

Freemason



If it's
worth
saying...

Square and
compasses

**to the
rescue**



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Editorial Policy

Aims of the Freemason magazine

- To uphold and promote those values, morals and virtues which Freemasonry believes are universal and enduring.
- To foster a better understanding of Freemasonry within the general community.
- To provide a forum for discussion on masonic issues.
- To publicise the charitable works of Freemasonry.
- To provide articles of interest and education and to disseminate masonic news and views.
- To recognise masons who make significant contributions to the Craft and the wider community.



Cover Image:

The new inflatable rescue boat (IRB) with outboard motor, presented to Soldiers Beach SLSC.

Freemason



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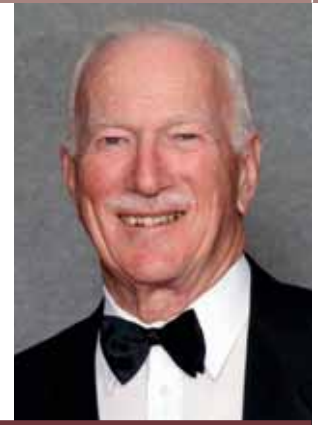
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Try a face-to-face chat with someone



We talk a lot, but do we really communicate?

In the first weeks of December I did something rather radical, unusual and somehow out of character with seemingly the rest of Australia.

I have actually been talking face to face with other people. Not using a mobile, an iPod, Facebook, Twitter or texting – actually, really speaking.

Considering the fascination with today's electronic world, I wonder how our parents and grandparents ever managed to survive without holding a mobile in their hand or making a constant check to see whether there were any messages.

Look at people in the streets, on the bus, on the train, in a car, at a restaurant, wedding or funeral – they seem compelled to gaze every few minutes to see if anything is happening. For many people, the first move when they wake up is to check their mobile and it's also the last action before they go to bed.

In earlier years, today's older people made things happen. They got out of the house, were active in the community, managed to get through a day's work without too many interruptions and had time for their children, friends and neighbours. Even sitting on the front fence and talking to people passing by.

It seems that it is becoming a luxury to stop and talk or even think. Look at the outcome of the London Olympics where our athletes and officials blamed the twittering on social media for some of our unexpected poor performances. And how athletes said they wished they had not had their mobiles switched on or read the messages so that they could concentrate more on their real objective of competing to the best of their ability.

Yes, the world is a more connected place with the advent of mobiles and they have been a distinct advantage in times of need. But with all these technologies com-

peting for our attention, has it really been of benefit? We say lots but are we really communicating? It used to be a sign of importance to carry a set of keys visible on the outside of your clothes. Now it is a mobile being carried in the hand and checked regularly.

And isn't that what Christmas is all about – love, family, friends and communicating with each other?

Listen to the loud, strident voices on buses and trains or in the street as people detail everything from their love life to work problems. Is everyone with a mobile, or the people they speak to, having hearing difficulties? How annoying at a wedding or funeral to hear a mobile beep during part of the service. Look at the diners in restaurants too busy talking on their mobiles to even enjoy the food they have ordered, let alone the rudeness to their table partners.

Even in lodge, the second question usually asked at the opening is: 'Has everyone turned off their mobile?' And how many times have you seen a lodge member leave the room to answer some 'important' message on his mobile.

So how about joining me in making a different resolution for this Christmas. Think twice before you drag out the mobile and begin tweeting or talking and ask is the world going to be worse off if you don't use up 140 or so characters. Take control of your social life rather than letting social media control you. How about turning off your phone for a couple of hours each day over the Christmas period, unplug your laptop, allow yourself time to look at the sky and the world around you, speak to your family and say Happy Christmas to your neighbours.

You might be surprised to find you actually enjoy getting back to being a real live person once more and not a member of the robot empire. And isn't that what Christmas is all about – love, family, friends and communicating with each other?

There are so many ways in which we can express the Christmas Spirit and look forward to a happy future. So how about trying to relax, talk to each other, renew friendships and enjoy the gifts and festivities of a Happy and Holy Christmas.

Interested in Freemasonry?

Have you ever wondered about Freemasonry – what it is and what its members do? Do you ever think about joining but don't know any masons or what action to take to find out more?

If you are interested and would like to talk with a mason, contact Grand Lodge who will put you in touch with a member from your suburb who can give answers and advice.

Grand Lodge is available Monday to Friday on (02) 9284 2800 or you can contact us by email at info@masons.org.au



September Communication

The Communication mostly dealt with administrative issues which needed confirming following the meeting in June.

A number of amendments to the Constitution were introduced by the Grand Registrar RW Bro John Armfield to for-

mally establish the College of Masonic Studies, its Board and its duties. He also introduced an amendment to regulate the manner in which photographs and/or videos may be taken in Private Lodges and Grand Lodge.

The Executive Council reported that

the masonic orders who meet in the lodge room within the Frank Whiddon Homes at Glenfield had been given notice the room would be unavailable from later this year. The Whiddon Group require the room for other purposes and those using the facility will need to be relocated to other premises.

A full report was received from the Committee on Foreign Correspondence which dealt with events occurring in other jurisdictions worldwide, particularly France, and the Council agreed to recommendations to introduce guidelines and rules for the 'Twinning of Lodges' and the appointments of a committee to review the Principles of Grand Lodge recognition to be used in future determination of recognition of other Grand Lodges.

In the Board of Management report, a list was provided of buildings given Full or Interim Certification status. The Board is also continuing to seek a solution to the problems of the Castlereagh Street entrance.

The Grand Master, in his welcome, noted that some of our Past Grand Masters recently have had health issues and extended his best wishes for their improvement.

He also spoke on Masonic Charities, the new charity jewel to be organised by Masonicare and the good performance by Grand Lodge over the past 12 months.

'Much has been said about how we can strengthen our commitment to our local communities so that we are seen as an association of merit and stature. At the recent local council elections several masons stood in front of their community to be judged by their peers and have now been elected to local government. I am honoured that so many masons were able to follow their dreams and extend themselves in this way,' he said.

'I thank all of you for your wonderful support – and for your commitment to the Craft.'

A Christmas Message from the Grand Master

Whatever our personal situations, Christmas reminds us of the absolute **caring and sharing nature of Freemasonry.**

As Freemasons we commit ourselves to the principles of integrity, goodwill and charity, sharing a concern for humanity through the maintenance of our high ideals.

During the year, Freemasons have gone out of their way to assist people in need, lodges have provided help to their community, and contributions and donations have been made in many ways to charitable organisations.

These actions show that we do really care for each other and the community and that we do uphold the ideals of the Craft.

It has been a long and hard-working year for many of our members and I hope that you and your family and friends can find some quality time over Christmas to relax and recharge your energies.

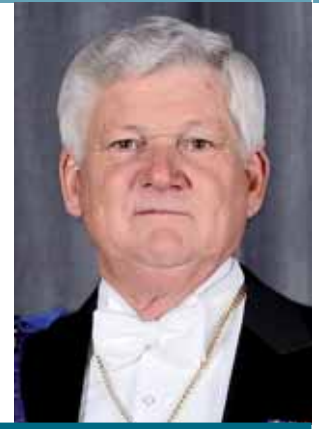
At the same time, I urge you to continue to uphold the masonic principles of love and charity and consider lending a hand to less fortunate people whenever you can.

Nicole and I offer each of you and your families, 'Season's Greetings' and a Happy New Year.





The Grand Master says 'well done'



The Grand Master reflects on his first 12 months in office.

The Summary of the Ancient Charges and Regulations, supported by every Worshipful Master Elect prior to his Installation, and the Charges of a Freemason, so well written in the preamble to our respected Constitutions, sets out how we should act as a Freemason, how to react to our broader responsibilities to the community and how we should behave in all circumstances – particularly toward each other.

I have regularly spoken of the importance of these basic principles and how we can benefit from them. The Craft will remain strong if we adhere to these tenets and principles; continue the development and maintenance of fraternal friendship, and work to ensure we are all enhanced by the experience. I hope our mentoring system ensures we are always reminded of our duty to each other, our duty to our lodge, and our absolute respect and tolerance of the interaction of both. It is important that we have this clear understanding of our Fraternity and what it is trying to achieve.

I am particularly pleased that so many have joined forces to ensure we maintain our strong connections to our community and its activities. Through a raft of high profile activities, lodge assistance and support packages, and other initiatives to bolster the 'all of one company' ethos, we have presented ourselves as a practical, principled and resourceful body which has much to offer and if the level of enquiries over the past few months can be any guide to our success we have done very well indeed.

I am thrilled with the progress made over the past twelve months. The Executive Council and the Board of Management have recommitted to their constitutional responsibility, the Secretariat's layout restructure will offer an

improvement to their efficiency, the enhanced website will provide more information and allow lodges to better manage their affairs through real-time advice, the roles of our future network of Field Officers are changing, reporting processes will be more practical, the transparency of our financial reporting has been improved and dispensations and other interactions will better reflect practical circumstance.


Masonicare has adopted an improved structure and its Benevolence program has been enhanced, the College of Masonic Studies has been established, the Grand Master's Literary Prize has been launched, the importance and attractiveness of the Grand Lodge Ceremonial Team has been enhanced through the creation of its own website, and the STEP program has done a wonderful job in assisting lodges through maintenance packages, workshops for brethren, community support and fund-raising initiatives. This is a wonderful time for the Craft and we are clearly benefitting from our efforts.

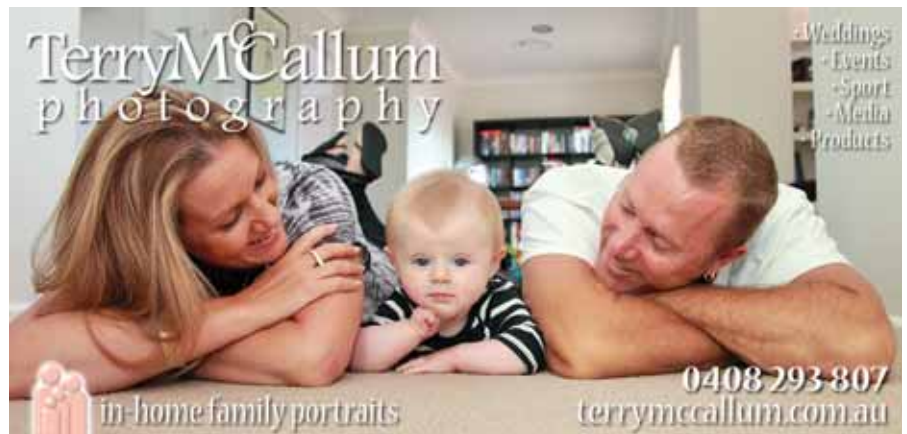
The broader interaction with the community, which began with the openness of our Grand Installation in Darling Harbour, has clearly had positive benefits. We

are now invited to contribute and inject our positive outlook into many local community initiatives which is having a direct effect on membership enquiries. It has been fantastic to see how many have taken their first step, and having had the privilege to meet most of them, I can assure you we should be very proud of their quality and positiveness.

Regardless of how well we might think we are doing, there is always more to do. We must continue to strengthen our internal arrangements, work hard to ensure the stability and preferred placement of our buildings, project ourselves into areas where we have a diminished presence, ensure we are targeting longer term projects that will be relevant to our future and continue to look to each other for strength and guidance.

The Craft has been developing over many centuries and we can be proud that we have continued this trend. Perhaps as we now take time to congratulate each other for what we have achieved, we might also look to include those who have not yet quite grasped the true meaning and purpose of the Craft.

I look forward to our continuing efforts. 





Square and compasses to the rescue!

Surf Life Saving and Freemasonry share similar core values of service to the community and a thriving, long-term partnership between the lodges of the Central Coast and Surf Life Saving has developed.

On 11 December 2011, a donation to the value of \$25,000 by District 18 lodges Wyong Tuggerah Lakes 247, Toukley 933, Lakehaven Daylight 1017, Albert Josephson Royal Arch Chapter 119 and Gosford Royal Arch Chapter 173, enabled the presentation by RW Bro Walid Mehanna (AGM), to the Soldiers Beach SLSC of a surf boat named *The Freemason* (see page 43 of Autumn 2012 *Freemason* magazine) and a new inflatable rescue boat (IRB) with outboard motor. These presentations followed an earlier donation by Lodge Toukley to assist junior members of the Club participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme – something the Club strongly encourages.

The Freemason is now the 'face' of the Club and brings Freemasonry into the public eye in a most positive manner. It is the latest technology in surf boats and far superior to any boat the Club has previously owned. Over the years it will compete in local, State and National carnivals. More importantly, it is a valuable recruitment tool – young men love to race fast boats!!

The Freemason competed in the Peter's Surfboat Series on 28 October, placing in



the heats and going on to win the final. Ladies of Terrigal SLSC also competed at the same series and used the competition rowing oars complete with square and compasses logo donated by the Freemasons of the Central Coast. They finished a credible third in the final. The Club was also the recipient of a surf boat cover featuring the square and compasses logo, and a BBQ was donated by Lodge James Kibble Daylight No 985 to The Entrance SLSC.

The inflatable rescue boat (IRB) is now the workhorse of the Soldiers Beach Club and expected to be involved in some of the 150 rescues anticipated on the Coast this

season. It featured prominently at the IRB National Championships held at Ocean Beach in cold, wet, wild conditions in July.

Surf Life Saving Central Coast will also benefit from the donation of two water rescue craft (jet skis) which are extremely successful as rescue craft as they can travel swiftly between all Central Coast beaches to quickly reach an emergency.

These craft were presented at the Nippers Carnival held at Terrigal on 4 November by RW Bro Lynden Norgate (RGC Region 1) and VW Bro David Williams (DGIW District 18). Surf Life Saving Central Coast's President Stuart Harvey, CO Chris Parker, Administrator Marie Ward were present, together with Federal MP Deborah O'Neill and some 30 Freemasons with their families and friends. Following the welcome and speeches in the Terrigal Clubhouse, the group moved to the promenade for the official presentation and launching. Lynden Norgate and David Williams performed the usual champagne routine and the jet skis were then launched with W Bro Roger Whitehead volunteering for a test run through the surf on a safety board towed by one of the vessels.



Following recent tragic deaths of surf life savers at events and the resulting recommendations and trials of clothing colours to make them more visible in the water, the Freemasons of the Central Coast have donated 1,100 pink rash vests to be worn at carnivals by all 'nippers'. These too were presented at Terrigal on 4 November and saw plenty of action on the day. The vests feature the square and compasses logo in black on both front and back with space to include the Surf Club name and the name of an individual nipper.



Surf Life Saving Central Coast has 15 clubs across the region from The Lakes Beach at Budgewoi in the north to Umina Beach in the south. During the surf season there are four Central Coast Area Nipper Carnivals and three Nipper Iron Person Carnivals. There are two sections to each carnival – Under 8 Years and Under 14 Years. The pink rash vests are to be compulsory wear for nippers at all these carnivals and at all training sessions. They may also be worn at carnivals outside the Central Coast area. Hundreds of nippers participate in the carnivals so the square and compasses will feature constantly at beaches across the Central Coast and perhaps beyond.

The contribution made by local Freemasons to Surf Life Saving Central Coast has, and continues to be substantial and attests to a flourishing relationship between the two – an excellent effort by the Central Coast lodges.

Freemasonry membership enquiries: 0459 262 766

Proudly supporting



Soldiers Beach SLSC has entered a 53km surf boat race to take place around the Gallipoli Peninsula on 23-24 April 2015 to commemorate the centenary of the original landing at Gallipoli. The square and compasses features prominently on the bow and all promotional material used by the Club for fundraising will feature 'Proudly supported by the Freemasons of the Central Coast'. Some 60 boats from Australia, New Zealand and Turkey have submitted entries so far. Following the event the boat will be donated to a club in Turkey where surf boat racing is becoming a popular event at universities. www.gallipoli100.net.au



RW Bro Leon Carter OBE PAGM

Christmas: A time to love and forgive

The basis of Christmas is love, loving enemies and returning good for evil. 'Love suffereth long and is kind. It is the way, the truth and the life.'

More love is the great need of mankind.

We should bear with patience the buffeting of envy and malice. If I wished to punish my enemy, I should make him hate somebody.

The most difficult of all the virtues to cultivate is the forgiving spirit. Revenge seems to be natural with man; it is human to want to get even with an enemy. It has even been popular to boast of vindictiveness. It was inscribed on a man's monument that he had repaid both friends and



enemies more than he had received.

This was not the spirit of Christ. He taught forgiveness and in that incomparable prayer which he left as a model for our petitions, he made our willingness to forgive the measure by which we may claim forgiveness. He not only taught forgiveness but he exemplified his teachings in his life. When those who persecuted him brought him to the most disgraceful of all deaths, his spirit of forgiveness rose above his suf-

And a message from MW Bro Rev Raymond Green, retired Chaplain with the Ambulance Service of NSW

So this is Christmas!

Carols, turkeys, decorated trees and gifts have all become part and (beautifully wrapped) parcel of the festive season. While the big shops put up enormous wreaths and little shops spray on Santa Snow window stencils, churches iron out the creases on the 'Put Christ Back Into Christmas' posters for the glass cases on the street front.

Their struggle is not new. The Church, or at least Oliver Cromwell's puritan Commonwealth, tried to stamp out Christmas, all feast days and anything resembling fun, more than three centuries ago. Christmas was indeed, in its origins a heathen day of feasting for Saturn, and Baal.

Christmas, ironically, antedates the Nativity of Christ, and 25 December is a fudge. In the third century CE, the Church Fathers chose that day as Christ's birthday, with good reason. It happens to fall approximately on the northern hemisphere's winter solstice, and 25 December (midwinter's day) has been from time immemorial a day sacred to the rebirth of the light of the sun in the depth of winter.

The Roman Empire gave the world the tradition of gift giving in late December, with its citizens giving clay dolls at the

festival of Saturnalia. Like modern revelers too, they ate their fill of fruits, nuts, breads, pies and star-shaped cakes. They gave us decorations as well, decorating their temples with greenery for the Saturnalia celebrations at this time of the year. Later, the Saxons at winter solstice decorated their homes with two of the scarce bits of natural colour in the winter snowscape, the red-berried holly and the evergreen ivy.

Unable to stamp out the widespread pagan Yule (midwinter) customs, early church leaders pragmatically put a Christian spin on them. Throughout Europe, the celebration of Christ's birth grew in stature and became, with Easter, one of the two great festivals of the church calendar. During the centuries, traditions changed and merged to produce the festive rituals we observe today.

However we personally celebrate the tradition of Christmas in our homes and communities, the spirit of Christmas remains within our hearts and memories. It is a time to reflect on how we live our lives, how we deepen our faith, how we share love and how we live in peace. May this Christmas be a time for all masons and their families, a time of love, joy and peace.

ferings and he prayed: 'Father, forgive them for they know not what they do!'

Love is the foundation of Christ's creed. He gave a new definition of love. His love was as wide as the sea; its limits boundless. Other teachers sought to regulate the lives of their followers by rule and formula but Christ's plan was to purify the heart and then to leave love to direct the footsteps.

RW Bro Rev Peter Kilkeary OAM PAGM

The Christmas Gift of Peace

November 11 is observed as Remembrance Day, marking the cessation of hostilities at the end of the Great War. In 1945, there were also celebrations for the return of peace.

Peace is one of the great words of Christmas. As the prophet Isaiah wrote of the coming Messiah he used the titles: 'Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.'

These words were incorporated by Handel in his Oratorio, *Messiah*, performed regularly at Christmas.

The shepherds in the field, heard a chorus of angels praising God: 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.'

Luke records that when the baby Jesus was taken to the temple, a man named Simeon uttered prophetic words: 'Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace.'

Simeon associated the coming of the Messiah with peace.

In the first century world of Judaea and Galilee 'peace' was a standard form of greeting. It continues in practice today as we shake hands showing that we have no weapon.

Paul wrote of peace as a gift from God for those who follow Him, writing of 'the peace of God which passeth all understanding.'

In a society where we have armed forces serving overseas; when we wake each morning to another news item about somebody shot during the night; where conflict is the norm for many rather than peace, may you find joy and peace as you celebrate the coming of Christ and relate this to your allegiance as a mason to the Great Architect of the Universe.

Peace be with you all.



Ready to respond when you hear a siren?

In the previous issue, the feature article on paramedics resulted in **questions relating to hoax calls** and **road manners**. This is the response from the Ambulance Service.

There still seems to be some confusion by members of the public when it comes to giving way to emergency vehicles under lights and sirens.

Paramedics respond to medical emergencies every 30 seconds with much of the work involving driving to life threatening emergency cases with the lights and sirens activated.

Paramedics are frequently required to drive against normal traffic flow to get to the scene of an emergency. Whilst it is the law that drivers must not deliberately obstruct emergency vehicles, drivers should also be aware that traffic rules must not be broken in doing so. This includes the running of red traffic lights.

Though drivers may have the best intention in moving through red lights in order to let an emergency vehicle pass, they may risk their lives and safety as well as other road users. Drivers are urged to stay aware of all traffic around them, not just the traffic in front. If you hear a siren or see flashing emergency lights behind you, plan well ahead to move to the left side of the road in safe and legal manner rather than leaving it to the last second.

While paramedics are focused on keeping themselves and other road users safe, they offer the following tips:

- DON'T PANIC!
- Give way when you hear a siren or see flashing lights – move safely to the left.
- Slow down once you move out of the way of the ambulance.
- Be aware of and courteous to other

traffic also attempting to move out of the way, allowing for the steady flow of traffic moving out of the way.

- Do not break any traffic rules.
- Be aware that occasionally there are two or more emergency vehicles responding in close succession – check your mirrors before moving back into the lane.
- NEVER tailgate an ambulance responding under lights and sirens. Ambulance vehicles may make last minute decisions or stop suddenly. Tailgating puts you and the paramedics in the vehicle ahead of you at risk.
- Keep car audio devices at a reasonable level so you can hear approaching sirens. Continuously check your mirrors for emergency lights.
- On multi lane roads, stay in the left lane unless overtaking and don't linger in the overtaking lane. This maximises the chance of being out of the way when an emergency vehicle approaches.

Paramedics understand that seeing an emergency vehicle can be distressing, but by using common sense and following the road rules, you can help save lives.

In the event of a medical emergency call Triple Zero: Ask for Ambulance, remain on the line whilst details of the incident are obtained and an Ambulance is dispatched.

'Hoax' Triple Zero (000) Calls – A Waste of Time!

The Ambulance Service of NSW responds to an emergency call every 28 seconds

across NSW but sadly gets hundreds of hoax calls each year. Hoax calls are a severe drain on ambulance resources and costs the community hundreds of thousands of dollars each year. Whilst a paramedic crew responds to a hoax situation, there may be someone genuinely in need of urgent attention and they might have to wait which could cost someone their life.

Hoax calls waste the time of the Operations Centre staff and the paramedics who respond to the calls.

From January to December 2009 the Service received 269 hoax calls in Sydney and a total of 623 around NSW. This included 184 Northern NSW (from Hawkesbury to the Queensland border), 46 Southern NSW (from Wollongong to the Victorian Border) and 124 Western NSW (from Blue Mountains to the South Australian Border)

It is not always possible to identify a hoax call. An ambulance is sent to all calls where sufficient address details are available, even if the call is suspected to be a hoax. An ambulance will only be cancelled when the hoax is confirmed. Unfortunately many hoax calls occur on weekday afternoons and on school holidays. Whilst we cannot put old heads on young shoulders, Ambulance believes education is the key to helping children understand the use and value of the Triple Zero service. 'Be an Ambulance Hero: Dial Zero, Zero, Zero' is one of our programs specifically aimed at younger children.

Remember, making hoax calls to Triple Zero (000) is a criminal offence.



It was time well spent

MW Bro Rev Raymond Green PGM has retired as **Chaplain** from the **Ambulance Service** of NSW after a rewarding and outstanding career. These are some of his memories.



How pleased I was to receive the spring edition of the *Freemason* which had a unique cover and a well written article on page 24. These men and women rightly deserve the accolade of the 'Most Trusted Profession'. They are serving the community 24 hours a day, every day and night of the year.

I had the privilege and honour of working closely with these people for 13 years, in my capacity as an Ambulance Chaplain, prior to my retirement at the end of 2011.

In 1998 I was invited by the then Ambulance State Superintendent, James McLachlan to join the team as a volunteer Chaplain. I was surprised to discover that the team only consisted of two other Chaplains with the responsibility of cov-

ering the whole State. As part of my role I was asked to formalise a voluntary Chaplaincy program for the Ambulance Service.

In 2004, the former Chief Executive Greg Rochford appointed me as the first ever Senior Chaplain, bringing the Ambulance Service in line with the NSW Police and Fire and Rescue, which already had permanent Senior Chaplains. This arrangement suited me because I had just retired from Parish Ministry in the same year. In 2009, the position was formally made a permanent part-time position.

The role enabled me to liaise with senior management on spiritual and pastoral matters. To oversee the team of Chaplains throughout the State, to deploy them to support staff, patients and their families in the event of major incident. The Chaplaincy program now includes 30 Chaplains from all mainline denominations and faiths. The core role of Chaplains is to work with the peer support officers, helping paramedics with coping mechanisms after trauma, their families, and on occasions, bystanders.

Throughout my career I dealt with suicides, murders, domestic violence and bomb threats. At times it can be quite emotional. Child death is the hardest to deal with and young people involved in motor vehicle accidents. This challenges a Chaplain's own faith at times. Although traumatic, you can find comfort in these incidents, the ability and hopefulness of making a difference to people at the scene and beyond is very rewarding.

Chaplaincy isn't always harrowing however, there's also the joy. There are many marriages between Ambulance staff and

baptisms of a number of Ambulance babies.

My motivation to work in Chaplaincy throughout the years has come from a desire to be where the people are and the comfort of knowing that your 'being' and your 'doing' may help others in need, regardless of spiritual beliefs or church affiliation. Chaplaincy places you in situations which you may not find in the usual Parish setting. At times it can be challenging because you are dealing with people who have different expectations and have no acknowledged faith. It takes you out of your comfort zone and places you in environments which stretch your faith and commitment.

It was an enormous privilege to be a Chaplain within the Ambulance Service, being out there in the mud, blood and tears. When there is chaos all around, Chaplains try to help people confront their situation and work through their difficulties. Although the working environment was at times frustrating, demanding and alien, it gives you a deep satisfaction, knowing that the contribution you make could have made some difference.

During my time in the Service, I met and worked with many amazing people; together we have shared moments of heartbreak and despair in some of the call outs we have attended. There have also been many opportunities of joy and satisfaction for a job well done. I have also met a number of past and present paramedics, who are also members of the Craft, who continue to serve the community. The collective commitment by Ambulance staff to their respective duties is inspiring to see and a privilege to have shared.

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From the Grand Secretary

Changes at the Secretariat

Those visiting the Grand Secretariat on level four of the Sydney Masonic Centre will definitely note changes as soon as they walk through the main doors.

The office area was originally designed for many more staff than are needed today and, over the years, modifications have been made in work spaces to accommodate the increasing use of computer and office equipment technology. As a result, the entire area was like a 'rabbit warren' with far too much room taken up with partitioning and the like which was wasted space and was more valuable for other uses.

Hence, the partitioning needed to go and the 33 year old carpet needed to be replaced. With a 'new splash of paint', other cosmetic changes and some internal relocation of staff, we now have a much more efficient and 'user friendly' area for the administration of the Craft.

Added to this we have embarked on making the work environment almost, but not entirely, 'paper-free'. For a start lodge notice papers, returns and general correspondence will in future be scanned to our main computer server thus enabling us to reduce the huge number of filing cabinets that fill so quickly with regular documentation from over 340 lodges. Other forms of documentation will be treated in this way systematically.

Whilst a lot has been done to date, the majority of the changes will take place over the Christmas/New Year break when the Secretariat will be closed from midday 21 December 2012, re-opening Monday 7 January 2013.

Our new retail area

With changes being made to the level 4 Administration offices, the opportunity was not missed to re-locate the Museum of Freemasonry Shop from its former

position on the ground floor to level 4. Previously, space requirements did not make this possible.

The shop is now located adjacent to the Reception on level 4 and the display area of the shop is well laid out for ease of access and browsing. It is well worth a visit!

Of course, apart from many unique and specialist items, the shop provides everything needed 'masonically' and its prices are more than competitive especially on the superb and full range of quality regalia which are always to the exact specifications, in all aspects, as approved by Grand Lodge. Don't forget, too, that all profits from the shop are used to benefit our pride, the Museum of Freemasonry on level 3 of the Sydney Masonic Centre.

In other words, every dollar spent at the shop stays in Freemasonry!

UGL Website

It is very pleasing to note the positive comments that continue to be received in relation to the new Grand Lodge website. Brethren are especially happy with the new 'security' arrangements for them to access the 'Members' Area' knowing that they now do so using their unique access code of choice.

There are still developments to be completed and introduced which all users are no doubt going to find extremely useful and especially helpful.

Emails to membership

Every so often, those who have provided email contact details will receive notifications from Grand Lodge on various items of interest or notifications of some sort. We understand that there are email accounts that receive many 'SPAM' emails, hence, the number of emails sent from this office to the membership are kept to a minimum.

We certainly do not wish to inconvenience any of our members and we hope you realise that the emails you receive are sent to you as information and/or interest in matters relating to the Craft.


Whilst the option is always available for a member to remove his email address from the database, it is hoped this option is not taken as that will mean no emails at all will pass from Grand Lodge to the brother concerned which could well include information that he would normally hope and expect to receive.

Grand Master's Literary Prize

Just a reminder that entries are now due for the inaugural 'Grand Master's Literary Prize' for the best essay on the subject: 'Freemasonry – Moving Forward'. The essay should be of no more than 3,000 words and provide constructive discussion on Freemasonry and positively contribute to the objectives of the Craft in this Jurisdiction of NSW & ACT.

Remember, too, that it is the intention for the winning essay to be read, by the author, at a Regular Communication of Grand Lodge and a précis of it will also be published in the *Freemason* magazine. All essays received will be retained and form part of the Museum of Freemasonry Library Collection and parts of their content may also be subject to use in future considerations of the advancement of the Craft.

The three annual prizes will initially apply over three years and these will be announced and presented by the Grand Master at a Regular Communication, with all winners also receiving an appropriate Certificate.

Entries should be sent to:
Grand Master's Literary Prize
UGL of NSW & ACT
PO Box A 259
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235 



If it's worth saying ... it's worth saying well

'An outstanding voice is the most powerful instrument in the speaker's tool box. Spending time to improve the way you sound has enormous benefits in many areas of your life ... it reflects your education and your self-esteem and carries your passion.'

Speaking Skills for Every Occasion, Pascal Press 2003

As a professional voice artist for over 20 years, I would like to share some insights on how to prepare and deliver a charge. All lodge officers and those delivering charges have the unique opportunity of imparting great knowledge and wonderful stories to candidates. So if it is worth saying, is it not worth saying well?

All people possess the same remarkable and versatile in-built instrument that allows us to have a clear voice, namely the human aerophone. It is the most portable of all instruments, yet most do not know how to play it. If we understand how the aerophone functions, then we can alter, adjust, project and even refine our voices.

To produce our voice we take air into the lungs. As we exhale the air travels up the trachea, through the larynx where it vibrates over two vocal chords; it resonates in the chest cavity, hollow areas of the neck, the mouth and nose. We in turn articulate by use of our teeth, lips, tongue and soft palate. That is how the aerophone works.

So to improve our delivery we need to breathe – a good, slow breath down in the diaphragm, not in the chest area, similar to a woodwind musician. We need to awaken the facial mask and open our mouths. The facial mask tells a lot, it shows a happy person or a distressed person. If you deliver a charge with your facial mask awake and alive in the shape of a smile, the warmth will be conveyed. Likewise if you have a frown, and the mouth is not opening to get the words out, the delivery can sound dull or flat. Ensure the head is not facing down or upwards so the voice is not hindered by our body posture. Too often we see brethren looking down as they deliver



Professional voice artist, VW Bro Adam Whitby, in the recording studio

'If you deliver a charge with your facial mask awake and alive in the shape of a smile, the warmth will be conveyed'

ritual with the words travelling in the wrong direction, straight into the carpet, soaked up like blotting paper.

Australians are lazy talkers, that is we finish 'nothin' and often speak too quickly. As masons we are fortunate to have an ancient and fascinating ritual to recite in our ceremonies. So if you combine lazy speech patterns, poor breathing, talkin' too quick and speaking to the floor, few will hear it and few will benefit from the instructive lessons or the theatre of the charge.

To put these techniques into practice, first learn the ritual to the best of your ability. The only way to learn and deliver is

by practising aloud. Even just above a whisper, practising aloud prepares you for difficult words or phrasing. We never slip up when reading a book, but if you were to read that book aloud to people there would be a different outcome! Try reading it aloud in different styles – dramatic, heartfelt, happy etc – this is easier for some than others but incredibly helpful. To ensure we are using our facial mask, practice in front of a mirror. This way you can make certain you are opening your mouth and taking on the right facial shape. As an example begin with a smile. This puts your candidate at ease and tells him you're his friend. If the ritual delves to a serious side, take on the facial mask to reinforce the story.

Whilst some brethren relish the opportunity to deliver ritual, less experienced masons can suffer nerves. Here are four tips to delivering a memorable charge:

First, if you know your work the nerves are already better off.

Second – Remember everyone in that lodge room is your friend and brother and they want you to do well. It will play in your subconscious and help you perform well and enjoy the spotlight.

Third – Breathe!! Deep, relaxing breaths just before you begin will help whilst calming you and expanding your diaphragm.

Lastly, take your time when you practice or deliver your ritual in the lodge room. If your delivery pace reflects that of your practice pace, your memory finds it easier to recall. No one wants to hear a charge delivered at a snail's pace or like a horse race, so ensure the pace is that of a good storyteller. Look to those brethren who have captivated you with their ritual; they are the ones who 'tell the story'.

The Masonic College

The **College of Masonic Studies** has made **steady progress** since the Grand Master announced its creation at the June 2012 Communication.



At the September 2012 Communication the Grand Lodge voted to amend the Book of Constitutions to formally establish the College as a 'board' of the Grand Lodge. This has certain consequences, not the least of which being that the College is now accountable to the Executive Council which will monitor the College's operations.

The College also gained certain other responsibilities as a result of the amendments to the Book of Constitutions. Some of these might be termed administrative or consequential to the establishment of the College itself, but some impact on all lodges within the jurisdiction. Some examples of this are:

- It is now the College's responsibility to accredit all Regional Education Officers, District Education Officers and Accredited Masonic Speakers. As the College has only just been established the Grand Lodge approved transitional provisions which leave intact the accreditation granted by the Board of Management to all brethren currently occupying these roles. However, in due course a process of accreditation will be developed and gradually all brethren in these roles will be converted to the College's system. The College's role is limited to accreditation; the Board of Management retains responsibility for the appointment and oversight of all accredited Regional Education Officers, District Education Officers and Accredited Masonic Speakers.
- Similarly it is now the College's role to authorise those addresses that may be presented or materials that may be handed out in lodges by accredited Regional Education Officers and District Education Officers and Accredited Masonic Speakers unless the speaker or presenter makes it quite clear that the address or presentation

represents his personal opinion or views. This is to ensure that brethren present understand the difference between the personal views of a speaker or presenter and those of the Grand Lodge. This has not always been clear in the past. Further, Masters of lodges are obliged to ensure that accredited speakers and presenters adhere to the new requirements (Research Lodges are granted certain special exemptions in this regard.) Once again, transitional provisions leave intact the authorisations granted or restrictions imposed by the Board of Management on existing lectures.

- The College is now wholly responsible for the education of brethren in all matters of Freemasonry within the jurisdiction and guiding all lodges in matters of masonic education. Brethren who wish to raise issues

regarding masonic education should now do so through the College and not the Board of Management. All matters should, of course, be placed in writing and addressed to the Grand Secretary. Please note that all aspects of ritual are still in the hands of the Ritual Advisory Committee and that the College does not, for example, have a role to play in Lodges of Instruction.

Over the next few months the College will begin to settle its initial syllabus and is anticipating that it will be in a position to start advertising courses and taking enrolments in the first quarter of 2013. The College will post course and enrolment details on the Grand Lodge's website as soon as these are finalised.

Literary Award

Entries are still being received for the Grand Master's Literary Award and it will remain open until at least March of next year. The entries are restricted to current financial masons and must be no more than 3,000 words.

It is intended that the winning entry will be read at a Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge.



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A mason's finishing tools

Freemasonry is described in our ritual as a **Progressive Science**, the study of three degrees intended to teach **making good men better men**, more useful to their family and the society in which they live.

The first two degrees are preparatory, the first teaching the basic lessons of Faith and the principles of morality, truth and charity by which men are judged. The second deals with culture and the development of the intellect to prepare man for a productive life as a respected and useful member of society.

The third is quite different. It has to do with conduct through adult life and the search to discover the profound mysteries of humanity, the need for Faith and the understanding of the principles taught in the earlier degrees as the guide for our life's work. Its working tools give clear instructions on how by assiduous effort and dedication to the immutable teaching of our Craft we each can erect our own spiritual temporal building.

The first of our finishing tools is the **Skirret**, an ancient implement used to determine and mark out with precision the outer limits of a building and its important parts. Symbolically, the Skirret is a vehicle of instruction in how to conduct ourselves according to the teachings of our Faith and our Craft; to clearly appreciate and apply in our daily lives the sacred principles of morality, truth and virtue; and to demonstrate to the world the goodness of the universal principles of charity and benevolence we profess as Freemasons.

The **Pencil**, whilst serving to delineate buildings and their parts, teaches us that we must take note and record our words, deeds and actions and to take care that we do not deviate in our conduct and actions from the principles contained in earlier degrees. Most importantly, to know

that our thoughts and transgressions are recorded by the Most High to whom, at that fateful day, we must render an explanation of our life, being solely accountable and responsible for our behaviour and actions through our mortal life.

The **Compasses** is one of the three sacred symbols of our Craft, denoting the unerring justice and impartiality of our Maker, who has set for us, by his word in the Volume of the Sacred Law, the universal rules for charity and benevolence, good and evil. These we are challenged to choose or neglect in our daily lives in the firm belief that reward or punishment will follow at our inevitable day of judgment. It also symbolizes the continuing challenge that by our example and behaviour as Freemasons, we may improve the morals and correct men in society and demonstrate in all our actions the universal benefits of charity and benevolence.


How to use the **Compasses** is one of the finest of all arts, asking for the highest skills of a Master Mason. If he is properly instructed, he will rest one point on the innermost centre of his being, and with the other, draw a circle beyond which he will not go until he has properly prepared himself to go further. Within this wise limit he will live and labour and grow until he reaches the rim, then he will draw another and progress to a fully balanced and beautiful life of service attaining the objective that Freemasonry plans for all mankind.

The symbolism of the mosaic floor of our lodge rooms becomes clear in this degree. The golden cord of the Skirret symbolises the limit of behaviour of a

mason. The tassels at the four corners represent the four cardinal virtues – Temperance, Prudence, Fortitude and Justice. Crossing the alternate black and white tiles of the chequered floor, where white denotes good and black evil, is to remind us of the difficulties and unending challenges we daily face when making decisions affecting our actions.

It is on the chequered floor that is revealed the ultimate purpose of the degree; that ultimately we all face 'that last and greatest trial by which alone we can be admitted to the secrets of the Master Mason's degree'. This demands we reflect on our past and contemplate our inevitable destiny, the termination of mortal life. There within the walls of our Symbolic Temple, overseen by the blazing star, we learn the real meaning of brotherhood, the five points of fellowship, and are challenged to renew our commitment to our Faith and the essential principles of our Craft, brotherly love and truth and the practice of every moral and social virtue.

The masonic writer, W Kirk MacNulty, in his book *Freemasonry, a Journey through Ritual and Symbolism*, chose the following opening sentence: "Throughout all history and in all civilizations, men and women have sought to acquire knowledge about human nature and the purpose of human existence."

The Third Degree is the climax of such a journey in which the teachings of the Volume of the Sacred Law and of our infallible Working Tools reveal the intellectual beauty and ultimate purpose of Freemasonry. 

Sir James Hardy

RW Bro Sir James Gilbert Hardy OBE PDGM has had a remarkable and successful career in business, sport and Freemasonry. Able to mix and sit comfortably in any company, he developed that winning touch which made him welcome and well-liked in Australia and overseas.

He was born in 1932, the great grandson of Thomas Hardy, the founder of Hardy's Wines in South Australia. Educated in Adelaide, James graduated with a Diploma of Accountancy from the South Australian Institute of Technology and joined the family company in October 1953 as a shipping clerk. He then moved on to salesman, sales supervisor, director and in 1981 Chairman of Directors.

His masonic career began when he was initiated in Lodge City of Sydney 952 on 21 November 1962. He took a keen interest in his Masonry, progressing to Junior Warden in 1969, Senior Warden in 1970 and WM in 1971. He was appointed Deputy Grand Master in August 1976 by the Grand Master, MW Bro Noel Warren, and held the position for two years.

Apart from his involvement in the wine industry and Masonry, James Hardy also became a public figure as a yachtsman, representing Australia at the Olympic Games, world championships and the America's Cup. He was selected in the Australian team for the 1964 Tokyo and 1968 Mexico Olympic Games and won the 1966 World 505 title. He was skipper three times when Australia contested the America's Cup, on *Gretel II* (1970), *Southern Cross* (1974) and *Australia* (1980). But his biggest thrill against the Americans came in 1983 when Australia won the famous ocean trophy at Newport, Rhode Island with Hardy as reserve helmsman and team advisor to John Bertrand.

Hardy revelled in ocean racing and took the helm in Admiral's Cup ocean championships in England in 1973 and 1977 before winning in *Impetuous* in 1979 and *Bondi Tram* in 1983. He was named Australian Yachtsman of the Year in 1981 and inducted into the America's Cup Hall of Fame in 1994.

However, these interests did not deter him from being involved in community



Sir James Hardy (right) with Lady Hardy and Sir Nicholas Shehadie at Government House

activities and his association and work with various organisations led to well-deserved honours from the Australian and English governments. He was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1975 and a Knight Bachelor in 1981 for services to yachting and the community.

Among his many activities, Sir James was a member of the Council of the Royal Blind Society of NSW from 1967 to 1990, a Council member of the Australian National Maritime Museum, trustee of the Sydney Cricket Ground and the Rothmans Foundation, chairman of the National Heritage Committee, chairman of the Landcare Australia Foundation and on the executive committee of the Neurosurgical Research Foundation of South Australia. His services were also valued by sporting authorities when he was appointed chairman of the 1998 Adelaide Commonwealth Games Bid Committee and

Ambassador for the successful Sydney bid for the 2000 Olympic Games.

Sir James is still involved in Masonry and was further honoured on 21 May 2011 as a foundation member of the newly consecrated Sir James Hardy Lodge 1046 in Sydney.



Sir James and his nephew Bill Hardy with a bust of Thomas Hardy



2012

Dickens' Year



2012 is the bicentenary of the birth of the novelist Charles Dickens, an event that is being marked with new biographies and exhibitions.

Dickens was not a Freemason but was great friends with many Freemasons and occasionally refers to Freemasonry in his novels.

Names and history of a number of lodges have Dickensian links. The first two were both established in the early 1890s. Cheerybles Lodge No 2466 was named after the two brothers in *Nicholas Nickleby* and they are depicted on the lodge jewel.

The lodge history explains that two brothers 'exemplified ... the characteristics of good humour, simplicity, generosity and selflessness' in contrast with other less worthy characters in the book. 'They exhibited so many of the virtues which animate Freemasons' to such an extent that it was appropriate to name a lodge after them. The founders of the lodge were drawn from members of Cheerybles Musical Society, which combined a love of music and Dickens.

Pickwick Lodge No 2467 was founded by members of the Pickwick Bicycle Club, itself named in honour of Dickens. There was a tradition of members of the club giving themselves Pickwickian names. Edward Hollands, one of the founders of the lodge, whose jewel is shown here, was known as Mr Blotton of Aldgate. The jewel shows the figure of Mr Pickwick standing on a chair.

Charles Dickens Lodge No 2757 was formed in 1899 and met socially at the King's Head Inn in Chigwell. Constructed in the seventeenth century, the pub was made famous by Dickens in his 1841 novel *Barnaby Rudge*. In the 1800s it was a popular dining venue for men from the city and several lodges also arranged summer outings and meetings there.

A second Pickwick Lodge No 5448 was formed in 1934 and met at the Leather Bottle Inn at Cobham in Kent. The area has many Dickens associations. The author himself often visited the inn, which he described in *Pickwick Papers*, as a 'clean and commodious village ale house'.

The fascination with Dickens has continued as, in the early 1970s, Barnaby Rudge Lodge No 8589 was formed in Essex by Freemasons associated with a lodge of instruction meeting at the real Maypole Inn in Chigwell.

Dickens, the eldest son in a family of eight, saw a number of his brothers become masons. His own son Charlie, the eldest of Dickens' ten children, became a Freemason in Maybury Lodge No 969. This lodge had many links with the theatre and was particularly associated with the project to



Pickwick Lodge Jewel



Cheerybles Lodge Jewel

establish a Royal Dramatic College near Woking as sheltered accommodation for aged actors, a cause which Dickens Senior wholeheartedly supported.

In 1876 Charlie Dickens was proposed for membership of a Royal Arch Chapter, British Chapter No 8. In 1886 he joined the then recently formed Drury Lane Lodge No 2127.

This article is an extract taken from *the SQUARE*, a magazine for Freemasons in England, with approval from 'Friends of the Library and Museum of Freemasonry'. www.freemasonry.london.museum

Rudyard Kipling

Some names automatically create visions of the English language and writers. Such a name is Rudyard Kipling who was one of the most popular English writers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

During his career, he was the first English recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1907 and published more than 80 stories and ballads, including *The Jungle Book* series, *The Man Who Would be King* and the poem *Gunga Din*.

Kipling was born in Bombay, India in December 1865 but at the age of five was sent back to England with his younger sister to stay with a foster family for the next six years until his mother returned from India to reclaim the children.

He was admitted to the United Services College in Devon in 1878 which proved difficult for him in the beginning but later provided the setting for his schoolboy stories and the creation of some long-lasting friendships.

A lack of academic ability and finances ended hopes of university and Kipling took a job in the Pakistan city of Lahore, sailing for India on 20 September 1882. He was appointed assistant editor of a small local newspaper which was published six days a week. In 1886 he published his first collection of verse but a change of editor allowed him more writing freedom and he was asked to contribute short stories to the paper.

Returning to England in October 1889, he was welcomed and recognised by the London literary world and had stories accepted by various magazines. His first novel, *The Light that Failed*, was published in 1891.



Kipling's much loved characters live on for younger generations through Disney's 1967 animated film version of *The Jungle Book*.

Kipling had met Florence Garrard, a fellow boarder at Devon and they were married in January 1892 in London, producing two daughters and a son. His popularity bloomed in the early part of the 20th century, resulting in the Nobel Prize for his 'observation, originality of imagination and remarkable talent for narration.'

His writing gradually slowed in the early 1930s and he died of a haemorrhage from a perforated ulcer on 18 January 1936, aged 70. His ashes were buried in Poets Corner in London's Westminster Abbey.

During his lifetime, scouting became a strong interest for Kipling and Lord Baden Powell, the founder of the scouting movement, selected excerpts from *The Jungle Book* series and the novel *Kim* to begin the junior Wolf Cubs. The movement was named after Mowgli's adopted wolf family and adult helpers in the Cub Packs adopted names taken from *The Jungle Book*.

The poem *Gunga Din* was published in 1890, *If* in 1910, the *Jungle Book* in 1894, *The Second Jungle Book* in 1895 and *The Man Who Would be King* in 1888 among his collection of novels, short stories and poems.

Kipling also had an extensive interest in Freemasonry and was initiated on 5 April 1886 at Hope and Perseverance



If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;
And meet those two impostors—just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it all on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them, "Hold on!"

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with kings—nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you;
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!

Lodge in Lahore, India. He was also an honorary member of the Author's Lodge and Motherland Lodge in England and became a founding member of The Builders of the Silent Cities Lodge No 12 at St Omer, France.



A gathering of women

“Women make an important contribution to the innovation, quality and competitiveness of Australia’s agricultural sector. Many contribute indirectly through their support in rural families and communities”

(Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator Joe Ludwig – International Women’s Day – March 2012)



As with their international counterparts, women in rural areas of Australia have excelled as Ecologists, Biological Consultants, Land Care Managers, Educationists, Veterinarians, Graziers, Planners and Developers.

They meet to share their knowledge and broaden their skills under the banner of the *NSW Rural Women’s Gathering* at an annual weekend event organised by local committees with support from the *Rural Women’s Network*.

The Gatherings are well established and have been held in NSW since 1992. They are for all rural women including farming women; Aboriginal women; women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; mining women; women in the fishing industry; women who live in regional cities, towns and villages; and coastal women.

The organising committee makes key decisions, develops a theme and the weekend program. Each Gathering reflects the unique culture, industry, tourism and environment of the host community.

The 2012 NSW Women’s Gathering was held in Parkes in October and adopted as its theme *“Reading and Farming”*. The theme reflected the fact that 2012 was the National Year of Reading and also the National Year of the Farmer. The Parkes Gathering attracted some 350 to 400 visitors. In addition to keynote speaker Jessica Rowe, the weekend offered attendees the chance to workshop their ideas, and enjoy an environment of market stalls, exhibitions and much more.

The *Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation (RIRDC) Rural Women’s Award (RWA)* identifies and rewards women’s contribution to primary industries and rural communities by providing financial assistance, mentoring, resources and support via its nation-wide

network of business and community leaders for selected state winners.

The Award is open to all women involved in primary industries. Rural women are encouraged to enter or to nominate someone with a commitment and desire to making a real difference to their industry and community. No formal qualifications are required.

“The Award has supported me in taking the next step in my leadership journey. It has introduced me to a nation-wide network of remarkable women all working to create a better future for the industries in which they work and the communities they live in. I strongly encourage rural women with an idea or vision to nominate for the Award – it is such an incredible opportunity to grow as a leader and make a real difference to rural Australia through your chosen project.”

CAROLINE ROBINSON – 2011
AUSTRALIAN RIRDC RWA WINNER

State and Territory winners receive a \$10,000 financial bursary to implement their Award vision. Each State and Territory winner and runner-up has the opportunity to participate in the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) Course and will be supported to develop an individual integrated leadership plan.

The Award is a life changing experience that links successful entrants with a positive and powerful alumni network of like-minded women across Australia who are passionate about primary industries and rural Australia.

“The RWA acknowledges the unique leadership traits of women to connect, collaborate and to influence and effect change in their

industries and communities, and creates opportunities for women to drive innovation and build resilience within primary industries and their rural communities.’

Craig Burns, RIRDC Managing Director

The Award bursary for each State and Territory winner provides the resources to develop their vision into a project or initiative that will benefit primary industries and rural Australia.

Examples of some of the initiatives the Bursary can be used for include:

- formal training in leadership and business management;
- overseas study tours;
- establishing business plans or pilot programs;
- developing education or promotional campaigns;
- networking at forums and conferences to grow your knowledge of industries and markets;
- developing training programs;
- testing information technology initiatives; and
- publishing books.

The winner and runner-up in each State and Territory has the opportunity to complete the Australian Institute of Company Directors Course and will be supported to develop and implement a 12 month leadership plan.

The Company Directors Course is a comprehensive and credible learning program relevant to board directors and business entrepreneurs. The course provides a thorough knowledge of the role and duties of being a board member, and knowledge of organisational performance, strategy development, risk management and financial performance, which are all critical to operating any business enterprise.

continued...



Congratulations Madam President

At the Annual General Meeting of the Freemasons' Association (NSW & ACT) Inc held on 11 September 2012, **Dr Yvonne McIntyre was elected as the first woman President** in the 104 year history of the Association.



The Association is a continuation of the Present and Past Grand Lodge Officers Association which according to the Grand Lodge Reports of 1909–1911 was first considered on 9 December 1908 when the then Grand Master, MW Bro His Excellency, the Right Honourable, Admiral, Sir Harry Holdsworth Rawson, CGMG, GCB and Governor of NSW 1902–1909, said:

After the Lodge closes this evening, there will be a meeting held of Grand Lodge Offi-

cers, past and present, to draw up rules for a Past Grand Lodge Officers Association. I cannot attend, as I have a great deal of work to do, but I cordially endorse the movement, and shall be most happy to be a member.'

The Association changed its name in 2008 to the Freemasons' Association to reflect the fact that membership was no longer restricted to present and past Grand Lodge Officers, but open to Master Masons, their wives, partners and widows of deceased Masons of the NSW and ACT jurisdiction.

Dr McIntyre, or Yvonne as most would know her, has been a member of the Association's Executive Committee since the restrictions on membership were lifted and has served as Publicity Officer, Liaison Officer to the Board of Management, Registrar and Vice President. As Registrar, she was responsible for the Incorporation of the Association and the adoption of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Association and the United Grand Lodge of NSW and the ACT.

Yvonne also initiated the ANZAC Day Masonic Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Sydney Cenotaph, the Masonic participation in the Battle for Australia Commemorative Service at the Sydney Cenotaph and the Annual Freemasons' Association Remembrance Day Service and Dinner at the Sydney Masonic Centre.

An energetic advocate for Freemasonry, Yvonne's efforts have been recognized by successive Grand Masters who have awarded her the Grand Master's Award of Merit (MW Bro Raymond B Brooke in 2005) and the Grand Master's Distinguished Service Award. (MW Bro Gregory H Levenston in 2009)

The Annual General Meeting also

resulted in the election of the following members to the Association's Committee of Management:

Vice President

RW Bro Rev Dr Jack Hely CBE PAGM,
Grand Chaplain

Vice President

RW Bro Ross McAlpine PJGW

Secretary

VW Bro Ken McClure PDGIW

Treasurer

VW Bro Alex Ebert PDGDC,
Deputy Grand Treasurer

Committee Member

RW Bro Alan Farrell PDGM CMH
PCBM

Committee Member


RW Bro Mannie Manniagio PSGW

Committee Member

RW Bro Fidel Pamplona PJGW

The Association held its first Regular Lunch Meeting on 9 October 2012 under the guidance of its new President. The luncheon was well attended and enjoyed a presentation on the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations by RW Bro John Armfield, PDGM, Grand Registrar. John and Phillipa are ardent monarchists and travelled to the United Kingdom for the event. The presentation included photographs and a video of highlights of their visit.


The next Regular Lunch Meeting will be held on 11 December 2012 and will be the Association's Christmas Luncheon. Bookings can be made through the Association Secretary, VW Bro Ken McClure, (02) 9727 9798 or mobile 0419 237 834

Members of the Committee of Management take the opportunity to wish readers and their families the joys of Christmas and good health in the New Year. 

... continued from page 18



The Leadership Plan provides 12 months of facilitated individual strategic support to enhance leadership development and help with the implementation of the Award vision, along with networking, media and public relations opportunities.

Rural women interested in applying for the Award are strongly encouraged to contact previous NSW/ACT winners and finalists who have kindly agreed to support women applying for the Award. Mentors are happy to speak with you to discuss your ideas and guide you through the Award process. For a list of mentors contact RWN. 



Walleska Coimbra ... a fast learner

After three years in Australia, Walleska is still learning about the Australian way of life and working behind a counter is proving to be a great teaching lesson.

Born in Brazil, near Rio de Janeiro, with one younger sister, the 25-year-old arrived in Sydney in 2009 to see what other parts of the world looked like and settled in quickly.

'I was looking for work and a friend told me the Grand Lodge had a vacancy available for its book shop. I was quite happy to be accepted and have found it to be most enjoyable,' she said.

'In Brazil, I completed high school and since have earned a degree in business management. At home, my family owned a small store with only certain items available but in the shop here there is a wide variety which keeps me busy organising and answering questions from customers.'

Walleska has a hands-on routine in the shop, arranging items, polishing jewellery, cleaning and organising everything in her Monday to Friday routine. She said she learns a lot in the shop and sometimes people teach her something she didn't know.

'It was confusing at first but now I know nearly everything and know where to find an item. Recently a man came in asking for a jewel but didn't know which one and I was able to help him and learn at the same time.'

Music, cooking and running are three big favourites with Walleska and her immediate ambition is to attend a concert at the Opera House.



Every Saturday she runs with friends for about two hours at Centennial Park, mixing jogging with sprinting.

'I have to run because food in Australia is really fattening and I like to cook. My favourite meal is a Brazilian dish of rice with okra (vegetable) and black beans which is quite mild and not spicy.

'Junk food is not good and I taught myself to cook, experimenting until I got the meal right. I've loved all types of music since I was young and it's so nice to watch television with a good meal and beautiful music,' Walleska said.

New look Museum of Freemasonry shop

High quality items are available from the Museum of Freemasonry shop now located on the fourth floor of the Masonic Centre. The shop has a new look after being moved from the ground floor to the UGL headquarters and has an extensive range which includes regalia and gifts.



The Eleventh Hour

The Eleventh Hour of the Eleventh Day of the Eleventh Month is a time for reflection, a time to pause to **remember the thousands of men and women who laid down their lives for the liberty that we enjoy today.**



This year the Freemasons' Association of NSW and the ACT held its annual Remembrance Day Service on Friday 9 November in order that it could be held in the Sydney Masonic Centre, itself a Memorial Building to the thousands of Freemasons who fought and died in war. The Service commemorated the nation's fallen soldiers 94 years after the end of World War I.

Guests of honour included MW Bro Commander Derek Robson, AM RAN ret'd, Grand Master, United Grand Lodge NSW and the ACT; Lt Col (ACC) David Cooper, State Secretary, Battle for Australia Commemoration Committee and Mr William Roberts, Senior Vice President of the Vietnam Veterans' Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association of NSW.

The Service was conducted by RW Bro Major Douglas James, RFD (Ret'd) PJGW and was attended by Freemasons, their families and friends, Association representatives of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corp, the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service and the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corp.

In his prayer for the fallen, the Grand Chaplain, RW Bro Rev. Dr Jack Hely, CBE, PAGM, said '...we are assembled to celebrate with humble thanks, the valour and

sacrifice of those men and women who have died for our country, by sea, by land, and by air in the Great War and all other conflicts since. Particularly do we recognise the significance of the unveiling 12 months ago, of the Memorial Plaque in memory of Ex-Service Women of the Masonic Family and pray that it will find a place of honour in the new building memorial structure.'

The hymn 'Be Still My Soul' provided the background to the laying of wreaths by RW Bro Major General Raymond J Sharp, AO RFD ED Ret'd PAGM on behalf of the Grand Master who was delayed by a traffic hold up on his way from Canberra, Dr Yvonne McIntyre, President, Freemasons Association, Mr William Roberts, Senior Vice President Vietnam Veterans Assoc and representatives of the Women's Service Associations.

Those present laid poppies on the Memorial as a token of remembrance to the more than 100,000 Australian servicemen and women who died in war.

The lament 'With Honour We Serve' was played by VW Bro Pipe Major Sam Young, DGIW followed by Laurence Binyon's Ode 'For the Fallen' delivered by RW Bro Major General Raymond Sharp.

A minute's silence was observed following the playing of the Last Post by W Bro Eric Saunders who then played Reveille.

The Service Benediction was delivered by the Grand Chaplain after which guests gathered in the Doric Room for the Remembrance Day Dinner. At the dinner, the President Dr McIntyre welcomed the Grand Master and distinguished guests and read an extract sent by RW Bro Henry Fawke PAGM. Henry, who is 91, was a member of the Special Z Forces and took part in the HMV *Krait* operation. He recently visited New Guinea where he took part in the official consecration of his former Z Force mates. He said: 'I stand here today, an old soldier, remembering my comrades Private John Whitworth, Lt McFerran-Rogers and Mr Roestan. We fought side by side on that fateful day so many years ago and I can still hear the puff of the machine gun bullets as I pulled Lt McFerran-Rogers to cover. He died in my arms. My last memory of Pte Whitworth was his bravery in defending his position. I am humbled by this memory of my Z special comrades. I will remember them.'

A special talk was then delivered by Lt Col David Cooper, OAM (ACC), the CEO of the Battle for Australia Commemorative Committee.



Grand Master proclaimed



MW Bro Derek Robson, AM, was duly proclaimed as Grand Master for the 2012–2013 year before distinguished visitors and brethren on Wednesday 12 September at the Sydney Masonic Centre.

A near-maximum audience attended the ceremony consisting of brethren, ladies and a large fraternal led by Most Excellent Companion Edward Keenahan, the First Principal and Grand Master of the United Supreme Grand Chapter of Mark and Royal Arch Masons of NSW & ACT.

During the formalities, the Grand Master re-appointed RW Bro James Melville as Deputy Grand Master and RW Bro Walid Mehanna as Assistant Grand Master and then appointed RW Bro Antoine Georges as Senior Grand Warden and RW Bro Jose Angeles as Junior Grand Warden.

RW Bro Peter Ratcliff was invested as Grand Director of Ceremonies, VW Bro John Begbie as Deputy GDC and VW Bros Murray and Wattle as Assistant

GDCs. The remaining officers were then invested by the Deputy and Assistant Grand Masters.

The Address to the Grand Master was delivered by MW Bro Rev Ray Green, PGM and the Address to the brethren by MW Bro Dr Gregory Levenston, PGM.

Grand Honours were accorded during the program and a selection of musical items, culminating with The Holy City was delivered by the NSW Masonic Ensemble and Orchestra under the direction of RW Bro Ian Cox.

In his speech, MW Bro Robson said it was an honour to stand before them again, ready to serve as their Grand Master for another masonic year.

'I have enjoyed some marvellous times over the past year as I, and my team, have joined with you in striving to enhance the

standing of the Craft,' he said.

'A year ago, I challenged you to join together to ensure that we actively maintain strong connections to our community and our community's activities. You clearly picked up on this challenge, and I congratulate each and every one of you for your positive contribution. I am simply amazed at what you have achieved.

'I promised that I intended to lead for all and that I intended to lead with tact, kindness and good sense. I am honoured to report that you have worked with me in this regard – and I am happy with our progress. In many of our traditional areas of concern – financial matters, membership, buildings, or commitment – we have, through some innovative programs and ideas, shown a positive and marked improvement and this should hold us



in good stead as we look forward toward a bright future.

‘I have travelled extensively and met many of you in your own communities. Wherever I go and whoever I see, there is a common theme, and that is there is no doubt about the quality of Freemasonry. Through your actions, you have made a real difference and through your commitment, you are assuring our future membership. There is no doubt that the community also needs the Craft, and we will continue to use every opportunity to engage.

‘I am always pleased to see the interaction between masons as they regularly travel to support each other’s activities. This bonding of spirit is one of the real bonuses of Freemasonry and it certainly ensures that we maintain an enhanced respect for our differing circumstances. I am also pleased that the STEP program has been so successful in this regard as this is a program designed for each of us, and where both the organisers and the recipients can come together to work through an issue, and then share a common bond which can last forever. The STEP program is a wonderfully flexible tool and it has been an enormous success.




‘Tonight, many of you who have been involved in management roles will step aside after your period of service. Likewise, some in the Ceremonial Team will also take their leave. Whether you have served on the Board of Management, as District Grand Inspectors of Workings, in the Ceremonial Team, or a Regional or District role, your extraordinary and dedicated contribution has been well appreciated. Each has played a significant part in our activity and you should be very proud of your effort.

‘A Grand Master relies on his Grand Director of Ceremonies for every detail and I have particularly appreciated the personal support given to me by RW Bro Antoine Georges who has made an enormous contribution to the Ceremonial Team and we wish him well as Senior Warden. I also recognise the service of others such as the Senior and Junior Wardens, RW Bros Manny Maniago and Fidel Pamplona. When I came to office, I had an extensive agenda and I was delighted when RW Bro Ian Newbery accepted the challenge as Chairman of the Board of Management. Under the leadership of this very competent mason, we have made significant progress and many of the routines now introduced will make our organisational management much more efficient. We have indeed been blessed with some very special talents.

‘Following tonight’s investitures, we now have a significantly different team. We have welcomed a new Chairman to the Board of Management, a new Senior and Junior Grand Warden, new Board members, new Ceremonial Team members and our new DGIWs. I am sure you join me in wishing them every success for their future.

‘I am always most conscious of the fabulous support we get from our mentors and friends. Without this guidance, we would not be able to operate at the levels we do.

‘Importantly, we owe enormous gratitude to our immediate families for the extraordinary sacrifice they continue to make for the Craft. In my case, I will always be grateful for the commitment and support so freely offered by Nicole, and, like all of our ladies, she should be treasured by us all.

‘And finally, I must acknowledge each and every one of you for allowing me the honour of continuing to serve you as Grand Master.’ 



Meet our new DGIWs ...



- D12 VW Bro Alan Searle
- D14 VW Bro Peter Herman
- D15 VW Bro Jason Plumridge
- D16 VW Bro Phil Davies
- D17 VW Bro Douglas Kane
- D18 VW Bro David Williams
- D25 VW Bro Elias Moufferrige
- D26 VW Bro Joseph Boutros
- D27 RW Bro Graham Beattton
- D28 VW Bro Graeme Gwilliam
- D29 VW Bro Robert Coote

- D31 VW Bro Dylan Moldrich
- D32 VW Bro Graham Andrews
- D33 VW Bro Charles Bardwell
- D34 VW Bro Roger Coates
- D35 VW Bro John Craft
- D36 VW Bro Nicholas Cooke
- D37 VW Bro Tom Bell
- D41 VW Bro Gary Herrett
- D42 VW Bro Thomas Shaw
- D43 VW Bro Michael Ryan
- D44 VW Bro Greg Scott-Pacey

- D45 VW Bro Ray Leggett
- D46 VW Bro Wayne Smith
- D51 VW Bro Robert Drysdale
- D52 VW Bro Bill French
- D53 VW Bro Phillip Robertson
- D54 VW Bro Bruce Johnson
- D55 VW Bro Bob Hassall
- D56 VW Bro Mervyn Mote
- D57 VW Bro Ray Weblin
- D63 VW Bro Bill Hodder
- D64 VW Bro Terry Ryan



D71 VW Bro Denis Yeo
D72 VW Bro Neil Richardson
D81 VW Bro Laurence Wells
D82 VW Bro Ross Reid
D83 VW Bro Shayne Medcalf
D85 VW Bro Andrew Frazer
D91 VW Bro Richard Whitton
D92 VW Bro Richard Whitton
D93 VW Bro Don Mac Murray
D94 VW Bro Don Mac Murray
D95 VW Bro Brian Heilman

D102 VW Bro Roy Bloomfield
D103 VW Bro Graeme Moller
D104 VW Bro Geoffrey Burns
D105 VW Bro Kevin Mulcahy
D106 VW Bro Charles Royall
D111 VW Bro Trevor Whipps
D112 VW Bro John Cosgrove
D113 VW Bro Kevin Want
D114 VW Bro Raymond Johnston
D115 VW Bro Ted Williams
D121 VW Bro George Longa

D122 VW Bro Sam Young
D123 VW Bro Christopher Williams
D124 VW Bro Glen Green
D125 VW Bro Tony Piggott
D126 VW Bro Andy Mackereth
D133 VW Bro Brian Wood



New Grand Officer Appointments

CHAIRMAN – BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

VW Bro Jack Garside

Jack Garside is originally from Melbourne and has been actively involved in Freemasonry in various areas including Papua New Guinea, Victoria and NSW.

He was initiated by his father into Leamington Lodge 259 Victorian constitution on 2 December 1971 and remains a member of the amalgamated Lodge Killara. He served as Master of Port Moresby Lodge 445 and again in Matthew Crawford 499 in Mount Isa. He is a member of Cooma Monaro Lodge 164 and is active in a number of other Orders.

Jack's family provides unending support for Masonry and his involvement. Wife Rhon with daughters keep him on track and they have four children and 10 grandchildren plus dogs for which he considers himself very fortunate.

As a workaholic Jack is now coming to grips with taking time off to travel and go fishing and this transition, whilst painful, has already shown benefits of extra time with family members.



Civil engineering and professional management has been Jack's life for over 50 years. His qualifications include a masters degree in business administration, professional qualifications in engineering, building, public administration, and disaster management. He is a Fellow of the

Institute of Engineers Australia, Australian Institute of Management and Justice of the Peace.

He has held positions of General Manager, Chief Executive Officer, City Engineer and Principal Planning Engineer in various Local Governments, National and State agencies. Most recently he provided advice in conjunction with other consultants to the ACT government on non-potable water supplies, including storing water in underground aquifers.

Jack's innovations include design of blue reflective pavement markers to designate fire hydrants, recognised for Engineering Excellence at Bundaberg CBD redevelopment (including first pedestrian raised pavement at crossings and shared zones) and a Non Potable Water Masterplan for Canberra. He instigated 'Dreams and Reality', a short TV documentary of the initial stages of Wright Flyer construction August 2003 and saw the only flying replica of the Wright Brothers' first aeroplane officially launched by astronaut Buzz Aldrin on the centenary of flight. Jack designed and built Australia's first Skypark on Narromine Aerodrome and in 2011 he produced the masonic video of Lodge Holy City for Jerusalem & Lodge Harold Herman Unity 428 Sydney. He also promotes responsible dog/cat friendly establishments.

GRAND DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES

RW Bro Peter Ratcliff

Peter Ratcliff joined the Grand Lodge Ceremonial team in 2005 and will now bring his experience and skills to the position of Grand Director of Ceremonies.

He was born in Sydney in 1952 and attended Peakhurst Primary and Narwee Boys High until 1969 when he joined the workforce, with additional education from St George and Sydney Technical Colleges.

His high school interest in woodwork led to a position as apprentice carpenter



VW Bro Begbie (left) and RW Bro Ratcliff (centre) being invested by the Grand Master



and joiner at Sydney County Council (now Ausgrid) where he became Apprentice of the Year in 1972.

Peter is married to Jean and has two married daughters, Lisa and Sonya, and they now have two grandchildren, a boy and a girl.

His masonic career started in 1974 at Lodge King of Tyre No 457 at Bexley, following an influence from Jean's family and work colleagues. He affiliated with Lodge Warragamba at Orchard Hills in 1995 and is a member of the Grand Stewards Lodge. His interests outside Freemasonry include genealogy, numismatics, target shooting, fishing and growing orchids.

**DEPUTY GRAND DIRECTOR
OF CEREMONIES**

VW Bro John Begbie

John Begbie, born in Newtown, NSW in 1967, the middle son of ten pound migrants to Australia, spent 35 years in the United Kingdom, when the family returned in 1970.

Educated in Croydon, South London, the family moved to Hastings, East Sussex in the mid eighties, where he completed his education, studying mechanical and production engineering, and business and management studies.

He was employed in a local engineering company, specialising in the manufacturing of small electrical motors and gearboxes, worked through various departments to finally hold the position of production/operations manager.

John was Initiated into The Hastings Lodge 2962 (EC) in 1994 and Installed into the Chair in 2003, also joining The Royal Sovereign Light Chapter of Royal Arch.

In 2004, John returned to Australia with his wife Tisha and their young family.

He joined Lodge Horizons 1032 in 2004, where he held the office of Secretary before being re-installed into the Chair in 2008 after joining the ceremonial team in 2006, and is a Member of the Order of the Secret Monitor.

John continues his love of sport and soccer with Concord Junior Soccer Club, where he has served a term as Club President and continues to work on the committee to improve the development of the junior players.



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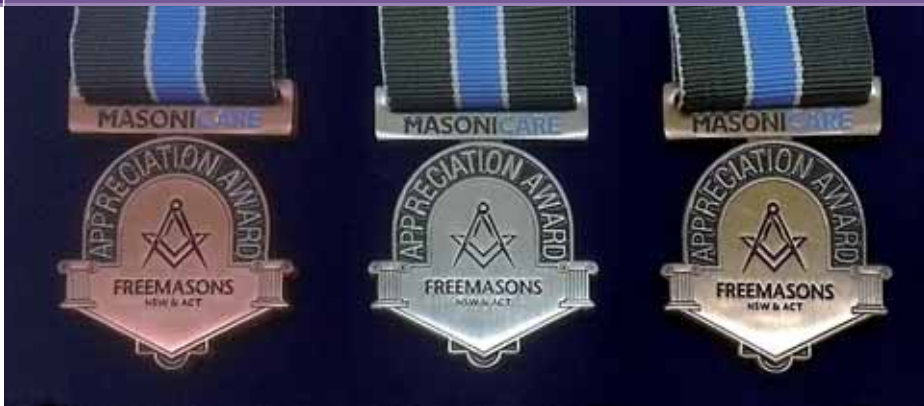
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Master Masons and their ladies welcome



Charity Jewels

Masonicare Charity Jewels are a new initiative being introduced across the jurisdiction. They provide the lodge with the opportunity to **award and thank brethren for their charitable efforts** within their community and their continued contribution to Freemasonry as a whole.



If you would like to reward someone in your lodge then one of these beautifully produced Jewels would provide the ideal way in which to show how the lodge values their constant dedication.

This initiative is already successfully established in Queensland and has been for over 60 years.

If you are presented with a Charity Jewel it signifies that you are held in high esteem by your fellow brethren and your lodge. The Jewels are worn in the lodge room as part of a mason's regalia and are meant to be worn closest to the heart signifying 'charity' being closest to the heart of a mason.

It is a great achievement to be presented with one of these Jewels and highlights your commitment to charity and the Craft.

Jewels can only be purchased by the lodge and are not tax deductible, to comply with ATO 'charity' regulations. Funds raised from the sale of jewels will go to the Benevolence Fund.

Life Merit Award	\$500.00
Gold Appreciation Award	\$375.00
Silver Appreciation Award	\$250.00
Bronze Appreciation Award	\$125.00

Please contact your lodge Secretary or Masonicare for further information.

Storm season approaches

Masonicare's **Ready Relief Program...**

As we approach what is commonly known as storm season this year, Masonicare has developed a Disaster Relief Program called Ready Relief to ensure an effective and coordinated response to natural disasters. As an organisation embedded in local communities, Freemasonry has a unique opportunity to make a significant difference in the lead up to, and during, storm season.

We are currently looking for volunteers to come on board and champion the Ready Relief Program in their area to help the Program thrive. The Program will provide Freemasonry with a standardised approach to responding and dealing with disasters on a local, regional and state level to maximise our positive impact to the community.

Please get in touch with your local MRM (Masonicare Regional Manager), your local MDR (Masonicare District Representative) or Masonicare directly for further information or if you are interested in joining a team of Ready Relief representatives in your district.

In order for the Ready Relief program to succeed we will need to generate support throughout the jurisdiction and have a team of dedicated representatives driving this program in each district. This will allow us the unique opportunity to make a significant difference.

continued ○

Holiday message from the Chairman

During 2012 Masonicare has received tremendous support from masons, your lodges, Masonic Associations and families. You have also supported each other notably in the 'One Brother to Another' campaign.

In turn, Masonicare, as your Grand Charity, has supported your initiatives in

your local communities with all the resources we can muster.

We look forward to 2013 with the same commitment to partner with and to assist you in all your masonic charitable efforts throughout the jurisdiction, including the Masonicare Charity Jewel initiative.



Masonicare's Ready Relief Program:

- enables an efficient and quick response to a disaster situation;
- provides structured criteria and guidance to enable appropriate decision making;
- identifies and allocates resources to improve our assistance capabilities before a disaster situation;
- improves communication and provides brethren with a sense of pride and ownership;
- enables efficient mobilisation of a strong membership resource through volunteering support, fundraising and financial donations;
- enhances Freemasonry's reputation in the community;
- grows our Disaster Relief fund capabilities and provides further guidance for the distribution of funds in times of need.



On behalf of the Board of Masonicare I thank you for your ongoing support and efforts and wish you and your families a happy and safe Christmas and success in the New Year.

RW Bro Greg Redfern, PJGW

Masonicare supports SouthCare



Brigadier Wayne Goodman, Len Goodman, Owen Finegan, David Marshall and Ray Newcombe. Photo courtesy RW Bro Bruce Davies

SouthCare commenced on 1 October 1998. Now 15 years later, the service has **saved many lives and prevented added disability by the excellent work of flight crew, the paramedics, and the doctors of the Canberra Region Retrieval Service.** In this, we acknowledge the enormous contribution of the late Dr Damien McMahon whose death occurred last month while on a visit to Jerusalem.

Masonicare has a disaster relief program for major disasters. SouthCare helps to minimise local disasters on a one by one basis across the ACT and southern NSW. Every day there is a task or two or three. In one memorable day in June 2012, there was response to no less than five missions in 24 hours. So we now have a defined partnership between Masonicare and Snowy Hydro SouthCare and the wide support of Freemasonry across 53 lodges in the ACT and southern NSW for this vital need.

At the official Launch of the Freemasons Appeal for Snowy Hydro SouthCare by the Grand Master MW Bro Derek Robson on Sunday afternoon, 23 September, he noted that 53 lodges were in the area of operations of the aeromedical rescue service. A number of lodges and individuals had contributed to the funds raised in the three months leading up to the launch but this was only the start and it was hoped all would be involved in future fundraising. The Grand Master noted that Masonicare had contributed \$5000 by way of an Inter-

action Grant to Lodge Commonwealth of Australia 633 and he paid tribute to the continued support for the appeal from RW Bro Graham Davies, Masonicare Manager South.

In his address the Grand Master expressed his appreciation for the support of the brethren of the 53 lodges scattered around such a huge area of south-eastern NSW and ACT which is being serviced by SouthCare. He saw it as great interaction between Freemasonry and our communities and commended the organisers on their initiative.

A real life example of the value of our having SouthCare in the area was given by Brigadier Wayne Goodman whose life was saved by the 'chopper when he was knocked unconscious in a fall from his bike, was rescued and taken to hospital where he awoke to find out what had happened to him.

The Grand Master then declared the Appeal open and presented a cheque of \$16430 to the CEO of SouthCare, Owen Finegan, who responded suitably, thanking Freemasonry for their involvement and donations.



Three years in

Bro Duncan McLeod tells of his first three years as a mason.

December this year will mark the end of my third year in Freemasonry in Lodge Kingsford-Smith No 1028. In that time I've progressed to the rank of Master Mason with my current role being Junior Deacon. I hope to continue to make steady progress with my eyes remaining focused on King Solomon's chair.

I joined because I've always had more than just an idle curiosity. My father and uncle are both members of the Craft, with my uncle a senior member in the Coffs Harbour area, so I'm proud that I've kept the tradition. Some of my first memories that started me thinking were seeing my father dressed in his lodge suit and heading out for the evening. Where's he going? I can also remember sneaking a peak into his lodge case on more than one occasion (always careful to put it back the way I found it) and wondering what was this blue and white thing.

Like most masons of his vintage, Dad didn't speak much about the lodge, however I'm beginning to join the dots. It was only the other day I observed my eight year old son giving me some strange looks when I was practising a sign or two in our lounge room; it was the look of what on earth are you doing? I took some humour with this as I now recall this is the same look I gave 35 years ago when Dad was doing the same thing in our lounge room.

I've greatly enjoyed my experiences in Freemasonry and look forward each and every month to our regular lodge meeting. When time permits, I also visit other lodges where I've always been made to feel welcome. I have been privileged to listen to a number of occasional addresses, along with the opportunity to provide one of my own.

What I find appealing though is without a doubt our ritual and being involved in the process to help make the evening a success. I take the work seriously and have made it my personal goal to be as close to the mark as I can. This is my




Duncan McLeod with his daughter Anika at a recent 'Survival' Scout camp.

way of 'giving back' to the senior brethren for the efforts they have shown me with my development, but on the same token I don't get overly perplexed if I do 'make a blue' as I know that there is always help at hand.

I've been told the Craft tends to lose a significant number of brethren around the three to five year mark. Now that I've reached this mark, I've been able to identify some of the triggers which may influence this. I guess there are many different reasons why the individual may decide to leave, but for me I see contributing factors being our fast paced lifestyles which leave us time poor, and a careful balance of work and home life. I have a young family and a reasonably demanding career, so a late night, followed by an early start can at times take the shine off things. That said, a good craftsman can always find a solution to a problem. If I have an early start

the following day I approach the Worshipful Master and convey my apologies to the South, which happens only once or twice a year and is in line with the masonic ethos, that your paid work comes first so there is never a problem.

I've learned with some of my life experiences that if you are not enjoying something it will only be a matter of time before you give it away. So what works for me is not to make a chore of anything, take your time, enjoy your work, learn what you need to and don't get too overwhelmed with making a mistake.

Finally, practice makes perfect. What I've found most helpful, should your lodge hold a practice, is to attend, you'll be amazed how much more confident you'll be with your work and your enjoyment factor will be all that much higher once the gavel falls. 



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Help us care for future generations

Older Australians Embrace Social Media

The Whiddon Group launches a new website and social media pages in response to the growing number of older Australians accessing information online.

The Whiddon Group's new website

As technology continues to develop, and internet use is no longer limited to the tech savvy, it is becoming increasingly more important for organisations to promote themselves online and engage with the online community. With the multitude of information available around health and wellbeing services for older people, The Whiddon Group believes that having an informative website enables older people and their families to better understand the services and assistance available, and to make more informed decisions. The Whiddon Group's new website will be released on December 1st 2012 and we invite you to learn about what we do and our rich Masonic history at www.whiddon.com.au.

The COTA and Ellis Jones Older Victorians Online survey revealed that over 20 percent of 75-85 year olds, and 37 percent of 65-75 year olds, regularly used social media and cited it as one of their main online activities. The Whiddon Group is pleased to announce that we are now using social media to connect with staff, clients and the community.



Making a Bequest

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

There are a number of ways in which you can do this:

1. The gift of a specified amount of money;
2. A percentage of your estate;
3. The residue of your estate once you have provided for family and friends;
4. Specified items eg. shares, paintings etc;
5. A life insurance or endowment policy.

To discuss these options and their possible ramifications or for any further information, please contact our Chief Executive Office on 02 9827 6632.

We would like to thank those who have supported and given so generously to The Whiddon Group.

We wish everyone a safe holiday season and a Merry Christmas.



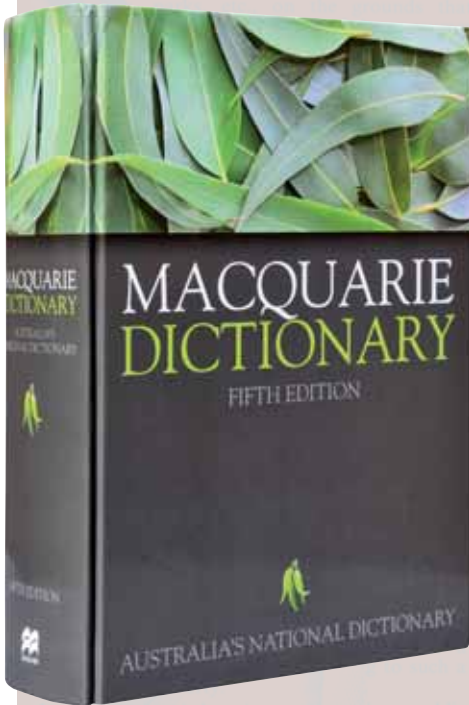
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Since the Macquarie Dictionary was first published in 1981, its reputation as Australia's national dictionary has gone from strength to strength. This updated 2009 fifth edition is internationally regarded as the standard reference on Australian English. It not only includes all those words and senses peculiar to Australian English, but also those common to the whole English-speaking world.

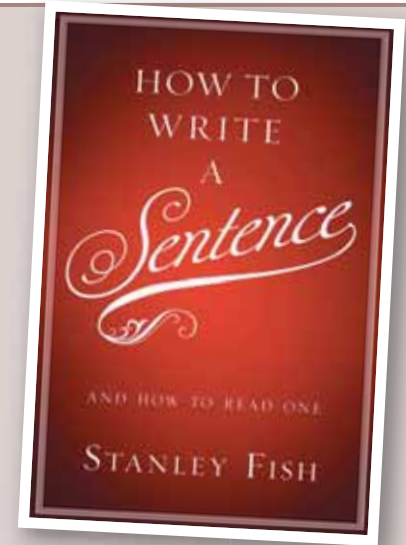
Freemason /'frimeɪsən/ *noun* 1. Also, **Mason**, a member of a widely distributed and once secret order of men (**Free and Accepted Masons**), having a strict moral code for its members, with the object of promoting brotherly love among its members and universal charity and tolerance, thought by some to represent the re-emergence, possibly from Scotland, of the Knights Templar. 2. (*lower case*) *History* a. one of a class of skilled stoneworkers (not bonded, hence *free masons*) of the Middle Ages, whose qualifications were recognised by a system of secret signs and passwords. b. a member of a society or lodge composed of such workers, later (17th century) including honorary members (known as *accepted masons*) who were not connected with the building trades. –*freemasonic* /'frimeɪsənɪk/, *adjective*

Freemasonry /'frimeɪsənri/ *noun* 1. the principles, practices, and institutions of Freemasons. 2. (*lower case*) secret or tacit brotherhood; instinctive sympathy.

The fifth edition features:

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How to write...

by **Stanley Fish**

'All you have to do is write one true sentence,' said Ernest Hemingway with his usual understatement. 'Write the truest sentence you know.'

Easier said than done, of course, but the foundation of Hemingway's advice – that all students of writing should practice and execute their work in a sentence-by-sentence manner – makes a lot of sense. This is the thrust of Stanley Fish's concise and accessible guidebook, *How to Write a Sentence; And How to Read One*.

The author Stanley Fish, distinguished professor of law at Florida International University, and weekly columnist for the *New York Times* makes his points succinctly and engagingly. His chapters are short and precise; his tone is amiable, enthusiastic, and never boring.

'Look no further for a guided tour through some of the most beautiful, arresting sentences in the English language'

Financial Times, UK.

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ISBN: 9780061840548

Hardback, 165 pages

RRP: \$29.95

Approved masonic dress

A reminder...

It has been necessary to remind brethren of the rules and regulations relating to approved masonic dress. Information on Masonic Dress, Aprons, Gauntlets, Collars and Jewels of Rank are available on the Grand Lodge website.

Some important points to remember are:

SUMMER TIME: That part of the year in which daylight saving is operating in NSW and the ACT.

During hot weather brethren may, at the discretion of the Worshipful Master, wear a plain white long-sleeved business shirt, black bow tie, black trousers, black shoes and black socks. Coats, waistcoats and braces must be removed before entering the lodge room.

WINTER TIME: That part of the year when there is no daylight saving time.

For evening meetings, the appropriate dress is a black dinner suit with white shirt, black bow tie, black shoes and socks. In business suit lodges, the dress is dark lounge or business suit, white long sleeved business shirt, dark knotted tie or lodge tie, black shoes and black socks.

DRESS TIMES: Under normal protocols, evening is considered to begin at

6pm or dark, whichever comes first and it is from this time that evening wear (dinner suit or full white tie and tails) should be worn. In either case, unless he is working in a profession requiring it, the only excuse for a man to be seen in a dinner suit during the day is if he is traveling to an evening event or attending certain State functions.

BUSINESS SUIT: When a business suit is specified, it is appropriate that it should be a dark colour.

GAUNTLETS: Gauntlets are NOT to be worn when wearing the white (Eton) jacket or when a business suit is worn, eg: a meeting commencing before 6pm.

Some lodges have the wearing of a lounge/business suit as their mode of dress specified in their by-laws. Provided this is approved by the Board of Management, this is acceptable. In these situations, they are to wear a dark knotted tie or a special lodge tie if one has been created.

Full details on dress information is available in a special booklet which is available on the Member Centre of the UGL website (www.masons.org.au) or from the Grand Secretariat upon request.



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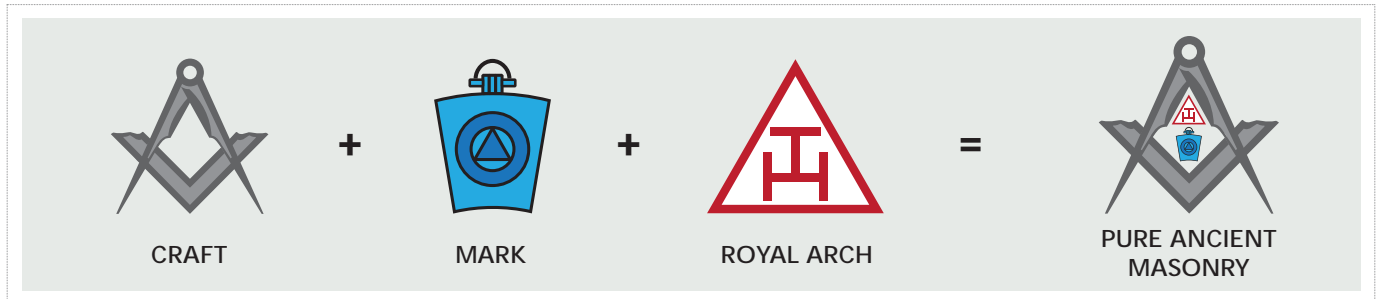
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harrystathis@gmail.com**





The Royal Arch

“What connection does the Royal Arch have to the Craft?” A short answer often used is, “**The Royal Arch is a completion of the Third Degree**”, but that is an understatement.



The Royal Arch is certainly a natural progression in Freemasonry in that it provides ‘genuine secrets’ following ‘substituted’ ones that had been given earlier and in that role it forms an integral part of ‘pure Ancient Masonry’ as stated in the Constitutions of Grand Lodge.


Freemasonry, basically, is an allegorical exercise built around the rise and fall of successive Temples at Jerusalem. The Royal Arch has two themes, one dated before the Exile in Babylon dealing with the finding of a Scroll of the Scriptures

when repairs were being carried out in the Temple, and the other which has a recovery theme in a sequence of events when the Jews returned from Babylon to build the Second Temple.

The Craft and the Royal Arch, in conjunction, span the whole period of the Old Testament dealing with the First and Second Temples in their entirety.

The stated intention in opening a Master Masons’ lodge is to seek for ‘that which was lost’ but there is always the admission of failure in the closing. The substituted secrets that are communicated

are declared to be sanctioned and confirmed until time or circumstance shall restore the genuine ones. Until what time and in what circumstance?

Biblical history records the fall from grace leading to destruction of Solomon’s Temple and the loss of the Word. The legend that is built into the Craft conveys the principle of a loss which, in turn, is complemented by a recovery theme set into the Royal Arch. It is that ceremonial which has been aptly described as ‘the very essence of Freemasonry’ from as long ago as 1756 by Laurence Dermott. 

Knights Templar – Angels or Demons?

Roman Catholic priests seem to feature in most books or films about vampires, demonic possession, or spectacular exorcisms.

Similarly, as historian Malcolm Barber writes, ‘Mystic Templars are omnipresent in all good conspiracy theories’.

There’s no doubting that many thousands of people have become more aware of the Knights Templar thanks to Dan Brown’s book *The Da Vinci Code*. Whether it contained more or less truth than fiction, it certainly raised awareness of the ancient order and its transition into the 21st century.

So, how does this affect the Masonic Orders of Knights Templar and Knights of Malta in New South Wales and the

Australian Capital Territory?


So far, no conspiracies (rampant or otherwise) have surfaced or become obvious within the chivalric Orders of the Temple or Malta within Freemasonry. However, much can be found within the Orders that reinforces the principles and foundations of Craft Masonry and leads to expanded knowledge and responsibility.

As members of the ‘United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple and of St John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta’, Brother Knights maintain the Trinitarian Christian faith.

Joining aspirants are prepared and guided through advancement from Page to full battle-ready Knighthood and great moral and charitable instruction is given

in both the ceremonials. And the rituals strongly reflect current masonic directions and community attitudes by avoiding being overtly religious or too warlike.

While degrees or grades are referred to, they are really steps of learning and understanding, especially in regard to Duty, Honour, Fealty, and Courage.

On 9 February 2013, the Great Priory of NSW & ACT will meet in Canberra to conduct the degree of Knight of Malta, and on 27 July 2013, installation of the new Grand Master will be held in Sydney. Information about these events and the Templar Order can be obtained from the Great Vice-Chancellor, Peter J. Sinden, by phone 02 9673 5839 or email g.p.ofnsw.act@bigpond.com. 



Tip Card #13

Expectations versus Outcomes

AIM – To explain why some lodges can move forward and other lodges cannot; why some lodges are surviving and growing and others are dying.

Target

To unite the members in a common cause – a fight to save lodges and Freemasonry.

Reasoning

There are new lodges forming and many other lodges have the ability to attract new members and retain them. Both these newer and older lodges are adapting to change as necessary and are continually preparing for the future.

Many other lodges, both in the city and in the country are struggling to save themselves from extinction, juggling the few remaining members through the lodge officer positions to eke out another two or three years of life for the lodge. They are rudderless and despondent.

We are all masons yet how can we have such different outcomes from the same set of beliefs?

Methodology

The answer lies within ourselves; it is because we are all different. Some of us are positive people, others negative. Some look for solutions while others look for reasons to give up. Because we are different our lodges are also different. Our lodges have shaped their 'own' personality through the members' thoughts and actions, or non-actions, in many cases.

Some lodges accept change and plan for it. They set goals, looking for results (expectations) they make it happen for their lodge (outcomes).

Other lodges abhor or are fearful of change. They stagger from meeting to meeting, from year to year, blame everyone except themselves for their situation and live in the past. They have no expectations therefore they achieve

nothing except a loss of members on the way to oblivion.

Strong lodges have members who pull together for the benefit of the lodge; the members act as true masons and the lodge wins.

Weak lodges generally have one or more members who intimidate the others into doing what 'they want – which is not for the benefit of the lodge. They only pay lip service to Masonry.

Strong lodges generally have good positive leadership earned through years of dedicated, skilful and progressive management, succession planning, training and mentoring, together with an acceptance of change and respect for each other and the ideals of Masonry.

Weak lodges tend to hide behind excuses such as 'all the young men have gone to the city (or the country) for work' or 'nobody wants to learn ritual any more', or any other number of excuses they can conjure up. The truth is more likely to be that the lodge allowed the bullies to dominate and they chased the members away because they didn't practice Masonry!

Conclusion

It is never too late to change. Even the weakest of lodges can change their future but only if they choose to. Tell your bullies to move on, invite your called off members back to help you rebuild a 'Masonic Lodge'; talk about where you want to go and how you expect to get there.

'If we increase our expectations we will improve our outcomes.'

Help is available through the Board of Management – telephone Grand Lodge or go to our website.

Freemason Clothing and Accessories

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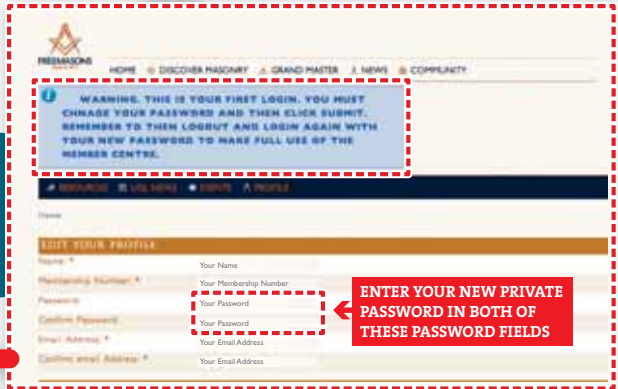
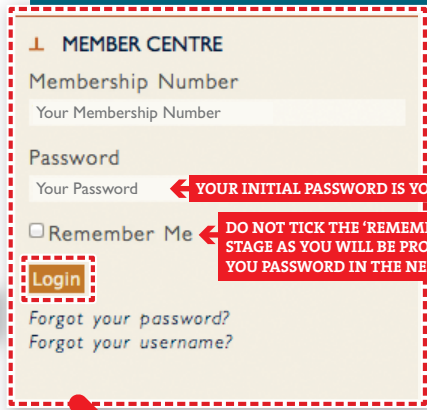
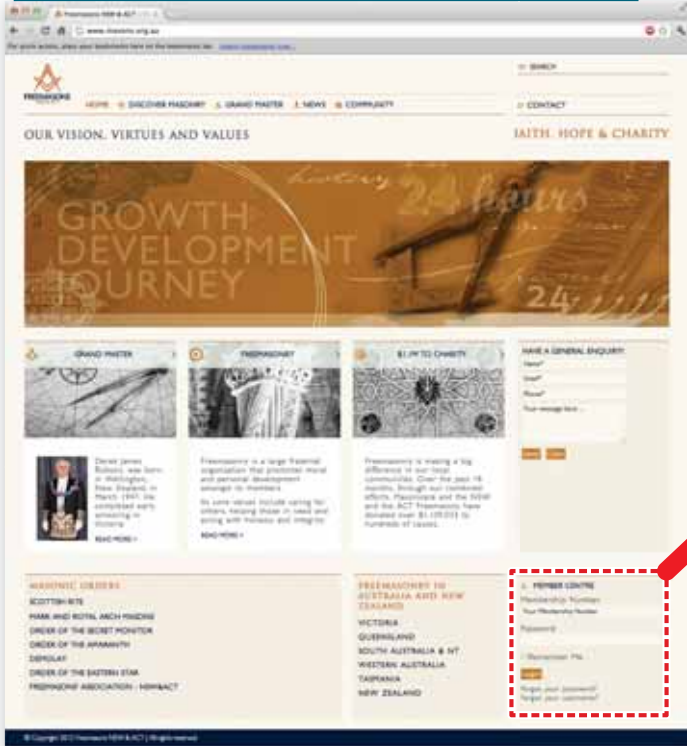


masons.org.au

Become a member of the Grand Lodge website

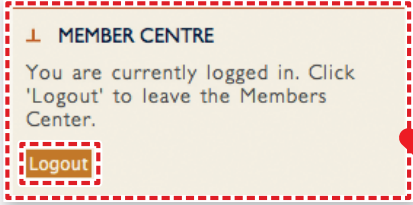
This is the public page of the new Grand Lodge website. To access the 'Member Centre' you'll need to create an account and password first.

To create an account you must enter your unique Membership Number (or Master Mason certificate number) in the 'Member Centre' box at the bottom right of the page. Your initial password is your surname. Do not tick the 'Remember Me' box at this stage as you'll be prompted to change your password in the next step.



Once you have changed your password, you must logout and login again with your new password to make full use of the Member Centre.

Don't worry with the rest of your profile now, you can update it later.



Your current masonic rank will dictate the resources and content you will be able to access.



A journey of great art and discovery

Contemporary works of art are set to **unlock the mystery of the masons** at the Museum of Freemasonry in Sydney.

In 2013 the MoF will present a stunning exhibition that will unlock some of these mysteries and also shed light on a precious and striking collection of art. This model is in accordance with current trends within the art world, in which radical changes in thinking about the ways in which art should be displayed are emerging. Museums are increasingly breaking the rules in terms of adopting different approaches to art exhibition, a position that creates new conditions that often require a re-think on matters of art, its display and aesthetics.

Confluencias – Australian and Latin American Art will present a series of contemporary art works, contrasting and highlighting the Museum of Freemasonry's permanent collection. The exhibition will see thought-provoking works of art set within the Museum's fascinating and beautiful displays. In this environment, a dialogue is constructed whereby the drama of the contemporary blends with and at the same time generates a visual dialogue. This will provide insights created through a merging of dialogues so that both art groups benefit as they merge and flow together.

The contemporary works represent both Australian and Latin American artists. The Australian artists will present works made while visiting cities in South America. The South American artists are currently living in Australia.

This process of interaction and dia-



ABOVE: *The labyrinth*, 2004–2012, oil on linen, 183x137cm, Leonardo Cremenose, Australia
 BELOW: *Aphrodite Kallipygnos*, 2012, oil on linen, 183x137cm, Leonardo Cremenose, Australia

logue enlightens and conveys cultural identity, and creates a platform from which the viewer is able to connect with the works of art.

Sculptures, paintings, installations, photography, film and animation will be the leading mediums used by the artists and it is intended the works will speak for themselves. This exhibition should also generate uncertainty in the viewer by challenging their expectations, and thereby encourage them to review the works from a different standpoint.

The viewer might find an unexpected work of art under the stairs or photographic works alongside a collection of 18th century ceramics. This project hopes to raise awareness of the Museum within

the community and to strengthen the bonds between art collectors and artists for future exhibitions.

The exhibition is organised by curators Clay Paula and Helen Symons in conjunction with MoF.





An old Past Master

For love or money

'I'm afraid we are not going to have the pleasure of hearing Professor Filson', said the young mason to the old Past Master, sitting beside him in the ante-room.

Oh, it's money of course. Filson always gets a hundred dollars a lecture, and the lodge cannot afford to pay it. And of course Filson cannot afford to lower his price, and that's it!

'Why doesn't Filson give the lodge the lecture for nothing?' asked the old Past Master.

'Why, why should he? That isn't business. The electric light company doesn't give us light, the printer charges us for all printed matter, the furniture store charges us for carpets; why should Filson present us with his wares?'

'Seems to me that there is a difference,' suggested the old Past Master. 'Brother Filson, I suppose, comes to the lodge to spend an evening at times. When he does, he spends as much time here without paying, sitting or standing up talking. The electric light company could not give us current without spending money to produce it, the printer must pay his printers, the furniture man must buy his carpet, but brother Filson would not have to spend any money to give his lecture; all he would have to spend would be a small part of what we have spent on him.'

'I don't think I understand that last – what we have spent on him?'

'Thousands of years, millions of thoughts, untold effort, careful planning,' was the prompt response. 'Have you ever stopped to think just what Masonry is and does? Masonry is the product of the most unselfish thinking, the most whole-hearted and selfless effort the world has ever known. Through it a universal brotherhood of millions of men has been brought into being, to anyone of which you and I and brother Filson have the right to turn, sure of sympathy, understanding and some help in time of need.'

'It has evolved a system of philosophy and that philosophy is taught to all

brethren of the third degree, without money and without price. Through it we learn charity, toleration, courage, fortitude, justice, truth, brotherly love, relief. Through it we learn decency, patriotism, high-thinking, honour, honesty and helpfulness. Through it we are made better men, better citizens, better husbands, better fathers, better legislators and better followers of our several vocations.

'Masonry may only penetrate a fraction beneath the skin of its followers, but by that fraction the man who takes even a little of its blessings to himself is a better man, and so the world is a better place for the rest of us. In some it strikes deep. We become soaked through and through with masonic ideas, and strive, in our feeble human way, to show forth to the world whatever measure we may accomplish of the perfection for which Masonry strives. Those of us who take it seriously and who love it much also make the world a better place for the rest of us.'

'The lodge provides a spiritual home for brethren who may have no other. If one has another in his church, the lodge gives him a second spiritual home to which he may occasionally go and feel more strongly, perhaps, than in his church the close touch of his brother's hand, the smile of a brother's love, the supporting arm of a brother's strength. To me, my lodge is a rest, a haven, a harbour for a tired mind.'

'When I come to this lodge, whose destinies I guided so long ago, and which I have watched grow from a little fledgling to a mature organisation, I find myself uplifted, strengthened, made whole again. I may come tired, worn, weary with the day; I leave refreshed, invigorated, helped with the reviving of old truths, the remaking of old vows, and the renewing of old ties.'

'Our ancient brethren had "cities of refuge," to which the fleeing man, crim-

inal, or oppressed, might run for safety. Masonry is our modern "city of refuge," to which we, oppressed with injustice and cruelty may fly for spiritual comfort and safety, knowing that within the four walls of a lodge is rest, peace and comfort.'

'All this has the lodge in particular, and Masonry in general, offered since the beginning, to all upon whom Masonry lays her gentle hands. You are the recipient of her bounty, as am I. And so is brother Filson. We three – and all within these walls – take generously and without stint from Masonry's storehouse of loveliness, beauty, of rest and comfort and love.'

'Often I ask myself "what have I done for Masonry, which does so much for me?" Never do I feel that I have done enough. And Brother Filson, whom I do not know, might well ask himself that, before he thinks of what he might do for the lodge in terms of dollars and business.'

'If he has done one-tenth for Masonry and for the lodge, what lodge and Masonry have done for him, he may hesitate. But if he is like the great majority of masons, content to take much and give little, willing to receive all and give nothing, careless of the structure which millions have raised in the past that he might benefit, unable to understand that in his hands is committed the torch that those who come after may see clearly, he has need of open eyes, and an understanding heart, which alone may show him that for Masonry, which does so much for men, no man may do enough.'

The old Past Master ceased and sat silent. From a chair across the ante-room a brother rose and came slowly forward. 'I do thank you, my brother,' he said, 'from the bottom of my heart. The lodge will certainly hear that lecture as soon as the Master wishes it. My name is Filson.'

(This short story is from *The Old Past Master* by Brother Carl Claudy.)



Regional Roundup



LODGE WYALDRA No 238

Lodge Wyaldra raises Master Mason

On 12 October, Lodge Wyaldra No 238 had the pleasure of raising Bro Paul Ginns to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. Also at lodge on the night was his brother, Bro Patrick Ginns who will doubtless catch up with him masonically in due course.



Bros Paul and Patrick Ginns with the WM of Lodge Wyaldra, W Bro Roy Chidgey.



Historic Installation for Lodge Horizons

Lodge Horizons 1032 staged a meeting with a difference in August when it held its Installation on board the tall ship *James Craig* at Darling Harbour.

The ship was closed to the public for the afternoon and the Installation ceremony was held in the hold of the ship which held a maximum of 90 people. Horizons is well known for its efforts to make Installations memorable for its members and visitors.

The Grand Master's representative, RW Peter Zeilic RGC R12 said to his knowledge, the last time such a masonic event had occurred on a tall ship was in 1807. The hold had been set up as a regular lodge, complete with all the required furniture.

A good attendance of members and visitors, including the Grand Secretary of the Provincial Lodge of New Caledonia,

RW Bro Eduard Ventrillon, attended the meeting to witness W Bro Kris Regalado instal the senior warden, Bro Steven Wheeler as the eighth WM of the lodge.

Dispensation to hold the meeting was approved by the Grand Master after the Grand Architect had inspected the ship and discussed detailed arrangements for the unusual meeting.

W Bro Regalado informed the brethren he was organising a fraternal visit to the Philippines and the trip was open to any interested mason.

The Installation Banquet was held on the ferry *South Steyne* which is moored at Darling Harbour. It was complete with a live band and a spectacular fireworks display later in the evening. The lodge, with its young membership, focussed on providing live band music to make the banquet a party event.

Handing over the Baton at Lodge Edinburgh St John



VW Bro Eric Beer PDGIW, District 71, handing over his baton to VW Bro Denis Yeo DGIW, at Lodge Edinburgh St John, in Mudgee. The baton was donated by RW Bro Ken Mole PDGM, CMH.



LODGE OF PEACE

Big Day for Lodge of Peace

A large contingent of Freemasons attended on Saturday 8 September at the Uralla Masonic Centre to celebrate the 130th anniversary of the formation of the Lodge of Peace. Among the gathering was the Grand Master, MW Bro Derek Robson AM, Grand Lodge officers and many visiting masons from local and Sydney lodges.

The commemoration ceremony was conducted in conjunction with the re-installation of VW Bro Bill Andrews as WM for the ensuing year.

The Grand Master also presented the District Medal to W Bro Darrell Parsons for services to Masonry.

After the meeting, the brethren, wives and partners retired to the RSL Memorial Hall for a festive banquet (great accolades from the Sydney visitors) and to hear a talk on the history of the lodge.

As part of the commemoration, a 130th anniversary cake was cut (with the Grand Master's new ceremonial travelling sword!) and served to the guests while the WM presented the Grand Master with a copy of the book *Thunderbolt, Scourge of the Ranges* as a memento of his visit.



Above: Attendees at the lodge ceremony

Right: WM Bill Andrews and the Grand Master cutting the 130th anniversary cake with the ceremonial travelling sword.



In addition to the masonic contingent, the lodge was host to the General Manager of the Uralla Shire Council, Mr Tom O'Connor and his wife, Marcella. The lodge has been assisted in many ways by the Council and felt it most important the Council be acknowledged in the anniversary ceremonies.

In addition, Mrs Lynn McClenahan, accompanied by her husband, Greg, came

along as a representative of Uralla Rotary Club, who will be holding a joint function with the lodge in the New Year to further cement the good relations between the various community groups in the Uralla area.

Lodge Harold Herman Unity



Photo courtesy John Hannah BM

On Saturday 27 October, W Bro Michael Levenston installed his successor Bro Michael Gaynor into the Chair of Lodge Harold Herman Unity at the Laurelbank Masonic Centre in Willoughby, in the presence of RW Bro Barney Flanagan PAGM.



THE BADEN POWELL LODGE No 1051

The Baden Powell Lodge funds scouts

The Australian Jamboree at Maryborough, in January is expected to attract around 3,500 members in the NSW Contingent.

Aware that hardship in the current economic situation has caused many Scouting families to make the difficult decision of not sending a Scout or Leader, The Baden Powell Lodge of NSW, No 1051, approached the NSW Contingent Executive with an offer of funding the third and final instalment for three NSW Scouts.

As a result of this generosity, three young people who may have not been able to attend will soon start packing bags for this opportunity to live their Scouting dream.

The lodge also sponsored two Scouts and one leader from a local Scout Group to enable them to attend.



L-R: Andrew Campbell, Branley Walsh, David Chen and RW Bro Len Jenkins, from the Second Canterbury (St Pauls) Scout Group

A Flying Carpet

Gosford Royal Arch Chapter 173 has held this year's installation at the Gosford Masonic Centre with a big reward for the local area.

The meeting saw the announcement of \$3,200 raised towards the purchase of a Broselow Flying Carpet for Gosford Hospital.

The Carpet is a colour coded mat having various compartments which contain a multitude of specialised instruments of size and design relating to the age of each child, aiding doctors and nursing staff to administer emergency treatments.

The funds were raised with the assistance of masonic charities, donations from Freemasons from Sydney to Newcastle, and raffles.



THE LEICHHARDT LODGE

Big Night for the Leichhardt Lodge

Over 85 brethren attended The Leichhardt Lodge's Installation on 19 September and none would have left with anything but fond memories of a great and memorable night.

Bro Darren Allatt was Installed as WM by VW Bro Michael Abdennour PDGDC with great dignity and the utmost sincerity.

In his first appointment as a representative of the Grand Master, RW Bro Peter Lawrence PJGW led a delegation of 25 Grand Officers which included MW Bro Dr Greg Levenston PGM, RW Bro Kevin McGlenn PDGM, Grand Secretary, RW Bro Paul Fletcher PDGM, RW Bro

Stephen Green PDGM PCBoM, RW Bro Greg Redfern PJGW Chairman Grand Charity, RW Bro Peter Zeilic RGC R12 and RW Bro Ted Simmons PAGM, Chairman Publications Committee.

RW Bro Lawrence set aside a few moments to personally welcome, with MW Bro Levenston, approximately 12 EAFs and FCFs who were present – five of whom being members of the Leichhardt Lodge.

The lodge now has five MMs holding office and can only get stronger under W Bro Allatt's leadership.



Oberon presents debbs

A total of 330 guests and 13 debutantes attended the 49th annual Oberon Masonic Debutante Ball on 21 September.

The debbs were presented by Matron of Honour Mrs Kerry Robinson to the representative of the Grand Master, RW Bro Don Savage PJGW, and the WM of Lodge Oberon, W Bro Gordon Mills. Lodge Oberon and the debutantes raised \$4,000 and with the assistance of Masonicare, a total of \$8,000 was donated to the Ball's charity Can Assist Oberon Branch. The debbs were recruited by W Bro Kevin Campbell and the success of the evening was due to the organisation skills of W Bro Eric Patingale and dance instructor Toni Daymond.



LODGE GLEN INNES

The wonders of an Initiation

Although not as often as lodges would like, but on Thursday 2 August the Glen Innes Lodge had the pleasure of a dual initiation with a difference.

Often a Master or a Past Master initiates his son but on this occasion the lodge had the pleasure of initiating a father and son at the same time.

But each had the same name of James Donald and as this caused a slight problem the father was named Jim.

The brethren were delighted with this wonderful experience, many of them saying they had never before seen a similar dual initiation.

RW Bro Colin Lute, Lodge Glen Innes secretary, said an initiation ceremony had been witnessed by all masons.

'We can recall our feelings at our own initiation night. As we get older we come to realise what a wonderful experience it is and hope the candidate feels that same wonder,' he said.



Newly initiated brothers Jim and James Donald with members of Lodge Glen Innes

NORTH SHORE DAYLIGHT LODGE No 1044

North Shore Daylight Installation

The North Shore Daylight Lodge No 1044 Installation marked the fourth year since the lodge was consecrated.

Prior to the ceremony, the new Worshipful Master, W Bro Don Balmain, was only a Master Mason, which is a little unusual for a Daylight Lodge.



RW Bro Dexter Taylor PJGW (left) and W Bro Don Balmain



District 41 helps

At a District dinner in July, cheques totalling \$32,000 were handed to Ross Bingham, CEO of Ronald McDonald House Newcastle by District 41 DGIW Gary Herrett and Masonicare Regional Representative John Moore.

In raising \$20,000 by raffles, bowls days, cash donations, sausage sizzles, sale of pens and chocolates etc – it was the culmination of two years of hard work by District 41 and its supporters. A generous \$12,000 was also contributed by Masonicare.

Ronald McDonald House provides – at little cost – accommodation, meals and sustenance for out-of-area families of seriously ill children admitted to nearby John Hunter Hospital, usually under emergency circumstances. In caring for those regionally-based families who are under great duress, this non-profit and wonderful facility essentially relies on community and business donations to maintain its viability.

In raising those funds, added to donated Christmas hampers, the members of District 41 have made some good new friends and have received much satisfaction from their efforts.



L-R: Gary Herrett DGIW41, Ross Bingham CEO Ronald McDonald House, John Moore Regional Masonicare Representative



Christmas Quiz

Below are a variety of questions on the traditions, celebrations and trivia about this special time.

Test your family's knowledge over the Festive season.

- 1 In the song, 'The Twelve Days of Christmas', what did my true love give to me on the 12th day?
- 2 What colour is the belt worn by Santa Claus?
- 3 Who were Balthazar, Melchior and Caspar?
- 4 In what year was the first Christmas card produced?
- 5 What is the connection between Comet, Cupid and Vixen?
- 6 Which Christmas song has the best-ever sales?
- 7 Which of the following department stores created 'Rudolph the Red-Nose Reindeer' (Dillards, Montgomery-Ward, Macy's, JC Penny's)?
- 8 Who decided the date for Christmas would be December 25th?
- 9 Which reindeer is left out of the song 'The Night before Christmas'?
- 10 In Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol', how many different ghosts visited Scrooge?

CanDo Cancer Trust charity bowls day

Coast Freemasons Charity Bowls organiser Carolyn Boyden was 'over the moon' with the response from the community supporting the annual CanDo Cancer Trust Charity Bowls Day last Sunday.

'It was amazing,' she enthused. 'The club was packed. At least 150 people came to play

lawn bowls and indoor bowls and many others just came for the raffles or to give a donation. This is the fourth year that we have run it and it's getting bigger each time.'

With a Masonicare grant of \$5,000 and the \$4,500 raised at the Charity Bowls Day plus a further \$500 from a raffle, recently

retired Region 5 Masonicare representative RW Bro Norm Standing, was able to present a cheque for \$10,000 to Trust member Mrs Jane Glover. The Trust, which supports cancer patients attending the North Coast Cancer Clinic, gave over \$43,000 to patients suffering financial hardship last financial year.



Freemason welcomes new members to the Craft

Name	Lodge
ABRAHAM, Monsy	Lodge Sylvania 853 LOE
ACA-AC, Christian	Lodge Horizons 1032
ACHESON, Norm	Lodge Kempsey – Macleay 203
ALESSI, John	Lodge Tomaree 878
AMOR, Raul	Lodge Blacktown Kildare 393
AYYOUB, Saif	The Builders Lodge 1048
BIRD, Josh	The Yass Lodge of Concord 27
BOYADGIS, Alfred	The Lodge of Tranquillity 42
BRAYE, Allan	Lodge St James 45
BRENNAN, Patrick	Wallis Plains 4
BROWN, Grant	Lodge Dawn 511
BURTON, Nicholas	Lodge Burnside 729 LOE
BURTON, Dean	Lodge Ophir 17
CAMERON, Lachlan	Lodge United St Andrew Singleton 34
CAPRICHIO, Risty	Lodge Blacktown Kildare 393
CARE, Robert	Lodge Airs Campbelltown 976
CATADA, Erik	Lodge Horizons 1032
CHIEM, Tony	Lodge Liverpool 197
CLEARY, Blake	Lodge St James 45
CLINTON, Angus	Lodge Sir James Hardy 1046
COLEMAN, Andrew	Lodge Harold Herman Unity 428 LOE
DAKIN, Jason	Lodge F S Mance 671
DALEY, Marc	Lodge St James 45
DAVID, Alen	Lodge Beauty of Cabra Vale 743
DE BALINCOURT, Charles	Lodge France 1021
DELAHAYE, Immanuel	Lodge Warragamba 541
DELFORCE, Berin	Lodge Southern Cross 91
DORIA, Rey	Lodge Horizons 1032
DOUGLAS, George	Lodge Kiama 35
DRAKE, Ronald	Lodge Port Stephens 522
DUCHAC, Pavel	The Lodge of Australia 3
DUNLOP, Greg	Lodge Warringah 83
EAST, Clayton	Lodge Beauty of Cabra Vale 743
ECONOMOS, Christopher	Lodge Ethos 963
ELESSI, John	Lodge Tomaree 878
FARRAH, Joseph	Livingstone United 604
FIORAVANTI, Nicholas	The United Lodge of Sydney 11
FITZHENRY, Steve	Lodge Warringah 83
GABRIEL, Mark	Lodge Blacktown Kildare 393
GALLUCCIO, Domenico	Lodge Galileo 1019
GAMBOA, Ethan	Lodge Kellerman 1027
GELDART, Josh	Lodge Cronulla 312
GEORGE, Edward	Lodge Wyaldra 238
GIANNIS, Gregory	Lodge Castlereagh 72
GIBBS, James	Lodge Southern Cross 91
GILBERT, David	The Goulburn Lodge of Australia 58
GRACE, Beau	Lodge Guyra 325
GRAHAM, Mark	Lodge Woden Valley 974
GRANDE, Michael	The Central Coast Lodge 2001
GUMAYAGAY, Ernest	Lodge Woronora 414 LOE
HADDAD, Joe	Lodge Horizons 1032
HANKS, Richard	Lodge Tweed United 136
HASLING, Ron	Lodge Tomaree 878

Name	Lodge
HARRISON, Paul	Lodge United St Andrew Singleton 34
HELICH, Christopher	Lodge Eastern Suburbs 1050
HENDERSON, Warren	Balmain Lodge 23
HENNESSY, Martin	The Australian Lodge of Harmony 5
HENSHAW, Aaron	Lodge Swansea Belmont 1030
HOWARD, Richard	Lodge Burns Wentworth Tuscan 21
INDOLOS, Ben	Lodge Baulkham Hills 958
ISAAC, Samson	Lodge Liverpool 197
ISAC, Freddie	Lodge Beauty of Cabra Vale 743
JOHNSON, Jay	Lodge Chelmsford 261
JOWSEY, Gordon	Lodge Southern Cross 91
JOWSEY, Joshua	Lodge Southern Cross 91
KARIATLIS, Harry	The Leichhardt Lodge 133
KAYE, Russell	Livingstone United 604
KHALADON, Abid	Lodge Horace Thompson Ryde 134
KHASSAWNEH, Moe	Lodge Frenchs Forest United 249
LANZONA, Bruce	Lodge Horizons 1032
LAZAROU, John	Lodge Woronora 414 LOE
LEONDIS, Christopher	The Lodge of Tranquillity 42
LEONELLO, Antonio	Lodge Galileo 1019
LORD, Jason	Lodge Alpha 970
LORRAINE, Allen	Lodge Kensington 270
MAATOUK, Georges	Lodge Sutherland 585
MAJCHROWSKI, Arthur	Lodge Springwood 409
MALABANAN, Francis	Lodge Woronora 414 LOE
MARTINO, Pino	Lodge Dunblane Australis 966
MASSEY, Sean	Lodge Warringah 83
MATSIENDRANATKH, Yogi	The Sydney Lodge 1020
MCCONACHY, Michael	Lodge Picton 258
McLEOD, Cameron	The City of Wollongong Lodge 1049
MEEHAN, Justin	Lodge Gymea 796
MORGAN, Sean	Lodge Chelmsford 261
MORONEY, John	Lodge Warringah 83
MORRISON, Phillip	Lodge Calala Tamworth 652
MOSSLAR, Bernard	Lodge Army and Navy 517
MOSTOLES, Clive	Lodge Woronora 414 LOE
MURRAY, Josh	Lodge Brotherhood of Maitland 1029
NASH, Gregory	Lodge Gloucester 291
ORLIAC, Marton	The Lodge of Tranquillity 42
PADYAS, Dante	The Lodge of Tranquillity 42
PANKHURST, Mark	Lodge Alpha 970

Name	Lodge
PARASKEVOPOULOU, George	The Sydney Lodge 1020
PARKINSON, Alexander	Lodge St James 45
PATTON, Rob	The Lodge of Tranquillity 42
POPESCU, Ionel	Lodge Challenge 284
RAFTER, Eric	The Builders Lodge 1048
RATTRAY, Jamie	Lodge United St Andrew Singleton 34
REGLE, Michael	Lodge Sydney St. George 269
RIPAUD, Simon	Lodge Germania 1036
ROBERT, Aymerie	Lodge Harold Herman Unity 428 LOE
ROBERTS, Raymond	Lodge Inverell 48
ROBERTSON, Ian	Lodge Inverell 48
RONHAVE, Peter	Lodge Kellerman 1027
ROSEN, David	Lodge Gymea 796
ROTA, Michael	Lodge Chelmsford 261
SAHA, Subir	The Cedars Lodge 1041
SALVO, Luis	The Lodge of Australia 3
SAMSON, Matt	Lodge Kellerman 1027
SANDERS, Scott	Lodge Federal Burrows 193
SAOUMA, Ed	The Leichhardt Lodge 133
SAROL, Patrick	Lodge Horizons 1032
SCALES, Luke	Lodge Victoria Cross 928
SCOTT, Ross	Lodge Allan Stuart 416
SHEEAN, Tyson	The Lodge of Australia 3
SLY, Bradley	Lodge Fire Brigades 940
SMITH, Stephen	Lodge Hurlstone Park United 288
SRI, Dash	Lodge Castlereagh 72
STAGGS, Rod	Lodge Fire Brigades 940
STEVENS, Maxwell	Lodge Gloucester 291
STRATFORD, Christopher	The Central Coast Lodge 2001
TAGGART, William	The Australian Lodge of Harmony 5
TOMAS, Edison	Lodge Education 814
TONG, Andrew	Lodge Hillston 627
TUSZYNSKI, Jared	Lodge Alpha 970
UTCAI, John	The Lodge of Tranquillity 42
VANLIOGLU, Selim	Lodge Alpha 970
VAYBAKH, Eddie	Lodge Fire Brigades 940
WARAICH, Waraich	Lodge Alpha 970
WATERHOUSE, Tonee	Lodge Blacktown Kildare 393
WEBB, Darren	Nowra Unity 60
WILLIAMS, Paul	Lodge Dawn 511
WILSON, Andrew	Lodge Tomalpin 253
WOODEND, Roger	Lodge Warringah 83
YOUNG, Dennis	Lodge Ibis 361

The Editorial Committee extends Seasons Greetings to all of our readers.

Grand Lodge will close for the Christmas/New Year break at midday on 21 December and will reopen on 7 January.

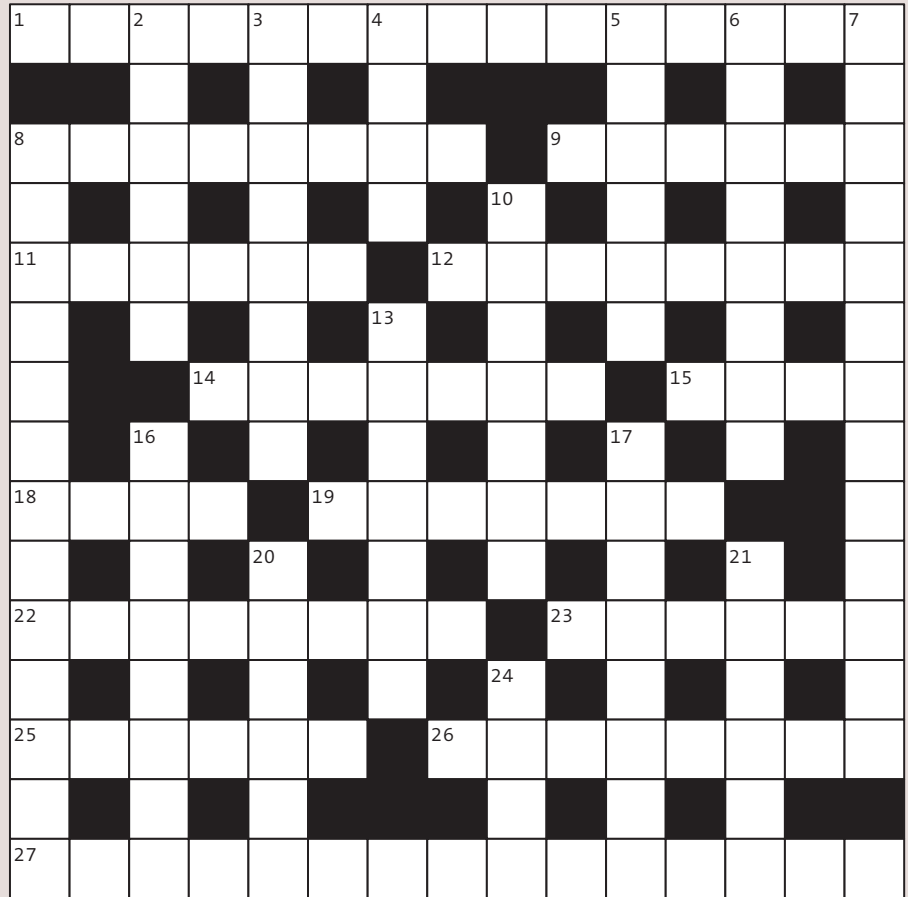


ACROSS

- 1, 8 down & 9 across – We are not operatives, we are (4, 3, 8, 2, 11, 6)
- 8 To ask a candidate to promise certain behaviour (8)
- 9 See 1 across
- 11 ? Sees things with the slightest characters let out (6)
- 12 ? A wet risk involved engaging in this activity (8)
- 14 ? Cheerio to say, a wise purchase (7)
- 15 & 19 – Ruler of ancient Israel C970 - C930BC (4, 7)
- 18 State with Salt Lake City as its capital (4)
- 19 See 15 across
- 22 ? Really go off when our story uses such symbolic meanings (8)
- 23 Singe (6)
- 25 Of letters sloping to the right (6)
- 26 ? Conferred holy orders adored in resort (8)
- 27 Held unexpectedly and before the next schedule Lodge meeting (8, 7)

DOWN

- 2 Tribute to the deceased at a funeral (6)
- 3 ? Hangs trombone over a minute unit of length (8)
- 4 ? Does archaic involvement in endothelium help? (4)



Solution Spring 2012

R	H	E	T	O	R	I	C	W	I	S	D	O	M	
E	R	U	N					N	A				O	
L	E	M	O	N	A	D	E	M	I	N	Y	A	N	
A	I	C	U					M	L				A	
T	E	N	D	E	R	L	Y	T	I	D	I	E	R	
E														
				Z	E	R	E	D	A	T	H	A	H	
T		A	B	N				S	L				Y	
A	N	D	S	U	C	O	T	H						
N	V	D	E										S	
G	R	O	G	G	Y		L	I	L	Y	W	O	R	K
I	C	E												I
B	E	A	U	T	Y		S	T	R	A	N	G	E	R
L	T	E												L
E	M	E	N	D	S		O	D	Y	S	S	E	Y	S

- 5 ? The Spanish go to extremes to name a protective coating (6)
- 6 Of Chinese philosophy (8)
- 7 ? Did this genius become so well known and respected? (13)
- 8 See 1 across
- 10 Nebuchadnezzar's famous city (7)
- 13 Suspend proceedings (7)
- 16 Make an offence seem less serious due to mitigating excuses (8)
- 17 Private meeting where proceedings are kept secret (8)
- 20 ? For example gain change when getting older (6)
- 21 Where is Bandar Seri Begawan its capital city? (6)
- 24 Strange mirage that is not there has a certain weight (4)

*Clues beginning with (?) are cryptic
Solution next issue © adsXwords



We've all heard of Murphy's Law and how things can go wrong. Try some of these.

THE COFFEE LAW: As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, someone will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.

LAW OF PHYSICAL SURFACES: The chances of an open-faced jam sandwich landing face down on a floor, are directly related to the newness and cost of the carpet or rug.

LAW OF CLOSE ENCOUNTERS: The possibility of meeting someone you know increases dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

LAW OF THE RESULT: When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.

LAW OF RANDOM NUMBERS: If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal and someone always answers. Variation Law - If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now (works every time).

LAW OF MECHANICAL REPAIR: After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch.

LAW OF GRAVITY: Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.



50 Years Service

AHEARN, Victor	Leisure Coast Daylight Lodge 999
BRANGWIN, Victor	The Queen's Lodge 229
BRISSETT, Barrie	Lodge Punchbowl 244
CAMPTON, Donald	The Hills Lodge 1025
CHAFFER, Raymond	Lodge Blacktown Kildare 393
CRAWFORD, Norman	Lodge John Williams 148
FISHER, Bruce	The Waratah Lodge 170
FITZGERALD, Colin	Lodge The Raleigh 241
GRESSWELL, Lindsay	Lodge Fidelity King Solomon 101
HAWKE, Eric	Lodge Liverpool Plains 191
HEADING, William	Lodge Frenchs Forest United 249
HOLLINGS, Ian	Lodge Tomaree 878
JACKSON, Charles	Lodge Calala Tamworth 652
KELSEY, Peter	Lodge Edinburgh St John 38
LAING, Mervyn	Lodge Blacktown Kildare 393
LAMB, Neil	Lodge Cavanbah 231
MCLEOD, Arthur	Lodge Star of Wauchope 310
MCMARTIN, Anthony	Lodge St David and St John 180
NEWSON, Noel	Lodge Milton 63
O'CONNOR, Robert	The Prince of Wales Lodge 102
OKELL, David	Macarthur Daylight Lodge 1009
PHILIPSON, John	Lodge Canoblas Lewis 806
PRYOR, Donald	Lodge Epping 390 LOE
RICHARDSON, Neil	Lodge Sincerity 233
SANFORD, David	Lodge Springwood 409
SMITH, Athol	Lodge Tomaree 878
SWINGLE, James	Batemans Bay Daylight Lodge 1013
TILLMAN, Charles	Lodge Tomaree 878

TYLER, John	Balmain Lodge 23
WHARTON, Russell	Lodge Scone 183
WOOD, Robert	Lodge Silver City 141
WOOLLEY, Michael	Lodge Canberra 465
YLIAS, James	Lodge Star of Wauchope 310
YOUNGER, Darrell	Lodge Cessnock 252

60 Years Service

BLACKWELL, John	Lodge Sawtell Twilight 741
BROWN, Alexander	Concord Technology 432
BRYANT, Clive	Lodge Cowra 33
CASON, Harry	Balmain Lodge 23
CATLIN, Robert	Lodge Resurgo 223
CHAPMAN, Laurence	Lodge Punchbowl 244
CLEMENTS, Kenneth	Wallis Plains 4
CLOUGH, William	Lodge Punchbowl 244
COLWILL, Harry	Lodge Wyalong Pioneers 222
DAY, Ernest	Lodge Frenchs Forest United 249
DON, David	Lodge Mark Owen 828
DUNN, Noel	The Sir Walter Scott Lodge 123
ENSOR, Norman	Lodge Punchbowl 244
GILMORE, Darron	Forster Great Lakes United 994
GRANGER, Kevin	The Goulburn Lodge of Australia 58
HALL, Dave	Lodge Punchbowl 244
JOHNS, Kevin	Lodge Epping 390 LOE
LANE, Cedric	Lodge Morisset 441
LAYBUTT, Robert	Lodge Canberra 465
LUDLOW, Richard	The Northern Rivers Lodge 77
MCKAY, Harry	Lodge Star of Wauchope 310
MITCHELL, Noel	Lodge Cessnock 252

MORE, Angus	Lodge Ibis 361
MORGAN, Norman	Lodge Morisset 441
ODGERS, Brian	Lodge Vacluse 266
ROBINSON, Alan	Forster Great Lakes United 994
SCORER, Joseph	Lodge Leeton – Yanco 313
SMITH, Aubrey	The Northern Rivers Lodge 77
SWEETMAN, Kenneth	Lodge Cessnock 252
THWAITE, Gordon	Lodge Resurgo 223
WEST, Noel	Lodge Westlake Daylight 997
WILLIAMS, William	Lodge Leeton – Yanco 313
WISEMAN, Neil	Brundah Endeavour 429

70 Years Service

GARDINER, Walter	Lodge Scone 183
HAILEY, John	Lodge Panania 845
HERKESS, Robert	Lodge Horace Thompson Ryde 134
THOMPSON, William	Lodge Ku-Ring-Gai 1033



Christmas Quiz

ANSWERS

- 1 12 Drummers Drumming
- 2 Black
- 3 The Three Wise Men
- 4 1843
- 5 They are Santa's reindeer.
- 6 White Christmas
- 7 Montgomery-Ward
- 8 Pope Julius 1
- 9 Rudolph
- 10 Four



Owned and operated by
the NSW Masonic Club





RESERVATIONS 1800 801 576

169 Castlereagh Street, Sydney Ph: 02 9284 1000 Fx: 02 9284 1999

Email: reservations@thecastlereagh.com.au Website: www.thecastlereagh.com.au

Alice, 81 years old

Amy, 3½
(nearly 4)
years old

It's beginning to look a lot like **Christmas**

...or is it?

I can't afford to buy presents for the children at Christmas. Every aspect of my life has changed since I took on care of my grandchildren, but it is a choice we make to prevent our children going into care. Their education costs alone leave us with little.

There are many grandparents raising their grandchildren in extremely difficult circumstances and Christmas time is especially hard. So when you're thinking about gifts this Christmas please consider giving to *A Start in Life*. Your **DONATION** will bring **JOY** and make a real difference to children just like Amy.

A Start in Life (formerly the Masonic Youth Welfare Fund) has been supporting disadvantaged children for 89 years, but now, with 1 in 6 Australian children living in poverty, **we need your support more than ever.**

to donate please call 02 9264 3017
or visit www.astartinlife.org.au

A start in life
a brighter future for young australians

Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution

Established in 1880

Seasons Greetings to all from the RFBI

*Throughout last year, the RFBI's **Annuity Scheme** continued to support citizens with monthly financial assistance. This practise maintains an unbroken record for 132 years. These annuities are brought to the RFBI's attention by Lodge Secretaries in particular and brethren in general.*

The **Benevolence Scheme** makes grants to deserving cases such as Uralba Inc, an aged care facility in the hamlet of Carcoar; Griffith University who are undertaking research into dementia; Pathfinders Open Door at Glen Innes and Vision Camp at Armidale for vision impaired children to attend a self improvement camp.

In addition, the RFBI operates and manages 23 Retirement Villages including aged care facilities throughout NSW and the ACT. The RFBI is currently completing additions to

Tamworth Cottage Homes, about to start construction at Raleigh, and has plans on the drawing board for upgrading and extensions at Bathurst, West Wyalong, Bellingen and a new facility at Dubbo.

VACANCIES exist in its self-care villages at Armidale, Basin View, Goulburn, Lake Haven, Lakemba, Newcastle and Tamworth. For retirement village inquiries, please contact Alex Shaw on 9264 5986.

The RFBI seeks **DONATIONS** (tax deductible over \$2) to ensure the benevolent operation of the RFBI continues.

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

The RFBI is keen to seek the assistance of **VOLUNTEERS**. The scope of involvement is limitless.

Likewise the RFBI is able to organise **SPEAKERS** for Lodge meetings or any like minded Masonic Function. Please contact Alex Shaw.

Finally, the RFBI wishes **Ann King** an enjoyable and well deserved retirement after 30 years service to the RFBI.



Contact Alex Shaw on 9264 5986 or admin@royfree.org.au

