

Freemason



FREEMASONS
NSW & ACT



Engineers Without Borders

Engineering a better quality of life



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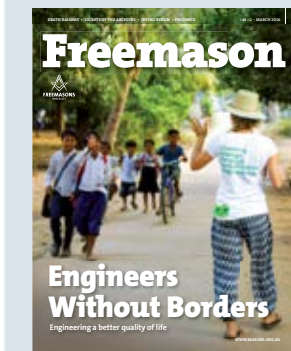
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Cover Image:

Rebecca Watts, Engineers Without Borders, walking on Koh Jarang, an island on the Mekong in northern Cambodia.

Insertions:

Magnamail catalogue

Freemason



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and Australian Capital Territory

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This issue of the Freemason is produced under the direction of:

Chairman: RW Bro Ted Simmons OAM

Committee: RW Bro Graham Maltby (Secretary),
Dr Yvonne McIntyre, VW Bro Mervyn Sinden,
VW Bro Andre Fettermann, RW Bro Craig Pearce,
RW Bro Richard Dawes, W Bro Stephen Dally,
W Bro Steven Lourey

Design and Layout: Simon Pierce, Megan Baumann
and Pam Gill, APM Graphics Management

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All matters for publication in the journal should be addressed to:

The Secretary
Freemason Editorial Committee
The United Grand Lodge of NSW & ACT
PO Box A259, Sydney South, NSW 1235
Telephone: (02) 9284 2800
Facsimile: (02) 9284 2828
Email: freemason@masons.org.au

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Advertising enquiries:

Simon Pierce
APM Graphics Management
16 Springwood Street, Blackwall, NSW 2256
Telephone: (02) 4344 5133
Email: freemason@apmgraphics.com.au
Website: www.apmgraphics.com.au

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Editorial Policy

Aims of the Freemason magazine

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



Do you have people problems?

Why do I constantly get the feeling that today's society has turned from an 'us' world into a 'me' world?



I would imagine that most psychiatrists would agree that human contact is necessary for the human race, but nevertheless there seems to be less contact now than ever before. Many people are on the borders of daily social interaction and young people in particular grow lonely because they are missing from social activities.

Part of the blame can be placed on computers, mobile phones, websites like Twitter and Facebook, and the chase for wealth and pressure. Isn't it easier to use Skype or a mobile to contact

friends rather than visit or meet them, but isn't it nicer and healthier to talk to your friends in real life, shake hands, spend time together or even give them a hug?

Even though we are all different and have different needs, it is essential, from a physical and mental attitude to have human contact. Some people need more, some less but don't delude yourself that you can get by without it. I think we can all agree that sitting in front of a screen or talking/looking at a mobile is stealing too much time out of our lives. Is this your way of creating a

virtual escape rather than facing the real world?


This is where your lodge can be a happy solution. Do you go just to attend, to be a number or to be an active, supporting member? Do you take part, contribute to discussions, help at the table, talk to or sit with new members or visitors or visit inside or outside your district? In other words, do you socialise?

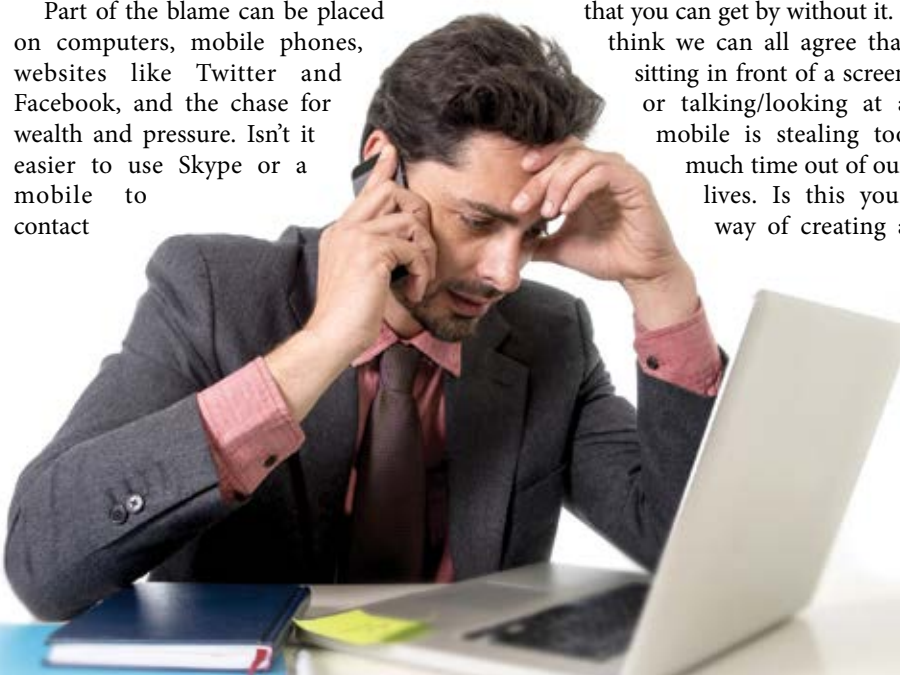
Sometimes asking questions can create problems. Many people have established patterns and don't like change. Others are open to progressive ideas which fit in with this changing world. Nothing stands still forever and each individual must adapt to these changes.

It isn't difficult to put yourself forward to become an active member of your lodge rather than a passive member. If you don't really enjoy attending, ask yourself why. What is the problem? Talk it over with someone else. Maybe they have a similar attitude and together you can find a solution to making the night more enjoyable.

Every lodge must find a program which will keep its members happy, interested and wanting to come back. Do you have a yearly program and is it submitted to members for comment? The lodge management may be surprised at the interest it can create and how involved members can become.

At the same time, bringing new people into our lives through visiting can introduce a different world, expand your social life, widen your knowledge and make you a better person. Isn't that one of the principles of our Masonry?

There are so many wonderful people out there in the world to like, who can bring joy and strength if you just get out that door and try to meet them. 



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

After welcoming the brethren in attendance and receiving the regular reports, the Grand Master, MW Bro James Melville changed the usual format at the December Quarterly Communication to make a special presentation.

He called on the Grand Director of Ceremonies to present Past Grand Master MW Bro George Curry, detailed his masonic career from initiation 50 years ago to Grand Master and presented him with a special 50 Years pin to mark the occasion.

In his reply, MW Bro Curry specially thanked the mentoring of MW Bro Ron Johnson AM CMH and MW Bro Noel Dunn OAM and for their assistance and support.

‘It doesn’t seem like a long time now but it’s been a wonderful ride and we’ve had some wonderful times together,’ said MW Bro Curry.

MW Bro Melville made many visits during the quarter and apart from lodges, he attended the Order of the Secret Monitor Grand Installation of MW Bro Bert Gude, the Re-Installation of MEx Comp Robert Peattie as First Grand Principal of the Royal Arch, met with the heads of the Associated Orders and was at the Whiddon Group’s opening of a new building in Kelso.

He also extended thanks to the GDC, RW Bro John Begbie and his wife, members of the Ceremonial Team and the Grand Secretary and staff for their support and service to the membership.

‘The State of the Craft survey has had a comprehensive response with great ideas to help build our Craft and those results will be posted into the members’ area on the Grand Lodge website. It will be followed by another survey to address further relevant questions,’ the Grand Master said.

‘I am delighted to announce the next *Grand Master’s Literary Prize* with the winners to be named at a future

“Let us be proud
of the diversity
we share...”

Communication. The title for the new submission will be “Does Freemasonry have a place in modern society?”

‘In addition, I would like to thank all who have offered support to my charity, the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. And finally, I wish to advise a nine nights Masonic South Pacific cruise will depart on 29 November 2016 and I hope many brethren will be there

‘I look forward to the New Year, to continue to work with you. Let us be proud of the diversity we share, the unity that brings us together and that mateship which is the Australian way.’

The Executive Council report said it had discussed the topic of the initial term of the Grand Master, using as a comparison Grand Lodges of Australia and New Zealand with those further away to be considered in due course.

The report said it had also been proposed that the Council consider the merits of setting up a committee to investigate alternate voting systems for the election of Grand Master. There is a belief that our current system is open to manipulation and the process was open to ‘influence’, especially canvassing.

Also, the Council said it is aware that with each Grand Installation, there is need to choose a suitable venue, determine affordable costs and numbers, and if held more regularly could create a cost burden to Grand Lodge and an impost on brethren.

In another report, the Board of Management said the annual financial

reports of Grand Lodge are available on the website for inspection by the members. The Board has also approved the purchase of a ‘Freemasonry Promotion Kit’ consisting of a stall that is digitally printed to reflect the Craft at public and community events, pull-up banners, a magazine stand and a custom printed table cover. This prototype will be tested at different locations during 2016.

The Board further approved a re-print of those publications and pamphlets which are produced to be distributed to members of the public as information pamphlets. It also approved a new booklet called *Information for the new Freemason* which will be distributed to all new members in 2016.

In its report, the College of Masonic Studies said it had now completed its review of its education system and concluded the system of Certificate and Diploma courses is not effective. Accordingly, the Board has resolved to discontinue these courses and to offer a replacement system in the near future. 🗑️

Agenda for the Grand Lodge March Communication

The Quarterly Communication for Grand Lodge will be held at the Sydney Masonic Centre on Wednesday 9 March 2016 at 7.30pm. For the ladies there will be a cruise information evening starting at 7.30pm.

Included on the agenda will be:

- Grand Master’s Welcome
- Reports of the Executive Council, Board of Management, Grand Charity, College of Masonic Studies, 2016–17 Budget
- Setting of capitation and other fees
- Conferral of Grand Rank
- General Business

Did you know?

Dazzle your friends with these **incredible global facts!**

The world's hottest place: Death Valley National Park. The highest air temperature ever recorded on Earth was 56.6 degrees Celsius, at Death Valley National Park on 10 July 1913.

The world's coldest place: The East Antarctic Plateau. On the high ridge of the East Antarctic Plateau, the temperature can drop to as low as -93.2 degrees Celsius, recorded in August 2010.

World's most populated city: Shanghai. At a whopping 24,150,000 permanent inhabitants, Shanghai is the single city that is home to the most people in the world.

World's wealthiest city: Tokyo. That tower might as well be made of gold, since Tokyo tops the charts with a GDP of \$1,520 billion (only beating New York by a mere \$310 billion).

World's poorest city: Kinshasa. Kinshasa is probably the poorest city in the poorest country in the world – the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The DRC has

a GDP of only \$55 billion, and many of its residents live on less than one dollar a day.

Highest point in the world: Mount Everest. Towering 8.8 km in the air, the top of Mount Everest is the closest you can get to touching space, while still standing on earth.

Lowest point in the world: Challenger Deep. The lowest known natural point in the world is Challenger Deep at 10.9 km below sea level at the bottom of the Mariana Trench. Only three people have ever made it to the bottom, one of whom was filmmaker James Cameron.

The wettest spot on Earth: Mawsynram, India – rainwise, anyway. In Mawsynram, it rains an average of 11,872 mm per year, and with a record of 26,000 mm in 1985.


The driest spot on earth: The Atacama Desert. The 600 miles of South America's Atacama desert is the driest non-polar

desert on Earth, no contest. It sees an average rainfall of less than 15 mm per year. Yes, you read that right!

Most cat friendly country: United States. With a pet cat population of 76.43 million feline friends, the United States dominates the world stage for most cat friendly country in the world.

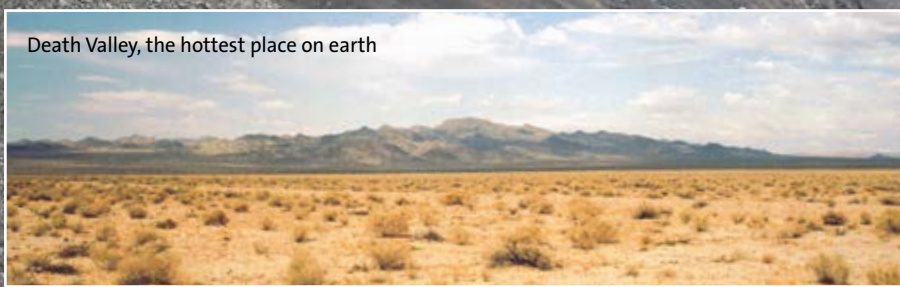
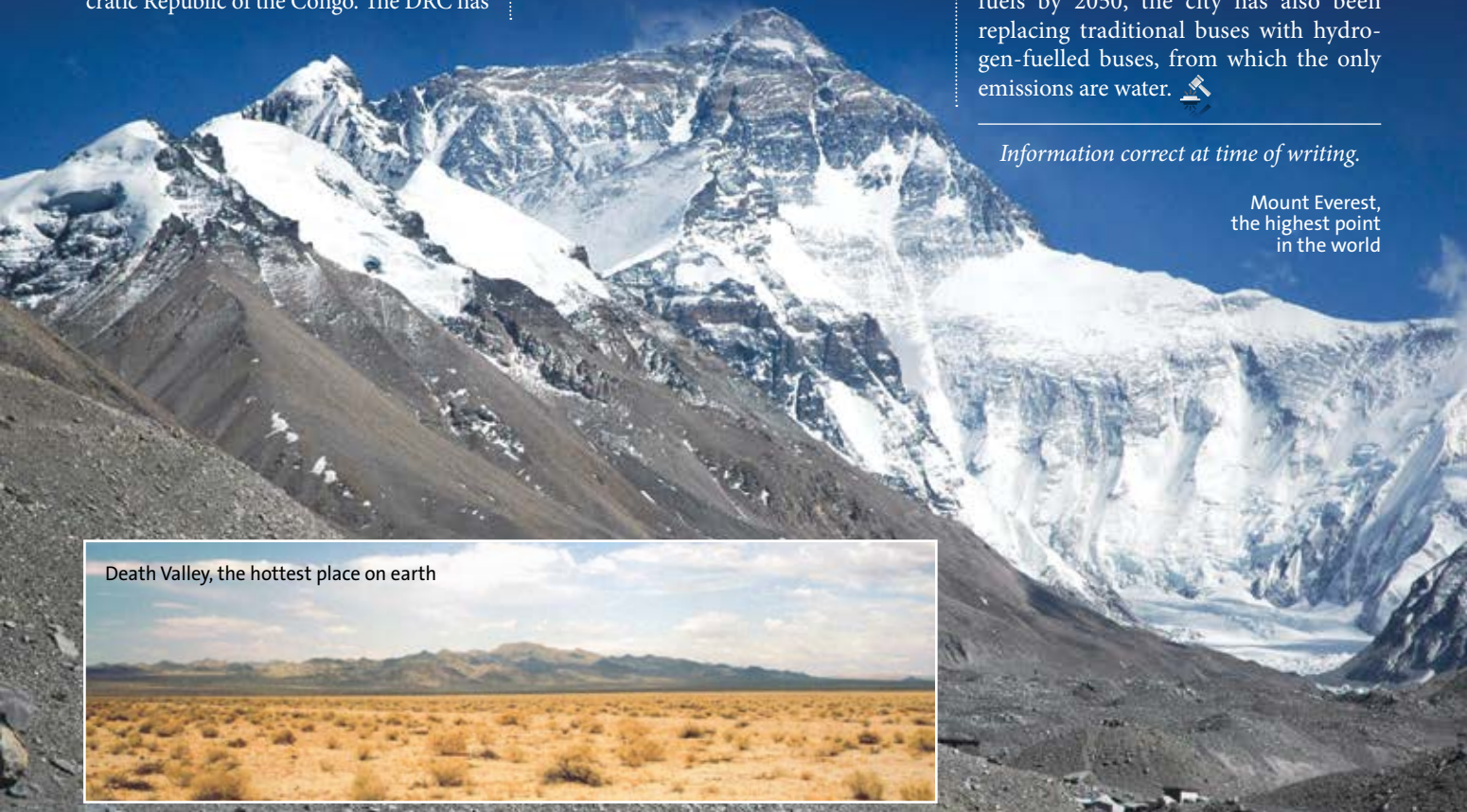
Most dog friendly country: United States. Similarly, America more than doubles the amount of pet dogs any other country has, with a dog population of 61.1 million.

Most bicycle-friendly city: Groningen, The Netherlands. By comparing cities along the criterion of average number of bicycle trips made daily, one city reigns supreme: Groningen in The Netherlands. In Groningen about 50 percent of the population commute via bike daily, making it the city with the greatest proportion of cyclists on the planet.

Most energy efficient city: Reykjavik, Iceland. All of the energy and heat used by the citizens of Reykjavik comes from geothermal plants and renewable hydro-power, making it the most sustainable and energy efficient city in the world. On their mission to be completely free of fossil fuels by 2050, the city has also been replacing traditional buses with hydrogen-fuelled buses, from which the only emissions are water. 

Information correct at time of writing.

Mount Everest,
the highest point
in the world



Death Valley, the hottest place on earth



Putting on a masonic display

W Bro Stephen Dally, who has had considerable experience mounting displays with the **Scout Association, Army Cadets and the Australian Air League** offers a few suggestions for putting on a successful masonic display.



Everyone complains that Grand Lodge does nothing about advertising Freemasonry yet the term 'Grand Lodge' is rather nebulous as we are all members of Grand Lodge! The Executive and the Management Board, like every lodge's Management Committee, make suggestions which are ratified at Grand Lodge Communications but when it comes to advertising Freemasonry it really comes down to the grassroots of the Craft – the lodge.

Many organisations take advantage of local shows to advertise what they are and what they have to offer and hopefully to gain new members. Before the demise of the Campbelltown Show, District 111 (now District 32) always had a display

stand which attracted great interest. Local shows and country fairs attract many visitors, not just from the local area but also from many other suburbs and this becomes a great opportunity to meet prospective members. Our job is to make our stand interesting, informative and take the opportunity to sell Freemasonry.

So how do we go about setting up our display? Well, firstly we need to ask ourselves some relevant questions:

1. Where is the show or festival being held?
2. Where is the venue and can it be visited beforehand?
3. Where will we be situated? If the show authorities are giving you the

space for nothing you may find that your pitch is very small and away from the more interesting exhibits.

4. What is provided by the show organisation such as tables, chairs etc? Usually there will be a charge unless you provide your own.
5. Is power available?
6. What will the show organisation want from us and are there any restrictions on what we will be allowed to do?

It is important to do our homework. If we choose the wrong show or venue, many hours of preparation and possibly money will be wasted. In view of this, plan carefully and make the most of the opportunity.

Planning

Fail to plan, plan to fail. If a show society gives you a free area, they expect you will have an interesting display to engage the visitors. Therefore you need to look at your objectives and clearly think them through. Ask yourself why you are there:

- To sell Freemasonry
- To recruit
- To inform
- To re-establish links with former members who may re-join
- Public Relations

Then work out your plan logically.

Costs

Thanks to cheaper technology and the ubiquitous computer (everyone seems to have access to one) the cost to design and print has now lessened as our brochures, posters and flyers can be done at home. But be aware, they must appear to be professional, because poorly designed brochures will put prospective recruits off and present Freemasonry in poor light. In short, you could do more harm than good. If you have good quality digital photos and graphics, the only cost will be paper and ink cartridges. So when budgeting for your displays allow for replacements. There will be some instances when the services of a professional designer and printer may be the most cost effective.

Brochures and other material may be obtained through the Grand Secretary and there is also plenty of masonic material on the web.

Stand design

Before designing your stand, visit exhibitions and look at the professionals and how they do it. Study how photographs are presented, how big is the text (can it be read), where do the staff stand, how are the tables set out, how many presenters are present. How do the presenters attract visitors to the display and how do they greet them? What advertising material is available and is it interesting and attractive? Once again, planning comes into the equation. Look at other displays eg. Scouts, Boys' Brigade – how do they present their organisations? It is worth mentioning that the Scouts and Guides do have excellent material but they are also backed by a large number of sponsors!

Promotion Kit

The Board of Management, at the December Communication, approved the purchase of a 'Freemasonry Promotion Kit' consisting of a stall that is digitally printed to reflect the Craft, pull-up banners, a magazine stand and a custom printed table cover, to be used at public and community events. This prototype will be tested at different locations during 2016.

WATCH THIS SPACE.

Photographs

Photographs must be big enough to look at and must be interesting. A group of masons standing looking at the camera is not interesting, doing something active is! Another point about photographs is do not over-kill. Have just enough photographs to make the display interesting, too many will be too much for the public to absorb. Captions for photographs and exhibits **must** be clear; handwritten or small text is very difficult to read. Do not say too much in your caption, stick to the KISS principle (Keep It Simple, Stupid!), only refer to the item being displayed i.e. one photograph, one caption.

Make the most of your presence

If the show has a grand parade make sure that you are a part of it. Have a banner on the wall or partition large enough for visitors to see who you are.

Finally give everyone who comes to your display or stand a warm welcome. Be enthusiastic, willing to talk about the Craft even if by the end of the day or weekend all you want to do is pack up and go home. As the British Author Edward Bulwer-Lytton observed, 'Nothing is so contagious as enthusiasm...'

So it is up to you – a lodge or District which fails to take up the challenge at the local show is missing a terrific and valuable opportunity.

Further Reading:

Microsoft Business Planner for US and UK; Australian Scout Association Public Relations Handbook (obtainable from Scout Shops).



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Irving Berlin, with film stars Alice Faye, Tyrone Power and Don Ameche singing chorus from *Alexander's Ragtime Band*.



Born to music

He was born Israel Isadore Baline on 11 May 1888 in a small village near Mogilev in what is now Belarus **but became known the world over as Irving Berlin and one of America's greatest songwriters.**

His father was a synagogue cantor, who, like many other Jewish families in the late 19th century, moved his entire family to New York in 1893 after the new Russian Tsar had revived an earlier anti-Jewish pogrom. Among the families to leave were George and Ira Gershwin, Al Jolson, Sophie Tucker, Louis B Mayer (MGM) and the Warner Brothers.

The Balines settled in a basement flat on the Lower East Side of New York, but Irving moved out after his father died and



Berlin at his first job with a music publisher, age 18

he found he could not properly contribute to the support of the family. He became a singing waiter at the age of 18 at a café in Chinatown, where he taught himself to play the piano – but only in one key.

In 1918 Berlin was drafted into the army but only to write and perform patriotic songs.

In 1908 Berlin linked with other young songwriters, and his first big break came the following year as staff lyricist with the Ted Schneider company. His first hit song was *Alexander's Ragtime Band* in 1910, which was not successful until he wrote lyrics to the music and the song became the musical sensation of the decade.

He followed with the musical revue *Watch Your Step* and a number of songs



Performing aboard the USS *Arkansas*, 1944

including *Play a Simple Melody*, which was the first of his famous double melodies which features a counterpoint between one tune and another. Funnily enough, Russia, the country from which his family was forced to flee, took on his ragtime beat with an enthusiasm bordering on mania.

Berlin tried to reach the hearts of the average American and by 1918 had written hundreds of songs, many for the new dance crazes of the time which only had brief popularity. He wrote regional songs such as *When the Midnight Choo-Choo Leaves for Alabam'* and lyrical ballads like *A Pretty Girl is Like a Melody* which he wrote for the Ziegfeld Follies of 1919. It became the theme for all of the Ziegfeld Follies and of the 1936 film *The Great Ziegfeld*.

In 1918 Berlin was drafted into the army but only to write and perform patriotic songs. His songs of the era after the war included; *Always*, *What'll I do*, *Remember* and *All Alone*. The hit song *Blue Skies* was written after the birth of his first daughter. He also wrote *God Bless America* but filed it away unperformed until a patriotic song was required in 1938 for the 20th anniversary of the First World War and it became a second, but unofficial, American national anthem.



A new ruler installed

Representatives from Australia and New Zealand were in attendance at the Sydney Masonic Centre in October for the Installation of the Grand Supreme Ruler of the Order of the Secret Monitor together with the appointment of his officers.

More patriotic songs followed when the United States entered the Second World War in 1941. He also wrote a number of revues and more themed musicals and his show *As Thousands Cheer* included hit songs such as *Easter Parade*, *Heat Wave* and *Supper Time*.

In 1946, Jerome Kern, the original composer for the musical *Annie Get Your Gun* died and Berlin was persuaded to complete the score. The show was an instant success and the song *There's No Business Like Show Business* will always be associated with Ethel Merman. *Call Me Madam* in 1950 starring Ethel Merman was his next great success.

Berlin wrote many film scores including; *Top Hat*, *On the Avenue*, *Holiday Inn*, *Blue Skies* and *Easter Parade*.

Irving Berlin was a Freemason and was a regular member of Munn Lodge No 190 in New York. He died at the age of 101 in New York, in September 1989. 🗑️



MW Bro Allan Uner installed his successor RW Bro Huybertus (Bert) Gude into the chair of the Order. The Grand Supreme Ruler will be well supported by the officers and brethren of the Order.

The Installation was held in the No 1 lodge room and was attended by members, ladies, members of the Craft and friends from other jurisdictions in Australia and New Zealand which added to the atmosphere of the celebrations.

MW Bro James Melville, the Grand Master of the UGL NSW & ACT attended together with the First Grand Principal and Grand Master of the United Supreme Grand Chapter for NSW & ACT Rt Ex Companion Robert Peattie and Most Powerful Bro Ian Tilbury, the Sovereign Grand Commander of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for Australia.

The guests transferred to the SMC function room where they were greeted by a splendid banquet, and the weekend's festivities concluded with a luncheon at



MW Huybertus Gude, Grand Supreme Ruler

the Sydney Tower Restaurant with its impressive panoramic views over Sydney. The events on the weekend also gave an opportunity to meet, greet and become acquainted and reacquainted with old and new friends. 🗑️



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Have you seen the Archives?

Many people, masons and visitors, have walked past the doors on the third floor of the Grand Lodge building in Castlereagh Street without realising the wealth of treasures hidden in this small set of rooms. These are the Archives of the United Grand Lodge of NSW & ACT.

The Archives are adjacent to the Library and contain records of all lodges created subsequent to the formation of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales in 1888. The Grand Lodge of New South Wales was inaugurated in 1878 and attracted all lodges under the Irish Constitution and some of those of the English and Scottish Constitutions. Records of the discussions and meetings leading to the formation of these two Grand Lodges are held in the Archives.

Records of earlier lodges working under the Irish, English and Scottish Constitutions are mainly preserved in the respective Grand Lodge records in the appropriate country in the British Isles. Minutes of the Australian Social Mother No 1, now Lodge

...a great deal of confusion has arisen over the words 'Lodge, Grand Master, Master, Wardens'...


Antiquity date back to 1820 and in the case of Lodge Leinster Marine No 2 continue from 1824 to 2001.

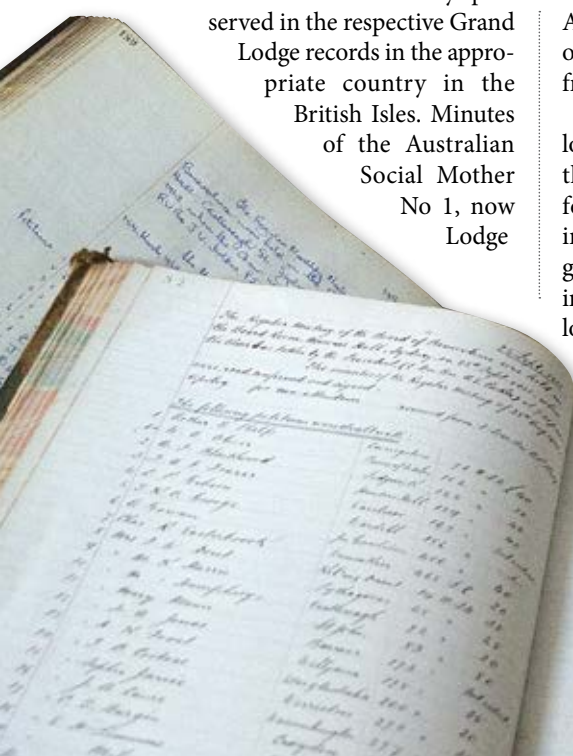
Details of all the material held for a lodge is carefully written up, with the date the Charter was issued, details of the foundation members, minute books, installation cards, notice papers, photographs, letters, etc. The material is housed in numbered archive boxes in large envelopes protected by 'zip up' plastic bags.



This is prime source information for those researching lodges, sociological matters and personal details. Lodge histories, of which there are many, both in the archives and library, provide a personalised account of the many brethren involved in the running of a lodge for periods of up to 100 years.

Care must be taken to ensure that a person being researched was a Freemason as a great deal of confusion has arisen over the words 'Lodge, Grand Master, Master, Wardens', etc. used in respect of Benevolent Associations, which use similar designations, wear aprons and other regalia and practice pseudo masonic ritual. Likewise the Chinese community had their own lodges throughout New South Wales.

If you plan to visit the Museum of Freemasonry on the third floor remember that the Archives are open by appointment only, but enquiries can be made via email. 





Keep your home safe

In the December issue, we printed an article on how to keep your money safe. In this issue, we make suggestions on how to keep your home safe.

In years gone by, it was not unusual for people to leave doors and windows open, visit neighbours and generally feel safe in and about the house. Today's world unfortunately does not allow that attitude to continue.

Home invasions and robberies are now more frequent around Australia and your personal and home safety is now important.

Doors and windows are the focal point for intruders, and this is where your security should start. A solid or good quality metal security door is a good beginning and will deter many would-be intruders. Every external door should have a sturdy deadlock and if possible, install door viewers so you can identify who is at the door.

Keep all windows locked when leaving the house, an open window is an open invitation. Use a blocking device such as a wooden bar placed in the tracks of sliding windows which can prevent them from being opened from the outside. If you need to keep a window open for ventilation, again use a blocking device but make sure it can't be reached from the outside.

If you cannot afford a home security system, there are a number of actions which can be taken.

...it's safer to be secure than sorry!

Clearly write the number of your nearest police station, ambulance and emergency services and place them in a prominent position or program them into your phone. And have your house number clearly visible to aid police and others to quickly find your house if they are needed.

Always take your keys with you, don't leave them under the doormat or in a pot plant. And don't leave notes indicating you are going to be out of the house, thieves can read as well! Don't write your name and address on your key ring because if you lose it, it may be found by a potential thief.

If you have a home phone, don't leave an answering machine message that says you are away. Just record the statement that 'I'm not available at the present time'. Always let your neighbours know if you are going to be away for more than a day and ask them to collect your mail or instruct the post office to hold it for a specified time.

Thieves can take advantage of items outside the house. Don't leave empty packages on the footpath indicating you have bought something new. Make sure, if you have a backyard shed, that it is locked and tools, ladders or other items are safely secured to prevent them being used to gain entry. Trim bushes, trees and shrubs, they are good hiding places for intruders.

Identify all valuable items in the house, mark them with an ultraviolet pen, list names, serial numbers and a description of each item which will help police to return them if they are stolen.

And finally, if you have children, instruct them never to open the door to strangers or indicate in any way that they are home alone.

Remember, it's safer to be secure than sorry!

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France without tears

Here are some tips to help you to avoid the worst mistakes when visiting France.


These pearls of wisdom resulted in a successful trip in 2015!

- 1. Avoid the European holiday season.** Unless you are a total masochist stay home in July/August. September weather can be wonderful – and you don't have to share the country with sixty million French people.
- 2. Organise your car rental through a car rental broker.** By doing so you will probably save money, but you will definitely have somebody to fight the rental companies when they mysteriously debit your credit card with strange amounts weeks after you have returned the car!
- 3. Small is good.** Beautiful French villages have fiendishly narrow roads. Rent a small car. A diesel powered car is best and cheaper to run.
- 4. The Office de Tourisme.** Visit it when you make unplanned (and unbooked) stops. The local Office de Tourisme can give you good accommodation advice in English. Budget to spend about what you would in Australia.



Be prepared to fall in love with small French towns and villages.

- 5. Breakfast.** Sample a typical continental breakfast but also dare to be different. Buy a fresh baguette, some local dried sausage and a cheese that is a local speciality, and DIY. End with 'un café' for a great start to the day.
- 6. Save your Euro coins for 'le péage'.** Toll roads are quite costly and you don't want to use your credit card and incur unnecessary currency conversion costs.

- 7. Le Tour de France.** Watch it each year and study the scenery. Le Tour goes through many of the most beautiful parts of France so this will help you plan your future trip.
- 8. Eat the local food.** Go to the markets and ask questions, especially, 'What restaurants serve this sort of food?' Be brave mes amis! Gésiers de canard are duck gizzards and they are terrific. As I say, 'be brave!'
- 9. Drink the local wine.** The manager at your hotel or 'gîte' can advise you. Pack a corkscrew; you will need one, as screw tops are not as universal in France as in Australia.
- 10. See more than the major cities.** Be prepared to fall in love with small French towns and villages.
- 11. Take a good road map with you.** A GPS is good for getting you from A to B but a map is better for showing you interesting things to see on the way.
- 12. Chose a general theme for your visit.** It will help to focus your planning. We chose 'Cathar Castles' which enabled us to focus on the far south of France.
- 13. Start saving for your next trip now.** You WILL go again, you know! 



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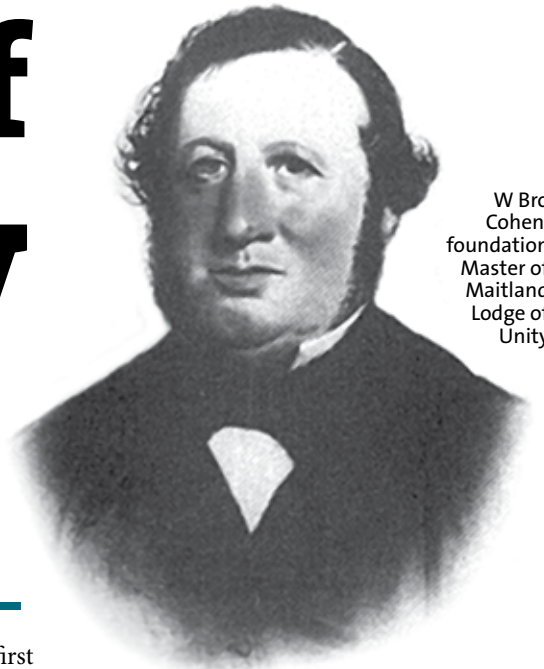
Mid City Centre, Pitt Street Mall (02) 9231 5750
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175 years of history

Eight brethren gathered at Phillip Cohen’s ‘Rose Inn’ on 4 November 1840 for the consecration of Maitland Lodge of Unity No 804 EC by George Robert Nichols, the English Constitution Depute Provincial Grand Master.



W Bro Cohen, foundation Master of Maitland Lodge of Unity

Seven were members of existing NSW lodges, four from the Irish Constitution and three from the English. The remaining foundation member was Bro Robert Muir, a member of St Mungo’s Lodge No 27 (Glasgow) SC and the son-in-law of the Presbyterian firebrand, the Rev John Dunmore Lang. Each foundation member subscribed five pounds.

Bro Phillip Cohen, who was installed as the first Master, was later to become a principal character in the formation of the Great Synagogue in Sydney. Five

candidates were initiated at that first meeting, including George Furber who was later to become the founder of Maryborough in Queensland. A further five candidates were initiated at an emergent meeting and the regular December meeting, bringing the membership at year’s end to 18. At least four and probably five of that membership were Jewish. There were to be Jewish members for at least the next 100 years, including Grand Master MW Bro John Goulston who was initiated into Maitland Lodge of Unity in 1894.

A meeting held in November 1841 was fascinating. The lodge was opened in the 4th or Past Master’s Degree and seven brethren, after examination in the former degrees, were ‘raised to the rank of Past Master’. The following meeting in December (1841) was a marathon affair with two brothers initiated after ballots were taken, a third brother passed and a fourth raised.

Maitland Lodge of Unity was the first lodge in the Hunter; it remained alone until 1858 when a new lodge, the Hunter River Lodge of Harmony No 381 SC, was dedicated and met at the ‘Cross Keys’ Hotel in High Street, West Maitland. Harmony’s charter was transferred to Newcastle in 1872, its last installation in Maitland being Dugald Dobie, an initiate of Unity and later to have the rank of PGM conferred in 1825. Other lodges followed in all major Hunter River settlements with many new lodges being consecrated following the development of the Greta Main coal seam in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The Building Society occupied the lower storey, the lodge the upper-floor...

As early as 1842 a Building Committee was formed but nothing was achieved until the construction of the building at 280 High Street in 1877, conjointly with the Northern Building Society. The Building Society occupied the lower storey, the lodge the upper-floor.

This arrangement continued for ten years, but was evidently not cordial and at the expiry of the lease, the trustees were empowered to purchase land in Victoria Street from Major Walter Cracknell, a member of the lodge and the grandfather of actress Ruth Cracknell.

The lodge room, designed by prominent local architect, Bro John Wiltshire Pender, was constructed in 1887 and its uniqueness has been recognised by placement on the NSW Heritage Register. It conforms to the perfect measurements; a double cube, twice as long as it is wide and as wide as it is high. The exterior porch is described as ‘Moorish’, depicting the three monotheistic religions. The front elevation



The Lodge Room at Maitland

is decorated with three sets of the square and compasses and the Blazing Star. High on the main wall are two smaller pillars supporting a stylised canopy. On the northern and southern sides of the porch are a square, level and plumb rule conjoined. The stairway consists of seven steps, passing between two square pillars, each adorned with chapters, enriched with decorative design.

A feature of the interior is the dormer, admitting far more natural light during daylight hours than would be admitted by windows with the same glass area situated in the walls.

The frieze at the ceiling-line consists of shield-shaped castings each impressed with a five pointed star to remind us of the tessellated pavement and the five points of fellowship. Half way down the walls are a series of double squares forming an eight-pointed star, in the centre of which is a stylised rose. The other decoration on the wall is rectangular ventilators connected to vertical shafts that bring fresh air into the room. The piers on the wall symbolise the columns supporting the beams and roof of an ancient temple.

On 14 November 2015, brethren of Lodge Wallis Plains were joined by sister lodges and in the presence of the Grand Master, MW Bro James Melville, celebrated the 175th Anniversary of the Craft in the Hunter.

After a short meeting in the Victoria St Lodge Room, brethren and guests adjourned to the Maitland Regional Art Gallery for a banquet and entertainment by the Masonic Ensemble and 'Classic Trio + 1'.

The 175 years since those eight brethren came together at Cohen's Inn have seen great change, none more so than the



consolidation in December 2009 of Maitland Lodge of Unity No 4 with her daughter, Lodge Mindaribba No 307 to form Lodge Wallis Plains No 4. Why 'Wallis Plains?' Wallis Plains was the name bestowed between 1818 and 1835 by Bro Governor Lachlan Macquarie on today's 'Maitland', so named after the commandant of the penal settlement at Newcastle, Captain James Wallis.

Who knows what the next 175 years will herald?



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Masonic shopkeepers

Freemasonry has played a big part in the formation and growth of Sydney in many ways including its buildings, parks, roads and harbour. And its shopkeepers.

Matthew Bacon, the first Worshipful Master of the Australian Social Lodge, begun in 1820, was a shopkeeper and since then, many other masons have operated businesses in this city.

The Hordern dynasty began in King Street in the 1830s and ended when the Brickfield Hill Emporium closed in 1969. The building, which opened in 1906, was sold in 1981.

In the 1890s there were six retail outlets bearing the Hordern name and the company was known

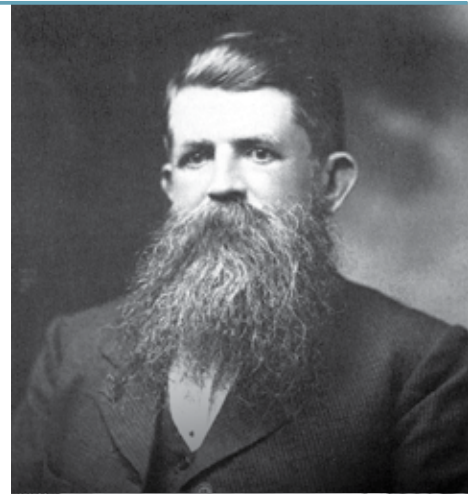
by its emblem of a tree bearing the motto 'While I live, I grow.'

John Gowing began in 1863. The store, at the corner of George and Market Streets, occupied the site of the Waterloo Stores built in 1821 by Bros Solomon Levey and Daniel Cooper. It also became famous with its catch-phrase of 'Gone to Gowings.'

John Gowing and Hordern were members of the Lodge of Australia now No 3.

John McDowell began a small business in 1889. On 2 January 1890 he joined the Prince Alfred Lodge No 94 where he became Master in 1899. McDowell's became a large department store on the north-east corner of George and King Streets, managed by John's son Frank, who in 1948 became Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of NSW. The American Express Tower now occupies the site.

The Anthony Hordern and Sons building at Haymarket, 1924.

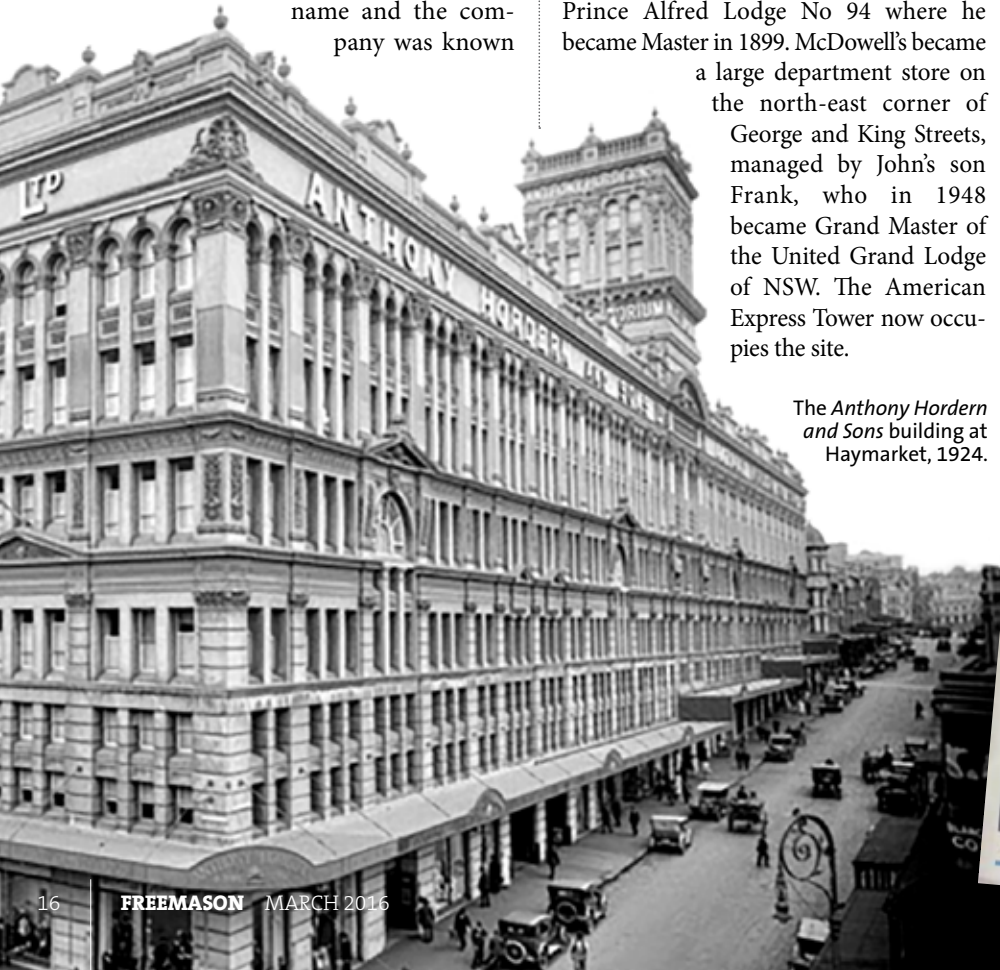
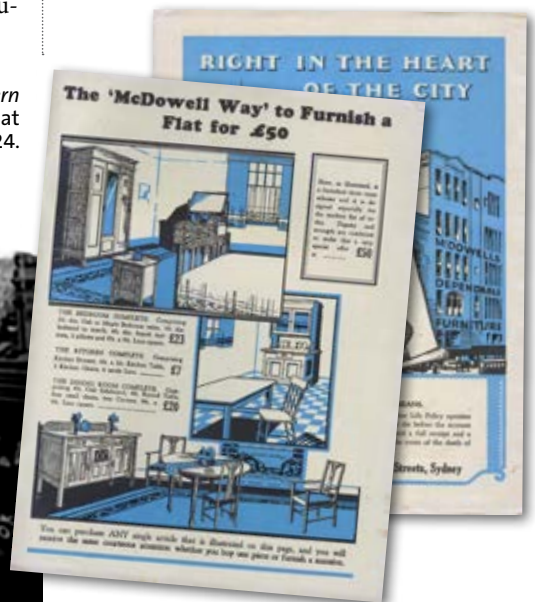


Above: John Gowing, founder of Gowings department store and the famous catch-phrase; 'Gone to Gowings'

Below: pages from a McDowell's catalogue.

Small shops have also been many and various. They include Alfred Campe of Lodge Kilwinning No 13 who was a stamp dealer, Herr Rasmussen of Lodge United Service No 254 who was a herbalist and Hartley Sargent of Lodge Harmony No 5 who made the best pies in town. 🍡

Information from the booklet *The Masonic Sites of Sydney* by RW Bro Grahame Cumming.



Death Railway

The birds in the trees almost drowned out the sound of modern Thai songs coming from the party boats as they moved under the Bridge over the River Kwai. **I was there to take a train trip on what some have come to call the Death Railway.**

I was standing at the southern end of the Bridge having travelled to Kanchanaburi in northwestern Thailand to see what remained of the notorious Siam – Burma Death Railway built by the Japanese Army during its occupation of Siam (now Thailand) and Burma (now Myanmar) in World War II. Approximately 200,000 Romusha (Japanese for ‘labourer’) and 60,000 Allied prisoners of war were forced to construct a one metre gauge, 415 kilometre long railway line across inhospitable jungle terrain in Myanmar and Thailand.

The line was to link the rail networks of the two countries to permit easier overland movement of Japanese military equipment and supplies to Myanmar, assist in provisioning the Japanese forces in Myanmar and facilitate the planned Japanese invasion of India.

The construction of the 111.05 km Myanmar section of line commenced from Thanbyuzayat during September 1942 and a short time later the 303.95 km

stretch began from Ban Pong in Thailand. These stretches were eventually joined at Nieke, in Thailand, during October 1943.

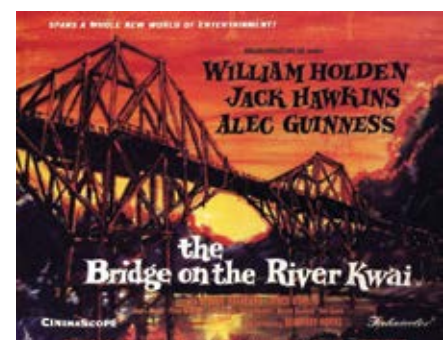
The horrors of building the line and the inhumane treatment by the Japanese and Korean guards of the prisoners of war and civilian workers is well documented but the stark reality was that 258 lives were lost on average for each kilometre. Of the POW lives lost, approximately 6,540 were British, 2,830 Dutch and 2,710 Australian. Almost half the Romusha, mostly Burmese and Malays, also perished. No wonder the line is known as ‘Death Railway’ and is referred to by that name in the Thai rail timetable.

Just as the line was finished, Allied forces began repeated bombings and the damage eventually caused the line to close on 24 June 1945. In 1947, the line was handed to Thai railways and the decision made to dismantle it except for the 126.6 km section in Thailand from Ban Pong to Nam Tok.

This section of the line is all that remains in operation today and is now

part of the Thai Railways network.

My intention was to travel the line by train and then onwards to Hellfire Pass. But 50 km of the track south from Kanchanaburi was closed to permit concrete sleepers and welded rails to replace the existing original wooden sleepers and bolted rail lengths. The section from Kanchanaburi to Nam Tok remains open and is one of Thailand’s most popular tourist sites. The focus is Bridge 277 – *the Bridge on the River Kwai* – immortalised by the 1957 film.





Interestingly the river over which the 11 span steel bridge was built was originally named the Mae Klong but erroneously called the Kwai in the film. After the film was released in 1957, the Thais renamed Mae Klong the River Kwai Yai in 1960. Actually two bridges were built, a wooden section completed a few months before the 11 span steel structure which remains and is the only steel bridge built in Thailand as part of the Death Railway.

Only six trains cross the bridge. Each day people walk across it using a steel footpath between and beside the rails. School groups, special interest groups, backpackers and tourists provide an almost never-ending stream. Three or four young Thais, in school uniform, sing school songs daily hoping donations would be placed in a box which has written on it in English 'to help pay for school fees.'

In the provincial town of Kanchanaburi, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission maintains two war cemeteries. The largest is Kanchanaburi War Cemetery where there are 6,982 graves including 1,362 Australians, many of them recovered from campsites alongside the track to be reinterred here.

The smaller Chungkai War Cemetery holds the remains of 1,739 allied soldiers, many of whom died at the prison camp hospital on which the cemetery is now located. No Australian is buried here but I was intrigued to see two small Australian flags placed beside the headstones of young British soldiers.

Both cemeteries are in excellent condition and in between each headstone is a small flowering plant giving colour to what is an otherwise sombre view.

A further Commonwealth War Graves



Commission cemetery is located in Myanmar at the former POW camp of Thanbyuzayat where prisoners who died working on the northern section of the line are buried. This cemetery has 3,771 graves of which 1,335 are Australian.

Kanchanaburi has so much to see in relation to the building of the line I decided to extend my stay to see the three museums devoted to the line's history.

The JEATH Museum, takes its name from those countries involved in building the line: Japan, England, Australia, Thailand and Holland. It is an open-air museum with one of the three buildings constructed to resemble the bamboo hut used as living quarters by the POWs. It contains photos and paintings depicting working conditions while memorabilia and newspaper clippings relating to the line are in the remaining two buildings.

The 1988 established World War II Museum is located at the site of the old wooden bridge. At the entrance is a locomotive used on the line. An impressive life-size tableau of workers on the railway is located at the site of the bridge.

The Thailand–Burma Rail Centre is across the road from the cemetery. The two-story museum has an endless video of archival material while the curator, an Australian, has undertaken much research into the line's construction.

Next day I boarded the train for the two-hour and five-minute journey to Nam Tok. The weekday service consists of third class carriages with wooden seats and no air conditioning. The windows are open and travellers are able to lean out to take photos. With only a single track there is no danger of being hit by an oncoming train but vegetation branches growing near the line sometimes whip in the open windows.

Much of the land beside the line heading towards the Tam Krasae Bridge is cultivated with fields of rice, sugar cane, corn, cassava, bananas and papaya while beyond the fields is the dense jungle, similar to what it must have been like before the line was built.

Approaching Tam Krasae Bridge Station the line follows the Khwae Noi River, at times seemingly struggling to find

a foothold on the precipitous river-bank. Travelling over the wooden trestle bridge supported by a ledge cut into the cliff face brings home the enormous challenges the POWs faced in building such a difficult section using little more than hand tools. Passengers lean out of the windows to photo this difficult piece of engineering performed under the most atrocious conditions.

Eight miles further along the disused track from Nam Tok is Konyu Cutting or to give it its name known by the POWs, Hellfire Pass. Here I hired a car for four hours, and the driver, a 70-year-old woman, took me along highway 323 to the Hellfire Pass Memorial Museum, regaling me with stories of the many Aussies she had driven to the Pass. The Museum is the gateway to the 4 km walking trail along a section of the disused line passing through Konyu Cutting. The restoration of the Cutting and the construction of the Hellfire Pass Memorial Museum was financed by Australians and assisted by the Australian Government. Hellfire Pass, cut through hard rock with little more than hand tools, takes its name from the fires lit at night to provide light to enable construction to take place almost 24 hours a day.

I set off with an audio guide from the museum and was surprised by the number of Thais walking the track. The final 2 km was closed so I retraced my steps past the memorial at the end of the pass, past the plaque commemorating the efforts of Weary Dunlop and past the many small Australian flags stuck in crevices at the side of the pass. Reaching the Museum I joined my driver, travelled back to Nam Toc and boarded the train for the return trip.



POWs during the construction of the Death Railway



More than 80 years after laying the last track on Death Railway, 126.6 km remains open. Its history has helped turn Kanchanaburi into a provincial city with a healthy tourist trade. Hotels pop up, tourists stream across the bridge and on the river shores across from the Wang Pho Viaduct, holiday resorts have been established. Thailand has benefitted from the notoriety surrounding the line but has done nothing to diminish the memories of those who died. Hellfire Pass is reported to attract 80,000 tourists each year and the Anzac Ceremony held at the Pass brings large numbers of people paying homage to the memories of those whose lives were sacrificed building the line.

The number of graves, the informative museums and the track are moving tributes to those who worked on it. Nevertheless, I believe it should also be looked upon as a great engineering achievement in constructing a line through inhospitable terrain under the most horrendous forced labour conditions.

Those involved in the construction of the Death Railway are certainly not forgotten in Thailand. 🛠️



Hellfire Pass



Working on a Thailand Railway Cutting, July 1943 by the official war artist Murray Griffin. This has become one of the most famous images of the hellish conditions experienced when constructing the Thai – Burma railway, though Griffin painted this from accounts by other POWs. He spent the whole of his captivity in Changi.

'The Bridge on the River Kwai' Movie poster ©1957, renewed 1985 Columbia Pictures Industries, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Courtesy of Columbia Pictures.

Historical images reproduced courtesy of The Australian War Memorial.



Phuoc Vo takes charge

It was a warm welcome given to W Bro Phuoc Vo when he was **installed as one of the first WMs of Vietnamese extraction in Sydney.**

Younger brothers tend to follow their older brother and this is exactly what W Bro Vo did as an eleven year old in Vietnam in 1980. His older brother was fleeing from the communist regime to the west so Phuoc decided to tag along, much to the horror of his parents who had hoped that he would remain home to support his elders.

Phuoc tends to dismiss the horrors of the sinking boat and the rigours of the refugee camp in Malaysia. He arrived in Australia on 31 May 1980 and was classified as a state ward and sent to boarding school in Bowral. As a Grade 6 schoolkid he learnt English in the schoolyard because although the early eighties saw a wave of refugees from Vietnam there were very few translators. Feelings toward the Vietnamese New Australians were mixed – as is the case with every new wave of immigrants.

An urge to get ahead saw him finish high school in the late eighties and enrol into pharmacy at Sydney University in 1988. Not bad for a boy who spoke no English in 1980! In 1992 he graduated with a Bachelor of Pharmacy. He built his pharmaceutical experience at Manning Base Hospital and at the John Hunter and then disappeared to Perth to do a Masters in Clinical Pharmacy. His studies slowed because he met the lady who would later become his wife.

In 1998 Phuoc began his association with Curry's Pharmacy in Hornsby which is the oldest pharmacy in Hornsby and which still trades under its original name. His sheer hard work culminated in his taking outright control in 2001. In 2007 he purchased another pharmacy in Lansvale. Currently he employs 14 full

time staff in a business that dispenses over 1,000 prescriptions a week.

While he studies for his PhD, Phuoc is planning to support prostate cancer research, men's health, the Vietnamese Community and Legacy.

And in his spare time he is a keen member of the Craft. He was initiated into The Sydney Lodge No 1020 on 22 August 2011 and later affiliated with Lodge Wahroonga No 674. He was installed into the Chair of Lodge Wahroonga on 26 September 2015. As if that was not enough he is also an active member of Lodge Hellenic Arcadia.

W Bro Phuoc Vo is a proud mason and a proud Australian, exemplifying the saying, 'You get out of life what you put into it.'

While he studies for his PhD, Phuoc is planning to support prostate cancer research, men's health, the Vietnamese Community and Legacy.

W Bro Phuoc Vo with Bro Morgan Andrews, W Bro John Ringrose and W Bro Bashar Ayoub.



Calling all Liverpool brethren!



We are looking to form a new lodge, to meet at the **LIVERPOOL MASONIC CENTRE**. The Committee is meeting on the **FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH at 7pm.**

Liverpool is one of the fastest-growing areas in the state and its residents are showing an interest in Freemasonry.

Past Masters, brethren and interested parties are all invited to contact us and express their interest.

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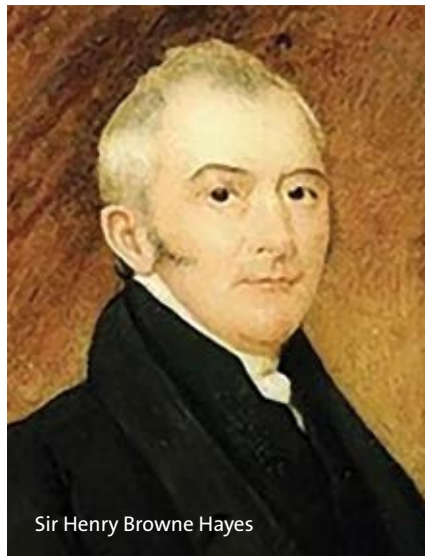
A day for The Irish

Saint Patrick's Day is a well known celebration which is **part of the history of Ireland** and is also **celebrated in many parts of the world, including Australia.**

However, a little known fact is that the first official St Patrick's Day ceremony held in NSW occurred on Saturday, 17 March 1810 and it is almost certain the ceremony was held at the Vaucluse home of the Irish convict Sir Henry Browne Hayes.

An article submitted to the *Freemason* by Rolf Grunseit says the first owner of Vaucluse House, Sir Henry Browne Hayes, was a Freemason; the next owner, Captain John Piper, was also a Freemason and W C Wentworth, who purchased Vaucluse House from Captain Piper and rebuilt it, was also a Freemason.

It is true, writes Grunseit, that the only description of that first St Patrick's Day ceremony exists in the *Sir Henry Hayes* story written by John Lang and first published in 1852. Lang knew both men and was an associate of W C Wentworth and both were mentioned in his *Sir Henry Hayes* story. It must also be noted that neither man ever denied that the story



Sir Henry Browne Hayes

was true in their lifetime – and why should they? The laying of the Irish turf followed by the St Patrick's Day celebrations at Vaucluse House added substance to its masonic history.

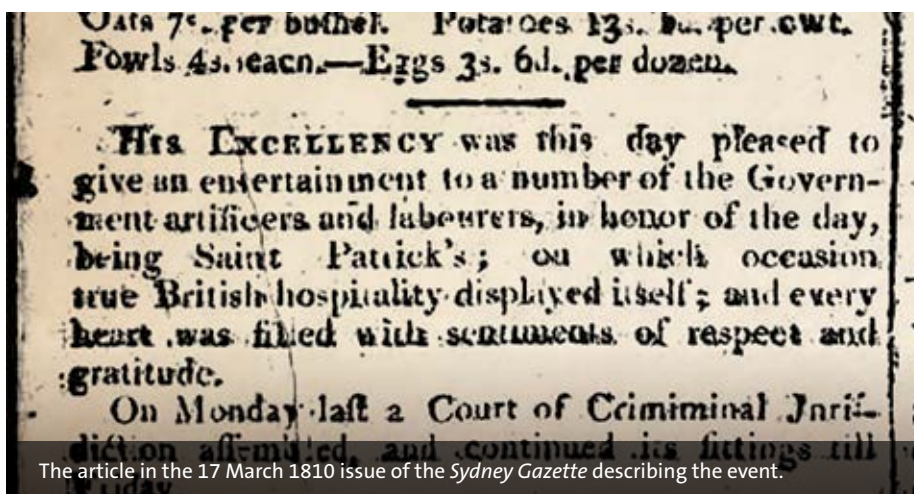


John Lang (1816–64) was born in Parramatta but studied law in England 1837–41 and practised as a lawyer in India from 1843–45. He became a popular literary figure in England and Europe and died in India in 1864.

In his story, Lang described both the celebration and the encirclement of Sir Henry's Vaucluse House with Irish peat in the hope the peat would deter any snake from crossing it on the way to the house. Lang related how Sir Henry, troubled by the numerous snakes that crept in to his warm house and slept on the sun-drenched window ledge of his bedroom, decided to prevent them from entering by using the unique Irish method of circling the house with Irish peat. It was also in the hope that the peat still retained the power of St Patrick's blessing given over a thousand years ago and which would similarly drive all the Vaucluse snakes into the sea.

Captain Piper later assured Lang that during the many years he lived at Vaucluse House with his family, no venomous reptile had ever been killed or observed within the enclosure, notwithstanding they were plentiful enough beyond it.

Lang wrote that to hold such a ceremony as described at Vaucluse House in 1810, it required both the Governor's permission and the presence there of Sir Henry. It is known that in 1810 the Governor granted the Irish permission to celebrate St Patrick's Day and that Sir



The article in the 17 March 1810 issue of the *Sydney Gazette* describing the event.

into the possession of the romantic Sir Henry Browne Hayes.

Australia still remembers this wealthy and erratic Irishman, who, in his own country at the beginning of last century, abducted a Quaker lady. He was tried at Cork, the prosecuting counsel being the famous and brilliant Curran, father of Robert Emmett's sweetheart. Hayes was convicted and transported to Botany Bay, and for 11 years he lived here as a kind of prisoner at large, till a pardon enabled him to return to Ireland.

It was he who built the first section of Vaucluse House for himself in 1803. Coming from a land where snakes are unknown, he had a horror of our Australian snakes. He had 500 barrels of soil sent out from Ireland, and on one St. Patrick's Day a band of Irish convicts dug a trench all round the property at Vaucluse. In this trench the soil from Ireland was placed, and Hayes always maintained that the charm was effective—that no snake ever afterwards got into the house.

To-day the grounds are a public reserve, a wild oasis of unspoiled bush surrounded by modern suburbs. And the grand old house itself, rising among English and Australian trees, stands as a grateful nation's monument to her patriot son.

An article in the *Brisbane Courier* from 1930 recounting the day.



Vaucluse, near Sydney September 12, 1874, Frederick Leycester Fisher

...it began to worry him how the upright Sydney citizens and clergy would react to the noise and raucous behaviour generated by the celebrating Irish in Sydney town.

Henry still occupied Vaucluse House; he left the colony for Ireland in December 1812.

The Governor also granted his permission, for the convicts and their overseers to travel to Vaucluse House from government house, then fill the circular trench around the house with peat.

An item from the *Sydney Gazette* of 17 March 1810 said: 'His Excellency (Lachlan Macquarie) was this day pleased to give an entertainment to a number of the Government artificers and labourers, in honour of the day, being Saint Patrick's, on which occasion true British hospitality displayed itself and every heart was filled with sentiments of respect and gratitude.'

On 1 January 1810, Macquarie had been sworn in as the new Governor and Sir Henry, who had been sentenced to jail in Tasmania for his involvement in attending a masonic meeting, had his sentence commuted and he hurried back to Sydney where he planned to celebrate his freedom on St Patrick's Day.

Governor Macquarie, in a move meant to appease the anger of the Irish, allowed a designated 58 attendees to celebrate the day. But it began to worry him how the upright Sydney citizens and clergy would

react to the noise and raucous behaviour generated by the celebrating Irish in Sydney town. The solution was simple; he arranged to have them celebrate at Sir Henry's Vaucluse home six miles further up the harbour near South Head where the noise and behaviour didn't matter.


The guests and convicts were transported to Vaucluse in government barges where Sir Henry turned the celebration into a spiritual event where the convicts filled in the trench with the imported peat watched by their overseers and invited guests. Once the trench was filled, food and refreshments were enjoyed by all.

That is the story written by Lang about the first celebration of St Patrick's Day in Sydney. Lang's version of that first celebration is part of our Australian and masonic history, which we look forward to celebrating again this year on Thursday, 17 March. 🍷

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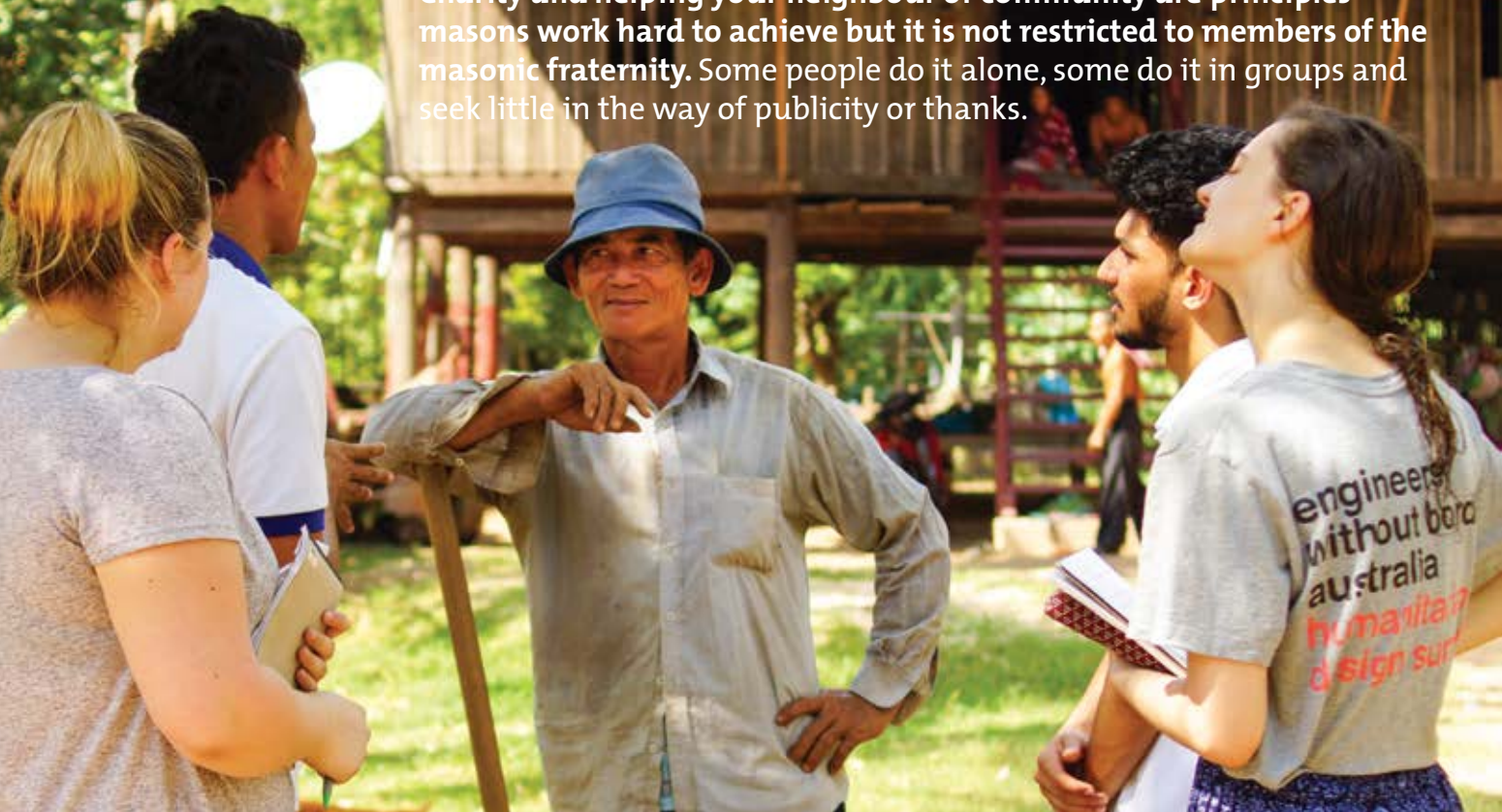
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Engineering quality of life

Charity and helping your neighbour or community are principles masons work hard to achieve but it is not restricted to members of the masonic fraternity. Some people do it alone, some do it in groups and seek little in the way of publicity or thanks.



One such group is Engineers Without Borders Australia (EWBA), a member-based, community organisation that creates social value through engineering. Their vision is that everyone has access to the engineering knowledge and resources required to lead a life of opportunity, free from poverty. EWBA chapters exist worldwide under the umbrella of EWB-International and all share a similar mission – to partner with disadvantaged communities to improve their quality of life through education and implementation of sustainable engineering projects. It is a not-for-profit organisation with 11 years experience in creating change



engineers without borders australia

through appropriate engineering projects.

In 2003, EWB was a small community founded on the idea that, together with aligned organisations, they could engineer people out of poverty. It is currently working with local partners in Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Vietnam and Australia. They also have strong relationships with

community partners in India and Nepal, and in the past have worked in Sri Lanka, Laos and Indonesia. Today, it leads a movement of 15,000 people and organisations working to improve community health, well-being, education and livelihoods through humanitarian engineering.

The main aim is to facilitate lasting change, with more than 30,000 hours spent working with international partners. Over the last 11 years, EWB Australia has deployed over 120 professional engineers and designers across 8 countries and engaged thousands of students from remote and rural Australia. At present with 1,300 EWB members across Australia

Meghan Williams works with disabled communities in Cambodia to design appropriate sanitation solutions.



and Asia, they aim to engage individuals and organisations to help improve engineering practices.

Humanitarian engineering uses a people-centred, strength-based approach to improve community health, well-being and opportunity. It builds relations based on mutual trust and respect, and believes these thrive on a two-way sharing of knowledge and culture. By helping people in need it becomes more socially aware and responsible, inspires others to action and furthers the ultimate goal of sustainable development.

According to WHO-UNICEF, 780 million people globally still live without access to an improved water supply. An example of EWB work is sedimentation tank designed for rural communities in the

Humanitarian engineering uses a people-centred, strength-based approach to improve community health, wellbeing and opportunity.

hilly regions of Nepal who rely on stream sources to provide water. Erosion and deforestation of local terrain produce muddy water that requires treatment before distribution.

Other initiatives include sanitation options for rural Kien Giang Province, Vietnam and India. EWB volunteers in India work alongside local programs to research issues faced by the stone quarry communities who do not have adequate access to clean, safe and reliable drinking water or adequate sanitation.

The EWB Challenge is a competition for first-year university students in Australia and New Zealand. Students work in teams to develop designs for projects that contribute towards real, sustainable international development, including water quality, energy supply and safe and hygienic sanitation which also give learning opportunities for tomorrow's engineering leaders.

Since the foundation of the first national Engineers Without Borders, affiliated national organisations have been formed in many countries and all share the same vision of a world where all people have knowledge to meet their engineering and economic development needs. EWB members want to contribute to new and ongoing development projects in an effective way and promote new dimensions for engineering students and practising engineers. The members believe in change that can contribute positively to the communities in which they work.

Clean water solutions in Cambodia



Engineering professionals in Cambodia consult with a community about solutions to water challenges.



The local school in Koh Jarang, Cambodia, a partner of EWB.




Engineering students demonstrate their low cost solution to energy efficiency in Cambodia.

A deeper cooperation between the national EWBs will also be valuable for students wanting to participate in projects in the developing communities. It could consist of an exchange of project team members and students from other

countries wanting to utilise infrastructure at a specific site developed by a national EWB organisation.

Dr Nick Brown, Editor, *Journal of Humanitarian Engineering* says, 'Humanitarian engineering is about applying and

developing technology – not to meet a market or financial opportunity – but to address a real human need.'

EWB doesn't just focus on overseas projects. On Torres Strait Island, Australian engineers taught a group of students to build an emergency response beacon using basic hardware and code to transmit a location and distress message via radio. EWBA aims to close the educational and digital divide, teaching the students how to create emergency beacons and now, their families can use beacons to signal if brush fires become widespread or in cases of poisonous snake and spider bites. 



EWB volunteers running workshops in Balmah Forest to celebrate NAIDOC week.

Photography: Ashleigh Peplow Ball, Engineers Without Borders.





Lord Tennyson's *dream*



In his classic poem *Locksley Hall*, Alfred, Lord Tennyson claimed that the only way forward for mankind is for the people of the earth **to achieve a Dominion of the World and a Brotherhood of Man.**

Despite two world wars, each being inaccurately described as 'the war to end all wars', there continues to be serious conflict around the world.

We are far from achieving the peace we were promised and hoped for ourselves, our children and our children's children.

We continue to learn of and witness racial tension, revolting and unspeakable

violence, much of which is in the name of old pre-dated and extreme literal interpretation of religion.

At this very time, political brinkmanship and consequent threat of war is with us, together with the associated threats of fear, cruelty, poverty and hunger.

The development of military weapons and defence capability worldwide inspires

the thought that the future must result in either international co-operation or international disintegration.

Tennyson's dream for a brotherhood of man is far away but abandonment of that dream is no answer to the difficulties and setbacks along the way.

The spectacle of millions of refugees seeking refuge mainly for fear of their lives, many carrying young children to who knows where, who knows when, is hard to reconcile with the Christian ethic of love thy neighbour.

So, should you pass a person in a wheelchair for instance, don't look away – smile and say hello. 🗡️



The United
Grand Lodge
of Queensland

Grand Installation 2016

On behalf of Freemasons Queensland, Australia, I have great pleasure in inviting you to attend the Grand Installation of RW Bro Alan Townson, DGM and Grand Master-elect.

The celebrations will begin with a Cocktail Reception on Friday, 1st July 2016 and conclude with a Farewell Luncheon on Sunday, 3rd July 2016.

Carol and I look forward to welcoming you to Queensland. We encourage you to take the opportunity to extend your stay to visit some of the many attractions that our beautiful state has to offer.

MW Bro Dr Gary Bacon
Grand Master

Friday 1st July
Meet and Greet
Cocktail Reception

Saturday 2nd July
Ladies Breakfast
Grand Installation
Grand Banquet

Sunday 3rd July
Farewell Luncheon

**For more information please contact UGL Queensland:
email: installation@uglq.org.au or phone: 07 3229 3533**



*Prudence – from Notre-Dame-en-Vaux
Photo courtesy of G Freihalter*

Prudence is choosing ‘right means’ to achieve worthy ends. Prudence is an intellectual habit, in fact a virtue, enabling a person to deliberate properly in order to choose the virtuous course and discern the right means of action. Prudence is knowing how to apply general principles in particular situations which is manifested in acting so that one’s adherence to other virtues is exemplified by one’s actions.

Prudence is one of the cardinal virtues: prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance. Cardinal derives from the Latin ‘cardo’, meaning ‘hinge.’ These virtues are ‘cardinal’ because all other virtues are categorised under them and hinge upon them. Prudence, the ‘mother’ of virtues, is the virtue by which a person recognizes his moral duty and the means to

Let Prudence direct you...

‘And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding’
– Jeremiah 3:15

Prudence is a self-reinforcing virtue: the more an individual hones his virtues, the more prudent he becomes.

accomplish it. A person can be prudent and good only simultaneously. No other virtue can contradict what is prudent. What is prudent is substantially what is good, and prudence is the measure of justice, temperance and fortitude.

A prudent person looks at concrete reality with a clear, honest objectivity; references and applies moral truths; makes a moral judgment; and then commands an action. Prudence seeks to accomplish action in a good way. We come to ‘right knowledge’ by way of ‘right conduct’. Prudence is essential for the formation and operation of one’s informed conscience. One cannot do what is good if one does not know the principles of truth and goodness.

In Greek philosophy prudence refers to the rational part of the soul. Justice, fortitude, and temperance achieve their perfection only when they are founded upon prudence – the ability to make right decisions.

Prudence enables us to discern what is just, right and good and to choose the correct means of achieving it. According to Aquinas, ‘No moral virtue is possible without prudence.’ But in contrast to this we read: ‘Without the moral virtues there is no prudence.’ This presents what at first sight appears a paradox. Only the prudent man can be just, brave and temperate; yet he who is not already just, brave and temperate cannot be prudent.

Prudence is a self-reinforcing virtue: the more an individual hones his virtues, the more prudent he becomes. In so doing, he becomes more virtuous. You can think of prudence as a spiral staircase: although cyclic, one improves one’s standing with each step forward (and upward).

Prudence indicates the primacy of the truth which, through ‘prudence’, becomes a measure of our action. It demands humble, disciplined reason that does not let itself be blinded by prejudice; it does not judge according to desires and passions but rather seeks the truth. Prudence means searching for the truth and acting in conformity with it.

Plato included practical wisdom (prudence) as one of four cardinal virtues. Aristotle argues that because it unifies and drives the use of the virtues, no one has genuine moral virtue without it. All other virtues imply and employ practical wisdom; meaning virtue and wisdom are essentially intertwined. It is in acting that a person discovers value. And in doing so he discovers the most important value: the self, the person.

A key factor in the future of our ancient and honourable fraternity hinges on

prudent masonic education. It is crucial that young masons are not left without proper education and guidance in their labours, but should be strengthened by the wisdom of experienced Masters, who will ripen their zeal, prudence and piety.

As men and masons we are taught that our charity (love in action) should have no bounds save those of prudence. The highest and most fruitful achievements of masonic life depend upon the blessed collaboration of prudence and charity. This is linked to the pre-eminence of charity over prudence.

As masons in the 21st century we need to have big hearts and big minds.



A 16th century woodcut of Prudence

Searching for former students

Do you know a student who was previously supported by A Start in Life/Masonic Youth Welfare Fund? Did you receive support from A Start in Life/Masonic Youth Welfare Fund?

A Start in Life is reaching out to the masonic fraternity to help locate former students supported by the charity. The charity is seeking to survey these former beneficiaries to track the long-term outcomes of its support.

'We want to know where the students ended up and how our program benefited them over the course of their lives,' said A Start in Life's CEO, Neil Robinson. This information, he said, will help to guide further enhancements to the program of support and provide further evidence of the value that has and continues to flow to the broader community from its charitable support.

'Given that most of our former students were referred to us by the lodges, and that many remain connected with Freemasonry, we considered the masonic



Some of the students who have been previously supported by the charity.

fraternity as an ideal starting point for our efforts to reconnect,' added Mr Robinson.

If you were previously supported by the charity or know someone who was, please call Lisa or Rebecca at A Start in Life on (02) 9264 3017 or email communications@astartinlife.org.au.

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Humble, but proud

Past Grand Master **MW Bro Derek Robson AM**, was a humble and proud man when his portrait was recently added to the gallery of Grand Masters on the third floor of the Sydney Masonic Centre.

Normally a fluent speaker, MW Bro Robson said it was a very difficult occasion because he spoke from his heart on that night.

‘For me, it was a most humbling experience. The unveiling of the portrait was a very special occasion. The attendance of Past Grand Masters, a large contingent from the Royal Arts Society, and many brethren and our ladies, made for a most interesting mix of opinion,’ he said.

‘While some of us might look for an exact likeness, others prefer interpretation. While some prefer spot-on detail, others prefer to concentrate on the more technical aspects of the focal point, dimension, light and shade, and life itself. I felt sure that we were all satisfied.

‘I thoroughly enjoyed the experience of sitting for the portrait. For hours, the artist Yve Close and I spoke of the many interesting issues of life, we reflected on opportunities which had passed our way and we dwelt on some of the more personal aspects of our lives.

‘From the outset, the artist wanted to capture the essence of what I am. She recognised the importance of my past, and importantly, she recognised what I was trying to achieve in this role. Throughout the process, she was very intent on capturing every detail of feeling such that “what you see is what you get”.

‘I was very pleased with the outcome. It is my view that together, the artist and I have brought about a portrait which evokes many memories of how I might best be remembered by the brethren across the jurisdiction. I agree with the artist, that she

has produced a particularly dynamic and powerful interpretation of a Grand Master, and yet, one which is overlaid with much dignity.’

The sittings for the portrait occupied three separate two-day sessions lasting from 9.30am to 4pm to enable the artist to achieve the best result. Yve Close in the past has



hanging about with his predecessors and contemporaries.

He pointed out it was this collective aspect of the portraits of the Past Grand Masters in the Museum of Freemasonry which was so important because the portraits evoke many memories of the purposeful and dignified nature of the Craft.

‘Our own association with one portrait or another, reminds us all of the extent to which we have all contributed to our society and our nation. Importantly, the collection represents those wonderful traits of charity, selfless service and respect which are always so dear to our principles.

‘I look forward to many more happy meetings where the portraits of future Grand Masters will also be unveiled, and I look forward to revisiting all of these wonderful ideals which occasions such as this evoke.

‘I am proud to have had the opportunity to serve as your Grand Master. Importantly, I am proud to be a mason,’ said MW Bro Robson.

‘I am proud to have had the opportunity to serve as your Grand Master.’

has painted many portraits of Grand Masters, including Bob Hammond, Ron Johnson and Noel Dunn.

MW Bro Robson said he had often spoken about the honour of having served as Grand Master and added he would now always speak of the honour of forever

The best of the best

To select an outstanding person is sometimes an almost impossible task but the Board of Directors of the Whiddon Group were pleased to announce Kerry Holze as the winner of the 2015 Directors Award.

There were twenty nominees from across NSW. Kerry has been employed by Whiddon Redhead since 2003, and was recognised for her continued display of passion for aged care nursing through her energy, vitality and desire to go above and beyond in her role.

The award came as a shock to Kerry, who felt flattered to be nominated but did not anticipate winning.

'I didn't expect to win; I thought one of the other nominees had it in the bag! I was stunned but very excited,' she said.

Since 2007, the Whiddon Group's Board of Directors Award and Gala Dinner has been a celebration recognising the contributions of over 190 employees, acknowledging their commitment to the organisation and to caring for residents, and their initiative of going that extra mile without question.

'I've been with Whiddon for nearly 13 years and have seen many wonderful changes over time. The staff are absolutely fantastic and we have an innovative management team with lots of great ideas that will continue to bring aged care forward. It's just such a great atmosphere,' said Kerry who began as an assistant nurse several years ago and became a registered nurse in 2014.

As part of its innovations, the Group has begun to trial a new creative ageing program called HenPower which has residents caring for hens. As well as nurturing hens, residents participate in social and creative activities based around hen keeping and interact with volunteers and the community.




HENPOWER®

Early indications show that the practical aspects of hen keeping, combined with the pet-like bonds that have developed between residents and their hens, has had significant benefits to overall wellbeing. These include reducing apathy, depression and loneliness among residents as well as providing those with dementia a positive outlet for emotion and a simple way to connect with other people. Overall, HenPower is resulting in a greatly increased quality of life for some residents.

Run by residents, staff and volunteers at the residential care homes, HenPower was first developed by UK organisation, Equal Arts, and has been running successfully in the UK for more than two years. Whiddon is the first provider to offer HenPower in Australia as part of its Creative Ageing program.

Whiddon has been caring for older Australians in NSW for nearly 70 years and has grown from philanthropic origins to a large not for profit organisation with over 1,700 staff and 2,000

clients operating in regional, rural and remote NSW.

Like many philanthropic organisations, its origins lie in Freemasonry. The journey began in 1923 when a small group of Freemasons began visiting elderly masons in their communities to provide care and support. In 1947, Mrs Ethel Symonds donated 21 acres of land in Glenfield, south west Sydney, as the founding site of The Frank Whiddon Masonic Homes of NSW. 





What's in a name?

How well do you know the history of Australia, especially the cities or towns in which you live or visit? How did they get their names? **Australia owes its names to a variety of sources!**

In the earliest days of European contact, Dutch navigators were followed by British explorers, who in turn were followed by migrant explorers and the adoption of aboriginal names. Here are just a few explanations:

AUSTRALIA – The Latin word *australis* means southern. Early maps placed an imaginary continent in this area called *Terra Australis*. The accepted genesis of the present name can be given to Matthew Flinders on 17 July 1814 when he wrote: ‘Had I permitted myself any innovation upon the original term of Terra Australis, it would have been to convert it into Australia, being more agreeable to the ear.’

In 1817, Governor Macquarie recommended the name Australia be adopted and used it in official correspondence.

Another theory is that the aboriginal word means women's breasts...

SYDNEY – Named after Thomas Townshend, the first Viscount Sydney and Secretary of the Home Department who submitted the plan to the Treasury for a convict settlement at Botany Bay.

MELBOURNE – Named after British Prime Minister Lord Melbourne. The city was earlier called Batmanie, Glenelg, Bearbrass, Bearport, Bearheap and Bearbury, all variations of the aboriginal words *berrern* or *bararing*.

BRISBANE – In honour of Sir Thomas Brisbane who succeeded Macquarie as Governor of NSW in 1821. It is the only State capital to be named after a governor. Brisbane had served in the Peninsula War and was an amateur astronomer.

ADELAIDE – After Queen Adelaide, consort of William IV who requested the Queen's name be conferred upon the future capital. The main street was called King William Street.

PERTH – This capital owes its name to Sir George Murray, Secretary of State for War and the Colonies. He was born in Perthshire, Scotland.

HOBART – Named after Robert Hobart, the fourth Lord of Buckinghamshire and Secretary of State for War and the Colonies from 1801 to 1804.

DARWIN – This city was discovered in 1839 by Captain Wickham of the *Beagle* who named it after the famous naturalist who had been on the *Beagle* on an earlier voyage.

CANBERRA – This area was once known as Limestone Plains because of its outcrops of limestone. One possibility is that it came from the aboriginal word *nganbirra*, meaning meeting place. Another theory is that the aboriginal word means women's breasts, so named because of the peaks of Mt Ainslie and the Black Hills. As one observer said: ‘It seems singularly appropriate for the site chosen as the mother city of the Australian Commonwealth.’



From the Grand Secretary

Grand Lodge of Victoria

The Grand Installation of the Grand Lodge of Victoria is fast approaching and will be held in Melbourne from 31 March till 3 April. If you have not already booked your accommodation and registered for the Grand Installation events you need to do so immediately. Our Grand Master looks forward to you accompanying him on this occasion.

Don't forget to watch out for information regarding the Grand Installations in Queensland in July and in New Zealand in November.

Secretaries Association assists Dungog

The Masonic Lodge Secretaries Association, each year, looks to provide assistance to a non-metropolitan community. In 2015 the community of Dungog was selected. Parts of the town had been inundated with floodwaters in April. Three lives were lost, and devastation meant many residents are still in temporary accommodation.

The project selected, to support the Dungog community, was the District Neighbourcare Centre which will re-establish a fitness trail in Jubilee Park. Objectives of the project are to improve fitness and reclaim the park for the residents. Masonicare assisted by providing an interACTION Grant. A presentation was made to the Centre's representatives, Lurline Trustum and Cherylin Brown by RW Bro Greg Martin in the presence of local dignitaries and local Masons from Lodge Hunter Hiram.



L-R: Cherylin Brown, Lurline Trustum and Greg Martin

And how about some Sydney suburbs?

BONDI – A corruption of the aboriginal word *boondi*, meaning the sound of waves breaking on the beach or the noise of tumbling waters.

MANLY – When Governor Phillip saw a number of aborigines on 22 January 1788 and noted their proud bearing he gave the area the name Manly Cove. This name was conferred even before Sydney Cove.

PARRAMATTA – An aboriginal word meaning head of the river, plenty of eels or the place where eels lie down and sleep.

BELLEVUE HILL – It was first called Vinegar Hill but the name offended Governor Macquarie who in 1820 ordered a name board with 'Belle Vue' to be fixed on the hill as the new name.

BALMAIN – After William Balmain, surgeon and landholder.


RUSHCUTTER BAY – In the earliest days of settlement, convicts came here to cut rushes for various purposes. The aboriginal name was *Koggerah*.

CHATSWOOD – After Chat or Chatty, the second wife of Richard Harnette, who operated the first ferry from Mosman to Circular Quay and was a pioneer in the district.

KINGS CROSS – Originally known as Queens Cross until 1905 when the name was changed to avoid confusion with Queens Square.

COOGEE – Aboriginal, meaning rotting seaweed or smell of seaweed.

DEE WHY – There are three possible explanations. The lagoon bears a resemblance to the letters D and Y ... or from the aboriginal word *diwai*, the name of a bird that frequented the lagoon ...or the Spanish galleon *Doña Ysabel* which was wrecked there and a survivor carved the initial letters on a rock.

History can be fascinating and informative and Australia has a thousand or more stories to tell. This is just one of them. 



Freemasons Getaway Cruise

Details of the Freemasons Getaway Cruise are now becoming available. The cruise will be sailing from Sydney on 29 November and returning on 8 December 2016. A Cruise Information night has been organised to coincide with the Grand Communication on Wednesday 9 March. Representatives from Royal Caribbean Cruises and the appointed travel agent, Escape Travel, Burwood, will be presenting detailed information advice about the cruise and be able to secure bookings. Complimentary light refreshments will be served while brethren are at the Communication. Tickets need to be pre-purchased for all those attending the dinner. A cash bar will be available throughout the evening.


As part of this cruise, a proportion of the proceeds will be directed towards the Grand Master's special charity drive for Prostate Cancer Australia.

Committee on Foreign Correspondence

Planning is underway to hold a seminar for Representatives of Sister Constitutions, near this Grand Lodge, at Sydney Masonic Centre, prior to the June Grand Communication. Further details will follow.

A passing thought

An extract from a poem entitled *To Thine Own Self – Be True*, by David P Newcomb:

Questions were asked and answered,
To be a Mason and Brother,
Pledging a lifetime commitment,
For a lifestyle like no other. 



Centennial Park honours Kurt Fearnley

Australian international cyclist Kurt Fearnley OAM has been honoured by Centennial Parklands who have named the Park's new visitor hub as Fearnley Grounds.

Fearnley, an Australian wheelchair racer, is well known for his global sporting contribution, his support of people with disabilities and as a visitor and sports user at Centennial Park.

Work on the new hub commenced in early 2015 as part of the Centennial Park Master Plan 2040 following many years of visitor surveys and consultation which identified it as an area of deficiency in the Park's current facilities and services.

'Many elite athletes have trained and competed here over the years but it was Kurt's passion and the inspiration he embodies as a disability advocate for so many Australians that saw his name proposed through our public naming competition,' said Mark Speakman, Minister for the Environment.

To meet the community's needs, the Parklands proposed stage one of the South West Hub project in 2014 to deliver improved amenities, upgraded accessibility



Kurt Fearnley in racing gear.
Photo courtesy of Centennial Parklands.

The Parklands holds
a very special place
in my heart...

and new services to this busy part of the park. The concept was inspired by a small combined kiosk and cyclist pavilion (the site of today's Centennial Parklands Dining) that existed and operated in Centennial Park from 1908 to 1946 before it was destroyed by fire.

'It is an absolute honour to have a precinct in Centennial Park named after me. The Parklands holds a very special place in my heart – it is where I go to train, to think, to cycle and to breathe. We are very fortunate to have a space like Centennial Park in the heart of Sydney and I commend the Parklands efforts to ensure the Park's offerings are sustainable, practical and beneficial for all to experience them,' Fearnley said.

Kurt has a longstanding affiliation with the Park and contested his first road race there at the age of 14. In his sporting career, he is a three-time Paralympic Gold Medallist and has won marathons all around the world, including the prestigious New York, London and Chicago. 🏆



L-R: Minister for the Environment Mark Speakman, Kim Ellis, Executive Director of Centennial Parklands and Kurt Fearnley at the unveiling.

Photo courtesy of Centennial Parklands



Margaret collecting the eggs at Whiddon Bourke



Aub and his majestic chook, Priscilla, at Whiddon Casino



HenPower!

Chickens. They're not your everyday pet, but are proving a very welcome addition to a number of residential aged care homes across NSW. In an Australian first, not-for-profit aged care provider Whiddon has been trialling HenPower, a creative ageing program based around keeping chooks, in four of its care homes. The initiative, just over halfway through its six month trial, sees residents nurturing hens and participating in social and creative activities based around hen keeping, as well as interacting with volunteers and the community.

HenPower brings older people in residential care together with community volunteers, staff and 'henthusiasts' to combine keeping chooks with a structured arts and crafts program. HenPower isn't just for the care home residents, the program is at its best when staff, family members, local schools and the wider community are also involved.

Early indications of Whiddon's HenPower research show that the practical aspects of hen keeping, combined with the pet-like bonds that have developed between residents and their hens, has had significant benefits to overall wellbeing. These include reducing apathy, depression and loneliness among residents as well as providing those with dementia a positive outlet for emotion and a simple way to connect with other people. Overall, HenPower is resulting in a greatly increased quality of life score for some residents.

Karn Nelson, Executive General Manager Strategy and Research, Whiddon, said, 'HenPower is much more than the novelty of having a few chooks to keep people company! It has a much deeper resonance in effectively tackling health issues and improving wellbeing for older Australians, as demonstrated in our research.'

'We want to bring the way we think about caring for older Aussies to the next level and encourage the community to get involved. There are opportunities for schools, kindergartens and community groups to participate in the program and interact with our 'Hensioners' through HenPower.'

Run by residents, staff and volunteers at Whiddon's residential care homes, HenPower was first developed by UK organisation, Equal Arts, and has been running successfully in the UK for more than two years. Whiddon is the first provider to offer HenPower in Australia as part of its creative ageing program.

Who would think a 96 year old woman would love a chicken?

– Verley



'Fostering close connections with the community and maintaining social interaction, interests and activities is absolutely essential to the wellbeing and health of older Australians. At Whiddon we have seen our clients' quality of life improve significantly when we build in and create unique opportunities and social activities, such as HenPower, to their daily lives,' Nelson shared.

Visit www.whiddon.com.au to find out more about HenPower and how you can support Whiddon's creative ageing programs.

whiddon.com.au



visit our website or call 1300 738 388

PLEASE NOTE that the process for ordering Lodge badges via The Whiddon Group has recently changed. Please send all future orders to: badges@whiddon.com.au

Life is a journey



The **Whiddon** Group



Chairman's Message

Happy 2016!

Charity is probably the greatest tenet of Freemasonry which is why the Masonicare Board wishes to assist lodges and their local communities in their fundraising endeavours.

Masonicare is your charity. It has limited funds and is accountable to state, territory and federal governments for the funds and their expenditure.

With this in mind all lodges must be very careful how they raise funds and who receives the funds.

To avoid confusion about grants that can be sought from the Masonicare Board, the Board will be writing to all Lodge Caring Officers, RMMs and DMMs to explain the

different types of grants and the way in which they must be applied for.

The majority of grants approved by the Board are either interACTION Grants or Benevolence Grants. These are subject to a maximum of \$5,000 for interACTION Grants and \$6,500 for Benevolence Grants.

The Masonicare Board consists of volunteers who give their time freely in the interests of both Freemasonry and the charitable works that Freemasonry conducts.

We are your Board

As a Board, we have a duty to ensure we do not over-expend our funds and at the same time ensure that these funds are spent within Masonicare Constitutional

guidelines and guidelines as laid down by state, federal and territory legislation.

If any lodge has any queries as to how funds can be raised or expended, please contact Walleska Coimbra or the Secretariat for clarification.

I wish all lodges well in their fundraising initiatives in the 2016 year and we look forward to working closely with you to promote not only the aims of Masonicare, as your charity, but also Freemasonry.

RW Bro Andrew Fraser MP PDGM
Chairman

Cheque presentations

Wollongong aerial patrol

This presentation was from Lodge Kiama for \$5,000, from the 'Romans Hot Rod Show' held at Black Beach Kiama. Members of Lodge Kiama collected gate takings and sold raffle tickets to raise \$2,500 which was matched by Masonicare.

This was presented to Mr Harry Mitchell and the money will go to a new engine on the plane which can once again fly along the coast as an aerial patrol plane looking for sharks etc.



Smart pups

Lodge members who are also members of the NSW Rural Fire Service in the Illawarra region came to know of the Hitchens family, who have a six year old son, recently diagnosed with Severe Autism Spectrum Disorder and who desperately needed an assistance dog. The family were trying to raise over \$20,000 to have a dog trained to be a companion and helper to their son Chev. The family have four other children and the problem appeared insurmountable. The WM of Lodge Kiama took on the task of raising \$10,000 to take the strain off the family and in a few short months, the lodge members raised \$5,000 with BBQ, raffles, charity train rides and donations.

The dog will take several months to train but will be absolutely vital to the family as young Chev on some days can be very restless and disturbed and the dog will have a calming effect. It will also be able to track him down if he absconds whilst at his special school. The family has decided to name the dog 'MASON' as a



mark of respect and thanks to our fraternity. Due to many newspaper articles on the issue, Freemasonry has improved our public image in the community.

Masonicare also provided an interACTION Grant and had approval to announce the cheque presentation at our Christmas meeting with the entire Hitchens family present. The family thanked all the masons and Masonicare for the help and support to get Chev on the road to a better and safer life. Other lodges in the area also



Thank you, Masonicare



Dear Masonicare,
I am writing to acknowledge and thank you for the significant and generous contribution you have made towards our 2015 Rescue Day Appeal.

The story of the rescue helicopter service here in northern NSW has only been made possible through donation support such as yours.

As an organisation that is not fully funded, your support will help us to raise the over \$4M needed each year to keep the rescue helicopters flying. You can rest assured that your donation is staying here in our region so that the next time a member of someone's family, who needs

urgent aero-medical support, can have the chance of a better tomorrow.

On behalf of all of us here at Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter, thank you again for your continued support and for being part of the rescue.

Yours faithfully

Kris Beavis
General Manager

For more information on how to support the Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter, please contact:

PO BOX 822 Lismore NSW 2480

Phone: (02) 6627 4444

Fax: (02) 66214288

gave contributions and several members of the lodge and the RFS also made generous donations.

Lodge Kiama has also decided to contribute to the company which supplies and trains the assistance dogs to help prepare for the next family that urgently needs a dog.

Fragile X

For the fifth year in succession, the brethren of Lodge Ku-ring-gai No 1022 and their wives have joined with members of other groups to support Galston Garden Club's Annual Open Garden Weekend. Their support has been so appreciated that the Club now actively seeks their

continuing involvement and the brethren are happy to oblige as it is a very pleasant and satisfying weekend.

The lodge nominated The Fragile X Association of Australia as their charity and this year raised \$3,000 which was matched by Masonicare.

A luncheon on Sunday 24 January at the home of RW Bro Graham Piper and his wife Trish brought together members of the lodge, the Garden Club and Fragile X. The WM of Lodge Ku-ring-gai, W Bro Peter Goodridge, presented Dr Robyn Iredale, the president of The Fragile X Association of Australia, with a Masonicare cheque for \$6,000 and she thanked all involved for their continuing support.



interACTION Grants

How your lodge can apply

Did you know that your Lodge can apply for an interACTION Grant before it embarks on a charitable fundraising activity in your local Community? Here's a handy checklist to help you in your application:

Plan a particular fundraising activity, with the funds raised to be presented to a local charity that is registered as a Deductible Gift Recipient

Obtain an interACTION Grant Application Form from your Regional Masonicare Manager or download from the website: www.masonicare.org.au

Apply for the interACTION Grant, in principle, with an amount nominated.

Approval (at Board meeting).

Fundraising activity.

Send the cheque request to Masonicare along with funds raised by the lodge, which will be matched, dollar for dollar.

Cheque sent to your Regional Masonicare Manager or designated person for presentation at organised event.

You should allow about six weeks for the whole process, so plan accordingly!

This is how the members of your lodge can demonstrate their commitment to the lodge and the local community, not only assisting in a charitable sense but also showing Freemasonry in action, proudly helping local causes.



The origin of Easter

As Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and children tuck into their chocolate eggs or chocolate rabbits, and everyone enjoys another long weekend, **do we ever pause to wonder why Easter originated in the spring?**

In Northern Europe, winter is drawing to a close and the coming of spring heralds longer days, warmer weather and the signs of new life in gardens and in the fields. Long before Christianity was born with the crucifixion and raising of Jesus Christ, ancients often described as Pagans celebrated the feast of Eostre. Eostre was the northern goddess of spring and the dawn and of course fertility, whose spirit was felt in new plants and births both human and animals. The rabbit, with its predisposition to reproduce, was her sacred animal.

Easter, certainly in the northern hemisphere, is eggs and chocolate rabbits, but many people are not aware that ham, a preserved pork meat which we tend to associate with Christmas, is actually eaten at Easter. The ancients at the end of winter would then eat the remaining preserved meats. Eggs always formed an important element to the pagans of Europe and the Middle East at the Spring Equinox.


The question is of course: who actually started the chocolate egg and rabbit?

The Persians, Hindus and Babylonians all saw eggs as a sacred symbol. The Babylonians believed that in their 'world' a gigantic egg fell from outer space into the Euphrates and from this egg the goddess Astarte was born, another explanation for the word Easter. The story of the mystic egg moved to Rome and was part of the ceremonies of Bacchus. Colouring eggs, which are a treat for children, was a custom practised by the Druids and the Chinese and Japanese for many hundreds of years. The egg was also a symbol of fertility; Easter (Semiramis) was the goddess of Fertility. The Easter egg is a symbol of the pagan Mother Goddess and even bears one of her names. Mother Goddess is represented in many ancient cultures as the embodiment of nature, fertility and the bounties that Earth gives us.

Even before Christmas and New Year celebrations are over, major supermarkets have hot cross buns on the shelves. Those small fruit buns are associated with Easter with the cross symbolizing the crucifixion yet many Christians would be surprised

to know that the bun and the cross is part of an earlier pagan fare. At the end of winter Saxons baked buns with a cross in honour of the Goddess Eostre, the cross symbolizing the four seasons and the four quarters of the moon. The early Christian Church quickly adopted the bun, recognising the cross could symbolize the resurrection of Christ. In many Christian countries hot cross buns made without dairy products may only be eaten during lent beginning with Shrove Tuesday and ending on Good Friday. It is interesting to note that in the time of Elizabeth I, the sale of hot cross buns and spiced breads was forbidden except for funerals, Good Friday and Christmas, which caused buns to be baked at home. Even King James I attempted to control the sale of the bun. There are many old wives tales and superstitions about hot cross buns – one for example is that a bun served on Good Friday will not spoil or grow mouldy during the year, another if given to a sick person it will help them recover.

Chocolate Easter eggs and rabbits are given at Easter as presents. The tradition may have started in the middle ages in northern Europe, with the giving of coloured hardboiled eggs to children. The Easter egg hunt started as a Pagan game. The question is of course: who actually started the chocolate egg and rabbit? Early German immigrants to America in 1800 brought with them the Lower Saxony Easter festival of the Easter Bunny or 'Oschter Haws' a custom followed later by Germans who settled in Pennsylvania and it quickly became a commercial icon for Easter.

As the children and adult chocoholics tuck into their eggs and rabbits, perhaps it is time to reflect that Easter apart from commemorating the Resurrection is also a time to reflect that Easter is new life and that Mother Nature is once again bestowing her wonderful gifts. 

Eggs have been potent symbols for thousands of years





Regional Roundup



Regional notice board



LODGE INVERELL NO 48

Debs at Inverell

Memories still linger of the wonderful night at Lodge Inverell No 48 when it held its 139th Debutante Ball and introduced six lovely debutantes.

It was also a great opportunity for the public to see Freemasonry's involvement in the local community with cheques presented to the Westpac Rescue Helicopter

Service, Inverell Women's Refuge and the Inverell Volunteer Rescue Squad.

W Bro Eric Higgins did a splendid job as the Master of Ceremonies and V Excellent Companion Joe Bliss as Director of Ceremonies.

The lodge also changed its normal routine to hold a masonic debate at its

Lodge Advertising

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

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

December meeting with the subject of the evening 'Is Freemasonry Relevant in the 21st Century?'

Two teams of three were formed, captained by W Bro Higgins for the affirmative and Bro Simon Gaukroger for the negative. The ideas presented for and against were most enlightening and thought provoking.

LODGE BENJAMIN PRYOR NO 709

Fighting Batten disease!

Jenny Rixon, Manager of the Batten Disease Support and Research Association (BDSRA), accepted a cheque for \$9,200 representing the funds raised for BDSRA by Lodge Benjamin Pryor No 709 with the assistance of a Masonicare inter-ACTION Grant.

The funds were raised during 2015 through various raffles and a Trivia Night.

BDSRA is an organisation dedicated to improving the well-being of children and families affected by Batten disease, a



severe and progressive inherited neurological disorder that primarily affects children and young persons.

Batten disease affects brain function, leading to the loss of sight and learned skills such as walking, talking, feeding and inevitably results in an early death.

BDSRA provides support through family programs and funds research projects aimed at finding a treatment or cure for this devastating disease.

For more information about Batten's, please visit www.battens.org.au or email Jenny at manager@battens.org.au



LODGE KENSINGTON No 270

Rishi steps up

Members from far and wide attended in full force when Bro Rishi Ketkar was installed as the WM of Lodge Kensington in February.

VW Bro Vic Lunney PDGDC, who had been the WM in 1986, stepped forward to capably handle the ceremony in front of the Grand Master, MW Bro James Melville and a near room full of visitors.

An emotional Rishi was born in Mumbai, India, came to Australia in 2005, qualified as a Chartered Accountant and was a state level water polo player during his university days.

His elder brother Subodh introduced him to Freemasonry and is currently the Senior Warden in a United States lodge. His Installation is scheduled for May which means the two brothers will be Masters of their respective lodges at the same time later this year.

LODGE WAGGA WAGGA No 22

A social day at Wagga



A suggestion made at Lodge Wagga Wagga to improve social interaction throughout the Riverina and South West Slopes led to a very successful picnic day at Walter Day Park in Lockhart.

Although small in number, those who attended rated it as a wonderful day to renew acquaintances and talk about bygone days.

A wonderful day to reminisce with the members of Lodge Wagga Wagga.

The get-together followed a suggestion from Past Grand Master, MW Bro Robson AM about social activities and those who attended agreed another function should be held at a different venue with plans already being discussed.



W Bro Eric William Burgess, Lodge Morning Star No 410, with his Sixty Year Certificate.



THE HORNSBY AND KU-RING-GAI MASONIC ASSOCIATION

A stitch in time

A total of \$2,000 was recently presented by the Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai Masonic Association, in conjunction with Masonicare, to the Embroiderers' Guild NSW Inc. Craft Trust.

This money was raised by HAKMA and presented by Jean Taylor, a member of HAKMA and the Embroiderers' Guild, to Sue James, Convenor of the Junior Stitchers Groups and Jenny Marty, President of the Guild.

Jean Taylor presenting the \$2,000 cheque to Sue James and Jenny Marty.

The funds will be used for the benefit, education and promotion of the art and skills of embroidery for children in the Junior Stitchers Groups, aged 6 to 16 years.

The Guild, in accepting the cheque, thanked the members of the Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai Masonic Association for their generous support.



THE BADEN-POWELL LODGE OF NSW No 1051

Jamboree gets a taste of Egypt

The Egyptian Room at Petersham Masonic Centre, in inner Sydney, was the venue for a special Scout Jamboree lodge meeting – hosted by The Baden-Powell Lodge of NSW No 1051 – to coincide with the 24th Australian Jamboree, in January 2016.

A coach full of masons, ladies and Scouts from all over Australia – and beyond – arrived from Cataract Scout Park, south of Sydney. The Grand Master, MW Bro James Melville, and other key Grand Lodge officers were in attendance for a relaxed evening of information and friendship.

The Egyptian Room – where many lodges meet – is a rare historic room on the NSW Government’s Heritage Register. There is only one other similar – in Pennsylvania, USA. Following Baden-Powell lodge business, all were invited into the room where visitors were amazed at its colour and detail.

RW Bro Bill Richards OAM PSGW, a noted Egyptology scholar, gave a concise talk on the story of the frieze and other parts of the room. There were many points of interest – for example, RW Bro Richards noted that our police blue and white squares pattern was derived from the Egyptian pattern for authority dating back to 3,500BC, shown above the people in the wall panel above the room’s crypt.

In the South, the Grand Master provided interesting and amusing insights into his own start in Scouting at Riverwood. He also noted the importance of both movements’ work to provide knowledge, moral progress and mateship to members.

The grandson of Scouting’s Founder, Lord Baden-Powell, W Bro Michael Baden-Powell gave a brief talk on the Wood Badge – a major award in Scout training. A special cloth badge to commemorate the evening – highlighting the emblems of both movements – was presented to all who attended.



COFFS COAST FREEMASONS ASSOCIATION

Sawtell Bowling Club CanDo

The Coffs Coast Freemasons Association has continued its support of the CanDo Cancer Trust at the Sawtell Bowling Club by hosting a charity bowls day.

Brethren from the CCFA and their wives provided the bowlers with a sausage sizzle lunch and funds raised on the day, including a \$1,500 Masonicare interACTION Grant, amounted to \$5,000 which was presented by RW Bro Phil Robertson PJGW to CanDo Chairperson Ms Julie Jardine.

Ms Jardine thanked everyone for participating and also praised the Freemasons by saying ‘the Freemasons are amazing. They work so hard for CanDo and I thank them and Masonicare for their support.’



LODGE YOUNG BURRANGONG No 20

Supporting the local community

It was a big night at the Remembrance meeting of Lodge Young Burrangong when cheques totalling \$13,824 were presented to local groups.

'2015 was a very successful fundraising year, where the lodge also received publicity and local prominence,' said the WM, VW Bro Rob Nash PDGDC.

It started in 2014 when the lodge was asked by two antique engine clubs in Young to raffle some firewood with proceeds shared between those clubs, the masons and local charities with 17 raffle days held and carry over funds for the District Hospital Auxiliary.

The next effort was a very successful Spring Fair joined by the local scouts and guides, resulting in a total of \$2,000.

Cheques were presented to the Young District Hospital Auxiliary for \$4,500, to Young Mercy Care Auxiliary and Can Assist each for \$2,750. Mercy Care will buy a BladderScan which costs around \$10,000, the Hospital Auxiliary plan to purchase a Smart Board – a computerised version of a 'white board' for use in the operating theatre, while Can Assist will help provide ongoing relief for cancer patients.

Cheques for \$1,000 each were presented to the Guides and Scouts and cheques for \$912 were also presented to the Young and District Antique Engine Club and the Cherry Capital Collectors Club.

Deadline

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

If so, please note that the material deadline for next issue is **Monday, 25 April 2016**



LODGE MILLTHORPE No 276

A sad day for Millthorpe

Lodge Millthorpe No 276 at the Central Tablelands completed 104 years of fellowship as a Daylight Lodge and then closed its doors late last year.

It was a sad day for those who attended but there was a bright side – a number of visitors came from different lodges to say farewell, with a total of nearly 50 attending the South.

The lodge was consecrated on 13 June 1911 by VW Bro Millard, with extensions added in 1971.

VW Bro Trevor Louie, the DGIW, was WM for the night with Bro Bill Fennell as JW who closed the lodge for the last time but could not declare a date for the next meeting.



A happy night for the Re-installation of Lodge Gynea with the Grand Master along with the WM, W Bro Ron Oates and the Installing Master W Bro Cameron Wheatley.



THE MAROUBRA LODGE NO 725

A triple celebration

It was a wonderful night of family and memories at the February meeting of The Maroubra Lodge when three family brothers celebrated 60 years since they joined Freemasonry.

RW Bro Ted and W Bros Sam and Barry Simmons and Bro Jim Simmons (now deceased) had been initiated in Lodge Volunteer in College Street in January 1956, passed in February and raised in March in front of their grandfather Archie, father David and various uncles and cousins.

L-R: Brothers Barry, Ted and Sam Simmons were awarded their 60-year certificates.

MW Bro Dr Greg Levenston PGM, who had presented Ted and Barry with their 50 year certificates ten years ago, was again present to hand certificates to the three brothers watched by a gathering of District members, visitors and their ladies.

‘It is an unusual occasion to have three members of the same family to be honoured in this way and it shows the strength

of masonry in this family,’ he said.

‘Ted became WM in 1962, installed his brother Barry in 1963 and the pair of them installed Sam in 1969.’

During their masonic career, all four brothers had filled various offices in the lodge, including secretary, treasurer, stewards and, having a musical background, joined their father and grandfather in entertainment at the festive board and during Ladies nights.

All three brothers spoke of their time in masonry, the pleasures they received as members and the friends they made. Ted and Barry were left short of words by the unexpected appearance of Bro Alan O’Toole from Lodge Kirrawee No 903, a fellow soccer player from the 1950s whom they had not seen in more than 50 years.

During his response, RW Bro Ted Simmons read extracts from a letter written by his father supporting the application for their initiation in which he pointed out that their great, great grandfather, W Bro Joseph Simmons had been initiated in 1839, followed over the years by other family members.

He also produced a notice paper of Sydney Lodge Celestial from 1927 for the initiation of three brothers, his father David and uncles Joseph and William Simmons in the presence of then Grand Master, MW Bro John Goulston who also delivered a charge.

It was indeed a night to remember!

LODGE MORNING STAR NO 410

Lance honoured

Worshipful Brother Lance Nelson of Lodge Morning Star No 410 received the District 21 medal for his tireless work in promoting and fostering community relationships in and around the Central Coast.

Bro Nelson actively promotes the benefits of Freemasonry with various charitable initiatives and is a regular visitor to lodges both in and out of his district. The presentation of the award was made even more special with the Assistant Grand Master, RW Bro W Driver, in attendance.



L-R: AGM RW Bro William Driver, W Bro Noel Higgs, W Bro Lance Nelson and VW Bro Graeme Ingall, DGIW District 21.



Freemason Welcomes New Members To The Craft

Name	Lodge	Name	Lodge	Name	Lodge
ACRE, Reggie	Lodge Jose Rizal 1045	GABRIEL, Ramy	Lodge Punchbowl 244	MATIGA, Dan	The Builders Lodge 1048
AVATI, Frank	The Sydney Lodge 1020	GERGES, Ziad	Lodge Axiom 1047	MILTADOUS, Chris	Lodge Southern Cross 91
BALE, James	Lodge Trinitarian 978	GILBERT, Doug	Lodge Star of Wauchope 310	MORELOS, Mark	The Hawkesbury Heritage Lodge 150
BALHAS, Ali	Lodge Antiquity 1	GIMENEZ, Ivan Vicente	Lodge St David and St John 180	MOSHE, Neenef	Lodge Guildford 321
BARBER, Warren	Lodge Liverpool Plains 191	HAIRE, Benjamin	Lodge Castlereagh 72	NEWMAN, Scott	The City of Wollongong Lodge 1049
BATTI, Michael	Lodge Southern Cross 91	HAIJE, Mitchell	Lodge Dunblane Australis 966	NORTH, George	The Glen Innes Lodge 44
BEHZADPOUR, Ehsan	Lodge Vacluse 266	HAKOS, Zac	Lodge Education 814	O'SULLIVAN, Adam	Lodge Wyong Tuggerah Lakes 247
BENIRO, Sam	Lodge Southern Cross 91	HAMIDI, David	Lodge Toukley 933	PARKINSON, Russell	Lodge Illawarra 59
BERMAN, Roger	Lodge Kensington 270	HARRIS, Brett	Lodge Harold Herman Unity 428	PRICE, Edward	Lodge Blaxland Temperance 346
BHATIA, Vijay	Lodge Beecroft 359	HUNTER, Chris	Lodge Tweed United 136	RAINER, Mike	Lodge Challenge 284
BRAY, Taylor	Lodge Ophir 17	JAD, Nasr	Lodge Kirrawee 903	REID, Peter	Lodge Bathurst United 79
BUENO, Rod	Lodge Merrylands 479	JAGO, Martin	Lodge Trinitarian 978	REID, Peter	Lodge Bathurst United 79
BURGESS, Peter	The Queen's Lodge 229	JASIM, Wael	Lodge Punchbowl 244	REID, Lachlan	Lodge Bathurst United 79
CALOKERNOS, Nicholas	Lodge Castlereagh 72	JOHNSTON, Robert	Lodge Carnarvon 172	SAGARIO, Eric	Lodge Education 814
CHEUNG, Chris	Balmain Lodge 23	KAMRADT-SCOTT, Adam	The Sydney Lodge 1020	SANTOS, Roger	Lodge Education 814
CHURCHILL, Adam	Lodge Trinitarian 978	KHEIR EDDINE, Adam	Lodge Horace Thompson Ryde 134	SANTOS, Ronald	Lodge Education 814
COXON, Daryl	Lodge Macquarie 53	KING, Christian	Lodge Carnarvon 172	SCARLETT, Reid	Lodge Scone 183
CRICELLI, Nick	Lodge Hurlstone Park United 288	KIRK, Dom	Lodge University of Sydney 544	SOLTAN, Wesley	Lodge Morning Star 410
DE CONTO, Fabio	Lodge Caledonia of Canberra 938	LECCA, Robert	Lodge Hurlstone Park United 288	STEPHENS, Chris	Lachlan Macquarie Lodge 1042
DELA CRUZ, Ram	Lodge Merrylands 479	MAMEA, Ben	The Builders Lodge 1048	WALTERS, Adam	Lodge Fitzroy 248
DERIT, Ginovin	Lodge Axiom 1047	MARCUS, Daniel	Lodge Mark Owen 828	WHITESIDE, Matt	Lodge Fire Brigades 940
DIXON, Greg	Lodge Wyvern 813	MARSHALL, Zach	Lodge Laurieton Haven United 1031	YOUSIF, Jason	Lodge Punchbowl 244
FEENEY, David	Lodge Trinitarian 978				
FLORESCA, Francis	Lodge Education 814				

What is the Freemason?

The NSW *Freemason* plays a double role – it is the voice of Grand Lodge and the voice of the private lodges.



And to provide this information, it needs the assistance of people and for those people to remember that what they provide is regarded as a correct and accurate report.


Always keep in mind the opening sentence is the most important and generally should be a summary of the report. Important facts are at the top, the lesser facts follow.

Check whether the report will be of general interest to readers of the magazine, remembering that people want to know about other people and interesting events.

Keep the following suggestions as a guide to your reports:

- Be aware of deadlines, get your report in on time.
- Write precise sentences, use facts not impressions.
- If typing use double spacing and space your sentences if by email.
- If using longhand, PRINT all names in block letters to avoid errors.
- Keep the report short, avoid repetition and avoid long sentences and big words.
- Always check what you have written especially dates, times, places, names.

- When sending a photograph, ensure the subject is clear (head and shoulders rather than long range), get the main people in the photograph, identify the people (print their names and rank).
- Every report should have a contact name and telephone or email number in case a check is required.

Remember, magazines are limited in space and sometimes it will be necessary to edit your story. This happens when a story is too long or repeats the same facts. Remember the old advice – keep it simple, short and clear! 

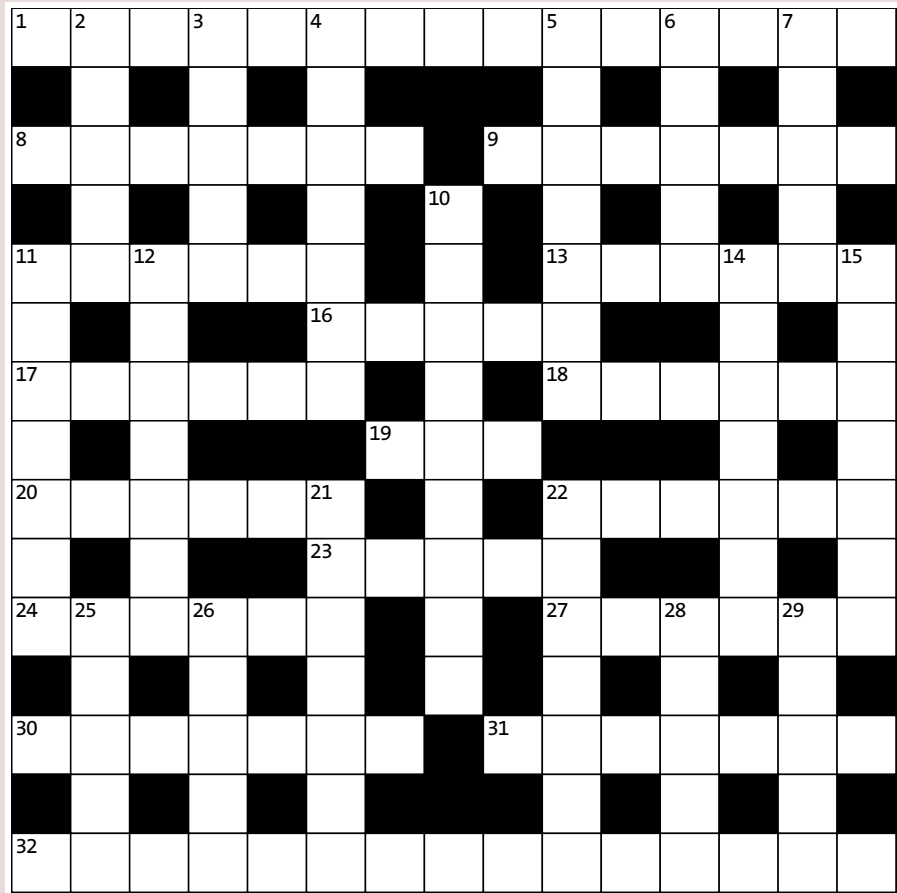


Thank you

to all our sponsors both individual and corporate who, through the placement of advertising, have helped to make this edition possible.

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ACROSS

- 1 Change recitals of no Uni characters to reveal an agreement that took effect from St. John's day 1888 (8,2,5)
- 8 Architectural moulded projection that crowns or finishes a wall is found as an old common article of subsistence put on ice (7)
- 9 Degrees favoured on PM's nights with more helpings of food (7)
- 11 Human spirit of mind found when tipsy check loses mark of approval (6)
- 13 Odd characters, may be tylers, let me see through these (2,4)
- 16 Arise somehow to take the lodge up to the third degree (5)
- 17 The Governor General is central to those back in on a drink (6)
- 18 Some signatures contain part of the hidden objects of research in the second degree (6)
- 19 and 32 Constituents of 1 across (1,1,1,7,8)
- 20 Even Ella's urge has inarticulate sounds of mirth (6)
- 22 Give a leg up for a change to find King David's raging pestilence (6)
- 23 Instrument from the south played by Ian in the post office centre (5)
- 24 Yet star Tina followed oddly enough contains incandescent mantle oxide (6)
- 27 Scot's Ned Kelly hides Bro. in his surname (3,3)
- 30 Male descendant catches rhyming poems of 14 lines (7)

31 Car manufactured between 1917 and 1930 somehow made in TV age? (7)

32 See 19 across

DOWN

- 2 On the square, Rod's got nothing on hiding in swinging doors (5)
- 3 Noble order from some avionics (5)
- 4 Select Ernest partly to give support to the VSL (7)
- 5 Loose adult males for candidates? Well it is a condition after all (7)
- 6 Midday in China? With nobody there? (2,3)
- 7 Elderly person oiled up colloquially speaking (5)
- 10 Reins tall characters in for a second term (9)
- 11 Being branded as a willfully perjured individual is what's mixed up aplenty nowadays (7)
- 12 For fermented milk try Hugo (7)
- 14 The Queen follows a town in Southern NSW, perhaps not as old (7)
- 15 Greenery improves this vista so they say (7)
- 21 A frugally courageous austere character from a Southern Greek city (7)
- 22 A colonnade shelters a confused tropic duck (7)
- 25 A prick caused by heading north (5)
- 26 Learn about the kidneys (5)
- 28 Synthetic rubber ingredient hidden by tabu tyler (5)
- 29 Periodical such as this magazine is instrumentally made use of by lodge officer usually in southwest (5)

Solution December 2015





70 Years Service

HARDY, Alfred Lodge Enterprise 400
 MACPHERSON, William Lodge Cowper 295

60 Years Service

BURGESS, Eric Lodge Morning Star 410
 DAVIS, Lyle Lodge Blue Mountains Unity 118
 EVANS, Roy Australian Lodge of Fidelity 101
 MACKENZIE, Roderick The Central Coast Lodge 2001
 MARTIN, Alan Lodge Calala Tamworth 652
 MCAULEY, Ross Lodge Beecroft 359

MCCUTCHEON, Kenneth Lodge Toukley 933
 SANDSTROM, Norman Lodge Woronora 414
 SIMMONS, Barry The Maroubra Lodge 725
 SIMMONS, Edward The Maroubra Lodge 725
 SIMMONS, Sam The Maroubra Lodge 725
 SWAIN, George Lodge Calala Tamworth
 YARROW, Albert Lodge Tomalpin 253

50 Years Service

CLARK, Allan Lodge Taralga 648
 COHEN, Harry Bundaleeah Daylight Lodge 992

CURRY, George The Sydney Lodge 1020
 DAWSON, Alan Lodge Beecroft 359
 FARRELL, Kevin Lodge Vaucluse 266
 GRESSWELL, Malcolm Australian Lodge of Fidelity 101
 GRIBBLE, Robert Lodge Morning Star 410
 IRVING, William Lodge St David & St John 180
 IZZARD, Ronald Lodge Beecroft 359
 JOHNSON, Alan Australian Lodge of Fidelity 101
 KENYON, Deric Lodge Ethos 963
 LEISK, David Lodge Frenchs Forest United 249
 STEPHENS, Brian Lodge Enterprise 400
 SWEENEY, John Lodge Young Burrangong

Have your say



Be asbestos aware

When I became Australia's first Asbestos Awareness Ambassador I pledged my full support to this vital campaign to increase awareness of how dangerous asbestos can be to homeowners, tradespeople and families when renovating, maintaining or demolishing homes or other structures.

Asbestos can be found in brick, weatherboard, clad and fibro homes behind wall and floor tiles, under floorcoverings including carpets and in walls, ceilings, roofs, gutters and even dog kennels. It could be anywhere. Sadly, current research tells us that people are unknowingly exposing themselves and their families to dangerous asbestos fibres particularly during home renovations.

Our hope is to help save the lives of people like Mrs Carol Klintfält OAM who tragically lost her battle with malignant mesothelioma on 7 November 2014.

Carol developed mesothelioma because she inhaled asbestos fibres when working with an architect and while handling fibro sheets when renovating the family home. There is no cure and the average survival time after diagnosis is only 10–12 months – hard hitting statistics none of us can ignore.

One in every three homes built or renovated before 1987 will contain asbestos products. All Australians need to learn the dangers of asbestos and how to manage it safely because it's not worth the risk.

If you require additional information please contact Insight Communications on 02 9518 4744 or asbestosawareness@insightcommunications.net.au.

Don Burke OAM

Asbestos Awareness Ambassador



the luke batty foundation

Time to help

Recently the Prime Minister spoke at length about family violence and its impact on our society. The Luke Batty Foundation was established by 2015 Australian of the Year,



Mrs Rosie Batty after the death of her son Luke. Mrs Batty is a tireless worker in bringing awareness of the effects of family violence to the attention of the community and government.

I would ask that lodges support the Luke Batty Foundation by contributing a donation, possibly from a fundraising barbecue, a raffle or similar event. Freemasonry is in the unique position of being able to assist this Foundation due to our number of lodges and our ability to raise funds for a worthy cause. The message that we send our communities via fundraising activities like this, is that we as Freemasons do not condone such violence. As masonic men we demonstrate the tenet that women and children have the right to feel safe in their own homes. Our actions will speak louder than our words.

Brethren, please consider my request.

Bro Lee Murray

The Yass Lodge of Concord No 27

Editor's note: as this has been a public topic of discussion it was thought worthwhile to accept this letter. It does not diminish or replace our support for the Grand Lodge Charity – Masonicare.



Nutty numbers!

Sometimes **maths is strange:**

37 multiplied by 3 equals 111

37 x 6 = 222

37 x 9 = 333

37 x 12 = 444

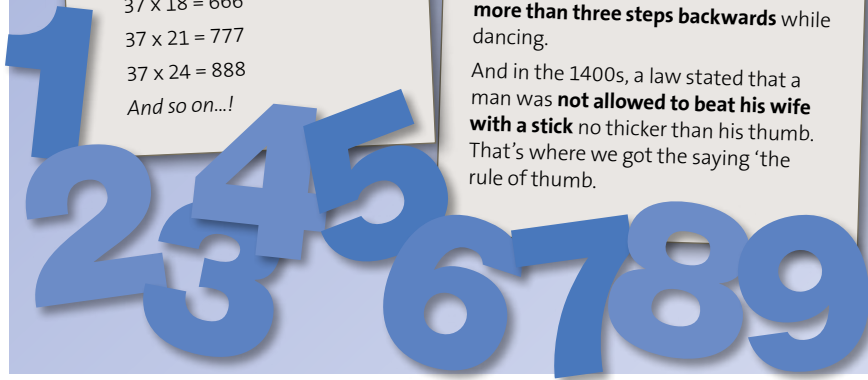
37 x 15 = 555

37 x 18 = 666

37 x 21 = 777

37 x 24 = 888

And so on...!



Freaky facts!

Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying.

Sherlock Holmes never said **'Elementary my dear Watson'**.

The number of possible ways of playing **the first four moves** per side in a game of chess is 318,979,564,000.

Celery has negative calories. It takes more calories to eat a piece of celery than the celery has in it to begin with.

The Guinness Book of Records holds the record for being **the book most often stolen from public libraries.**

An old law in Bellingham, Washington, made it **illegal for a woman to take more than three steps backwards** while dancing.

And in the 1400s, a law stated that a man was **not allowed to beat his wife with a stick** no thicker than his thumb. That's where we got the saying 'the rule of thumb'.

NSW Police Masonic Lodge

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

Special rates will apply to non-residential members.

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

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

or Chris Standaloft
cjs@hotmail.com
02 9521 5451

APPEAL
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Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution

Established in 1880

Each March, April and May the Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution conducts its **APPEAL QUARTER**. This is the time of the year when we appeal to masons for assistance in continuing our caring work.

Today, in addition to the Annuity and the Benevolent Assistance Schemes, we provide accommodation for more than 2,500 senior citizens in our residential aged care villages and within their own homes

We invite you to leave a **BEQUEST IN YOUR WILL** to enable the charitable work of RFBI to continue. Please contact head office for the appropriate form. Be assured, all donations (tax deductible) will be gratefully received and faithfully applied.

We are keen to seek assistance from volunteers. The scope of involvement is limitless.

Additionally, **we are able** to organise speakers for lodge meetings or any like minded masonic functions. **Please contact Alex Shaw.**

RFBI has vacancies in its self care units. For retirement village enquiries, please contact Alex Shaw on 1800 181 959 or admin@rfbi.com.au

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