

Freemason



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Freemason



The Official Journal of
The United Grand Lodge of New South Wales
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), RW Bro David Standish (Marketing), Dr Yvonne McIntyre, VW Bro Mervyn Sinden, VW Bro Andre Fettermann, RW Bro Craig Pearce, RW Bro Richard Dawes

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

The Secretary
Publications 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@freemasonsnswact.org.au

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Advertising enquiries:

Richard Gill
APM Graphics Management
47 Picnic Parade, Ettalong Beach, NSW 2257
Telephone: (02) 4344 5133
Facsimile: (02) 4344 5595
Email: freemason@apmgraphics.com.au

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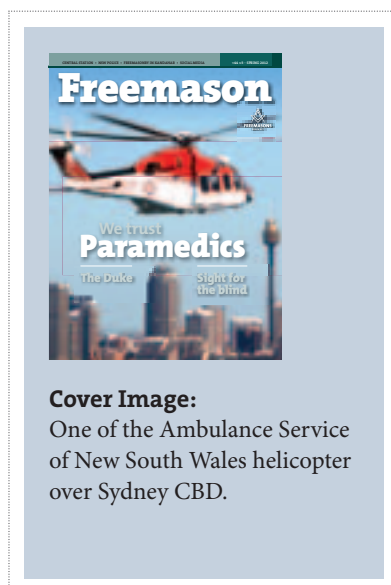
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Editorial Policy

Aims of the Freemason magazine

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



Cover Image:

One of the Ambulance Service of New South Wales helicopter over Sydney CBD.



Old truths

An optimist calls a cup half full. A pessimist sees it as half empty.
A realist says the cup contains 50 percent liquid and 50 percent air.
Everything depends on how you see a situation.



People aren't naturally adept at occupying the middle ground because we like extremes. Indeed we like them so much that if one person already holds a strong opinion, we often take the opposite viewpoint just so we can have a more interesting argument.

So how lucky are you?

Sometimes it seems fortune does not smile on you so much. Attitude and effort make the difference or as they say, the heavens help those who help themselves.

If you apply yourself to a plan and approach it with a positive attitude, the odds are you will make something good happen. The more you worry or let yourself feel depressed, the more you get in the way of a process that might otherwise greatly benefit you and others. Your desire to create something doesn't have to be backed up with impeccable logic.

Most unhappiness comes from living in the past or trying to foresee the future; contentment comes from observing the moment. Suffering is infectious and anger often is simply a conditioned response to someone else's.

So what lesson is learned from optimism, pessimism and emotions?

If you apply the masonic principles of goodwill, charity and brotherly love, you should learn how to control anger and emotions as you work more with the community and people less fortunate than yourself.

How can you feel angry about your own situation when you are dealing with a disabled person, a bereaved family or a sick child. Aren't their problems bigger than yours?

And how about your duty to others, especially those without a home or a job, little money and a family to feed and care for. Where is your feeling of charity and brotherly love?

What you have just read are merely words but words are the expression of our individuality and our capacity to commu-

nicate truth to mankind. Each of us does this differently and this is most valuable since language is not rigid and precise. Look at today's text messages.

And how do the above messages apply to you in your daily life or at your lodge meeting and how do you present yourself when communicating?

When did we cease to need Faith, Hope and Charity?

Each time you speak, whether a talk or a lodge room charge, you need a critical evaluation so that it may be presented as the most important speech that an audience or a candidate has received up to that time.

In recent years it has been stressed that tension can develop if conflicting forces, whether they are nations, classes, generations, ideologies or faiths, fail to foster what we call communication. Computers and the electronic revolution have equipped the people with instant international communication but it profits nothing if the hardware is perfect but the message is ignored.

Are such things as Wisdom, Strength and Beauty ever out of date? When did

we cease to need Faith, Hope and Charity?

Truth has many different angles, like a rare and lovely diamond. We only have to view it from a different angle to become aware that though the message may be the same, it reaches us in many ways.


And so it is with the tenets of our ancient Craft. We must look at our 'old truths' and re-present them in a novel and vital way that has a meaning for our troubled world.

Words are the messengers of truth. Let us be diligent in the manner in which we use them.

Sometimes we masons give lip service to our obligations. We say them, we read them, we hear them and then let others do all the work.

Decades ago, there was a political slogan called 'It's Time', claiming a change of thinking was needed and what had been good for years was not necessarily the right medicine for today's times.

That's good in some areas but the principles of masonry don't need changing. They are as good and pertinent now as they were ages ago and what is really needed is to get back to the old-fashioned method of everyone applying them.

Only then will we get rid of the pessimism and negative attitudes and become the positive, happy role models this world so desperately needs. 

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@freemasonsnswnct.org.au



Masonry gets a college

A proposed new **College of Masonic Studies** has been announced to take the United Grand Lodge of NSW/ACT in a new direction and as a source of instruction for brethren.

The Grand Master, MW Bro Derek Robson, at the June Communication, said many candidates who have joined in recent years have been young men who have displayed an eager interest in learning about the history, the philosophy and the symbolism of the Craft.

‘Their spirit of enquiry needs to be fulfilled and rewarded. This will be the task of the new College of Masonic Studies,’ he said.

‘The College will have its own Board, chaired by a Governor, who shall be responsible to the Executive Council. This Board shall guide the general policies of the College and oversee the broad outlines of the curriculum. An officer, to be known as the ‘Dean’ will be responsible for the executive administration of the College, for the supervision and management of the students, and the preparation of the detailed syllabus.

‘The College shall make no call on secretariat or financial support from United Grand Lodge. However to allow it to operate successfully, the Board of the College shall also have the authority to levy suitable student fees.’

The Grand Master made the following provisional appointments: RW Bro Andrew Brown PDGM, Past Grand Registrar as Governor; RW Bro Dr Frank Radcliff, PDGM, CMH, RW Bro Grahame Cumming, PDGM, CMH, and RW Bro Roger Donsworth, PDGM as Members of the Board; W Bro Andrew St J Brown,



Past Grand Steward as Dean. In his private professional life he is the Academic Secretary of the University of New England.

RW Bro Brown said the announcement actually gives many clues as to what the Grand Master is looking to the College to achieve.

‘The Grand Master makes it clear that it is for Grand Lodge to establish this College. The concept and the nominations are contingent on approval by the Grand Lodge at (hopefully) the September 2012 Communication. This will require amendments to the Book of Constitutions which have been drafted and should be considered soon by the Executive Council,’ he said.

‘Secondly, it is clear that what is envisaged for the College is that it should provide the fundamental intellectual building blocks for young (i.e. inexperienced) Freemasons. The source material is already provided by the ritual as brethren

progress through their Degrees. What has been found to be lacking, as so many experienced brethren leave us, is a reliable source of information for those who are interested in learning more about what they have been taught in lodge especially in the fields of history, philosophy and symbolism. Unfortunately, as valuable a tool as the internet has become, it has enabled the undiscerning to easily access large quantities of information on every conceivable topic, much of which cannot be verified and much more is just outright rubbish. Freemasonry is not excluded from this problem with the desire of masonic booksellers to sell a wide range of works many of which suffer from the same ills as the internet.’

RW Bro Brown said the nominated College Board is already developing the outlines of the syllabus which the College will offer in the subjects of history, philosophy and symbolism and also in related areas. It is envisaged the first ‘course’ the College would offer would cover a number of subjects and would take two years to complete.

‘I am mindful of the pressures we have on our time and of the need to place our families, religious duties and work before our Freemasonry. I am also mindful of the Grand Master’s injunction that the College will be responsible for its own finances and that as the College will be charging fees brethren will expect, and are entitled to, value for money. Distance education is considered to be essential and in due course the College Board will be seeking appropriate brethren to act as subject matter experts or tutors,’ he said.

‘Thirdly, it is appropriate to make clear those areas of what might be broadly thought of as masonic education which will be quite unaffected by the College. The valuable work done by Lodges of Instruction will not be affected nor the work of the Discovery Lodge of Research No 971.

‘The Grand Master has identified a challenge that faces the Craft that cannot be ignored. The College Board is already moving to rise and meet this so as to better inform and educate further generations of Freemasons in this jurisdiction.’

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Diamond Jubilee



To muffled applause, representatives of Sister Constitutions entered the **United Grand Lodge of England** for the June 2012 Communication. The art deco style Grand Temple, erected as a Masonic Peace Memorial after the First World War, was a truly impressive sight.

The Communication was presided over by the Pro Grand Master, MW Bro Peter Lowndes, and the address was given by RW Bro Dr J W Daniel PJGW on 'Royal Jubilees and Loyal Freemasons'. Eloquent and informative, he traced the involvement of Freemasons in the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887, and her Diamond Jubilee in 1897. RW Bro Daniel concluded: 'At Grand Lodge's celebration of the Golden Jubilee in 1887, the Prince of Wales led the assembly with three cheers for Queen Victoria. I am assured it is your wish we celebrate as enthusiastically the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.' It was emotional and truly memorable as the brethren gave three cheers for Her Majesty.

Against this spectacular backdrop, my wife, Philippa, and I enjoyed three action packed Diamond Jubilee weeks in England.

In the lead-up to the weekend celebrations in London, we travelled through small Somerset villages decorated with photographs of the Queen. The contrasting images of the 25 year old monarch returning to Heathrow on a cold February day in 1952 after the death of her father and the 86 year old Queen so familiar to us provided a striking message of continuity and change. It is extraordinary to reflect that whilst Prime Ministers from Menzies to Gillard have come and gone, she has remained – the only reigning monarch I have known.

On Sunday, 3 June, the Thames Pageant was the starting point for the Jubilee weekend. It was the largest group of boats

to go down the Thames since the Restoration of King Charles II. We purchased tickets at the Del Ponte Italian Restaurant in Butlers Wharf, adjacent to the Thames and opposite to where the Royal barge containing the Royal family, watched the Pageant. Ironically it advertised it was a 'corner of Italian sunshine'. But from the moment the Royal barge arrived, torrential rain, reminiscent of Australia rather than English drizzle, poured down. Our hosts, in true Italian style provided a bottomless glass of champagne, delicious pasta, steak, tiramisu and Italian coffee. What could have been a disaster was a wonderful afternoon amongst very convivial company.

The next evening we watched on TV the BBC Concert at Buckingham Palace. From our window at the Royal Overseas League we could see the fireworks over Buckingham Palace.

Tuesday was the Service at St Paul's but the high point was the televised banquet in Westminster Hall after the Service. This 900 year old hall, the oldest part of the Palace of Westminster, witnessed the trial of King Charles I, the lying in state of Churchill and the Queen Mother. A trumpet fanfare heralded the arrival of the Queen and members of the Royal Family. The Banquet, with 700 guests, was hosted by the livery companies, many of which have associated masonic lodges. Originally the Livery Guilds were responsible for trade regulation but now undertake charitable and community works.

As the Queen left, the scene was a medieval tableau of colourful uniforms set against the hammer beam roof of the




ABOVE: An Official Diamond Jubilee portrait of The Queen

ABOVE LEFT: The official emblem for The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, drawn by 10 year old, Katherine Dewar, as part of a national competition

hall. The Queen returned to Buckingham Palace in the 1902 State Landau which had conveyed her grandfather, King George V to his Silver Jubilee in 1935. The day ended with the traditional appearance on the palace balcony.

Three other great ceremonies will remain in our minds. The first was the Colonel's Review, a rehearsal of the Trooping of the Colour which was a great spectacle of troops, horses and musicians. The second was the Trooping of the Colour which is the Sovereign's Birthday Parade, and we saw the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh travel by coach to and from Horse Guards Parade. Afterwards we joined the crowd outside Buckingham Palace to watch the Royal family and the fly past.

Our holiday ended after we travelled to Windsor Castle to witness the Queen, Duke of Edinburgh and Knights of the Garter travel in their robes to St George's Chapel on Garter Day. We had excellent views of the procession and the Royal family returning to the Castle in open Windsor carriages which normally convey them to Royal Ascot races. It was truly a diamond studded occasion. We look forward to the Platinum Jubilee in 2022. 



A Memorial well earned



A special group of Australians were among World War II veterans who gathered in London to see the Queen dedicate and unveil a memorial to tens of thousands of airmen who died in the conflict.

The Bomber Command Memorial in London's Green Park pays tribute to their sacrifice and bravery and more than 5,000 surviving airmen joined the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and other members of the Royal Family in Green Park on 28 June this year for the unveiling of the memorial, which features a 2.7 metre bronze sculpture depicting a seven-man bomber crew returning from a mission.

Dr Ron Houghton, president of Bomber Command in Australia, was a pilot in Halifax bombers during the conflict and was a prominent member of the group of about 120 Australians who attended the ceremony.

Originally only 40 put up their hands to go but this number increased when the Australian Government decided to provide financial assistance.

'I thought the memorial was great, just fabulous and a wonderful monument in recognition of what was done,' said Dr Houghton, a sprightly 88-year-old veteran.

'A very strong bond existed between us and we were dependent on each other. You were asked to do a job and we went ahead and did it. Our relationship with airmen from other countries was quite good and we still talk about what we did.'

'I've been to London many times for reunions with other Air Force members and there is camaraderie right across the board.'

The Bomber Command Memorial Fund still requires donations. They can be given through the website at www.bombercommand.com.



The Australian contingent ran their own group together as much as possible in the days leading to the ceremony. They had a day coach trip to Runnymede to place wreaths on the memorial, a reception at Australia House and Guild Hall and short tours.

‘There was a very big group of Royals at Green Park and they were only too pleased to mingle. They stayed for up to an hour, just moving around and talking to people. I spoke to Prince Charles and the Duchess about their coming trip to Australia as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations,’ said Dr Houghton, who lectures on aeronautical engineering at Sydney University.

History records that in the summer and autumn of 1940 the Royal Air Force (RAF) fought a prolonged battle in defence of Britain against an experienced and numerically superior German Luftwaffe.

This air campaign, known as the Battle

of Britain, officially lasted from 10 July to 31 October 1940. The battle began with German attacks on coastal convoys in an effort to draw RAF fighters into battle. These attacks were followed by brief and unsuccessful raids on British radar installations and concerted raids against RAF airfields in southern and south-western England. Luftwaffe bombers suffered heavy losses to RAF fighters – Spitfires and Hurricanes – but fighter losses were about even.

A total of 25 Australians were considered eligible for the Battle of Britain Clasp to the 1939–45 Star. Others flew during the battle with RAF Bomber Command and Coastal Command. Eight Australians became air aces by shooting down five or more enemy aircraft. Pat Hughes from Cooma had 14 successes, which put him among the ten leading aces of the battle.

Of the total of 537 RAF Fighter Command pilots who died at least ten were Australian. Another four who were enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force also died.

Prime Minister Churchill praised the pilots of the Battle of Britain with his famous words, ‘Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.’



Adrian Brooks/Imagewise

Much has been written about Bomber Command so rather than reprint what has already been said here are extracts from the reminiscences of airmen who flew in Bomber Command.

Superstitions

‘Rituals and superstitions. I prayed a lot, I prayed always before I went on operations. We had our talisman. We took all the WAAF parachute packers out for a pie and a pint, and a little WAAF very kindly and very sweetly got out her purse and gave me a Victorian bun penny, one of the very old coins with Victoria when she was young, with the bun of hair at the back. It had a hole in it. She said, “Here, take this as a lucky charm for the future” which I did, and I always flew with it. My uncle gave me a silver cigarette case, and I never flew without that too. I always kept mine in my breast pocket, over my heart. This was very much a superstition.

I and many of my friends had girlfriends’ stockings too. When you flew you had a white pullover, but you were not allowed to wear a collar and tie because the collars in those days were detachable, and if you went in the water the clothing might shrink and suffocate you. So everybody had gay coloured scarves. There were lots of teddy bears, even teddy bears in flying kit.’

Flt Lt Harry Le Marchant
Bomber Command observer

continued on page 12



Adrian Brooks/Imagewise



June Communication

The Grand Master, MW Bro Derek Robson AM had a busy night at the June Quarterly Communication with numerous items for discussion and election and appointments of officers.

He gave a special welcome to the members of Lodge French's Forest No 249 for their attendance, considering it was their normal meeting night and ten years since their last visit. He congratulated the lodge on the reintroduction of its annual international night which will become a fabulous community drawcard in the future.

He announced that MW Bro Ray Green has retired as Chaplain to the NSW Ambulance Service and is to be congratulated on a magnificent lifetime of service.

'I note, with some satisfaction, that all of our collective efforts have contributed to our more stable membership position.

'There is no doubt that we are turning the corner and that our total "in" numbers plotted against our net loss projections are looking very favourable. We have a positive upsurge in enquiries and initiations, and we must keep up our interesting and contemporary programs and positively work toward retention as a priority,' the Grand Master said.

'The Grand Lodge has been considering a review of the Ceremonial Team structure and purpose for some time. I have now agreed that the intent of the

review's outcome will be followed, particularly in how it offers some variation to the orderly progression of masons through the Team's activities. In accepting these outcomes, I note that the numbers of these positions must remain in accordance with the Book of Constitutions. In agreeing to this move, I am most conscious that there can be no right of automatic reward for particular service and neither should the Grand Lodge be asked to consider additional positions through the Constitutions. It is also my intention to open the rank of Past Senior Grand Warden to the broader membership. Previously, this rank has generally, although not always, been seen to be reserved for those who have served in the Ceremonial Team.

'I ask you to note that the 'Son et Lumiere', effectively a sound and light show providing a stand-alone introduction to Freemasonry, has been installed in Lodge Room 3 on Level 3 of this Centre. It will form the start of all tours in this building, and hopefully increase our tourist flow and community awareness of Freemasonry. There are plans to have a DVD presentation to ensure that information we offer will be consistent across the jurisdiction. Please visit the Lodge Room at your leisure or consider holding a meeting in it. You will be pleasantly surprised.'

The improved Grand Lodge website

was officially declared functioning by the Grand Master. He said it was hoped the new website would reduce paperwork and office work generally. Two further areas were the subject of comment – a Social Media Code of Conduct and Esoteric Research. Because of the increase of material in the public media that offends our principles and obligations, the Board of Management has produced a Social Media Code of Conduct for Freemasons. It is available on the website.

A circular titled 'Esoteric Research and Practice' issued 12 May 2010 has been withdrawn by the Board. The Grand Master has issued an edict to replace the circular which will assist a Lodge of Research to present papers on esotericism, under particular guidelines.

There was extensive discussion on the Castlereagh Street entrance to the Masonic Centre and proposals for its upgrading. The Grand Master said it was not good enough to close off the main entrance to this historic building and after members indicated their preference of three possible options, the issue will now go back for review.

The recommended appointments for DGIWs and the revised Region/District allocations were also received.

Grand Lodge officers appointed for the following year were: RW Bro Antoine Georges, SGW; RW Bro Zaldy Angeles, JGW; RW Bro Peter Radcliff, GDC; VW Bro John Begby, DGDC; VW Bro Rod Murray and W Bro Charles Wattle, AGDC; W Bro Peter Howarth, SGD; VW Bro Phil Miller, JGD; W Bro Grant Singleton, GSB; W Bro Dimantha Goonasekera, GSB. W Bro Darren Eurlings was elected Grand Pursuivant and W Bro George El-Chami Deputy.

The Grand Master announced that the Grand Proclamation and investiture of Grand Officers will be held in conjunction with the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge on Wednesday, 12 September.

A new Chairman

VW Bro Jack Garside will bring plenty of experience to his new role as Chairman of the Board of Management.

He joined Freemasonry in 1971 in Victorian Leamington Lodge, served as a WM in Papua New Guinea and affiliated with Lodge Killara (Vic) in 1990.

Travels in Australia and PNG and his

occupation as an engineer gave a valuable insight on the workings of the Craft and will prove to be of assistance in Board deliberations.

He will replace RW Bro Ian Newbery as Chairman.

Masonic financial myths

The Grand Treasurer, RW Bro Richard Collins has expressed concern at a number of statements made about the finances of the UGL of NSW/ACT. These are his replies to some of the statements.

Capitation Fees are used to support the cost of operating Sydney Masonic Centre.

INCORRECT

Capitation fees are levied to fund the Grand Secretariat and Board of Management programs. They are not used to support the operating costs of the building known as Sydney Masonic Centre. This is a separate legal entity that operates a commercial function centre providing meeting rooms and catering. It is required to pay the costs specified in the lease for the areas they have leased. These costs are electricity, lift maintenance, repairs and maintenance. Income from the lease of the air space is used to pay those building costs which are the responsibility of UGL.

Capitation fees reduced payment periods have not been communicated.

INCORRECT

Five years ago the reduction in capitation fee payments was announced at the June Communication when approval for the capitation fee proposal was moved. Advising lodges in advance of the reduced periods was to provide them with a one year grace period to enable lodges to focus on their financial positions and plan for the future.

It was also an opportunity for lodges unable to pay the fees in one payment to make application to the Grand Treasurer for financial relief.

Any lodge requiring assistance must have its last completed audited financial year statement, fees schedule, listing of officers and be up to date with lodge monthly returns. A budget for the financial year applicable to the financial relief application must be submitted.

Outstanding capitation fees may attract an interest rate of 1.5% per month if not paid within the prescribed time period.

This has been communicated to all lodge Secretaries and RGCs.

The office tower is owned by United Grand Lodge.

INCORRECT

However, this statement will be correct in 2116.

The airspace above the building was earlier sold for a lump sum and an ongoing yearly payment adjusted for the CPI for 125 years. The owners of the air space then constructed the office tower and hold ownership until the end of the 125 year period. UGL declined an offer to purchase the office tower for \$92 million.

What does Grand Lodge do with the rent from the office tower?

IRRELEVANT

UGL does not own the office tower and does not receive any rent. As previously stated air space rental is received and these funds are used to pay UGL costs of the building.

United Grand Lodge wants our money and buildings.

INCORRECT

In the past masonic hall owners have transferred their buildings to UGL when they realised they did not have any further need for them or were unable to meet operational and maintenance costs. This was costly for UGL which was required to meet the stamp duty and ongoing property costs until the building was sold.

In recent years when a decision was made to dispose of a masonic building the owner was required to sell that building. The proceeds of the sale, after deducting any Board building loans or advances, are then held in trust on behalf of that masonic building owner until the lodge surrenders its charter or the entity owning

the building is wound up.

Where a lodge consolidates and has lodged funds from the sale of a masonic building with the Grand Charity Deposit Fund, these funds will transfer to the consolidated lodge based on the resolution passed by its members. The only time UGL has any entitlement to lodge funds is when the lodge surrenders its charter.

United Grand Lodge has a lot of money.

INCORRECT

UGL does not have a lot of money. The Grand Charity Deposit Fund holds money on trust for masonic building owners and lodges. The funds held in investments are shown as an asset and the amount owed to the depositors is shown as a liability.


United Grand Lodge is over staffed.

The staffing of UGL is:

- Grand Secretary, two Deputy Grand Secretaries with one paid by Sydney Masonic Centre Pty Ltd;
- Financial Controller, Accountant;
- Receptionist, Masonicare marketing person, three staff members (one is casual). Secretary to Grand Secretary, Buildings Board Secretary

Sydney Masonic Centre Ltd is not profitable.

Sydney Masonic Centre Pty Ltd competes in a very tight market for commercial functions and the downturn in the Australian economy has affected results over the past two years. Nevertheless, it was still making a profit.

The current financial year indicates a budgeted profit will be made. Each July and January there are very few functions or seminars and operating losses are incurred. If a Federal or State election is held this also has a direct effect on income. 



From the Grand Secretary

My Return

Twelve months have passed since my last column in this magazine and on that occasion I wrote my 'farewells' as Grand Secretary. Obviously, the old cliché 'the rest is history' is quite appropriate.

I could not let the opportunity pass without saying how very grateful I am for the incredible number of personal visits, telephone calls, cards, letters and emails I received after my accident in October last year. It was so comforting for me and my wife, Irene, to know that so much support was there for us. These came from all over Australia and I even had a visit in hospital from the Grand Secretary of New Zealand, Laurence Milton and his lovely wife Sue.

A badly broken leg and a nasty knock to the head, resulting in slight fractures to the left eye socket, forced a stay of over two weeks in hospital and since then, in the recuperation process (physiotherapy and follow up checks with the Hospital), I have made extremely good progress, but the recovery will go on for some time yet. Every day though, progress is being made.

I must also thank the Grand Master, MW Bro Derek Robson AM for inviting me to return and continue as Grand Secretary. It is a very rewarding experience that carries with it the normal 'highs and lows' which are to be found in any occupation, but I'm pleased to be able to assist the Craft and to do so for as long as

needed, bearing in mind that I will definitely retire – one day.

I would also like to thank my two Deputies – RW Bros Chris Craven and Ken Taylor – and the marvellous 'team' in the Secretariat who did whatever was necessary to get done what needed to be done. They were and are incredible!

Now, it's back to business and I hope this column can once again provide you with the news, information and advice you seek.

UGL Website

As announced by the Grand Master in June, the newly created Grand Lodge website is in operation and feedback to date has been most encouraging. The 'Members' Area' has exciting new features and tighter security. Each Member can now create his own password and with his Membership number to access this area.

The website contains the Book of Constitutions and Administrative Regulations – items needed to understand what you need to know about the Craft and all publications are available for purchase at Grand Lodge.

Can I encourage ALL members to visit the website and update their individual profiles. A higher than usual number of magazines were returned from the last mail out – undeliverable mainly because the addresses in the UGL database were

not correct. These brethren are missing the news and information the magazine has to offer but, most importantly, it is taking valuable time in determining the correct information.

It is most important that Grand Lodge, and especially your own lodge, is up to date with your contact and other details and you are the only one who can ensure that happens.

Music in Lodges

We all appreciate the wonderful and important contribution music offers at our lodge meetings – and other masonic gatherings. The Grand Director of Music has worked diligently to provide that special feature to lodges who do not have an organist or other musicians. This has become a jurisdiction wide problem.

Music for all types of lodge meetings is available free from our website and you are encouraged to download a copy and use it as an alternative.

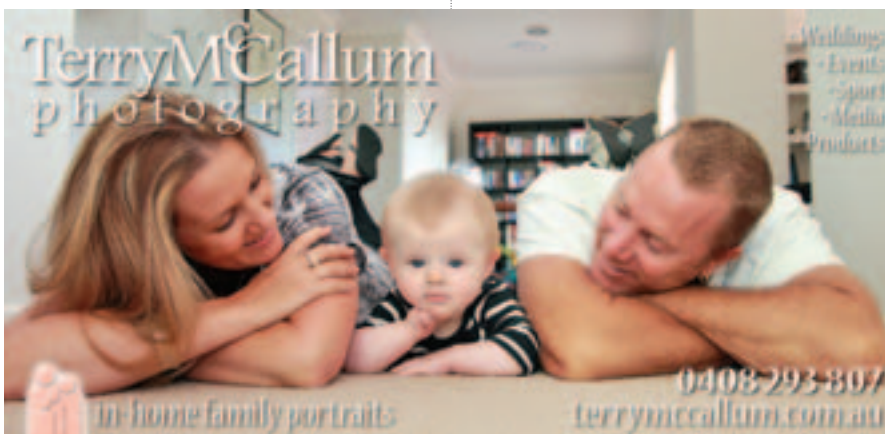
Of course, if you are an organist, or know of any other brother who is an organist, and would like to be available for lodge meetings, please contact this office, your local RGC or DGIW with full details.

Also, those who feel they may be suited to and would like to join the Masonic Ensemble may send details to the Grand Director of Music through my office (PO Box A259, Sydney South. NSW 1235)

Social Media – Code of Conduct

At the June Communication, the Board of Management released its 'Social Media Code of Conduct'. In speaking to this document at its release, the Chairman of the Board, RW Bro Ian Newbery PAGM noted that the Board was 'trying to safeguard the reputation, dignity and interests of the Craft by reminding brethren of the expectation the Craft has of them.'

The Board had noted placements made on various websites in recent times, both masonic and otherwise, and felt it had an obligation to remind all brethren of their obligation to Freemasonry generally. 🏠



Central Railway Station

In the June issue, there was an article on the Southern Aurora interstate train and the exhibition at Central Railway Station.

In answer to inquiries about the station, the following details have been obtained.

Central Railway Station was built on the site of the Devonshire Street 'Sandhills' Cemetery which was consecrated in January 1820 and closed in 1868. The Benevolent Asylum, built by Bro Lachlan Macquarie was also demolished.

On 26 September 1855, the first railway in NSW was opened between Redfern and Parramatta Junction (now Granville).

After years of debate, it was decided to build Sydney's terminal on the cemetery site rather than the southern portion of Hyde Park. Many considered it inconvenient as they had to take a steam tram to the city centre.

The opening of the underground electric line, designed by Bro Dr John Bradfield in 1926, largely solved the problem.

The station was opened on 4 August 1906 by the Premier, Bro Joseph Carruthers, who was presented with a golden key to open the ticket office.

He had been made a mason in Sydney on 4 November 1880 in the Empress of India Lodge No 1761, English Constitution.

The Minister for Public Works, Bro Charles Lee, blew a golden whistle and commented that he thought the station was in the wrong place.

Bro Lee had become a mason on 20 February 1889 in Lodge Tenterfield No 55, UGL of NSW.



Central's sandstone Clock Tower was a late addition, officially brought into use at 10.22am on 3 March 1921.

Central Railway Station ranks among the top stations in the world for size with its 25 platforms. It caters to suburban, intrastate and interstate travellers as well as a service to the domestic and international terminals at Sydney Airport.

During peak hours, trains can travel through the City Circle every two minutes to cope with the passenger flow and in off-peak and at night, goods trains operate with up to 50 carriages to transport products to various destinations around NSW and interstate. There are currently plans by the NSW Government to further extend the suburban network in the coming years. 🚂

(Information from *The Masonic Sites of Sydney* by RW Bro Grahame Cumming. The book is available from Grand Lodge.)



Central Railway Station, ca. 1906



How well do you know the Craft?

A new literary award to promote intellectual discussion, with a prize of \$1,000, was announced by the Grand Master at the June Communication.

‘There is a major deficiency in the Craft, in that we do not provide for ongoing intellectual discussion on the vital elements of the Craft nor do we provide for the regular periodical capture of this discussion which could enhance our historical library collection,’ the Grand Master said.


‘I am delighted to announce the establishment of the annual “Grand Master’s Literary Prize” to meet these important objectives. Essentially, there will be a prize for the best essay on the subject, “Freemasonry – Moving Forward”. The essay, to be no more than 3,000 words, will provide

constructive discussion on Freemasonry and positively contribute to the objectives of the Craft in NSW and the ACT. The essays will be received and judged by an independent committee consisting of RW Bro Ted Simmons OAM, RW Bro Joseph Haffner and RW Bro Ian McCulloch.

‘The winning essay will be read by the author at a regular Communication and published in the masonic journal. All submitted essays will be retained and form part of the Grand Library collection, and parts of their content may also be used in future considerations of the advancement of the Craft.

‘The Award will initially apply over

three years, with annual prizes of \$1,000, \$500 and \$100. The prizes will be announced, and presented by the Grand Master at a regular Communication, with all winners also receiving an appropriate certificate.’

MW Bro Robson said the annual “Grand Master’s Literary Prize” had been made possible by a generous and anonymous donation of \$5,000. This gift will provide encouragement to those who wish to further their knowledge and understanding, and who wish to contribute to the Craft, providing a rich and long lasting record of considerable value to the Grand Lodge Library. 

A memorial well earned

continued from page 7

Collision over Berlin

‘There was always tension going into Berlin. I always tried to get in early. I tried to get in with the Pathfinders when I could, because I fancied that I was as good as any Pathfinder. When you went in all hell let loose. They had extraordinary devices that exploded with a tremendous bang and lit up the whole sky to frighten you. The Pathfinders were remarkably good. You saw the flares and incendiaries go down. Then 600 bombers were all around you. The risk of collision was very great. Looking down you gradually saw the city explode with bombs dropping and with incendiaries. Looking back you saw Berlin burning. This was the turning point at which extreme caution had to be exercised. If everyone did not turn at the same time the risk of collision was very great.

On one particular night two Lancasters collided in front of us and one of them exploded and went straight down. The other



did two upward rolls with all four engines burning and exploded right in front of us, a hundred yards away. The pilot shouted to the gunners to turn away so that their night vision would not be impaired. Quite an extraordinary scene.’

Lord Mackie of Benshie CBE DSO DFC
Bomber Command observer

After a raid

‘Most people lit a cigarette. You waited for the crew bus to come and take you to the interrogation and debriefing session. The CO of the station and everyone else was there asking questions, making out the report on the effectiveness of the raid. What were the defences like, and similar questions. Your main feeling was to get that part over and get back, have a meal and get to bed. Having got to bed, you couldn’t sleep because you could still hear the engines and you were really wound up. I never slept after an operation, by which time it was daylight anyway. You couldn’t sleep in the daytime; you were just so highly strung. You tried to calm down, but you had to let off steam to calm down. Possibly the next day you would not be flying. You would have a number of beers and get yourself into the state where you could go to sleep. That was how you got over it. You were just glad to have got back and survived.’

John Gee
Bomber Command pilot



ABOVE: Fources is an excellent example of a fortified village built with a concept of circular defensive architecture.

MAIN PICTURE: La Couvertoirade is a Knights Templar commanderie

Not so sleepy South of France

An arrival in Montpellier provides a sound base for misconceptions about rural parts of the South of France. After all, a one Euro breakfast at Ikea, Montpellier bears a remarkable resemblance to its equivalent at Ikea, Rhodes!

An hour to the south-west the village of Le Pouget near Clermont l'Herault gives every indication of having resisted all change since time immemorial. Dusty vineyards, dusty buildings and crumbling monuments to forgotten events that were of little importance even when they happened five or more centuries ago.

Time moves slowly in Le Pouget and the villagers like it that way. Elderly shopkeepers sit in dark doorways and wait for customers to come to them. Except for the fading posters promoting a long-past rock concert in an adjoining village, advertisements are almost non-existent. (If you don't know that the shop sells cheese then you probably don't need it that badly.)

The biggest building in the village (after the wine co-op of course) is the local church which is as it should be in a village

where 90% of the residents profess to be Roman Catholic.

All in all a bucolic picture of a society where nothing has happened, nothing is happening and in all probability nothing will ever happen?

Not quite.

Three thousand years ago the region watched in amazement as Hannibal debauched from Spain with approximately 200 elephants and 20,000 infantry. He would have avoided the salt pans that line the Mediterranean Coast and marched through the valleys near Le Pouget. The locals offered no resistance and historians tell us that Hannibal was not challenged until he reached the fords of the Rhone 200 kilometres to the north-east.

Nine hundred years ago most of the surrounding countryside was owned by the Knights Templar who built castles, chateaux and commanderies that still stand today. La Couvertoirade, St Eulalie de Cernon and La Cavalerie are well worth a visit. Hard men in armour ruled a peasantry in small villages where most people's knowledge of the world ended no more than ten kilometres from their door.

Between 1208 and 1229 the area's isolation was shattered by the 'Wars of Religion' between the Catholics and the Albigensians. During this period massacres of entire towns such as Beziers

generated lasting enmity between opposing believers.

During the Second World War the French Resistance, the 'Maquis', paid in blood the price of resisting the German invader.

The signs are there for those who wish to see them. Local villages tend to be built on the tops of hills because it is easier to defend them. The layout of the villages is frequently circular so that the actual construction of the houses builds defensible fortifications.

The Templar castles still stand.

But for the writer one of the most telling memories came when speaking with a local villager:

'You have an interesting church here in Le Pouget.'

'Yes, but the congregation is small and dropping.'

'Oh?'

'You see we have long memories here. There is a lot of feeling against the Catholic Church. Many villagers still lean toward the ancient Cathar beliefs. In fact local feeling is so strong that the local commune voted to have a section of the churchyard de-consecrated because many villagers do not wish to be buried in consecrated ground.'

The currents of memory run deep in this quiet corner of France!



Out of the shadows

‘Of the five human senses, perhaps blindness is the one we fear the most. It can vary from a world of shadows to one of complete darkness. Estimates of worldwide blindness place the figure at about 35 million of which 17 million are blind with surgically curable cataract; 6 million have treatable infections and 1.5 million children are blind as a result of malnutrition.’

Blindness in the Developing World – Allen



Recently, I had the good fortune to meet Dr H Kwon Kang, an Australian trained ophthalmologist who like many Australian doctors is imbued with the spirit of working in rural areas and developing countries. He is a member of a self funded team of inspirational volunteer ophthalmologists providing eye care to 30,000 under-privileged people of Myanmar (formerly Burma) each year.

In 2003, whilst in his final year of ophthalmology training, Dr Kang was invited by Dr Geoffrey Cohn, OAM, a Macquarie Street Ophthalmic Surgeon and Senior Lecturer at the School of Medicine, UNSW, to participate in a newly established teaching post in Myanmar and to deliver free ophthalmic care to those in need. Dr Kang is now a key organising member in the Myanmar Eye Care Project and leads a team to Wachat Buddhist Hospital twice a year.

‘I was in my final year of ophthalmology training and felt I had the requisite knowledge and skills to contribute significantly. How wrong I was,’ said Dr Kang of his first trip to Myanmar.

‘Patients had eye conditions in such

advanced states that treatment was all but impossible. There were countless children and young people blinded by injuries and diseases that could have been treated. Even cataract, a condition that only requires a relatively straightforward procedure to fully restore vision in Australia, proved to be a formidable challenge. Surgical procedures were made more challenging by poor quality operating microscopes and surgical instruments. There were deformities too horrible to describe and many conditions that I simply did not recognise. I was completely out of my depth.

‘I returned from that trip in a state of shock and humbled by the enormity of the challenges. However, I also carried the goodwill and friendship of the Burmese people and wonderful colleagues I had the privilege to work with and learn from. Despite the poverty and hardship, the Burmese people somehow managed to be content in life, caring to each other, generous and deeply grateful for our work. The friends I made in my first trip are still with me today.

‘As the program became established, our ability to deliver good eye care improved.

Generous donations from Australians allowed us to install better equipment and instruments, and to offer surgery in greater numbers. The program now has a far reaching reputation and patients come from all over the country. The Australian doctors were joined by the local Burmese ophthalmologists, and also by surgeons from the United Kingdom, the USA, India and Singapore. Anaesthetists became part of the team to allow safe surgery on children. Participation by nurses and engineers has been critical in training the local nursing staff and building infrastructure to allow use of modern medical equipment. The program successfully treated cataract, glaucoma, squint, corneal surface diseases, eyelid problems, and many others.’

There are now three vitreoretinal surgeons participating in the Myanmar Eye Care Project, and with further recruitment Dr Kang and his team are hoping to provide the service every two months and to train local ophthalmologists to perform this surgery. Unlike cataract, retinal conditions must be treated in timely fashion, otherwise the opportunity to restore vision is lost. The Myanmar team hope to transfer

How

their skills and knowledge to the Burmese surgeons so that they will eventually provide vitreoretinal care to the Burmese.

In addition to providing the training for local ophthalmologists, Dr Kang and his team face the overwhelming task of ensuring the availability of appropriate treatment centres, operating theatres and post operative facilities. Modern vitreoretinal surgery depends on instruments; equipment is expensive and needs a reliable infrastructure, such as stable electricity and gas supplies. The surgery also requires expensive viewing systems to visualise the structures of the retina. There had been only one recognised vitreoretinal surgeon in Myanmar, who offered vitreoretinal service in Yangon, the largest city in Myanmar and the former capital. The cost of surgery is prohibitive to the vast majority of Burmese but the need for surgery has never been greater. As in all developing nations, diabetes has risen to epidemic proportion, and in a country of 54 million people, the need to introduce vitreoretinal surgery is urgent.

In Dr Kang's words: 'Vitreoretinal surgery can stabilise diabetic eye disease, remove blood and other opacities in the vitreous gel, remove scars and traction from the retinal surface, repair torn or detached retina, and effectively deal with other complications. In 2010, we secured funding to start vitreoretinal surgery in Wacht Hospital. The logistics of setting up the systems were daunting. A new generator had to be installed as the national electricity grid was too unreliable. Electric pumps were set up to drive the vitrectomy machines. Sophisticated operating microscopes were procured and fitted with special viewing optics. Various surgical instruments were brought in from Australia. The cases still remain extremely challenging as patients come with advanced diseases and poor prognosis. Still, we are compelled to operate as they are otherwise completely blind. When successful, we give someone back their inde-

pendence, indeed a new life. For many, there will be disappointment.'

Dr Kang's approach to his work in Myanmar is revealed in this comment:

'I am surrounded by ophthalmologists and often feel that eye doctors are common. In the larger scheme of things, ophthalmologists are a relatively rare breed and vitreoretinal surgeons even more so. Having visited Myanmar, I have experienced what it's like to be truly one in a million, and never have my skills been so needed and appreciated. For these reasons I continue to return to Myanmar. The initial wonder of visiting an exotic country, seemingly stuck in time, is long gone but the sense of unfinished work continues to beckon every time I return to my comfortable life in Sydney. Giving up a few weeks each year is not much of a sacrifice but I do hope my contribution will make a difference, especially to those patients I have the privilege to look after.'

For all the advances and technological marvels that modern medicine offers, it remains a profession that stands to deliver humanity from the misery and suffering wrought by disease and illness. Australians enjoy having access to a universal health care system considered to be the best in the world. People in many other countries are not so fortunate, and continue to suffer from poverty and the lack of access to even basic health care. Dr Kang and his colleagues are continuing the tradition of those Australian doctors who have gone before them. Their work with the Burmese people gives meaning to the masonic principles of brotherly love, relief and truth and as members of the masonic family. We applaud them for their actions.

For further details of the work being carried out by Dr Kang and his colleagues, contact Yvonne McIntyre PhD, on (02) 9284 2844 or email her at: yvonnem@freemasonsnswwact.org.au



Biography:

Dr Kang immigrated to Sydney from South Korea in 1982, following his parents' dream of a better future for their children. After gaining his high school certificate at North Sydney Boy's High School, he studied medicine at the University of Sydney and undertook internship and residency training at Westmead Hospital.

Following a period as an emergency and intensive care medical officer at Coff's Harbour Hospital, Dr Kang commenced formal training in ophthalmology in 2000 at the Prince of Wales Hospital, and qualified as a Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists in 2004. The Department of Ophthalmology was founded by the late Professor Fred Hollows AC.

After a year of research fellowship in medical retina, Dr Kang embarked on a surgical retinal fellowship in Southampton, UK, in 2005 and 2006. He became a locum vitreoretinal consultant at Southampton University Hospital, where he worked until 2007. Since that time, Dr Kang has been in private practice in Sydney as a vitreoretinal surgeon and retinal consultant.

Footnote:

Myanmar has one of the highest blindness prevalence rates in the world with 8.1% blindness in rural areas. Blindness is caused by cataracts (64%), glaucoma (17%), trachoma (4%), and other causes (15%).



Experience the

Exquisite Presence

Being open to the **Exquisite Presence of God** is a life-long experience.

As a Grand Chaplain I recently discussed with mature age masons what aspects of Freemasonry encouraged us to believe this Order had value for us. Several references were made to the impact of the N.E. Charge in the First Degree. One senior mason said he had difficulty in practising that part *'Your duty to God demands that you should seek His Divine aid in all your lawful undertakings, and look up to Him for comfort, guidance and support in every emergency.'* He asked if I would share my life experience to this concern.

The thrust of this article is to give personal witness to the influence this teaching has had throughout my life, recognising the impact the N.E. Charge had at my initiation into Lodge Excalibur in 1948.

All masonic teachings since have added to the importance of this basic teaching. The commitment to 'seek His Divine aid in all lawful undertakings, and look up to Him for comfort, guidance and support' required an understanding that 'guidance and support' will come in many forms and requires 'persistence' in the ability to 'listen' for answers.

I like this word 'persistence' used in the masonic book *Order in the House*, emphasising a determination to achieve.

I will give two examples of the influence of 'seeking Divine aid' in response to this article's heading: *Experience the Exquisite Presence.*

By 1960, at the age of 38, it could be said I was experiencing a mid-life crisis. I was a chartered professional engineer, the CEO of an Australia-wide engineering organisation, the lay leader of a large church parish, a lay preacher, and the WM of Lodge Excalibur; each commitment requiring the exercise of leadership with an appropriate code of ethics.

Attending a conference at Sydney University I was amazed to hear an overseas speaker on the role of being a Company Director: how to 'look after one's personal interests'. The proposals did not fit with my understanding of leadership! I knew that I had to find an answer to this concern.

Within weeks, Lodge Excalibur visited the Masonic Children's homes at Baulkham Hills.

In my address to the children, I asked: 'Where is God?' Immediately, a 12-year-old girl jumped up and in a loud voice stated; 'God is in my heart and guides me in everything I do.'

At that time in the girl's response, I felt that Exquisite Presence.

I prepared a Personal Credo to guide my ongoing leadership roles: ***I believe that caring for persons, the more able and the less able serving each other, is what makes for a good society.***

In practising this Credo I have always been conscious of the ethical standards with respect to the teachings in the N.E. Charge.

My second example commenced 19 years later in July 1979 at age 57 when I elected to explore a continuing concern: the ethics of corporate leadership. I had been involved in world travelling on

multi-million dollar projects and was well aware of questionable methods of influencing people.


After six months of exploring alternative avenues the Principal of the United Theological College invited me to join the community and seek an answer to my concerns. The College also needed a business manager!

This new venture commenced January 1980 resulting in the development of the Centre for Ministry at North Parramatta – a new approach for the several strands of theological education: Outreach, Lay and Ordained Ministry and a planned *School for Ethical Leadership*. My role of business manager remained focal! The need for persistence in a new venture thrust was evident in the nine year drive through Church authorities to achieve success.

The Principal of this new Centre, recognising my special interests, gave the opening address at a conference on the need for the Church to be involved in a doctorate level study on the special needs of people with disabilities. I asked him whether that address was directed for my hearing and action. His response was positive and he agreed to be my supervisor. Both the Principal and I had experienced the Exquisite Presence.

In 1991, at the age of 69, I was ordained for the development of a special ministry on education for People with Disabilities. The doctorate degree, completed in 1996, records the research leading to the implementation of wide ranging policies within the Uniting Church.

Now in my 90th year, my life has continued over the past eight years researching within Freemasonry, our role in improving the moral health of society. The need for persistence remains.

I believe Freemasonry would be enriched if, in practising our teachings, we allowed our life to be a continuing experience of listening for and experiencing the ***Exquisite Presence of God.*** 





The Queen of Sheba visits King Solomon

The acquisition of a print copy of the painting of *The Visit of the Queen of Sheba to King Solomon* brought into sharp research focus **the trading activities of King Solomon** – and the associated commercial activities that were such an outstanding feature of his kingdom.



I recall being very impressed by this particular painting which I first saw hanging in Freemasons' Hall in London and later in the Masonic Temple in Dublin.

The painting by Sir Edward John Poynter in 1890 is the best of all those many images I have viewed – primarily because it so effectively portrays the 'House of the Forests of Lebanon' with its lofty cedar pillars (of which there were 45, soaring 62.5 feet high or 30 cubits) as described in the Holy Bible (*1 Kings 7:2*), and other reliable sources. It was a massive building, covering over four times the total area of the Temple.

The painting also illustrates some of the 300 shields of gold that were hung around the upper walls, as well as the six steps leading to the King's ivory throne, with a row of six lions on either side, which were recorded in *1 Kings 10:17–20* and *2 Chronicles 9:16*.

The relationship between King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba has been the subject of seven films, 16 books, one operatic musical, one television program, one ballet feature, three poems, 21 songs, and about 70 paintings.

Recorded in the bible as simply a Queen of the East, modern scholars believe she came from the Kingdom of Axum in Ethiopia, the Kingdom of Saba (Sheba) in Yemen or both. The Jewish historian Jose-

Solomon's kingdom was a strategic bonanza to whoever controlled it.

phus identified her as a Queen of Egypt and Ethiopia.

As the head of state of a kingdom whose chief export trade could only be with, and through Israel, the Queen would certainly have had good reason to visit King Solomon for trade talks, and it is very likely her real mission was for such discussions, and the gifts exchanged were to open up trade relations.

The Queen of Sheba's desire to encounter Solomon was ardent enough for her to embark on this momentous journey, across the desert sands of Arabia, along the coast of the Red Sea, up into Moab, and over the Jordan River to Jerusalem. There are 1,500 miles of desert and mountains between Sheba and Jerusalem.

Such a journey required at least six months round trip each way, since camels could rarely travel more than 20 miles per day. Arabian camels were tall and hardy, able to store water and fat for three weeks while living only on desert roughage. Wearing saddles of oak padded with colorful fabric, and hung with gold chains and crescents to win the favour of the

gods, camels in a caravan were strung together by ropes made of goat hairs. Baby camels born along the way were carried on the back of the camel ahead to assure its mother of its wellbeing.

Solomon's kingdom was a strategic bonanza to whoever controlled it. It was at the virtual crossroads of the world.

This ribbon of land, with the sea on one side and the desert on the other, provided the single viable land route for both trade and conquest between the vastly more powerful states bordering it.

The area had been the nexus of civilised trade for over a thousand years and the prize for every empire and pseudo-empire of the age.

Century after century, millennium upon millennium, processions trekked across it – the chariots of the Pharaohs, caravans from Arabia, armies from Assyria and horsemen from Babylonia, the Persians, the Macedonians, Greeks, Parthians and later the Romans.

Although there is no direct evidence of their well publicised meeting, it is noted in the bible (*Kings 1, 10*), the Holy Koran, the Jewish Talmud (*Oral Law*) as well as by the noted Jewish historian Flavius Josephus, and is also recorded in the Ethiopian narrative *Glory of Kings – the Kebra Negast*. It is even referred to in the ceremonies of Freemasonry and several of its allied Masonic Orders.

150 years of feet on the beat

The NSW Police Force, one of the largest police organisations in the English speaking world, began as **the first civilian police force in Australia**, known as the Night Watch, and was formed by Governor Arthur Phillip in 1789 to guard Sydney Town.



Every successful organisation starts small and usually has members who become household names. The NSW Police Force is no different but many articles focus on famous men and almost ignore the ‘foot soldiers’ whose service creates the history that make great men famous. For this reason this article looks at the ‘copper on the beat’.

With the arrival of the First Fleet at Sydney Cove in 1788, the initial policing of the colony of NSW was in the hands of the Royal Navy Marines. This role, however, was not to the Marines’ liking. Governor Phillip soon appointed John Smith, a free settler, to the position of Constable. Although he did not remain long in office, Smith became the first recorded police officer in Australia. From such humble beginnings grew our modern police force.

Crime takes no notice of the time of day or the topography of a harbour city so The Night Watch and the Row Boat

Guard were appointed by Governor Phillip. These men were drawn from the ranks of the best behaved of the convicts. In the last years of the 18th century the people of Sydney looked to the sea for their supplies and news from home. The hinterland was *terra incognita* and consequently both crime and flight from the law usually involved the harbour.

The Night Watch were replaced by the Sydney Foot Police in 1790 and continued as an organised force (later known as the Sydney Police) until the amalgamation of all NSW colonial police forces in 1862.

The Row Boat Guard was both an independent Water Police and part of the Sydney Police, and was the forerunner of today’s Marine Area Command.

In 1803, the killing of Constable Joseph Luker of the Sydney Foot Police was the first recorded death of a member of the police in Australia. While patrolling on foot at night in Back Row East, Sydney

Town (now Phillip Street), the constable was attacked and killed.

In 1825, the Military Mounted Police were formed following clashes between Aboriginals and settlers in the central west, but were disbanded in 1850 in favour of a civilian Mounted Police (also known as the Mounted Road Patrol). These were the fore-runners of today’s NSW Mounted Police (read the article by W Bro Don Eyb in the autumn 2012 issue of the *Freemason*).

Other colonial police force units included the Border Police (1839–1846) and the Mounted Native Police (1848–1859). The various Mounted Troopers in the colony were known colloquially as “traps.” With the discovery of gold, the Gold Escort was formed in 1851.

During this period, police from the United Kingdom were offered free passage to NSW in return for three years’ service as colonial police. These years also saw the rise of the bushranging era.



In 1867 riots on the goldfields at Lambing Flat (near Young) saw police and the military deployed to restore peace and led to a new push for more effective policing in the colony. Special Constables John Carroll, Patrick Kennagh, Eneas McDonnell and John Phegan were secretly sworn in as part of a covert operation to capture bushrangers who had shot and killed Constable Miles O'Grady at Nerrigundah in 1866. The four Special Constables were ambushed at night at Jinden (near Braidwood) and killed. Their deaths represent the largest loss of police lives in a single incident of this type in Australia.

In 1894 as a result of the Bridge Street Affray, a number of police in Sydney were injured while attempting to arrest a group of safe-breakers. Parliament subsequently passed legislation authorising the arming of all members of the NSW Police Force and all police have since carried firearms.

In 1895, the Police Band was formed and continues to perform and entertain throughout the state. In 1903, the Fingerprint Section was established, maintaining a nationwide manual collection of fingerprints and criminal records. It is now fully computerised and forms part of the Forensic Services Group.

Prior to the First World War the first motor vehicle was acquired by the NSW Police Force. It was a Sunbeam Roadster and was for the exclusive use of the Inspector General! In 1913, a Douglas motorcycle commenced special traffic duties, and in 1915 a Renault was modified for use as a motorised patrol van.

In 1915, Lillian Armfield and Maude Rhodes were appointed as Special Constables and became the first women in the NSW Police Force. But they were not allowed to wear uniform or to carry firearms.

The use of wireless with Morse code as the means of communication was introduced into a number of police vehicles in 1924. The main base wireless station in Sydney became known by the call-sign VKG in 1927, and by 1928 all police stations were linked to the telephone network.

In 1925, the Public Safety Bureau was formed within the Traffic Branch. This later became the Highway Patrol (HWP) and had responsibility for all traffic law enforcement.

The Razor Gang Wars raged in Sydney in 1927 with criminals using the cut-throat razor as their weapon of choice. Police put an end to the violence in 1929.

The first 12 Police Cadets commenced training in 1933 and were sworn in as police officers in 1936. The system of Police Cadets continued until 1980.

In 1933, the Police Choir was formed. Also in 1937, the radio began to replace Morse code as the main form of communication.

Policing was declared a reserved occupation during the Second World War. As a result, not many serving police were released for military duty in Australia and overseas. Those who did serve are commemorated on the Honour Rolls at the Sydney Police Centre and on the Wall of Remembrance at the Police Chapel in Goulburn.

In 1942, the Police Cliff Rescue Squad was formed. Now known as the Rescue and Bomb Disposal Unit, it has a permanent base at Zetland and a number of part-time Units around NSW.

In 1945, Special Constables were introduced to regulate parking in Sydney. The Parking Police or 'Brown Bombers', later the 'Grey Ghosts', were originally recruited from disabled ex-servicemen.

In 1946, the Aviation Unit was established flying a fixed-wing ex-military aircraft. The Unit is now the Aviation Support Branch and uses helicopters. In 1947, the Stock Squad was formed. Its duties involved 'mustering stolen and emaciated stock'.

The design of the current insignia for the NSW Police Force was adopted in 1959. The Latin motto 'Culpam poena premit comes' translates as 'punishment swiftly follows crime'. The insignia was not used on the police uniform until 1972. In

1961 the long-sleeve shirt and tie without the tunic became the summer uniform.

Members of the NSW Police were deployed to Cyprus with the United Nations as peace-keepers - a role which the NSW Police Force continued until 1974. Later NSW Police Force UN deployments included Cambodia, Yugoslavia and East Timor. Two NSW Police have been killed on UN duties.

Inspector Beth Hanley was appointed as the first female commissioned officer in the NSW Police Force in May this year.

A new style of uniform was introduced which featured the Police insignia on the shoulder flash and the Sillitoe Tartan (checkered band) on the cap. This uniform remains as the service dress uniform of today.

Father Jim Boland had been acting unofficially as honorary Police Chaplain since 1972 and was later appointed the first fulltime Police Chaplain in 1986. He is now a Regional Police Chaplain.

In 1980 the Aboriginal Liaison Unit was formed. This led to the eventual introduction of Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers (ACLOs) within the NSW Police Force.

In 2011, the NSW Police Force had 19,518 personnel - 15,617 police and 3,901 civilian staff servicing a population of 7.25 million.

150 years after its initial formation the NSW Police Force bears no resemblance to the solitary constable in 1788. This solitary, nameless constable probably felt unappreciated, vulnerable and unsupported by the general community.

Not all that different from the innermost feelings of the copper on the beat today!





THE DUKE

In the dimmed light of the movie theatre, patrons have sat entranced for over half a century watching a modern knight give battle in more than 150 Good versus Evil situations.



Whether it was a Western, war film or another scenario, he was the essence of the classic, self-reliant, individualistic hero, but it was the Westerns where he achieved his greatest glory.

He was, of course, the great film star John Wayne.

Critics have called *The Searchers* the ultimate Western, perhaps the best ever made and the high point of Wayne's acting career. Some of his early films could be called second-rate Westerns but he also left a legacy of classic cinema such as *Stagecoach*, *The Quiet Man*, *The Alamo*, *Sands of Iwo Jima* and *True Grit* for which he received his Oscar.

His colleagues had enormous respect for his talents and he touched the emotions of his audience to an unbelievable degree where they were actually 'with him' on the screen.

Often neglected and even panned by movie critics as being only a Western actor, they failed to recognise the depth of Wayne's acting in becoming the character he portrayed and the public, ignoring the critics, idolised the Duke and his films. Not a Method actor, he simply became the character we saw, a true test of acting ability.

From a young Ringo Kid in *Stagecoach*, an avenging Ethan Edwards in *The Searchers*, a mature rancher in *Red River* to an ageing, dying gunfighter in *The Shootist*, Wayne integrated into his characters so completely that audiences forgot he was playing a role.

Physically, John Wayne was a big man, standing 1.95m (6ft 4ins) tall, about 100 kg with long arms, large hands and a graceful stride. He was also an articulate and thoughtful man with strong political



beliefs and a simple code involving both country and professionalism.

He was born Marion Robert Morrison on 26 May 1907 in the small town of Winterset, Iowa. Parents Clyde and Mary were a hard working, honest and highly religious couple. Clyde was an easygoing man with few business skills while Mary was an aggressive lass which resulted in frequent arguments, a memory which apparently haunted Wayne all of his life.

At school, the nickname 'Duke' emerged from the family dog by that name and he carried it throughout his life. While a college student, he landed a job at the Fox movie studio as a general prop man which led to full time employment and a minor role in a film directed by John Ford.

In 1938, Ford offered Wayne the plum role of Ringo in *Stagecoach*, the film that made him a star.

In mid-1964, a medical examination found traces of lung cancer, he had heart surgery in early 1978 and in January 1979 he underwent extensive stomach surgery for renewed cancerous growth. He died on 11 June 1979 at the age of 72.

A measure of his stamina was that he managed to attend the Academy Awards presentation in April 1979 to present the Best Picture award and received a thunderous emotional standing ovation when he appeared on stage. On 26 May, President Carter authorised the minting of a special medal for the Duke, simply ►►

A busy week for AASR Supreme Council

In June, members of the Supreme Council of the AASR for Australia, with the nine members from across the nation, gathered in Sydney for their **annual Supreme Council meeting**.

A social gathering of SC members and their ladies and a welcome by the Sovereign Grand Commander M P Bro Peter Rowland 33° from South Australia took place on the Monday night with the formal meetings starting on Tuesday in the NSW Masonic Club.

Formal discussions were halted as members attended the Prince Charles Edward Stuart Council meeting on the Tuesday morning in the Sydney Masonic Centre where two candidates were admitted and the Reinstallation of Ill Bro Chris Telford 30° as Grand Commander occurred followed by lunch. A cocktail party at the Masonic Club hosted by Ill Bro Graham Berry 32° the President of the club gave the interstate members and their ladies an opportunity to get together to end a great fraternal day.

On Thursday many members of the AASR met with the SC members to have an Exchange of Views session where they had an opportunity to raise issues or seek clarification on matters or simply hear the latest from the Supreme Council. Thursday night saw seven members promoted to the 33° at the annual meeting. Local candidates were Dominic




The Six District Commanders and the Grand Secretary General with the SGC.

DeCandia, the Grand Secretary General who was chosen as the principal candidate and fully tested on all signs and words during the ceremony. The other three NSW candidates were John Robb from Sydney West, David Padgett from Hunter and Gregg Summerhayes from Mid-Western Plains. These three, who are now Very Illustrious Brethren, will be installed as District Commanders in their own District and serve as leaders of the Rite for a five year term.


The concluding event of the busy week was the Supreme Council Annual Dinner on the Friday night where we were musi-

cally entertained by Bro Daniel Prypchan and Ayla who left us wanting more. V Ill Bro Warwick Boyling 33° (PAGM) represented the Grand Master UGL NSW & ACT. The only toast on the night was to the ladies, well delivered by M Ill Bro Bill Thompson 33° from Victoria and the humorous response by his wife Kathleen detailed her experience and life as the wife of a Freemason.

Saturday ended the week and SC members headed back to Townsville, Brisbane, Tasmania, Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne and mid-west NSW, happy with the outcomes of the meetings. 

stamped: 'John Wayne, American.' Only a few individuals have been honoured by Congress since the first was struck for George Washington.

John Wayne was a mason, a member of the Glendale Demolay Chapter during his high school days. He joined the Craft in July 1970 and although the long and uncertain hours in travel and movie commitments made lodge participation difficult, he still took his membership seriously.

In early 1979 in an interview with TV personality Barbara Walters, which was destined to be his last, when asked about a philosophy that summed up his thinking, he said: 'Listen, I spoke to the man up there on many occasions and I have what I've always had, deep faith that there is a Supreme Being. There has to be, that's just a normal thing to have that kind of faith.' 



SGC MP Bro Peter Rowland 33° investing our GSG Dominic De Candia.



Have your say



Aladdin's lamp

You will recall that, once upon a time there was a fellow called Aladdin, who had a magic lamp.

Every time he rubbed the lamp a genie would appear and this genie could produce all manner of good things, and, because of this, Aladdin, his family and servants enjoyed a pretty high standard of living.

But Aladdin was a bit like our modern businessman, he knew how the system worked, and he even knew how to work the system, but he didn't tell anyone, least of all his wife, about it.

All she knew about the system was what she could see – a beautiful palace filled with fabulous furnishings spoilt by a dirty old lamp that she wasn't even allowed to clean, sitting right in the middle of the mantle-piece.

Then, one day, while Aladdin was out of town, down the street comes a smart young fellow peddling 'new lamps for old'. Mrs Aladdin, willingly but unwittingly, made a swap and, because of a failure in communications, gave away the substance for the shadow.

As a result Aladdin, his wife and family and servants (employees is the modern word) went through sociological and economic hell until he could recover that, which, through his own lack of foresight, he had lost – almost forever!

Doesn't the Craft, like the lamp, possess a precious gift, a wonderful power for good which, like the genie is impotent until someone knows what to do and uses a bit of elbow grease to translate its latent power into action.

Brethren, have we, like Aladdin failed to communicate adequately and effectively to our families and friends, and the community at large, how the system, the Craft, works – what Freemasonry is all about.

Could we be in danger of losing those priceless gifts, the principles of square conduct, brotherly love and charitable conduct to others less fortunate than ourselves – through our neglect to communicate adequately and in time?

RW Bro RONALD I GALE PSGW

Have you changed your address?

'No longer at this address', 'Does not live here ...'

These words have been common after recent issues of the NSW Freemason with the large number of magazines returned because the addressee is no longer there.

This results in members missing the issue because they have moved and have failed to notify their lodge secretary and this change of address has not been notified to Grand Lodge.

It is essential that postal records be kept up-to-date and members are urged to notify any change of address to their secretary or check and update their details in the Grand Lodge members website.

Snowy Hydro Care Scheme

The Freemasons Appeal for Snowy Hydro SouthCare has now commenced and involves masons in Southern NSW and ACT, and 50 lodges in the southwest and southeast. A number of lodges already contribute, notably Lodge Eurobodalla Daylight 989 and Mountain Lodge 190, but the appeal extends over the whole area served by the rescue and retrieval service. We see this as a direct link spanning assistance in disaster at the local community level and help in large natural disasters. The Snowy Hydro SouthCare Aero Medical Rescue Helicopter Service was established in 1998 as the primary helicopter service for the ACT & Southern NSW. Since that time the rescue helicopter has performed over 4,600 missions, an average of two missions per day.

The Grand Master will officially launch the Appeal on Sunday 23 September (2pm – 4pm) at the Snowy Hydro SouthCare Helicopter Base, Monaro Highway, Symonston, ACT.

**RAY NEWCOMBE OAM,
APPEAL CONVENOR**

Lodge Commonwealth of Australia 633

FOR SALE

PJW Grand Lodge Regalia

For sale owing to ill health. Complete with case and in perfect condition.

\$500 ono – Ph 02 9630 7632

Seats are still available for the second **Voyage of Discovery to Israel**, leaving Tel Aviv on **Monday 29 October**.

Contact the organiser
RW Bro Joe Haffner by email at
cosimex@bigpond.net.au
for registration and details.

Frank Kensett Luncheon

The annual Masonic luncheon at Parliament House will be held on Tuesday 27 November 2012. It will be the 36th occasion that The Royal Empire Lodge has brought together Freemasons and friends to this unique and special event in the Sydney Masonic calendar.

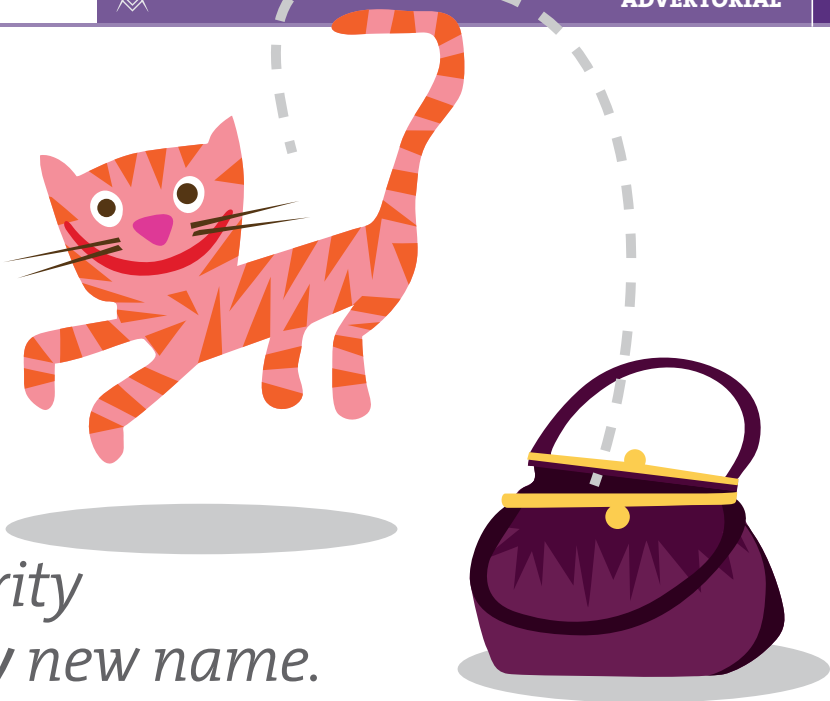
The tradition was begun over 36 years ago in 1975 on the personal initiative of one of the lodge long standing members, the late VW Bro Frank Kensett, PDGDC.

Special guest speaker at this November's luncheon will be His Excellency the British High Commissioner, Mr Paul Madden who will speak on the very interesting and topical subject of 'The Commonwealth in the Diamond Jubilee Year'.

Online application for tickets should be made by email to The Royal Empire Lodge at trel613@gmail.com or by mail to the Secretary of The Royal Empire Lodge, c/o 201 Macpherson St. Warriewood, NSW 2102



The secret is out!



A ninety year old charity is reborn with a crafty new name.

Carl Rogers an eminent American psychologist once said, 'Clarifying your values is the essential first step towards a richer, fuller, more productive life'.

One of the three core values of Freemasonry is TRUTH, and after hearing all the misinformation circulating throughout the jurisdiction with statements such as 'They have, by changing the name, deserted Masonry', we need to stress that nothing can be further from the truth. The FACTS of the matter are:

Fact No.1

On updating the 1922 constitution the court ruled that the two trusts would be:

- a. The Masonic Youth Welfare Trust of NSW & ACT,
- b. The Masonic Youth Welfare Property Trust of NSW & ACT.

Fact No.2

That the four Trustees of both Trusts will always be masons from the NSW Jurisdiction.

With this in place it became necessary to establish a commercial trust to raise and administer the monies necessary to provide assistance to the rapidly increasing number of children requiring our assistance.

A number of names were considered but as our foundation was from the Masonic School, what better name than the words spoken by MW Bro William Thompson the then GM of the UGL of NSW & ACT who on opening the school



They can achieve all of their dreams – or not – it's up to you!

said, 'Every disadvantaged Australian child should have ... A Start in Life'.

We know that change can sometimes be difficult to accept, but resistance to change in the past has created many of the problems that Freemasonry faces today. In order to progress and grow, one must accept change as a reality.

Please don't let miscommunication keep us from helping disadvantaged young Australian's achieve all of their dreams.

Fact No.3

A Start in Life cannot continue the work started by William Thompson without YOUR passion, trust and financial support.

What we do

A Start in Life provides financial assistance to disadvantaged families to ensure their children can access the same learning opportunities as their peers. With almost 90 years experience in providing support to families, our charity allows us to move quickly and efficiently to assist the most disadvantaged families on a one to one basis. **Nothing has changed!**



www.astartinlife.org.au
02 9264 3017



Paramedics

People we trust

Do you know what makes the Ambulance Service of New South Wales tick?

There was little doubt in the minds of Australians in nominating paramedics when asked in a national poll this year to vote on their most trusted profession for the eighth consecutive year.

Along with doctors, firemen, nurses and police, the Ambulance Service of New South Wales has long held a high place in community esteem.

'We are committed to providing high quality clinical care and health related transport services to over 7.25 million people in NSW, distributed across an area of 801,600 square kilometres,' said Ken Pritchard, Acting General Manager Operations – Ambulance Service of New South Wales.

'The average number of ambulance responses increased by 1.5 per cent over the past year. Factors contributing to increased activity include population growth, an ageing population and the associated increase in rates of illness.

'In 2010/11 we provided over 1,149,820 total responses (both emergency and non-emergency) compared to 1,133,011 total responses in 2009/10. There were on average 3,150 responses per day – this is equivalent to a response every 27 seconds.'

The Ambulance Service of New South Wales employs over 4,000 people, with 90 per cent being operational staff involved in the front line delivery of services. This includes paramedics, Control Centre Officers who control the dispatch and movement of Ambulance resources and Triple Zero (000) Call Takers, patient transport officers and specialised areas such as intensive care and extended care paramedics, special operations, counter disaster, aeromedical and medical retrieval. The remaining 10 per cent are corporate and support staff.

Ambulance Service of New South Wales operates from 266 different locations

across New South Wales. It is one of the largest and most modern public ambulance fleets in the world, made up of over 1,500 vehicles, of which 999 are front line ambulance vehicles with an average age of 18 months. The majority of the fleet is leased for a maximum period of three years, with the exception of Toyota Landcruiser that are leased for four years. Approximately 400 vehicles are replaced each year, of which 300 are front line vehicles. Ambulance also utilises specialist vehicles such as two motor cycles around Sydney CBD, four fixed wing aircraft and tasks nine helicopters. The Ambulance road fleet travels approximately 35,000,000 kilometres per year; this equals approximately 100,000 kilometres per day.

You don't know what to expect. I had rides ... but it doesn't prepare you for what really happens.

Colin Straney didn't know what to expect when he decided to give away being a builder and become a paramedic.

'I was looking for something different and I was influenced by one of my good friends who had joined the Ambulance Service. There was a seven weeks introduction, 12 months as a trainee with a senior paramedic, back for another six weeks education, then another 18 months, then back another six weeks before I was deemed to be qualified,' he said.

'You don't know what to expect. I had rides when going through the education series but it doesn't prepare you for what really happens. That's where a senior paramedic steps in and shows the way because no two jobs are the same.'

Colin has been a paramedic for 15 years. On a regular ambulance he works four 12 hour shifts with five days off and is currently with the motor cycle response unit.

This unit can move in and out of traffic, ride down footpaths, along shopping malls and can halve the response time it would take a regular ambulance in the city because of its ability to get through traffic.

'I can still remember my first case, a mental health patient. I did not have any medical background and no idea of what to expect and had to take the patient to hospital. Others that come to mind are the sad situation of an elderly couple who've been together for 60 years and one is gone, quite sad. Another was an incident where a truck ran over a car and a couple of children in the seat were killed. Tragic,' he said.

'Because we do a lot of training and are not emotionally attached to the people, we don't have a lot of time to think about the situation. We do the best we can and it's only later that we think about it. Everyone copes differently and quite often after a serious case, all of the crew have a debrief and talk about it. We rely heavily on our peers and learn from them.'

Colin says it's a great job which he enjoys and now wouldn't do anything else. But the work of a paramedic is not black and white or just saving someone's life.

'A lot of time is spent helping people



get through a period in need, trauma, mental health, social issues. We don't regularly save a life. Indirectly, we can help them get through serious situations.

'It does help if you're an older person when you join because you can cope better and have a better outlook. When you are young, you don't have the right experience.'

'But if I could give any advice to people it would be to motorists when an ambulance is trying to get through. The trouble nowadays is everyone seems distracted, talking on their phones, texting, not listening or wearing earplugs. They don't see or hear you and that could cost a life.'

The first recognised ambulance service in New South Wales, known as the Civil Ambulance and Transport Brigade, commenced operations on 1 April 1895. The first ambulance station was a borrowed police station in Railway Square, Sydney staffed by two permanent officers. Patients were transported on hand-held stretchers and handlitters.

The Brigade was a dedicated community based organisation, operating the first horse-drawn ambulance in 1899 and first motor vehicle in 1912, both donated to the Brigade by the public. Radio controlled vehicles commenced operation in 1937, a rescue service in 1941, a training school in 1961 and Air Ambulance in 1967. Advanced life support and intensive care vehicles were introduced in 1976.

This year marks the 25th Anniversary since the establishment of the Special Casualty Access Team (SCAT). First formed in 1986 due to the need for paramedics to be able to provide high quality pre-hospital care to patients in any location, SCAT has expanded to include over 60 specialists who've undertaken intense training in areas such as survival, bushcraft, basic and advanced roping, caving, canyoning, mountaineering, mines

rescue, leadership, teamwork, chemical biological and radiological procedures, four-wheel driving, navigation and white water survival.

One of the first jobs SCAT officers responded to was a girl trapped at the Grill Cave, Bungonia in the Southern Tablelands of NSW. She was 240 metres underground and had been trapped by a two half tonne rock which had fallen on her leg, badly fracturing it. SCAT officers were flown by Police fixed wing aircraft to Goulburn and then transported to the incident site. It took officers eight hours to extricate the patient.

In the past quarter century, SCAT have responded to numerous incidents including:

- Grafton bus crash (October 1989) Pacific Highway, North Coast of NSW – a loaded semi-trailer collided with a passenger bus travelling in the other direction, 20 people died.
- The Clybucca Flat bus crash (December 1989) Pacific Highway, 12 kilometres north of Kempsey – two full tourist coaches collided head-on, killing 35 people and injuring 41.
- Newcastle earthquake (December 1989) – a Richter magnitude 5.6 earthquake occurred, becoming one of Australia's most serious natural disasters, killing 13 and injuring more than 160.
- Thredbo landslide (July 1997) – two ski lodges collapsed when approximately 3,500 tonnes of debris shifted below the Alpine Way, a main road

above Thredbo Village, travelling down the slope taking with it the Carinya Ski Lodge and eventually slamming into an elevated car park and the Bimbadeen Lodge, 18 people died.

- Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami which killed hundreds of thousands on Boxing Day 2004 devastating parts of Indonesia, including Banda Aceh and Sri Lanka.
- Christchurch, New Zealand earthquake (February 2011) – the powerful magnitude 6.3 earthquake caused widespread damage across Christchurch killing 185 people.

Volunteers have been operating for many years in the Ambulance Service and their role in communities is vital. Currently, there are over 400 volunteers in various roles across the state including volunteer ambulance officers (VAOs), community first responders (CFRs), chaplains, peer support officers and grievance contact officers. Volunteers donate their time every day and make a very real and enduring difference to the quality of care delivered.



Storm season approaches

Each year storms, floods, drought and wildfire impact millions of people, cost billions of dollars in economic damage and threaten the livelihood of local communities throughout Australia.

As we approach what is commonly known as **storm season** this year, preparations need to be made to mitigate these impacts.

As an organisation embedded in local communities, Freemasonry has a unique opportunity to make a significant difference in the lead up to, and during, storm season. Through the early mobilisation of our membership we can contribute significant financial and volunteer assistance to those in dire need.

Ready Relief

In preparation for storm season, Masonicare has developed a Disaster Relief Program called **Ready Relief** to ensure an effective and coordinated response to natural disasters. The Program will provide Freemasonry with a standardised approach to responding and dealing with disasters on a local, regional and state level to maximise our positive impact to the community.

During this year's storm season, Masonicare will be actively raising awareness of Ready Relief and fundraising in our local communities. In doing so, Freemasonry will demonstrate a strong leadership position through social responsibility, and in turn, positively raise our Freemasonry's profile in the community.

Getting involved

Every mason, lodge, district and region will have an opportunity to be involved with the Ready Relief Program this year. Further information will be made available over the coming months and fundraising programs are being established to provide an opportunity for masons to proactively take part and engage with our communities.

Together, we can make a significant difference to those impacted by disasters and make a very visible and positive contribution to our local communities.

Co-ordinating and implementing the Ready Relief Program is the responsibility of Masonicare board member Bro Joshua Shields. Brother Shields has served on the Masonicare board for the past two years, is the Managing Director of a leading corporate risk management firm and has over 10 years of experience responding to and coordinating local disaster responses through the State Emergency Service.

Masonicare's Ready Relief Program:

- Enables an efficient and quick response to a disaster situation.
- Provides structured criteria and guidance to enable appropriate decision-making.
- Identifies and allocates resources to improve our assistance capabilities before a disaster situation.
- Improves communication and provides brethren with a sense of pride and ownership.
- Enables efficient mobilisation of a strong membership resource through volunteering support, fundraising and financial donations.

- Enhances Freemasonry's reputation in the community.
- Grows our Disaster Relief fund capabilities and provides further guidance for the distribution of funds in times of need.

Case Study

Last year Masonicare Flood Victims Appeal donated over \$84,000 to three separate communities in the Riverina, NSW area – Carabost, Oaklands and Jingellic and to the Hannah Foundation in the Lockyer Valley Queensland. Masonicare & United Grand Lodge of NSW and ACT also donated \$100,000 to assist with the Grand Master's Queensland Flood Appeal.

Over 400 families have benefited from the hard work in raising these funds that Masonicare, as a charity, has provided The Hannah Foundation. The support includes food, clothing, mental health services, payment of medical bills for counselling and home visits. These services are crucial to the recovery process after a tragedy of this scale to enable families to rebuild their lives

Katherine Plint
Executive Officer of The Hannah Foundation.



continued >>>



Wrap up of Benevolence Month

On behalf of the Masonicare Board, we would like to sincerely thank the jurisdiction for their support during **Masonicare Benevolence Month** and for helping make it such a **huge success**.



Every dollar raised from 'One Brother to Another' purple ribbon sales **will go directly to assisting a brother in need.**

This was such an important appeal and your support is greatly appreciated. Donations throughout Benevolence month from ribbon sales, lodge donations and **your individual donations will allow us to continue assisting masons and their families by providing financial assistance and other services to those who need it most.**

Brethren and their families may always be comforted in the knowledge that Freemasonry and Masonicare will always be there for them. Keep an eye out next year for the purple ribbons during July and August for Benevolence Month.

“ We are survivors of the Grantham floods. Our house was washed away with us in it. We are so grateful for Hannah's Foundation and Masonicare's funding. We would definitely be worse off and struggling. Thank you so much for your kindness and support that is always there when we need it. ”

Marie and Peter Van Straten, Qld .



2012/2013 Entertainment Books!

Masonicare are pleased to be selling the new 2012 | 2013 Entertainment Book as a fundraiser.

Entertainment Books are packed with hundreds of up to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers for the best restaurants, cafes, hotel accommodation, attractions and activities in your area. You'll receive \$15,000 worth of valuable offers which are valid until 1 June 2013. You can choose what you want to do and when you want to do it. Plus, the good news is that \$13 of your book purchase goes towards fundraising for Masonicare! You can purchase your Entertainment book by visiting www.masonicare.org.au.

PLUS RECEIVE FREE SHIPPING until 30 September 2012



Grand Chapter of New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory

Order of the Eastern Star



Holden under the United Grand Chapter of Australia
ABN 59 798 761 260

The Order of the Eastern Star is the Largest Fraternal Organisation in the world to which both ladies and gentlemen may belong.

- ▶ We work for charity, help one another and respond to the needs of others in the community, less fortunate than ourselves.
- ▶ There are 16 Metropolitan and 12 Country Chapters in New South Wales and two Chapters in the Australian Capital Territory.
- ▶ We would welcome new members to join us – in a Chapter near you.

For further information contact...

Mrs Narelle Ober, O.A.M., Publicity Officer
PO Box 742 Ulladulla NSW 2539
Ph: 02 4455 3245 • Mob: 0414 553 247
johnandnarelle1@bigpond.com



Freemasonry in Kandahar

As part of his job with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Bro Damien Donovan was posted to Afghanistan from August 2010 until July 2011.



For the first two months, he was located in TarinKowt (TK), a small backwater where Australian military and government organisations work on building governance, bringing development and suppressing the insurgents.

Future time was split between TK and Kandahar Air Field (KAF) which was his best hope of finding masons. Afghanistan can be a dark place. It has been embroiled in conflict for most of its modern existence, has generations of children who have not known a childhood and with approx. 25% of children dying before they turn five.

As a mason one little ray of light when he arrived on KAF was a sign on the noticeboards at the main shopping area displaying the familiar square and compasses.

'A call led me to a small tea house which hosted a surprisingly vibrant masonic community, comprised mostly members from Canada, the Philippines, the USA, as well as some English, Dutch, some Turks and South Africans, and one Australian. The "chai" house was busy pretty much every night of the week with one meeting or another.

'I connected first with the Canada Lodge of Kandahar. These brethren initially met at least once a week; twice a month was a regular lodge meeting, plus every week there was a social get-together

at the local Tim Horton's. This was just a well-appointed demountable, with no indoor seating – but at least the Canadians (and temporarily adopted Canadians) could get their daily fix of fresh-baked doughnuts,' Bro Donovan said.

'My first lodge meeting was on Thursday 16 December 2010 at Lodge Canada. The WM was away on leave due to a family tragedy, and the senior and junior wardens had flown out that afternoon. The normal lodge members were down to a handful, there were more visitors than members. Around the room we had about 20 brothers, comprised five nationalities, from at least 10 different lodges, and about six jurisdictions. It was an extremely interesting meeting. The Dutch IPM who took the chair for the night introduced us to the ritual of opening and closing in Holland. This was followed by a free discourse from all those gathered on the differences between the ritual of each of the jurisdictions, and the construction of broader masonry in those countries.'

This opened the first Canadian masonic lodge in Afghanistan and was the culmination of over five years of effort. Of course, there was the matter of having a Past Master available to actually rule and govern the lodge. As it turned out, the current Master, W Bro Rick Fulford of

Brighton, Ontario, working as a civilian contractor at KAF, was on site and eagerly embraced the responsibility.

The lodge was designated Canada Lodge and operated under the Warrant of Trent Lodge #38 from Trenton, Ontario. The first meeting of Canada Lodge was held on 4 March 2010, and was attended by masons from both Canada and the United States with subsequent meetings being held on the first and third Thursdays of each month.

Under the initial letter of dispensation the lodge was allowed to open in the first degree using the ritual of the jurisdiction of the warrant under which it had its authority, namely Ontario. The lodge was established to allow brethren from any jurisdiction recognised by the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario to meet for the purpose of fraternity and to further masonic education – but not to confer degrees.

The dispensation allowed the Master to appoint his officers for each meeting, but from a lodge of the same jurisdiction. Due to the highly transient nature of the masonic population and the fact that few of the brethren were actually from that jurisdiction, this was simply not possible. For example, Bro Donovan filled the roles of Deacon or Junior Warden for most of



his time in 2011.

The lodge was granted a dispensation to conduct first degree initiations in July 2010 after a petition was presented to the Grand Lodge committee of the GM and past GMs. New members were affiliated with Lodge Trent #38 and so applications were to be made through that lodge. There was an excellent relationship between this lodge and the Grand Lodge in Canada with the WM's request to initiate new candidates often taking less than a day to turn around!

While these initial arrangements were greatly welcomed there was much enthusiasm to be able to take the working of the lodge further. Following representations from the WM, and a great deal of support from higher up, on 18 May 2011, the WM received a letter advising that a dispensation to confer all three degrees had been granted.

'As already mentioned, the lodge was formed under the warrant of the Grand Lodge of Canada, Province of Ontario. Therefore the ritual is also from that jurisdiction. This ritual is very similar to ours, although there are a few differences, which often caused me to substitute the occasional word from our ritual, but this was actually part of what made the lodge so interesting. We had people from so many different countries and jurisdictions that we often heard little bits of foreign ritual substituted here and there, different methods of address and so on,' said Bro Donovan.

'While awaiting the approval to conduct initiations, the WM had been collecting names of good men who might be interested in Masonry, and so there was something of a backlog for first degrees. For the

last six-week block I was there, we conducted three triple-firsts, a double first, and a single first; a level of intensity of which many lodges would be incredibly envious. I was also very privileged to be one of the deacons for the lodge's very first second degree on 18 July and delivered the second degree tracing board lecture.

'There was a great deal of enthusiasm in the lodge and we had all agreed that we would begin holding meetings weekly rather than just twice a month. This was partly to clear the backlog of candidates, but also because the brethren were just so keen to have this fraternal release, something to look forward to every week while working in this trying environment.

'One could understand this regularity of meetings. There were no long distances to drive, no family to go home to, a yearning to connect with some sort of family when yours is far away and, frankly, not much else to do at night. Even the original twice monthly meetings were something of an oddity for me and I was interested to learn that twice-monthly meetings were a regular occurrence in Canada and Holland.

'I have already noted the weekly coffee-club meetings at Tim Horton's where brethren met outside the lodge. This also gave us a chance to meet potential new candidates and to see how well we liked each other. One tricky part of being in this environment is that a small number of locals do not necessary like us being there. So occasionally we received some deadly fireworks. When the alarms go off, everyone gets very friendly with the ground, but even then, the camaraderie goes on. Fortunately, in the time I was there, we didn't have any lodge meetings interrupted, although we had at least one at the conclusion of a meeting, giving new meaning to the term "there is an alarm!"

'In conclusion, this was a great masonic experience. I built great friendships, experienced a deep process of learning, and will have memories that will last my lifetime. The facilities there were truly basic. But the important thing was the brethren sharing in a common fraternity. As the Dutch PM of Lodge Canada said, the physical structure does not matter, what is important is the lodges we build within our hearts.'

(This article is based on excerpts from a lecture delivered by Bro Donovan at Lodge Canberra on 24 October 2011.)

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ISBN: 978052286193

May 2012 publication

Large Paperback, 358 pages

RRP \$29.99



The Dickens DICTIONARY

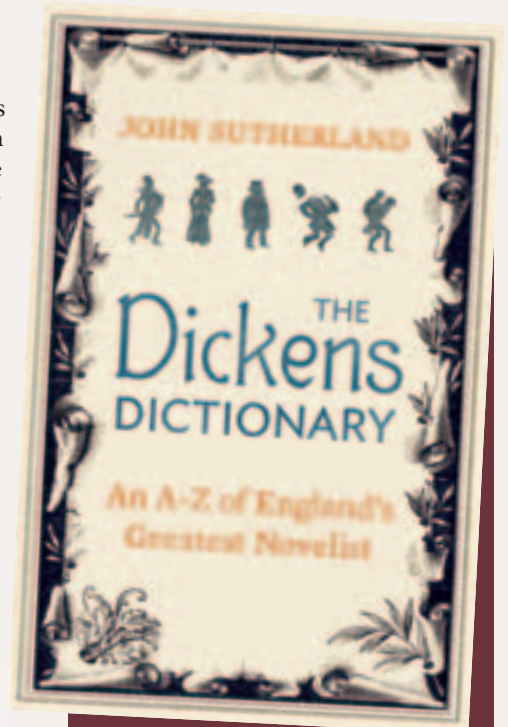
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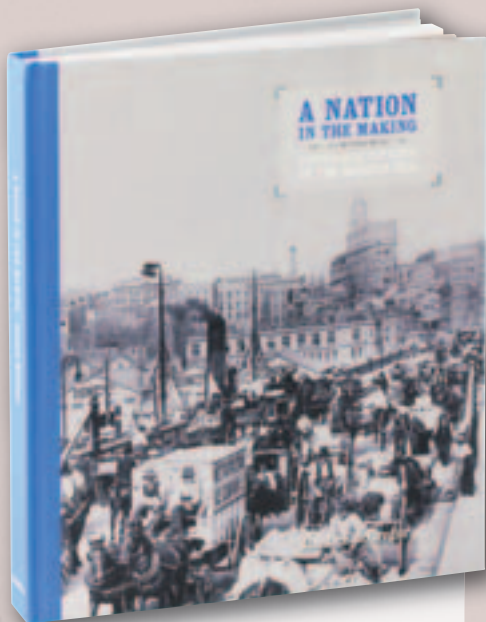
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A NATION IN THE MAKING

This handsome coffee table book owes its existence to one of Sydney's iconic antiquarian booksellers, the late Bill Tyrrell.

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With tremendous artistic support from the production staff and publisher at Australian Geographic, the author Alasdair McGregor has added a most definitive and informative text sufficient to amplify the 205 carefully chosen black and white photographs.

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MAIN: The Queen Victoria Building, ca. 1905–17

TOP INSET: Sydney Town Hall was built between 1868 and 1889 on the site of an old cemetery.

BOTTOM INSET: Spectators cram the Sydney Cricket Ground for the Fourth Test, February 1895.



Reflections on Initiation

Bro Dane Pymble was initiated in Lodge Southern Cross No 91 in August 2011. New candidates are required to speak on their impressions about the Degree as part of their development before proceeding to the next level. These are his thoughts.



Initiations have been used throughout history and across many cultures and stand as a significant point along one's lifeline. I can connect with this concept of developing into something greater because my life has been a continuous journey in the pursuit of knowledge. I don't believe initiation ends with the actual ceremony. Every day we seek to acquire masonic knowledge we are initiating ourselves as we make more sense of who we are. If I was to look at my own life and the initiations I have been through, each one changed me and helped make me the person I am today. The correlations with life's initiations and that of the First Degree are quite evident.

Birth brought me into this world and opened my eyes to the material world around me. At first I know very little about it and am very reliant on my mother for protection and nourishment. As an Entered Apprentice the door to a new world of knowledge opens but at first I know very little of it and am heavily reliant upon my brothers to guide me on this journey. With their outstretched hands I am comforted that there exists a group of men who will help make me better. From school to today I have been searching for other people like me. In Freemasonry I have finally found what I have been looking for all these years.

I believe that whilst a lot of things may be pre-determined; call it destiny or fate, there remains an element of free will where an individual has the opportunity to choose different paths. I have taken many wrong paths in my life but I think I


have taken more right than wrong.

Three symbols in the Degree had a profound affect on me. When I was introduced into Freemasonry I was very much a rough Ashlar prone to adopting wild theories that would change on a whim and frustrated at injustice in all areas of life. The Degree taught me to focus on self-improvement as a daily habit, constantly smoothing those rough edges along the path to becoming a better person. I believe the journey is more important than the destination and as I actively seek to gain masonic knowledge I feel I'm heading in the direction of the perfect Ashlar. Thus I work hard to stay on the path towards perfection, although the soul's urge to reach that spiritual state symbolised by the perfect Ashlar forever remains in my heart.

The compasses are quite pertinent and I now have a greater attention to how I interact with people whose opinions differ to mine. I find harmony from the control I now have over myself, comforted by the fact that nobody has a mortgage on knowledge. Through listening, rather than chest beating, new ideas, philosophies and methods are revealed to me that I never would have considered in the past. The biggest lesson from the symbology of the compasses is that life is much simpler and more fulfilling when you can find ways to relate to others. Instead of bashing your head against the wall trying to get your own way, take a step back and see things from their perspective; it might even change what you really want to achieve.

The 24 inch gauge is an interesting tool. I have a new appreciation of what time

really is. I have found it at times hard to say no to people but through contemplating the lesson of the 24 inch gauge I realise I am in complete control of how I spend my time. It also tells me that time is limited, so spend it wisely. Having just become the proud father of a beautiful daughter, the days of drinking binges, wasting energy and of course money, are long behind me. I have become more grounded, living a richer and more fulfilling life.

For me the most important lesson of the Entered Apprentice Degree is to know yourself and be more valuable to your family and community. I believe we are placed here with the task of maximising our potential before we move on. Knowing who I am forms the foundation upon which my spiritual development grows. Through a daily process of self-improvement Freemasonry truly does make a good man better. I am now more aware of how to improve my life and am surrounded by brothers on similar journeys. The Degree opens the door to a better set of morals. Of utmost importance and value to my development is a greater understanding and appreciation of who and what brought me to where I am today, what I have achieved along the way and a strong and purposeful acknowledgement that it is the choices I have made that have led me on the path to Freemasonry. I am here now because this is where I am supposed to be. 



Tip Card #12 Empathy

AIM – Practising empathy or understanding and compassion is not always the easiest thing for us to do yet it is amongst the most appreciated actions that one human being can do for another. It rarely requires physical effort or forward planning but it does require love and kindness.

Target

As many of our older brethren begin suffering poorer health, failing strength and other effects of ageing, we will be called upon more regularly to support them and to show better understanding for their shortcomings and even satisfy the most simple of their wants and needs. Matters that often turn out to be urgent in their eyes.

Reasoning

Ageing and its associated problems are a fact of life. Some of us may never suffer the effects of ageing and lead a healthy life; others among us may suffer from a myriad of complaints and never know why. For some it may be genetic, for others – la dolce vita!

We can expect a mix of healthy and less healthy brethren in our lodges and it is important we accept all of them as our brothers and as fellow human beings.

Methodology

Within our society we are prone to make fun of our elderly, laugh at their memory lapses, brush aside their requests as petty childish nit picking. This is not how they see it!

When tending to the needs of our elderly it becomes more important for the Master and the secretary particularly, to question themselves when a special request is asked of them. Would I ask for that? Why is he asking for it? More importantly, don't ask the brother to explain himself, just accept it and meet his request if you can do it yourself and if you can't, make it your business to ask someone who can to do it for him and follow up to make sure it is done.

Sometimes it may be a request from the wife of a brother and these

should be treated equally as delicately. She may be his eyes and ears as he ages and remember, she too will probably need your empathy because of her age as well!

For example: A brother, aged say, in his 80s or 90s, may decide due to his health and the fact he has not been to lodge for some time to call off. He has been an active member for 60 years or more and he, or more likely, his wife, writes a letter to the Secretary, explains his current situation and asks for a clearance.

Standard practice would be to put his request to the next lodge meeting and then contact him or his wife with the answer. There may be a delay of up to 5 or perhaps even 6 weeks before a decision is made and a letter is sent. That is far too long for us to expect him to wait.

In a perfect world a caring officer would have been aware of his circumstances, would have reported on his health and treatment etc. at a meeting and thus the Secretary and the Master would have known of his circumstances and could act quickly and positively for the brother.

Either way the Secretary, the Master or another Officer should acknowledge the request immediately by phone and then by letter to allay any anxiety they may have. Will the brother be expecting to have a masonic funeral? Is he entitled if he calls off? How will this affect his mental health, his wife's? He may die in the waiting period. Let him/ her know you are there for them, ask what else can you do to help them, but don't make extravagant promises.

Conclusion

In short project yourself a little, put yourself in a brother's shoes: how would you feel in his situation? What would be your expectations, how can you make life easier, less stressful?

With a little practice, brotherly love and common decency we will be able to show empathy.



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Grand Communication and Proclamation



The Grand Master has decided to adopt a similar program as used by MW Curry some 12 years ago by holding the September Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge and his Grand Proclamation and Investiture of Officers on the same day – **Wednesday 12 September, 2012.**

The Communication will start late afternoon at a time to be confirmed but probably around 4.00pm. At the completion of the Communication, the Grand Lodge will briefly adjourn and after brethren have re-assembled, the Grand Master will resume the Grand Lodge so that the Proclamation Ceremony may follow with non-masons invited to attend a Banquet will follow both events which will be conducted at the Sydney Masonic Centre.

It is expected the evening will have a

relatively early finish taking into account these functions are being held mid-week.

The following two days have been set aside for a conference for the new District Grand Inspectors of Workings and Regional Grand Counsellors.

Full details of all events, with registration forms for the Proclamation Banquet and for the DGIWs to attend the two day conference, will be available on our website and distributed throughout the jurisdiction once details, have been finalised.

FASCINATING FACTS

The time we spend

A recent survey showed how most people spend their lives and how they allocate time to different areas of their living. At the time it was taken, the use of mobile phones was not included but in the current world it would have a high figure. How do you rate?

- Sleeping24 years
- Working11 years
- Amusements, including TV8 years
- Eating.....6 years
- Walking6 years
- Washing, dressing etc5½ years
- Education3 years
- Reading3 years
- Conversation3 years
- Worshipping God6 months

Do you need to change anything in your daily life? Now you have seen these figures, maybe you can think on how to rearrange your own time and priorities if you consider it is necessary.

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A Gala Dinner is held at the Glenfield site where the nominee from each of the aged care services and their guest attend with the Board of Directors; special guests this year included Laurie Ferguson MP and Kevin Sheedy, and senior staff.

The winner was Bro Ronald Hardy from Narrabri!!



Left:
Presentation of Board of Directors Award by RW Bro John Couper PSGW Chairman of the Board (left) to winner Bro Ronald Hardy (right)

Right:
Bro Ronald Hardy (left), with his brother Rhys Hardy (middle) and Maree Taylor, Director Care Services TWG Narrabri (right)



ANNUAL APPEAL

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Beware of what you say

At the June Quarterly Communication, the Grand Master warned about the use of mobiles and other means in posting messages and announced a **Social Media Code of Conduct for Freemasons in NSW/ACT**.

The report said the presence of Freemasons on various social networking sites is growing and drawing attention to the fraternity. By participating on sites such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and others, we should strive to make that attention as positive as possible. When we become someone's impression of Freemasonry, we should act according to the lessons we are all taught in terms of how we communicate with masons and non-masons and observe the following points.

- A mason should conduct his social media activities in a way that reflects a positive image to the world of his membership in Freemasonry.

- A mason's postings are a permanent record and therefore must reflect to the world a positive opinion about himself and the organisation to which he belongs.
- A mason's actions on the various social media outlets must reflect the same high standards of morality and virtue as he would practice and experience within a masonic lodge, always remembering to moderate the ebullitions of wrath.
- A mason must advise another brother if he feels anything he has posted is improper within the framework of our Constitution, regulations and rules.



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

Please read these points carefully and ensure your future actions comply with them.



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FASCINATING MASONIC FACTS

Did you know...

The next time you complain about something, pause for a moment and think of what it must have been like in the days of your great-grandparents.

They may have been called old wives tales or remedies but all of them, in those days, had a very valid and useful meaning. The following examples may give you a better idea of life in the years between 1600 and 1800.

THE UPPER CRUST (of society): In those days, bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle and guests and important people got the top, or the 'upper crust'.

IT'S RAINING CATS AND DOGS: Not fiction but fact. In those early days, houses had a thatched roof which was often thick straw piled high but without any wooden base. It was also the only place for the family animals to get warm so all the cats, dogs and mice lived in the roof. However, when it rained, it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall through the roof on to the floor or the family below. And that's where the saying came of 'it's raining cats and dogs'.

THE BRIDAL BOUQUET: Personal hygiene and cleanliness were not big issues in those days. Survival and food were the major facts of life. Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell a little so brides got into the habit of carrying a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. That's how the custom developed of the bride 'carrying a bouquet' when she got married.

HE WAS DIRT POOR: In those days, the floor of the average home was invariably made of dirt. With only the rich able to afford something better, the lesser people were known as the 'dirt poor' people.

THE THRESH HOLD: Wealthier people had wood or slate floors in their homes which would become slippery in winter with the rain. To help keep their footing when walking through the front door, they placed thresh (straw) on the floor and added more thresh as the winter continued. Sometimes, when you opened the door, the thresh was so high it would start slipping outside so a piece of wood was placed in the entrance-way to hold it and it became known as the 'thresh hold'.

BRING HOME THE BACON: Families, on rare occasions, could get hold of a piece of pork which was different to their usual meals and



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

Q: I am told that many lodges in Europe are growing and are in fact turning candidates away. Is this true? and if so what can our jurisdiction learn from them and apply to our local benefit?

A: There are a number of answers to that question. Europe lodges may be growing in some countries but there is doubt on whether they are turning away candidates. We meet every month in NSW/ACT but in Europe they have non-meeting periods to cope with the extremes of winter and often meet twice a week in summer. Also, Europe does not have the same outside attractions that we have, such as clubs, beaches etc. Further in Europe, candidates are expected to give a talk on the Degree they have just received before they can take the next step which improves their knowledge of masonic history and Freemasonry. This gives them an

incentive to want to continue and be involved whereas we are short on lecturers who can explain and demonstrate our Craft in simple terms and many of our candidates lack the basic knowledge of the real meaning of Freemasonry. More time in lodge for Questions and Answers might be a good start.

Q: Why do all masons wear dinner suits or a similar coloured suit.

A: In Freemasonry, all men are believed to be equal. If you attended a function where all the men were in similar dress, it would be impossible, if you didn't know them, to pick the Lord Mayor or the local garbage collector. That is one of the principles of Freemasonry that all men are created equal. We meet and part on the same level and at our meetings, no person is more important or less important than anyone else at the meeting.

made them feel quite special. If visitors arrived, they would hang up and display their piece of bacon which was used as an indication of better class or wealth in that a man could 'bring home the bacon'. The host would then cut off a little to share with his guests and they would all sit around and 'chew the fat'.

DON'T THROW OUT THE BABY WITH THE BATH WATER: We've already mentioned that baths were not a daily, weekly or even monthly custom. In those days, a bath consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the

house, who was the worker and earner, had the privilege of the nice clean water, then the other men and sons, then the women, finally the children and last of all, the babies. By then, the water was so dirty you could actually lose sight of a small child in the dark water which brought about the saying 'Don't throw the baby out with the bath water'.

As you can see, each of these stories has a logical reason as to how it came into use. If you know of a similar story, we would be happy to include it in a future issue.



Golf. *On the square?*

Golf, Mark Twain suggested, is **a way to ruin a good walk**. Others have described it as a 'four letter word'.

Whatever your view about the game of which the Scots and the French dispute heritage, it has more adherents world-wide than any other sport, and it appeals to wide variants within the community's social stratum, a reason perhaps why there are more jokes about golf and golfers than any other topic.

In fact, I'd suggest without any research, there are almost as many books about golf as there are those concerning Freemasonry.

Whatever your views about golf, it is a game of honour and a game which requires personal integrity. It is the player's responsibility to keep his or her score, to report any personal infringements of the law despite the possibility of penalty, and it is the player's responsibility while alone, out of sight of fellow players and searching for the ball in the scrub or the creek, to act with honesty and honour.

Golf too has a dress code to which all players are expected to abide.


Hence, there are many parallels between golf, the sport, and Masonry – both require integrity, honour and dignity and indeed, the personal standards desired of a mason are not dissimilar to those expected of a golfer.

It is therefore quite appropriate that the social golf club, once thriving and prosperous for five decades within the NSW Masonic Club, but more recently dormant, has risen from the dead. Its band of adherents have already played at two Sydney based clubs – Massie Park at Concord and the Coast at La Perouse, and a program for the forthcoming two years is being formulated.

However, the newly emerged club, or to grossly mix metaphors, the Phoenix rising from its hibernation, is thinking further than these two years and is thinking far beyond just 'social golf'. It throws out the challenge to widen our mystic ties, to broaden our masonic fraternals by meeting 'through the green' – golf on the square perhaps.

The Group's vision reaches the possibility of fraternal golf challenges which it would encourage and sponsor – challenges between individual lodges and wider if the demand exists.

So, with fraternal golfing challenges as a vision, if you are a golfer or a would-be golfer, start thinking in terms of your lodge, your District, getting a team together and help put a new meaning to 'meet upon the square'.

The Committee at the NSW Masonic Club would be happy to hear from you, either as a regular Club Social Group player or to express interest in the wider opportunities of 'fraternal golf'. 



Chairman John Moore (johnjmoore36@optusnet.com.au), club captain John Loveday or secretary Tom Kelly will be very happy to hear from you and all can be contacted via the NSW Masonic Club. Phone 9284 1000.



Regional Roundup



DISTRICT 46

Highland hijinks

VW Bro Wayne Smith, DGIW supported by District 46 members, manned the attractive Freemasonry display at the annual Aberdeen Highland Games on Saturday 7 July.

On public display were items of various regalia, brochures and Masonicare information. Masonicare carrybags proved popular with callers at the display tent and a number of masons attending the Highland Games called to say hello.

This was the second time Freemasonry has been successfully represented at this event.



L TO R: John Tyrell, Tony Farmer, Arthur Roberts, DGIW Wayne Smith, Graham Boyce, Geoff Monley

ARTARMON UNITED LODGE No 285

A special Jewel

Bro Jack Mackenzie, who is a member of Artarmon United Lodge, was recently presented with a 60 Year Jewel but it was not a typical presentation. He is currently living in Victoria and not wanting him to miss out on a presentation, the lodge contacted the Grand Lodge of Victoria requesting that Jack be presented with his Jewel by a Victorian representative. Jack was delighted when W Bro Shane Mason, the IPM of Lilydale Lodge and W Bro Graham Simpson, the secretary, presented the 60 Year Jewel at a special function at his retirement village.



LODGE NEPEAN No 29

A family affair

Amasonic tradition, covering many generations of the Rattenbury family, continued at Lodge Nepean's July meeting when Mr Gavin Rattenbury was initiated before proud grandfather Bro Jack Rattenbury.

Grandfather Jack was initiated in Lodge Nepean in 1957 and adding to his presence was Gavin's cousin Bro Max Cooper

who delivered the Final Charge.

From the Penrith area, the family has been members of the police force, with Bro Jack a former Crown Sergeant and father Bro Mark an Area Commander. Gavin, also a police officer, is temporarily stationed at Moree and there were many officers, both active and retired in attendance to support the family.



L TO R: JD Bro Klajman, Bro Filemanonib, Bro Gavin Rattenbury, Bro Jack Rattenbury, Bro Max Cooper, W Bro Henry Trow, WM W Bro Peter Figg



THE PEEL LODGE NO 209

Burns Night at the Peel Lodge

Tamworth Pipe Band at the Peel Lodge Burns Night on 2 July 2012

The Burns Night held by The Peel Lodge No 209, at their July meeting, was conducted in conjunction with the Tamworth Pipe Band. This was an open night to which non-masons were invited. It was held to commemorate 'The

Bard's initiation into Freemasonry on 4 July 1771. This anniversary often coincides with The Peel Lodge's July meeting date – a happy coincidence.

A night of Scottish song, dance, music and of course, haggis, was enjoyed by all.

YASS LODGE OF CONCORD NO 27

ANZAC Day Commemorative Meeting

Despite his busy schedule around ANZAC Day, the Grand Master, MW Bro Derek Robson AM, found time to visit Yass Lodge of Concord's ANZAC Commemorative Meeting on the evening of 26 of April.

Lodge members and visiting brethren were privileged to hear two inspiring addresses given by the MW Grand Master at this meeting. The address in the lodge room during the Commemorative Ceremony, which was the address to be given by an eminent ex-serviceman, focussed on the aspect of service to one's country and ultimately to our communities and what it meant and now means to be a Freemason in the context of war.

This presentation was complemented by the Grand Master's surprise address in the south in response to the toast to the visitors, invoking the spirit of 'Australianism', which he indicated is something we all should hold dear to our hearts without resorting to 'jingoism' or abandoning the masonic principles of fraternal



MW Bro Derek Robson, the Grand Master congratulates the WM of Yass Lodge of Concord on the Commemorative Ceremony

love, charity and absolute honesty in our dealing with others.

Every brother present was equating the often mentioned term of 'mateship', so closely associated with WWI diggers, with the three tenets of Freemasonry as the MW Grand Master concluded his address.

LODGE RESURGO No 223

Dad installs son

Lodge Resurgo No 223 set two records at its installation when VW Bro Graham Brown PDGDC was invited to install his son, Bro Ross Brown. Several of the assisting officers were also family friends.

W Bro Brown, at the age of 23 years and nine months, became the youngest WM in the history of District 32 and Region Three to occupy the chair. He took the honour from the lodge secretary RW Bro David Leabeater who was installed in 1972 at the age of 26 years 11 months in Lodge Parramatta Temperance.

A total of 88 were in attendance at the festive Board where the WM's mother, Mrs Carole Brown responded to the toast to family and friends.

DISTRICT 14

District 14 combined

It was a great night in many ways when District 14 held its Combined Meeting at Laurelbank in May.

Bro Andrew Watson and Bro Mani Shishineh were both Passed to the Second Degree in the presence of 103 brethren including the Grand Master, MW Bro Derek Robson AM and PGMs MW Bro Dr Greg Levenston and MW Bro Ron Johnson AM.

The Grand Lodge delegation consisted of 27 members and there were 46 visitors and 20 members to pack the lodge room.

W Bro Michael Levenston was WM with all offices occupied by members of the District and all charges delivered by representatives of District lodges.

The ceremony went without a hitch and the subsequent banquet was another happy occasion of good food and interesting speeches.



CENTRAL COAST FREEMASONS

Freemasons provide scholarships

Scholarships have been presented to ten University of Newcastle Ourimbah Campus students by Central Coast Freemasons based in Gosford.

District members who attended the presentation evening said they were impressed by the warmth of their welcome and the gratitude expressed by students and staff. 'The scholarships are seen as an invest-

ment in our local community. They will assist in providing increased academic advancement in the many areas undertaken by local students at university level,' said W Bro Richard Black of Lodge Morning Star.

Last year, Central Coast Freemasons organised the purchase of a sterilising unit for the University's Oral Health Mobile Van.

DISTRICT 17

A helping hand

Jack Edge was not a Freemason but he made his mark on Freemasonry.

Up until November 2011, Jack was a normal, happy-go-lucky schoolboy, 10 years of age and attending Baulkham Hills North Public School. Suddenly he was diagnosed with a malignant tumour just above the spinal cord at the base of the brain. Such a tumour is inoperable and nearly always fatal.

A course of radiation treatment at Westmead Children's Hospital temporarily arrested the growth and Jack was able to spend a reasonably normal Christmas at home with his mum Joanne and sister Darcy. Unfortunately, the tumour came back in mid-year and sadly, Jack passed away in Bear Cottage on 22 June 2012, cradled in the arms of his mum.

In the course of caring for Jack, Joanne had to give up her employment and the family's circumstances deteriorated badly, with normal household expenses, mortgage payments and school expenses all demanding attention.

Joanne Edge was supported through an appeal by the school P and C members. This appeal came to the attention of lodge members in District 17 who approached their DGIW, VW Bro Fali Poacha. It was quickly decided to seek the support of lodges in that District and the result was simply magnificent, enabling VW Bro Poacha, accompanied by RW Bro Ian McCulloch PDGM, to present cheques in July for \$4,700 to Joanne Edge. At the presentation she expressed her sincere gratitude to all the lodges and masons who were involved.

As VW Bro Fali Poacha said, 'We greatly regret that our lodges were too late to help Jack directly but his mother and sister will gain some comfort from our appeal. Freemasonry can hold its head high, having exercised the virtue of charity – the distinguishing characteristic of a Freemason's heart.'

THE PEEL LODGE No 209

Unique occasion for The Peel Lodge

The June Past Masters' Night of the Peel Lodge No 209, saw the initiation of Bro Reece Trickey, a Lewis.

Acting Junior Deacon for the ceremony was Bro Wayne Trickey, the candidate's father.

The lodge has seen a number of initiations with relatives of the candidate occupying the Chair; however this was the first time it could be recalled that a father escorted his son during the initiation ceremony.



Newly Initiated Bro Reece Trickey and Bro Wayne Trickey

DISTRICT 113

A District Meeting with a difference

The DGIW, VW Bro Kevin Want, of District 113, organized a District Meeting around a Second Degree candidate from Milton Lodge, Bro Graham Barbery.

The meeting was held at Lodge Broughton 131 and attended by the Grand Lodge representative, RW Bro Cec Ainsworth PAGM.

The meeting went well, and was highlighted by a visit by Bro Joe Miller who was surprised by a birthday cake to celebrate his turning 99 years of age.



Bro Joe Miller thanks the brethren of District 113 for his 99th birthday cake.

Bro Barbery won't forget his passing to the 2nd Degree, or the speech by Bro Miller, who is now looking forward to marking 70 years in Freemasonry next March.



DISTRICTS 111 AND 115

Another successful Debutante Ball

Campbelltown RSL Club was the venue for the biennial Combined District 111 and 115 Debutante Ball, held in June and attended by over 340 men, women and children.

Thirteen beautiful debutantes accompanied by their handsome escorts were presented to the Grand Master, MW Bro Derek Robson AM and Nicole Armstrong.

The co-hosts, the District Grand Inspectors of Workings, District 111 and District 115, VW Bro Richard Lilly and VW Bro Bill Beattie, welcomed the Grand Master and all the guests and were thrilled with the positive comments they received during and after the Ball.

Proceeds from the Ball will go to the chosen charity, The Right Start Foundation, a group who are seeking to secure premises and build a syndrome-specific centre in the Macarthur area to support families touched by Down Syndrome.

Money raised from the Ball, along with hard working fundraising by the 'Masonelles' (the wives and partners of



The debutantes in their finery

brethren in the two districts) over the last two years, donations from various groups, plus a generous grant from Masonicare will see approximately \$28,000 go to The

Right Start Foundation.

This was another successful event to show Freemasonry working in the community.

LODGE UNITY No 6

'A garden is a lovesome thing'

In response to a request from the Ken Thompson Aged Care management in Armidale for help with some therapy for the residents, the brethren of Lodge Unity No 6 came up with the idea of raised gardens for the able residents.

VW Bro Ray Wynn, the Worshipful

Master, approached the Village Support Group and with their assistance purchased three raised garden containers and, with a donation of garden soil from P&C. Ducat Pty Ltd, set up the gardens in the grounds of the facility.

The gardens are now filled with veg-

etables and herbs for the use of the kitchen at the Aged Care facility.

Able residents now enjoy the gardens and their produce as well as having something to do to keep their minds active.



Therapy in practice, thanks to Lodge Unity



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LODGE YOUNG BURRAGORANG No 20

Lodge Young Burragorang supporting the community

The Worshipful Master of Lodge Young Burragorang No 20, W Bro Christopher Moloney, presented a donation from the lodge to Mr Gerry Bailey, president of Young Meals on Wheels, which was gratefully accepted. Young Meals on Wheels are this year celebrating 50 years of service to the district.

A second donation was made to 19 year old local resident, Matthew Schiller, to assist him travel to the UK to compete in the clay target shooting world championships.

Matthew recently won the junior world championship in England and competed as a member of the Australian team in Wales.



W Bro Chris Moloney, Gerry Bailey, president of Young Meals and RW Bro Neville Freudenstein



Matthew Schiller receives his donation



LODGE TRINITY No 666

Lodge Trinity Re-installation

On Wednesday 6 June, W Bro Barrie Cooper was re-installed as Worshipful Master of Lodge Trinity No 666 by his son, W Bro David Cooper, in the Egyptian Room at Petersham.

More than 90 masons attended, with over 30 Grand Lodge Officers accompanying RW Bro Ghassan Dandachli, PAGM, representing the Most Worshipful Grand Master.

Fraternalists from Lodge Cedars, Sylvania and Tranmere took up most of the seating, with strong support from visitors from within and outside the District, as well as

Newly re-installed Worshipful Master of Lodge Trinity, No 666, W Bro Barrie Cooper, with Installing Master, W Bro David Cooper and attending Grand Lodge Officers.

RW Bro James Melville DGM, RW Bro Walid Mehanna, AGM, RW Bro Mohamad Nahas RGC 2, and VW Bro Ian Campbell DGIW 26, also in attendance.

The Installing Master, W Bro David Cooper conducted the ceremony with precision under the guiding hand of the Grand Director of Ceremonies, RW Bro Antoine Georges.



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Freemason welcomes new members to the Craft

Name	Lodge	Name	Lodge	Name	Lodge
ABDEL GHAFOR, Robert	The Cedars Lodge 1041	HANN, Young	The Hunters Hill Lodge 139	NAMBIA, Alwin	Lodge Courallie 235
ABEJO, Jose	Lodge Beauty of Cabra Vale 743	HARE, Joel	Lodge Victoria Cross 928	NAZER, Byron	Lodge Corrective Services 1039
ABOU CHACRA, Shadi	The Cedars Lodge 1041	HARON, Brian	Lodge Glen Innes 44	NEWMAN, David	Lodge Mark Owen 828
BAILEY, Steven	Lodge Gowrie of Canberra 715	HEMBERG, Jean	Lodge Dubbo 906	NOYES, Brad	Coeur De Lion – Narooma 84
BARNES, Roger	Lodge Urara 469	HENRISSON, Jarvis	Lodge Benjamin Pryor 709	NUGENT, Harry	Lodge Woolgoolga 705
BAYLIFF, Justin	Lodge Jose Rizal 1045	HILLIARD, Joel	Coeur De Lion – Narooma 84	NUTTER, Matt	Lodge Sydney St. George 269
BOWER, Daniel	Lodge Frenchs Forest United 249	HOLLMAN, Michael	Lodge Morisset 441	OKWECHIME, Peter	Lodge Capitol 612
BRATTONI, Mario	The St. George Lodge 328	INDER, Colin	Lodge Epping 390 LOE	PARRISH, Barry	Lodge Blaxland Temperance 346
BRYANT, Andrew	Lodge Ku-Ring-Gai 1033	JAMIESON, Alex	Lodge Capitol 612	PENTON, Brian	Lodge Port Stephens 522
BUI, Simon	Lodge Sydney St. George 269	JEFFREE, Michael	The Jubilee Southern Highlands Daylight Lodge 162	PHILBRICK, Christopher	The Mountain Lodge 190
BYRNES, Glenn	Lodge Cessnock 252	JENKINS, David	Lodge Capitol 612	PORTER, Brian	Lodge Kingsford Smith 1028
CADELINA, Lamberto	The United Lodge of Sydney 11	JURY, Grant	Lodge Kirrawee 903	PULEN, Alejandro	Lodge Miguel De Cervantes 1038
CAINE, Stuart	Lodge Timor 274	KAMBOURIAN, James	Lodge Phoenix 1034	RATTENBURY, Gavin	Lodge Nepean 29
CAMAJ, Thomas	Lodge Castlereagh 72	KARSTUNEN, Ashley	Lodge Morisset 441	REGHAVEN, Veera	Lodge Burns Wentworth Tuscan 21
CASHEL, Jeffrey	Lodge Corrective Services 1039	KHALIL, Antonio	Lodge Axiom 1047	RIDLEY, Stuart	Lodge University of Sydney 544
CHRISTOPHER, Jeremiah	The Australian Lodge of Harmony 5	KHOURY, Moses	The Leichhardt Lodge 133	RUBIO, Juan	Lodge Airs Campbelltown 976
CLARK-SMITH, Ashley	Lodge Eltham 272	KIJURINA, George	Lodge Cronulla 312	RUBIO, Julio	Lodge Airs Campbelltown 976
CLEMENTS, Daniel	Wallis Plains 4	KIMMORLEY, Michael	Lodge Queanbeyan St Andrew 56	RUISI, Isi	Lodge Axiom 1047
COLRAIN, Alexander	Lodge Gowrie of Canberra 715	KIRK, Stuart	Lodge Merrylands 479	RUSSELL, Kane	Lodge Namoi 207
COOK, Jazzar	Lodge Celebration of Fairfield 345	KOVACEVIC, Sead	Lodge Highway 837	RYAN, Michael	Lodge Sawtell Twilight 741
COTTEE, Donald	The Mountain Lodge 190	KOZMAN, Amir	Lodge Nepean 29	SAINDEERS, Jade	Lodge Commonwealth of Australia 633
CRAIG, Craigie	Lodge Federal Burrowa 193	LAUTIER, Den	Lodge Axiom 1047	SALIM, Samer	Lodge Thespian 256
CRISPIN, Sam	Lodge F S Mance 671	LAW, Nathan	Lodge Benjamin Pryor 709	SAVAGE, Myles	Lodge Middle Harbour 85
CRUZ, Rommel	Lodge Jose Rizal 1045	LAWTON, Daniel	Lodge Sylvania 853 LOE	SEBO, Christopher	Lodge Gowrie of Canberra 715
CUMMINS, James	Lodge Scone 183	LEVEN, Dallas	Lodge Ulmarra 186	SLADE, Steven	Lodge Castlereagh 72
DALLI, Tim	Lodge Verity 570	LIM, Yu	Lodge University of Sydney 544	SOLOMAN, Max	Lodge Ionic 65
DARWICHE, Mohamad	Lodge University of Sydney 544	LOCKETT, Robert	Lodge Silver City 141	SOUeid, Ali	Lodge Sir Joseph Banks 300
DAY, Cliff	Lodge Ethos 963	MAIER, Steven	Lodge United St Andrew Singleton 34	SPAGNOL, Tristan	Lodge Camden 217
DEMARAIS, JP	Lodge Capitol 612	MAKARY, Richard	Lodge Castlereagh 72	SPICER, Patrick	Lodge Fidelity King Solomon 101
DIESTEL, David	Lodge Blaxland Temperance 346	MANTARRO, Ross	Lodge Castlereagh 72	STAN, Kon	Lodge Camden 217
DIESTRO, Jeremiah	The United Lodge of Sydney 11	MATTA, Joseph	The Builders Lodge 1048	STEVENSON, Geoff	Lodge United St Andrew Singleton 34
EL SAMMAN, Marcel	Lodge Horizons 1032	McAULEY, Matt	Lodge Camden 217	STRACHAN, Scott	The Queen's Lodge 229
EL-ARIF, Milad	Lodge Liverpool 197	McAULIFFE, Paul	William Ross 76	TALEB, Abdul	The Builders Lodge 1048
ELLIOTT, Noel	Leisure Coast Daylight Lodge 999	McFARLANE, Maxim	Lodge Castlereagh 72	THOMSPON, Trent	Lodge Dubbo 906
EVAGELATOS, Arthur	Lodge Cronulla 312	McGANN, Tully	Lodge University of Sydney 544	TOTONJIAN, Daniel	The Hawkesbury Heritage Lodge 150
EVERETT, Daniel	The Queen's Lodge 229	McGEOUGH, Mark	Lodge Dubbo 906	TRAJKOVSKI, Bobbi	Lodge Kirrawee 903
FAWCETT, Dale	Lodge Glen Innes 44	McRAE, Ben	Lodge Scone 183	TRICKEY, Reece	The Peel Lodge 209
FILGATE, Gerry	Lodge Horizons 1032	MIKHAEEL, Jake	Lodge Ku-Ring-Gai 1033	TURTON, Damien	Lodge Sir Joseph Banks 300
FORTUNE, Derek	Lodge Hornsby 262	MIKHAIL, Michael	The Queen's Lodge 229	VICENTE, Antonia	Lodge Merrylands 479
FOURNIER, Gregory	Lodge Harold Herman Unity 428 LOE	MOHR, Peter	Lodge Eurobodalla Daylight 989	VLASSIS, Christos	Lodge Barham 561
GARLAND, Andrew	Lodge Celebration of Fairfield 345	MOODY, Justin	The Northern Rivers Lodge 77	WILSHIRE, Peter	Coeur De Lion – Narooma 84
GHANBARY, Abbass	Lodge Burnside 729 LOE	MOON, Daniel	Lodge Castlereagh 72	WOLF, Hunter	Lodge Commonwealth of Australia 633
GILCHRIST, Julian	Lodge Canberra 465	MOORE, Benjamin	Lodge Ionic 65	YOUNG, Mark	Lodge Horizons 1032
GRAHAM, Rob	Lodge Nambucca 271	MORAN, Matthew	The Yass Lodge Of Concord 27	YOUSSEF, John	The Leichhardt Lodge 133
HADDAD, Adam	The Cedars Lodge 1041	MORRISON, Rhyz	Lodge Castlereagh 72		
		MURPHY, Dave	Lodge Capitol 612		
		MUSTARD, David	Lodge Morisset 441		

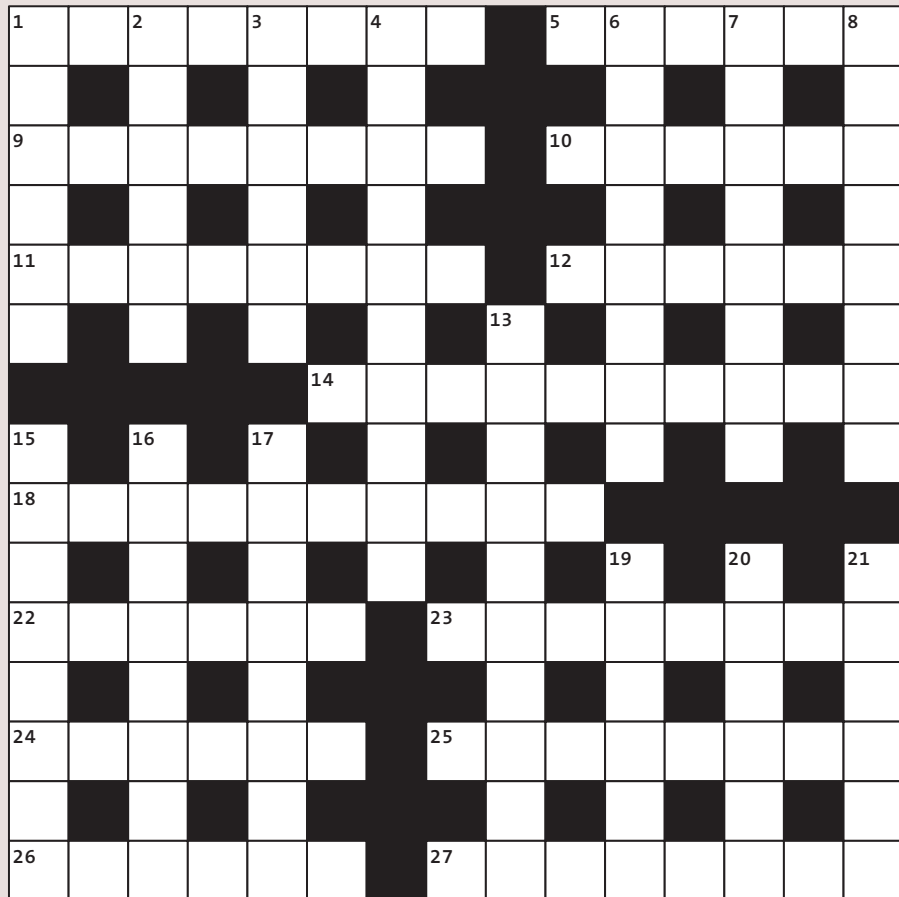


ACROSS

- 1 One of the Liberal arts and sciences leans to richer outcomes (8)
- 5 Pillar of support displays King Solomon's sagacity (6)
- 9 Temperance members brew demon ale for their drink (8)
- 10 A Jewish quorum in many adaptations (6)
- 11 Let Tyler behave affectionately (8)
- 12 I tried to make it more neatly (6)
- 14 & 18 Staunch hot-headed czar uncovered clay ground casting site is between these towns (10, 3, 7)
- 22 The feeling from over doing 4 down but not with 9 across! (6)
- 23 Will York characters be upset to denote Purity and Peace? (8)
- 24 Another 5 across displays Hiram's curious and masterly workmanship (6)
- 25 Unfamiliar person is more inexplicable (8)
- 26 Send me modifications making text corrections (6)
- 27 Old series of travels even boldly as asked, yes? (8)

DOWN

- 1 Several more latecomers may have a direct bearing (6)
- 2 Some determine the fate of a stoat (6)



Solution Winter 2012

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

- 3 Weight of snow leopards (6)
- 4 Extravagance found in clue ending another way (10)
- 6 Unfavourable implication modified with top characters out (8)
- 7 The end of some Lodges (8)
- 8 Not beneath their dignity to exchange the sceptre for the trowel (8)
- 13 Procedure strict educationalist concealed was limited (10)
- 15 Bleating about being touchable? (8)
- 16 Recommend and support a lawyer (8)
- 17 Let some rosebud get edgy for what the treasurer did (8)
- 19 Subsidiary rules about say Leg before Wicket (6)
- 20 Place renowned for stiff examinations (8)
- 21 Messy sprinkles writer left may delight Burns' night devotees by the sound of it (6)

Solution next issue © adsXwords



In the Garden of Eden, Adam decided to take a bite from the apple. As soon as he had taken a bite, he felt ashamed and covered himself with a fig leaf.

Eve also felt ashamed and quickly covered herself with a fig leaf. Then she went behind a nearby bush and tried on a maple leaf, an oak leaf, a sycamore and three varieties of gum leaves.

She finally decided on the fig leaf.

Soon after Jack and Jill were married, Jack stopped wearing his wedding ring.

"Why don't you wear your wedding ring," Jill asked.

Jack replied that it cut off his circulation.

"I know, that's what it's supposed to do," Jill said.



50 Years Service

BLACKBURN, Thomas	Lodge Courallie 235
BURGE, Donald	Lodge Picton 258
BURGESS, Geoffrey	Lodge Port Stephens 522
CARLISLE, Graham	Lodge Warringah 83
CREAGH, Leon	Livingstone United 604
DAVIDSON, Lionel	Lodge Port Stephens 522
DELL, Arthur	Richmond Valley Daylight 146
DODD, Walter	Lodge Hillston 627
DOWLING, Gary	Lodge St James 45
DRINKWATER, John	Lodge Illawarra 59
DUNK, Robert	Lodge Picton 258
EGLON, David	The Sir Walter Scott Lodge 123
FANNING, Warren	Lodge Courallie 235
FAULKS, James	Lodge Leeton – Yanco 313
FOORD, Graeme	The Sir Walter Scott Lodge 123
FRANCIS, Stanley	Lodge Balgownie 944
FUNNELL, Garry	Lodge Picton 258
GODWIN, Geoffrey	Lodge Port Stephens 522
GORDON, John	Lodge Warragamba 541
GREENTREE, Francis	Port Macquarie Daylight Lodge 991
HAIR (Jnr), John	Lodge Picton 258
HANSON, Harold	Lodge Guyra 325
HARRIS, Raymond	Lodge Wyalong Pioneers 222
JACKSON, John	Lodge Chelmsford 261
JAMES, Robert	Lodge Friendship 158
KINMONT, Raymond	Lodge Parkes 40

LENTON, Kenneth	Balmain Lodge 23
MAIZEY, Stanley	Lodge Loftus 401
MASTIN, Kevin	Lodge Port Stephens 522
McPHAIL, Kevin	Lodge Wagga Wagga 22
MENZIES, Harold	Lodge Wagga Wagga 22
MILES, Kenneth	Lodge Ku-Ring-Gai 1033
PRACY, Bruce	Lodge Army and Navy 517
QUAST, Donald	Lodge Courallie 235
QUINLAN, Neville	Lodge Courallie 235
ROBINSON, Francis	Lodge Artarmon United 285
ROBINSON, James	Lodge Hurstville 282
SARLES, James	Lodge Bangalow 250
SAUNDERS, Eric	Antiquity 1
SCOTT, Cecil	Lodge Wagga Wagga 22
SELL, William	Lodge Merrylands 479
SHADE, Leon	Lodge United St Andrew Singleton 34
SHELTON, Lewis	Lodge St David and St John 180
SHIPLEY, Leslie	Lodge Gowrie of Canberra 715
SUNMAN, John	The Royal Empire Lodge 613
TAYLOR, Ross	Lodge Port Stephens 522
THOMPSON-BURKE, Keith	Lodge James Kibble Daylight 985
THORNTON, Douglas	Lodge Friendship 158
THURTELL, Albert	Lodge Mandagery 523
TOWERS, Bruce	Antiquity 1
WALKER, Lyle	William Ross 76
WILLIAMS, James	Lodge Artarmon United 285
YOUNG, Neilson	Lodge Ingleburn 815

60 Years Service

BARTLETT, John	Lodge Sir Joseph Banks 300
BENNETT, Kevin	Lodge United St Andrew Singleton 34
CLEMENTS, Neville	Lodge United St Andrew Singleton 34
COLE, Alexander	Lodge Star In The West Sedgwick 189
CROFT, Ronald	Lodge James Kibble Daylight 985
EASTBURN, Ian	Lodge Baradine St Andrew 801
FINNEY, Victor	Lodge Inverell 48
FRESHWATER, John	Port Macquarie Daylight Lodge 991
GINNANE, Alexander	Lodge Carnarvon 172
GRAY, Colin	Concord Technology 432
GYDE, Kenneth	Lodge Merrylands 479
HARVEY, Keith	Lodge Hillston 627
HEATHCOTE, Robert	Lodge Kilwinning 13
HEATHWOOD, John	Lodge Westlake Daylight 997
HOOKER, Ronald	Lodge Star in the West Sedgwick 189
LENNON, John	Lodge Wagga Wagga 22
LEWIS, Ernest	Lodge Queanbeyan St Andrew 56
LOVEDAY, John	Lodge France 1021
LUCAS, Donald	Lodge Bulli Thirroul 1040
MACKINNON, Alexander	Lodge Wagga Wagga 22
MAIZEY, Stanley	Lodge Loftus 401
McDONALD, Kenneth	Lodge Glen Innes 44
MORRISON, Bruce	Lodge Merrylands 479
MOXEY, Ivan	Lodge United St Andrew Singleton 34
NEELY, Kenneth	Lodge United St Andrew Singleton 34
OWEN, Leslie	Nowra Unity 60
PETERS, Robert	Lodge Hillston 627
POPPELTON, Horace	Antiquity 1
RAY, Max	Wallis Plains 4
RICHARDS, Russell	Lodge Rudyard Kipling 143
RIDLEY, Bruce	Lodge Wyalong Pioneers 222
SCHRADER, Ronald	Lodge Commonwealth of Australia 633
TURNER, Brian	Lodge John Williams 148
WIGGS, Frank	Lodge Mayfield 493
WILLIAMS, Leslie	Lodge Enterprise 400
WILSON, Alan	Lodge Wagga Wagga 22
WILSON, Leslie	Lodge St David and St John 180

70 Years Service

JONES, Robert	Lodge Westlake Daylight 997
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The RFBI was successful in two of five categories in the recent nationwide 'Better Practice in Aged Care' competition conducted by The Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency; the Federal Government's overseeing authority for aged care. This is a tremendous honour for the RFBI and demonstrates that the RFBI's care for its residents is first class as is its staff.

The RFBI provides care to more than 2,600 senior citizens in its 23 retirement villages throughout NSW and the ACT and **demonstrates Freemasonry in action.**

The RFBI thanks most sincerely those Brethren who responded to its Annual Appeal Quarter. As you are aware, the RFBI appeals to Masons to assist in continuing the caring work begun in 1880. Donations received will be applied to the Annuity and the Benevolent Assistance Schemes where assistance is granted to those in need. You can be assured that the donations are 'gratefully received and faithfully applied'.

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

Likewise the RFBI is able to organise **Speakers for Lodge meetings** or any like minded Masonic Function. Please contact Alex Shaw.

The RFBI has **vacancies** in its self care complexes at Armidale, Basin View, Goulburn and Lakemba. For retirement village inquiries, please contact Alex Shaw or Ann King on 9264 5986.

Above (L-R): Ken Thompson President of the RFBI, Alex Shaw CEO, Louanne Riboldi RFBI General Manager Newcastle, Dr Andrew Refshauge Chairman of the Agency and Bob Walker RFBI Regional General Manager (Hunter).

Contact Alex Shaw or Ann King on 9264 5986 or admin@royfree.org.au

