

Freemason



FREEMASONS
NSW & ACT

The mighty **Amazon**

A jungle adventure



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The mighty Amazon River winding through dense jungle in South America.

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Freemason



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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.



Season's Greetings

A Christmas message
from the Grand Master



Freemasons strive to live by the fundamental principles of integrity, goodwill and charity. We support charity and community service. We promote self-development, family and community values. Importantly also, we support and encourage ourselves as individuals.

Throughout this year, we have supported each other through various acts of kindness and we have extended this support to others in our community. Through our Lodges, and as individuals, we have regularly strived to be the point of difference where a helping hand has been needed. Through Masonicare, our Grand Charity, we have been able to assist a Brother in need, and we have been able to extend the reach of our Lodges charitable commitment to our community.

There is no doubt that, as Freemasons, we have made a real difference to the betterment of our society.

As a direct result of your wonderful financial support toward the Grand Master's Disaster Relief Appeal, we were very pleased to be able to reach out to the Rural Fire Service and the many Volunteer Bushfire Brigades across our jurisdiction. The forging of this relationship with two of our country's oldest organisations has offered us a wonderful opportunity to extend the hand of Freemasonry. We look

forward to growing this relationship over the coming year, and we look forward to being able to truly assist each other so that we can offer a lasting and mutual benefit to our community.

We have every right to be proud of our achievements.

As we approach this Christmas period, it is important that we take the time to show our appreciation for all that our families have done to promote our masonic activity. Much of what we strive for would not happen without their support and generous acts of kindness, and this is a wonderful opportunity for us to repay that through our own personal acts of kindness toward them.

It is time to reflect with our broader masonic family. We especially remember our widows and other friends, those with health issues, those who might be in some difficulty and those with a less certain future. We will always ensure that our tenets of brotherly love, relief and truth are warmly extended to all those so dear to us.

I personally thank you for all that you do for the Craft. I thank you for the wonderful hospitality and friendship you have offered to Gael and me during the year, and together, we both wish you and your family, a wonderful Christmas period – and a very happy New Year.



September Communication

Grand Lodge gets many visitors to its Masonic Centre and the Grand Master, MW Bro Derek Robson AM was pleased to welcome Bro Brian McBride from Belfast, Ireland to the September Communication.

He also gave special welcome to the Grand Master of the Royal Arch, ME Companion Edward Keenahan and his delegation. He said it was an important night where many brethren were entering into new roles within the Ceremonial Team and management structure and it was right we should support them on such a wonderful occasion.

‘Of course, we all follow in the footsteps of our revered Past Grand Masters, and again, it is my privilege to be able to acknowledge the sterling service they offer and their undiminished enthusiasm. I acknowledge that MW Bro Dr Greg Levenston recently took part in the Variety Club Car Bash (as did our Grand Treasurer) to assist in raising over \$7.8 million across mainland Australia, for this very worthy cause,’ he said.

‘Perhaps this is a reminder for us to regularly check on our elderly and our widows. Let’s make sure that they are all comfortable, that they have new batteries in their smoke alarms, that they have clear access routes for emergencies, and let’s assure them that we genuinely care for their welfare and safety. Our masonic family deserves nothing less.

‘Can I thank you for your wonderful support of the annual Masonicare “One Brother to Another” Benevolence campaign, which was conducted through the month of July. The sale of the ribbons and a limited edition metal lapel pin was highly successful.

‘Of course, the Grand Lodge has already heard of the great success of the Grand Master’s Bushfire Appeal and the subsequent provision of thermal fire imaging units in very public ceremonies to various brigades by Masonicare.

‘We will also seek to expand our relationship with the actual volunteers of the RFS, the men who risk their lives to put out the fires. Many of these are already Freemasons, and how proud was I, as Grand Master, to see at the Tweed Heads Open Day, the Bilambill Fire Tender manned entirely by Freemasons. We are already as one in this area.

The Craft can assist these volunteers through ... raising funds to help provide these potentially life-saving items

‘We are aware that these volunteers need support with many smaller items of equipment not normally supplied by government, such as a hand held GPS, Eskys, special purpose hose lines, towlines and similar such items. The Craft can assist these volunteers through a lodge raising funds to help provide these potentially life-saving items. In this regard, I am pleased to advise that already, Lodge Nambucca has connected with their local Brigade; they are conducting a fundraising raffle, and both the Fire Service volunteers and the lodge members have combined to sell the tickets. This is great publicity for the Craft, and several expressions of interest have already been received for Craft membership.’

MW Bro Robson also announced the 2014 Grand Master’s Literary Prize winners were: First Prize – Bro David Gist, Lodge Capitol No 612; Second – Bro Nick Agafonoff, Lodge Blackheath No 370; and

Third – RW Bro Rabbi Raymond Apple PDGM, Lodge Mark Owen No 828. He thanked the 21 finalists for their contributions with all of the submitted essays to be gifted to the Grand Lodge Library for future reference.

Finally, he thanked all who had contributed to the management and workings of Grand Lodge over the past masonic year especially the dedication of both the volunteers and the small number within the Grand Secretariat.

The Board of Management reported on a number of initiatives, including the Young Masons Get Together organisation, the 5th Saturday of the Month club and a proposed biography in the *Freemason* of each relevant Chairman’s portfolio and intended goals. It further said the use of electronic devices in lodge meetings directive will be reviewed as there may be some misunderstanding of its meaning.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence recommended that Grand Lodge should reinstate recognition of the Grande Loge Nationale Francais following news that the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland and Scotland have already taken that action.

Agenda for the Grand Lodge December Quarterly Communication

The Quarterly Communication for Grand Lodge will be held at the Sydney Masonic Centre on Wednesday 10 December 2014.

- Included on the agenda will be:**
- > Grand Master’s Welcome
 - > Reports of the Executive Council, Board of Management, Grand Charity, College of Masonic Studies
 - > Conferral of Grand Rank
 - > Annual Financial Report to 30/6/14
 - > General Business



How is the world treating you?



At this time of the year when the spirit of Christmas abounds, we **look at our family, friends and neighbours** and wish them well.

The NSW *Freemason* also wishes its readers and contributors joy and happiness for the festive season but let's pause for a moment to reflect on today's world.

Today we live in a world of words. Whatever something happens to be, we have a word for it. Words such as love, happiness, success, achievement, joy, ability, mean a great deal to us. These words describe conditions all of us want. But there is one word which 'controls' all of them. That is, there is one word which describes a condition which will bring us all of these things, or keep us from getting any one of them. It has been called the most important word of all.

In our language, it is pronounced: ATTITUDE.

Once we are grown and on our own, this word actually controls our environment, our entire world.

You see, if our attitude towards the world is good, we will obtain good results. If it is excellent, we will obtain excellent results. But if it's bad, we will obtain bad results; if our attitude is just so-so, we will live in a world that is neither particularly bad nor particularly good, just so-so.

Now, if you're curious about what kind of an attitude you have, there is a simple test. Just answer this question with a 'yes' or 'no'.

'Do you feel the world is treating you well?'

If your answer is 'yes', your attitude is good. If your answer is 'no', your attitude is bad. And if you have trouble deciding, your attitude is probably just so-so.

'Do you feel the world is treating you well?'
If your answer is 'yes',
your attitude is good.
If your answer is 'no',
your attitude is bad.

To get to the point, our environment, which is another way of saying how the world treats us, is nothing more than a reflection of our own attitude.


One of the most pitiful aspects of society is the large percentage of people who lead dismal, narrow, darkened lives, crying out against what appears to be a cruel world which they believe has singled them out for an existence of trouble, misery and bad luck.

Anyone who finds himself in such a prison of discontent should face the fact that he has very probably built this prison with his own hands, and unless he changes, his prison cell will continue to grow smaller and darker.

The world doesn't care whether we change or not. Our attitude towards life affects us far more than the people with whom we come in contact.

It would be impossible even to estimate the number of jobs which have been lost, the number of promotions missed, the number of marriages ruined by poor attitude. But you can number in the millions the jobs which are held but hated, the marriages which are tolerated but unhappy, all because people are waiting for others or the world to change towards them – instead of being big enough and wise enough to realise that it is they who must change; that we only get out of life what we put in.

As it says in the Bible: 'As ye sow, so shall ye reap.'

To everyone, have 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



Christmas songs around the world

Carol singing at Christmas time has been **embraced by people of different cultures around the world** to create joy and happiness in the best and worst of times.

Without these carols, whether in the home or a 100-voice choir at church, Christmas would seem bare or like a table without pudding or gifts.

Over the years there have been changes to the carols we sing such as *Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer* and *Santa Claus Coming to Town* while others are unchanged from when they were written hundreds of years ago.

The very first carol, written in AD 129 didn't even mention Christmas. It was created by a Roman Bishop with the song called *Angel's Hymn* sung at a Christmas service in Rome.

It is believed several thousand years ago, pagans celebrated the winter solstice, traditionally the shortest day in Europe, by dancing and singing songs of joy around stone circles in Europe.

In those days the word 'carol' meant an old round dance accompanied by singing, but after the birth of Christ, early Christians took over and gave people Christian carols to sing. They were not really popular though because they were written and sung in Latin.

St Francis of Assisi changed everything in 1223 when he performed the first nativity play in Italy with actors telling the story in Italian. This practice spread throughout Europe with musicians singing carols based on the local language. Very little changed until 1647 when in England, Oliver Cromwell banned the singing of carols, but many people continued in secret.

Churches from the 1700s organised Christmas carols by the light of candles and the practice today has spread to large public services with Sydney's Carols in the Domain and Melbourne's Myer Bowl services attracting thousands of participants

as well as wide television coverage. In 1938, more than 10,000 people gathered for Melbourne's first Carols by Candlelight. The use of candles started in the 19th century when miners in South Australia sung carols with lit candles stuck to the brim of their hats.

Carols became a Christmas fixture when *O Come All Ye Faithful* was published in 1843, *Away in a Manger* in 1885 and *Silent Night* in 1889. The spirit of Christmas was amazingly reflected by the remarkable unofficial day of truce on 24 December 1914 during World War I when soldiers on both sides were brought together in Belgium by singing carols and exchanging gifts.

Composer Irving Berlin sat down in 1940 and wrote his memorable melody *White Christmas*, which became the biggest-selling Christmas song with sales of more than 50 million records. It took over from *Jingle Bells*, which was written and published by American James Pierpont in 1857. The original title was *One Horse Open Sleigh* but was changed to the modern title which gained further notoriety when on 16 December 1965 it became the first song broadcast from space from the American space ship Gemini 6.

Music has often been used for worthy causes and carols have frequently been sung in the streets, outside churches and by strolling groups to celebrate the festive season. In 1984 Bob Geldof and Midge Ure wrote the song *Do They Know It's Christmas* to raise money to help families affected by the famine in Ethiopia. The record sold millions of copies and became another example of how to raise money for a worthy cause.

Over past years, many modern songs have challenged carols as the sound of

Christmas but the established carols still hold pride of place in community singing. And that's why, in 100 years from now we will still be singing *Silent Night*, *Away in a Manger*, *Joy to the World*, *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* as well as *Jingle Bells*, *Rudolph* and *White Christmas*. Have a good, singing Christmas. 🎵





A path to light

Freemasonry is different. It is not the same as a bowls club, a church congregation or a trade union.

In the first place it relies on the shared experience of a series of ceremonies to bind its members together. It uses drama, metaphor and symbolism to impress the principles and teachings of the Order on the mind of each individual joining member. Simply passing each one a handbook, in matter-of-fact modern language would not be as meaningful.

The second point of difference is that Freemasonry is not only the most extensive fraternal and charitable organisation but it is genuinely interested in the personal development and education of its members. Every initiate is counselled to make a daily advancement in masonic knowledge.

Now look back over your masonic journey. Do you remember the initial excitement when you joined? Do you recall the satisfaction that you enjoyed when you were first clothed in your very own Master Mason's Apron?

The fact that you are reading this now confirms that you have stayed the course. You have remained faithful to yourself and to the Craft by making steady progress in your understanding of all that Freemasonry has to offer and no doubt you have developed a special affinity for one of its facets – ceremony, charity, fellowship, history, research etc.

But what of those other brethren who knocked at the door, entered and stayed only for a short while, those who had the experience but missed the meaning. Perhaps they needed encouragement and coaching. Did we not notice that they

became bored with the repetition of ceremonies with no additional explanation of the symbolism? Did we not make them aware of the history of Freemasonry, the stories of Freemasons who preceded us in our own country and on the world stage.

Why didn't we take more notice of those members? Didn't we miss them when they became absent? Extensive interviewing of past members in Victoria revealed that many left because they felt 'lost'. Structured masonic education programs are being used worldwide. Effective education programs enable members to become more involved in the work of the lodge and the fellowship becomes more enjoyable. In addition it enables each brother to competently explain to friends and relatives what Freemasonry is and what it has to offer to the individual and to the community. The reason why the general public is not aware of our role in providing care for the aged, in encouraging young people to further their education and in facilitating medical research, is that we have been too modest for our own good.

The path to improvement hinges on having an effective mentoring system. When mentoring is informal and masonic education is an afterthought, there can be no long term benefits. The United Grand Lodge of England has been very favourably impressed with the development of the mentoring scheme since it was first proposed in 2008.


In order to give further impetus to the scheme it is recommended that the Master of a lodge appoint a brother as lodge mentor.

The mentor should ensure that every new member and any brother within the lodge requiring mentoring, is allocated a personal mentor and that the work of the personal mentor so allocated is co-ordinated and organised. He should be able to provide guidance to the personal mentors on their responsibilities.

The Lodge Mentor will have two principal tasks. He will ensure that a mentor is assigned to each new member. He can be that mentor or he can select another brother who is well qualified to guide the new member. Mentoring is more than greeting the new member with a friendly handshake and a question to see if he is learning the answers required for advancement.

The Lodge Mentor will also ensure that the lodge provides masonic education on a regular basis in the form of talks and discussions.

Our clientele will be mostly from brethren who are familiar with the digital media. We will need to use tools with which they are familiar. We urge brethren who are able and interested in developing appropriate materials to come forward and make themselves known.

What is your lodge doing with regard to the mentoring of those new masons who have recently joined? 

Article first published in Freemasonry Tasmania.

Thank you, Your Excellency

Dame Marie Bashir AD, CVO, the **first female and the 37th Governor of NSW**, has stepped down from office **after 13 years and seven months** of untiring and outstanding service to the State.

She has received more than 70 awards and titles during this distinguished career and plans to continue her contributions to public life.

In that time, Dame Marie has made a number of visits to the NSW Masonic Centre and in June 2011 received the inaugural Cath Hammond Award presented for special individuals who demonstrate the utmost care and respect for their fellow humans.

'I am deeply moved and hoped to get through this moment without a tear in my eye but I have failed. I feel very humble,' said Dame Marie.

'This occasion makes me think specially of my parents, particularly of my late father Michael Bashir who was a devoted member of Lodge Leopold in Narrandera (NSW) in which he held a number of senior roles.

'He told me that what he loved about

Freemasonry was that it makes good men better. And it became part of my home life at Narrandera where I grew up. This presentation from what is seen as a men's organisation resounds deeply in my heart and mind because of my father and Freemasonry.'

And it was that country upbringing and a strong family life that Dame Marie credited for her ongoing interest and understanding of social issues.

Her father was a medical student in Beirut until he left for Australia where he married and raised a family, setting examples to the children of independence and concern for those in need.

After leaving Narrandera, Dame Marie attended Sydney Girls High School during the years of the Second World War where she first heard stories of hardship from fellow students who had come to Australia.

As Governor, she won the hearts of the




people with her caring attitude and being so easy to approach. A ready smile and a welcome which could have come from a family member or close friend was always a trademark of her ability to put people at ease.

She was forced into public action not long after taking office on 1 March 2001 when the Twin Towers tragedy occurred in New York, followed a year later with the Bali bombing with Australians among the victims both times.

Bushfires, floods and many other occurrences brought out the qualities of Dame Marie as she attended areas, consoled people in need and then returned to her formal role as Governor to make speeches and presentations.

Dame Marie, or professionally Professor Bashir (she is a psychiatrist), speaks on a wide variety of subjects including climate change, Australia as a monarchy, terrorism, corruption and work ethics.

She does not have any plans to rest quietly at home but intends to remain involved in social issues, especially mental health. As for her successor, General David Hurley, the only advice she offered was to listen to the people.

When she retired from public office on 1 October, a Vice-Regal Salute at Government House and farewell procession along Sydney's Macquarie Street marked her Excellency's final day in office. 



The Governor and Sir Nicholas Shehadie watch Prince William sign the guest book at Government House in Sydney.

Create a legend, become a legend

or make
one up!

In 1999 the story is told of a **Variety Bash driver who complained** to the event management. He had left Mt Isa on a dirt road and was heading toward Richmond at a somewhat excessive speed. He was seriously miffed because 200km out of Mt Isa **he was passed** by a Volvo 245 **driven by the tea ladies who had served him earlier** in 'The Isa'! His ego was shattered.

The Volvo 245 was probably one of the vehicles on this August's Brisbane to Busby's Bore Bash.

It's all for charity and the participants pay all their costs. Variety – the Children's Charity is a national not-for-profit organisation committed to empowering Australian children who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs to live, laugh and learn. By giving practical equipment, programs and experiences, Variety helps children in need to overcome whatever obstacles they face and live life to the fullest.

Simply put they HELP KIDS BE KIDS.

MW Bro Greg Levenston PGM, now known as Greg 'Gelignite' Levenston says that participants are expected to demonstrate a level of insanity. His Team, Car 162, raised \$63,000 for Variety and the 200 participants raised over \$7 million.


All for 10 days of stress-filled anxiety and 5,000 ks of motoring mayhem. But most of all for the satisfaction of a 'job well done'.



'Gelignite' reports that preparation is the key to success (and excess) on the Bash. The vehicles must be pre-1974 and must be basically unmodified. He was expecting to pay serious amounts to ensure that the car was reasonably road-worthy. He had not expected to have to buy a bright pink suit! He was also instructed to grow a beard or buy a suitable wig.

The Bash officials are proud of their thirty-year record of total corruptibility. The organisers stress that victory belongs to the most profligate spenders. Gelignite himself commented that the Variety Bash Management had a lot to teach our Grand Lodge. We assume that he was referring to Variety's ability to promote their cause and to take their message out to the remote parts of Australia.


The Bash participants' ability to enjoy themselves and not take themselves too seriously has much to recommend it.

Gelignite remarks that he enjoyed himself to such an extent that he will probably not be allowed to take part in future 'Bashes'. If this is true both the Craft and Variety will be the poorer. 

Editor's Note: There is a school of thought that considers that the Bash in 2015 should consist of retired tea ladies as drivers and retired drivers as tea ladies.

Parkes welcomes the WA Grand Master

The Grand Master of Western Australia, MW Bro Steven Jancec passed through District 91 in the Freemasons WA Bash car, on his way from Sydney to Perth after attending the National Variety Bash in Sydney (600 cars). The WA part of the Bash (27 cars) left Sydney for Orange through Cumnock, Baldry, Parkes Radio

Telescope, Parkes and Forbes for lunch, then on to Condobolin for the night. Masons from District 91 met and welcomed the WA Grand Master and his crew at the Parkes Radio Telescope where the WM of Lodge Parkes VW Bro Tim Keith gave the WA GM a donation for the Bash from Lodge Parkes. 





An AMAZON adventure

As Star Peru's flight 1181 made its approach to the airstrip of the **Peruvian frontier town, Puerto Maldonado**, we were afforded a birds' eye view of the rust coloured Tambopata and Madre de Dios rivers, the waters of which would eventually drain into the **Amazon river**.

After weeks of traveling in the Bolivian and Peruvian Andes following the Inca trail, often at an altitude exceeding 4,000 metres, my two friends and I decided that a visit to a lower altitude would be welcoming. The Amazon Basin of Madre de Dios looked interesting and challenging and at an average altitude of about 256 metres, appealing.

Puerto Maldonado, a city of an estimated 91,000 people (2012 estimate), which owes its existence to gold panning and forestry, is a gateway to the South West Amazon Basin and is the main town in the Peruvian State of Madre de Dios, so named after the river which flows through it. This State has extensive lowland rainforests and is regarded as having the highest biodiversity indices in the world. Much of it is relatively untouched by human habitation. In a State one third larger than the size of Tasmania, an estimated 71% of Madre de Dios's total population live in Puerto Maldonado.

We were met at the airport by our local indigenous guide who was to stay with us while we were in the rainforest. After a short stop to load stores for several days' stay we headed off to what was to be our home in the jungle. It turned out to be

thatched rooms on a cleared section of jungle on a hill – a perfect place to look over the seemingly unending miles of rainforest and observe the many species of birds going about their daily life. Unfortunately it was also home to particularly vicious mosquitoes.

Freddy, our guide, did not give us time to dwell on this and indicated that he would take us on a short walk to familiarise ourselves with the flora and fauna in this part of the world. As a former national park ranger Freddy was a font of knowledge and during our walk lasting several hours and covering a few kilometres, pointed out the wide variety of plants including walking palms with their stilt roots, coffee, cocoa, mangoes and the coca plants commercially grown elsewhere for the extraction of cocaine.

Every day in the jungle was a new adventure with many notable events to describe, but several stood out.

We were told early in our stay to be prepared to set out at 6am for a six kilometre walk through the rainforest to Loboyoc creek where we would take a small boat and search for caiman and other wildlife found in the jungle along the banks of the river. It was pouring with rain and as Freddy observed, 'We are in a rainforest after all'. Freddy produced gumboots and ponchos, handed them out and



we set off in steamy conditions with warm pouring rain beating down.

At first it was fairly easy walking but the track soon wound its way up and down hills, over swollen water courses and through dense vegetation and mud which seemed reluctant to let our boots go. We were soon to discover this six kilometre distance was a straight line distance and did not take into account the terrain. It was a relief, we thought, to reach the boat so we could sit down. Our relief was short lived. A short distance downstream a tree had fallen across the creek, so with Freddy hacking a path with his machete through the dense vegetation we were required to drag the boat overland around the fallen tree and back into the creek. No easy task considering that a few moments before we had just passed a caiman lurking in the undergrowth.

Another day we were required to start out at 5am to visit the salt licks along the bank of the Madre de Dios. Much of the fruit in the rainforest which the parrots eat contains toxins. This adversely affects the birds so twice a day they flock to the salt licks to obtain substances which neutralise the effect the toxins have on them. It was a quite spectacular sight with birds ranging in size from small parrots the size of our

lorikeets to the magnificent plumaged macaws all attempting to access the licks.

A visit to Sandoval Lake, an oxbow lake, a home of the elusive endangered giant river otters and black caimans was another experience not to be missed. To get there

Without light the jungle was ... so dark you literally could not see your hand in front of your face.

we had to walk five kilometres from the banks of the Madre de Dios river through jungle to again board a small canoe which we were required to paddle. No motor because of the presence of the giant otters which can grow up to two metres in length.

The diversity of vegetation around the lake, not least the 30 metre tall Maurita palms, was breathtaking as was the bird life. Monkeys foraged in the trees at the edge of the lake, tortoises balanced on

floating logs and the giant otters gambolled in the still waters of this vast lake while the caimans tried to hide at the lake's edge.

A night walk through the jungle was challenging. Setting out with torches and Freddy with his trusty machete, we hiked through the jungle, our destination a watering hole. Without light the jungle was dark, so dark you literally could not see your hand in front of your face. But in the darkness we were treated to a display by the brightly lit fireflies which rivalled that of fireworks. When we reached the water hole the eyes of the caiman shone like bright beacons in the light of our torches.

The sloth moving as though it was in a slow motion film, the tarantula hiding in the leaf litter along the path, the wonderful variety of bird life, the awe inspiring vegetation, the brightly coloured fungus clinging to fallen trees, the large numbers of different species (1250 reportedly) of butterflies which flew in our paths as we walked in the jungle, the slash and burn agriculture which brought high school geography to life and Freddy's expert knowledge of the rainforest combined to make our Amazon visit a real life adventure. 🗡️





Respect for religion



Respect is due to everything that is sacred. Let no compliance with the intemperate mirth of others ever betray us into profane sallies.

Besides the guilt which is thereby conferred, nothing gives a more odious appearance of petulance than the affectation of treating religion with levity. Instead of it being an evidence of superior understanding it discovers a pert and shallow mind which without the first smatherings of knowledge, presumes to make light of what mankind reveres.


We should not imagine that religion calls upon us to become more formal and solemn in our manner or to erect ourselves into supercilious reprovers of those around us.

The spirit of true religion gives us unaffected ease of behaviour. It is socially kind and cheerful; far removed from that gloomy superstition which sharpens the temper, dejects the spirit and fits men for another world by neglecting the concerns of this.

Let our religion prepare us for heaven with an honourable discharge of the duties of active life. Let it be associated in our imagination with all that is manly and useful and avoid making any unnecessary ostentation of such

Let those who sincerely wish to promote the cause of God beware of furnishing its

enemies with a plausible plea by exhibiting in their conduct and conversation any gloom, moroseness or austerity which has a direct tendency to alienate or disgust. We should be firm and steadfast but uniformly kind and courteous.

A good objective pursued in a bad temper or in a violent and indiscreet manner cannot advance the interests of religion. By ease, freedom and cheerfulness, under the control of a vigilant discretion, we can adorn and recommend the doctrine of God our Saviour and silence the clamour of those who disbelieve. 

By RW BRO REV PETER KILKEARY OAM

After the fires... rebuilding and hope



As I write this message, late in October, I have many reminders of **the fires which devastated parts of Springwood, Winmalee, Falconbridge and Mount Victoria** just 12 months ago.

I wrote about this devastation in June, we are now well on the path to recovery.

The aftermath of the fires has been a challenge for many in our community. After the painful task of rebuilding, in the face of stringent regulations aimed at reducing future fire damage, some are now back at their homes. Many are close to completing the rebuilding work, while others are still struggling to produce a plan which complies with new regulations. Some have just moved away to be safe from fires; others have moved because they could not afford to rebuild.

A week ago, services of thanksgiving were held in local churches to mark one year since the fires. On Father's Day, I attended a church service held in a local

school hall, which included two men speaking of the experience of losing a house to fire. In our local newspaper, one man is pictured with his family as they move into their rebuilt home.


The Blue Mountains remains a place of beauty and charm and by Christmas, most will have returned to their repaired or rebuilt homes. Those of us who escaped the fires continue to thank God for his mercy.

The September Freemason reported the presentation of thermal cameras funded by Masonicare to Valley Heights Bush Fire Brigade. Over morning tea one of the firefighters explained how the camera operated, detecting life and movement in a building invisible to normal sight because of thick smoke. I was proud

to attend as a Mason and gain understanding of Masonicare's work.

As Christmas approaches, we are reminded of help given to those in need. For Christians the birth of Jesus Christ speaks of God's love and care for people desperate to find hope. The life and death of Jesus assured the common people of his day that God cares about them.

We celebrate the coming of Christ each year on 25 December, mindful of what this means for us; and part of our response is to help others as we demonstrate in practical ways the love of God.

May your Christmas be a time of joy and thanksgiving as you contemplate God's love for us. I encourage you to take this opportunity to bring love and hope to others. 

History of the Maltese Cross

We're familiar with the Maltese Cross, but **how many know the history of this symbol** through which the Ambulance Service identifies itself as an organisation – or even why it wears this symbol on its uniforms?

To get answers, we need to go back to the eleventh century when the Sistine Chapel was a couple of hundred years away from being built (let alone painted by Michelangelo), rock art in Arnhem Land begins to depict a new musical instrument called the didgeridoo, and the 1066 Battle of Hastings is still a fresh memory for William the Conqueror.

Cross the globe some 3,500 kilometres, we now find ourselves in Jerusalem. The year is 1099 and two years previously, a host of crusaders left Western Europe to travel towards Constantinople (modern-day Istanbul) and then, on to Jerusalem. The month is June of this same year, and the crusaders have descended on Jerusalem. Amidst this tumultuous backdrop, a group of monks (called the 'Hospitallers'), based in Jerusalem, are treating ill pilgrims as they have done for centuries. Now the crusaders have descended, they will support the thousands who inevitably will require treatment.

These 'Knights of the Order of St John of Jerusalem' (as the monks were officially called) were required to go onto the battlefields and tend the sick and injured. They immediately realised two important points: Firstly, they would need to dress in armour from head to toe and secondly, they needed a symbol to show they were friend, not foe. In fact, their lives depended on it.

So they chose the 'Cross of Calvary' as the symbol of identification. Upon wearing this symbol, which accompanied them to the frontline in the name of first aid, the Knights 'received status that became the envy of kings, princes and princesses'. They were master mariners, builders, and navigators. They were the first firefighters

and the first paramedics – at least the first organised group. As a reward for their selflessness, the cross worn by these Knights was decorated and inscribed by their admirers and became known as the most honourable badge of acclaim that could adorn a uniform.

So how did this cross come to be known as the Maltese Cross? After the fall of Jerusalem in 1187, the Knights evolved to safeguard the perilous routes taken by medieval pilgrims and eventually came to Malta in 1530, where they stayed for 268 years.

The humanitarian deeds of the now 'Knights of Malta' continued throughout these two centuries, as they built numerous hospitals and healthcare facilities across the Mediterranean. Throughout this time, they continued to wear this symbol with

The Maltese Cross is an admirable symbol in support of an honourable vocation

pride, to publicly denote their real concern for the welfare of others.

Within this historical context, we can now place the Ambulance Service of NSW in the picture. Fast forward several hundred years to 1895 and a borrowed police station – located off a ramp near Central Station in the heart of Sydney – and the home of our first ambulance station.

These ambulances were horsedrawn and two permanent officers were on-call



The four arms traditionally represent: **Faith, Justice, Temperance and Fortitude.**

The eight points traditionally represent Chivalric values: **Observation, Tact, Resource, Dexterity, Sympathy, Perseverance, Discrimination and Explicitness.**

at any time to respond to medical emergencies across Sydney. During this period the 'Ambulance Bearers' (as they were then called) wore a red cross on their badge to signify their humanitarian role to others.

By the turn of the century we were fast evolving, and in 1920 the organisation reached a pivotal year in its history. The then NSW Ambulance Transport Service had its first board meeting on Monday 15 March of this same year, and two months later, on Wednesday 12 May at 8pm, the Board met to confirm the design through which we would continue to identify ourselves – the Maltese Cross.

The minutes of this historical meeting were typeset and bound into a hard-cover book, now consisting of some 500 faded pages. It is within these pages that the first design of the Maltese Cross is enclosed. And within these pages the original design still remains bold, vibrant and relevant; despite the passing of time since this pivotal meeting. The design has further evolved in the decades since the meeting, culminating in the symbol NSW paramedics wear today; the symbol which identifies us as an organisation.

The Maltese Cross is an admirable symbol in support of an honourable vocation; a vocation which (officially, at least) began close to 1,000 years ago.

This article originally appeared on the Ambulance Service of NSW website.



The story

VEGEMITE

CONCENTRATED YEAST EXTRACT

KRAFT



Melbourne-born **Fred Walker** is probably not well known in masonic circles but **his products are known Australia-wide** and overseas.

Walker, a merchant and industrialist, was born in January 1884, educated at Caulfield Grammar School and in 1899 joined the produce and export merchants J Bartram & Sons where he quickly acquired a knowledge of canning and refrigeration.

In January 1903, Fred Walker, just 19 years of age, travelled to Hong Kong where he began his own import and export business. He returned to Melbourne in 1908 to establish a local import and export business which concentrated primarily on food products. He began to can meat, butter, dripping and cheese which he branded 'Red Feather' and these products were successfully exported to Asia and South Africa.

Although prior to the First World War, Walker had served in the volunteer Australian Garrison Artillery and as a captain in the 13th Infantry Brigade, his canned foods, which were exported to England, were considered essential and Walker, as a consequence, did not join the AIF.

In 1918, Walker began manufacturing Bonox. It created the slogan 'coffee, tea or Bonox' and it was a favourite with a dash of rum. Walker extended his business to Sydney in 1918 and to Adelaide and New Zealand the following year.

World trade arrangements following the war left Walker's business floundering and he faced heavy financial losses. His foresight and flair for technology were not matched by his business skills and he became in debt for 80,000 pounds. Nevertheless, he convinced his bankers and creditors to support the formation of a new company, Fred Walker and Co, and with his creditors accepting debentures to the value of his debts and with a board of directors chaired by Sir Edwin Nixon, Walker, as managing director, set about re-building his business.

Walker realised that if business was to succeed, he would need professional help and in 1923, with the business still struggling, he decided to develop a yeast extract for retail sale. He then employed Cyril Callister to develop the product which Walker would market as Vegemite. But why Vegemite? The company executives could not decide on a name so they ran a competition. The public response was overwhelming and so Fred's daughter Sheila pulled the name out of a hat.

Yeast extract was known overseas but the process had to be developed in Australia from scratch which Callister successfully did in 1923 from brewers yeast and Vegemite was put on the market in early 1924 with the slogan 'put a rose in your cheeks'. Vegemite, which is one of the world's richest known sources of Vitamin B, was sold in small opal glass jars with what was known as a 'phoenix' seal to

keep the contents fresh, and tins of various sizes.

Sales of Vegemite, advertised as 'pure vegetable extract' were slow at first and cartons were returned to the factory from retail outlets. Minor changes were made to the product and sales improved. In 1928 Walker decided to change the name to Parwil, intended as a word play on the English product Marmite, but he quickly realised his error and Vegemite was re-introduced.

In 1933, Sisters at baby health centres across the nation were recommending vegemite for both nursing mothers and children. Adults also enjoyed the product and Vegemite has gone to war with Australian troops ever since. Australians now go through more than 24 million jars each year.

In the late 1930s, with the Depression behind them, Walker had traded himself out of his financial difficulties. In 1931, Callister, one of Australia's foremost food technologists, was awarded the Degree of Doctor of Science.

Walker became president of the Melbourne Rotary club in 1933-34, a generous benefactor of the Boy Scouts program for underprivileged children, a director of the YMCA, and the Fred Walker prize for postgraduate chemistry at the University of Melbourne commemorates his name. He died aged 51 in July 1935. Walker became a mason in Melbourne Austral Temple No 110, Victorian Constitution on 9 July 1919, passed 7 November 1919 and raised on 14 April 1920. He remained a lodge member until his death.



Awards for Young Achievers

As most of our readers know, **when hard times hit or disaster strikes**, selfless young men and women often make the difference by giving their **guidance, encouragement and much needed support** to those in need.

Volunteers spend their time offering friendship, hope and inspiration to the disadvantaged and those who need it most, which is why the Young Achievers Award was created.

The Award applauds our unsung heroes and acknowledges those young people who are passionate in putting the needs of others first.

The Sydney Masonic Conference Centre is honoured to be the official Event Partner for the Award while the Centre owners, the Freemasons of NSW & ACT are proud to be the patron for this year and also the presenters of the Community Service Award.

There will be seven categories for nomination with nominees aged between 12 and 28 years.

Winners of the Awards will be announced at the Gala Dinner Presentation at the SMC Conference Centre on Saturday, 21 March 2015.

Nominees must display high achievement and dedication to their local community, town, shire or region within NSW & ACT, present a positive image in their area and be a role model for the wider community.

'I must say how delighted and excited we are to have the opportunity to partner with the NSW/ACT Young Achievers Awards in search of outstanding achievement by young people across the State and

Territory,' said UGL Grand Secretary, RW Bro Kevin McGlenn.

'I'm sure we all know how important it is for our community to acknowledge and encourage our young men and women to pursue their goals and dreams. Through these Young Achievers Awards we can

highlight many of these young Australians and give them an opportunity to be recognised and thanked for their contributions.

'On behalf of the Freemasons, we are also particularly delighted to be involved as the sponsors for the Community Service Award. There are so many young workers who work so hard and this Award allows the community an opportunity to show its appreciation.

'Freemasons strongly

believe in offering all forms of support where it is most needed and these Awards will give the recognition they truly deserve but would not seek.'

The Young Achiever Awards have been operating for more than 22 years in South Australia, Northern Territory and Tasmania and have now been established in Victoria. The Awards will commence in NSW in 2015 and extend to Queensland and Western Australia by 2018.

Nominations for NSW & ACT close on 4 December and can be made directly online at www.awardsaustralia.com or phone 1300 735 445.

Freemasons strongly believe in offering all forms of support where it is most needed



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A palace of dreams

Few people ever get the chance **to have a dream and see that dream realised.** The magnificent **State Theatre in Sydney** stands as a monumental symphony of steel and stone to its creator **Stuart Frank Doyle** who travelled the world in search of novelties and ideas to incorporate into the structure.

Given an 'A' classification by the National Trust of Australia (NSW Division) and rated as one of the top 15 theatres in the world, the State is regarded as a building having great historical significance and high architectural quality.

The State was the last of the great movie palaces to be built in Sydney and amongst the last in Australia following the Great Depression of 1929. With today's 'throw away' world and emphasis on youth, giant clubs, casinos, resorts, more intimate theatres and electronic devices, it's unlikely the day of great luxury movie palaces will ever return.

Union Theatres, later to become the Greater Union Organisation, had erected and opened four huge theatres in three Australian States – The Capitol in Sydney, Ambassadors in Perth, the State in Melbourne and finally, the State Theatre in Sydney. There was no particular reason in choosing the name for the State but there

are Crowns throughout the building on walls, floors and ceilings as a tribute to royalty.

However, the lobby is an homage to King George V with displays of St George and the Dragon and on the ceiling is a miniature of the Henry VII chapel displayed in Westminster Abbey.

Opened on 7 June 1929, the State in Sydney has played host to millions of patrons. The new building had ten floors, shopping on top, a mini golf course and a newsreel theatre, a first in Australia with 237 seats, which ran until 1969. In 1934, the State Ballroom was created, the shopping experiment failed and the top was turned into office blocks. Builders ripped out ceilings and walls in the 1980s for the offices and they were put back when it was converted into a 96 room hotel after the company bought Gowings in 2009.

There was a lot of damage incurred when changes were made to the building but it has all been restored. The State was



Stuart Frank Doyle

scheduled to close in 1976 but the Builders Labourers Federation put a green ban on the move and the theatre was saved. At that time, there were 28 theatres in the city and only the State and the Capitol are left in their original condition.

Where do you start and what do you look at first when you take a tour of the State? Among your choices are the Gothic Entrance Hall, the Grand Assembly, the Royal Mezzanine, the Proscenium, the Empire Builders Room, the Pompadour, Butterfly and Pioneer Rooms, the Gallery of Australian Art, the Golden Dome and the Chandeliers.



There are three levels of seats, stalls, royal mezzanine (425 seats) and dress circle (950 seats) with an original capacity 2,600 seats which has been reduced to 2,034 after 500 were taken out to comply with fire and safety regulations. Royal Mezzanine was the preserve of the rich and famous and had curtains to keep out the noise. Downstairs were the cheap seats with no carpets where you 'got what you paid for'.

There are 50 metal decorated doors in the theatre entrance which at one stage were going to be melted down for their iron value and not preserved for artistic quality. The mezzanine had a public notice sign 'No standing or dancing on this level' because with a full house, the dress circle and mezzanine dropped 5mm. Fish tanks were installed on the mezzanine floor because at that time only wealthy people could afford a fish tank.

The mezzanine floor has a corridor with an art display and winners of competitions displayed included Dobell and others. Marble and plaster statues were in niches around the walls and cemented in. Many items of value are still there including an urn valued at \$130,000. In the 60s and 70s when it was thought the building was going to be demolished, people could take whatever furnishings and fittings

they wanted, some bringing screwdrivers to help remove items. One man was caught with a statue he had ripped from a wall.

The men's rooms are of heavy, dark timber with the women's lighter in colour. Smoking was allowed only in 1940 in most of the smoking rooms. For the men, it was called the Empire Room with logos of different Prime Ministers and the rooms were classic example of class division. The men also had a College Room, with 17 steep steps to the room and logos of Sydney colleges, but all have been stolen.

Ladies toilets were hidden. In those times it was considered embarrassing for a lady to be seen going to the toilet. Known as the Pompadour Room, it had only two small mirrors because in those days only loose women wore makeup. The Ladies Smoking room was popular but nearly everything has been stolen. Women also had the Butterfly Room which was decorated with replicas of butterflies – mirrors, lights, walls, ceiling and carpets. In 1980 a water leak revealed original butterfly paintings on the walls which had been painted over up to 14 times.

The State was the first theatre in Australia to have a sprinkler system and the first to be fully air conditioned. In earlier years, cooling was by blocks of ice with fans. The stage has a fire curtain which is metal, 2½ tons of steel and must be down when shows are not being staged.

In its hey-day, the State had a 30 piece orchestra for silent films, supplemented by a Wurlitzer organ. The organ was fitted with bells, whistles, xylophone, drums, all used by the organist who had to play




The main chandelier

appropriate sounds with the silent films. The State also had a Beauty Ballet who presented four shows a day and a weekly newsletter which wrote about coming attractions such as Gladys Moncrieff and Peter Dawson.

There are 14 chandeliers, 13 in the theatre Auditorium and Grand Assembly areas. The largest, the scintillating Koh-i-Nor, hanging from the centre of the Dome and weighing 3½ tons, is a replica of the great chandelier which hung in the Reception Hall of the Hapsburg Emperor in Vienna. It needed 14 people 1½ hours to lower and then raise the main chandelier by hand; now with an electric winch it takes just four people to do the same job.

Guide Stuart Greene, who has a marvellous knowledge of the theatre, conducts tours for groups of 10 or more Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday at 10am and 1pm with bookings at Ticketmaster.

There is so much more to be told about the State Theatre. Take the opportunity to visit Sydney's most historic and magnificent theatre and enter into the magical world of the Palace of Dreams. 



The Pioneer Room



About a bridge

A bridge is one of the noblest structures ever devised, being formed of the greatest architectural achievement, the arch. Its characteristics are wisdom, strength and beauty.

First, a bridge is undoubtedly a thing of beauty and symmetry, pleasing to the eye, and ever attractive to the artist and the photographer.

Next, a bridge must, by definition, be an example of strength. Not only does it have to support enormous weights, but it often has to cross deep, swift-flowing water which makes it necessary to sink the foundations right down through shifting mud and sand into the solid ground beneath.

Beauty then, and strength are here exhibited. But more than that, here is a supreme example of wisdom; for the most important and striking characteristic of a bridge is that it is built for the purpose of joining together two sides of a river. Almost every other kind of architectural structure is built for the purpose of dividing. Every wall is erected to divide the people or property on one side of it from the people and property of the other. Every house divides the space within from the space without. Even a church or a temple tends to divide the affairs of God from the affairs of man.

A bridge does none of these things. It is built for the sole and splendid purpose of

joining – of promoting communication between two sides which were previously unconnected. Could there be a more useful and worthy project?


Notice further that it does this without any inconvenience to the river itself. Beneath the bridge the tide continues to ebb and flow, and ships pass, unimpeded by the traffic on the bridge above.

Now, the wisdom, strength and beauty found in a bridge are also the three great qualities found in Freemasonry itself, whose nature it is to be a species of bridge, joining together just, upright and free men of different races, languages and creeds, who – in the words of our Ancient Charges – ‘must otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance’. Masonry has no desire to influence the affairs of the world; rather it rises above them, continuing to form strong lines of communication between men of goodwill, while the traffic of the world ebbs and flows unimpeded.

However there is one more bridge that we have not yet learnt to build – though we are beginning to make an attempt, and that is the bridge between those who

understand Freemasonry and those who don't. We find it difficult to communicate with people who seem to speak a totally different language and have somehow conceived a fear, a dislike, or even a hatred of Masonry. To change their minds will be a difficult task and will take time. But if we cannot yet build a complete bridge across the river of ignorant prejudice we can at least help by providing what one might call stepping-stones.

What we need at this moment is some clear and concise statements, brief and to the point – slogans if you like – to act as stepping-stones towards a full understanding.

The author of the above article did not know the answers, nor do I. Can you provide some inspirational thought on the question? What would you say to a detractor? What can you say to a detractor? 

The above article was an extract from Vol 76, No 2 of The Cabletow, a journal of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines.



Mining, Bushranging and Freemasonry

Our brother and author VW Bro Michael Noakes has done a wonderful job of bringing to life the heady and frantic days of exploration and exploitation of gold in NSW.

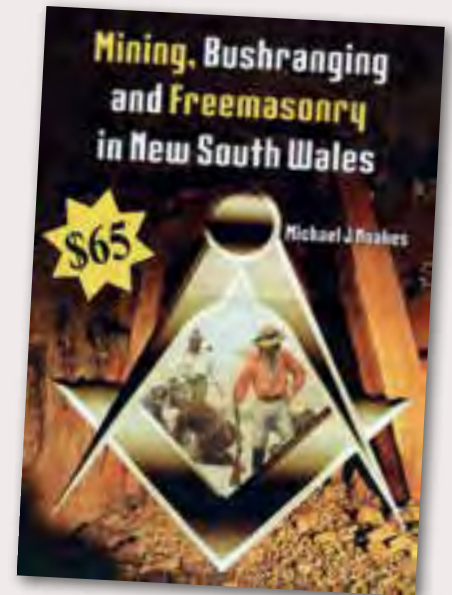
Michael is a metallurgical and environment engineer with 50 years experience in the gold industry and has visited or worked in many of the mines identified in the book. About forty original mining towns have been examined through the State, all of which have a masonic connection and the towns' mining and masonic histories are explored as the towns evolved from 'tent' cities to, in some instances, major cities.

Once a mining town had reached a point where it sought respectability signalled by the building of permanent structures and its 'gazetting', there would be the consecration of a masonic lodge and the

construction of a fine looking Masonic Hall or Temple that is today often listed by the National Trust.

He has interspersed his expert narrative of gold extraction techniques and how they evolved, with factual revelations of the effects on the local area. It is easy to read and understand although this reviewer was surprised at the percentages of gold which were recovered, quoted for the different methods.

Of course, where there is instant wealth there is always someone who wants to take it from you. It must be something to do with human nature and thus the bushrangers enter the scene. Michael



gives a fascinating and detailed account of these outlaws, almost all of whom had short but bloody lives.

Finally, the evolution of Freemasonry throughout these mining regions and through these times is described in a thorough and professional manner.

This is a very interesting read and a romp through the colonial history of NSW in the latter half of the 19th century. It is full of well selected drawings, diagrams and photos that brings the narrative to life and is highly recommended to anyone interested in any or all of the subjects: gold, bushranging, the history of Freemasonry and the evolution of many country towns.



Are you looking for an interesting book to give as a Christmas present?

The Grand Lodge Library has 92 different books which have been donated and are available for sale at a discounted price which you may find attractive. These books can be bought either as a personal purchase or for a gift or even a lodge raffle.

Among them are: *The Masonic Magician* (Faulks Cooper), *The All-Seeing Eye* (Lewis Masonic), *A Winter with Robert Burns* (John Marshall), *The Masonic Hospitals of NSW* (Grahame Cumming), *True Spirit* (Jessica Watson), *The Lost Symbol* (Dan Brown), *Beyond*

the Da Vinci Code (Sangeet Duchane), *The Rosslyn Hoax* (Robert Cooper) and *Turning the Hiram Key* (Robert Lomas).

The Grand Lodge Library is on the third floor of the NSW Masonic Centre and is open most days of the week but it is advisable to check before coming in by ringing 9284 2800.

Education and entertainment are important points to a better understanding and a more enjoyable lifestyle. Use your Grand Lodge Library to improve your knowledge and give satisfaction to others.

MINING, BUSHRANGING AND FREEMASONRY

Published: Ligare Pty Ltd, Riverwood, NSW

ISBN: 9780992281045

RRP: \$65 (inc GST)

Copies available from:

To order, phone 0411 606 306 or email mjnacons@gmail.com



From the Grand Secretary



Grand Master's Literary Prize

The Grand Master's Literary Prize for 2014 was another great success with the winners announced and all submissions acknowledged by the Grand Master, MW Bro Derek Robson at the September Communication.

The Judging Panel reported to the Grand Master that all competitors were to be congratulated, as they demonstrated genuinely held concerns for the well-being of the Craft with some entrants displaying a capacity to contribute to the management of Freemasonry in this jurisdiction and their skills and ideas should be harvested and put to good use.

It was therefore most pleasing that the Grand Master announced that the 'Literary Prize' competition will again be held in 2015 with entries to close Friday 17 April 2015 for essays of 2,000 words. The theme for this year will be 'LIVING FREEMASONRY'

There have been a number of guidelines for this competition which have been provided to Lodge Secretaries and made available in the Members' area of the UGL website as well as being distributed through e-communication. Prospective entrants should make themselves acquainted with these.

Of course, brethren who have submitted entries to previous competitions are invited to submit entries to the 'Living Freemasonry' competition as all entries are considered on the essay content itself and not the author.

Essays should provide constructive discussion on 'Living Freemasonry' and should positively contribute to the overall objectives of the Craft in this Jurisdiction of NSW & ACT. As in past competitions, 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.

Entries (which close 17 April 2015) should be sent to Grand Master's Literary Prize, The United Grand Lodge of NSW & ACT, PO Box A 259, SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235.

Approved Masonic Dress

The recent start to Daylight Saving meant a change to the 'Summer Dress' requirements for brethren of the NSW & ACT jurisdiction. Those who are not fully conversant with the Dress Regulations may view the 'Masonic Dress Booklet' which is available through the UGL website – Members' Area/Resources/Publications.

Nominations for various Offices in Grand Lodge

By now, most in the jurisdiction would be aware that nominations for various positions, including Grand Master, positions on the Board of Management and other positions are now open with closing times as notified and in accordance with the Constitution.

Brethren interested in applying for any position they feel qualified to fulfil are encouraged to give serious consideration to doing so.

Porch Committee Members

The response from brethren to volunteer as members of the Porch Committee was pleasing but more names are needed.

This is not an onerous task and requires attendance at Communications to assist in the admission of brethren into the Grand Lodge and to disburse any documentation that may need special care and attention – such as ballot papers as necessary.

To have a 'pool' of names from which to choose enables the work to be spread evenly so that the same brethren are not used on every occasion. In past years, the WMs and Wardens of lodges were invited to and became members of the Porch Committee and as these brethren progressed past these Offices, their successors were subsequently appointed to the committee.

Brethren who would like to help by becoming a member of the Porch Committee (required only at Quarterly Communications), should contact the Deputy Grand Secretary, RW Bro Chris Craven (02 9284 2800 or chris@masons.org.au) with details.

SA & NT Grand Installation in 2015

A gentle reminder that the Grand Installation of SA & NT will take place 17–19 April 2015 in Adelaide. This is a most enjoyable celebration and again the Grand Master would welcome support from the ladies and brethren of NSW & ACT. Event details will soon be available as will the Registration forms – so please note it in your diaries. 🗓️

CLOSURES

A reminder that the Sydney Masonic Centre and the Grand Secretariat will close at noon on Friday, 19 December and will re-open on Monday 5 January 2015.

Those Lodges meeting at the Sydney Masonic Centre are urged to confirm their room and catering requirements for December 2014 and January 2015 with Loren Schwartz at the SMC – 02 9284 2800.



Moving Forward



I remember the discussions **when I joined the Craft 20 years ago** about where our Order was headed. Considering this, I will focus on one aspect that is also the focus of many of Freemasonry's detractors, and illustrate how **changing some aspects of Freemasonry can change its entire character.**

In some respects, Freemasonry is very different 20 years later. There is far more openness now, and we are permitted to discuss most every aspect of our membership. But 'meeting-to-meeting' Freemasonry has actually changed very little. Allow me to play devil's advocate; are we changing the aspects that are easier to change, in lieu of considering those aspects that are truly outdated, but which will be much more difficult to address?

Now a question: why did you join? Forget everything you've experienced in the Craft, consider our Order as the outsider that you once were, and ask yourself that question.

I know why I did. I wanted to belong to the Order that had attracted some of the western world's greatest minds. I wanted to join something legendary; the organisation that elicited curiosity from outsiders, not bland indifference. And if anything, the secrecy made the Craft more attractive.

But is the traditional secrecy appropriate in the modern age? Personally, I have never believed that our secrecy is a liability. It is a characteristic that the community still associates with Freemasonry, and helps add to the Order's mystique. It is, to use the language of the marketing profession, a key feature of 'Brand Freemasonry'. And it could be articulated much more effectively.

My position on the secrecy is straightforward; of course we have secrets. It is a

symbol of how highly we value honour and virtue; it takes a man of honour to keep a secret. It is also a tribute to the Freemasons who have gone before us, who in intolerant times risked their lives and liberty to practice their Freemasonry. Consider also your own initiation. If you had known what was going to happen, would it have had the same impact? I doubt it.

Our secrecy continues to be criticized, and has given rise to all manner of outlandish assumptions. But would sacrificing our secrecy really counter them? Some believe the new openness will defuse the accusations and attract new members. I submit that any man who considers those accusations as reasonable is a man weak of mind and weak of character. Freemasonry was never meant for men like this.

Now a second question: did Freemasonry meet your expectations? This consideration will determine whether a Freemason is inactive within a year or two of his raising, a trend that should concern us.

This brings us to some 'tough love'.

Grand Lodge has a limited role to play in Freemasonry retaining its members. After all, no Grand Lodge can make masons. The public face of the Craft has changed because Grand Lodge has responded to calls for leadership. But Grand Lodge isn't responsible for the running of your lodge. Remember, those inactive Freemasons joined your lodge,

and they no longer attend because your lodge didn't meet their expectations. If your lodge is a place that Freemasons are joining and then avoiding, then your lodge needs to change, or your lodge needs to close.

If you want change, but are discouraged by the inevitable resistance, then identify some like-minded Freemasons, ask yourselves 'why did we join?', and draw up plans for your Dream Lodge. Keeping one eye on the Constitutions, you can make this new lodge the lodge you always wanted Freemasonry to be. This movement forward has revived the Craft in other jurisdictions. Traditional Observance Lodges, European Concept Lodges and other initiatives have been undertaken by Freemasons who were unfulfilled in their masonic experience.

We must always be mindful of the things that can change versus the things that make Freemasonry unique. Changing those key features will alter, possibly forever, the character of our Order. Moreover, if change is done for no other reason than to appease our detractors, the Freemasonry that we joined may steadily fade, and our detractors will have won.

This is a time of tremendous opportunity for our Order. We were great once. I believe we can be great again. Our Order, through its ecumenical approach to religion and its discretion in the face of intolerance, is one of the western world's greatest social achievements. Continue to nurture it, don't ever cheapen it, and never, ever apologise for it.

This is an abbreviated version of the winning entry for the Grand Master's Literary Award by W Bro David Gist of Lodge Capitol 612.

From the graveyard to the Grand Installation

The Sydney Town Hall has a long and rich history with **many tales to tell!**

Built on the site of an old cemetery from local Sydney sandstone in the grand Victorian Second Empire style, it has been described as having 'lavishly ornamented composition with focal tower and fanciful roofs.' It remains the only non-religious city building to retain its original function and interior for over 140 years. And it was, of course, the venue for many Grand Installations.

Located on the original site of the town hall, the Old Sydney Burial Ground was in use between 1792 and 1820. By the 1840s it was considered an eyesore and a community health hazard. Almost 50 years later, on 4 April 1868 Sydney's first royal visitor, HRH Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, laid the foundation stone of the Sydney Town Hall. But it wasn't until 1884, 16 years later, that the first stage of construction was completed.

The history of the construction and design of this iconic building is very complex. According to the Sydney Town Hall website it was '*interspersed with scandal, subterfuge, suicide and lengthy delays, and a roll call of architects, designers, engineers and builders whose associations with the project and with council were not always amicable or professional.*'

The clock tower was part of the first building stage and was completed in 1873 although the first stage lasted from 1868 until 1884. The second stage took another five years to complete and included the grand hall we know today. This second



...Sydney's first royal visitor, HRH Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, laid the foundation stone of the Sydney Town Hall.

stage was designed by the City Architect, Bro Thomas Sapsford and his assistant Bro John Hennessey. The Sydney Town Hall was officially opened exactly 125 ago



by the Mayor, Bro John Harris on 29 November 1889 in the presence of the Grand Master MW Bro Lord Carrington.

Projected to be a 'Temple of Democracy' where the people of Sydney could congregate and participate in a social and political life through a myriad of events, the Centennial Hall was the largest municipal hall in the world in 1889. The city was so proud of its successful completion, that a public holiday was declared to celebrate its opening.

During the construction, legend has it that the foreman of the works used one arm and one eye to calculate distances between points. He also used this system during the construction of the stone lions



Clockwise from above:
The domed ceiling,
Town Hall as it appeared in
the 1900s and Town Hall
during the Inauguration of
the Australian Common-
wealth in 1901.

Right: The Grand Organ.


Below: Town Hall as it
appears today.



which surround the Town Hall. On the side of the Town Hall facing St Andrew's Cathedral, if you look closely you can see the tribute to the foreman by the workmen who completed one of the lions with one eye closed – better known as the 'Blinking Lion.'

Soon after its inauguration it also became the preferred venue for Masonic Grand Installations when a new Grand Master is invested. This tradition continued for more than 100 years until 2005 when MW Bro Raymond Brooke was the last Grand Master installed in the 'Temple of Democracy.'

The building houses the Sydney City Council Chamber, reception rooms, the Centennial Hall and offices for the Lord Mayor and elected councillors. The Centennial Hall (main hall) contains the Sydney Town Hall Grand Organ, the world's largest pipe organ which was installed in 1890 by the English firm of William Hill & Son. Before the opening of the Sydney Opera House and its Concert Hall, the Town Hall was Sydney's premier concert hall and staged many notable performances.

Renovations were undertaken in 2008/9 primarily to upgrade the mechanical, hydraulic, electrical and communication services within the building. The renovations, completed by Sydney builder Kell & Rigby, included removing 6,000 cubic metres of sandstone from underneath the building. The Town Hall is listed on the Register of the National Estate and is part of the important Town Hall group of heritage-listed buildings, which also includes the Queen Victoria Building, St Andrew's Cathedral, the Gresham Hotel and the former Bank of New South Wales. 





Grand Master Proclaimed

'I am again honoured to be standing here tonight **ready to serve this wonderful jurisdiction** for a further masonic year. I look forward to serving it well.'

So said MW Bro Derek Robson AM when he was again proclaimed in September as the Grand Master of the UGL of NSW & ACT in front of visiting delegations, brethren, ladies and gentlemen in a simple but moving ceremony.

MW Bro Tony Lauer, PGM gave the Address to the Grand Master which was followed by the proclamation of the Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro James Melville and the Investiture of Grand Wardens and Grand Officers. All were suitably acknowledged with Grand Honours.

When investing RW Bro Peter Ratcliff as Senior Grand Warden, the Grand Master said it had been a great honour to travel the jurisdiction over the last two years in which they had covered enormous distances.

'I believe it has been of huge benefit and the Grand Masters of other jurisdictions have shown enormous respect. I also extend special thanks to Peter for the support of his wife Joan.

'Over the past twelve months I have been able to visit many lodges and Districts and spend time assisting in the resolution of various individual issues. We have set a cracking pace and ensured we have become better known and connected in our communities.

'Many civic leaders are in awe of what we have achieved and they have regularly commented on just how their communities have benefitted from the actions and well principled consideration of their area's Freemasons. There are many ways we might have helped a town. The fresh approach that a masonic building makeover and repaint

makes to the town's streetscape, the presence of masons in regalia at a civic sponsored event, the involvement of masons in local market and charitable functions, the regular attendance of masons at the sausage sizzles outside hardware outlets, the very respectful sight of masons at a graveside service to one of our own are just some examples. All of these bring attention to the strength of our purpose, our strong connection to all that is right and our practical and caring attitude at all times.

'As we commence this new masonic year, perhaps now is the time to step out

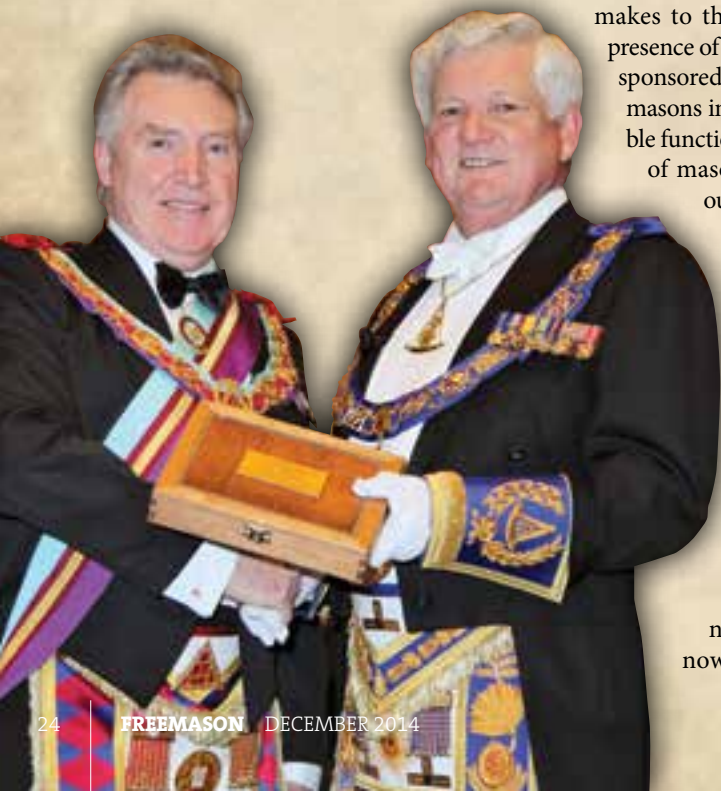


even further. As masons, we could be considering assisting our community through "Work for the Dole" activities, perhaps we could extend into Men's Shed activity where we could be pooling our numbers and gifting our experience and knowledge to the less qualified, and unemployed. We could provide individual tutoring to the less advantaged, providing home help and maintenance activities, perhaps working to provide Assistance Dogs for those with mental health and loneliness problems, and perhaps assisting through a community helpline or community radio outlet so that our life's experiences can be put to the test and used just one more time.

'With such a rich and experienced membership, there is much more we could do for our community. I hope that the Board of Management will examine some of these initiatives in the coming months.'

He said that over the past three years, he had been able to attend over 200 lodge meetings, and is convinced that together we have made a difference. Many visits to Regional areas have shown that, with renewed confidence and pride, we can resurrect the enthusiasm which has waned in recent times.

'There is no doubt from my recent visits to Taralga, Condobolin, Tamworth, Singleton, Byron Bay, Wingham and Tweed Heads, that, with an intention to create the difference, we can renew the interest in our regular meeting and activities.





'If ever you were in any doubt, I wish you could have accompanied me to Bourke just two weeks ago. To see an Installation be so proudly conducted inside a commercial club's premises, and then to see the local population so readily join with those masons at a 135th Anniversary Ball, where the Installation Banquet speeches were cleverly handled

**Many civic leaders
are in awe of what
we have achieved...**

in the band breaks, where so many non-masonic guests were exposed to our most important traditions, and where Freemasonry gained such enormous positive exposure, was an absolute joy.

'With Master Masons in nearly all positions in Lodge Central Australia, and now this massive interest from other males from the area, and even great interest and encouragement from their girlfriends, this lodge, meeting in Bourke, must have assured themselves of a bright future for at least the next twelve years. My congratulations go to the Mayor and Installing

Master, W Bro Andrew Lewis and also to RW Bro Neville Simpson, and the many others who contributed to this extraordinary event.

'Why wouldn't a Grand Master feel proud.

'I have thoroughly enjoyed being with you at civic functions, debutante balls, international nights, the regular remembrance and wreath-laying ceremonies, Masonic Jewel presentations, Grand Officer's Luncheon, Open Days, events supporting the Rural Fire Service and the regular casual dinner meetings associated with lodge Installations.

'May I, on your behalf, congratulate all those building owners who have made such a significant and positive difference to the image Freemasonry has portrayed in our communities in recent times. We are all very proud of the Tweed Heads renovations, the attention being given to facilities in Byron Bay, Wingham, Tamworth, Goulburn, Canberra, Moruya and Kensington.

'And as many other building owners are now also considering their options, we can only wonder what is in store for the Centre whose roof still leaks or whose membership does not seem to want to join this new wave of improvement to our image. Let us all join this new wave of interest and pride, speak to the Grand Treasurer about financial options available to you, or make yourself known to the

The Grand Ceremonial Team

Grand Master

MW Bro D J Robson AM

Deputy Grand Master

RW Bro J R Melville

Senior Grand Warden

RW Bro P M Ratcliff

Junior Grand Warden

RW Bro P A Howlett

Grand Director
of Ceremonies

RW Bro J J Begbie

Deputy Grand Director
of Ceremonies

VW Bro P L Miller

Assistant Grand Director
of Ceremonies

W Bro G W Singleton

Assistant Grand Director
of Ceremonies

W Bro D P Goonasekera

Senior Grand Deacon

VW Bro A C Owen

Junior Grand Deacon

W Bro G El-Chami

Grand Sword Bearer


W Bro S R Oliver

Grand Standard Bearer

W Bro L Reyes

Board of Management and actively participate in this renewal.'

The meeting closed with a special gift to the Grand Master by ME Companion Keenahan who spoke of times together and presented a book of seven lithographs to celebrate 125 years of Royal Arch Masonry. The lithographs range from 1889 to 1891 depicting masonic scenes from the period and form an important part of Freemasonry in the jurisdiction.

The Masonic Ensemble, under the direction of RW Bro Ian Cox and assisted by eight heralds, rendered appropriate music during the evening. 



Chairman's Christmas Message

As we quickly come to the end of 2014, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Brethren a joyous and peaceful Christmas.

I urge those who are travelling on the roads over the Christmas period to take extra care and be respectful of other motorists. Many people are unfamiliar with local road conditions and extra care needs to be taken.

It is the time of year when we give thanks for the gifts of family, friendship and love and I hope your holiday season is full of all of these things.

Hanging stockings, wrapping gifts and spending time with those we love is what Christmas is all about.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and hope that you are able to spend quality time with your family and friends over the Christmas holiday period.

RW Bro Andrew Fraser, MP, PDGM

MCO Booklet

Dear Brethren,

By mid-November, each Lodge Secretary will receive the new Masonicare Caring Officer Handbook.

This handbook contains important information such as the attributes a Masonicare Caring Officer should have, his duties, how to apply for a Benevolence Grant and many other aspects of the role requirements.

Please ensure one of these handbooks is presented to your Masonicare Caring Officer during your Lodge Installation.

InterAction Grants

Masons support palliative care ACT

Masonicare in conjunction with Lodge Perfect of Canberra has again given a significant donation towards the work of Palliative Care ACT. The association nurtures more than 100 volunteers from the local community who support people from the ACT and the designated surrounding area of NSW who have life limiting conditions, and their carers. Support is provided at the Clare Holland House (hospice), in the home and in ACT hospitals, and in two-day care hospices, one at Jamison and the other in Curtin in the ACT.

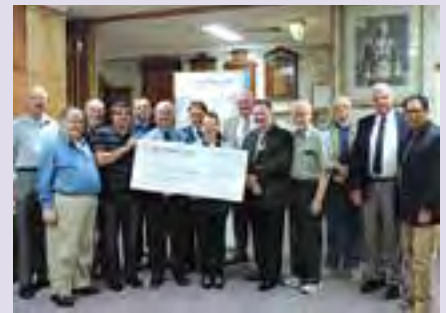
On 17 September 2014, VW Bro Peter Camilleri, DMR R10, for Masonicare presented a cheque for \$4,000 to John Hanks, President, PallCare ACT in the company of officers of Lodge Perfect of Canberra and Board members, staff and volunteers from the association. This cheque matched the amount that Lodge Perfect members had donated to PallCare during the previous 12 months. Lodge Perfect has supported the association in this way since 2004, complemented by a matching Masonicare Interaction grant since 2006.

The \$8,000 given by Freemasonry helps to fund the annual retreat for volunteers, where those attending 'always felt nourished with new knowledge and fantastic speakers; an artful balance of stimulation and time for reflection, companionship or solitude.' At the retreat, at the AGM and the

annual dinner of the association, and in the association's magazine, all concerned always gratefully acknowledge Masonicare, the generosity of freemasonry.

KU Starting Points

The Lady from KU Starting Points Lorraine Brown was overwhelmed with this donation made by Masonicare on Saturday 27th September.



Masonicare Charity Jewels

A new Masonicare Charity Jewels brochure will be sent out to Lodges Secretaries in the coming weeks.

If you would like to recognise someone in your Lodge for their contribution to the charitable aspects of Freemasonry, then one of these high quality 'jewels' would provide the ideal way in which to show how the Lodge values their constant dedication.

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



L-R: Peter and Ailsa Forster, John Hanks, Ros Hennessy, Penny Farnsworth (General Manager, PallCare), Graham Gliddon, Marg Sharp, David Clarkson, and Sue Bromhead (Manager of Volunteers, PallCare)

JEWEL	COST
1. The Life Merit Award	\$500.00
2. The Gold Appreciation Award	\$375.00
3. The Silver Appreciation Award	\$250.00
4. The Bronze Appreciation Award	\$125.00

Uni unveils clay tablets

It was a **few words in a welcoming speech** by Macquarie University's Vice Chancellor **Professor S Bruce Dowton** that caught the attention of **Lodge Kensington's Senior Warden, Bro Bill Payne OAM**, one of the attendees at the University's Thought Leadership event hosted by the Faculty of Business & Economics earlier this year.

Bro Payne had a long-standing interest in all things Sumerian. So when the Vice Chancellor made reference to his university's world first ground-breaking involvement with a newly developed digital unwrapping technique of 2,000 year old Sumerian clay tablets, Bro Payne was all ears.

The Vice Chancellor had described how the university's hospital used its Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) to see inside the sealed clay tablets. Bro Payne asked the professor if he could learn more about the technique and the Sumerian tablets held by Macquarie's Faculty of Ancient History. Arrangements were made with Dr Jaye McKenzie Clark of the Macquarie Uni, Ancient History Museum for Bro Payne to achieve a lifelong ambition.

However, the story didn't end there. Bill took his experience back to Lodge Kensington where he spoke about his visit to the lodge members with details of Macquarie's many ancient Sumerian tablets and how the university allowed him to handle them, but with gloved hands.

As we know, Freemasons have a long-standing and deep interest in ancient history especially around the time of King Solomon and his Temple. So when the members heard about such ancient artifacts predating that era, it wasn't long before Lodge Kensington's Freemasons were also attending the fascinating museum.

About 15 interested masons made special arrangements to attend a 19 August



'...it wasn't long before Lodge Kensington's Freemasons were also attending the fascinating museum.'

visit, hosted by Dr McKenzie-Clarke who had just returned from a highly successful archaeological dig in Carsulae, near Rome.

Dr McKenzie-Clarke welcomed the group, sat them down and proceeded to give a one hour presentation of information about the Sumerians civilisation, the ancient tablets and how the MRI investigation had provided a world first window into the Sumerian civilisation. Wearing white cotton gloves, everyone was invited to handle and closely inspect the ancient tablets, holding in their hands information created many thousands of years ago.

For those brethren interested in the new technique of cracking the Sumerian code, a video is available on You Tube which fully explains Macquarie's ground-breaking development: <http://youtu.be/KHOnhYCskd0>

A link to this video can also be found at the bottom of the first page of the Kensington Lodge website at www.kensingtonlodge.com

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A grand night for the Royal Arch



The Sydney Masonic Centre in September was privy to a major masonic event when **Rt Ex Companion Robert Peattie** was installed as **First Grand Principal and Grand Master of the United Supreme Grand Chapter of Mark and Royal Arch Masons** of NSW & ACT.

Most Ex Companion Ted Keenahan was the Installing Officer in a colourful ceremony to celebrate 125 years of Mark and Royal Arch Masonry in this jurisdiction before members and visitors from around Australia and overseas. The ceremony was followed by a banquet at State Parliament House.

Most Ex Comp Peattie, who had served as Deputy First Grand Principal and Deputy Grand Master, then outlined a number of plans for the coming year.

‘Today I stand before you with humility yet determination.

‘Humility in respect to the position I have been elected to and a strong feeling of responsibility because I am told it is the first time since the formation of the Union in 1980 that a GZ has been elected unopposed,’ he said.

‘I would like to acknowledge the presence of my fellow Novocastrians who have travelled from Newcastle to witness my Installation and I am particularly proud of the many Craft Masons who have come to support me.

‘Today I received a phone call from my brother, Warren who is absent because he suffers from motor neuron disease but his strength, humour and positive attitude is an inspiration to me. His determination is the yardstick by which I measure my own performance and inspires me to continue.

‘I have had the unique advantage of seeing the world of Freemasonry from both the Craft’s perspective when I was Deputy Grand Master and from our



Most Ex Companion Robert Peattie GZ

Order’s view whilst serving the equivalent Office for the past two years.

‘I come to this Office with no delusions as to the enormity of the task in front of us. The mountain is there for us to climb so I have chosen as my theme: ‘Honour the Past But Look to Our Future.’

‘We have a proud history but we cannot dwell on it. We cannot just sit in our Chapters and recall the good old days and how we would like to return to them – we must look to the past and learn from it

whilst at the same time looking ahead with enthusiasm to produce a positive history for our Order and secure its future.

‘The values I bring to the leadership are not only those instilled by my upbringing but those inspired by truly great masonic leaders whom I have either served or been associated with.

‘We have many of those leaders here with us. The Craft and the Chapter seated beside each other in unison, as it should be for the leaders of Pure Ancient Masonry.

‘I recall an account of the investigation of Lachlan Macquarie, a famous Freemason and Governor of NSW. He was discredited when Governor for building the obelisk, which still stands in Macquarie Place to this very day. The obelisk was, and still is, used to measure the distances for every destination from Sydney. The charge made against Brother Macquarie was that he got his priorities wrong in building a monument instead of governing the colony.

‘Those who rule and govern in Freemasonry are also regularly accused of trying to build monuments by their critics instead of getting their priorities right. It should be remembered however that a monument can also be a useful beacon to others.

‘We have a great objective in front of us. A light on the hill or an Obelisk.

‘We are the second largest Order of Freemasonry in this jurisdiction and also the joint custodians – along with the Craft, of those masonic degrees which form Pure



First Grand Principal with the Grand Master and Past Grand Masters

Ancient Masonry. As such we have a great responsibility to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Craft to ensure the future of Pure Ancient Masonry for those who WILL come after us.

‘I do not propose to build monuments but I do intend to put in place foundation stones upon which every member of this Order may labour to build a truly great monument called Mark and Royal Arch Masonry or United Supreme Grand Chapter.

‘Under Most Ex Comp Keenahan we have enjoyed a neutral or small growth in membership in the past few years. Overall we have had a positive growth in numbers.

‘I don’t believe it is enough to ensure a sustainable future for this Order in its present or similar form. We have a foundation stone set for us – now we must build upon it.

‘Also, I do not believe the Grand Chapter is to be solely responsible for a Chapter’s membership. The responsibility must rest always with the Chapter and its members to do what the original

stonemasons adopted – look to the welfare of their members, to provide them with an environment where they wish to stay and work BUT this Grand Chapter should only provide the tools, support and encouragement to assist the Chapters to obtain, regain and retain members.

‘No one should be asked to do a job unless they have the right tools so I have established three Special Task Forces to improve those areas essential to our Order in the field of membership.

‘The first group will be mentored by Rt Ex Comp Brian Johnson, President of Supreme Committee. Their task will be to study successful Chapters, to distill new ideas and initiatives and advise what tools to use for the Companion of the future.

‘Coupled to this and to ensure communication with Companions remains open, I have appointed a Communication and IT Committee drawn from Companions with necessary communication skills. Their task will be to ensure members are aware of what is happening at Grand Chapter and also within their own Districts and Area.

‘Masonic education is in my belief

crucial and I have created a Special Task Force for Education and Development to be mentored by the Vice President of Supreme Committee, V Ex Comp Michael Freeman-Robinson.

‘Their particular task will be to liaise with and be the link with the Communications Committee.

‘We have an extensive and detailed number of discussion papers at all levels available to our members. Combining these measures will result in better communication within and without the Order.

‘I have also invested two new Grand Officers. They are Grand Historian Rt Ex Comp John Davison who will ensure our history is preserved and made available to Chapters, and a Grand Superintendent of Buildings Office which will be occupied by Very Ex Comp Jeff Stone who will look to building maintenance.

‘I cannot guarantee I will be right in every decision I make but if I get it wrong I will learn and not repeat the error. You may be assured that I will give our Order my total commitment.’



A new start for Twin Towns

When **one of our members nearly went through the wall** of the Twin Towns Masonic Centre at Tweed Heads in November 2011, it was apparent something needed to be done or the brethren would be meeting in a local park.

Lodge Tweed United from Murwillumbah had sold their building and relocated to the Twin Towns Masonic Centre for similar reasons; there were growing numbers using the Centre, the brethren had worked very hard to locally promote Freemasonry but it was plain to see their efforts were being hindered by the poor presentation of the building which now housed over 150 masons and 11 different orders.

A committee was formed and plans were drawn for a building that would showcase Freemasonry to the community.

With assistance from Murwillumbah and Bangalow Masonic Centre Committees, the finances were in place, plans submitted to Grand Lodge but to meet the projected upkeep of the building it was decided the downstairs needed to be set up properly as a community function centre to earn an income and allow the building to sustain itself.

Region 1 Building Officer RW Bro Graham Moon assisted in the initial process by helping us meet all GL requirements and the finished product speaks for itself.

By February 2014, just over two years after the initial plans were drawn, a builder was employed, work soon began and it took just on six months for the renovations to be completed.

A Grand Opening was planned for 2 August 2014 and the local brethren got behind a plan to raise \$5,000 for the Rural Fire Service by selling raffle tickets at local shopping centres raising the money in just over three weeks.

Masonicare matched the donation and the Grand Master, MW Bro Derek Robson presented Superintendent David Cook of




the Northern Districts RFS with the cheque for \$10,000 after officially declaring the Open Day.

The Rural Fire Service displayed their fire trucks and over 300 people from the local community were taken on a guided tour of the building where all Masonic Orders were proudly on display.

The Grand Treasurer RW Bro Richard Collins gave a special presentation in which he put to rest a number of 'myths associated with the operation of Grand Lodge and the day was capped off when almost 100 people attended a banquet at the Tweed Heads Bowls Club including visitors from the NSW Central Coast, Coffs Harbour, Tamworth and Queensland.

Chairman Les Hicks of the Twin Towns Masonic Centre Inc said the Board would like to thank everyone involved for their



great assistance and support in making it all possible and enabling members to showcase Freemasonry in a most positive manner to the local community. 



Changing of the guard

RW Bro Ross McAlpine PJGW was elected President for 2014/15 at the Annual General Meeting of the **Freemasons Association (NSW & ACT)** on 14 October 2014.

Bro McAlpine was elected to the Committee of Management in 2012 and served as Vice President from 2012 to 2014. A Freemason of 56 years, he was appointed as District Grand Inspector or Workings in 2008/2010 and served as the Regional Secretary of Region 2 for two years. Ross is the secretary of Lodge Thespian No 256 and has served that office for 40 years. Although retired, Bro McAlpine has been engaged as a consultant on several government committees associated with the shipping industry.

In accepting his election as President, RW Bro McAlpine thanked the meeting for the honour and said he would endeavour to meet the high standards of his predecessors. He also paid tribute to members of the retiring Committee and congratulated those elected for the current term.


The outgoing President, Yvonne McIntyre PhD, JP, did not stand for election due to poor health. Yvonne joined the Association in 2008 following changes to the Constitution to allow women to become members and was elected to the

Committee of Management in the same year. During her six years on the Committee, Yvonne held the positions of Registrar, Membership Officer and Vice President. She was elected President in 2012 and is the first woman to hold that position since the formation of the Association in 1908. During her time on the Committee, Dr McIntyre either initiated or was actively involved in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Association and the United Grand Lodge; the Incorporation of the Association; the formation of the Masonic Widows Advisory Committee; the Masonic Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Martin Place Cenotaph; participation in the Battle for Australia and Boer War Commemorative Services; organisation of the Remembrance Day Service and Dinner at the Sydney Masonic Centre and the provision of two Memorial Plaques commemorating the sacrifice of members of the Masonic family, ladies and brethren, in the service of the Australian Armed Forces. The Plaques were unveiled by



Outgoing President, Dr Yvonne McIntyre was the first woman to hold the position, and is an invaluable member of the Freemasons Association

Dr McIntyre at the Sydney Masonic Centre on 7 October 2014.

Also standing down were RW Bro Manny Maniago, PAGM and Mrs Remy Maniago. RW Bro Maniago served as Association President in 2011/12 and remained a member of the Committee. Mrs Maniago was elected to the Committee in 2011 and was actively involved in organisation of the annual Association's Children's Christmas Party. Although standing down from the committee for the current term, Manny and Remy have volunteered to organise the 2014 Children's Christmas Party at the Orchard Hills Masonic Centre on Sunday 30 November. 

The meeting also resulted in changes to the Association's Committee of Management which now comprises:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| • <i>Vice President</i> | RW Bro Rev Dr Jack Hely CBE, PAGM, Grand Chaplain |
| • <i>Vice President</i> | VW Bro Alex Ebert DGT |
| • <i>Secretary/Public Officer</i> | RW Bro Alan Farrell PDGM, CMH, PCBM |
| • <i>Treasurer</i> | VW Bro Alex Ebert DGT |
| • <i>Committee – Social Secretary</i> | Mrs Pam Miller |
| • <i>Committee – Social Committee</i> | RW Bro Dee Donovan OAM, PSGW |
| • <i>Committee – Membership</i> | RW Bro Milton Wearing PJGW |
| • <i>Committee/Web Master</i> | W Bro Robbie Pesiwarissa PGT |

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FRAUD



are you at risk?

With Christmas just around the corner and **the ever increasing threat of identity and credit card theft**, the Freemasons' Association was fortunate to have **Detective Senior Constable Adam Marsden from the Australian Federal Police**, Fraud and Anti-Corruption Squad as the guest speaker at the Association's October Lunch meeting at the Sydney Masonic Centre.

The address titled '*Fraud, Protect Yourself*' gave timely information on how to guard against attempts by criminals to steal your identity and credit card details.

These are the main points of Constable Marsden's talk with additional information from the Australian Federal Police web site.

According to the Australian Federal Police, identity crime is a critical threat to the Australian community generating significant profits for offenders and causing considerable financial losses to the Australian Government, private industry and individuals. Recent estimates by the Attorney-General's Department, indicate that identity crime costs Australia in excess of \$1.6 billion each year with about \$900 million lost by individuals through credit card fraud, identity theft and scams.

The term identity includes the identity of natural persons (living or deceased) and the identity of bodies corporate. Identity crime covers the creation of a fictitious identity; the alteration of one's own identity; the theft of another person's identity for the purpose of committing a crime.

Statistics indicate that victims of identity theft may be male or female, aged between 25 and 54, married, have a job with income of between \$1,500 and \$2,000 per week and with a higher education such as a Diploma or Degree. It was disturbing to hear that 44% of victims of identity theft did not know that they were victims; 28%

occurred in person; 10% occurred over the internet or by email and 18% by other circumstances such as the theft from letter boxes or household waste.

You may become a victim of identity theft if:

- you have lost or had stolen important documents such as your passport or driving licence
- mail expected from your bank has not arrived or you are receiving no post at all.

You may already be a victim of identity theft if:

- items have appeared on your bank or credit card statements that you don't recognise
- you applied for a government benefit but are told that you are already claiming
- you receive bills, invoices or receipts addressed to you for goods or services you haven't asked for
- you have been refused a financial service, such as a credit card or a loan, despite having a good credit history
- a mobile phone contract has been set up in your name without your knowledge
- you have received letters from solicitors or debt collectors for debts that aren't yours.

Identity and credit card thieves are constantly on the look-out for such things as banking records, superannuation statements, insurance documents, business documents, bank cards and any other forms of identification. Once they have the information they need they can:

- apply for a credit card in your name

- open a bank or building society account in your name
- apply for other financial services in your name
- run up debts (e.g. use your credit/debit card details to make purchase) or obtain a loan in your name
- apply for any benefits in your name (e.g. housing benefit, new tax credits, income support, job seeker's allowance, child benefit)
- apply for a driving licence in your name
- register a vehicle in your name
- apply for a job/employment in your name
- apply for a passport in your name
- apply for a mobile phone contract in your name.

The Australian Federal Police recommend the following steps as protection against the risk of having your personal information stolen or misused:

- secure your mail box with a lock and make sure mail is cleared regularly
- Arrange for a trusted person to clear your mail if you are away from home
- Re-direct your mail to a post office box.
- shred or destroy your personal and financial papers before you throw them away, or keep them in a secure place if you wish to retain them
- always cover the keypad at ATMs or on EFTPOS terminals when entering your PIN, and be aware of your surroundings— is anyone trying to observe or watch you, are there any

strange or loose fixtures attached to the machine or terminal?

- ensure that the virus and security software on your computers and mobile devices is up-to-date and current
- don't use public computers (for instance, at an internet café), or unsecured wireless 'hotspots', to do your internet banking or payments
- be cautious who you provide personal and financial information to—ensure there is a legitimate reason to supply your details. Don't be reluctant to ask who will have access to your information and which third parties it may be supplied or sold to. Ask to see a copy of the Privacy Policy of the business before you supply your details
- only use trusted online payment websites for items won at online auctions or purchased online. Never make payments outside trusted systems—particularly for goods which you have not yet received
- regularly review your bank statements and obtain a copy of your credit history report. Report any unauthorised transactions or entries ASAP
- ask your bank or financial institution for a credit or debit card with an

embedded 'micro-chip'—they are more secure than cards with only magnetic stripes

- don't respond to scam emails or letters promising huge rewards if bank account details are supplied, or in return for the payment of 'release fees' or 'legal fees'
- if responding to an online employment or rental advertisement, be wary of transmitting personal information and copies of documents via email or electronically. If asked to attend an interview, do some prior research to confirm the legitimacy of the company or employment agency
- in relation to social networking sites, always use the most secure settings. Take extreme care if placing personal details such as date of birth, address, phone contacts or educational details on your profile, and don't accept unsolicited 'friend' requests
- for other useful tips, refer to the 'Protecting Your Identity booklet – What Everyone Needs to Know (PDF, 700KB)', published by the Attorney-General's Department.
- take the online identity crime survey to see how secure your identity is.

Anyone with a computer will have at some time or other been the subject to on-line fraud, scams and data collection. As with identity theft, there are some simple steps that can be taken to minimise the risks. These include not responding to emails requesting your PIN, password or log-in details; deleting suspicious emails and links; regular updating of computer security, anti-virus and spy-ware; avoiding the use of public computers to access banking or personal information.

In moving a Vote of Thanks to Constable Marsden, President RW Bro Ross McAlpine, said the Association was most appreciative for the information

Further Information

Information about new methods of identity crime and emerging scams can be found at SCAMWatch — a website run by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. The Attorney-General's Department website also contains useful information about securing your identity. Other websites containing information on identity crime include:

- Attorney-General's Department
- Australian Bureau of Statistics
- Australian Payments Clearing Association
- The Australian Federal Police website
- iDcare
- SCAMwatch
- Stop ID Fraud

provided and the manner in which it was presented. He added the Association normally presented a tie and cuff links to its male Guest Speakers but on this occasion, a donation of \$300 will be made to the Police Citizens Boys Club.

Detective Senior Constable Marsden has experience in investigating identity fraud, corruption matters, fraud offences and money laundering offences. As well as working in Sydney, he has spent time in Canberra, working from the Belconnen Detectives office on cases involving attempted murder, assaults, and sexual assaults.

A highly qualified member of the Australian Federal Police, Constable Marsden has completed a Diploma of Fraud Management, a Bachelor of Policing (Investigations), and is presently studying a Master's Degree in Fraud and Financial Crime through Charles Sturt University. He is currently conducting research into geographical profiling of fraud offenders and offences to enable Australian police to locate offenders by the offences they commit.





Honouring the fallen

November is a time when Australians **give a special thought** to its military personnel who **fought and died in war** and by whose actions we enjoy life in the so called 'lucky country'.

The Freemasons' Association has in recent years, actively participated in commemorative services which honour the fallen, including the ANZAC Day Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Cenotaph and the Battle for Australia and Boer War Commemorative Services. The Association also conducts an annual Remembrance Day Service and Dinner at the Sydney Masonic Centre.

In 2011, the Association received approval from the United Grand Lodge to have a Memorial Plaque commemorating women of the Masonic family who died as a result of military service for Australia, installed in the Memorial area of the Sydney Masonic Centre. The installation was deferred due to proposed alterations to the Memorial area. The Plaque was subsequently unveiled by the Association's Vice President, Captain Yvonne McIntyre PhD, 2RAANC (Vietnam) Ret'd, on 11 November 2011 using a temporary stand. The Plaque has been held by the Association pending the allocation of a permanent place in the Masonic Centre.

In 2013, approval was received for the Association to provide a second Plaque to




'These Walls enshrine our memories of the Brethren who fought and died in war that we might live in peace.'

replicate the wording *'These Walls enshrine our memories of the Brethren who fought and died in war that we might live in peace.'*

The wording had been removed from the Memorial Wall on the first floor of the Masonic Centre in 2012 and replaced by a Memorial to 'All' who died in war. The Masonic Centre was dedicated as a Memorial to Brethren on 5 March 1979 by Sir Colin Hines, OBE, at that time President of the Returned Services League of Australia (NSW Branch).

Both Plaques have now been installed in the Memorial Area, 3rd floor, Sydney Masonic Centre and were unveiled on 7 October 2014 in a simple but dignified ceremony by the then President of the Freemasons' Association, Yvonne McIntyre PhD, JP.

The unveiling ceremony was attended by members of the Masonic family and representatives of military Associations including the Vietnam Peacekeepers Association, the Women's Australian Army Corp and the President's former unit, the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corp. The President placed a floral wreath at the base of the Plaques and RW Bro Maj Gen RJ Sharp, AM, RFD, ED, PDGM recited the Ode to the Fallen. Light refreshments were served following the ceremony. 





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Meet Siyan

The Sydney Olympic Games in 2000 were the start of successful careers for many athletes and were also the major influence on **the newest member of the Grand Lodge staff.**

Siyán Wang, who is the assistant accountant, watched the Games on television and thought to herself that Australia looked a good country in which to live.

In addition, she had a good friend who had studied in Australia and gave regular reports which further influenced her decision to leave China and venture to a new country. It was a difficult decision as an only child to leave her parents and travel.

'I've been in Australia for six years now and the desire for travel is still there. Over the years, I've been to most of the Asian countries except Japan, which is top of my list. It has so many goods to choose from and I would like to see Mt Fuji, the temples and flowers,' she said.

'Although we are different from each other, there is a sharing of culture which is why I want to visit.'

Siyan had offers from two Australian universities to study accountancy although her first love in China was journalism for which she attained a University Bachelor of Journalism Degree. She also rejected a journalism offer from a television station because she really wanted to go to Australia.

She studied for two years each at the University of Western Sydney and Ballarat's Federation University after earlier receiving offers to study at Monash (Melbourne) and Macquarie (Sydney).

'I wanted to study accountancy because I love numbers. I filled in an administrative role at Grand Lodge while a staff member was away and management saw my work and offered a full time position,' she said.

'I go to the gym every day, like yoga and swimming but I'm not into the more



physical activities. This environment is so nice, the people are great but best of all, my English is improving. I never imagined I could talk to people as I do now.

'It was a terrible feeling when I arrived in Australia because I had nobody. I felt like a child growing up but I am no longer a teenager or child and now have lots of friends. It has helped me grow up.' 🏠

A Powerful Legacy

Over the past year, staff, members and beneficiaries of **A Start in Life** have been humbled and inspired by the **benevolence of the Freemasons who have donated or left generous gifts to the charity in their passing.**

A Start in Life's CEO, Neil Robinson, acknowledged that such bequests are of significant benefit to the charity, which has for over 90 years supported the education of more than 6,000 disadvantaged young Australians.

'So-called 'mega-charities' with their large marketing budgets and teams are making it increasingly tough for smaller good causes like ours to contend. This is why we are especially grateful for these bequests,' he said.

Formerly known as the Masonic Youth

Welfare Fund of NSW & ACT, the busy charity is currently committed to extending its support to students to beyond just educational essentials; an undertaking aided by the recent bequests and donations from the Masonic fraternity.

'Providing opportunities for disadvantaged students to access all aspects of a well-rounded education, as equals to their peers, is paramount to helping them reach their potential,' said Mr Robinson.

'When you factor in the costs of extra-curricular activities, school camps,



access to technology and after-school tuition in areas of underperformance, then we are looking at upwards of \$5,000 per year, which struggling families simply cannot afford,' he added.

A Start in Life values the longstanding support of the Freemasons, which has been instrumental to assisting young Australians in need and which will continue to make their futures brighter. 🏠



Have your say



Where is Greenway?

Whilst appreciating the article concerning Francis Greenway in the September issue was essentially about our Masonic Apron, the historian in me could not allow the misinformation regarding his burial site to pass unchallenged.

Even Maitland City Council, who to a large degree is the main perpetrator of this myth, concedes that his burial in the 'Old St Peter's Burial Ground' is at best, only a possibility.

Numerous studies have been conducted by eminent scholars and to my knowledge, all agree that the only evidence concerning Greenway's death is the singular entry appearing in St Peter's Burial Register on 25 September, 1837, duly completed by the Parish Clerk, Nathaniel Goldingham. Goldingham's involvement was due to the absence of the Rector, Rev George Keylock Rusden MA, the Parish of East Maitland at this time extending into the upper valley beyond today's Murrurundi.

The burial ground was marked out, cleared and fenced in 1829. By 1832, however, it had fallen into an overgrown state of neglect and the catechist, Lieut Wood, complained to the Archdeacon (Broughton) that, 'there being no sexton, any persons having a corpse to inter placed it where and in any direction they pleased' (J Waddell, 1996). Even deceased Roman Catholics

made their way, informally, into the burial ground. The subsoil was so hard that the graves were scarcely more than two feet deep, 'attracting native dogs to the spot & causing a noxious effluvia (sic) to passengers on the road' (Rev. CPN Wilton, April, 1832). A sexton was duly appointed in May, 1832. The earliest gravestone in the cemetery dates from 1828, the burial having been moved there from across Wallis Creek at Lochend in 1835. The headstone of Andrew Sparke marks the first identified original burial in November, 1830.

The Parish of Maitland, today's East Maitland, was established in 1834 and with it came the niceties and organisation associated with the established church. As noted above, a sexton was appointed in 1832 and generally, internments in the St Peter's Burial Ground were ordered and recorded from that point on.

We often forget today that in earlier times, burial invariably took place as soon as practical after death. Greenway's death to typhoid, a not insignificant circumstance, determined that his internment would have been as soon as practically possible, due to the infectious cause.

Howard Farm (the Greenway property), and reputedly the place of Greenway's death, is situated on the Hunter River, some 17 kilometres east of East Maitland. In 1837 there were 7 unbridged creeks that would have needed to be crossed and the method used to transport a corpse

would undoubtedly have been a bullock drawn dray. The time needed to transport Greenway's corpse would have been at least a day, a day with his body in the full sun having died of a most infectious disease!

As an undergraduate at Newcastle University in the mid 1960s I, with a group of others, concluded that Greenway was probably interred on his property at Upper Hexham (Tarro), acknowledging that our research was inconclusive. Whilst there was some anecdotal evidence to support a burial ground on Howard Farm, this too remains unproven.

Unfortunately, myth, left unchallenged becomes fact. Francis Greenway's final resting place is unknown and unless new evidence is discovered, will remain so.

RW Bro Kevin Short PAGM
Wallis Plains No 4

St Peter's Anglican Church East Maitland
Researcher, Maitland and District Historical
Society

Our Apron

In reference to the September article on the Apron, it is unlikely that the masons in the Lodge of Social and Military Virtues No 227 Irish Constitution attached to the 46th Regiment arrived without regalia.

The proceeding of the setting of the foundation stone at Bro Capt John Piper's villa states that Bro Higgins was clothed as a Red Cross Knight, Bro McIntosh as a Knight Templar and Bro O'Connor as a Knight Templar in full attire. They would not have obtained this regalia in Sydney. The masons in the Regiment certainly did not laugh at the idea of masonic ceremonies in the colonies. They received at least 19 prominent residents of Sydney into the lodge.

Bro John Oxley's certificate is held in the Grand Lodge of NSW & ACT in Sydney and Jeffrey Hart Bent's certificate is held in the National Library in Canberra.

Francis Greenway had established a private practice at 84 George St shortly after his arrival in February 1814 and would have dealt directly with W Bro Capt



Edward Sanderson for the production of an unknown number of aprons, probably for the newly initiated civilian members of the Lodge. It is doubtful if Gov Macquarie was involved as he had nothing to do with the 46th Regiment whose officers and some civilian members strongly opposed his policy regarding the status of emancipists.

Greenway was unable to complete the task and Sanderson, in a fury, horse-whipped and punched the architect who charged him with assault. Sanderson was found guilty and fined five shillings. It was not the kind of behaviour expected from the Master of a Masonic Lodge.

Unfortunately it is not true to suggest that Greenway designed the Australian Masonic Apron. The Apron we now wear was approved by the United Grand Lodge of England on 2 May 1814, shortly after the Union of the Ancients and Moderns in 1813. It was published in the Book of Constitutions of UGL England in 1815. Regulation No 189 of the First Book of Constitutions of the UGL of NSW published in 1889 reproduced the same specification.

References: Australian Directory of Biography, Correspondence from the Grand Lodge of Ireland, Book of Constitutions of the UGL England 1815, Book of Constitutions of the UGL NSW 1889, the Apron and its Symbolism, F R Worts, Transactions of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge No 2076 UGL England Vol 74 (1961) pp 133-141.

RW Bro Grahame Cumming
OAM CMH PDGM
 Lodge Epping No 390

Lodge Victoria Choir

I read with interest the article 'A Musical Feast' and the copy of the notice paper (September issue). I was a member of the lodge Victoria No 73 having been initiated into the lodge in 1959. My memory of that event is a little vague – after all it was 43 years ago. However, W Bro George Williams was the Master for three years from 1969 to 1971 after having been secretary for 25 years.

The lodge Victoria had its own choir for some years. The suggestion to form a lodge choir was made by Bro Percy Herford who organised and brought it into existence in

Emily says thanks

Congratulations and good luck to student **Emily Watts** who was a grateful recipient of a Masonic Scholarship **recently awarded by Lodge Chelmsford.**



The Police and Justice Award is a scholarship the lodge has arranged through the Charles Sturt University Bathurst Campus and in the last three years, Lodge Chelmsford has donated \$3,000 to the scholarship.

Emily expressed her thanks in a letter to the lodge in which she said she felt very honoured to win, particularly as the award was specifically for students in the Justice Studies (Policing) program.

'The Scholarship will assist my studies by providing stability and one less item to worry about. As I have had to move away from home and want to focus on my studies, this scholarship will help me feel secure and enable me to not worry about accommodation,' she wrote.

'As a mature age student returning to study I was a bit apprehensive about how I would manage everything but the scholarship gives me a sense of security and focus. After I finish my degree in Bachelor of Justice Studies (Policing) I hope to give

back to the community wherever I am placed.

'I know police work will be challenging but I am greatly enjoying my course and learning as much as I can now, so that I will be well prepared for those future challenges. At this stage I am interested in positions in Youth Liaison, Detective work and also the Marine Area Command.

'Thanks to the financial help of the scholarship, I am currently looking at doing voluntary work with young people to make a contribution to the local community and to gain as much insight as possible into this area of work. Hopefully down the track I will be given an opportunity to work in one of those areas.

'I am very excited about my future and would like to thank you so much for your generosity and the great work Lodge Chelmsford does in the community.'

August 1913. For many years, the choir was a very important part of the lodge. Many distinguished brethren have had close association with the choir, including VW Bro Sid Hanlin PDGIW and W Bro R Raymond.

Many other brethren have sung regularly with the choir and on numerous occasions have been privileged to perform for the Masonic Children's Homes, the Masonic Homes at Glenfield and to take part in many masonic services, both in lodge and churches.

At a combined meeting in August 1963, the choir celebrated 50 years of harmony and on that night, the Director of Music, Bro (later W Bro) Reg Bert, who had 50 years association with the choir, led a total of 50 voices. The lodge Victoria No 73 handed in its charter on 28 October 1991 after 112 years.

RW Bro Peter Cormack PJGW
 Brundah Endeavour No 429

Prostate Health

In the September issue of the Freemason, an article was published about prostate cancer and diagnosis and treatment.

Unfortunately, the article accidentally omitted the name and qualifications of the author VW Bro Gary Herrett who was DGIW for District 41 and 43.

VW Bro Herrett is an eight year prostate cancer survivor, Secretary/Treasurer of the Newcastle Prostate Cancer Support Group, an accredited national Ambassador/Speaker for the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia and Deputy Chairman of the PCFA's NSW/ACT Support Groups' Chapter Council.

The article has aroused interest amongst our readers and we look forward to further submissions.

Editor



The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of New South Wales

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Help us care for future generations

Donations and bequests recognised with new Benefactors Wall

It was with great honour that Chairman RW Bro John Couper PSGW officially opened the new Benefactors Wall at The Whiddon Group Easton Park in September this year. The Benefactors Wall recognises the significant contributions of the Masonic community, our local communities across NSW, and Mrs Ethel Symonds, who donated the land upon which our founding site was built.

Over the years, donations and bequests have supported Whiddon to build new residential homes, refurbish existing homes, build wonderful outdoor areas for clients and families to enjoy, and deliver new and innovative wellbeing programs for our elderly clients.

To fully appreciate the extent of the support that Whiddon has received we look back to the very beginning of our journey. In 1923, a small group of Freemasons began visiting elderly Masons and their wives in the community to provide care and support. Bro Herbert Cracknell, W Bro Fred Greening and W Bro Harold Wilkins formed the Aged and Distressed Brethrens Committee, providing funds and support to their less fortunate Brethren. The Committee evolved over time, and plans were made to build housing to care



L-R: Jenny Read, Alec Bedwell, Maureen Hillman, John Couper (Chairman), Jeanette Farrant, MW Bro Ron Johnson AM (representing United Grand Lodge), May Johnson, Ken Mobbs, Val Haliwell, Peter Groves, Ian Dunkley and John Read (seated)

for elderly Masons and their wives. In 1947, Mrs Ethel Symonds donated 21 acres of land as the founding site for The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of New South Wales, and in 1948 the first of our homes was built at The Whiddon Group Easton Park.

Over the past 90 years, support from our communities across NSW has continued to grow, with Masons and community members assisting with fundraising, helping out in the garden at our homes and volunteering with our clients. It is through the goodwill of the Masonic community that our organisation was founded, and through the continued support of our benefactors that we have been able to grow as an organisation and care for an increasing number of elderly people in communities across regional, rural and remote NSW.



Volunteers help out in the garden in the early days



John Couper opens the new Benefactors Wall

MAKING A BEQUEST

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

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 Officer on 02 9827 6632.

Whiddon has been caring for older Australians in NSW for more than 60 years. We have grown from philanthropic origins to a large not-for-profit with over 1,700 staff and 2,000 clients. We offer residential, community care and retirement living services.

Call us on 1300 738 388 or visit us at www.whiddon.com.au



Regional Roundup



Regional notice board



Camden welcomes debutantes

Districts 111 and 115 combined recently to stage their biennial Debutante Ball at the Camden Civic Centre.

Thirteen beautiful debutantes, accompanied by their handsome escorts were welcomed by more than 230 guests when they were presented to the Grand Master, MW Bro Derek Robson and Ms Gael Knox.

The Ball raised funds for a local charity, the "KU Starting Points – Macarthur", an organisation which provides support to young children with special needs. Monies raised by brethren and ladies of the combined districts during the term of the two District Grand Inspector of Workings for Districts 111 and 115 along with a generous donation from Masonicare will be made to KU Starting Points – Macarthur.



LODGE SWANSEA BELMONT No 1030
FRIDAY 9 JANUARY 2015

Burns Night

Tyle at 6.30pm at the Belmont Masonic Centre. GM in attendance. **RSVP** to Lodge Secretary at kevconal@bigpond.net.au or call **02 4948 7979**

LODGE KENSINGTON No 270
TUESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2015

Installation Ceremony

Tyle at 6.30pm at the Kensington Masonic Centre. **RSVP** to Lodge Secretary at rstacey6@bigpond.com or call **02 9399 7764**

LODGE IONIC No 65
THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2015

Re-installation Ceremony

Tyle at 6.30pm at the Sydney Masonic Centre (LS). **RSVP** to Lodge Secretary at ionicsecretary@gmail.com or call **02 9626 8984**

Lodge Advertising

Freemason is extending a special offer to lodges to advertise in our new Regional notice board column.

Many lodges worry about the absence of members and visitors but rarely think of using advertisements to let people know what the lodge has planned.

In an effort to assist attendance, we are offering four advertisements per year (one in each issue), all for just \$50, where lodges can detail coming meetings, functions or special events.

For further information, contact Simon Pierce at (02) 4344 5133.



LODGE TRINITY No 666

Growth for district

Lodge Trinity No 666 staged a highly successful DGIW changeover in September in front of more than 70 masons.

The retiring DGIWs, VW Bro Joseph Butros (District 26) and VW Bro Dylan Moldrich (District 31) transferred the jewel of office to DGIW designate for District 34, VW Bro Malcolm Sharpe.

During their term of office both retiring DGIWs spread in their respective districts a charge of optimism, positivity, openness and transparency.

Like richly fertilised trees rooted firmly in the ground over the past two years these two retiring DGIWs grew healthy branches that reached out to, sustained and touched many people.

This will allow the new DGIW to continue to grow new branches which, with the support of the entire district, will sustain masonic life and bring abundant fruits to the combined new District 34.



L-R: VW Bro Malcolm Sharpe, VW Bro Joseph Butros and VW Bro Dylan Moldrich

THE LODGE FEDERATION No 196

Merv Cherry is remembered

Members of The Lodge Federation No 196 in the City of Campbelltown Masonic Centre held a brief but important ceremony in July to honour one of their members.

The Building Management Committee and the members agreed to name the lodge room 'The Merv Cherry Lodge Room' after RW Bro Mervyn Edward Cherry PSGW who had passed away earlier in the year.

This decision was taken to recognise the work done by Merv as part of the team

who built the new Masonic Centre which was opened in 1989. He was also remembered for his untiring work as part of the Grand Lodge Ceremonial Team, rising through the ranks from Grand Steward to Grand Senior Warden.

Merv's son, RW Bro Darryn Cherry PSGW, the current Director of Ceremonies of The Lodge Federation, gave a brief outline of his father's masonic and civic history, before cutting a ribbon to signify the naming of the room.



Cando Cancer Trust Charity Bowls Day

Bowls were rolling again at the sixth CanDo! Cancer Trust Bowls day held at C.ex Woolgoolga.

Full greens outside and carpet bowlers inside meant a busy day for organisers, the Coffs Coast Freemasons Association. As usual the raffle tables were filled with a great array of prizes donated by local lodges and business houses.

'It was another great day attended by locals and visitors to our area,' said organizer Carolyn Boyden. 'We really appreciate their enthusiasm and support for this

event. We are also very fortunate to receive a \$900 grant from C.ex Woolgoolga which enables us to continue holding this event. We raised \$5,400 on the day, which is a fantastic result,' she said

RW Bro Norm Standing, PAGM, presented Chairman of the CCEFA, VW Bro Phil Robertson, DGIW District 53, with a cheque for \$5,000 from Masonicare to match what was raised. 'It's very exciting that we can donate a total of \$10,400 to assist cancer patients in our area, he said.'



L-R: VW Bro Phil Robertson, DGIW District 53, and RW Bro Norm Standing, PAGM.



LODGE CARLTON KOGARAH No 305

District 35 handover of DGIW jewel of office

On Tuesday 9 September the handover of the DGIW jewels for the establishment of District 35 in Region 3 took place at the meeting Lodge Carlton Kogarah No 305.

It was a busy night as Districts 27 and 28 were amalgamated to form District 35. The respective DGIWs, RW Bro Graham Beatton PJGW from District 27 and VW Bro Dr Graeme Gwilliam PDGIW from District 28, handed over the jewel and patent of office to VW Bro Ronald Short the incoming DGIW for District 35.

The RGC for Region 3, RW Bro Lyndon Norgate, was also in attendance.

As it was the final meeting for District

27, RW Bro Graham Beatton also presented Past DGIW jewels to RW Anthony Cornell PJGW, and RW Bro Arthur Macken PJGW. In addition, the presentation of a District 27 Service Medal Award was made to RW Bro Harold Leonard Allen PJGW.

With all those tasks W Bro Warren Dunn, the Worshipful Master of Lodge Carlton Kogarah No 305, kept a tight rein on the programme and, with the assistance of lodge members and other brethren, raised Bro Roland Ocampo from Lodge Kilwinning No 13.

As the photograph shows it was difficult to get all the participants into the one picture.



DISTRICT 41 ASSOCIATION

Presentation to Hunter Prostate Cancer Support Group

A presentation of \$6,000 on behalf of District 41 and Masonicare was made to the Hunter Prostate Cancer Support Group on 27 September. This is the most recent contribution made through the efforts of District 41.

PDGIW Gary Herrett said that in supporting the Prostate Cancer Support Group, funds had been raised through raffles, barbeques and direct donations. These funds will assist the Hunter Group to meet their operational costs in providing most needed support for those undergoing prostate cancer treatment as well as

providing a source of information regarding this cancer.



L-R: VW Bro David Marshall DGIW, RW Bro David Robertson (RMM), RW Bro Neil Richardson and Mr Brett Logan

AUSTRALIA MARK AND RAC No 28

A century to Irwin

On 20 August VW Bro Irwin Prowse OBE, PDGIW became a centenarian. Irwin is the First Principal of Australia Mark and RAC No 28, a Chapter that was due to come out of suspension at about the time of Irwin's birthday anniversary.

At the suggestion of the AGP Area G Rt Ex Comp Bryan Davis, Chapter Australia on 20 August held its first meeting after a lapse of eight months, with the festive board held at Yass Soldiers Club with 26 in attendance. None could recollect any previous centenarian being a First Principal of a Chapter.

Irwin was initiated in Lodge Symphony No 690 (Vic Const.) on 2 April 1956 and passed and raised by that lodge in the same year. He was awarded an OBE on 16 June 1979 for his work in the Public Service. He retired to the South Coast of NSW and affiliated with Lodge Baddeley No 205 in June 1988 and, on 12 November 1988, became a Foundation Member of Lodge Pambula Daylight No 1000, in which lodge he was installed as WM on 5 November 1993. After periods in other lodges, Irwin re-affiliated with Lodge Commonwealth of Australia No 633 in January 2010 and affiliated with Lodge Woden Valley No 974, in October 2012. He was granted the conferred Grand Rank of PDGIW on 11 June 2008.

Irwin is also active in other masonic orders. He joined Australia Mark and RAC No 28 in April 2010 and progressed to First Principal in November 2013, an office he still holds. Irwin is also a 30° Mason in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, ACT Sovereign Council No 2, a member of the Allied Masonic Degrees and the Order of the Secret Monitor. He still delivers charges and is a great example being a very active Freemason whilst in the 101st year of his life.



LODGE EASTERN SUBURBS No 1050

Sausage sizzle succeeds

VW Bro Michael Pajor PDGDC and his wife completed a promise when they presented a cheque for \$5,000 to Hatzolah Emergency Services at a successful evening in September at the Bondi Masonic Centre.

The presentation evening can be counted as a success for Lodge Eastern Suburbs No 1050 where masonic activity and participation in the service of the community was demonstrated at its best.

When Hatzolah came to the rescue of Rose Bay resident Michael Pajor in September last year, after he suffered a cardiac incident, he was extremely grateful.

Deciding he wanted to give something back, Pajor saw his involvement with the masons as a means of doing so. He asked Rabbi Mendy Litzman of Hatzolah Emergency Services what Hatzolah needed and he named a defibrillator.

VW Bro Pajor then organised and publicised a sausage sizzle at his home which reached the target of \$2,500 with Masonicare matching the total.

Mrs Pam Miller, Michael and his wife officially presented the cheque to Rabbi Litzman for the organisation's prompt response to each and every call for medical assistance in the local community.

After the presentation Rabbi Litzman gave a practical demonstration of a defibrillator which was appreciated by the 70 in attendance, including 25 non-masons.



The lodge room was later opened to the public where explanatory talks were given followed by questions and answers. The feedback of the evening was extremely favourable for the work Freemasons are doing in the community.

'We are extremely grateful to the generosity of the masons because this defibrillator will definitely save lives,' the Rabbi said.

Freemasons at Tweed Heads win award

Freemasons have been recognised in the Tweed Heads and Murwillumbah areas in winning a major Business Community award.

The Business Community of Tweed Heads and Murwillumbah held the Annual Business Excellence Awards, at the Murwillumbah Civic Centre on 11 October with awards for 16 Categories.

The Tweed Valley Masonic Welfare Association Inc was judged the winner of the Best Community or Social Services (Not for Profit) Category. In addition the Association was also chosen as a finalist in the Major Category of Best Business in the Tweed Shire.

In its presentation, the Association included details of its past achievements together with the current business plan and the forward plan to outline future expectations and achievement goals.

This success in a strong Business Community event is a clear indicator that 'Connecting with the Community' is a very positive initiative for Freemasonry in the Tweed Shire.

Credit was also given for the incredible dedication and hard work of the District 11 Freemasons and the constant support from 'Masonicare'.

Appeal for help

The NSW Freemason has had an appeal for help from any brother who has visited Lodge Polynesia in Fiji over the past 15-20 years.

It seems the masonic lodge building in Levuka was burned down in 2001 and very little information was kept about the building.

Any information on Lodge Polynesia or the lodge building would be appreciated.





THE SIR WALTER SCOTT LODGE No 123

The Sir Walter Scott celebrates

The Sir Walter Scott Lodge had a great night when members and visitors celebrated its 130th year anniversary on 28 August.

The night started with an informative lecture by Auburn librarian and local historian Tom MacRae, regarding Auburn and its history. He researched the district's history starting from the Darug people, who are the traditional custodians and original Aboriginal inhabitants of Auburn, to the arrival of the first European settlers and industrialisation of the area by the Scottish migrants. He then recounted how The Sir Walter Scott, having existed for 130 years as an association in the area, was the longest existing institution in Auburn.

The WM, W Bro Humberto Manzo with the help of Masonicare representative Regional Grand Counsellor RW Bro Lyndon Norgate PJGW then presented a cheque for \$4,000 consisting of \$2,000 each from Masonicare and the lodge to the Auburn Hospital Maternity Ward. This was gratefully accepted by Tracey Graca from Auburn Hospital and Jackie Murphy, the Nursing Unit Manager from the Maternity Ward.



Auburn has one of the highest birth rates in NSW, which makes Auburn Hospital Maternity Ward one of the busiest.

The function continued at the Auburn Masonic Centre with a traditional Scottish feast where the Address to the Haggis was given by W Bro William Dunlop followed by the girls from Karen McPhillips School of Highland Dancing with the Auburn City Mayor, Councillor Hicham Zraika joining in the festivities.



The Regional Grand Counsellor of Region 2, RW Bro Robert Moore, presenting the Regional Service Award for 2014 to Mrs Susan Lamb, the wife of RW Bro Geoffrey Lamb PAGM, of Lodge Millennium No 2000

LODGE BURNSIDE No 729

60 Years Service to Freemasonry

Past Grand Master MW Bro Ronald Lewis Hale Johnson AM, JP, CMH was presented with a Certificate and Jewel in Lodge Burnside No 729, on the 2 July to mark his 60 years membership of and service to Freemasonry.

MW Bro Johnson was initiated in Lodge Blacktown No 393, on the 10 July, 1954. He affiliated with Lodge Burnside on the 21 April 1961 and served as Lodge Burnside's Worshipful Master in 1969-70.

He served as DGIW of District 39 for the term 1976-78, was appointed as Deputy Grand Master for 1985-87 and installed as Grand Master for 1988-92.

The certificate was presented by RW Bro John Davison PAGM, who served as Grand Director of Ceremonies for MW Bro Johnson when he was Grand Master.



L-R: RW Bro Bob Searle, W Bro Kevin Richardson, RW Bro John Davison, Bro Harry Neal, MW Bro Ron Johnson and RW Bro Bill Byrne

INVERELL LODGE No 48

Debs at Inverell

The Inverell Lodge No 48 continued a long and proud history when it held its 134th Annual Debutante Ball in August.

Held at the Inverell RSL Club, it was a truly wonderful night with eight lovely



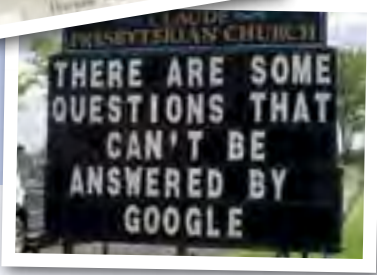
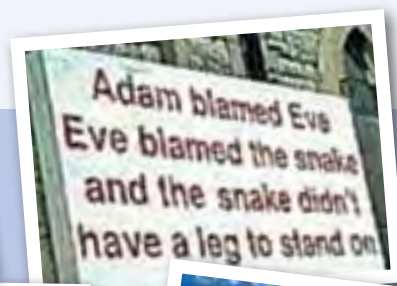
debs being presented. The night commenced with the presentation of proceeds from last year's Ball to representatives from local community organisations including Mr Brian Baldwin from St Vincent DePaul Society, Mr Laurie Bullock representing Ronald McDonald House and Mr Frank Fleming from the Inverell Volunteer Rescue Squad.

The debs were presented to Region 1 RGC, RW Bro Les Hicks who represented the Grand Master and to Mayor Paul Harmon and his wife Anna and other dignitaries.



Freemason Welcomes New Members To The Craft

Name	Lodge	Name	Lodge	Name	Lodge
ADELAINE, Matthew	Lodge Waringah 83	GACS, Peter	Lodge Kensington 270	PETERS, Neal	Lodge Epping 390
AGHA, Mouhammad	The Cedars Lodge 1041	GASTINEAU, Adam	Lodge Woden Valley 974	RAYNER, Andy	Lodge Caledonia Of Canberra 938
ANDERSON, Mike	Lodge Challenge 284	GORGIS, Allen	Lodge Horizons 1032	ROSER, Mark	Lodge Barham 561
AQUINO, Joel	Lodge Merrylands 479	GOYER, Thomas	The Sydney Lodge 1020	RYAN, Martin	Lodge West Epping 731
AWADALLA, Ash	Lodge Sir Joseph Banks 300	GRASSO, Raffaelo	Lodge Trinity 666	SADAT, Hamad	Lodge Woronora 414
BAKER, Denis	Lodge Hornsby 262	GREEN, Dom	Lodge Baulkham Hills 958	SALVESTRO-MARTIN, Jeffrey	Lodge Challenge 284
BAKER, Josh	Lodge Caledonia Of Canberra 938	HAMADI, Nehme	Lodge Dunblane Australis 966	SANDFORD, Daren	Lodge Wagga Wagga 22
BECK, Royce	Lodge Silver City 141	HANSON, Peddy	Lodge Sir Joseph Banks 300	SANI, Amir	Lodge Chelmsford 261
BENITEZ-CASTELLANOS, Josh	Antiquity 1	HARLEY, Adam	Lodge Middle Harbour 85	SAVKIC, Aleks	Lodge Horizons 1032
BHAGWAT, Kartik	Lodge Hastings 69	HILL, Shaun	Lodge Victoria Cross 928	SEAMAN, Ben	Lodge Broughton 131
BILSKI, Andrew	Lodge Queanbeyan St Andrew 56	HOPKINS, Matthew	Lodge Richard Coley 152	SEMAAN, Chris	Lodge Broughton 131
BRAY, Anthony	Lodge Ophir 17	HUSSAIN, Jawwad	Lodge Alpha 970	SENA, Lucas	Lodge Caledonia Of Canberra 938
BREACH, Mike	Lodge Ethos 963	KARLOZIAN, Armen	Lodge Ku-Ring-Gai 1033	SHARPE, William	Lodge Saratoga 937
BROWN, Jacob	The Hills Lodge 1025	KATONA, Steve	The Lodge Federation 196	SIGGINS, Julian	The Sydney Lodge 1020
BUHAY, BJ	Lodge Merrylands 479	KENNEDY, Shane	Lodge Hornsby 262	SINGH, Manny	Lodge Axiom 1047
BURNS, Terry	Lodge Macquarie 53	KHOURY MEDLEJ, Paul	Lodge Liverpool 197	SMITH, Leigh	Lodge City of Newcastle 1035
BURZIC, Jason	Lodge Dawn 511	KING, Shaun	The Australian Lodge Of Harmony 5	SOUTHWICK, Paul	Lodge Queanbeyan St Andrew 56
CALLAGHAN, Stephen	Lodge St James 45	KOUDSY, Charles	The Cedars Lodge 1041	SPENCER, Gavin	Lodge Fitzroy 248
CAMPBELL, Malcolm	Lodge Liverpool Plains 191	LARMAN, Michael	Lodge Perfect of Canberra 951	SZAFRANIEC, Mike	Lodge Theo Grey 234
CHEHAB, Kieran	Lodge Trinity 666	LEE, Brendan	Lodge Dunblane Australis 966	TALEB, Nathan	Lodge Panania 845
CONNORS, Andrew	The City of Wollongong Lodge 1049	LEE, Peter	Lodge Dunblane Australis 966	TAOUM, Nadim	Lodge Axiom 1047
COOTE, Stephen	Lodge Queanbeyan St Andrew 56	MARTIN, Theo	The Hills Lodge 1025	TAYLOR, Lloyd	Lodge Wyong Tuggerah Lakes 247
CREIGHTON, Lee	Lodge Burns Wentworth Tuscan 21	MAZIM, Yousif	Lodge Horizons 1032	THOMAS, Andrew	Lodge Ku-Ring-Gai 1033
CROWE, Tim	Lodge Thespian 256	MORAY, Pablo	Lodge Ionic 65	TRIPP, Shae	Lodge Hastings 69
CURRIE, Gary	Lodge Army and Navy 517	MOSTOWYJ, Paul	Lodge Army and Navy 517	WALTON, Cal	Lodge Silver City 141
CUSTODIO, Angelo	Lodge Hornsby 262	MURRAY, Isaac	Lodge Dubbo 906	WARNER, Josh	Lodge Canberra 465
DALTON, Dean	Lodge Morisset 441	NEATE, Joe	The Cobar Lodge 97	WHEATLEY, Chris	Lodge Richard Coley 152
DAY, Warren	Lodge Ethos 963	NICHOLSON, Shaun	Lodge Army and Navy 517	WILLIAMS, Scott	Lodge Phoenix 1034
DEAN, Troy	Lodge Capitol 612	NOONAN, Steve	Lodge Kiama 35	WILLIAMS, Jason	Lodge Alpha 970
DESOUZA, Dan	Lodge F S Mance 671	OLMOS, Guillermo	Coeur De Lion - Narooma 84	WILSON, Paul	Antiquity 1
EL MASRI, Mohanad	Lodge Sutherland 585	PAPA, Carlos	Bankstown Daylight Lodge 996	WOOLLARD, Neil	Lodge Sydney St. George 269
FALLON, Len	Lodge Katoomba 118	PAQUETTE, Francois	Lodge Sir James Hardy 1046	ZIADE, Najee	Lodge Merrylands 479
FARLEY, Michael	Lodge Allan Stuart 416	PEARLMAN, James	Lodge Calala Tamworth 652		
FRANI, Jun	Lodge Merrylands 479	PEROUMAL, Louis	Lodge Kingsford Smith 1028		





Thank you

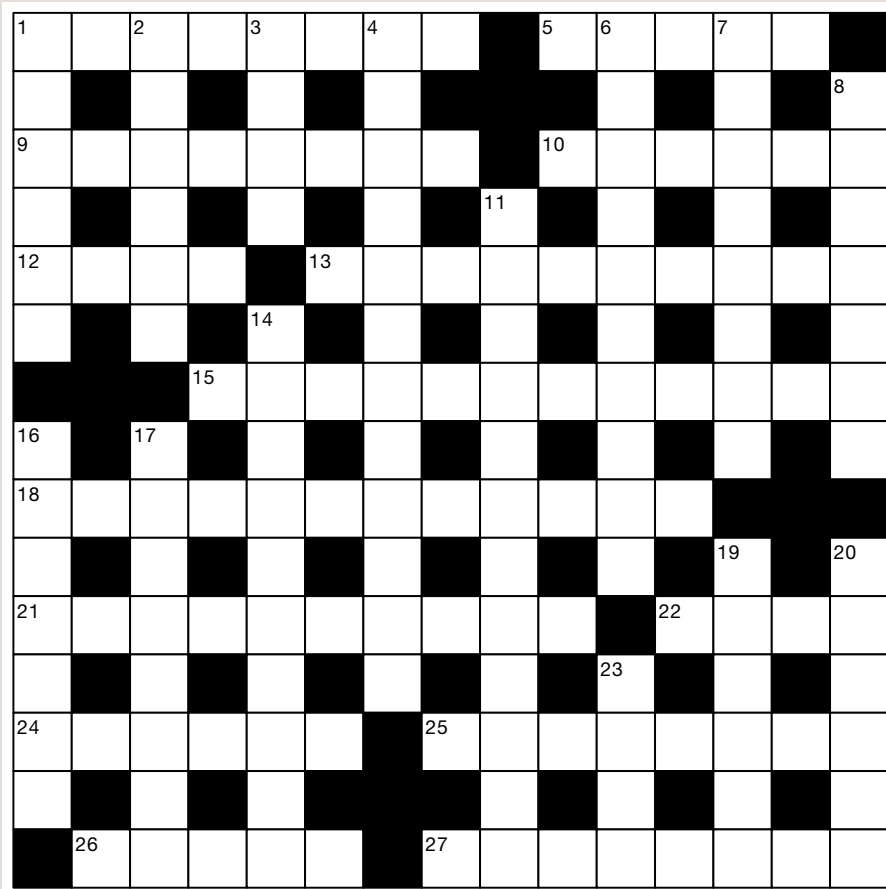
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Aims of the Freemason magazine

- 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.

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ACROSS

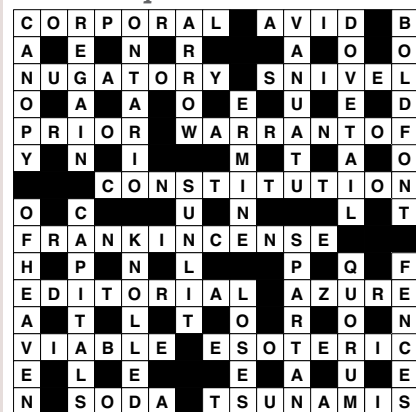
- 1 We're told of financial gains made by Old Testament characters (8)
- 5 A yarn based on much history (5)
- 9 Real loss suffered by these parrots (8)
- 10 Wall painting exhibited my members of the forces (6)
- 12 & 22 Requirement of candidate leaves fewer ill characters out (4-4)
- 13 A social net increase is contained herein (10)
- 15 Job cards deal with stairway to heaven in Genesis 28:12 and the 1st TB (5'1, 6)
- 18 So a pantomime is re-written about one from old region between the Tigris and Euphrates (12)
- 21 Tune in late to find the deputy (10)
- 22 See 12 across
- 24 How many pounds in 1cwt – 32lbs? (6)
- 25 Company has right to rid alternative link from passage way (8)
- 26 Strange ideas put away for later use (5)
- 27 Sector that is made available only for the initiated (8)

- 8 Whingers carry on about a sermon (7)
- 11 Very frugal on average, Simon sits on promissory notes (12)
- 14 Tapped tail irregularly in time with overworked heart (10)
- 16 Suggested little devil told falsehoods (7)
- 17 P.S. 20 down agrees furtively to sprinkle holy water (8)
- 19 Can the German produce material to start a fire? (6)
- 20 Roughly circle an ordained character (6)
- 23 See 3 down

DOWN

- 1 Cleanse some jodhpur if you like (6)
- 2 Queen toys with shellfish (6)
- 3 & 23 Worthily interpret readings from 20 down (4, 4)
- 4 Sporting oath upset clay pigeon competition (12)
- 6 First man is under airport runway with road sealing mix (10)
- 7 Roughly discerns the matter and repeals the decision (8)

Solution September 2014





70 Years Service

GILLESPIE, Graham	The Goulburn Lodge of Australia 58
HATTON, William	Lodge Kiama 35
SOUTH, Arthur	Lodge Merrylands 479
THORNE, Geoffrey	The Hills Lodge 1025

60 Years Service

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POSNER, Raymond	Lodge Star of Wauchope 310
RATCLIFFE, James	Lodge Merrylands 479
SYDENHAM, Neville	Lodge Loftus 401
WEBB, James	Lodge Kensington 270

A run for charity



Charity plays a major role in being a Freemason and it has made an indelible impression on Bro Tom Hitchcock.

He has been a member of the Royal Empire Lodge No 613 for only two years but has already set an early target of raising \$5,000 for a special cause by competing in the London Marathon in April 2015.

'Hailing originally from the UK, oddly enough I waited until residing on the other side of the world to enter,' Tom said.

'I needed a catalyst to make it happen and a common motivator in our lives is that doing something for someone else creates an action greater than we would do for ourselves!

'In my case it was the struggle of a family member, a young girl through no fault of her own who needed a liver transplant. It took time to get the right match with concerns on whether it would work successfully. The CLDF (The Children's Liver Disease Foundation) helped them

through this difficult time, complete with long stints in hospital and false starts on donors lasting over two years.

'Now she has found the donor, had the operation and is in good health. This is a small charity which does big things, deserves recognition and support. And I will do anything I can to help. This was my catalyst.'

Tom said now he had the motivation and acceptance into the event, he had the unenviable task of preparation. He has started running in his lunch break at work, visited a chiropractor to help with certain muscles and to increase the chances of getting past the finishing line after running 42.2km.

'One of the key reasons I enjoy my masonic membership is charity. It is heart warming to extend the offer of help when least expected. For me it is as the world



should be, but rarely is and this is why our organisation is a breath of fresh air. We help each other and we help anyone in need. I have taken a huge challenge in order to be proactive about this core masonic value.

'I would like to share it with you, and any support from brethren will be gratefully received and put to good use. Any tough time or doubts I encounter, I will remember the reason that got me to sign up in the first place. Anyone who would like to help can donate to www.justgiving.com/TomHitchcock1,' he said.

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Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution
Established in 1880

Seasons Greetings from RFBI



RFBI's Annuity Program has continued to support citizens with monthly financial assistance. This practice maintains an unbroken record of 134 years. If you know someone in need of assistance, contact your Lodge secretary or call us direct.

RFBI would like to thank all the brethren for their generous support during 2014. With your assistance the **Annuity Program** has continued to support citizens with monthly financial assistance.

RFBI's **Benevolence Scheme** has given grants to deserving cases including providing NeuRA scholarships for research into stroke rehabilitation, supporting Glen Innes youth through the Open Door program, helping individuals gain access to wheelchairs and portable oxygen and insulin machines, as well as assisting the Disabled Surfers Association.

RFBI has also assisted with creating Aboriginal oral health traineeships and supporting Indigenous eye health care.

In addition, RFBI owns and manages 23 Masonic Village throughout NSW and the ACT. We recently opened our brand new village at Raleigh and completed extension to our Tamworth Village.

We are currently expanding our villages at Bathurst and West Wyalong, and planning our new village at Dubbo and new building in Bellingen.

RFBI seeks **DONATIONS** (tax deductible

over \$2) to ensure the benevolent operation of the RFBI continues.

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 information.

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

Likewise, RFBI is able to organise **SPEAKERS** for Lodge meetings or any other like minded Masonic Function. Please contact CEO Rt. W. Bro Alex Shaw.

Please contact Rt. W. Bro Alex Shaw on 02 8031 3200 or admin@rfbi.com.au

Masonic Villages:
It's how to live...



A selection of architectural and decorative details from the State Theatre.