

Freemason



Vivid Sydney

Lighting up the night!

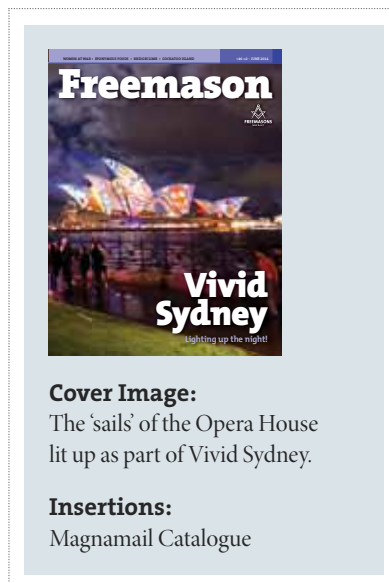


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Editorial Policy

Aims of the Freemason magazine

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



Cover Image:

The 'sails' of the Opera House lit up as part of Vivid Sydney.

Insertions:

Magnamail Catalogue

Freemason

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and Australian Capital Territory



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War is hell

That's **putting bluntly** the feelings of nearly all normal people, especially those who have suffered through the loss of family and friends because of **greed** and a **lust for power**.



In books of early years, going to war was likened to a social picnic, with young men dashing off to do battle in the name of king and country, full of good cheer and looking forward to an interesting experience.

What they didn't bargain for was the misery, the trenches, the killing of other humans and the mental suffering that so many would carry for the rest of their lives.

In July, we will celebrate, if that is the right word, the 100 years anniversary since the start of World War I in 1914. There were earlier battles – the Boer War, Crimea – and it is a known fact that since the end of World War II, there has not been a year gone past without an armed conflict in some country. And it still continues.

Of course there are some people who are happy to have a war in progress. Manufacturers who provide guns and ammunition, tradesmen who build ships and aeroplanes, clothing for uniforms, jobs for people who are exempt or unfit to go to battle.

But ask those who come back whether they had a happy time and what is it exactly that they are celebrating. Watch their faces when you ask 'What was it really like?' The memories that keep flooding back are rarely pleasant and the anguish and pain is always visible.

On most occasions, these meetings are an opportunity to renew acquaintance with old friends who, like them, have managed to survive. To talk about experiences, to remember those who never came back and to think about the destruction that accompanies war. And to wonder why it began and whether anything was really achieved after it ended.

It is in the nature of man to acquire and achieve, from the early days of the caveman to walking on the moon. If he has a family, he needs shelter, food, belongings and will fight to keep them safe. But some men are never satisfied with what they have. They want more and will sometimes go to extreme measures to get it.

Many leaders have talked about peace, about living together as a family and looking forward to times of joy and happiness. But always, there is someone who cannot live by that principle.

In past years, Freemasons have given their support to the desire for peace, even surrendering their lives in the struggle to keep their land free. The Honour Roll at Grand Lodge and in numerous lodges around the country are testimony to that fact.

No words can really express the horrors and reality of war despite thousands of

books and films. Let the Honour Rolls and the survivors remind us that freedom is precious and war is terrible.

If we can contain man's greed and lust for power, there is a chance our children and their children may grow up in a world of happiness and peace and never again be forced to witness past examples of man's inhumanity to man. 🏛️

Let the Honour Rolls and the survivors remind us that freedom is precious and war is terrible.



Interested in Freemasonry?

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

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

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



March Quarterly Communication

Grand Master re-elected

The Grand Master, MW Bro Derek Robson AM was re-elected for a further term of office at the March Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge.

More than 700 brethren packed the main lodge room and the banquet room for the occasion which resulted in a convincing vote (547-147) for the Grand Master.

After welcoming a RW brother from New York, MW Bro Robson said there was no doubt this Communication had captured the imagination of many and so it should.

'We have had the opportunity to consider who should be elected to lead our Jurisdiction into the future and it is now very important that we settle down to solidly support this preferred direction. Certainly, I thank you for the tremendous support you have shown to this Grand Lodge. Next Communication, you will similarly have the opportunity to select your preferred Grand Officers for the coming year and I look forward to your active consideration of this most important exercise,' he said.

'Among those to be elected in June will be members of the Board of Management, and I want to assure you that the present Board is working very well. It is working particularly hard to introduce programs which will further enhance the stability of

the Craft, programs which will better promote our activities, and programs and opportunities for better expressing our purpose to the community.

'The Board is very conscious there are many lodges struggling with reduced membership, others who cannot afford the continual upkeep of their properties and still others which have totally lost their direction. They have been superbly supported by the Board in the last six months, and many a specific program has been tailored to suit their circumstance and ensure their survival.

'Special acknowledgement should go to the superb contribution by over 50 masons from the Grand Lodge and the Grand Chapter, who are quietly working together to engineer and create a renewal for Freemasonry in Wagga Wagga. I am thrilled that the Heads of Other Orders would see fit to join together to assist us in brokering these new arrangements, and to acknowledge the importance of promoting a strong presence in this very important part of our Jurisdiction.'

The Grand Master reminded brethren of 'The Scott Young Trust', administered by the Grand Charity Board. This Trust was specifically designed to assist families of deceased masons, who for some reason or another find themselves in financial difficulty. Details of this important benefit

are readily available on the Masonicare website.

He congratulated the four Regional Grand Counsellors for the manner in which they have taken their new Role Statements and projected themselves across the Jurisdiction and added that we are now readying ourselves for the introduction of the new District Grand Inspectors of Workings. He also noted the changes approved by Masonicare to align its network with the Grand Lodge structures.

'Finally, I want to remind everyone that I have made mention of improper commentary on Facebook and other social media sites on several occasions,' said the Grand Master.

'But it seems to me that no matter what is proposed for the benefit of the Craft, what is achieved, or indeed, what is even envisaged, this will never be of interest to some brethren.

'The Facebook detractors will continue to spread their falsehoods that 'nothing much has been done', and 'nothing is happening'. I note that these names are never involved in the real world of the Craft, but rather, they prefer to peddle their continual untruths and gratuitous insults.

'I have already commented on the efforts of the Craft and the Chapter in the Wagga area but regardless of these successes, recent Facebook comments have stated that the Grand Lodge has given up on Lodge Wagga Wagga. It is sad that no matter how much effort is expended, there is always someone who would prefer to criticise rather than show the appropriate appreciation. These ill-informed thoughts fail to acknowledge the wonderful contribution made by masons from the Grand Lodge and the Grand Chapter, and they are insulting.

'Recently, there have been many derogatory comments directed at me personally on Facebook. I simply ask and encourage the perpetrators to stop this ridiculous nonsense.

'In my case, I was added to a private Facebook site at the same time as a particularly





offensive comment was posted on that site by a mason. Subsequently, several more comments were added by other misinformed masons and I sought an apology and withdrawal of the offensive remarks. I was immediately removed from the offending Facebook site but I received no response to the letter seeking an apology. Following a further letter stating that legal action was a possibility, a half-hearted apology was received by email which I did not accept.

‘Please be assured that I am not walking away from this issue and that these comments, be they offensive, hurtful, untrue, or idle gossip based on misrepresentation and innuendo, will be further considered.

‘The comments directed at me have similarly been passed to the Secretariat of this Grand Lodge, specifically the Grand Secretary and the Deputy Grand Secretary. Brethren, we have sworn to uphold and protect the Constitutions and Regulations of this Grand Lodge and it is not right that we be asked to set aside our Obligations, nor will I tolerate senior administrative Officers of this Grand Lodge being similarly treated.

‘And now it is only for me to thank all of those brethren who support the Craft. I thank all of you for allowing me this wonderful experience. I have endeavoured to support you and your lodges and I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience.


‘I look forward to continuing to serve this wonderful Craft, with enthusiasm, drive and an immense amount of commitment, until my term of office is complete.

And brethren, I will always remain committed to the words of my Obligation.’

In other business, it was announced there would not be any increase in capitation fees for the 2014/2015 Masonic Year. The Executive Council reported that more than \$170,000 had been raised for the Grand Master’s Bushfire Appeal and the Appeal would continue until October. The Council also reported that at future meetings it would consider Conflict Resolution, Membership Behaviour and the Appeal Process.

The Board of Management, in its report, said it was currently looking at a set of Seminars to be made available to all lodge secretaries and treasurers. Plans are

also underway for a number of community involvement programs which will enable lodges to engage more with their local community. Work is also in progress on a program of radio and television advertising which may be used on local and community services to advertise Freemasonry to the community.

Approval was also announced for eight accredited speakers on the recommendation of the College of Masonic Studies and the appointments to the Museum of Freemasonry of RW Bro Ron Portis PJGW as Museum Curator, RW Bro Brian French PJGW as Archivist and VW Bro Robert Taylor PDGIW as Librarian. 

Social Media Code of Conduct

The presence of Freemasons on various social networking sites is growing exponentially and it is drawing attention to the fraternity. By participating on sites such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and others, we should strive to make that attention as positive as possible. When we represent ourselves as members of the fraternity, we become someone’s impression of Freemasonry. As such, it is important that we act accordingly and subscribe to the lessons we are all taught as masons in terms of how we communicate and interact with masons and non-masons.

- ▶ A mason should never identify any other brother to be a member of the Craft unless he has provided his consent, or has already identified himself as such.
- ▶ Lodge Notice Papers should not be discussed publicly, especially if details of Lodge Officers or Candidates are included.
- ▶ There should never be discussion related to the application, background or investigation of any applicant.
- ▶ There should never be discussion regarding the ballot of an applicant.
- ▶ There should never be discussion related to the business of a lodge and what is discussed within the lodge.
- ▶ The posting of photographs or videos of lodge or other masonic events must comply with the Constitutions, Regulations, rules or other directives that are in existence at any time. Prior consent must always be obtained from the subjects in a photograph or video before it is taken and/or published.
- ▶ No official communication with other Grand Lodges or their subordinate lodges may take place online. Contact must be conducted through the Office of the Grand Secretary.

Grand Lodge website – May 2012.

Agenda for the Grand Lodge June Communication

The Quarterly Communication for Grand will be held at 7.30pm at the Sydney Masonic Centre on Wednesday, 11 June 2014.

Included on the agenda will be:

- > Grand Master’s Welcome;
- > Election of officers;
- > Reports of the Executive Council, Board of Management, Grand Charity, College of Masonic Studies;
- > Conferral of Grand Rank; and
- > General business.



Leadership is the art of suggestion

I don't know who said this, so you can claim the idea as your own. Perhaps the person who thought it up meant that there is a difference between suggestion and command.

On the one hand, somebody who receives a suggestion adopts a thought from someone else and claims it as their own. On the other hand, somebody who receives a command knows where the command came from, and it is perfectly clear that the commander owns the idea.

You see, people who receive a command first enter into a conversation in their mind about whether to accept the command, given where it came from. How do you feel when someone says to you 'Do it this way' or, 'I want it done this way' or even 'I think we should...'? In those cases the origin of the idea is perfectly obvious, and you have to make an assessment as to whether to adopt the idea contained in the command. If the person who issued such a command has power over you – personal power, physical power, gender power, or pays your salary (monetary power), or decides your continuing employment or promotion – you might not have a choice, and you will comply with the command if you know what's good for you. Or else! You accept their power.

Alternatively, if you resent that person's power, you might 'pretend' to accept the command, and, out of sight, do it badly. Alienated employees on the production line and people without power do this all the time, deliberately sabotaging productivity to 'show them who is boss'. Sometimes community organisations like our lodges work the same way.

This article is about leadership, so let's agree on what 'leadership' means. Think about good leaders you have known in your work or organisation. Some people who know a lot about leadership reckon it is 'the capacity to engage the energy of

others towards some shared objective'. On the football field it's the coach's ability to get the players working together to score. In a commercial enterprise it might be the manager getting the sales team supporting each other to maximise profit. Within our organisation it might be the WM wanting to do something new. Leadership seems to come down to 'the ability to put an idea in people's heads' so that they think they own it.

All successful leaders have mastered the skill and art of suggestion. Of course it is not the only technique they use, but studies have shown it is probably the most effective because it minimises stress and empowers people. There are two key notions wrapped up with this:

- People who think they 'own' an idea will work productively to see it implemented.
- Good leaders can pass on their idea in such a way that those who receive it think the idea is their own.

To address the first, consider how hard you will work to implement your idea. The human creative spirit is such that we never try to sabotage our own ideas. Think of your work, your business, your family, your lodge – all more or less dependent on ideas. Could you ever see yourself purposely trying to make your ideas NOT work? If you can, you are playing games or you need therapy.

To address the second, it seems obvious that giving an idea away to someone else involves total selflessness. The leader must be prepared to give away the idea without reservation – no holding back if the person who receives it is to claim ownership – TOTAL ownership. There has to be a 'vacuum of ownership' so that someone else can grab it. The leader must surrender

all personal investment in the idea and allow it to be claimed by someone else.

And we all know that 'hinting' doesn't work, because there is no vacuum there – we know where the 'hint' came from, and because of that, 'hinting' can degenerate into nagging, which is clumsy leadership.

Techniques of suggestion – How to get your ideas accepted

Sometimes it's easy, sometimes very hard. Go back to the heading paragraphs. Can you see you've been had? I thought up that title, and gave it away. Because there was a 'vacuum of ownership' in the sense that you didn't know who owned it, I reckon you were more inclined to accept it – 'yeah there might be something in that'. This is one technique of suggestion, and it hinges on creating a vacuum of ownership. Try to make your idea belong to a fictitious nobody, so the receiver can grab it.

The technique can be made more powerful by attributing ownership of an idea to an unknown, but prestigious group. Go back to our definition of 'leadership', again my own invention. 'Some people who know a lot about it reckon...' The fact is, we feel more inclined to accept the idea from unknown 'some people' if we perceive they know a lot about it. 'The Australian College of Neurosurgeons reckons...' Are you impressed? Just a little bit?

Try practising suggestion and develop your techniques. After all, where do leaders get their kicks? From secretly watching their ideas being adopted and implemented through skilful suggestion. It is, quite simply, thrilling!



A masonic curiosity

On 21 June 2013, Australia Post issued four 60 cent stamps depicting **colonial government houses**.

One of these was the NSW Government House in Sydney, designed by Edward Blore, architect to MW Bro His Majesty King William IV, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England (moderns) conferred 1787. The building was erected in 1845.

On 16 August 1888, in the Great Hall of the University of Sydney, the Governor of NSW, Bro Sir Charles Robert Wynn-Carrington PC, GCMG, DLK, BA was elected the first Grand Master of the newly inaugurated United Grand Lodge of New South Wales, which was a union of lodges under District Grand Lodges of England and Scotland and those under the Grand

Lodge of New South Wales which had been formed in 1877.


This Grand Lodge had received full recognition from some 42 Grand Lodges worldwide, but not from the three British Grand Lodges.

There were no Irish lodges involved as they had either formed the Grand Lodge of New South Wales or surrendered their warrant to Dublin and become extinct.

Shortly before Lord Carrington's installation on 18 September 1888, it was discovered that although he had been appointed Senior Grand Warden of the United Grand Lodge of England by the Grand Master, his lifelong friend the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) in 1882, he was not an Installed Master. The regulation of the new United Grand Lodge required the Grand Master to be an Installed Master and a member of a lodge in NSW. Lord Carrington did not qualify on either count.



To overcome this, MW Bro Dr Harman Tarrant, Grand Master of the (unrecognised) Grand Lodge of NSW, took the Warrant of Lodge Ionic No 15 (GLNSW) to Government House, and with RW Bro Arthur Henry in the Chair and eight other senior masons, opened an occasional lodge and made Lord Carrington an Installed Master at sight.

It was the only known masonic meeting held in the building and although it could be said to be unconstitutional, it served the need of the moment. 

Aid for local palliative care

District 44 Masonic Charities Inc, comprising lodges from Gloucester, Wingham, Taree, Forster and Laurieton has made a **substantial donation of \$56,000** to local palliative care services in the district.

This was the result of a fundraising effort over the past eight months. Organisers held a major raffle with a Kia Rio car as first prize, a \$600 shopping voucher as second and three valuable gemstones as third with donations also coming from a Bowls Day and a Trivia night at Tuncurry Beach Bowling Club.


Masonicare contributed to the funds with two \$5,000 InterAction grants.

The presentation was made at Taree Rural Referral Hospital on 2 May. President of District 44 Charities, VW Bro Greg

Scott-Pacey DGIW, presented cheques to Ms Louise Saville, Director of Care Services (\$33,600) and to Mr Nigel Harman, representing the Great Lakes Hospice (\$11,200). A further \$11,200 will be presented to Port Macquarie Care Services at Laurieton.

In presenting the cheques Greg Scott-Pacey congratulated the local masons who worked hard at selling thousands of tickets, spending many hours manning booths in the centres. He also mentioned the learning process with members learning much more about palliative care.

The money will be used to provide extra comforts to the individual patients in the care program. Great Lakes Hospice will use the funds to furnish two palliative care rooms at Cape Hawke Hospital and make them more homely for the patients.

VW Bro Don Andrews, Secretary of District 44 Charities Inc and chief organiser, thanked the masons from each lodge who assisted in the project. He also thanked the community for their support, especially the Tuncurry Beach Bowling Club which made its premises readily available. 

Sydney's most surprising island



Cockatoo Island was off limits for **more than 100 years** but in recent years has become a place to **escape the everyday world** and see history once again brought to life.

It is the world's first urban waterfront campground, available for business and holiday accommodation, space for creative and cultural events and is ready to welcome the visitor to a new chapter in its long and illustrious history.

Cockatoo Island is a world heritage listed site and is part of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust plan to transform former defence sites into foreshore parks. For many years, these sites were hidden from public view despite containing historic buildings, magnificent harbour views and defence heritage.

It is open to the public with ferries running regularly from Circular Quay. The best way to see the island is on foot. Self-navigate on one of the suggested journeys and have your questions answered by one of the volunteers at Visitor Information.

If you wish to spend longer than a couple of hours, hire a tent or bring your own, rent a heritage holiday home with fully equipped houses sleeping ten. There are spaces available for hospitality, tourism,



'During World War Two, some 4,000 men and a few women were employed at the island to build some of Australia's largest ships and its first aircraft carrier.'

recreation, education and maritime use, or enjoy an exhibition or festival.

For those with limited time, there is a highlights tour of up to 90 minutes that takes in the top attractions and some of the more unusual features. These include

the Powerhouse and the Fitzroy and Sutherland Docks. The Powerhouse and Chimney was the engine room of the island and was used to drive dockyard pumps and island machinery.

The Sutherland Dock, when completed in 1890, was the largest single graving dock in the world while the Fitzroy was built for the Royal Navy from 1847–57, mostly by convicts often waist deep in water and in leg irons. Conditions were harsh for the convicts, often being forced to scrub the bottoms of ships in icy rain and winds and using long brushes where the paint ran on to their body or splashed in their faces.

In the 1900s, it became an area where unions fought for better conditions with strikes common and the dockworkers leading union campaigns for a reduction of working hours from the standard 44 hours. Lead and arsenic-based paints were used and the families of men injured or killed on the job had to fight for compensation.

On the highlights tour, the visitor will also see the Isolation and Solitary Cells for unruly convicts, the Prisoners Barracks and the air raid shelters for protection during World War Two. The Dog Leg Tunnel was originally built to move workers and materials from one side of the island to the other.

Visitors have a number of tours to choose from. There is the In-Depth journey of up to two and a half hours, the Convict Trail or the Maritime Trail, each of one

hour, or just wander and see the sights.

Cockatoo Island was a convict prison between 1839 and 1869. It was 12.9 hectares of rocky, uninhabited, timbered land known as Wareamah when the Governor, George Gipps, decided to use the area for a prison. The timber was cleared and the ground levelled, the sandstone foreshores were blasted with gunpowder to build a dry dock and when the Fitzroy Dock was completed the island had expanded to 17.9 hectares. The Convict Trail passes through all the convict sites on the island, starting with the Fitzroy Dock and moving on to the Convict, Ship Design and Historic Residence Precincts.

Walk in the Convict Courtyard, experience the Mess Hall and the Military Guardhouse, examine the Convict Cisterns built by prisoners in the 1850s as a series of rectangular water tanks cut into the rock, or the Silos, chiselled down by hand out of the island's bedrock as evidence of a remarkable colonial enterprise.

In 1913, the island became the Commonwealth Dockyard where the Sutherland Dock was used by large Royal Navy vessels and then RAN battle cruisers for repairs, refitting and shipbuilding. The Dock had a good record and by midway through World War One had built a number of ships for the Navy, including torpedo boat destroyers and HMAS *Huon*, *Torrens*, *Brisbane* and *Adelaide Town*.

During World War Two, some 4,000 men and a few women were employed at the island to build some of Australia's largest ships and its first aircraft carrier. The dockyard closed in 1992 and the Maritime Trail takes in the key sites of the island's shipbuilding history over a period of more than 100 years.

Start the tour at one of Sydney's most appealing watering holes, the Island Bar, situated on the waterfront and constructed from recycled shipping containers. There is also a fully licenced canteen open daily for breakfast and lunch.

Cockatoo is the only harbour island where visitors can stay overnight. It has a range of options to suit all budgets and tastes ranging from luxury houses and apartments to camping and is less than 30 minutes from the Quay.

The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust has been collecting and storing memorabilia to use during an exhibition later this year to celebrate the history of Cockatoo Island and the people employed there.

Music for the public

The Inner West Community Band, sponsored by Lodge Chelmsford held a **Freemason-themed concert** in the Concord Masonic Hall on Saturday 29 March 2014.

Music by prominent Freemasons was played including *The Magic Flute* by Mozart, the Haydn Trumpet Concerto, Dixieland Jam, Symphonic Gershwin and many more.

The intention of holding the concert was to raise the Craft's profile within the local

community and to provide an enjoyable afternoon of music for the brethren. It also highlighted some of the great Freemason musicians.

There was a good turnout including the Grand Master, his partner Gael Knox, brethren and members of the public.

L to R: Bro Ron Arnott, MW Bro Derek Robson, Gael Knox, Danika Allars (Band Conductor), Katyanna Parry, W Bro Owen Parry, Bro Kevin Christmas.



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The power of fire

It was a lovely Thursday in Springwood last October when I attended a nursing home to conduct a regular service.



After the service we drove towards Singleton to spend a few days exploring the Hunter Valley, sampling its produce, and culminating in Opera in the Vineyards at Wyndham Estate on Saturday evening. We would thrill to the great singing of David Hobson and the witty conducting/ leadership of Guy Noble. On Thursday afternoon we arrived at our motel to be greeted with surprise by our friends, who told us of fires at Winmalee. We had left safely before the fires started and knew nothing about them.

On Friday we received further news. The family of two friends with us had lost their house in the fire. A whole row of houses in their street had faced advancing fires but were powerless against the inferno. Their son had rescued a few irreplaceables before evacuating: the cat, his guitar and a laptop.

That afternoon Winmalee High School was threatened by the advancing flames. Most pupils and staff remained at the school until early evening, when they were evacuated to the Springwood Sports Club. My daughter, a member of staff, finally arrived home late at night, while her two children went to the homes of friends. From Singleton, we watched the television reports of the fire damage and interviews with survivors, including the daughter of our friends away with us. The interviewer's opening words to Susan were, 'I believe you're wearing your mother's clothes.' The reality was that she had lost everything.

On Sunday morning we left to return to Winmalee, a place of fire, smoke, and great community grief. By the end of the week 200 homes would have been destroyed.

As Blue Mountains Police Chaplain, I visited Springwood Police Station late on Sunday morning. I have never seen the place so busy on a weekend. Police from other areas had been seconded to assist, and there were also numerous firemen, having a break from work to eat and drink. I was at the station each day for the next week, listening to the stories of those involved on the front lines. The Senior



Photograph by David Gray/Reuters

Police Chaplain from Parramatta came up during the week to see what was happening and to be sure of my welfare.

Away from the Station, there was an outpost at Springwood High School, where police were on duty supplying food and drink, and support for firemen facing severe blazes at Faulconbridge. I saw fires burning in the gully and threatening the homes above. People I knew were evacuated but later allowed to return. The firefighters did a magnificent job in containing the fires.

I have since talked to a number of people who have lost homes, including one police officer from Springwood. While a few are moving, the majority are rebuilding, and

taking advantage of changed family situations to build what they want today. A number of organisations, including Rotary and Lions, have received substantial donations and have provided assistance.

There is a continuing sense of loss as people recognise that the irreplaceable has been destroyed: photographs, letters and other personal memorabilia. However, while 200 houses were lost in the fires, not one life was lost.

Two weeks ago, I attended the annual Police Officer of the Year ceremony at Wentworth Falls. There were twelve finalists, and each was introduced with a summary presentation of recent achievements. Two officers were recognised for their work during the fires. Of one it was said, that without regard for the damage to his own property, he used a garden hose to help fight fires threatening houses.

For those of us who have faith in our God, the Great Architect, we give thanks for his mercy in this threatening situation. Property was destroyed, but no lives were lost. The community has come together with great support for those who have suffered loss. As in Freemasonry, we have witnessed the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of people.

On Saturday 4 April, I attended Springwood's annual Foundation Day celebrations. I was on duty at the Winmalee High School P&C stall. Among the literature was an order form for Mudjee wine, with the explanation: Profits raised go to facilitate the recovery of the Winmalee High School Community after the devastation of the 2013 fires.

I think I should support them. 

Big demand for masonic items

Masonic collectors from around the world contributed to a recent almost sold-out auction in South London for **560 lots** belonging to the late well-known English mason **Albert Nice**.

Auctioneers Roseberys said it was an unprecedented result after valuing the collection at £100,000 and the total ended up being more than double that figure.

Collectors of Freemasonry memorabilia from all over the UK and continental Europe converged on South London to battle it out for the extraordinary collection encompassing masonic jewels, medals, ceramics, glass and books. The saleroom was full and there were more than 200 people bidding online and on the telephone, many from Russia and the United States.


The late Albert Nice died in 1969 and the lots were kept locked away for almost 50 years meaning they were fresh to the market. He was a chemist and dental surgeon as well as a passionate Freemason and supporter of masonic

charities. He joined Globe Lodge Number 23 in 1925, became Grand Steward in 1935, rising to the position of Past Grand Deacon in 1964.

Roseberys' Peter Greenway said, 'We knew this was a very significant collection and this was borne out by conversations with masonic collectors who rated it the best to come onto the market in living memory. Twitter has been buzzing with positive comments about the lots on offer and it is thought the auction catalogue will become a collectors' item in its own right.'

Masonic jewels proved to be the most popular lots with a 100% sold rate. The most expensive (pictured below) sold for a hammer price of £3,000. It was of an unusually large size and set with multi-colour paste, making it one of the most attractive in the auction. It also had Scottish interest due to the inscription which made it as rare as it was aesthetically pleasing.

The auction also included 35 jewels by the pre-eminent 18th century designer and maker, Thomas Harper, with the most expensive raising £1,500.

The book section of the auction was also highly competitive with several museums from around the world bidding, while other items included ceramics, glass, snuff boxes and regalia. 

Lot 88: A large masonic silver and paste set square and compass jewel, 19th century, inscribed with masonic emblems, and on the reverse: To the Honorable Captain Jocelyn, from his friends in the Celtic Lodge Edinburgh, 1845, 12cm high.




Thanks for the support

For more than half a century, John Douglas Menswear has operated in Victoria Road Gladesville and has been a **regular advertiser** in the NSW Freemason.

At the age of 74 and after 50 years of working, owner John Smythe has decided to retire after serving the clothing needs of Freemasons as well as other distinguished customers such as former Prime Minister John Howard and entertainers Don Lane and Graham Kennedy.

He plans to use his time travelling with his wife and to catch up with friends and relatives.

The NSW Freemason would like to thank John Smythe for his years of support and wish him a happy retirement. 

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Women at war

During Australia's involvement in Afghanistan, **questions were asked in Parliament** about women fighting in the 'front line'.

The answer is of course that women from time immemorial have been in what is called the frontline. Ever since wars and battles have been recorded, women have been there. Greek mythology says that a race of female warriors called Amazons, who lived in Pontus which is now part of Turkey, cut off their left breast so that they could throw their javelins. In more modern times, King Gaza of the African country Dahomey had an army of 4,000 women warriors who from all accounts were ruthless.

Reaching back to the Roman Empire and the occupation of England, an English Queen rose up against the occupiers. Queen Boudicca, Queen of the Iceni, a tribe that lived in East Anglia, England and which is part of the east coast of England, objected to the Romans calling her territory Cavitate as a designated Roman region. The Roman governor caused Boudicca to be flogged and her daughters raped. Boudicca raised an army and slaughtered 80,000 Roman soldiers and English civilians.

In 1412 AD, an extraordinary young girl was born to French peasant parents. This young girl who became known as 'Joan of Arc' or the Maid of Orleans, at the age of 12 had visions from a number of French saints telling her to raise an army and drive out the English, who owned two thirds of France. At the age of 16 she raised her army but after a number of victories she was betrayed, sold to the English who after a trial burnt her at the stake. Joan of Arc has been immortalised by the playwright Bernard Shaw, film director Otto Preminger and many others.

Not every woman who went to war wore armour or carried a sword. Florence Nightingale, a wealthy English woman who earned the title of 'Lady with the lamp', read reports of medical conditions in Crimea where the British, French and Turks were at war with Russia. She took eight nurses to Scutari and despite opposition from the British Army medical authorities, opened a hospital to care for sick and wounded soldiers. Florence Nightingale through her

influence set a future standard for health care in the British army.

The first Australian women who went to war were the nurses of the NSW Nursing Service Reserve who served in the Boer War. Lady Superintendent Julia Gould and 13 nurses arrived in Capetown, South Africa and in 1898, a 'young gal' taking up nursing was not the type of career respectable young ladies chose so it needed tremendous courage to take up the challenge. Sister Gould and her team developed such a reputation for efficiency and nursing care that English soldiers often tied labels on their uniforms requesting they be sent to the Australian hospital if they were wounded.

In 1914, when the British Empire declared war with Germany, many Australian women took jobs in factories, drove buses, joined the Land Army and generally filled jobs that had been traditionally filled by men. Many joined the Volunteer Aid Detachment Organisation, carried out roles as volunteer nurses, canteen workers and many went to Palestine and France,




The Maid of Orléans by Jan Matejko



'Florence Nightingale through her influence set a future standard for health care in the British army.'

serving in battlefield areas as nurses.

Although Edith Cavell was not an Australian Sister, she is immortalised as an example of the spirit that took women from many countries to serve and put their lives in jeopardy. Working in Brussels as a nurse when the German army invaded, Edith Cavell took on the duty to hide wounded British and French soldiers and assisted them to return to their own lines. Betrayed, she was court martialled by the Germany military and shot. Her last words were: 'Patriotism is not enough, I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone.' Edith Cavell's spirit served as a benchmark for the women who 20 years later faced death and danger in another war.

In Australia, mothers, wives, girlfriends knitted socks and scarves, made Anzac biscuits and food parcels for their loved ones and kept the home fires burning. When talk is made of women in the frontline, it is equally important to remember that in any war, it is the women who bear the greatest burden of not only being in the rear supporting those in the front line, but they have the extra burden of worrying about their loved one plus bringing up a family without the male present. 

Australia's first World War I victory

Most of Australia's commemoration of World War I **centres on Gallipoli** but the first involvement by Australia occurred **months earlier** in the Pacific Ocean.

Germany had established radio and re-fuelling stations in its Pacific territories and Australia and New Zealand had been asked by Britain to destroy them.

In August 1914, New Zealand's Samoa Expeditionary Force began the occupation of German Samoa after the Germans refused to surrender but offered no resistance.

Australians were also soon in action when 2,000 men of the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force targeted wireless stations in Yap, Nauru, and Rabaul in what was then German New Guinea.

The fighting took a more serious turn in September 1914 when Australian forces attacked German New Guinea, battling a force of German and Melanesian policemen at the Battle of Bita Paka in which six Australians were killed and the German side also suffered heavy losses.

The German forces retreated to Toma, where they were besieged by Australian troops and cruisers, forcing them to surrender.

Dr Christine Winter, a Senior Research Fellow at Sydney University, said that after that initial battle, the New Guinean Police decided it was not worth pursuing, so they retreated, and put down their arms.

'So really, the first surrender in World War I was by New Guineans,' Dr Winter said.

Other German Pacific territories continued to fall soon after, and Samoa and New Guinea remained occupied until the end of the war.

Dr Winter said while it was seen as an important victory at the time, events in Europe soon overwhelmed the Pacific campaign.

The opening move to attack the radio and re-fuelling stations was intended to eliminate the threat of German cruisers to merchant shipping in the region.

'They controlled and allowed the German navy to operate, and the main wireless station was in German New Guinea,' she said.


'So when you take out the wireless station, the ships can't be coordinated and the navy can be busted.'

The Australian War Memorial displays a photo of the Australian flag being raised at Angorom, New Guinea on 16 December 1914 as the Proclamation was being read advising that the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force was taking control of the country from the German force.

Dr Winter said the names of the largest group of first casualties in World War I, 33 New Guinean men, were not known.

'Neither then, nor today, do we really know where they were from, what their names were – we know they were German colonial police, but that's about it,' she said.

'Meanwhile, on the home front, with the war starting in the Pacific, in our own backyard, there was a lot of optimism, there was a lot of talk in the community.

'But over time, the horrors of the Western Front and the loss of life layered different images to the public. And while the Pacific campaign was very successful, it was ultimately boring – nothing really happened.' 



The fleet, headed by the flagship *Australia*, entering Rabaul on 12 September 1914.



In olden times...



How the world has changed in the **100 years** since the days leading up to the start of **World War I** which involved more than 100 nations with most of the action centred in Europe. The aftermath of that war **ushered in the modern era we know today**, so different to the pre-war world.

In 1914, Sydney city had a vastly different look from that of today. The highest building was the GPO tower, the Harbour Bridge had not been built, steam ships had mostly replaced sailing ships, electric trams had replaced steam and horse-drawn trams and horses and carriages outnumbered the few motor cars on the roads.

People in that early part of the 20th century had few of the conveniences we now take for granted. The telephone was still new in many parts of the world and in most parts of Australia telephones were often linked to a community line especially in country or outer suburban areas. Most food was cooked on gas or wood-fired ovens as houses had yet to get electricity, lighting was by candle or lamps, the ice chest was the only means of refrigeration while home heating was a fireplace fuelled by wood, coal or coke.

However, there were regular deliveries by tradesmen – the baker, the iceman, the clothes props and rabbits were some of the deliveries with many people having their own home-grown vegetables or chicken runs in the back yard. Chicken was a luxury and the easiest vegetables were the choko vine or the blackberry bush.

Housework was hard and mostly boring. Washing of clothes was by hand or using a copper, heated by gas or a wood fire with a stick to stir the clothes and a hand wringer to get rid of excess moisture. Most houses had a single strand clothes line across the back yard, held up by a forked clothes prop and most toilets were outdoors at the bottom of the yard.

There were about 725,000 people in Sydney in those pre-war years with at least one third living in the centre of the city or nearby suburbs. Talks were still being

held about building a bridge across the harbour but this was delayed because of the start of war.

Most of the population travelled by foot, bicycle or by horse or carriage. The construction of the Model T Ford in 1908 in the United States had made the motor car more affordable but it was still a rare sight on Australian roads. At that time, the roads were made of dirt which with rain turned into deep mud and stranded anyone with a car.

It was going to be a long time before the use of aeroplanes became as common as it is today. The Wright Brothers had started the trend but flights were mostly used as demonstrations. However, Frenchman Maurice Guillaux took off from Flemington Racecourse in Melbourne on 16 July and landed two days later at Moore Park in Sydney to deliver the first airmail in Australia.

Entertainment was mostly live with people thronging theatres, music halls and tents to watch travelling shows. The music hall, vaudeville or variety theatre flourished although movie theatres were starting to gain popularity. In Sydney, the Tivoli Theatre was the home of

vaudeville and created many stars such as Roy Rene and George Wallace who later graduated to radio.

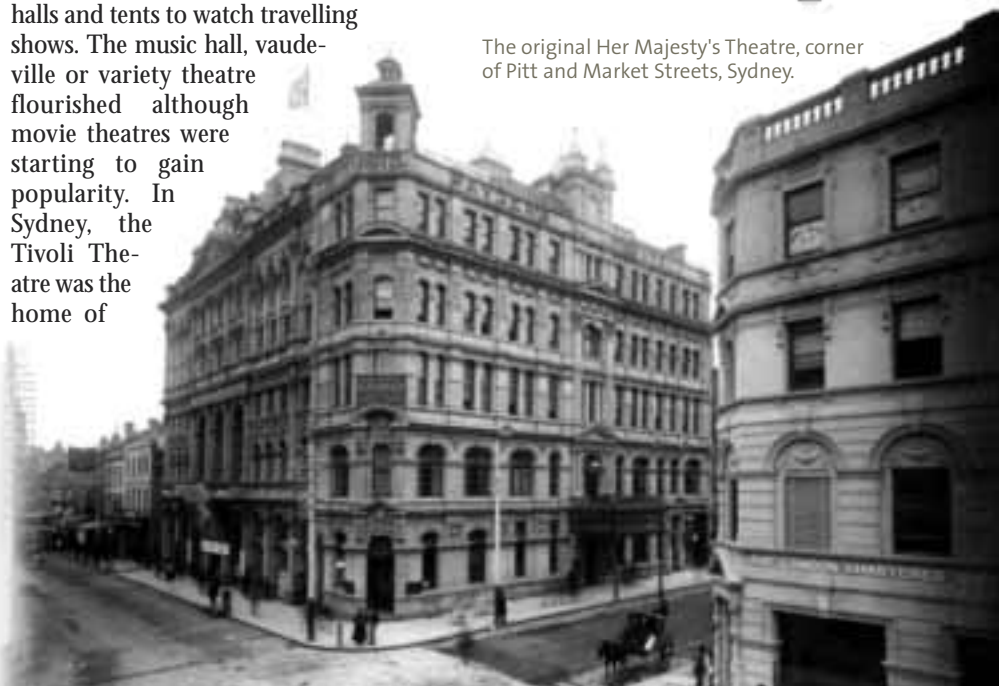
Home entertainment was booming with pianos, pianolas and the first of the early phonographs or gramophones with records which replaced the older cylinders.

Australia's population at the start of World War I was about 4.95 million people with workers earning an average wage of two pounds nine shillings and three pence (about six dollars in today's currency) and the average price for a Sydney brick cottage with four rooms was 388 pounds (800 dollars).

As the years progressed, inventors created so many modern items which were designed to save time by pushing a button but so many now complain that they don't have enough time.

Yes, it really was a different world then but who can say whether the people were better off than they are today? 🛠️

The original Her Majesty's Theatre, corner of Pitt and Market Streets, Sydney.



Meet the new Librarian

RW Bro Robert Taylor PJGW had one major interest as a schoolboy and that was **his passion for books.**

And that interest has led to his current appointment as the new librarian at the United Grand Lodge Masonic Centre in Sydney.

'I used to haunt the school library because I didn't have many friends, family problems and plenty of time to escape by learning about other parts of the world,' he said.

'I've been interested in books all of my life and working here puts me in an area I love. My knowledge has also broadened with travels to other countries such as New Zealand, England, Greece, Turkey and Egypt and learning how they had been created.

'Comparing country with country showed the differences, some were crowded, some empty, others ancient or industrial. I used to go bush camping on holidays and realised the eyes could see interesting land-forms but didn't appreciate it.'

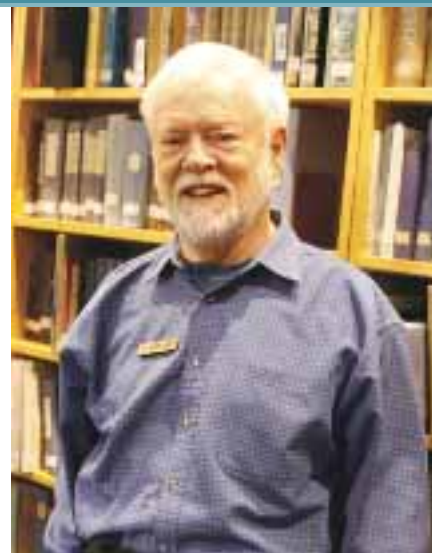
Robert left high school when he passed his Intermediate Certificate and took courses in accounting and secretarial work. After talking with his mother he later went to Sydney University to study

geology at night for three years, married Diana and helped raise two daughters and a son as well as four grandchildren. He also joined Freemasonry in 1966 and is a member of Lodge Merrylands.

He had never worked in a library until Lodge Guildford member Tom Richards mentioned he was a volunteer at the Grand Lodge library and he should consider offering his services.

'At that stage, I didn't even know that Grand Lodge had a library. Some days we would have four volunteers but over the years that number has declined. I didn't realise how much I did not know about Freemasonry until I borrowed and read my first book.

'Because I was finding interesting articles and asking questions, I started my own project to share masonic papers with other brethren. If they were interested, I would send a weekly email with papers attached. This has been incredibly successful with overwhelming support from brethren in other countries who send articles I can share around.



'It takes volunteers and borrowers to run a library. We have plenty of books with authors having different slants on Freemasonry as well as thousands of volumes of national and international research material, regular magazines and journals from other parts of the world in different languages.'

He has high hopes that a proposal by the Guildford Lodge of Instruction to hold a meeting in the library will succeed. He said about two of its 20 members have been to the library and it will be an instruction on what is available and could lead to other lodges making a similar move and holding a Question and Answer night.

'We could spend millions of dollars to make the library look fancy, modern and upbeat but if people don't have the basic desire to want to read, it would be a waste of money. Because something was written 100 years ago doesn't make it less applicable to modern Masonry. The original ritual was compiled by brilliant brains with a remarkable insight into human character.

'We want to provide a service to the jurisdiction. We have electronic books available, kindle, scan materials, and answers can be sent direct to inquirers. It is also realised access hours are not user friendly. We can look at extending hours depending on whether brethren would be prepared to visit before or after work.

'If there is a demand we'd cater for that demand and that's where we need feedback as well as more volunteers.'

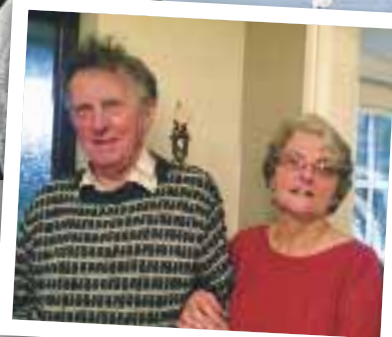
One point is for certain. RW Bro Taylor has the drive, interest and enthusiasm and the material at his fingertips. Success will depend on whether he can influence the brethren to join him.





A sight to be seen

'Gosh, we've done it!' Those simple words described the feelings of two tourists from Wales who had just completed the Sydney Harbour Bridge climb in perfect weather conditions.



Pharmacist David Williams and his wife Sylvia had just stepped off the liner *Queen Victoria* to spend a few days in Sydney before flying home and had made the Bridge climb one of their first priorities.

'We had visited Sydney in the year 2000 and had read about climbing the bridge but although we wanted to do it we didn't have the opportunity or time in the days available. We travelled to the Blue Mountains but were too late getting back,' David said.

'It was pretty high on our "to do" list and I thought we'd be coming back.'

David and Sylvia joined six other passengers from the ship as part of a group of 16 who lined up about 9.30am for the climb. Taken to a special area with separate rooms, they had to undress down to their

underwear and put on a special suit with nothing loose but everything clipped on, even the hanky around their wrist. Their clothes went into a special locker with a key hung around their neck.

The climb, which started in 1998 and operates day and night, consists of 1,332 steps with the highest point 134 metres above the water. On fine days, between 500 and 1,900 people will take the climb which is divided into three categories – the Express for people with limited time, the Discovery Climb and the normal Bridge Climb.

'It was a clear day and we started at 9.45am and finished about 12.30pm. There was a practice before the start of going straight up steps, needing to be certain we can go up the bridge steps because the start included four sets of ladders to reach the bridge arch. There was no breeze but we had to take everything out of our pockets and hats were tied on,' said David.

'We went all the way through, stopping at regular intervals to see what was happening. Everyone had ear phones with guides stationed at various points to explain what was happening and pointing out the various Sydney scenes and as far as the Blue Mountains in the distance.

'It was very well supervised. The climb goes all the way to the top, then across to the other side to descend. There was a sense of achievement to get to the top – we were all keyed up and didn't know what to expect.

'What was surprising was the number of older people climbing, not so many young. There was no dizziness with a belt and rail to hold on to and we didn't see anyone distressed. We didn't really think about the height, just enjoying the experience and actually thought the Capistrano Bridge in Vancouver was worse.'

As far as exertion was concerned, David and Sylvia said they live in the hills in old North Wales so they are accustomed to walking and while not exactly 'a walk in the park' they considered the Sydney Harbour Bridge Climb to be one of their more memorable experiences.



Photographs courtesy of
BridgeClimb Sydney



William Thompson Masonic Schools



Many would know that inside the **Balcombe Heights Estate** on the corner of Seven Hills Road and Jasper Road Baulkham Hills is the site of the **former William Thompson Masonic Schools**.

A local identity, Mr Ron McIntosh commenced researching his father's War Diary in 2008 and in 2011 he came across the Register of War Memorials on the State Library's website listing War Memorials throughout NSW. He noticed that the War Memorials to the Masons of NSW, who had suffered the Supreme Sacrifice in both World Wars, were not listed and that the memorials on the Balcombe Heights Estate were not registered.

Mr McIntosh undertook a project to not only research each veteran listed but also to register the memorials. There are three memorials in the Balcombe Heights Estate which cover World War I, World War II and the Commemorative Table for the 103rd Australian General Hospital where wounded World War II veterans spent many days recovering from their injuries.

The World War 1 Memorial at Balcombe Heights was built and installed in 2007 and stands an impressive 4 metres high with a width of 1.755 metres. Inside the 8mm thick steel surround with the veteran soldiers cut out, there are four glass plate panels 12mm thick with the names of all the NSW masons who died in the First World War. Each of the glass panels is 1 metre tall and 1.6 metres wide and behind the memorial there stands the flag pole approximately 6 metres tall.

On the UGL website is a background of Mr McIntosh's research which I recommend to readers and also visit the NSW Government's website and appreciate more this fascinating history.

The website address is www.warmemorialsregister.nsw.gov.au. Once there, enter 'Baulkham' in the search field, and three Memorials are listed including the two at Balcombe Heights, Baulkham Hills.

Porch Committee

The Grand Master, MW Bro Derek Robson AM and all associated with the organisation, were pleased with the success of having a 'Porch Committee' appointed to assist at the March Communication. This once regular feature at Communications was re-introduced to speed up the entry of brethren into Grand Lodge and to lessen any delays later in the evening by distributing Ballot Papers on entry to Grand Lodge.

The Porch Committee was also used to verify the qualification of those presenting themselves to attend.

Whilst the intensity of the help required will vary and not be regular, the Grand Master has decided that each Communication will have a Porch Committee appointed whose job it will be to assist the Grand Tyler by, amongst other things, ensuring brethren sign the appropriate Attendance Sheet, are properly clothed and have the Business papers or any other documents necessary for that particular Communication.

Brethren who wish to volunteer for appointment (which will be on a rotational basis) are encouraged to register with Alison Martyr of the Grand Secretariat at alisonm@masons.org.au. Current Masters and Wardens are especially encouraged to participate as part of their term of office.

Grand Lodge Facebook page

Grand Lodge does have its own Facebook page and those lodges, districts or regions that have any news or information that it is felt worthy to include may do so by forwarding all particulars (including photos) to the Deputy Grand Secretary, RW Bro Chris Craven (chris@masons.org.au) and, if suitable, it will be posted.

Those making any submissions would appreciate that the Facebook page is for the general public to be made aware of


what Freemasonry is doing either in the local communities or for charity, and postings, therefore, may be restricted so that no impact is lost.

Installations and other masonic events which the Grand Master or his representative attend are, of course, already detailed in the 'Appointments List' which can be viewed in the Members' Area of the UGL website under 'EVENTS'.

Grand Chapter Grand Installation

The Grand Master will be attending the Grand Installation of RE Comp Robert Peattie as First Grand Principal on Saturday 20 September 2014 in the Grand Lodge Room at the Sydney Masonic Centre at 2.00pm.

There is no charge to attend this spectacular Masonic Installation and members of the Craft are invited to join the Grand Master's delegation on this occasion. However, brethren wishing to do so MUST register their intention to be present so that suitable arrangements are made for seating. A Registration Form to do so is available on the Grand Chapter's website (www.usgcnsw.org.au).

There are also excellent associated functions organised that brethren and ladies may wish to register for and attend and full details are available at the above site. 

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What an adventure!

You may recall reading a correspondence from **GL of England** distributed via our Grand Secretary offering us the opportunity to join STS *Lord Nelson* on a **leg of its around the world adventure**. Part of the trip brought *Lord Nelson* into Sydney for the Fleet Review. She then sailed to New Zealand.

I applied for a berth on the Auckland to Auckland leg, sailing around the Bay of Islands for ten days and was accepted. What an adventure!

Lord Nelson was built in 1987, the first of its kind to be especially designed to have people with disabilities crewing alongside able-bodied people.

She has a steel hull and is 55 metres long (hull 43 metres plus bowspit) and a nine metre beam. She displaces 490 tonnes. *Lord Nelson* is a true barque – three masts with square rigging on main and foremast (four sails on each mast) and fore-and-aft rigging on the mizzen (two mizzen staysails and three spankers) and three headsails. A total of 102m² sail area.

The 'Permanent Crew' consisted of the Captain (a very experienced lady), 1st Mate, 2nd Mate, Bosun, Chief Engineer, 2nd Engineer, Medical Purser and Cook. They had assistants, namely three Bosun's mates and a catering lady. Twelve in total. Then the 'Voyage Crew', ie. we who paid to be crewing on board and did the work. Forty of us included three with disabilities. That made a total of 52 on board. Included in the Voyage Crew were four 'Watch Leaders' who were experienced on square-rigged tall ships and paid part of the fare.

We Voyage Crew were assigned to report to one of the Watch Leaders for our duties. On signing-on we were given a card showing our Watch Leader (I was Forward Port which worked the port 'ropes' for the sails on the foremast) and which watches we had been given. Over the ten days we had two watches per 24 hours for eight of the days and one watch per day for two of the days. The watches were: Middle Midnight – 00:00 to 04:00hrs; Morning – 04:00

to 08:00hrs; Forenoon – 08:00 to 12:30hrs; Afternoon – 12:30 to 16:00hrs; First Dog – 16:00 to 18:00hrs; Last Dog – 18:00 to 20:00hrs, then First Watch – 20:00 to midnight. We had a young lady on our watch who was totally blind. It was a pleasure to witness her delight and enjoyment when participating in the activities. She took the helm and climbed the rigging to much cheering and encouragement.

'Lord Nelson was built in 1987, the first of its kind to be especially designed to have people with disabilities crewing alongside able-bodied people.'

In addition, one person from each watch was assigned to 'Mess Duty' for one of the 10 days.

Lord Nelson is a Sail Training Ship and we Voyage Crew were in training and, as such, had to be trained in every aspect (except engineering and cooking) on the ship. When on Watch, the nine of us under the direction of the Watch Leader, rotated around being port lookout, helm, starboard lookout, completing the ship's log on the hour and stern lookout.

The weather was typical of the Bay of Islands ie. very changeable. We had had



six days of sunshine and light winds and four varying from strong to full-on winds. On day seven when our team was on the 'First Watch' and it was my turn to enter the log at 23:00hrs, I registered a 'Force 8' which is 'gale'. At midnight when the next watch came to relieve us, both watches under the Mate's direction, had to reduce sail by 'lifting' the fore-course (being the large bottom sail on the foremast) ie. to roll it back up onto its yard. There were the 16 of us at midnight, pitch black with only deck lights, wind and rain and spray, in our oilskins heaving on massive ropes like mariners of yore. Lesser mortals would have wilted.


At other times when we needed to 'brace the yards', it took the whole voyage crew plus the bosun's mates. This was turning the yards which supported the square sails with changes in the wind direction or ship's direction with the wind.

One of the experiences we enjoyed was conducting an 'anchor start' for the experience of the 2nd mate who needed it for his ticket. We had anchored for a day in a beautiful bay on Robinson Island and the ship was taken from anchor to sail without using the engine. A ship rides at anchor facing the wind which, with square rigging, is going to blow the ship backwards when the sail is dropped in place. It was very successfully executed under the watchful eye of the 1st Mate.

Part of the Voyage Crew's duties was 'happy hour'. This is not a low cost drink at the bar, but the hour we all (except for the watch and mess duty) cleaned the ship to the captain's approval following her inspection. 'All part of growing up' as I mentioned to a fellow crew member.

The meals were better than one would expect – not 5 Star QE2 class but very enjoyable and plentiful.

The bar was on an 'honour system' and, in the evenings when not on watch or mess duty, we would sit around, play games and have a sing-along led by the engineer.

Although we worked hard, we all learned a lot about sailing a square-rigged tall ship and had a wonderful adventure. Wouldn't have missed it for the world and thanks to Jubilee Sailing Trust for advising the Freemasons of its availability. Check on their website for other voyages *Lord Nelson* and *Tenacious* are undertaking. One trip is from Genoa to Malta? C'mon the Knights thereof. 





The Waler

Mention the name 'Waler' to members of **Australian Army Cavalry Regiments** and it immediately brings to mind stories of the men and horses of the Australian Light Horse and their part in the **famous charge** which led to the **capture of Beersheba in October 1917** during World War I.

This wasn't the first time that the Australian Army had used Walers. Their participation in Australia's engagement in war goes back as far as the South African War when a squadron of the NSW Lancers, who had been training in England, became the first colonial troops to arrive in South Africa for active service against the Boers. They did so as Light Horse Cavalry and gained a reputation for courage, endurance and horsemanship.

In its *History of the Waler*, the Waler Horse Society of Australia Incorporated states: 'Walers were used overseas as remounts for the cavalry, as artillery horses, and as carriage and sport horses for both the British Army and the Raj in India. By 1867, the Waler was regarded by the British as amongst the finest cavalry horse in the world. Horses were

exported from the colony as early as 1816 through private sales and the flourishing remount trade which ran from the 1830s till the 1960s.

'Walers were also supplied to the Army during World War II for use by the secret North Australia Observer Unit who carried out surveillance of the remote northern coastline. A small number also went with the army to Papua New Guinea and to Burma. However, during this time mechanisation had begun to supersede horses both in the army and in general.'

For some, the 'Waler' is the equivalent to Steven Spielberg's 'War Horse' in that the horse was used as a weapon of war. Roger Ebert, film critic, in his review of the film, states 'The message is universal, about the horror of war in which men and animals suffer and die, but for the animals there is no reason: they have cast their lot with men who have betrayed them.' The term 'betrayed'



may sound harsh but of the 160,000 horses which served overseas in World War 1, only the mount used by Major General Sir William Bridges, Commanding Officer of the Australian Imperial Force in Europe, returned to Australia. The remainder stayed behind because of quarantine requirements.

Author Jack Scott wrote in the Australian Light Horse Association the Waler was not bred specifically as a war horse for the Australian Army but by early settlers to expand the pastoral industry. This was supported in 1886 by government statistician, T.A. Coghlan, who wrote: 'The colony is specially adapted for the breeding of saddle and light harness horses and it's doubtful if these particular breeds of Australian horses are anywhere surpassed. The bush horse is hardy and swift and capable of making long and rapid journeys when fed only on the ordinary herbage of the country: and in times of drought, with grass and water scanty, these animals often perform astonishing feats of endurance' (*Wealth and Progress of NSW 1884*, p348).

Scott's article continues: 'There is no such thing as a Waler breed or indeed an identifiable type distinct from our Australian Stock Horse. Then why call a breed 'The Waler' and how did it occur?'

'From our first settled areas in Sydney, exploration and settlement spread north,




south and inland. One of the earliest of these was the Hunter River Valley, which proved to be one of the great horse breeding areas of the world.

'Pastoralists of English, Irish, and Scottish backgrounds imported the best bloodlines from their countries to breed superb horses for Australian needs. They were helped by climate, soil and pasture eminently suited to horse breeding.

'When the Indian Army began purchasing remounts for its Mounted Army, the Hunter Valley provided many of its horses. As the first settled, it had the numbers and the foresight in importing the best of English and Irish bloodlines. Owning one in India became a status symbol whether used as a military charger, for polo or for riding pleasure. To ride one was paramount to being behind the wheel of a Mercedes today. The Indian Officers in speaking of these horses classified them as "Walers" because of their New South Wales origin.

'The term "Waler" was then used to designate all of our horses that went to war, whether they came from Cape York Peninsula, Western Australia or anywhere else. To call them a breed is incorrect. They have always been Australian horses bred for that purpose and no other; however, is there a problem with giving these magnificent animals that have served with such distinction a special name? Those that were used for military service deserve a distinctive title and to the Australian soldiers from the Light Horse Regiments they will always be Walers.'

A monument erected in Sydney by returned soldiers honours the horses that did not come home. It is inscribed 'by members of the Desert Mounted Corps and friends, to the gallant horses who carried them over the Sinai Desert into Palestine, 1915-19. They suffered wounds, thirst, hunger and weariness almost beyond endurance but they never failed. They did not come home.' 

References:

1. *History of the Waler*, The Waler Horse Society of Australia Inc.
2. *William Throsby Bridges (1861-1915)*, Florence Rodway.
3. *'The Waler'... a breed of horse? Legend or fact?*, Jack Scott - The Australian Light Horse Association.
4. *1/15 Royal NSW Lancers*, Australian Army.
5. *Battle of Beersheba 1917*, Wikipedia.

Fiji gets more assistance

W Bro Geoffrey Ferguson and his wife Judi are **prime examples of the determination of Freemasons** to see a task is properly completed.

Some years ago, they became involved with schools in Fiji and with the assistance of Australian masons managed to get books and other equipment to children in need.


To make it easier, W Bro Ferguson has joined Lodge Lautoka in Fiji. He contacted Lodge Suva in seeking assistance in the project of supplying library books to schools in Fiji. To his surprise, he was informed that both lodges were involved with the erection of ten water tanks at schools in Nadi and Lautoka due to the cyclone at the start of 2013.

The couple visited Fiji and met some of the lodge members and attended one of Lodge Lautoka's monthly meetings which was held in a shed on a property owned by a member of the lodge. The WM flies in from New Zealand each month to control the meetings.

W Bro Ferguson and Judi are now involved with the water tank project and are supplying three tanks, two in



Nadi at the A D Patel Memorial Primary school and one at Korobebe primary school in the north of the main island. The first tank was erected at the end of February.

He said the Patel Primary school has over 500 students in years one to eight and 65 children in the kindergarten. They have also assisted with school items and in their visit in May, took more than 30 teddy bears for the kindergarten, jigsaw puzzles, pencils and paints and have supplied three cartons of library books. 



Teachers from the Patel school along with W Bro and Mrs Ferguson and the new tank in the background.



Assisting students and families for over 90 years

In adverse circumstances **good people stand up** and develop solutions for the needy.

William Thompson who was such a person, responded to a dire need during and after World War I and the death of his son on the Western Front highlighted this need. As Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of NSW from 1914 to 1924, he was aware of the need to support children of masons orphaned as a result of the war. (Records show 2,900 NSW masons enlisted in the armed forces.)

The support was provided in 1922, with the establishment of the William Thompson Masonic School at Baulkham Hills. In 1923 to meet changing needs, the NSW Masonic Schools Welfare Fund was established, extending support to the needy youth of deceased or incapacitated masons.

By 1972 the constitution was expanded to provide assistance to masonic and non-masonic youth regardless of race, colour, creed or masonic affiliation.

Over the years, with changing community needs and provision of government assistance, the Fund continually adjusted to ensure its on-going relevancy. Today, *A Start in Life* is an autonomous Trust that still relies on active support from within the Masonic Fraternity as well as from public and corporate supporters. The Trust could not achieve its current scale of care of youth in dire need without this wide range of support.

All assistance or support provided by the Fund to youth and their families undergoes detailed initial assessment on a case by case basis and is monitored through individual case management. All supporters can be confident that only those confirmed as in need qualify for assistance.



Lodge Ethos Secretary, Hugh Davies presenting an *Outstanding Achievement Award* to *A Start in Life* student, Nathan Beer.

With the help of generous donors over the past 90 years, \$13.3 million has been spent on transforming 6,000 young lives and helping each student to overcome significant barriers to their education ambitions. Their successes cannot be measured in academic achievement alone.

A Start in Life has enabled individuals to *succeed* in a variety of ways such as:

- provision of a new uniform and shoes to a 5 year old for his first day at school enabling him to stand proudly with his class mates without embarrassment about his clothes;
- encouragement of three young sisters to attend primary school regularly resulting in their love of the library and their first win of an award for 'group effort' which improved their confidence and self-esteem;

- support provided for a secondary school athlete to attend rugby trials in which he earned a place in the NSW Country Championships contributing to his dream to represent Australia one day;
- support for a student after treatment for cancer at 18 enabling her to complete her medical studies at university with First Class Honours and gain a PhD for social Ecology.

For us at *A Start in Life*, watching these young people transform into adults who contribute to society in many different ways is fulfilling, rewarding and inspiring.


Our students have contributed to the creation of a diverse and vibrant society through many career paths including: medical practice, environmental science, police officers, teachers and farmers.

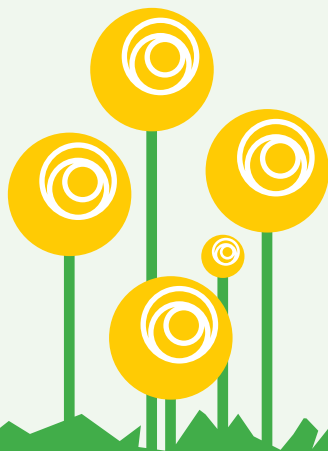
Students have been successful when they have achieved their own educational ambitions which vary from simple to complex, for example learning to write their name or gaining a doctorate. Gifts to *A Start in Life* provide the means for students to follow the career path of their choice.

We acknowledge the generous supporters of *A Start in Life*. The organisation is privileged to be able to give the necessary support so that Australian youth in necessitous circumstances, have the opportunity to reach their potential. We recognise the Masonic Fraternity is key to our ability to continue providing for students. We have been fortunate to receive support from lodges, masonic halls and individual masons and we sincerely thank you for your commitment. The support that we have received and that we invite you to continue to provide can be by way of:

- Regular monthly donations;
- Sponsorship – either at an individual level or as a group;
- A gift in your Will; or
- Donation/s.

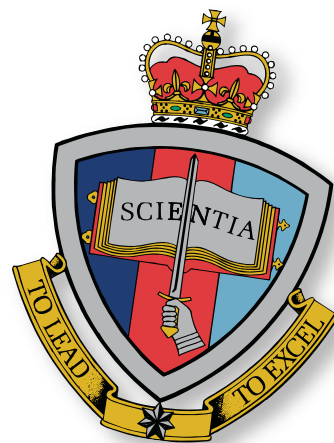
Your support ensures the barriers to education are removed, each student is equipped to break free from a difficult circumstance and you are making a positive difference for current and succeeding generations.

If you are interested in hearing more about *A Start in Life*, President Olly Bergstrom or Chief Executive Officer Neil Robinson can visit your lodge or hall. Please contact the office on (02) 9264 3017 to arrange. 



An award for Claire

Claire Hodge who featured in our December article on the International Fleet Review has graduated from the Australian Defence Force Academy with a **High Distinction**.




She was the recipient of the Chief of Navy Award. This Award was one of only six awards presented during the actual Graduation Parade by the Governor-General, Quentin Bryce and reads:

'For the most exceptional performance as a Third Year Midshipman in the fields of Military and Academic achievement, leadership, personal example and performance of duty during their time at the Australian Defence Force Academy.'



The announcer of the Award detailed many of the activities Claire had been involved with during her time at the academy including theatre, sporting, Christian and Canteen support groups both on and off Campus.

As an interesting aside, W Bro Commodore Nick F Helyer, RAN, Rt'd received a ceremonial naval sword as a gift from a retiring RN officer when he graduated nearly 50 years ago, and intends to present this same sword to Claire as a gift for her graduation. Clearly Naval tradition is alive and well. Congratulations Sub Lieutenant Claire and 'Well done Nick!' 





Sydney shines bright!

Nearly **one million people** are expected to throng Sydney Harbour foreshores and other areas when Vivid Sydney lights up and entertains the city with its 2014 spectacular of **light, music and ideas**.

Lighting up the winter from 23 May to 9 June, the festival, which commenced in 2009, will feature 50 light installations and sculptures, 3D-mapped building projections, the stunning Opera House Sails and the amazing Light Walk around the Harbour.

It was originally formed by Events NSW and last year attracted 800,000 people including 11,000 travel packages with over 7,000 visitors from China. While there are other light festivals around the world and in Australia, Vivid is considered one of the biggest and most spectacular and the largest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere.

Named as Australia's Event of the Year in 2013, last year Vivid Sydney delivered around \$20 million in new money for the State, and fostered new tourism markets and opportunities.

Known around the world, Sydney Harbour is a major attraction for interstate and international tourists but it will light

up as never before this year by becoming an aquatic wonderland with ferries, cruise ships and water taxis decked with lights that change colour as they cross different paths.

The harbour precincts will be transformed into a creative canvas of light from 6pm to midnight each night extending from the iconic Opera House to Circular Quay, The Rocks, Walsh Bay, Darling Harbour and the Inner West.

Most eyes will focus on the Opera House sails where viewers will be taken on a journey through time from the birth of civilisation and architecture to the latest in human and technological achievement.

Just as many will watch the sandstone facade of the Customs House light up with a series of musical sculptures that can be 'played' by visitors from a platform in front of the building. And at the Museum of Contemporary Art it will be an abstract, emotional and playful journey as the building seems to change its entire structure.



But it is not only about the lights. There will be great music at the Opera House, the exchange of ideas at the Museum of Contemporary Art, design your own light show on the Bridge and for the first time, Martin Place will have two outstanding light installations flanking the Cenotaph.

Organisers say Vivid Sydney is always looking to grow and develop. It is a major celebration of the creative industries and celebrates Sydney as the creative hub of the Asia-Pacific with its large scale light installations and projections, free family events, music performances and collaborations, creative ideas, public talks, discussion and debate at seminars, conferences and workshops.



Photographs courtesy of Vivid Sydney

For those people with a musical taste, there are collaborations and performances to entertain and intrigue, from mainstream to avant-garde at various venues. This includes Vivid LIVE at the Sydney Opera House with US indie-rock, Britain's Heritage Orchestra and the combination of the Australian Chamber Orchestra and electro-pop artists presenting a history of music spanning thousands of years.

The Light Walk takes the visitor on a magical journey through more than 50 changing light installations, some of which are fun, others interactive but all free. Watch for the Geodesic Light Dome where the lights change colour and design to pro-

duce new combinations, Kaleido Wall appears out of the darkness as a wall of mirrors, the glowing Orb surrounds its area like an artificial sun.

Move on to First Fleet Park where visitors are invited to jump on The Pool and its coloured circular pads that swirl around in changing patterns. Heart of the City demonstrates the natural, organic and data-driven heart of the city. Look for Clapiconia which could be highly popular by asking the onlooker to make their own clapping sound and get a sound and light show in response.

Sketches of Douglas Mawson's expedition to Antarctica in 1911 are brought to life at Terra Incognita inside the Cleland Bond building and have some fun at Evolution in Campbell's Cove by comparing old and new light sources.

Walk beneath the Harbour Bridge pylon to Walsh Bay where the Spirit of Patyegarang calls from the rocks. She was a young Eora girl who became friends with Lt William Dawes, a First Fleet astronomer who is commemorated by the promontory which now carries his name. It was created by the Bangarra Dance Theatre in the first indigenous contribution to the Vivid Light Walk.

Continue around to Walsh Bay where Sydney's newest art precinct is waiting to be discovered. If you have never fished in the dark, Lunar Net will give you that experience with sculpture suspended beneath historic wharves. And if you want to relax

after the walk, try LOL, which is located on the waters for a rewarding laugh.

Australians have always had a love of the water and thousands head to Darling Harbour to watch the Aquatique Water Theatre. Created by French company Aquatique Show International, it is considered to be unrivalled in water shows. Computer controlled dancing water jets, specialised sculptural fountains, four giant water screens, four high-powered lasers and a fireworks display make up the performance.

Children are well catered for in this area with the Sydney Aquarium, Madame Tussauds, the IMAX theatre and the Darling Harbour playgrounds and Luminous at Darling Quarter. Don't forget the Australian National Maritime Museum which has a sound and light show projected on to the roof top to bring the remarkable world of marine animals to life. The Museum also features two exhibitions on whales devoted to their diversity, origins and adaptation.

There are so many more attractions of interest and learning to be seen and enjoyed as Vivid Sydney lights up in all of its brilliance to present the gateway to Australia's biggest city in sensational style. 🇺🇸





Top hat or a stetson?

It's a long way from Bathurst to the United States but Bro Nathan Kenny discovered that some things just don't change.

Unless of course, you look at symbolism by different Worshipful Masters where the WM in Washington wears a top hat and the WM in Texas wears a 10-gallon stetson.

During his recent visit, he attended two lodge meetings and looked at a number of masonic sites. In Texas, he met a range of interesting characters from an oil tycoon to an ex-circus trapeze artist who had travelled through Australia and New Zealand in the 70s with Ashton's Circus.

His first visit was to Lodge Zavala No 1059 in Dallas, Texas where he was fortunate to meet the Grand Master of Texas. The plans of the Grand Master revolved around the importance of the membership and he said that without individual members of lodges, the Grand Lodge had no relevance. His point was a call to support your lodge and remember that Grand Lodge is there to support lodges and their members.

The meeting was well attended and members were incredibly welcoming and friendly.

Moving on to Washington DC, he visited a young and progressive Federal Lodge No 1 who had J Edgar Hoover as an earlier member.

'This lodge was attended by young, energetic masons who were determined to bring their lodge into the next century. The newly installed WM was keen to instil a sense of 'business' language to the lodge and spoke of the importance when communicating to young masons of strong branding, clear marketing and a vibrant and engaging website,' said Nathan.

'Among the lessons I learned was that



Bro Nathan Kenny and the Grand Masters of Lodge No 1 in Washington DC (left) and Lodge Zavala No 1059 in Texas, along with the Grand Master of Texas (right).

Freemasonry is universal and the right hand of friendship is extended in all lodges. Visiting lodges, particularly those in other jurisdictions, reminds us of the universal principles of the fraternity. No matter how different the lodge operates or the differences in the ritual, we are all the same. Our differences highlight our similarities.

'Embrace new ideas, treat your lodge like a business and have a clear vision of where it should go and how to get there. Also, travel. Go out and see the world and enjoy your Freemasonry wherever you may go.'

He took time to visit the George Washington National Masonic Memorial in Washington and also discovered the unusual Masonic Commemorative coins. Each Grand Master cre-

ates and distributes his own commemorative coin. Many lodges have adopted the practice and openly share their coins as a means of promotion and friendship.





National Tree Day

Australians are being **called upon to join the activities** on the two days set aside in July to celebrate **National Tree Day**.



Planet Ark's National Tree Day will occur on Sunday 27 July and Schools Tree Day on Friday 25 July, and organisers hope to get Australians outdoors connecting nature, valuing our environment and planting for the future.

Each year over 200,000 people take part in the event at more than 3,000 sites around the country, adding value to the environment, to their own health and well-being and to the local community. The organisers still have vacancies for site coordinators who would like to get involved – people who would like to run planting and nature-care sites in their own city or town.

It's easy and fun and a great opportunity for groups who would like to share their love of nature and their passion for community engagement. By being a site coordinator, volunteers can pass on their knowledge, share their favourite outdoor memories and achievements (and make new ones!) and help encourage others to get outside and grow.

'Our research shows that approximately 1 in 3 people spend less than 18 minutes

per day doing outdoor recreational activities,' said National Tree Day Manager Debbie Agnew. 'Australians are spending increasing amounts of time indoors, so National Tree Day is a call-to-action. It's the perfect opportunity to get people back outside and connected with nature, and we can show them just how easy it is.'

Coordinators needn't be planting professionals as Planet Ark provides ideas and assistance. By participating in National Tree Day, coordinators will be contributing to the country's biggest community tree planting and joining thousands of individuals in making a difference, connecting people with nature, beautifying neighbourhoods and inspiring positive environmental change.

To find out more about National Tree Day, please visit treeday.planetark.org, email pr@planetark.org, call the Hotline on 1300 88 5000 or visit your local participating Toyota Dealership. 🚗

national 
tree day

'Australians are spending increasing amounts of time indoors, so National Tree Day is a call-to-action. It's the perfect opportunity to get people back outside and connected with nature...'





Alzheimer's Disease research: hype or hope?

Health is a major concern for all people and the Freemasons' Association (NSW & ACT) recently held two functions on the subjects of **dementia** and **Alzheimer's disease**.

The first was a talk by Dr William Brooks, BA, MBBS, MPH, Senior Research Officer, Neuroscience Research Australia (NeuRA), at the Association's regular lunch meeting in February, and the second was a Dinner in March in conjunction with the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Sydney South District at the Mortdale Masonic Club where Dr Brooks spoke to an audience of more than 80 ladies, brethren and friends. He was supported by Ms Chontell Johnson, a young lady who had flown from New Zealand for the event and who is a participant in NeuRA's research program.

Dr Brooks, in his February talk, said that when he was growing up it was quite common for people to die in their 60s and for people to say 'oh well, he or she had a good innings'.

'One often heard of people having a heart attack or a stroke – something that came as a blow without warning; and if people didn't die, they were often left very disabled,' he said.

'Now that I've reached 60 I think about the "innings" question rather differently. Thankfully people don't say these days that 60 year olds who suffer a fatal illness have "had a good innings", and most of us can look forward to our eighties, nineties and beyond. When I went to my first world gerontology conference in 1993 there was a series of papers about centenarians: those who had attained a century not out in the innings stakes, and perhaps received a telegram from the Queen. By the time I went to the next one, four years later, there were sessions on "super-centenarians" – not 100-year old caped crusaders leaping buildings and flying through the air, but people who had lived to 110.

'Many older people are in good health,



Dr William Brooks

'Increasing age is the strongest risk factor for developing dementia or Alzheimer's disease, from less than 5 per cent of people aged 65 to about 25 per cent of people aged over 85.'

and although they mightn't be running a mile as fast as they did when they were 19, they are doing pretty well. However, not everyone is as fortunate. Many of us know a family member or a friend with Alzheimer's disease or dementia. Increasing age is the strongest risk factor

for developing dementia or Alzheimer's disease, from less than 5 per cent of people aged 65 to about 25 per cent of people aged over 85.'

Dr Brooks explained that dementia is the word used to describe what happens when people become forgetful, can't find their way around, have trouble remembering familiar faces and generally have difficulty carrying out their daily routine.

'Alzheimer's disease is the term used to refer to the most common disease process found in the brain of people with dementia. It refers to a particular set of features seen under the microscope, first described by Alois Alzheimer, a Bavarian psychiatrist, in 1906. The characteristic features are called amyloid plaques and neurofibrillary tangles. There are other brain diseases but Alzheimer's is the most common, so people often use the terms dementia and Alzheimer's disease more or less interchangeably,' he said.

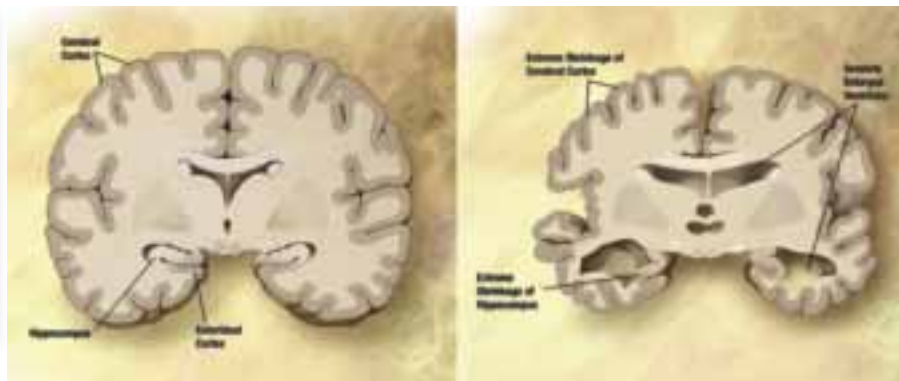
'It's not possible to say what causes Alzheimer's disease. There is no single major risk factor in the way that smoking causes lung cancer, and even though it is well known that high blood pressure and diabetes appear to have something to do with it, the association is not as strong as it is for heart disease and strokes.

'Some families, however, have a genetic form of Alzheimer's disease, where the condition is passed from one generation to the next. About half of these families are found to have a faulty gene, or genetic mutation, that is the cause of the illness in family members. Affected people in families like these tend to develop symptoms in middle age, between the thirties and the fifties, and not to survive beyond sixty.

'These families are very tragic but very rare. They are important to helping us on our journey to prevent Alzheimer's disease



A powerful Inspirational Address was given by Ms Chontell Johnson, about her own experiences and working with Dr Brooks to explore treatment.



Combination of two brain diagrams in one for comparison: In the left normal brain, in the right brain of a person with Alzheimer's disease

in the general community because they have a known cause for their illness. Identifying the relevant genes from these families – three have so far been discovered – has allowed laboratory scientists to piece together quite a lot of the disease pathway. This raises the possibility of working out how to stop the process somewhere along the line, or at least slow it down.

‘For the last five years, NeuRA has been involved in the DIAN study (Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer Network) which is an international study led by the Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis, Missouri and funded largely by the US National Institute on Aging.

‘Because the families are so rare and widespread, it is difficult for a single research institute to be able to involve them in research. DIAN study organisers set up an international collaboration and funded family members to travel to the research centres for testing under standard conditions.

‘There are now nine centres in the USA, three in Australia (Sydney, Melbourne and Perth), a leading research centre in London and two centres in Germany.

‘In these families it is possible to collect a blood sample and test the DNA to see whether a person is carrying the disease-causing form of the gene. However, we don't have anything to indicate the disease process is happening until people develop symptoms of memory loss and we know that doesn't happen until the disease has been active for a long time.

‘People in DIAN have been having a comprehensive series of tests over a period of several days, repeated at intervals of a year or more. These include special scans to detect amyloid deposition in the brain, and lumbar punctures to collect spinal

fluid. Initial results showed that the amyloid brain scans can detect changes about 15 years before symptoms of memory loss would be expected. About 10 years before, measurements of tau protein in the spinal fluid also begin to change.

‘The next phase of DIAN involves clinical trials of drugs aimed at removing the amyloid deposits from the brain so that amyloid plaques do not develop. The first trials have begun in the USA: NeuRA is well advanced with preparations to join the trials and we hope to begin enrolling participants by the middle of 2014.

‘Only people from families with a known genetic mutation will be able to participate, but their contribution to world knowledge of this disease, which affects millions of people worldwide, is absolutely critical.

‘It is very exciting, after spending 25 years working with some of these families, to be on the threshold of a disease-modifying treatment. Their courage and commitment to research over many years and several generations has been inspiring and our hope is that they will soon be able to reap the benefits.

‘The next step after that will be working out how and when to apply the treatment to oncoming people in their 60s like me, who are still battling on, despite having had a “good innings”!

The fundraising dinner at the Mortdale Masonic Club proved to be remarkably successful in its outreach to brethren and the community and in raising awareness of the hope existing within this field of research.

Dr Brooks was extremely interesting and stirred the audience when he indicated that he believes that this type of Alzheimer's disease may be identified and

treated before the onset of symptoms.

The Inspirational Address by Ms Chontell Johnson was simply that – Inspirational. The courage demonstrated by Chontell, facing a most unpleasant future, to speak of the hope and excitement in working with Dr Brooks with a positive view to seeking and finding a successful treatment for her own and similar diseases, was a powerful message.

V Ill Brother John Nicolaides 33°, District Commander Sydney South District presented a cheque for \$3,000 to Dr Brooks to assist in NeuRA's research. A further \$3,000 has been raised through donations and an application has been made to Masonicare for an Interactive Grant of \$5,000. 🗳️



Inspirational Speaker Chontell Johnson



Eponymous dishes – what's in a name?

It is unlikely that you or I will get a dish named after us and even if we do we may be forgotten long before the dish is consigned to history. Here are some dishes that have stood the test of time.

Sole Veronika / Sole Veronique

The opera *Véronique* was produced in French at the Coronet Theatre in 1903. It was then performed in English at the Apollo Theatre in London beginning on 18 May 1904, where it enjoyed a run of 496 performances. With the success of the London run of *Véronique*, chef Auguste Escoffier created a new dish for London's Carlton Hotel: Sole Véronique.

Rick Stein has a good 21st century recipe for Sole Veronique. Look it up on the internet.

Peach Melba

The Peach Melba is a classic dessert, invented in 1892 or 1893 by Auguste Escoffier at the Savoy Hotel, London to honour Nellie Melba. It combines two popular summer fruits: peaches and raspberry sauce accompanied by vanilla ice cream.

In 1892, Nellie Melba was performing in Wagner's opera *Lohengrin* at Covent Garden. The Duke of Orléans gave a dinner party to celebrate her triumph. For the occasion, Escoffier created a new dessert, and to display it he used an ice sculpture of a swan, which was featured in the opera. The swan carried peaches which rested on a bed of vanilla ice cream and which were topped with spun sugar. In 1900, Escoffier created a new version of the dessert. For the occasion of the opening of the Carlton Hotel, where he was head chef, Escoffier omitted the ice swan and topped the peaches with raspberry purée. Other versions of this dessert use pears, apricots, or strawberries instead of peaches and/or use raspberry sauce or melted red currant jelly instead of raspberry purée.



Sandwich

The ancient Jewish sage Hillel the Elder is said to have wrapped meat from the Paschal lamb and bitter herbs between two pieces of old-fashioned soft matzah (flat, unleavened bread) during Passover in the manner of a modern sandwich wrap made with flatbread. Flat breads of only slightly varying kinds have long been used to scoop or wrap small amounts of food en route from platter to mouth throughout western Asia and northern Africa. From Morocco to Ethiopia to India, bread is baked in flat rounds, contrasting with the European loaf tradition.

During the Middle Ages in Europe, thick slabs of coarse and usually stale bread, called 'trenchers', were used as plates. After a meal, the food-soaked trencher was fed to a dog or to beggars at the tables of the wealthy, and eaten by diners in more modest circumstances. Trenchers were the precursors of open-face sandwiches. The immediate culinary precursor with a direct connection to the English sandwich was to be found in the Netherlands of the 17th century, where the naturalist John Ray observed that in the taverns beef hung from the rafters 'which they cut into thin slices and eat with bread and butter laying the slices upon the butter' – explanatory specifications that reveal the Dutch beelde broodje, open faced sandwich, was

as yet unfamiliar in England. Initially perceived as food men shared while gaming and drinking at night, the sandwich slowly began appearing in polite society as a late-night meal among the aristocracy. The sandwich's popularity in Spain and England increased dramatically during the 19th century, when the rise of an industrial society and the working classes made fast, portable, and inexpensive meals essential.

It was at the same time that the sandwich finally began to appear outside of Europe. In the United States, the sandwich was first promoted as an elaborate meal at supper. By the early 20th century, as bread became a staple of the American diet, the sandwich became the same kind of popular, quick meal as was already widespread in the Mediterranean.

Beef Wellington

The origin of the name is unclear. Some theories suggest Beef Wellington is named after Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington; other theories go a step further and suggest this was due to his love of a dish of beef, truffles, mushrooms, Madeira wine, and pâté cooked in pastry, but with a noted lack of evidence to support this. Other accounts simply credit the name to a patriotic chef wanting to give an English name to a variation on the French filet de bœuf en croûte during the Napoleonic Wars. Still another theory is the dish is not named after the Duke himself, but rather the finished fillet was thought to resemble one of the brown shiny military boots which were named after him. Clarissa Dickson Wright, celebrity chef and co-host of the BBC cooking show *Two Fat Ladies*, maintains that the dish 'has nothing to do with that

splendid hero, the Duke of Wellington; it was invented for a civic reception in Wellington, New Zealand, but it is a splendid addition to any party’.

‘Wellington’ is sometimes informally used to describe other dishes in which meat is baked in a puff pastry; the most common variations are sausage Wellington, lamb Wellington and salmon Wellington.

Lamington

Most accounts of the creation of the lamington agree that it was named after Lord Lamington, who served as Governor of Queensland from 1896 to 1901. One account claims the dessert resembled the homburg hats that he favoured. Another claim has them named after the village of Lamington, South Lanarkshire in Scotland. As the title Baron Lamington itself derives from the village, however, the question of this connection is merely whether it is direct or indirect.

Even among those who attribute the name to Lord Lamington, there are different claims as to the exact location and creator of the cake itself. According to one claim, lamingtons were first served in Toowoomba when Lord Lamington took his entourage to Harlaxton House to escape the steamy heat of Brisbane.

In another claim, Lamington's chef at Queensland's Government House, French-born Armand Gallad, was called upon at short notice to provide something to feed unexpected guests during the busy period leading up to Federation in 1901. According to the Melbourne newspaper *The Age*, Gallad cut up some left-over French vanilla sponge cake baked the day before, dipped the slices in chocolate and set them in coconut. Coconut was not widely used in European cooking at that time, but was known to Gallad whose wife was from Tahiti where coconut was a common ingredient. Lady Lamington's guests then asked for the recipe.

A further alternative claim is that Lord Lamington's cook, presumably Gallad, accidentally dropped a block of sponge cake into a dish of chocolate. It was later discovered that desiccated coconut, sprinkled over the top, made the cakes more appealing.

Most of these claims are based on relatively recent reports. The earliest identified mention of the lamington recipe was published in January 1902, but the identity of the contributor of that recipe was not revealed. Thereafter, the earliest reference to the naming of cake located so far is in October 1933, where it is attributed to Lord Lamington himself.


Ironically, Lord Lamington was believed to have hated the dessert cakes that had been named in his honour, referring to them as ‘those bloody poofy woolly biscuits’.

Caesar Salad

The salad's creation is generally attributed to restaurateur Caesar Cardini, an Italian immigrant who operated restaurants in Mexico and the United States. Cardini was living in San Diego but also working in Tijuana where he avoided the restrictions of Prohibition. His daughter Rosa (1928–2003) recounted that her father invented the dish when a Fourth of July 1924 rush depleted the kitchen's supplies. Cardini made do with what he had, adding the dramatic flair of the table-side tossing ‘by the chef’. A number of Cardini's staff have said that they invented the dish.

Julia Child said that she had eaten a Caesar salad at Cardini's restaurant when she was a child in the 1920s. The earliest contemporary documentation of Caesar salad is from a 1946 Los Angeles restaurant menu, twenty years after the 1924 origin stated by the Cardinis.

Your editor eagerly awaits the Sydney Masonic Centre serving the following:

- ◊ *Langoustines Lauer*
- ◊ *Smoked Salmon de Brook*
- ◊ *Venison Gregoire*
- ◊ *Fruit Salad avec Damsons Derek* 





India gets a new council

Two Australians had an **unforgettable experience** when they travelled to **Chennai in southern India**, formerly known as Madras, to witness the consecration of the Grand Council of India.

Most Worthy Brothers Don Savage and Mike Shearer attended in December as Australian members of the Order of the Secret Monitor.

The OSM has existed in India for more than 125 years as an important Province of the United Kingdom Jurisdiction. The Order is very popular among Indian Freemasons and the Indian brethren comprised around 30% of the total UK membership. NSW & ACT started under the wing of the UK Order until it was decided that the tyranny of distance made it easier to manage their own affairs and in 1959 the OSM NSW & ACT was consecrated as a Sovereign body. Similarly the India brethren recently decided that it was time for them to stand on their own and after permission from the United Kingdom OSM, Saturday 14 December 2013 was set for a consecration of the Grand Council of India.

The UK OSM Grand Conclave sent a large team headed by their Grand Supreme Ruler, MW Brother Michael William Guest, to conduct the ceremony of consecration. The Allied Masonic Degrees and the Royal and Select Masters had also decided to break from the UK and set up their own Grand Bodies and the British team carried out three Grand Consecrations to establish three Grand Sovereign entities for the Indian masons in a most impressive display of ceremonial.

Even though their Grand Conclave was losing about 30% of its membership, the United Kingdom OSM brethren were truly supportive and delighted that the Indian brethren had formed the newest Grand Conclave of the Brotherhood of David and Jonathan in the world under the leadership of MW Bro Madhavan Chellappa who was installed as the Grand Supreme Ruler. Madhavan also took the role of Grand Master of the Grand Council of Allied Masonic Degrees and Grand Master

of The Council of Royal and Select Masters in India.

Apart from the UK team there were brethren from Northern Australia and PNG in MW Bro John Cooke, a past GSR of NSW & ACT, MW Bro Greg Buist (Southern Australia), MW Bro Bernie Richmond (New Zealand) who was accompanied by brethren from various Conclaves in New Zealand, a contingent travelled from Canada and many friends from Malaya and Singapore also came to celebrate in Chennai.

MW Bro Savage and MW Bro Shearer attended a Royal Arch Chapter meeting at the Chennai Masonic Centre close to the hotel where they stayed.

'It was a quiet night for the Chapter but we certainly enjoyed the ceremonial and the festive board. A day or so later, when all the overseas guests had gathered, the Indian hosts greeted us at a welcome dinner at the Chennai Cricket Club. Again it was a most enjoyable and memorable event and we enjoyed the hospitality extended by our Indian brethren and their ladies. On occasions such as these I realise how fortunate we all are to be part of the wonderful fraternity of Freemasonry,' said MW Bro Shearer.

Friday 13 December started the more formal part of the visit with the Consecration and installation ceremonies for the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters in India, which was carried out in the afternoon by the UK team headed by Rt Illustrious Companion Michael Guest, Past District Grand Master. The UK team then Consecrated the Grand Council of the Order of Allied Masonic Degrees in India while on Saturday the two Australians attended a meeting of the Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord.


Later on Saturday, OSM brethren gathered at the nearby Rani Meyyammai Hall as even the large Chennai Masonic Centre was

not big enough to hold the vast number wishing to participate in the Consecration of The Grand Conclave of the Order of the Secret Monitor in India. The British brethren again excelled themselves with another wonderful display of ritual to conduct the Consecration and Install Madhavan Chellappa as MW Grand Supreme Ruler.

'On behalf of our NSW & ACT Grand Supreme Ruler, MW Bro Allan Uner, we presented MW Bro Chellappa with a boomerang, set in a frame and topped with the badge of our NSW & ACT jurisdiction, as a gift to remind the Indian OSM brethren of their NSW & ACT friends being present and wishing them every success at their Consecration,' MW Bro Shearer said.

After the ceremony, members retired to the Masonic Centre where white marquees had been erected over the expansive lawn area for the banquet. MW Bro Chellappa surprised all his international friends by presenting each with a beautiful and personalised regalia case.

On Sunday, the visitors were driven to a resort on the coast south of Chennai stopping en route at a village displaying a series of buildings depicting the types of dwelling used in the area from ancient times to the present day. On to the resort which had been almost totally rebuilt after the disastrous tsunami that struck the area a few years ago with damage still visible. The resort was spotless and peaceful and a welcome change from the tumult and pollution of today's Chennai. On return to Chennai, some were able to attend a craft lodge installation at the Masonic Centre which was quite different from that used in NSW & ACT.

'All in all our time in India was a most enjoyable masonic experience and I am looking forward to a close masonic relationship with our Indian OSM brethren,' said MW Bro Shearer. 



Manila welcomes the Grand Master

The **Grand Master**, MW Bro Derek Robson, AM, led a 31-strong delegation in April on a remarkable visit to the **Annual Communication** of the **Grand Lodge of the Philippines**.

In his report, he said the formal proceedings were similar to NSW & ACT with the Grand Lodge opened on the first day and followed by the reception of the Heads and Representatives of Foreign Orders, presentation of the Philippines Flag, a Tribute to the Flag, a welcome address from the Mayor of Pasay City and a message from the guest speaker, the Grand Master of California.

Administrative actions included the traditional Roll Call of Past Grand Masters, Grand Lodge Officers and Lodges, consideration of the proceedings of the previous Annual Communication, and Annual Reports from the various committees of Grand Lodge and the related masonic organisations.

'On the first evening, the Grand Master's Reception was held on the seaside overlooking Manila Bay. All delegates were welcomed to a magnificent smorgasbord buffet and musical entertainment from the National Air Force Band. During the evening, the Grand Master presented over 400 awards and plaques to masons whose contribution had enhanced the standing of the Craft in the community,' he said.

'The second day was set aside for more administrative activity, including the evaluation and bidding for the 2015 Annual Communication venue. The major activity was the election for the new Junior Grand Warden. The Philippines elects an appropriate brother to the position of Junior Grand Warden. He then serves for a period of one year as Junior Grand Warden, the next year as Senior Grand Warden, a further one year as Deputy Grand Master and finally, a year as Grand Master. This year there were 11 candidates.

'It was interesting to note the immense depth of leadership and management expertise amongst the Past Grand Masters who are revered and control the majority of the National administrative functions.

The seven members of the Board for General Purposes are all Past Grand Masters, as are the Grand Secretary, and the management team for the National magazine 'Cabletow'. The Past Grand Masters have all held leading positions in commercial business and Government Service.'

The new Grand Master, MW Bro Alan La Madrid Purisima, has over 35 years of devoted public service as a police commander and executive. As Chief of the Philippines National Police and Police Director General, he clearly commands the respect of his brethren.

'It was interesting to note the immense depth of leadership ... amongst the Past Grand Masters'

On the second evening, there was a Tribute Dinner to the Past Grand Masters, where their expertise and commitment was recognised and honoured.

On Friday, the Australian delegation commemorated ANZAC Day. It began with a traditional service at the National Grand Lodge Memorial in Rizal Park, a wreath was laid and an address was given on the importance to the war in the Pacific of the Battle for Leyte Gulf and its later implications for Australia. After the service, the delegation visited the General Douglas McArthur suite in the Manila Hotel for a briefing on the collected memorabilia on display. The day ended with an Anzac Day Reception, which attracted much support in this country so appre-



ciative of the significant contribution made by Australians toward the liberation of the Philippines.

The final day commenced with the conferral of Past Masters Degrees, meetings of the newly elected and appointed officers for the coming year, the Grand Installation and the Grand Banquet.

At the Grand Installation, the Grand Master welcomed the Grand Masters of Japan, China (Taiwan), NSW & ACT and South Australia, along with representatives of many other Grand Lodges and Associated Orders. The Grand Installation was carried out with dignity and the inaugural address from the Grand Master, the presentation of the Past Grand Masters Jewel and his final response were particularly memorable.

The Grand Master's Banquet and Inaugural Ball was a wonderful evening clearly designed to honour the service of the IPGM, reflect on the background service of the new Grand Master through a very professional video and audio presentation, and further recognise the importance of the visitors.

'There is no doubt as to the importance of these events in a land which so reveres its masonic leaders and absolutely respects all that Freemasonry has contributed to the nation,' said MW Bro Robson.

'I was clearly honoured to be able to lead our delegation at the 2014 and 98th ANCOM. Our attendance was much appreciated, the new friendships we made will be treasured, and we will take away wonderful memories of this Grand Installation and its associated events.'



Benevolence Month

Benevolence Month is approaching! Each year in July, Grand Lodge promotes Benevolence Month across the jurisdiction with the Masonicare 'One Brother to Another' campaign. The idea behind Benevolence Month is to raise awareness of the need for benevolence within Freemasonry and to demonstrate that masons care from one brother to another.

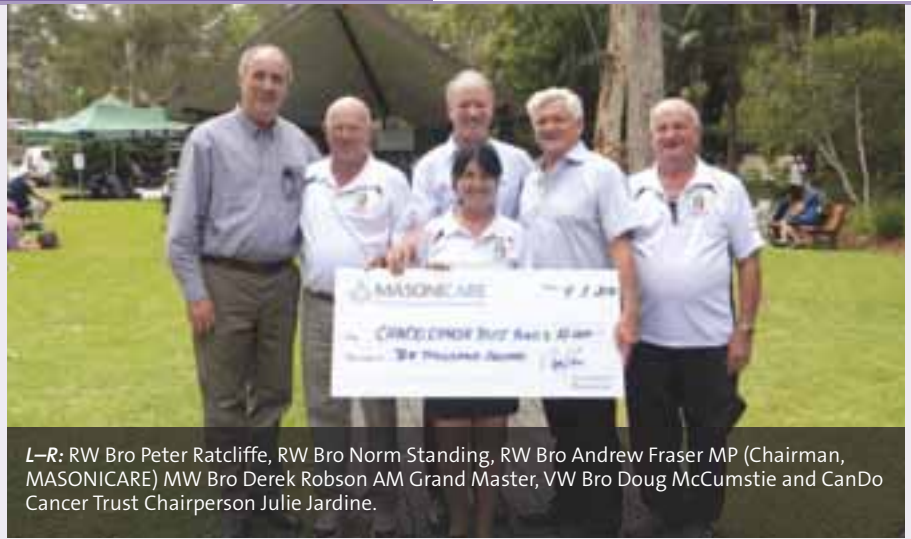
If you, or a member of your lodge, fall on hard times or suffer financial hardship, the Masonicare Benevolence Fund is available for grants of up to \$6,000. Over the past 18 months alone, Masonicare's Benevolence program has assisted over a hundred individuals and donated more than \$86,000 to masons and their families across NSW and ACT.

The Masonicare Regional and District Managers, along with the Masonicare Caring Officers within each lodge will be championing this important initiative and collecting donations during and leading up to the month of July. You can show your support for your fellow brethren by purchasing a \$2.00 benevolence ribbon or a \$10.00 limited edition metal lapel pin or simply making a donation of your choice. Every dollar raised goes directly back to brethren and their families to overcome difficult times and financial hardship.

We ask that you please personally support this worthwhile cause and also encourage your lodge, district or region to organise additional fundraising activities during Benevolence Month. The more we can fundraise together, the stronger our message will be to our less fortunate brethren and their families: that masons will always be there for them in times of need.

We again thank you for your invaluable support for this most worthwhile masonic cause.

RW Bro Andrew Fraser
Chairman Masonicare



L-R: RW Bro Peter Ratcliffe, RW Bro Norm Standing, RW Bro Andrew Fraser MP (Chairman, MASONICARE) MW Bro Derek Robson AM Grand Master, VW Bro Doug McCumstie and CanDo Cancer Trust Chairperson Julie Jardine.

InterAction Grants

Recently RW Bro Andrew Fraser MP, RPDGM, Masonicare Chairman presented CanDo Cancer Trust Chair Person Ms Julie Jardine with \$10,000 raised by local lodges and matched by a Masonicare Interaction Grant at the 'Music In The Park' fundraising event which took place at the Coffs Harbour Botanical Gardens. 'Music in the Park' was organised by RW Bro Norm Standing, a member of the

Coffs Coast Freemasons Association who have been major sponsors for the CanDo Cancer Trust since its inception in 2010. Since then local Freemasons with their wives and partners have worked together with the CanDo Trust members while Masonicare has stood side by side providing InterAction Grants that have matched the fundraising activities of the CCFA.



L-R: Keryn Schwager (Regional Services Coordinator – Cystic Fibrosis NSW), W Bro Cameron Staines (President of the Tamworth Chapter) MMAA and RW Bro David Robertson

On Saturday 29 March a cheque was presented to Tamworth Cystic Fibrosis committee; this presentation is

related to an InterAction Grant that Masonic Motor Cycle Association of Australia submitted to Masonicare.



Nursing Unit Manager Jenny Baroutis accepting the cheque from District Masonicare representative VW Robert Drysdale surrounded by Hastings Macleay Freemasons Association members and their wives.

The Hastings Macleay Freemasons Association handed a cheque for \$9,000 to Port Macquarie Base Hospital's Paediatric Oncology Unit Trust.

The donation brings the Freemasons support for the children's trust to \$20,000 in just four years.

The funding donated was an addition to \$3,500 from Masonicare.

The cheque presentation took place during a special morning tea to thank Hastings Macleay Freemasons Association and Masonicare.



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Masonicare Charity Jewels

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

Jewels can only be purchased by the lodge and are not tax deductible in compliance with ATO 'charity' regulations.

Funds raised from the sale of jewels will go to The Benevolence Fund.

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

Caring and compassion for children in need

The school my niece goes to was holding a Father's Day liturgy this year to honour **men who have a significant relationship in the children's life.**

I received an invitation from my niece to mark this special occasion and she reminded me every day leading up to the event. 'Are you coming dad?' or 'Have you taken time off work to come to the liturgy?' she would often inquire. It didn't matter how often I said I would be there, she just needed that reassurance.

My niece has lived with me for the past three years and to her, I am her 'dad.' She knows the truth about her circumstances and she made a choice to call me dad, as she put it to me 'you do what dads do and I need a dad. So I will call you Dad.'

I attended the liturgy. She did not notice me as the Year 1 children were busy singing and dancing. I sat at the back of the hall until the liturgy commenced with a prayer and song. I listened to some of the students talk about their dads and explain why they were important to them. There was laughing and cheering from the audience as they told their stories. After a few more songs and a poem the program ended.

We then waited outside where the children could come and say happy Father's

Day. I stood away from the large double doors as I did not want to embarrass her if she was not sure how to respond. But she had the biggest smile and ran to give me the biggest hug I had ever received from her almost knocking us both over. 'You're the best dad ever,' she said. 'I knew you would come. You kept your promise.' She then dragged me over to the large collages they had been making all week and pointed out a picture she drew of both of us playing soccer with the words written on my T-shirt, 'World's best Dad'.

Now I know I'm not the best dad and I'm not her biological father but in her eyes I am the greatest dad of them all. I taught her how to play soccer, I help with her homework, I take her to places she has never been and I will always love her, even when she tells me she hates me when I don't give in to her demands. We play board games and watch TV, the X-Factor and pretend we are judges on the panel. I also tell her to eat her vegetables and send her to her bedroom when she has been naughty.

She is caring, resourceful, intelligent and curious, often asking a myriad of questions: 'Why do you water the garden in the afternoon?'

'How do you know everything and how can I know what you know?' and my personal favourite, 'Why do you go to meetings at night?' I laugh then explain, 'So I can learn how to be a better person, which means, I can be a better dad'.

Many children like this special girl need good men and women with open homes and open hearts to support and guide them through their life's journey. Without more carers, these children can often move from place to place because there is no one to care for them.

In 2013, approximately 16,000 children across the state were removed from their families and required a home. Many have been placed with grandparents, aunts and uncles and Foster Carers.

These children range up to 18 and are under the Parental Responsibility of the Minister. They have been subjected to physical, emotional or psychological abuse and/or neglect. They come into care to be provided with a safer life and the same opportunities all children should receive. The greatest challenge is finding a home, a family to embrace the challenges that come with children but also the fun associated with sharing your life with another and helping them to realise their potential.

I work for Wesley Dalmar, a large non-profit agency focused on Foster Care. Our responsibility is to find homes for children and support Foster families. It provides on-going Case Support to assist children's needs such as education, health, family, emotional needs and behaviours associated with trauma. Carers are not alone with many supports on offer like training and respite opportunities, clinical and case support and others. But many more Carers are needed.





The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of New South Wales

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Help us care for future generations

New intergenerational program brings joy to Maclean elders

Over the past few months, The Whiddon Group Maclean has been working in partnership with the Pacific Valley Christian School to set up a School Connectivity Program.

The program is a new initiative developed by the team at Whiddon Maclean that provides opportunities for older people living in residential care homes to remain connected to the local community and for younger generations to visit residents in aged care homes.

“The residents and students had a wonderful time meeting each other, sharing tales and taking part in the new program,” said Michael O’Neill, Whiddon Maclean’s Director Care Services.

“Whiddon Maclean has been looking at ways in which we can connect with and support the local community, and the School Connectivity Program is the first step towards working more closely with local organisations and local people to ensure our residents are able to stay connected to the people, interests and community they love,” Mr O’Neill said. “The program involves not only our clients, but the broader collective community. Promoting programs like this offers opportunities for social involvement to both our clients and the students, many of whom may not be fully aware of the effect that visitors can have on elderly people living in residential care,” said Mr O’Neill.



“To have clients reassured that they are still very much an important part of the community and to make them aware of the valuable role they play in society by sharing stories of their own childhood and life experiences with the students is one of the great achievements of programs like these,” Mr O’Neill said.

This newly formed program allows students to pair with clients for individual interaction, with supervision from teachers and staff.

Intergenerational programs like these have many benefits for clients who participate in the program; the students and community visitors provide social stimulation, emotional support, mutual learning opportunities and companionship.

“Our clients are still talking about how exciting the visit was and how much they enjoyed having the students visit. We are looking forward very much to next month’s visit,” said Mr O’Neill.

MAKING A BEQUEST

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

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

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

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



Visit us on the web at www.whiddon.com.au



Churchill showed the way

Winston Leonard Spencer-Churchill was an English **statesman, soldier, author, journalist and artist** but was better known as the **Prime Minister of England** during World War II.

He was born in Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire, England on 30 November 1874 and went to Harrow school, excelling in English and history. After school, he attended the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and joined the army as a Subaltern of the Queen's Own Hussars Cavalry Regiment.

He travelled to Cuba in 1895 to report on the Spanish battles against Cuban guerillas, switched to India two years later for the Pathan Revolt on the North West Frontier and in late 1897 wrote his first book. During the second Anglo-Boer war, he served as a war correspondent, was caught and held in a POW camp before escaping and rejoining the army.

He began his political career in 1900 when elected as the Conservative member for Oldham, joined the Liberals in 1904 and by 1911 became First Lord of the Admiralty. Churchill resigned after Gallipoli, rejoined the army and in 1925 returned to the Conservative Party.

When the Second World War started, Churchill was appointed a member of the War Cabinet and formed an all-party government after Chamberlain resigned as Prime Minister. His refusal to bow down to Germany, his defiant opposition to any negotiations with them and his stirring speeches were a great inspiration to the British people during the Battle for Britain. 'We will fight them on the beaches ...' still remains one of his best remembered quotes.


He was responsible for creating the Special Operations Executive which conducted covert operations in occupied countries, and also the Commandos who became today's current Special Forces. But his health suffered and he had a heart attack in 1941 at the White House.



After the war ended, Churchill lost the 1945 election but was re-elected in 1951 and stayed as Prime Minister until 1955 when ill-health forced him to retire. He had a second stroke in 15 January 1965 and died nine days later. By Royal Decree, he was given a State Funeral at St Paul's Cathedral and he was buried in the family plot at St Martin's Church, Bladon, near Woodstock.

Winston Churchill married Clementine Hozier on 12 September 1908 at St Margaret's in Westminster and they had five children. When he was not attending to Government business, Churchill lived in Kent where he spent his time writing and painting.

He became interested in Freemasonry in 1901 as many of his family had been masons. At the age of 26, he was initiated into Studholme Lodge in London on 24 May 1901. In 1912 he resigned from the lodge but continued his membership in the Craft.

His outstanding career earned many honours. He was named an honorary citizen of the United States, awarded a Nobel Peace Prize, received 37 orders, decorations and medals and his statue stands in the British Parliament watching those who enter the House of Commons. 





Regional Roundup



LODGE COEUR DE LION/NAROOMA No 84

A Lewis in Narooma

Lodge Coeur De Lion/Narooma No 84 initiated their first Lewis in over 50 years when Bro Rhys Hardy joined them in February this year, just two days after his 18th birthday.

VW Bro Brian Hardy, Rhys's father, and his brother Bro Ronald Hardy, welcomed him into the lodge.



L-R: VW Bro Brian Hardy, Bro Rhys Hardy and Bro Ronald Hardy.

LODGE SARATOGA No 937

Son initiates father

It was a big night at Lodge Saratoga in February when the WM, W Bro Luke Parsons initiated his father, Michael John Parsons.

In 2008, W Bro Parsons joined Lodge Saratoga as an MAS candidate and quickly progressed through to become WM. The night's ceremony was made even more pleasing with the attendance of about 80 brethren including the Grand Master, MW Bro Derek Robson.

At the completion of the ceremony, the GM presented a 60 year certificate to W Bro Fred Koch, an affiliation certificate to Bro Ian Mumford, who was initiated in England, and a MM certificate to Bro Michael Preston.

The GM offered words of encouragement and support to Lodge Saratoga and mentioned the great charity work being conducted by the brethren of District 18 and the 'Freemasons on the Central Coast'.

Bro Michael Parsons said he was very proud to be sharing this journey with his



L-R: DGM Jamie Melville, WM Luke Parsons, NIB Michael Parsons, GM Derek Robson

son, and that he felt quite overwhelmed. In time, he said, he will fit in perfectly.

W Bro Luke Parsons said it was the highlight of his masonic career so far, and that he will not be coming down from the excitement for some time.

DISTRICT 31

Bankstown gets a new centre

With the necessity over the years to dispose of the old masonic halls at Bankstown and Punchbowl, **District 31 was fragmented** with lodges meeting at Oatley, Fairfield and one even meeting in licensed club premises.

In May 2013 Lodge Sir Joseph Banks, with advice and support from Grand Lodge, purchased an industrial unit on Fairford Road, Padstow where the builder commenced to remodel the interior of the building.

The decision to convert an industrial unit into a masonic centre was radical and great consideration was given to the wisdom of such a move. There were some who were unsure, but fortunately, with the support

of those who were prepared to 'think outside the square', it forged ahead.

On the completion of renovations, Lodge Punchbowl, Lodge Sir Joseph Banks, Lodge Panania, Lodge Bankstown Daylight and Bankstown Unity Royal Arch Chapter commenced meetings in January 2014 at the new Bankstown District Masonic Centre. **District 31 had reunited** with a masonic centre to be proud of with adequate off-street parking.

On Saturday 8 February 2014 the Grand Master, MW Bro Derek Robson AM, accompanied by 35 current and past Grand Officers, dedicated the new centre before 107 masons.

The masons of the district acknowledge the foresight of those who, through their hard work and dedication helped make this Centre possible as well as the assistance of Grand Lodge who helped the members to achieve their goal.

District 31 is organising an OPEN day for masons, their families and friends in the Bankstown District to inspect the new Centre at 1/60 Fairford Road, Padstow between 11.00am and 2.00pm on Saturday 14 June 2014.

A sausage sizzle will be provided. For further information and to indicate your intention to attend, contact VW Bro Ray Godkin on 9709 2358.



LODGE BURNSIDE No 729

Alex reaches 100

W Bro Alex Pedersen became a mason when he joined Lodge Talbraga Temperance in Dubbo in 1945 and late last year celebrated his 100th birthday. Within two years of becoming a mason

he was elected Chaplain of the lodge and held that, or another position, until 1994.

He was a member of lodges in Dubbo, Campsie, Forbes, Castle Hill, Petersham and Parramatta and has held various positions in most of them.

W Bro Pedersen joined the Parramatta City Daylight Lodge and in the year 2000 was appointed Junior Warden. He took over as Senior Warden and in June 2001 was elected WM at the age of 87 years and after 56 years in Freemasonry.

Alex has also been a member of nearly all of the Associated Orders and has held office in most of them.



W Bro Alex Pedersen with fellow lodge members

LODGE ARTARMON UNITED No 285

Never forgotten

Those who gave their lives in war that we might live in peace were remembered at the Lodge Artarmon United ANZAC Service held on 22 April 2014.

The Service, which was open to ladies, brethren and members of the public, was simple and conducted with great reverence and dignity. Many were moved during the reading by W Bro Jim Braid of the Roll of Honour of Brethren of the Consolidated Lodges whose lives had been cut short by the horrors of war.

The *Ode to the Fallen* on this occasion was delivered by Brigadier David Leece, PSM, RFD, ED Ret'd, President of the Royal United Services Institute of NSW. Brigadier Leece later gave the ANZAC Address which traced the evolution of the Australian Army. It was a fitting address which provided an insight into the changing role of the military since its involvement in the Boer War.

It is reassuring to know that the spirit of ANZAC and those who forged it will never be forgotten in this lodge.



RW Bro Bruce Sheldrick, WM Lodge Artarmon United (left) and Brigadier David Leece, PSM, RFD, ED Ret'd

LODGE KENSINGTON No 270

Father and son

W Bro Graham Booth, the WM of Lodge Kensington, was a nervous but proud mason in April when he initiated his son Daniel into the lodge.

Apart from the pressure of having his son as the candidate, W Bro Booth also had the Grand Master and his delegation as well as representatives from all District lodges at the meeting.

Bro Daniel proved to be a good candidate who spoke clearly and with confidence during the ceremony and showed a keen interest in the proceedings.



W Bro Graham Booth and Daniel

LODGE CALEDONIA OF CANBERRA No 938

A big night in Bombala

On Saturday 8 March, The Mountain Lodge No 190, of Bombala, accepted the happy duty of advancing Bro Travis Hallen of Lodge Caledonia of Canberra, No 938 to the Second Degree, and performed the ceremony in an exemplary manner.

It was a memorable night for The Mountain Lodge, with visitors from eight different lodges, amongst them masons from Cooma, Bega, Canberra and Victoria, including four current WMs.

The candidate was immaculately prepared for the ceremony, and as might be expected of a serving senior officer of the RAAF, his bearing and performance were of the highest level.



L-R: WM, W Bro Franz Grosch, the Candidate, Bro Travis Hallen, and the DGIW, VW Bro Kevin Mulcahy.



LODGE UNITED ST ANDREW SINGLETON No 34

Swelling the Ranks

Lodge United St Andrew Singleton No 34 held an emergent meeting in January, to carry out the initiations on John Spinks, Marty Pall and Rick Greene.

As this was not a Regular meeting, only the initiations were carried out.

This was a special event for the lodge, possibly the first time since the nineteen

fifties that three candidates have been initiated into the Craft at the one meeting, and very pleasing to welcome three more members to add to the ranks.

L-R: RW Bro Tony Farmer (JD), Bro John Spinks, Bro John Cutler (SD), Bro Marty Pall, W Bro Jack Fleming (Treasurer), Bro Patrick Greene and VW Bro Harold Harris (WM)



LODGE BLACKTOWN KILDARE No 393

An outdoor ceremony at Joadja

Lodge Blacktown Kildare No 393 held an unusual meeting when it conferred the Second Degree on a brother at Joadja village near Mittagong.

It was unusual because the lodge was held outdoors by the ruins of the old township.

Joadja employed many Scottish miners who mined shale for kerosene production between 1870–1911 and at its peak, the township was home to nearly 1,200 people. The Australian Kerosene Oil and Mineral Corporation was formed in 1878 to mine the shale and refine it into its different byproducts (paraffin wax for candles, kerosene, lubricating oils and greases).

Lodge St John's Southern Cross No 740 (Scottish Constitution) was consecrated on 30 November 1886 and nearly 127

years later a group of masons turned up to practice their Craft.

In 1888 when the Jurisdiction of NSW&ACT was formed, the lodge then became Lodge St John's Southern Cross No 159.

With the closing of the oil shale industry in Joadja due to cheaper products being sourced from the USA, the lodge surrendered its Charter in 1899.

Visitor W Bro Steve Blinkhorn, who attended the meeting, said that 115 years after Freemasonry became extinct in Joadja, a group of nearly 30 brethren breathed a bit of masonic life into the long forgotten and deserted township.

He added that he believed it was the first time in this Jurisdiction that a masonic ceremony has been conducted outdoors.

LODGE SAWTELL TWILIGHT No 741

Sixty years in Freemasonry

On 19 February, RW Bro Desmond Moffatt, PSGW, was presented with his 60 Year Medal and Certificate by his longstanding friend and brother, RW Bro Doug Mayger, PJGW.

During those sixty years, RW Bro Moffatt has acquired a wealth of masonic knowledge and his advice is often sought on ritual and ceremonial work, and the general running of the lodge.

He has been a member or affiliate of ten different lodges throughout NSW, due to numerous postings as a police officer, and is still an active member of Lodge Sawtell Twilight No 741.

He was initiated at Lodge Oberon No 355, in December 1953, passed to the Fellowcraft Degree in May 1954 at Lodge Rectitude No 405, in Castlereagh Street, Sydney, then raised as a Master Mason in August 1954.

In February 1961, he was installed as Worshipful Master of Lodge Rectitude.

RW Bro Moffatt was appointed DGIW of District 55 in the Lake Macquarie area in September 1982. In June 1994 he was conferred the rank of PJGW and was promoted to PSGW in March 2005.



RW Bro Doug Mayger, PJGW (left) congratulated RW Bro Desmond Moffatt, PSGW and presented him with his 60 years certificate and jewel.



60 years in the Craft

RW Bro Amby Payne PJGW has been a highly respected and much loved Freemason for the last 60 years.

He embarked on his masonic journey when he was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on 5 December 1953 at Lodge Woolgoolga No 705. He was passed to the Fellowcraft degree on 9 April 1954 and raised as a Master Mason on 2 October 1954.

In June 1965 he was installed as WM of Lodge Woolgoolga No 705. In June 1976, he was promoted to the rank of Past Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies and was Preceptor of the Coffs Harbour Lodge of Instruction for 14 years.

In March 2005 RW Bro Payne received the Grand Master's Award of Merit for his dedication and service to the Craft. In June

2009 he was conferred the rank of Past District Grand Inspector of Workings and in June 2011 he was conferred the rank of Past Junior Grand Warden.

On 7 December 2013, masons from the district came to Lodge Woolgoolga to honour RW Bro Payne when he was presented with his 60 Years Certificate and Jewel by the current WM, VW Bro Graham Hanson.



RW Bro Amby Payne PJGW (left), receives his 60 years Certificate from VW Bro Graham Hanson WM

LODGE GLEN INNES No 44

A new team for Lodge Glen Innes

After a successful year in the Chair of King Solomon, and having initiated two new brethren to the Craft in the previous two months, W Bro J Bellette handed the reins over to the new WM, W Bro R E Turnbull, and his team, and wished the lodge continuing prosperity.



Back L-R: W Bro I Adams (Tyler), W Bro R Kempton (Steward), Bro D Fawcett (IG), Bro J Donald (JD), Bro S Kerry (SW), VW Bro R Haron (JW), Bro J Donald (SD), Bro M Sharpe (Steward), Bro P Davis (Music), W Bro G Peters (Steward), RW Bro K Toovey (Treasurer) Front L-R: RW Bro C Lute (Secretary), W Bro R E Turnbull (WM), W Bro J Bellette (IPM), VW Bro P Campbell, W Bro R Long (DC)

LODGE WAGGA WAGGA No 22

New and old at Lodge Wagga Wagga

Two important events marked the 4 March meeting of Lodge Wagga Wagga No 22. They were the initiation of Jacob Christopher Kember, at 20 years of age, and the presentation to Bro John Albert Ellis (Jack) of his 70 year certificate.

Jack worked with Hardys Joinery in Wagga Wagga from 1940 to 1988 and was a member of just the one lodge, Loyalty No 358, from 28 December 1943 and, following amalgamation, Wagga Wagga No 22 from April 2000.

Jack has missed very few meetings and yet has been happy to remain a Master Mason. He has always been fully supported in his masonic pursuits by his wife Nola, whom he married in 1940.

CLARENCE VALLEY No 1011

Hospital gains a couch

Clarence Valley Freemasons have once again combined in a community endeavour which has resulted in a hi-low examination couch being donated to the Maclean District hospital's emergency department.

The couch, valued at \$2,250, was funded by the regular funding activities of the Clarence Valley masons and an interaction grant from Masonicare.

'Because it is controlled electronically by foot or hand, it will decrease manual handling risk. It will be easier for doctors to examine patients because it has an unlimited combination of positions and as it can go a lot lower, it will be good for elderly patients,' said nurse unit manager Jo Giese.

It was another example of Freemasonry in action.



L-R: VW Bro Ross Reid (DGIW), Bro Jack Ellis, Bro Jacob Kember and RW Bro Rick Priest, Worshipful Master of Lodge Wagga Wagga No 22



LODGE RICHARD COLEY No 152

A museum experience

A capacity crowd enjoyed a great afternoon at the Lodge Richard Coley museum exhibition.

The mayor, Councillor Kim Ford opened proceedings and acknowledged the history and great work of Freemasonry in the Hawkesbury area.

Following the mayor was an excellent and well thought out presentation from VW Bro Roger Coates DGIW on the ongoing relevance of Freemasonry in today's society.

This was followed by RW Bro Gary Dean who talked about the history of Lodge Richard Coley and some of the

items displayed, with question time available to interested peoples.

It was a great event which promoted the Craft in the Hawkesbury area with several prospective candidates, people wanting to know more about where their dad or grandfather used to go and genuine interest from the public.

Details of the event were distributed to over 800 people in the community, and photos were displayed on the local Council website and events page.

Special thanks to all who attended, especially to the presenters for their time and effort.

LODGE OPHIR No 7

Freemasonry takes to the air waves



The 3 Degrees Radio Program is an innovation by presenters Bro Paul Johnson, W Bro John Ferguson and RW Bro Chuck Frame from Lodge Ophir at Orange.

The two hour program consists of top quality music, W Bro Ferguson presents Australian verse and poetry each week and the program is intermingled with events from district lodges, information and background on Freemasonry with the object of Connecting with the Community!

Listeners are invited to phone in or email the program with inquiries re membership and other masonic matters.

A popular segment is an interview with a local Freemason where he gives listeners a little of his background re work, family and of course his journey, experiences and feelings about the Craft. This segment has proved very popular and the presenters have had good feedback from the community. The program is well accepted by listeners and presents Freemasonry to the community in a very positive manner.

THE ST GEORGE LODGE No 328

Spring chicken?



Bro Ron Kilgour with W Bro Barry Snell (WM) and his officers, with a 'silkie', one of the special breeds of exhibition poultry.

Brother Ron Kilgour of The St George Lodge No 328, recently gave the brethren an address on Exhibition Poultry at the Dinner Meeting of the lodge in the Waratah Lounge of Bexley Masonic Hall.

The brethren were delighted with Ron's presentation and to learn of his

expertise and skills in preparing and exhibiting different breeds of poultry at regular shows including Sydney's Royal Easter Show.

Ron has won many prizes over some 40 years of exhibiting and has been an expert judge for the past 10 years.

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Freemason welcomes new members to the Craft

<i>Name</i>	<i>Lodge</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Lodge</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Lodge</i>
AARTS, Ben	Lodge The Raleigh 241	FILIPOVIC, Mark	The Queen's Lodge 229	MILISAVIC, Steve	Lodge Dunblane Australis 966
ACOSTA, Jeff	Lodge Germania 1036	FORSEY, John	Lodge Capitol 612	MITCHINSON, Chris	The City of Wollongong Lodge 1049
ADOLPHE Olivier	Lodge Ionic 65	FRANCISCO, Butch	Lodge Beauty of Cabra Vale 743	MOOGAN, Shaun	Lachlan Macquarie Lodge 1042
AHLUWALIA, Sunny	Lodge Kirrawee 903	GARGARO, Tony	Lodge Galileo 1019	MORRIS, Joseph	Lodge Allan Stuart 416
AKSOY, Michael	Lodge Alpha 970	GARLAND, Phil	Lodge Calala Tamworth 652	MORRISON, Thomas	The Australian Lodge Of Harmony 5
AMERY, Matthew	Lodge Trinity 666	GARNER, Terry	Lodge Millthorpe 276	MURRAY, Alex	Lodge Sydney St. George 269
AMIN, Upol	Lodge of Fidelity 101	GARRETT, Tim	Lodge Burns Wentworth Tuscan 21	NANCE, Matthew	The Australian Lodge Of Harmony 5
ANTOUN, Stephan	Lodge Sutherland 585	GHASSANI, Sam	The Cedars Lodge 1041	NASSIF, Andrew	The Queen's Lodge 229
AQUINO, Albert	Lodge Double Bay 331	HAIDAR, Christopher	Lodge Sutherland 585	NETTHEIM, Aaron	Lodge Warringah 83
ARCA, Marlon	Lodge Woronora 414	HAJIDAVID, Michael	Lodge Germania 1036	OCAMPO, Roland	Lodge Kilwinning 13
ARNOLD, Peter	Lodge Millennium 2000	HARDY, Rhys	Coeur De Lion – Narooma 84	ODELL, Damien	Lodge Blue Mountains Unity 279
ASHBY, Sean	The Australian Lodge Of Harmony 5	HAVENS, Ward	Lodge Axiom 1047	OGNJANOSKI, Oggy	Lodge Germania 1036
ASKEW, Geordie	Lodge Challenge 284	HAWKINS, Bill	Lodge Helensburgh 566	O'ROURKE, Simon	The Royal Empire Lodge 613
ATKINS, Tom	Lodge Kensington 270	HAY, Shaun	Lodge of Fidelity 101	PARRY-HUSBANDS, Gareth	The Lodge Of Australia 3
AUSTRIA, JoJo	Lodge Namoi 207	HEWI, Ellie	The Builders Lodge 1048	PARSONS, Michael	Lodge Saratoga 937
AYKUT, Jason	Lodge Alpha 970	HILL, Doug	Lodge Courallie 235	PASIC, Ismar	The Lodge Of Tranquillity 42
AYKUT, Sadik	Lodge Alpha 970	HUNT, Stuart	Lodge Guildford 321	PAYNE, Rob	Lodge Morning Star 410
AYOUB, Hun'a	Lodge Illawarra 59	ISSA, Don	Lodge Germania 1036	PONT, Graeme	Lodge Seymour 945
AYYOUB, Hassan	Lodge Beecroft 359	JENKINS, Mark	Lodge Emu Plains 860	PRATELLI, Nick	Lodge Germania 1036
AYYOUB, Laith	Lodge Emu Plains 860	JONES, Matthew	Lodge Capitol 612	REICHEL, Graeme	Lodge Scone 183
BABA, Elia	Lodge Emu Plains 860	KADDISSI, William	The Sir Walter Scott Lodge 123	RICHMOND, Cameron	The Schools Lodge 639
BARAC, Robert	The Royal Empire Lodge 613	KELLY, Alex	Lodge Illawarra 59	RIMMER, Chris	The City of Wollongong Lodge 1049
BAUMGURTEL, Matt	Lodge Trinitarian 978	KEMBER, Jacob	Lodge Wagga Wagga 22	ROGEN, Ira	The Leichhardt Lodge 133
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Thank you

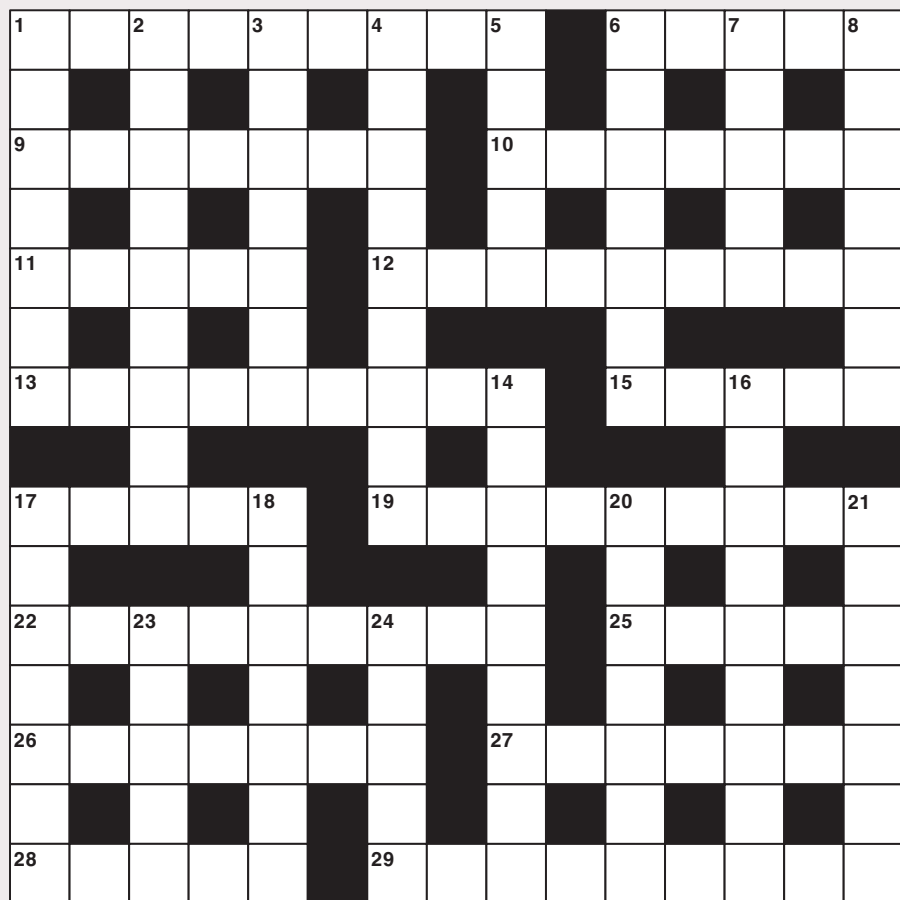
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Aims of the Freemason magazine

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

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ACROSS

- 1 Grant unto us and have focus amended accordingly (9)
- 6 Part of Jacob's ladder found in First Avenue
- 9 Furtively moving gin lids sideways (7)
- 10 Shows of reverence and respect with sham ego (7)
- 11 Mel finished up hiding her charmingly spirited and mischievous ways (5)
- 12 Public avowal of stony item revealed in the Arc of the Covenant (9)
- 13 Liquids with uniform dispersal of solids give us the answers (9)
- 15 Strange words regarding the Tyler's implement of Office (5)
- 17 Odd moods in depraved city Gen. 19:24

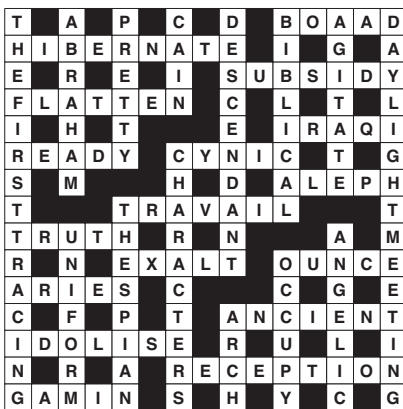
- 19 Instead fastidious characters provide cover that's firm and resolute (9)
- 22 An off the cuff speech creates optimum PR (9)
- 25 Sings about some of the secrets (5)
- 26 Unfortunately, USA isn't able to provide moral support (7)
- 27 Even annual Emmy Ida hoped for was affected by her blood deficiency (7)
- 28 Ogled strangely at our members' organisation (5)
- 29 Green light given to a written farewell (9)

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- 1 Seven loses one cast on the plain of Jordan for the Temple's service (7)
- 2 Need fluid replacement to remain pure and unsullied (9)
- 3 Head cover washed up in the rain (7)
- 4 Very minute linear measurements recorded by Ms A Strong (9)
- 5 Doctors stethoscope to conceal the fundamental traits of the place (5)
- 6 Diplomatic conferences held on mountain tops (7)
- 7 Make French friend go with a Spanish friend (5)
- 8 Attempted to write an article (7)
- 14 Have a go and tape clues up (9)
- 16 Lodge member from Ulster? No a German for a change (9)
- 17 Take odd sickies before selling 50% for waste coinage (7)
- 18 Alpha or Omega? Forget the first and change the last with alternative for boat fees (7)
- 20 Praised reparation for misery and gloom (7)
- 21 Test tea variations with a will (7)
- 23 Dopes modelled thus (5)
- 24 Act in fright by an ear of millet (5)

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Anzac Day wreath laying ceremony

A wet Anzac Day morning greeted the increasing number of masons, families and friends at the **Freemasons' Association (NSW & ACT) 2014 Wreath Laying Ceremony** at the Cenotaph, Martin Place, Sydney.

The masonic contingent formed on the corner of Pitt Street and Martin Place at 7.00am and marched to the Cenotaph under the command of RW Bro Major Douglas James, ED (Ret'd), PJGW.

Wreaths were placed on the Cenotaph by RW Bro Major General RJ Sharp, AO, RFD, ED (Ret'd), PDGM, representing the Grand Master and RW Bro R Davis, PAGM, in company with Dr Yvonne McIntyre, President, Freemasons' Association. The President invited RW Bro Davis to place a Wreath on behalf of the Association as a tribute to his service with the 2/9th Commando Squadron, 6th Division,

which served with great distinction in World War II.


The Association wishes to thank those who attended the ceremony. The support of the Returned and Services League of NSW and the contribution of those involved is also acknowledged. A special thank you is extended to RW Bro Major Douglas James who has served as the Parade Commander since the inception of the Wreath Laying Ceremony in 2008 and to RW Bro Graham Berry, PSGW, President of the NSW Masonic Club for his generosity in making the club facilities available for morning tea at the completion of the ceremony. 



Photo courtesy of Wayne Dowsent Art

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The Museum of Freemasonry will bring the shop to members in the lobby during Grand Communications.

Brethren will be able to purchase ritual books, passports, folders and most blank paper work. Also, many items of regalia, collars and the new range of Past Master's Jewels exclusive to the Museum as well as a range of masonic jewellery not available elsewhere.

Any orders phoned into the shop in advance can be collected on the night and special orders can be discussed in the shop on Tuesday mornings with the jeweller.



Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution Established in 1880



With your generous donations we have been able to assist people in need in many of our communities, including:

- > Financial assistance through our annuity scheme
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- > Suicide prevention networks
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Do you know someone who needs our help?

As well as assisting in the abovementioned causes, RFBI is at the forefront of providing great Information Technology (I.T.) services to our residents with the rollout of Wi-Fi throughout our facilities.

One resident's son who lives in another state has praised RFBI and the ability to connect so quickly with his mother in care at one of our facilities via Skype. "[Being able] to Skype my mother through this innovative service ... leaves me feeling deeply indebted to you and your team for the wonderful service and support you provide to my mother and her extended family."

Having a parent in care can be difficult and emotional especially when their children aren't in close proximity to the facility. Computers and iPads are ready at hand for residents to use

when they feel they need to connect with their children, and our staff members are more than happy to help.

Visitors are also welcome to use the Wi-Fi whilst visiting their relatives and it can be a great opportunity for a family catch-up when members are located all over the country. The RFBI is proud to be able to provide this service to our residents and their families.

Your Masonic Charity at Work



RFBI CEO Alex Shaw with one of her residents and her daughter.

For retirement village inquiries, donations or to organise Speakers for Lodge meetings, please contact Alex Shaw on 02 8031 3200 or admin@rfbi.com.au

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