

Freemason



Our fearless
**fire-
fighters**



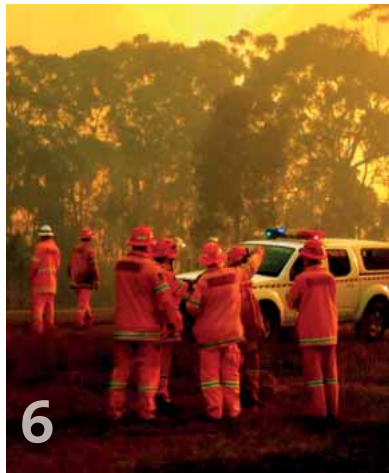
**'Come in
Spinner'**

Two-up: an aussie icon

What is a lodge?



Editorial	3
Quarterly Communication	4
Legacy	5
Rural Fire Service	6
Silver City – A roaming lodge	8
Grand Chaplain's Message	10
Grand Secretary's Page	11
Famous Mason – John Gorton	12
Australia's First Masonic Lodge	14
The Battle for Australia Association	15
Two-up: An Aussie icon	16
Australia Day and ANZAC	17
Defining a lodge	18
Famous Mason – Harry Collins	19
Encouraging future generations	20
Book Reviews	22
A will saves problems	23
Organ Donation	24
Masonicare	26
Golden Oldies	28
Representing a Grand Lodge	29
Our Logo	30
Tip Card	31
Freemasons' Association	32
Young Mason	34
Let's talk to each other	35
Ted's Travels	36
Have your say	37
The value of prompting	38
Regional Roundup	39
Initiates	44
Crossword	45
Comedy corner	45
Service Certificates	46



Cover Image:
Two volunteer fire fighters from the NSW Rural Fire Service surveying the damage.

Freemason



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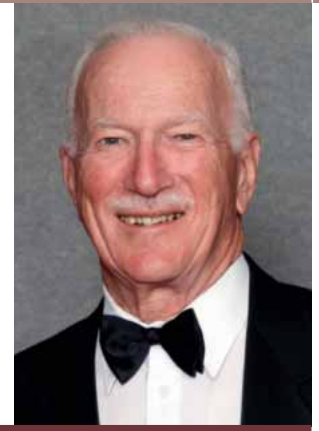
Editorial Policy

Aims of the Freemason magazine

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



Let's talk about 'F' words



Those **little words** we don't like to talk about.

Today's society and its elastic boundaries is often the subject of discussion, approval and regret. New words and phrases are invented each year, some are accepted into the language and others die a swift death.

Depending on your upbringing and the beliefs and teachings of your parents, some words are never allowed in the house or in front of children. Such a word, mostly used to shock or to reveal a lack of knowledge, is commonly known as the 'F' word. In this article, I would like to discuss four variations of the 'F' word and how they apply to each and every one of us.

In the dictionary, **FAITH** is described as a strong feeling of trust and confidence in someone or something. And in religious terms, it is a belief and trust in a Supreme Being. The word is used in many ways – to keep faith with someone, to act in good faith, to lose faith in an organisation or person.

FREEDOM can be described as the right to do what you want without being controlled or restricted by anyone. We take for granted the freedom we have in Australia in contrast to some overseas countries and we like to have our freedom of speech, freedom of choice, personal freedom and political and media freedom.

A **FAMILY** is a group of people who are related to each other, especially a mother, father and their children. You can also have a family circle, a family doctor, a family room, a family tree and family values.

How do you classify a **FRIEND**? It is someone whom you know, like very much and enjoy spending time with. You can have a close friend, a mutual friend, a circle of friends, a childhood friend and a best friend. A friend is usually a supporter and not an enemy.

All of these combined can make a huge difference to your life. The more you can


incorporate these words into your daily activities, the easier and happier life becomes. Of course there will be moments of despair, of trial and tribulation when nothing seems to go right, but perseverance, faith and friends will help overcome all difficulties.

The more you can incorporate these words into your daily activities, the easier and happier life becomes.

And if you still think the world is getting impossible, think of the coming time we call Easter, a holy day when Christians remember the death of Christ and his return to life. It is a time to reflect on what can be done and the sacrifices we are prepared to make for others.

The more you are willing to act within the boundaries of faith, freedom, family and friends, the more you are likely to be successful in your efforts.

Try to be motivated, kind, hopeful and loving, acting out of love rather than fear or anger. Take the first step, be full of faith, talk to your family and friends, use your freedom to be inspired because somewhere in your heart something wonderful is waiting to happen.

By the way, there is another important 'F' word. It is called **FREEMASONRY**. Have a wonderful Easter. 

MEMORIES OF OLD

Do you have any interesting or humorous memories of the former Sydney Masonic Centre in Castlereagh Street.

Already mentioned have been the 'lights out' call each night from the caretaker to make sure you didn't over-stay your welcome, the ancient lift with the metal frame door and the basement where the stewards were required to go to pick up deliveries for the Lodge South.

Any contributions will be welcomed.

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



December Communication

The Grand Master, MW Bro Derek Robson AM issued his Christmas welcome to the December Communication with particular emphasis on specific areas and people.

‘At every Communication, I am always honoured to acknowledge the wonderful stewardship and wise counsel offered so freely by our Past Grand Masters. Each of these truly fine masons has set an extraordinary example of commitment, loyalty and respect and I am truly honoured to be in their presence,’ he said.

‘Only last week on national television, we all had the opportunity to witness a report on the annual “Head of the Yarra” rowing spectacle. There, in front of the whole world, our esteemed Past Grand Master, MW Bro Bob Hammond, offered a classic quotation, “So long as you keep going, you’ll keep going longer”. They are our living treasures.’

He also extended congratulations to the Central Coast masons for their continuing support of Surf Life Saving; Lodge Commonwealth of Australia and particularly their Worshipful Master, VW Bro Ray Newcombe OAM, for encouraging extensive support for the Snowy Hydro Southcare helicopter; all those involved in this year’s Movember fundraising; Bro Alex Slater and his team’s fundraising efforts in the Sydney to the Gong Bike Ride; the Royal Empire Lodge’s support of the Sydney Children’s Hospital; District

44’s support of the Gloucester Soldiers Memorial Hospital; Lodge Oatley’s support of the St George School; District 37’s support of the Brave Heart Foundation; Coffs Harbour Freemasons support of the local Palliative Care Service; Lodge Nowra Unity’s support of the Shoalhaven Youth Orchestra; and all those who have supported other community fundraising activities. He said each had brought great credit to the Craft.

The Grand Master also acknowledged the NSW *Freemason* and all those on the Committee, for their dedication and commitment to this fine publication. He said that each of this year’s volumes has brought attention to almost every aspect of our Craft and has been of great benefit to us all as it has found its way out into the broader community.

‘At the September Communication, I introduced you to the new Masonicare jewels, and I am honoured to congratulate W Bro Ron Short for receiving the very first jewel. The members of Lodge Helensburgh No 566 gifted this to Ron for his personal commitment to Masonicare and his lodge, and I encourage you all to consider this form of appreciation for a worthy brother.

‘Brethren, this has been a busy year and I need to let you know that I am not done yet. I intend further changes to improve our processes, our practices and our relationship with the community. While we

will see the introduction of the College of Masonic Studies, inputs from the Grand Master’s Literary Prize, more widespread use of the website opportunities and other administrative change, I will continue to work with the Board of Management to do more.

‘I have travelled extensively throughout the year to better represent our “all of one company” ethos and I have welcomed the opportunity to be able to support your various activities wherever possible. In doing what I do, I thank you for your encouragement.’

During the Quarter, the Executive Council considered a number of issues. The Council agreed with the recommendation of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence that recognition of the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise be withdrawn because of the deteriorating situation. On a more local issue, the Council made a number of decisions regarding the Castlereagh Street entrance. They included that the doors should be opened regularly, appropriate lighting and other forms of deterrents will be considered for the evening period, signage promoting Freemasonry will be placed in the various aluminium frames on the Ground Floor and Level One, but no further action will be taken on the development of the Castlereagh Street entrance.

The Board of Management reported it had adopted the ‘4 Region’ Model to replace the current 13 Regions. They will be Newcastle Hunter, Sydney North, Sydney South and Canberra. Another ten buildings have been granted Full Certification status and two others have been awarded Preliminary Certification status. STEP, in conjunction with local lodges, is working to participate at ‘O Week at Universities’ in Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong, Canberra, Wagga Wagga and Bathurst. Whether attendance will be possible at all universities will be conditional on local manpower and local funding support in addition to Grand Lodge funding support.

A Preview of the March Communication Program

The March Communication will be held at the Sydney Masonic Centre on Wednesday, 13 March commencing 7.30pm. There will be a musical interlude.

The Order of Business will be:

- › Minutes and Correspondence
- › Conferral of Grand Rank
- › Election of Grand Master
- › Determination of Grand Lodge fees and dues for 2013/14 year
- › General Business

Help needed

What do you know about the work of Legacy, apart from what you occasionally read in the papers or hear on the radio/tv?



Legacy supports Junior Legatees, children who have lost a parent, with a range of support including holidays and camps.

Social isolation is a major problem for many seniors and it is something that Legacy actively works to prevent.

Legacy supports more than 100,000 widows in Australia. Many of these are war widows, and more than half are in their senior years.

Across the nation, 49 Legacy clubs assist these widows and their children with advocacy to see that they get the benefits to which they are entitled, ensuring they have access to medical and dental treatment and transport, have personal medical alarms or financial assistance if required.

But the provision of social opportunities via Widows' Clubs is seen as an integral part of Legacy. This gives the women an opportunity to meet regularly, often weekly, to share each other's company. Whether the meeting is in a local hall, club or on Legacy premises, they can sit and relax in familiar surrounds with women they know.

Legacy's oldest Widow celebrated her 110th birthday last year. One of the Legatees who visited her regularly said that this woman has wonderful support from her family and she is able to remain living at her daughter's home.

'But many others don't have that,' Legatee Young said. 'Many have been widowed for a long time, some since World War II, and with health issues and just ageing they find it difficult to visit others.'

'Many of these Widows need extra support – their potential social isolation presents a considerable problem for Legacy but a problem which all are working diligently to overcome.'

'The Widows' groups give them a weekly outing, and for some this is the

only time they see other people during the week. They are friends to each other – it really is about being a friend and just being there.'

Within the Widows' groups there is a strong bond between the women, and the Widows know if someone is unwell or have concerns – they can call on Legacy for help.

Sydney Legacy also offers Widows holidays at their beautiful Legacy Holiday House in Moss Vale, in NSW's Southern Highlands.

The fully funded trips, with special assistance from the Legacy Women's Aux-

'The Widows' groups give them a weekly outing, and for some this is the only time they see other people during the week.'

iliary, give the Widows a chance to enjoy the company of others, refresh their spirits, breathe the fresh country air and enjoy healthy home-style meals. The Legacy bus takes them on outings to Canberra, the South Coast and around the local area, giving them a wonderful 10 day break.

As well, Legacy has units at Tuncurry and Narrabeen where Widows can visit with a carer for a self-catering holiday.

Legacy needs volunteers to assist with its support of Widows. A telephone call to Sydney Legacy on 02 9248 9000 or the website at www.legacy.com.au will ensure that you speak to your local Legatees.

For Freemasons this is an opportunity to help those Widows whose husbands or partners gave their tomorrows to safeguard our todays.



When an Australian dies on active service, Legacy stands by to help the family.



Our fearless firefighters

'FIRE!' – That is the **terrifying call** that invariably preludes a **searing destruction of life, property and land** in different parts of Australia during the summer season.

This summer has not been any different with bushfires in NSW, Tasmania and Queensland causing massive devastation and the crisis worsened in NSW and Queensland with the onset of unexpected torrential rain and floods.

When the call comes for action, many people step forward to volunteer their services in fighting the bushfires knowing that the risk is always there that they could become a victim.

Among them are many masons carrying out their principles of helping others. Peter Marshall, the JW of Lodge Balmain, and Theo Klich, a new member of the same lodge fill one of the two categories of salaried staff and volunteers for the Rural Fire Service.

Marshall is a fulltime Operations Captain in the Ku-ring-gai area while Klich is a specialist helicopter fighter/rescuer.

Marshall started as a volunteer in Sydney and after fighting 94 fires, moved on to staff. But the memory has never left him of the danger of certain fires.

'Probably the worst I've ever seen were the 2001 fires through Pennant Hills and down to the National Park. I went to Canberra where people described the fires there as a super-heated front of hot air. The noise it generated was chronic and very intense, like a steam train or a fleet of trucks coming at you. At Coonabarabran, the smoke and heat rose 12 kilometres in the air, created its own lightning pattern inside smoke clouds. It looked like a fire in the sky.'

'I've been lucky that I've only had small injuries but nothing serious. Once, a small part of a branch was taken out of my leg in hospital. I have worked with people who suffered severe burns needing treatment and rehabilitation. You never forget being burnt.'



Marshall said firefighters are taught basic safety instructions, fire history and behaviour, trucks and equipment. This includes wind behaviour, topography, vegetation, conditions to expect, what a fire will do under those conditions and how a change can make a difference. They also have to be aware of crowning, back-burning and hazard reduction.





‘Crowning is where the fire conditions are so intense not only on the ground but also in the canopy of tree tops when the eucalyptus leaves inflate and burn rapidly. The fire on the ground underneath follows the bark layer on the trees and some ash and embers can fly well ahead of the central blaze and extend the main fire.

‘Back burning fights fire with fire as a suppression method, leaving nothing to burn. Hazard reduction is used in cooler periods to reduce the build-up of fuel such as leaves and fallen branches to enable us to get a controlled result.’

Membership comes from inquiries and advertising in local media but no person under the age of 16 can apply although some areas have training programs for juniors. There is no upper age limit, a job can be found for every applicant ranging from front line to support, logistics, communications, fire spotting from towers and catering.

Marshall said the organisation gets a sizeable budget from the State Government as well as local government and the insurance council.

‘Our trucks have prevention systems but this doesn’t apply to private cars. The best advice is don’t drive through smoke because you quickly become disoriented. Try to protect yourself as much as possible and because houses usually suffer the worst damage after the main front has passed, try to extinguish all embers around the building.’

Theo Klich is a front line fighter with danger always present as his partner. He is part of a small group of four, two to fly the helicopter, who are winched down to fight blazes in difficult areas or to help rescue people who are in trouble.

He has been a firefighter for more than five years and was originally motivated by a desire to help others and do something for the community.

‘We are sent to very remote areas which trucks and people can’t reach. We have been trained how to get out of the helicopter, to get down and quickly fight the fire. It’s better if it can land anywhere near the fire with being winched down as a last resort,’ he said.

‘Each member has lots of equipment, chainsaws, portable pumps, backpacks as well as three days supply of food and water. We do everything from an initial attack to containing or mopping up after the fire. The helicopter also has buckets to pour water on the fire.

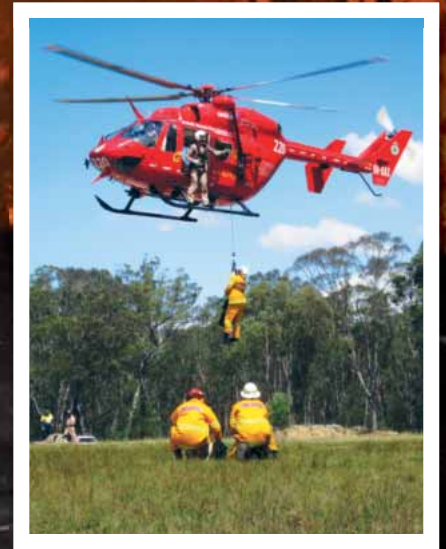
‘At Crookwell recently, we helped a local resident to save his house and property. I also spent a week in Coonabarabran when they called for volunteers. I had a free week, took holidays from work and went there.

‘I burnt my hand a couple of months ago when I tripped and fell into a fire. First aid is essential and we prefer to have somebody qualified on the team. A few times we have had to get out of an area as quick as possible. Our biggest problem is communications between the chopper and the ground crew because the helicopter is loud and noisy and everything can happen so quickly.



‘Helping others is part of the fraternity and it’s an opportunity and experience we don’t get anywhere else. There are many unpleasant situations with death and destruction involving people and livestock. But we have to take the good with the bad. It’s not a matter of getting used to it, it’s just deal with it or else.’

These men are among the many who volunteer their time and life to save property and on occasions, lives. They are the unsung heroes whose actions uphold the Australian attitude of a “fair go” and a helping hand.



Photos courtesy of the Rural Fire Service



Our first roaming lodge meeting



Whilst Grand Master, and during his first visit to Silver City Lodge No 141, MW Bro Dr Greg Levenston expressed his desire that **another lodge be formed within each Masonic District.**

Subsequent management meetings of Silver City Lodge and discussions of the brethren concluded that we couldn't see how we could make this happen, considering our lodge was the result of the consolidation of the previous five local lodges in Broken Hill. However, we didn't dismiss the idea outright. When our new Grand Master, MW Bro Derek Robson AM took the helm, he expressed the desire that there be masons in every city, town, village and hamlet in the jurisdiction. Again, some discussion ensued.

After a lodge management meeting early last year, three of our brethren were again discussing this idea and it was said, 'If we can't get the brethren to come to lodge, perhaps we can take the lodge to the brethren', and the genesis of the

'Roaming Lodge' was formed. At that stage none of us had the slightest idea of how we would turn this idea into a real event, nor of the enormity of the task we had set ourselves.

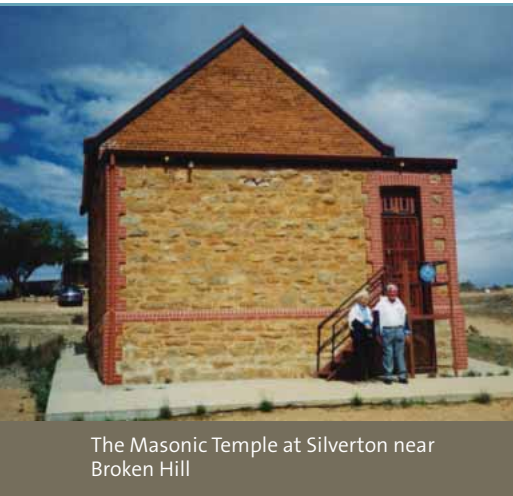
We put the idea to the brethren of the lodge and it was met with tacit enthusiasm, so we decided to press on anyway and set a date of Saturday 24 April. Informal meetings quickly realised this was not going to be a walk in the park. How do you pick up a lodge, take it perhaps hundreds of kilometres, set it up and make it work?

A chance meeting between the headmaster (Brian Debus) of the Menindee Central School (100 km east of Broken Hill) and our DGIW, VW Bro Brian Wood, resulted in the discovery that Brian Debus was indeed W Bro Brian Debus,



and that the school hall would be available for us to hold such a meeting. 'What a stroke of luck!'

We then decided to stop pussy-footing around, and work towards solving little logistical problems like 'How do we acquire, purloin, cadge items such as tracing boards, pavements, ornaments, furniture and jewels to set up a proper lodge room'. Furthermore they had to be transportable. It was also decided that



The Masonic Temple at Silverton near Broken Hill

Menindee would only be the ‘First Step’. In years gone by there were numerous lodges ‘West of the Darling’, and so we decided also to try to hold meetings in White Cliffs, Tibooburra and Wilcannia. But Menindee would be first.

Several visits were made to Menindee to check the practicalities of setting up a lodge room in the school hall. Thanks to the help of the school community this could be done without too much difficulty but there was still one problem ... the pavement. Remember our Craft Guild forefathers set up lodges wherever they happened to be, and they would draw their pavements on the floor or ground so we thought surely we could overcome this little problem. Thanks to the efforts of VW Bro Brian Wood, we were able to acquire a piece of chequered linoleum and he applied his hidden artistic talents with linoleum paint to provide a very well-crafted portable pavement.

Enthusiasm for the project was building within the lodge and following publicity on the local ABC radio station and an article in the *Barrier Daily Truth*, we were set to roll. Our RGC, RW Bro Tony Punzet had spread the word around the region and last minute details like catering and the agenda were finalised.

The day arrived at last, and what a memorable day it turned out to be. The lodge room, as one of the brethren commented, ‘was one that any lodge would be proud of’. The lodge was tyled with a very good attendance of Silver City brethren. The DGIW, VW Bro Wood was admitted and welcomed, followed by our sister Lodge Cobar No 97 including the WM, W Bro John Mead and brethren and visiting brethren from Lodge Oxley No 225. It should be remembered that these sister

lodges are 450 and 600 km respectively from Broken Hill.

It was touch and go whether W Bro Debus would be in attendance as he was in Sydney for departmental business during that week, and his plane to Broken Hill would need to be on time and then the drive to Menindee also timed to the minute in order to be ‘at the Meeting’. However, on cue and with an adjustment to apron and tie, W Bro Debus was admitted.

Our unofficial resident historian, RW Bro Brian Anderson addressed the brethren and gave some interesting snippets concerning the history of lodges ‘West of the Darling’. It was interesting to note the presence of lodges around the turn of the 20th century, including Lodge Kararo at White Cliffs, Moorabin at Wilcannia, Lodge Darling at Wentworth, Umberumberka at Silverton and Barrier, Willyama Lodge and Broken Hill at Broken Hill. In later years of course, Lodge Avery, and the Menindee lodges were constituted and along with Barrier, Broken Hill and Umberumberka, met in Broken Hill. Some of the snippets included:

- The Silverton Masonic Centre was constructed for a cost of 340 pounds.
 - The dress code for the Silverton brethren was ‘Dress in White’.
 - The meeting date for the members of the Moorabin Lodge at Wilcannia, referred to the night of the full moon (apparently so the brethren could see to go home following the meeting).
 - Dues for the members when Willyama Lodge was constituted in 1888 were two pounds per year.
 - Willyama Lodge, in its first year, held 22 meetings for the year.
- Freemasonry was very strong in Broken

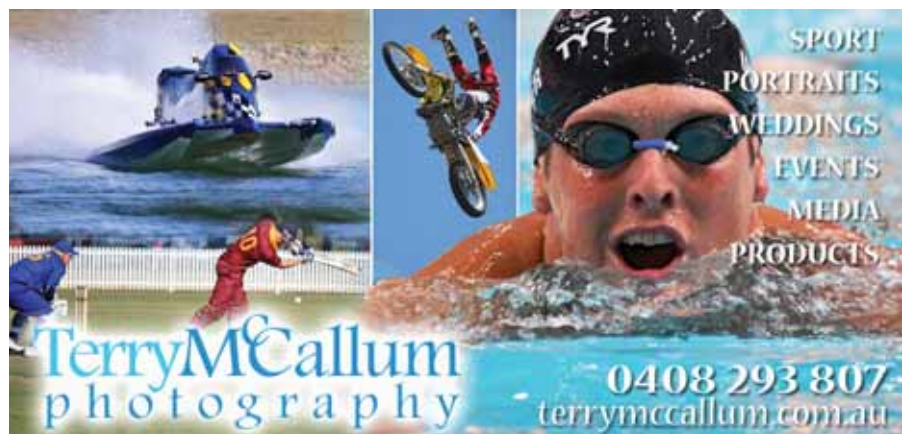
Hill for many years, but unfortunately suffered the same fate as many other lodges, and in February 1997 the remaining five lodges (Umberumberka, Barrier, Broken Hill, Avery and Menindee) were consolidated and Silver City No 141 was born.

W Bro Debus was invited to take the floor. After acknowledging the traditional Barkintji people of this land and donning his hat as ‘School Principal’, he gave a fascinating insight into the ground-breaking achievements at Menindee Central School. Projects such as ‘The Trains’ hospitality and accommodation training project, the school radio station, transportable home construction and pre-school traineeships are some of the unique projects which have helped turn the school and community around, providing a real opportunity for a start in life for its students. W Bro Debus is also a member of the Moorabin Lodge at Wilcannia, when he was posted there some years ago.

There were congratulations all round, and thanks to the brethren, the visitors and the Menindee school community for their contribution to the success of the day.

However, the real treat, was the hospitality in the South, provided by the students and school community at ‘The Trains’ following the meeting. There was much enjoyable fraternisation, many serves of scones, jam and cream, tea and coffee, and an insight into the good work and achievements of the school were experienced firsthand.

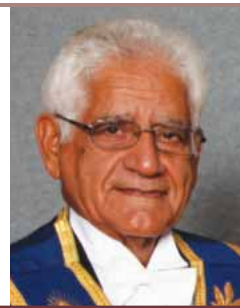
A post mortem was held in the weeks following the meeting, and some of the difficulties we faced were noted in order that we learn from our experiences. However, the overwhelming feeling of the brethren round the table was ‘White Cliffs, here we come!’





A good deed

'A good deed leads to another good deed, a transgression leads to another transgression' – From the Sayings of our Fathers



Observing our contemporary society worldwide, unfortunately we hear almost daily of corruption of many kinds by people of all walks of life. The question is why people do not learn from past mistakes of others to restrain themselves because of the consequences? Why are the new offenders ignoring the red light flashing in front of their eyes?

Human soul and mind are following their mysterious ways in each individual. In Jewish Tradition we are always reminded of the existence of two human inclinations wrestling and opposing each other constantly within ourselves. They are the Good Inclination and the Evil Inclination. When we let the Evil Inclination pursue its way freely to overcome our

good desires without forceful resistance, our personal mistakes and wrongdoings are taking their course. One transgression follows the previous one as a cover up. I do not wish anyone to be involved in such experience and to turn one's life into a topsy-turvy affair through courts and legal teams.

We should bear in mind that because we live in an open society, the influences around us from many corners, and indeed globally, are tremendous. The normal human desire to accumulate wealth quickly, for instance, could attract blindly those who wish to have a speedy financial gain. Sometimes those who have good connections with official departments or amidst the Court itself could easily generate another type of corruption in order

to win cases unlawfully, regardless of the truth.

Therefore, what is the remedy to reduce the various corruptions and to live in a better and truthful society? The answer is simple. It depends on each individual to lead by example and be the brother keeper. As we say: 'Do not do to others what you do not wish others to do to you.' Be kind, honest, thoughtful and helpful. In brief, be just a good person in the eyes of God and man and the Evil Inclination would be weakened within you.

May I put forward some suggestions:

1. Try to associate only with good, honest and reliable people.
2. Train yourself to strengthen self discipline to overcome the Evil Inclination.
3. Be happy and enjoy what you have and avoid being envious of others having more than you.
4. Heed to King Solomon's advice: 'One who loves money very strongly will never be satisfied but wants more.'
5. Have a strong belief in the Supreme Being within your personal faith, adopt the good elements in your religion.
6. Work constantly in improving your self behaviour and aim for higher personal positive achievements in life.
7. Be kind and thoughtful towards others and be available to offer your assistance whenever the occasion arises.
8. Charity never harms anybody when one practices it voluntarily and faithfully. The reward of self satisfaction is guaranteed.
9. 'Love your neighbour as yourself' – all the rest will be accomplished from performing and following this Holy Scripture advice.



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Master Masons and their
ladies welcome

From the Grand Secretary

DISASTER APPEALS

This summer has again resulted in many areas of Australia being affected with the devastation caused by freak events of nature that so often touch our lives. Whilst many in this great country fought bushfires, others were called upon to fight the rampaging destruction of flood waters. Australians never seem to enjoy a summer when people, homes and livelihoods are not threatened by these overpowering events.

The start of this season saw our wonderful state of Tasmania engulfed by bushfires resulting in the Grand Master of that Grand Lodge launching a local appeal to provide aid to as many as possible of those affected. Brethren of this jurisdiction were given details of this Appeal should they wish to assist.

Regrettably soon after that all other states and territories went through similar problems and, of course, Queensland and New South Wales also had to battle the flooding catastrophes.

The *Ready Relief* program developed by Masonicare has already been set in motion and it will work with all available resources, such as the STEP program, to offer whatever help and assistance as is possible.

Masonicare is also planning to run concurrent with *Ready Relief*, an appeal for funds which will be looked at as a 'national' action to offer aid to various communities as needed.

Those of you who have had the pleasure of hearing the Grand Master speak recently when on official visits have heard him state that this Grand Lodge has accepted that Masonicare and the STEP program can be jointly available to assist all masons, their families, their lodges and their communities.

He suggests there is a multitude of circumstances where help is needed such as

cleaning up affected properties, clearing obstructions, fence mending, backyard security, restoring of services, removals from and to houses and businesses, restoration of comforts, restoration of gardens and surroundings, veterinary help for family pets. These are examples that can be tackled by teams of motivated and qualified volunteers.

Participation of Freemasonry in the above will go a long way to restoring pride in the individual and pride in the community. With local spirits lifted, the demand for simple 'benevolence' payouts is also diminished.

ELECTIONS FOR POSITIONS WITHIN GRAND LODGE

Those brethren qualified are reminded that nominations for Grand Lodge Office (as per Clause 3.1.4 of the Book of Constitutions) must be with the Grand Secretary no later than **4.00 pm** on the first working day in May – Wednesday 1 May.

Those interested in the position of Regional Grand Counsellor must submit an application by 4.00 pm on **Friday 12 April 2013**.

Nominations for one of three positions on the Board of Management must be with the Grand Secretary by 4.00 pm on **Monday 1 April 2013**.

Nomination forms and a copy of the Role Statement for both the Board of Management and Regional Grand Counsellor are available from Melanie Scott (email melanies@masons.org.au or phone 02 9284 2800).

In all cases where nominations are submitted, they **MUST** be accompanied by a current passport size photograph of the applicant. Nomination forms are valid only for the year/term to which they refer and all lapse once the positions in question have been finalised.

GRAND INSTALLATIONS OF SISTER CONSTITUTIONS

Two of our Sister Constitutions will celebrate Grand Installations this year – Queensland in July and New Zealand in November. Our Grand Master, MW Bro Derek Robson AM will attend each of these special occasions and, as always, looks forward to support from the brethren and ladies of this jurisdiction.


These events are spectacular and have many associated functions for all to enjoy. Apart from making or renewing great masonic friendships it also gives everyone the opportunity to visit and enjoy the hospitality, lifestyle and general atmosphere of our close neighbours.

Registration forms are available on the respective Grand Lodge websites: <http://www.queenslandfreemasons.com> <http://www.freemasons.co.nz/wp/events/>

GRANDE LOGE NATIONALE FRANCAIS (GLNF)

Most would now be aware that our Grand Lodge, in addition to most Australasian Grand Lodges and other major Grand Lodges around the world, has withdrawn recognition of the GLNF. Concerns with the GLNF have been to the fore for a considerable amount of time.

Decisions such as these are never taken lightly and such recommendations are only presented to Grand Lodge when all avenues have been researched and given serious considerations.

It would be too difficult to explain in the short space here available the full background of events leading to the action taken but they have been well documented in quarterly reports submitted to Grand Lodge over the past two years by the Committee on Foreign Correspondence. 



From officers' mess to 'the lodge'

Sir John Grey Gorton PC, GCMG, AC, CH
19th Prime Minister of Australia

Sir John Grey Gorton was born in Melbourne on 9 September 1911, the illegitimate son of Alice Sinn, the daughter of railway worker and English orange grower John Rose Gorton. In 1920 Gorton went to live in Sydney with his father's estranged wife. (Gorton's father once told him that he had been born in Wellington, New Zealand, but a birth certificate has not been found).

He was educated at Sydney Church of England Grammar School (where he was a class-mate of Errol Flynn) and then at Geelong Grammar School from where he sailed to England to attend Brasenose College to study history, politics and economics.

During a holiday in Spain, Gorton met Bettina Brown of Bangor, Maine. In 1935 they married and returned to Australia where Gorton took over his father's orchard near Kerang. They eventually had three children: Joanna, Michael and Robin.

John Gorton was initiated on 5 February 1948 in Kerang Lodge No 100, Victorian Constitution. This unadorned statement prompts a series of questions: was he passed and raised, did he go through the Chair? Masonic records in NSW show that he attended an International Night at Lodge Frenchs Forest No 927 in 1970 although a lack of masonic records does not mean a lack of masonic activity.

In May 1940 Gorton attempted to enlist in the RAAF Reserve – and was rejected. Too old, at 29, for pilot training! In September the rules had been relaxed and he was commissioned into the RAAF in November. After pilot training in Somers, Wagga Wagga and England he was posted to a fighter unit, No 135 Squadron, RAF.

Transferred to Singapore in December 1941, No 135 was consolidated with No 232 RAF. In one of his first sorties his hurricane had to make a forced landing on Bintang



The President and Mrs. Nixon greet Australian Prime Minister Gorton and Mrs. Gorton at the north portico of the White House.

Island 40 km southeast of Singapore. As it landed the plane flipped over and Gorton's cheek bones and nose were smashed and he sustained severe lacerations to his arms.

With Singapore under attack by the Japanese Gorton experienced a series of 'adventures' before being reunited with his wife Betty. Now a Flight Lieutenant, Gorton then saw further service in Darwin and Milne Bay before being discharged in 1944.

Re-constructive surgery at Heidelberg Hospital could not fully repair his facial injuries and Gorton bore the scars for the rest of his life.

By 1949 Gorton's political career had blossomed and he had been elected to the Senate as a member of the Liberal Party. He served in various ministries under Robert Menzies and Harold Holt. Gorton was a capable and energetic minister and by the 1960s he began to be considered



John Grey Gorton just prior to leaving for active service in World War II in 1941.

leadership material. Prime Minister Harold Holt's disappearance in 1967 left the position of Prime Minister vacant. William McMahon was the apparent successor but could not secure the support of the Leader of the Country Party and Deputy Prime Minister, John McEwan. In the ensuing leadership struggle Gorton was elected party Leader and thus Prime Minister on 9 February 1968.

Gorton's initial popularity was diluted by poor media and public speaking skills and his opponents became increasingly critical of his reliance on an inner clique of advisors – particularly Ainsley Gotto, his private secretary. At the 1969 election there was a 7% swing against the Coalition but a leadership challenge was never going to be successful while McEwan could veto McMahon. But in January 1971 McEwan retired and on 10 March 1971 the Liberal Party caucus elected McMahon as leader and Prime Minister.

Gorton lingered on as a backbencher in federal parliament until 1974.

In retirement Gorton kept out of the political spotlight. Bettina Gorton died at 67 in 1983. Gorton remarried in 1993 to Nancy Home.

On 19 May 2002, aged 90, laden with honours, Sir John Grey Gorton, 19th Prime Minister of Australia, died in Sydney. 

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Masonic sites of Sydney

From the book *The Masonic Sites of Sydney* by RW Bro Grahame Cumming OAM CMH PDGM, **available from Grand Lodge.**

First Fleet Park at Sydney's Circular Quay is Freemasonry's sacred site. In the Golden Lion Tavern on 12 August 1820, Australia's first masonic lodge was consecrated. It was the Australian Social Lodge with warrant No 260 issued by the Grand Lodge of Ireland on 6 January 1820.

The foundation Master was Matthew Bacon who had arrived in the colony as a soldier in the 48th Regiment of Foot. He had taken his discharge and after working in the Commissariat Stores, opened a general store at No 2 York Street.

Bro James Stewart was Senior Warden and Bro Joseph Allan Junior Warden. All were members of Lodge No 218, Irish Constitution, held within the 48th Regiment.

The Master (Director) of Ceremonies was the ticket of leave convict, W Bro Samuel Clayton, a Past Master of Lodge No 6 Dublin and without whose guidance the new lodge might not have survived.

It did and it is now Lodge Antiquity No 1 on the register of the United Grand Lodge of NSW and the ACT.

From this humble beginning, with just 12 foundation members, can be traced the

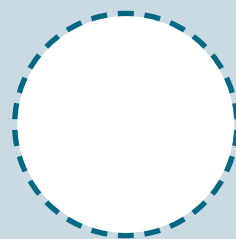


First Fleet Park

subsequent development of Freemasonry in NSW, Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania), Victoria, Queensland, New Zealand and a number of Pacific Islands.

So next time you are near Circular Quay or the Opera House, take a small diversion to First Fleet Park and the site of the Golden Lion Tavern and give a silent salute to those men who took the first step for Australian Freemasonry.

The Circle



Hold this circle close to your face and blow on it.

If it turns green, call your doctor.
 If it turns brown, see your dentist.
 If it turns purple, see a psychiatrist.
 If it turns black, see your solicitor and make a will.

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The Battle for Australia

There's an old cartoon showing a girl asking her father 'Daddy, what did YOU do in the War?'

Sometimes this innocent question caused problems because the father was not a serviceman but was retained at home for special duties or volunteered his service in other capacities.

In many countries, this situation was ignored, but in Australia it resulted in the formation of the Battle for Australia Association (BFA) which was the subject of an interesting talk at the Freemasons Association Remembrance Day dinner by Lt Col David Cooper OAM.

He said the genesis of the present Association was the Kokoda Association but it was not long before questions were being asked of what was being done to acknowledge and commemorate those thousands of Australians who either served in other military campaigns or else in civilian roles that supported the military units.

'The actions of Australians on the Kokoda Track are well known as are the

attacks on Darwin and Sydney but very little else is known about Australia's actions in the South-West Pacific nor of actions on the home front,' he said.

'In fact, far more is known of the American involvement as they have made so many films and TV programs about their Pacific war. So why have we not done the same? Cost was a big factor but it was also government policy not to release such information for many years during and after the war.

'To complicate this even further, the whole emphasis on commemorations is to identify the military actions and totally ignore the contribution of the civilian population. When a nation declares war, the entire population is involved from the very young to the very old.

'Young men and women who did not enlist in the fighting forces were drafted into numerous support activities. Many went into factories producing the equipment the military needed, others were sent to farms, others manned searchlight batteries and coastal guns. Many women joined the navy, army and air force as nurses and office staff while others became truck and bus drivers.

'Mothers with young children manned comfort units to provide parcels of food and essentials to the fighting forces. Older men became street wardens or instructors of young recruits, school children plaited camouflage nets and collected scrap metal, while very young children wrote letters with pretty drawings to servicemen to remind them of home.

'So why is it that all these essential behind-the-scenes actions are totally ignored when it comes to commemorating our nation's wartime experiences?'

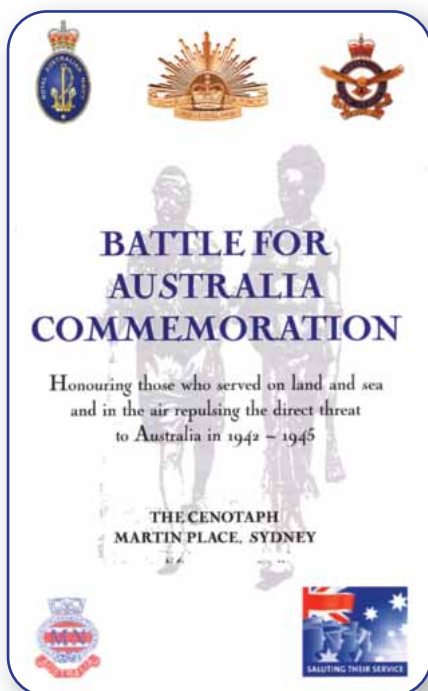
The Battle for Australia Association aims to acknowledge the contribution of all Australian citizens to the defence of



the nation between 1942 and 1945. In August 1998, following a meeting of interested organisations, the Battle for Australia Commemoration Day was established. The name was taken from a speech by the wartime Prime Minister John Curtin in an Address to the Nation in 1942 when he warned 'The battle for Australia is about to begin.'

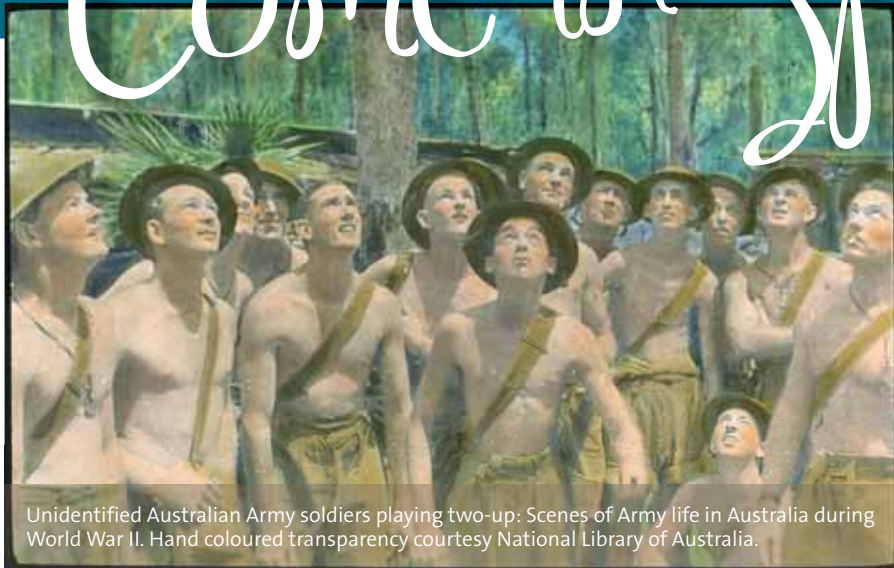
Since 1998, a National Committee and State committees have been formed and on 19 June 2008 the Governor General Michael Jeffery approved the gazetting of the first Wednesday in September as the Battle for Australia Day. It would take its place alongside Anzac Day and Remembrance Day as national days of remembrance.

Lt Col Cooper joined the Association in 2000, was appointed secretary of the NSW BFA Association and is now fully involved in the affairs of the Battle for Australia commemorations.





“Come in Spinner”



Unidentified Australian Army soldiers playing two-up: Scenes of Army life in Australia during World War II. Hand coloured transparency courtesy National Library of Australia.

Two-Up involves a designated ‘Spinner’ throwing two or three coins into the air. Players gamble on whether the coins will fall with both (obverse) heads up, both (reverse) tails up, or with one coin a head, and one a tail (known as ‘Odds’). It is traditionally played on Anzac Day in pubs and clubs throughout Australia as part of the experiences shared by Australian servicemen through different wars.

Wartime can be boring or horrific and the men at the front of the battle often needed some means of breaking the tension or the monotony and that’s where Two-Up made its appearance.

Authorities ignored the game when it was played extensively by Australian soldiers during World War I and it became a regular part of Anzac Day celebrations for returned soldiers.

The game is traditionally played with pennies, the coinage used in Imperial times or pre-decimal because their weight, size, and surface design made them ideal for the game. Weight and size make them stable on the throwing board and easy to spin in the air. Decimal coins are generally considered to be too small and light. Pre World War II pennies had the sovereign’s head on one side and the other usually had writing which made the result easy to see. Pennies are brought out specifically for this purpose each Anzac Day.

As with any game, it has unusual names and terms. The main player is the Spinner who throws the coins in the air. Each person in the group takes a turn at being Spinner.

The Boxer is the person who manages the game and the betting although he is not allowed to take part in the betting.

Players cannot touch or interfere with the coins after the toss and they are looked after by the Ringkeeper or Ringy.

The main implement used in the game is called the Kip, which is a small piece of wood on which the coins are placed before being thrown in the air. One coin is placed head-side up and the other tails-up.

A call of ‘heads’ is made when both coins land with the head side facing up and the call is ‘Tails’ when both land with the tail side up.

‘Come in Spinner’ is the call made by the Boxer when all bets are completed and the coins are ready to be thrown.

There are three basic rules in the game’s format – Two heads means the Spinner wins, two Tails means the Spinner loses and one of each means the Spinner throws again.

Two-Up has obscure origins but seems to have evolved from a gambling game called pitch and toss which involved tossing a single coin into the air and wagering on the result. This was popular amongst poorer English and Irish citizens in the 18th century. It was noted among

That is a call which has often confused tourists to Australia and movie goers when it is called during a film with Australian sequences. But it is a part of **Australian gambling culture and history** and its local name of ‘Two-Up’ is an Aussie icon.



convicts by the first Judge Advocate of NSW in 1798 who commented on the lack of skill involved and the large losses but by the 1850s, the two-coin form was on the goldfields of the eastern colonies before spreading across the country.

Illegal Two-Up schools grew around Australia with the legendary Thommo’s in Sydney the first major illegal gambling operator in the mid-1900s. Its popularity declined after the 1950s as more sophisticated forms of gambling gained popularity in illegal gaming houses and poker machines were introduced.

Legal Two-Up arrived with its introduction as a ‘table’ game at Hobart’s new casino in 1973, but is now only offered in Perth’s Burswood Entertainment Complex. It has also been legalised on Anzac Day, when it is played in RSL clubs and hotels. Under the NSW Gambling (Two-Up) Act 1998, playing Two-Up in NSW is not unlawful on Anzac Day.

On 17 November 2004, Bob Carr, the NSW Premier said in State Parliament that amongst the charities most involved in problem gambling, the Wesley Community Legal Service, which is a body dealing with problem gamblers, confirmed it has never encountered a problem gambler addicted to Two-up.

‘That is an interesting bit of trivia for everyone to take home with them,’ he said.



Australia Day and ANZAC

On 26 January throughout this land, across the Tasman Sea, throughout the Far and Middle East, in Britain, America and Europe, **young and old Australians joined together** to celebrate Australia Day. They will join together again in April to remember Anzac Day.

We sit together because we are Australians; we are different from the rest of the world because we have developed our own distinct culture and we have our own rich history.

For example, let's look at Australian currency. On the five various denominations, front and back, there is an outstanding male and female representing their various professions and positions in their related walks of life.

On the \$10 note are two of our well known poets, Banjo Paterson (1864–1941) and Dame Mary Gilmore (1865–1962). The Paterson side shows the wild bush horses and his poem *The Man from Snowy River*. On the Gilmore side, you can read in very fine print 'No foe shall gather our harvest or sit on our stockyard rail'. Thus we sit down together in memory of these people who are part of our history, who have witnessed it and have helped to mould it so that we can enjoy the benefits.

We are the product of the evolution of the Australian people in this country over the last 200 years and they have made this country a destination for many people from other countries. In addition, our flag has proudly flown over our land for 112 years. It flew on the masts of our Royal Australian Navy ships off Gallipoli in 1915 where our soldiers scaled the heights of Anzac Cove. It has also flown for generations of Australians who have moulded our culture, forged our history, defended our country and excelled on the sporting fields.

On the Kokoda Trail during World War II, the Australian flag was raised above a little native hut at the village of Kokoda in

front of hundreds of New Guineans wearing their head dresses, along with bows and arrows, long knives and grass skirts. In pride of place were the 'Fuzzy Wuzzie Angels' who carried the wounded and sick Australian soldiers back to the hospital. During the years in which our flag has flown over Australia, there have been five different flags flying over Germany.

In France in the town of Villers Bretonneux, school children will look at the sign in their playground which reads 'Do not forget Australia.' In London, the British Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill stood in the House of Commons to tell the British people and the world about the Australian soldier. I was among many Australians who served in the Middle East, my army unit was the 2/6th Cavalry Commando regiment.

In our lifetime, Europe has twice plunged us into two major wars over pocket principalities that would be lost in the Sutherland or St George Shire.

Come the dawn of a new day and our

main theme of Faith, Hope and Charity, we dedicate this to our young people who live in a changing world. But we must never change the idealism and natural generosity of the young, the virtues of wisdom, truth and honesty and the wonderful commonsense and tradition given by our forefathers of fair play and a fair go for all.

Dorothy MacKellar (1885–1968) expressed it so well in her poem *My Country* especially the second verse, which reads:

*I love a sunburnt country,
a land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges,
of droughts and flooding rains,
I love her far horizons,
I love her jewel sea,
Her beauty and her terror,
the wide brown land for me.*



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What is a lodge?



The Charges of a Freemason contained in the Book of Constitutions define a lodge as being ‘a place where Freemasons assemble to **work and to instruct themselves** in the mysteries of the ancient science’.

Bro Dr James Anderson wrote these words in 1723 and continued his description by telling us that ‘the persons made Masons or admitted members of a Lodge must be good and true men, free-born and of mature and discreet age and sound judgment, no bondmen, no women, no immoral or scandalous men, but of good report’.

There are millions of masons in the world today and their membership is spread over thousands of lodges. These all come under control of Grand Lodges. There is no single authority controlling these Grand Lodges but there is a system of mutual fraternal recognition among them and their members throughout the world. With proper introduction and identification, a mason today can visit his brethren in lodges in many countries.

Turning back the pages of history, we find that the word ‘Lodge’ appears in documents of the 13th Century to describe the workshop or hut, common to all sizeable building works, in which the operative masons worked, stored their tools, ate their meals and talked.

In those places where building works were continuously in progress, the lodge acquired a more permanent character. At York Minster in 1370, an elaborate code of ordinance was drawn up by the Chapter regulating times of labour and refreshment in the ‘Lodge’, and new men were sworn to obey the regulations and not to

depart from the work without leave. Probably it was this continuity of employment in one place which gave rise to an extended meaning of the ‘Lodge’ so that it began to imply a group of masons permanently attached to a particular undertaking. Thus from Canterbury in 1429 we have reference in the Prior’s accounts to the ‘Masons of the Lodge’ with lists of their names.

Generally, it would appear that these and similar groups of ‘attached’ masons, which are known to have existed in the Middle Ages, were wholly under the control of the authorities whom they served. There is no evidence that they exercised any trade controls, they were governed, not governing bodies.

The word ‘Lodge’ appears in a third and much more advanced sense in Scotland in the 16th century where it described the working masons of a particular town or district, organised to regulate the affairs of their trades, and having jurisdiction usually within the town or city limits, but occasionally over a wider area. In their earliest forms these lodges were intended primarily for purposes of trade control and for the protection of the masters and craftsmen who came under their jurisdiction, and in these functions the aims of


the operative lodges were broadly similar to those of the trade companies, such as the London Masons’ Company.

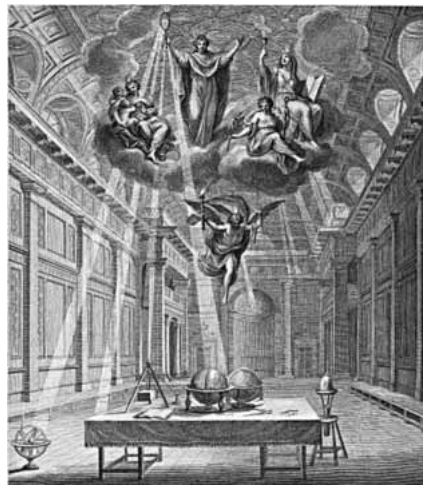
There was one peculiarity however which distinguished these lodges from the craft guilds or companies; the members of these lodges shared a secret mode of recognition which was communicated to them in the course of some sort of brief admission ceremony under an oath of secrecy. In Scotland, this system of recognition was generally known as ‘The Mason Word’ but it is believed that it consisted of something more than a verbal means of identification.

The ‘Mason Word’ probably came into use in the mid-16th century and there are a number of references to it in documents from 1637 on, more than sufficient to show that its existence was already fairly widely known in Scotland, where several operative lodges can be traced back to the 16th century, although there is no evidence of any similar organisation amongst operative masons in England until the early 18th century.

The Grand Lodge of England (the premier Grand Lodge in the world), came into existence in 1717 and Bro James Anderson, who was mentioned at the beginning of this article and who experienced both Scottish and English Masonic practice, drew up the first Book of Constitutions containing the Charges of a Freemason soon after. These are little changed today.

From these Charges, we also learn the special requirements of behaviour ‘In the Lodge while constituted’, particularly while the lodge is engaged in ‘What is Solemn and Serious’. There are also special guidelines as to our behaviour in the South according to which we are directed to enjoy ourselves with innocent mirth.

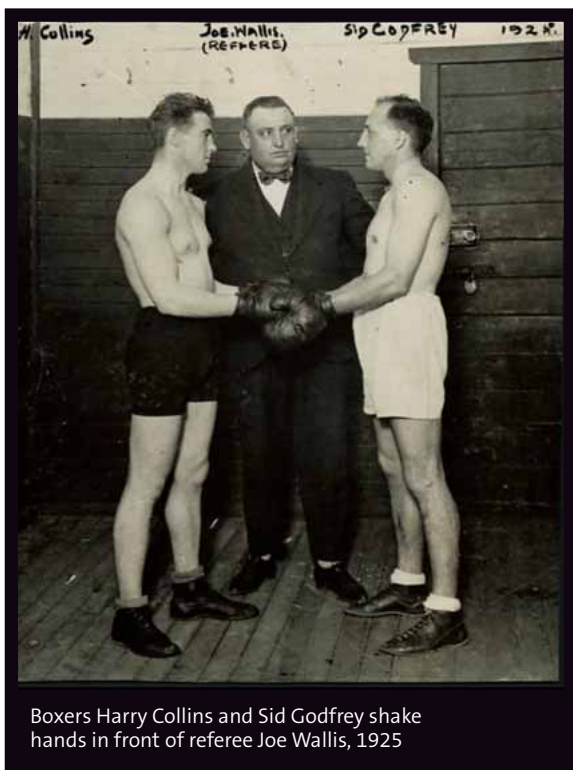
By adopting these guidelines the work in the lodge room and the relaxation in the South can be complementary to one another and that is the formula for a successful lodge. 





Harry Collins

Freemason and **Championship boxer**



Boxers Harry Collins and Sid Godfrey shake hands in front of referee Joe Wallis, 1925

Harry Collins was born on 2 January 1903 in Staffordshire, UK, came to Australia at eight years of age with his father, mother and older sister and settled at Mayfield East, Newcastle in accommodation provided by Lysaghts Ltd for English steel workers.

Harry commenced boxing in 1920, aged 17, and was soon to win a Novice featherweight tournament at the Imperial Stadium, Newcastle West. He soon graduated to open company under the guidance of trainer Tom Maguire and won his first six bouts, including the NSW lightweight title in 1921.

All of Harry's 40 main event fights were scheduled for 20 rounds and his record was 30 wins (15 knockouts), two draws and eight losses – a total of 615 rounds. In his first match on 22 October 1921, he knocked out Jim Higgins in round seven at Newcastle and was then unbeaten for the next 11 fights.

After 12 more fights, he defeated Archie Bradley on 17 May 1924 by a tech-

nical knockout (TKO) in the 15th round to win the Australian welterweight title. Six weeks later, he stopped Tommy Uren in the 15th round after beating him on points four months earlier.

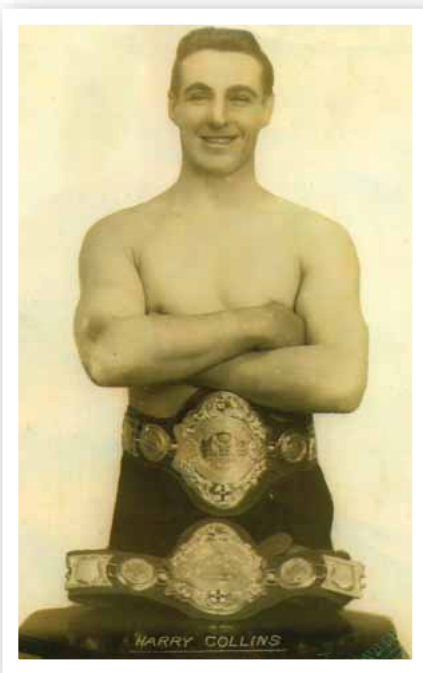
In August 1924, Collins won his second Australian welterweight title by again defeating Bradley by a knockout in round 14. Eight months later, he won his third Australian welterweight title by beating Sid Godfrey by knockout in the 10th round. Two months after that fight, he won the Australian middleweight title with a fifth round knockout win over Tommy Uren.

Harry had his last fight in front of a crowd of 4,000 on New Year's Day 1926 at Newcastle Show Ground where he won his fourth

Australian welterweight title with a fourth round knockout over Eddie Butcher from Western Australia. Heavy rain fell during the preliminary fights but the sun shone for the main event. Sawdust and resin was spread to try and dry the ring but it was still slippery.

From 26 October 1923 to 23 January 1926 Harry Collins was undefeated in 18 consecutive fights. In February 1926, he was beaten on points after 20 rounds by Len Johnson in Sydney for the vacant British Empire middleweight title and then lost by TKO in the 8th round in Sydney to Sunny Jim Williams.

He officially retired in October 1926 at the age of 23 because of deteriorating eyesight after remaining unbeaten in Australia in the welter and middleweight divisions. As he had won the welterweight title for three years, he was permitted to keep the Belt. He fought in Sydney 21 times, Newcastle 13, Melbourne 3, Brisbane 2 and once in the UK.



The name of Harry Collins was inducted into the Newcastle Sports Hall of Fame in 1996 and his widow donated the Australian Championship Belt to the Newcastle Museum where it is on display.

Harry, together with his sister's husband Joseph Rowe, became a Freemason on 9 July 1926 at Lodge Ferndale No 400 in Newcastle.



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One day my grandson may become a mason

Does your lodge have a **social program**?

This argument is submitted by W Bro Roger Broadbent JW, The Waratah Lodge No 170.

Recently my grandson taught me a profound lesson. He is a bright young lad, only eight years old but let's not fool ourselves, he was quite unaware of the insight that he gave me. What is delightful, is that one day, if he becomes a mason, then he will have benefited, across the ages, from his own innocent message – if we can embrace its rather profound import and use it to our advantage – 'One day my grandson may become a mason!'

The message is simple: involve our families in our masonic life through a social program in our lodges and thereby encourage interest in this fine institution that may lead to them embracing its life principles.

So many lodges in our district have failed over the last 20 years. It is an all too familiar story! Our membership is ageing and members regularly drop out and unless we can turn the tide our proud old lodges will become just another memory; names in some dusty old tomb – and sadly the heritage we have taken from our predecessors and owe our grandchildren will be gone. We would have missed the opportunity to at least try to move with the times.

Two years ago our lodge turned a corner when a small dedicated band of brothers began to embrace some forward thinking and directed their efforts towards improving aspects of our lodge's social life. It wasn't easy. In fact such proposals were met with 'suspicion', with all the well known reasons such as: 'Don't bother wasting your time, this lodge is just not social.' It's true some brethren were not happy for ladies to take part in our lodge social life but the majority wisely accepted the dire consequences of doing nothing and have moved forward.

Four times each year our lodge members and their families enjoy dinner together, taking care to publicise the events by word of mouth, with invitations

included with our circulars, and ringing members and inviting them to attend. The latter exercise allows lapsed members to reconnect and we welcome those unable to attend lodge regularly (due to age-related problems and sickness), family friends and those with an interest in Masonry.



Our Christmas 'Family and Friends Night' is our most popular evening and attracts a large crowd. A special three-course dinner, with Christmas decorations and entertainment, is held at our lodge rooms and catered for by lodge members. The child-angled entertainment features a professional magician and our own W Bro Santa from the North Pole. Let's face it, if the kids are happy, so are the young mums and dads.

That comment gives my age away but we older chaps are looked to for guidance. We should be prepared to help make things happen from the background, with humility and by accepting the wisdom of younger brothers, who are full of energy and ideas for social events. In earlier life we too were the same.

At our Christmas Family and Friends Night, Santa arrives at the lodge room door ringing his bell. He greets each child as he makes his way to the Master's chair, which has been moved to a place on the floor. Each child received a gift and then Santa was on his magical way again.

My grandson, like his new-found friends, explored the lodge room and even sat in the Master's chair. It was at this point that I got the message. He picked up a gavel and brought it down with a firm rap! I momentarily paused realising just how



important it is to repeat this Christmas celebration each year and make memories for him and his friends. One day he may translate those magical memories into a search for understanding and happiness for himself and his family.

'Let's be honest. Is it hard work?' 'Yes, of course.'

'What have been the benefits?' 'Three new young members and others returning to our lodge.'

'Is it working?' 'I think so, but it is too early to tell.'

'Is that all you are doing?' 'Absolutely not. We have improved our lodge practices, made our ceremonies more interesting, started to take to heart the guidance of our District Membership Committee and we are pulling together to make our lodge a better meeting place. It is a slow process that gradually changes the former lodge culture of complacency to a culture with enthusiasm and a long-term purpose. It is a process that needs tending constantly.'

Inspired by enjoyable events such as these, our younger and older members are enthusiastically making suggestions for future social events, making new friendships among their brethren and forming stronger social bonds with each other's families outside our lodge. More importantly our children are learning that their fathers' masonic activities are fun and special, if somewhat mysterious.

You know this is nothing new. When we were young we participated in various masonic social activities. Do you remember the District Christmas parties, the Balls? It worked then, why not now? There is so much more we can do to ensure that our grandchildren may become masons one day.



The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of New South Wales

ABN 49 082 385 091

Postal Address: Locked Bag 7014 Minto NSW 2566 • Facsimile: (02) 9829 1516 • Phone: (02) 9827 6666

Help us care for future generations

Liverpool Freemasons help make the Digital Switch

Clients living at The Whiddon Group's 18 residential care facilities received an early Christmas present in December when the organisation received donations from the John Edmondson VC Memorial Club to assist with the purchase of digital televisions to replace old analogue sets.

The Whiddon Group's Board appealed to lodges throughout New South Wales for donations to assist with the purchase. The John Edmondson VC Memorial Club generously donated money from their community grants fund to assist with purchasing new televisions to go in lounge rooms and common areas of The Whiddon Group's residential aged care facilities. Representatives of John Edmondson received a certificate of appreciation in thanks of their generous contribution and can be assured that clients are enjoying their brand new TVs.



L-R: VW Bro William Rees PDGDC – Director, The Whiddon Group; VW Bro Tony Wilkins PDGDC – John Edmondson VC Memorial Club Ltd, Liverpool; Mr Peter Stuggert – CEO John Edmondson VC Memorial Club Ltd, Liverpool; RW Bro John Couper PSGW – Chairman, The Whiddon Group

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 which you can help The Whiddon Group through a bequest in your will. Here are some examples:

1. You can give a specified amount of money to The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of NSW. This is the simplest form of bequest.
2. You can provide a percentage of your estate, for example 30 percent, for The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of NSW. This ensures that your family and friends are not disadvantaged by the change of the size of your estate, or inflation.
3. After providing for family and friends, you may decide to leave the residue of your estate (what is left) to The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of NSW.
4. You can leave particular items such as shares, paintings, property or other items of value in your will to The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of NSW. *This option may have possible taxation ramifications and should be discussed with a solicitor.*
5. You can take out a life insurance policy or an endowment policy with The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of NSW nominated as the *sole beneficiary*. *This option may have possible taxation ramifications and should be discussed with a solicitor.*

If you have any questions regarding a bequest, or would like to make one, simply contact the Chief Executive on (02) 9827 6632.



Spell it out

The Singular Story of English Spelling

by DAVID CRYSTAL

A real eye-opener of a book. Speaking and writing the language every day means you're thinking more about what you are expressing rather than how you are expressing it.

Once you start reading this book it is really hard to put down – Why is there an 'h' in ghost, but not in goat? Why is there a silent 'b' in debt? Why is 'T' before 'e' except after 'c' (except of course, half the time it isn't)? Foremost linguistics expert David Crystal, professor of linguistics at the University of Wales, Bangor, unravels a story that begins with an obscure Germanic dialect and ends with a global language.

Behind the (odd and quirky) spelling of a lot of words, the author gives fascinating and logical reasons why certain words are spelt the way they are. Not only the spelling but also the pronunciation. If you are at all interested in the English language, buy it.

'...English is one of the most randomly, unsystematically spelt languages in the world. This fascinating study unpicks how we got it all in such a twist...'



Literary Editor
The Sunday Times, England

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Laughter on the Level

The Working Tools of the Festive Board

by Martin Faulks

I now present to you the working tools of the Festive Board. They are the Knife, the Fork, the Goblet and the Common Gabble.

The Knife is to cut off all knobs and etceteras from anything edible, digestible or comestible and so to render it fit for the jaws of the expert workman.

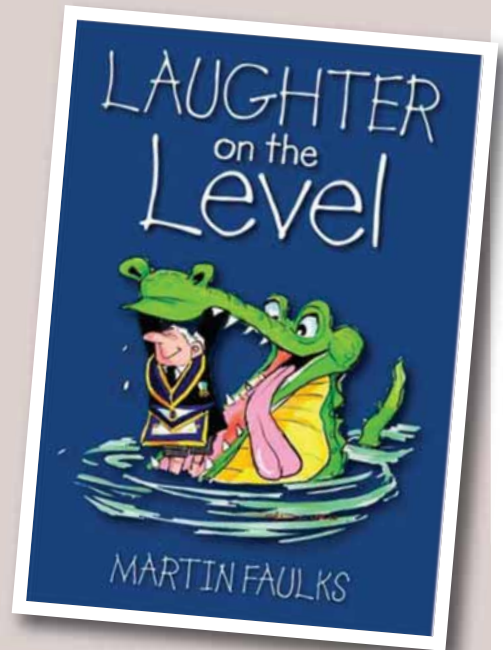
The Fork is intended to convey the materials so prepared and is placed between the two rows of pillars situated at the porch way or entrance somewhat below the temple. You will notice, brethren, that the Fork has several points or prongs. At first all are disclosed, but soon all are hidden, and the number of times this is done to the minute denotes the progress you are making in the science.

The Goblet is to hold what the Stewards feel disposed to contribute, which will be thankfully received and faithfully applied. It is only to be used when there is one, and only one, Worshipful Master of the lodge present. If you see two, then you are making too much progress in the science.

The Common Gabble is used to cheer and edify the workmen whilst waiting for material; also for ornamenting, adorning, embroidering and embellishing our speech, so that as members we may say of our Worshipful Master and Officers, however they work, 'Oh Wonderful Masons'.

The peculiar sign of this degree is called the ailing sign or sign of repletion. It is given by a distinctive pressure on the last two buttons of the waistcoat and denotes plenty.

But as we are not all operative Masons, but sometimes very speculative Masons, we apply these tools to our morals. In this sense, the Knife teaches us to keep our portions in due bounds and the Fork teaches us to estimate and determine the limits and capacity of our distended structure. The Goblet makes us all tell the truth with a freedom and expression that is at once surprising



and illuminating, whilst the Common Gabble tells us the value of goodwill, kindness and friendship.

Thus, let our Knives be cutting, but not our Gabble; our Forks held in check, but not our digestions; and our Goblets filled with the spirit of brotherhood and benevolence. And moreover, brethren, whilst at the beginning we pay respect to the Crown let us not fail to deposit our appreciation with the Tyler ere we depart.'

Laughter on the Level ... Did the piece above make you chuckle? If it raised a smile then you will love this book, the new charity joke book from Lewis Masonic Publishers, UK. Every single joke is about Freemasonry and all royalties from the sale of this book are donated to BREAK, a charity that provides holidays and respite care for children and adults with learning disabilities from all areas of the United Kingdom.

Perhaps laughter is the best medicine of all!

Published by: **Lewis Masonic Publishers UK**
ISBN: 9780853184041
Hardback
RRP: \$16.95

Why make a will?

In these days of easy legal action, family fights and arguments over who gets what, **it's not a stupid question** to ask why should any person make a will.

Maybe it is an action you don't like to think about or even discuss but if you don't make a will then all of your worldly possessions upon death will be distributed under a specific rigid system.

The system will not have any concern for your wishes or plans or in other words, you won't have any say in how your assets and goods will be handed out. That's why you should make a will.

While you're alive and enjoying yourself, it may not be amongst your priorities or on your 'to do' list but if you have children or other close dependents it does become important.

Without a will, there are time consuming, expensive and complicated procedures which could cause unnecessary worry and possible hardship for your children or partner. Distribution of your assets under the legal formula may not be as you would have wished and all of these problems can be avoided if you make a valid will.

If you make a will, you can leave your assets to anyone you decide but you must make provision for any children, otherwise they can challenge it in court. Because your will is a legal document which names the manner in which you want your assets, money and belongings distributed, it has to be prepared properly. It is normal for any person to pass on their goods and memories to particular people and quite often for special reasons.


To be valid, it needs to be in writing, typed or printed, witnessed and signed in

front of two people who must also sign the document. They can't benefit from the will and must be over 18 years of age. If you don't make a proper and legal will, the court may not grant probate on your estate which means your property can be distributed by the court as if you had not made a will.

You will also need to appoint one or more people as your executors. They will be responsible to handle your affairs after you die. They can be anyone you choose, relatives, friends, solicitor, providing you have asked if they are prepared to do so and they have accepted the appointment.

It is better to have a lawyer prepare your will as they can make sure it is valid, properly put together and signed and witnessed. They will also make sure that you have clearly expressed what you want done with your estate.

Finally, it is wise to keep your will in a safe place, remembering your lawyer, bank or Trustee company hold wills on behalf of many people, often at no cost. Make sure you get and keep a copy of the will and inform someone or leave a note where the original is being held. Also, advise your executor if you want to attach a letter with any personal instructions.

As people today are living longer, it becomes more important that proper planning be made for the future and especially for the members of your family or close, personal friends. Don't leave behind a problem which can cause misery and divisions. Make sure you complete a will. 



H.C. STATHIS PM

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**Mr Jim Pserras
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The gift of life

'Organ transplants give people a **second chance at life**, and donated tissues help people with a variety of diseases and conditions. Unfortunately, each year hundreds of Australians die waiting for organs to become available because too few people register their desire to donate. By registering with the **Australian Organ Donor Register**, you might give another person the gift of life.'

Dr Christine Bennett, Chair, Medical Advisory Panel, Bupa Australia



The precious gift of life through organ transplantation is best illustrated through people such as Tianna Formosa, an 18 year old teenager from Ingleburn. In an article published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 28 October 2012, Tianna said:

'I am looking forward to going out for the first time this weekend to my friend Cameron's birthday, and seeing a lot of my friends for the first time since my transplant. I'm finally home now with my mum, dad and baby brother. My hopes are long-lasting health and finally being able to be a normal teenager and do everything my friends do.'

Her comment followed months of treatment and a heart and double-lung transplant received at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney. In March 2009, the hospital celebrated 25 years of heart and lung transplants. The occasion coincided with Heart and Lung Transplant Week and was attended by the then NSW Health Minister, John Della Bosca MLC, Fiona Coote and past and present patients. In commenting on the occasion, Jonathan Anderson, Executive Director, St Vincent's Hospital said:

'The 25th anniversary is actually a celebration of life. It is the outcomes of the services that arose at St Vincent's Hospital that have provided many with a quality of life and extension of life, that otherwise would not have been possible.'

St Vincent's Hospital's heart transplant unit has an international reputation with a survival rate for patients five-years post transplant of 76.8% compared to the world benchmark of 68.3%. Fiona Coote was 14 years old when she received her new heart at the hands of the late Dr Victor Chang. She was the second Australian to receive a new heart, the first being a 39 year old shearer from Armidale on 23 February 1984. Fiona received a second heart in 1986 after her body rejected the first heart. In Fiona's words:

'To have had one new heart is incredible. To have two and now to be so incredibly well, is life's greatest gift.'

At 42 years of age Fiona is the longest living heart transplant recipient in the southern hemisphere.

Kerry Packer, in an interview by Carol Nader in February 2004, said he could not understand why people feared losing their organs when they died. He went on to say

'When you are dead you're dead. If you can help someone in death that's the greatest gift you can give.'

Mr Packer and Mr Sam Chisholm of Foxtel, himself a recipient of a heart and lung transplant, attended the launch of the David Hookes Organ Foundation in February 2004. David Hookes played test cricket for Australia and died in January 2004 following an assault outside a St Kilda hotel. David was an organ donor.

In speaking of his own experience as a kidney transplant recipient, Mr Packer said: 'The change in life is astronomical. The thing that stops most people from getting an organ is the fact that there just aren't enough of them.'

'That's what we're all about today, to try and make sure that people understand what a fantastic gift it is. And it's a matter of trying to get people to realise that if their loved ones have made that decision it should be honoured by them.'

According to Transplant Australia's Journey of Hope, at any one time across Australia there are around 1,700 people on the official transplant and tissue donor list. Many more thousands need a transplant

but are often not placed on the list until they are in desperate need. For some, their health deteriorates until it is too late. It is a huge challenge with the rates of donation well behind many comparable countries.

Many people are hesitant to become organ donors because of the fear that their own wellbeing will be sacrificed in the event of an emergency. It is a myth.

Prior to 1968, a person was declared deceased if the heart had stopped beating, the person had stopped breathing and attempts at resuscitation were unsuccessful. Certification under these circumstances was referred to as 'cardiac death'. In 1968, a team from Harvard University introduced the concept of 'brain death'. The concept was considered necessary due to the increasing ability to resuscitate people and to maintain body functions indefinitely through the widespread use of life support equipment.

Brain death is the irreversible end of the whole brain or the brain stem reflex and respiratory responses. Brain death can only be certified if there has been no brain function activity over a four hour period of close observation followed by a series of specific tests. The laws governing the certification of 'brain death' require two independent medical officers to certify the death.

While tissue can be taken from the body after the heart stops beating, the requirements for organ donation are far more restrictive and few people die in circumstances that allow them to become organ donors. Organ donation is usually only possible in cases where a hospitalized patient is declared brain dead and whose heart/lung functions are being maintained artificially.

Despite government focus on organ and tissue donation in recent times, the number of donors in Australia has remained steady at around 10.4 donors per million people. Spain with 33.7 per million, leads the world as an organ donation country.

DonateLife Week is a national awareness week promoting organ and tissue donation. Led by the Organ and Tissue Authority, DonateLife Inc, the aim of the week is to encourage all Australians to discuss their donation wishes with family and close friends. Last year it was held between 24 February and 3 March and had as its national theme 'Make your wish count – discover, decide, discuss organ and tissue donation'.

The organisation's key messages for 2013 are:

- One day you could transform the lives of 10 or more people by becoming an organ and tissue donor.
- To make your wish count, you need to register your decision on the **Australian Organ Donor Register** and, most importantly, share your wish with your family and close friends.
- 1 in 2 Australians do not know that less than 2% of people die in hospital in the specific circumstances where organ donation is even possible – although many more people can become tissue donors.
- The majority of people (84%) are more motivated to decide about becoming an organ and tissue donor when they realise how few people can actually become organ donors.
- To optimise every potential organ and tissue donation, we all need to make our wish count.
- During DonateLife Week, the organisation is asking every Australian family to ask and know each other's wishes.
- This is because in Australia the family of every potential donor is always asked to confirm the donation wishes of their loved one before organ and/or tissue donation can proceed.
- If you have decided to become an organ and tissue donor, share your decision with your loved ones.
- And make sure you ask and know your loved one's wishes so that you can make their wish count, should the situation arise.

The decision to donate one's organs is an extremely personal issue and one that can only be made when people are fully aware of the facts and myths surrounding organ and tissue donation. Information on this important subject is available through the Organ and Tissue Authority, established under the *Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority Act 2008* on 1 January 2009. The authority is an independent statutory authority within the Australian Government Health and Ageing portfolio. The purpose of the Authority is to establish – in partnership with states, territories, clinicians, consumers and the community – a nationally coordinated approach to organ and tissue donation for transplantation. The Authority is also responsible

for administering funds to non-government organisations to provide essential associated services, aligned to its purpose.

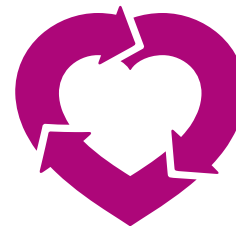
For Tianna Formosa, one message remains vital: **'Donate your organs.'**

'For anyone who hasn't considered donating – imagine your life without a loved one', she says. 'My life has just begun because my donor family saved me ... It may be the hardest decision to make, but one that's worth so much to so many families. I'm alive.'

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- Sydney Morning Herald*, 28 October 2012
- American Life League

donatelifelife



DonateLife NSW incorporates a team of dedicated clinical specialists located across 19 hospitals in NSW and the NSW Organ and Tissue Service (NSWOTDS) who work collaboratively to promote and support organ and tissue donation within NSW.

The NSWOTDS is responsible for coordinating organ and tissue donor activities across the state and works closely with the hospitals and hospital-based organ and tissue donation medical specialists and nurses in NSW to provide professional donation services and encourage best practice to increase donation rates.

The NSWOTDS also provides ongoing support to donor families through the Next Step Program and implements a range of initiatives to raise community awareness and understanding about organ and tissue donation.

The DonateLife NSW team aims to encourage all NSW families to discuss donation, know each other's wishes and register their decision.



Masonicare Disaster Relief



Picture: Glenn Hampson Source: The Australian

As a result of the devastation caused by the fires and flooding across NSW during January and February, Masonicare immediately enacted the Ready Relief Program to evaluate the status of damage in the affected communities. This was done via our network of Regional Managers (MRMs) and District Representatives (MDRs) who were on the ground working closely with the affected communities.

The MRMs undertook a comprehensive review and evaluation process using the tools within the Ready Relief Program to identify how Masonicare and Freemasonry could best use our resources to assist those in need. This is an ongoing process and further details will be distributed as they come to light in the coming weeks.

The township of Harwood on the Clarence River in northern NSW was inundated after the river burst its banks.

Looking out for masons and their families

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a mental health condition that can develop in people who have experienced or witnessed traumatic events that may have threatened their life or safety. It can lead to feelings of intense fear, helplessness or horror. This could be a car or other serious accident, physical assault, war-related events, or a natural disaster such as the recent bushfires and floods.

Masonicare is very aware that as a result of being subjected to catastrophic stress caused by the recent floods and bushfires throughout NSW, many masons may believe that their safety and security have vanished and may experience some degree of post-traumatic stress leading to a complete inability to handle the situation. This is why, as masons, we need to be aware that many of our brethren may be affected.

As a caring fraternity, it is vitally important for us to be responsive to such conditions and offer support to any brethren or their families who may have been affected.

According to Better Health VIC, symptoms may include:

- Reliving the traumatic event – through unwanted and recurring memories and vivid nightmares. There may be intense emotional or physical reactions when reminded of the event. These can include sweating, heart palpitations or panic.
- Being overly alert or ‘wound up’ – sleeping difficulties, irritability, lack of concentration, becoming easily

startled and constantly being on the lookout for signs of danger.

- Avoiding reminders of the event and feeling emotionally numb – deliberately avoiding activities, places, people, thoughts or feelings associated with the event. People may lose interest in day-to-day activities, feel cut off and detached from friends and family, or feel flat and numb.

Please be on the lookout for brethren who may exhibit symptoms of PTSD and refer them to local support groups who can provide professional help. Masonicare can provide contact details for local representatives who will have information regarding suitable support groups.

Disaster Relief Car Raffle

The region of Sydney will soon be launching a Disaster Relief Car Raffle throughout Sydney’s CBD and surrounding suburbs to raise funds for the Masonicare Ready Relief Program. This will enable Masonicare and Freemasonry to be better prepared when responding to disasters impacting our communities and spread the word about how Freemasonry works to better our community.

Raffle tickets will be sold for \$2 each. In light of the floods and fires occurring over the past few months you can appreciate the important function the Masonicare Ready Relief program plays in supporting our local communities in need. Please get involved and support our Disaster Relief efforts.

Masonic Books

by Raymond Apple

Education by Degrees

ISBN: 9 781 4772 23345

Published by Authorhouse
(Print and eBook editions)

From online booksellers
(Authorhouse, Amazon etc.)
or rabbiapple@oztorah.com

Freemasonry: Studies, Speeches, Sensibilities

ISBN: 9 780 9807 58405

Published by Museum
of Freemasonry, Sydney
(Print and eBook editions)

Order through
info@mof.org.au



Charity Jewels

Since the introduction of Masonicare’s Charity jewels late last year, many jewels have been awarded to brethren throughout the jurisdiction in appreciation of their charitable efforts within their community and their continued contribution to Freemasonry as a whole.

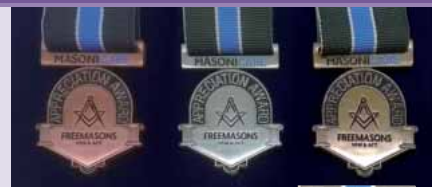


jewel was unanimously passed by the members of Lodge Helensburgh No 566, in recognition of his four years as Masonicare Regional Representative (MRR), his active pursuit of the principles of Freemasonry and his leadership of Lodge Helensburgh from 2011 to 2012.

It is a great achievement to be presented with one of these Jewels and highlights your commitment to charity and the Craft. If you would like to reward someone in your lodge, then one of these beautifully produced jewels would show how the lodge values their contribution.

So far we are very pleased with the response and we urge every WM and Secretary to consider who in their lodge has done an outstanding job of upholding that most important tenet, charity. To show the lodge’s appreciation a Charity Jewel is an ideal way to surprise an unsuspecting brother and to thank him in a most appropriate masonic manner.

VW Bro Rob Coote presented W Bro Ron Short with the first Masonicare Gold Appreciation Award. The purchase of this



The range of Masonicare Charity Jewels

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



Jewel cost

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

Surfers for Autism Day

Over 40 Freemasons came together on 19 January 2013 from all over the jurisdiction to support the annual ‘Surfers for Autism’ day held at Nobbys Beach in Newcastle.

We stood proudly amongst over 1,000 of the general community, showing what masons do and who we are. With masons from south of Sydney and from the mid north coast as well as many from Newcastle and the Central Coast. Together we donated almost \$7,000 in contributions, with \$3,750 of this money coming directly from Masonicare’s Interaction Grants program to ensure the day was a success. As well as the money donated, personal donations of items valued at over \$1,500 in raffle prizes were given by Freemasons from all over the State.

Almost 200 special needs children were there and the bright green masonic rashie brigade were everywhere you looked, providing a clear view to the community of

what kind of men masons are.

Lodge St James No 45 was this year’s sponsoring lodge with several members in attendance to support their master W Bro Matt Salerno, as well as our Assistant Grand Master, RGC for R4, several DGIWs and the STEP program, as well as the wonderful members who turned up to cook, sell raffle tickets and get into the surf with a special little Australian.

The day was a fantastic success and a great promotion of the Craft in general.

The organisers would like to personally thank everyone who supported them and



this wonderful cause and together they helped make a difference in the lives of some wonderful special little Australians who came from all over, even as far as Katherine in the NT to attend this day of fun and therapy.

Any excess funds raised on the day will be utilised by Hunter Connect Families Inc. to support their fantastic social skills program that assists children who have an Autism Spectrum Disorder with preparing them for the sometimes confusing environment of mainstream high school and to teach them valuable social skills that normal developed children and teens take for granted.



Golden Oldies have fun

History was made when the Central Coast Seagulls Rugby Club travelled to Fukuoka, Japan in October to take part in the **19th Golden Oldies World Rugby Festival**.

It was the first time in the 34-year history of the Golden Oldies that rugby had ventured to Asia, with 2,500 participants from 17 countries. The Festival is held every two years and alternates between the hemispheres.

The Festival is open to teams with players over 35, while those players over 60 wear red shorts and are not allowed to be tackled. Every game played is a draw, with fun, friendship and fraternity being the winner every time. It is the Golden Oldies motto which is similar to Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

The Golden Oldies movement began in the late 1970s when Tom Johnson, one of New Zealand's foremost rugby loose forwards of the 60s, prevailed on Air New Zealand to support his idea. The first tournament was staged in Auckland in 1979 and since then has been played in Australia, England, Ireland, Scotland, USA, France and South Africa. Sydney has hosted the tournament twice with other Festivals staged in Perth, Adelaide and Brisbane.

Among the rules, it states that prior to kickoff, the match referee will identify and draw the attention of players to those wearing coloured shorts who cannot be tackled and the distance they may run with the ball.

All scrums are uncontested, teams do not compete for the ball and the team put-



ting in the ball must win it. Neither team is allowed to push the other team away from the mark or to wheel the scrum. There are to be no quick lineouts and lifting or supporting of players is not permitted.

The Seagulls played their opening match against the Japanese Legends which was made up of players from the 2003 World Cup and it was an unfavourable draw. The referee was former Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori who is also president of the Japan Rugby Union.

Before the match, there was a Parade of Nations and an Opening Ceremony followed by a BBQ at an old castle in the city.

TOP: Brenden Flynn making tackle with Peter Gourlie in hot pursuit

ABOVE: (L to R) Peter Gourlie, Warren Henderson, Brett Smith, Roy Garland, Brett Keating all from Balmain Lodge No 23 and Bruce Clarke (unattached)

LEFT: Group team photo with Japan Legends, Sri Lanka and ex prime minister Mori front centre

BOTTOM LEFT: Seagulls team photo

This was followed by three games of rugby and two more functions.

Two further games were played by the Seagulls against Japanese sides and the tournament ended with the Final Ball where 2,500 people attended including several masons from Drummoyne and Waratah Rugby clubs.

Amongst the 15 members of the Seagulls were six masons – Roy Garland, Warren Henderson, Brett Smith, Brett Keating and Peter Gourlie, all from Lodge Balmain No 23, and Bruce Clarke. Next year, the Seagulls will be travelling to Mar Del Plata, Argentina, for the 20th Festival.

At the opening ceremony, Mr Mori commented on the unexpected good weather.

'The weather is very strange. In the northernmost areas of the country and surrounding islands, it is raining. But there are blue skies over Fukuoka which is to welcome you here. So we should thank someone up there for the good fortune. I sincerely hope all of you dedicated rugby lovers from around the world will have a good time.'

On being a Representative

Having received the honour of being appointed the Representative of a Sister Grand Lodge, you should **be aware of your responsibilities** and actions.

The principal challenge is to open new and improved avenues of fraternal communication between the two Jurisdictions. You will be expected to be an expert about the Grand Lodge you represent and the more you can learn about the history and proceedings of your Jurisdiction, the better you can fill that role. There may be some disappointments, stumbling blocks and frustrations and overcoming them will be a challenge and well worth the effort.

The Grand Lodge of New York originated the Representative System in 1838. It was designed to foster and encourage a closer bond of union and fraternal accord between the several Grand Lodges of the world. Communication is the key to the success of the system. Do not be surprised if your correspondent uses words and phrases that sound strange to you – he may be thinking in his native language.

Be prepared to answer any questions your opposite number may ask and the Grand Lodge library as well as the Committee of Foreign Correspondents can provide assistance. When you have become familiar with basic information, you should endeavour to make contact by introducing yourself as the representative of this Grand Lodge, provide a brief resume of your masonic activities, indicate the name of the Grand Master and convey his fraternal greetings and provide the name of our Grand Secretary.

It could be a useful gesture to send a copy of the NSW *Freemason*, your own lodge notice paper and any other local masonic literature you may be able to obtain.

Some Representatives become frustrated if they do not receive an immediate reply but there could be many different reasons. If delay becomes extended, a polite inquiry could be made and if a reply is still not received, you could inform the Committee of Foreign Correspondents. When you do receive a reply, it deserves a prompt acknowledgment and don't be afraid to ask


questions. Your counterpart is probably just as interested as you are.

Communication is the key to the success of the system.

If you travel to the area whose Grand Lodge you represent, try to arrange a meeting and possibly with the Grand Secretary in order that you may offer fraternal greetings from our Grand Master. If your counterpart visits this Jurisdiction, offer a meeting at your home or a mutually convenient location. Extend an invitation to meet the Grand Secretary or attend a

Grand Lodge meeting or your local lodge. But remember, masonic visitors often do not wish to leave their wife alone in a hotel room so if possible, arrange entertainment while her husband is at lodge.

Whatever you do, make sure that when he returns to his own Jurisdiction, he does so with the knowledge that the masons of NSW and the ACT are a caring and friendly people and his meeting with you has been interesting and a lasting masonic experience.

Appointment as a Grand Representative should be viewed as one of great privilege and responsibility. It should be a challenge of human relations to enrich your masonic knowledge and to spread the message of a Brotherhood of Peace, Love and Harmony. 



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The square and compasses

It is the characteristic logo of Freemasonry. Masonic letterheads, notice papers, literature, textiles, buildings – even watch dials, tie pins and cuff links, all bear the square and compasses.

Middle aged and elderly adults all remember how important their set-square and compasses were as geometrical instruments in their school days. Masons value these two working tools, not only for their prosaic but for their poetical significance.

The general explanation that comes across from the ritual is that the square teaches us to be just and upright, to square our actions. The compasses tell us to keep our passions and desires within bounds. Whatever the precise terminology which the ritual employs, the message is the same – the square and compasses remind us how to think, act and live as fair and decent human beings.

The moralistic explanations are however, not the end of the story. Daniel Beresniak in his *Symbols of Freemasonry* 1997, gives the two instruments a still broader significance. Pointing out that they are crucial to geometry, which in turn represents man's concern to understand the world by measuring things, he argues that the square and compasses are symbols of man's capacity for objective thinking.

'In the Middle Ages,' Beresniak writes, 'the teaching of geometry cleared the way for objective thought. Until that time, all knowledge had been handed down from an authority which meant to put a stop to any debate and eliminate doubt or the need for proof. Only one kind of knowledge could not be taught in this way: geometry. A theory about the properties of a shape can only be accepted when it has been verified using reason, and a square and compasses.'

'The teaching of geometry implies, therefore, the recognition of students as people who are able to think rationally and find meaning on their own. The geometrician-builder measures words with their yardstick of meaning and not according to the social status of the speaker.'



'The square and compasses, therefore, are the tools of a free man. They are the tools of a way of thinking which recognises the possibility of making statements about reality, understanding its laws and modifying it in order to better the human condition.'

The Enlightenment thinking of the period when Freemasonry moved from an operative to an intellectual-ethical movement was made possible only because human beings were thinking for themselves, measuring, analysing, reasoning and debating.

In other words, the square and compasses that had once done duty simply as utilitarian instruments of a craft or trade, now assumed a higher significance as symbols of a movement which changed everything in the history of human society and civilisation.

Descartes said: 'I think, therefore I am.'

In Freemasonry, it is summed up by the square and compasses logo.

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Tip Card #14

The Charges of a Freemason

AIM – What are the ‘Charges of a Freemason’ and how do they relate to me?

The best and only honest way to answer the above is to quote directly from the ‘final paragraph’ of the Charges, which can be found in the front of our Book of Constitutions where the full transcript of the Charges is printed.

***‘FINALLY** – All these charges you are to observe, and also those that shall be communicated to you in another way; cultivating brotherly love, the foundation and keystone, the cement and glory, of this ancient Fraternity, avoiding all wrangling and quarrelling, all slander and backbiting, nor permitting others to slander any honest Brother, but defending his character and doing him all good offices, as far as is consistent with your honour and safety, and no further.’*

The passage continues with further words of wisdom to guide the brethren concluding with ‘that all may see the benign influence of Masonry, as all true Masons have done from the beginning of the world, and will do to the end of time. ‘AMEN, SO MOTE IT BE.’

The Charges of a Freemason contain the principles, the ideals and virtues by which we are taught to live life. They teach us our duty to God and to our country, to our family and to our fellow man; they further teach us our duty to our lodge and our duty to our brethren.

The first sentence of the first Charge, Concerning God and Religion, states ‘A MASON is obliged, by his tenure, to obey the moral law; and if he rightly understands the art he will never be a stupid atheist ...’ Through this statement the tone and intention of the Charges is set from the very beginning.

At our initiation, when we are ‘formally’ introduced to Freemasonry, the Ancient Charges are referred to, although not directly by name – they are ‘communicated to you in another way’. In ancient times the Charges were

read, in full, in lodges at the ‘Making of new Brethren’. This tradition seems to have been discontinued. The next time most of us become reacquainted with the Charges is when the Secretary reads a Summary of the Ancient Charges and Regulations to the Master Elect prior to his installation into the Chair of his lodge.

Being human we can all make mistakes, which we should learn from and correct, but in addition we should judge our lives and our performance against certain standards and move forward. Those standards are clearly spelt out for us in the Charges of a Freemason.

To disregard or flout the teachings and standards as defined in the Ancient Charges is generally referred to as unmasonic conduct. As part of its duties the Grand Registrar’s Committee of the Executive Council is empowered to hear and adjudicate all subjects of masonic complaint or irregularity with respect to lodges or individual masons.

The Ancient Charges have served Masonry faithfully and honestly throughout the course of time. They are in fact the heart and soul of our fraternity and contain, together with our Sacred Book, the most excellent code of conduct ever spelt out for man. We masons are truly blessed.

As a mason the best thing we could ever do ‘that all may see the benign influence of Masonry’ is to suggest to our fellow man the benefits of joining our Craft so that he too can become a better man by ‘aspiring to live up to ‘The Ancient Charges of a Freemason.’

The next best thing we could do is to read the Charges and judge our own performance against the established standards and make the corrections that are needed!

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The past, the present and the future

The Freemasons Association, formerly the Present and Past Grand Lodge Officers Association, traces its history back to 1908 when the then Grand Master, MW Bro, the Right Honourable, Admiral, Sir Harry Holdsworth Rawson, GCMG, GCB, Governor of NSW 1902 to 1909, informed the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge on 9 December 1908 that it is proposed to draw up rules for a Past Grand Lodge Officers' Association. Membership was restricted to Present and Past Grand Lodge Officers and the Senior Grand Warden became the constitutional chairman during his term of office.

The Association was hugely successful and organised numerous social events for members and dignitaries including:

- RW Bro Field Marshall Viscount Lord Kitchener of Khartoum, GCB, OM, GCMG, GCIE, LLD, DCL,
- MW Bro His Excellency the Right Honourable Brigadier-General, Sir Alexander Gore Arkwright Hore-Ruthven, 1st Earl of Gowrie, 1st Baron of Canberra and Dirleton, VC, PC, GCMG, CB, DSO and Bar, Governor of South Australia 1928–1934, Governor of NSW 1935, Governor General of Australia 1936–1944, Grand Master South Australia 1930–1935, Grand Master NSW 1935–1944.

The Association also organised the suppers following the Quarterly Communications of Grand Lodge and Appreciation Dinners for outgoing Grand Masters.

In 1939, the Association agreed to make a presentation of a Past Grand Master's Jewel to Lord Gowrie prior to his departure to attend the Installation of the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England. This appears to be the first presentation of a Past Grand Master's Jewel by the Association. The tradition continues today.

Many would be unaware that the Current Grand Master's Standard was provided by the Present and Past Grand Lodge Officer's Association.

A major event in the Association's calendar was an annual Christmas party for the children of the William Thompson Masonic Schools. Venues included the Taronga Park Zoo, Brighton Le Sands and the Royal National Park etc. Transport, lunches, ice cream and presents were all provided at a nominal charge to the parents of the children.

To keep pace with changing times and in order to fully embrace the masonic family, the Association changed its name to the Freemasons' Association (NSW & ACT) and admitted all members of Grand Lodge and their wives/partners and widows of members/past members. It followed that as membership was no longer restricted to Grand Lodge Officers, the requirement that the Senior Grand Warden be the Constitutional President was no longer appropriate. In 2012, the position of President and both Vice Presidents became elected positions and Dr Yvonne McIntyre was elected as the first President under the new Constitution.

In an endeavour to emulate its predecessor, the Freemasons Association entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Grand Lodge to become recognised as the Social Arm of Grand Lodge. In addition to conducting Masonic Wreath Laying Ceremonies at the Sydney Cenotaph on ANZAC Day and Battle for Australia Day, the Association has conducted a number of recent social events including:

Christmas Party (see back cover) – On 2 December 2012, the Association organised a Christmas tree and party for masonic children at Fagan Park, Galston. Approximately 70 parents and children attended and the function was hugely successful. In addition to a visit by Santa Claus whose transport was provided by the Galston Rural Fire Service, there were games conducted by Pam and Alan Owen, face painting by Kristin Jones and a sausage sizzle arranged by Santa's helpers from District 32 together with Russel Dobson, Geoff Hope and Peter Kalkhoven under the direction of RW Bro Ron Webb, PJGW.



Christmas Lunch – A Christmas Lunch was held at the Sydney Masonic Centre on 11 December, attended by about 40 brethren and ladies. It provided an opportunity to pay tribute to RW Bro Rev Dr Jack Hely, CBE, PAGM, Grand Chaplain who celebrated his 90th birthday on the same day. It also enabled those in attendance to exchange Christmas gifts. Entertainment was provided by Ms Christie Van Der Struik, pianist and Mr Greg McCrenanor, baritone. The President, Dr Yvonne McIntyre, presented five copies of the book *It's No Secret – Real Men Wear Aprons* to the Secretary, Battle for Australia Committee, NSW Division, Lt Colonel (ACC) David Cooper. The books will be presented to schools where Battle for Australia Committee members are requested to speak.

Functions for 2013 include:

Regular Lunch Meetings at the Sydney Masonic Centre commencing at 12.30pm and including a two course meal, wine, soft drinks, tea and coffee at a cost of \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members. The lunches are on the second Tuesday in February, May, August, October and December and provide an opportunity for brethren and their wives/partners/friends to meet and share the benefits of masonic friendship.


ANZAC Day – Masonic Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Sydney Cenotaph. The masonic contingent will assemble at 7.00am and march to the Cenotaph under the direction of the Parade Commander, RW Bro Major Douglas James, PJGW. Wreaths will be laid by the Grand Master, MW Bro Commander Derek J Robson, AM, RAN Ret'd. and the Association President, Dr Yvonne McIntyre.



Mothers Day Lunch – 14 May at the Sydney Masonic Centre. Details as Regular Lunch Meetings listed above.

125th Anniversary Celebration – Grand Lodge has given its approval for the Association to organise a Dinner to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the formation of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales. The Lord Carrington Commemorative Dinner will be held on 24 June and details are shown to the right of this page. Lord Carrington was the first Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of NSW. The Grand Master, MW Bro Derek J Robson, AM will be present.

Remembrance Day Service and Dinner – To be held on Monday 11 November at the Sydney Masonic Centre. The Service will commence at 6.30pm, followed by dinner at 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

Additional Social Events under consideration for 2013 include a day bus trip to a South Coast winery to coincide with the Tulip Festival at Bowral and visits to Garden Island and Fort Denison. Consideration is also being given to how the Association can best serve its rural membership. 

Membership of the Association is \$15 per annum. If you would like to become a member, please contact Dr Yvonne McIntyre at 02 9284 2844, or email yvonnem@masons.org.au

A date for your diary – 24 June 2013

125th Birthday

On 24 June 1888, the Committees representing the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland and New South Wales “...declared and agreed that from and after (St John’s Day) the twenty-fourth day of June, 1888, all the aforesaid Bodies of Masons shall constitute one Grand Lodge under the style of ‘The United Grand Lodge of New South Wales’”

The Inaugural Meeting of the New Grand Lodge was held in the Great Hall, University of Sydney on 16 August 1888 and included the election of Lord Carrington, Governor of the Colony, as the first Grand Master. The Grand Installation was held in the Exhibition Building on 18 September 1888 in the presence of an estimated 4,000 Brethren.

The United Grand Lodge of NSW will therefore celebrate its 125th year of constitution on 24 June 2013.

The occasion will be celebrated by the Lord Carrington Commemorative Dinner arranged under the banner of the Freemasons’ Association and will mark the first of a number of events to be held throughout the year.

The dinner has been named in honour of the first Grand Master of the new Grand Lodge of NSW, MW Bro His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Charles Robert Wynn-Carrington, KG, PC, GCMG, DL, BA, Governor of NSW 1885 – 1890 and Grand Master 1888 – 1890.

This will be a memorable Masonic event and will be attended by the Grand Master, MW Bro Derek J Robson, AM.

Details of price and venue will be circulated shortly.



For further information, contact the President, Dr Yvonne McIntyre, (02) 9284.2844, yvonnem@freemasonsnswwact.org.au or RW Bro Alan Farrell, PDGM, CMH, PCBM, Chairman, Lord Carrington Commemorative Dinner Sub-Committee, (02) 9525.6391, afarrell@bigpond.net.au

ANZAC DAY 2013

MASONIC WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

An open invitation is extended to brethren, their families and friends to join the President of the Freemasons’ Association, Dr Yvonne McIntyre and the Grand Master, MW Bro Commander Derek Robson, AM, RAN (Ret’d) in the annual Masonic Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Cenotaph, Martin Place, Sydney on ANZAC Day 25 April 2013.

The Masonic contingent will assemble on the GPO corner of Martin Place and Pitt St at 07:00 hours under the control of the Parade Commander, RW Bro Major Douglas James, RFD, PJGW, and march to the Cenotaph for the wreath laying ceremony at 07:15 precisely.

The President, NSW Masonic Club, RW Bro Graham Berry, PSGW has made the facilities

of the Club available for light refreshments for those attending the ceremony.

Further information can be obtained from the President, Dr Yvonne McIntyre, email yvonnem@masons.org.au or telephone (02) 9284.2844 or Assistant Secretary, RW Bro Alan Farrell, email afarrell@bigpond.net.au





Gavin says thanks

Bro Gavin Edema, married with one daughter, will be invested as Junior Deacon at The Maroubra Lodge's Installation in March. **He is one of a group of young masons who have joined the lodge in the past few years.**

Three years have passed since Bro Gavin Edema was first made an Entered Apprentice Freemason of The Maroubra Lodge No 725.

'I hope that this short account of my experiences so far will benefit those starting out in the Craft and for those who joined in earlier eras perhaps provide an insight into a younger Freemason's outlook,' he said.

It was my neighbour and friend, W Bro Laurie Petrovic, who introduced me to Freemasonry. He advocated for it enthusiastically. I sensed that Laurie's indomitable spirit was somehow nourished by his practice of Freemasonry. It was this above all else that recommended what was otherwise an obscure club to a lay outsider.

I recall the mischievous relish with which my soon to be brothers assisted in the preparations for my First Degree. Antiquated language dramatically expressed created an indelible impression upon me. Only later would the meaning begin to sink in, but initially I suspect it had the desired effect of instilling a sense of being part of something much greater than the sum of its parts.

Advancement through the Degrees has accompanied major change in my personal and professional life. Time limitations prevented me from exploring other Orders – unlike many of my young peers and I suspect to my detriment – although perhaps there is some advantage to a slow



introduction to the Craft.

The brethren have been the best teachers, bringing lively expression to the tenets and lessons of Freemasonry. The elder statesmen of The Maroubra Lodge lead by example – their humility, integrity and compassion are inspiring. And so it is the wisdom and generosity of the older generation that has struck me as the most valuable lesson in Freemasonry.

The intergenerational membership of the Craft is its greatest strength. In such an ancient organisation this is probably not surprising – however I believe it is of even greater value to today's society.

My humility is repeatedly tested when our octogenarian and nonagenarian brothers prompt lines in aid of my failing memory or prepare a scrumptious dinner for the festive board. Their perseverance despite ailments and adversity challenge me to make similar sacrifices. Their seeming unflappability and well-adjusted outlook on life brings the hope that I too can one day age gracefully.

So at the end of three years in the craft I have learned much and have much to learn. I wish to thank my brothers but particularly Laurie for his ongoing guidance and support.



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It's time to speak

Dialogue is **a game for two players.**



Without dialogue we distance ourselves from one another, we remain attached to our own ideas, imprisoned in the fortress of our own interests.

From our side of the fence, the other person seems distant and often becomes the enemy. Without dialogue, we cannot make contact and our seemingly perfect ideas are the only reference point we use to judge our actions.

Given the world situation today, dialogue between people with different ideas is the only way to make contact and understand each other, to allow open expression of each other's interests and to negotiate possible solutions.

Understanding, respecting and entering into contact with one another is the starting point to overcome conflict, to maintain different interests and opinions and to find a way for everyone to express themselves.

However, effective dialogue is only possible if we don't remain glued to our own convictions, believing them to be the only ones acceptable, convinced that others should follow them and if necessary, use force to impose them.

Dialogue requires an element of doubt, or self-doubt, which doesn't mean renouncing one's values and truths. It involves a healthy questioning of our beliefs and a consideration of other people's ideas. It means having an open mind, always being ready to search for what unites rather than divides and requires constantly reassessing facts.

A response attributed to John Maynard Keynes to a question about why he changed his mind on an issue was: 'When the facts change, I change my mind. What do you do?'

This approach rejects the idea of winning at all costs and using coercion to impose one's point of view.

Dialogue cannot be achieved by force but by reason, through respectful exchange of beliefs, ideas and feelings. When people freely exchange opinions they are looking for a way to replace lack of communication.

Today's distressing world has conflicts in many countries and uneasy truces barely holding back open war in others. It seems that hate, discrimination, conflict and intolerance have been a constant cloud. Sometimes it seems these destructive forces are increasing, leaving us without light at the end of the tunnel to help us on our journey.

Good is our goal; let's continue to work to increase the light.

Furthermore, injustice creates deep divisions between people which forces different classes or categories: people who monopolise power/people without power; people with a job/people without and people who want one; people who burn the Earth's resources/people who don't have enough to survive; people who have everything/people with nothing; and people who use force to impose their interests on others/people who are weak.

Unfortunately, in this age of instant mass communication, increasing numbers think they are communicating with each other, when the opposite is true. Surveys have pointed to a rise in feelings of loneliness even among those who regularly use electronic social networking. Many people have a dialogue but it is only with themselves, or with others sharing their same narrow views.


Dialogue is the only way to solve our human conflicts, every time statesmen talk about the needs of fellow citizens, they can really make a difference and find solutions which don't damage the interests of others. As an example, the Elders, founded by Nelson Mandela in 2007, believe in any conflict, it's important to listen to everyone – no matter how unpopular this may be.

Dialogue is a philosophy that allows us to consider others not as enemies but, simply, people like ourselves; people with whom we intend to journey along the path of reciprocal understanding and peaceful coexistence.

Above all, dialogue involves acknowledging the other person the right to express their goals and desires. To use the philosophy of dialogue is a step in the right direction, it shows one is ready to meet the other person. But philosophy also has to lead to actions that facilitate a meaningful exchange of ideas, leading to greater understanding.

Freemasonry has always worked to encourage men to dialogue with one another, and through reciprocal respect, to understand each other. Freemasonry is neither a philosophy nor an ideology, it is a way where both can exist together, based on the principle "not to presume to know the truth any more than others presume to know it."

Our faith is unwavering and indestructible. We are optimists at heart and believe in the highest values of humanity and the Creator of life. We believe in dialogue and peace in the hope that, one day even those who would reduce us to silence will understand the advantage of respect and dialogue. Our objective is to bring light and to dispel darkness, not to rekindle old grievances.

Good is our goal; let's continue to work to increase the light. 



Death Valley is hot

Every breath is difficult. The sun is hot and burns your skin. **Your throat needs water.**

This is Death Valley, a National Park in California and an easy drive from Las Vegas. The time not to visit Death Valley is from May to October, when the maximum temperature can rise to 46 degrees and the minimum is 31 degrees. The record high temperature of 57 degrees was recorded in July 1913 and the lowest minimum was minus 9 degrees in January the same year.

Great extremes haunt this hottest, driest and lowest national park in the United States. The desert supports nearly 1,000 native plants and also harbours fish, snails and other aquatic animals which are not found anywhere else.

Death Valley, to the uninitiated, appears to be a vast, empty wasteland but to those interested in research and exploration, it is an area of wonder and endless stories. The colourful and rugged landscape shouts tales of amazing forces that have pushed rock layers upwards and of opposing forces battling to tear them down.

Desert winds whisper romances of the past – of the miners lured by the glitter of gold, of Chinese labourers scraping borax-rich crystals from the valley floor, dust devil stories of partnership between a teller of tall tales and his castle builders. And throughout the past, present and into the future, the Timbisha Shoshone people live in the area sustained by their 'valley of life'.

In 1994, the US Congress changed Death Valley from a national monument to a national park, enlarged the park to its present size and designated most of it as wilderness. It is a land of stories

and experiences for those who wish to explore.



Stories of gold found in the newly acquired territory of California had been published in the media late in 1848 but President Polk's official notice to Congress sparked the California Gold Rush, enticing more than 250,000 people to join the search for riches during the next four years.

Among those who caught the 'gold fever' was 28-year-old William Manly who joined a group from a pioneer wagon train across the desert who were seeking a short cut to the goldfields. They ultimately came into Death Valley in what became the region's first recorded visit. These 'Lost 49ers' not only survived but picked up mineral samples of high grade silver ore, leading to prospecting which discovered gold and silver and other minerals.

Underground mines were created in many areas, in some places leaving abandoned sites and an ecological mess when operations ceased. In the early 20th century, newer technologies changed the mining industry with the arrival of railroad lines, roads and automobiles. Death Valley's last active mine closed in 2005 but consequences still remain of the previous 130 years of mineral extraction.

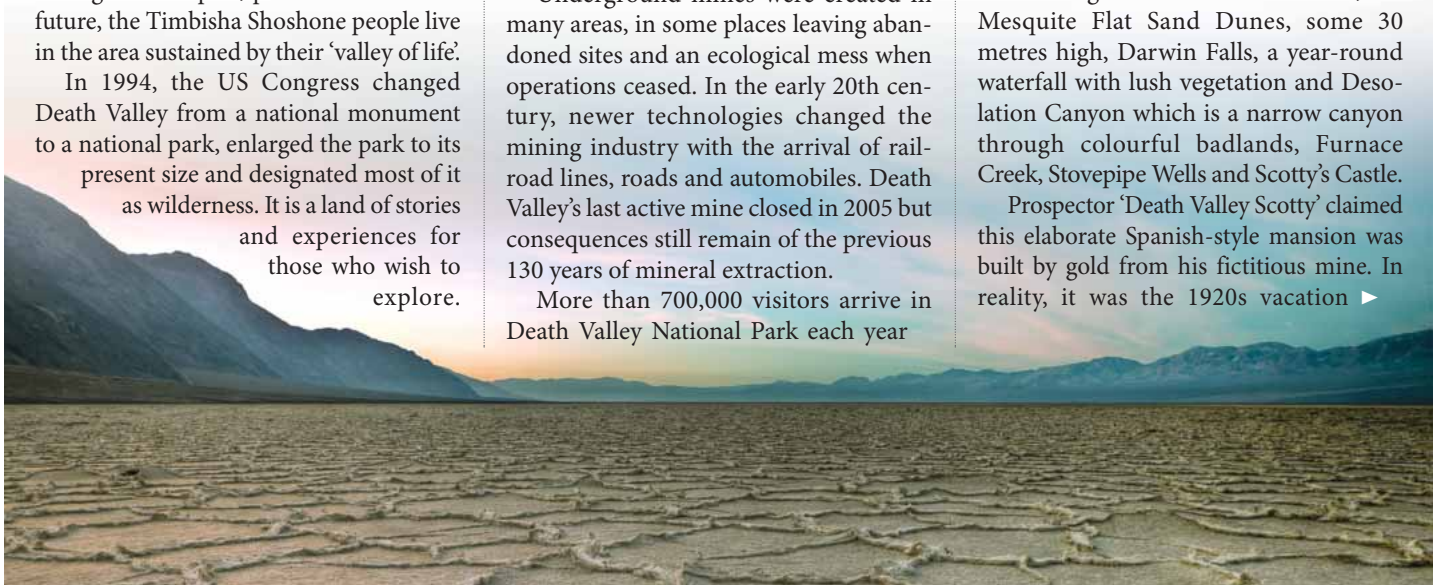
More than 700,000 visitors arrive in Death Valley National Park each year

and all are warned of the dangers of the heat and told to resist the temptation of entering a mine opening or an old building. It is suggested to each visitor to drink at least four litres of water per day to replace loss from perspiration, do not hike in low elevations where temperatures are hotter, if your car breaks down stay with it until help comes and never place your hands or feet where you cannot see first. Rattlesnakes, scorpions or black widow spiders may be sheltered there. And finally, the main cause of death in the Valley is single-car accidents.

Walking in Death Valley is a trying experience. The heat is a constant thick blanket and a hat is compulsory. There are numerous stops where refreshments can be obtained and a must-see visit should be made to Badwater Salt Flats, the nation's lowest elevation at 90 metres below sea level. The salt flats are five miles (8 km) across and present a shimmering sight on arrival. A path leads from Badwater Pool to the pure white salt display but there is a lack of shade and the tendency is to take the necessary photos and return to the shelter of your vehicle.

Amongst the other viewing areas are Eureka Dunes rising nearly 200 metres and the highest dunes in California, the Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes, some 30 metres high, Darwin Falls, a year-round waterfall with lush vegetation and Desolation Canyon which is a narrow canyon through colourful badlands, Furnace Creek, Stovepipe Wells and Scotty's Castle.

Prospector 'Death Valley Scotty' claimed this elaborate Spanish-style mansion was built by gold from his fictitious mine. In reality, it was the 1920s vacation ▶



Have your say



Corruption at Discovery Lodge

On 7 March Masonic history will be made for NSW when, for the first time, a Past Grand Master will be installed as the Master of a Lodge.

In this case, MW Bro Dr Greg Levenston will be placed in the chair of King Solomon in a highly abridged ceremony which does not leave the first degree.

It was thought unnecessary to instruct a Past Grand Master in the duties of Worshipful Master and the shorter ceremony gives time to include a guest speaker on a current front page topic – corruption and abuse of power.

Ian Temby AO QC – the state's first ICAC commissioner and former Director of Public Prosecutions for WA will speak on "Corruption issues in Contemporary Society".

He will also answer questions – allowing an interesting and unique insight into the causes, effects, results and consequences of corruption in public office.

The venue is Sydney Masonic Centre. The lodge tyles at 6.30 and the dinner will begin at 7.30. Freemasons, their families and friends are most welcome.

Is there someone you know who would be interested in attending? Please bring them and show the calibre of speaker that Freemasonry can command. All this and a sumptuous meal – for only \$45 per person.

Bookings to me at brontmed@tpg.com.au or 0412 876 029.

MW BRO GREG LEVENSTON

Let's talk

Your article on 'Try a face-to-face chat with someone' is one of my most vociferous soapbox topics. It doesn't take much to get me started on that one. I have lots of great friends. I've met every single one of them. I socialise with them and we chat away without a keyboard in sight! I often wax lyrical on the pleasures of spontaneity that flows like a waterfall during a REAL 'chat'.

You can't see anyone's eyes or smile through a keyboard, or hear the music of someone's inflections and intonations, or even (quite importantly) where they put the emphasis in their conversation! Their whole POINT can often be left unsaid because of their shortcomings (or laziness) in literary skills. (Sigh!)

On a lighter note – I recall hearing an elderly journalist once confessing that he did

not 'tweet', although he had been known to 'toot' occasionally.

My kindest and most fraternal regards.

TERRY MCCALLUM

Rudyard Kipling

I was pleased to see the article on Rudyard Kipling in the December 2012 issue of the NSW 'Freemason' but dismayed to see that you had Kipling married to Florence Garrard.

According to Harry Carr's article on Kipling, published in Volume 77 of AQC, 1964, he states that Kipling married Caroline Balestier by Special Licence in London in January 1892. On page 217 of the article, Carr states that Flo Garrard had broken off their understanding in July 1884.

Apart from being upset at this error, we were also disappointed that mention was not made in the December issue about the existence of Lodge Rudyard Kipling at Bexley which was consecrated in April 1950. Permission to use the name for the lodge was given by Elsie Bainbridge, who was Kipling's only surviving child.

MRS ROBYN FORSTER

Berkeley Vale, NSW



Death Valley is hot
continued

home of his wealthy friends. Today, living history tours of the castle's richly furnished interior are given by costumed park rangers.

More than 10,000 years ago, the Ice Age ended and early people lived by lakes and streams. As the climate dried, small, mobile family groups travelled between their summer and winter camps and the Timbisha Shoshone trace their ancestry to those


people. From 1492 to 1849, the Shoshone sustained their way of life with their intimate knowledge of Tumpisa (Death Valley) and the surrounding desert. The mining era began in the 1870s, gold was found in 1904, President Hoover establishes in 1933 the Death Valley National Monument while President Clinton in 1994 redesignates the area as a National Park.

The Timbisha Shoshone Homeland Act in 2000 allots the tribe acreage within their ancestral homeland to live on in perpetuity and they now work with the National Park Service to jointly manage zones within the park boundary and to preserve the area and its stories for present and future generations.

Death Valley is unique and the raw desert landscape shapes its human story. Like the mesquite tree, some of its people

have deep roots, drawing sustenance from hidden sources. Others blow in on the hot winds of get-rich-quick schemes, then out again on scorched dreams.

It is the largest park in the lower 48 States and a variety of projects have been planned for its improvement. Roads will become better, solar energy will be used to produce electricity, rehabilitation projects for park campground facilities and new signs will be created to provide visitors with interesting and accurate information.

Mountains make Death Valley extremely dry by forcing most moisture out of eastward-moving clouds before they reach the valley. Under sunny skies, the deep basins trap heat to generate record summer temperatures. It is a landscape of contrasts which creates more niches for life. It is unique. 

No shame in prompting

For centuries dramatic art has relied on the prompter, and **dramatic art is what we do.**

Often a specially trained participant, the prompter was expected to follow the script for a stage production, and see the performers over embarrassing forgetful episodes. And we all know that they can happen.

But the situation today is different. Politicians complete Teleprompting 101 before even setting foot on the hustings. Actors these days rarely use prompters, preferring to adlib with their own substituted script if the original eludes them. All newsrooms use technical prompters. Run control, which refers to the speed at which a script is presented on screen, is done by foot switches, voice activation, wireless hand controls, or the desktop computer. This enables the presenter to co-ordinate their own vocal interpretation with the written word, adding emphasis and emotive input when they think necessary.

We have all marvelled at the apparent fluency and mastery of facts that political leaders, comedians and TV show presenters exhibit when performing publicly; the mechanism is not always obvious, so to the uninitiated it is an impressive illusion. The reality is that the speaker has a stop/go button in the pocket or another part of their apparel, wired to the prompter, which they activate by a downward pressure of the thumb, a squeeze of the elbow or a turn

of the head. What appears to be an insightful comment from a show host may have come from a producer up in the studio who communicates with the performer by way of radio receiver in their ear.

Singers and musicians who forget their lines can be helped by an iPhone app which not only shows them the sequence of songs they previously planned to present in the bracket (their 'list'), but also the words of the songs.

What is the word before 'rejoice' in our national anthem? Chances are you had to go back to the beginning 'Australians all . . .' to answer that question. That's how prompting works. One word acts as a cue for the next. Even young five year old children use cues. In the early stages of learning the number word sequence they are unable to jump into it at any point, but have to go back to the beginning each time. Often a single word is all that is needed to cue in the next one.

The situation in our lodges

These newer techniques for prompting are rarely available in our lodges, although one sometimes sees young university students use it when giving a charge. Usually we rely on an experienced mason to take on the role of prompter, but there are four essential issues we need to consider:

- **Proximity.** It is essential that the prompter be close to the presenter. To place him at the other end of the lodge room is not helpful, partly because the acoustics in lodge rooms are often poor, but also because older voices do not project well.
- **Clarity.** The prompter should be chosen on the criterion of clarity of speech, which is to say they should not be mumblers. And the deeper the voice the better.
- **Volume.** There is no shame to anyone in prompting, so the prompter SHOULD NOT WHISPER. Everyone in the room knows why the prompter is there and what his function is, so let's not try to hide it!! Sometimes one clearly spoken word is sufficient to steer a presenter over a blank, but the presenter must HEAR it. An inaudible prompt only leads to confusion for the presenter.
- **Projection.** It is essential that the prompter looks UP as he utters the prompt. If he is looking down as he speaks, it is often impossible to hear it. This means that the book from which he is prompting should be held UP, rather than hidden in the lap.

There is no shame in prompting!



CON
FLU
ENC
IAS

AUSTRALIAN & LATIN AMERICAN ART

< Painting by
Craig Rudy,
Archibald
Prize winner

See the Art Exhibition

The Museum of Freemasonry will stage an Exhibition of Australian and Latin American art titled "Confluencias" on the 3rd Floor of the Sydney Masonic Centre in Goulburn Street.

The Exhibition will be held from 16 March to 7 April, Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm and is made possible by a partnership with the consulates of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay.



Regional Roundup



Soldiers Beach SLSC enjoys the *Freemason*

The feature on Surf Life Saving (December 2012 *Freemason*) has received fantastic response from both the life saving and general community and ensures Freemasonry continues to be seen in a very positive light.

Copies of the magazine were distributed to both competitors and the general public at the latest event in the Peters Series for surf boats held at Soldiers Beach SLSC on Sunday, 9 December.



A man of talents

It was a different night for RW Bro Kevin McGlinn, the UGL Grand Secretary, when he was re-installed into the chair of University of Sydney Royal Arch Chapter.

It was a very unique evening as the First Grand Principal and Grand Master, ME Companion Ted Keenahan when offered the sceptre of the Chapter (as in the Craft with the gavel) actually accepted it and did the Installation Ceremony.

'It was a fantastic honour for me and the Chapter and a terrific night – one I won't forget,' said RW Bro McGlinn.



ME Companion Ted Keenahan with RW Bro Kevin McGlinn during the re-installation

Movember donation

A cheque for \$200 was handed to the Bateau Bay Family Fishing Club representative Michael Greentree from Lodge Morning Star representative Lance Nelson at Gosford Masonic Centre in December.

The donation was made to the Fishing Club to go towards its fundraising for prostate cancer during the Movember campaign which during 2012 raised more than \$8,000.

Many of the members are motor cyclists and have organised local bike rides as well as concerts, auctions and raffles.

"The Freemasons of Lodge Morning Star are proud to assist the club and to participate in such worthwhile fund raising in the name of prostate cancer research," said Lodge spokesman Richard Black.



A very Berry train trip

At long last and on time, the two car 1926 Rail Motor pulled into Wyong railway station at 0700 hours where about 40 masons with their wives and families plus widows climbed aboard for a trip to Berry in December. The train arrived at Gosford 15 minutes later where they were joined by several others.

With all windows opened for air conditioning, the train wound through tunnels, past the Hawkesbury River and the oyster leases and on to Hornsby station where RW Bro Lynden Norgate, RGC for Region 1 and his wife Virginia boarded. Travelling south and picking up more masons, including the Deputy Grand Master RW Bro Jamie Melville and partner Yuana, the train travelled to Berry arriving at 1100 hours.

The passengers alighted to investigate the mysteries of the Berry Fair and make their purchases from flowers, vegetables and other items before venturing into the township for lunch. Further wandering then took place, particularly in the antique shops while enjoying ice creams.

All aboard at 4pm for the return journey, arriving back late in the evening.

The winner of the Christmas hamper was Mrs Robbie Anderson, one of the many Masonic Widows in the group. The

DGIW, VW Bro David Williams, thanked all who took part in the trip which raised \$1,200 towards the Masonicare appeal.



Mrs Jan Williams, VW Bro David Williams (DGIW District 18), Mrs Virginia Norgate, RW Bro Lynden Norgate (RGC Region 1), RW Bro Denis Dean and VW Bro Terry Wand

LODGE WESTLAKE DAYLIGHT No 997

60 years

District 42 honoured veteran member W Bro Noel West with his 60 Years Certificate in December.

The certificate was presented by the RGC, RW Bro Ron Scanes at the Christmas meeting of Lodge Westlake Daylight No 997.



L to R: DGIW VW Bro Tom Shaw, RGC RW Bro Ron Scanes, W Bro Noel West and the WM W Bro Brian Blake

THE PEEL LODGE No 209

Peel Lodge member honoured

W Bro Ted Carter, of the Peel Lodge, No 209, was selected as a member of a Federal Government sponsored delegation of 21 World War II veterans to travel to Egypt to attend the Veterans' Mission to the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein.

His unit, the 2/1st Pioneer Battalion, was constructing an airfield at Benghazi in April 1941 when it was forced to move to Tobruk to avoid Rommel's advancing army. Tobruk was under siege from April 1941 to September 1941.

He subsequently saw service with the 2/3rd Pioneer Battalion at the battle of El Alamein.

Following his war service Ted worked in Sydney and then retired to Tamworth.

Ted was initiated on 22 July 1955 in Lodge Turramurra and installed into the Chair of Lodge John Oxley in 1968.



W Bro Carter at El Alamein



Palliative care patients breathe easy

The Coffs Coast Freemasons' Association has been helping out in the local community again.

RW Bro Norm Standing PJGW, VW Bro Phil Robertson DGIW District 53, and VW Bro John Bertram, presented two oxygen concentrators to staff at the Palliative Care Service, who have had an increasing demand for these machines.

The CCFA used money raised from their ongoing weekly BBQ plus an Interaction Grant from Masonicare to purchase the machines, worth about \$2,000 each.

Palliative Care clinical nurse consultant Bev Morris said oxygen was used as a therapy to relieve the distressing symptoms of breathlessness, and the oxygen concentrators were less costly and more convenient than tanks. The machines can be loaned to patients of the Palliative Care Service for use in their own homes.

Oxygen concentrators are a valuable resource. They supply slow stream oxygen which enhances quality of life for patients with breathing difficulties and enables them to remain at home for ongoing care.

'We are very grateful to the CCFA for this very generous donation, which will be a great comfort to our patients,' Ms Morris said.



Staff receiving oxygen concentrators

Presentation by District 44 Charities to Gloucester Community Hospital

On Tuesday, 11 December, District 44 Masonic Charities Inc. presented Gloucester Community Hospital with funds to purchase a bladder scanner machine.

On behalf of District 44, DGIW Greg Scott-Pacey presented a cheque for \$9,600. This amount resulted from a raffle organized in the District by Bro Don Andrews, Secretary. He has been the chief motivator, organizer and leader in these projects over the past several years.

The project was supported well by the District with tickets being sold by Lodge Gloucester, Lodge Cowper (Wingham),



L to R: VW Bro John Moore, Nurse Deborah Buckton and DGIW Greg Scott-Pacey

A century to Edgar

More than 100 guests attended Wyong Bowling Club on Saturday 24 November to join the celebrations for the 100th birthday of Bro Edgar James Wood.

Among the guests were VW Bro Terry Wand (PDGIW District 18), VW Bro Bill Clayton, W Bro Robert Taylor, W Bro Phil Tunks and Bro Joe Cooper. The Bowling Club, of which Edgar was a Past President, made a presentation, and letters of congratulation were read from the Queen, the Prime Minister, the Governor and members of Parliament. VW Bro Wand delivered a 'This is Your Life' speech which outlined Edgar's masonic career and achievements.

Edgar responded to all with much laughter and dignity. He certainly has loved and still loves his Masonry.



L to R: Bro Joe Cooper, Bro Edgar Wood, VW Bro Terry Wand and VW Bro Bill Clayton

Lodge Greater Taree, Lodge Forster Great Lakes United and Lodge Laurieton Haven United.

Masonicare presented an additional cheque for \$5,000, bringing the total donation to \$14,600. John Moore, Masonicare Rep for Region 4, travelled from Newcastle to make this presentation. These monies were happily received by nurses Deborah Buckton and Anita Reid on behalf of the hospital. They will now be able to purchase a higher grade machine than originally planned.

Representatives of all lodges of the District were present for the presentation. Don Andrews, Greg Scott-Pacey, and Jim Henderson (PDGIW) thanked everyone for their support and participation.



District 33 Relay for Life

The annual Relay for Life has again attracted a large number of competitors and a big participation by Freemasons.

District 33 became involved with the Cancer Council and the Relay for Life which took place at Horsley Park in November. The District was represented by VW Bro Frank Ingersole, VW Bro Les Rowan, RW Bro Ron Maybour, VW Bro Bruce Sharp and the DGIW VW Bro Charles Bardwell.

A marquee was erected displaying masonic promotional material and several firm enquiries were received as a result.

The sum of \$1,700 was raised through the Relay and the associated raffle, and Masonicare contributed a further \$1,700 on a dollar for dollar basis. The Cancer Council arranged a presentation at Horsley Park on Thursday 24 January and were represented by Pina Asekona, the Community Relations Co-ordinator, Allanah Falappi, Chairperson of the Fairfield Committee and Lee Falappi, the Co-ordinator of the Relay for Life.



L to R: Pina Asekona, VW Bro Charles Bardwell, Allanah Falappi, Lee Falappi, VW Bro Frank Ingersole and VW Bro Les Rowan



LODGE LIVERPOOL PLAINS No 191

Gunnedah drought breaks

The first masonic meeting held in Gunnedah for over six years was conducted by Liverpool Plains Lodge No 191, on 10 November.

RW Bro David Robertson, the Worshipful Master, welcomed 25 brethren and three ladies on the night, including nine Gunnedah masons.

A temporary lodge room was set up in the Police and Community Youth Club in

View Street, Gunnedah for this occasion.

Social get togethers are planned in Gunnedah to involve as many local masons, to re-ignite their interest in the Craft. Further lodge meetings will also be held in coming months.

Any masons interested in attending at Gunnedah should contact RW Bro Robertson on 02 6762 6177.

Four generations



L to R: W Bro Emil Bosheh, WM of Lodge Beecroft, Bro David Dawson and his father, W Bro Alan Dawson, Chaplain

When Bro David Dawson was initiated into Lodge Beecroft No 359 in December 2012, he became the fourth generation 'Dawson' to take his first step. David was proposed by his father, W Bro Alan Dawson, a Past Master of Lodge Beecroft and currently its Chaplain. He also joins his grandfather, Bro Harrie James Dawson, Lodge St John, Warrnambool, Victoria No 35 and his great grandfather, Bro William James Dawson of Lodge Ballarat, Victorian Constitution.



A good roll up at Gunnedah: RW Bro Robertson flanked by the many members and guests



District 31 Ladies Auxiliary

The District 31 Ladies Auxiliary, chaired by Mrs Jan Holbrook, made five donations for a total sum of \$12,000 to charities at the District meeting held in December. The beneficiaries were Assistance Dogs Australia, Parkinsons NSW, Heartkids Westmead, Schools Broadcasting Australia and the Ronald McDonald House.

The funds were raised by various fund raising activities conducted by the District 31 ladies and was supported by matching grants from Masonicare.



District 31 Ladies Auxiliary Committee for 2012–2013

Eighty years on

In early November, 13 members of Lodge Greater Taree No 66 journeyed to Kempsey to visit Lodge Kempsey Macleay No 302. This visit celebrated 80 years of exchange visits between masons of the Manning and the Macleay areas.

The Worshipful Master of Lodge Greater Taree, W Bro Wal Riley, is pictured on the right, handing over the travelling gavel to RW Bro Bill Harbin, the Worshipful Master of Lodge Kempsey-Macleay.

Both Masters expressed the hope that these visits will continue for at least another 80 years.



Lodge Fire Brigades



W Bro Roger Dobson 'addresses' the haggis with piper W Bro Eric Maver at left

A Burns Night at Lodge Fire Brigades was bound to be ablaze with festive spirit, and so it was,

Worshipful Master W Bro Dave Myers welcomed the brethren, their ladies and guests, about 100 in all, and the evening progressed in fine and traditional fashion.

The all important haggis was ceremonially piped in by W Bro Eric Maver from Lodge Artarmon United No 285, before

being addressed in pure Burnsian accents by W Bro Roger Dobson.

The tradition continued with the serving of the haggis with 'tatties' and 'neaps', and ample measures of Athol Brose.

W Bro Dobson held the floor again with his impressive Immortal Memory, which was roundly applauded, and the evening concluded with familiar Scot tunes from the Castle Pipers.



Freemason welcomes new members to the Craft

Name	Lodge	Name	Lodge	Name	Lodge
AMARNANI, Rajiv	Lodge Woden Valley 974	EVANS, Daniel	Lodge Richard Coley 152	REID, Kevin	Lodge Warringah 83
ANGUS, Rob	Lodge Middle Harbour 85	FRANKS, Paul	Lodge Phoenix 1034	REYES, Mel	The Northern Rivers Lodge 77
ASQUITH, Michael	Lodge Cessnock 252	GARDEN, Brendan	Brundah Endeavour 429	REYNOLDS, John	Lodge Horizons 1032
ATTOH, William	Lodge Southern Cross 91	GOLGERTH, Wayne	Lodge Warringah 83	RICHARD, Josh	Lodge Fitzroy 248
BALJAK, Dusan	Lodge Aviation 688	GRANT, Greg	Lodge Dubbo 906	RICHARDSON, Dax	Lodge Dawn 511
BARRETT, Simon	Lodge Como 738	HAMLIN, Hamish	Lodge John Williams 148	ROSSETTI, Michel	Lodge Middle Harbour 85
BATTEN, Phil	The Hills Lodge 1025	HARDY, Steve	Lodge Warragamba 541	ROSSI, Paul	The Australian Lodge Of Harmony 5
BAZAROW, Nick	Lodge Warringah 83	HUANG, Weijun	The Lodge Of Tranquillity 42	SAFLIAN, Krikour	Lodge Horace Thompson Ryde 134
BEGG, Steve	Lodge Ku-Ring-Gai 1033	INGRAM, Jason	Lodge Sutherland 585	SAMARAS, George	The Sydney Lodge 1020
BERRY, Mark	Lodge Baulkham Hills 958	JEBATHILAK, Josh	Lodge Airs Campbelltown 976	SARMIENTO, Joe	Lodge Horizons 1032
BHATIA, Nikhil	Lodge Beecroft 359	JOLY, Rich	Lodge Axiom 1047	SATER, Raymond	Lodge Toukley 933
BLAIR, James	Lodge Morisset 441	JONES, Jack	The Leichhardt Lodge 133	SAVAS, Selcuk	Lodge Southern Cross 91
BONGERS, Haemish	Lodge Gynea 796	KILBY, Barry	Lodge Sincerity 233	SENGOS, Christopher	Lodge Camden 217
BRADSHAW, Samuel	Lodge Resurgo 223	KLICH, Theodore	Balmain Lodge 23	SHENOUDA, Philip	Lodge Liverpool 197
BROWN, Simon	Lodge Kellerman 1027	KUNDE, Christian	Lodge Airs Campbelltown 976	SLAPE, Gordon	Lodge West Epping 731
BULLIVANT, Tyrone	Lodge Guildford 321	KURUC, Andrew	The Hills Lodge 1025	SLATER, Iain	Lodge Queanbeyan St Andrew 56
CALDWELL, Brett	Lodge Ethos 963	LA TORRE, Rustio	Lodge Horizons 1032	SLEE, William	Lodge Hurlstone Park United 288
CAMPBELL, Tim	Lodge Victoria Cross 928	LAVILLE, Philippe	Lodge Sutherland 585	SLEWA, Alen	The Hills Lodge 1025
CARLOFF, Robert	Lodge Ethos 963	MACLAURIN, David	Lodge Kellerman 1027	SORIA, Gani	Lodge Jose Rizal 1045
CATALDO, Antonio	Lodge Trinity 666	MATAR, Ihab	Lodge Rudyard Kipling 143	SPACEY, Neil	The Lodge Of Tranquillity 42
CAZAN, Catalin	The Lodge of Tranquillity 42	MAWSON, Rodney	The Waratah Lodge 170	STREATFIELD, Andrew	Lodge Ethos 963
CHAPMAN, Benn	Lodge Brotherhood of Maitland 1029	MAYSON, Kody	Lodge Dawn 511	TOM, Andrew	Lodge Livingstone 71
CLARKE, Paul	Lodge Sawtell Twilight 741	MCDONALD, Jonathan	The Sydney Lodge 1020	TOMS, Kieran	Lodge Kingsford Smith 1028
CLEAVELY-MILLWOOD, Aaron	Lodge France 1021	MCDONALD, William	Bundaleeah Daylight Lodge 992	TOOVEY, Michael	Lodge Ethos 963
COOPER, Matthew	The Queen's Lodge 229	MCDONALD, Alan	Lodge Cornucopia 1037	TOPCU, Tolga	Lodge Celebration of Fairfield 345
COTTE, Jean	Lodge Emu Plains 860	MENNITI, Rosario	The Australian Lodge of Harmony 5	VINE, Mitch	Lodge Illawarra 59
COTTE, Andrew	Lodge Emu Plains 860	MILES, David	Lodge Wyvern 813	WADE, John	Lodge Como 738
COTTE, Benjamin	Lodge Emu Plains 860	MORRELL, Andrew	Concord Technology 432	WALKER, Bryan	Lodge Tomaree 878
CRAMOND, Glenn	Lodge Cornucopia 1037	MORRIS, Darren	Lodge Camden 217	WATERS, Troy	Lodge Carnarvon 172
DAVIES, Andrew	Lodge Warringah 83	NATARAJAN, Ramesh	The Sir Walter Scott Lodge 123	WHITFORD, Simon	Lodge Phoenix 1034
DAVIS, Stuart	The Australian Lodge of Harmony 5	O'CONNOR, Tim	Lodge Dawn 511	WILSON, Benjamin	Lodge Mark Owen 828
DAWSON, David	Lodge Beecroft 359	PIKE, Matthew	Lodge Beecroft 359	YALDA, Martin	Lodge Guildford 321
DEMARTE, John	Lodge Trinity 666	POWELL, James	The Mountain Lodge 190	YASBIC, Bernard	Antiquity 1
DONALD, James	The Glen Innes Lodge 44	PSAROUDIS, George	Lodge Camden 217	YOUNG, Nathan	Lodge Aviation 688
DONALD, James	The Glen Innes Lodge 44	PUCKERIDGE, Gregory	Lodge Blaxland Temperance 346	ZAMMIT, Paul	Lodge Victoria Cross 928
EIDELMAN, Feliks	The Australian Lodge of Harmony 5	RACITI, Giovanni	The Lodge Of Tranquillity 42		

Wanted

Everyone has a story and we want yours.

We would like to hear of anything you feel would interest other readers – perhaps your career, your travels, a profound experience, a passion, interest or hobby.

Don't panic – you don't need to be a writer! Just send us some notes and we will happily pull it into shape for you, and don't forget **a picture is worth a thousand words.**

If you would like to talk to someone before going ahead, **call Richard on (02) 4344 5133.**

Send your copy to: 47 Picnic Parade, Ettalong Beach NSW 2257 or email it to: freemason@apmgraphics.com.au

Articles for Freemason Magazine



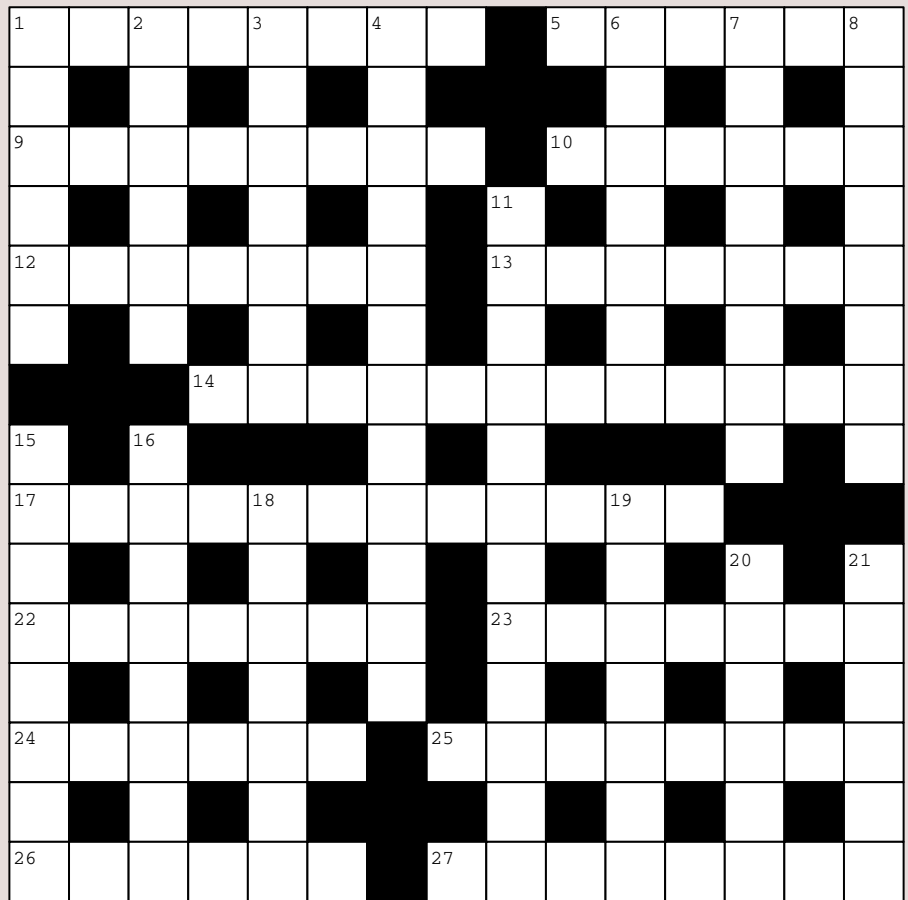


* Not a cryptic clue

§ Definition is from Glossary of Words in the First Degree Ritual

ACROSS

- 1 Stupid Bro carries on without prestige car for exercises (8)
- 5 & 26 – Green decodes letters involved with the Fellow crafts (6, 6)
- 9 Biggles attacking with explosive fast ring of gunfire (8)
- 10 See 14 across
- 12 Some are against all things relating to 'this auspicious solemnity' (7)
- 13 Ignores modifications to Grand Lodge Counselors' bailiwicks (7)
- 14 * Ceremonial duty of the Grand Master, his deputy and assistant (12, 1, 5)
- 17 Pompously act as a know-all and plagiarises fiction tapes (12)
- 22 Such a remark construed to allocate (7)
- 23 Rid sanctimonious extremes from suaveness and change ways (7)
- 24 I strip off in the right attitude of things (6)
- 25 * Two mathematical variables, perhaps the two grand parallel lines could be so described (8) 26 See 5 across
- 27 Tea moron swallowed in the Tyler's domain (8)



Solution December 2012

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

DOWN

- 1 Attack secondly raises racial problems (6)
- 2 Arrest in another manner is the most uncommon (6)
- 3 R.A.O.B. brother is an animal (7)
- 4 Wicked things were used on our pedestals before electricity (12)
- 6 Funeral tributes arranged from unlimited dialogues (7)
- 7 Evil mood upset "Gone with the Wind" for instance (3, 5)
- 8 Equestrian trial annoyed red sages (8)

- 11 Grand Masters' further year marked by panic to moral changes (12)
- 15 § Soothed and calmed the wrath of God in a deep spa it seems (8)
- 16 § Not failing but returning anyhow without the leader (8)
- 18 Envisage an enigma I unravelled (7)
- 19 Some severe mite infestation affected a religious hermit (7)
- 20 Unknown due to change into a dinner jacket (6)
- 21 Six footer leaves Amaranths resort for Hindu yoga (6)

Solution next issue © adsXwords



UNDERSTANDING WOMEN

I know I'm not going to understand women. I'll never understand how you can take boiling hot wax, pour it onto your upper thigh, rip the hair out by the root, and still be afraid of a spider.

WIFE VS. HUSBAND

A couple drove down a country road for several miles, not saying a word. An earlier discussion had led to an argument and neither of them wanted to concede their position. As they passed a barnyard of mules, goats and pigs, the husband asked sarcastically, 'Relatives of yours?' 'Yep,' the wife replied, 'in-laws'.

God may have created man before woman, but there is always a rough draft before the masterpiece!

WORDS

A husband read an article to his wife about how many words women use a day – 30,000 to a man's 15,000. The wife replied, 'The reason has to be because we have to repeat everything to men'.

The husband then turned to his wife and asked, 'What?'

CREATION

A man said to his wife one day, 'I don't know how you can be so stupid and so beautiful all at the same time'.

The wife responded, 'Allow me to explain. God made me beautiful so you would be attracted to me; God made me stupid so I would be attracted to you!'



50 Years Service

BEAL, Arthur	Lodge Wairoonga 674
CAMBURN, John	The Leichhardt Lodge 133
CAMPBELL, Warren	The Central Coast Lodge 2001
CLARK, Bruce	Lodge Milton 63
CLIFTON, Barry	Lodge Tomalpin 253
COLLINS, Ian	Nowra Unity 60
DICKINSON, Rodger	Trial Bay Daylight Lodge 1018
ELLIS, James	Lodge Burnside 729
FRASER, John	Lodge Eltham 272
GROVES, Neville	Lodge Farrer 93
GROVES, William	Laurelbank Kuring-gai Daylight Lodge 230
HALL, Edmund	Lodge Katoomba 118
HARRIS, Reginald	Lodge Hurstville 282
HODGES, Noel	Trial Bay Daylight Lodge 1018
HOLLAND, Campbell	Nowra Unity 60
MARSHALL, Ronald	Concord Technology 432

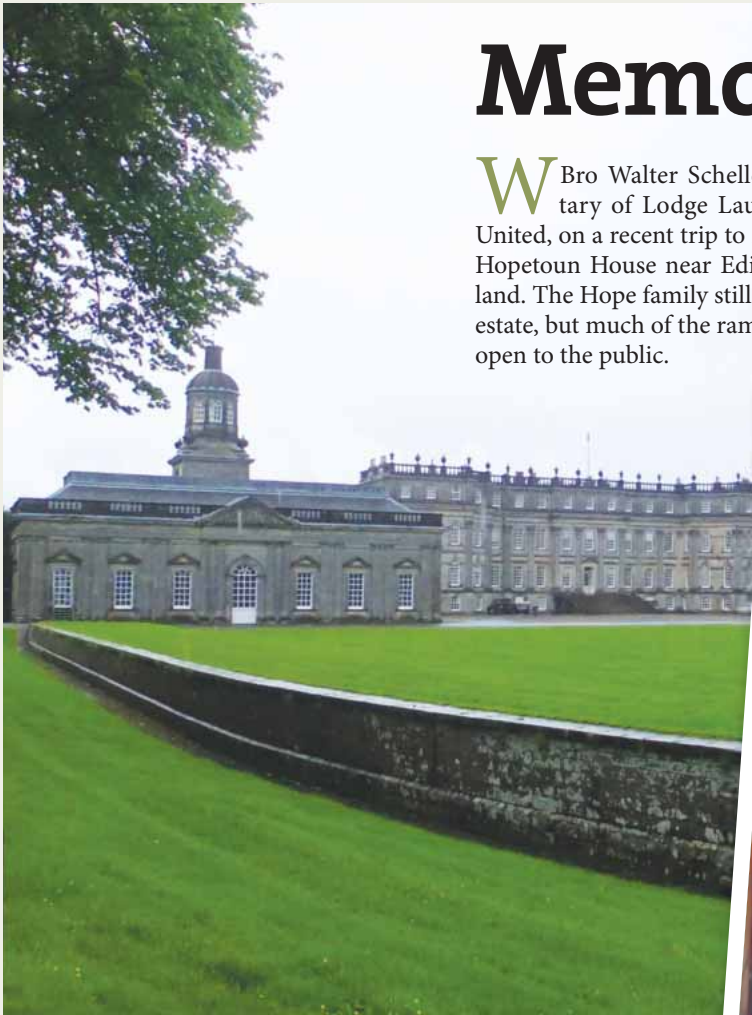
MCDONALD, Raymond	Lodge Camden 217
MOORE, Trevor	Concord Technology 432
MORGANS, Clarence	The Leichhardt Lodge 133
SPARKE, John	Lodge Toukley 933
STEWART, Alexander	Lodge St David and St John 180
STOKOE, Archibald	Lodge Bulli Thirroul 1040
STURGISS, Ronald	Nowra Unity 60
WAGNER, Karl	Lodge Swansea Belmont 1030
WINTER, Robert	Lodge Beecroft 359
YOUNGER, John	Lodge Kempsey - Macleay 203

60 Years Service

CHANT, Walter	Livingstone United 604
COOKSON, Walter	Lodge Castlereagh 72
COOPER, Eric	The Northern Rivers Lodge 77
DUNSTER, Francis	Lodge Woden Valley 974
FERRICKS, Donald	Parramatta City Daylight Lodge 1014

GEORGE, Geoffrey	Lodge Federal Burrowa 193
HARVEY, Herbert	The Leichhardt Lodge 133
HORNE, Alexander	Lodge Cessnock 252
JOHNSON, Neville	Parramatta City Daylight Lodge 1014
LUKE, Brian	Lodge Beecroft 359
MCCARRON, Wilfred	Lodge Canowindra 478
MUTER, William	Lodge Resurgo 223
NEWLING, William	Lodge Frenchs Forest United 249
PITCAIRN, James	Lodge Swansea Belmont 1030
SCHOFIELD, Noel	Lodge Beecroft 359
THEODORE, Peter	Lodge Kirrawee 903
TOTMAN, Victor	The Leichhardt Lodge 133
WARTH, Eric	Concord Technology 432
WHITE, Maxwell	Lodge Beecroft 359
WILSON, Laurence	Lodge Resurgo 223

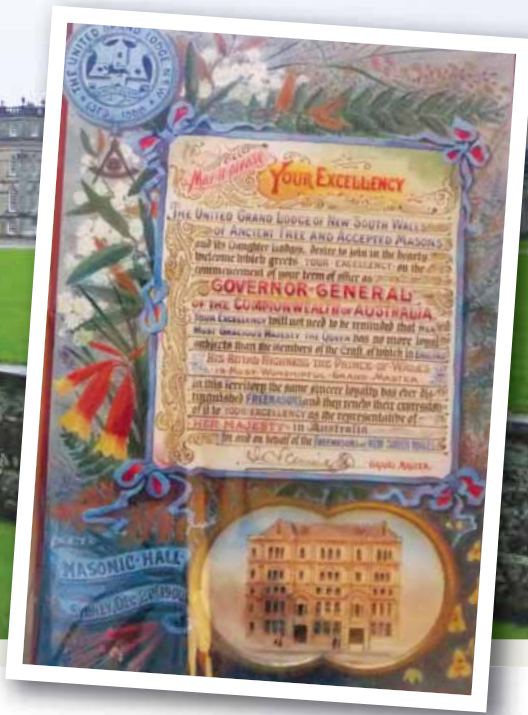
LOE: Lodge of Excellence



Memories survive

W Bro Walter Schellenberg, secretary of Lodge Laurieton Haven United, on a recent trip to Europe visited Hopetoun House near Edinburgh, Scotland. The Hope family still resides on the estate, but much of the rambling house is open to the public.

There, to his surprise, he came across a framed document presented to John Adrian Louis Hope, First Marquess of Linlithgow and 1st Governor General of Australia by the Grand Master 'for and on behalf of the Freemasons of NSW'. The document is dated 2 December 1900.





You are invited...

On Saturday 6th July 2013 it will be my great pleasure to install my successor who will be the 28th Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of Queensland.

Regina, Carol, Gary and I look forward to your company in Brisbane for the Grand Installation and associated functions from **Friday 5th July to Sunday 7th July 2013.**

This will be a wonderful opportunity to catch up with friends we have made over many years and to welcome first time attendees to the spectacular of a Grand Installation.

The Gold and Sunshine Coasts are only a one hour drive from Brisbane.

You can be assured of a warm Queensland welcome.

Adrian Burton
Grand Master

For more information call **07 3229 3533** or email pwheatley@uglq.org.au



Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution

Established in 1880

*The RFBI wishes all Masons and their families
a happy, prosperous and healthy 2013.*

The RFBI has nearly completed an additional 20 beds for Tamworth Cottage Homes and has started construction of a 58 bed aged care facility at Raleigh. A DA has been lodged for an additional 15 beds at Bathurst and plans are underway to upgrade Waratah Village at West Wyalong and Watson Street facility at Bellingen. Schematic plans have been completed for a 70 bed aged care facility at Dubbo to complement our 45 villa self-care village.

The RFBI **APPEALS** to masons to assist in continuing the caring work begin in 1880. Today, in addition to the Annuity and the

Benevolent Assistance Schemes, where assistance is granted to those in need, the RFBI provides accommodation for more than 2,600 senior citizens in its retirement villages. The physical evidence of our 23 retirement villages is a testimony to the charitable works of Freemasonry. Be assured, all donations will be gratefully received and faithfully applied.

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

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

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

Likewise, the RFBI is able to organise **Speakers** for lodge meetings or any like minded masonic function. Please contact Alex Shaw.

Contact Alex Shaw on 9264 5986 or admin@rfbi.com.au



NSW Freemasons' Association
Annual Childrens Christmas Party
Held at Fagan Park, Galston

