in the February issue of the *Freemason*.

The President of the Freemasons' Association, RW Bro Walid Mehanna, Senior Grand Warden, and his wife Rima, take the opportunity of wishing the brethren, their families and the Masonic Widows of the jurisdiction a healthy and prosperous festive season. They look forward to welcoming you at future Freemasons' Association (NSW & ACT) functions. 



The role of women in the Craft

The issue of women in Freemasonry can be quite controversial but Judith Morrice is not advocating for women to join Freemasonry.

She told the NSW Freemasons Association there are important issues and questions that need to be re-addressed through the Women's Advisory Committee which has been formed by the Grand Master.

'Because of my age, the more experienced women see me as their future, non-threatening, civilized and ready to lead women with dignity and maturity. The younger women see me as more contemporary, flexible, not yet set in my ways, and as a means to promote their cause and make changes.

'Historically, women have always been involved in the catering side of Freemasonry until 1978 when they were invited to join their men at Installation Banquets.

'Women who led the way for change included Mrs Kit Coates, wife of the Grand Master and Mrs Monica Folkard, wife of DGIW (West Wyalong District), when they presented papers to wives at the 1980 DGIW Convention. Mrs Folkard illuminated the relationship between wife, home and masonic husband. It is the model used today on which the Ladies Conference, conducted in parallel to the DGIW Conferences, is based. In 1988, Mrs Carole McCulloch, wife of the then DGIW (District 37) developed the theme: "Is the wife going to be just a washer and ironer or can she play a positive role as a co-ordinator in her husband's District?"

'The Committee will comprise myself as the Chairperson, the DGM's wife Susan Fletcher, coordinating expressions of interest, the AGM's wife Jacky Wild, coordinating social and fundraising events, the Regional Grand Counsellors' wife or partner, Dr Yvonne McIntyre

representing The Masonic Widows Association and representatives from Related Women's Orders (Order of the Eastern Star, Rainbow Girls, Amaranth).

'We need to reinvigorate the women of this Jurisdiction. We need to set clear goals and have realistic expectations on how we can help lead this organisation forward.

'By giving serious regard to the female half of the population, Freemasonry would go a long way to lessen internal problems, benefit from women's unique talents and capacities, and improve its public image.

'I ask women to implement their skills into assisting the management of Lodges, Districts, Regions and Grand Lodge through organisation of social functions, fundraising, planning lodge events, marketing, legal, research, consultancy.

'Freemasonry is as much in our hearts as it is in the hearts of our men.'

'Communication is vital and most women are skilled in the use of a telephone or computer. This could add another dimension by women getting to know each other, the concept being if she is involved, he will be retained.

'A sheet could be inserted with the Lodge Notice paper on what is happening in the future. Lodge membership lists should include the name of the wife or partner, if permission has been received.

'Involvement of women in the celebration of masonic achievements is also an important milestone to be shared. A 50-year jewel could be presented in the South along with a certificate for the woman for her support.



Judith Morrice was guest speaker at the inaugural meeting of the new Freemasons' Association

'The *Freemason* magazine is another area where women could contribute. There are interesting stories and articles across the country to be found and told.

'It is important for me to set an agenda to move into the next stage but I need your input. What do you want to do? Contact the wife or partner of the Regional Grand Counsellor or DGIW with your ideas or email them to wac@uglnsw.freemasonry.org.au.

'We must work together, acknowledge each other and get rid of the "us and them" syndrome. Surely, we are united by being part of the fraternal family of Freemasonry, by being Masonically Associated.

'Charity is an important part of Freemasonry and I ask you to support "Stewart House" at South Curl Curl, my chosen charity. Students from infants to lower secondary are given the opportunity to develop a healthy lifestyle and to build self-esteem. During their twelve-day stay, they are provided with medical, dental and optometric assessment, treatment and counselling. Freemasonry's support will reflect well upon our organisation.

'We also need to continue the efforts of the pioneer women and not let their hard work fall by the wayside. Help move Freemasonry into the future and ensure it has a future.

'Freemasonry is as much in our hearts as it is in the hearts of our men.' ..-t

By Bro Jim Garner, B.Math, B.A.(Hons), Ph.D., J.P., MM Hunter Hiram 246

It is great theatre



I was initiated into Lodge Hunter Hiram 246 in November 2006 and raised in July 2007, so I am a new (but only relatively young) Master Mason.

From the beginning I noticed that some of the symbolism in masonic teachings was familiar, from my studies as a Ph.D. in drama. In particular, phrases from Shakespeare would come to mind.

For example, I learned in the first degree that the compasses symbolize the need to keep our passions and prejudices in due bounds. This reminded me of *Henry IV Part 1*, where the notorious Sir John Falstaff claims he 'lived well and in good compass' but Bardolph replies 'Why, you are so fat, Sir John, that you must needs be out of all compass'. Falstaff, of course, could not be further from a model of masonic ethics – he was a thief, a drunkard and a libertine. Notwithstanding the pun on his great girth, these lines made me wonder if Shakespeare had heard the 'compasses' metaphor from some masonic source.

Soon after my initiation I learned about the rough and perfect ashlar. The words of Hamlet sprang to mind (I heard it in the voice of Derek Jacobi, my favourite performer of the role) – 'There's a divinity that shapes our ends, rough-

hew them how we will.' Shakespeare and masonic lore seem to be saying the same thing: we make decisions of our own free will that loosely shape the direction of our lives, like carving the rough blocks from the quarry. But the many details of life that are not in our own hands will determine its exact shape. The Great Architect puts on the smooth finishing touches.

When passed to the second degree, I was reminded of Prospero in *The Tempest*. He had deeply studied the hidden mysteries of nature and science, and thus gained much power. But he refused to abuse his power, and in the end sets it aside, refusing to take revenge on his enemies.

I invite Master Masons to think about the third degree in connection with this riddle from *Hamlet*: 'Who builds stronger than a mason, a shipwright or a carpenter? ... A grave-maker: the houses that he makes last till doomsday.' Immediately following this, Shakespeare gives us the well-known 'Yorick' scene. I need add nothing more here.

Visiting the library at the Masonic Centre – a trip from Raymond Terrace (Port Stephens) to Sydney – I tried to find out how much research has been done into the question 'Was Shakespeare a

mason?' Obviously, he lived a century before the formation of the Grand Lodge of England, and possibly before operative masonry gave way to speculative Gentlemen. But it seems that the tools and geometric devices of the stonemasons guilds were familiar to him.

Beyond particular quotes from his plays, there are also themes and images in Shakespeare's work which would arise naturally in the mind of a man with a knowledge of masonic lore. To give just one example, in *Julius Caesar* the conspirators surround and stab their leader 'out of envy' but must then escape the city. The ceremony and expressions of grief at the leader's burial have great significance in Shakespeare's telling of history.

Clearly all these ideas, part of the Craft when its rituals were first standardised in writing, were already alive in the culture of Tudor England, and have come down to us as part of the great literature of the age. As I went through the three degrees, my lodge brothers would occasionally say reassuringly, 'You may find some of the language strange, but it all has definite symbolic meaning'. But for me, there was a certain familiarity that made the ritual and its underlying philosophy not so weird after all. And it was great theatre! ...

Holding masonic meetings in non-masonic buildings

As indicated in our articles on membership, many lodges are facing heavy expenditure each year in either renting or operating a masonic building. The cost of renting or owning a masonic building is increasing each year, and will continue to rise in the future. This, together with declining membership, means that the annual provision of masonic accommodation results in an increasing financial burden upon each member.

The choice facing these lodges is either to increase members' dues considerably, or to find a way to reduce expenditure, particularly on rent, insurance, or building maintenance. Failure to implement either of these options may well result in the financial burden on members becoming unsustainable, and the lodge being forced to find somewhere else to meet.

The possible solution for a lodge so affected is to move its meeting place to a non-masonic building. This is not a new idea, and was, in fact, the normal practice in New South Wales up to about the end of 19th century. It is still usual in many other countries throughout the world.

At first sight, many brethren may think that it is too hard to set up for a masonic meeting in a building not built for that purpose. This is not true; other orders do it for all of their meetings, and there are a number of lodges doing it successfully each meeting.

Following are guidelines for a lodge to consider in using a non-masonic building for a masonic meeting:

1. APPROVALS

The Constitutions provide that 'No Lodge shall meet in any place unless such place is, at the date the meeting is held, an approved Masonic meeting place.'

Therefore, any lodge contemplating moving its place of meeting must submit an application to the Board of Management pursuant to this regulation, and obtain approval prior to the date of the intended meeting.

It is necessary that the proposed venue be available on a long-term basis because of the fact that the room has to be approved by the Board of Management as a masonic meeting place.

2. THE LODGE ROOM

The room in which the masonic meeting is to be held is to be capable of being secured so that unauthorised persons cannot enter or view the room during the ceremony. The area should have effective sound-proofing.

It is preferable that the masonic meeting room be either on the ground floor, or on a floor served by a lift, to enable brethren with disabilities to attend meetings. It is desirable that the building in which the masonic meeting room is situated be served by off-street motor vehicle parking.

Light switches should be inside the meeting room so that lights cannot be switched on or off by persons outside the room. An adequate number of suitably placed power outlets, or battery power should be provided.

Provision is required for the storage of furniture, regalia etc, preferably on site in a locked room, cupboard or box. Simple covered tables can be used in the lodge room.

3. ROOM FOR CANDIDATES

Providing a room for the preparation of Candidates may be difficult in some

cases, particularly with regard to moving the candidate from the candidate's room to the lodge room. However, this could be solved, where suitable arrangements are not possible, by the use of a curtain outside the lodge room door.

4. THE FESTIVE BOARD

There are a number of possibilities. The Festive Board can be held in a separate room if it is available. Otherwise lodges should look at using the hotel/club bistro/dining room which is common practice overseas. A check needs to be made on the closing time of these bistros/dining rooms and if they have an early closing time (before 9.30pm), the lodge should consider the idea of eating first and then holding its meeting, a practice overseas and now being used by Australian lodges.

Consideration of the cost of hiring a separate meeting facility in a club or similar may indicate that it could be a considerably less expensive option than continuing in a high maintenance, run down building.



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By W Bro John Alam*

LEST WE FORGET

ANZAC legend lives on

This month of November again takes our memory to Remembrance Day and its meaning. The following article looks at a different viewpoint.

As we approach the 100-year-anniversary of the 1915 Gallipoli Campaign, it is fitting to reflect on what this military campaign means to Australia and its people in this new century.

We have seen many changes since Federation – two world wars, large scale immigration, and development. The Australia of 1915 is certainly not the Australia of 2008. And yet our institutions, our system of government, our justice system and way of life have continued to strengthen.

But what do we really know about Gallipoli? Does it have the same impact on young people as it once did? What is the legacy of this campaign and legend?

Born from these questions, Bro George Zeitoune and I developed an ambitious project. We spoke to many young people from many cultural backgrounds. For many, ANZAC Day was just another public holiday, a day off school. Some even connected it with the ANZ Bank. And while some expressed a superficial knowledge of the military campaign and its sacrifices, we formed the view that there is a fundamental lacking of the Spirit of ANZAC in many of our local youth.

In late 2007 a plan was formulated to take a group of high school students from Bankstown to Gallipoli for ANZAC Day 2008. It was a huge endeavour, but together with another Bankstown Multicultural Youth Service management committee member, Detective Chief Inspector

Geoffrey Allen (retired), a sub-committee was formed to progress the project.

The committee, called the Community Harmony Youth Project (CHYP), chaired by Bro Zeitoune, managed to raise over \$125,000 to pay for fifteen high school students and six adult mentors to travel to Turkey. Supported by our many sponsors, the students, male and female, from diverse cultural backgrounds and unknown to each other, were selected.

A program of workshops was successfully conducted by the youth and school liaison officers of the Bankstown Police, covering topics such as drugs, anger management, cyber crime and identity theft, racism and tolerance. This was followed by a visit to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, where a tour of the Memorial and a presentation on the Gallipoli Campaign was made to the students.

It was interesting to observe these young people who were only a little younger than many of the ANZACs themselves. They began to bond and form relationships just as the ANZACs would have done, having come together in a group with others they did not know and probably would never have met but for army service.

Arriving in Turkey, our party was driven by bus to the Gallipoli Peninsula. We visited ANZAC Cove and Lone Pine Cemetery, the Australian Memorial, so named after the 'lone pine' that remained standing at the end of this battle. For the first time the students, and indeed all of us, had an appreciation of what had happened

here. In many cases the headstones were marked 'Believed to be buried here'. And the magnificent monument to our war dead declared that thousands of Australian servicemen had no known grave. The entire cemetery was the actual battlefield where our troops had fallen. The opposing trenches were in places only metres apart.

On the eve of 25 April, ANZAC Cove was filled with people who had come for the Dawn Service, huddled together, wrapped in blankets to keep out the cold.

The most striking part of the landscape was that the beach began to rise up almost immediately with thick vegetation rising to huge bluffs. It was easy to imagine our troops huddled together on the warships, waiting for their orders, landing on these shores, wet and cold, moving forward through the difficult terrain, with the defenders on the ridges above firing down upon them.

The Dawn Service itself was moving and, unashamedly, brought a tear to the eye. We afterwards trekked to Lone Pine Cemetery for the 10 am Australian Service. We waited in the cold and thought of the ANZACs in similar bitter cold.

We left Turkey after ten days. We all came away with a better understanding of the Gallipoli Campaign, and an appreciation of the sacrifices made by so many on our behalf. A total of 8,709 Australians died and 19,441 were wounded in this campaign. When ANZAC forces withdrew it was done without a single casualty. We now know it was a Herculean effort. ...

** W Bro Alam is Chairperson and Management Committee Member of the Bankstown Multicultural Youth Service, together with Bro George Zeitoune.*

Funding the future

The Masonic Youth Welfare Fund would like to introduce you to one of the country's best kept secrets – a program entitled **Compass Youth Education**. It is a series of financial assistance structures that help young people reach their potential in life through education assistance.



Continuing the tradition that was established 85 years ago by the masons, the Compass Youth Education program helps thousands of young Australians of primary, secondary and tertiary age achieve a start in life, with almost 65% today hailing from rural and regional Australia.

The program has a simple mandate – to help the youth of Australia in need of assistance, regardless of race, colour, creed or masonic affiliation.

Today, through its investments, the Masonic Youth Welfare Fund, and its Compass Youth Education program, provides monthly financial support for essential education needs including uniforms, stationery items, text books, student accommodation and other activities relating to personal development.

The Fund also assists with optical and dental costs on a case by case basis and pays for school-approved tuition or specialised training.

In addition to this financial assistance, these children and their parents also receive friendly advice, moral support, guidance, practical help and reassurance so they have an equal opportunity in life and learn to appreciate good citizenship.

But we also need YOUR help. We encourage you to sponsor a student for as little as a few dollars – a cup of coffee – a day. This will allow us to help even more children as we enter a new phase by partnering VOXSYNERGY, a talented choir of young people aged 16–23, who won the nation's support when they were grandfinalists in the Seven Network's Battle of the Choirs series earlier this year.

The VOXSYNERGY Ambassadors will become the voice of youth as they assist the Compass Youth Education program in its fundraising initiatives, which will allow the organisation to help even more young Australians in the future.

'We are delighted to have banded together with this talented young choir in the spirit of our mandate of assisting young people to realise their dreams and full potential,' said Susan Williams, the CEO of Masonic Youth Welfare Fund of NSW & ACT.

'VOXSYNERGY, in turn, can help us secure the future and invest in the potential of other young Australians who need a helping hand because we are determined to help even more young people this coming year.'

VOXSYNERGY have recorded a new CD which will be on sale and performed at fundraisers around the country to help our Compass Youth Education program raise money so more young students can receive financial assistance.

'People who make donations or bequests or annually sponsor students can be assured that 100% of that donation goes to a child in need and donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible,' Mrs Williams said.

'We are proud to be giving young Australians, who are this nation's future, a direction and voice so even more can realise their dreams and have a positive start in life.'

Assist us in helping other young people. Phone 02 9264 3017 or email: fundadmin@nswyouth.com.au

Sponsor a Student



You can invest in the future of a young Australian by sponsoring a student for just a few dollars a week.

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



Compass Youth Education, a program of the Masonic Youth Welfare Fund, provides essential education items ranging from uniforms to stationery, computers and other benefits like dental care.

The children whom we assist get a new start in life because someone like you cares.



To find out more about this special program phone 02 9264 3017 or email: fundadmin@nswyouth.com.au

www.nswyouth.com.au



Masonic Youth Welfare Fund
of NSW & ACT

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



Embracing the future

On 20 September, masons and ladies along with distinguished guests had the pleasure of witnessing the Grand Re-Installation of M Ex Comp Samuel Gregory Mason, First Grand Principal and Grand Master of the United Supreme Grand Chapter of Mark and Royal Arch Masons along with his


Grand Officers for another masonic year. A most enjoyable Grand Re-Installation Banquet with a decidedly Australian theme was enjoyed by all present.

The motto of M Ex Comp Mason is 'Embrace our Future' and can be read as 'Embrace Freemasonry'. The motto there-

fore says to those who are not Royal Arch Freemasons, come and 'Embrace your Future'. In this way you will continue your masonic journey by seeking to find the time honoured knowledge and perfections that are held within the mystery of the Royal Arch.

As with life, our journey never ends until our last breath is taken and so should it be with Freemasonry; there are always more steps to take, more lessons to be learned, more wise counsel to heed as one opens the doors of opportunity and seeks to learn.

No scholar has ever progressed in the quest for knowledge without first taking tentative steps and reverently covering the footsteps of those who have gone before.

United Supreme Grand Chapter has produced a most informative package available free to Master Masons. The package is in accordance with the Agreement between the Craft and the United Supreme Grand Chapter and gives a wonderful insight into the world of the Royal Arch Mason. 



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Remembrance Day at Balcombe Heights Estate

Remembrance Day this year had a special significance and celebration at the Balcombe Heights Estate (BHE), a Baulkham Hills Shire Council community facility.

The estate is located on a site which has strong links to Freemasonry. On 11 November 1922 (Armistice Day), the site was opened as the William Thompson Masonic School for children of masons who had been orphaned or left in poor circumstances following World War I.

During World War II the children were moved into the countryside and the buildings became the 103rd Australian General Hospital. The school reopened on 8 November 1947 as the Masonic School and functioned until January 1974 when the Council purchased the site.

Two memorials located on the estate commemorate masons who lost their lives in each of the World Wars and Vietnam, while a granite stone acknowledges the site's use as the Australian General Hospital during World War II.

Although occupying a reduced area than the original Masonic Schools, many of the original buildings still exist on the estate today, their facades and gardens maintained according to their original appearance. The buildings are now tenanted by a variety of groups, the majority being non-profit organisations or engaged in volunteer work for the community.

There are activities for all ages such as playgroups, child care groups, a school for autistic children, model railway society, amateur boxing, a community radio station, medical equipment hire, the SES, St John's Ambulance and a plethora of craft activities and adult learning groups.

The grounds around the buildings are spacious with concrete walking tracks, two ovals that cater for many sporting

activities, while skateboard ramps and a modern playground are provided for older children and youth.

As a community facility, BHE has a committee which holds a strong belief that the historical significance of the estate and its present day value as a community resource deserves recognition and promotion.

To this end, a special Remembrance Day Ceremony was held at the estate on 11 November 2007 to dedicate the memorials, followed by an open day in which current tenants opened their doors to the public. The solemnity of this occasion was made more poignant by the presence of a number of Masonic Lodge members and Old Masonians who had been former residents of the Masonic School during their youth.

The committee decided the event would be celebrated annually on the Sunday closest to 11 November and this year it was held on 9 November at the 'Soldier Memorial' at the head of the Avenue of Trees on the Estate. This memorial bears the name of each mason who gave his life in World War I and for each of whom a tree was planted along the avenue. It is realised revisiting the past may rekindle happy memories for some but for others, the memories may be confronting.

Last year, the popularity of the historical tours, conducted by Ms Noelene Pullen a knowledgeable local studies librarian from Castle Hill Library, highlighted the interest in the history of this site. This was supported by many of the current tenants who opened their doors to visitors.

Last year one particular tenant group, Macquarie Hill Potters, marked the event by producing commemorative mugs that could be purchased. A few of these mugs are still available.

Hope to see you there next year! 🇺🇸



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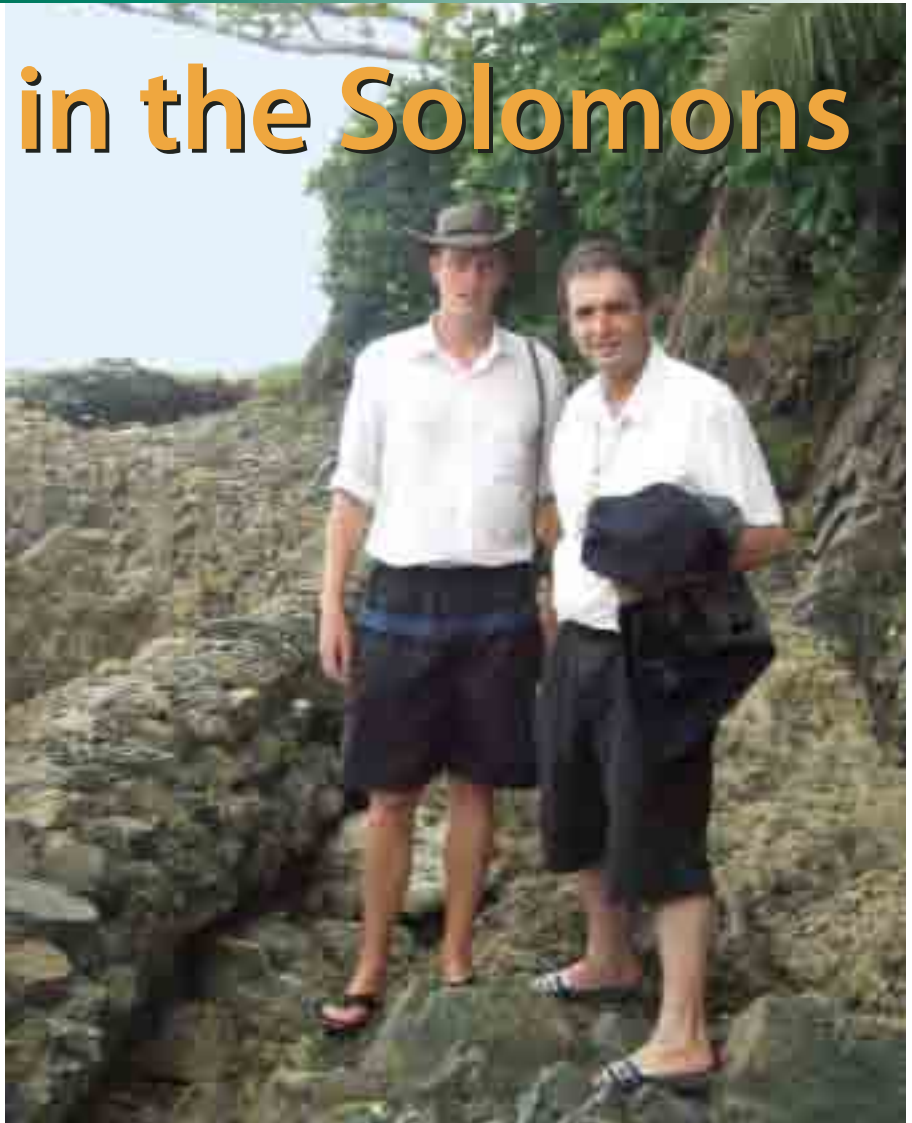
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Masonry in the Solomons

W Bro Keith Joseph, who is a member of Lodge Hornsby No 262 and Lodge Horizons No 1032, has recently been awarded the Australian Federal Police Commissioner's Group Citation for Hazardous Overseas Service for displaying 'outstanding commitment, dedication and professionalism' during the Honiara riots, Solomon Islands in April 2006. At that time Keith was serving as an administrator in the Australian Federal Police, as part of the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI).

On completion of his service with RAMSI, Keith who holds a PhD from Newcastle University, was ordained as an Anglican minister in the Solomons where he has since remained. He is currently teaching philosophy and theology at the Bishop Patterson Theological College which is situated some 30 kilometres from Honiara along a somewhat dubious road. His duties also require him to make other hazardous trips to various parts of the Solomon Islands.

This year he was joined at the College by Bro Stuart Thomson from Lodge Trinitarian. Stuart taught New Testament Greek, and has now left the Solomon Islands to go on to Oxford University to do his PhD.



Bro Stuart Thomson and W Bro Keith Joseph 'go walkabout' on the Weathercoast of Guadalcanal.

What is the NSW FREEMASON ?

The NSW *Freemason* plays a double role. It is the voice of Grand Lodge and the voice of the private lodges. To be successful, it needs the assistance of people in providing information and it needs these providers to operate at maximum efficiency.

For those sending information on lodge activities, remember what you provide is accepted as the report.

- > Be aware of deadlines, get your report in on time.
- > Write precise sentences and use facts, not impressions.
- > Where possible, type using double spacing or email.
- > If using longhand, PRINT all names to avoid errors.
- > Keep the report short, sharp, avoid repetition and don't use lengthy sentences.
- > Always check what you have written, especially dates, times, places, names.

- > If sending a photograph, ensure the subject is clear (head and shoulders rather than long-range), get the main people in the photograph, identify the people in the photo and don't write names on the back.

- > Every report should have a contact name and telephone number in case a check is required on a name or date.

It is always advisable to check whether the story will be of interest to a large number of readers and is of significance. Readers want to know about other people and interesting events.

Always keep in mind the opening sentence is the most important and should contain a summary of the report you want to present. The important facts are at the top, the lesser facts follow.

Magazines are limited in space. Sometimes it will be necessary to re-write your story and possibly reduce its size. This becomes necessary when a report is too long or repeats the same facts. Just remember the old phrase – keep it simple, short and clear.

Never Say Die

By Chris O'Brien

RPA'S favourite surgeon on his life from Doctor to Patient

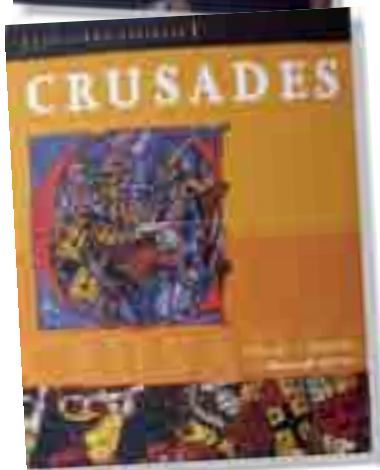
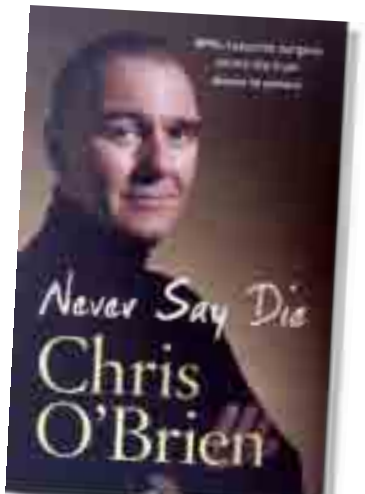
Never Say Die is Chris O'Brien's warm and lively memoir. Funny, charming and fearless, he has said he is not afraid to die – but he doesn't plan to just yet.

In November 2006 Professor O'Brien was diagnosed with glioblastoma multiforme, an aggressive form of brain cancer. O'Brien knew the facts. His cancer whilst difficult to treat, has a known 2% survival rate at best. Despite the grim prognosis, he was determined to beat the odds.

With the support of his close family, Dr O'Brien took the option of radical brain surgery under the supervision of well-known neurosurgeon Dr Charlie Teo. His health and relative youth – he being 54 when diagnosed – have helped him make the painful transition from doctor to patient, and renewed his faith in the importance of an optimistic outlook as the cornerstone of recovery.

In *Never Say Die* Dr O'Brien takes a look back over his life and the forces that have shaped him – from his modest beginnings, to his early years as a doctor, to becoming the popular face of television's RPA and his crusade for the establishment of cancer centres, through to the shocking news that literally changed his life.

Published by Harper Collins Australia Available at all booksellers, \$32.95 ISBN: 978 0 7322 8809 9 Illustrated Trade Paperback



Crusades

By Thomas F. Madden General Editor

With an authoritative and accessible text by a team of specialist historians, this book not only provides a narrative of the major Crusades but also looks at the complex background to events, including the divisions within the major religions – Latin and Orthodox Christians, Shia and Sunni Muslims.

Crusades traces the major expeditions and focuses on key episodes such as the titanic struggles over Jerusalem and Constantinople. War, however, is not the whole story: the encounter between East and West opened the eyes of Europeans to the world outside. The legacy of the Crusades is most evident today in castles, churches, and Moorish architecture, but more surprising in areas such as banking, science, engineering, medicine and philosophy.

Beautifully illustrated throughout, *Crusades* brings history vividly to life. Anyone who wishes to probe the historical roots of the 21st century tensions between Islam and the West, or simply to learn about one of the most fascinating phenomena of the Middle Ages, will find this book endlessly informative and enriching.

Published by Simon & Schuster Australia Available at all booksellers, \$39.95 ISBN: 9781 84483 6659 Illustrated Large-size Paperback

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September Communication, 2008

The Grand Master, MW Bro Dr Gregory Levenston welcomed all members in his first official capacity as the Grand Master.

'I want to place issues of importance to this Jurisdiction in front of the Grand Lodge for analysis and feedback and to explore the Jurisdiction's position within Australia/New Zealand Grand Lodges and the Asia Pacific Region and beyond,' he said.

'As we move forward, as masons, we must be very sure of our place in the world. We must understand the history and context of decision-making, and have a very clear focus on the mechanics of that process. Reforming that process from lodge to Grand Lodge level is a major platform of my administration.

'I thank the Grand Secretariat as a unit, the Sydney Masonic Centre staff and the Grand Ceremonial Team for their commitment to presenting the Grand Installation program with a professional approach which made it a marvellous event. It set the platform for building confidence and morale as we rise to the challenges that lie ahead.'

He announced that Past Grand Chaplain, RW Bro Brian Keith Burton, PAGM, had passed away at the end of August. RW Bro Burton was Grand Chaplain from 14 September 1994 to 4 August 2005.

The Grand Master has attended Regional Conferences for Region 4 and Region 3 where issues included: Support of the initiative for annual conferences, the need for improved quality of communications, to take away 'Us and Them', regions must be empowered to represent local opinions and be part of the decision making processes and The Women's Advisory Committee is proving 'The Committee' to be part of.

At the triennial meeting of No 1 Lodges of ANZ on 4 August, he was presented with a travelling sword from the brethren of Lodge Resurgo, an 1834 Indian Calvary sword, with full history. He also hosted a joint dinner for the Boards on 19 August as a forum to better

improve communication and exchange of ideas. The Grand Master and Judith Morrice attended the Order of Amaranth's 'Pink Ribbon' Ball on 23 August at Wentworthville and issues were raised for the Heads of Other Orders Conference on 28 October.

Over the next couple of months brethren meeting in the Sydney Masonic Centre will see a refurbishment of the third floor, primarily lodge rooms 3 and 5, including the Carrington Room and the Grand Master's suite with funding coming from Sydney Masonic Centre and a bequest made by the late Brother Gary Sellers of Lodge Kensington. No funds will come from capitation fees.

The Grand Masters' Conference ... endorsed communication as the critical issue.

Our messages must get to ALL masons and ladies on a regular basis

Grand Master's lunches will be held over the next twelve months, focusing on Sydney Masonic Centre business contacts, media relationships, sponsorship groups, and dialogue with Church groups in the community.

'I thank RW Bro Chris Craven for his commitment to the Asia Pacific Conference of Grand Masters, held prior to our Grand Installation. Input was determined from a number of visiting Grand Masters, and the global regional concept has been accepted by attendees and will be expanded in the near future. Bro Craven has accepted the role of organizational secretary, with the next formal meeting planned for the Philippines, in mid 2009. This will see all Jurisdictions expand their horizons and benefit from the experience of others while this Region will gain credence in the wider, global issues of Freemasonry.

'The Grand Masters' Conference on 4 August decided on the name the Grand Lodges of Australia and New Zealand, to better suit the growing Asia Pacific Conference. The ANZ masonic logo was confirmed and the Conference endorsed communication as the critical issue. This Jurisdiction is nominated to coordinate issues across ANZ for the next twelve months. I intend to push for a Grand Lodge of Australia, at least in planning, resource deployment and electronic terms.

'The following actions will be instituted:

1. Review of our Governance structure from Executive Council to the Grand Secretariat to match the directions of this organization and the expectations of our masons.
2. The return of Working Tools and a general overhaul of communications. Our messages must get to ALL masons and ladies on a regular basis.
3. The ongoing provision of the toll free service 1800 803 354.
4. All buildings to submit a five year business plan, as specified by the Board of Management Buildings Committee template, as soon as possible, and by the latest, February 2009. A classification will be determined under the authority of the Deputy Grand Master in the second half of the 2009 masonic year.
5. The formation of new lodges across the Jurisdiction to create confidence in our future.
6. Membership presentations are being overhauled with an update of the induction kit, new membership kit and a reintroduction of the 'Masons on the Move' initiative.
7. A specific site to be developed on our website called 'Rumours', to explain and dispel issues that cause disharmony.
8. The next Communication will call for 'Questions with notice, for the good of the Craft', so our Boards and Secretariat may respond proactively to any issues.

9. A poll will be held on whether we continue to open Grand Lodge with *God Save the Queen* and close with the National Anthem or simply open with the National Anthem. A decision will be made in March 2009. Progress reports will be made regularly to Grand Lodge and the Jurisdiction.

'I also wish to announce that from tonight, I am establishing the *Grand Master's Lodge Awards*. To be awarded annually, commencing at the next September Communication, these awards will be in three categories:

1. Membership
2. Operations

3. Charity

I am looking to acknowledge outstanding lodge ideas and actions in these three areas, that benefit the Craft and community in this Jurisdiction and beyond,' the Grand Master said. ...

FROM THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER RW BRO PAUL FLETCHER

Review of masonic halls

'It is absolutely necessary that we understand the answer to the question "What is a lodge?" A lodge is a group of Freemasons, what I like to call "a Band of Brothers". A lodge is not a material building, made of bricks or timber with windows and doors; it is a group of Freemasons.

'Across our jurisdiction in 2008, the average lodge has less than 40 brethren, with an average age over 70 years. With less than 14,000 Freemasons, we have almost as many masonic meeting places today as we had 30 years ago in 1978 when we had 79,812 masons and 829 lodges.

'Our buildings range from the new Masonic Hall in Tamworth to others over 100 years old; condition varies from good to poor. A typical masonic hall is over 75 years old; if it's a two-storey building it probably doesn't have a lift but a timber staircase. The owners of many buildings don't have a sinking fund to maintain the building and two thirds of our halls are meeting places for just one Craft lodge.

'So on average, we have a group of forty 70-year-old men trying their best to maintain a building that has seen better days, trying to raise sufficient money every year to pay the rates, insurance, electricity and water bills, so they can continue to meet in the hall where their lodge has met for the past 70 years. And we know that some lodges can't find the funds to pay bills or do renovations.

'In many locations across the State, a tired, shabby old building can only give



one impression to the local community – that Freemasonry is a tired, old organisation, out of place in the centre of a modern community. At his Installation, our Grand Master gave us the opportunity to be the group to make the difference to the future of Freemasonry in NSW and ACT.

'I will head a team which will work closely with building owners to review every masonic hall in this jurisdiction and with input from other masonic specialists.

'The purpose of the review is to ensure that accommodation for lodges provides the "best fit" between the number of masonic meeting places and the number of masons in each locality; is safe, comfortable and well presented; is available within a reasonable distance to where brethren live or work and is self-funding or moving in that direction if owned by masons.

'Apart from administrative, legal and structural considerations, we'll be looking at the number of lodges and other Orders and the number of brethren in each building, its use by non-masonic groups, income sources and the extent of sinking funds, maintenance programs and five-year business plans.

'We'll be collecting information on the distances to the nearest masonic building, whether it's 10 kms to three other buildings in Sydney or almost 600 kms from Broken Hill to Bourke. We'll be looking for accommodation solutions beyond current buildings as well as places within local communities that could be used for lodge meetings such as clubs, halls and community centres. We hope to reach that point of the review by next February.

'This review may result in the closure of some buildings but it need not result in the closure of a single lodge. Archives tell us many early lodges held their meetings in non-masonic places. The Ballina Lodge No 2083 (England) was consecrated in 1882 at the Ballina Court House and held its first meeting in the Occidental Hotel. Lodge Bega No 220 met in the local School of Arts from 1895–1915 and Lodge Balmain met in the Rob Roy Inn on Darling Street.

'The building is not the most important thing. What is most important is that brethren meet together on a regular basis. Brethren are the lodge and it's for the ultimate benefit for each Band of Brothers that we are conducting this review.' ...

Britannia: a royal coach



The people of Australia have once again prepared a special and outstanding gift for Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

In 1988 the people of Australia presented to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, the Australia State Coach as its Bicentennial gift. The Coach was designed and created by Mr Jim Frecklington, OAM, and is used regularly by the Queen for the State opening of the British Parliament. The Australia State Coach was the first coach of its type to be built for the British Royal Household since 1902.

Jim and a team of master craftsmen and craftswomen have again combined their skills to create a second masterpiece, the State Coach *Britannia* which, like its predecessor, will also be presented to Her Majesty.

The name *Britannia* was taken from the Royal Yacht *Britannia* launched by

the Queen in April 1953; however, the word 'Britannia' has a more historic meaning and pre-dates the Royal Yacht by more than a thousand years. It is the ancient Latin name for the island of Great Britain and, together with the image of a female figure, became symbolic of the British Empire and the

country's influence on world events.

This magnificent coach is in its final stages of construction and is housed at the former School of Artillery, North Head, Sydney. Visitors are treated to a personal explanation of its construction by Mr Jim Frecklington OAM.

Unlike its predecessor, *Britannia* represents a time capsule of British history and incorporates items from sites and artifacts from Britain's rich tapestry of historic events, customs, achievements, heritage and traditions. Some of the artifacts date back to 1800 BC. For example, the crown on the roof of the Coach has been carved from timber taken from Lord Nelson's flagship HMS *Victory*. Timber segments from the Tower of London, Henry VIII's flagship the *Mary Rose*, the *Mayflower* and many other famous and historic buildings and sites have been inlaid into the interior lining of the coach.

Whilst traditional in basic design, the new State Coach *Britannia* incorporates many modern innovations including an aluminum body, modern specialty paints, metal wheels painted to resemble timber spokes, tyres of highly specialized synthetic rubber and other materials imported especially for its construction.

A particular feature of the Coach is the painting of the Royal Coat of Arms and other Royal Insignia by Artist Paula Church who originated from Ireland and came to Australia with her family in 1997. Paula now lives in Manly. Before embarking on the project, Paula spent six months learning to gild under the expert tutoring of Erik West, FRSA, the retired Coach Restorer at the Royal Mews, Buckingham Palace in London.

The gold leaf scroll or filigree pattern that enriches the decorations of the State Coach was time consuming and deman-



ded considerable patience in its application and finishing and is a testimony to the skills of Brian Tetstall from Brookvale and Helen Eyre Pikler, the award winning Australian botanical artist and gemologist.

The four lamps used on the State Coach *Britannia* are breathtaking. They have been created using superbly etched crystal lenses each weighing 55lbs, hand-blown, cut and generously donated by Edinburgh Crystal. The detail and quality of construction is clearly evident. The metal portions of the lamps were painstakingly created from original designs by master craftsmen and then individually gold plated, creating lamps

Continued overpage ...

Jim and a team of master craftsmen and craftswomen have again combined their skills to create a second masterpiece, the State Coach *Britannia* which, like its predecessor, will also be presented to Her Majesty.

Below: Artist Paula Church at work on the Royal Insignia, shown in full below left.



Photo by Jim Frecklington

Below: Some of the fascinating timber fragments inlaid in the interior of the Coach.





Above: One of the superb lamps – a masterpiece in itself – crafted by Bro Anthony Edwards, known as a Master Metal Spinner.

Below: Detail of the Coach wheels



Right: Mrs Nola Edwards and son Bro Tony Edwards



that are each masterpieces in themselves and carry the traditional floral emblems of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales – the rose, the thistle, the flax and the leek.

The lamps were crafted by Bro Anthony Edwards who was Initiated in Lodge Jonathon Green 669 on 16 November 1978. Anthony comes from a strong masonic background. His father, RW Bro Stanley Edwards and uncle VW Bro Noel Bray, were both highly respected masons. His Grandfather was secretary of Malvern Lodge at Croydon for 30 years and subsequently affiliated with Concord West Lodge.

Whilst the construction, paintwork, upholstery, artwork and decorations are testimony to the skills of those who have contributed to its creation, the State Coach *Britannia* represents a permanent showcase of much that is best in human endeavour.

It is a great tribute to Jim Frecklington OAM, who in his own pursuit of excellence has been a source of inspiration to all who have worked with him.

Anyone wishing to view The State Coach *Britannia* at their own leisure please contact: Mr Jim Frecklington – (02) 9977 1085

Acknowledgements: Information contained in this article has been taken from the publication *The State Coach Britannia* – Peterson, Rose

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Published by WJ Frecklington OAM, Sydney 2005
Approval for its use has been given by Mr Jim Frecklington OAM

Story and Photography: Yvonne McIntyre



Women's Advisory Committee visits coach

The Women's Advisory Committee (WAC) Chaired by Ms Judith Morrice conducted its first function on Saturday 1 November by organising an inspection of the State Coach *Britannia*. The tour was arranged by the Committee's Administrator, Dr Yvonne McIntyre and was so successful that WAC will arrange a second tour early in the New Year. Details of the State Coach have been included in the preceding article.

Grand Secretary's stop press – December 2008

Email addresses

Those with email facility are now able to be kept informed of Grand Lodge news, information and matters of general interest by way of email 'blasts' which are becoming more common. They are particularly helpful to ensure maximum exposure of important events.

However, there is an increasing number of these emails returned due to incorrect or insufficient address details.

Lodge Secretaries should advise this office of any changes to contact details. However, members often fail to provide this information to secretaries and as a result the membership database in the Grand Lodge office contains useless detail. Unfortunately, resources do not allow us to follow up on every email that is returned 'undeliverable' so it is essential that each member ensures any changes are notified when they occur.

If you have changed your email address or have not received any UGL mail or email blasts in the past month, please notify your Lodge Secretary and this office through **info@uglnsw.freemasonry.org.au** so that both sets of records are current.

'RUMOURS'

A new section appears in the 'Members Area – UGL News' of our website. It is called 'RUMOURS'.

No doubt many members have been told stories or given information that has concerned them and they believe has been generated from Grand Lodge – or at least presumed to have been generated from Grand Lodge.

The Grand Master, MW Bro Dr Gregory Levenston is concerned that misinformation is being dispersed throughout the jurisdiction, intentionally or otherwise, and if not addressed and clarified immediately may lead to unnecessary tension within the membership.

If you have heard any information that has not come from the Grand Secretary's office, and which causes you

concern, please use the 'RUMOURS' facility on the website to seek clarification or advice.

Your identity will be treated as confidential but your subject may be brought to the attention of others if deemed necessary.

Working tools

Work continues as to the possible re-introduction of 'Working Tools' – its cost, format, content and distribution being considered.

Prior to making a final decision, these avenues, and possible sponsorships, will be examined carefully and any introduction will not occur until 2009.

Positions vacant

Expressions of interest are invited for the following voluntary positions within this Grand Lodge of Librarian, Museum Curator and Archivist. They should be lodged with the Deputy Grand Secretary, **UGL NSW & ACT, PO Box A259 Sydney South 1235** by 31 January 2009.

Please note these roles are not restricted to Freemasons and any interested and suitably qualified person is welcome to make submission. It is anticipated that interviews for the positions will be conducted during February 2009 with the successful applicant commencing his or her appointed duties immediately and for an initial two-year term.

These positions play an important role in establishing the Museum of Freemasonry and its history for the benefit of generations to come. Volunteer personnel in the past have been recruited from within the membership of Freemasonry and this will continue but will no longer be limited to Freemasons only but to any interested person.

A role statement detailing the preferred requirements of each position can be obtained by contacting the Deputy Grand Secretary, RW Bro Christopher Craven at **(02) 9284 2800** or email: **chris@uglnsw.freemasonry.org.au**

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Port Macquarie Sea Rescue (PMSR) – A very satisfied customer!

One of this year's Region 4 Grants of \$5,000 was for the installation of a GPS system on PMSR's Crown Rescue One. The system was installed and tested and the volunteers that operate the service were delighted with it.

Peter Ellison, a Board Member of PMSR expressed his pleasure in the following message:

'Early this morning we completed the installation of the masoniCare GPS on Crown Rescue One. Initial trials on the river and out to sea have been completed and were 100% successful. The new unit is light years ahead of its predecessor! Those crew members who operated it today were pleased with its clarity and simplicity of use. God bless masoniCare!!!!'

PMSR, a service with some 80 volunteers, fills a vital rescue role in and around the waters of Port Macquarie and is seeking further help for the installation of safety and other equipment.

By the time you read this, VW Bro Graham Tunstall, PDGIW, mRR Region 4, will have announced, at his re-installation as the Foundation Master of Lodge Lachlan Macquarie at the lodge's consecration in November, that PMSR will be supported as the lodge's first charity. An application for an interACTION Grant of \$10,000 has already been approved by the masoniCare Board. The lodge has taken PMSR on board so that it may take on board people in distress in and on the water. The GPS system is the first step to assist PMSR in providing rescue services on the waters of Port Macquarie.

PMSR is always on the lookout for more volunteers, either as crew members on its vessels or as radio operators. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Peter Ellison on pgellison@tsn.cc.

The newly-installed GPS System on Crown Rescue One



Camp Quality – Bringing a Smile to Kids with Cancer



VW Bro Brian Willis, mDR 112, tells us that the brethren of Lodge Bulli and his District have just excelled themselves by assisting Camp Quality Limited in raising \$25,000 at a recent Golf Day Fundraiser.

Camp Quality, the amazing organisation that helps children with cancer

and their families to laugh and smile believes that 'laughter is the best medicine'.

A \$10,000 interACTION Grant from masoniCare will be added to the \$25,000. We hope that it will help to put a smile on the faces of these brave kids and their loved ones.



masoniCare – the name

A question was recently asked about how the operating name of the Grand Charity, masoniCare, came into being. We have been remiss in allowing this information to fade into history.

The Grand Charity was born late in 1999 and the board was formed early in 2000. Relatively soon it was realised that the use of the name 'Grand Charity' was not really an appropriate and useful name for marketing purposes so it was decided to hold a naming competition and ask the membership to make suggestions.

- The competition had a 1st prize – a \$2,000 shopping spree at David Jones. With a condition that should more than one brother suggest the winning name, the Grand Master of the day would draw the winner at a Grand Communication;
- The suggested names would be placed in front of a judging panel who would select the five most suitable names;
- The membership would be advised of those five names and asked to vote on the final selection.

We received 1,401 entries from roughly 6% of the membership. The last entries arrived at the end of August 2001, and the competition closed. The judging took place on 13 September 2001.

The judging panel of nine (including ladies) had four areas of specific criteria to use in assessing the suggested names. The criteria were:

1. marketability, forward thinking, easily verbalised, the fewer number of words the better and its ability to support graphics;
2. masonic acceptability with a broader, community understanding;
3. the ability to stand the test of time and not be already in use; and,
4. the ability to stand alone without explanation and be understandable.

There were five names selected that were included in the October 2001 issue of the *Freemason* for the brethren to judge. These were:

- Freemasons Charity Foundation;
- Masonic Cornerstone Charity;
- Grand Masonic Charity;
- masoniCare; and

- Freemasons Grand Charity Fund.

The due diligence of the judging process was maintained and carried out. We asked that Board members not speak or comment about the names because we needed the members of the jurisdiction to vote without influence.

The voting by the membership was overwhelmingly in support of Masonicare, which later became masoniCare.

Since 21 members suggested the name Masonicare, the Grand Master of the day, MW Bro George Curry, drew the winner's name at the December Communication.

A telephone call to the winner, who was at a Christmas party, was greatly appreciated and celebrated by the brethren in the Kyogle area.

We did not rest there. The next task was to design and register a logo. What you now see was registered as a Business Name and a Trade Mark.

When you look at the logo, it should be obvious that it can be construed in two ways:

1. simply as the name reads, or
2. mason I Care

We have used the name since the early part of 2002 and it has become the flagship under which the Grand Charity does its business.

(Source: Peter Eden)

REMEMBER the membership decides who receives the grant

masoniCare – YOUR GRAND CHARITY

If your lodge wishes to find out more about how masoniCare can assist you in your charitable activities, please ask your DGIW or RGC to introduce you to your masoniCare Regional Representative (mRR); he would be happy to come along to one of your Regular meetings and give you a comprehensive presentation.

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Tour de Frank reached its target to enable a 19 seater bus to be purchased for the use of the residents in Narrabri, Wee Waa and Walgett. The Board of Directors would like to thank the sponsors and donors for the financial support given for this exciting project.

Name Badges

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

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

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

Make a Bequest in your Will

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

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

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

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



The Board would like to acknowledge and thank those who gave so generously to the Appeal and wishes everyone a joyous and Merry Christmas

Sydney's best kept secret!

Situated in the Sydney CBD at 169–171 Castlereagh Street, the New South Wales Masonic Club has been described as the best kept secret in Sydney. Formed in Paddington in 1893 by masons for masons, the Club erected its present home in 1926.

The now Heritage Listed Building is regarded as a prime example of art deco architecture and was the first reinforced concrete building in the city, with views from the top floor to the Sydney Harbour Heads.

The Club's interior has been extensively refurbished over recent years featuring an imposing marble entrance and foyer, magnificent period dining and board rooms, bars, bistro and rooms available for private dining, meetings and seminars.

The top six floors form the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel (www.thecastlereagh.com.au) which is wholly

owned and run by the Club. The hotel enjoys a 4 star status and provides for its guests quiet and refined elegance at moderate rates, with a range of room size.

All members enjoy reduced accommodation, food and beverages charges which is of great benefit having regard to the modest joining fee of \$5 and annual subscription of \$40 to \$50.

The Club currently has 3000 members of whom 1,049 are masons. Membership is open to ladies.

The Club has seven sub-clubs which cater for a wide range of interests. It has reciprocal arrangements with other prestigious Clubs both interstate and overseas.

Parking at attractive rates is available to members at a convenient location. The building was erected in an era when parking was never a problem!

The Club's Board contains a preponderance of masons and the Club philosophy is to trade profitably for the benefit of members whilst at the same time paying due regard to masonic principles.

Why not join us now?

Further information and an Application form can be found from our website: www.nswmasonicclub.com.au or email admin@nswmasonicclub.com.au



THE Castlereagh
Boutique Hotel ★★★★★



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

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

The Hotel provides refined elegance for its guests at moderate rates. Parking is available at a convenient location.



The Castlereagh Boutique Hotel is owned and operated by the NSW Masonic Club



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Grand Master gets the sword

The Grand Master, MW Bro Dr Gregory Levenston attended his first meeting as Grand Master when he visited on 4 August Lodge Antiquity No 1's triennial reunion of No 1 Lodges of Australasia.

As part of the celebrations, the WM allowed members of Lodge Resurgo No 223 to present the GM with his own personal travelling sword. The presentation was made by RW Bro David Leabeater PJGW representing the WM and assisted by RW Bro Alan Ezzy PJGW and W Bro Ron Webb SGD.

This sword is of an infantry style known as the 1822 pattern. The design was modified in 1845 and again in 1865 and this particular sword has been examined closely for authentication purposes and falls exactly in this category.

Additionally, near the maker's proof mark can be seen the letters 'I s d' along with a broad arrow signifying the sword came by way of the Indian Stores Department. Nothing is known of the sword then but it eventually made its way to Lodge Parramatta St George No 316 where it was used as a ceremonial sword for many years, until consolidation with



Lodge Resurgo in July 2003. The sword was then unused and surplus to requirements, and following the suggestion of a member it was decided to offer the sword to the Grand Master.

The Triennial Reunion had its beginnings during Lodge Antiquity's 125th anniversary in 1945 where members of

the No 1 Lodges in Australasia agreed to conduct a reunion every three years or on very special occasions.

Following the traditional format, Lodge Antiquity No 1 welcomed the delegations from The Lodge of Friendship No 1, SA&NT, Lodge of Australia Felix No 1 VIC, St John Sportsmen No 1 WA, ARA Taimau Lodge No 1 NZ and North Australian Lodge No 1 QLD of QLD to a cocktail party on Sunday 3 August at the NSW Masonic Club in Castlereagh Street. Further social activities included an excursion to the Hunter Valley and a harbour cruise.

W Bro Ian Gillies from SA made a special presentation of 'The Chalice of Universal Brotherhood' to the WM of Lodge Galileo No 1019, W Bro Elio Cacciotti. This 'Chalice' originated in America and is passed in a random manner from 'Lodge to Lodge and State to State', always in an easterly direction accompanied by a logbook containing comments and items of masonic interest. It entered Western Australia some three years ago, progressed to South Australia and now to Lodge Galileo in New South Wales. 📍

The Historic Project Officer (RW Bro Bill Stewart PSGW) for the St George Regional Masonic Museum at Hurstville is seeking further advice and information about the early establishment of Freemasonry in the St George area in and around the 1880s.

We believe that the very first masonic lodge to be formed in the St George area was Lodge Carrington No 2159 under the English Constitution and consecrated in a building in or around Kogarah in 1886. We are seeking any information or advice as to which building specifically was used or some early photographs associated with this original masonic lodge room or buildings in Kogarah.

We are also seeking further information and photographs of the second masonic lodge to be formed in the St George area, the first Lodge Kogarah No 759 which was formed under the Scottish

St George early history

Constitution and then operated as No 175 under the NSW Constitution from 1888 to 1894. This lodge had its early meetings in the Leah Buildings at 22–26 Montgomery and later in the Kogarah School of Arts. The final meeting was held at the Railway Hotel in 1894.

Following its closure it is believed informal meetings were held at 'Dundry', a private house in Verdun Street, Bexley.

The second Lodge Kogarah, No 305 NSW, was consecrated in a building on the corner of Derby Street and Post Office Lane, Kogarah, known as Brett's Hall, the

St George Hall or the Victoria Hall. (Now part of the site of Kogarah Square.)

We are also seeking some early photographs of the original Rockdale Masonic Hall in 13 Bay Street, Rockdale, which was built in 1913–1914 by Lodge Illawarra St George No 219.

The 1887 building at 34 Bay Street Rockdale, although sometimes referred to as a Masonic Hall was privately owned and never dedicated as a masonic meeting place.

Any information about the history of early Freemasonry in the St George area or the temporary loan of photographs (for copying) of any old local masonic buildings or lodge activities would be most appreciated.

Inquiries to Bill Stewart on **9580 3708** or Tony Cornell on **9587 2834** or Patrick Medway on **9556 1537** or email at masonic@optusnet.com.au 📍



POSTINGS ON KNIGHTS TEMPLAR & KNIGHTS OF MALTA

A NEW RITUAL IS INTRODUCED

When the Great Priory of NSW & ACT was formed nearly 27 years ago, some of its Prioreceptors used the English ritual and others the Scottish ritual. Over the years many additions and substitutions have been incorporated, changing these substantially.

Over the last year or so, Great Priory has developed a Malta ritual suited to the needs of the Order. Major implementations include the reading of Scriptures and Obligations to assure correctness, dignity and clear delivery. First explained and demonstrated at the Great Priory Order of Malta meeting in February, it met with almost universal approval.

The Grand Master, M.Eu.Ky Graham W. Stapelkamp, GCT, met first after reviewing some comments and suggestions, which when appropriate were incorporated, the completed Malta ritual will shortly go into production and should be available in early 2009 for distribution free to all members who are Knights of Malta.



LIFTING THE STANDARDS

The introduction of the Fraternal Agreement between the Great Priory and the United Grand Lodge of NSW & ACT has unified a welcome feeling of balance and security into the Order.

It has also had some influence on the standing, acceptance and improvement of our Great Priory Accreditation Award Program introduced in March 2003.

Fundamentally based on quality assurance principles similar to those approved by the Council of Standards Australia and the Council of Standards New Zealand, the Accreditation Award Program was a unique world first. And, over five years on we can be proud that of our 20 Prioreceptors, seven have qualified as "Prioreceptors of Excellence" and four more have embarked on the two-year journey towards Accreditation.



The Great Priory

OF THE UNITED RELIGIOUS, MILITARY AND MASONIC ORDERS OF THE
TEMPLE AND OF ST JOHN OF JERUSALEM, PALESTINE, RHODES AND MALTA
IN NEW SOUTH WALES AND THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

For information, please contact
the Great Vice-Chancellor
Rt.Eu.Ky George E Palmer, GCT
PO Box 11
Ingleburn
NSW 2800
Phone: 02 9605 1941
Fax: 02 9605 1381
Email: gpm@pacific.net.au

25 YEARS YOUNG

On the 29 February 2009, the Great Priory of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory will be 25 years old!

While this is still very young in masonic years, it is a milestone for this Great Priory and under the guidance of M.Eu.Ky Neville Johnson, GCT, PGM, a celebration dinner is being organised for 28 February 2009, at Collos Restaurant in the Castleknagh Boutique Hotel.

HrE Emeritus Professor Marie Butler AC, CVO, Governor of the State of New South Wales, has been invited to attend and we are hopeful that she will accept.

The Castleknagh Boutique Hotel is offering special accommodation rates for the weekend and further details of the dinner and accommodation can be obtained from the Great Vice-Chancellor, Rt.Eu.Ky George Palmer, GCT, on (02 9605 1941).

NEW MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

At the Great Priory meeting in July, during the business session conducted prior to producing M.Eu.Ky Graham Stapelkamp, GCT, as Grand Master for his second year, several amendments to the Statutes of the Order were submitted to members.

The major amendment concerned a restructuring of qualifications required for joining our Order. Faced in recognition of the reducing numbers in many Orders of Freemasonry, the amendments recognised that the requirements for candidates to be subscribing Royal Arch Masons was becoming difficult to maintain. This was especially so where the absence of some Royal Arch Chapters made it not only difficult, but sometimes impossible, to recruit new members in some areas.

Consequently, and reluctantly, it was decided in Great Priory that the requirements for Royal Arch membership be removed allowing Craft Masons to apply after two years as Master Masons.

Nevertheless, this Great Priory acknowledges the importance and desirability of the Royal Arch degree and strongly encourages and recommends membership and regular attendance of that Order.

100 GOOD REASONS TO CELEBRATE!

Lodge Thespians No 256, the theatrical masonic lodge of Australia, proudly celebrated its Centenary on the evening of 24 October 2008.

A special meeting was held at the Masonic Centre, Castlereagh Street, Sydney, to mark this historic milestone attended by the Grand Master, MW Bro Dr Gregory Levenston, accompanied by his lady, Judith Morrice. A large delegation of Grand Lodge Officers were also in attendance. 100 year jewels were presented by the Grand Master to lodge members and the Masters of Thespians's two daughter lodges.

As one might expect from a 'theatrical lodge', the work in the Temple was delivered in true 'thespian' style. A lavish festive board was held in the Grand Banquet Hall following the Centenary Installation. Musicians played soft melodies throughout the night with top-class entertainment enjoyed by brethren and their wives.

Large numbers of brethren from Sydney and interstate attended with 'Thespians' lodges from South Australia, Victoria and Queensland.

The first 'Thespians' ceremony of Dedication and Installation was held in No 1 Room, Masonic Hall, Sydney at 1.30pm on 27 October 1908, so in some



MW Bro Dr Gregory Levenston, his partner Ms Judith Morrice and the newly installed Master of Lodge Thespians, RW Bro John O'Connor, PJGW, at the banquet.

respects you might say that the prodigal was returning home, at least for this special night, to where it all began. In its one hundred year history the lodge has seen many famous theatrical and cabaret performers grace its portals. The list reads like a 'who's who' of 'Showbiz.' The following are but a few!

Jim Gussey (ABC Orchestra), Willie Fennell (Comedian), Bobby Le Brun (Vaudeville Comic), Paul Dalton (International Entertainer), Lucky Grills (Variety and TV Personality), Jimmy Haynes (Vaudeville Entertainer), Jimmy Parkinson (TV and Recording Personality), Ted James (Entertainer & Agent), Doug & Merv Ashton (Ashton's Circus), Robert Fitzsimmons (World Champion Boxer), Hubert William Verco (also a famous boxer known by the name of 'Soldier Thompson'), William Ellsworth Robinson (International Chinese Magician), Monty Luke (Renowned Photographer), Harry Roberts (Shakespearean Actor), Bobby Wright (Actor), Bert Le Blanc (Comedian and Producer).

Another name on the list of Thespians's famous artists is comedian and vaudeville entertainer, 'Roy Rene' better known as 'Mo' the clown. Born in Adelaide on 15 February 1892, as Henry van der Sluys, he joined the Sydney vaudeville circuit in 1910. He moved on to the Ben Fuller company and whilst touring New Zealand perfected his trademark black and white painted face. Back in Australia in 1916, he became Mo the clown in the duo 'Stiffy and Mo', eventually joining the Tivoli Theatre in Sydney.

When Nat Phillips (Stiffy) died in 1932. Roy continued as a solo act and in 1935 starred in the film *Strike Me Lucky*. In the early 30s the 'Thespians Orchestra' had 32 first-class musicians. What a festive board that must have been!!

With a theatrical pedigree such as this it was perhaps appropriate that a variety entertainer should be installed as Master



'Roy Rene'
- better known
as 'Mo' the clown.

to take the lodge into the next century. This honour was bestowed on RW Bro John O'Connor, PJGW. Most members of the Craft know him as Dee Donavan, the 'Silver Baron'. Dee is an 'award winning' variety entertainer who can boast an international showbiz career that spans almost 50 years. In his address to the brethren he quoted an old showbiz phrase, 'the show must go on', and invited those present to join him and his brethren on the journey that lies ahead. Dee is mindful that there are a number of brethren who, because of advancing years, face the problem of attending their respective lodges at night for a variety of reasons.

He says, 'these men are dedicated masons and it would be a shame for the Craft to lose them. We would certainly welcome such brethren! As the premier Day Lodge of Australia, we meet on the fourth Saturday of each month at Bexley Masonic Centre, Forest Road, Bexley. The 'thespians' atmosphere is unique and is talked about whenever and wherever masons meet. That is why we get more visitors in attendance than most other lodges. We take pride in offering good fellowship, good food, and a great day out in an environment of fun, music and entertainment and it all happens in daylight hours. I would say to these brethren, 'there is a special place for you with us! Let's travel together as we journey into the next century. A warm welcome awaits you!'

History will decide what the future holds but with a proud theatrical Master at the helm and a team of dedicated Officers supporting him, one can look forward to interesting times ahead. ...

More hope at Wauchope

The re-installation of RW Bro Harry David McKay, PJGW as Worshipful Master of Lodge Star of Wauchope No 310, took place on 17 September, with the Installing Master being W Bro Harry Lavender and the Grand Master's Representative, RW Bro Kevin Mitchell, PAGM, accompanied by 18 Grand Lodge Officers.

This sizeable delegation boosted the total attendance to 51 brethren, including Masters of all the surrounding lodges.

During the course of the evening, RW Bro Ford, RGC, presented a Regional Jewel to Mrs Hazel Lavender for her outstanding services to Freemasonry over the years, and the assistance given to the lodge during her husband's terms of office.

VW Bro Simpkins then presented a similar District Jewel to W Bro Lavender.

W Bro Lavender said 'without the efforts and support of his brethren and their ladies, these Jewels would not have been received.'

In congratulating the incoming Master, W Bro Lavender said that the line-up of officers for the year ahead was particularly good, and that the lodge had great prospects for the future.

'As a lodge, we have raised over \$10,000 for deserving organizations, including the heated pool committee, the Girl Guides, Wauchope Hospital, and SoftPower, to name a few,' he said.

'We are continuing to run a barbecue stall in a local car park on a regular basis, which helps to raise funds for the heated



L-R: Marj and RW Bro Harry McKay with W Bro Harry and Hazel Lavender after the Installation at Lodge Star of Wauchope, No 310.

pool. With pool president Diane Gilbert, we are helping to maintain interest and also spread the word about their plans.

'These are the kinds of organizations that our lodge is very keen to get involved with and to support.

With the support of masoniCare, the lodge has also financially assisted the Riding for the Disabled group, Carnival of the Pines, and others.

90 years on

Lodge Guildford No 321 celebrated 90 years of Freemasonry in September when VW Bro Frank Ingersole PDGDC installed Bro Charles Horner. The Installation program contained photos and history items of the lodge dating back to its beginning in 1918.

In the same month, Lodge Punchbowl celebrated its 87th Installation with Bro Mohamad El Hussein being installed by RW Bro Bill Broadhurst PSGW.

Another installation in the District occurred when W Bro Douglas Godwin re-installed W Bro Rodolfo Romerosa as WM of Lodge Blacktown Kildare No 393. A highlight of the night was the beautiful rendition of *God is Watching Us* sung by the newly re-installed Master's daughter.

remembered an attendance of 210 when he installed his successor.

Bruce is the founder of the Easts Caravan Parks on the NSW coast. He and his wife moved to Bright in Victoria in 1977 but returned to the Kiama area in 1997 to be closer to family.

Presentations

A big gathering was present at the Glenfield Scouts Camp barbecue in August to welcome the new DGIW District 33, VW Bro Bill Leach and to farewell outgoing VW Bro Tony Coco who with his wife Sue had worked tirelessly to promote the Craft.

At a similar ceremony in District 35, outgoing VW Bro Michael Hoar handed the baton to VW Bro Bill McBey. VW Bro Hoar had also worked hard during his term which was highlighted by the presentation of three First Aid Kits to the Blue Mountains St Johns First Aid Cadets.

In September, at District 31's Charity Night, IPDGIW VW Bro Graham Painton presented the Grand Master's District Medal to Mrs Janice Holbrook for her support and service to the District over many years. In addition to the donation of money to different charities, there was a special donation of 12 tapestries, some valued at over \$3,500, by RW Bro Bill Broadhurst, IPM of Lodge Punchbowl which had been painstakingly woven over many years.

District 32 also held its annual Charity Night at Castle Hill in September where a total of \$26,000 with assistance from masoniCare was handed out. Tallowood School and the Forsight Foundation each received \$9,000.



L-R: VW Bro Bill Leach DGIW District 33; RW Bro Butch Chapman; W Bro Gus Spezza, RW Bro Bruce Quirk RGC and VW Bro Tony Coco PDGIW District 33

Memories

It was a night of memories for Lodge Kiama No 35 at its installation with the attendance of 94-year-old W Bro Bruce East.

W Bro East was installed in Lodge Kiama 60 years ago in 1948 and recalled having 80 to 100 brethren present at a normal monthly meeting. He also

Amaranth goes pink

The NSW Grand Court Order of the Amaranth Inc held its 'Pink Ribbon Debutante Ball' at Wentworthville in August which was attended by the Grand Master, MW Bro Dr Gregory Levenston and Ms Judith Morrice and a number of Grand Officers and their ladies.

Mrs Janette Dhu, Grand Royal Matron and Mr Charles Madden, Grand Royal Patron, received the debutantes and partners in traditional manner. The debutantes carried out their celebratory dance and the Grand Master declared the Ball officially open.

The Pink Ribbon theme representing 'Breast Cancer Research' was in keeping with the Grand Royal Matron's fundraising project for the year. While many of the ladies wore pink, a number of pink shirts were also to be seen and a dazzling pink tie was worn by the Grand Master.

District 42 Meeting

All Combined Meetings have an air of occasion about them and Lodge Benjamin Pryor, No 709, was honoured to host the District 42 Combined Meeting this year.

To mark the event VW Bro Brian Groth, DGIW of District 42, was invited to occupy the Master's Chair and in the presence of 102 brethren, a family tradition continued when he initiated his son, Jeffrey, with Masters and brethren of District 42 assisting in the ceremony.

*The Editorial Committee
of the NSW Freemason
extends Seasons Greetings
to all of our readers*

A new Dawn

On Saturday, 9 August, W Bro Graham Barrett was installed as WM of Lodge Dawn No 511 at the Tweed Heads Masonic Centre.

The Grand Master, MW Bro Dr Gregory Levenston attended with Grand Director of Ceremonies, RW Bro Peter Read.

Also attending were RW Bro Bone, who travelled from Brisbane, and RW Bro Colin Gill from the Sydney Masonic Music Ensemble, who later entertained the brethren.

W Bro Barrett, presented the Grand Master with an indigenous painting and with a boomerang, the latter to remind him to return. Grand Lodge officers were each presented with an engraved shot glass, as a memento of the occasion.

While in the South, the Grand Master signed a certificate for the District



W Bro Barrett presents the Grand Master with an indigenous painting.

Masonic Award for Service in District 55, awarded to Mrs Joan Walker, wife of RW Bro Alan Walker, PAGM.

Wyaldra's historic setting

Lodge Wyaldra No 238, at Gulgong, celebrated the Re-Installation of RW Bro Ken Mole as Worshipful Master on 6 September, with the Installing Master being W Bro Roy Chidgey.

In attendance was the Assistant Grand Master, RW Bro Barrie Wild, at the head of a fine delegation of Grand Lodge officers.

The ceremony was especially enhanced by the uniqueness of the lodge building and the many historical items on display.

Following the ceremony, the brethren and their ladies retired to the Gulgong RSL Club for the Installation Banquet.



RW Bro Ken Mole receives his Re-Installation Certificate from the Assistant Grand Master, RW Bro Barrie Wild.

Changing guard at Dunedoo

On 20 August, the retiring DGIW of District 71, RW Bro Ken Mole of Lodge Wyaldra No 238, handed over the reins of the District to the incoming DGIW, VW Bro Eric Beer, of Lodge Dunedoo No 647.

This important occasion for the District was also attended by brethren from Lodge Wyaldra and Lodge Edinburgh St John No 38, from Mudgee, and all were made welcome at the supper in the south.

Walking the Kokoda Track

At Kendall Cottage on Friday, 8 August, Cadet Under Officer Amy Pryor of the 222nd Army Cadet Unit received a donation of \$2000, presented by VW Bro Jim Hyam PDGIW, the masoniCare Regional Representative and VW Bro Neil Atkins PDGIW, on behalf of the Freemasons of the Shoalhaven.

The presentation was made under the masoniCare Young Achiever program which involves local Freemasons identifying suitable young people who make a significant contribution to the community, requiring financial support.

Amy was one of 25 students among 40 people selected from the Shoalhaven region to take part in the Shoalhaven Kokoda Experience. The group left Australia on 27 September for Papua New Guinea and returned home on 8 October.

During their time in Papua New Guinea the students took gifts for an infants school located alongside the Kokoda Track, addressed students at Sogeri High School and visited the Bomana War Cemetery to see the graves of Australian servicemen who died on the track in 1942, and whom they had researched before leaving Australia.

All told, the group walked 96 kilometres.

In receiving the donation Amy thanked masoniCare and the Freemasons for their



Back row L-R: Amy's grandmother and grandfather, Amy's mother, W Bro Mick Cooper. Centre row L-R: VW Bro Jim Hyam, Amy Pryor, VW Bro Neil Atkins, Bro Greg Fellows. Front: Amy's brother.

generous support and said she was looking forward to taking part in the project with a great deal of enthusiasm. The donation would help in reaching the target of \$5,000 each participant in the adventure was required to raise to cover costs.

The Shack gets \$5000

On Friday, 8 August, at the Shoalhaven Heads premises of The Shack, Jim Hyam

of masoniCare and Neil Atkins, District Manager for Freemasonry, presented to committee member Graham Stokes of The Shack a cheque for \$5,000 on behalf of the Freemasons of the Shoalhaven.

The Shack, a complex of six two bedroom holiday units at Shoalhaven Heads, available for families with a child suffering from chronic illness or disability to enjoy a family holiday by the sea at a very affordable cost. This donation is to assist with the purchase of new beds.

Father and son

At Lodge Richard Coley's August meeting, the Junior Deacon Bro Benjamin Rodwell had the unique experience of leading his father Gregory through the experience of becoming a mason. The DGIW District 34, VW Bro Phillip Rosen told Bro Gregory that he now had the unusual experience of having his son as a brother.

In the south while proposing the toast to his father, Bro Benjamin spoke of the close bond with his father and his hopes it would deepen further as they both progressed through the intricate windings of Freemasonry.

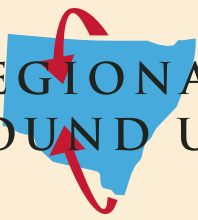


Newly initiated Bro Gregory Rodwell with his son Bro Benjamin Rodwell, Junior Deacon

Maclean's shows the way

On the evening of Wednesday, 17 September, Lodge Livingstone No 71 Maclean took a forward step for Freemasonry with the initiation of Brother Darren Spooner.

A total of 29 brethren, some travelling from as far as Coffs Harbour and Lismore, and representing many lodges from Region 5, witnessed Brother Spooner's first step.



Team spirit

On 22 September, W Bro Ron Webb, Grand Senior Deacon and a Past Master of Lodge Resurgo No 223, became the 12th Master of The Grand Stewards' Lodge No 1022.

W Bro Webb has been a member of The Grand Stewards' Lodge for several years and a very active member of the 'Grand Team'.

The Grand Stewards' Lodge meets four times a year at the Sydney Masonic Centre and any brother interested in becoming one of the Ceremonial Team would be very welcome.

Brighter future for Trinitarian

Lodge Trinitarian is approaching a new era with a resurgence of members facing the recently installed WM, W Bro John Meikle.

W Bro Ian Heather capably installed W Bro Meikle with the immediate prospects for the lodge looking more promising than for some time.

Lodge Trinitarian was formed in October 1979 to cater for Old Boys, parents and staff of Trinity Grammar School, Summer Hill. The founding WM, the late RW Bro Ken Jones, the foundation Senior Warden, the late RW Bro George Driscoll, and a number of others worked tirelessly over several years to assemble a group interested in and eligible to form the lodge and 653 brethren were present when the lodge was consecrated on 31 October, 1979.

Although the purpose of the lodge was to cater for the Trinity community, the Foundation Committee decided that this should not be a 'closed' lodge, believing it was contrary to masonic principles to exclude any man from membership.

Perfect support for Palliative Care

Members of Lodge Perfect of Canberra No 951 have again provided financial support for the ACT Palliative Care Society, with masoniCare also providing an interACTION grant.

The lodge started supporting the Palliative Care Society in 2004 with donations from lodge funds but, since 2006, members have made personal contributions.

The society has benefited by almost \$22,000 over that five year period.

In 2006, the members of Lodge Perfect decided to concentrate their charity efforts towards SailabiltyACT, feeding the homeless, and the ACT Palliative Care Society.

Three members of Lodge Perfect, W Bro Herbert Michaelis (Secretary), W Bro Graham Gliddon (Treasurer), and W Bro Peter Forster (Charity Co-ordinator), attended a meeting of the council of the



L-R: Graham Gliddon, treasurer, Lodge Perfect; Megan Evans, organiser of the volunteers for the ACT Palliative Care Society; Peter Forster, charity co-ordinator, Lodge Perfect; Dr Ian Sykes, treasurer of the Society, and Linda Denman, chair of the Council meeting

ACT Palliative Care Society and handed over a cheque for \$7,377 to Dr Ian Sykes (the Society's Treasurer), and Mrs Linda Denman (chair of the council meeting). The cheque comprised \$3,877 donated by members of the lodge and the \$3,500 interACTION grant from masoniCare to help fund the annual retreat for volunteers.



L-R: VW Bro Marc Rozanes DGIW 125, RW Bro Dr Graham Piper PJGW, W Bro John Meikle WM, W Bro Ian Heather, Installing Master. Lodge Trinitarian No 978 celebrating their 29th year.

Lately there has been a resurgence in the membership of Old Boys mostly around the age of thirty. Six of the new officers of the lodge are Old Boys and others are petitioning for initiation.

Sir Joseph Banks, at Punchbowl

For the first time, Lodge Sir Joseph Banks, No 300, held its annual Installation Meeting at the Punchbowl Masonic Centre on 4 September.

The new Master, W Bro Youssef Chaaya was ably installed by Installing Master, W Bro Boulad.

The Grand Master's Representative on the occasion was RW Bro Stephen Green, PAGM, Chairman of the Board of Management, who led a strong Grand Lodge delegation into an already well-filled lodge room.

The Working Tools were presented by three Master Masons, Bro Abboud, Bro Chaaya and, recently raised, Bro Allatt.

Community benefits

The Mayor of Bankstown, Councillor Tania Mihailuk, recently attended a presentation ceremony at the Punchbowl Masonic Centre where Freemasons of the 31 District Combined Masonic Lodges Committee, meeting at the Bankstown, Punchbowl and Auburn Masonic Centres, raised cash and tapestry donations of \$20,000 for the local community.

On the evening, VW Bro Garry Sayed, from The Cedars Lodge No 1041 introduced the guests, who included the Regional Grand Counsellor, RW Bro Bruce Quirk and VW Bro Paul Larbalestier, Region Three's masoniCare representative.

Cr Mihailuk spoke of the need for support of local community groups and thanked the Freemasons of 31 District for their donations which will assist the ongoing work of local community-based groups.

Major recipient on the night was Barnardo's Australia, represented by Rosemary Hammill, who was provided with \$8,000 for their Victims of Domestic



L-R: Altan Behdjjet, Naomi Ellis and VW Bro Paul Larbalestier

Violence and Victims of Child Abuse programs.

Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital, represented by Naomi Ellis, received \$5,984 to purchase two Saturation Monitors for the Paediatric Ward.

These amounts were raised by the committee and their Ladies Auxiliary, with the assistance of the Freemasons' charity, masoniCare.

Donating to DebRA

At the end of his two years as the Worshipful Master of Lodge Army and Navy No 517, W Bro Lt Col Don Shearman decided that all the monies collected by the Almoner during this period and held in the Worshipful Master's Charity Fund should be donated to DebRA Australia.

This National charity supports DebRA State organisations, individuals and families affected by epidermolysis bullosa (EB), a rare genetic condition which causes the skin to blister at the slightest friction or even spontaneously.

masoniCare was approached and readily agreed to match the amount raised, (which had been generously augmented by a lodge member to bring a total of \$4,000), so that the resulting donation to DebRA totalled \$8,000.

The presentation was made at the lodge's September meeting by W Bro Shearman, on behalf of Lodge Army and



W Bro Don Shearman presents Mr Michael Fitzpatrick with Lodge Army and Navy's donation

Navy, and by VW Bro Peter Duebler, Region 12's masoniCare Representative, to DebRA President, Mr Michael Fitzpatrick.

Mr Fitzpatrick stressed the importance of these funds to enable sufferers of the disease to receive the all-important dressings they constantly require.

Tamworth's helping hand

Ninety four guests witnessed the recent presentation of \$27,000 to Mr Ron Carr OAM, for the continuing Youth Insearch programs, at the Tamworth Community Centre.

This impressive donation was contributed to by \$12,000 from the proceeds of fundraising efforts over the last eight months from raffles, BBQs and gifts. Lodge St Andrews in Manilla and Lodge Inverell, through W Bro Bill Bottom and his wife Margaret, raised a considerable sum towards the final figure.

Tireless work by Nan and Norman Hinds and John Ludewig kept the fundraising efforts rolling forward and this was augmented by assistance from members of Lodge Calala Tamworth No 652, The Peel Lodge No 209 and Lodge Cockburn Daylight No 1005.

Donations were made by individuals as well as groups such as St John's Church Tamworth. masoniCare contributed another \$10,000, with a further \$5,000 from the Region 6 Annual Regional Award.

Especially welcome on the night was a group of young people who had benefitted from the program and helped to overcome great personal difficulties. They were very well received by those present.

Youth Insearch is an organisation to aid disadvantaged youth, those who have suffered bullying, severe grief, mental, physical and sexual abuse.

The Queen's Lodge

On Wednesday, 24 September, the Queen's Lodge No 229, meeting at Orchard Hills, celebrated the Re-Installation of W Bro John Michael Rance, with the Installing Master on the occasion being VW Bro John Frederick Robb.

70 YEARS SERVICE

DAYES, REGINALD Antiquity 1

60 YEARS SERVICE

ADAMS, GEOFFREY The Lachlan Waugoola Lodge 142
 ADCOCK, ROBERT Lodge Beecroft 359
 ALLUM, KENNETH The Leichhardt Lodge 133
 BACKHOUSE, KEITH Lodge Kempsey – Macleay 203
 BENCH, EDWARD Batemans Bay Daylight Lodge 1013
 BORHAM, GEOFFREY Lodge Star In The West Sedgwick 189
 CARPENTER, KENNETH Lodge Epping 390
 COHEN, RUSSELL Lodge Como 738
 CRAWFORD, ALAN Lodge Star In The West Sedgwick 189
 DAVISON, JOHN Lodge Epping 390
 DENNY, REGINALD Lodge St David and St John 180
 ERBS, FREDERICK Lodge Nambucca Heads 922
 GIBBENS, RONALD Balmain Lodge 23
 GILLESPIE, JOHN Lodge Knox 909
 GILMORE, JOHN Lodge Warragamba 541
 GOOCH, HAROLD Lodge Nambucca Heads 922
 GORTON, ARTHUR The Waratah Lodge 170
 GRANT, JAMES Lodge John Williams 148
 HOLMES, WILLIAM The Australian Lodge Of Harmony 5
 HYDE, ALFRED Lodge Theo Grey 234
 JOHNSTONE, GRAEME The Lachlan Waugoola Lodge 142
 LARKIN, NEVILLE Richmond Valley Daylight 146
 MARSELOS, PETER Lodge Cessnock 252
 MICHAEL, PATRICK Lodge Woronora 414
 MOORE, FREDERICK Lodge Epping 390
 O'DONNELL, MATTHEW Lodge Star In The West Sedgwick 189
 OLIVER, GORDON Lodge Star In The West Sedgwick 189
 ORR, WILLIAM Lakehaven Daylight Lodge 1017
 PANKHURST, ALLAN Lodge United St Andrew Singleton 34
 PRATT, WALTER Lodge Star In The West Sedgwick 189

QUINNELL, CLEMENT Lodge Sydney St. George 269
 RADCLIFF, FRANK Lodge Harold Herman Unity 428
 REA, ALAN Balmain Lodge 23
 SMITH, LINDSAY Lodge Anima 421
 STEWART, ALAN Lodge Liverpool Plains 191
 THOMPSON, LEONARD Batemans Bay Daylight Lodge 1013
 WALKER, FRANK Eastern Suburbs Daylight Lodge 995
 WATT, GILBERT Balmain Lodge 23
 WEBB, JOHN Lodge Duke of Edinburgh 76
 WOOLSTON, HERBERT Lodge Star In The West Sedgwick 189
 YOUNG, ALEXANDER Lodge Swansea Belmont 1030

50 YEARS SERVICE

ALLEN, LATIMER Lodge Farrer 93
 BAKER, ARTHUR Northern Line Daylight Lodge 1003
 BRITTEN, STANLEY Lodge Kempsey – Macleay 203
 BROWN, ERROL Laurelbank Kuring-gai Daylight Lodge 230
 BURKE, LEON Lodge Talbragar Daylight 525
 CLIFFE, DOUGLAS Lodge Picton 258
 CLIFFORD, JOHN Lodge St David and St John 180
 COLLINS, JAMES Lodge Leeton – Yanco 313
 COOK, BENJAMIN Livingstone United 604
 COWPE, FRED Lodge Warragamba 541
 DEWAR, FRANK Lodge Gynea 796
 DRANE, WALTER Lodge Benjamin Pryor 709
 EGGINS, DONALD Lodge Livingstone 71
 FRANKEL, MAXWELL Lodge Condobolin 185
 GARRARD, MICHAEL Northern Beaches Daylight Lodge 987
 GOOD, DESMOND Lodge Eurobodalla Daylight 989
 GUNTORPE, PETER Lodge Eltham 272
 HARDY, WILLIAM Balmain Lodge 23
 HARRISON, JOHN Lodge Swansea Belmont 1030
 HAYNES, DOUGLAS The Sir Walter Scott Lodge 123
 HENDERSON, KEITH Lodge Balgowlah 392
 HILL, NEVILLE Lodge Middle Harbour 292



HOLLAND, BRIAN Lodge St David and St John 180
 HORSBURGH, MERVYN Lodge Epping 390
 IVESON, ROBERT Lodge Epping 390
 KAY, ROLAND Lodge Star In The West Sedgwick 189
 LANESBURY, WALLACE Lodge Brotherhood of Maitland 1029
 LANG, JOSEPH Lodge Star In The West Sedgwick 189
 MANWARING, ERIC Lodge Excalibur 737
 MCDONALD, DENIS Balmain Lodge 23
 MCGAVIN, PETER The Waratah Lodge 170
 MILLER, WILLIAM Lodge Kyogle – Geneva United 245
 MURRAY, BRUCE Lodge Westlake Daylight 997
 NEWLING, GRAHAM Lodge Ionic 65
 NEWMAN, RONALD Lodge Nambucca 271
 OATES, RONALD Lodge Gynea 796
 OFFNER, JAMES The Lodge Of Transition 9999
 PHILLIPS, NOEL Antiquity 1
 PUGSLEY, KEITH Lodge Benjamin Pryor 709
 READ, WILLIAM Lodge Carlton Kogarah 305
 REUBEN, JOHN Lodge Balgowlah 392
 ROBINSON, RAYMOND Lodge United St Andrew Singleton 34
 RORKE, JOHN Lodge Kiama 35
 SELIG, GORDON Balmain Lodge 23
 SMITH, CHARLES Antiquity 1
 SMYTHE, ROBERT Lodge Nepean 29
 STANDEN, WILLIAM Lodge Namoi 207
 TAIT, ROBERT Lodge Merewether – Cardiff 576
 THOMPSON, BARRY Antiquity 1
 VINE, WARWICK Lodge Duke of Edinburgh 76
 VOUT, WILLIAM The Leichhardt Lodge 133
 WEATHERSTONE, PETER Lodge Ionic 65
 WIGMORE, DAVID Lodge Canoblas Lewis 806
 WRIGHT, VIVIAN Lodge Kiama 35

Grand Master launches AMI Men's Health Booklet *She'll Be Right, Mate*

MW Bro Greg Levenston is pictured at the launch on 21 October 2008 at the Sydney Masonic Centre with Associate Professor Dr Jack Vaisman, CEO of AMI, who is providing a copy of this booklet to be mailed to every Freemason in Australia and New Zealand.



The Grand Master said the booklet is much needed and fits well into the

Australia-wide Freemasons' initiatives of 'Men's Health, No More Secrets' which was first launched in 2006 when he was Deputy Grand Master. He thanked Dr Vaisman for his thoughtfulness and generosity.

Dr Vaisman said he was most impressed with the history and purpose of Freemasonry and for the excellent response he had received from the Grand Master.

The Grand Secretary said the distribution will be handled by a mailing house guaranteeing to him the privacy of the UGL Database. ...

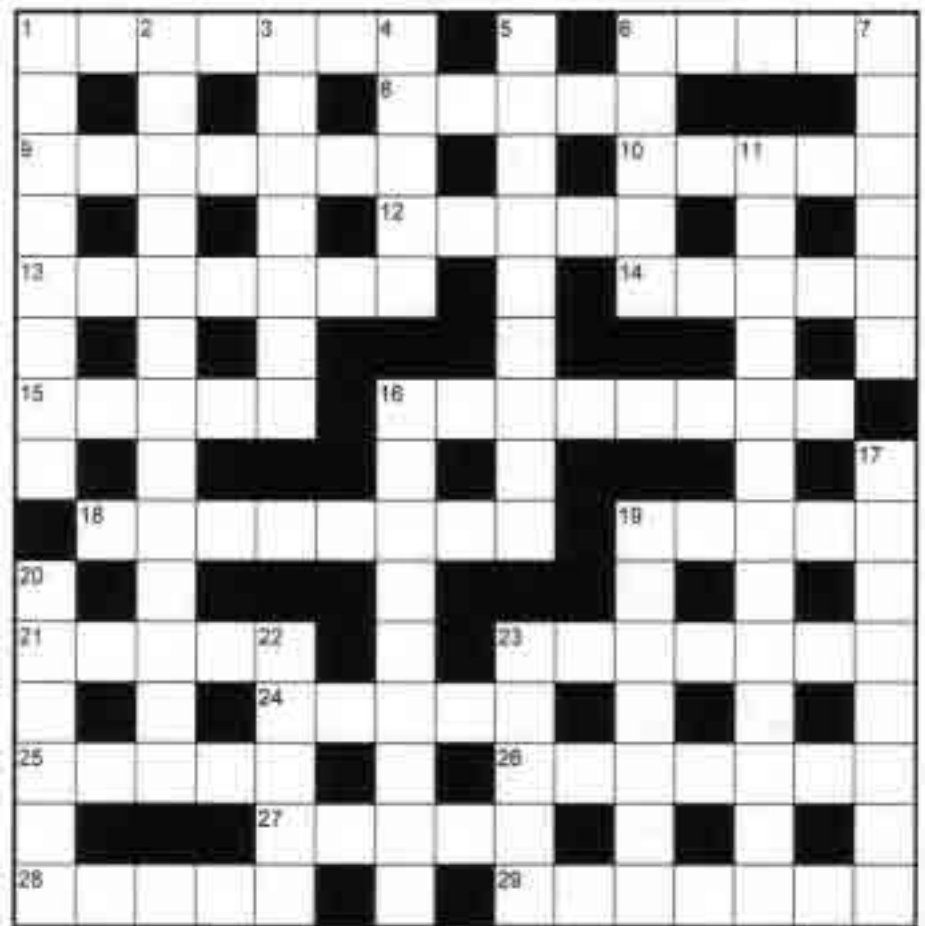
ACROSS

1. Coming from the east
6. Southern limit of grass
8. Tangle a composer
9. Fall of bounder in suit
10. Shaking tree like a writer
12. Seductive song heard in fog and fire
13. Signs or symbols
14. Lock without a key
15. Andronicus, but not the coffee
16. Heroic RT garbled telling communication
18. Wise shot like this for a new record
19. Welsh Wales
21. Tidies
23. An arrow and a cause to shoot one
24. Call from the queen.....
25. ...where she honeymooned
26. English river, pretty together. Despatch!
27. Place for short insect pest
28. Pillar on a winding stair
29. Rage aloud

DOWN

1. Old masons
2. Baseless and without foundation
3. Dealers
4. Caress without a salad item
5. Rev might do this if imprudent
6. Lean but neither slim nor perpendicular
7. Sincere fellow by the sound of it
11. Promised land for good coffee drinkers
17. Choral ray..... cryptic clue!
19. French cat on water castle
20. Order ranks to wait for flower part
21. Society market area, but not big
23. Search for the answer, its part of the question

SOLUTION No 35



MASONS ON THE BOWL - CHARITY FUN DAY FOR STEWART HOUSE

Venue: Caringbah Bowling Club
Date: Sunday 18 January 2009, 8.30am for 9am start
Entries close: 19 December 2008 (limit 28 teams)
Cost: \$25 - Includes Game/Lunch

Format: Teams of four
 Charity Donation Dress - neat Mufti Ladies and non-masons welcomed in team

Enquiries: RW Bro George Jamieson PSGW on 0414 774 944
 or VW Bro Graham Beatton GT PDGDC on 0409 307 254
Forward fees and team names to: Graham Beatton c/- UGL of NSW & ACT
 PO Box A259, Sydney South, NSW 1235

SENIORS WEEK AWARDS

A role model

Bathurst solicitor Bro Ben Gelin is still on a high after receiving his 2008 NSW Seniors Week Award in the category of Business Mentoring.

Bro Gelin is a member of Lodge Bathurst United No 79 and received his award from the Minister for Ageing, Kristina Keneally.

He is regarded as a role model for the Bathurst community, supporting arts, youth, disability and aged care organizations and also helps disadvantaged individuals in need by providing legal support.





The NSW Freemason welcomes new members to the Craft

NAME	INITIATED	LODGE	NAME	INITIATED	LODGE
MACKENZIE Andrew	3/09/2008	The Australian Lodge Of Harmony 5	HASSEN Danny	17/06/2008	Lodge Woollahra 341
EVERINGHAM Todd	17/07/2008	Lodge Unity 6	HATZIGIANNIS John	17/06/2008	Lodge Woollahra 341
ELLIS James	5/08/2008	Lodge Unity 6	HOLLOWS Robert	17/06/2008	Lodge Woollahra 341
TIMMS Alexinder	5/08/2008	Lodge Unity 6	JOSEPH Youssef	15/07/2008	Lodge Woollahra 341
MAGUIRE Shannon	24/07/2008	Lodge Ophir 17	TANANA Sam	15/07/2008	Lodge Woollahra 341
FERGUSON William	28/08/2008	Lodge Ophir 17	PITT John	23/07/2008	Lodge Oberon 355
DAVIES Paul	3/09/2008	Lodge Young Burrangong 20	WOOLLEY Robert	19/08/2008	Lodge Epping 390
GRIFFIN Roy	5/08/2008	Lodge Wagga Wagga 22	CALPITO Constante	17/10/2008	Lodge Blacktown Kildare 393
KINGDOM David	2/09/2008	Lodge Wagga Wagga 22	MOUSSA Wahib	13/09/2008	Lodge Merrylands 479
BARR Warren	12/07/2008	Lodge of Truth 26	LAURINS Benjamin	8/10/2008	Lodge Army and Navy 517
MASON Shane	14/08/2008	Lodge Kiama 35	LAWN Kenneth	20/09/2008	Lodge Speers Point 538
MOORE Gary	11/09/2008	Lodge Kiama 35	SAWALHA Nabil	2/09/2008	Lodge Sutherland 585
LARNEY Gerard	20/08/2008	The Lodge Of Tranquillity 42	WILKS Gregory	10/10/2008	Lodge Lightning Ridge 595
WHEELER Mark	20/08/2008	The Lodge Of Tranquillity 42	ANDERSON Thomas	23/09/2008	The Old Sydneians' Lodge 639
OCKERBY Mitchell	30/08/2008	Lodge St James 45	POGONOWSKI Marian	27/08/2008	Lodge Wahroonga 674
BEAZLEY Stephen	14/08/2008	Lodge Macquarie 53	BARBARA Joseph	1/09/2008	Lodge Aviation 688
WINNALL Stephen	21/08/2008	Lodge Ionic 65	KOUROUKIS Peter	1/09/2008	Lodge Aviation 688
MURPHY Stephen	23/09/2008	Lodge Greater Taree L66	O'DONNELL Ivan	20/09/2008	Lodge Pittwater 697
REKAS David	26/08/2008	Lodge Castlereagh 72	HANSEN Lasse	18/10/2008	Lodge Pittwater 697
KENNY Nathan	15/05/2008	Lodge Bathurst United 79	WEST John	3/09/2008	Lodge Burnside 729
GRIME Jamie	11/08/2008	Lodge Central Australia 88	TUNHAVASANA Jonathan	26/09/2008	Lodge Ingleburn 815
AULD Mark	2/09/2008	Lodge Southern Cross 91	SOYFER Ilya	11/09/2008	Lodge Mark Owen 828
TESCARU Octavian	2/09/2008	Lodge Southern Cross 91	WOODS Anthony	10/09/2008	Lodge Panania 845
CLOWES Benjamin	24/07/2008	The Sir Walter Scott Lodge 123	YOUNG David	21/10/2008	Lodge Sylvania 853 Lodge of Excellence
BITTENOURT Andre	12/08/2008	Lodge Horace Thompson Ryde 134	DHU Craig	3/10/2008	Lodge Emu Plains 860
ATCHISON Kenneth	14/08/2008	Lodge Tweed United 136	BENNETT Mark	21/08/2008	Lodge Pennant Hills 905
GOODACRE Geoffrey	2/07/2008	The Lachlan Waugoola Lodge 142	RYAN Stephen	2/09/2008	Lodge Albert C. Petrie 954
MURPHY Gary	2/07/2008	The Lachlan Waugoola Lodge 142	SLOANE Adam	2/09/2008	Lodge Albert C. Petrie 954
RODWELL Gregory	21/08/2008	Lodge Richard Coley 152	ROOKE Edward	31/07/2008	Lodge Baulkham Hills 958
MILLER Duncan	21/09/2008	Lodge Richard Coley 152	SOROKIN Paul	31/07/2008	Lodge Baulkham Hills 958
THEODOROPOULOS John	2/06/2008	Lodge Hellenic Arcadia 177	ROWLAND Kenneth	17/09/2008	Lodge Ethos 963
BILALIS George	7/07/2008	Lodge Hellenic Arcadia 177	HANNA Abdallah	12/09/2008	Lodge Alpha 970
KING Adam	17/09/2008	Lodge Mulwala "The Scott" 184	MCGREGOR Stuart	12/09/2008	Lodge Alpha 970
CLIFFORD James	18/06/2008	Lodge Liverpool 197	NAHED Malkin	10/10/2008	Lodge Alpha 970
JECKS Paul	18/06/2008	Lodge Liverpool 197	ZAHROONI Khoshnam	10/10/2008	Lodge Alpha 970
ALECHE Joesph	2/07/2008	Lodge Liverpool 197	WOODSELL Barry	26/08/2008	Basin View Daylight Lodge 1015
SETIAWAN David	4/07/2008	Lodge Liverpool 197	DODD Harold	25/08/2008	The Sydney Lodge 1020
NOLAN Mitchell	1/10/2008	Lodge Liverpool 197	HALL Lachlan	25/08/2008	The Sydney Lodge 1020
KENSEY Noel	26/09/2008	Lodge Jersey 204	KOHLER Earl	25/08/2008	The Sydney Lodge 1020
STACPOOLE Christopher	1/09/2008	The Peel Lodge 209	MOIO Francesco	25/08/2008	The Sydney Lodge 1020
PAYNE Keith	17/09/2008	Lodge Camden 217	DHARMARATNE Shanka	9/10/2008	Lodge Kellerman 1027
HERFORD Scott	17/09/2008	Lodge Mosman 228	DUCHENNE James	9/10/2008	Lodge Kellerman 1027
HORGAN Brendan	4/09/2008	Lodge Cessnock 252	SINICROPI Tinuccio	9/10/2008	Lodge Kellerman 1027
WHOWELL Mark	5/09/2008	Lodge Vacluse 266	WILLMOTT Jeremy	9/10/2008	Lodge Kellerman 1027
WILKINSON Barry	11/08/2008	Lodge Timor 274	BROWN Gordan	18/08/2008	Lodge Ku-Ring-Gai 1033
COX Ronald	14/08/2008	Lodge St Andrews 281	HOLLAND Glynn	15/09/2008	Lodge Ku-Ring-Gai 1033
SHAOL Anthony	26/08/2008	Lodge Challenge 284	COOK Stuart	26/08/2008	Lodge Phoenix 1034
MCKENZIE Ross	14/08/2008	Lodge Middle Harbour 292	BROWN Geoffrey	9/08/2008	Lodge Cornucopia 1037
SMITH John	17/09/2008	Lodge Pacific 298	DIAZ-RAMOS Antonino	21/02/2008	Lodge Miguel De Cervantes 1038
TYSON Mark	4/08/2008	Lodge Mindaribba 307	MEZA Jesus	21/02/2008	Lodge Miguel De Cervantes 1038



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Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution

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IN THESE TOUGH AND UNCERTAIN TIMES, THE RFBI EXTENDS SEASONS GREETINGS

The Directors and Staff of the Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution extend Seasons Greetings to all Masons and their Families and thank them most sincerely for their support throughout the year. We assure you that your donations have been gratefully received and were faithfully applied through the Annuity and Benevolence Schemes and in our aged care facilities.

100% of all donations have been applied with no administration charges.

HAVE YOU GOT TIME TO SPARE? WILL YOU GIVE THE RFBI SOME TIME NOW?

The RFBI is looking for VOLUNTEERS in all of our facilities to offer assistance in activities such as reading a book to sight impaired persons, assistance at mealtimes, sit and chat with aged persons, assist with outings, assist with maintenance such as gardening, lawn mowing and the like.

The list is endless. There are many jobs that VOLUNTEERS can do and those listed above are but a few. All are very rewarding to the individual, of great comfort to elderly folk and indirectly assists the RFBI in the care of some 2300 aged residents. Your contribution assists our residents in making their quality of life in their twilight years more pleasant.

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.

For all retirement village inquiries, please contact Alex Shaw or Ann King on 9264 5986



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