

Freemason



FREEMASONS
NSW & ACT



How far can you go?



Editorial	3
A message from the GM	4
Historic December dates	5
New mason	6
International Women's Organisations	7
The Order of Free Gardeners	8
Bringing peace to the world	10
Grand Secretary's column	12
Messages from the Grand Chaplains	13
Komodo dragons	14
Freemasons' Association	16
Quarterly Communication	20
Masonicare	22
John Maclean	24
Book reviews	26
A portrait for Joe	27
An historic dynasty, part II	28
Famous masons	30
GM's Literary Award essay	32
Have your say	33
What is Hogmanay?	34
Christmas quiz	35
A Start in Life	36
Protect your valuables	37
Associated Orders	38
Regional Roundup	39
Initiates	44
Crossword	45
Service Certificates	46



Christmas Holidays!
 Grand Lodge will **close on Thursday, December 24** and **resume on Monday January 11**

Freemason
 How far can you go?
 The inspirational story of John Maclean

Cover Image:
 John Maclean crossing the finish line with wife and son!
 This same event rendered him a paraplegic when he suffered an accident during training.

Freemason



The Official Journal of
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 and Australian Capital Territory

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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.



Where did the year go?

Suddenly it's December – again! We started in January and in almost the blink of an eye it's December and **2015 is almost over.**



So it's time to give a big thank you to all those people who brightened the world with friendship, laughter and memories.

To those who need money, may your finances overflow.

To those who need caring, may you find a good heart.

To those who need friends, may you meet lovely people.

And to those who are driving during this period, please take care and stay safe.

And if you are wondering what to do and how to get through this special time, study the historical words of Marcus Aurelius who wrote "Think of all the years passed by in which you said to yourself 'I'll do it tomorrow' and how the gods have again and again granted you periods of grace of which you have not availed yourself. It is time to realise that you are a member of the Universe, that you were born of Nature itself and to know that a limit has been set to your time. Use every moment wisely to perceive your inner refulgence, or "twill be gone and nevermore within your reach".

Let us practice tolerance instead of speaking about it and acknowledge that different faiths and practices are at work in our nation during this time of year. Too

often we concentrate on what divides us instead of what unites us.

An American church had this sign on display which said 'Merry Christmas to our Christian friends. Happy Hanukkah to our Jewish friends. And to our atheist friends, good luck'.

Sometimes people have to look a long way to find differences in human beings but in our country, different people can work together. Regardless of our backgrounds or traditions, we can join in acknowledging our responsibilities to help and serve others. And at this time of the year, such duties should be continually on our minds.

Each of us may differ on theology, we may differ on

how to worship God but we all believe in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man and therefore it is our duty, as brothers and sisters, to help one another and to work to assist mankind.

So have a happy holiday season with your family and friends, celebrate your traditions and faith with enthusiasm and be proud of your heritage. But also recognise the good that others do and even though some of the practices may be different, afford them the respect and tolerance we would want for ourselves.

We wish you peace, love and goodwill and may 2016 also bring you good health and happiness. 🙏



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



It's Christmas time!



On behalf of Yuana and myself, may we extend to each and every one of you, **Season's Greetings**

As we reflect on the last year, I thank all brethren and their families for what they have done for Freemasonry. Since our Grand Installation, I have travelled to many areas throughout this jurisdiction and have met with some wonderful masons. I sincerely appreciate what all are doing in connecting our Craft to the community and for making a difference. Likewise in my first term as your Grand Master, I have received tremendous support and good wishes and look forward to continuing to serve our Grand Lodge.

No matter what religion or background people have, Christmas is a time in Australia for all to feel a 'spirit of Christmas'. It should be a time of peace and goodwill, love and sharing.

It also gives us time to reflect on the year and reminds us to appreciate those things we have around us. The masonic family is something that is very special to us. We are reminded of those brethren who have lost loved ones over the past year and the need to offer them our support at this time.

Let us be mindful of those less fortunate than ourselves, and remember the masonic principles that we should exercise in our daily walks of life.

May the New Year bring peace, joy and good health to you and your loved ones.

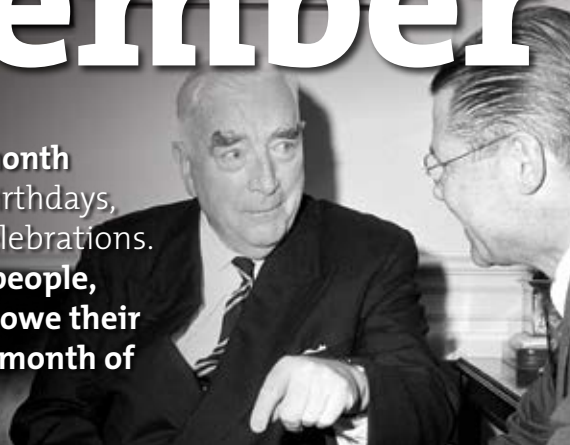
The 'spirit of Christmas' is a great time to embrace Diversity, engender Unity and promote Matship.





In this month: December

December is a special month for many people – for birthdays, Christmas and other celebrations. These are some of the people, places and events that owe their historical origin to the month of December.



1st 1887: On this day Sir Arthur Conan Doyle introduced the reading public to Sherlock Holmes and Dr John Watson in his first novel *A Study in Scarlet*. Bro Conan Doyle was a member of Phoenix Lodge No 57.

1st 1945: Bro Burl Icle Ives made his concert singing debut on this day at the New York Town Hall.

1st 1822: Franz Liszt made his piano debut on this day at age 11. He was a member of Lodge Zur Einigkeit at Frankfurt on Main. (He was 19 years of age when he was raised in February 1842.)

8th 1708: Holy Roman Emperor Francis I, born Frances Stephen and later made Duke of Lorraine, second son of Leopold Joseph Charles under whose special dispensation in 1731 a lodge was convened at The Hague at which he was made a mason and thus achieving the distinction of being the first Royal to become a Freemason.

8th 1865: Jean Sibelius, born John Julius Christian Sibelius at Mameenlinne in Finland. He was nearly 92 years of age when he died in 1957. He became a Freemason at age 56. He was a member of Lodge Suomi No 1 (Finland). He was a great composer of the early 20th Century including 12 special pieces for the Craft.

11th 1936: On this day Bro Edward Albert Christian George Andrew Patrick David, King Edward VIII of England, abdicated the British throne 'to marry the woman I love', twice-divorced American Wallis Warfield Simpson. He was initiated in the Household Brigade Lodge No 2614 in 1919. He retained his membership until his death in 1972.

12th 1928: Both members of Lodge Gascoyne No 62 in NSW Australia, Bro Charles Kingsford Smith and Bro Charles Ulm formed the Australian National Airways in Sydney.

14th 1929: The world's first miniature golf course was opened in Chattanooga, Tennessee, named after its originator Bro Tom Thumb of circus fame whose real name was Charles Sherwood Stratton. When he was initiated on 3 October 1862 he measured 2' 11" and he was initiated with a man who was 6' 3" tall.

19th 1949: Prime Minister of Australia Bro Sir Robert Menzies takes over as Prime Minister for the second time, an office he held until 1966. He was a member of Australian Temple Lodge No 110.


19th 1913: Heavyweight Boxing Champion Bro Jack Johnson, on this day, fought Jim Johnson in Paris for the world title. This was a 'no decision' fight. Jack Johnson joined Lodge Forfar and Kincadine No 225 in Dundee on 13 October 1911.

27th 1813: The United Grand Lodge of England is formed.

27th 1831: The world famous naturalist Bro Charles Darwin set out on a voyage to the Pacific Ocean on board *HMS Beagle*. His discoveries on this voyage contributed to his theory of evolution.

27th 1927: Opening on this day at the Ziegfeld Theatre on Broadway, Bro Jerome Kern's musical *Show Boat* ran for 572 performances.

28th 1732: Bro Benjamin Franklin, using the pen name Richard Sanders, began publishing *Poor Richard's Almanac* which later became the *Saturday Evening Post*.

30th 1865: Born on this day in Bombay, now Mumbai, India, was Joseph Rudyard Kipling, author and poet. At the age of 20 years and four months he was initiated into Lodge Hope and Perseverance in Lahore, India. His best known poem was *The Mother Lodge*. 



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We are committed to providing a one-stop online masonic shop so you can browse and safely purchase quality new and collectable masonic items at 'real value for money' prices. We have literally hundreds of items and are acquiring more stock all the time!



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Magic Masonry

Jack Daniels uses magic in a variety of ways – to entertain and to help bring some relief to patients in hospitals and the less fortunate.

He is also a very proud Master Mason who joined Masonry on 19 March 2014 and was raised on 18 March 2015 in The Hills Lodge No 1025 in Sydney.

Jack has already been impressed by his experiences in the Craft and aspires to continue to climb the staircase on his masonic journey to the highest levels.

As an insecure and shy boy most of his young adult life, he had always been drawn to the square and compass not knowing what it meant. His father was not a mason but had family members in the Craft.

'I always wanted to know what it was. I used to talk about it with my father but was never aware of its meaning,' he said. 'I feel it was one of those things that I had to let time reveal itself to me.'

Jack found his calling in life through his great grandfather, who happened to be a magician, and inherited his steamer trunk full of magic tricks. He gained all his confidence through performing magic. 'I was able to do something that other people around me couldn't do, and that made me feel special.'

You may have seen him on TV morning shows or in commercials. He is the up and coming Australian illusionist who is also the only Australian representative for American Illusionist David Copperfield's *Project Magic*.


He has been performing his craft of illusionary art for over 15 years – from being invited to perform before heads of

state, VIPs, corporate organisations to his own grand theatrical illusion production.

In 2005 Jack Daniels joined forces with David Copperfield and launched a not-for-profit program called *Project Magic Australia*. It is a program that is used in 1,000 hospitals and in over 30 countries worldwide. The program uses magic as a form of therapy and rehab to those with low self-esteem, various forms of disabilities, sporting injuries, even for kids who have disciplinary issues.

Through learning a simple magic effect the patient is able to regain their dexterity and co-ordination. This in return becomes a condition tool that will assist the patient to use their fingers and/or memory and at

the same time give them the ability to do something that others around them can't do, thus gaining self-esteem.

The program has been introduced to a number of organisations within NSW and is also used and approved in the Royal Rehab Centre of Sydney as well as the Nepean Medical & General Practice School with great success. 



Main: Jack Daniels performs his art on stage.

Inset: Jack bringing magic into the lives of children with disabilities through his not-for-profit program.

Photo courtesy of Project Magic Australia

Zonta helps women



There are at least thirty-two **International Women's Organisations** in the world and at least ten in Australia. Every one is worthy of mention as they all do **wonderful things in the cause of women's rights.**

One International Women's Organisation registered in Australia with a fast growing membership is a service organisation with a strange name, 'ZONTA'. The name 'Zonta' is from the Sioux Lakota language and it translates as 'honest and trustworthy'.

In 1919 a group of business women in Buffalo, New York met and founded the first Zonta Club under the leadership of their first President Marian De Forest. The aims were to bring together women in recognised businesses and professions who were in executive and decision making roles. By 1923 Zonta Clubs had been established in many major cities in the United States and had become a Confederation. The Objectives of the organisation were:

- To improve the legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional status of women at the global and local level through service and advocacy.
- To work for the advancement of understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of members.
- To promote justice and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- To be united internationally to foster high ethical standards, to implement service programs, and to provide mutual support and fellowship for members who serve their communities, their nations and the world.
- To be non sectarian and non partisan.

In 1927 with the incorporation of the Zonta Club of Toronto Canada the Confederation became Zonta International.

Zonta, in addition to its International Service Programs, introduced a number of Educational and Awards programs.

The famous woman pilot who disappeared over the Pacific was a member of Zonta and Zonta International established the Amelia Earhart Fellowship in 1938, to be awarded annually to women pursuing Ph.D doctoral degrees in aerospace-related sciences or aerospace-related engineering. The Fellowships, currently worth \$US10,000 each, are awarded to 35 Fellows around the globe each year and may be used at any university or college offering accredited post-graduate courses and degrees in these fields.

The Jane M Klausman Woman in Business Scholarship was established in 1998 to encourage undergraduate women to enter careers and seek leadership positions in business-related fields. Zonta has

awarded 357 scholarships to women from 47 countries.

In 1990 Zonta introduced The Young Women in Public Affairs Award Program. The program honours young women aged from 16 to 19 who demonstrate a commitment to leadership in public policy, government and volunteer organisations. Zonta Districts nominate candidates for the program.

One of Zonta's longest running programs is the Z Club and Golden Z Club, established in 1948. The Z Club and Golden Z Club program helps high-school, college and university students develop leadership skills, promote career exploration and encourage members to participate in community, school and international service projects.

Zonta has International Programs and strategies for the prevention of violence against women and Education Programs in Leadership and Youth Development. Clubs in Zonta Districts, amongst many other things provide birthing kits for women who do not have access to medical care and provide breast care cushions for women who have experienced mastectomies.

Zonta International is divided into districts of which there are three in Australia, each district comprising a number of clubs. Local clubs not only support Zonta's International Programs but they also support local projects designed to empower women through advocacy and service.

Like all service organisations, Zonta welcomes new members and more information may be found at www.zonta.org. 



Members of the Zonta Club of Botany Bay Inc. creating breast care cushions for women who have experienced mastectomies. Photo courtesy of Zonta International District 24 Inc.



Journey to an Ancient Order



There was once a fraternity and friendly society that existed in Sydney called **the Grand United Order of Free Gardeners**. Earlier this year **W Bro Ben Quick and Bro Peter Maclean received a scholarship** from the Grand United Order to travel to its ancestral home of Scotland, and **witness the Grand Installation of the Ancient Order of Free Gardeners in Kelty, Fife** and the return of the Order to its native homeland.

The Order of Free Gardeners is a fraternal society which was founded in Scotland around the 17th century and later spread to England and the rest of the world. Like numerous other fraternal societies of the time, its principal aim was the sharing of knowledge linked to the profession, and mutual aid. In the 19th century, activities of mutual insurance became predominant. By the end of the 20th century it had become almost entirely extinct.

In 1956, a falling membership saw the Ancient Order leave Scotland for Cape Town, South Africa, taking with it the

Ben and Peter became immersed with the history of Free Gardenery

Grand Charter where it stayed until April 2015. Ben and Peter were at the meeting to witness the historical Grand

Installation, to see a Grand Lodge being formed in Scotland, a new Grand Master, and the return of the original Grand Lodge charter and regalia.

The historical study trip took them to different parts of the United Kingdom to see how far Free Gardeners had spread. In London at the United Grand Lodge of England's library and museum, they were given access to many of the publications, letters and regalia that had been handed in by the general public. Many Freemasons had come across sashes and aprons of the Order and also had beautifully hand-drawn pictures of items. Through these files they found the original rules and regulations of the St Johns Lodge of Free Gardeners, Montrose dated 1820 and through a series of letters from the Grand Lodge and a brother Freemason, they were also able to track down a beautiful silk screen of a 'tracing board' of the Order that was hanging in the National Museum of Gardening near Lambeth Palace in London.

Travelling north to Scotland, and arriving in Edinburgh, Ben and Peter became immersed in the history of Free Gardenery wherever they had a lead. In the National Museum of Scotland, there were banners of the Order from the days when lodge members paraded in full regalia, top hats and floral tributes. There was also a



L-R: W Bro Ben Quick, Bro Vernon de Villiers, MW Bro Gordon Vincent, Bro Peter Maclean at the Grand Installation with the Grand Charter of the Ancient Order of Free Gardeners

Gardeners token,
National Museum of
Scotland in Edinburgh

beautiful token with some of the gardeners' working tools with Latin engraving. At the township of Kirkcaldy, they discovered the old Free Gardener buildings, and the creative stone work to identify them, and after a long day's work of research they reached the Gardeners Arms in Haddington, which was once the meeting hall and ale house for the Gardeners.

But the highlight was at the Kelty Masonic Hall, where Ben and Peter witnessed Bro Gordon Vincent installed as Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Ancient Order of Free Gardeners Scotland and the return of the original Charter to its homeland after being in safe hands in Cape Town.

'This trip was a memorable experience for Peter and me. We were able to see where Free Gardentry in Australia came from and to meet so many people interested in keeping the Order going,' said Ben.

'Also to meet the wonderful people in local museums preserving some of the



Ancient Order stone work on a building in Kirkcaldy, Scotland

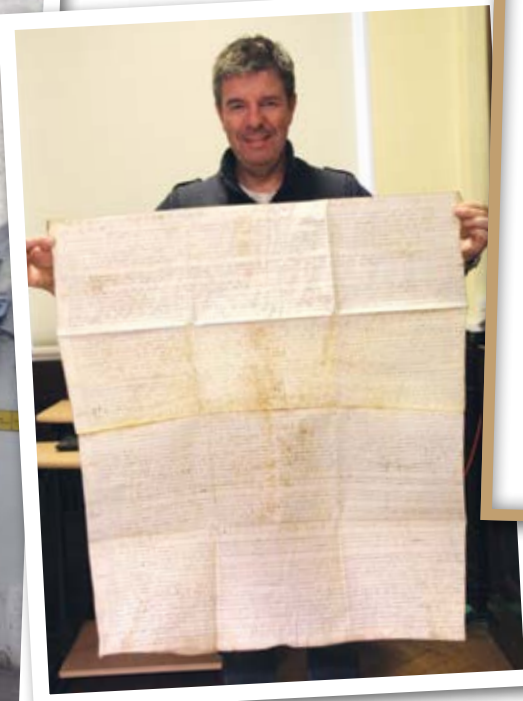
The historical study trip took them to different parts of the United Kingdom to see how far Free Gardeners had spread

Order's history and artefacts. A highlight was to visit the Countess of Elgin Lodge No 105, a sister lodge on the other side of the world. Peter and I are very thankful to the Grand United Order for allowing us this very special opportunity.'

Further information can be found at www.facebook.com/freegardeners, website www.guofg.net.au or the Grand Secretary at guofgvic1@gmail.com.



Ben Quick at the Free Gardeners Arms, Haddington Scotland



Above: Silk tracing board, hanging in the National Museum of Gardening, London

Left: Peter Maclean holding the St Johns Lodge Document from 1820



Peace and harmony for a troubled world

This abridged talk by Bro S Joseph Eshaghian was presented as **California and Israeli masons and their guests shared a banquet in Jerusalem** during a tour of Israel, sponsored by the Grand Lodge of California. The author is the Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge of California.

My brothers, we gather here together in peace and harmony, members of many backgrounds, members of many races, and members of many faiths. We gather here in the cradle of civilization and in the location where masonic tradition informs us that much of the story of our degrees took place.

When I first decided to ask about joining Freemasonry, I was a newlywed, and my wife and I were living in Jerusalem, in the centre of town. It was 2003 and a very difficult time in this country. There was tremendous violence and destruction everywhere. From the window in my apartment I could hear the screaming sirens of ambulances, police cars and other emergency services almost every day; and every time my heart would sink and I would think 'What now? Oh God please not again!' Nowhere was safe.

It was against this backdrop one afternoon while sitting at my computer and doing research on Freemasonry that I decided to see if there were any masonic lodges in Jerusalem and I found an English speaking lodge, Holy City Lodge No 4,

within walking distance of my apartment. I called the number and made an appointment to meet the brethren at the lodge on their next stated meeting, not knowing what to expect.

Freemasonry brings together men who would otherwise remain at a perpetual distance.

What I saw upon entering through the door of Freemasonry changed my life. There were tables, set up in the traditional table lodge 'U' shape. Around this table I saw Jews, some wearing kippahs, others not; I saw Arabs, both Muslim and Christian, Armenians, and one Englishman in a tuxedo looking totally out of

place, sitting around, eating dinner, making jokes, laughing, asking how each other's families were doing and having a lovely time together.

While this might sound like a perfectly normal activity to many people, when you look at it in the context of what was happening in this country at the time, it was absolutely incredible! I stood at the entrance with my jaw open and I was thinking, 'Wait a minute! Outside these doors people are killing each other every day. Outside these doors Jews and Arabs are not getting along. Outside these doors everyone is keeping to their own kind, because they don't trust one another. How is this possible?'

Before I walked through the doors of that lodge, I was very nervous about this 'secretive' organization. I was worried there might be things in Freemasonry that would conflict with my faith and religious obligations. After I saw what was happening in that dining room, I realised that any organization which can bring these men together in peace and harmony, when outside is craziness and chaos, must be something amazing and I need to join!

After attending a couple of dinners, I put in my application, was interviewed and was accepted to join the lodge. Unfortunately I had to move out of Israel before they could schedule my first degree and it took me another three years before I walked into a lodge in Los Angeles, but the memory of what I experienced in the lodge at Jerusalem has stayed with me from that day and will always be with me. It was a personal 'perfect point of entrance'. It defined for me the meaning of being a Freemason, and I am so proud to stand before you today as a Master Mason and as a brother of our ancient and gentle Craft.



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Freemasonry brings together men who would otherwise remain at a perpetual distance, and more than any other country in the world, it's most noticeable in Israel.

While we enjoy brotherhood within the sacred walls of our masonic temples, outside our world is broken and divided. These past few months have seen much tension between different races and religions both in the United States and in Israel. We divide ourselves by race, religion, nationality, tribe, colour, gender, class, wealth and on and on and on.

It is easy to understand why so many people feel so alone even in our extremely modern world where we can connect to anyone, anywhere, by just the touch of a button. We are taught that one way is better than the other, or that one system is the only correct path. Instead of being taught to embrace and appreciate our differences, we are taught to be afraid of one another. Too often, children are raised with ignorance and intolerance, which leads to hatred, and that hatred leads to violence and darkness.

Freemasonry gives us the light to drive away that darkness. Freemasonry teaches us to meet on the level as equals. It teaches us that even though you may be totally different than I, you still deserve my respect and my honour, because you are my brother. We

are bound to each other by the three fold tie, and that bond cannot be torn apart. Freemasonry breaks down ignorance and intolerance and in its place builds peace and love.

It is our job as masons to fix this broken world. Our Grand Master's theme this year is that we can Repair the World by Improving Ourselves – 'Tikkun Olam!' We can bring about *tikkun olam* only first by making ourselves better men and through personal growth! In Hebrew, Freemason is translated as Boneh Chofshi, or a free builder. The most important thing we can do in this world as masons is to build and repair.

We must build bridges of understanding and co-operation among ourselves and show the world that yes, we can live together, yes we can have peace, and yes ALL of us can sit at a table together and laugh and make jokes and ask about each other's families.

We must be the leaders. When each of you knelt or stood at the altar to take the solemn obligations of a mason, you gave an oath to uphold our principles. Don't waste the opportunity and the knowledge given to you through our Craft by being passive. What I saw happen inside the doors of that lodge in Jerusalem 12 years ago can happen in every corner of this earth.


The Bible says that a day will come when nation will not lift up sword against nation. That doesn't mean that we will all

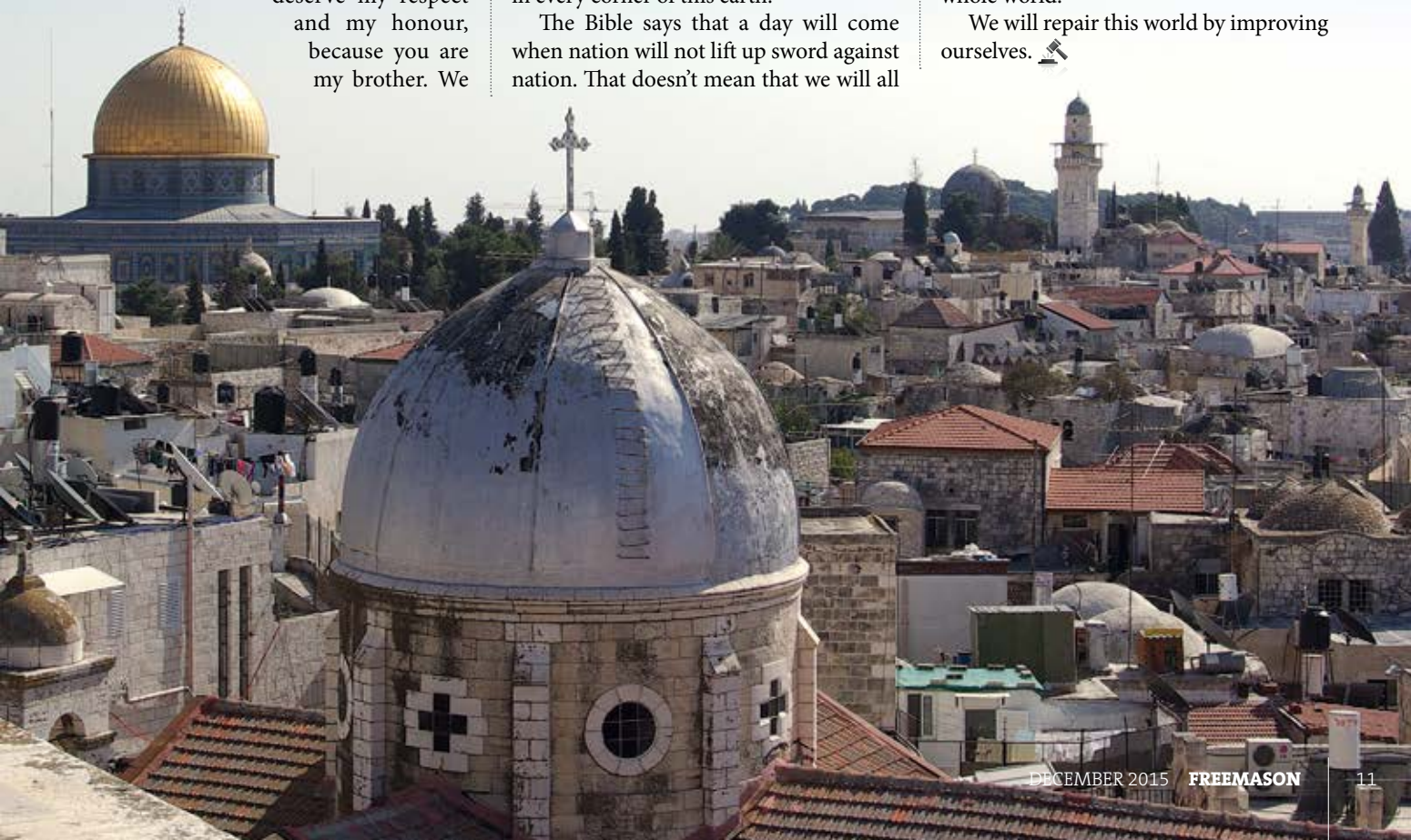
be the same one day. It means that we will learn to love one another despite our differences and that we will learn to appreciate that which makes us unique, and only through that understanding will we make this world a better place. That will be how we build and repair this world. It is the altar of our fraternity.

We are gathered in the most contested and fought over land in the world. Look around you and see how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!

What we do here matters – indeed it echoes around the world. If we can come together in this manner here in the Holy Land, we can do this everywhere.

I urge you to take what Freemasonry has been able to accomplish right here before your eyes and make a difference outside our sacred walls as well. Use the working tools of our Craft to change this world and make it a better place. If Freemasonry can bring together men of every background while war is being fought outside its doors, Freemasons can help bring together all mankind. We will do this first by building temples of peace and love inside our own hearts and consciences, and then spreading that cement of brotherly love and affection to the whole world.

We will repair this world by improving ourselves. 





From the Grand Secretary

As I commence my first column for the magazine at the beginning of my tenure as Grand Secretary, **please allow me to thank those who have taken the time to wish me well.**



It has been an honour to serve this Grand Lodge in other capacities previously, and be assured I intend to commit to this new role with the same dedication, passion and love of the Craft, in particular, and 'the extended family' of Freemasonry in general.

Grand Lodge of WA

Late October saw the Grand Installation of the Grand Lodge of WA in Perth and the Grand Master, MW Bro James Melville was delighted to lead a delegation of 21 brethren – one of the largest of the visiting delegations to attend. It was also pleasing that some brethren were accompanied by their partners and family members, adding another 11 to our group, a total of 32.

This was a wonderful weekend of events enjoyed by all, including our 'adventure' day trip to Fremantle.

The Grand Installation of Victoria is to take place from 31 March to 3 April 2016, in Melbourne. Details will be made available as they come to hand. The Grand Master looks forward to your support.

Following Victoria, next year, there will also be Grand Installations in Queensland

in July and in New Zealand in November. As our Grand Master says, "They are great examples of PDFs; "Public Display of Freemasonry". Apart from that, they are a most enjoyable experience and a wonderful way of enhancing old and/or creating new friendships across the jurisdictions of Australasia.

Museum of Freemasonry

Yet another addition to the museum is a portrait of MW Bro Derek Robson AM PGM which was unveiled on 11 September 2015 and witnessed by many friends and family of MW Bro Robson and the artist, Yve Close. This portrait joins other Past Grand Masters proudly on display within the museum. Please come in and take the opportunity to enjoy so much of what is on display.

By the time you read this column the 'Sydney Open' will have been held on Sunday 1 November, which along with highlighting the particular type of striking 'Brutalist' architecture of the building, will also, in conjunction with our association and sponsorship of the NSW/ACT Young Achiever Awards, display artworks of young

'up and coming' artists from around Sydney. I hope those who visited the Sydney Masonic Centre during the first half of November enjoyed the works on display and appreciated the talents of these young artists.


International visiting

As the world becomes smaller and international travel is easier, it also stands to reason that many of our brethren would like to take the opportunity to visit a lodge meeting in a country of their travels. Many brethren, in preparing their travel arrangements, have been contacting the particular Grand Lodge of the jurisdiction to be visited directly via email or other means. However, in all cases, particularly with British or European Grand Lodges, the protocols require the initial contact and introduction of a brother to be made by the member's 'home' Grand Lodge.

If you are considering a lodge visit during your planned travels, please contact our Grand Lodge Secretariat, well in advance of your departure, in order that the appropriate correspondence and issue of a Traveling Certificate can be completed on your behalf and to ensure that you are visiting a lodge belonging to a Grand Lodge jurisdiction in amity with this Grand Lodge.

Point to note

I have noticed that in some correspondence, or postings on various websites or pages the use of the word 'brothers' seems to be used more often as the plural or collective form for the word brother. This is incorrect.

In light of the Grand Master's desired initiative related to Lodges of Instruction; may I point out the correct collective or plural word for brother is 'brethren'. 



The GM attended the Grand Lodge of WA Grand Installation in October



The Enigma of compassionate care



As a Grand Chaplain, I was disappointed to miss the Grand Installation because of treatment for a serious blood infection and the experiences through the weeks of recovery inspired this Chaplain's message.

An article recently came to my attention, titled 'The Enigma of Compassionate Care' which caused me to reflect on the compassionate care, teachings and practice of our Masonic Order and the same care and practice of the nursing staff and doctors of Sutherland Hospital.


The article includes this paragraph from a NSW Palliative Care Volunteers meeting last May:

*An **enigma** is something that is unclear, puzzling; something with a hidden meaning, and requiring further explanation. Today, I've chosen to explore with you the enigma that we call compassion, especially those aspects of compassion that may not always be well-understood, but relate directly to the*

important work we do as volunteers. What I'm hoping to achieve is to outline for you a transformative, interpersonal paradigm that underpins a particular way of being and caring: it's what I call "compassionate care."

Over recent years as a Grand Chaplain, I have come to understand that the moral virtue, **Charity**, when applied with that foundation Masonic principle, **Relief**, is a social responsibility challenge every mason should demonstrate. My experiences with Masonic brethren, their families and friends in charitable support over recent years in aspects of dementia research have clearly evidenced a general attitude change towards charities supporting such debilitating diseases in line with the paragraph above.

That practical understanding of Charity and Relief has now been complemented by my experiences over the past few weeks where I was the recipient of compassionate care, freely given by medical staff, family and friends. Such intimate care has really brought home what it means to be prepared to give and practice the above Virtues and Principles, in particular the innate and nurtured compassion given by my doctors, nurses and physiotherapists.

I am confident the compassionate care experienced over the past few weeks has helped me to celebrate the recent Grand Lodge Installation, and to be in a stronger position to assist the Grand Master's thrust to reach out to the several charitable initiatives nominated in his policy address. 

By RW BRO RABBI DR SAMUEL TOV-LEV

From year to year



Many people are amazed how the year passes so quickly that the amusement of the last New Year is still fresh in their mind. Is it because of modern living that we adopt this perception of a speedy time?

We must admit celebrating the civil New Year is well fixed in the mind of modern world people and is used as a mutual personal affection in all ages. It brings family and friends to relax in a merry atmosphere or by mixing with the crowd for welcoming the New Year with triviality. The greetings are expressed verbally or through greeting cards, giving presents and friendly conversation. Could we assume that the most important celebration is excessive drinking to release the long tension of the past year? In other words this is a physical not a spiritual celebration.


There are several New Year's celebrations

used by various ethnic groups according to their traditions and therefore are differed in meanings and the manner those groups celebrate.

From a personal experience we have to note that the Jewish New Year, which occurs usually in September, contains a unique message for the individual and for humanity at large. It is a spiritual celebration designed as a soul searching for the individual. One has to look at one's own past mistakes and wrong doings with the hope and desire to correct them and aim for a better future. Therefore it can be regarded as a solemn day in the life of its followers. Not like the civil New Year

where people of the Jewish faith gather in Synagogues for prayers to the Almighty and to ask for forgiveness from those whom they have hurt in any way.

When we often witness the turmoil in many parts of the world, the crimes and suffering inflicted on many innocent people purposely and intentionally, it makes us wonder about this phenomenon of human inclination for destruction and the desire to harm others.

May the New Year wipe out all evil in the world and help us live happily and harmoniously for the sake of having a better future for humanity and the world. 

Real dragons!

St George had his problems with dragons but the unwary tourist on the island of **Komodo near Indonesia** has to be equally cautious about **mixing and meeting with the local dragons.**

Komodo Island is the only place on earth where the dragons can be found in their natural habitat apart from zoos. They are the world's largest living lizard with the male growing to a maximum of four metres and the female three metres.

They can run up to 18 km an hour and can swim but have to surface after about 300 metres.

Taking a day tour while sailing on the *Rhapsody of the Seas* last voyage from Sydney, it looked like being an interesting wander around the island. But after listening to the advice of the park rangers and guides it became more of watch where you put your feet and don't make too much noise!

As we moved towards a known water hole, the guides advised not to get too

close to the group of dragons on view, nor to be noisy or make sudden movements. The dragons, with their tongues continually flicking out of their mouths, obviously knew that tourists were present but we also made sure that there was plenty of space available for a quick getaway.

Komodo Island has a population of just over 2,000 people who are descendants of former convicts who were exiled to the island in the late 1800s or early 1900s. It has a national park which is a world heritage site and a biosphere reserve as declared by UNESCO. The island is also home to a 'pink beach', one of only seven in the world. Komodo is one of the 17,508 islands that make up the Republic of Indonesia.

All visitors are escorted by park rangers armed with long pronged poles to ensure

safety. Dragons bite and their poisonous bacteria can kill. It may take a week for an animal infected with the bacteria to die but the dragons have an enhanced sense of smell and can smell blood from distances up to 20 km.

They are the world's heaviest and largest lizards with the male weighing an average 90 kilos which can blow out to 150 kilos after eating. Like some snakes, it can digest an animal whole and in previous years, according to our guide, there were reports of dragons having taken a local child and an adult tourist photographer who had lingered behind his group.

The Komodo dragon has a tail as long as its body, as well as about 60 frequently replaced, serrated teeth that can measure up to 2.5 cm (1 in) in length. Its saliva is frequently blood-tinged, because its teeth are almost completely covered by tissue that is naturally lacerated during feeding. This creates an ideal culture for the bacteria that live in its mouth. Komodo dragon skin is reinforced by armoured scales containing tiny bones which function as a type of natural chain-mail.

Research suggests the large size of Komodo dragons may be better understood as representative of a population of very large lizards that once lived across Indonesia and Australia, most of which, along with other megafauna, died out after the Pleistocene era. Fossils very similar have been found in Australia dating to



These dragons may not breathe fire, but they are still very dangerous!



ones to step in. The diet of big Komodo dragons mainly consists of deer, though they also eat considerable amounts of carion. The dragons also occasionally attack humans as stated earlier.

A female lays 15-30 eggs which take nine months to hatch but only 20 percent survive. The young live in a tree until nearly three and can live up to 50 years. The eggs are laid in a mound in the earth approx. 1.5 m by 1.5 m and the female and male will eat any that are not formed properly or are weak. The mother will lay eggs in one burrow and then create four or five similar burrows to fool any predators. The young when mobile head for the trees and live on birds, bugs and insects, sometimes going to the ground for food.

The island park area has a number of other fascinating natural sights and the tourist is well entertained by the guides. Lemon grass, when rubbed between the fingers, produces a distinct lemon smell, giant spider webs are easy to spot and avoid while the kapok tree is another attraction. Local animals such as deer and wild chickens wander freely but are always wary about becoming today's lunch.


There was considerable attention paid to early stories about dragons existing in the area but checks were not made until the early 1910s following reports from Dutch sailors about a mysterious creature, allegedly a dragon, which inhabited a small island.

In their report, the sailors said the creature measured up to seven metres in length with a large body and mouth which



constantly spat fire. Lieutenant Steyn van Hensbroek, an official of the Dutch Colonial Administration in Flores, travelled to Komodo Island, accompanied by a team of soldiers where, after a few days, he managed to kill one of the lizards.

Van Hensbroek took the dragon to headquarters where it was measured at approximately 2.1 m long, with a shape very similar to that of a lizard.

There are now about 2,400 dragons, the biggest on Komodo Island and smaller species on other local islands. 

greater than 3.8 million years ago, and its body size remained stable on Flores (one of the handful of Indonesian islands where it is currently found) over the last 900,000 years.

Males have a habit of being lazy, settling on a bank or slope, blending in, and if a deer or other animal steps over it, the dragon strikes, gripping on to a leg or any other part of the body and injecting its poison. The infected victim is able to move away but quickly dies once the poison takes effect. Once the animal is dead, male dragons feast first and when full they move away, allowing females and younger

1. A pink beach is formed from a mixture of sand with red particles from ocean-floor-dwelling organisms.

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Forgotten FLOTILLA



The Freemasons' Association held its annual Remembrance Day Service and Dinner on 11 November 2015. The highlight of the dinner was a talk entitled 'The Lost Flotilla' by Dr Michael James Bendon.

The Service was held at the Cenotaph on level one of the Centre and was conducted by VW Bro Colonel Stewart Grant, Retired, PDGIW, Lodge Army and Navy No 517. Wreaths were laid by the Grand Master, MW Bro James R Melville, the President of the Freemasons' Association, RW Bro Ross McAlpine, PJGW and Dr Yvonne McIntyre, Immediate Past President of the Freemasons' Association.

The Service was followed by the Remembrance Day Dinner, the highlight of which was a talk titled *The Lost Flotilla* by Dr Michael James Bendon. Dr Bendon holds post-graduate qualifications in Archaeology, History, Linguistics, Maritime Archaeology, Education and Cultural Heritage.

This is an abridged version of Dr Bendon's talk:

The Forgotten Flotilla

This story has its genesis in the discovery of a submerged rusting hulk lying in the shallow, crystal clear waters of a small beach in Western Crete. The discovery by Dr Bendon and a colleague Dr Elpida Hadmidaki, turned out to be the remnants of Tank Landing Craft (TLC) A6, which was among the first Tank Landing Craft to reach Egypt to assist in the evacuation of Greece in April 1941. The vessel had been placed under the command of John Digby Sutton, a Sub-Lieutenant of 22 years' service with the Royal Navy.

For his bravery during the evacuation of Greece and the Battle of Crete, John Sutton was awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

Dr Bendon presents a story of secretly developed vessels and the part they played

in not only supporting ANZAC troops in North Africa and Crete but also in saving many thousands of troops from the hands of the invading German forces. Until the publication of Dr Bendon's recent book, *The Forgotten Flotilla*, virtually nothing was known of these craft and the work they carried out.

The Tank Landing Craft (TLC) Mk1 were prototype vessels, constructed in the latter half of 1940 by the British for Combined Operations. Prime Minister Churchill was keen to avoid another episode like Dunkirk where the retreating British armies had to leave behind all heavy equipment on the seashore. The Prime Minister saw these new vessels as forming the central element for amphibious operations in the Mediterranean.

The TLC Mk1s ('A' lighter) were developed and manufactured secretly with orders issued that forbade the taking of photographs of the vessels while under construction. At this stage of the war, Germany had yet to develop anything similar to these craft and apparently Britain hoped to keep it that way just a little longer. Readers may remember that during the invasion of Crete, German seaborne reinforcements had to be carried in an assortment of commandeered fishing vessels only.

The craft's real, and often unexpected, battle capabilities had yet to be tested. A Sub-Lieutenant from the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (RNVR), or perhaps only a Royal Navy (RN) Boatswain, skippered these 'experimental' vessels into the struggle in the Middle East. In fact, other than the crews of the TLCs themselves, very few armed forces personnel had previously seen such vessels. 'Indeed, not



The wreck of a TLC Mk1 lying on the ocean floor, front landing ramp open.

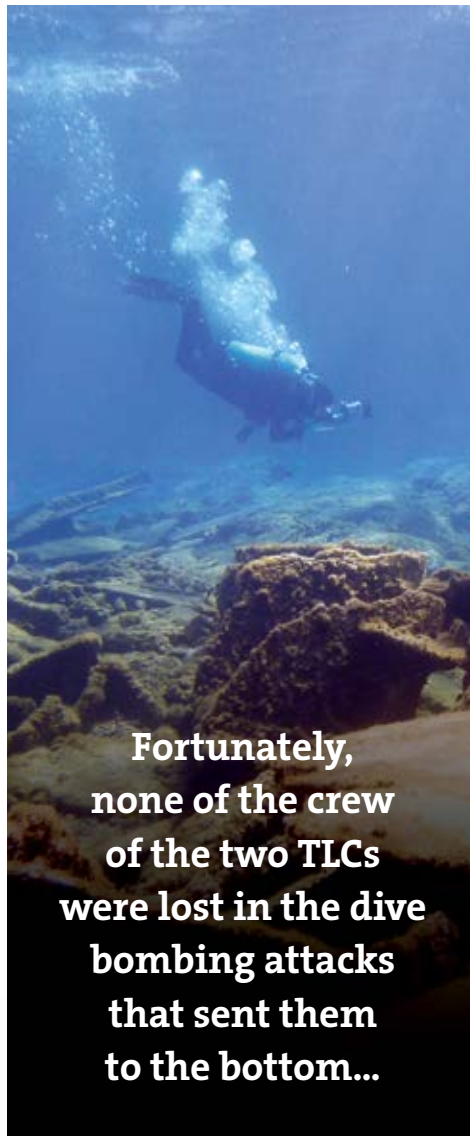
even aboard the flagship was there anyone who recognized them for what they were' (Heckstall-Smith & Baillie-Groham 1961, p. 55).

The new TLCs were the largest vessels of the landing craft types at that time. They were able to operate under their own power across long distances (900 nautical miles) and could carry up to six tanks or other heavy equipment. Built like a floating dock with sides, and two very powerful V8 engines, the craft were virtually unsinkable but were also very difficult to manoeuvre even in the slightest of seas. This led some aboard to speak of them as 'Large Crude Targets'.

The first twenty Tank Landing Craft arrived in Egypt on cargo transports in early 1941 and immediately after reassembly took part in operations. The first five TLCs to be completed (TLC A1, A5, A6, A16 and A19) were sent from Alexandria on a supply run to the besieged town of Tobruk in early April. Upon arrival, they were immediately redirected to Suda Bay on Crete, where they were joined by two more TLCs (A15 and A20) sent from Alexandria. The TLCs were to be prepared to assist in the evacuation of Greece.

Only weeks earlier, Commonwealth troops had been sent into Greece to deter Italian and German forces from invading. However, the German assault proved too strong, and when the Greek military crumbled, there was no option for the British but evacuation. The harbour of Piraeus and the majority of other piers and wharves had been destroyed by the Luftwaffe. This meant that the withdrawing troops had to be picked up directly from beaches. This necessitated the use of small ship-borne landing craft as well as large TLCs, with their carrying capacity of 900 men, to ferry troops from beaches to the ships waiting further offshore. Greek fishermen also assisted in the dangerous task of ferrying the exhausted troops.

In total, six TLCs were involved in this operation, codenamed Demon, yet only one of them (A6) made it back to Crete at the end of April. Less than a month later, the Germans began their invasion of Crete with the deployment of huge numbers of paratroopers. This airborne assault proved costly in terms of soldiers lost, yet was ultimately successful. Again, the British were forced to evacuate.



**Fortunately,
none of the crew
of the two TLCs
were lost in the dive
bombing attacks
that sent them
to the bottom...**


By then, only two TLCs (A6 and A20) remained fully operational in Suda Bay and their skippers were ordered to make their way down to the southern coast of Crete to once again assist with evacuation. Neither of them was to reach their destination, as both were sunk off the coast at the north-western end of Crete. It is only a matter of conjecture but had the TLCs, with their

huge carrying capacity, made it to Sphakia in the south to assist, it is possible that a far greater number of the hard-pressed Australian and New Zealand troops could have been lifted to safety.

Fortunately, none of the crew of the two TLCs were lost in the dive bombing attacks that sent them to the bottom, but all were eventually taken prisoner by German troops after being sheltered, at great risk, by many of the local villagers. They were then sent back to Germany. There they were to remain in a prisoner of war camp until the end of the war. The people of Greece and Crete continued their struggle against the occupation by Germany.

The remainder of the TLC Mk1s, the Forgotten Flotilla, remained stationed on the North African coast after being reassembled. They were assigned to the Spud Run, the supply run to Tobruk, and were incorporated into the WDLF (which likely stood for Western Desert Lighter Flotilla). Since the slow, unwieldy and poorly armed TLCs were often subjected to enemy attacks and sustained continual losses, the men assigned to them resolved the acronym in a slightly more grim fashion: 'We Die Like Flies'.

Towards the end of the war, there seem to have been only three TLC Mk1s still in action, namely A4, A9 and A17. Although as yet unconfirmed, they may have been sent to Italy towards the end of the war.

There are now, unfortunately, few of the veterans of the Mediterranean campaigns left to tell their tales. If we were able to speak to more of them, many of their stories would likely include an encounter of some sort with a noisy, under-armed, flat-bottomed, slow-moving TLC and its hard-working crew. There would probably also be mention of the relief the craft carried and the solace the vessels brought. 

More information can be obtained from the website at www.forgottenflotilla.com



Masons honoured

Whiddon's new residential aged care homes in Sydney and Bathurst have been named in recognition of the support and contributions of the many masons and community members who have supported the organisation over the years.

The tradition of naming our homes and buildings after those who contribute to Whiddon is a long-standing practice and one that Whiddon have been delighted to be able to continue. We are proud to have the opportunity to recognise our Masonic origins and the valuable contributions of the Masonic community and the individuals who have given so much to Whiddon

Following the completion of the new homes at Whiddon Easton Park and Whiddon Kelso, the Board and Executive Team announced that the wings within the new buildings were to be named after those who have contributed to and supported Whiddon over the years.

The Sir David Martin Home at Whiddon Easton Park retains the name of the original Sir David Martin Memorial Nursing Home built in 1993 to commemorate the Governor of NSW who passed away from lung cancer while in office. The wings within the newly rebuilt Sir David Martin Home are named in recognition of the support and contributions of Mr Leslie Lock and Mr John Treloar, both long-time Board members of the Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of NSW.

The wings within the new building at Whiddon Kelso are named in recognition of the support and contributions of the Bedwell Family and Mr Max Kingston. Both the Bedwell Family and Mr Kingston



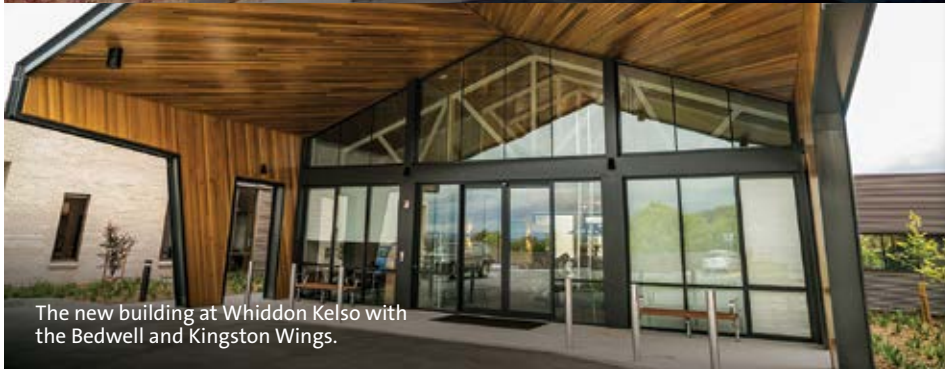
contributed greatly to the establishment of the original Kelso home and have served on the building committee for many years.

Mr Alex Bedwell, whose family the Bedwell Wing is named in honour of, was the first resident in the new building at Whiddon Kelso. When asked how he felt about the wing being named in his family's honour Alex said 'Well, it's a bit of a shock but then, well, my family has been involved quite heavily. My first visit to Glenfield (Whiddon's founding location) was in 1966. The family has been a supporter of Whiddon for a long time, first Dad and Jack, and then me. It's a family thing.'

Whiddon's Grafton development, which commenced in July 2015 and is due to be completed in late 2017, will retain the name



The new Sir David Martin home, with the Treloar and Leslie Lock Wings, at Whiddon Easton Park.



The new building at Whiddon Kelso with the Bedwell and Kingston Wings.



The late Leslie Lock's son and daughter, Graham and Janette, at the unveiling and naming ceremony of the new Sir David Martin Home.



The new Grafton home, currently under construction, with the Livingstone Wing.

of the mason and community member who enabled the home to be built in 1981 as 'A H Livingstone House', with one of the wings in the rebuilt Grafton home to be named 'Livingstone Wing' in recognition of Mr Livingstone's valuable contributions. The naming of the second wing is to be decided in 2016.

For further information about Whiddon and new developments please visit whiddon.com.au or phone 02 9827 6632. 🛠️



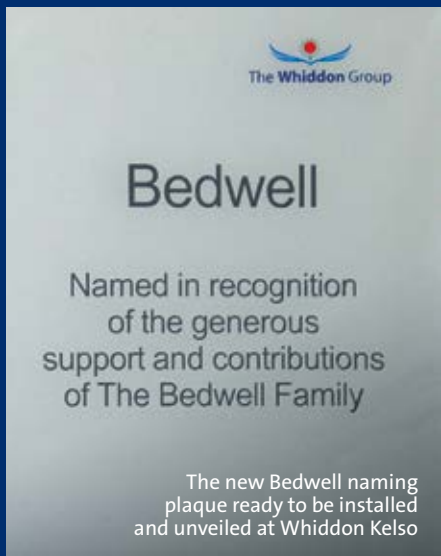
The Whiddon Group

The Bedwell Family

– as told by Mr Alex Bedwell

A group from Sydney built 12 units for a retirement village at the front of the Masonic Hall and then put the units on the market. I approached *The Whiddon Group* to tell them about the sale, they purchased the units and formed a local committee. My wife and I moved into one of the units and sold them on the spot- we acted as interim real estate agents and property managers for the village. We moved quite a lot because the unit we were living in was usually the one we sold!

'Once we got the units sold and the village started ticking over, the committee started working on building the hostel (the residential home) and that opened in



1990. I retired after that point and left the committee in the hands of Max Kingston, Bill Deely, Rod McAdams and a number of other dedicated committee members. The Whiddon home in Kelso has been a second home for me and I have been involved in its progress and welfare, it's a great place.'



Alex is 90 and still growing

At Whiddon we believe in caring for the whole person. It means ensuring that the older people we support can still enjoy doing the things that matter to them: gardening, art, singing, even raising chooks. It helps people stay socially engaged, active and make the most of every day.

With 70 years experience, our award winning approach makes Whiddon a leader in residential and in-home aged care.

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The Whiddon Group
Life is a journey



September Communication

The Grand Master, MW Bro James Melville welcomed all in attendance at the September Communication of Grand Lodge, pointing out it had been a little over four weeks since the Grand Installation – a weekend which was something special for NSW and ACT Freemasonry and showed the public Masonry has a strong presence in the community.

‘Over the weekend, the events were of the highest quality and I thank the many people who devoted many hours to make it all possible. The Freemasons NSW and ACT Facebook page had in excess of 4,500 hits during the Grand Installation and many brethren have shared these photos and their own personal photos on social media,’ the Grand Master said.

‘Some of the highlights of the past month included my attendance at a combined district meeting in Wingham, hosted by Lodge Cowper, the Freemasons’ Association AGM where RW Bro Ross McAlpine was re-elected as president, and my attendance at Lodge Antiquity’s 195th Anniversary, a combined meeting with the Lodge of Australia.

‘There was a fundraising dinner hosted by The Australian Masonic Friends of the Philippines with 260 people in attendance, including the Consul General to the Philippines, Anne Jalando-on Louis as the guest of honour. The dinner raised nearly \$25,000 and helped lift the profile of Freemasonry within the Filipino community and media. This group is now working in conjunction with Rotary International on the next project to send a 40 foot container filled with medical equipment.

‘I would like to acknowledge the work by our Board of Management. New to the Board are the Chairman, two Committee members, Grand Architect, the Deputy and Assistant Grand Masters, all of whom have been given their specific portfolios

and are working with their sub committees for the benefit of the membership. The Deputy and Assistant Grand Master will be working together for our Step Program initiatives. Our website is constantly updated and is a great resource as a conduit of communication for our members.


‘As Grand Master it also gives me a great deal of pleasure to announce this year’s winners of the *2015 Grand Master’s Literary prize*. This year there were 21 entries and I would like to thank those brethren who took the time to write and submit their essays. I congratulate all entrants on their vitality and attachment to Freemasonry and thank the committee who selected the winners.

‘First prize was awarded to RW Bro Geoff Ludowyk PSGW, PRGC, Region 4, a member of Lodge Capitol No 612 and The Discovery Lodge of Research No 971, while second prize was shared between RW Bro Robert Hughes PJGW, a member of Lodge Oatley No 381 and Bro William Hamill MM, The City of Wollongong Lodge No 1049. Every entrant’s papers will be added to the Grand Lodge Library.

‘It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Today Queen Elizabeth has become the longest serving British Monarch, having been in power for 63 years 7 months and 3 days and eclipsing the term of her great-great-grandmother, Queen Victoria. Whether you are a Monarchist or a Republican I think we can all agree this is a stunning milestone and wish her a continuing productive life.

‘Finally, I wish to thank you for your commitment to Freemasonry and for what we all do to connect ourselves with the community. I thank the many brethren who have embraced my theme of Diversity, Unity and Matship. I will do my best to showcase Freemasonry and look forward to meeting with you in the future.’

The Executive Council, at its regular meeting, endorsed the previous decision to again participate as a Sponsor for the *2016 Young Achievers Awards* with many of the events to be conducted at the Sydney Masonic Centre. It also confirmed a commitment to continue the review of Conflict Resolution and Complaints procedures and the Election Process and received a report from the Committee on Foreign Correspondence which included the topics of Candidates with physical disabilities, Action Plan of the Inter-American Masonic Confederation and English Masons who are Councillors must declare membership.

At its meetings, the Board of Management decided that separate web pages be added to those for Installed Master and Master Mason to carry pertinent information for various officials and committees and that a plan has been accepted on the basis of the Operational Review Committee report to improve communications within the jurisdiction during the next two years. 

Agenda for the Grand Lodge December Communication

The Quarterly Communication for Grand Lodge will be held at the Sydney Masonic Centre on Wednesday 9 December 2015 at 7.30pm.

Included on the agenda will be:

- Grand Master’s Welcome
- Reports from the Executive Council, Board of Management, Grand Charity, College of Masonic Studies
- Conferral of Grand Rank
- General Business

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Chairman's Message

2015 has been yet another successful year for Masonicare which is the flagship for lodges across NSW and ACT to showcase the charitable arm of Freemasonry.

Many lodges have taken the opportunity to raise funds for deductible gift recipients in their area and these funds are matched on a dollar for dollar basis by Masonicare.

Regions and District Masonicare managers will advise any lodge on the protocols in relation to interaction grants and benevolence.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank all masons who have been involved in our benevolence appeal and fund raising initiatives for our interaction grants. Your communities have benefitted greatly by your actions.

I would especially like to thank my Masonicare Board members for the time and dedication they have given so

unselfishly to Masonicare over the past twelve months.

Christmas is a period for us to enjoy the company of our families and fellow masons and I would urge you to take time out and recharge your batteries for 2016.

The Board looks forward to working with you in the coming year and I wish everyone a happy and holy Christmas and a happy, healthy and successful 2016.

Fraternally,

RW Bro Andrew Fraser MP PDGM
Chairman

Masonicare Charity Jewels

Has your Lodge Management Committee considered making a special presentation of one of these beautiful Masonicare Charity Jewels to a deserving brother at your Installation meeting?



One of the jewels could even be presented to the incoming/outgoing MCO at an appropriate time or at the Festive Board.

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 go to The Benevolence Fund.

Thank you, Masonicare

InterACTION Grant

The Masonicare interACTION Grants program was designed to stimulate fund-raising throughout NSW and the ACT, thereby maximising the charitable benefits to local communities.

Masonicare will contribute to monies raised by Masonic Lodges, Districts and Regions for local charities of their choice.

This is generally on a dollar for dollar basis and enables us to have a multiplying effect in supporting those causes which need it most.

InterACTION Grants have made a substantial difference in the following areas:

- Youth and families at risk
- Medical research
- Community programs
- Hospital and medical equipment
- Support for people with disabilities
- Aged care
- Emergency services

The interACTION Grants program is successfully engaging people across the jurisdiction to make a collaborative difference in proudly supporting our local communities.

For the past years Masonicare received some thank you notes from the charities that we've helped.



Dear Masonicare,

It is with grateful thanks that our Manning members acknowledge your donation of \$4,000.

We realise that such a generous amount of money can only come about with the combined efforts of all involved in Masonicare and we wish all to know that we recognise their dedication to helping the less fortunate in our community.

Your gift will allow our foundation to offer assistance to our many clients who, on limited incomes, find it difficult to manage

when unexpected bills come their way.

On their behalf we ask you to accept their thanks for the help which makes life much easier than otherwise would be the case.

Yours sincerely,

Lorraine Bonisoli
President, Manning Foundation

For more information on how to support the Manning Foundation, please contact:
PO Box 3215 Telopea NSW 2117
Phone: (02) 9683 7555
Fax: (02) 9989 8850



Dear Masonicare,

So you think the glass is half full too? That's wonderful news!

Your recent donation of \$10,000 shows how much you share our belief in the unrelenting power of optimism. It's only because of positive and caring people like you that we can reach even more children living with cancer and their families.

By donating you've helped them feel brave and strong and able to face whatever life throws at them. Thank you so much! Your donation will immediately go to work helping us to deliver our unique programs to help children and families deal with the



physical, emotional and financial stress of the cancer journey.

Thanks to you, we can provide much needed education and performance programs for schools, Camps and Fun Days for children and their siblings and hospital support such as Play Therapy to help build children's resilience as they move through their treatment.

One of our Camp Quality mothers, Leanne, recently shared with me why people like you are so special ... 'Having a child diagnosed with cancer brings your world crumbling down around you. Family life as you know it no longer exists. The camps and fun days that Camp Quality has given us have helped us bounce forward by rebuilding normality into our family life and giving us time away from the stresses that living with a terminal illness brings ... and we are so thankful for it.'

You can hear more stories from our families as well as keep track of all things Camp Quality at our website www.campquality.org.au

If you ever have any questions, you can speak to one of our amazing team by calling us on 1300 662 267.

Thank you for helping us to create a better life for every child living with cancer in Australia.

Best regards,

Simon Rountree

Chief Executive Officer

For more information on how to support Camp Quality, please contact:

PO Box 400, Epping NSW 1710

Phone: 02 9876 0500

Fax: 02 9869 0688

Email: reception@campquality.org.au



Dear Masonicare,

We would like to thank RW Bro Andrew Fraser MP, Chairman of the Grand Charity, and the Board of Masonicare for the recent donation in support of research here at Neuroscience Research Australia.

Dr Bill Brooks from NeuRA spoke at the Freemasons' Hope Dinner earlier in the year where guests donated funds to further his research into dementia.

Masonicare's matching donation will also be put towards his research.

We look forward to keeping you updated about our future breakthroughs.

Thank you once again for your support.
Yours sincerely,

Professor Peter R Schofield, PhD DSc
Executive Director and CEO

For more information on how to support the Neuroscience Research Australia Foundation, please contact:

PO Box 1165, Randwick NSW 2031

Phone: 02 9399 1600

Fax: 02 9399 1082



Dear Masonicare,

Thank you for your kind donation to the Shoalhaven Youth Orchestra.

For more information on how to join or support Shoalhaven Youth Orchestra please contact the SYO Manager.

Phone: 0435 584 220

Email: shoalhavenyouthorchestra@gmail.com

Dear Masonicare,

I am writing to thank both the Yass Masonic Lodge and the Grand Lodge of NSW for your generous donations to Yass Valley Aged Care Ltd.

Your donation has been used to purchase an electric bed, which ensures maximum comfort for residents, and reduces 'Work Health & Safety' risks for staff when assisting residents.

Again, thank you for your support and generosity shown to Yass Valley Aged Care Ltd.

Regards,

R Badger

President Yass Valley Aged Care Ltd.

For more information on how to support Yass Valley Aged Care, please contact:

Phone: 02 6226 3090 / 6226 2030



Dear Masonicare,

On behalf of Ronald McDonald House and all those who call our place Home, thank you for your generous donation of \$1,000.

Your gift is an incredibly important contribution in support of our services for families coping with a sick child; it helps us to continue to care for these families in need.

We continue to grow and provide this much needed Home away from Home and we couldn't do it without such kind hearted people like yourselves.

Thank you again for your generosity. It means a great deal to us and the families we support.

Kind Regards,

Leonie Borrow

Ronald McDonald House Newcastle

For more information on how to support Ronald McDonald House Newcastle, please contact:

PO Box 268, New Lambton NSW 2305

Phone: (02) 4921 4733

Fax: (02) 4921 4734

Email: info@rmhnewcastle.org.au

Benevolence month concludes

The 'One Brother to Another' Benevolence Appeal has now wrapped up and we would like to congratulate everyone who has contributed to the success of this Annual Appeal. All funds raised will go directly into the Benevolence Fund so that those brethren and their families who may have fallen on hard times can receive financial assistance from Freemasonry in their time of great need.



We trust the purple lapel pin will come to symbolise Masonic Benevolence and their wearing at lodge meetings, festive boards and in the community generally during benevolence month each year, will create awareness amongst not only masons but the community as a whole, to show we care as 'one Brother to Another'.

Thank you for your kind generosity in continuing to promote one of the important roles so close to our heart; that of brotherly love, relief and truth.

How far can you go?

The title of this article **is the question that was posed to athlete John Maclean by his father and it has been a key factor** ever since in his life.

It was also a dominating influence in Maclean making a recovery after he became a paraplegic when he was knocked from his bicycle by a truck in 1988 at the age of 22.

'My Dad encouraged me to step into sport as a schoolboy and led me into playing rugby league and competing in triathlons. What has always stayed in my mind was when he asked me this beaut question – "How far can you go?"

'When the door closed on my football and other active careers because I had become a paraplegic, I suddenly realised that my abilities could let me do a lot more but to a different format,' said Maclean.

And that drive, commitment and self-belief have taken Maclean from initial despair to become an Australian sporting

representative, an Olympic and Paralympics competitor carrying the torches for both Games in Sydney in 2000 as well as ironman, rowing and swimming triumphs.

In the year 2000, he was awarded the OAM for service to sport as a triathlete and swimmer, for the promotion of sport for people with disabilities and the encouragement of junior wheelchair athletes. He was also awarded the Australian Sports Medal and became the first non-US citizen and the first paraplegic to be inducted into the Ironman Hall of Fame.

'After the accident, I became involved in a water-based sport. I wanted to do the triathlon in 1994 and after watching the Hawaiian ironman on television wanted to do that as well. A friend John Young, we played football together, joined me in the



water events and we entered the Hawkesbury Classic paddle race of 111 kilometres from Windsor to Brooklyn.

'In that first year and first event we finished 12th in our category and it felt fantastic having the opportunity to get back into sport. I guess I had the feeling that I was back in the race even though it had taken a long time to get back to the starting line but we crossed the same line as the other athletes.'

Maclean was born in the Sydney suburb of Caringbah in May 1966 as the youngest of three children after his parents had migrated from Scotland in July 1965. On 27 June 1988, he was hit from behind by an eight-tonne truck while training on his bicycle for the Nepean Triathlon and he was made an incomplete paraplegic with a broken back, arms, ribs and a punctured lung.

In 1994, he finished what he had started when he completed the Nepean Triathlon and became Australia's first paraplegic triathlete. He said he was inspired by television scenes of Jon Franks, a wheelchair competitor at that year's Ironman World Championships in Hawaii and in 1995 Maclean went on to become the first paraplegic to complete the course.

He withdrew from the Australian men's national wheelchair basketball team training for the 1996 Atlanta Paralympics to concentrate on the Ironman races, competing twice more in 1996 and 1997,



John and Steve Waugh present a cheque to a deserving young lady to assist with wheelchair costs



Amanda, Jack and John Maclean, taken at home when Jack was just a few months old

becoming the first paraplegic to complete the course before the cut-off time for able bodied competitors.

His stamina and commitment took him into swimming and in August 1998, Maclean became the first paraplegic to swim the English Channel in the time of 12 hours and 55 minutes after an earlier attempt had been aborted due to bad weather.

Since then, he has attained a remarkable list of achievements. He became the first man to both swim the English Channel and compete in the Ironman World Championship, participated in the Sydney Olympics and Paralympics, sailed in the 2001 Sydney to Hobart yacht race to finish second in their division and in 2007 switched his attention to rowing.

He won the national male single category that year, partnered Kathryn Ross, the winner of the female singles and the pair won silver medals at the 2007 World Rowing championships in Munich and the 2008 Beijing Paralympics, a bronze medal at the 2011 World Rowing championships at Slovenia and two gold medals at the International Adaptive Regatta in Italy.


Maclean overcame another hurdle on 26 October 2014 when he completed the Nepean Triathlon without his wheelchair but with the aid of carbon-fibre leg braces and walking poles for the running component after regaining some use of his legs through Ware K Tremor therapy and plans further running events without the wheelchair.

'I accepted an invitation from former Australian cricket captain Steve Waugh to

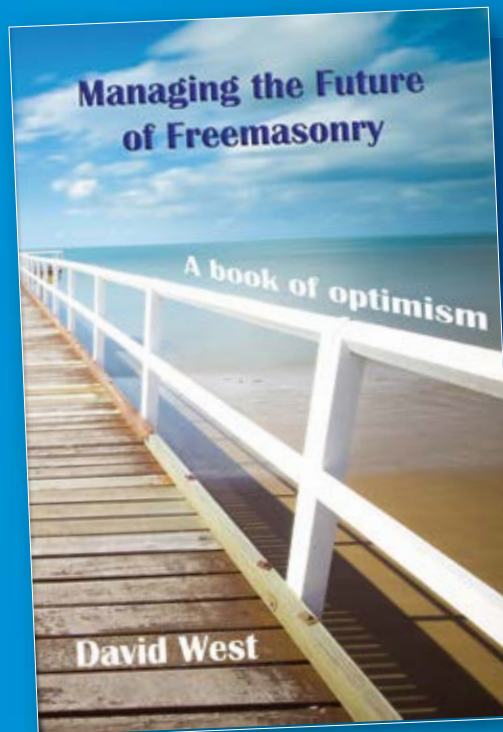
take part in a 180km bike race. I'm doing all of this because I now have a new lease of life, starting from scratch again. It's like the little boy in me looking at things I've wanted to do for a long time,' he said.

'It's been better for me, for my wife Amanda and our five-year-old son Jack who have given me tremendous support. It has also inspired me to become the founder of the John Maclean Foundation

which assists wheelchair users under the age of 18. These performances help to raise funds for the Foundation.'

John Maclean is now a motivational speaker helping others on how to cope with their problems, particularly those younger people who have become disabled and has a new book being published on his life and performances titled 'How Far Can You Go?' 

A book of optimism



'A candle in the dark.'

'This is a powerful book, challenging cherished dogma and all the better for that.'

'Without the stimulus of this book, I fear that Freemasonry will revert to being the practice of a privileged few.'

'I appreciated its historical and sociological perspective.'

'I congratulate Bro West on the way he deals with a very tricky subject.'

Available from:
**Lewis Masonic
& Amazon**

\$28.00



ATTRACTIVE UNATTRACTIVE AMERICANS

Author: **Rene Zografos**

Published: **Renessance Publishing**

ISBN: **978-82-998598-8-2**

Copies available from:

The book is available from retailers with an RRP of \$45. In addition, the Grand Lodge library has copies available to borrow.

Attractive unattractive Americans

How the world sees America



Like them or loathe them there's little doubt Americans and America are generally a hot topic of discussion around the world.

Author Rene Zografos travelled the world for seven years to find out what people liked or didn't like about 'the land of the free and the home of the brave' and discovered many favourable and unfavourable opinions.

Many said Americans talk too much, they are loud, boastful and aggressive, they put high value on money and success but they know little about the outside

world, and sometimes even outside their own State.

Many of the observations disliked Americans believing their country was the world's biggest and best while others praised what they thought were good qualities shown by Americans they had met or worked with.

Zografos, born half Norwegian and half Greek, has always been interested in cultural differences and gives equal opportunity for people to speak in what is a very revealing book and a not-to-be-missed exploration of the American Dream.

Masonic Legends and Traditions

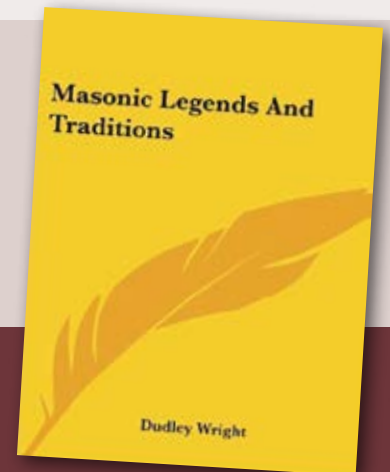
Dudley Wright's collection of masonic stories is both interesting and educational

'Does not nature overlook the naked rock with the velvet moss? Does she not entwine the knotted and gnarled trunk of the lofty oak with creeping tendrils of the dainty ivy? And why should we not adorn the rock of Masonry in a similar manner?

This is part of the introduction to Dudley Wright's *Masonic Legends and Traditions*, a book which contains much of interest to all members of the Craft. Even modern history, the author points out, passes quickly into legend but it is more difficult in the case of the Craft to

draw the dividing line between legend and history owing to the scrupulous care exercised in the early days to screen the acts and transactions of the brotherhood from the eyes and ears of the profane and uninitiated.

For this reason, the author in this work has only laid claim to the pioneer work of collecting from all available sources the various stories in connection with our noble Craft throughout the ages. The 152 pages teem with items which should not only interest but should educate members of the Craft.



MASONIC LEGENDS AND TRADITIONS

Author: **Dudley Wright**

Published: **Kessinger Publishing**

ISBN: **978-1428638136**

Copies available from:

The Grand Lodge library has copies available to borrow.

The book was supplied by Angus and Robertson and there are three copies in the Grand Lodge Library available for borrowing.

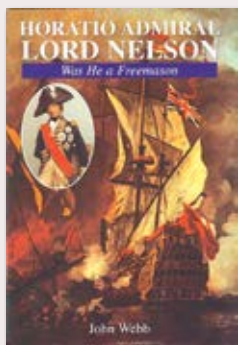
Lord Nelson: Was he a Freemason?

John Webb explores the life of the hero of Trafalgar

The book covers Nelson's life from the time he joined the Royal Navy as a very young midshipman until his death at Trafalgar.

John Webb gives the impression that Nelson's early days in the Navy were not necessarily happy for a young man but service and promotion proved that he was a natural leader and clever naval tactician. Nelson's long affair with Emma Hamilton is touched in the book. The question 'Was Nelson a Freemason?' is asked when Bro Cutlove proposed a toast in Lodge of United Friends No 564 on 12 April 1799 to Nelson, possibly giving voice to the feeling in the lodge at the loss of such a fine man.

This report is contradictory as Nelson lost his life at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. Discover the evidence for and against with John Webb as he delves into the life of the man and the legend.



**HORATIO ADMIRAL LORD NELSON:
WAS HE A FREEMASON**

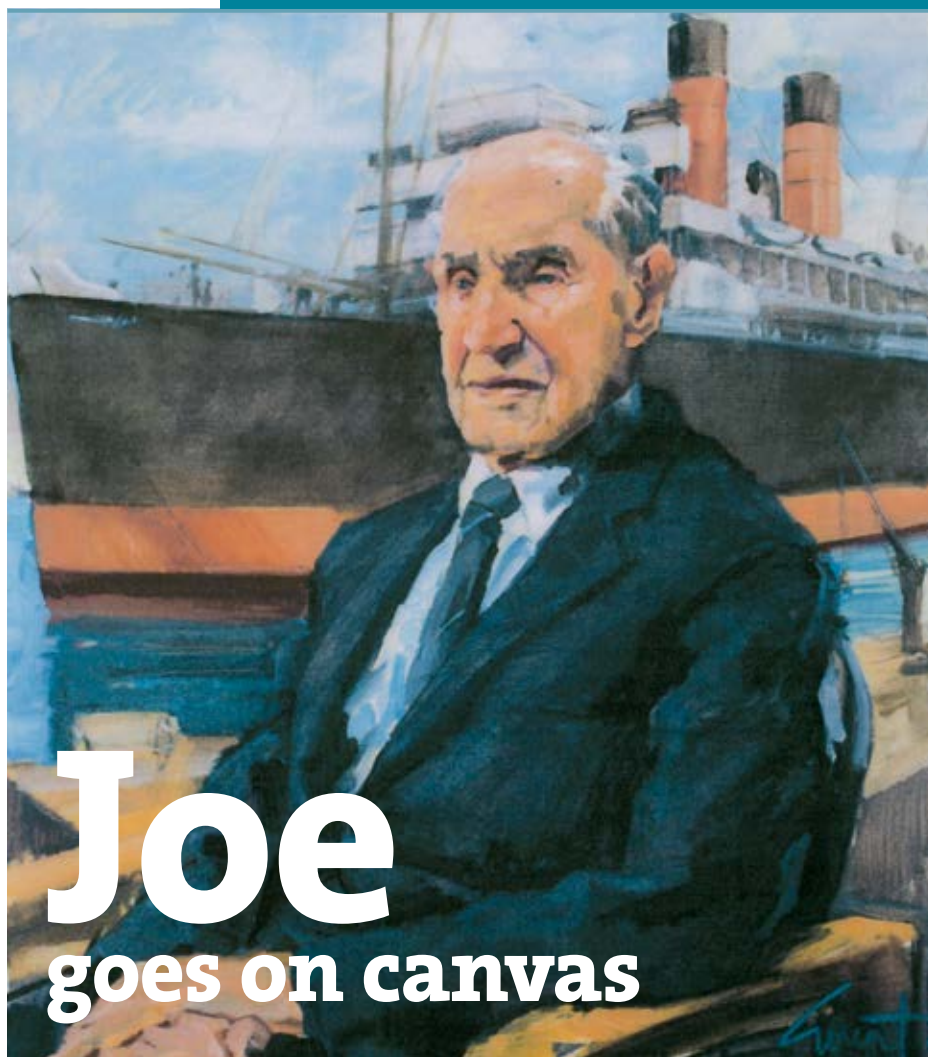
Author: John Webb

Published: Lewis Masonic

ISBN: 978-0853182184

Copies available from:

The Grand Lodge library



You would imagine that when a man reaches the age of 102 he would begin slowing down and looking for somewhere to stretch out his legs. But age is merely an excuse for W Bro Joe Miller to keep looking for new horizons.

Joe received a request from the International Seamen's Union management for a photograph to go with their records after seeing a story on him in the NSW *Freemason* which had been sent overseas. He is the oldest member on their records and has seen service in many areas around and outside Australia especially during World War II.

Instead of a photo, it was decided that Joe should sit for a portrait which was completed in a six hours session in one day with 15 minute breaks.

He was 102 in July and recently presented the 3rd Tools at an installation of a lodge in Nowra. Joe was WM once but service at sea prevented him taking the chair again.

'I have never regretted my 73 years in Masonry,' Joe said.

'My late brother introduced me to lodge and my biggest memory was an attendance of 130, including 30 in the Grand Lodge delegation, at my installation. I have enjoyed everything involved with Masonry – the friendship, fellowship, welcomes overseas and working for charity.'

During his time in the Craft, Joe has helped raise more than \$100,000 for masonic and other charities through his lodge activities. He is currently a member of Eastern Beaches Daylight lodge at Bondi.

'I always remember what my mother taught me – H R T – which stand for honesty, relief and truth and that's what I abide by. To me, that's what they stand for in Freemasonry,' Joe said.



The Macarthur-Onslows

This is the second article on the Macarthur-Onslows of Camden Park – **the two families whose union was so influential** in the early Colony of New South Wales, **and their involvement in Freemasonry.**

George Macleay Macarthur-Onslow

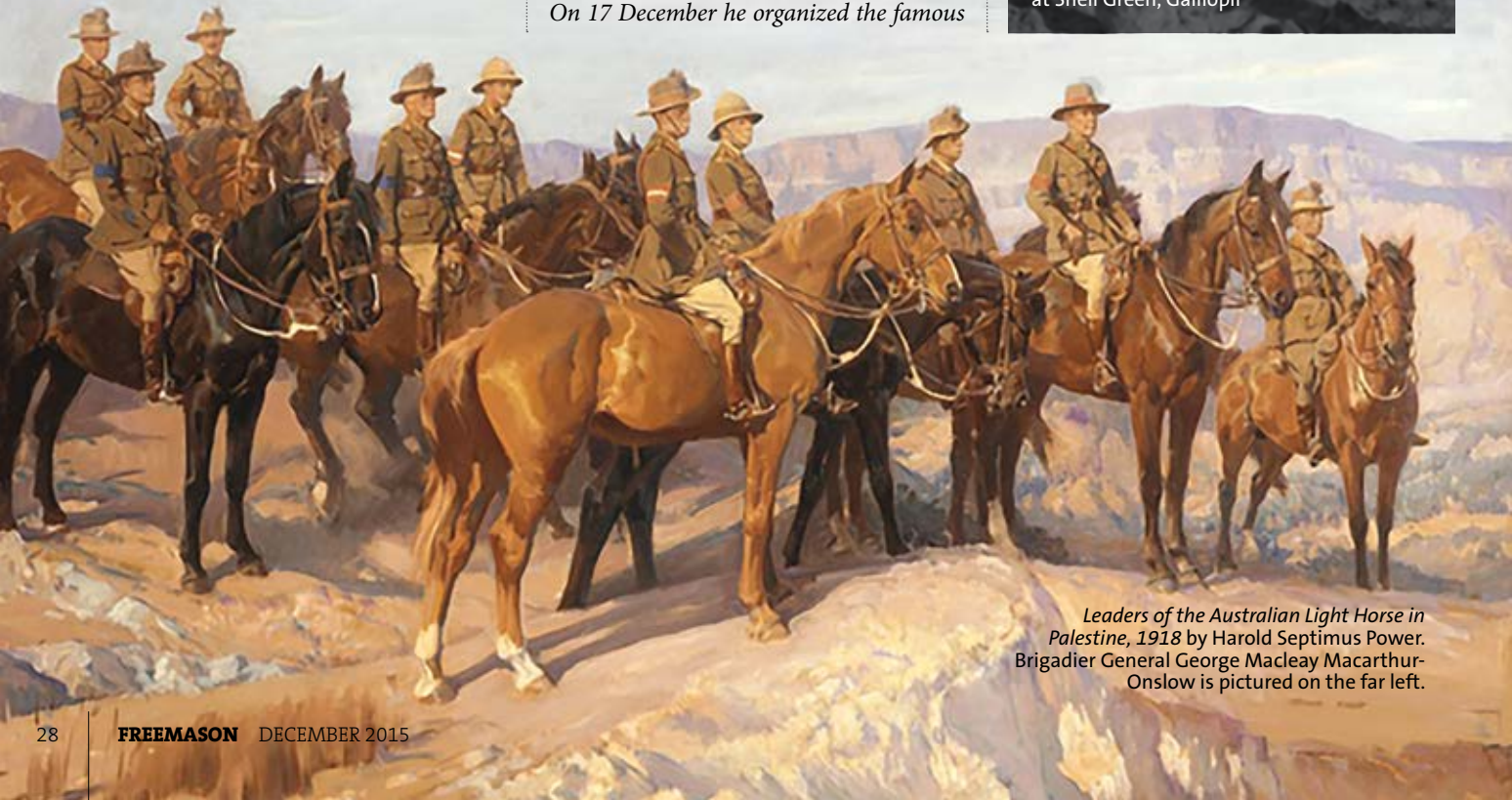
George Macleay Macarthur-Onslow (1875–1931) was educated at Rugby School, England. He joined the New South Wales Mounted Rifles on 5 April 1895 and following a number of rapid promotions was appointed as second-in-command of the 7th Light Horse Regiment under lieutenant-colonel JM Arnott.

His service with the 7th Light Horse Regiment during World War I is worthy of mention in detail and has been reproduced from *The Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol 10 1986 which states:

The 7th reached Egypt in February 1915 and after completing its training at Maadi saw service as a dismounted unit at Gallipoli between May and December. After a period of illness which necessitated return to Egypt, Macarthur-Onslow took command of the 7th Light Horse in October. On 17 December he organized the famous



George Macleay Macarthur-Onslow at Shell Green, Gallipoli



Leaders of the Australian Light Horse in Palestine, 1918 by Harold Septimus Power. Brigadier General George Macleay Macarthur-Onslow is pictured on the far left.

The diversionary Shell Green cricket match. George Macarthur-Onslow is pictured in bat, being caught out.



cricket match at Shell Green two days before the final evacuation of Anzac Cove.

On 5 August 1916 he was severely wounded in the counter-attack at Romani which put him out of action for three months. For outstanding work he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order and mentioned in dispatches. Returning to duty with his regiment he played a conspicuous part in all the subsequent operations at Gaza, Beersheba, the pursuit up the Philistine Plain and the raids across the Jordan into Amman and Es Salt, displaying outstanding leadership. He was rewarded with the temporary command of the 2nd Light Horse Brigade from May to August 1918 during the absence of Brigadier General (Sir) Granville Ryrrie. In September he was promoted colonel and temporary brigadier general commanding the 5th Light Horse Brigade for the advance on and capture of Damascus. In January 1919 he contracted typhoid fever and four months later was invalided back to Australia. For his war service since December 1916 he was twice more mentioned in dispatches, awarded the Order of the Nile (3rd class) and appointed C.M.G.

After the war Macarthur-Onslow held appointments in various light horse militia units. In 1920–23 he was an honorary A.D.C. to the governor-general and in 1927–31 temporary colonel-commandant of the 1st Cavalry Division. In addition to military matters he was general manager and a director of Camden Park Estate Pty Ltd, and took a close interest in local affairs, being a councillor of the Wollondilly Shire, alderman of Camden Council and four times mayor of Camden.

Brother George Macleay Macarthur-Onslow was initiated in Lodge Abbotsford No 217 on 10 September 1898. He was passed to the second degree on 8 October 1898 and raised to the Master Masons'

Degree on 7 June 1899. He was 22 when he joined Freemasonry and was listed as a 'gentleman'. He remained a Freemason until his death on 12 September 1931 and is buried in the family cemetery.



The Camden Vale Milk Co. building

Francis Arthur Macarthur-Onslow

Francis Arthur Macarthur-Onslow (1879–1938) was educated at Rugby School and Exeter College, Oxford.

On 29 April 1887, he followed his brother George into the New South Wales Mounted Rifles and served in the South African War from 1900 to 1901 with the 7th Dragoon Guards. He saw active service in Cape Colony, the Orange Free State and the Transvaal including the actions at Johannesburg, Diamond Hill and Belfast for which he received the Queen's medal with five clasps.

He returned to Australia in 1902 after recuperating in London from rheumatic fever and in 1907 transferred to the reserve of officers. In 1919 he was placed on the retired list with the rank of lieutenant.

In 1916, he became a director of Camden Park Estate Pty Ltd, Camden Vale Milk Co. and the Dairy Farmers' Co-operative Milk Co., the companies set up by his mother to administer the Camden Park Estate. He was mayor of

Camden three times. After some time managing Camden Park, he retired to Camden and began a real-estate business.

Arthur Macarthur-Onslow died suddenly in Sydney on 3 March 1938 and was buried in the family cemetery. His eldest son, later Major General Sir Denzil Macarthur-Onslow, carried on the family's military tradition and dairying activities.

W Bro Francis Arthur Macarthur-Onslow was initiated into Lodge Abbotsford No 217 on 6 June 1915 with the occupation of grazier. The dates of being passed to the second degree and the Master Masons' Degree are not recorded; however, it is known that he served as Junior Warden of the lodge in 1916/1917. The name of the lodge was subsequently changed to Lodge Camden 217 following which he served consecutive terms as Worshipful Master in 1918/1919 and 1919/1920. He called-off from Lodge Camden on 28 March 1933.

This article only touches on three of the Macarthur-Onslow family who were Freemasons, namely Brother James William Macarthur-Onslow; Brother George Macleay Macarthur-Onslow and Worshipful Brother Francis Arthur Macarthur-Onslow. There were in fact 11 family members who were Freemasons. Those not mentioned previously include:

Arthur James John Macarthur-Onslow; Daryl Macarthur-Onslow; Richard Walter Macarthur-Onslow; James Arthur Macarthur-Onslow; Denzil Alexander Macarthur-Onslow; Robert William Macarthur-Onslow; James William Macleay Macarthur-Onslow and Denzil Dion Macarthur-Onslow. 🪵

Acknowledgements:

- RW Bro Peter Court, PAGM, United Grand Lodge of NSW and the ACT whose assistance in researching the Masonic records of the Macarthur-Onslows is especially acknowledged.
- Australian Dictionary of Biographies
- Wikipedia
- Responsible Government in New South Wales – 1856 to 2006
- History of Parliament – House of Commons 1509 – 1559 – Bindoff 1982
- The History of Parliament – British Political, Social and Local History
- Some Early Records of the Macarthur's of Camden Park – Edited by Sibella Macarthur



Elementary my dear Watson



Scottish Freemasonry is usually associated with Robert Burns but there is another Scot who is **equally famous** but rarely gets a mention in **masonic literature and story-telling**.

His name is Arthur Conan Doyle, a doctor and journalist but better known as the author of the Sherlock Holmes books.

Arthur Conan Doyle was born on 22 May 1859 in Edinburgh, Scotland to an affluent, strict Irish-Catholic family. Although Doyle's family was well-respected in the art world, his father, Charles, who was a life-long alcoholic, had few accomplishments to speak of. Doyle's

mother, Mary, was a lively and well-educated woman who loved to read. She particularly delighted in telling her young son outlandish stories. Her great enthusiasm and animation while spinning wild tales sparked the child's imagination. As Doyle would later recall in his biography, 'In my early childhood, as far as I can remember anything at all, the vivid stories she would tell me stand out so clearly that they obscure the real facts of my life.'

At the age of nine, Doyle bid a tearful goodbye to his parents and was shipped off to England, where he would attend Hodder Place, Stonyhurst – a Jesuit preparatory school – from 1868 to 1870. Doyle then went on to study at Stonyhurst College for the next five years. For

Doyle, the boarding-school experience was brutal: many of his classmates bullied him, and the school practiced ruthless corporal punishment against its students. Over time, Doyle found solace in his flair for storytelling, and developed an eager audience of younger students.

When Doyle graduated from Stonyhurst College in 1875 his parents expected that he

would follow in his family's footsteps and study art, so they were surprised when he decided to pursue a medical degree at the University of Edinburgh instead. At med school, Doyle met his mentor, Professor Dr Joseph Bell, whose keen powers of observation would later inspire Doyle to create his famed fictional detective character, Sherlock Holmes. At the University of Edinburgh, Doyle also had the good fortune to meet classmates and future fellow authors James Barrie and Robert Louis Stevenson. While a medical student, Doyle took his own first stab at writing, with a short story called *The Mystery of Sasassa Valley*. That was followed by a second story, *The American Tale*, which was published in *London Society*.

During Doyle's third year of medical school, he took a ship surgeon's post on a whaling ship sailing for the Arctic Circle. The voyage awakened Doyle's sense of adventure, a feeling that he incorporated into a story, *Captain of the Pole Star*.

In 1880, Doyle returned to medical school. Back at the University of Edinburgh, Doyle became increasingly interested in Spiritualism or 'Psychic religion,' a belief system that he would later attempt to spread through a series of his written works. By the time he received his Bachelor of Medicine degree in 1881, Doyle had denounced his Roman Catholic faith.

Doyle's first paying job as a doctor took the form of a medical officer's position aboard the steamship *Mayumba*, travelling from Liverpool to Africa. After his stint on the *Mayumba*, Doyle settled in



Sherlock Holmes undoubtedly remains Doyle's most widely-known creation.

Plymouth, England for a time. When his funds were nearly tapped out, he relocated to Portsmouth and opened his first practice. He spent the next few years struggling to balance his burgeoning medical career with his efforts to gain recognition as an author. Doyle would later give up medicine altogether, in order to devote all of his attention to his writing and his faith.

In 1885, while still struggling to make it as a writer, Doyle met and married his first wife, Louisa Hawkins. The couple moved to Upper Wimpole Street and had two children, a daughter and a son. In 1893, Louisa was diagnosed with tuberculosis. While Louisa was ailing, Doyle developed an affection for a young woman named Jean Leckie. Louisa ultimately died of tuberculosis in Doyle's arms, in 1906. The following year, Doyle would remarry to Jean Leckie, with whom he would have two sons and a daughter.

In 1886, newly married and still struggling to make it as an author, Doyle started writing the mystery novel *A Tangled Skein*. Two years later, the novel was renamed *A Study in Scarlet* and published in *Beeton's Christmas Annual*. *A Study in Scarlet*, which first introduced Sherlock Holmes and his assistant, Watson, finally earned Doyle the recognition he had so desired. It was the first of 60 stories that Doyle would pen about Sherlock Holmes over the course of his writing career. Also, in 1887, Doyle submitted two letters about his conversion to Spiritualism to a weekly periodical called *Light*.

Doyle continued to actively participate in the Spiritualist movement from 1887 to 1916, during which time he wrote three books that experts consider largely autobiographical. These include *Beyond the City* (1893), *The Stark Munro Letters* (1895) and *A Duet with an Occasional Chorus* (1899). Upon achieving success as a writer, Doyle decided to retire from medicine. Throughout this period, he additionally produced a handful of historical novels including one about the Napoleonic Era called *The Great Shadow* in 1892, and his most famous historical novel, *Rodney Stone*, in 1896.

The prolific author also composed four of his most popular Sherlock Holmes books during the 1890s and early 1900s: *The Sign of the Four* (1890), *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (1892), *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* (1894) and *The Hound of*




**Over time, Doyle
found solace
in his flair
for storytelling**

the Baskervilles, published in 1901. In 1893, to Doyle's readers' disdain, he had attempted to kill off his Sherlock Holmes character in order to focus more on writing about Spiritualism. In 1901, Sherlock Holmes re-appears with an implicit setting in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, and later in 1903 is re-introduced in *The Adventure of the Empty House* so the lucrative character could earn Doyle the money to fund his missionary work. In 1928, Doyle's final twelve stories about

Sherlock Holmes were published in a compilation entitled *The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes*.

Having recently been diagnosed with Angina Pectoris, Doyle stubbornly ignored his doctor's warnings, and in 1929, embarked on a spiritualism tour through the Netherlands. He returned home with chest pains so severe that he needed to be carried on shore, and was thereafter almost entirely bedridden at his home in Crowborough, England. Rising one last time on 7 July, 1930, Doyle collapsed and died in his garden while clutching his heart with one hand and holding a flower in the other.

Arthur Conan Doyle was initiated on 26 January 1887 at the age of 27, passed on 23 February 1887 and raised on 23 March 1887 in Phoenix Lodge No 257, Southsea, Hampshire. He resigned in 1889 and re-joined in 1902 but finally withdrew in 1911 without having made further progress in the Craft. The records of the United Grand Lodge of England contain no indication of him having affiliated with any other lodge. The October 1901 edition of *Masonic Illustrated* indicates that Conan Doyle attended a lodge at Bloemfontain with Rudyard Kipling during the Boer War. Upon his return home in the same year, he was made an honorary member of the Lodge of Edinburgh (Mary's Chapel No 1) in Edinburgh. This membership was conferred upon him when he accepted an invitation to speak at a Burns Night dinner. In this speech he confirmed the many reports which had been received of the value of Freemasonry on the battlefield. Prisoners on both side, when found to be masons, were invariably treated with more courtesy and consideration than would otherwise have been the case. 

**Looking for a
CHANGE OF VENUE?**

LOOK NO FURTHER!

Northbridge Masonic Centre has just been renovated – now including a **newly-installed elevator!** We have dates available for meetings of Craft Lodges and Other Masonic Orders.

For more information contact **David Nicholls** on **0404 891 051** or email: davidnicholls@woodhut.com.au





Living Freemasonry

Being a Freemason is not – to me – merely about knowing what our masonic tenets and principles are but lies in taking pleasure in them.

Knowledge by itself can be a dry and dusty thing, to be taken out and aired from time to time when the occasion calls for it. Living is an attribute which describes Freemasonry more aptly and, looking to the dictionary, we can describe Living Freemasonry as having life; being real; being contemporary; and is the action of living one's life in a particular manner.

I learnt one useful lesson about living Freemasonry from my father, a Freemason in another jurisdiction. An Anglican who fell in love with a devout Catholic woman, to marry her he had to promise that their children would be brought up and raised as Catholics. Why was he so much more rigorous than my mother in ensuring that we practised our Catholicism? It was not until I joined Freemasonry some twenty years later that I understood. He applied the principles of his Masonic Obligation to his life and took pleasure in applying them.

Let us go from the individual to how we can enjoy living Freemasonry. Freemasonry to me is a combination of fellowship; of charity; of sociability; of self development; and of brotherhood throughout the world; all robustly underpinned by a strong moral code which expects men to be truthful and for their promises to be believed. How many of us live our Freemasonry? This is not an important question though. Focus instead on how can I live my Freemasonry? There are no prescriptive answers but there are practical guides we can follow.

First – stop wearing Freemasonry as a comfortable, well worn glove and being

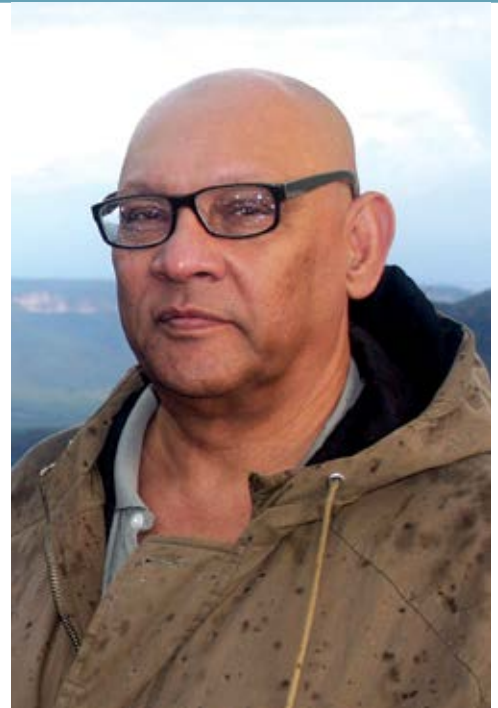
seduced by the routine of taking it on and off. Shake off that seduction and become responsible for thinking about our Freemasonry and how we can implement its philosophy in our everyday lives. The world is changing and our lodges need to adapt or risk becoming an anachronism.

There is an adage that you cannot make a good wine from bad grapes but that you can certainly make a bad wine from good grapes.

Change is our bedfellow and we should embrace and partner it.

As Master Masons, we are the Perfect Ashlars of our lodges. It means that we must have the same set of values in our 'outside' lives as those we espouse in our Freemasonry. If not, it means that the Ashlar is flawed, presenting one face to Freemasonry and another to the world at large.

The starting point must be our ritual because it is the very cornerstone of our moral philosophy, but – and this is a very



salient point – it is only one means to an end. The ritual is there to provide lessons to the initiate as he progresses through Freemasonry. It is not there to be trotted out as an exemplification because we do not have a candidate. What are we there for? Just to make masons? Or are we there to develop, promote and encourage life-long learning and discovery, based on the principles of our fraternity?

If we are there just to make masons, then we have lost sight of the reason for our lodge's existence. Scheduling exemplifications; opening and closing in the three degrees; or only having a business meeting are the symptoms of malaise. It does nothing to develop our members or to attract and keep our newer members. This is not living Freemasonry; it is fossilised Freemasonry.

My message is simple – if the lodge does not have a candidate, then do something different. 'Not another lecture...' I hear. Lectures can be boring but they can also be most interesting. What can make a lecture interesting is new knowledge – adding to the store. What is more, it does not mean that we need new lectures or new lecturers. The ingredients are all there, we just need to learn how to cook with them.

There is an adage that you cannot make a good wine from bad grapes but that you can certainly make a bad wine from good grapes. Our good grapes are the lectures and other resources available to us. Take

the accredited talk on the First Degree Working Tools. This was written in 1924 and although written at a time when society was vastly different, the underlying message is still of value. There are a number of ways to approach it. Take a point from the talk and toss it to one of the brethren. Ask him if he agrees or disagrees with it. If the answer is monosyllabic, ask him 'why?' If he says something out of left field, bounce that off the others around him. Do the same with other points. In this way, the dusty talk becomes interactive, people engage in it because it becomes fun and we learn from each other.

It's not hard. These talks abound with potential questions. For instance, here is one example: 'The talk on the First Degree states that the 24-inch gauge is a static instrument, rigid and inflexible; while the other two are dynamic. The gauge also represents the wisdom of the Worshipful Master. This seems to imply that the Master's wisdom should be rigid and inflexible. Do you agree with this?' And so on.

Another approach is to take a masonic topic – controversial or otherwise – well before a meeting and organise a debate between two teams drawn from your lodge; or you can challenge another lodge in your district. Run it as a traditional debate with an independent adjudicator. Before the result is announced open the topic up for discussion by all. Take a point made by one of the teams and ask an audience member to say whether or not he agrees with it. Bounce it off others. Take another point and do the same. At the end of it all, arrange for a rematch to be hosted by the visiting lodge and it will snowball.


What else can we do? We can invite interesting people from our local communities to come to lodge and speak to us. It's a diverse community out there, full of people with engaging interests. We must also involve our wives and partners. If Freemasonry is a way of life, then it cannot be to the exclusion of wives and partners. How can they contribute to it? Ask them how. They are a powerful, untapped source for doing good in the community.

We need to focus on transforming our lodges into quality organisations that are like old trees – firmly rooted in the ground of history and tradition but forever putting out new leaves, new branches and

new shoots. We need to shift our thinking about our Masonry by actually thinking about our Masonry and taking it out into our communities as an observable and attractive way of life.

**As Master Masons,
we are the Perfect
Ashlars of our lodges.
It means that we
must have the same
set of values in our
'outside' lives as those
we espouse in our
Freemasonry**

Let us not focus on declining membership and how we can stem that but on how we can stimulate the members that we have to become more active and take responsibility for making ourselves better. Freemasonry is not about taking good men and making them better. It is about taking good men and then we make ourselves better. All it takes is for one man to enjoy his Masonry and he will bring others in. Age is NOT a prerequisite for enthusiasm, exuberance and energy in our Freemasonry.

Live your Freemasonry and your Freemasonry will live. 

This is an abridged version of the winning entry for the Grand Master's 2015 Literary Award.

The author, Geoff Ludowyk KL, AMS, PSGW is a Canberran and a member of Lodge Capitol 612 and Discovery Lodge of Research 971. He was the inaugural RGC for Region 4 in the new structure and represented this jurisdiction as Kellerman Lecturer at the 2008 ANZMRC Conference. The full version of his essay can be obtained by emailing Geoff at geoff.ludowyk@gmail.com or reading the copy at the Grand Lodge Library.



Have your say

Many thanks

Thank you so kindly for printing my story on helping the children in Thailand. My wife Jodie returned to the camp in late September to help her lose weight and also take more money and gifts for the kids to help them out as we promised. She is also doing other activities such as baking cakes for birthdays and taking the two older boys go-carting or going to Tiger Kingdom. She has also benefitted from me being a mason, as she can see right in charity.

Bro Jason Edwards
Junior Warden Parramatta
Daylight Lodge

The history of Hogmanay

When the year has nearly run its full course and the New Year is looking over its shoulder, the Scots start to think about Hogmanay.

What is Hogmanay? A word or a strange custom held in Scotland or where Scots have settled? Hogmanay simply means New Year and to a Scot, the night before New Year's Day.

The word Hogmanay is possibly an ancient word which may have a number of sources. Etymologists have suggested that the word can be traced to medieval times when it was recorded in 1443 as 'hagnon-ayse'. There is also a link with the Vikings who celebrated New Year and the early Anglo-Saxons 'Haleg monath', Holy Month. There is a strong possibility that the word Hogmanay is a connection with

medieval France and Scotland due to the Auld Alliance which was an alliance between France and Scotland. Whatever the origin of the word, to Scots all over the world it means a grand time to see in the New Year.

To the folks south of the Border better known as Sassenachs, Hogmanay is purely a Scottish celebration that occurs at New Year's Eve and takes the place of Christmas which, if it is correct, means not all Scots celebrate the Christmas Festival. From the 17th century until the 1950s Christmas was not celebrated in Scotland as the Protestant Reform Church declared Christmas as a Popish or Catholic Feast and banned the festival. Many Scots worked over Christmas and their holiday was New Year's Day.

While the New Year's Eve celebrations begin in many parts of the world in the early evening, Hogmanay kicks off at midnight but before the festival begins there are certain customs that are carried out. Every housewife cleans the house from top to bottom. Although many homes are centrally heated, in those houses that have coal or wood fires the fireplace must be cleared of ashes and there is a superstition that all debts must be cleared before the Midnight Bells are rung.

Guests and any visitors are made welcome and before the festivity begins everyone joins hands and they all sing Auld Lang Syne. A custom or perhaps a tradition is 'First Footing' which is the first foot through the front door after midnight – although probably not as popular in Scotland as it used to be. The 'First Foot' should be a dark-haired man carrying a lump of coal, some shortbread or

bread, salt, blackbun and whisky. A fair-haired male was not acceptable as (if true) it brought memories of long ago when fairheaded men meant an unwelcome visit from the Vikings! The gifts carried by the First Foot would ensure good luck: whisky to ensure that there would be no thirst in the house during the year, coal to warm the house, shortbread and blackbun to guarantee a full stomach.

Once midnight has passed and the New Year toast drunk, the morning follows a traditional setting with Scottish delicacies, beer and of course whisky. A special Scottish liqueur made for New Year and later Robert Burns Night, is Athol Brose a drink made from oats, honey, whisky and cream and prepared well before Hogmanay.

A celebration would not be complete without bagpipes and Scottish dancing. A spectacular event is the fire ceremony that takes place in Stonehaven near Aberdeen where the ancient Pagan Festival of Fire Balls take place. Large giant fireballs are carried on long poles by men who march through the town and then swung around and thrown into the sea. The origin of the ceremony goes back to the Winter Solstice of late December and the fire balls represent the sun purifying the world from evil spirits.

Hogmanay is celebrated by expatriate Scots all over the world whether it is in the traditional form or in countries like Australia where perhaps a BBQ takes the place of traditional Scottish fare, but there is no doubt dancing and Scottish music will be the main entertainment and the toast will be *A guid New Year to ane an` a` and mony may ye see!*



John Masey Wright and John Rogers' c. 1841 illustration of Auld Lang Syne



Christmas Quiz

Test your seasonal smarts with these Christmas conundrums!



1. In the song *Twelve Days of Christmas* what did my true love give to me on the seventh day?
.....
2. What is the name given to Father Christmas in France?
.....
3. Santa's nine reindeers had how many hooves?
.....
4. What type of berry sauce is associated with a turkey Christmas dinner?
.....
5. A year contains 365 days so on what number day does Christmas Day fall?
.....
6. Which country is said to export the largest number of Christmas trees each year?
.....
7. What date is St Stephen's Day?
.....
8. In Dickens' *Christmas Carol* who was Scrooge's dead partner?
.....
9. What Christmas item was invented by a London baker?
.....

10. What year was Band-Aid's *Do They Know It's Christmas* top of the Hit Parade?
.....
11. Who wrote *How the Grinch stole Christmas*?
.....
12. In the 1971 novelty Christmas song, 'Ernie' was the fastest what in the west?
.....
13. 'You better watch out, you better not cry' are words taken from which popular Christmas song?
.....
14. In *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's/Sorcerer's Stone*, what Christmas present does Harry anonymously receive from Dumbledore in his first semester at Hogwarts?
.....
15. Which of Santa's reindeer has a name translated to Thunder in English?
.....

16. 'Waits' was the name given to what type of singers/bands of people who sang on Christmas Eve in old times?
.....
17. What type of pet is 'Santa's Little Helper' in the TV cartoon series, *The Simpsons*?
.....
18. On the third day of Christmas, what TFH did my true love give to me according to the song?
.....
19. What were the names of Jesus Christ's earthly parents?
.....
20. Which of the following **is not** one of the names given to the Wise Men who visited Jesus after his birth? Melchior, Balthazar, Jeduthon, Caspar.
.....

Find the answers to this quiz upside-down on page 41! 📖



Technology: the new education essential

Over the course of 2015, *A Start in Life* fulfilled its commitment to extending the support offered to students so that they could access the same educational resources and opportunities as their peers, **increasing its support by 33%**.

Whilst the impact of this additional support is expected to be long-term, the charity is already seeing widespread improvement in students' academic performance, attendance and motivation.

CEO Neil Robinson acknowledges, nonetheless, that the *A Start in Life* team had perhaps underestimated both the need and the funds required for technology.

'Increasingly we found additional technology requirements being expected from students at even earlier stages of their school life,' he said.

When speaking with the students, their families and teachers, *A Start in Life's* social workers have learnt that many public schools have strict specifications as to what technology they require of their students and even the brands of that

technology. In some of these schools, students are no longer working from textbooks but are instead relying on computers and the Internet to access e-books and to complete set homework.

'Most of the students who are referred to us are lacking in the required technology and so they constantly have to borrow their school's resources or reach out to neighbours, which only draws more attention to their poverty,' said Mr Robinson.

'Some of the students have been missing out on school activities and assignments altogether,' he added, suggesting that this exacerbated educational inequalities and perpetuates cycles of poverty and disadvantage.

To address the unexpected need for technology, the charity has spent over \$74,000 in 2015 on technology alone,

including computers, internet, printers and printing consumables for its students; it had expected to spend around \$45,000 over the year.

'We were recently advised that our primary supplier of computers is increasing their prices by 10% in 2016, so we can expect our technology expenditure to increase next year,' said *A Start in Life's* Finance Manager (and IT guru) Stephen Floyd.

To ensure that its students are equipped with the technology they require in 2016, *A Start in Life* is currently seeking the support of the lodges through both lodge grants and individual donations to its Back-to-School Technology Drive. Please call *A Start in Life* on (02) 9264 3017 to make a contribution or for more information. 📞



We wish the readers of *Freemason*
a safe and happy Christmas
Thank you for the support in 2015



Keep your money safe

So often we hear reports from friends and family about **losing money through theft, fraud and loss of credit cards**. Here are some suggestions on **how to keep your money safe**.

It is common sense to take proper precautions to protect all valuables. A person would not walk out of their home and leave the front door open or leave jewellery or other valuables on open display.


When leaving your home, check your front and back doors are closed and windows are locked. It may not stop a burglar but may make him think twice if there is not an easy way to break in. And if you are going on holidays, ask your neighbours to keep watch, stop delivery of papers and re-direct your mail to the post office or have a neighbour collect and hold your mail until you return. A paper on the front lawn or letters sticking out of the mail box are a sure sign the house is empty.

Keep your credit card safe by signing the card as soon as you receive it, regularly check it is still in your possession, don't let anyone else use your card or hold it for you, don't leave your card out when at places like a bar or café, check you have your card and receipts with you after every transaction and cut up and dispose of your card when it expires.

Memorise your PIN and destroy any letters advising you of new ones. Don't tell anyone your code, including family and friends, avoid letting anyone see you enter your PIN during a transaction, don't write down your codes. When you choose a PIN, don't select easily guessable numbers such as your birthday, phone number or numbers which form a pattern.

Keep all receipts and transaction records and check the details on each statement. Immediately contact your bank

or card provider if your card or any other device such as a mobile phone (used for mobile banking) is lost or stolen, if someone has found out your PIN or password or you believe there has been unauthorised access to your account.

Thieves depend on and quickly take advantage of people not taking proper precautions. If you fail to take suitable measures, you cannot lodge a claim with police or a financial institution. Remember, it is your responsibility to keep your money or cards safe. 



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What is Pure Ancient Masonry?

Pure Ancient Masonry was defined and recognised at the formation of the United Grand Lodge of England **at a time when the Mark and Royal Arch Degrees were separated** from Craft Masonry **into sovereign bodies of their own.**

Until then both the Mark and Royal Arch Degrees had been worked in Craft Lodges in England, Scotland and Ireland.

Pure Ancient Masonry is defined in the Constitution of the United Grand Lodge of NSW & ACT in Chapter 1.1 where it states:

*It is declared and pronounced by the United Grand Lodge of NSW & ACT that **Pure Ancient Masonry consists of the following Degrees and no more, viz: The Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft and the Master Mason together with the Honourable Degree of Mark Master Mason and the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch.***

It is worth noting that it is not actually the Royal Arch Degree which forms part of the concept recognised by Grand Lodge but rather the actual Order itself which governs the Degree.

This statute of our Grand Lodge is more easily expressed by the simple graphic above.

This concept of Pure Ancient Masonry came to these shores with the settlement of the Colony. The earliest recorded Exaltation of a Royal Arch Mason was on 1 January 1817 when the then Chief Justice of the Colony, Jeffery Bent Hart

was exalted under a Charter granted to 47th Regiment of Foot by the Grand Lodge of Ireland. Earlier Hart had been made a mason by the same group.

The Royal Arch Degree had its origins in meetings of Past Masters. These eminent masons of the day and the leaders of not only Freemasonry but also society at the time were men of learning who were respected in society. They were the authors of the modern form of the ritual and responsible for the creation of the concept of Pure Ancient Masonry.

The Mark Degree is said to have its origins in the graduation ceremony of the Operative Masons when an Apprentice proved himself to have the requisite skills of a Master Mason. During the ceremony, when Operative Masonry prevailed, the graduate would be given his own Mark with which he would 'mark' the work he had completed so he could be paid accordingly.

Just some of the benefits of being a Mark and Royal Arch Mason are:


- Remember the statement in the Third Degree concerning the lost secrets? In the Royal Arch Degree, time and circumstance see those genuine secrets restored to you.
- Interesting facts are revealed about everyday Masonry such as what do the



cipher characters on the Third Tracing Board mean.

- You would discover what is a Mason's Mark, how was it used by our ancient brethren and like them you would receive your own Mark.
- You would find out who succeeded Hiram Abif and how the Temple was completed.
- Our Order is the gateway to nine other Orders of Freemasonry who require you to be a Royal Arch Mason as a qualification to joining.
- You would have the opportunity if you wish, to become an Ark Mariner, member of a Cryptic Council and a Red Cross Knight, all within one Order and at no additional cost to you.
- You will be a valued member of an Order where friendship and respect are given priority.

Would you like to sample the Order before joining?

It is worth noting that by a unique agreement between the Craft and Supreme Grand Chapter under the Concordat, Craft Masons are able to experience the privilege of obtaining their own Mason's Mark as our ancient forefathers would have through the Mark Man Ceremony which is worked in either a Craft Lodge or a Chapter. In undertaking this ceremony, a Craft Mason will be taking a step closer to joining the ranks of those masons who have fulfilled their obligation to advance their knowledge in the sciences and Freemasonry in particular as well as obtaining their own personal Mason's Mark and receiving a jewel acknowledging them as a Mark Man. 

Want more information?

Visit the website of United Supreme Grand Chapter found at usgcns.org.au or telephone the Grand Scribe on 02 9569 5699 for more information.



Regional Roundup



Freemasons on the Central Coast

Freemasons on the Central Coast presented Central Coast Life Saving with a cheque for \$45,000 at the Raising of the Flag Ceremony held at Soldiers Beach. It is an ongoing commitment by the Freemasons that has seen over \$250,000 dollars donated during recent years.

Scott Hinks, Graeme Ingall, Chris Mathews and David Williams presenting the cheque

The donation will be used to purchase the brightly coloured pink safety vests worn by the nippers every weekend at a local Central Coast beach.

Regional notice board

The Baden-Powell Lodge of NSW No 1051
SATURDAY 9 JANUARY 2016

Scouts Australia Jamboree 2016 lodge meeting

Tyle at 6.30pm at the Petersham Royal Arch Temple. GM in attendance. Lecture on the Egyptian Room Frieze at 7.15pm, open to all. Bookings \$40 by 6 January, email jenkins.family@bigpond.com or call 9799 1829

Lodge Advertising

Freemason is extending a special offer to lodges – for only \$50, any lodge may run a listing in up to four issues!

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

LODGE ST ANDREWS No 281

St Andrews donations

Two Manilla Groups were presented with \$3,700 at the St Andrew's Masonic Lodge annual dinner held on Saturday night in the auditorium of the Manilla Bowling Club.

Borah Rural Fire Service Captain Stuart Lockrey accepted a cheque for \$3,000. Stuart, on behalf of the Service, thanked the lodge for their generosity and said the funds would be used to establish water refilling points across his fire district which takes in some 45,000 acres to the west of Manilla.

The second donation of \$700 was to the proposed Manilla Children's Road Safety Park to be constructed at Chaffey Park. This was accepted by Darrell Holden

representing Manilla Lions Club (who are coordinating the fundraising for the park). Darrell also thanked the lodge for their donation

The dinner followed the re-installation of WM Phil Bennett who is to lead Lodge St Andrew's for the next 12 months. Special guest at the dinner was the Grand Master, MW Bro James Melville from Sydney. James congratulated the Manilla Lodge on their refurbishment of the lodge building in Court Street and the work that they do in the community.

Freemasons from surrounding areas as well as Manilla community and business people attended the dinner on Saturday night.

THE AUSTRALIAN LODGE OF HARMONY No 5

Tasmania does the work

The Australian Lodge of Harmony No 5 had an unusual night at its August meeting at the Sydney Masonic Centre when it staged a Second Degree with a difference.

Members of Lodge Lauriston from Georgetown, Tasmania carried out the work according to the Tasmanian constitution with W Bro Luke Wood as WM leading the visitors.

Acting WM, W Bro Raymond Weidle of Australian Lodge of Harmony made the visitors feel most welcome.



LODGE MORNING STAR No 410

A worthy cause for Morning Star

One hundred years after the guns have fallen silent the smoke has cleared and the troops are disbanded, Legacy with care and compassion begin their tireless work on a new frontline, caring for the sometimes forgotten and unseen casualties of war – the families of the fallen or wounded soldier.

Legacy is a voluntary organisation and today assists 115,000 war widows, 1,900 children and dependants with a disability.

Brisbane Water Legacy on the Central Coast of NSW owns and operates independent living units at Point Frederick and two aged care facilities, located at Norah Head and Wyoming. Both facilities are designed with an 'ageing in place' philosophy, and offer low and high care beds, as well as respite care.

Lodge Morning Star 410 was pleased to present a cheque for \$500 to Mr Michael Hickey, Legatee President of Brisbane



Bro Scott Hinks and Michael Hickey, Legatee President Brisbane Water

Water (NSW) Legacy as a small token of gratitude for the assistance provided to so many so often.

LODGE IONIC No 65

A Second Visit for a Third Degree

When Bro Pathman Palineloo was initiated into Lodge Ionic No 65, in April this year, he was surprised to see his father-in-law, VW Bro Viswanathan PDGDC, among the welcoming faces.

VW Bro Viswanathan is a member of Lodge Napier No 3418, EC, in Malaysia, and had made the journey especially for the occasion.

When Bro Palineloo was raised to the Third Degree at Lodge Ionic's October meeting, VW Bro Viswanathan was again present, to congratulate him on his progress.

VW Bro Viswanathan expressed his admiration for the work and appreciation of the music which Lodge Ionic includes in all degree ceremonies.

The ceremony was conducted by RW Bro Tony Piggott PJGW, until recently DGIW and in the presence of VW Bro Chris Wong, the current DGIW.

FREEMASONS' ASSOCIATION

A garden visit

A group of 30 members of the Freemasons' Association of NSW and ACT took time out to visit the Australian Botanic Gardens at Mount Annan.

The members enjoyed a walk around the Seed Bank which is the largest native plant conservation seed bank in Australia, before a morning coffee.

A walk around the garden followed where everyone enjoyed viewing the beautiful spring flowers and also the water dragons sunning themselves.

The three course luncheon at the Melaleuca restaurant was delicious and a great day was had by all.



NSW MASONIC ENSEMBLE

George turns 100

For many years, VW Bro George Harvey PDGDC has been an active member of the NSW Masonic Ensemble, rendering masonic music in company with his fellow singers. He was a well known singer in the St George area with presentations in the local lodges. He has now retired, and to

celebrate his 100th birthday at his new home of retirement, he was honoured by a visit from some of his fellow singers of the Ensemble and his masonic friends. He is still in good voice and enjoys his music.

Congratulations, George for attaining this important event in your active life.



THE GLEN INNES LODGE No 44

Jamie is a winner

The Glen Innes Lodge, after many discussions and enquiries, has been honoured in being able to present a James Sidney Miller Scholarship to local high school student Jamie White.

Lodge secretary RW Bro Colin Lute PAGM raised the subject at a management committee meeting and the Deputy Principal at the local school provided the names of two students for consideration.

On Friday 17 July, one of the coldest days of the year in Glen Innes with the temperature at three degrees, RW Bro Lute presented Jamie White with a cheque and a letter of congratulations from the Grand Secretary.



RW Bro Lute presents Jamie White with a cheque and a letter of congratulations from the Grand Secretary.

Jamie White, who was thrilled to receive the award, was in Year 11 and was struggling to pay his way through school, working at various jobs to raise funds.

The Deputy Principal, Mrs Shelly Way said that Jamie was academically a brilliant student with a great future and she was honoured to be one of his teachers.

DISTRICT 36

A district award for June

Constant action and commitment on a voluntary basis has earned June Handley a Masonic District Service Award for services within District 36.

June has been actively involved within the District for more than 30 years and has assisted in fundraising for various charities, including the Frank Whiddon Homes, the Bushfire appeal and supplying items for the Masonic Hall at Sutherland.

She is still an active member of the Masonic Widows Association and has been of great assistance to her husband, RW Bro Lance Handley PAGM as Preceptor of the District 36 Lodge of Instruction.

The DGIW of District 36 and two PDGIWs were among the group who attended the presentation of the Award.



At the presentation with June are: RW Bro Keith Lewis PJGW, VW Bro Rob Coote PDGIW, VW Bro Grahame Pike (serving DGIW), RW Bro Lance Handley PAGM, VW Bro Colin Hayes PDGIW and RW Bro Bruce Munro PSGW

DISTRICT 13

A special meeting at Wingham

Brethren from near and far gathered for a special District 13 meeting at Lodge Cowper No 295 at Wingham on Saturday 15 August in the presence of the newly installed Grand Master, MW Bro James Melville.

It was his first visit to a lodge meeting since his Installation and the first occasion to receive Grand Honours at a lodge meeting. He was accompanied by RW Bro John Begbie, Grand Director of Ceremonies, and a large delegation of Grand Officers.

The work for the evening, the raising of Bro Noel Mathiske to the Third Degree, was carried out by brethren from 13 lodges from Gloucester to Kempsey with RW Bro Mitchell, secretary of Lodge Cowper, in the Chair for the ceremony.

Approximately 80 brethren were present to witness and share in the ceremony.

1. Seven swans a-swimming
2. Pere Noel
3. Thirty-six
4. Cranberry Sauce
5. Three hundred and fifty-nine
6. Canada
7. 26 December
8. Jacob Marley
9. Christmas Cracker
10. 1984
11. Dr Seuss
12. Milkman
13. Santa Claus is coming to town
14. An Invisible Cloak
15. Donner
16. Carol Singer
17. The Pet Dog
18. Three French Hens
19. Joseph and Mary
20. Jeduthon

Answers to the Christmas Quiz



LACHLAN MACQUARIE LODGE No 1042

Camp Fire Lodge Meeting

Lachlan Macquarie Lodge No 1042 held a very special commemorative meeting on 26 September in the wine cellar at the Douglas Vale Historic Homestead and Winery at Port Macquarie.

The theme of the evening was to turn back the clock 150 years, hence the mode of dress was casual, no suits or ties.

A lot of preparation was carried out by the Worshipful Master, W Bro Bill Krantzcke and members of the Lodge, including a beautifully hand quilted floor cloth, miniature tracing boards, working tools and pedestals. It was interesting to note that the Junior Warden's pedestal was the bar.

The officers of the Lodge were assisted by officers from Lodge Corrective Services No 1039 who held a meeting at Port Macquarie on the previous evening. The work was an abbreviated First Degree Walkabout followed by the Second Degree Walkabout.

In keeping with the theme of the evening 'Botany Bay' was sung at the opening, 'Click go the Shears' in the Second Degree and 'I still call Australia Home' at the closing. These were accompanied by the Lodge's organist playing an accordion.

Wives and partners were given a tour of the Historic Homestead and had an



Gathered around the campfire for an instructive and entertaining evening

opportunity to sample the wines from the vines before all assembled around the fire pit for the lighting of the camp fire.

During the meeting VW Bro Ces Scaysbrook PDGDC presented Australian poems with a highlight recitation of Henry Lawson's classic 'The Fire at Ross's Farm'.



LIVERPOOL PLAINS LODGE No 191

A ton for Eddie

W Bro Edwin William Buckmaster celebrated his 100th Birthday in fine style at 'Eloura' Quirindi, on 26 August this year.

Eddie was initiated in Liverpool Plains Lodge No 191 on 18 December, 1948 and has maintained continuous membership since that date. He was the Worshipful Master in 1962-63.

The staff at 'Eloura' provided a celebratory function complete with decorated birthday cake.

A congratulatory award from the Grand Master, MW Bro Melville was presented by VW Bro John Egan, DGIW District 18 as well as congratulatory messages from many dignitaries and a special award from the local RSL sub-branch.



LODGE ST DAVID AND ST JOHN NO 180

A grand family night

The October meeting of Lodge St David and St John No 180, was an unforgettable night for RW Bro Tony Coco PJGW.

He had the distinct privilege of being Senior Deacon on the night his grandson was raised to the Third Degree, but also without hesitation did the raising, signs and secrets, extended signs and presented

his grandson with his own special Masonic Edition of the Volume of the Sacred Law.

All members present could feel the great pride and bond radiating from grandfather and grandson as the ceremony unfolded, a unique experience shared by very few.

This was not the first masonic connection between this grandfather and grandson, as RW Bro Coco had the pleasure of conducting the Initiation Ceremony of his grandson, also at Lodge St David and St John at their July meeting last year and was also by his side as senior deacon at the Jubilee Southern Highlands Daylight Lodge No 162 meeting in October last year when he was passed to the second degree, a wonderful example of affection between grandfather and grandson.



THE QUEEN'S LODGE NO 229

A family affair

Four father and son combinations were among more than a hundred at Queen's Lodge No 229 Installation.

The Installing Master installed his brother, who invested his older brother as DC, all before a very proud father.

Of the four father and son combinations, two fathers had three sons in attendance – Bro Rudi Rodziewicz, with sons, Danny, Corey and Jarrad; Bro Carmine (Charlie) Cosoleto, with his sons Giuaseppe, Domenic and Marcantone – W Bro Morrie Donnelly with his son Ryan and Bro James Cross with his son Blake.

The highlight of the evening was W Bro Corey installing his brother Jarrad, who in turn invested his older brother Danny, as DC.

COFFS COAST FREEMASONS' ASSOCIATION

Coffs Charity Bowls Day



L-R: VW Bro Andy Boyden, Carolyn Boyden, RW Bro Phil Robertson

Blue skies and sunshine ensured a perfect day for the 150 bowlers and members of the Coffs Coast Freemasons' Association who teamed together for the CanDo Cancer Trust Charity Bowls Day at Woolgoolga to help cancer patients at the North Coast Cancer Institute.

'We get so much support from Woolgoolga Bowling Club, visiting interstate bowlers and the local community for our CanDo Bowls Day which is now in its seventh year. As usual the Masonic Lodges in the district plus our local business

houses and larger corporate businesses donated a huge array of prizes and there was something for everyone in the mega raffle. This year saw \$7,000 raised on the day with Masonicare donating a further \$5,000 through an Interaction Grant,' said organiser Carolyn Boyden. 'It is wonderful to know that all the money we raised will be staying in the area and assisting local cancer patients.'

LODGE PARKES NO 40

Parkes Celebrates

Lodge Parkes No 40 presented three members with their 60 Year Certificates.

W Bro Alan Somers was initiated in Lodge Star of the West in Parkes on 14 April 1957 and was WM in 1978, W Bro Alan Kingsmill was initiated in Lodge Star of the West (his father's lodge) in June 1955 and became WM in 1978 and W Bro Doug Allen was also initiated in Lodge Star of the West in June 1955 and was WM in 1969 and 1989.



Freemason Welcomes New Members To The Craft

<i>Name</i>	<i>Lodge</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Lodge</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Lodge</i>
ACLAN, Roy	The Builders Lodge 1048	DALIPAGIC, Dean	Lodge Sydney St. George 269	McMAHON, Nat	Lodge Livingstone 71
ADLER, Jason	Lodge Castlereagh 72	DAWSON, Hamish	Lodge Burnside 729	MEREDITH, Drew	Lodge Queanbeyan St Andrew 56
ALCOCK, Terry	Lodge Cooma Monaro 164		Lodge of Excellence	MOHAMMADI, Alex	Lodge Southern Cross 91
ALLAM, Roland	The Leichhardt Lodge 133	DE GUZMAN, Mark	Lodge Baulkham Hills 958	MORELOS, Fred	The Hawkesbury Heritage Lodge 150
ARANDJELOVIC, Stevan	Lodge Horizons 1032	DE SANTOS, Leonardo	Lodge Horizons 1032	MORRIS, Micah	Lodge Horizons 1032
AVERY, Rodney	Lodge Capitol 612	DELA CRUZ, Ferdz	Lodge Sydney St. George 269	MORSE, Damien	Lodge Epping 390
BAALBAKI, Mo	Lodge Cowper 295	DERA, Mark	Lodge Education 814	MOULES, Steve	Lodge Morning Star 410
BAILLACHE, David	Lodge Nepean 29	DOUGLAS, Craig	Lodge Panania 845	MURRAY, Shane	Lodge City of Newcastle 1035
BANDE, Victor	Lodge Bulli Thirroul 1040	ECHRESH, Terry	Lodge Guildford 321	NG, Matthew	Lodge Germania 1036
BARRY, Shaun	Lodge United St Andrew Singleton 34	ELHOSNI, Anthony	Lodge Nepean 29	OLIVER, Paul	Lodge Horizons 1032
BASSIL, Joseph	The Builders Lodge 1048	FAHD, Mark	The Cedars Lodge 1041	PACE, Charlie	Lodge Woollahra 341
BATTEN, Janos	Lodge Woden Valley 974	FAIRALL, Brenton	Lodge Germania 1036	PARK, Dean	The Royal Empire Lodge 613
BIDEGAIN, Alexandro	Lodge Woollahra 341	FALYON, Danny	Lodge Guildford 321	PARKES, David	Lodge Nepean 29
BLANKESTIJN, Zac	Lodge Mark Owen 828	FARHART, Alex	The Royal Empire Lodge 613	PATERSON, Andrew	Lodge Commonwealth of Australia 633
BLIGH, Martin	Lodge Macquarie 53	FINDLEY, Mat	Lodge Milton 63	PETRIC, Zoran	The Maroubra Lodge 725
BOYTON, Iain	Lodge Gundagai United 25	GARCIA, PJ	Lodge Horizons 1032	PIOTROWSKI, Thomas	Lodge Horizons 1032
BREEN, Paul	Lodge Sawtell Twilight 741	GARDNER, Herb	Lodge Canowindra 478	PIPERIDES, Andrew	The Australian Lodge of Harmony 5
BRODERICK, Peter	The Waratah Lodge 170	GARTH, Andrew	Lachlan Macquarie Lodge 1042	ROBERTS, Adriene	Lodge City of Newcastle 1035
BURBIDGE, Will	Lodge Picton 258	GONCALVES, Renato	Lodge Novacastria 765	ROMANATO, Gabriele	Lodge Ibis 361
BUTT, Graham	Lodge Sylvania 853	GRACE, Peter	Lodge Bathurst United 79	SAMUEL, Brian	Lodge Ionic 65
	Lodge of Excellence	GRIFFITHS, Raymond	Lodge Courallie 235	SCIFLEET, Dean	Lodge Fire Brigades 940
CAHILL, David	The Prince of Wales Lodge 102	GULLO, Jason	Lodge Kellerman 1027	SIEGA, Bert	The Hawkesbury Heritage Lodge 150
CALAPIS, Rex	Lodge Education 814	HALAN, Adem	Lodge Woollahra 341	SITCHON, Ferdi	Lodge Jose Rizal 1045
CANICULA, Seb	Lodge Jose Rizal 1045	HARBIR SINGH, Dhiman	Lodge St David and St John 180	SOLOMOVIC, David	Lodge Mark Owen 828
CANOZA, Danny	Australian Lodge of Fidelity 101	HAYNES, Nathan	The City of Wollongong Lodge 1049	SPICKLER, Luke	Australian Lodge of Fidelity 101
CARROLL, Ron	Lodge Namoi 207	HENDY, Scott	Lodge Commonwealth of Australia 633	SPINOCCHIA, Nick	Lodge Commonwealth of Australia 633
CHARLES, Rene	Canberra Unity 465	HERTEL, Amadeus	The Sir Walter Scott Lodge 123	STEVENSON, Michael	Lodge Cessnock 252
CLARK, Ben	Batemans Bay Daylight Lodge 1013	HUMPHREYS, Todd	Lodge Greater Taree 66	STEWART, Jason	The Glen Innes Lodge 44
COLLINS, Matt	The Builders Lodge 1048	JONES, Gary	Lodge Gundagai United 25	STIRLING, Gordon	Lodge Carnarvon 172
CONROY, Ed	Lodge Germania 1036	JORDAN, James	Lodge Wyvern 813	SUFFERINI, Matthew	Lodge Trinity 666
COSTA, Wellington	Lodge Horizons 1032	KAMEL, Yasser	Lodge Beecroft 359	SULTANA, John	Lodge Blacktown Kildare 393
COX, Justin	Lodge Southern Cross 91	KASER, Basel	The Builders Lodge 1048	TARANTOLO, Greg	Lodge Woollahra 341
CULLINGHAM, Adam	Lodge Cronulla 312	KAZANGAS, Sam	Lodge Panania 845	TARRANT, Ron	Balmain Lodge 23
DA SILVA, Teddy	Lodge Castlereagh 72	KEESARI, Nirop	Lodge Horizons 1032	TREVENA, James	Lodge Como 738
DABAIT, Joe	Lodge Axiom 1047	KHURANA, Tarun	Lodge Southern Cross 91	TRIANAFYLLOU, Lloyd	Lodge Sylvania 853
DABEET, Sam	Lodge Axiom 1047	KROL, Mirek	The Royal Empire Lodge 613		Lodge of Excellence
		LAZAAR, Jamal	Lodge Horizons 1032	TURNER, Blake	Lodge Airs Campbelltown 976
		LESCHMANN, Laurence	Lodge Epping 390	TWIGDEN, Emerson	Lodge University of Sydney 544
		LIDDLE, Cameron	Lodge Como 738	UNGARO, Federico	Lodge Galileo 1019
		LINKLATER, Tim	Lodge City of Newcastle 1035	VOLONAKIS, Michael	Lodge Cronulla 312
		LONSKI, John	Lodge Hastings 69	WATSON, Kurk	Lodge Airs Campbelltown 976
		LYNCH, Michael	Lodge Eltham 272	WICKS, David	Lodge Pacific 298
		MARJI, Paul	The Leichhardt Lodge 133	WILLIAMSON, Shane	Lodge Ethos 963
		MARRIOTT, Nicholas	Lodge Frenchs Forest United 249	WONG, Stephen	Lodge Germania 1036
		MARSHALL, Phil	Lodge Germania 1036	WYRES, Trevor	Coeur De Lion – Narooma 84
		MASCARELLO, Danny	Lodge Woollahra 341	YARGER, Eric	Lodge Gowrie of Canberra 715
		MAZZEI, Will	Lodge Unity 6	YILDIZ, Ismail	Lodge Alpha 970
		McGILL, David	Lodge Beecroft 359	YOUNG, Andy	The Royal Empire Lodge 613
		McINERNEY, Barry	Lodge Gundagai United 25	YOUSSEF, Harry	Lodge Liverpool 197
		McKAY, Andrew	Lodge Caledonia of Canberra 938		

Deadline

Do you have submissions for **sponsorships**, ideas for **articles** or items for **regional roundup**?

If so, please note that the material deadline for next issue is

Monday, 8 February 2016



Freemason



Thank you

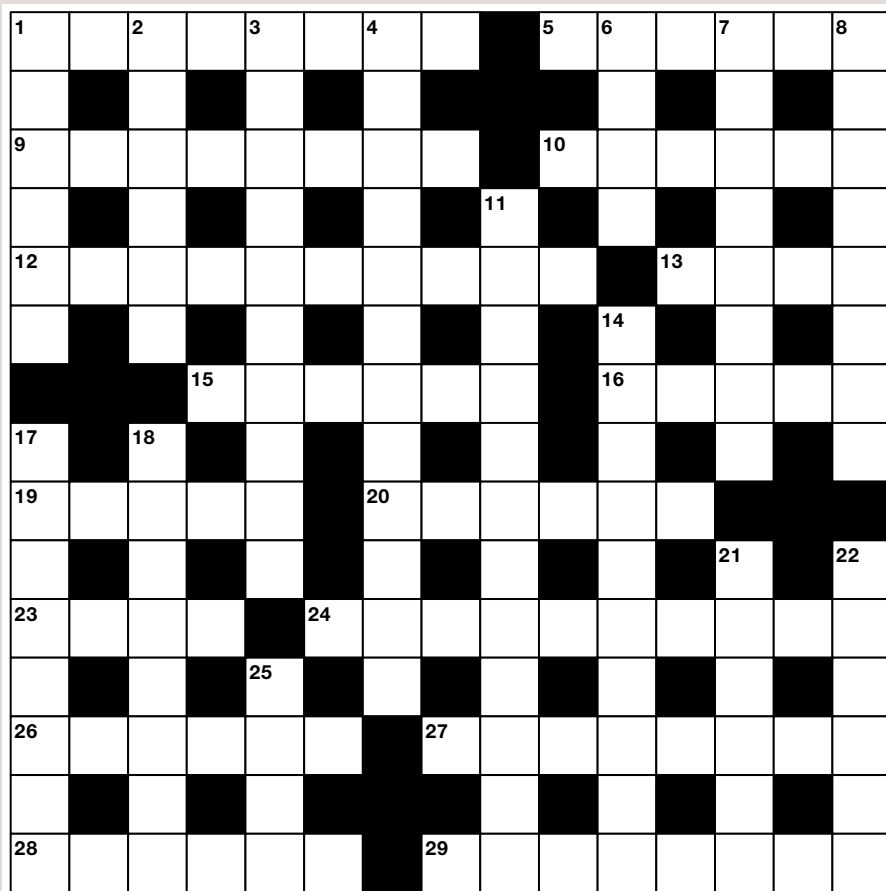
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Aims of the Freemason magazine

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

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ACROSS

- 1 Of a portico made with a number from 1 down (8)
- 5 *Wicked thing once stood on a lodge pedestal (6)*
- 9 *Blake found in a coal dump in the Region of ancient Sparta (8)*
- 10 *Strange rustle obtained from a ballot box (6)*
- 12 The WM's tenure in office (10)
- 13 A hewers tool (4)
- 15 Architectural style characterised by pointed arches (6)
- 16 *Some chasten those who act like this when times is the essence (5)*
- 19 & 23 *Taximeter adjusted to break a tie (5, 4)*
- 20 A light jingling metallic sound (6)
- 23 See 19 across
- 24 *Master's not included in this mixed bag (10)*
- 26 *Election given to a LL.B. to reorganise (6)*
- 27 *A nerving mutation for predatory 'birds of the air' perhaps (8)*
- 28 *A few shenanigans weren't really necessary to find this solution (6)*
- 29 *'Birds of the sea' in dinner suits perhaps (8)*

DOWN

- 1 *Pillar of ancient Athenian Society (6)*
- 2 *'and the grasshopper shall become a burden' – dreadfully clouts one (6)*
- 3 Statehood of those from St Paul USA (10)
- 4 *Number for surgeon's assistant (12)*
- 6 & 25 Regional dialling prefix (4, 4)

NOTE: Clues shown in *italics* are cryptic.

- 7 *They leave shy, timid, rude characters upset with Celtic religion (8)*
- 8 Past Masters are regarded like this according to their jewel inscriptions (8)
- 11 *Doesn't social change make us melancholy and sad (12)*
- 14 *Which Fellowcraft symbol appears at midnight (3, 6, 1)*
- 17 Bone of the spinal column (8)
- 18 It provides an incentive (8)
- 21 *To some extent twins acknowledge miniature sign of the zodiac (6)*
- 22 *Constructs platforms in various times (6)*
- 25 See 6 down

Solution September 2015

S	L	E	E	P	E	R	S	T	U	S	C	A	N		
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H	K	E	E	I	O	L	T								
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R	O	S	A	R	Y	A	M	P	E	R	A	G	E		



70 Years Service

FIRTH, Herbert	Lodge Mayfield 493
IRONSIDE, William	Lodge Resurgo 223
PAULL, Frank	Lodge Richard Coley 152
PEDERSEN, Alexander	Lodge Burnside 729
SCOTT, Donald	Lodge Horace Thompson Ryde 134
WALPOLE, Victor	Lodge Milton 63
WHITE, Cyril	Lodge Camden 217

60 Years Service

ATKIN, Leslie	Lodge Kirrawee 903
ATKINS, Henry	Lodge Oatley 381
BASSELL, Gerald	Goulburn District Daylight Lodge 1024
BAYLISS, Henry	Lodge Milton 63
BURNETT, Peter	The Waratah Lodge 170
CLEWORTH, Joseph	Lodge Frenchs Forest 249
DALY, Bruce	Lodge Kirrawee 903
DAVEY, Bruce	Lodge Ethos 963
DAVIS, Lyle	Lodge Blue Mountains Unity 118
FAIRWEATHER, Allan	Lodge Enterprise 400
FERGUSON, Bruce	Lodge Milton 63
FLEMING, Thomas	Lodge Taralga 648
FRITH, Robert	Lodge Eltham 272
GERSBACH, William	Lodge Oatley 381

GOOD, Desmond	Batemans Bay Daylight Lodge 1013
GRAY, Lancelot	Lodge Oatley 381
HAYMAN, Peter	Lodge Milton 63
HENDERSON, Keith	Lodge Balgowlah 392
KEARNS, Ray	Antiquity 1
MCVEY, Ian	Lodge Wallis Plains 4
MURRAY, John	Lodge Kilwinning 13
PETTY, Gordon	Lodge Milton 63
ROBINSON, Ronald	The Leichhardt Lodge 133
ROGERS, Arthur	Lodge Ballina United 250
SCOBIE, Clark	Lodge Theo Grey 234
SIMPSON, Donald	Lodge Ibis 361
SMITH, Dair	Lodge Milton 63
STOTT, John	Lodge Enterprise 400
TURNBULL, Sidney	Lodge Milton 63
WALTERS, Keith	Lodge Milton 63
WILLIAMS, Rex	Lodge Eurobodalla Daylight 989
WOODS, Lindsay	Lodge St John's 16

50 Years Service

BARNES, Malcolm	Lodge St John's 16
BURDEN, James	Lodge Greater Taree 66
CALLAHAN, John	Lodge Epping 390
CAMERON, Tasman	Lodge Prince Leopold 87
CLARKE, Paul	Lodge Enterprise 400
DAVIS, Sydney	Lodge Hunter Hiram 246

DUFFY, Leslie	Lodge Milton 63
DUNCAN, Norman	Lodge Mayfield 493
DURBIN, Harold	Lodge Leeton Yanco 313
ELLCOTT, Maxwell	Lodge Armadale 641
GREGORY, Douglas	The Waratah Lodge 170
HARRIS, Harold	Lodge United St Andrew Singleton 64
HERMANN, Otto	Lodge of Peace 120
KIDD, Bruce	The Waratah Lodge 170
LEE, Alan	Lodge Cowper 295
LOCKWOOD, Robert	Lodge Burnside 729
METZ, William	Lodge Waringah 83
NEWMAN, Robert	Lodge Milton 63
PAINÉ, Allan	Lodge Theo Grey 234
PATTERSON, Brian	Lodge Wagga Wagga 22
PETCH, Walter	Lodge Epping 390
PRENDERGAST, Kevin	Lodge Gowrie of Canberra 715
SADLER, Kevin	Lodge Milton 63
SCOTT, Arthur	Lodge Milton 63
STENHOUSE, Robert	The Sir Walter Scott Lodge 123
STEPHENS, Brian	Lodge Enterprise 400
STRYKOWSKI, Sam	Lodge Frenchs Forest United 249
TERRY, Brian	Lodge Camden 217
TURNBULL, Noel	Lodge Milton 63
WALLIS, Royston	Lodge Hunter Hiram 256
WINTER, Noel	Lodge Swansea Belmont 1030
ZINK, Graham	Lodge Vaucluse 266

Journals from around the world

Did you know that your Library at Grand Lodge carries a selection of foreign-language journals from countries all over the world? Here are some of the titles available to borrow:

- A Grande Loja**
- EM Destaque** Sao Paulo, Brazil
- Koilliskulma** Helsinki, Finland
- Erasmus** Rome, Italy
- Tesviye** Istanbul, Turkey
- Frimurerbladet** Oslo, Norway
- Zeit Mass** Vienna, Austria
- Astrea** Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- Actualite** Paris, France
- InforMACON** Espirito Santo, Brazil
- Haboneh Hahofshi** Tel-Aviv, Israel
- Hiram** Rome, Italy
- Oaiabhthe** Athens, Greece



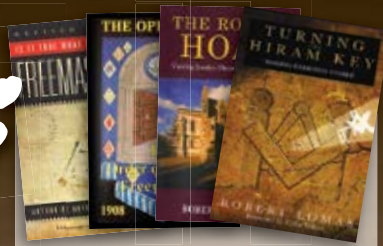
LOONY LEGISLATION!

Some countries have unusual, weird and funny laws. **Australia is one of them:**
 In 2005, there was a short-lived ban on using the word 'mate' in the Australian Federal Parliament.
 South Australia banned people from walking on a dead whale.
 Begging in the Northern Territory was punishable by a fine of \$6,500.

And overseas:

- 'Idiots' can't vote in **New Mexico**.
- You are not allowed to die in **Britain's** Houses of Parliament.
- In **Alabama**, you can't play dominoes on a Sunday.
- In **Thailand**, it was illegal to step on a bank note because it had the King's head on it.
- It's illegal to own a green or smelly hide in **California**.
- In the **United Kingdom**, placing a stamp bearing the Monarch's head upside down on a letter could be regarded as an act of treason.
- In **Canada**, it's illegal to pose as a witch to defraud somebody.

Books for sale



Turning the Hiram Key
by Robert Lomas \$10

Is it true what they say about Freemasonry?
by Art de Hoyos and S Brent Morris \$10

Freemasonry and Christianity – Truths and Misconceptions
by Gree, Burton, Ctercteko \$4

A Start in Life – A History of the William Thompson Masonic Schools
by Beverley Earnshaw \$2

The Open Door – The Order of Women Freemasons
by Ann Pilcher-Dayton \$10

The Rosslyn Hoax – Viewing Rosslyn Chapel from a new perspective
by Bert Cooper \$15

Books can be of interest for birthdays, anniversaries or gifts if a person is short of ideas. The following books are available from the Grand Lodge library on the third floor of the Sydney Masonic Centre.

NSW Police Masonic Lodge

The United Grand Lodge of NSW & ACT is endeavouring to form a Police Lodge to initially meet in the Sydney metropolitan area, totalling six times a year.

Special rates will apply to non-residential members.

If you are a serving or former member of the Police Force, a serving or retired Police Public Servant and a Freemason, or if you wish to become a mason, please contact the Grand Lodge Office.

Contact Peter Court
peterc@masons.org.au
02 9284 2854

or Chris Standaloft
cjs@hotmail.com
02 9521 5451



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For village enquiries, donations or to organise speakers for Lodge meetings, please contact CEO RW Bro Alex Shaw on 02 8031 3200 or email admin@rfbi.com.au. Alternatively, you can visit www.rfbi.com.au for more information.

From all of us at RFBI we wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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