

FREEMASON

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FREEMASONS
NSW & ACT



Mozart
The Masonic Flute

Who was
Jephthah?

A stained panel
returns home

Mozart

FREEMASON



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COVER: Portrait of Mozart on a background of one of his original music scores

By Susan Williams, CEO Masonic Youth Welfare Fund of NSW & ACT

Education *is a right*

The importance of education and investment in human capital was a compelling message delivered recently by News Corporation Chairman and CEO, Rupert Murdoch during his 'Fortune Favours The Smart' Boyer Lecture in Sydney.

In calling for education reform, Mr Murdoch said: 'A solid education is the one hope for rising in society and levelling the playing field'. Our plans, as you will read in here, are to level that field and make the game happier and productive for many more children.

It is a sad fact of life that Australia – 'the lucky country' – is not so lucky for many young Australians. Thousands of Australian children every year are disadvantaged because their parents are simply not in a position to provide for their educational needs. And this educational disadvantage can resonate throughout their lives. These young people are suffering and sometimes outcast from their peers because their parents or guardians cannot afford the basics – like school uniforms, essential textbooks, dental and optical requirements.

This is where the Masonic Youth Welfare Fund is in the prime position to assist more of these disadvantaged children. We are determined not to be a 'best kept secret' anymore by lifting our profile among the masonic fraternity and the wider community. With more support we can ensure that many more children will benefit from a good education and that most necessary start in life.

As Mr Murdoch related: 'A basic education – and the hope for a better life that it brings – ought to be the first civil right of any decent society'.

He also believes that in the new economy, educated, skilled human capital with good judgement and who can offer a major contribution to the organisation are the people that companies are craving.

In my earlier professional career, I was in Employment and Personnel for

over 15 years. Working in the role of CEO of Employment National, a company placing over 250,000 people into permanent, temporary and trade roles, made me realise how important education or training in skills or a trade was for young people who wanted to contribute to our society and build a future for themselves.

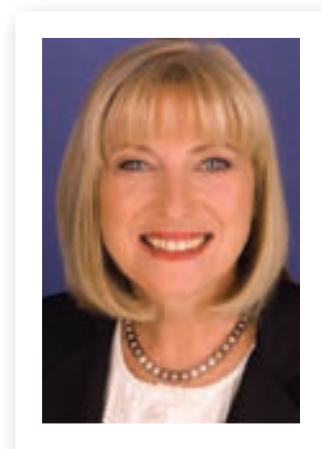
That is why the education of financially disadvantaged young Australians is the *Raison d'être* of the Masonic Youth Welfare Fund.

With 85 years of history in helping thousands of young people, we are moving into the future with new programs, more internet interaction with our students and supporters and higher profiled marketing strategies. Through our Compass Youth Education program assisting primary, secondary and tertiary students and our soon to be released Dreamweaver program, assisting young people who are gifted or talented and unable to reach their full potential, we will increase our ability to bring about a level playing field for many more young students.

The Masonic Youth Welfare Fund and its Compass Youth Education and Dreamweaver programs have a simple mandate – that is to help the youth of Australia in need of assistance, regardless of race, colour, creed or masonic affiliation.

In addition to financial assistance, we maintain a very close relationship with our students and families and monitor the progress of each student as they move through their educational years. Our staff have a warm and supportive approach to guiding and assisting our students giving them moral support, practical help and reassurance so that they have an equal opportunity in life and learn to appreciate good citizenship.

A vital ingredient to the success of our programs is discovering the children who do need help. We cannot do this without our lodges' participation. Your knowledge of the local community and ability



The Masonic Youth Welfare Fund and its ... programs have a simple mandate – that is to help the youth of Australia in need of assistance, regardless of race, colour, creed or masonic affiliation.

to refer families who would benefit from our assistance is the essence to assisting more children. Lodges played such a powerful role in the establishment of this worthwhile charity and I am appealing to lodge members and their ladies to notify our office if you do know a family who would benefit from our education gift.

Lodge members can also assist our charity by Sponsoring a Student each year with the knowledge that your student will consequently progress on a level playing field with his or her peers. By donating to this program each lodge can be assured that 100% of their investment in a student's future is spent directly on a student in their Region.

It makes me exceedingly proud of what the Masonic Youth Welfare Fund has achieved with the help of the Masonic Fraternity, when I speak to some of these children who are from seriously financially disadvantaged homes. Their appreciation is sincere and you too would be amazed with what the students are achieving from this start in life provided by us all. 🇺🇸

By RW Bro Rabbi Dr Samuel Hay Tov-Lev PJGW

Searching for the light



The advantage of attending masonic lodge meetings globally is enormous. We discover such simple usages in the working of the lodges but so powerful in their outcome and the strong effect on the brethren. The idea is to make each masonic gathering a pleasure and more meaningful.

Last month I visited a lodge in Europe and the opening impressed me and all who attended with the true attitude and understanding one should expect from joining our Fraternity.

What do we need in order to create in our lodge the right atmosphere as a place of learning and searching for the light in our life? How can we feel, physically, that we are going from our inner darkness through the process of seeking and progressing towards the promising light?

At present, we find brethren are entering the illuminated lodge like being in a meeting room anywhere, socialising and chatting freely. Others are trying to ensure that everything is set up within the lodge until, at last, we hear the knocks of the WM and Wardens to draw our attention to the lodge opening.

I am not impressed with such a beginning. Is this the appropriate way to raise the awareness and self-preparation of each brother to what he expects to get during the working of the lodge?

I believe that without creating the physical presentation of the lodge room as a unique place for our meeting, we are going to miss the point and the benefit for the brethren would be minimal. On the other hand, when the scene is right our mind is able to focus on searching for and gradually discovering the Light; we feel satisfied and, at the same time, we are justifying our attendance.

How do we go about it? The lodge room must be in darkness with the ceiling showing the moon and the stars. Only the WM and his Officers take their positions within the lodge and remain standing. Then, one by one the brethren enter with the sign of Fidelity towards the WM, followed by visiting brethren. When all have taken their places, the usual opening of the lodge proceeds. After the appropriate knocks, the lights are gradually restored.

Can you enter the lodge with a desire not only to receive, but to give?

I feel this kind of gathering of the brethren into the lodge and in this new setup helps to raise their awe and reverence and prepares them to find the 'light' of the evening.

The prophet Isaiah well expressed it by saying: 'The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light...' ⁽¹⁾. How right was he!

Strengthening my idea, I came across the following words of wisdom written by an unknown author and completing what I had in mind:

Masonic light

'Stop, brother, just a moment. Before you enter the sacred lodge, ask yourself in your innermost heart, "Am I duly and truly prepared?" If you will listen you may hear a voice saying: "It is a brother desiring admission".

Can you enter this sanctuary this night as, indeed, a brother? Have you divested

yourself of garments of hate, envy, jealousy, deceit, hypocrisy, and put on the robe of brotherly love? Can you stand before the 'holy' altar, which recalled to your mind memories of bygone days and, looking into the eyes of your Worshipful Master, extend a greeting to those about you, 'Behold, a Brother'?

Can you enter the lodge with a desire not only to receive, but to give? Should you entertain a spirit of enmity in the slightest degree for a brother in your lodge, go in, take the hand of that brother, talk it over with him in the fraternal spirit you should, and watch the mists disappear and the sunlight of masonic brotherhood illuminate your heart and his. Just try, brother, you will not be disappointed. The noblest work of God is man, and the ancient landmarks of Freemasonry are His handiwork of man's highest ability.

If you cannot claim to be a mason, good and true, I beseech you to turn back, and do not enter. But, if your aims and ambitions are the calling of the Brotherhood of Man as taught throughout the ages by the Fraternity of Freemasonry, and sanctioned in nature and revelation by the approval of the Great Architect of the Universe, enter here, for within you will find that which you seek.'

I am certain that by creating the right atmosphere within the lodge, it would help to motivate the brethren to achieving what the unknown author is proposing. 🏠

⁽¹⁾ Isaiah, Chp.9, verse 1

The Goulburn pipe organ

I read with interest the article on Page 39 of the September 2008 issue of the Freemason, 'What's happened to Organ Music' and would like to advise you that in the Goulburn Masonic Centre pipe organ music is alive and well. We have what we believe to be the only fully functioning pipe organ in a Masonic Centre in NSW (and maybe further afield) and we are privileged to have an organist to play it.

The original Masonic Centre was built in 1890 and work on a first floor addition in 1928 was held up while plans were altered to raise the ceiling three feet to accommodate the pipes of an organ that RW Bro W J Bartlett purchased for 1,000 pounds and donated to the Goulburn Masonic fraternity.

The organ was built and installed by C W Leggo organ builder of Manly.

The excellence of workmanship and beauty has evoked many a flattering comment. The cost of the installation was 48 pound six shillings and two pence and the metal pipes and keyboard were imported from London. Apart from these items, the whole instrument was constructed at Manly. The casework is of polished Queensland maple to match the woodwork of the lodge room and the front pipes are silvered with gilt mouths. Aside from its value as a musical instrument, it adds much to the beauty of the lodge room. His Excellency, the Governor-General, Lord Stonehaven, as NSW Grand Master performed the official Opening and Dedication of the new building on 27 March 1929.

About 20 years ago the organ was refurbished by volunteers from the masonic lodges in Goulburn under the guidance of one of their members. On Saturday 10 July, 1982 a Combined 101 District Meeting was held, attended by masons from all over the state. During the evening MW Bro H G Coates OBE, the Grand Master, rededicated the restored pipe organ to the memory of the donor, RW Bro Bartlett.

There are also pipe organs in St Peter & St Paul's Catholic Cathedral, St Saviours Anglican Cathedral and together with our organ, have featured in a Goulburn Heritage Pipe Organs Festival in 2003.

Any organist who would like to play the Goulburn pipe organ would be most welcome. Contact RW Bro Terry Hall, Chairman of the Goulburn Masonic Management Committee on 02 4822 3138.

RW Bro Terry Hall PSGW
Chairman of the Goulburn Masonic Management Committee

The Backwaters of Freemasonry

Backwaters can be explained in many ways:

1. A piece of water without current fed by the backflow of a river.
2. A creek or lagoon separated from the sea by a narrow strip of land and communicating therewith by barred outlets which open when work of release is carried out.
3. A quiet, peaceful place when left untouched but when released clears the river and sets up the area for the river to flow.

There are masons from each lodge I consider the Backwaters of Freemasonry. They arrive well before most members to set up the lodge room and in many cases prepare the south for the festive board. These keen members check the list of lodges and where possible will set up the day before.

Many of these Backwater masons take the place of Tylers and Junior Wardens who are busy in their employment.

Liquid refreshments are purchased and refrigerated; raffle prizes are purchased and set up; raffle tickets are put in alphabetical order in different colours; coffee, tea, sugar and milk are supplied and water is on the boil for early arrivals; and other minor preparations are completed.

As backwaters are released, so these members then release themselves from these chores and take their place in the lodge room.

When the Junior Warden proposes the final toast, these same Backwater masons stay behind to clean up the last remnants of the meeting to make sure the building is in good order for the next tenant.

So it is with grateful thoughts our special thanks are conveyed to the Backwater Brothers of Freemasonry.

RW Bro John Williams
The Leichhardt Lodge No 133

Marketing Masonry

On Monday 5 January together with another senior mason I chanced to pay a visit to the Drummoyne RSL.

Nothing very clever about that to write home about but one issue we were aware of on entering the premises was a noticeable absence in the foyer amongst the numerous other listings of who meets there, when they meet, and the interesting features that the club hosts. Any indication whatsoever that a masonic lodge meets there on the second Tuesday of the month is not in evidence.

Some years ago I wrote and had published the concern I felt about driving into country towns and not witnessing amongst the many clubs, etc., being advertised on a rather large notice board alongside of the roadway, the fact that a masonic lodge was to be found in the town and a contact number.

As most of the jurisdiction is now aware of the Deeley Document, February 2008, and an almost Mayday call is being heard in order to 'Save our Craft' by way of bolstering our new member intake it would be rather apparent, I believe, if we used every possible opportunity to display our organisation's establishment and purpose.

Certainly with the introduction of Regional Conferences across the jurisdiction, this year, a reasonable awareness will be provided to those non masons who attend. But will this be adequate to stimulate interest and attraction from the very people we are so desperately in need of recruiting?

Private lodges should endeavour to promote their own locale and interesting talks provided to the community at every opportunity to ensure that masonry is clearly understood. Word of mouth is unquestionably the best 'good will' in the marketing world. A list of Accredited Speakers appears in the latest Masonic Directory. A greater use of these qualified members should be entertained.

As the Deeley document points out ... we have to ensure we treat the recruitment campaign with an earnestness not previously entertained or else as the document states ... 'mid July 2012 will witness an unsustainable Grand Lodge'. And that's a mere four years away.

RW Bro W Richards OAM, PJGW

Remembrance Day Memorial Service

A Freemasons' Association Remembrance Day Memorial Service under the direction of RW Bro Commander Derek Robson AM RAN (Ret) PDGM on the 1st Floor of the Sydney Masonic Centre on Tuesday 11 November, was simple but poignant.

Wreaths were laid by the President of the Freemasons' Association, RW Bro Walid Mehanna, SGW, on behalf of members of the Association and by Captain Dr Yvonne McIntyre BSc (Hons), MEd, on behalf of Women's Medical Services, Vietnam. Captain McIntyre is a returned servicewoman from Vietnam and Membership Officer/Registrar of the Freemasons' Association.

VW Bro Major Douglas James RFD, recited the Ode of Remembrance and W Bro Pipe Major Sam Young, NSW Police Pipes and Drums played a traditional lament. Guests were then invited to lay poppies on the Cenotaph.

At the completion of the Service, more than 70 brethren and ladies attended a Celebration Dinner at which MW Bro Tony Lauer, APM, PGM, gave an interesting and humorous talk about the NSW Police Force in general and his experiences as Police Commissioner in particular.

President Mehanna in his welcome said: 'The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month attained a special significance in the post-World War One years. The moment when hostilities ceased on the Western Front became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in the war. This first modern world conflict left between 9 and 13 million dead, perhaps as many as one-third of them with no known grave. The allied nations chose this day and time for the commemoration of their war dead. Tonight, we take time to reflect on the sacrifice made by men and women who gave their lives so that we can live in peace.'

The Association, formerly the Present and Past Grand Lodge Officers Association, celebrated its Centenary in conjunction with the Ladies Christmas Dinner following the December Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge.



RW Bro Angus Fraser PAGM and MW Bro Anthony Lauer PGM

In what is believed to be a first, the Dinner was organised by the Woman's Advisory Committee and was attended by more than 250 brethren and their ladies.

Vice President, RW Bro Alan Farrell, PDGM, CMH, PCBM, gave the following brief outline of the history of the Present and Past Grand Lodge Officers' Association dating from what is believed to have been the first meeting on 9 December 1908. MW Bro His Excellency, The Right Honourable Admiral Sir Harry Rawson, CGMG, GCB, Governor of NSW 1902 to 1909 was the Grand Master of the day and served in that role from 1905 to 1909.

The Foundation Secretary was VW Bro John Goulston MBE, JP, who later became Grand Master from 1924 to 1928. He also served as Pro Grand Master to MW Bro Lord Stonehaven during his term as Grand Master from 1928 to 1930.

The Association was extremely active and arranged theatre parties, bowls and golf competitions, dinners for distinguished guests, suppers following the Quarterly Communications of Grand Lodge, banquets for Grand Installations and Proclamations and various other social events for members and their families. It is worth pointing out that the

suppers following the Communications were provided free of charge to brethren.

In 1910, RW Bro Field Marshall Viscount Kitchener of Khartoum, GCB, OM, GCMG, GCIE, LL.D, DCL was entertained at a dinner given by the Association in his honour. The dinner was attended by the Grand Master, MW Bro His Honour, Judge Montgomerie Hamilton who gave a welcoming address to Lord Kitchener.

On 18 March 1938, the Association hosted a luncheon for MW Bro Lord Gowrie at the Masonic Club. Spirits were dispensed with in favour of ale and mineral water, cigars and cigarettes were supplied in accordance with the custom of the day and the room was decorated with palms and wild flowers. A charge of five shillings was made for tickets.

At a similar function organised for Lord Gowrie prior to his departure for England to attend the Grand Installation in 1939, the Association presented him with a Past Grand Master's Jewel. It is thought that this was the first of what has become a traditional presentation of a Past Grand Master's Jewel to outgoing Grand Masters.

A major activity arranged each year was to provide a Christmas party for the children from the William Thompson Masonic Schools at Baulkham Hills. The outings varied from visits to the Zoo to picnics at Brighton-le-Sands and the Royal National Park.

For the Zoo visit in December 1938, the Trustees of Taronga Park agreed to allow the children free entry and lunches were provided at the following prices: sandwiches 2 shillings and 7 pence per dozen, cakes 11 pence per dozen, ice creams 2 shillings and 9 pence per dozen, ginger beer and lemonade 1 shilling and 9 pence per gallon and milk 2 shillings per gallon. Approximately 280 children attended the Christmas Party.

Bro Farrell said that it is intended to publish a history of the Association early in 2009 in conjunction with a special dinner to mark the occasion. 🍷

By Kevin McGlinn, Grand Secretary

From the Grand Secretary

GRAND RANK

At the December Communication, the Grand Master MW Bro Dr Greg Levenston submitted his recommendations of those brethren he considered worthy to receive conferred or further Grand Honours. The Grand Master's recommendations were adopted unanimously.

As most brethren would be aware, the Grand Master may call for such nominations from time to time and unless the Grand Master has made such a request it is not recommended that nominations be submitted. This is so for a number of reasons.

Primarily, of course, as the Grand Master has not requested any submissions nominations made cannot, in fairness to other prospective nominees, be considered by the Grand Master. Also, any submission made may give the brother concerned unnecessary optimism as to the possibility of receiving recognition in some form.

Although nominations may not have been called, this does not stop the Grand Master from exercising his sole right and privilege of submitting the names of any number of brethren he may wish to, and as often as he likes.

In determining those worthy of recognition, the Grand Master may adopt a number of parameters for each District or Region. Primarily though, a brother's work for his District, Lodge and Community should always be detailed for the Grand Master's consideration. The cost of new regalia and appropriate formal attire must also be remembered so that a brother conferred with Grand Honours is not financially embarrassed.

INSURANCE

One of the most frequently raised issues with the Grand Lodge Secretariat is that of Insurance and whilst it may appear to be a simple matter for members, the reality can be further from the truth.

On 1 July 2003, Grand Lodge, through its Brokers recommended a scheme to Hall Owners whereby the organisation would self insure the first \$100,000 worth of claims each year, so as to minimise claims made against our insurance policies. This scheme is administered by a third party as Trustee through a discretionary Trust. The

Trust collects contributions from Hall Owners, maintains the \$100,000 pool, pays both claims made and the necessary insurance premiums.

Clause 7.2.3 of the Constitution of this Grand Lodge requires Hall Owners to 'effect such policies of insurance as the Board of Management may from time to time prescribe'. At present, the Board has prescribed Industrial Special Risk (buildings, contents), Third Party Public and Product Liability Insurance, Voluntary Workers Insurance and Members Personal Accident Policies. These are all available through the scheme in operation.

It should be noted that Hall Owners are free to obtain their insurances from whomever they like, providing the above coverages exist. Lodges meeting in Hotels, Clubs or other non-masonic buildings are therefore not covered by Hall Owners Insurance but are still encouraged to have adequate Contents insurance for their regalia and Third Party and Product Liability Insurance.

The implementation of this scheme has seen substantial savings in insurance costs not only for Hall Owners but also other Masonic Orders which have now been able to avoid duplication of insurance premiums. In the past five years alone over \$400,000 worth of claims have been paid by the discretionary Trust, but to date no claims have been made against the Master Insurance Policy. This has resulted in minimal premium increases.

Many enquiries are received each year for Certificates of Insurance in respect of Charitable fundraising activities and these are provided either by the Secretary of the Hall Company or Lodge which owns the building in which the Lodge meets, the local Regional Grand Counsellor or the Grand Secretariat. All 'Masonic' fundraising activities (e.g. Bunnings BBQs, shopping centre stalls, etc) are covered for Third Party Public and Product Liability.

EMAIL MESSAGES

The Grand Master intends to issue messages to members of the jurisdiction via an 'email blast' from time to time. These messages will be direct from the Grand Master and will update brethren on matters relating to the Craft in general

or on progress with initiatives such as the Strategic Plan.

To receive this information, brethren who have not already done so will need to ensure that this office has an email address available. As previously advised, this can be done through your Lodge Secretary, in the Members' Area of the UGL web site or by emailing details to info@ugl.nsw.freemasonry.org.au.

A SAD LOSS

This Grand Lodge was saddened to learn of the passing on 3 January 2009 of the Grand Architect, RW Bro Gary Alan Green PAGM.

Gary, who was born in Sydney on 3 June 1948, completed a Bachelor of Architecture Degree in March 1975, was admitted to the Royal Australian Institute of Architects as a Fellow and later became a Chartered Architect. He was initiated into The Australian Lodge of Harmony No 5 on 14 February 1979 and was its Worshipful Master in 1991/1992 and again in 1996/1997.

From 1992 until 2000, Gary was the Grand Architect and he again assumed that role in 2003 and held it to the time of his death. He had the ranks of Past Junior Grand Warden and Past Senior Grand Warden conferred in 1995 and 2003 respectively and in September 2006 he was elevated to the rank of Past Assistant Grand Master.

Gary was diagnosed with cancer in 2006 but maintained his busy architectural practice. Whilst staying at his brother Glen's property with his sons Andrew, Christopher and David, Gary was admitted to Gilgandra District Hospital on 28 December and quietly passed away on 3 January.

On Friday 9 January a large number of brethren and other mourners attended the Woronora Crematorium where the Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro Paul Fletcher conducted a family and masonic eulogy followed by a Masonic Tribute.

Gary's devotion, expertise and readiness to assist in the senior Grand Lodge Office he held will be sadly missed as will his courteous, friendly and happy disposition. 🏠

Mozart's

Magical Music

The great composer known as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart for the last seven years of his life was a mason and the Masonic Order played an important role in his life and work.

As a child, he was known as a prodigy and genius. Among his accomplishments he played the piano at three, composed a concerto at five, made his first concert tour of Europe at six, had his first four violin sonatas published at eight, had his first symphonies played in London at nine and at 14, he had written two comic operas and one opera seria.

Mozart is recognised as the greatest melodic genius of his time and was a composer whose wide range of works included symphonies, sonatas, masses, concertos, chamber music, piano music and operas, among which were *Don Giovanni* and *The Magic Flute*.

He was initiated in the Viennese Zur Wohltätigkeit (Benevolence) Masonic Lodge on 14 December 1784, and became a master mason in early 1785. He visited another Viennese Lodge, Zur wahren Eintracht (True Concord) regularly. Mozart's own lodge consolidated with two others in December 1785 under the Imperial reform of Masonry with the name of Zur Neugekrönten Hoffnung (New Crowned Hope). Surviving masonic documents indicate that Mozart was regarded well by the brethren and many of his friends were masons. In 1785 his father Leopold also joined the Craft.

One of Mozart's noteworthy masonic compositions was his Masonic Funeral Music written on the death of the distinguished Freemason, Duke Georg August of Mecklenburg-Strelitz and



Count Franz Esterhazy and played for the first time on 17 November 1785 in Lodge New Crowned Hope.

But *The Magic Flute* was one of his greatest works and was first performed in Vienna in 1791. Written at age 35 shortly before his death, it is a combination of simple German folk tunes and classic opera with the plot a political satire set against an Egyptian background. It is said it was the swansong of Austrian Freemasonry for in 1791 Kaiser Leopold prohibited Freemasonry in Austria and the opera was written as an apology and a confession of fidelity for Freemasonry and as a last farewell to the masonic ideals of freedom and forbearance.

Mozart became ill in Prague from what was recorded as severe military

fever and died on 5 December 1791 at the age of 35. The accepted cause of his death was acute rheumatic fever, which had occurred several times in his life. He was buried in a common grave at the St Marx cemetery outside the city of Vienna on 7 December.

He was born on 27 January 1756 and was named Johannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart, according to the baptismal record in St Rupert's Cathedral in Salzburg. His parents were Leopold and Anna Maria Pertl Mozart, and he had only one surviving sister, Maria Anna (1751–1829), known as Nannerl.

Leopold gave Nannerl keyboard lessons from the age of seven, which her three-year-old brother watched with fascination and soon began picking out notes and chords. His father began to teach Wolfgang a few minuets and similar pieces at the clavier, which he could play faultlessly and in exact time. By the time he was five, Wolfgang was composing small pieces, some of which his father recorded, including his *Andante* (K 1a) and *Allegro in C* (K 1b).

The family made several European journeys to show off the Mozart children. They visited Munich, Mannheim, Paris, Donaueschingen, The Hague, Zürich and London, during which he was influenced by J S Bach. In Rome, he heard Gregorio Allegri's *Miserere* once in the Sistine Chapel, wrote it out entirely from memory, and so 'stole' that closely guarded property of the Vatican.

In Milan during 1770, Mozart wrote his first opera, *Mitridate Rè di Ponto*, which was successful. His following operas were *Ascanio in Alba* in 1771 and *Lucio Silla* in 1772, followed by the still performed solo cantata *Exsultate, jubilate*, K 165.

In 1773 Mozart was employed as court musician by Prince-Archbishop Hieronymus Colloredo, ruler of Salzburg, and composed many symphonies, sonatas, string quartets, serenades, and further operas. Late in 1775, he composed five violin concertos, the final three (K 216, K 218 and K 219) are still performed regularly. But he became discontented with Salzburg where the production of opera was discouraged.

An expedition to Vienna in 1773 and Munich (1774–5) was unsuccessful; however Mozart created his opera *La finta giardiniera* in Munich. He moved to Paris with his mother, who died there in June 1778. January 1781 saw his opera *Idomeneo* premiered successfully in Munich, but his differences with Prince-Archbishop Colloredo intensified, and he resigned. This solved two problems for Mozart, as he lost not only an oppressive employer, but also his father's demands for him to return to Salzburg.

He moved to Vienna where his career flourished, performing often and establishing himself as the finest keyboard player there. He studied the music of Bach and Handel, which influenced his next output in the Baroque style, and later works such as

the finale of Symphony No. 41 (K 551) and passages in *Die Zauberflöte* (*The Magic Flute*). Later he met fellow mason Joseph Haydn, with whom he became close friends, playing together in impromptu string quartets, and who considered Mozart to be the greatest composer known to him.

Mozart made money with concerts in Vienna, enabling his family to live extravagantly. He had further operatic success with *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, but did little more until he collaborated with Lorenzo da Ponte. The Vienna premiere of *The Marriage of Figaro* in 1786, and in Prague proved to be highly successful, and led to *Don Giovanni* in 1787 with greater acclaim in both cities.

Mozart's extravagance, together with a reduction in concert opportunities caused him to resort to borrowing money to survive. He suffered severe depression, and his composing suffered. His major works of the period to the end of 1790 were his final three symphonies; No. 39 (K 543), No. 40 (K550) No. 41(K551), and the last of his de Ponte operas, *Così fan tutti*.

The year 1791 was extremely productive. His works included *The Magic Flute*, the final piano concerto (K 595), the final string quartet (K 614), the motet *Ave verum corpus* (K 618), the concerto for basset clarinet (K 622), the Little Masonic Cantata (K 623), and an unfinished Requiem (K 626). His finances improved, enabling him to pay off some debts. 🏠

Mozart Masonic works include:

- ▶ Lied (song) *Gesallenreise* (K 468) for installation of new journeymen, in March 1785
- ▶ Cantata for tenor and male chorus *Die Maurerfreude* (*The Mason's Joy*) (K 471), in April 1785
- ▶ *Maurerische Trauermusik* (*The Masonic Funeral Music*) (K 477/479a) no later than November 1785
- ▶ Two songs (K483 and K484) celebrating the beginning of the Lodge Zur Neugekrönten Hoffnung, January 1786
- ▶ Cantata for tenor and piano *Die ihr die unermesslichen Weltalls Schöpfer ehrt* (K 619) in 1791
- ▶ *Kleine Freimaurer-Kantate* (*The Little Masonic Cantata*) entitled *Laut verkünde unsre Freude* for soloists, male chorus and orchestra (K 623) (November 1791)
- ▶ *The Magic Flute* which is considered to have strong Masonic influences.



Salzburg – Birthplace of Mozart

* The K before the numbers above indicates the catalogue number used as the chronological order of known Mozart works, created by Ludwig von Köchel in 1862, and updated regularly.

The stained glass panel



In 1950, VW Bro Dr Alexander Hayward Parker, a local medical practitioner, called at the home of one of his patients at 35 Loch Street, Campsie. To his amazement, he discovered that the central panel of the window at the end of the small verandah featured the Coat of Arms of the United Grand Lodge of NSW in stained glass.

This naturally aroused his curiosity and he enquired of the occupants and later the owner of the house how the stained glass panel was installed on the front verandah. He was told the house was built in 1910 by a Mr Abbott for his own use with the timber and material coming from the old Masonic Hall in York Street which was then being demolished.

Mr Abbott built the house and lived in it with his family for some time before moving to Balmain. He was not a mason but his son was only a child when the family lived in Campsie and was not aware that the panel was the Coat of Arms of the UGL.

VW Bro Dr Parker immediately told Grand Lodge of his discovery but was informed by the then Deputy Grand Secretary that he must not interfere as the Coat of Arms was installed in a private dwelling.

This reply did not satisfy VW Bro Dr Parker who had a nagging and impelling urge to secure that stained glass Coat of Arms for Grand Lodge. After a time he felt compelled to call on Mr Abbott to ascertain if it were possible to make some mutually satisfactory arrangements for the panel to be removed from its position in

the cottage at Campsie and returned to the Grand Lodge.

Mr Abbott was agreeable to VW Bro Dr Parker's proposition provided Dr Parker arranged for another window to be installed in its stead, not necessarily a stained glass panel. This was done with the willing aid of Bro Stan Squire, a local glass merchant and W Bro Keith Smith of Lodge Justice No 461, who removed the panel from the window and made a box to house it.

So in 1960, ten years after its discovery, the stained glass panel was returned to Grand Lodge where it is proudly exhibited in the prominent position it now occupies in the entrance to the Museum of Freemasonry.


The stained glass panel is stated to have been made in Belgium from Belgian glass, sometime around 1888/90. It is not known who submitted the design to the manufacturers or who ordered and paid for it, nor is it known why, when the UGL of NSW was so newly and enthusiastically formed, the panel was left behind in the old York Street Masonic Hall, subsequently to be taken to Campsie as part of a second-hand dealer's sales transaction.

We are fortunate that VW Bro Dr

Parker of Lodge University of Sydney No 544, discovered it and by his persistence, secured it for Grand Lodge.

Observers should stand back from the panel and look up to the four rondelles on the arms of the Cross of St George on the escutcheon which from the front appears to be circular. You will notice that the glass of the rondelles are shaped from within to give an iridescent sparkle resembling that of stars and also that the light green muffled background glass becomes aerated or bubbly in appearance.

The observer will notice that the colour of the cross in the shield at the right hand side of the escutcheon is blue and that it bears five five-pointed stars on the cross. This was the design of the old unofficial badge of the State of NSW which was superseded by the official badge on 15 February 1876. The present design showing a golden lion on a red cross of St George on a white field with a golden five-pointed star on each arm of the cross was designed by James Barnet, the Colonial Architect, and Captain Hixson, RN (Ret), who was the president of the Marine Board.

The size of the stained glass panel is 510 x 1245mm or 20 x 49 inches. 

The past is a vision of the future for

The Order of the Red Cross of Constantine



The Eighteenth Annual Assembly of the Red Cross of Constantine was held in the Royal Arch Temple at Petersham on Saturday 25 October 2008 with distinguished guests present from six other Orders of Freemasonry, including the Assistant Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge RW Bro Barrie Wild, the Grand Sovereign of GIC Victoria M Ill Kt David Watkins GCC and the Grand Sovereign of GIC Greece M Ill Kt George Gyftakis KBE GCC .

The Annual Assembly saw the Re-Enthronement of M Ill Kt Timothy J Foster GCC as Grand Sovereign of the Order for a third term, the Appointment and Consecration of a new Grand Viceroy and the Investiture of Officers. The ceremonial and the conduct of other business were carried out with dignity and decorum.

The Grand Imperial Conclave came into existence as the Sovereign Body for NSW and the ACT in February 1991 and the Order is recognized as one of the most prestigious in Freemasonry. It is related to the life and times of the Roman Emperor, Constantine the Great. The Order also encompasses two appendant degrees based on circumstances arising from the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, thus providing a Christian perspective to the Craft and Royal Arch Degrees.

Constantine was widely respected for his military expertise, as a statesman and administrator and for his religious tolerance. Early in the fourth century, he was urged to take action to free the people of Rome from the tyrannical rule of the then Emperor. Ultimately, having assembled legions of highly disciplined troops, he entered on a campaign which climaxed in his great victory in AD312 at Saxa Rubra outside Rome, and eventually became the sole Emperor of the Roman Empire. Prior to the battle, he is said to have seen in the sky a vision of a Cross with the initials IHSV which he took as a portent of success of his venture. That Cross was later adopted as the emblem of the Masonic Order of the Red Cross of Constantine.

Apart from his encouragement of Christianity as a recognized religion, another most important decision as Emperor, which provided a major challenge to his administrative skills and determination, was to make a fresh start by moving his seat of government from Rome, the scene of past plot, counterplot, treason and conspiracy. Byzantium, chosen as the new capital, was strategically placed from a military point of view and on a number of major trade routes. Many grand buildings, churches, statues, memorials, dwellings and ancillary services were established transforming the area into a thriving and modern city which he renamed Constantinople (now Istanbul). His wise statesmanship as Emperor led to a long period of peaceful existence for the Empire. He died in AD337.

One cannot help but be inspired by his achievements, and it is readily understandable that he should be titled "Great". His example should encourage each of us always to take every opportunity of making things better, not only in life in general but also in our Masonry. The Constantine Order offers the means of advancing our Masonic knowledge, and a challenge to contribute enthusiastically to ensuring the continued development of the Order. Subscribing Craft and Royal Arch Masons who profess the Christian faith are urged to enquire further – please visit our website at

www.myconstantine-nsw.org

The Purposes and Virtues of the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine

can be summed up briefly as follows:-

- ✦ commemorate the elevation of Christianity from the position of a despised and proscribed heresy, to that of a legally recognized and honoured religion;
- ✦ develop a Christian approach to the Craft and Holy Royal Arch Degrees;
- ✦ cultivate social virtues;
- ✦ appeal to intellectual and moral qualities;
- ✦ preserve as far as possible the customs of the fraternity;
- ✦ bring about good fellowship and understanding between all branches of Masonry;
- ✦ endow all words, acts and deeds with leadership, wisdom, tolerance and understanding; and
- ✦ provide a forum in which is assured the opportunity of furthering Masonic knowledge and friendships in the company of other dedicated and worthy Knights



Building(s) *the future*

Masonic buildings have been a subject of controversy for many years. This report, by RW Bro Neil Richardson, PDGM, Past Chairman Members Board, presents an insight on what can be done.

As a relatively young Worshipful Master in 1968, I became interested in masonic buildings or, should I say the lack of quality masonic accommodation.

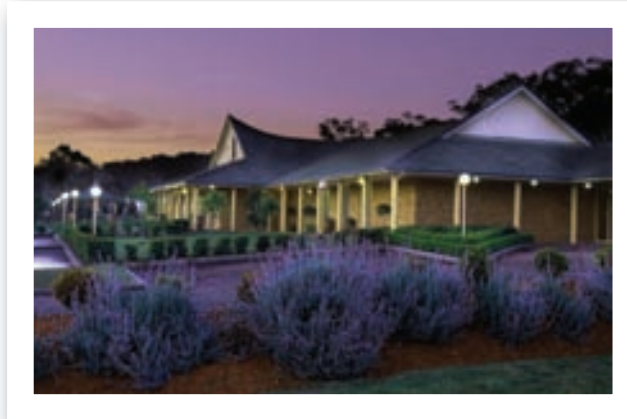
For 50 years or more, many prominent masons, boards and committees have strived to persuade masonic building owners that membership and quality of meeting places go hand-in-hand.

In 1954 a proposal to establish a Fund to improve accommodation for the purposes of Freemasonry in NSW was submitted by the Board of General Purposes. At the time, the need for a new Masonic Centre in Sydney and, for improvements to existing masonic facilities in the suburbs and in country districts was universally acknowledged. However, it was not until 1959 that the proposal was accepted.

By the end of 1986 the Fund, under the regional rationalisation policy, had allocated to private masonic building owners \$4,356,000 of which \$2,333,000 went to country areas and the ACT.

The Danks Reports of NSW in the 1960s again recognised the correlation between membership and masonic accommodation. Since then many major studies were prominent, including 'The Commission for the Future' where significant recommendations were made for the co-ordination of rationalisation of unviable masonic buildings and maximum utilisation of all masonic buildings.

In the past 20 years, many strategic plans, investigations, outside consultants and indeed articles in the *Freemason* have expanded on the common thread of the relationship between membership and masonic accommodation, in particular, rationalisation.



Most importantly, in 2001, the Grand Master MW Bro George Curry announced the appointment of the 'Masonic Accommodation Advisory Committee' (MAAC) to investigate and make recommendations on current and projected accommodation needs over the next 20 years.

MAAC based its investigations on the premise that masonic membership and masonic buildings are reliant on each other and both are dependent, to a large degree, on the communities in which they are located. One only needs to review the number and importance of the articles published in the *Freemason* on the findings and recommendations of MAAC to realise its importance to the future of the Craft.

Since 1987, there have been loosely formed groups in the Newcastle/Lake Macquarie area (Region 4) trying to 'kick start' enthusiasm for the rationalisation of masonic meeting places. However, due to reluctance amongst some sections of the membership, initiatives were unsuccessful.

In 2006, the Grand Master MW Bro Raymond Brooke established a committee under my Chairmanship to investigate the future needs for masonic buildings in the area. The committee was named 'Newcastle and District Masonic Building

Committee' (N&DMBC) and consisted of masons with vast experience in the areas of finance, management, property development, building construction and legal practice.

From the outset, the Committee was afforded support and sound advice from the Grand Master and the Board of Management. In particular, the Chairman of the Board of Management, Grand Treasurer and Chairman Buildings Committee provided professional guidance on a range of issues.

The outcomes of previous investigations provided very valuable statistics and a framework to move forward. The previous investigations include:

- 1996 Strategic Plan for Meeting Places
- Hunter Valley Research Foundation – Membership and Demographics
- MAAC Report
- 2006 Board of Management – Strategic Plan for Membership

To provide further enthusiasm for the task ahead, the then Grand Master MW Bro George Curry's vision for future masonic accommodation was:

'Imagine a masonic building that is seen by the community as one of the best buildings in its locality. A building with facilities where you can, with a sense of pride, invite your friends who are not masons to meet you for a convivial lunch, a cup of coffee or simply a chat.

Imagine a building that has décor that is accessible to all ages and disabilities. One that will encourage men who are not masons to enquire further about the Craft.

Imagine a building that is fully utilised to the extent that the financial burden of maintaining it is either removed or, is greatly reduced because of its commercial income opportunities.'

So, armed with all the above mentioned, the N&DMBC set about developing their vision and plans for a new Masonic Centre in the Newcastle/Lake Macquarie District.

At the request of the area DGIWs, the Board of Management provided to each lodge in their area, statistics on their lodge's membership profile and impact of rising building costs on members. To determine the future needs of the lodges the projections covered the period 2006 to 2011. It was noted that the data used in the research was extracted from each lodge's financial statements, membership and dues returns. This data provided the stimulus for some building owners in their approach to providing accommodation for current and future members of the Craft.

Strategic relationships were developed through engagement with masonic building owners, their tenants, including other orders. Individual meetings were held and updates provided on committee activities. There were some who were not

sympathetic to the proposal (as is their right) while others gave tacit or, in principle, agreement.

Confident that a new centrally located, well designed meeting place with a viable commercial source of income was required, and with access to capital from the recent sales of three masonic buildings in the Newcastle area, the committee inspected some 15 sites; four were shortlisted.

On advice from the Grand Treasurer, Masonic Centre Ltd was formed to purchase and manage a suitable site.


In June 2008, a comprehensive Business Plan encompassing financial, zoning, valuation and planning documentation was submitted to the Board of Management to purchase a property for the development of a new Masonic Centre.

The property is situated at Warners Bay in Lake Macquarie. The land area is 18,950m² and houses a commercial business occupying one third of the land including 110 parking spaces. The

property is well positioned in the 'catchment area' within a 10km radius (travelling distance recommended by MAAC) and encompassing a great majority of Newcastle/Lake Macquarie masons. The current business has a 3 year lease with options for a further 3x3 years at a competitive return.

The Board of Management approved the purchase in August 2008.

The company is now in the planning phase to determine the use of the undeveloped land and development of a new purpose built Masonic Centre.

There is not a 'one size fits all' approach to buildings; however, given all the information available to building owners, and their tenants in the jurisdiction, through the Board of Management, it is advisable, if not imperative, for them to give serious consideration to the future viability of their buildings and meeting places and the best long term interests of the Craft. 



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Bob calls time

RW Bro Bob Evans PAGM has brought to a close a masonic career of perseverance, dedication and affection for his lodge, his District and the Craft.

He took off his regalia for the final time at the November installation meeting of Lodge Liverpool where he delivered the Address to the Brethren to standing applause from the members and visitors.

RW Bro Evans, whose sight began to fail at an early age until he became blind, was initiated in 1951 and still managed to gain office until he became the Master of Lodge Liverpool in 1960.

That was almost 50 years ago but many can still remember how he overcame difficulty to achieve an objective that would have been attempted by very few.

Many watched in surprise and even disbelief when Bob would rise to return the salute of a PM but remain seated for a Master Mason. Some even challenged his blindness. However, Bob kept his secret for many years until he finally revealed

that he had a special arrangement with the organist who would quietly play a special bar to indicate a PM or a Master Mason. Only someone with imagination could have devised such a simple plan.

Bob Evans was also involved in the sale of the old Liverpool Masonic Centre and the construction of the current building. He was also a highly competent Preceptor, a foundation member of Lodge Victoria Cross and its Master in 1964.

One of his main hobbies was growing orchids with which he won many prizes. At one stage, he had over 2,000 orchids in his back yard and knew the location of each pot.

During his career, he met and made a lifelong friend of VW Bro Ted Herring who put on and took off the regalia of RW Bro Evans for the last time.



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MEET THE STAFF

Albert Klijn

Financial Controller, Grand Lodge



ALBERT KLIJN is the Financial Controller for Grand Lodge and has found it to be an interesting and challenging position.

Born in the New Zealand town of Bluff (as far south as you can get, he said), he originally began studying chemical engineering but after a year decided it was not his preferred choice of work.

'I had excelled in maths and accounts and decided to switch to commerce,' he said.

In the 60s, he migrated with his parents to South Africa where he stayed 28 years before coming to Sydney to join his brother and sister in the late 1990s.

His first move was to start work in the finance division with the 1998 Paralympic Organising Committee and then moved to a property development company. A recruitment agency was the catalyst to his next step which was to apply to and begin working with the United Grand Lodge of NSW & ACT.

'I hadn't heard of the organisation but I was aware of Freemasonry,' he said.

'Initially there were a number of issues on the property side which needed to be resolved and I had the help of different brethren in reaching solutions. The work is quite diverse, challenging and consistent in dealing with three different areas – membership, commercial and charity, each having its own distinct style for accounting.

'We only have a small team of three controlling the finance section and it keeps us very busy all the time. I used to do cycling and windsurfing but my main activity now is walking my wife's beloved Scotty dogs and following Formula One on television.' Albert has now been with Grand Lodge for three years and looks forward to extending his stay.

Launch – A Great Success

It's been a very active and exciting time at the Masonic Youth Welfare Fund and we are delighted to announce that we have had a wonderful response to our Compass Youth Education launch and the release of our Sponsor a Student Program, which sponsors the education needs of disadvantaged young Australians.

The Sponsor a Student Program was launched in the second week of December and already the response from lodges has been exceptional. Six children have been sponsored in the short period of four weeks into the program, with sincere thanks to the warm and generous sponsorships from The Cedars Lodge, Lodge of Australia No 3, Hills District Masonic Hall Co Pty Ltd and a private Donor who have kicked the program into gear for us. To assist the program into the future, Lodge of Australia No 3 has made an ongoing commitment to sponsor a student each year.



The implications of these sponsorships are far-reaching... it means six more young Australians will have the kind of opportunities that many of us take for granted..... a good education, provision of essential educational tools and text books.

We know there are many more lodges in NSW and ACT who will join us in our quest to meet our target for the Sponsor a Student Program 2009. Our aim is to assist 200 young people to realise their dreams in education this year through this program.



The other exciting news we have to announce is that our new website is ready to launch to coincide with the back to school period. Spend a few moments to look through our Compass website www.compassyouth.org.au from 1 February and join us in the celebration of

young Australians and the work of the Masonic Youth Welfare Fund. Of course, any feedback would be warmly received!

We are also upgrading our Masonic Youth Welfare Fund website which will be completed at the end of March.

Gala Events

www.compassyouth.org.au

Our very first fundraiser events will be happening this year with the showcasing of our new Ambassadors and the Voice of Youth, VOXSYNERGY. We are honoured to have the youth choir that made a huge impression on Battle of the Choirs on Channel Seven last year as our Ambassadors and the entertainment at a number of gala evenings for the Masonic Youth Welfare Fund of NSW & ACT and Compass Youth Education.

If you would like to book, please call us on 02 9264 3017

We urge you to bring your associates and friends along to support us at these fundraisers:

Sydney	3 April 09
Orange	6 April 09
Canberra	7 April 09

Thank You...



A very sincere thank you to Lowes for their generous support of our Compass Youth Education program through their Gift Card sponsorship for Back to School purchasing. Over 200 students and families have been assisted during December and January through Lowes much appreciated support.

Christmas Donations – Without the support of our very kind Donors, the Fund would not be able to extend its footprint to the large number of students we assist each year. A very special thank you to the many people who supported our Donation Envelope this Christmas and New Year.



Masonic Youth Welfare Fund
of NSW & ACT

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

More news from Masonic Youth Welfare Fund next issue

Outreach is the engine

We are meeting at a special time in the history of Freemasonry. In this new millennium there has been a resurgence in young men finding hope and direction in what Freemasonry has to offer.

There are lodges who regularly initiate, pass and raise multiple candidates. The sense of enthusiasm and bright future adds to the excitement of these events, along with the challenge of education and retention. The challenge for us is to bring worthy men to light, that we work together as a worldwide fraternity, that our outlook incorporates global and not always local.

The rekindling of that fire ignites enthusiasm in a lodge. To resist change in order to stifle advancement is to risk trampling on the dreams and aspirations of your fellow brethren. The task is to resist everything that would stifle our vision of a worldwide community of men who value and promote truth, honesty, integrity, vision and leadership.

Freemasonry provides identity, structure and our strength in credibility is our efforts to teach men that a divided and broken community will fail. The task is awesome; however, the rewards are great.

It's good to have vision and ideas but standing up for Freemasonry in your business and personal lives can be difficult if you don't know how to do it. Freemasons are called to share our philosophy by positively building the ethics and actions of the individual man. That by undertaking this development we build a better community.

For years we have been encouraged to stop being discreet about the external values of our organisation. We are encouraged to style meetings so that they are informative, educational, of real worth to our members and not reliant on the ceremonial as being the end sum of our masonic experience. Masonic

Formation has become a new task for many, the guided process of gradually behaving in a way complimentary to the masonic identity, being true to your community and to yourself.

Remember when Freemasonry was an experience for the chosen few, almost a sacrosanct huddle of men who explored the inward direction of Freemasonry but did not negotiate well with the outside world. Some may even prefer a return to

*Outreach is the engine
of Freemasonry.*

*The gathering of
the community is one
half of the engine
and bringing men to light
is the other half.*


these days. Outreach is the engine of Freemasonry. The gathering of the community is one half of the engine and bringing men to light is the other half. We can become very skilled at defining boundaries and putting up barriers in an attempt to make a 'safe' place for ourselves and our community.

To allow Freemasonry to live is to receive every guest, candidate, brother as if he were your most beloved family member. The wonderful freedom of Freemasonry is that our privilege is to receive men from different parts of the

world, who may be richer or poorer, who may seem to be more clever or less intelligent, who may live a different lifestyle to ourselves. All men who, under the sovereignty of God, follow an ethical and morally based way of life are men who should be welcomed as readily and joyfully as we meet a fellow brother we have known for many years.

Take a careful look at the First Tracing Board. View the vast openness of the space it embraces. From foundation to ethereal splendour we stand as Freemasons in awe of symbols to consider. A Freemason stands as a pillar of the community alongside the established pillars of Wisdom, Strength and Beauty and the Tracing Boards provide symbols to sustain and focus us along our Masonic Formation.

We continue to feed from these Symbols and in doing so our lodges, our members, our community all benefit through our strength, our wisdom and our beauty.

As the 300th anniversary of a meeting at the Goose and Gridiron Hotel gets closer it provides us with an opportunity to recommit to the ideals, traditions and customs that have formed us as a worldwide community. Embracing and standing up for Freemasonry in our business and personal life is an easy task to undertake. Commit yourself to becoming a man who does not allow others to disengage from the greater vision of our fraternity. Free men of mature age, sound judgement and strict morals will 'fear not' as John Bunyan writes "what men say". For they will work night and day to be Freemasons. 

Artarmon helps the Widows

Lodge Artarmon United No 285 has again shown its generosity by donating \$1,000 to the Masonic Widows Advisory Committee.

The presentation was made by the Worshipful Master, W Bro Tony Maberly, at the Lodge's Ladies' Night on Saturday 6 December 2008. W Bro Maberly said he understands the loneliness felt by widows when they lose their partner and is pleased that the Masonic Widows Advisory Committee is doing something positive to ensure that masonic widows are kept within the family of Freemasonry and are not forgotten.

The cheque was received on behalf of the Committee by Dr Yvonne McIntyre, who is a masonic widow. Dr McIntyre is the co-ordinator of the Masonic Widows Advisory Committee and was largely responsible for the establishment of the group some two years ago. In thanking W Bro Maberly, Yvonne outlined the aims of the Committee which are:

- To provide a peak body for the advice and assistance of Masonic Widows Associations in the jurisdiction of The United Grand Lodge of NSW and ACT.
- To liaise with Masonic Widows District/Lodge Associations and The United Grand Lodge of NSW and ACT in the two-way dissemination of information.
- To encourage the formation of Widows' Associations in Regions, District and Lodges of the NSW & ACT jurisdiction with the view of ensuring the wellbeing of masonic widows through sympathetic involvement and mutual help.
- To provide Associations with



Dr Yvonne McIntyre receiving the donation.

information on the availability of assistance for necessitous cases from masonic and other reputable charitable organisations.

- To develop a data base of masonic widows to facilitate communication between bereaved ladies and Widows' Associations.
- To establish lines of communication with The United Grand Lodge to sustain our strong relationship between Widows Associations, Grand Lodge and its constituent bodies.

The Committee comprises three members from each of the Masonic Widows Associations. There are no membership fees and income is derived from a small budget allocated by Grand Lodge. The funds provided are insufficient to meet the costs of communicating, producing guidance literature and maintaining contact with widows and their Associations. For this reason the Masonic Widows Advisory Committee is most grateful to Lodge Artarmon United and will use the funds to publish a handbook for the guidance of masonic widows.

Do YOU have a contribution?

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



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December Communication

The Grand Master, MW Bro Dr Gregory Levenston began the December Communication with a special welcome to the members, especially EAFs and FCFs, Junior and Senior Wardens and those who had been attending the Regional Education Officers meeting. On behalf of Judith and himself, he wished everyone 'Seasons Greetings' and a happy and healthy 2009.



The Grand Master then announced it was his sad duty to report that RW Bro Kevin Charles Damyon, PDGM and IP Chairman Board of Management, had passed away on 20 November after a long illness. RW Bro Damyon was initiated in Lodge Semper Fidelis in April 1981, was WM of Lodge Dural in 1990 and Foundation Master of The Hills Lodge in 1999. He became a Grand Steward in 1999, progressed to GDC in 2003 and Chairman of the Board in 2005.

'He was a good mate, a trusted brother and an inspiration. The Craft has lost a leader, a true believer, and a man of vision and drive. Kevin was positive in all he undertook, was always aware of the needs and wants of others, open-hearted, compassionate and down to earth. I extend our deepest sympathies to Marjorie and family,' the Grand Master said.

The 'first stage' of the Strategic Plan has been placed in the hands of the RGCS and on to the UGL and Regional websites. The Grand Master said it is not the final plan, but rather a Living Document that evolves as each action is completed and allows us to move forward. Better communication will be the keystone issue for success, with emphasis on the DGIW/Lodge relationship.

He listed as his key objectives:

1. To complete the identification and engagement of our talented 2020

masons, with a country and metropolitan Summit planned for March 2009.

2. To implement the 2009 Men's Health program, with a planned roll out in June 2009.
3. To complete the establishment of the Women's Advisory Committee across all Regions, and encouraging at least two women to be engaged on each Lodge Management Committee. With the Strategic Operating Plan, the three key objects will be:

- **CRAFT FREEMASONRY** – To improve attendance at lodge meetings by 30% within two years and to establish at least 13 new lodges in this Jurisdiction within two years.
- **THE GRAND CHARITY** – To provide every mason in the jurisdiction with details about current charity programs by March 2009 and provide guidance to Regions on the establishment of Partnership Programs
- **BUSINESS OPERATIONS** – To progressively increase the cash flow contributions to the jurisdiction so that significant additional funds are generated for the benefit of Regions, Districts and Lodges.

It was also stated that capitation fees will remain and will not be replaced. 'Times are tough for this organisation and for you personally as masons. We will certainly need the wisdom of King Solomon. Your ideas, your input, and above all, your support, are to be encouraged. Brethren, I encourage you to be part of the future of Freemasonry in this Jurisdiction. To make it happen. Your Boards and Regions have already started the process. Now it is your turn. This is your Organisation, and our Freemasonry,' he said.

Other significant developments highlighted by the Grand Master were the

UGL website improvements with improved linking and a 'Rumours' site, a full page will be the Grand Secretary's high profile contribution to the *Freemason* magazine from the next issue, the 'Dispute Resolutions' subcommittee of the Grand Registrar's Committee has already been highly successful in affording a tier of mediation and at future Communications, this Grand Lodge will receive 'Questions on Notice for the good of the Craft', directed to Chairmen of the respective Boards.

In conclusion, MW Bro Levenston set a challenge that 2009 awaits us. Let us grow, let us educate and let us reconnect with our community, always playing to our strengths as a contemporary organisation. Let us enjoy our Brotherhood and the disinterested friendship it can afford.

And let Freemasonry be at the heart of your life.

FROM THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER – RW Bro Paul Fletcher

In the past three months, a great deal of hard work has taken place to assemble data on every lodge meeting place in the jurisdiction. I thank those who have provided the data requested of them. For those building owners who did not have a five-year Financial Plan and have now completed the template prepared by the Grand Treasurer, I trust it has given a clearer picture of the financial health of your property.

For those building owners who have been reluctant to participate in the review, I acknowledge the building belongs to you, not to Grand Lodge. I advise all building owners and every Freemason in the jurisdiction that the Grand Lodge does not wish to take ownership of any building. I urge all building owners to acknowledge that you are members of the fraternity of Freemasons within this

jurisdiction and that in discharging your stewardship of an asset that you received from your forefathers and hold in trust for your children's children, you have a duty to participate in all the administrative affairs of this Grand Lodge.

Accommodation for lodges is the second greatest problem facing our organisation. In 2008, with 13,500 Freemasons in the jurisdiction, we have almost the same number of buildings to maintain as we had 30 years ago when we had 80,000 masons. Like our counterparts at the start of the 20th century, it will be up to us at the start of the 21st century to accept the challenge to renew lodge buildings across the State.

Accommodation impacts on our membership – we need buildings that are safe and easily accessible to our older members or members with disabilities. Accommodation impacts on our image within the local community. We need buildings that convey an impression of an organisation that is vibrant and on top of its game. We also need buildings that are

self-funding with external income streams and meeting places that are available within a reasonable distance to where masons live or work.

The journey of renewal of accommodation for lodges starts with one step – commitment. I hope you will join with me in taking that step.

FROM THE ASSISTANT GRAND MASTER – RW Bro Barrie Wild

So far, I have received approximately 60% of the 500 word submissions requested from the 2020 masons but I have been overwhelmed by the enthusiasm which has been clearly portrayed in the content of each of the submissions. There have been many inspirational thoughts and ideas submitted and we will be closely looking at those that can be further explored at our seminars in the New Year, the first of which will be in Dubbo in March. We need to listen to these young men and take on board what they are saying if we are to grow and sustain our membership in the future.

Their concerns at present in the majority are directed at the areas of ritual, accommodation, festive board, looking after new candidates better than we do now by improving our mentoring, more explanation of Degree work and advertising or promoting the Craft in the wider community.

I would like to quote from two of the submissions which I found particularly meaningful. The first asked 'Why should I stay?' and answered with 'Because Masonry will always offer me something I need as my life experience changes. It will always uphold me when I am down and celebrate with me when I am up. I will always belong'.

The second wrote, 'Remember the past but do not live in it'.

For the Ritual Committee report, I thank everybody for their letters and requests to make changes to the ritual. The committee is working its way through them and some recommendations have already been passed to the Grand Master for his approval.

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

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A garden blooms



During spring, gardens flourish and bloom throughout Sydney with many local councils conducting competitions to determine the most attractive. These displays attract constant visitors and quite often the proceeds from admission are donated to charity.

One such property is L'hironnelle which is a two hectare (five acres) property located at Glenorie, an outer Sydney suburb 45 kms to the northwest of central Sydney. It has been the home of RW Bro Dr Graham Piper PJGW and his wife, Trish, for the past 19 years.

Late last year, they took part in the Open Garden Weekend for the Galston and District Garden Club which raised more than \$30,000 for various charities.

The Piper family is prepared to open their gardens to interested masons and their friends which includes a \$5 entry fee (bring your own picnic lunch) with any proceeds going to a masonic charity. This property has an interesting history and an amazing variety of trees and flowers.

Part of the land granted to George Acres in 1831, L'hironnelle has over the years passed through many owners but

especially the Harrison family who lived there from 1885 to 1910 and established extensive citrus orchards. Harrison's Lake, an entry to the property, was originally a 'right of way' through their farm. Their house was located there.

In 1944, the property was purchased by well-known mason Major General Henry Gordon Bennett (1887–1962) who presumably lived in the farmhouse until after World War II when he built the home currently used by RW Bro Piper who feels sure it was during that tenure that the basic plan of the garden was laid out. The beautiful mature trees which surround the house and are dotted all over the property date from that period. Major General Bennett called it 'The Elms' and lived there until 1957.

The garden continued to evolve slowly through successive owners, particularly Brian and Elizabeth Shaw (1965–68). They were responsible for the

extensive garden beds to the east of the house with the name being changed in the early 1980s.

Using the wonderful framework provided by the trees, the Pipers have progressively replanted and extended the garden so that today it occupies the entire property. On entering from Harrison's Lane, the driveway is lined by manchurian pears inter-planted with *Strelitzia* and under-planted with thousands of bulbs which ensure spring is noticed.

It then winds towards the house beneath the spreading branches of deodars and Chinese elms. This portion is lined by a clipped box hedge beyond which on the left are *Gleditzia ruby lace*, golden elm and weeping silver pear under-planted with lavender, iris and artemesia while on the right are *Bauhinia*, *hypericum*, *Viburnum burkwoodii*, *crepe myrtle*, *Kolkwitzia*, *Godonia*, *may* and *Luculia*.



Ahead, the house is framed by large peppercorns, a jacaranda and flowering cherry. A large canary island palm is located near the front steps. To the east of the house, visitors pass between two variegated *Acer negundo*, deodars and camellias to reach a pergola covered with climbing roses (*Buff Beauty*, *Cornelia* and *New Dawn*). Beyond this, extensive garden beds stretch in both directions. Here are cottage gardens featuring all manners of perennials, lilies and bulbs.

An extensive rose garden at the northern end contains over 90 different varieties. Elsewhere, there is a large rose parterre garden which features 12 standard icebergs, inter-planted with *Bonica*. Within the circle are *Summer Breeze* and *Elveshorn* and in the centre, the climber *Penny Lane*.

To the rear of the house nestling under a large liquidambar is a Japanese garden with a sea, beach and island theme. Nearby giant figs and box create a woodland setting which has permitted plantings of all types of dry shade plants. Further afield are many new plantings. These include Australian natives such as grevilleas, flowering gums, lillypillies, rain forest species, grass trees, waratahs, cycads and of course kangaroo paws and many grasses.

There are well developed citrus groves, stone fruit and a huge macadamia not to mention a productive vegetable patch.

Dr Piper says he and his wife Trish consider themselves very fortunate to be the custodians for a time of this beautiful property. 🌱

Jephthah the Gileadite

A favourite charge at lodge meetings is the Tracing Board in the Second Degree. It is a favourite to deliver and a favourite to listen to because it has a story which is full of information interspersed with interesting stories. One of these stories concerns Jephthah, the Gileadite.



The Israelites, between the time of Moses and the time of Saul, the first King, were ruled by popularly accepted heroes, generally referred to as Judges. Although there were women among their ranks they were usually men, expected to be able to inspire and lead an army into battle, both to defend the nation and to extend its borders.

One such was Jephthah. He was a son of Gilead, who was a great grandson of Joseph, one of the sons of Jacob. He was illegitimate, being the offspring of a liaison between his father and a prostitute and he was, on the death of his father Gilead, driven out of the family by the legitimate sons. He fled into the wilderness of Tob and eventually became the leader of an outlaw band that successfully conducted guerrilla warfare against the Ammonites.

He gained a reputation as a fearless and inspiring leader who was capable of winning battles against the odds and in difficult conditions. The Ammonites occupied territory that the Israelites laid claim to so the Israelites approached Jephthah and requested that he lead them into battle. He acceded to their request on the condition that, if he were successful, he would be recognised as the leader of Israel in the peace that would follow.

Before joining in battle, Jephthah vowed to Jehovah that if success were granted to him, he would offer whoever or whatever first greeted him on his return, as a burnt sacrifice. It was his confident expectation that his favourite dog would greet him, but imagine his

horror when on returning from his victory, he was met by his only child, a teenage daughter.

But Jephthah fulfilled his vow. Composer George Frederick Handel wrote an oratorio 'Jephthah', less well known than his 'Messiah' but containing a remarkable tenor recital and aria sung by the character Jephthah that depicts this heart-rending episode. The way that this story is treated in the Volume of the Sacred Law suggests that neither Jehovah nor the people approved of the harshness of Jephthah's vow but it was nonetheless carried out.

Following this victory, Jephthah turned his attention to further expansion of the borders and his determination was then directed towards the Ephraimites who were regarded as a noisy and turbulent people. Jephthah and his army, as we know, prevailed against them and the victory was cleverly ensured and rendered complete by the stationing of troops at various fords of the River Jordan.

Their duty was to slay all those whose accent betrayed them. There is much argument on the meaning of the words for the number slain by Jephthah's army – 40 and 2,000 is stated. Many claim that this means 42,000 but common sense would suggest the figure is 2,040.

After this success, Jephthah continued to serve as a Judge in Israel for a further six years and further information can be obtained by reading Judges, Chapters 11 and 12. 🌱

(Research by RW Bro Bill Caukill, PJGW)

The masoniCare/Judith Morrice Stewart House Program

Those present at the Christmas Dinner following the December Grand Lodge Communication were informed by Judith Morrice and MW Bro Ron Johnson, AM PGM CMH, Chairman of the Grand Charity, that a charity chosen by Judith, Stewart House, would be supported by the jurisdiction and masoniCare by a donation of \$1,200 from each Region (\$15,600), matched by masoniCare.



MW Bro Ron Johnson PGM and Judith Morrice

Stewart House was built in 1931 at South Curl Curl, through the unqualified support of the NSW Teachers Federation and the NSW Department of Education. It has survived financially since then because of compassionate support from NSW public schools and their staff.

Stewart House exists to provide a number of students with an opportunity for a break from their current circumstances. These circumstances vary in gravity but all students who attend are in need of special help. Over the years, more than 150,000 children have benefited from a stay at Stewart House.

Every two weeks of the school year, 90 public school children from designated areas of NSW are cared for by Stewart House. In 2007, 1,801 children from 820 government schools attended. The students, from infants to lower secondary level, are nominated through more than 40 statewide committees. The staff at Stewart House acknowledge the physical and financial efforts placed on home school staff to get these children to Stewart House by plane, train, bus or combinations of the three. Once there, the children attend school for nine of the twelve days.

Stewart House appreciates the financial and staffing support provided by the NSW Department of Education and Training, NSW Health and the University of NSW for the operation of a special school and its health screening and treatment facilities.

Children are supported by staff between 3.30pm and 9.00am, weekdays and across the weekend of their stay. The staff are not employed by government and salaries are met from charitable contributions. This includes the employment of cooks, cleaners, laundry and maintenance staff as well as qualified out-of-school-hours supervisors to look after the children on a rostered basis for over 18 hours each week day and 48 hours at weekends. In addition to paid staff, Stewart House is supported by numerous volunteers and a Board of Directors, all of whom give significant time and effort in fundraising and other activities.

The children's meals, accommodation, supervision, personal care and recreational activities are all sourced from donations to Stewart House. Donations are managed by

Stewart House in its capacity as a not-for-profit organization. Annually \$2.5million is needed to fund all aspects of the children's stay. For the last four years Stewart House has operated at a loss.

It relies mainly on fortnightly salary contributions from school staff, a great many of whom have supported Stewart House for more than 20 years, and public school teachers championing fundraising activities with their students and local communities. It also welcomes financial and in-kind donations from private individuals, retirees and the corporate sector.

With all this effort, it still cannot achieve financial targets. The rising costs of food, petrol for its buses and maintenance on its buildings are not being matched by its income. This means that, in order to fully fund the maximum number of children receiving services each year, vital building maintenance, site improvements and enhancements to the programs the children undertake during their stay cannot be effectively addressed.

In 2007, Stewart House received salary contributions from staff in 1,810 NSW government schools totaling some \$895,000, while fundraising in 1,562 schools amounted to \$480,757. Currently, around 7,600 NSW Department of Education and Training staff contribute to the scheme.

masoniCare is delighted to be associated with Stewart House in its endeavours to assist the children of New South Wales.

(Source: Marilyn Bourne, Stewart House)

Time To Think

The smallest deed is greater than the grandest intention.

Being truthful when you know it will cost you is the true test of honesty.

The man who views the world at 50 the same as he did at 20 has wasted 30 years of his life.

The nice thing about egotists is that they don't talk about other people.

A perfect parent is a person with excellent child-rearing theories and no actual children.

The true friend is the one who's coming in the door as everyone else is going out.

A true friend is someone who is there for you when they'd rather be anywhere else.

RW Bro WA Deeley, PAGM, Chairman, Membership Committee

Lodges and their members

This is the third article in a series concerning the challenges facing the Craft in regard to membership.

Previously, most lodges have concentrated on gaining new members, but have done little to retain existing members. Resignations are now a serious problem, with 767 members resigning or excluded during the last financial year.

To determine the reasons for these resignations, the Board of Management recently commissioned the University of Technology to survey members under the age of 60 years who had resigned within the last 5 years.

To reduce the number of resignations, lodges need to improve the quality of their meetings and operations

Those former members expressed the general view that lodges are not meeting the expectations and needs of members. The following is a sample of those comments.

- *There was really nothing explained. I would say there wasn't any emphasis at all and that really turned me off. Even when you asked a question about what was going on no one wanted to tell you and no one was trying to steer you in the right direction and tell you why you were learning this. If rituals were explained it would have definitely helped with being more involved and included.*
- *I was very impressed with the people who initially interviewed me. The person who told me about the masons brought me along and it was very much a social occasion. I thought I would get a lot more mentoring, but I was introduced and left on my own, no more*

'mentoring', I felt like my mentor was just trying to get as many members as he could rather than helping me set up.

- *Some informants felt ridiculed at times by other members if mistakes were made regarding the rituals. I guess the only negative experience I can think of is that if you did make a mistake you were kind of ridiculed for it.*
- *Maybe I joined the wrong lodge but there was a much bigger older set of people in this lodge and very few younger members... I don't think freemasonry is for people under 40 years of age. I can't really see any value for them.*
- *I just did not have the time in my current situation to be devoting all this time to something that ultimately provided me with nothing.*
- *I think society has changed, so the masons are lacking in being up to date. There seems to be a lot more expectations in society nowadays and the masons are ageing.*
- *I thought it was very rushed, moving up the ladder, [there was] a lack of mentoring, I almost felt pencilled in to roles, [which was] flattering but daunting because I was quite new.*
- *Their requirements to learn such lengthy dialogues using very ancient terminology, I couldn't see the value in it ... I mean the message is wonderful. Their philosophical beliefs are wonderful but in order to move forward there was so much emphasis on learning the Craft and dialogue and going through this ritual ... It is just out of touch.*

Comments similar to those were also contained in the 47 letters received in response to the earlier articles in the Freemason.

The Board also carried out a survey of lodge attendance during 2008. Because some lodges were not included, it is not possible to provide an overall attendance average for the jurisdiction.

The survey showed that the average attendance in the Metropolitan area is about 40.2% of membership. The attendance in country areas is about 41.7%. Possibly more disturbing is the average attendance shown in the following table.

-
- **53 Lodges** - Average attendance – less than 10 members.
 - **81 Lodges** - Average attendance – 11 to 15 members.
 - **86 Lodges** - Average attendance – 16 to 20 members.
 - **90 Lodges** - Average attendance – more than 21 members
-

The fact that the majority of members do not regularly attend lodge meetings indicates that many members are dissatisfied with the quality or content of lodge meetings. Eventually, many of these members will resign. This dissatisfaction, together with poor mentoring and support for members, requires urgent attention.

To reduce the number of resignations, lodges need to improve the quality of their meetings and operations, and the manner in which they mentor and look after members. The Board needs to support lodges, and is currently preparing guidelines for this purpose. 📈

Comments should be forwarded to the Grand Secretary, or to RW Bro W Deeley at wdeeley@bigpond.com

Change ??

Change, alter, improve – not words we generally like to hear in Freemasonry. Not in this era anyway! Dirty words, which conjure up all sorts of issues and problems, none of them good. Or is there another side to change?

We are advised that Masonry is a progressive science in which we are expected to make the liberal arts and sciences our future study, so that we may be better enabled to discharge our duty as a mason. Progressive science? What could that possibly mean?

'Science' in its many forms has continually evolved and moved on over the millennia. In fact have we not all benefited from the **changes**, or improvements in science? Even during our lifetime? Half of us reading this article would probably be dead already if medical science had not moved forward as it has. What if its proponents adopted an attitude that **'we already have all the information we needed to know'** and gave up looking for better medicines and procedures during the past, say, 100 years, 30 years, or even the last 5 years! Advances in other arms of science have also improved our lifestyle in many ways, and continue to do so. We are so lucky.

Roget's Thesaurus seemed like a good reference point to find out what 'progressive' really means. Words like **improving, advancing** and **modernising** were listed, amongst others, as metaphors of 'progressive'. They seemed to fit.

Science, in general, has certainly been improved, advanced and modernised as an ongoing, unfinished project.

...there is no point leaving behind an up-to-date and fully functional masonic organisation if there are no members to appreciate it.

Maybe our ancient brethren in their wisdom were thinking that Masonry, by their own volition designated a **'progressive science'**, should also be continually improving, advancing, modernising? If we accept this idea, another couple of descriptive words from Mr Peter Roget suggest progressive could also mean, **up-to date, abreast of the times and forward-looking**. Could be us, ever changing.

Our early brothers should really be given more credit for the foundations they laid for Freemasonry and the structure they left us – a progressive science, which they had the foresight to

perceive would have to be continually modified, or updated, to allow for the changing circumstances, the wants and needs of society in the world.

Was it intended we should be as committed to **change** as we are to our other masonic principles and practices? Honouring our commitment in the discharge of our duty by continuing the good work started so long ago and transmitting to our successors, pure and unsullied, a strong and viable organisation of the future, for the future is the greatest accolade and show of appreciation we could extend to those who went before us. It also makes a powerful statement to our successors of who we are and what we are: Freemasons.

Whatever our problem is, if there is one, it isn't fear of **change** or a reluctance to accept **change**. Dress rules, ritual, accreditation and variations to our constitution all appear to be adequately addressed and accepted by us. Our present difficulty seems to be our inability to find and retain new brethren – and that is not a **change** issue! It may be inexperience, it may be reluctance, it may be lack of training and leadership, it could be many things, anything, except a **change** issue.

Any of those issues, and many others, can be addressed and corrected with a little effort and some good will. Now would seem a very good time to start learning 'how' to find members and develop the skill of retaining them otherwise there is no point leaving behind an up-to-date and fully functional masonic organisation if there are no members to appreciate it. Think about it, work on it. In the meantime ask your lodge what can you do to help your lodge grow and prosper! 🍀



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My Grammar and I (or should that be 'Me'?)

By **Caroline Taggart**

Can you tell when a sentence contains more clichés than you've had hot dinners, or if it's tautological and pointlessly repetitive? Is a preposition necessarily a bad thing to end a sentence with? Are you able to immediately spot a split infinitive?

The English language is a veritable minefield of dos and don'ts, but this book explains the rules of our troublesome tongue in a humorous way, highlighting the most common mistakes of which we can all be guilty. Should you want to brush up your existing skills, this wittily observed yet informative book is guaranteed to enlighten and entertain. Let me illustrate:

Suffering from impotence a man visits several doctors asking for help, all to no avail. Finally, out of desperation, he visits a witchdoctor.

The witchdoctor gives him a potion that can only be used once a year and tells him to take it before he is ready to be intimate. Then, when the time is right he should say 'one, two, three', and his impotence will be cured for as long as he likes.

The man then asks, 'How do I make the potion stop working?'

'Oh, that's easy,' the witchdoctor replies, 'You just say, "one, two, three, four".'

That evening before he enters the house, the man drinks the potion. He surprises his wife by immediately leading her to the bedroom. Things are going well and the man whispers, 'one, two, three'.

His wife gives him a funny look and asks, 'What'd you say "one, two, three," for?'

And that is why you never end a sentence with a preposition!

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THE MASONIC MAGICIAN The Life and Death of Count Cagliostro and his Egyptian Rite

By **Philippa Faulks and Robert Cooper**

Philippa Faulks trained as an aromatherapist and has been a long-term student of ancient herbology, and the related interest in the magical life of ancient Egypt and the Middle East.

Robert Cooper is a Scottish Freemason and Curator of the Grand Lodge of Scotland Museum and Library. He is the keeper of the oldest lodge records in the world, dating from 1599. He writes and broadcasts on all aspects of Freemasonry throughout the world.



Miracle-worker or man of straw? Count Alessandro Cagliostro was a cult figure of European society in the tumultuous years leading to the French Revolution.

The Masonic Magician tells Cagliostro's extraordinary story. The case made against him, that he was an imposter as well as a heretic, and finds that the Roman Church, and history itself, have done him a terrible injustice. This engaging account shows that the man condemned was a genuine visionary and true champion of Freemasonry. His teachings have much to reveal to us today not just of his secrets of Freemasonry, but of the mysterious hostility the movement continues to attract.

**Published by Simon & Schuster
Australia. Available at all booksellers
and MoF shop. ISBN: 9781905857685
\$39.95. illust. h/b.**

THE IRREGULARS and the British Spy Ring in Wartime Washington

By **Jennet Conant**

Now, for the first time, Jennet Conant reveals that Roald Dahl, the beloved author of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *James and the Giant Peach*, was a member of Churchill's infamous dirty tricks squad. *The Irregulars* tells the full story of how he was recruited to spy on the Americans during World War II.

Recruited at the age of 26, Dahl, a downed RAF pilot, was tall, handsome, charismatic and battle-scarred; everything England could ask for as a romantic representative of their imperilled island. The young pilot was soon rubbing shoulders with the upper strata of Washington's elite and powerful political and diplomatic society, and his prowess – both in the drawing-rooms and bedrooms of the rich and influential – soon caught the attention of INTREPID, who thought young Dahl had the makings of an ideal spy cum informant.

While writing rousing combat tales for American magazines, Dahl was passing on information about Churchill's political enemies, and working with a gang of fellow agents, including his good friend Ian Fleming, author of the James Bond series.

All part of the plan to draw the reluctant Americans into England's war against the Nazis.

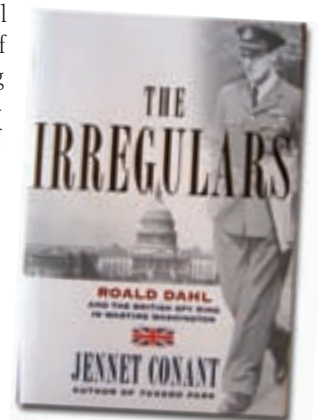
The Irregulars is an extraordinary tale of deceit, double-dealing, and moral ambiguity; all in the name of victory during the tumultuous days of World War II.

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Perfume, & cosmetics fashion



From ancient days, perfume has been coveted and mostly reserved for a select few. From Egyptian pharaohs to nobility and royalty, lovers to gentry, this liquid amber has entranced, captivated and seduced millions of people and generations.



Perfume is a creation in the mind of the 'nose' who creates the fragrance. It takes time, patience, experience and detailed knowledge of the varying ingredients which will create a dream for the wearer of the final scent. The number of ingredients depends on the subtleness of the perfume requested from the couturier, perfume house and the end user.

The ingredients for the work of art include flowers, plants and fruits plus exotic spices, wood, leather and 'secret' ingredients which will give the fragrance its heart note. The heart note makes it unforgettable in the mind of the wearer and in the acute sense of smell for the people around the wearer.

The client requesting a new fragrance will send a brief to one or more fragrance houses who assign the task to the perfumer or 'nose' as he/she is called. There are very

few 'noses' in the world today able to blend, sometimes hundreds of ingredients, to make a scent that is both pleasing and satisfying. The 'nose' lives quite a solitary life as he/she must ensure that the olfactory system is kept clear of any external sources which may kill the very delicate senses in the lining of the nose.

There are many forms of fragrance from Eau de Cologne, which is a weaker form of the scent to the Essence or Jus, which is the concentrated form. A fragrance should be worn like a wardrobe of clothes. Starting in the shower with shower gels, talcs and body lotions then building to the soft form of the fragrance in the form of a spray and finishing with the concentrated perfume which should last on the skin for up to 12 hours.

For men it is the same ritual. Starting in the shower through to body Eau de Toilette spray to After Shaves. The building of the fragrance is rather like a concerto of music starting with the gentle notes at the beginning of the performance and ending in a crescendo of unbelievable aromas.

You may catch the notes of a fragrance in a street, in a theatre or in a taxi which instantly transports you to a place and time of fond memories. Perfume allows you to dream and to experience the mystery and passion it ignites.

Cosmetics in a similar way have mostly been used to embellish the human form.

Cleopatra was renowned for bathing in the milk of asses which she believed nourished and smoothed her skin to make it soft and alluring.

The ancients used cosmetics to paint their faces and bodies in a time of war to look more frightening to their aggressors. It may have worked but it certainly would have been very smelly and messy because the ingredients available were made from animal fats ground with seed and berry juices to give colour.

In some foreign countries a black 'Kajal' is used around the eyes to keep flies and insects at bay. This has translated to modern terms as 'Kohl', which is used to enhance the eye giving a mystical and sometimes exotic look to the wearer.

Skin care and make up on the skin hides imperfections and smoothes out the appearance of tiny fine lines which in Australia are mainly caused by over exposure to the sun. Sunscreens help block those harmful rays which bombard the skin, even if only going into the garden to hang out the washing.

Fashion, fragrance and cosmetics have been around for a long time and the industry is now worth billions of dollars. There is a fragrance for every person and you just have to look for it. Happy hunting. 🍷

(By national perfume/cosmetics expert Sue Lamb)

Iceland

is not so cold

Travel is often regarded as a means of broadening knowledge and meeting interesting people.

VW Bro Neil Atkins, PDGIW, of Lodge Milton wrote of his experiences in a recent overseas visit.

'Knowing that my wife and I would be visiting Iceland during October 2008, contact was made with the Icelandic Order of Freemasons to determine whether there would be a lodge meeting held in Reykjavik during the time I would be present and whether I would be able to attend,' he said.

'An email response was received from Bro Thorsteinn Eggertsson, the Assistant Grand Secretary of the Icelandic Order of Freemasons, Grand Lodge of Iceland to advise that while I would be welcome to attend a meeting none were being held in Reykjavik during the time I would be present. He did suggest that if I had the time I might like to drop in to his office to have a chat when in the capital.

'On 10 October I had the pleasure of meeting Bro Eggertsson at his office in the Grand Lodge of Iceland building in Reykjavik and he was kind enough to give me a guided tour of the Grand Lodge Building and an explanation of Freemasonry in Iceland.

'Iceland, in common with the Nordic Countries, practices Freemasonry according to the Swedish Rite. Under this the ritual structure differs from that we in the UGL of NSW and ACT are familiar with. As practised in Iceland, Freemasonry is grouped in the following three divisions:

- St Johns, which consists of three Craft degrees,
- St Andrews (Scotland) Degrees which also has three degrees, and
- Chapter Degrees which has a further four degrees.



'This is then topped by the 11th Degree entitled "Most Enlightened Brother Knight Commander of the Red Cross".

'Each degree leads to the next and in order to proceed a brother has to give proof of his knowledge of Freemasonry and his proficiency in the degrees he holds. Regularity of attendance is also necessary. Unlike in some Nordic countries a Freemason in Iceland continues to be a

member of his "mother" St Johns Lodge as he progresses through the degrees.

'The first warranted lodge in Iceland was established in 1919 and the Freemasons Order of Iceland was formed in July 1951.

'Currently only men of Christian faith can join Freemasonry in Iceland. Hence the presence of the St George Cross in the Coat of Arms of Icelandic Freemasonry. The minimum age a man can join Freemasonry in Iceland is 24 years of age and at the moment there is an 18 months waiting time to join a St Johns Lodge.

'According to *Statistics Iceland* the population of Iceland in January 2008 was put at 313,376 of which there were 104,895 males between the ages of 24 and 80 years. Approximately 4% of the eligible male population in Iceland are Freemasons.

'Our trip to Iceland was enhanced by our meetings with fellow Freemasons from "on top of the world" and confirmed the fraternity which Freemasons enjoy with fellow masons no matter where they travel.' 🌿

As time goes by

Lodge Thistle Kilwinning No 54 has survived many incidents and setbacks over the years but still manages to find a full quota of members to fill its offices.

The lodge was formed at Minmi, a small coal mining town approximately 14 miles west of Newcastle. The population of Minmi in its early days consisted predominantly of Scottish miners brought to Australia to work in the local coal mines and as many of these miners were members of various masonic lodges back in Scotland, they decided to form a masonic lodge in Minmi.

Their petition to the Grand Lodge of Scotland was granted on 18 June 1877 and they were given No 613 on the Register of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. There were 21 members in attendance at the foundation Installation on 24 June 1877.

Lodge meetings were held in 'The Hand of Friendship' hotel for some 12 years and then in the local Church of England until 1904. At this time a large brick building, formerly a church, became vacant and was purchased by lodge members on 24 June 1904 for 190 pounds sterling.

The building was then renovated and adapted to become a Masonic Meeting Hall. In the early days the pedestal lights were tallow candles, then progressed to carbide lights and it was not until 1935 that electricity was supplied to the building.

The lodge continued under its Scottish charter until 1899 at which time it transferred to the recently formed United Grand Lodge of NSW and was allocated No 54 on its Register. During this 12 years under the Scottish Constitution, there were 68 new members initiated and 16 affiliated with eight different Masters occupying the chair.

In its more than a century under the UGL of NSW charter, there have been a further 504 new members initiated and 155 affiliated, making a grand total of 764 members on the register at various times. During this same period, a further

45 nominations for admission were received but for various reasons were either rejected or withdrawn. The lodge's greatest year of membership was 1925 with 96 active members. Unfortunately due to modern day life attractions, the membership has now dwindled to 26.

In the early days under the Scottish Constitution, the lodge meetings were held on the Thursday night nearest the full moon, so it was not uncommon to have two meetings in the same month. Also in those days several different degrees were worked at the same meeting. On 15 March 1878, one initiation and one passing was worked, on 25 June 1891 two candidates were initiated and two passed and on 23 July 1891 there were two passings and two raisings (a late night). These are only a few examples with many others recorded in the early minutes.

In 1948, due to foundation problems at the building at Minmi, the brick had deteriorated to such an extent that at a meeting on 10 May, members of the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes had the building condemned and later demolished. The lodge's Charter was suspended until November of 1948 at which date the Grand Lodge approved the transfer of meetings to Lodge St James' Hall at Wallsend. An installation on 17 November 1948 was conducted by the Grand Master, MW Bro Frank McDowell who restored the lodge's Charter and allowed it to operate there to this day.

During its 131 years of existence, there have been 109 different persons occupy the Master's Chair and it has only been in later years due to declining membership that it has been necessary for members to double up or serve more than one term. The oldest member to occupy the Master's chair was W Bro Robert Jones, who was installed on 22 May 1996 at the age of 87. W Bro Jones had been

initiated into the lodge by his father at 20 years of age on 19 September 1929 and had advanced to Senior Deacon before securing a clearance to affiliate with another lodge, only to re-affiliate in 1995.

The youngest to be installed as Master were the two McEwan brothers, each at the age of 25 years.

In its heyday, the lodge boasted its own pipe band with 14 members of the McEwan Family Bagpipe Band who entertained members on Robbie Burns nights, installations and many other occasions. It was not uncommon for the lodge to have 400 visitors at installations with 45 Installed Masters and 45 Senior Wardens signing the visitors book but these days, 80 to 100 is the average attendance.

The lodge used to exchange fraternal visits with Sydney Lodge Trafalgar No 586 from the late 1930s to the early 1960s. These bi-annual visits were always well supported by members. On 27 October 1951, Trafalgar brought 53 members to Wallsend.

In 1962 the lodge had three Past Masters attend an auction sale at Minmi of the old sandstone brick building of the former public school with a view to buying to allow the lodge to return to Minmi but the bidding was well above the lodge's financial standing. However, the lodge did return to Minmi on 28 November 1984 when the regular meeting on that night was held in the Presbyterian church as a one-off.

There are 27 headstones of deceased lodge members still standing in the Minmi Cemetery, four of which bear the Masonic Symbol with several dating back to 1881.

The installation in May last year saw the lodge secretary VW Bro Alan Shaw realise 40 years continuous service as secretary. 🍷

Q&A

This column is intended to answer the most frequently asked questions about Freemasonry. If you have any questions, send them to the Editor.

What is Freemasonry?

Fundamentally, Freemasonry is a code for living based on the highest spiritual, ethical and moral standards. It aims principally to promote the brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God and to develop such behaviour in our daily life as will demonstrate to others that the teachings of the Order have a profound and beneficial effect on all who sincerely embrace its precepts.

It binds all men in a mystic tie of brotherhood and love.

Faith and work, soul and body, heart and hand are united as Masons labour through Freemasonry in peace and harmony to honour the Creator and serve humankind.

Are Masons still regarded as a 'Secret Society'?

Until recently our policy was to be rather discreet about ourselves, our community work and even our membership. However, times have changed and so have we. Today, masons will often talk freely about their work and their membership. Lodge rooms are often opened to visitors and inquiries about masons and their valuable community work are always welcomed.

Why do you have secrets at all?

In your daily life, you have secrets – your bank cannot disclose your tax file number, your doctor is not allowed to disclose your medical records, you do not discuss your PIN numbers. Being discreet about certain aspects of your personal business is obviously quite normal. Everyone is familiar with the phrase – Can you be trusted to keep a secret? Therefore, masons use secrets to test and prove the good character of those who choose to join. This is because to become a mason requires a person to continuously observe, with total sincerity, our high ideals of integrity, goodwill and charity.

The Bucket Philosophy

Many people, as they rise through the ranks, can be misled by what they believe is the importance of their position. The following poem can be used as a reminder of their usefulness.



Sometime, when you're feeling important
Sometime, when your ego's in gloom
Sometime when you take it for granted
You're the best qualified in the room

Sometime, when you feel that your going
Would leave an unfillable hole
Just follow this simple instruction
And see how it humbles your soul

Take a bucket and fill it with water
Put your hand in it up to the wrist
Pull it out and the hole that's remaining
Is a measure of how much you'll be missed

You may splash all you please when you enter
You can stir up the water galore
But stop, and you'll find in a minute
That it looks quite the same as before

The moral in this quaint example
Is to do just the best that you can
Be proud of yourself, but remember
There is no indispensable man.

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THE ACCESSIBLE LAW PRACTICE

Lodge hospital donation

When Lodge The Murray recently closed, most of its equipment was given to surrounding lodges but some of it was put to different use.

The sale of furniture and equipment raised \$3,494 which was then presented to the Tocumwal Hospital Auxiliary. RW Bro John Ross-Soden, PJGW, said the group wanted the money to stay locally.

'By donating to the Auxiliary we are allowing all of the community to benefit from the proceeds,' he said.

Lodge The Murray was formed over 90 years ago and was made up of many airmen who were based in Tocumwal during World War II.

A young man's lodge

Formed in honour of Bro John Hurst Edmondson, VC, Lodge Victoria Cross No 928 was re-Consecration at Liverpool on 17 January.

The ceremony was held at the John Edmondson Memorial Club before a large number of masons, ladies and visitors.

Organising committee chairman Bro James Davis said the lodge would look to encourage young servicemen into Freemasonry and particularly this lodge. He also said it was hoped Lodge Victoria Cross would provide members of other Service Lodges residing in the area an additional home within Masonry if they desire to remain active in the Craft between regular meetings of their home lodge.

Among the visitors were members from Service Lodges such as Lodge Army & Navy, Lodge Fire Brigade and Lodge Corrective Services as well as distinguished representatives from State Parliament and members of Grand Lodge.

Hail Hellenic

MW Bro Emmanuel Anthony, PGM of Queensland, led fraternal from Queensland, Victoria and the South Coast to the Re-Installation of W Bro Maurice Movsessian at Lodge Hellenic Arcadia No 177 at Kensington.

W Bro Jim Hatzis capably performed the ceremony as Installing Master before a gathering of more than 60 members and visitors which rose to more than 100 at the festive board with the inclusion of the ladies.

MW Bro Anthony, on request, spoke about the need for greater communication and knowledge among members, especially their response if asked 'What is a Mason'.

The visiting delegations were hosted in exemplary manner by the lodge with a function on Friday, a magnificent repast of Greek and other foods at the Installation and a barbeque on Sunday before they returned home.

Liverpool celebrates

District 33 showed what hard work can achieve when it made a massive donation of \$14,629 to the Apheresis Unit at Liverpool Hospital last October.

More than \$7,000 had been raised over a four-year period by the District and the sum was matched by masonic-Care. The donation will help towards purchase of a new Apheresis machine and associated equipment which is similar to a dialysis (kidney) machine.



RW Bro Leon Aroustian PSGW presents the cheque to the Apheresis Unit at Liverpool Hospital.

Denman's Christmas hamper



L-R: VW Bro Ron Morrison DGIW District 46, Rev Craig, W Bro Alan Doak, WM Lodge Denman

Lodge Denman No 597 completed its seventh year of assembling hampers of food and other goods to assist the needy and less fortunate during the December festive season.

In November, VW Bro Les Rowan was re-Installed into the Chair at Lodge Liverpool with VW Bro Ron Maybour as the Installing Master. The night had a special meaning for members with RW Bro Bob Evans, PAGM announcing it was his last attendance at the lodge.

RW Bro Evans has been blind from an early age but joined the Craft in 1951 and served all offices including Master as well as Preceptor of the Lodge of Instruction.

Although only a small lodge with a dedicated membership of 14 and aided by their ladies, the lodge members decided to present the hampers to local churches both Anglican and Catholic to distribute within Denman and district.

The presentation was made on behalf of the churches to the Anglican Minister Rev Dr David Craig who said the hampers would help those people in need and suffering hardship and seasonal conditions beyond their control.

Brothers in Law at Lodge Dawn

The December meeting of Lodge Dawn No 511, at Tweed Heads, was the occasion of a double Initiation for Imron Janjua and Vinu Kamalananthan, who have both recently graduated with honours in Law at Bond University.

Bro Imron Janjua will soon practice law in Toronto, Canada for four months to qualify him in Canada and America before coming back to Australia in June, while Bro Vinu is off to Malaya to practice law, and will return here in August.

Both of these brand new masons say they are looking forward to visiting lodges in these countries and extending their knowledge of the Craft.

The meeting was also notable for the first visit to the lodge by the new DGIW of District 55, VW Bro Roy Lynn, who was welcomed by the Worshipful Master, W Bro Graham Barrett, and later presented with an indigenous painting to mark the occasion.

Right: W Bro Barry Diehl presents VW Bro Roy Lynn with an Indigenous painting.

Below: VW Bro Lynn congratulates the Candidates



The Region 6 stand at AgQuip

Region 6 at AgQuip

In August last year, the lodges of Region 6 combined to operate a stand at AgQuip, in Gunnedah. This was the first time Freemasons had participated in the annual three-day event, which showcases everything rural, from farm machinery to tools, clothing, trucks, cars and gadgets.

The Masonic stand was eye-catching, festooned with banners and posters, and proved very popular, with many masons on hand over the three days to talk about the Craft to interested passers-by.

Raffle tickets were sold, with first prize being a \$1,250 shopping voucher and buckets of local honey, packed and labelled with the masonic logo and contact details, as well as brochures and information packs.

Over the course of the event, names and contact details of those visitors who wanted to know more were taken and passed on to lodges nearest to their place of living.

From these 20 names, District 63 has already acquired one new member, and there are others in the pipeline in the three districts.

Also participating over the three days, were representatives of Masonic Youth Welfare, who were able to offer information and applications forms to some visitors who needed family financial assistance.

Those masons from across Region 6 who came together to man the stand, thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship and the chance to discuss the Craft with members of the public. Many visiting masons made themselves known and seemed impressed with the initiative.

Plans for a similar promotion in 2009 are already in hand.

A happy moment for Alan and Ann

At Lodge Artarmon United Ladies Night on Saturday 6 December, the Worshipful Master, W Bro Tony Maberly, presented a 50 Year Certificate to RW Bro Alan Farrell PDGM, CMH, PCBM.

The occasion was unusual in that the Certificate was not presented in the lodge room but in the south. This was done in accordance with RW Bro Farrell's expressed wish that his wife Ann join him in receiving his Certificate. He said it would not have been possible for him to have served Freemasonry without the full support of his wife. It was therefore fitting that they should share the enjoyment of the moment together.

At the December Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge Mrs Ann Farrell was awarded the Grand Master's Award of Merit for her services to Freemasonry.



RW Bro Alan Farrell and his wife Ann at the presentation.

Port Macquarie realises a masonic dream

The tireless efforts of dedicated masons, partners and friends finally came to fruition last November when about 100 brethren attended the Consecration of Lachlan Macquarie Lodge No 1042.

An Expression of Interest letter was sent out in April to all existing masons in the District, presentation evenings were held and an initial planning team was formed with the aim of the proposed new lodge to attract non-active masons in the area and to recruit new younger members.

Lachlan Macquarie Lodge was consecrated with 28 Foundation members and they were proud to announce three new members will be initiated at the second meeting in February 2009 and by then there will also be two additional affiliates. It was the first new masonic lodge to be opened in the Port Macquarie area in over 20 years.

The Consecration was followed by pre-dinner drinks and canapés which allowed the guests to mingle with the Grand Master, MW Bro Dr Gregory Levenston and his partner Judith Morrice. Other prominent attendees were Rob Oakeshott, Federal Member for Lyne, and Peter Besseling, newly elected State Member for Port Macquarie. The

Installation Banquet held at Country Comfort Motel, a stunning riverside location, with over 130 guests from all areas of NSW coming together to celebrate this momentous occasion.

The Foundation Master, of Lachlan Macquarie Lodge, Graham Tunstall said: 'I guess a few of us were concerned about the numbers leaving the fraternity and I particularly found it to be sad and worrying that we were not retaining new members. So what must we be doing wrong? We felt new thinking was necessary to meet the needs of today's society and from that the first steps were taken to form the Lachlan Macquarie Lodge.'

Representatives of Port Macquarie Sea Rescue and their partners, who were in attendance said it was 'a real honour to be present at this event and to share in the festivities, particularly with the fellows of Lachlan Macquarie Lodge. We were made to feel very welcome and it was obvious that all present were really enjoying the occasion'.

The Foundation Members of Lachlan Macquarie Lodge are mainly residents of the area, and their prime charity for their first year is Port Macquarie Sea Rescue.



Guests enjoying the Installation Banquet

Canowindra Health Program gets a shot in the arm

Planning for a combined Health Service and Masonic Lodge health promotion initiative has been boosted by a grant of \$3,500, awarded by the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) to Canowindra Health Service.

In recent years, members of the Lodge Canowindra No 478 and Canowindra Health Service have worked together to promote Men's Health with the Pit Stop Program.

Early in 2008 some lodge members approached Community Health staff, wanting to work with them on a program that could help address obesity levels and improve the health of community members. This led to the development of the 'Better Life Canowindra' campaign.

W Bro David Francis, secretary of Lodge Canowindra, has been busy promoting the program to various organisations in the town and is thrilled about the grant.

'This grant will allow the Health Service to purchase new fitness equipment for the community to use and develop promotional and educational materials for the campaign. We are really encouraging the town to get behind this campaign and take up the challenge to improve their health.'

Julie Middleton, local dietician reported: 'This campaign will start in 2009 with the Canowindra Fitness and Nutrition Challenge. The main aim of the campaign is for people to improve their fitness and nutritional status over a 10 week period.'

'Participants will have access to current Health Service exercise program over this time, as well as extra programs, including a weekly "boot camp" class, resistance training sessions at the hospital gym and nordic pole walking workshops with the Department of Sport and Recreation, to name just a few.'

Sue Johnson, Physiotherapist, stressed that the campaign was about having fun, as well as improving health. 'We are encouraging friends to enter in teams of four so that they can work together and



L-R: Members of the 'Better Life Canowindra' planning committee – W Bro David Francis, Sarah Cole (Occupational Therapist), Julie Middleton (Dietician), Sue Johnson (Physiotherapist), W Bro Ian Guihot

support each other. Great prizes for winning teams and individuals will be awarded, based on results of pre and post fitness assessments.'

Short workshops on a range of nutrition, exercise and lifestyle topics will

also be conducted over the campaign time by members of the community health team.

For more information about the campaign please call the Health Centre on 6344 1314.

Wyaldra celebrates

Lodge Wyaldra No 238 had one good reason to celebrate at a recent meeting when it initiated Bro Peter Doran into Freemasonry. Peter was the first candidate for many years in the lodge. He works as a paramedic in the ambulance service in the Gulgong area.

The night was made more interesting with the support of neighbouring Lodge Timor No 274, which not only brought a fraternal but included their two new members, bringing together three initiates at the same meeting.

Old Sydneians



The Grand Master presents 60 year certificates to W Bro Ross Aiken and W Bro George Cooke at The Old Sydneians Lodge installation.

A shared ceremony

A large fraternal from Lodge Corrective Services attended The Hills Lodge at Castle Hill to support the raising of their member Bro Andrew Hay.

The work on the evening was shared between several lodges, including Lodge Blacktown-Kildare, Lodge Corrective Services, Lodge Burnside and the Hills Lodge.

When the ceremony was completed, the Hills WM, W Bro Sam Harrison congratulated the candidate and asked if anyone else wished to offer congratulations. In showing their support, all attending members of Corrective Services rose and queued to offer their congratulations.

The fraternal was led by W Bro Grant Singleton in the absence of the WM, W Bro David Carruthers, who was supporting another Corrective Services candidate, Bro Craig Osland who was also taking his Third Degree at Lodge Camden.

Handing over in District 34

At the December meeting of Lodge Nepean No 29, and in a ceremony attended by over 40 lodge members and visitors, the incoming DGIW, VW Bro Harry Griffiths, received the District 34 Jewel from the outgoing Grand Inspector, VW Bro Phillip Rosen.

After being congratulated by VW Bro Rosen, VW Bro Griffiths was welcomed by the Worshipful Master of the lodge, RW Bro Henry Fawkes who congratulated him on his own behalf.

In response, VW Bro Griffiths thanked all present for the confidence shown in him. He pledged that during his term of office, the 'team spirit' of District 34 would continue and that he would strive to sustain the District's fine reputation and record within the Region.

From the heart of Castlereagh

Lodge Castlereagh has created a DVD for young men seeking entry into Freemasonry. In partnership with MTC Work Solutions Redfern, Lodge Castlereagh was able to seek assistance through the federally funded 'Work for the Dole' program in order to assist with the production of the DVD.

'We have found a creative and adaptive way in which to interact with our community, and to inform young men on the philosophy which is at the heart of Freemasonry through a medium which is inexpensive and accessible,' said RW Bro Glenn Eley, RGC (R12).

'Lodge Castlereagh has taken a bold step by moving their lodge from Coonamble to Sydney to be actively involved in the community, developing new networks and associations. By using the facilities provided by MTC Redfern and the Work for the Dole program, we were able to resource a project which would not have normally been available in our operating budget. It was a win-win situation for the participants involved in producing the DVD, and for our organisation.

'The lodge has produced a short DVD which will now be distributed to men

seeking membership at Lodge Castlereagh. It features two lodge members, one young and one seasoned, being interviewed about their impressions of Freemasonry. It is frank and to the point and doesn't provide a cloud of information for the candidate to make their way through. We use it in conjunction with existing membership materials provided by Grand Lodge,' he said.

Matt, a participant in the Work for the Dole program whose identity cannot be disclosed due to privacy regulations said: 'I was impressed by Lodge Castlereagh and Freemasonry and that our team managed to bring off a quality product. It was good to know that we were assisting an organisation that is deserving of our assistance. It was my first time as an interviewer for this type of production and it was very satisfying to see that answers provided by the Freemasons being interviewed were clear and confident.

'I would like to thank those responsible for their support and encouragement in helping me to develop my skills, and to give me a sense of self worth and achievement.'



VW Bro Phillip Rosen congratulating VW Bro Harold Griffiths at the Jewel changeover.

Following the meeting, the brethren retired to the South to join their ladies for a fine seasonal banquet.

Andy steps up

Following the successful Active Family Fun Day held at the Lightning Ridge swimming complex held in conjunction with the Royal Life Saving Society, Lodge Lightning Ridge that evening conducted a Second Degree on Bro Andy Lawrence, a member of Lodge Central Australia at Bourke.

About 30 masons from Lightning Ridge, Narrabri, Bourke, Cobar, Coonabarabran, Mudgee and Sydney were present including three FCFs. A FCF, Bro Benson of Lodge Central Australia delivered the Working Tools, his first charge in Freemasonry.

The festive board was held at the Lightning Ridge Bowling Club where RW Bro Trow presented a cheque for \$5,000 to the Lightning Ridge branch of the SES on behalf of masoniCare.

Tamworth Centre dedication

On Saturday, 15 November, the Grand Master, MW Bro Dr Gregory Levenston, accompanied by 32 Grand Lodge Officers, travelled to Tamworth to dedicate the new Tamworth Masonic Centre.

The dedication was witnessed by 58 brethren from the visiting lodges of District 61, 63, 64 and Lodge Wyong Tuggerah Lakes Fraternal, as well as the host lodge, Lodge Calala Tamworth No 652, and it was the biggest gathering seen in the new lodge room to date.

RW Bro Arthur Jeffries PJGW welcomed the Grand Master and visitors, and a dignified and simple Dedication Ceremony followed, conducted by the Grand Lodge team.

During the ceremony an 80 year certificate was presented by the Grand Master to Bro Alf Powell of Cockburn Daylight Lodge No 1005, and a 50 year certificate to Bro Maurie Britten, of Lodge Calala Tamworth No 652.

The Grand Master also personally congratulated a large number of brethren present who had attained at least 50 years service to Masonry and paid special tribute to three younger masons who will be attending the 20/20 conference in 2009.

The Grand Master praised the efforts of the Tamworth masons in their vision to erect such a wonderful building to house masonic activities and be a constant advertisement to attract new members to the Craft.

During the ceremony the ladies were addressed by Judith Morrice on the role of ladies in the modern era of Freemasonry. She, and the Grand Master, both feel strongly that every committee in Masonry should have female representation on them so that the important contribution of the ladies can be recognised and fostered.

The ceremony was followed by a banquet at the Tamworth Golf Club, during which the Grand Master again spoke on

L-R: The Deputy Grand Master, Assistant Grand Master, Bro Alf Powell and the Grand Master



the future directions he wishes to see taken by the fraternity. He also presented Bro Alf Powell with his 80 year jewel.

The banquet was also a celebration of Bro Powell's 100th birthday and he and his wife Betty, together with members of his family, were the honoured guests of Lodge Cockburn Daylight on this special occasion.

Bro Powell replied to his birthday toast in his usual delightful manner and he had the audience spellbound as they listened to his words of wisdom. He was given a standing ovation as the guests sang Happy Birthday with feeling and gusto.

At the December Quarterly Communication Bro Powell was honoured with the Conferred Rank of Past Grand Tyler.

Lodge Swansea Belmont and Lodge Chelmsford maintain a tradition

Eleven brethren from Lodge Swansea Belmont No 1030 travelled by bus to join with the Worshipful Master and brethren of Lodge Chelmsford No 261 at the Kokoda trail in Rhodes Park at Rhodes.

This was the 76th reciprocal visit between the two lodges and a tradition that looks like continuing for years to come.

The brethren joined together to conduct a Remembrance Ceremony in the beautiful and moving space that is the Kokoda Memorial.

After the service the brethren relaxed at a BBQ and then a held a friendly golf chipping competition between the lodges for a perpetual sporting shield.



Brethren from both Lodge Swansea Belmont and Lodge Chelmsford assembled around the memorial fountain which served as a cenotaph for the ceremony.

All brethren are looking forward to the return of Lodge Chelmsford to Belmont in February.

70 YEARS SERVICE

GADD, MAXWELL	Northern Beaches Daylight Lodge 987
HARVEY, GEORGE	Lodge Kilwinning 13

60 YEARS SERVICE

BAIRD, RAYMOND	Lodge Friendship 158
BALL, REGINALD	Lodge Bulli Thirroul 1040
BECKETT, WILLIAM	Lodge Warrindah 83
BOCK, CHARLES	Lodge Wagga Wagga 22
BRAZIL, LESTER	Lodge Fire Brigades 940
BRITTLIFF, DAVID	Lodge Morisset 441
BROOKS, JOHN	The United Lodge of Sydney 11
BROWN, KENNETH	Lodge United St Andrew Singleton 34
COHEN, IAN	The Queen's Lodge 229
DEARDEN, JOHN	Lodge Hastings 69
FORSTER, GEORGE	Lodge Tomalpin 253
GODDARD, JOHN	Lodge Frenchs Forest United 249
GUTHRIE, ANTHONY	Lodge Lismore City United 77
GUYMER, MALCOLM	Lodge Leopold 128
HAZELWOOD, MERVYN	Lodge Picton 258
HODSON, THOMAS	Lodge Sydney St John 80
KERR, NOEL	Lodge Timor 274
LOGUE, OSCAR	Lodge James Colley Daylight 395
LUCAS, RONALD	Lodge Baulkham Hills 958
MAYGER, DOUGLAS	Lodge Urara 469
MCGRATH, FRANCIS	Lodge Narooma 913
MILLER, COLIN	Lodge Picton 258
MILLIKIN, RONALD	Basin View Daylight Lodge 1015
ORR, WILLIAM	Lakehaven Daylight Lodge 1017

PHILLIPS, GEORGE	Lodge Southern Cross 91
SHEATHER, COLIN	Lodge Cornucopia 1037
STAFF, WILLIAM	Lodge Fire Brigades 940
STANLEY, JOHN	Lodge Jersey 204
STEWART, WILLIAM	Lodge Millthorpe 276
STRACEY, RONALD	Lodge Kensington 270
STRINGER, NEIL	Lodge Picton 258
THOMPSON, NOEL	Lodge Paxton 608
THOMPSON, WILLIAM	Lodge Paxton 608
WEISMANTEL, HAROLD	Lodge Greater Taree L66
WILSON, THOMAS	Lodge Southern Cross 91

50 YEARS SERVICE

ALLEN, RAYMOND	Lodge Brotherhood of Maitland 1029
BROWN, CAMPBELL	Lodge The Raleigh 241
COFFEY, LORIMER	Lodge Fire Brigades 940
COOMBER, DARRELL	Lodge Emu Plains 860
DAVIS, NORMAN	Lodge Millthorpe 276
EMMETT, LAURENCE	Lodge Picton 258
FAIRHALL, JAMES	Lodge Lismore City United 77
FARRELL, ALAN	Balmain Lodge 23
FINKELSTEIN, MAURICE	The Lodge of Tranquillity 42
FORSTER, WILLIAM	Lodge Cronulla 312
FRENCH, ATHOL	Lodge Picton 258
FROST, BRIAN	Lodge Morisset 441
GANDER, NEVILLE	Lodge Millthorpe 276
GAYFORD, THOMAS	Lodge Kilwinning 13
GEORGE, COLIN	Lodge Morisset 441
GRAINGER, JOHN	Lodge City of Newcastle 1035
HARTLEY, JACK	Lodge Balgowlah 392
HARVEY, FREDERICK	Lodge Brotherhood of Maitland 1029
JACKSON, ARTHUR	Lodge Fire Brigades 940



JENKINS, BRANGWYN	Leisure Coast Daylight Lodge 999
JOHNSON, BRIAN	Lodge Burnside 729
KELLY, GRAHAM	Lodge Timor 274
KELLY, WILLIAM	Lodge Timor 274
KERVIN, BARRY	Lodge Tomalpin 253
LAMBERT, WILLIAM	Lodge Wahroonga 674
LANE, CEDRIC	Lodge Morisset 441
MANSELL, THOMAS	Lodge Sydney St John 80
MARKS, GRAHAM	Lodge Mark Owen 828
MCCARTNEY, JAMES	Lodge Burnside 729
MCKELLAR, GERALD	Lodge Warrumbungles 277
MILLER, WILLIAM	Lodge Kyogle - Geneva United 245
MILLS, WILLIAM	Lodge Greater Taree L66
MOON, DONALD	Lodge Warrindah 83
MORGAN, SAMUEL	Lodge Kensington 270
MURRAY, RUSSELL	Basin View Daylight Lodge 1015
OAKES, JOSEPH	Lodge Speers Point 538
PRYOR, RAYMOND	Lodge Fitzroy 248
PURCILL, LISLE	Lodge Millthorpe 276
SELWOOD, ALLAN	Lodge Millthorpe 276
SHEAN, ROY	Lodge Picton 258
SMITH, ALLEN	Lodge Speers Point 538
SYMON, LEON	Lodge Mark Owen 828
TATLER, ROBERT	Lodge Harold Herman Unity 428
TURNER, ARTHUR	Lodge Woronora 414
WEBBER, ROBERT	Lodge Illawarra 59
WHITE, ALAN	Lodge Picton 258
WOLLINSKI, WERNER	Lodge Camden 217

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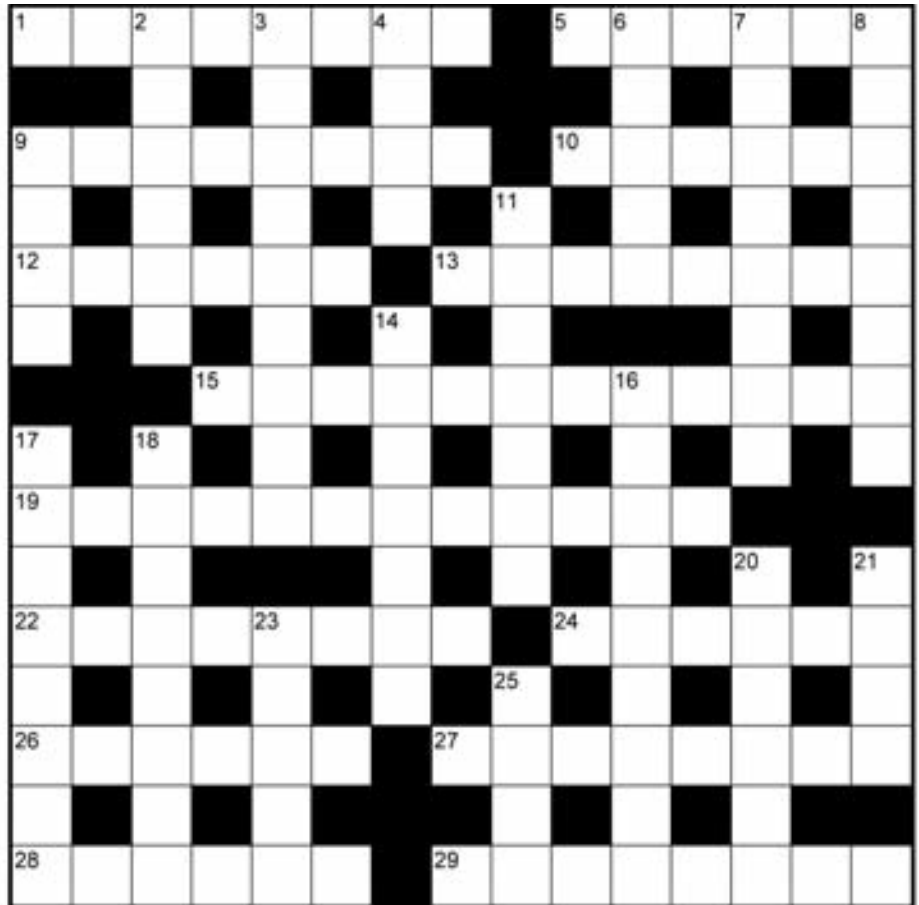


ACROSS

- 1 Gives a token "Yes" to arch support (8)
- 5 Develop from the first woman, head over heels in endless love (6)
- 9 Icon a lad found relates to the deacons (8)
- 10 Firstly, Clerk of Petty Session's aim is to dish up lobster (6)
- 12 Silent types may join up (6)
- 13 Ladies order a certain flower (8)
- 15 He answered in or about the West (6, 6)
- 19 & 24 Favourably spoken of with a rugged, poor footnote (6, 2, 4, 6)
- 22 Ethical criteria raised low alarm (5, 3)
- 24 See 19 across
- 26 Unauthenticated historical story about member termination (6)
- 27 Faithfulness upset a tidy life (8)
- 28 Phonetic letter written between Shakespeare's character dances (6)
- 29 Abstruse? So recite it another way (8)

DOWN

- 2 Treasurer's option for payment of dues is early, before 3rd of May (6)
- 3 Contents of glory box thrown out as user is flustered (9)
- 4 & 25 Close call beside young lass (4, 4)
- 6 Six start car for man of the cloth (5)
- 7 Wowser's substitute for the demon ale (8)
- 8 Matthew 2: 1-2, 6th January (8)
- 9 Andrew was partly responsible as he sketched it (4)



- 11 Take offence in the shadows (7)
- 14 Ivo goes to Cuba to sleep in the open (7)
- 16 Reparation note meant to win over (9)
- 17 Encouragement given to suit slum demolition (8)
- 18 Actively urge it in earnest to show curiosity (8)
- 20 Leaves reference if oral accord upheld (6)
- 21 Remain to support the mast (4)
- 23 Some Zulu narrates stories determined by the moon (5)
- 25 See 4 down

Solution next issue © adsXwords

SOLUTION No 36



AUXILIARY HELPS CHARITIES

The NSW Masonic Auxiliary has made a presentation of \$21,800 to a number of worthy organisations after a year of hard work raising funds. Under the leadership of RW Bro Don Mealing PAGM, the committee gathered money from the sales of home products and operation of the kiosk at the Sydney Private Hospital (formerly the NSW Masonic Hospital).

BENEFICIARIES FROM THE AUXILIARY WERE:

- Care Flight* \$6,000, *Camp Quality* \$6,000, *Autism* \$3,800,
- The Grand Charity* \$2,000, *Berry Village* \$2,000,
- Lucas Gardens School* \$1,000 and *Kidney Health* \$1,000

The NSW Freemason welcomes new members to the Craft



NAME	INITIATED	LODGE
DEGOTARDI, Steven	18/07/2008	Lodge Lismore City United 77
SMITH, Kevin	1/08/2008	Lodge Emu Plains 860
OFFER, Nathan	12/08/2008	Brundah Endeavour 429
KELU, Jonatan	26/08/2008	Lodge Castlereagh 72
WATSON, Simon	26/08/2008	Lodge Castlereagh 72
GARNER, Alan	18/09/2008	Lodge Pennant Hills 905
JENNINGS, Edward	26/09/2008	Lodge Corrective Services 1039
DELARUE, Sean	28/09/2008	Lodge Corrective Services 1039
PARISH, Benjamin	28/09/2008	Lodge Corrective Services 1039
MARTIN, Rodney	28/09/2008	Lodge Corrective Services 1039
CLUER, Jesse	1/10/2008	Lodge Dawn 511
HODGSON, Ian	6/10/2008	Lodge Mindaribba 307
GEDDES, Ricky	6/10/2008	The Peel Lodge 209
MCKENZIE, Geoffrey	6/10/2008	The Peel Lodge 209
IRVINE, James	10/10/2008	Lodge Port Stephens 522
CHAPPEL, Barry	14/10/2008	Lodge Farrer 93
TENNANT, Julien	14/10/2008	Brundah Endeavour 429
GRIECO, Anthony	15/10/2008	Lodge Hurlstone Park United 288
TRLIJILLO, Jorge	16/10/2008	Lodge F S Mance 671
BELL, Christopher	16/10/2008	Lodge Ionic 65
FOWLER, Christopher	21/10/2008	Maitland Lodge of Unity 4
STUBBS, Gregory	21/10/2008	Nowra Unity 60
YOUSSEF, Fred	21/10/2008	Lodge Woollahra 341
YOUSSEF, Ramy	21/10/2008	Lodge Woollahra 341
MOHAMMED, Ahsanuddin	23/10/2008	Lodge Commonwealth of Australia 633
SCOTT, Craig	23/10/2008	Lodge Caledonia of Canberra 938
TURNBULL, Simon	27/10/2008	The Sydney Lodge 1020
BOURKE, Adam	28/10/2008	Lodge Challenge 284
HARVEY, Neil	3/11/2008	The Peel Lodge 209
PLUMMER, Paul	4/11/2008	Lodge Kempsey - Macleay 203
TERRY, Grant	5/11/2008	The Lachlan Waugoola Lodge 142
AINSCOUGH, Adam	7/11/2008	Lodge Sydney St. George 269
BENTOS, Julio	8/11/2008	Lodge Emu Plains 860
SPICER, Ian	10/11/2008	Riverina Thompson 104
ADAMS, Paul	10/11/2008	Lodge Timor 274
CROWLE, Michael	10/11/2008	Lodge Milton 63
QUAGLIA, Andrew	11/11/2008	Brundah Endeavour 429
ANDERSON, Conrad	11/11/2008	Lodge Southern Cross 91
DEL-MUNNS, Bradley	11/11/2008	Lodge Southern Cross 91
HOVSEPIAN, Serjik	11/11/2008	Lodge Horace Thompson Ryde 134
CULLEN, Paul	13/11/2008	Balmain Lodge 23
DORAN, Peter	13/11/2008	Lodge Wyaldra 238
UNAL, George	13/11/2008	The Royal Empire Lodge 613
VEAL, Dean	13/11/2008	Lodge Tweed United 136
CONWAY, David	14/11/2008	Lodge West Epping 731
HILLMAN, Graham	14/11/2008	Lodge Hastings 69

NAME	INITIATED	LODGE
MUKHERJEE, Alastair	15/11/2008	Lodge Speers Point 538
JACKSON, Vernon	17/11/2008	Livingstone United 604
DEHAMEL, Matthieu	17/11/2008	Lodge France 1021
DITZELL, James	17/11/2008	Lodge Ku-Ring-Gai 1033
CROTTY, Donald	18/11/2008	Lodge Sylvania 853 Lodge of Excellence
BANNERMAN, Graham	18/11/2008	Lodge Oatley 381
TAPIA, Christian	19/11/2008	Lodge Gynea 796
ETHELL, Jake	20/11/2008	Lodge Cavanbah 231
WHITE, Peter	20/11/2008	Lodge Scone 183
EUSEBIO, Jose	21/11/2008	Lodge Blacktown Kildare 393
THOMPSON, Charles	21/11/2008	Lodge University of Sydney 544
KHAWAM, Tony	24/11/2008	Lodge Wyvern 813
MCKENZIE, Grant	24/11/2008	Lodge Wyvern 813
RELJIN, Milos	25/11/2008	Lodge Castlereagh 72
RODZIEWICZ, Rudi	26/11/2008	The Queen's Lodge 229
JONES, Anthony	26/11/2008	The Queen's Lodge 229
EGGLESTON, Brett	26/11/2008	Lodge Fire Brigades 940
FARHAT, Antine	27/11/2008	The Sir Walter Scott Lodge 123
ROBERTS, Michael	27/11/2008	Horizons 1032
JEFFREY, Peter	27/11/2008	Lodge Ophir 17
JAMES, Cary	28/11/2008	Lodge Dubbo 906
TIPLADY, Brade	2/12/2008	Lodge Albert C. Petrie 954
JANJUA, Imron	3/12/2008	Lodge Dawn 511
KAMALANANTHAN, Vinu	3/12/2008	Lodge Dawn 511
CORK, Stuart	4/12/2008	The Royal Empire Lodge 613
WALKER, Michael	5/12/2008	Lodge Celebration of Fairfield 345
VRIENS, John	5/12/2008	Lodge Ibis 361
BARRY, Anthony	8/12/2008	The Lodge of Australia 3
PHILLIPS, Ian	8/12/2008	The Lodge of Australia 3
VEZZOLA, Andrea	9/12/2008	Lodge Horace Thompson Ryde 134
MURACE, Cosimo	9/12/2008	Lodge Horace Thompson Ryde 134
ROACH, Joseph	9/12/2008	Lodge Fitzroy 248
ABI NADER, Fadi	9/12/2008	Lodge Guildford 321
LAMBERT, Peter	9/12/2008	Lodge Paxton 608
BALDWIN, Andrew	9/12/2008	Lodge Southern Cross 91
MANNIX, Ben	9/12/2008	Lodge Southern Cross 91
NELL, Andrew	11/12/2008	The Royal Empire Lodge 613
HIPWELL, Kenneth	12/12/2008	Lodge Port Stephens 522
MARR, Zachariah	17/12/2008	Lodge Oxley 225
GREENAWAY, Jamie	17/12/2008	Lodge Sawtell Twilight 741
TRAIN, Adrian	18/12/2008	Lodge Scone 183
VERWEY, Edward	9/01/2009	Lodge Emu Plains 860
ROBERTS, Benjamin	13/01/2009	Lodge Southern Cross 91
LESTER, Heath	13/01/2009	Lodge Southern Cross 91
PHILLIPS, Daniel	13/01/2009	Lodge Southern Cross 91



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The Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution of NSW

Established in 1880

Greetings and Happy New Year to all

Each March, April and May the RFBI conducts its APPEAL QUARTER. This is the time of the year when the RFBI appeals to Masons to support its work. Appeal envelopes will be distributed via Lodge Secretaries.

The RFBI *Appeals* to Masons to assist in continuing the caring work begun in 1880. Today, in addition to the annuity scheme which provides monetary assistance to those in need, and the Benevolent Assistance Scheme – which provides specialised assistance in the form of tailor made wheelchairs, beds and the like – the RFBI provides accommodation and care for more than 2,300 senior citizens.

The physical evidence of our 21 retirement villages is a testimony to the charitable works of Freemasonry.

Be assured, all donations (tax deductible over two dollars) will be gratefully received and faithfully applied.

The RFBI is constantly seeking **VOLUNTEERS** to support its activities.

Please contact **Ann King or Alex Shaw** on **9264 5986** to register your interest.

The RFBI invites you to leave a **BEQUEST IN YOUR WILL** to enable the charitable works of the Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution to continue.

Please contact Head Office for the appropriate form.

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

Lodge Victoria Cross Re-Consecration

