

Freemason



The Battle for
Australia – Part II

Darwin

‘Let there be

light’

Christmas messages from
our Grand Chaplains

Meet our new

RGCs



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Freemason



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and Australian Capital Territory

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Cover Image:
Lights on the Christmas tree.



Season's Greeting



Nicole Armstrong receives a Christmas gift from the GM.

As Freemasons, we commit ourselves to the principles of **integrity, goodwill** and **charity**. We are ordinary men, sharing a concern for humanity and our community through the maintenance of our high ideals.

The Christmas period provides us with further purpose. It is a time to spend with our families, to reflect on our achievements and generally to encourage joy and friendship. It is also a time to reflect on those less fortunate, and those in particular circumstances of need.


Whatever our personal situation, Christmas reminds us of the absolute caring and sharing nature of Freemasonry.

During the past masonic year, we have seen many opportunities where Freemasons have applied themselves and assisted others. Lodges have committed themselves to support other lodges, lodges have provided assistance in their community, lodge members have supported individual acts of generosity and collective assistance to local charitable purpose, national charitable appeals have been supported and collectively, we have made charitable monetary contributions to many deserving community activities. Importantly, we have shown that we seriously care for our ideals, for each other, and for our community.

We are encouraged to carefully apportion our time to the various activities of life. I trust that each of you can find time to step away from your normal routine, and enjoy the opportunity that this end of year break provides.

I trust that each of you has a most enjoyable time over Christmas. I hope that you can enjoy some quality time with your families. I hope that you can take time to recharge your energies and strengthen your ideals. And importantly, I hope that you can continue to promote brotherly love, relief and truth, reflect on all those less fortunate, and consider lending them a hand when and wherever you can.

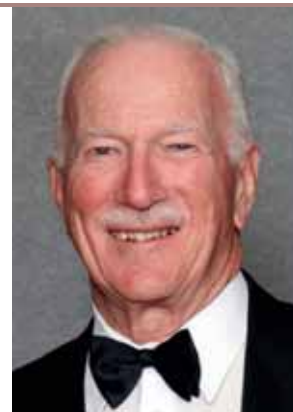
Whether you choose to acknowledge Christmas through religious, reflective or celebratory activities, smile at the world and be proud to be a mason.

I am honoured, on behalf of Nicole and myself, to offer each of you, and your families, 'Seasons Greetings' and a Happy New Year. 



Have a happy Christmas

Well, well, well. It's **that time of year again**. Christmas festivities, shopping, presents and parties are either well under way or being planned and before we know it, 2012 will have arrived.



If there is one predominant thought in your mind at this time apart from the festivities, it is probably wondering what we would like to change in our lives for the New Year.

But before wondering on what you would like to see happen, can you even remember what resolutions you made last December for 2011? Did you carry out and complete any of the promises you said you were going to do? Were you really nice to your family, your neighbour, your boss?

One of the reasons the resolutions we make at Christmas and leading up to the New Year remain unfulfilled is that we don't often take the time to sit down and think clearly about the final outcome, or what it is that we want to achieve.

As you grow from an eager youngster to a more mature adult, you develop habits which become a standard part of your life. If you plan to change any of them, it's

important to understand that it is being done for a good reason.

For example, you might decide to follow your doctor's advice and lose weight, cut out all those fatty foods, quit smoking and begin some regular exercise. It could be by joining a gym or linking with neighbours or friends in regular walking classes. Something you have been


promising for years and putting off but with the summer months here, it now could be an easy promise to keep.

It's a start, but do these promises actually represent your goal? If you ask yourself, 'Why do I want to do this?' and dig a little further, you might come up with answers such as, 'I will improve my fitness and create more energy' and the extra knowledge that more energy will give you more time for other outcomes such as playing with the children or grandchildren or even visiting your lodge or other local lodges more often.

This process of trying to find out your ultimate outcome is useful in working out why you want to make a resolution in the first place, and is a step along the way. It may also start you thinking about the additional steps you can take to achieve your ultimate goal.

There are so many areas to consider. As Freemasons, we are bound by every law, both moral and divine, to try and do good not only for ourselves but for all mankind. A smile can go a long way, as can a simple 'Thank You', or offering to assist the elderly and the needy. Have you ever brought up in lodge the name of a person who needs assistance, even a visit when they are ill or unable to move around freely? There are so many ways we can express the Christmas Spirit.

When the time is right to make your resolutions, don't forget to ask yourself 'Why do I want to change?' By taking the time to think about the results you are seeking to achieve, you will give yourself a much greater chance of making it come true and bring enjoyment and happiness to yourself, your family and others.

But for now, it's time to relax, enjoy the gifts and the festivities and have a Happy and Holy Christmas. 

As Freemasons, we are bound by every law, both moral and divine, to try and do good not only for ourselves but for all mankind.

The Editorial Committee extends Seasons Greetings to all of our readers.

Grand Lodge will close for the Christmas/New Year break on 22 December and will reopen on 9 January.

Are you interested?

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@freemasonsnswnact.org.au

**From Chaplain Kilkeary**

The gift of Christmas

I am looking at an embroidery by my wife of three scenes associated with Christmas – Mary looking reverently as an angel tells her she will bear a son and call him Jesus, a pregnant Mary sitting on a donkey which Joseph leads as they travel to Bethlehem to be told there was no room at the inn but they could stay in the stables, and Joseph and Mary beside the manger where the newborn Jesus had been placed, admiring the new life but recognising the miraculous nature of this birth.

Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ each Christmas and in multicultural Australia, people of many religions and no religion acknowledge the wonder and beauty of this Christian festival.

Christmas is the time to be generous to others. I worship at a church which fills boxes with presents for needy children overseas, some of whom have never received a Christmas present. I encourage you to remember others at Christmas.

For some, this will be your first Christmas without your life partner and may the remembrance of God's love help to sustain you. Give thanks to God and read again the opening chapter of Matthew and Luke. God bless and be with you this Christmas.

From Chaplain Carter

Let there be light

Christmas, the celebration of the nativity of Christ, is when many of us reflect upon the miracle of creation, how we live our lives and the wonder of light, which is emphasized in the Masonic Ritual.

'Let there be light', said the Lord and there was light. It was the commencement of the world and it continues to be the soul of all the beauty it contains. Without light, there can be no life.

All beauty springs from light. Without



light we perceive neither beauty nor excellence in the most elegant objects. From light, nature derives all its colouring and lustre, the rainbow its tints, the landscape its beauty and every feature in that glorious picture of divinity is legibly impressed on the whole creation. The subtlety and activity of light far exceed all human comprehension. Writers and artists have used light to represent the purity of the Divine Essence.

As material light is essential to our very being in this world, how much greater must the glory and value of a communion with the Fountain of all truth be upon our mental comfort and spiritual existence. Adherence to the high standards of Freemasonry is our way to shine in the world.

A Holy and Happy Christmas to all.

From Chaplain Hely

Social responsibility

People often plan special activities at Christmas believing it to be the appropriate time in the year for celebration. Yes, there are many good reasons to be joyful and extend Charity in the Christmas season.

Since first hearing the North East charge over 63 years ago I have wrestled how to demonstrate that moral virtue, **Charity**, the distinguishing characteristic of a mason's heart. As a Grand Chaplain, I have come to an understanding of our social responsibility where: *The moral virtue, Charity, when coupled with that foundation masonic principle, Relief, is a social responsibility challenge every mason should demonstrate.*

I listen with interest to my lodge Caring

Officer's report. There is always compassion for those in need. I believe a lodge is defined locally by the way brethren act in the community, and each brother should accept, as part of their masonic social responsibility, the role of being a Caring Officer.

In November of 2010, after sharing a marriage of over 64 years, my wife, Hazel, died and to this day, I, and many community members, have become acutely aware of the support given by brethren and their partners to one bereaved.

My Christmas message is: 'Brethren, practice the understanding of social responsibility throughout the whole year.'


From Chaplain Tov-Lev

Lights of hope

When our world is in turmoil, light and darkness hover over people and nations but the lights of hope for a better world during the festive season bring happiness and unity among people.

Happy faces, the rejoicing of hearts, freedom to think positively and spreading an atmosphere of relaxation are among influences of the celebration of the Festival of Lights. This happy occasion teaches that wicked actions do not last long and the real faithful people always advance to higher positive levels. Life is there to enjoy and spread our enjoyment to others less fortunate as well as bringing more meaning to our existence.

When we light the Hanukkah candles for eight days we remember with enthusiasm the history behind this joyous festival and the help of the Almighty in achieving victory against oppressors, the weak over the strong and the right cause over false and destructive goals. The Hanukkah Lights each year bring memories from childhood to manhood, the happy occasions and tribulations and how to avoid repeating past mistakes.

Let us remember that our beliefs mingled with good deeds will bring only happiness to us and others. Watch the lights with pride and may you strengthen your heart and mind. 



September Communication

Extracts from the September Communication

The Grand Master, MW Bro Derek Robson opened the Grand Lodge and welcomed all brethren and visitors.

‘I trust that the majority of you were able to attend the Grand Installation,’ he said. ‘Certainly from my point of view, this was a defining moment for Freemasonry, not just in this jurisdiction but for all of us in Australasia. By putting ourselves on display in Darling Harbour on a beautiful Saturday afternoon, in the middle of Sydney’s tourist area and the city’s playground, we were able to capture considerable imagination from the public and extraordinary interest from the media.

‘During the proceedings, we were able to show the ceremonial of Freemasonry at its best, speak openly of its merit in our community and generally present ourselves in the best light.

‘It gives me immense pleasure to be able to pass our sincere appreciation to all these dedicated people and thank them on behalf of the jurisdiction, for a fabulous effort. The Craft is far better for your effort.

‘I was particularly pleased to gift our message to the media. In the lead-up to the Grand Installation, I had several opportunities to speak and decided we would be willing to make ourselves available at every opportunity and be frank and open in every message we gave. Ultimately, our media plan worked well and the live coverage of the events and follow-up interviews have justified our decision. I look forward to continuing these good relations so that we can gain real benefit for our lodges as we roll out our new programs in the local community. Again, I congratulate everyone who assisted in this process.

‘I should also like to inform you why I have not yet allowed any recommendations to the Executive Council for an appointment to the office of Grand Secretary.

‘Before I became Grand Master, I was aware that the Grand Secretary’s role statement needed change to better reflect our view of the position. When these changes are finalised I will authorise a further call for nominations. Also, I have supported three separate reviews into management of masonic functions and I would want them finalised before any nominations for Grand Secretary are called.

I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the service and commitment of our Grand Secretary, RW Bro Kevin McGlenn, PDGM. Kevin completed his formal term as Grand Secretary on 9 September and we will miss his wise counsel. Until a replacement has been appointed, Kevin has been invited to retain his Company Secretary duties and to cover various other statutory and legal matters and we thank him for his kind consideration in this regard.


‘Over the next few weeks, Masonicare Representatives will be distributing a donation bag to every lodge in the jurisdiction in support of the re-launch of the Benevolence Appeal. I encouraged the group should be rebadged, and to reflect the inclusiveness of Freemasonry, particularly to reflect the ‘all of one company’ concept and to concentrate its efforts into the lodges and mainstream Craft activity. Brethren, this has been a busy time. In every area of our endeavour, we have sought to provide mutual benefit, to provide substance and satisfaction to each of us personally and above all, to enhance the standing of Freemasonry in our community.

‘I thank each of you for your commitment to the Craft.’

The Board of Management report stated it had approved the ‘Guidelines and Template for Conducting a Promotional Event’ and gazebos and other promotional material have been supplied to regions. The Building Program continues to progress through Regions and assistance is available to all who need help. Five buildings were provided with Full Certification status, six received Interim Certification and another six gained Preliminary status.

Masonicare announced it had given matching dollar-for-dollar Interaction grants to various organisations including the Lower North Coast Surf Life Saving, the Shoalhaven Youth Orchestra and the Kidzwich Foundation.

Discussions have also been held with the Queensland Board of Benevolence which has an effective Jewel reward and recognition system. Queensland has offered its services to provide training to any of the NSW/ACT team for Masonicare Jewels which are highly regarded.

The report also stated that in support of the Disaster Relief Fund, RW Bro Norm Standing PJGW, mRR for Region 5 has launched a car raffle which aims to raise \$25,000 in six months. The Board encourages other Regions to do likewise to lift the overall monies held in the Fund to meet the next disaster. 

A Preview of the December Communication Program

The December Communication will be held at the Goulburn Masonic Centre on Saturday, 17 December commencing at 4.00pm. Dress lounge suit. A banquet, starting at approx. 6.30pm, will be held at the Goulburn Workers Club.

The Order of Business will be:

- Minutes and Correspondence
- Grand Master’s Address and Welcome
- Reports of the Boards
- Conferral of Grand Rank
- General Business





A **STEP** in the right direction

The Grand Master announced the formation of a new **STEP team** at the September Communication. The AGM, RW Bro Walid Mehanna, now outlines **the objects of the STEP Program**.

My brother, I believe in a Supreme Being, I believe in humanity, I believe in the brotherhood, I believe in Freemasonry and I believe in reaching out to those who are in need.

Never once did I think of being selfish; on the contrary, I believe in enlightening

Glen Innes gives help

THE NSW STATE PARLIAMENT received an unexpected tribute for Freemasonry recently from the Hon Richard Torbay, the member for Northern Tablelands.

Mr Torbay told Parliament of the work by the Glen Innes community in reviving a successful youth program facing closure. Glen Innes youth worker Sandra Smith coordinates the Glen Innes Open Door Program where young people aged between nine and 18 can go after school and participate in a number of activities. The successful program faced closure and, in fact, the service was 'mothballed' for three months due to the lack of funding. Mr Torbay said there was an unexpected \$22,000 rescue package from the Glen Innes Freemasons who had raised some money working with the Ladies Support Group. The major part of the rescue package was provided by the RFBI. This re-opened the Open Door Program in time for the start of school term, major stores stepped in with food and vouchers and parents of some of the youth attending the program lined up to help. Many of the young people attending the Open Door program are vulnerable and to them the Program is more than just somewhere to hang out; for some it is a home life they wouldn't normally experience. Mr Torbay said there was enough funding to keep the program open until the end of the year but the search is still on for a permanent source of funding and support.

the path for others and empowering them with confidence and together we reach the summit.

I believe in humility, purity and the canopy of heaven, I believe in meeting with you on the level and walking a straight line fearing nothing because: 'I am a great believer and what brings us together is our sense of belief.'

Through this belief it is now my pleasure to share with you the Masonic STEP Action Program as the next phase of the former 2020 Program.

This program has been developed with the following key values and principles in mind:

To secure and support the strengthening of Freemasonry across the jurisdiction and in the community, by focusing on simple Masonic STEPs:

- > SHIFT our mind,
- > TRANSFORM our culture,
- > EDUCATE our brethren and community, and
- > PROSPER our Craft.

The STEP Team will focus on involvement in 'mainstream and traditional' lodge activity, by providing support through innovative and contemporary programming, varied and interesting social activity to benefit all members and partners.

They will be providing worthwhile and appropriate assistance programs whereby members can combine to go to other lodges and improve their experience or the outlook of their buildings; generally to enhance the experience of those in smaller or isolated lodges where age alone denies them particular opportunity in this regard, and/or offer support to the general community for the external benefit of the Craft.

By thinking outside the square – we can show the charitable aspects of the Craft and build stronger communities.

Mission Statement

To foster and provide guidance to all brethren to enable them to achieve their expectations for the future of the Craft.

Vision

To strengthen Freemasonry and its perception within the community ... in every city, town and village in this Jurisdiction.

Program Objectives

To develop suitable programs and initiatives in support of all brethren and Freemasonry in general, to enable them to meet their expectations for the future of the Craft, enhance their own masonic experience and secure the viability of the Craft for future generations.

Below are two projects that have been recently completed, with more in the pipeline. All of these benefit Freemasonry and the community; we do appreciate your involvement as well as your support.

1. The FreeMoSons teams for Movember – in support of Men's Prostate Health and Depression
2. The Pink Ribbon Ride – in support of Breast Cancer

STEP Action Team 2011–2012 consists of: Assistant Grand Master, Jason Plumridge, Colin Johnston, Justin Bone, Tim Dunstone, Josiph Alvaro, Mark Mansour, Jorgelius Trujilo and Joe Hammam.

For all enquiries email Step@FreemasonsNSWACT.org.au

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Meet our new RGCs



L—R: Region 13: Anton Punzet, PAGM; Region 7: Lex Bramble, PAGM; Region 1: Lynden Norgate, RGC; Region 5: Bruce Arnol, RGC; Region 12: Peter Zeilic, PJGW; RW Bro Ian Newbery, PAGM, Cof MB; RW Bro Glyn Williams, PAGM, Cof Op; Region 4: Ron Scanes, RGC; Region 3: Bill McBey, RGC; Region 8: Lee Pattinson, PJGW; Region 2: Mohamad Nahas, RGC; Region 11: Brian Potter, PJGW

Absent: Region 10: Graham Davies, RGC; Region 6: Don Janson, RGC; Region 9: No Appointment

REGION 1

Lynden Norgate

Lynden was initiated into Lodge United St Andrew Singleton 34 and following the family's relocation to Hornsby joined Lodge Saratoga 937 and Lodge Wahroonga 674 ultimately completing two years as WM, being appointed DGIW in 2008.

A Queenslander by birth but his formative years were spent around Hornsby where the family now reside.

His early working life was in the engineering field and time spent at Mt Morgan gold mine is still memorable. With supportive wife Virginie they commenced a contract packaging business during the 80s and as directors of Better Sachets Pty Ltd still remain with this business today.

Lynden's interests outside Masonry are focused on his family and when time permits he enjoys restoring and riding motorcycles, or the occasional clay target shoot.

Key objectives include improved communications and he believes that with

integration and expansion of social activities across Districts and throughout the Region, brethren will experience an increase in their enjoyment of the Craft, with a flow on benefit in retention and new membership.

THEME:

Enjoyment – The foundation for Strength and Growth

REGION 2

Mohamad Nahas

I am very excited about the opportunity handed to me as RGC of Region 2, a region which I believe has tremendous potential in growing and representing Freemasonry.

Continuing with the education and mentoring program set up by RW Bro Painton is a priority, whilst implementing the new initiatives of Grand Lodge will also play a major role in the activities of the Region.

Combining the activities of the Districts within the Region will be as impor-

tant as trying to involve the Region in crossing boundaries and working with other Regions on promotional activities that will represent and enhance the image of Freemasonry throughout the state.

I look forward to working with a professional Regional Team that will cover all areas, and in two years' time the results will prove a great success for the Region and for Freemasonry.

THEME:

Regions and Districts Working Together

REGION 3

Bill McBey

Allow me to introduce myself – 'WILLIAM BRUCE McBEY' (Bill). Jennie and I have two daughters and a son. We adore and love dearly our three grandsons and granddaughter.

Currently I am employed as an Assets Investigations Officer within the Blue Mountains City Council. I am also the



Deputy Captain (retained fireman) within Fire & Rescue NSW and prior to my Council employment I was with the Rail Industry in New South Wales.

In my masonic career, I was a member of the Craft for 23 years at Lodge Katoomba; District Grand Inspector of Workings for District 35; Worshipful Master twice and currently Lodge Secretary; Royal Arch Mason, currently the Excellent First Principal of Chapter Blackheath.

It is my aim, with the valuable assistance of the existing Regional Team, to jointly work through issues and concerns relating to our Region to develop a Regional management team; encourage and lead Region Three into the future; and foster growth and fraternal bonds with all our neighbouring Districts and Regions.

I look forward to working with the brethren of Region Three and as the opportunity avails, to encourage a greater participation within the Region's Educational programs

THEME:

Together we will cross the bridges and mend the fences.

REGION 4

Ron Scanes

With the continuance of the mentoring process to guide young masons through their various degrees as well as working closely with Grand Lodge in building support within our Region, I can see the Craft consolidating and increasing membership.

To do this we must ensure our product is right and the improvement of our meeting places is paramount because the majority of masonic buildings do not meet current standards of accommodation. They lack facilities that the current generation expect and demand. In an attempt to overcome this, I hope to attend District Lodge Management meetings and join discussing items causing concern.

I would like all members to consider providing for those less fortunate, in particular the elderly and frail members of our lodges.

I will continue the good work of our previous RGCs in working with Masonic care to further improve the lives of others

by providing funding to those 'grass roots' community organisations nominated by local Freemasons.

Finally in working closely with the great band of DGIWs in this Region I can see nothing but growth.

THEME:

Freemasonry – To enhance and strengthen the image of the Craft as an organisation of excellence in our Region.

REGION 5

Bruce Arnol

Bruce joined Freemasonry in January 1961 in Tasmania and became WM of Lodge Aquatic for the 1975/76 year before relocating to Tweed Heads in 1979.

He married Pam in 1959 and they have three adult children and three granddaughters.

Bruce is a member of Lodge Pacific No 298, was Foundation SW of Twin Towns Daylight Lodge No 981 and WM in 1986/87.

Appointed DGIW District 66 for the 1996/98 term, DGIW of District 55 for the 2006/08 term, Regional Grand Counsellor for Region 5 in August 2009 and reappointed until 2013.

Region 5 extends from Port Macquarie in the south to the Queensland border at Tweed Heads, with an arm from Bangalow to Lismore and 30 lodges in the Region.

Our objective is to present Masonry to the communities and create opportunities for it to be identified in a positive way, including fundraising for specific causes and making sure Masonic care is properly identified and promoted.

Past objectives have been achieved and our efforts greatly appreciated by the various recipients, creating favourable press from all areas of media.

With these projects in place we will continue to provide our masons with strong initiatives so that Freemasonry in Region 5 continues to grow its membership.

THEME:

Freemasonry and our Communities

REGION 6

Don Janson

This Region represents 'Masonry in the Bush to keep it Alive'. The RGC, the three DGIWs in Region 6, and the brethren will work together to ensure all lodges in the Region work to promote Freemasonry in New England and the North West.

This will be achieved by supporting and promoting local activities, involving participation at all levels in joint activities and interaction with the local communities through Masonic care, 'A Start In Life' and masonic charities and ideals.

The Regional Conference will continue every year and rotate through the districts. This has proved a great success in the past and brings the Fraternity together as one big family, working to attract new candidates to strengthen the membership in Region 6.

Naturally, we will always aim to raise the profile of Freemasonry in our Community and encourage further co-operation with Associated Masonic Orders.

I have a great love of Masonry and with the certainty to gain a lot of enjoyment from the office, I will be working hard to

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or Patrick on **9556 1537** or
Email: patrick@wpsa.org.au.



impart my vision for the future to the brethren and am confident they will share the journey with me.

THEME:

Keeping the Bush Craft Alive

REGION 7

Lex Bramble

Lex Bramble was initiated in Lodge Macquarie No 53 on 12 December 1968, became the 100th Worshipful Master in September 1976 and was WM again in 1988–1989 and 2000–2011.

He was appointed DGIW of District No 78 for 1982–1984 which included the dedication of Lodge Allan Stuart Masonic Centre in the presence of the Grand Master MW Bro Harold Coates.

He has been secretary of Lodge Macquarie since October 2003, received Conferred rank of Past Junior Grand Warden in March 2005 and Past Assistant Grand Master in June 2011.

Lex has completed the Grand Master's Representative Seminar; Lodge of Instruction Preceptors Seminar and Grand Director of Ceremonies.

He became Regional Grand Counsellor of Region 7 in August 2007, was reappointed in 2009 then again in 2011.

He is Chairman of the UPA (Bracken House) at Dubbo which includes hostel, dementia and self care units as well as a new retirement village, Oxley. He has an interest in the Morris Minor Club of NSW, is a keen woodworker, was convener of the Dubbo Woodturners Woodcraft Club 27 years ago and is still a member.

Lex trains pacers for himself and his wife on their property out of Dubbo and assists his granddaughters with their riding and driving of horses.

THEME:

Making Life Better with Freemasonry

REGION 8

Lee Pattinson

To promote Freemasonry within the broader community, we have to promote the ideal that we are committed to Freemasonry, enjoy being members of the Fraternity and that we have a relevance within this modern day

community; whilst maintaining the beauty of our ritual and ceremonial traditions.

It should be a relatively easy concept to convey, simply by:

1. Advertising the fact that we are members of the Fraternity and the Community and proud of it.
2. Demonstrating that we care simply by involving Masonicare in community projects and subsequent local publication of the fact.

If as members we are able to demonstrate that we are relevant in this modern day and age, that we are committed and enjoy being members, then hopefully we should be able to attract new members of like ilk to not only join with us, but to promote our cause, so that good men of all walks of life WANT to join our Fraternity.

THEME:

Visibility with commitment, enjoyment and relevance

REGION 9: No appointment

REGION 10

Graham Davies

Graham believes that to provide a viable future for Freemasonry our members must enjoy the Craft and see the entire experience as a valuable enhancement to their lives. As masons we meet in the grand design of being happy and conferring happiness, and the active pursuit of perfect harmony in our lodges and in our interactions with each other is the only sure foundation for that happiness.

Region 10 is an interesting mixture of country town and city lodges situated in both NSW and the ACT and there is great future potential in this diversity. We have established lodge websites which are reaching new members who have done their research on the internet before approaching us. As masons we must preserve the Ancient Landmarks (such as the oral delivery of high standard ritual) while being attuned to the expectations of our members in the management and leadership provided through our lodges.

We must remember that Freemasonry is purely voluntary and consequently its members at all levels must feel there are benefits and enjoyments to be found from

the investment of their time and energies. This is the true value of the Craft.

THEME:

Masonry – Valuable and Viable

REGION 11

Brian Potter

My aim is to continue forward from the great works of my predecessors and add the mixture of Generation Y to the Veterans, Baby Boomers and Gen X of the Management Team, to assist the activities and development of the 20/20 programs and absorb them into the Craft. We have so many talented brethren within the regions who need to be offered direction and reflective position that they can nurture and assist Freemasonry in the long term to assure viability and sustainability.

We all desire to see our membership bases grow within the Jurisdiction. We plan to make new connections with the community, bring Masonry to the people and be in the forefront of community actions with singular and conjoint projects. Consequently the education of the general community is also a high priority along with the masonic education of our brethren. Each District is unique and the community spirit will be aimed at and integrated with the demographics of that area – a challenging but moreover a beneficial, worthwhile project for all concerned.

I look forward to the challenges and again working alongside the Regional and District teams.

THEME:

Community and Generation Unity

REGION 12

Peter Zeilic

Region 12 is an active and progressive Region containing six Districts and some 38 lodges with a high degree of lodges with younger Freemasons. This Region is a hub of activity and my vision is to energise all the lodges and brethren to breath renewed vitality into their Freemasonry, lodges, the District and the Region. My passion within Freemasonry is Membership and Fraternity, to grow the Craft and

secure a vibrant future for us. I want us to be heard and be seen in the Community.

I plan to progress the Region with regular meetings and communications with the DGIWs and brethren to ensure that while each lodge is an individual entity with its own characteristics, we work together as one Fraternity to build a better future for Freemasonry as a whole and the brethren in particular.

I would also like to encourage each lodge to form an association with a country lodge outside Sydney, to support country members with fraternal visits, assist with degree work, installations and ritual as well as an interchange of ideas and communications.

THEME:

*Action with Passion –
Building a Better Fraternity*

REGION 13

Tony Punzet

Tony Punzet is continuing as RGC for Region 13, the largest in the state, starting from Nyngan going west to Broken Hill and then up north to Lightning Ridge.

Better known as Punz throughout the jurisdiction, Tony is married with two sons aged 8 and 4 years. He has been involved in many organisations over the years such as Apex, Director of the local Memorial Services Club and currently involved with Rotary, a volunteer with Homes Care Services of NSW in the Meals On Wheels and Client Transport program for the last 24 years, and a serving member of St John Ambulance.

His professional employment was general engineering mainly in the mining industry.

Joining Freemasonry in 1994, he became WM of The Cobar Lodge No 97 in 1999 and again in 2000, was District Grand Inspector of Workings from 2006–2008 and began his term as Regional Grand Counsellor in 2009.

As Masonry in the far west is alive and well, the Bush Craft is still passing on and retaining traditional values, while amalgamating them with community in the 21st century and beyond.

THEME:

*Bush Craft Masons retaining values,
progressing forward*


CHAIRMAN REGIONAL OPERATIONS

Glyn Williams

Glyn was initiated into Lodge Allawah in 1977 and served as the WM of the consolidated Lodge Allawah-Zenith in 1981–82. He was also the WM of Lodge Future from 1997–99. He joined the Ceremonial Team in 2001 and served as Grand Director from 2005 to 2008.

Following his time as part of the Ceremonial Team, Glyn was a member of the Membership Committee before being elected to the Board for Management in 2009 and 2011. Glyn has been Chairman of Regional Operations since joining the Board. In 2010 he was appointed as Deputy Chairman.

Glyn and his wife Carol have two children and four grandchildren, all of whom live in Regional NSW. Glyn is a human resources manager with a multi-national company and Carol works with special needs children in the school system.

Glyn is looking forward to continuing to work with the RGCs in meeting the needs of our members. 

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'Mouth to ear'

Another article on **How to Learn Charges** which describes the **mentoring form of learning and teaching ritual** in many North American Constitutions.

As explained by the Executive Secretary of the Masonic Service Association of North America (MSANA), 'Many Grand Lodges have mouth-to-ear which simply means the Grand Lodge has not approved printing the ritual'. Ten US Grand Lodges do not have ritual ciphers or plain text ritual books and prohibit members from having them.

I've had the opportunity and good fortune to have visited lodges in such Constitutions across North America, and as far away as South Korea (whose ritual practice follows that of California) over a number of years and found their ritual rendition to be identical and, to my ears, 'word perfect' in its accuracy but, every bit as important, refreshing in its delivery. It seemed, in a sense, to become 'alive'.

One such meeting in South Korea, about 40 years ago, remains fresh in my memory as the most enjoyable, exciting, and educational meeting I have ever attended in my 60 year membership of the Craft. My impressions remain so vivid that I have written to successive Grand Masters outlining this experience.

To maintain the accuracy of their repetition of the ritual their system needs the importance of understanding the meaning of each word and phrase in every charge.

Lodges in such Constitutions appoint a 'mentor' to assist each individual candidate. The Master appoints an education (ritual) chairman and committee to assist each class of candidates ... 'mouth to ear' is usually a 'one on one' review and repetition to establish an understanding of what transpired during the degree and a follow-up to determine the individual's understanding, learning and proficiency.

One WM explained to me: 'We look upon each degree ceremony as a "masonic play" in which all the officers and brethren "perform" for the benefit of an audience of ONE, the Candidate'. Their masonic mentors are usually Past Masters who are knowledgeable in ritual, masonic history,

lodge etiquette and lodge operations.

The obvious point in a study of any Ritual is that it is a teaching system where a student may be taught and when the student has learned, he may then become a teacher, always with a constant result as the objective. Help the ritualist grow in poise, composure and intellect, then surround him with fraternal love and affection for he will then be your brother.

Lodges have a tendency to select their best ritualist when it comes to the election of a new preceptor.

The ability to do something well has little relevance to the ability to help others reach the same standard. Good preceptors create learning and guide their pupils.

RITUAL, if we can simplify it, is the performing of certain acts in order to demonstrate some mystery. Nothing builds attendances and attracts visitors more than the ritual of our ceremonial being delivered, not just word perfect, but with the subtleties and nuances that paint a word picture of the lessons embedded in the charges.

It is my belief that maintenance of the high standard of ritual in North America has played a significant part in the much slower decline in their membership.

The time-honoured way to learn masonic ritual is by listening to it during lodge meetings and studying to memorise it. It is not just a matter of remembering the ritual words by rote and being able to remember


and then recite them – the skill of a good ritualist lies in how he delivers it. To do that you have to study each word and phrase and interpret what the message is that you are intending to convey to the candidate.

The benefit of a 'one-on-one' mentoring system is that it enables an experienced mason to gauge how your delivery could be received by a candidate and whether you are getting the right method across.

Where you do not have a mentor, a best approach is for interested members and/or progressive Lodge Officers to form and join a Ritual Club, or Ritual Team.

Masonic districts may even constitute one lodge or a designated body of members who solely perform degree work and masonic funeral ceremonies for other lodges in their district

Lodges within a district could also form what is called a Wardens' Club. The Wardens' Club may consist of Junior Wardens, Senior Wardens, Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, Ritual Team members and any other lodge member who wishes to attend just to watch, listen and learn.

My own method was to walk around the local oval and read the charge aloud, over and over again, varying emphasis and expression to gauge my delivery, and how I emphasised a particular phrase to illustrate the lesson within the charge. 

RW Bro Gale PSGW was a member of the Grand Lodge Ceremonial Team 1970/1979.

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The Lost Key

The Supranatural Secrets of the Freemasons

By ROBERT LOMAS

The Lost Key contains revelations that only an initiate of the highest orders of esoteric Freemasonry is in a position to make.

The thrilling narrative of this new book follows a candidate as he rises through the different grades of initiation, taking part in ceremonies that are sometimes terrifying but always revealing of new knowledge and presenting new mysteries which will only be solved when the next stage of initiation has been achieved.

Dramatic episodes include the re-enacting of an ancient murder from 3,000 years ago in full gory detail; lowering the candidate on the end of a rope into a dark vault under the floor of the temple; holding a dagger to the candidates' naked breast; and making the candidate attend his own funeral.

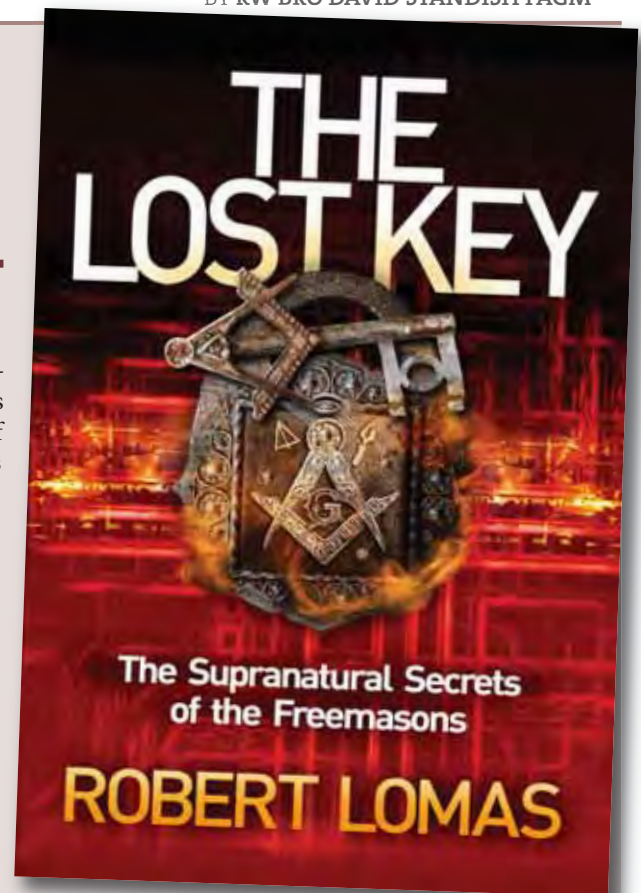
In the secret teachings revealed there is a type of instruction curiously similar to religious and mystical teachings. Astrology, angels, chakras and the powers of the mind to operate independently of the body, are all part of Freemasonic lore.

Dr Robert Lomas, a physicist and a Freemason, has established himself as one of the world's leading authorities on the history of Freemasonry.

'Freemasonry offers me the possibility that my efforts are contributing to the work of the Cosmic Mind of the Grand Geometrician and helping to spread Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Freemasonry looks to share that which I have in common with all people of good faith, especially my brother masons, whilst forbidding discussion of the religious and political views that would drive us apart.'

'Ultimately you will have to reach your own conclusions about the Craft's teachings.'

But, if you will suspend your scepticism, I will share with you what I have learned about Freemasonry over four decades of study.' 🗡️



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Published by Melbourne University Press

ISBN: 978052285817

June 2011 publication, \$39.95

Large P/B, 322 pages

Joe is a survivor

Joe Miller knows he is a **lucky man** ... and at a lively 99 years of age, the Berry resident, born at Redfern in 1912, has **many stories to tell**.

A survivor of being torpedoed off Jervis Bay in World War II, involved in invasions and bombing raids, and watching kamikaze pilots flying over his ship were part of Joe's career as a merchant seaman.

His service began in 1931 when as a 19-year-old he had to lie about his age to get a job as a deck boy and ended in 1981 – 50 years later – when the government told him he was too old to be still working on ships.

His effort was recognised when he was awarded a special medal at the Seafarers Home in Sydney's Kent Street for 50 years of war and peace, at that time only the 12th of its type to be presented in the world.

'I had dreams of going to sea when I was 10. My brother Albert was a steward on a ship and one day he showed me around,' remembered Joe. 'That was about 1922 and the Depression started not long after which forced me out of school and to seek a job which lasted three years until I joined thousands of others who had also been put off. After three more years without work, I had an offer in 1932 from a friend to sign on his father's boat, the 160-ton *Tuncurry* to carry coal from Newcastle to the sugar works. I owe a lot to the Chief Mate, Mr Dawson, who had asked me did I want to be a good seaman or just fill in time. He then went out of his way to teach me which helped me later in my seafaring life.

'After working on other ships, I became part of the long seamen's general strike over reduced award conditions until work returned to normal. I became an Able Seaman after many voyages on passenger and cargo ships and then came the war years.'

One ship he had just left was torpedoed and sunk and another had the stern blown off. He was also on another ship loaded with aviation fuel which was two days out of Darwin when the Japanese air raid was

launched. At Port Moresby there were near-misses from another Japanese bombing raid but they caught up with him after he joined the American freighter *Coast Farmer* which was torpedoed on 21 July 1942, 20 miles off Ulladulla.

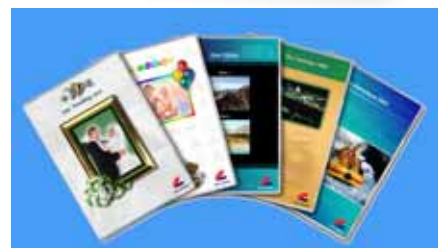
'I had been working all day lashing down heavy earthmoving equipment and went to bed so exhausted after finishing at midnight that I didn't wake when two torpedoes from the Japanese submarine I 11 hit the ship,' he said. 'My head hit the woodwork when the ship listed, the explosion had buckled the walls and caused the cabin door to stick which only opened when another member forced it free.

'I was still in my pyjamas and was the second-last person off the sinking ship and into the lifeboat. A howling westerly blew us 60 miles offshore where we were spotted the next morning by a search plane on its last run.'

Two weeks later Joe signed up for another American ship, the *Admiral Halsted*, which followed the American army advance through the Pacific and took part in five invasions including Leyte, Biak and Milne Bay which he described as the most frightening.

Joe Miller has been a mason for 68 years after being introduced by his brother Albert, a member of Lodge Prince Edward Lewis, and joining that lodge in 1943. He affiliated with Eastern Beaches Daylight and was WM in 1993 at the age of 81. He remains active, travels to and from Sydney to help raise thousands of dollars for masonic and other charities, regularly attends lodge and has received certificates from the NSW Masonic Auxiliary and NSW Masonic Club for 60 years contribution to fellow masons.

Joe once built a two-storey weekender at Berry by himself and now lives at a weekender near Jervis Bay. As a builder, as a seaman and as a Freemason he can be justly proud of his contributions to the Australian community.



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Impact of a Smile

The Whiddon Group Easton Park has implemented the Humour Therapy program, *Play Up*.

Easton Park participated in the successful SMILE (Sydney Multisite Intervention of Laughter Bosses and Elder Clowns) study conducted by the Dementia Collaborative Research Centre UNSW. A documentary called *The Smile Within* was made following Jean-Paul Bell during the last four weeks of the intervention and features clients and staff from TWG Easton Park engaging in the therapy. On 14 July 2011 a world first began at Easton Park with the roll out of *Play Up*.

Clients, staff and families have reported positive benefits of the creative engagement interventions and due to the success of the program The Whiddon Group will commence the program at all sites across the state. When asked about the program a client with early stage Dementia, replied: 'If it makes you smile, it is worth the while'.

The program is based on structured person-centred, individually tailored visits with a specially trained humour practitioner. An average 20% reduction in agitation levels of the clients receiving the humour intervention has been shown. The result is more successful than medication therapy. The Whiddon Group mission of providing choices and opportunities of life enrichment for clients through innovative care services is very successful.



I-R: *Play Up* performer Jean-Paul Bell, staff member Tess Dargan and client Jean Dever

Name Badges

The Homes are able to provide name badges for brethren of a number of different Orders including Craft Lodges, Royal Arch, Rose Croix, Secret Monitor – all with the appropriate insignia. Name badges for other organisations are also available.

Ladies' name badges with a magnetic clip are available \$13.00

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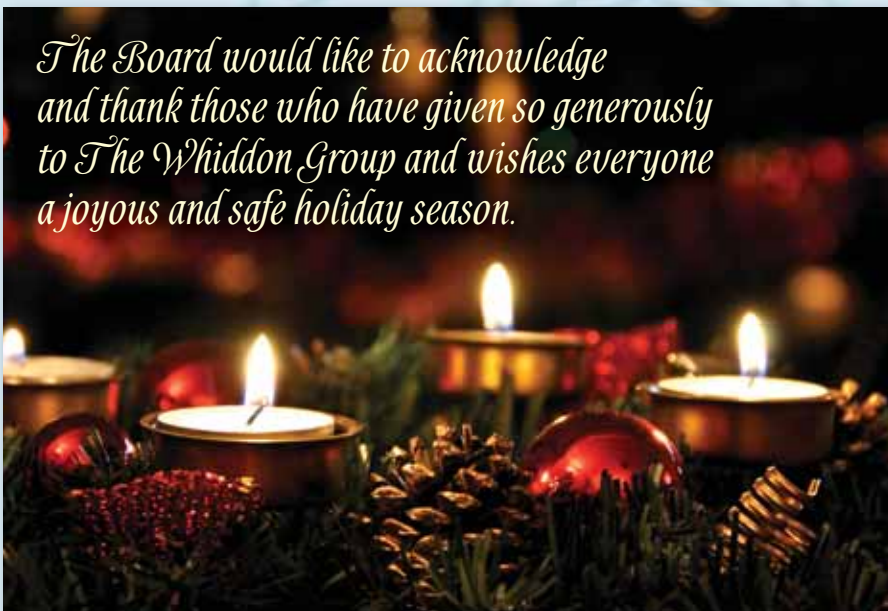
2 lines (Lodge and name) \$9.90

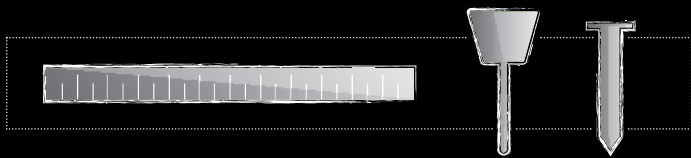
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The Board would like to acknowledge and thank those who have given so generously to The Whiddon Group and wishes everyone a joyous and safe holiday season.





The Apprentice's Tools

Within the symbolism of the working tools of the Entered Apprentice lays the **intellectual and spiritual foundation** of our Craft.

The symbolism of these tools has evolved in ages past when, in the absence of written language, lessons were taught and transferred by relating important messages to the elementary tools used in everyday life. The **24 inch gauge**, the **common gavel** and **chisel** were such tools from which teachings of conduct and morality are believed to have evolved.

The essential truth and relevance of these lessons has persisted over time and, in recent centuries, become an integral part of the fabric of our masonic ritual.

The 24 inch gauge was the earliest instrument of measurement from which both distance and time were determined – the 12 hours of the day and the 12 hours of the night. The lesson from this division of time was that it must not be wasted, it cannot be evaded and it must be used to best advantage in achieving the ultimate purposes of Life. Thus the 24 inch gauge symbolises the objective use of our private time – and how we appropriate and apportion time between our daily duties of work, prayer, meditation and rest.

The 24 inch gauge exemplifies our threefold duty – to God, to our neighbours and ourselves, which are incumbent upon every brother every day. It allocates no definite apportionment of time but tells us in clear language how each day should be occupied.

It exhorts us to go forth in prayer to our labour and service until evening. Prayer is a matter of attitude, and the man 'who in times of difficulty and danger puts his hand into the hand of God' enunciates his prayer of Faith.

The common gavel is the simplest of all tools, the origin of which goes back to

primitive man, evidence of which is found in virtually all parts of the world. The wedge shape of the gavel is the first principle of mechanics and is even now an essential component of even the most complicated modern machinery. It is an essential tool in common use in modern life.

Symbolically, it represents the force of conscience. It dictates our individual responsibility for our actions, the appropriate line of action to be done or not, the choice of right or wrong and that the onus of our decisions as individuals clearly rests with us.

Conscience can be said to assume a judicial attitude which commands when our actions are right but condemns when our actions are wrong. We are endowed with the privilege of self government and self determination. Conscience should also regulate our conduct with regard to our neighbours in civil, social and other functions of modern life. Conscience is purely moral; it is the knowledge of one's actions and knowing what is right.

In our ritual we are admonished to examine and respect our character. It teaches us to 'correct the errors and irregularities of our temper, to curb the aspirations of unbridled ambition, to moderate the outbursts of wrath (or anger) and repress the malignancy of envy, to condemn the excrescences of vice'. Unbecoming thoughts and actions unworthy of a Freemason must be cast aside as worthless to avoid offending the Great Architect.

The chisel differs from the 24 inch gauge and the common mallet in two essential respects. Firstly, its efficiency as a tool is not contained within itself, it requires an independent force – a heavy gavel – to be used successfully.

Secondly, it must be maintained sharp to be an efficient tool. It demands significant but subtle skill on the part of the Craftsman to enable him to finish and polish his work. It symbolises the role of education as a vital and necessary tool for properly training and equipping a man as a useful productive member of society.

Our ritual explicitly defines that the chisel represents the advantages of discipline and education, which further develops the intellectual potential of each person into a civilised and enlightened being capable of appreciating and performing our duty to man and to God.

In practical terms, the symbolic intention of the chisel is to motivate each new candidate to devote himself to the continual process of learning, to know, to understand and to appreciate the many and complex elements that constitute modern society; in particular the contemporary environment in which he lives and is now obligated to make a useful contribution. This includes the progressive acquisition of masonic knowledge through learning and appreciating our brilliant ritual and by readings from the literature on Freemasonry available in the Sydney Masonic Library.

Together, the symbolic teachings of these three simple elementary tools unquestionably represents the most relevant and pertinent foundation for teaching civilised and thoughtful conduct in an educated society. No other philosophy or moral doctrine is more expressive or relevant in its objective of promoting those human values that give meaning and expression to the nobler and more democratic values of Life.



The CFC and fraternal relations

RW BRO Juan Alvarez outlines the history and little known, but important, role of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

It is not very often that the role the Committee on Foreign Correspondence (CFC) plays in international relations is discussed and it is seldom presented to masonic lodges as it normally falls within the domain of certain levels of confidentiality within the CFC.

There are very obvious reasons for confidentiality as relations between Grand Lodges, similar to lodges, may become strained from time to time and by being able to maintain confidentiality, there is always room for negotiation thus preventing embarrassment to the parties involved.

This fact is clearly demonstrated by observing how many times negotiations are unsuccessful because of the lack of confidentiality. In fact, nobody wants to lose face. Changes in the book of Constitutions implemented at the Grand Lodge Communication in June 1996 resulted in the CFC reporting directly to the Executive Council instead of the Board of Management.

The CFC is responsible for making recommendations for the appointment of Representatives of Sister Constitutions and investigates requests for recognition from masonic Jurisdictions not recognised by this Grand Lodge. It recommends appropriate action to the Executive Council, investigates problems arising between other Constitutions and monitors that the Sister Grand Lodges recognised by this Grand Lodge adhere to and do not deviate from the universally recognised practices of Freemasonry.

The CFC also peruses and reviews annual reports from other Grand Lodges and advises Boards and Committees of items that may be of interest for follow up

action. It presents an analysis of Grand Lodges deviating, or seen to be deviating, from the ancient landmarks to the Executive Council and submits regular reports to Grand Lodge. It provides the Grand Master with special reports of 'trouble' spots, religion, youth, strategic plans or special projects, and submits articles of interest to the *NSW Freemason* amongst other things.

The main purpose of Grand Lodge recognition is to ensure that masons from this jurisdiction visiting do so in lodges which are regular and entitled to be visited. The CFC also encourages better communications between Grand Lodges in the promotion of universal brotherhood, and ensures that other Grand Lodges are working in accordance with the Ancient Landmarks – whatever they are – as this is one of the best known conversation pieces and perhaps the most debatable subject in Freemasonry.

Since its inception in 1888, this Grand Lodge has always followed and applied the principles and guidelines adopted by the UGL of England. However, there was never an official declaration from this Grand Lodge to that effect until 1992 when, at the Grand Lodge Communication, a recommendation from the then Board of General Purposes to adopt the Principles and Guidelines of the UGL of England of 1929 was approved. The English Guidelines of 1929 were somewhat outdated, because not only were they nearly 70 years old, but it was a document already updated from the guidelines that England used nearly 200 years ago.

In a world that is changing rapidly, one must remember that Freemasonry is also changing, and rather quickly, and if we take into consideration the great revival

of Freemasonry in Eastern Europe after the fall of the Iron Curtain, then one must realize that new values in recognition must be found to accommodate that revival. The use of the internet also brought many changes.

Hence, we are now at the stage that new and updated guidelines are needed to be able to cope with the requirements of modern times.

This Grand Lodge is always prepared to consider recognition of those Grand Lodges which wholeheartedly profess and practice Freemasonry, and can show that their subordinated lodges and members adhere to the basic principles of Freemasonry.

In most cases, Grand Lodges extend full recognition to each other, or had in place Inter-Visitation Treaties without formal recognition as a preliminary step to full recognition.

Another requisite for recognition is that no member of Grand Lodge, or its Private Lodges, should have contact with irregular masonic associations or with mixed lodges or with bodies which admit women to membership.

Another important point in recognition is that membership should consist exclusively of men of 'good report' who express a belief in the Supreme Being, and that every candidate is required to take an obligation on the Volume of the Sacred Law.

This is a brief outline of the workings of the CFC and its role in international relations and there is so much more to explain constrained only by space limitations.

RW Bro Alvarez is Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence.



Service honours those who defended Australia

Freemasons were formally represented at the **Commemorative Service** held on 7 September 2011 honouring those who served in the **defence of Australia** from 1942 to 1945.

The term 'Battle for Australia' was first used by Prime Minister John Curtin in an address to the Nation on 18 February 1942. On 19 June 2008, His Excellency, Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC, Governor General of Australia, proclaimed that the 'Battle for Australia Day' was to be a National Day of Remembrance, to be held annually on the first Wednesday of September.

The Service honours those who served on land and sea and in the air in the defence of Australia in 1942 to 1945.

The Service is organized by the Battle for Australia Commemoration Committee whose mission is to:

- accord national honour and commemoration to all who served in the defence of Australia.
- educate our children to understand and appreciate the sacrifice of many thousands of young Australians during World War II in the southwest Pacific.
- build upon the existing goodwill between the people of Australia and our allies in those years, especially the people of Papua New Guinea.

The Ceremony on 7 September 2011 was held in the presence of Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO Governor of NSW, and dignitaries represent-

ing the NSW Government, the armed forces of Australia, service organisations and other like-minded groups.

At this year's Ceremony, the United Grand Lodge of NSW and ACT and the Freemasons' Association (NSW & ACT) laid wreaths in memory of masonic ex-servicemen and women of the masonic family.

The masonic wreath-laying parties included RW Bro Major General Raymond J Sharp AO RFD ED Ret'd PDGM, and RW Bro Commander Ian Newbery PAGM, Chairman Board of Management, representing the UGL, and RW Bro Emanuel Maniago SGW, President Freemasons Association, and Dr Yvonne McIntyre 2RANC, representing the Freemasons' Association. The wreath-laying parties were supported by many Freemasons and their wives who attended the Service.

This was the first time that Freemasonry had formally been represented in the Commemorative Service and resulted from an expressed wish from the Grand Master, MW Bro Commander Derek Robson AM RAN Ret'd, that the Freemasons of this Jurisdiction be involved.

Freemasons attending the Service and their wives later gathered at the Masonic Club for lunch.





The Battle for Australia – Part Two

Darwin



‘Darwin’ is the second of a three part series published to commemorate the military campaigns now recognised as the ‘Battle for Australia’. The first article titled ‘Bougainville’, appeared in the Autumn 2011 Issue of the Freemason – V43 N1. The Battle for Australia Day is commemorated annually on the second Wednesday in September and for the first time, the Freemasons of NSW and the ACT were officially represented at the 2011 Service in Sydney. A report on the 2011 Service is included elsewhere in this issue of the Freemason.

At 9.58 am on 19 February 1942, Australia suffered its first ever attack on home soil. The attack came in the form of 188 Japanese aircraft which bombed and strafed the city of Darwin causing considerable damage to shipping and public buildings.

The bombing lasted for about 40 minutes and was followed by a second raid which included 54 land-based aircraft from Kendari in the Celebes and Ambon an hour later. The second attack lasted about 20 minutes and concentrated on military and civilian air bases. The two raids killed 243 civilians and military personnel with a further 300 to 400 listed as injured or missing. The killed and injured amounted to about 25% of the city’s population of about 2,000 people.

In addition to the human loss, there was also severe damage to public buildings and military establishments including the destruction of twenty military aircraft and eight ships at anchor in the harbour.

The attack was led by Commander Mitsuo Fuchida and was launched from four of the aircraft carriers used in the bombing of Pearl Harbour ten weeks earlier. The carriers, under the command of Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo were part of a Japanese Naval force assembled in the Timor Sea to support Japan’s invasion of Timor.

In many cases, the first people knew of the attack was the sound of the bombs exploding around them. With only one minute

warning of the raid, people had little time to get to slit trenches or air raid shelters and were killed or injured in their homes or places of employment. Nine post office workers including the Post Master were killed in a slit trench adjoining the Post Office. Wharf labourers were particularly disadvantaged by the lack of adequate warning. More than 20 of the 70 workers engaged in unloading shipping were killed either outright or died from injuries sustained from having to swim through burning oil.

There were numerous acts of heroism during the air raids with many badly injured personnel being pulled from the burning oil-covered water by naval ratings and merchant seamen whilst still being strafed and dive bombed.

Whilst the anti-aircraft gunners from the two anti-aircraft batteries did their best to defend the city, the sixteen 3.7 anti-aircraft guns were ineffective against the intensity of the Japanese air raid and only one Japanese plane was shot down.

The main target of the first attack was Darwin’s harbour, town and military establishments. The hospital also came under attack causing patients to be either moved to the hospital’s slit trenches or if they were too sick to move, simply placed under their beds.

Shipping was particularly vulnerable with 47 ships at anchor. Eleven ships were sunk as a result of the bombing including the USS Destroyer *Peary* and the Australian ship *Neptuna*. The *Neptuna* was loaded with 200 mines and exploded with



The Darwin flag

An item of interest prepared for the new Second World War gallery at the Australian War Memorial



The Darwin Flag after conservation treatment. (AWM REL30126)

The "Darwin Flag" is an Australian flag that was flying above the post office at Darwin during the first Japanese air raid on north Australia in February 1942.

During the raid two of the stars were shot, and the holes have since frayed. In 1992, the flag was displayed at the Northern Territory Museum of Arts and Sciences as part of a commemorative exhibition on the anniversary of the bombing, but it has not previously been displayed at the Australian War Memorial.

The flag will now be displayed in the new Second World War gallery at the Memorial; however it has had to undergo extensive conservation treatment in order to make it stable enough to withstand long-term display.

The major challenge of this process was finding a way to handle safely such a large and fragile object. The Darwin flag measures 321 cm by 170 cm and had suffered other wear in addition to the damage caused during the raid. To strengthen the flag, it was necessary to stabilise it with a lining of neutral coloured linen fabric. The flag was hand stitched to this support fabric, without repairing the holes as they tell an important part of the flag's history. The flag will be displayed hanging vertically on a shaped support. The conservation treatment of the Darwin flag took 207 hours to complete.

Wendy Dodd
Australian War Memorial

most serious in terms of fatalities and damage and prompted the Prime Minister, Mr John Curtin, to say: 'We must face with fortitude the first onset and remember that we are Australians and will fight grimly and victoriously.'

The National Archives Fact Sheet No 95 titled 'The Bombing of Darwin' describes the effect of the air raids on the civilian and service population in the following terms: 'In the hours following the air raids on 19 February, believing that an invasion was imminent, Darwin's population began to stream southwards, heading for Adelaide River and the train south. Approximately half Darwin's civilian population ultimately fled. The panic in the town was repeated at the RAAF base, where servicemen deserted their stations in great numbers.

Three days after the attack 278 servicemen were still missing. The

exodus south (which later became known as 'The Adelaide River Stakes'), and the looting and disorder which subsequently occurred, led the government to hurriedly appoint a Commission of Inquiry led by Mr Justice Lowe which issued two reports, one on 27 March and the other on 9 April 1942.'

Insufficient space precludes detailed comment on Justice Lowe's report; however, it is interesting to note that the report

was highly critical of the RAAF at Darwin for failing to act upon information relayed to them by the Amalgamated Wireless Postal Radio Station concerning the raid. The Postal Radio Station had received information from Father John McGrath of the Catholic Mission on Bathurst Island at 9.37 am, approximately 20 minutes prior to the start of the first raid and had immediately transmitted the information to the RAAF. Justice Lowe concluded that had the message been communicated to each of the service headquarters and Air Raid Precautions Headquarters in a timely manner, many lives would possibly have been saved.

The extent of the damage and loss of life and the panic which followed the Japanese air raids was largely kept from the Australian public. The Brisbane *Courier Mail* on 20 February 1942 referred to the bombing and stated: 'Damage to property was considerable. There were some casualties. Details not yet available.' The government became



a force that shook the town. Although clearly marked, the hospital ship *Manunda* was hit killing four people including Sister Margaret de Mestre. The *Manunda* survived the bombing and was later used to transport many of the injured to Perth for attention.

The attacks on 19 February were the first of more than 60 raids made on Darwin between February 1942 and November 1943. They were however, the

concerned at the affect the news of the bombing would have on national morale and downplayed the attack announcing that 17 people had been killed.

The first accurate although incomplete report of the bombing of Darwin was published in the Australian War Memorial publication *Soldiering On* in December

continued bottom of page 22



How mean can you be?

As a child, I had the meanest mother in the whole world.

She was really mean; when the other kids ate lollies for breakfast, she made me eat cereal, eggs and toast. When others had soft drink and lollies for lunch, I had to eat a sandwich.



My mother insisted on knowing where we were at all times. You'd think we were on a chain gang! She had to know who our friends were and what they were doing. She insisted that if we said we'd be gone for an hour, then we would have to be gone one hour or less. She was really mean.

I am ashamed to admit it but she actually had the nerve to break the child labour law. She made us work. We had to wash the dishes, make the beds, learn to cook, polish and dust and all sorts of cruel things. Tidying the back and front yards and some gardening were also on her calendar. I believe she used to lie awake each night, thinking up mean things for us to do.

She always insisted on us telling the truth, the whole truth and nothing but

the truth. By the time we were teenagers, she was much wiser and our life became even more unbearable.

None of this tooting of the horn of the car for us to come running; she embarrassed us immensely by making our dates and friends come to the door for us. I forgot to mention – while my friends were dating at the mature age of 12 or 13, my old-fashioned mother refused to let me date until I was 16. She wouldn't allow us to use our mobiles for texting at the dinner table and made us pay our own mobile telephone bills. After school, it was homework time and a flat refusal to allow talking on the mobile, playing TV games or watching television until the homework had been completed. She also insisted on politeness and to say 'Thank You' and

'Please' when talking to other people.

My mother was a complete failure as a mother. None of us has ever been arrested, fired from a job or had our character questioned – and whom do we have to blame for this terrible way we've turned out? You're right, our mean mother.

Look at all the things we missed. We didn't take part in a riotous demonstration or a protest march, get chased by the police, take drugs or do the million and one things that our friends did. She made us grow up into God-fearing, educated, honest adults. Using this as a background, I am trying to raise my children. I stand a little taller and I am filled with pride when my children call me 'mean'. You see, I thank God that He gave me the meanest mother in the world!

The Battle for Australia – Part Two

Darwin

continued from page 21

1942. The report was released to the national newspapers and subsequently published on or about 9 December 1942. Although the wording of the report had been agreed by the appropriate military authorities, it was later claimed that it was not an official publication. In response to a question in Parliament from Senator Collett on 11 February 1943 concerning the completeness of the report, the Minister for Defence stated that it was not in the public interest to publish a fuller account at present.



In an address 'Remembering 1942' given beside the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial on 19 February

2002, Dr Peter Stanley said in closing: 'Darwin has attracted many myths, not the least being that news of it was suppressed. It was certainly diminished. The following day news reports put the death toll at 17, but word of the raids on Darwin was never suppressed, not least because it supported the Curtin government's desire to mobilize Australians into working, fighting or saving by frightening them about what could happen.'

'The Lowe Royal Commission investigated the raids in 1942, with some hearings held in the ruins of the town. Its report was released in 1945. Douglas Lockwood's book *Australia's Pearl Harbour* first told the story vividly in 1956, and they have been retailed (sic), sometimes

continued >>>

NOTE: The 70th Anniversary of the first bombing raid on Darwin will be held on 19 February 2012 and the City of Darwin will mark this with a two-week commemorative program of events from 11-26 February 2012. Full details of the program can be found at www.frontlineaustralia.com.au



Have your say

Appreciation

I would like to express my appreciation of the Freemason magazine and the enjoyment I get from reading the articles. There is such a variety of topics covered and I find the life story section is particularly good. I feel as I read through the magazine that the masonic movement has lost none of its vitality in today's society. My father and my husband were masons. My happiest memory of my father is seeing him hurrying to the car to go to lodge with a huge smile on his face – he had found the companionship that had always been lacking. When my husband joined Lodge Bega it was the beginning of the best social life we ever had. We moved from the country to live in Berry Masonic Village where masons, particularly Bro Joe Miller come to help. He is a great representative of masonic values and confirms what I have always felt for the masonic movement. I am so proud to be his friend.

RUTH WHEATLEY

Thank you

This letter was received by the Lorna Milgate Scholarship Trustees

Thank you for writing to me as an appropriate applicant for the Lorna Milgate Scholarship Trust. I also thank the WM and brethren of Lodge Truth No 26 for their nomination. I was honoured and humbled by

the nomination but I have just received a scholarship of \$5,000 from the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW and so I feel it would be very greedy to apply for your scholarship as well when there could be other applicants who could receive the money.

I applied for the RAS scholarship as I am going to a mission school in outback Northern Territory later in the year for my internship as a trainee primary school teacher and I needed to fund that trip as well as cover my expenses of rent, electricity and loss of income from my job as a swimming teacher in Canberra whilst I am away.

My heartfelt thanks again for considering me for the scholarship process and could you please pass on my gratitude to the Lodge of Truth in Braidwood. I wish you all the best in having faith in young people and for helping them in their pursuit for a higher education.

KATIE JAYNE O'BRIEN

A Directory Board

A few years ago I asked why many towns I visited as an Accredited Speaker had a 'Directory Board' of the various functions and who to contact.

But sadly, few, if any, ever indicated Freemasonry or any contacts, an issue which should be corrected as we need to market ourselves. It was suggested that little thought had been given to utilizing this form of advertising and once again we were missing out by not adopting this vehicle. Recently,

with more colour than clarity, by other journalists ever since. Australians will always remember the events of 19 February 1942 and those who died in them. Here, at the Roll of Honour of the nation's memorial, we remember them.'

*The Editorial Committee joins with Dr Stanley's sentiments – **We will remember them.***

References

1. *Australia Under Attack ANZAC Day Commemorative Committee (Qld) Incorporated.*

2. *Two Japanese Air Raids at Darwin NT on 19 February 1942 Peter Dunn.*
3. *National Archives of Australia – Fact Sheet 195 Remembering 1942 – The Bombing of Darwin 19 February 1942 Transcript of presentation by Dr Peter Stanley given at the Australian War Memorial 19 February 2002*
4. *Defending Darwin – Australia's WWII Front Line Ian Connellan, Australian Geographic Magazine, issue 91, July–September 2008.*
5. *The Bombing of Darwin Battle for Australia Council.*



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.

while again undertaking a speaking engagement, I noticed these same Directory Boards were still not giving any information about Freemasonry or its contacts.

Perhaps with our falling membership we should correct our need to 'be seen' as for far too long we have been negligent in displaying this type of information correctly for the people in need of such knowledge. Surely it is not a big ask in this day and age, we just have to be positive.

RW BRO W RICHARDS OAM, PJGW

Twins in Freemasonry

Thank you for a wonderful magazine which I look forward to receiving each time. On page 39, the photo of the two brothers being initiated at the same time has prompted me to write to you.

My brother and I, who are twins, were initiated on the same night in Lodge Waverley No 296 on 26 June 1958. Since then we have both progressed through the ranks after moving to other lodges. We now hold the rank of PJGW and still attend regularly and enjoy our Craft.

CLYDE DAVIS PM



It's a big BIG country

Editor Ted Simmons continues his travels to **distant countries**.

You have to hand it to the Americans. When they decide to do something big, they really do it big.

That's the instant impression a traveller gets with Mt Rushmore and Crazy Horse, two of the biggest attractions deep in the Black Hills of South Dakota which leave tourists standing in awe at these remarkable sculptures.

If you ever wanted to get close to an American president with unlimited photo opportunities, this is the place to be.

Most of the accent is on the 5,725 foot (1,744 metres) Mt Rushmore where the four presidents appear to watch your every move: George Washington, who served from 1789–1797, Thomas Jefferson 1801–1809, Abraham Lincoln 1861–1865 and Theodore Roosevelt 1901–1909.

Washington was the first US President, Jefferson was author of the Declaration of Independence, Lincoln ended slavery on US soil and Roosevelt promoted construction of the Panama Canal and economic reform.

This largest monument in the world was the creation of unconventional sculptor Gutzon Borglum, who looked at the smooth granite face of Mt Rushmore and saw a vision of four United States presidents carved into the side of the mountain. In 1927, with the help of more than 400 workers, Borglum began 14 years of work to create his memorial to the history of America which is now host to three million visitors each year.

We chose the nine hours narrated Mt Rushmore Tour from Fort Hays near Rapid City where original scenes are viewable from the Oscar Award winning movie *Dances with the Wolves*.

The day started with a chuckwagon breakfast and ended with dinner accompanied by an original hand clappin', toe tappin' or foot stomping Cowboy Music Variety Show. If you want a mash of baked beans, potatoes and meat slapped onto a tin plate, followed by a steaming cup of black coffee, that's the place to be.

It's a good introduction to the Black Hills of Dakota and a memorable list of sights including Mt Rushmore, scenic tun-



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nels, Custer State Park, Needles Highway and Crazy Horse.

A short walk from the coach stop at Mt Rushmore takes the tourist through the Avenue of Flags to the Grand View Terrace where the presidents loom larger than life. Elevators and steps on both sides of the Terrace lead down to the Museum and Visitor Centre where a 13 minute film has highlights of the four presidents and how Borglum created his sculptures on the granite cliffs.

For the more energetic, a walk around the 800 metres Presidential Trail brings visitors to the base of the mountain and a much closer look at the sculptures. It's awesome to realise the faces tower 5,500 feet (1676m) above sea level and are scaled to men who would stand 465 feet (142m) tall. The Trail loops through the woods at the base of the cliffs to the Sculptures Studio which displays Borglum's original models of the four presidents.

As Borglum said in 1930: 'Let us place there, carved high, as close to heaven as we can, the words of our leaders, their faces, to show posterity what manner of men they were. Then breathe a prayer that these records will endure until the wind and rain alone shall wear them away.'

But a fifth face is emerging in the Black Hills - the colossal Crazy Horse Mountain carving, just 15 kilometres from Mt Rushmore. Sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski started work on the mountain in 1948 as a

tribute to Native Americans and his family today continues to carve Crazy Horse. When it is eventually completed, it will depict Crazy Horse on horseback with his left arm outstretched pointing to an area where he says: 'My lands are where my dead lie buried.'

Tourists can watch drilling and blasting still taking place on the mountain. The 1948 dedication blast took off just 10 tonnes and millions of tonnes have since been removed. The head of Crazy Horse can clearly be seen and workers are now blocking out the 22 storey high horse's head. The painted outline shows the 45 foot (15 m) ear and the 16 foot (5 m) wide eye, some 260 feet (86 m) below the head of Crazy Horse. If you think Mt Rushmore is big, then Crazy Horse is huge. It will be the world's largest mountain carving, standing 563 feet (170 m) high and 641 feet (210 m) long. Try your imagination on an 11m hand, an 80 m arm, a head nearly 30 m high and a 70 m horse's head.

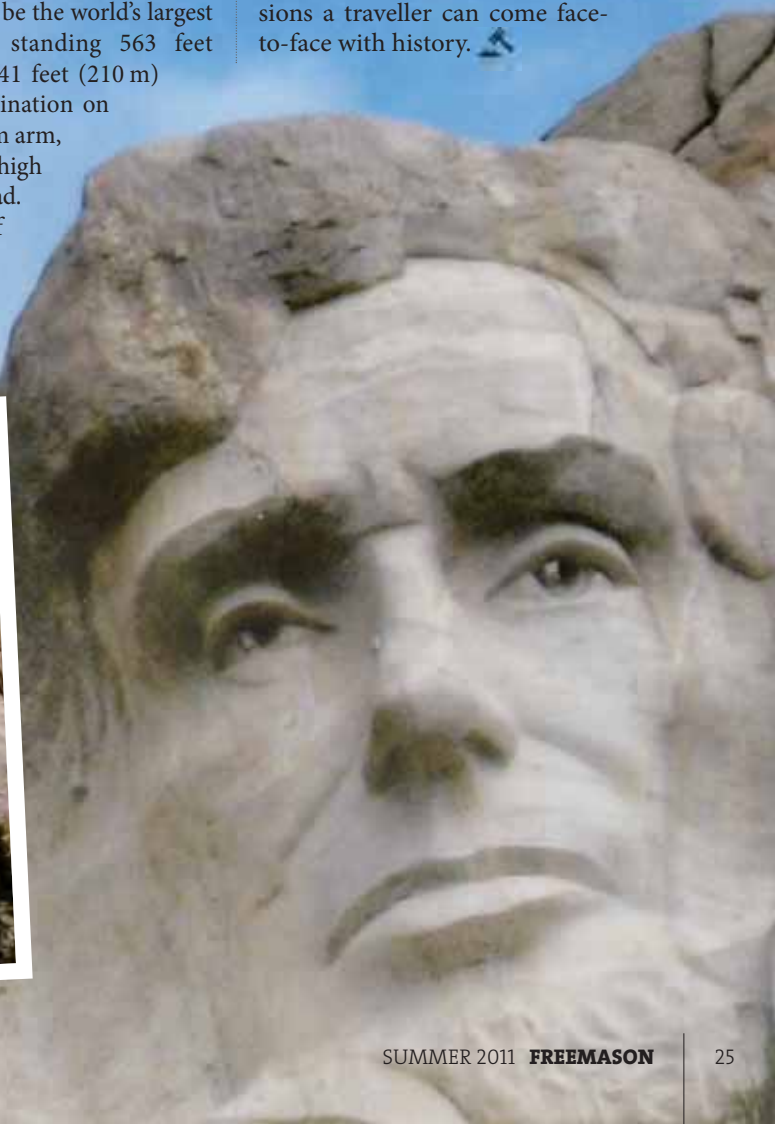
Lakota Chief Henry Standing Bear invited Korczak to the Black



Hills to carve Crazy Horse, saying: 'My fellow chiefs and I would like the white man to know the red man has great heroes also.'

Korczak died in 1982 and his family have since directed the work which, on some estimates, could take another 20 years to complete.

There are many ways to draw inspiration but a visit to Mt Rushmore and Crazy Horse is one of the rare occasions a traveller can come face-to-face with history.





Pioneer and Master Mason

Patricia Braden is the proud great, great granddaughter of **Patrick Maguire**, a pioneer in the Kangaroo Valley. Below she shares the story of his life and achievements and his involvement in Freemasonry.

In a little village in County Fermanagh, Ireland, Patrick Maguire was born about 1815 to parents James and Catherine. I'm sure they struggled to rear their family during the hard times of the early 1800s. Patrick met and married Ann Noble in approximately 1843 and soon obtained a position as a tenant farmer on a glebe (church property) near Pettigo. His family, like most of the population in Ireland, were dependent on the potato as their main source of sustenance.

But the Potato Famine began to sweep most of Ireland and by the end of 1846 thousands were dying of starvation as their staple diet was destroyed. Miraculously Patrick Maguire seems to have managed to keep his family intact and somehow survived that terrible time as the family slowly grew to six children.

However a few years later, in the early 1850s, he and his wife Ann lost three of those children within a few weeks of each other, and after much soul searching, decided to take up an offer by Henry Osborne as overseer on his property in NSW, and hopefully build a better life for their surviving children in this land they knew so very little about.

In July 1856, after nearly six months on board the sailing ship *Ben Nevis* with their three remaining young children, they arrived in Sydney to this strange new world of dust, heat, and flies. Their only means of transport to Osborne's property at Marshall Mount was by steamship to Wollongong and then by bullock dray over rough bush tracks to Albion Park, with their life's possessions in one small carpetbag.

However, life began to look up for the Maguires and after six years at Marshall Mount, Patrick decided to take an offer

of a land grant in Kangaroo Valley in 1862. They were one of the first pioneer families in the Valley. Now, instead of a 'farm hand', he was his own master and landowner – something this illiterate farmer would never have achieved if he had stayed in Ireland.

Patrick quickly built a hut to keep them dry – wooden slabs for walls, bark on the roof to keep the rain out and a dirt floor. He built fences around his land and planted crops, cut down trees to plant potatoes, fruit and vegetables, but they didn't even have proper tools, just implements made from the bush. Even the broom to sweep the dirt floor was only a branch with leaves.



Two of Patrick's aprons: above from the 1840s and below from the 1880s



There was much to contend with, including crops failing, drought, bushfires, caterpillars, grasshoppers, floods; pests such as wallabies, paddy melons, bandicoots, native and tiger cats. The dingoes played havoc with young calves, poultry and pigs.

They had no clock, having to guess the time by tree shadows and the hourly laugh of the jackass, called the 'settlers' clock'. They made candles in a mould with beeswax; grew wheat and ground it into flour to make bread. Damper was made on the hearth and covered in hot ashes to cook. Later luxuries were a camp oven, three legged pot, iron kettle and tin teapot.

When the crops were ripening the children had to run up and down all day, wet or dry, to frighten the native birds away. Bushfires burnt down the fences and floods washed away crops. The children did not attend school as there was no school in the Valley. It was a very hard life for the Maguires and the other pioneer families of the district.

The nearest store, 60 miles (100 kms) away, was at Wollongong. Patrick went every three months for supplies, following the blazed track over the mountain and, as only pack horses were used, the return journey took three days. On one trip he bought a crosscut saw and had to carry it on his shoulders all the way on foot as his



pack and saddle horses were both heavily laden with supplies for the next few months.

Gradually life improved and with hard work, Patrick eventually owned 500 acres and was well respected in the Valley. 'Maguire Hall' was named after him in recognition of his services to the community, and the area of the Valley where he lived was known as 'Maguiretown'. By now he and Ann had three more children, (naming them after the three children who had died in Ireland) and were a family of eight again.

After a number of years in the Valley, in 1880, Paddy tried to join the relatively new Irish Lodge Abercorn No 7, meeting in Nowra under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of NSW, saying he had been initiated as a mason in Ireland in 1833. However, because of the time gap he had forgotten his initiation and the ritual work and had to start again. This was in addition to the lack of documents to prove that he was a mason. He said that when he came to Australia he was busy and had

no time, and living in such isolation, there were no opportunities till now to join the Craft again. So he went home and began to study for his degrees.

He managed to pass his first three degrees during the next four months, despite the fact that he was totally illiterate. He was Initiated into Lodge Abercorn on 18 November 1880, Passed on 10th February 1881, and Raised on 31 March 1881.

Five years later, when he was 71 years of age, he resigned from Lodge Abercorn No 7 on 5 March 1885 along with several other members living in Broughton Creek District, to join as Foundation Members the newly formed Lodge Broughton No 40 (now 131) in Berry, also under the Jurisdiction of the GL of NSW.

This was a 'MOON' lodge – unheard of today. No, they didn't howl at the moon as might be supposed, but met on the full moon of each month. Patrick (and other members) would ride there and home on horseback, by the light of the full moon – not an easy task along that rough mountainous track between Kangaroo Valley and Berry – 20km each way at night which would have taken a minimum of three hours each way and possibly longer. He would have had to leave the Valley – probably after milking, at 3–4pm, and get home again after midnight – just in time to start milking again the next morning!

Attendance records show that he was still attending Lodge Broughton in 1902 at about 88 years of age – although it may have only been for special occasions. His photo still hangs in the lodge room, over 100 years later.

To give an indication of his devotion to the Craft, before he died he designed (and had made) his own red granite headstone engraved with masonic emblems. He then stored it under his bed for the next 10 years (to the amusement of his grandchildren) until he died at 92 years of age on 16 November, 1906. He said the family wouldn't do it the way he wanted, and now all they had to do was add the date. He was buried in Kangaroo Valley Cemetery on 18 November 1906 – the same date as his masonic Initiation 26 years earlier.

Newspapers of the day headed the news of his death as the 'Oldest Freemason in Australia'. His headstone still stands in Kangaroo Valley Cemetery, having been restored by the members of Lodge Broughton in 2006 when they also held a

Memorial Service in his honour to mark the 100th anniversary of his death.

Prior to his death he subdivided portions of his land along the main road, gave a block to each of his children and sold the remaining blocks. Not bad for an illiterate old Irishman. He had also built a 'new house' for his family in about 1870 and this has recently been restored as a B&B/holiday rental cottage in Kangaroo Valley – what a legacy for this great old man.

I'm quite sure there were lots of others of his era who were just as remarkable, but sadly few stories have survived. Much of this detail was written by his daughter many years ago, along with his masonic history researched by RW Bro Juan Alvarez, PAGM.

Patrick's great granddaughter, Mrs Emie Patterson, loaned to the Sydney Museum of Freemasonry his 130 year old hand-made apron from Ireland, along with his Australian aprons, masonic Jewels and other memorabilia belonging to Patrick, his son, son-in-law and grandson. We are grateful to the Museum for making this available for the extended family and for the wider community to enjoy.

I am very proud to be Patrick Maguire's great, great granddaughter.

The complete story of Patrick Maguire can be found in the Sydney Museum of Freemasonry and Shoalhaven, Berry and Kangaroo Valley Museums.





The oldest lodge

Masonry has a long history but the question is often asked as to which is the oldest Lodge in Australia. Lodge Antiquity No 1 on the register of the UGL NSW & ACT, which meets in the Sydney Masonic Centre, is undoubtedly the oldest of the Australian lodges.

It first met in Sydney in 1820 as the Australian Social Lodge. In 1878, the lodge changed its name to Australian Social Mother and in 1920 the name was changed to Antiquity. The actual steps necessary for the formation of the lodge were taken by Lodge No 218 IC, a military lodge attached to the 48th British Regiment serving in Sydney in 1820.


Eight Master Masons, who were non-military members of Lodge No 218, Irish Constitution, signed a petition which was sent to Ireland. On 6 January 1820, the Grand Lodge of Ireland issued Warrant No 260 to constitute a new lodge in Sydney under the name of 'The Australian Social Lodge'. The warrant arrived in Port Jackson on 5 August 1820 and the first

regular meeting of the lodge was held on 30 August 1820.

The old records of the NSW Department of Lands show that a Lodge St John No 1 was meeting on Norfolk Island in 1800 and it is likely a fraternal society on the island formed themselves into an irregular lodge as no trace of it can be found in the records of the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland or Scotland.

A masonic meeting, which may have been designed to institute proceedings for the formation of a lodge was held in Sgt Whittle's house in Sydney in 1803. Permission to hold the meeting had been previously refused by Governor King but despite this, the meeting was held. It was broken up by a party bearing the Gov-

ernor's warrant to arrest the whole assembly. In 1903, at a special Grand Lodge Communication held in the Sydney Town Hall, the then Grand Master, MW Bro J C Remington, claimed that the meeting held in Sgt Whittle's house was the 'Dawn of Freemasonry in Australia'.

The first lodges formed in other States in Australia were: Tasmania 1828, South Australia 1834, Victoria 1840, Western Australia 1842 and Queensland 1859. 


Media Moments

The NSW *Freemason* constantly urges lodges to use the facilities of local community newspapers and radio and we are happy to acknowledge articles that are printed.

On 9 September, the *Manly Daily* ran a photograph and half page story on Lodge Warringah. The article carried the sub-heading 'Making good men better' and followed with a three line heading 'Lodge master says Freemasons are still relevant'.

In the ten paragraph story which followed, the article interviewed the WM of Lodge Warringah, W Bro Ian Shanley, and gave details of an Open Meeting to be held by the lodge and a contact telephone number.

W Bro Shanley said: 'Where else in a modern society can a guy take some time out - say one night a month - and be part of a 300-year-old ceremony that speaks to his morality as an honest and upright man and then sit down with other men from all walks of life for a meal, all within a 10-minute drive from your home. Freemasonry seeks to make the world a better place by making good men better; a real practical step towards peace and unity in our community.'

Have you approached your local paper with a community story involving your lodge? They are always seeking local news. Why not Freemasonry? 

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For further information contact ...

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ABOVE: Ladies joined distinguished guests at the Twenty First Annual Assembly of the Red Cross of Constantine.
LEFT: M Ill Kt Keith Spencer GCC, the new Grand Sovereign of the Order .



New Grand Sovereign and Grand Viceroy for the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine

The Twenty First Annual Assembly of the Red Cross of Constantine was held in the Bankstown Sports Club on Saturday 22 October 2011 with distinguished guests from other Orders of Freemasonry being present, including the Grand Master and Grand Sovereigns

of the Sister Constitutions of Australia and a representative from New Zealand. The Annual Assembly witnessed the Enthronement of M Ill Kt Keith Spencer GCC as Grand Sovereign of the Order, and the Appointment and Consecration of Rt Ill and Em Kt Ken Holley KCC as

the new Grand Viceroy.

In his Address, M Ill Kt Spencer stated: 'The Order is moving forward, with a special focus on expansion of our membership and consolidation of the gains that we have made over the past five years. Our commitment to this beautiful and historic

New leader for the Ancient and Accepted Rite

MP Bro Peter Rowland 33° from South Australia has become the new leader of the Ancient and Accepted Rite for Australia at the Supreme Council meeting in Sydney.

He will hold the position for three years and succeeds MP Bro Peter Straw 33° who stepped down as Sovereign Grand Commander with VP Bro Ian Tilbury 33° appointed as Lieutenant Grand Commander whilst retaining his Regional Commander duties for Region 1. M Ill Bro Andrew Charlton was elected to the Supreme Council to fill the vacancy left by Peter Straw's exit and also took on the Regional Commander's role for SA.

This meeting also saw the retirement of long standing Grand Secretary General M Ill Bro Bob Lions 33° with Ill Bro


Dominic De Candia accepting the appointment as new GSG.

Members of Supreme Council attended the Sydney Sovereign Chapter meeting and the Prince Charles Edward Stuart Council meeting during their week in Sydney and hosted an open forum session where senior AASR members could discuss current issues.

The annual 33° meeting saw 14 elevations to the 33° across Australia. These V Ill brethren were then installed as District Commanders in their Districts at local ceremonies. In NSW & ACT Craft area there were eight new 33° members: Tim



VP Bro Ian Tilbury

Foster in District of NSW South West; Bryan Davis in District of NSW South Coast; Costantine Lianos in District of NSW Sydney Northern; John Nicolaides in District of NSW Sydney South; Neville Usher in District of NSW South East & ACT; Raymond Wynn in District of NSW Northern Tablelands; Edward Oldfield in District of NSW Shortland and Peter Simpson in District of NSW Riverina. 

Order must remain strong so that as our newer members have a solid foundation to establish themselves, they will move towards the future with confidence and dedication.

'The face of Freemasonry is changing in this 21st Century and we, as an Order, must accept the challenge and continue to be the quiet masonic achievers.

'We now live in a masonic world that is increasingly competitive and therefore as an Order, have to remain at the forefront of this modern masonic world.

'Our support for the Craft and for the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch must be our ongoing responsibility, at all times remembering the path that we had to follow, starting with the first masonic step that has, over time, led us to this Order.

'Our links with both these Orders have to remain strong and we must, at every opportunity, give our help and assistance to all the Craft lodges and Royal Arch Chapters within our respective Divisions.

'As Grand Sovereign, I will keep in place the initiatives that have been implemented by this Grand Imperial Conclave, and fine tune them as required. I will introduce new activities that will assist us to improve our meetings, strengthen our membership and help us become a quality Masonic Order.

'Marketing the Order will remain our prime focus, with the objective of what is to be a convivial and friendly atmosphere within each of our Conclaves. This will take us to the next level in attracting new members and retaining the old.'

For more information about the Order, please visit www.myconstantine-nsw.org

FASCINATING MASONIC FACTS

Did you know...

that in the **Grand Lodge room** on the first floor of the Sydney Masonic Centre, the Rough and Perfect Ashlars originated from the granite quarry at Moruya on the south coast of NSW. This was also the area which provided the material for the pylons of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

My grandfather was a mason

I am writing with great pleasure after watching the ABC *Compass* episode on Freemasonry. My maternal grandfather was a Freemason – the most wonderful, beautiful, spiritual, gentle grandfather a girl could have. After watching *Compass* I now know why.

He was born in Sydney, with Scottish Protestant background; he was a NSW Firefighter in Sydney during WWII and later became a truck driver.

He made sacrifices in his life that many men of his generation would not have made and certainly far more than the current generation would make. He was a man with great honour, dignity, and integrity. While I knew he was a spiritual person who had an immense respect for the higher authority, he was not a 'religious bible basher' so I could never quite understand why he was such an enlightened man. After watching *Compass* I now understand. (I watched hoping one of the scenes might contain him but did not unfortunately see him.)

Thank you so much for existing; for everything you have stood for and still do. I am 33 and as much as this sounds so politically 'incorrect', thank you for ensuring REAL MEN still exist.

My grandfather was Harrie Monteith. He was initiated in Lodge Auburn United No 484 on 23 May 1945 and received his 50 Year Certificate in 1995, two months before his death. The afternoon before he died I was still in high school but home studying. A voice kept coming into my head saying 'got to see Papa before he dies' over and over. No matter how much I tried to ignore it, it wouldn't go away so I left my books and drove over to see him. I listened to him talking and he was so, so pleased to see me. He had emphysema, but was not expected to depart this world any time soon.

The following morning after talking to my Nan on the phone, it rang again and it was Nan; all she said was 'It's Papa, Love'. I just knew. Later that day both Mum and Nan said I 'must have known something' and I told them about the 'nagging voice' to see him before he died. Nan said she couldn't believe how happy and contented he had had been to see me. I do not believe he would have had

the spiritual connection with me that he did, had he not been a Freemason.

After watching *Compass*, the only way I can explain writing is this immense spiritual gratitude to the Freemasons, and to say that while I am sure there are none left in my family, I am so grateful that there has been at least one; I had the privilege of calling him Papa. I could not attribute his standards and behaviour to any one institution. It has taken *Compass* to show me who I can attribute the positive, enlightening influences to – the Freemasons.

I am part of generation X, my sister born two years later is Gen Y. There are a lot of women in our demographic who wonder where are the men like their grandfathers? Many of our grandfathers would have been Freemasons and many of us wouldn't know it. We just know there aren't many 'real men' out there any more. I am not suggesting women become Freemasons, rather if our generations realised that a lot of the qualities missing in our men could be found in Freemasonry, you would find wives and girlfriends encouraging membership. There is so much catering to the 'post-feminist' woman – women-only gyms, clubs etc. It would be hypocritical for these same post-feminist women to deny their male partners some 'gender specific' recreation, and there is little left now that men-only can participate in without 'sexism' being thrown around. So I guess I am suggesting, target the wives and girlfriends. They say girls marry their 'father'. Many do, but many also look back another generation and see the difference.

My husband is German-born Australian. His father is German, his mother from Sydney. My husband came here when he was 10, completed his schooling in NSW and has more traditional values, ethics and morals than his contemporaries. While he does believe in a higher power, like a lot of our generation, he is totally disenchanted with religion. I believe he would be a good candidate for Freemasonry but the choice must be his.

Once again thank you so much for existing. I hope after the TV special your membership may again begin to increase.

Written by Eleeta Schreijaeg



A road trip



'She'll be right mate' doesn't have quite the same meaning to many Australians these past few years as the dust settles on drought, post GFC, growing under-employment, natural disasters and the news of today being increasing living costs.

We as a nation are certainly becoming more conscious of the presence of poverty with the added media attention and the latest research papers and surveys being released for public reading on the effects of poverty in Australia's society. It is heartening though to see growing community and corporate support in recognising the fact that Australia does have poverty and yes, it is having a dramatic effect on more than half a million school aged children.

Recently, A Start in Life team member, Anthie Stringas, and volunteer Alan Williams, embarked on a 4,800 kilometre journey throughout western NSW visiting our most remote families and students. This was made possible with the help of GM Holden who supported our charity by providing a new Commodore for three weeks. This journey changed the lives of not just the families and children visited but also our team and those of our Executive Committee who travelled with Anthie and Alan. I would like to share some of their moments with you.

In some places in New South Wales the drought is not over. In some places it didn't even start, because it has always been like it is ... a hard brown land. When each of the families were told how we had a shiny new Holden their response was: "Really, they actually lent you a new car to drive on these roads?" Those roads were carved through an avenue of stunted trees, low bushy scrub and grey grass, if any at all, though generations of families live there.

As you enter the gateway and drive slowly to the homestead, the history of every property is told by the old cars, rusted machinery with faded paint, old tractors that stand tired and worn out, but proud of their contribution. Anthie and I listened to the rattle of the gravel under the car, willing it not to leave evidence of its journey as we travelled the outback roads and dodged the friendly kangaroos

and stray sheep that seemed intent on sharing Anthie's seat. We were granted a stop for quite a few moments while at least a hundred or so wild goats streamed across our bonnet. Anthie was relieved they preferred to run not ride.

We slowed to drive our shiny new car across a tired grid into the property we were to visit, watched enviously by an old white car, tinted red with the dust of many years that was parked in the shade of a tree, waiting for the children to arrive home on the School Bus and drive to the homestead.

At the homestead we were greeted by the mandatory kelpie with tail wagging so wildly he nearly fell over, matched by the loud laughing bark. Mum and 11 year old son were waiting shyly on the verandah. Commonwealth Bank had donated A Start In Life a number of bikes to give to some of the children and as I unpacked one for the boy, he tentatively approached to receive it. He then rode it excitedly for thirty minutes in, out and around the silently watching old machinery until he was exhausted. Did I hear his mother say he was sick? Just a bike you might say, but you weren't there to see the grin on the face of the child and the glistening eyes of the mother as her son did tricks on his new machine.

A cup of tea was interrupted by the sound of the red dust-tinted white car arriving, but wait - there didn't appear to be a driver, until the door swung open and a small girl dragged her schoolbag from the front seat and sauntered to the house. She was 8 years old. Her brother was sick today, so she drove it herself.

We visited eleven families with 23 children in the first week, all smiles, all very grateful and not one complaint amidst the struggle these families were enduring. As I drove away from each family I asked myself, "Could I have lived that way?" I still cannot answer that question.

Another stop on our journey was to interview a new family who had recently



applied for assistance. We slowly drove into the small property with a tired and faded future. On being greeted at the door we entered to see four children around a table heaped with books and paper in front of them. Mum had Motor Neurone disease and had been educating her two sets of twins herself because she didn't have money to pay for schooling. The year 8 twins had some curriculum books though not all subjects, so they are working very hard to do well in the subjects they can study. The year 7 twins were studying year 8 because there were not enough funds to buy the year 7 curriculum books. Their response was a wink and a chuckle saying "that puts us ahead of the kids at school".

I kept looking at the carpet worn down to the base fabric and the stained ceiling where, I am told by one of the girls, the water comes through when it rains just like one of the bedrooms, (there are only two). These were only a small bucket leak, the kitchen was a very large two bucket leak. It leaks so much that the floor of the kitchen and the laundry have sunk and are sloping.

The children have Accredited Home Education Certification because the mother is well educated. One of the eldest girls wants to be a vet but understands it "may be a little difficult so I will settle for a vet nurse". Another wants to be a mounted police officer, another a builder, and the son a police mechanic. However, I suspect the one who wants to be a vet will find a way. There is no shortage of determination in this house.

continued on page 34

adopt an aussie

Did you know that more than half a million Australian children¹ are living below the poverty line?

We currently have little Aussies waiting for your support this holiday season.

After helping children in Australia for 88 years, we know **education** is the best way to break the cycle of poverty and to open the door to a life of achievement and employment. All young Australians deserve to be able to go to school with the basic essentials. Families in our own backyard are facing extreme challenges in providing for their children.

Will you "Adopt" an Aussie child today?

You can sponsor an Australian school child from just \$44 per month or \$520 per year. That's only 75 cents per day to change the future of a young Australian.

We guarantee 100% of your sponsorship dollar goes to your child. A *Start in Life* is a registered Australian charity. DGR 62593. **Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.**

Seasons Greetings

We would like to thank all who supported A Start in Life and our young Australians throughout 2011.

Your donations and sponsorships enable our charity to assist more students each year. In the last 12 months we have doubled the number of children traditionally supported by A Start in Life and sustaining their education costs for as long as they need us is our key objective.

Wishing you a happy and safe Christmas from A Start in Life.

Jack Thompson with one of our students

Call 02 9264 3017
www.astartinlife.org.au

A start in life
a brighter future for young australians



¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2009).



We will remember them

Australia has a proud history of service in the battle for freedom around the world and The Freemasons' Association has recognised the efforts of those who served with a special **Remembrance Day Service** and Dinner at the Sydney Masonic Centre on Friday 11 November.


The Service was conducted by RW Bro Major (Ret'd) Douglas James, RFD, PJGW, Lodge Army and Navy No 517, at the Wall of Remembrance on the first floor of the Centre.

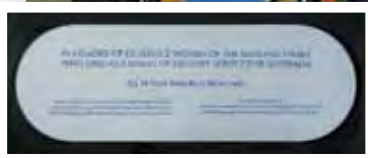
As the Sydney Masonic Centre was dedicated on 10 March 1979 as a Memorial to the thousands of Freemasons who gave their lives in the service of their country, the Service took on a more poignant note this year as a result of the recent deaths of three Australian soldiers in Afghanistan.

Wreaths were laid by the President of the Association, RW Bro Emanuel Maniagio, Senior Grand Warden, the Grand Master, MW Bro Commander Derek Robson, AM, RAN (Ret'd) and a number of other dignitaries.

Of special significance at the Service was the unveiling of a Commemorative Plaque in memory of Ex-Servicewomen

of the Masonic Family who died as a result of military service for Australia. It was unveiled by Captain Yvonne McIntyre RAANC (Ret'd) BSc (Hons), MEd, PhD, Vice President of the Freemasons' Association. Dr McIntyre is a recipient of the Grand Masters Award of Merit and the Grand Masters Award of Excellence and served as a member of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corp in Vietnam. She was also a member of the Australian forensic team which assisted the people of Aceh following the tsunami in 2004.

Guest speaker at the Remembrance Dinner was RW Bro Edward Keenahan, PAGM, First Grand Principal and Grand Master of the United Supreme Grand Chapter of Mark and Royal Arch Masons of NSW and ACT. He is a distinguished ex-serviceman who served in Vietnam and this was the subject of his speech. 




A road trip

continued from page 32

The chatter was infectious and I wondered how they could be so happy. The first reminder was clearly that even in the state the structure was in, it was undeniably a home – their home, where everyone helps everyone, caring for each other and everything is shared. Love was not among the many things that were missing, such as no electricity in the two bedrooms and no running water in the laundry. They don't have a washing machine. She washes by hand. This is a family where noodles is the 'Sunday Roast' and butter on the bread is a treat.

Do we have children living in poverty in Australia? I have seen many, as has the Chairman, the CEO and other members of A Start in Life's team. There is no doubt that is why they are so passionate about what they do and are driven to reach more who need their support. It was there on the faces of the children and parents we visited on this trip, especially the mothers whose appreciation and gratitude was special to see. They could sleep a little better knowing there was financial help, the children spoke freely of feeling equal to their peers because they had uniforms, books and went on excursions with everyone else. And the smiles – how wonderful it was for Anthie to see what she and all the staff at A Start In Life have contributed to the lives of these young Australians. And how proud was I to just be the driver.

Financial assistance allows the receiver to sleep easier and to stand taller; however, arriving in a car lent by Holden with bikes donated by Commonwealth Bank and the faceless many at our supporting partner companies, the Freemasons who have supported for more than 87 years and the community at large, made each of these families emotional to know they were not alone – that there are many who know they exist and care.' 

Talk to them

'Bridging the Gap' was the theme at the recent Region 11 Conference at Picton where different experts spoke about **the gap that exists between those referred to as Generation Y and other groups**. These are extracts from the talks.

Mr Herbert Field spoke on 'Marketing for Membership' and suggested where increasing membership is concerned, Freemasonry should be viewed as a marketing organization and should 'set the message, narrow the focus, develop the product and make an offer' to younger men. He indicated the message should be sharp and concise and designed to get their attention, be clear on what is being offered and inform a prospective candidate why he should become a mason. He said young people want to be encouraged, want to be interested and need to be rewarded.

The next presenter, Michael Kinsey is of Generation Y and revealed that because of their interaction with electronic media, many Generation Y people have developed shallow relationships and are seeking strong personal relationships. He suggested you listen to what they are saying, communicate with them on their terms and give them a cause to commit to.

Discussion was held on ways of making Freemasonry of more interest to the partners and wives of younger masons. There was an overwhelming agreement that lodges should establish women's committees and have women involved in lodge management. There was a belief that if women were involved in a lodge it was more likely their partner would stay as a member.

The point was also made that while there is a mentoring system in Freema-



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

What are the Ancient Charges and Regulations?

The 'Old Charges' are a number of parchment rolls or books dating between the 14th and 18th centuries, connected with the Operative Craft. They contain a history of the Craft of Masonry and a series of articles or points which were in essence a code governing moral conduct and regulating masonic trade practices.

The 'Charges of a Freemason' appeared in the first (Book of) Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of England 1723 compiled by James Anderson. They were based on the Old Charges but he introduced several features of his own. 'The Charges of a Freemason' at the beginning of our Book of Constitutions are substantially as Anderson wrote them over 300 years ago.

'The Summary of the Ancient Charges and Regulations' to be read by the secretary to the Master-elect prior to his Installation into the Chair of a lodge first appeared in the 1827 Book of Constitutions of the United Grand Lodge of England and now appear in our Book of Constitutions. It is likely that Anderson's Charges of a Master

contained the substance of these 'Ancient Charges and Regulations' but the 1827 form was derived from William Preston's 'Illustrations of Masonry'.

Masons say 'So Mote It Be' at the end of a prayer. What is its origin?

This expression really constitutes a masonic 'amen' and was first found in the Regius Poem of about 1390 and again in the famous Cooke manuscript of about 1400. Both these sources conclude a section of the Old Charges with 'Amen, amen, so mote hyt it be - so saye we all for charity', thus 'may it be so' or 'so shall it be'.

Mote is derived from an old Anglo-Saxon word *motan* whose general meaning was 'to be allowed'. Amen is originally Hebrew with a range of meanings related to fidelity, consistency and trust.

The two do not have the same original meanings but have virtually acquired them over centuries of use. In England, the preference is for 'Amen' at Grace before refreshment after a ceremony and 'So mote it be' within the lodge room as indicated by the ritual. In Australia, 'So Mote It Be' is used in the lodge room and either at Grace.

sony for members, there is no mentoring system for women. After the initial interview when a man joins Freemasonry, there is little further contact with his partner.

It was agreed a way forward for the Craft was for it to find ways of making Freemasonry more relevant for the whole family.



Behind the Mask

Masonicare has recently launched the *Behind the Mask* campaign to raise awareness and funds for critical mental health initiatives in our community. *Behind the Mask* is about removing the stigma of mental illness by building awareness across the community so more people can benefit from appropriate mental health assistance and care.

The impact of mental illness within the Australian population has become increasingly apparent. Mental illness directly impacts 1 in 5 Australians and is among the greatest cause of disability, diminished quality of life, and reduced productivity.

Masonicare will be launching a number of initiatives over the next 12 months as part of the *Behind the Mask* program, culminating in our *Behind the Mask* gala ball in 2012.

This is an issue that impacts us all, so help us to *take off* the mask of mental illness.

Masonicare partnered with the Grand Lodge STEP Program to support Movember, an initiative that raises money for Men's health issues.

During November each year, Movember is responsible for the sprouting of moustaches on thousands of men's faces in Australia and around the world. The aim is to raise vital funds and awareness for men's health, specifically prostate cancer and depression in men through the Prostate Cancer Foundation and beyondblue: the national depression initiative.

Masonicare matched funds raised across our jurisdiction, in support of Movember, on a **dollar for dollar** basis, doubling our efforts as a Fraternity to support this worthwhile cause.

Masonicare Fundraising Convener Joshua Shields said, "This is an issue that impacts all of us, either directly or indirectly, and what better cause for Freemasonry to support than that of men's health".



Masonicare Benevolence Appeal

As you know the Masonicare Benevolence Appeal has been re-launched and is actively looking for your support this Christmas to help assist brethren and their families who are less fortunate and looking for our support.

Donations can be made to any Masonicare Caring Officer (MCO) in your lodge, or directly to Masonicare via our website www.masonicare.org.au, mail or in person.

MASONICARE BEHIND THE MASK SUPPORTING MOVEMBER

Masonicare NEW LOOK Promotional Materials

Masonicare has recently updated its image providing it with a more contemporary look and feel. We have updated all promotional materials which you will see around your district in the coming weeks. Your Masonicare Representatives will be provided with new Banners, Posters, DL Brochures and other promotional materials which will be available for use at any Masonicare event.

This new update/re-design forms part of a newly initiated fundraising, marketing and educational program that aims to better promote the Masonicare values and assist with future marketing and fundraising activities.





Meet our MRRs

Masonicare is privileged to have a team of dedicated Masonicare Regional Representatives (MRR) and we'd like to thank our 13 members for their commitment, enthusiasm, devotion of time and continual community and charitable spirit.

This month we introduce you to our mRRs from Region 7 (Orana) and Region 12 (Sydney Central).

VW Bro Greg Donovan, PDGIW

Lodge Timor No 274

Greg was appointed MRR for Region 7 at the August 2010 Installation.

His main reason for joining Masonicare is 'to continue the good work started by previous MRRs and our RGC. Also, there is more to Masonicare than visiting sick brethren. This message needs to be conveyed to all Lodges, Secretaries, Masonicare Caring Officers and Worshipful Masters.

'My main aim is to set up a structure for Region 7 that anyone can look at and immediately have a contact. I would also like to work more closely with the Masonicare Caring Officers in Region 7 in maintaining their good work to date, assisting them wherever possible and also to ensure that they continually update their lodges about the services offered by Masonicare'.



W Bro John Mansfield

The Royal Empire Lodge No 613



John was initiated, passed, and raised in Lodge Cranbrook in 1963, he later joined Lodge Cranbrook's mother lodge, The Royal Empire Lodge and has been in that lodge since. Prior to his recent appointment as MRR John was MCO of his lodge along with many other roles.

John is also a member of The Sydney Lodge, and more recently became a Foundation

Member of the Sir James Hardy Lodge.

'Charity and the need to help, and assist others in need, has always been a criteria I have practiced', said John.

Since retiring 5 years ago, John joined the Sydney Adventists Hospital (SAN) as a volunteer and spends one day per week in that capacity.

John has said by nature he is a hands on person, and looks forward to promoting all the lodges in District 12 by fundraising and getting Freemasonry's and Masonicare's vision and message into the community.



Donation Bag

Over the last few months, Masonicare Representatives have been distributing a Donation Bag to every lodge in the jurisdiction in support of the re-launch of the Benevolence Appeal. The initiative has been very well received by all lodges so far. The Masonicare Board would like to thank you for your generosity and continuing support throughout the jurisdiction.

This bag is meant to be used within lodge, or at your Festive Boards, for the collection of a donation from members – it can be used at each meeting if you wish.

Funds collected can then be forwarded to Masonicare's Marketing Officer to be added to the Benevolence Fund, or if you wish to donate the money raised to a local charity instead, then you are quite at liberty to do so; it is up to the individual lodge.

Again, we thank you for your continued support of YOUR Grand Charity – 'proudly helping our local communities.'

Holiday Message from the Chairman

Christmas, we hope, for masons and their families, is a happy time, a time of giving and receiving and of reaffirming our beliefs. Masons throughout NSW and ACT have confirmed their commitment to charity this past year by over \$700,000 in grants into the communities in which we live, to flood victims, and to the relief of poor and distressed brethren.

On behalf of the Board of Masonicare I thank you for your efforts and support and wish you and your families a happy and safe Christmas and a return to the New Year with a renewed vigour to help each other and our communities.

RW Bro Greg Redfern, PJGW



Tip Card #9 Forgive and heal

AIM – This tip is to help us move forward from incidents which affected us or our lodge, or its members, and occurred years ago, or yesterday; to forgive and to heal.

Target

To invite you, our members, to engage in a personal retrospect on brotherly love.

How many of us will not visit a lodge because of an event that happened many years ago? How many of us will not attend an event because it was organised by a lodge with which our lodge is at variance?

Reasoning

Learning to let go of grudges can be of great benefit to your personal health.

Learning to let go of grudges can also be of great benefit to the health of your lodge and our Craft.

FACT: When someone hurts you, whether knowingly or not, it is completely normal to experience a range of feelings, including anger, resentment, hate and

vengefulness. This can also happen when someone makes negative or hurtful comments about your lodge.

Because our lodge membership consists of human beings it is natural to expect that we will bring to our lodge personal grudges and it is equally natural that we will often influence other members with our thoughts and actions so they too will become infected with our emotional feelings be they anger, resentment or whatever.

This 'emotional burden' can and often does, have a drastic effect upon the workings of our lodges.

FACT: Withholding forgiveness can make relationships, not only with the offending person, strained, but it can also affect many others close or important to all par-

ties involved; it can be a loss for everyone involved; it can even hurt you.

When a lodge is emotionally infected all members eventually feel the effects and it can often lead to a lack of fraternal visits, members calling off or affiliating with another lodge, a shortage of new initiates and perhaps, even increased dissent amongst the members and their wives!

Methodology

Most persons whether lodge members or not are generally very sensitive to bad vibes when exposed to them; it doesn't take long, therefore, for the word to spread and people will avoid going to such places.

Nobody likes tension and most will avoid it whenever and wherever possible. This can apply especially to 'open nights' where outsiders can be particularly sensitive as your lodge is being critically examined by them as a potential member!

What we are seeing in our lodges is not new to our generation. Our ancient brethren must have encountered the same problems, which could explain why we have so many references in our ritual to help us rise above our human emotions, starting as early as our initiation.


Our logo is a constant reminder to keep our passions and prejudices within due bounds.

Conclusion

The trick is not to let our emotions become a long term or permanent state and to forgive.

What is forgiveness? It's a process of letting go of anger, resentment and negative thoughts. Consider the way your anger, hurt and rumination might be hurting you and others close to you.

Forgiveness is not about condoning the other's actions – it is about your choice to move on. Forgiveness is to benefit you, not the person who hurt you.

Move forward, feel better personally and watch the health of your lodge improve as well. 

The Order of the *Amaranth*

www.masonsconnect.com/amaranth



The Order is Targeting Growth in New South Wales

Truth, Faith, Wisdom and Charity are the Amaranth principles that help us to make a difference in the lives of those who become members.

Ladies with a Masonic qualification and Master Masons are invited to join one of our Courts in New South Wales meeting at:

★ Gosford: <i>Lillian Holland Court</i>	★ New Lambton: <i>Newcastle Court</i>
★ Toukley: <i>Central Lakes Court</i>	★ Windsor: <i>Hawkesbury Court</i>
★ Kiama: <i>Sydney Australia Kiama Court</i>	★ Nowra: <i>Royal Haven Court</i>
★ Turrumurra: <i>North Sydney Court</i>	

New members would be made very welcome

Contact: *Mrs Betty Calvert*
Ph: 02 9665 7532 Email: betty@mms.com.au

We are keen to open new Courts in New South Wales

For more information go to our website

www.masonsconnect.com/amaranth



Regional Roundup



LODGE OBERON No 355

A triple initiation

Lodge Oberon No 355 recently initiated Indapal Kalkat, Kurt Gelling and Frank Genelle and with a further two nominations from local men Freemasonry in the Oberon area is gaining momentum. At the ceremony it was great to see seven EAFs in the lodge room, with four EAFs from the Bathurst Lodges in attendance.

Once again the Oberon Debutante Masonic Ball was a huge success to the extent W Bro Eric Pattingale had to turn away up to 100 people who wanted to purchase tickets. This year there were 11 young ladies making their debut and eight have already booked in for next year's event.



GLEN INNES LODGE No 44

Cheer for the troops

Glen Innes Lodge No 44 has joined two other local organisations to put together Christmas packs to send to Australian troops in Afghanistan.

The lodge, along with Glen Innes RSL Sub Branch and Glen Innes and District Services Club have donated funds to send 25 packs to the troops, including 18 boxes for male soldiers, six for females and one for a dog and dog handler.

The packs consist of Australian made goods including Vegemite, baked beans, sultanas and Twisties with each box containing a packet of Anzac biscuits courtesy of the Glen Innes CWA branch.

Special welcome to ACT members

Freemasonry gained an honourable mention from Mr Alistair Coe in August when he rose to speak in the Legislative Assembly for the ACT in Canberra.

Mr Coe, who represents Ginninderra attended the Installation in Sydney of MW Bro Derek Robson as the new Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of NSW and the ACT.

He told the Assembly that Freemasonry is steeped in history and is one of the world's oldest and largest fraternal organisations.

In his speech, he gave background details of the new Grand Master, named the officers who will take up positions for the coming year and spoke of the charity activities of masons and the campaign to improve men's health.

'I would like to put on the record my support for the Grand Officers for 2011-2012. A number of those people are actually from the ACT and I congratulate those in particular on their service in representing the entire United Grand Lodge and I wish them all the best for the year ahead,' he said.

LODGE KINGSFORD SMITH No 1028

Graham flies again

RW Bro Graham Berry has once more taken the pilot's seat to carry Lodge Kingsford Smith through another year.

He was re-installed as WM on 21 June at Kensington in very capable style by W Bro Sam Young in the presence of MW Bro Ron Johnson AM PGM, Grand Lodge

John takes over

It was a big night for V Ill Bro John Nicolaides when he was installed as the new District Commander for Sydney South at Oatley in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.

The Regional Commander, V P Bro Ian Tilbury 33° officiated before a large number of members and visitors at the regular meeting of the Star of Bethlehem Chapter.

V Ill Bro Nicolaides had been received into the 33rd Degree at the June Supreme Council in Sydney meeting and takes over from the retiring District Commander V Ill Bro John Sunman 33°.



L-R: Em Bro Tony Cornell and V Ill Bro John Nicolaides

officers and members of the district.

An experienced team of officers performed their allotted roles to the satisfaction of all present, leading to an equally enjoyable banquet to wind up a most entertaining night.



Tweed Valley Boat Raffle Draw

Many hours of fishing and family fun will be heading the way of Lena Fidanza and her family. Her ticket was the lucky one drawn out of the barrel on behalf of the raffle's major sponsor by Alan Merlehan, Manager of the Bendigo Bank at Tugun.

The four metre Quintrex boat and trailer package, including registration and safety gear, was the prize, which was generously supplied by Tweed Coast Marine.

The \$20,000 proceeds from the raffle will be supplemented by a further \$10,000 from Masonicare, the charity arm of Freemasonry in NSW, and donated to the Tweed and Murwillumbah hospitals.

A huge thank you goes out to the people of the Tweed Valley and visitors to the region who purchased tickets, and special thanks to the businesses and individuals who supported the Tweed Valley Freemasons in their fundraising efforts.

THE MAROUBRA LODGE AND
LODGE KENSINGTON

Joint meeting

It was a different style of meeting for The Maroubra Lodge and Lodge Kensington at their November meetings.

Because Lodge Kensington meets on the first Tuesday of each month, November has at times proved a problem because of its clash with the Melbourne Cup. This year, they successfully approached The Maroubra, which meets on the first Wednesday, to hold a joint meeting.

Work for the evening was shared between the two lodges with Kensington's WM, W Bro John Kosmas in the chair as they initiated Kensington's candidate, Mr Ross Crowley, into Freemasonry.

It was a highly successful evening and set the standard for future years.

THE BADEN POWELL LODGE OF NSW No 1051

Prepared for the future



On Saturday 9 July 2011, the then Most Worshipful Grand Master, MW Bro Dr Gregory Levenston, assisted by the Grand Ceremonial Team, consecrated The Baden Powell Lodge of NSW No 1051.

Following the Consecration, the Grand Master invited W Bro Paul Jenkins of Lodge Hurlstone Park United No 288, the sponsoring lodge, to occupy the Chair and to



install his father, RW Bro Lennard Jenkins, PAGM, as the inaugural Master of the new lodge.

After his installation and the investiture of officers, RW Bro Len Jenkins said that it was a very special event, as some years previously, his brother, W Bro Ian Jenkins, present at the ceremony, had installed him into the chair of King Solomon.

The working tools were delivered by members of Baden Powell lodges from Queensland, South Australia and Victoria.

A representative from each State Baden Powell lodge and the new lodge each carried a Scout section flag and the Australian flag was carried by the new Worshipful Master.

Michael Baden Powell (grandson of Lord Baden Powell) from Victoria toasted the new lodge.

This new lodge's aim is to link Freemasonry with the Scouting Community, and assist Youth Members to attend events such as Jamborees.

The Baden Powell Lodge of NSW No 1051, meets on the second Thursday of the month, at Hurlstone Park Masonic Centre, at 7.30pm.

Enquiries: Ralph Campbell, 18 Bardwell Cres. Earlwood 2206. Ph. 9718 4260 Email: ralphjcampbell@optusnet.com.au.



Bro Rev Ted Walker receiving his Diploma of Masonic Education certificate at the meeting of Lodge Warragamba.



DISTRICT 29

Sutherland Centre



The newly refurbished lodge room at the Sutherland Centre.

Under the direction of the Sutherland Masonic Hall Company Pty Ltd, District 29 has begun the refurbishment of the Sutherland Masonic Centre.

The project is under the aegis of RW Bro Keith Lewis PJGW, and his board of directors.

Sutherland Centre was built some sixty years ago and this is the first major enhancement since its consecration.

The lodge room itself has been totally refurbished, with new seating, a modern instrument to replace the organ, new carpet laid and the room repainted throughout.

The air conditioning has been replaced with three units which keep meetings comfortable and are virtually silent. New atmospheric lighting has been installed which adds a new dimension to ceremonies.

The supper room, which seats around 90 people, has also been repainted, recarpeted and air conditioned, and a fully equipped kitchen installed. An illuminated sign now adorns the front of the building, so all in the area will be aware of its masonic presence.

The members of District 29 believe they now have a meeting place of which to be justly proud.

Not just nursing homes...

This was the theme of RW Bro Alex Shaw's address, to the members of the Masonic Lodge Secretaries Association at their September meeting, as CEO of the Royal Freemasons Benevolent Institution (RFBI).



L-R: RW Bro Kevin McGlinn, PDGM receives his life membership certificate from VW Bro Max Bound, PDGIW.

The RFBI which began by providing an annuity scheme to needy masons and senior citizens, moved into the retirement village and nursing home area, but since 2004, through a Benevolence Fund, has supplied portable insulin machines for children with diabetes, and portable oxygen machines for victims of emphysema.

The fund has also supported an 'Open Door' project in Glen Innes to help children suffering family violence find refuge and to receive a proper evening meal.

RW Bro Shaw stressed that masonic lodges are the eyes and ears of the RFBI and are encouraged to bring deserving cases to their attention.

Following the meeting, the soon-to-retire Grand Secretary and Association President, RW Bro Kevin McGlinn, PDGM, was presented with a certificate to confirm his life membership of the association.

Inquiries regarding the Secretaries' Association may be forwarded to the Secretary, VW Bro Max Bound, on 0431 709 477 or by email to maxbound@optusnet.com.au.

HOLROYD CHAPTER NO 20, ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

Holroyd Chapter joins forces with Masonicare

Each year the Worthy Matron of Holroyd Chapter No 20, Order of the Eastern Star, selects a charity to be the major beneficiary of their fundraising efforts. During the 2010-2011 term Mrs Jennifer Fawns chose Parkinsons' NSW Inc., a cause close to her heart and home.

At the annual 'Fish on Friday', guests included Mr Ron Johnson and his wife May, who are regular supporters of our charity functions, along with Mr Ray Groves from Parkinsons' NSW Inc., who gave an insight into the trials of living with Parkinsons' Disease.

The Chapter was able to donate a cheque for \$4,000, plus \$2,000 presented by Mr Johnson as a grant from Masonicare. Parkinsons' Macarthur Support Group received \$250 and Macquarie Young Men with Parkinsons' were sent \$250.

Holroyd Chapter members are very aware that their success is greatly contributed by the many friends and family who do not belong to The Order of the Eastern Star, although many are members of the extended Masonic Family, who support our causes enthusiastically. Credit must also be given to the small band of Holroyd Chapter members for organising and attending events behind the scenes.

Holroyd Chapter meetings are held in the OES hall at Merrylands on the second Saturday of each month.

If you would like to learn more about social functions at Holroyd, or the Order of the Eastern Star please contact the Secretary, Mrs Faye Dunn on 9630 7196, or email Mrs Sandra Ackers on sand-sackers@optusnet.com.au.



ORDER OF THE SECRET MONITOR

A new ruler



L-R: RW Bro Donald Savage, Grand Supreme Ruler of the Order of the Secret Monitor, with MW Bro Commander Derek Robson AM, Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of NSW and the ACT

Saturday, 8 October marked the 53rd Annual Convocation of the Grand Conclave of the Order of the Secret Monitor at which MW Bro Ian Roger Newbery installed his successor, RW Bro Donald Hugh Savage, as the Grand Supreme Ruler of the Order.

The ceremony was held in the Grand Lodge Room of the Sydney Masonic Centre, and underlined the bond of friendship between members of the Order.

Ladies attended and their contribution to the success of the Order was acknowledged by both the Installing and newly Installed Grand Supreme Ruler.

Visitors from each of the Australasian Conclaves were present, with those from many of the Orders of Freemasonry, notably including the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of NSW and the ACT, MW Bro Commander Derek Robson, AM, RAN Ret'd.

RW Bro Allan Uner was invested and installed as the Deputy Grand Supreme Ruler.

MW Bro Roger James Donsworth, Past Grand Supreme Ruler, relinquished the role of Grand Recorder, a position he had served with distinction for 10 years, and his service to the Order, and that of his wife, Beverly, were acknowledged by the Installing Grand Supreme Ruler.

In his inaugural address to the Convocation, MW Bro Savage thanked his mentors and made special mention of the influence MW Bro Donsworth had in his joining Monitor Masonry.

CANDO! Cancer Trust



Masons from The Coffs Coast Freemasons Association enjoy great support from their wives and partners, and fundraising for local charity is no exception.

In May, Mrs Sonia Greenaway organised a Craft and Garage Sale at the Coffs Harbour Masonic Centre. The hall was packed with pre-loved items, and Devonshire teas sold like hot cakes to raise a total of \$1,500 that afternoon.

In July Mrs Carolyn Boyden organised the third annual Cando! Cancer Trust Charity Bowls Day at the Woolgoolga Bowling Club.

Nearly 120 players filled the bowling greens, and 40 carpet bowlers played indoor bowls.

Local businesses donated generously to provide prizes for a monster raffle and organisers were flat out selling raffle tickets. Out in the BBQ area the team provided sausage sandwiches for everyone.

At the end of the day \$3,500 had been raised, making a total of \$5,000. Masonicare matched this with another \$5,000.

Last year the CCFA donated \$103,000 to set up the Cando! Cancer Trust. In September, two cheques for a further \$10,000 were presented to Ms Julie Jardine, Chairperson of the Cancer Trust, who expressed her great appreciation for the enormous support the Association has provided.

The Installation was followed by an Installation Dinner held in the SMC banquet hall with entertainment by Colin and Margaret Gill.

REGION 5

Conference

Connecting with the Community was the theme at the annual Region 5 Conference held at Kingscliff on the far north coast of NSW.

The conference was an outstanding success and local brethren were delighted to be able to use the conference as a vehicle to raise much needed funds for the Women's Care and Palliative Care departments of local hospitals.

The Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro Jamie Melville, attended and his assistance on the day made it a special event, strengthening the relationship between Grand Lodge and local lodges throughout Region 5.

DGIW of District 57, VW Bro Les Hicks has reported some very positive feedback since the event.

VW Bro Hicks said that RW Bro Melville's ability to relate to the brethren, answer their questions, assist with the various workshops and promote the Grand Lodge in such a positive manner was outstanding, very well received and much appreciated.

LODGE VERITY NO 570

Club Meetings

For the first time in its history, the NSW Masonic Club is the venue for lodge meetings.

The United Grand Lodge of NSW and ACT has given its approval for Lodge Verity No 570 to hold its assemblies on the club's premises for a trial period of one year. The lodge previously met at the Drummoyne RSL Club, until it closed and the premises were sold.

Club President, Graham Berry, said the Masonic Club was pleased to be able to provide its facilities for the lodge and that he hoped for a long and cordial association which would continue to enhance the traditional link between the Club and the Craft.

Lodge Verity meets on the second Tuesday of each month, except January.



DISTRICT 17

Raising our profile



L-R: W Bro R Meakin; W Bro S Gambley; VW Bro S Hayne; Bro H Balian; Bro B Carpenter; VW Bro J Ireland; VW Bro R Gear; VW Bro F Poacha, DGIW; Bro M Fraser; RW Bro P Mattner; W Bro A Sen; Bro A Havaitian; W Bro B Marsden; Bro A Sarangaya; W Bro S Low

Saturday 8 October was a special day in the history of Top Ryde Masonic Hall.

In an event organised by Bro Mark Fraser, W Bro Stewart Low and the District Grand Inspector of Workings of District 17, VW Bro Fali Poacha, the doors were opened to the general public, so that masons could demonstrate their commitment to the local community and make contact with others who support the people of Ryde.

A significant feature was an Art Exhibition to promote the Louis Savage Foundation for Disabled Athletes.

The Ryde Historical Society displayed photographs of Ryde in times past, including the laying of the hall's foundation stone by Governor General, Vice Admiral Sir Harry Dawson in 1908, which, according to the records, was very

well attended and included a parade from the Town Hall.

A local security company gave advice on keeping one's home and possessions safe, and information on preschool training for infants was available.

North Ryde Community Aid provided teas, coffees and a sausage sizzle, ably assisted by brethren from Lodge Horace Thompson Ryde.

Upstairs, brethren from Lodges Challenge, Epping, West Epping and Pennant Hills were in attendance to meet and greet visitors and answer the many questions that were fired at them.

A display of aprons from the various branches of Freemasonry aroused interest and three films were shown in the lodge room.

The event successfully raised the profile of Masonry in the District.

PEEL LODGE No 209

Peel Lodge Presentation



VW Bro Don Janson (L) making presentations to Mrs Jan Robertson and VW Bro David Robertson

A milestone was marked at the September meeting of the Peel Lodge No 209, with the presentation of 2010 District Masonic Awards certificates and medals to VW Bro David Robertson, PDGIW and Mrs Jan Robertson.

The presentations were made by the District Grand Inspector of Workings for District 64, VW Bro Don Janson.

It may well have been the first occasion that simultaneous District Awards have been granted to both husband and wife for Distinguished Service to Freemasonry.

VW Bro Robertson is a third generation mason with over 52 years service. Mrs Robertson's late father and late grandfather were masons, as is her brother, W Bro Geoff Smith, of Lodge Nepean No 29.

THE QUEEN'S LODGE, No 229

Playing in the sand

At the August meeting of The Queen's Lodge No 229, at the Orchard Hills Centre, 13 Fellowcrafts and 10 Entered Apprentices attended an explanation of the First Tracing Board given by RW Bro John Robb, PJGW.

This was enhanced by the use of a sand box in which RW Bro Robb traced lines

and laid designs on to explain the significance of the Initiation ceremony and the symbolism of the First Degree.

RW Bro Robb concluded the explanation with a practical demonstration of a Lewis, which showed how its three components dovetailed into a stone and thus was able to lift great weights.



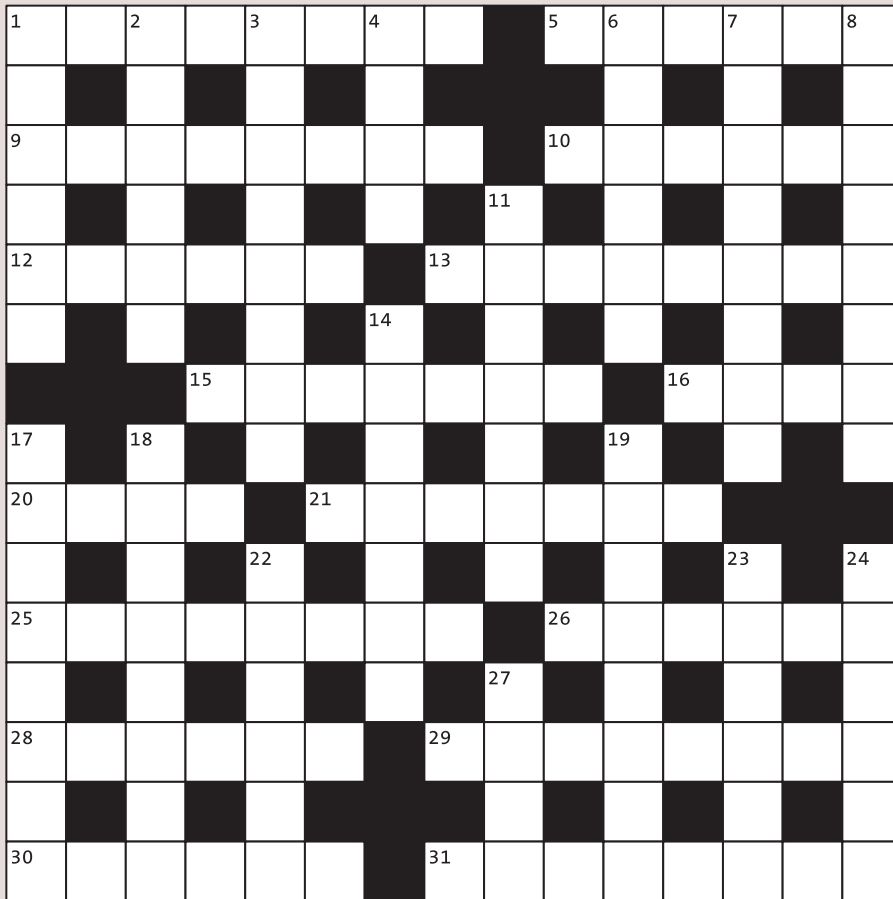
RW Bro Robb surrounded by Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts



Freemason welcomes new members to the Craft

Name	Lodge	Name	Lodge	Name	Lodge
ABASSI Paul	Lodge Emu Plains 860	EID Omar	Lodge Guildford 321	MASAL KOVSKI Steven	Lodge Sutherland 585
ABDALLAH Sam	Lodge Axiom 1047	ENRIQUEZ Iking	Lodge Beauty of Cabra Vale 743	MASON Douglas	The City of Wollongong Lodge 1049
AHMED Sonny	Lodge Axiom 1047	FALZON Joseph	Lodge Hurlstone Park United 288	McBRIDE Angus	Lodge Southern Cross 91
AMIRZOGHI Abbas	Lodge Southern Cross 91	FARAH Christopher	Lodge Southern Cross 91	McCRACKEN Cameron	Lodge Caledonia Of Canberra 938
ANDAYA Moises	Lodge Jose Rizal 1045	FERGUSON Evan	Lodge Artarmon United 285	McMASTER Ivan	Lodge Canoblas Lewis 806
ANG Michael	Lodge Beauty of Cabra Vale 743	FIELDS Jason	Lodge Leeton-Yanco 313	MILAS Timothy	Lodge Army and Navy 517
ARENA Antonino	Lodge Liverpool 197	FLISSINGER Guy	William Ross 76	MILLER William	Lodge Cronulla 312
ARENTZ James	Lodge Toukley 933	FRANK Tony	Lodge Theo Grey 234	MOODY Justin	Lodge Benjamin Pryor 709
ARNFIELD Kwang	Wallis Plains 4	FRISCHMAN Giovanni	Lodge Harold Herman Unity 428 LOE	MOORE Matthew	Lodge Phoenix 1034
ARTEMIO Lim	Lodge Beauty of Cabra Vale 743	GABANI Hardik	Lodge Federal Burrowa 193	MORENO Jose	Lodge Beauty of Cabra Vale 743
ASHDOWN Robert	Lodge Southern Cross 91	GALLEGO Justin	Lodge Southern Cross 91	MORGAN Justin	Lodge Pacific 298
ASSAF Andrew	Lodge Alpha 970	GELLING Kurt	Lodge Oberon 355	MORRIS Ed	The Lodge Of Australia 3
AWAD Amir	Lodge Burnside 729 LOE	GILBODY Rodney	Lodge Southern Cross 91	MORTON Alan	Coeur De Lion – Narooma 84
BADDOUR Mark	Lodge Carlton Kogarah 305	GILL Damien	Lodge Gloucester 291	MOURCHED Rony	Lodge West Epping 731
BALIAN Maher	Lodge Horace Thompson Ryde 134	GOETZE Joern	Lodge Corrective Services 1039	MUSGROVE Simon	Lodge Calala Tamworth 652
BARBER Johnathon	Lodge Kirrawee 903	GONZALES Prince	Lodge Alpha 970	NEILSEN Bradley	Lodge Sydney St. George 269
BARLOW Joshua	The Waratah Lodge 170	GRAY Michael	Lodge Glen Innes 44	NICHOLS Benjamin	Lodge Toukley 933
BATTY Damien	Lodge Army and Navy 517	GREEN Mark	Lodge Germania 1036	NORMAN Brian	Lodge St Andrews 281
BENNETT Todd	Lodge Ibis 361	HAWKINS James	Lodge Tomalpin 253	OOI Ken	Lodge Germania 1036
BENNETT Nathan	Lodge Courallie 235	HERSLI Bayram	Lodge Southern Cross 91	ORMONDE Paul	Lodge University of Sydney 544
BOND Nicholas	Lodge Chelmsford 261	HISLOP Michael	Lodge Mark Owen 828	PARKER Benjamin	Lodge Queanbeyan St Andrew 56
BRADSHAW Bernard	Lodge Resurgo 223 LOE	IZADIYAR Hames	Lodge Mark Owen 828	PARKER Robert	Lodge Artarmon United 285
BRAUNSTEINER Marcus	Lodge Germania 1036	JACOBSON Peter	Lodge Armidale 641	PAVLOU Michael	Lodge St David and St John 180
BROADBENT Mark	The Waratah Lodge 170	JANELLE Frank	Lodge Oberon 355	PEARCE Lenard	Lodge Axiom 1047
BROOKS Oliver	Lodge Unity 6	JENKINSON Phillip	The Schools Lodge 639	PIEFKE Mick	Lodge Camden 217
BRUCE Scott	Port Macquarie Daylight Lodge 991	JOANNOU John	The Sydney Lodge 1020	PIKE Henry	Lodge Queanbeyan St Andrew 56
BRUZZANITI Frank	Lodge Ethos 963	JONES Phillip	Lodge Toukley 933	PRENDERGAST David	Lodge Dawn 511
BUKHARI Maz	Lodge Alpha 970	JONSSON Jon	Lodge Broughton 131	PRESTON Michael	Lodge Saratoga 937
BUNTIN James	The Sydney Lodge 1020	JOZIC Anthony	Lodge Theo Grey 234	PYMBLE Dane	Lodge Southern Cross 91
BUTTON Brett	Lodge Novacastria 765	JUMA'A Maroon	The Lodge Of Tranquillity 42	RAHMAN Hassan	The Cedars Lodge 1041
CAINE Janson	The Builders Lodge 1048	KALKAT Interpal	Lodge Oberon 355	RAMSDEN Noel	Lodge Sir James Hardy 1046
CALCULLI David	Lodge Southern Cross 91	KALRA Rajeev	Lodge Jose Rizal 1045	RECH Neil	Lodge Dawn 511
CARUANA Joe	Lodge Germania 1036	KAPUR Amit	Lodge Illawarra 59	REYES Gerry	Lodge The Star Of Australia 200
CASPAR De Carteret	Lodge France 1021	KARDOS Paul	Lodge Sydney St. George 269	REYES Teofilo	Lodge Jose Rizal 1045
CASTLE Shane	Lodge Corrective Services 1039	KEEN Peter	Lodge Namoi 207	RHODES Michael	Lodge Capitol 612
CAVASINNI Agostino	The Builders Lodge 1048	KERR Rob	The Lodge Of Australia 3	RIORDAN Kristopher	The Royal Empire Lodge 613
CHIDAMBARANATHAN Renga	The Sir Walter Scott Lodge 123	KHACHIKI Michael	Lodge West Epping 731	RIZZOTTO Tony	Lodge Galileo 1019
CHITTLEBOROUGH Scott	Nowra Unity 60	KIM Kyoungin	Lodge Ku-Ring-Gai 1033	ROBSON Heath	Lodge Barham 561
CHOY Jeffrey	Lodge Rudyard Kipling 143	KING Anthony	Lodge Ingleburn 815	ROWELL Joseph	Lodge Alpha 970
COATES Tim	Lodge Calala Tamworth 652	KLOPPENBERG Karl	Lodge Southern Cross 91	SAJJAN Vipin	Brundah Endeavour 429
COCHRAN Neil	Lodge Emu Plains 860	KOHEN Adam	Lodge Wyong Tuggerah Lakes 247	SAMULSKI Paul	The Builders Lodge 1048
CRAWFORD Michael	Lodge Southern Cross 91	LEAR Grant	Lodge Ballina 112	SCALISE Pietro	Lodge St David and St John 180
DANESHGAR Farokh	The Lodge Of Tranquillity 42	LEWIS William	The Sydney Lodge 1020	SELLERS Todd	Wallis Plains 4
DE LA CRUZ Edgar	Lodge Blacktown Kildare 393	LOPEZ Melchor	Lodge The Star Of Australia 200	SERNA Gerard	Lodge Kingsford Smith 1028
DEL MONTE Dean	The Sydney Lodge 1020	LUMSDAINE Matthew	Lodge Phoenix 1034	SHARPE Michael	The Central Coast Lodge 2001
DELIGIANNIS John	The United Lodge of Sydney 11	MACARAEG Gil	Lodge Beauty of Cabra Vale 743	SHISHINEH Mani	Lodge Harold Herman Unity 428 LOE
DICKSON Donald	Lodge Theo Grey 234	MAKSOUH Walid	Lodge Sutherland 585	SIMPSON Les	Lodge Airds Campbelltown 976
DOBROWOLSKI Adam	Lodge Sutherland 585	MALVASSO Bruno	Lodge Galileo 1019	SINGH Akashdeep	Lodge Phoenix 1034
DONALDSON John	Lodge St James 45	MANANQUIL Samuel	Lodge The Star Of Australia 200	SLEEMAN Dallas	Lodge Picton 258
EATHER Noel	Lodge Richard Coley 152	MARKOVSKI Christopher	Lodge Castlereagh 72		
EDWARDS Phil	Lodge Castlereagh 72				

Continued on page 46



DOWN

- 1 Let odd goofball eat from drinking vessel (6)
- 2 Yew ale brewed with a margin of safety (6)
- 3 & 4 At each isle he'll revisit find a small but fatal weakness (8, 4)
- 6 Italian brandy oddly made from German poplar trees? (6)
- 7 "oi, Secret!" Arrange so it's known only to the initiated (8)
- 8 "Sh!" fluids thrown out in larger quantities than 16 across (8)
- 11 Turmoil over sin mentioned in King James' edition for example (7)
- 14 Corsets made to suit the deacons perhaps? (7)
- 17 Superficially concealed in broken pine desk (8)
- 18 Aid meant only to be distributed to the living (8)
- 19 Letters on PM's jewel for instance are arranged initially with the Grand Master in maroon (8)
- 22 Invisible neurones formed with no alternative (6)
- 23 See 10 across
- 24 Seizes without right taking up USSR characters (6)
- 27 Little leprechaun doomed to revoke (4)

Solution next issue © adsXwords

ACROSS

- 1 Persons of huge size and strength are held in this gaol (8)
- 5 "Gearing up by general consensus" (6)
- 9 Heartbroken, no longer "A-OK" when replaced by our members (8)
- 10 & 23 down – Job deals card as arranged for Isaac's second son's vision (5'1, 6)
- 12 In some arena a blessing can make it possible (6)
- 13, 20 & 21 – Smoking loon left poem about famous building in Jerusalem (6, 2, 4, 7)
- 15 Whisper sister to carry on inside (7)
- 16 Liquid measure of a breathing organ of a female ferret (4)
- 20 & 21 See 13 across
- 25 Make a mention to put forward a candidate (8)
- 26 29 across joins the dry-stone wallers (6)
- 28 High regard for stirring omelettes without the lot (6)
- 29 Return I.D. to one kept off by the tyler (8)
- 30 One concerned with minor matters coming to a decisively apt end (6)
- 31 Was Romeo involved with such weapon launchers? (8)

Solution Spring 2011



LODGE NARROMINE, No 236

A memorable year

This has been a memorable year for RW Bro Keith Croxon, of Lodge Narromine No 236.

At the Installation Night ceremony in August he was presented with a Certificate and Jewel to mark 60 years in Freemasonry, and at the same meeting he received his certificate as Past Assistant Grand Master.

These presentations were made by RW Bro Fergus McWhirter, PJGW.

RW Bro Croxon, who joined Freemasonry in Coonabarabran in 1951, was awarded the Grand Master's Medal for Meritorious Service in 2003 and held the office of Secretary of Lodge Narromine for 13 years.

At the same meeting, VW Bro Keith Hayden received his Certificate as Past District Grand Inspector of Workings from the current DGIW, VW Bro John Howey.



L-R: RW Bro Croxon receives his 60 Year Certificate from RW Bro McWhirter



50 Years Service

ATKINS, DARYL	Lodge Broughton 131
BARTY, NORMAN	Lodge Capitol 612
BELL, GEORGE	Lodge Nepean 29
BELL, RAYMOND	Lodge St David and St John 180
BOWMAN, RONALD	Port Macquarie Daylight Lodge 991
BRAITHWAITE, NEIL	Lodge Bega Remembrance 220
BUTWELL, WILLIAM	The Mountain Lodge 190
CARTER, KEVIN	Lodge Silver City 141
CEDERBLAD, REX	Lodge Silver City 141
CHAPMAN, THOMAS	Lodge Balgownie 944
COOMBES, WALTER	Bankstown Daylight Lodge 996
DEACON, TERENCE	Lodge Bega Remembrance 220
DELANEY, ROBERT	Lodge Bulli Thirroul 1040
DENNETT, LESLIE	Lodge Resurgo 223 LOE
DICKS, JOHN	Parramatta City Daylight Lodge 1014
FANE, KEVIN	Lodge Bega Remembrance 220
FERRICKS, DONALD	Parramatta City Daylight Lodge 1014
FORD, PETER	Lodge Silver City 141
FREEDMAN, JOHN	Lodge Vaucluse 266
GALLOWAY, MALCOLM CHARLES	Lodge University of Sydney 544
GARDNER, BARRY	Lodge Celebration of Fairfield 345
GUNNER, DONALD	Lodge Cronulla 312
HALL, ROBERT	Lodge Silver City 141
HALLIDAY, DAVID	Lodge Panania 845
HEFFER, GEORGE	Lodge Leeton – Yanco 313
HUGO, BRIAN	Lodge Fidelity King Solomon 101
ILLINGWORTH, JOHN	The Mountain Lodge 190
JACKSON, PETER	Lodge Balranald 214
JACKSON, WARREN	Lodge Ulmarra 186
JAMES, DOUGLAS	Lodge Army and Navy 517
JOHNSON, NEVILLE	Parramatta City Daylight Lodge 1014
JONES, DENNIS	Lodge Milton 63
KEIGHAN, DONALD	Lodge Nambucca 271
KENNETT, JAMES	The Mountain Lodge 190

KERRISON, NEVILLE	Lodge Independent Lewis 592
KLAJMAN, HARRY	Lodge Nepean 29
LAKE, HAROLD	Lodge Kilwinning 13
LAND, RAYMOND	Lodge West Epping 731
LAURIE, CECIL	Lodge Lithgow Valley 8
LEDGER, DAVID	The Yass Lodge Of Concord 27
MCILWAINE, MALCOLM	Lodge Nambucca 271
MERRETT, QUENTIN	Lodge Balgownie 944
OAKES, RONALD	Parramatta City Daylight Lodge 1014
PAROW, WILLIAM	Lodge Leeton – Yanco 313 LOE
RADBURN, BRUCE	Lodge Broughton 131
RING, LAWRENCE	Lodge Scone 183
ROSE, BRUCE	Lodge Epping 390 Lodge of Excellence
SEAY, WILLIAM	Lodge Balgownie 944
SHARP, REGINALD	Lodge Canoblas Lewis 806
SHAW, FRANK	Lodge Leeton – Yanco 313
STEVENSON, IAN	Lodge Independent Lewis 592
STUTSEL, BARRY	Lodge Edinburgh St John 38
TATTERSALL, KEVIN	Lodge Ophir 17
TAYLOR, PETER	The Mountain Lodge 190
THOMPSON, JOHN	Lodge Balgownie 944
TRAFFORD, KENNETH	Batemans Bay Daylight Lodge 1013
WILCOX, JAMES	Lodge Condobolin 185
WINTERS, CLIFFORD	Lodge Eurobodalla Daylight 989
WITHERS, LESLIE	Lodge Bulli Thirroul 1040
WYBRON, LESLIE	Lodge Helensburgh 566
ZAHN, RAYMOND	Lodge Glen Innes 44

60 Years Service

ALGIE, RONALD	Lodge Greater Taree 66
BEATTIE, PETER	Lodge Illawarra 59
BLANCH, BRUCE	Lodge John Williams 148
BOYES, JOHN	Coeur De Lion – Narooma 84
BURGESS, KENNETH	Lodge of Peace 120
BUTCHER, GEOFFREY	Lodge James Kibble (Daylight) 985

COLE, ALLAN	Lodge Westlake Daylight 997
CROFT, RONALD	Lodge James Kibble (Daylight) 985
ELLISON, REGINALD	Lodge Warragamba 541
ENGLISH, JOHN	Parramatta City Daylight Lodge 1014
GESS, CLYDE	The Mountain Lodge 190
GILLIVER, LOUIS	Lodge Dunblane Australis 966
GRAHAM, COLIN	Eastern Beaches Daylight Lodge 1007
HEARD, DENIS	Lodge Beecroft 359
KENT, LYNDON	Parramatta City Daylight Lodge 1014
MASLIN, FREDERICK	The Mountain Lodge 190
MERTIN, RONALD	Lodge Ethos 963
MILES, BRIAN	Northern Beaches Daylight Lodge 987
MILLER, GEOFFREY	Lodge Picton 258
MITCHELL, ERIC	Parramatta City Daylight Lodge 1014
MOBBS, WALTER	Nowra Unity 60
MORRIS, LIONEL	Lodge Fidelity King Solomon 101
NEILL, LAWRENCE	Lodge Double Bay 331
NEILSON, LINDSAY	Lodge Illawarra 59
NICHOLS, STANLEY	Lodge Bega Remembrance 220
NICHOLS, WILLIAM	Northern Beaches Daylight Lodge 987
NIELSEN, MARTIN	The Hills Lodge 1025
PARKER, ROBERT	Twin Towns Daylight Lodge 981
PAYNE, HOWARD	Northern Beaches Daylight Lodge 987
ROBINSON, NEVILLE	Lodge St Andrew Twilight 7
SUTHERLAND, COLIN	Parramatta City Daylight Lodge 1014
VOGT, ARTHUR	Lodge Enterprise 400
WALTERS, ATHOL	Lodge Paxton 608
WARDMAN, LESLIE	Lodge Bathurst United 79
WATSON, KENNETH	Concord Technology 432
WILLIAMS, JOHN	The Mountain Lodge 190

INITIATES continued

Name	Lodge
SMITH Jotham	Lodge Wyvern 813
SMITH Michael	The Lodge Federation 196
SMITH Anthony	The Lodge Federation 196
SPILSTEAD Spilly	Lodge Army and Navy 517
STERLING Rob	The Central Coast Lodge 2001
STOJANOVSKI Chris	Lodge Illawarra 59
STYLIANESIS Peter	Livingstone United 604
SUGDEN Mark	Lodge Sutherland 585
TAR Bartaian	Lodge Airs Campbelltown 976

Name	Lodge
TAURINS Daniel	Lodge Ophir 17
THEODORE Anthony	The Sydney Lodge 1020
THORNTWHAITE Bruce	Lodge Burns Wentworth Tuscan 21
UNGER Mitchell	Wallis Plains 4
VO Phuoc	The Sydney Lodge 1020
WALTER Timothy	Lodge Axiom 1047
WATSON Andrew	Lodge Harold Herman Unity 428 LOE

Name	Lodge
WELLARD Ian	Lodge University of Sydney 544
WESTERDYK Brenden	Lodge Toukley 933
WESTON Brad	Lodge Unity 6
WILD Leon	Lodge Southern Cross 91
WILDE Carl	The Cobar Lodge 97
WILLIAMS Will	Nowra Unity 60
WOOD Anthony	Lodge Macquarie 53
YON YEE Larry	Lodge Sawtell Twilight 741
YU Howard	Lodge Ingleburn 815

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Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution

Established in 1880

Seasons Greetings to all from the RFBI

Throughout last year, the RFBI's **Annuity Scheme** continued to support citizens with monthly financial assistance. This practise maintains an unbroken record of 131 years. These annuities are brought to the RFBI's attention by Lodge Secretaries and in particular John Scascighini of Lodge Bland at West Wyalong and Brian Kinny of Lodge Toukley on the Central Coast. Lodge Secretaries, talk to us!

Likewise through the **Benevolence Scheme**, started more recently, grants have been made to deserving cases such as the Foresight Foundation at North Rocks, Pathfinders Open Door at Glen Innes, Vision Camp at Armidale (for vision impaired children to attend a camp), oxygen refibulators in the Sydney Basin, portable insulin packs (for insulin dependent children) and many more examples including individuals whose cases cannot be mentioned for privacy reasons.

In addition, the RFBI operates and manages 22 Retirement Villages including aged care facilities throughout NSW and the ACT. The

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

The RFBI seeks **donations** (tax deductible over \$2) to ensure the benevolent operation of the RFBI continues.

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



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

The scope of involvement is limitless.

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

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



Season's Greetings