

THE VICTORIAN
FREEMASONS



Freemasons
Victoria

WINTER 2024



**Freemasons Combating
Youth Homelessness**

More than 100 Freemasons sleep rough
to raise money for Sleep at the 'G'.

Victorian Freemasons

CONVENTION 2024



30 AUGUST - 1 SEPTEMBER
FREEMASONS BAYSIDE

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Bro. Bob Cooper, Scotland
Author of The Red Triangle, The Masonic Magician, The Rosslyn Hoax and Cracking the Freemason's Code
(QC Lodge London) – Curator Grand Lodge of Scotland Museum and Library

Local speakers will also be delivering presentations throughout the Convention on education, membership, esoterica and engagement.

SATURDAY

Learn more about the symbolism of workings. Dedicated sessions will break-down and explain elements of significance.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Bro. Dr Mike Kearsley, England
Author of 'On the Square'
(QC Lodge London) - Prestonian lecturer (2014), a Kellerman lecturer (2017), past Grand Orator for Middlesex, and former editor of The Square Magazine

SUNDAY

Stalls | Tours | Keynote Speakers | Talks by Members | Food and Drink | Demonstrations | Awards

TICKETS

FRIDAY: \$30

SATURDAY: \$50

SUNDAY: \$50

SPECIAL DISCOUNT PRICE: \$120
for the entire weekend of events.*
**(not including Saturday night gala dinner)*

BOOKING

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or scan you QR code.

For more information:
www.freemasonsvic.net.au/victorian-freemasons-convention/



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The Journal of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria (Freemasons Victoria)

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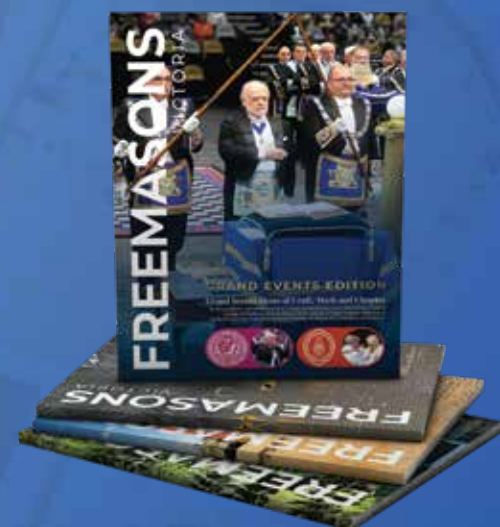
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NEW MEMBERS

1 MARCH – 31 MAY 2024

WELCOME

John Alivio	Werribee Enterprise Lodge	187	Barrie Jessep	Sale Daylight Lodge	875
Arvin Andres	Elrona Lodge	384	Caarom Junio	North Melbourne Lodge	41
Peter Anyanwu	Cranbourne Lodge	290	Dushyant Khanna	Lodge Amicus	928
Steve Appleby	Albert Victor Lodge	117	Po Hang Lam	Lodge of Quest	587
Anthony Bryant-Macewan	Werribee Enterprise Lodge	187	Bradley Lobb	Euroa Vega Lodge	185
Aldrin Calantog	Wimmera Lodge	70	Christopher Maestrale	Lodge of Honour	799
John Charbel	Werribee Enterprise Lodge	187	Gary Martin	Wimmera Lodge	70
Robert Curran	Frankston Lodge	217	Finbar Moody	Wodonga Lodge	156
Michael Davey	Berwick Balcara Lodge	359	James Nash	Middle Park Lodge	206
Angelo David	Lodge of Good Companions	647	Anton Nigro	The Lodge of Evolution	931
John Davison	Mitchell Lodge	929	Brandon Petrie	The Earl of Dunmore Lodge	1686
Silvio De Carli	Werribee Enterprise Lodge	187	Obadiah Pewee	Middle Park Lodge	206
Basileus De Tenebrae	Arlington Lodge	182	Nicholas Procter	The Lodge of the Golden Fleece	300
Mohamad El Ali	The Doutta Galla Lodge	902	Jhon Reynaldo	Antient York Lodge	80
Ahd El Jurdi	The Mordialloc Lodge of Charity	258	Maxim Rioumine	Lodge Amicus	928
David Ellard	The Lilydale Lodge	108	Ethan Rizos	Gardenvale Mobility Lodge	243
Ken Embradura	Cranbourne Lodge	290	Michael Roche	Albert Victor Lodge	117
Efraim Esperat	City of Footscray-Wyndham Lodge	239	Aria Samih	The Derrimut Daylight Lodge	905
Mark Evaristo	Altona Lodge	572	Dimitri Saripanidis	Gregorios Lodge	865
Zachary Foster	Seymour Lodge	87	Mark Susak	Williamstown Lodge	16
Jack Frost	Garibaldi Lodge	890	Vikrant Vedamanikam	Gisborne Lodge	298
Jayson Gano	Golden and Corinthian Lodge	7	Sai Waller	The Lodge of the Golden Fleece	300
Ralph Garcia	Lodge Liberation	674	Luke Whitehead	Kensington Lodge	77
Alperen Genc	Ivanhoe Lodge	584	Orry Wiggett	Seymour Lodge	87
Athanasios Gialamas	Melbourne St. Clair Reunion Lodge	17	Thomas Williams	Mitchell River Lodge	742
William Hayden	Antient York Lodge	80	Elliot Wilson	Lodge Amicus	928
Bhagwan Hayer	Blackburn United Lodge	915	Christopher Winsall	Leura Lodge	50
Blair Hutchison	The Earl of Dunmore Lodge	1686			

Message from the Editor

A 'quick' turnaround for our Winter edition of 'The Victorian Freemason', or what many of you have nicknamed it, the "Vic Mason". The team and I have been extremely busy sourcing you content that really covers Freemasonry across the State.

From your feedback it is pleasing to hear we are headed in the right direction. The feel-good articles in this edition really showcase our connection to supporting the community and each other. While everything cannot fit in one publication, we are able to highlight good news in our weekly newsletter. Keep the good news coming!

There is a theme in this edition with service: whether it be supporting a big charity drive such as the Sleep at the 'G, our partners doing something together (Triple Ls group page 11), or the amazing years of service Brethren have achieved in belonging to Freemasonry, their Lodge and Orders, each of you deserve our warmest congratulations and may you continue to inspire others in our wonderful Craft.

Wherever you are reading this in the world, keep enjoying your Freemasonry.



VWBro. Ben Quick
Editor



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Thank you to the team for a wide range of great articles and excellent photographs in The Victorian Journal Autumn Edition 2024.

The photographs of the Freemasons Teams supporting the Good Friday Appeal at Bunnings across Victoria especially speaks to who we are. Quietly working in our respective communities and those who came before us setting the high standard of commitment.

I recently attended the Rosebank Lodge 100 year Reconsecration and Installation of RWBro. John Patterson. I have attached a poem I wrote about the event, I do enjoy putting my Masonic Experiences into Prose. This allows me to revisit them and remember vividly what an Excellent Fraternity Freemasonry is.

Bro. John Macleod
Guiding Star Lodge

Hi John,

Many thanks for reaching out. Guess what? We have included your poem on page 14. Keep enjoying your Freemasonry.

Editor

Dear all,

I am in receipt of the latest issue of The Victorian Freemason magazine, and I defy anyone to be able to improve in the contents therein. Absolutely a wealth of information for any Victorian Freemason. The content is a great cross section of events and historic content, and it leaves no doubt the contents are researched thoroughly. It is good to see the social accounts of various Lodges in their Fund-Raising activities. All in all, a great addition to the ideals of communication for all Victorian Freemasons"

RWBro. Brian McDowell
Ballarat Yarrowee Lodge

Hi Brian,

Thank you for those kind words Brian, the team are actively engaged in showing Freemasonry from across the State and from over the globe. Hope you enjoy this edition as much as the last.

Editor

Hi Ben and team,

I would like to take the time to congratulate and thank you both for the Autumn 2024 publication.

The articles and the photos were fantastic, and it was thoroughly enjoyable read.

I liked the cover photos from the Good Friday Appeal, and everyone looks to have enjoyed their time helping such a wonderful cause, also the Grand banquet photos, and I particularly liked the items from the other Degrees and Rites and the insight and information they offer. I look forward to the next edition!

Perhaps an addition to the magazine could be the "Sprig of Acacia".

Once again well done.

RWBro. Peter Julier PDGM
Monash Lodge

Hi Peter,

Nice to hear from you Peter, we are encouraging all our Orders to take a photo at a meeting, and writing a good news story about what they are up to.

Editor



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TEAM FREEMASONS 24

SLEEP' AT THE G | MAY 16 2024



The figures and statistics in this article are correct at the time of writing 20/06/24.

Brethren, our hearts were certainly filled with pride when more than 100 Freemasons took part in Sleep at the 'G that was held on 16 May 2024. An event that sees its participants sleep at the world-famous Melbourne Cricket Ground.

The main purpose of this event is to raise money to fight youth homelessness which is a major problem in Victoria. Each night 7,628 young people are homeless.

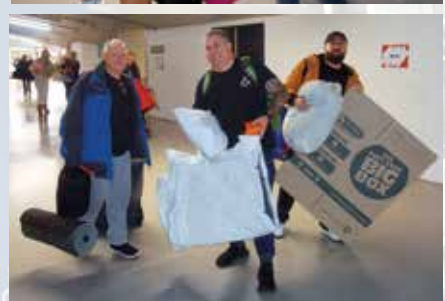
The event is run each year by Melbourne City Mission and has seen millions of dollars filter back into society and helping people in need.

Team Freemasons 24 raised its way to position one on the leadership board out of 127 teams that registered. Such a huge achievement. Team Freemasons 24 represented 10% of the 1,001 people who attended the event and raised \$109,267 out of the total \$750,224 raised. This represents 14.56% of the money raised for the event. A staggering figure which proves Freemasons live and breathe the values we teach to our candidates from their initiation.

As the Grand Master, MWBro. Anthony Bucca, said in his June Quarterly Communication speech: "Be proud, Brethren, that yet again, we rolled our sleeves up, we got out there, and we brought happiness to others".

The CEO of the MCG, Stuart Fox invited Team Freemasons 24 onto the hallowed turf – the only group allowed to do so on the night as he was impressed by the sea of fluoro yellow beanies, one of which was given to Stuart.

Well done to Team Freemasons 24. Bring on Sleep at the 'G 2025.





Vicki Sutton, MCM CEO.

\$109,267
raised by Team Freemasons 24



MWBro. Anthony Bucca presents a cheque to Vicki Sutton, MCM CEO, Renee Johnson GM of Philanthropy and Dru Mills head of Corporate and Community.



Bro. WO1 Grant Reeves and WBro. MAJ Andrew Leong.



WBro. Wayne Evans-Barker.



WBro. David Foong and WBro. John Chbib.

SLEEP AT THE 'G
WE HAVE THE
POWER TO
END YOUTH
HOMELESSNESS





Monash Gully District Supports Siblings of Disabled Children



Children who have a disability are able to access programs and obtain support from Interchange Outer East funded by the NDIS. However, the siblings of the children who have a disability do not receive any funding for support or assistance.

RWBro. Keith Thornton approached the management at Interchange Outer East some 15 years ago to seek out a project that Monash Gully District Lodges could support. An enquiry about the cost of a support program led to an initial request for \$10,000. At that time the district was unable to raise that amount but kicked off the program with \$5,000 in the first year. To date donations have totalled \$400,000.

It was at that time that the Sibling Program was established assisting young people who have disabled brother or sister. This program is totally funded by the District Lodges. It has become the District fundraiser each year and Lodges assist with their fundraising all working together to make this program count for those who desperately need it. The major fundraising event is a Gala Dinner arranged by the district Masters.

It is well supported by the Freemasons Foundation who have been partners from the beginning.

The program provides recreational activities which allow siblings to come together and take part in activities like camping in the bush and trips to the coast to enjoy some activities at the beach. Through these activities they discover they are not alone. They meet other young people in similar circumstances who have a disabled



brother or sister. They look out for each other and support each other whenever they meet. They turn a negative into a positive and so they focus on their own development at school and their life learnings. It is wonderful and after all these years there are now young people who are attending university and others in the workforce doing a trade who may not have seen the possibilities for themselves without the support of the program.

Having spoken with parents they really value this program because of the support it brings to their families. We met one family who approached Interchange to care for their disabled child; at the time there were no vacancies. But they were told that there was a weekend activity

coming up which they would be most welcome to attend. This they did, and it was a great introduction for this family to the Interchange network. It was not too long before their disabled child was able to enter the nominated program and the siblings were just so grateful and continued to be engaged in the Siblings Program.

It is a wonderful privilege for Freemasons to assist those who desperately need our support and care. This we must continue to do. 🙏

For further information on the Sibling Program can be found at this link:

www.ioe.org.au/services/families/sibling-support-groups/

A Decade of Support at Belvoir Lodge

Belvoir Lodge meets at Wodonga Masonic Center on the fourth Wednesday of every month, the members hold a sausage sizzle every Friday at Arnold's Market and occasionally at Bunnings to fundraise for various causes. The money they have raised over the years has been distributed to Albury Cancer Centre, Belvoir Special School, Albury Wodonga Eisteddfod, Baranduda Fire Brigade, Tabletop Fire Brigade, and to families in need. With the help of Freemasons Foundation Victoria they have distributed upwards of \$100,000 over the last 10 years. 🙏





20 Years of Caring for Brethren

At a recent meeting of Eureka Daylight Lodge a presentation was made to Rose Hardy on her retirement after more than 20 years cooking lunch for the Brethren and Ladies after the Lodge meetings. 🙏



WBro. Merv Romeo and Mrs Rose Hardy.



Geelong Jazz Club



At its meeting on the 16 April 2024, the Lodge of the Great Ocean Road No. 886 voted to donate \$1,000 to the Geelong Jazz Club for its "Jazz Jammers" project.

This project is to teach young musicians how to play jazz.

Students in school are taught to read music but never receive any tuition in improvisation.

The only requirements are that students must be of at least Grade 5 AMEB standard and provide their own instrument.

A number of experienced Jazz players

have enthusiastically embraced this concept and are acting as mentors to the students.

A trial session was held in September 2023, with seven students attending but such was the enthusiasm for the concept that it was decided that in 2024 four sessions would be held.

The first session in March saw 12 students attend with two apologies, so interest is building in this exciting project.

The Lodge is making an application to the Freemasons Foundation Victoria for further funding through its Community Grants program. 🙏

Chieslers Masters Group at St. Johns Lodge No. 36



Eight Past Masters and members of the 1995-96 Chieslers Masters Group unexpectedly met at a recent meeting of St. Johns Lodge No. 36.

The group originally comprised 34 members. Some of the Lodges have since returned warrants, Ballan, Fiery Creek, St. Sidwells or consolidated, Hope, Orion, Sebastopol, (Guiding Star), Ballarat, Yarrowee (Ballarat-Yarrowee), Buninyong, and Sturt (Sturt-Buninyong).

The group formed an Installation Team carrying out Installations across District 106. 🙏

◀ Back row: WBro. Ray Schenk (St. Johns), WBro. Wayne Walters (Yarrowee), VWBro. Bill Walters (Sturt), WBro. Wayne Mitchell (St. Johns), WBro. Graeme Brown (Hope). WBro. Ronel Castro WM St. Johns Lodge and wife Deta.

Front row: VWBro. Ron Fleming (Buninyong), WBro. Peter Allen (Ballan), WBro. Michael Clark (Creswick Havilah) and RWBro. Peter Henshall.



Return of the Trowel

On 15 April 1930, The Worshipful Master, WBro. Robert Thomson PGStdB laid the foundation stone at 60 Learmonth Street Queenscliff (the new home for Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 96). The trowel used had been in safe keeping with Graham & Vicki Thomson, a great grandson & granddaughter in law of WBro. Robert Thomson.

On behalf of Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 96, one of the Brethren, Bro. Eddie Loughnan, who was aware of the family connections commenced a dialogue with Graham Thomson for the return of the trowel to Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 96. Unfortunately, during this process Graham Thomson passed away and negotiations stalled.

After a period of mourning Bro. Eddie Loughnan resumed the discussion with members of the Thomson family and after much discussion it was agreed that the trowel be presented to the Lodge that on the provision that in event that Freemasonry did not continue at 60 Learmonth Street the trowel would be handed back to the Thomson family.

The trowel has been mounted in glass cabinet along with a photo taken at the time of the laying of the foundation stone. The unveiling of the trowel in its new location by Mrs. Vicki Thomson took place on 14 February

2024 after a short Lodge meeting.

Seven members of the Thomson family have had a big influence, and this has been outlined in a booklet entitled "One Hundred Years with Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 96 1883-1983". Robert Thomson was initiated in 1908 and listed as No. 174 in the roll book and was Installed as Master of this Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 96 Lodge in 1911 and 1929. George and Arthur Thomson reached the rank of MM and listed as No. 284 and No. 285 respectively. Herbert Thomson initiated in 1930 and is listed as No. 373 became Master in 1938. Frank Thomson initiated in 1938 and listed as No. 414 and became Master in 1944. William Thomson initiated in 1961 and listed as No. 628 and became Master in 1971. Robert Thomson initiated in 1971 and listed as No. 690 and became Master in 1982. David Thomson initiated in 1978 and listed as No. 937 and became Master in 1986 and 1987. Frank Lewis initiated in 1970 and listed as No. 682 and became Master in 1977 (Brother-in-law of WBro. David Thomson).

Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 96 previously met at the St. Georges Sunday School in Learmonth Street Queenscliff, and in August 1930 permission was sought from the Grand Master of Freemasons Victoria to retrieve the Warrant of the Lodge and take it to the new site at 60 Learmonth Street. (A short distance



from the original site).

During the laying of the foundation stone a leaded casket containing copies of the Argus, Sun and Advertiser and coins of the realm along with a copy of the Lodge Bylaws were placed in the cavity along with a copy of the Queenscliff Peninsula Beacon first issue. It is envisaged that at the centenary of the building in 2030, the foundation stone will be removed, and new items will be added to those already there. ✨

By RWBro. Richard (Dick) Clark PJGW, Secretary Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 96.



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Support from the Triple Ls

As each year rolls around with somewhat daunting speed, Freemasons are accumulating funds to sponsor the same if not more of their annual Scholarships.

Funds supporting Freemasons Primary School Scholarships have been provided by a recent donation from the Central Goldfields Lodge Ladies Lunch Group (Triple Ls) and from the Day of Unity held at Maldon Masonic Centre following Freemasons participation in Maldon's Annual Easter Monday Parade.

Noelle Mason, the convener of Triple Ls presented an amount of \$500.00 in funds, raised through group activities which have now been conducted for the last 11 years, to Chairman of Central Goldfields Masonic Group, VWBro. Ken Calder, at their recent monthly luncheon gathering.

Noelle initiated the Triple Ls group after recognising a need for the women (wives, partners, widows and daughters) of the members of district masonic Lodges to be able to meet and cultivate friendships and continue acquaintances while enjoying each other's company in a social atmosphere. At each meeting a small fundraiser was conducted and any one of Triple L's members would be supported during a time of illness, accident, surgery or disaster.



VWBro. Ken Calder with ladies from the Triple Ls.

Funds were to be used at the discretion of the recipient which might simply be a new hairstyle to lift her spirits. This group has been especially valuable to ensure widows of local Freemasons stay in touch and feel part of the organisation and cared for.

During 2018 the Central Goldfields Masonic Group established Primary School Scholarships for Year Six students with awards valued at \$100.00 each, and the Triple L's decided to support this initiative, with a special effort during COVID-19 pandemic by conducting a profitable

Pop-Up Shop at Maryborough Masonic Centre.

Funding has also been provided from a small fundraiser held on Easter Monday at Maldon with another \$335.00 provided and like all fundraising for this project, will be doubled by the Freemasons Foundation of Victoria.

Further support is provided by the Burgundy Ladies Group, which is attached to Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Victoria, who donated \$250.00 from a small resource of funds raised. ⚡

A Generous Donation from the Portland Lodge of Victoria



Pictured Left to Right. WBro. Kevin Council, Michael Ashby, WBro. Steve Rogers, Erin Barker, RWBro. Ken Bridgewater, Bro. Richard Dahl.

Portland District Health gratefully received a generous donation from the Portland Lodge of Victoria No. 6 and Freemasons Foundation Victoria, allowing for the purchase of eight much-needed beds for the Day Procedure Unit. These beds are specifically designated for patient use in the Operating Theatre, equipped with electrically operated features including a fast-release bed head option in case of power failure.

Designed with practicality in mind, these beds are lightweight for easy manoeuvrability and feature an electrically operated fifth wheel for precise steering. Ergonomically designed handles make pushing the trolleys effortless.

Each bed is equipped with an IV pole and a spacious basket for medical notes, along with ample space underneath for patient belongings. ⚡



WBro. Dr. Les Mighalls BDS LLB(Hons)
LDS FACLM Dental Surgeon

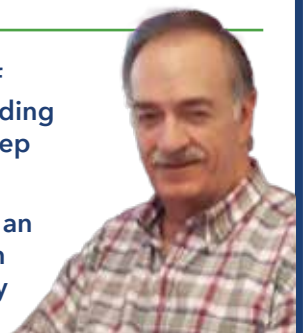
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Hands Across the Border

The Grand Master, MWBro. Anthony Bucca, and Deputy Grand Master, RWBro. Peter Henshall, and Ceremonial Team had a busy weekend at the second annual 'Hands Across The Border' weekend in Wodonga.

The event was hosted at the Wodonga Masonic Centre by Lodge Belvoir No. 727 and assisted by The Wodonga Lodge No. 156 and Huon Daylight Lodge No. 874.

This year it was our NSW Brethren's turn to complete the work which was part educational, part ceremonial and part theatrical. The visiting Brethren performed 'The Flight of the Winding Stairs'. It was complete with audio and visual aids to create a unique atmosphere within the Lodge room.

One of the core principles of Freemasonry is charity. This weekend was no exception, MWBro. Anthony Bucca presented a cheque for \$17,545 to Vicki Anderson, who was representing Uniting Care Wodonga. MWBro. Les Hicks (Grand Master of NSW & ACT) presented a cheque for \$10,000. A total of \$27,545 was raised to go to Uniting Care Wodonga to support people in need.

Well done Brethren on another successful 'Hands Across The Border' weekend.

The next 'Hands Across The Border' event is planned for 2026 and will be held in NSW. 🇺🇸



MWBro. Anthony Bucca and MWBro. Les Hicks presenting cheques to Vicki Anderson of Uniting Care, with WBro. Xavier Murtagh and WBro. David Foong.



MWBro. Les Hicks, MWBro. Anthony Bucca and WBro. Mick Porter.



MWBro. Anthony Bucca and MWBro. Les Hicks.





A Milestone for Peace and Loyalty

Saturday 1 June 2024 saw an open Re-consecration ceremony of the Peace and Loyalty Lodge No. 261 in Ferntree Gully. The Lodge was consecrated on 22 May 1920. The ceremony was due to be held in 2020 but was delayed due to COVID-19.

The Grand Master, MWBro. Anthony Bucca, and the Deputy Grand Master, RWBro. Peter Henshall, were both in attendance as well as the Grand Team to carry out this important ceremony.

The Lodge room was anointed and blessed with corn, wine, oil, and salt as well as the room purified with incense.

- Wine stands for fertility and wisdom.
- Oil represents liberty and prosperity.
- Corn ripens prosperity into abundance.
- Salt symbolises purity and hospitality.
- The clouds of incense represent cleansing and purification.

Congratulations to the Worshipful Master, WBro. Clarrie Walker, and his members on this wonderful milestone. 🎉



The Peace and Loyalty family with the Grand Team.



VWBro. Geoff Paton, Grand Chaplain.



Brethren of Peace and Loyalty Lodge.



MWBro. Anthony Bucca and WBro. Clarrie Waker.



WBro. Ethan Holmes GSTwd.





Rosebank Re-consecration and Installation

Rosebank Lodge No. 348 celebrated its 100 year anniversary on Saturday 8 June 2024 with the Re-consecration and Installation ceremonies. The Lodge was first Consecrated on 13 May 1924.

The Grand Master, MWBro. Anthony Bucca, and the Deputy Grand Master, RWBro. Peter Henshall, were both in attendance as well as the Grand Team, to carry out these important ceremonies.

Congratulations to the Worshipful Master, RWBro. John Patterson PDGM, and his members on this wonderful milestone of 100 years. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿



Members of Rosebank Lodge with the Grand Team.

A poem about the event by Bro. John Macleod

Today is the very best Masonic experience outside my 3 degrees. I witnessed Freemasonry at its very best to me.

The Reconsecration of Rosebank Lodge 348.

Was an excellent day and night right out of the gate.

The stunning manner in which the ritual was done.

Yet everyone was having fun.

I smile even now how humbled and grateful I was to be here as a Master Mason,

I run it through in my head about such a great demonstration.

The ritual, and encouragement of our Fellowcraft and Entered Apprentices. The Grand Master always explains, I myself have experienced the same.

I can tell you from this from experience,

as an Entered Apprentice, such an explanation by the Grand Master has a lasting effect and inspiration.

Being shown such respect.

I knew then there was more I could expect.

This has held true through my Three Degrees,

the mentorship, fellowship, and hospitality has just escalated and now I am sure many would agree, for me, it was a special occasion for some of the Brethren who attended were there for my Second Degree.

So to RWBro. John Patterson, I say thank you. You were the DC on that night and since then have also taken time in ritual to mentor me.

The Rosebank Lodge are a fine body of men,

ably guided by WBro. Les and now you Patto will be there till who knows when.

The Grand Team always giving their all and some more, four days of preparation and then delivery it was a very fine score, something to behold as everything was in perfect timing across the floor.

To know the ritual has been the same over the centuries, you cannot help to feel the sense of Freemasonry.

The professionalism of you all, blended in with the humour, brotherly love, and absolute engagement of everyone in the hall.

Historically also another excellent delivery, RWBro. John Patterson the 100th Worshipful Master, presented a gavel to commemorate such an occasion. In the South there was much said and with great elation, we enjoyed the banter, the stories, and always the genuine brotherly love. For in Freemasonry this is what connects all of us.

The 100 year history displayed, replicated on the dinner mats and menus, careful attention to every single detail, ensured the day and evening was perfect, no doubt will have us all regale forever with Brethren from wherever we hail.

Bro. Richard from Tasmania, many others from across Victoria and out on the border.

To witness such a sacred event. Think in Victoria in some places where Lodges were formed Brethren lived in tents.

Yet their love of the Craft has seen us evolve, into a fraternity nothing can dissolve.

Though times have changed, Freemasons are there helping one and all, you can see us Sleep at the G, in hospitals GM Anthony, DGM Peter, Patto, Webby and others giving of themselves to be there with genuine love and commitment. Be it cooking snags on the BBQ at Bunnings, go back in time it's always been the same for every one of us, only there was no media or social media trying to drive their perceptions of us.

Yet people knew as Freemasons they could rely on us, when times were tough in our communities, hospitals, orphanages, refuges were built expeditiously. So Patto and his Teams in their charitable works, are there for one and all.

Moving forward never a stall.

For he and his team, carry on work started by our Brethren back when there wasn't even a stream.

Men are defined by their actions and intentions I can see on this day many examples of good men getting better and delivering to society.

Unequivocally the very best of mankind with humbleness, virtue and piety.

If you are a Freemason and were there this fine day,

I know you also felt the sense of brotherhood and inspiration on display.

For it's on the foundation of our forefathers we started, over time immemorial Freemasonry has brought out the best in all of us.

Here today WBro. John Patterson and Rosebank Lodge are proof of this. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿



The Hills are alive with the Sound of Music



RWBro. John Patterson.



MWBro. Anthony Bucca and RWBro. John Patterson.

The Dandenong Ranges Orchestra had a concert at the Belgrave Masonic Centre on Sunday 5 May. What a wonderful day it was to hear the Grand Piano at the centre being played by a very accomplished 13-year-old boy, Diego Yu (Shing Yau Yu) Piano Soloist, assisted by the orchestra for a rendition of Piano Concert No.1 -Ludwig Van Beethoven (1795).

Additionally, the sextet "Inventi Ensemble" performed Scheherazade -Movement No.2 - (1888) composed by Nikolai Rimsky - Korsakov, and the Dandenong Ranges Orchestra finished with Symphony No.1 in C minor Opus 11 - (1924) composed by Felix Mendelssohn.

The Orchestra was conducted by Carlos Del Cueto and international Conductor now living in Australia. The

orchestra consisted of 26 members and comprised of 1st Violins, 2nd Violins, Violas, Cellos, Double Bass, Flutes, Oboe, Clarinets, French Horns, and Timpani. They are a pretty dedicated lot rehearsing every Monday evening at the community music hub, within the grounds of the Upwey High School. They are always on the look out for new players, so if you are interested contact them at musicohedro@gmail.com.

The Belgrave Masonic Centre Management Committee Inc, were very pleased to make the facility available for the concert which was attended by 80 members of the public and the 26 orchestra members for a pleasant Sunday afternoon of musical entertainment. ♀

By WBro. Doug Gibb PJGD.



Grand Master, Grand Director and RWBro. Patterson.

Bringing Exemplification to Geelong



RWBro. Patterson speaks to guests.



VWBro. Wes Turnbull speaking to attendees.



WBro. Jason Dawson JGD.

Quality ceremonial was on display on Saturday 4 May when the Exemplification Team visited Geelong. Around 40 members from Bellarine-Otway District No. 110 were given tips and training in particular aspects of Masonic ceremonial as well as an exemplification of the First Degree.

Brethren of all ranks and offices were able to ask questions and clarify many of the finer points of what we do in the Lodge room. The level of enthusiasm shown is not only pleasing but indicates members'

commitment to presenting quality work to candidates.

Visits to other districts are being planned by the Exemplification Team. In the meantime, Brethren are encouraged to make every effort to prepare and deliver their ritual and ceremonial to the highest standard and make use of available resources, including the Information on Lodge Workings (2017 edition), a local Lodge of Instruction and/or their District Inspector of Workings. ♀



Members Drive Impact in a Close-Knit District



Bellarine and Otway District No. 110 is made up of 10 Lodges, and their proximity to one another, geographically and fraternally speaking, bolsters their charitable endeavours.

David Webb, member of Geelong Lodge of Unity & Prudence, Deputy District Coordinator for Bellarine and Otway, represents the District Coordinator WBro. Bill Sheahan when needed and drives charity events.

"We're one of the smallest districts in Victoria and so we're quite close to each other - a lot of other districts are quite spread out. Visiting each other and being involved collaboratively, it's easy for us."

The members put forward a charitable case and decide what to support – its always local, and often relevant to one or more Lodge members.

A Decade of Support for Suicide Prevention

In the past decade Freemasons in the district have been big supporters of the local organisation Hope Bereavement Care, who provide services in Geelong and surrounding districts for those affected by grief.

A decade ago, John Patterson and Don Robinson initiated the partnership, and they had a big focus on preventing suicide in the community.

The statistics are frightening, with nine suicides a day in Australia. At the beginning, the donations were intended to get Hope Bereavement Care up and running when they were totally self-funded. David said they aimed to raise \$1,000 in 2017 but ended up raising \$20,000. With the assistance of the Freemasons Foundation Victoria (FFV), over the last 10 years, they've raised nearly \$400,000 towards suicide prevention and grief support in the district. 🙏



Setting up for Annual Walk of Hope - WBro. Tom Clark, Bro. Ben Walsh, Bro. David Todd, Henry Alexander, WBro. Mick Alexander, WBro. Riley Ellett.



WBro. Rodney Lavin, Anna Bucca and MWBro. Anthony Bucca.



Hope Bereavement Breakfast attendees.

Empowering Health And Dignity Through Enhanced Cancer Care

The Lodges also donate to various health services in the community, to enhance the level and quality of care available to them and their families.

A recent donation supported the purchase of Paxman Caps. Very few of the members had any idea what a Paxman Cap was until it was brought up at a meeting by someone whose wife was undergoing treatment for cancer.

Loss of hair in women having cancer treatment is often very detrimental to their self-confidence and sense of dignity.

Paxman Caps increase people's likelihood of holding on to their own

hair through a scalp cooling system, and there were only two available in the area for everyone that needed treatment. This member's wife got access to one and she actually retained her hair through use of the Paxman Cap.

Local Freemasons did a fundraising drive, and with support from FFV, bought a Paxman Cap for St John of God Geelong Hospital and one for Epworth Hospital Geelong, doubling the amount of people to have access to this treatment. 🙏

Photo: WBro. Tom Clark, Dr Lisa Mounsey and WBro. David Webb.





Nourishing Families with Food Relief

In the past two years Geelong Food Relief (GFR) has been the biggest recipient of the Districts' charity.

"In 2022, one of our members volunteered at Geelong Food Relief and pointed out to us that they really need a lot of money. There was a shortfall out there - 440 families were in need of assistance just within our District" - WBro. David Webb.

David said there's much more to the organisation than just providing groceries. "They also provide training on how people can better use up their food supplies to get the most out of it.

"It really didn't occur to us that people didn't know how to cook and that's why they go and get takeout and spend ridiculous amounts of money. So that's a really important part of what the money we give to them supports - not just food but also manpower."

GFR has seen exponential growth in the need for its services. They handle 100 tonnes of food per month, helping to feed the 3500 people requiring their assistance, with four full time staff and an incredible 160 volunteers working 650 hours a week.

In 2022, the District started an informal food drive four weeks out from Christmas, and amassed nearly \$10,000 in donations and about 100 kilos of food. That year the District, with support from FFV, made a

\$10,000 donation which purchased a new fridge dedicated solely to eggs, of which GFR gives away dozens every week.

In 2023, they rallied together with a higher level of organisation, and donated 220kgs of food - David's entire tray ute full, or food for approximately 440 people at Christmas time. A Masonic Grant matched fundraising efforts, enabling them to donate \$28,000 that year - improving 40% on the previous year.

The knock-on effects are evident. The Lodges' support of GFR is no longer solely a Christmas time effort but a year-round one, and some local Freemasons have dedicated even more of their time to help as volunteers.

"We're already planning this year, and we want to raise \$20K. FFV has been fantastic in supporting us in moving forward." ✨



Geelong Food Relief 2022 - Andrew Schauble, WBro. David Webb, WBro. Bill Sheahan, and Lisa.



Geelong Food Relief 2023 - VWBro. Bill Lodge, WBro. David Webb, WBro. Bill Sheahan.



Geelong Food Relief Drive 2023 - Geelong Freemasons dropping off their donations.

Always look local – Geelong Freemasons' strategy to drive change

WBro. David Webb is a key figure in securing FFV grants. He says they have an advantage because the Geelong District executive has representation in every Lodge, so they can get their messages across to their membership with relative ease.

"We'll say, look, this is what our district is running at the moment, we'd love for you to support it - and we're really proud that our district members always jump behind anything that we raise, and they'll put in their best efforts to try and support us in our aims. Our membership in Geelong is what really drives us to push forward."

For the past nine years the District Lodges have organised an annual fundraiser 'Support After Suicide' with a sports luncheon format, and while

it's served their purposes well, it's currently on hiatus while they reassess the direction and inject some fresh ideas into the event and its focus. Aside from the Support After Suicide luncheon, there's raffles and Bunnings Sausage Sizzles – "obviously one of our biggest money spinners".

David encourages other Lodges to seek additional support from FFV to help them make a difference in their communities.

"It's a super easy process, as long as you've got your background information, and I would suspect that anybody applying for a grant has already worked out what they need to say, in support of their application."

"The size of our district makes it really easy for us, because the money goes

SPAN Walk Volunteers - Trevor Somerville, David Todd, Don Shields, Bill Sheahan, Rosse McConnell, Eddie Rodgers, Terry Lodge, Bill Lodge, John Carlos Lopez, Maui-Lee Jackson, Andrew Young.



directly into the Geelong community. It doesn't go into big organisations - everything we look at is localised, and that's my advice to other Lodges. Always look local. You've got a good chance of getting the support you need if there's local impact." ✨

For further information about FFV Masonic Grants programs, please contact Theresa on (03) 8535 4780 or email theresa@freemasonsfoundation.org



FFV Scholarships 2024: Honouring Tradition and Building Futures

Freemasons Foundation Victoria recently held two Scholarship Presentation evenings, bringing together supporters and recipients alike. MC Wes Turnbull guided the proceedings, beginning by reflecting on the Foundation's success in attracting applicants this year to fill the room not once but twice.

This year, 119 students received more than \$280,000 in awards and scholarships.

The Freemasons Scholarship program has been in existence since 1912 when Arthur Green received the inaugural King Edward VII Scholarship. Since that time Victorian Masonic scholarships have been awarded to a value, in today's terms, in excess of \$9.1 million.

Chairman Garry James highlighted the importance of the scholarships in fostering academic excellence and nurturing future leaders. This year's Freemasons Foundation Victoria 2024 Scholarship (\$10,000 per year tenable for the years of an approved full time course) was presented to Bianca Pollard – it was a notable

moment, recognising her academic achievements and dedication to community service.

Raised in regional Victoria, Bianca attended Sacred Heart College in Newtown and was a consistent high achiever throughout high school, obtaining an Atar of 90+. Bianca actively volunteered in programs with St Vincent de Paul, assisted with food drives and even did numerous hours in the pool teaching little ones to swim.

Bianca is now undertaking a Bachelor of Biomedicine at Melbourne University and hopes to further her study by completing a Doctor of Medicine.

The events also featured the presentation of various tertiary awards, including the Sydney George Manefield Residential Scholarship, which was established from a bequest received in 2002, and supports rural students in their tertiary studies. The scholarship (\$5,000 p.a for three years) was awarded to Lachlan Stone, who attended Cohuna Secondary College in Northern Victoria, and has >>>



McKeely Hol, 2023 FFV Scholarship Recipient.



MWBro. Anthony Bucca presenting a scholarship.



VWBro. Wes Turnbull speaking at the presentation evening.



RWBro. Garry James speaking at the presentation evening.



The Scholarship presentation evening.



commenced studying a Bachelor of Design at Swinburne University of Technology.

The Harry Burt Memorial Architecture Scholarship and the Frank Fordyce OAM Civic Scholarship were presented to Casey Clark and Sienna Palamara, respectively. Casey attended Alexandra Secondary College and has commenced studying for a Bachelor of Design (Architecture) at Swinburne University. Sienna attended Sacred Heart College in Newtown and is now studying for Bachelor of Psychology at Deakin University.

These awards acknowledged their passion and potential contributions to their chosen fields. The attendees were also treated to a presentation from McKeely Hol, the 2023 FFV Scholarship recipient.

Matthew Schofield, Deputy Chair of Freemasons Foundation Victoria presented the FFV Year 11 and 12 awards, serving as encouragement for young students embarking on their educational journey.

Sue Benedykt and Bob Jones, Patrons of the Freemasons Foundation Victoria 1889 Bequest Society, took the podium to present the FFV Years 7, 8, 9, and 10 Scholarships. The Benedykt family have been supporting Freemason Scholarships for several years, including the Eliezer Benedykt Scholarship in Music at Monash University.

Following the scholarship presentations, attendees were given a tour of the Lodge room, providing insight into Freemasonry's rich heritage and symbolism.

As each evening ended, amidst applause and congratulations, it was evident that the Freemasons Foundation Victoria Scholarships not only recognised academic achievement but also celebrated values such as service and perseverance. Through its support, the Foundation continues to empower individuals to pursue their dreams and contribute meaningfully to society. 🏛️



A Scholarship recipient and family enjoying light refreshments.



Scholarships presentation evening attendees.

This year,
119 students received more than
\$280,000
 in awards and scholarships.



Freemasons Foundation Victoria Grants Calendar

Benevolence Financial support for Freemasons in distress	open all year
Masonic Lodge Grants Masonic Orders	open 1 July - 30 May 2025
Lodge Education Grants Craft Lodges	open 1 July - 30 May 2025
Community Grants Not-for-profit community organisations	open 1 July - 30 Sept 2024
Tertiary Support*	Two rounds closing in August & March
Secondary & Tertiary Scholarships*	open 1 December 2024

*Family association with Freemasonry is not a criterion for a Scholarship or Award

For further information about FFV Masonic Grants programs, please contact Theresa on (03) 8535 4780 or email theresa@freemasonsfoundation.org



Freemasons
Foundation Victoria

Leave a Lasting Legacy



Leave a gift in your will to support a cause close to your heart and make a difference in Victorian communities.



Bequest Society

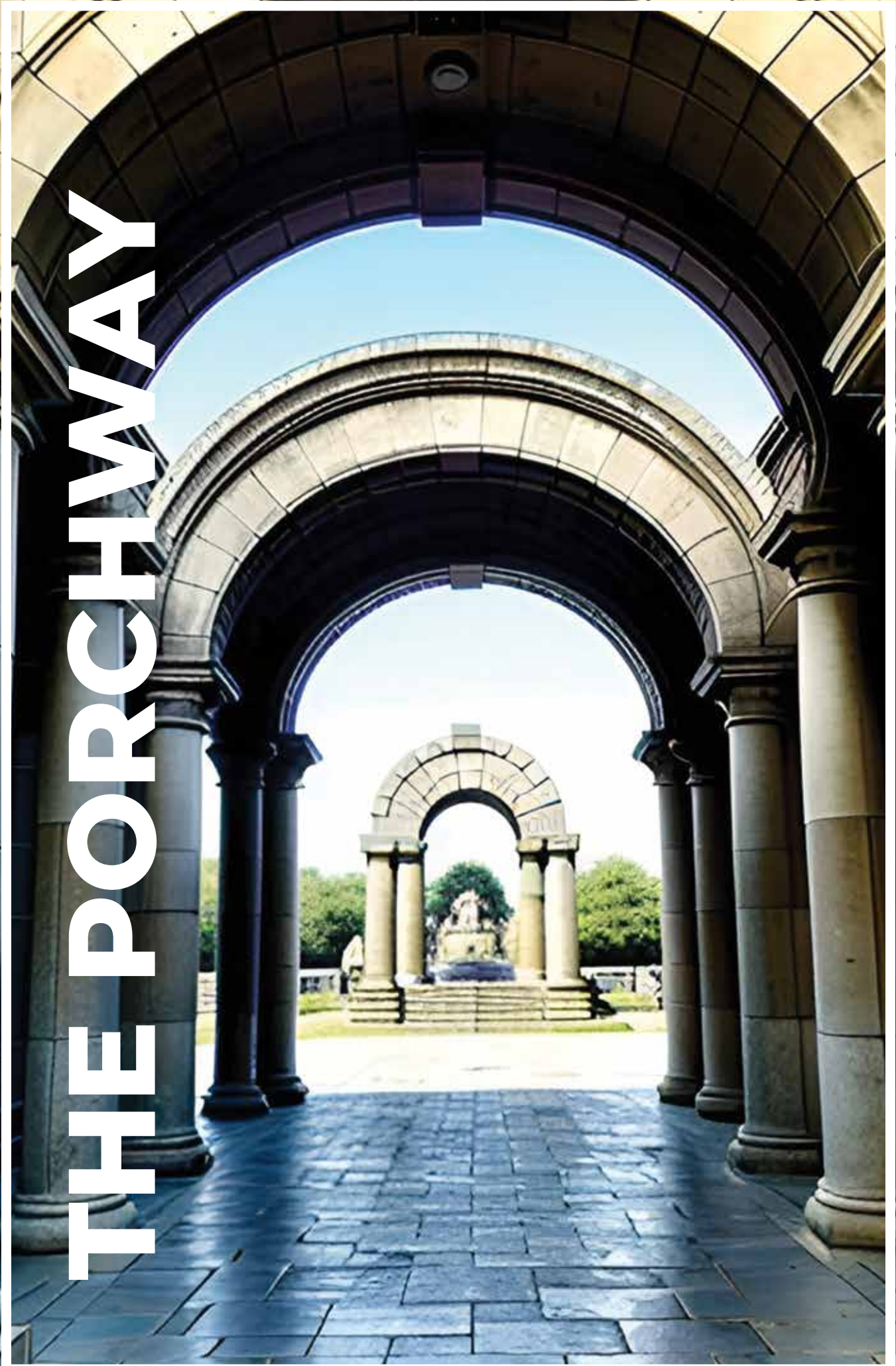
Once you have notified us of your Bequest, you will become a member of the 1889 Bequest Society, which was established to thank and acknowledge people in their lifetime for making a bequest.



Safewill, Australia's leading Will writing platform, makes it more affordable and easier than ever for Australians to write their own Will. Scan the QR code to find out how you can safeguard your legacy for just \$80.

For more information, contact our Executive Officer on (03) 8535 4780 or enquiries@freemasonsfoundation.org

THE PORCHWAY





The Grand Master's Message

The Grand Master's speech from the June Quarterly Communication.

Brethren All,

Freemasons across Victoria continue to prove that you do not have to be wealthy to be a philanthropist. One of Freemasonry's chief pillars, charity, is alive and well across Victoria.

There are a number of things that set Freemasonry apart from service clubs. First, there is our unique history, ritual and ceremonial work. Secondly, there is our educational aspect and stunningly, there is our benevolent work. Charity - chief amongst the blessed three as we sing in the ode. The old book says: "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

Freemasons, regardless of faith or creed, concerned with the principles of right and wrong behaviour; holding or manifesting high principles for proper conduct; come together as Brothers to practise real, practical help for others.

My heart swelled with pride last month when more than 100 Masonic volunteers joined me at the Melbourne Cricket Ground for the Sleep At The 'G event held by the Melbourne City Mission to fight youth homelessness.

"One of Freemasonry's chief pillars, charity, is alive and well across Victoria."

Now, we don't have the cash resources of a bank or the membership numbers of some groups, but how good was it to see 'Team Freemasons 24' at the top of the fundraising leader board with a tally of close to \$110,000 raised mainly by the donations - large and small - of our volunteers, their Lodges and their supporters?

It is what Freemasons Victoria is about in 2024. We had a good number of newer, younger, Freemasons - the new breed as I call them and our future, in attendance. What surprised me was the number of old blokes like myself, who took up my challenge. We had a few in their 70s and we proved that we don't need sleep.

Overall, the Sleep At The G event raised nearly \$720,000, so that means about one-in-six of every dollar raised has a Masonic finger-print. There

were 1,001 sleepers at the MCG on that night. More than 1-in-10 of them was a Freemason.

Be proud, Brethren, that yet again, we rolled our sleeves up, we got out there, and we brought happiness to others. Incidentally, the CEO of the MCG, Stuart Fox invited Team Freemasons onto the hallowed turf - the only group allowed to do so as he was impressed by the sea of fluoro yellow beanies. We did present him with one. There is a marvellous photo of the group on the ground which I hope will be of some historical significance.

I am so very happy that tonight you heard from Vicki Sutton, CEO of MCM and she was accompanied by Renee Johnson GM of Philanthropy and Dru Mills head of Corporate and Community. What a wonderful job that organisation has done since 1851. Many thanks to them and I trust that we've all learnt a little bit about their work. We are committing to again join the Sleep At The 'G event in 2025, and next year we want every participating Freemason to bring one friend, so that we can perhaps double our help to fight youth homelessness. It's only 11 months away, and gives us plenty of time to prepare, and even allow for the Deputy Grand Master to buy his own sleeping bag so that he can join us this time. I challenge every Lodge to support this cause in some way. A sponsorship or straight donation would be appreciated. Several Lodges which classify themselves as strong and progressive were conspicuous by their absence. I trust they will put their hands in their pocket next year or that some of their members will join us to support this wonderful initiative by Melbourne City Mission.

I must also mention again that 150 Freemasons manned BBQs at Bunnings all over Victoria for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal. We are grateful for the support of Penny Fowler, Chair of the Good Friday Appeal, and her team, making this high-visibility charitable effort possible. Discussions are already underway for how we might do even better and more for next year's appeal. It is good to know that Freemasons Victoria was an important part of the entire community coming together to raise \$23 million.

Thanks to RWBro. Ash Long for taking on the logistics. A monumental task to coordinate over 250 individuals each with queries and to liaise with the relevant organisations to ensure a

seamless experience for all concerned. As I said in my last address, I have surrounded myself with smart people and rather than tell them what to do, I want them to tell me. It's easy for GMs to come up with ideas and commit our organisation but we need behind the scenes brethren to make things work!

There's more! I can confirm that discussions are well advanced for a biennial charity ball to take place to support the work of Melbourne Legacy, which exists to support the families of those who have served.

This year, Lodge Amicus with the full support of Head Office is organising a Spring Carnival Ball in October to raise funds for the Oncology Unit of the Northern Hospital and I urge everyone to support this marvellous initiative.

"the Sleep At The 'G event raised nearly \$720,000, so that means about one-in-six of every dollar raised has a Masonic finger-print."

All of these events have received healthy support of the Freemasons Foundation, and I particularly want to thank its Chairman, RWBro. Garry James PDGM, who has worked hard to get the Foundation back to where we want it to be. The Foundation is donating close to \$3 million annually to worthy causes, it is actively supporting the projects of Lodges.

I've talked about charity and benevolence as the mainstays of our Fraternity. What about brotherhood and supporting each other in times of need?

Brethren, I want to make one point about our older members in particular and really all of our members regardless of age. Are we looking after them properly? If a Brother misses a meeting or two, are we on the phone, or dropping around to their house to see if they are OK? Perhaps they might need a lift to a Lodge meeting on a winter's night. Maybe their health might not be what it should be. Let's discreetly check on their family situation, let's check that everything is OK. I can tell you of discussions I've had with Freemasons who have >>>



resigned because no one cared. No one bothered to follow them up. No one bothered to offer them a lift. Not difficult things to do.

When Lodges tell me they can't retain members, I just wonder if they are doing anything to help themselves. It's not difficult. It's called caring for our Brethren.

On that point, I'm delighted that some Lodges have reintroduced the Toast to Absent Brethren. A small thing but significant in my view. We pride ourselves on Fraternity on being brothers. Let's show some of our non-masonic guests at our Souths, that we do care by acknowledging those who can't be with us. You cannot underestimate the effect that has on those who are not members. Someone only a few days ago asked me for the words and music. It should be an integral part of our festive board. Doesn't take long.

As the words of the Ode remind us – "Grant that we in true remembrance may not be remiss, Let them know that in this hour tis them we miss". Not much to ask. It's called caring for our Brethren.

I have asked Central District Coordinator, WBro. Andrew Karaconstantis, to undertake a survey of all Victorian Lodges, to assemble an inventory of what Lodges and Districts do in their charity endeavours; their own benevolent donations, their own man hours for widows and disadvantaged people, projects such as the food hampers through 'Freemasons Community Relief' at Bayside, the 'Gather My Crew' Brethren also at Bayside who undertake gardening and so on. All of these things have an intrinsic community value. The United Grand Lodge of NSW & ACT have been doing this for some time. Every Lodge as I understand it provides details annually of their donations in cash and of hours worked on community activities.

I suspect that we will discover there are further millions of dollars in cash and kind for which Freemasons are responsible. Often doing good works, and often not getting caught doing them. It will be good to put a figure on it.

Brethren, as your Grand Master, I am very proud of you, and I am very proud of Freemasons Victoria. We are back on track. We have stopped talking about the notion of charity, we have rolled our sleeves up, and every week we are doing practical things. No committees, no terms of references, just 'fair dinkum Freemasonry'. Let's cut the red tape in Lodges and do what we should be doing. Thank you, everyone, for the giving of yourselves.

I want to particularly thank our newest Freemasons for the eager way in which they are setting the example of how Freemasons can be good citizens. There is a salutary lesson for older Freemasons: realise that we all have a 'use by' date, get out of the way and let the young blokes have a 'go', let them have a chance at the wheel. Be a mentor, not a roadblock. The evidence is clear - our newest members, our latest members, have joined for all the right reasons. They bring new talents and skills, they bring great enthusiasm, and they challenge the old timers' mind-set of 'but we've always done it this way'.

And, on that point, I want to thank our latest and newest members for their enthusiasm towards attending Lodge and embracing their Ritual and Ceremonial responsibilities. Generally speaking, these members are embracing Freemasonry for what it is. Let's celebrate their contribution, and let's turn the spotlight on them. It's time for some of we older guys to check our egos at the front door and sit back and watch our newest Brethren do their best work. "Praise youth and it will prosper" is an old saying.

"I am very proud of you, and I am very proud of Freemasons Victoria. We are back on track."

It is busy out there in our Lodges across Victoria. Anecdotally, Lodge attendances are up, so is visiting. Masters Groups are starting to flourish, and I would really like to encourage Wardens Club to prosper. Bayside, thanks to the District Coordinator, has a flourishing Master's Group and a Wardens' Club has started, and similar good things are happening in Northern District. Isn't it great to see numbers of Worshipful Masters on the road supporting each other. That's a real example of "Back to the Future".

Brethren, everywhere that I go, accompanied by our Grand Lodge teams, we are met with the warmest of welcomes. Some examples: it was Full House at the Re-consecration of Peace and Loyalty Lodge at Ferntree Gully. We met with our New South Wales and ACT peers at the latest 'Hands Across The Border' event at Wodonga - and we made cheque presentations of about \$27,000 to Uniting Care whilst there. It hopefully will give a real impetus to our Lodges in that area. The Re-Consecration of Rosebank Lodge and Installation of

RWBro. John Patterson PDGM was a marvellous and well attended affair. Installations are happy and well supported. We have a full schedule of events statewide, even during these traditionally quieter winter months.

I have said it before but these are the 'good old days' of Freemasonry in Victoria. Be proud of the fraternity to which you belong. The time is now right where you no longer have to be embarrassed about the one-time cringe factors associated with Freemasonry. Invite a friend to come along to a South or social event. It is not improper to talk to a friend about what you do when you go to Lodge. We have something really good. It is not wrong to share it. New style Open Nights with a new breed of younger Masonic Ambassadors are about to hit the road.

Brethren as Freemasons, we are members of the world's greatest brotherhood. We can live a more useful life, being of service to others, in fact all mankind. We will gain some of the best friends that we ever had. Our minds will be stretched like never before. We will become better men.

General Bro. Douglas MacArthur put it best: "Freemasonry embraces the highest moral laws and will bear the test of any system of ethics or philosophy ever promulgated for the uplift of man."

Thank you.



MWBro. Anthony Bucca
Grand Master
United Grand Lodge of Victoria



Message from the Grand Secretary

I have remarked previously that we have so many members who are receiving recognition for membership of Freemasonry of 50 years and more. These brethren have provided service to the organisation for a considerable period.

Service is a word that carries immense weight. It's about dedication, commitment, and the enduring support we offer each other. In this edition of The Victorian Freemason on our service awards page, we honour those who have dedicated a combined total of 1,480 years to service. This is no small feat — it's a testament to the steadfast values that Freemasonry upholds.

When the world was a different place, Freemasonry was a part of the life of the community. Freemasonry has been a constant, but at the same time it has evolved to meet the needs of the modern man. Freemasonry is universal, it adapts, it overcomes it endures. I have enjoyed various Lodge experiences with men who have been Freemasons who have been newly initiated, to camaraderie with members who have been in Freemasonry for a lifetime. The message, I always try to convey to the newer and younger members is listen to the older members, reflect on what they have to say and learn from their experience.

I am further amazed when I meet Brethren who have provided such dedicated service and still retain their enthusiasm for the organisation, it shows their pride in Freemasonry and their desire to share their story and

their experience and to ensure newer members get as much enjoyment and satisfaction as they did.

In today's fast-paced world, where everything seems to change in the blink of an eye, Freemasonry remains a constant source of stability. Lodges are places where members find support throughout their Masonic journey at the beginning celebrating or decades after. These brethren have seen the changes to the organisation. They can relate to the life in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, they can relate to Freemasonry and the traditions that have remained and evolved.

Many brethren wonder what Freemasonry will be like when they receive their 50-year jewel. The answer is reassuring: our great principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth remain unwavering, and our ceremonies continue to unite us.

Despite the advancements in technology, shifts in trends, the symbolic white apron worn by Entered Apprentices remains a unifying symbol. It connects us all—from the first night of initiation to the 80th year of a Past Master's service. It's a reminder that amidst change, our bond as Freemasons endures through service.

And while service in years is important in any membership organisation, as Freemasons we deeply rely on our impacts that are made, and the connections forged with the community and each other. As we celebrate these milestones, we recognise the profound meaning

behind the simple act of service. It's a tradition that enriches lives, binds us together, and ensures that Freemasonry remains a beacon of constancy in an ever-changing world.

Congratulations to all members on their individual and collective service.



RWBro. Bruce Cowie
Grand Secretary
United Grand Lodge of Victoria

Long Overdue Masonic Award

Brethren of Bairnsdale Daylight Lodge No. 877 recently visited Paynesville to present a 60 year Long Service Award to Alan Thomas Dennis.

The award was presented to Alan by senior officers of the Lodge, Bro. Jim Jolly, WBro. David Provan and WBro. Kevin Cross.

Alan Thomas Dennis was initiated and raised in Union Lodge of North Gippsland No. 62 in 1963 where he served as Secretary and Director of Ceremonies. He was conferred with Grand Lodge honours in 1987. He was a petitioning member for the formation of Bairnsdale Daylight Lodge No. 877, which was consecrated on 19 April 1984.

This is an important date for the Lodge. On this date this year the Lodge had its customary luncheon at Pier 70, Paynesville to celebrate the handover from Worshipful Master, Charles de Rochefort, to the new Master for the 2024-2025 year, Peter Andrewartha prior to his Installation in May; and on this date, 19 April 2024, members also celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Lodge Consecration. Sadly this event could not be held in 2023; everyone attending last year was greeted at the restaurant to the news there was a power cut due to a pelican having flown into the power lines! 🦅

Bro. Jim Jolly, VWBro. Alan Dennis, WBro. David Provan and WBro. Kevin Cross.





Service Awards

JANUARY - MARCH 2024
CONGRATULATIONS

50 Years

VWBro. Colin Anderson	Guiding Star Lodge	922
VWBro. Daryl Brennan	Lodge of Concentration	753
WBro. Geoffrey Brewer	University Lodge	171
WBro. David Folley	Gardenvale Mobility Lodge	243
WBro. Keith Jeffreys	Kyabram Lodge	225
WBro. Leslie Kelly	Rosebank Lodge	348
WBro. Norman McDowell	Moorpanyal Lodge	467
WBro. Peter Rennie	Gisborne Lodge	298
WBro. John Soultanakis	Gregorios Lodge	865
Bro. Alfred Holmes	Weston Street United Lodge	94

65 Years

WBro. George Dewar	Powlett Lodge	661
WBro. John Harris	Gisborne Lodge	298

70 Years

RWBro. Alan Jennings	Lord Northcote Lodge	191
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75 Years

WBro. Frank Hullin	The Clifton Hill Lodge	90
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60 Years

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RWBro. Frank Mitchell	Monash Lodge	938
RWBro. Robert Pullin	Lodge of the Great Ocean Road	886
VWBro. David Axup	Allara Lodge	855
VWBro. Neil Campbell	Wangaratta Lodge of St. John	66
WBro. Peter Hopper	Samaritan Lodge	380
WBro. LTCOL. James Messini AM	The Army Lodge	478
WBro. Anthony Stow	Geelong Lodge of Unity and Prudence	5

80 Years

Bro. Clement Cole	Antient York Lodge	80
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SERVICE AWARD APPLICATIONS

Applications for a jewel or a bar service award are completed by your Lodge Secretary and sent to the Grand Secretariat. Once it is approved the bar or jewel service award is ordered and sent to your Lodge Secretary to arrange presentation.



Celebrating 60 Years

RWBro. Tom Stirling

On Monday 15 April 2024, RWBro. Tom Stirling was presented with his 60 year service jewel at Blackburn United Lodge No. 915. The Jewel was presented to RWBro. Stirling by WBro. Robert McGregor IPM of Vic. Naval & Military Lodge No. -49.

Congratulations to RWBro. Tom Stirling on this fantastic achievement.



RWBro. Bob Pullin

RWBro. Bob Pullin, PJGW was presented with his 60 year jewel from RWBro. John Patterson, PDGM at Lodge of the Great Ocean Road No. 886.

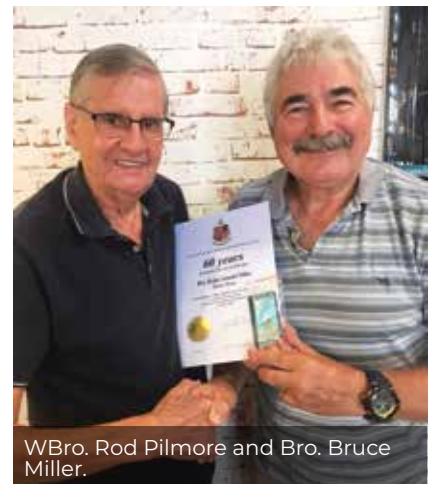
Congratulations to RWBro. Bob.



Bro. Bruce Miller

Brother Bruce Miller of Werribee Enterprise Lodge No. 187 was recently presented with his 60 year service jewel by WBro. Rod Pilmore and WBro. Cedric Young.

Congratulations to Bro. Bruce of this wonderful achievement and your dedication of 60 years to our wonderful Craft.





60 Year Jewel – RWBro. Ralph Greenough

An important occasion for Ralph, his family, the Traralgon Lodge and Freemasonry in general. To Ralph there are three important things in his life. His family and friends, Freemasonry and the CFA.

On the 24 January 1964 RWBro. Ralph Edwin Greenough was made a Freemason with J W Thompson. WBro. Norm Gibson was the Worshipful Master and Ralph's father Bro. Les Greenough the regular Chaplain occupied the chair of Senior Warden. Ralph was passed to the Second Degree 24 April 1964 and raised 23 October 1964 and served all positions on his way to Worshipful Master of Sutherland Lodge for the 1979/80 year. He again was installed as Worshipful Master for the 2000/01 year.

Ralph became a foundation member of the Traralgon Lodge when Lodge of Affinity and Sutherland Lodge combined to form the new Lodge. He has served many officers in the Traralgon Lodge including Director of Ceremonies, Senior Deacon, Inner Guard, Secretary, Treasurer and Auditor. Ralph is an excellent ritualist and delivers several charges including Traditional history in the Third Degree.

In 1989 Ralph joined the Grand Ceremonial Team as Grand Steward and was conferred as Past Grand Standard Bearer in 1990. In 1995 he was promoted to Past Junior Grand Deacon. 2001 conferred to Past Grand Inspector of Workings followed by promotion to Past Grand Junior Warden in 2011. Grand Master MWBro. Richard Elkington promoted Ralph to the rank of Past Grand Senior Warden. Ralph and Barbara have both been great supporters of Traralgon and Sutherland Lodges, Freemasonry in general and the community. We all congratulate both of them for their service. ✨



RWBro. Ralph Greenough.

60 Years of Service – RWBro. Rev Len Lacey

On 10 May 2024 MWBro. Anthony Bucca attended the Brae Dale Lodge No. 936 in Belgrave to present a 60-year jewel to RWBro. Rev Len Lacey PSGW.

RWBro. Lacey is the First Grand Principal of Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Victoria and as such had many friends and Brethren in attendance from Craft, Mark and Chapter.

Whilst presenting RWBro. Len's jewel, a great deal of reminiscing took place as MWBro. Bucca took along some ephemera from RWBro. Len's mother Lodge which brought back some great memories for him and other members of the Lodge.

A hearty congratulations to RWBro. Rev Len Lacey PSGW on this very special milestone. ✨



MWBro. Anthony Bucca and RWBro. Rev. Len Lacey PSGW.



Brae Dale Lodge No. 936 members.

70 Year Jewel – RWBro. Alan Jennings

The Grand Master, MWBro. Anthony Bucca, attended Lord Northcote No. 191 on 12 March 2024 to present a 70 year jewel to an old friend, RWBro. Alan Jennings PJGW and Alan's wife, Shirley.

The Grand Master commented that there was a great crowd in attendance, the entertainment was wonderful and that the food was excellent.

Hearty congratulations to RWBro. Alan and Shirley for an amazing achievement and long-term commitment to our fraternity. ✨



MWBro. Anthony Bucca with RWBro. Alan Jennings PJGW and wife, Shirley.



RWBro. Alan Jennings PJGW with family and Lodge members.

75 Year Jewel – WBro. Kevin Douglas Moody

The 75 year Jewel Presentation by RWBro. Garry Runge OAM PDGM, SGW. to WBro. Kevin Douglas Moody PJGD of Berwick Balacara Lodge took place at Bupa Narre Warren NTH aged person premises.

Kevin's family and some interested occupiers of the suites were in attendance. Representatives of Berwick Balacara Lodge also attended, including one who mentioned he was a former Venture Leader in the District. Kevin was the Foundation Tyler of Lodge Cooinda, No. 838 in 1964. Kevin was Also Deputy Town Clerk of the former City of Springvale.

Congratulations WBro. Kevin Douglas.



By RWBro. Ivan Warner OAM, PSGW



WBro. Kevin Douglas Moody PJGD and RWBro. Garry Runge OAM PDGM, SGW.

BEYOND THE CRAFT



Freemasons
Victoria

WINTER 2024

IN THIS EDITION

Message from the Grand Master

Message from the First Grand Principal

Message from the Deputy Grand Commander



Message from the Grand Master



How fortunate are we as Victorian Freemasons to have access to publications such as this and also my local Monash district magazine. Both are always of exceptional high quality with many interesting, educational and diverse articles. We are also able to access many informative articles through a network of dedicated members who share their own research via email and lectures, within the Lodges they attend. In particular I commend the work of VWBro. Glenn Hollibone GLect who has produced many very interesting talks during his tenure and has travelled extensively to promote our wonderful Order.

At the recent Grand Installation, we celebrated 125 years since the United Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Victoria was established with 15 Mark Lodges forming this body and a history of this Grand Lodge, was compiled and included in the program by VWBro. Glenn, which I recommend.

Earlier this month I attended Kilwinning Mark Lodge of Research No. 2 where a presentation on the beginnings of Freemasonry was presented in the South before we enjoyed a meal and refreshment.

This continuing theme of education and involvement in research is one I would promote to all members regardless of whichever order they belong and in particular I invite our Mark Brethren to consider becoming a visitor to, if not a member of number two to further their knowledge.

"How fortunate are we as Victorian Freemasons to have access to publications such as this and also my local Monash district magazine"

In July a member of Mordialloc Mark will be celebrating 80 years as a Mark Man, WBro. Harry Dickson joined the Mark, one year after becoming a Freemason and will be the only recipient to hold this service award in both orders in our history, I am honored to be making this presentation with his family and friends in attendance. WBro. Harry turned 105 this year, an amazing man who has remained an active member over all this time.



**MWBro. Ronald W Goodburn
Grand Master**
United Grand Lodge of
Master Mark Masons of Victoria

Marking Well For 80 Years

A very rare and special occasion for Bro. Henry (Harry) Dickson.

On Saturday 29 June 2024 the Grand Master of Mark Master Masons of Victoria, MWBro. Ronald Goodburn was privileged to present Bro. Harry with his Mark 80 year service jewel.

Congratulations to Bro. Dickson.

Vale Bro. Henry Dickson

Sadly, just just before going to print Freemasons Victoria was informed that Bro. Henry passed away. Freemasons Victoria extends our condolences to Harry's family.



Bro. Henry Dickson.



Bro. Henry Dickson and family.



Bro. Henry Dickson and family.



MWBro. Ron Goodburn and
Bro. Henry Dickson.



Bro. Henry Dickson and Brethren.



A Dual Meeting with a Dual Presentation of two 50 Year Jewels

It was on Thursday 4 April at Korumburra with the combined meeting of the Duke of Connaught Lodge and the Outtrim Lodge in South Gippsland that these two presentations took place.

The South Gippsland Mark Lodge arranged for a team to visit and make the presentation to WBro. Max Crawford with his overdue 50 Year Service Jewel as a member of the Mark.

The second presentation being a 50 Year Service Jewel to WBro. Norm Hindle, for his service in the Craft, and was given by WBro. Geoff Ferrier from the Duke of Connaught Lodge.

At the conclusion of Lodge proceedings, the ladies and guests were invited into the Temple, where WBro. Brian Brown welcomed everyone and invited WBro. David Kent from the South Gippsland Mark Lodge to take the floor.

WBro. David Kent gave a brief informative talk on the meaning of the Mark Master Masons, and then invited WBro. Max onto the floor, where he outlined Max's Mark history and then presented Max with his Mark Master Masons Certificate and his 50 Year Service Jewel, for his service in the Mark.

At 93 years of age, Max showed he had a wonderful memory by giving an informative response, including mentioning his proposer into the Craft by Tegwin Jones (an ex German P.O.W.) in May of 1957, who was also a great mentor to Max. Max also mentioned his experiences when he

was a member of two Grand Lodge Teams, and currently holds the rank of RWBro. Max Crawford PDGM in the Craft.

WBro. Geoff Ferrier also congratulated Max on behalf of the Duke of Connaught Lodge, and gave a brief history of Max's history in the Craft. Max was given a great round of applause by all present. Max is a well known and respected identity in the community of Woodleigh and the Loch district, and is also well known in Freemasonry in the South Gippsland Region.

WBro. Geoff Ferrier then addressed the members and guests, giving a brief history of WBro. Norm Hindle's Masonic career, before presenting him with his 50 Year Service Certificate and Jewel for his service in the Craft.

WBro. Norm was also given a great round of applause by all.

WBro. Norm Hindle joined the Lodge of Honour in March of 1974, whilst serving in the Navy. He has always enjoyed the camaraderie of Freemasonry wherever he travelled for work.

WBro. Norm was also a member of the Chelsea Lodge, and it was whilst working in Grantville that he sought out and joined the Duke of Connaught Lodge in July of 2004, and has remained a member since, although he has moved back into the city suburbs.

It was a great night with these two well deserved presentation's, and was certainly enjoyed by all present. ✨



WBro. David Kent presenting RWBro. Max Crawford PDGM with his 50 year Service Jewel in the Mark.



Members of the South Gippsland Mark Lodge with RWBro. Max Crawford.



WBro. Geoff Ferrier presenting WBro. Norm Hindle with his 50 year Service Jewel.

Presentation of Bill Ray's Masonic Jewels

On 6 February a presentation was made to Mrs. Wilma Ray, widow of the late RWBro. William (Bill) Ray by RWBro. John Ives. Wilma was given a framed collection of Bill's Masonic Jewels comprising his 70 Year Craft Service Jewel, 60 Year Chapter Service Jewel, and 50 Year Mark Service Jewel. Also included were Bill's jewels presented to him upon his installation for the first time in the chair of the three Orders. Needless to say, Wilma was thrilled to receive this gift in honour of her late husband. Bill was born on 29 February 1924, and was called to a higher life on 10 April 2023 in his 100th year. Thanks to RWBro. Myles King who first suggested the project, and to Bill's Craft and Mark Lodges, and Royal Arch Chapter, who jointly funded the framing costs. ✨



Mrs Ray and RWBro. John Ives.



The late RWBro. Bill Ray.





A 'Potted History' of the Mark in Victoria



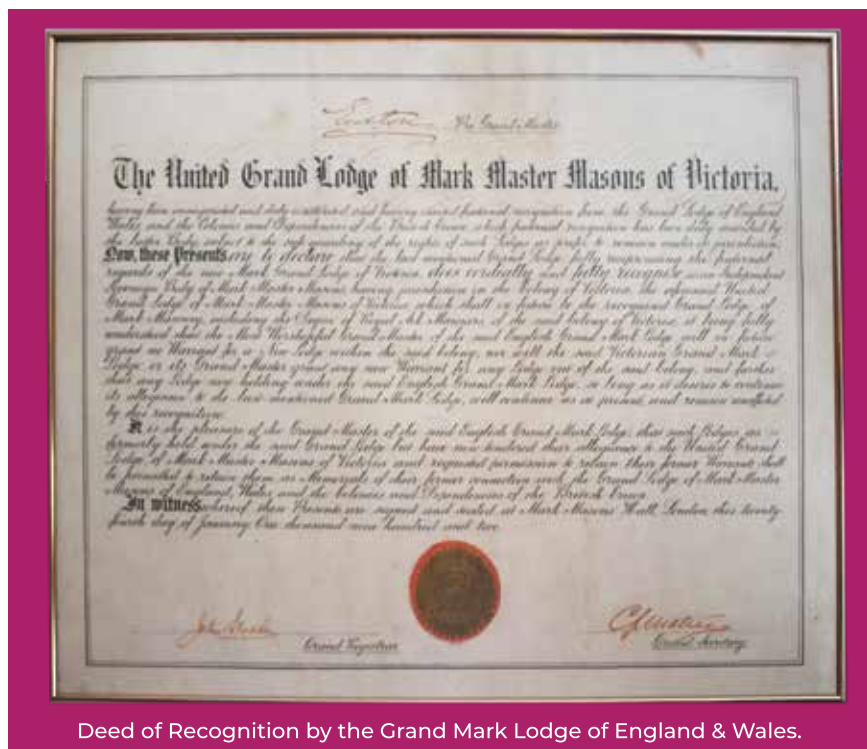
As we celebrate 125 years of the United Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Victoria, we need to pay homage of those that have gone before us and be grateful for what we have inherited in this wonderful Order. For most of us, our most treasured inheritance is the experience we share in Mark Masonry. Victoria is one of the few masonic jurisdictions in which the Mark degree is worked in autonomous Mark Lodges and governed by an independent Grand Mark Lodge: Victoria being the second oldest standalone constitution of Mark Master Masons in the world after the Grand Mark of England and Wales.

The Mark Degree's place within the masonic system Victoria possesses one of the few Masonic systems in the world where it is possible to examine the growth of Mark Masonry separately from the growth of a number of other degrees and in particular those conferred by in the Royal Arch Chapters. The Mark, along with the Craft and the Holy Royal Arch, form the central family of masonic orders. Firstly, because Rule 2 of the Constitutions of the United Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Victoria informs us that there are five degrees in pure and ancient masonry; namely the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master Mason, Mark, and the Holy Royal Arch.

Secondly, the three orders share certain familial characteristics: They are all based on the legend of King Solomon's Temple and are not confined to members of any religious denomination. Further, unless a Brother Master Mason has knowledge of the Mark Master Mason degree, he cannot fully understand the principles, philosophy or knowledge expounded in the Third Degree. The Mark degree, when understood in the context of the Fellow Craft and Master Mason degrees, thus forms a more comprehensive narrative.

Historical Background

Freemasons have been in Australia since the arrival of the First Fleet, which landed in Botany Bay, NSW in 1788. Officers and military men who came from England as the first settlers of our country established military Lodges that were granted travelling warrants, with the first Lodge being established as The Australian Social Lodge No. 260 under the Grand Lodge of Ireland, which held its first meeting on 4 January 1820 in Sydney. The Mark degree was brought to the colony of Victoria in 1858 with the formation of the St Andrew's in the South Chapter, at



Deed of Recognition by the Grand Mark Lodge of England & Wales.

Geelong. That charter was obtained from Scotland by a Companion Thomas Charles Harwood on a visit to Scotland at the request of a number of Scottish Freemasons in the Geelong district. This warrant allowed the working of the Mark Degree (and other degrees) and on 8 September 1858, they admitted 16 candidates to the Mark Degree. The Grand Chapter of Scotland has recorded it as the first working of the degree in any of its chapters.

Within two years, Mark Lodges had been consecrated under the Grand Mark Lodge of England and Wales, under the Scottish Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter and by the Grand Chapter of Ireland (as part of a Royal Arch Chapter in each of the latter two cases). Thus, by 1860, there were three separate avenues in which to obtain the Mark degree in Victoria. In the middle of the 1880's a further path became available as several Royal Arch Chapters under the Canadian Constitution were opened in Victoria and which also worked the Mark degree.

The fortunes of all these groups ebbed and flowed with the fortunes of Victoria itself and it is but fair to state that, at times prior to 1883, the degree barely managed to remain in existence. Also, when it was given to a candidate in the Scottish chapters it was, at times according to historical minutes, communicated in an

abbreviated form rather than worked in full.

In March 1889 Grand bodies in the Craft and the Royal Arch were formed in Victoria but the Mark Brethren could not then identify a need to follow suit. The Grand Chapter of Victoria, being formed overwhelmingly by members of the English constitution, did not take control of the Mark degree.

By the mid-1890s (and the transfer the allegiance of the Canadian Chapters to the Grand Chapter of Victoria) the Mark degree was being worked under two authorities, the Grand Mark Lodge of England, and the Grand Chapter of Scotland (but as autonomous Mark Lodges not as part of a chapter).

The original idea of forming The United Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Victoria emanated from Worshipful Brother Edward Coulson, who was at that time Past Master of the Keystone Mark Lodge, No. 19 Scottish Constitution (becoming No. 0 in the 1880s), and of South Melbourne Mark Lodge, No. 310, English Constitution. Both of those Lodges are now on our Grand Lodge Register as Keystone No. 1 and Kilwinning (Lodge of Research) No. 2, respectively.

The first meeting of delegates from the various Mark Lodges in Victoria was held at the Freemasons' Hall, 25 Collins Street, Melbourne, on 11 October 1897. An Executive Committee

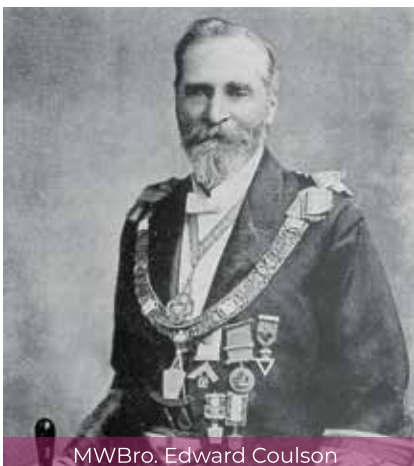


was chosen by the existing English and Scottish Mark Lodges, of which WBro. Coulson was Chairman, and WBros George Frederick Martin and Herbert Manning Knight were Secretaries, the former representing the English Lodges and Wales, and the latter those of Scotland. The next meeting was held at the same place on 30 June 1898. Eventually all 10 Scottish Mark Lodges and five of the seven English Mark Lodges agreed to form a local Grand Mark Lodge.

Right Worshipful Brother Henry Thomas Tomsitt was first suggested as Grand Master, but he, with his innate modesty and keen sense of justice, urged that he was not the founder or driver of the project, and that WBro. Coulson was entitled to that honour. The following meeting, at which this Grand Mark Lodge was constituted, and the Grand Master elected, was held on 30 May 1899.

On the following day, Most Worshipful Bro. Coulson was duly installed as Grand Master by RWBro. Tomsitt, and the United Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Victoria commenced with 15 constituent Lodges and 340 members. The Grand Master appointed RWBro. Charles William Mitchell as Deputy Grand Master, and VWBro. Knight as Grand Secretary.

Three English Mark Lodges continued to work separately from the new Grand Lodge and the Grand Mark Lodge of England & Wales maintained a District Grand Lodge in Victoria until 1936.



M.W.Bro. Edward Coulson

The first Grand Master, Edward Coulson, continued to be elected every year until his death in 1936. Following this it became traditional for the Grand Master to serve a 3-year term although, since 1995, now serve 2-year terms. At its inauguration, the Grand Mark Lodge adopted the English practice of requiring an Ark Mariner Lodge to be attached to a parent Mark Lodge – taking its name and number, regardless of when the Ark Lodge was constituted. Under the English constitution, the first Royal

Ark Mariner Lodge was opened at the South Melbourne Masonic Centre in November 1883.

In 1899, at the formation of the Grand Mark Lodge, there were two Royal Ark Mariner Lodges at work but as one was attached to a Mark Lodge which stayed under the English constitution only one came under the jurisdiction of the local Grand Mark Lodge. The Grand Master was, however, not a member of the degree. In a curious twist, he became a Royal Ark Mariner Mason in the remaining English Lodge two days after he became Grand Commander of Royal Ark Mariners of Victoria.

The first Lodge consecrated under this Grand Mark Lodge was the Murray Valley Mark Lodge, No. 16, at Wahgunyah, on 24 May 1900. This Lodge was active for only ten years, and the Warrant was surrendered to the Grand Master in December 1912. On 30 May 1901, it was announced that official recognition had been granted by the Grand Mark Lodge of New South Wales and The Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland.

On 24 January 1902, official recognition was granted by the Grand Mark Lodge of England and Wales, the mother Grand Lodge of all, which was constituted in 1856. After the 1914-18 Great War, 55 new Mark Lodges were consecrated throughout Victoria starting with Lord Nelson Mark Lodge No. 46 in April 1919; and whose consecration had been delayed due to the Spanish Flu epidemic which prevented all public gatherings for a period of six weeks. The last Lodge to be consecrated prior to the Great Depression was Mount William Mark Lodge No. 101 at Willaura; south-west of Ararat.

The Great Depression, which saw a worldwide economic downturn, that began in 1929 and lasted until about 1939, was the longest and most severe depression ever experienced by the industrialised Western world. It hit Freemasonry as hard as it hit the rest of the world, and Grand Lodge saw a decline in membership. Notwithstanding the economic climate, 14 Mark Lodges were consecrated in this period beginning with Morwell Mark Lodge No. 102 which was consecrated on 16 December 1929 and finishing with Metropolitan Mark Lodge No. 115 at Abbotsford in 1937.

In April 1937, two of the remaining three English Mark Lodges tendered their allegiance to this Grand Mark Lodge and were accordingly enrolled on our Register. During the period 1938 to 1944, which encompasses the Second World War, there were no new Mark Lodges consecrated; however, the end of the Second World War witnessed a resurgence

of interest in Freemasonry and membership boomed as men looked to maintain a sense of belonging and comradeship. The Australian ideals of mateship coupled with the principles of self-improvement, moral action and service to the community found a ready match in the ideals and practices of Freemasonry. In 1945 with war waning in Europe and the Pacific, Thespian Mark Lodge No. 116 was consecrated on 13 February 1945. This was followed in quick succession by a further 11 Lodges, culminating with Peninsula Mark Lodge No. 126. On 30 April 1949, just prior to the Golden Jubilee celebration of May 1949.



The Masonic Club Building.

On 18 May 1949, this Grand Lodge celebrated its Golden Jubilee at the Masonic Club Building, formerly situated at 164-170 Flinders Street, Melbourne. Between the Grand Installation in 1949 and the centenary celebration of May 1999 a total of 22 Mark Lodges were consecrated beginning with Moe Mark Lodge No. 127 on 17 September 1949 and culminating with Prospect Hill Mark Lodge on 28 March 1998, which was the amalgamation of Hawthorn Mark No. 6, Camberwell Mark No. 86 and Coulson Commemoration Mark No. 100. During this period and for the first time, a new Tasmanian Mark Lodge, under the United Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Victoria, was consecrated, Tamar Affection Mark Lodge No. 149: Tasmanian Mark Lodge No 274, English constitution, originally consecrated on 1 December 1880, only came under the jurisdiction of Victoria in 1992.

On 28 May 1999, this Grand Lodge celebrated its Centenary at Dallas Brooks Hall, Albert Street, East Melbourne.

On 2 February 2000, M.W.Bro. Robin Harrison, our Centenary Grand Master, accompanied by RWBro. Ian Chittick, Deputy Grand Master, consecrated Wodonga Mark Lodge No. 151, being the last consecration of a new Mark Lodge under this jurisdiction. 🏛️



Message from the First Grand Principal



Some years ago I read a newspaper article which immediately caught my interest. A leading scientist in hydrogen storage technology was giving some unusual advice for a scientist to those aspiring to be so. "You need to believe in your feelings. And the reason for that is everything is about feeling and intuition. You have a lot of scientific knowledge, but at the end of the day you need to go beyond that, and you need to rely on your feeling - your intuition."

What is so unusual for a scientist to be saying this? Perhaps a definition of 'intuition' may help to give us an answer. The Macquarie Dictionary defines intuition as 'the direct perception of truths, facts; independently of any reasoning process; pure, untaught knowledge.'

We seem to be moving into that area of wisdom which has been taught by the great spiritual teachers or mystics from ancient times. It was in this period of history that the great orders of Greece and Rome used myths and symbols in a secret setting to introduce the great secret of life to chosen candidates by the use of ritual-drama. Freemasonry has introduced you and me to the same great secret using much the same method as those in ancient times.

Remember the first question you were asked by the WM before proceeding into the Second Degree: "Where were you first prepared to be made a Freemason?"

And the answer you gave: "In my heart." The heart symbolises the very centre of being both physically and spiritually. As the physical organ pumping the very essence of life throughout the body, so spiritually, the heart has been understood from ancient times to be the seat of wisdom - the wisdom of feeling and empathy. We may call this wisdom

intuition arising from the middle chamber of our Fellowcraft Degree. If we listen to the inner voice and in faith accept her guidance we will experience the blessedness which comes from the centre.

When we lose faith in what we hear, or simply block out that source of wisdom we have within us the heart becomes heavy, troubled and conflicted. We have all heard the expression 'the heavy heart'. We have a heavy heart when circumstances crowd in upon us and the negatives of life weigh the heart down causing us unhappiness. Often it takes a great deal of effort to restore the balance and once again listen to the inner wisdom.

"the grand design of Freemasonry is to be happy and communicate that happiness to others. Indeed, 'Bringing Happiness to Others'"

The secret to the restoration of the balance, I believe, is to be found in the ritual and ceremonial of Freemasonry. We are reminded every year in the Craft Installation ceremony that the grand design of Freemasonry is to be happy and communicate that happiness to others. Indeed, 'Bringing Happiness to Others' is the theme being used by our Grand Master during his tenure of office.

It is, therefore, of great importance that we all, as members of this wonderful fraternity, be aware of the purpose of Freemasonry, and understand the spiritual benefits that can be derived from the symbolism of

our various ceremonies. It is my belief that many resignations are prompted by a lack of understanding of what our degrees teach us. Interest in a ceremony will wane if the meaning of what is being presented is not understood. Our Grand Lecturer, VEmComp, VRev Fred Shade and the Education Committee he leads are very conscious of this, and work is in progress to improve the knowledge of our members. The Royal Arch Degree is a beautiful degree of great spiritual depth, its purpose being to guide us to a deeper understanding of ourselves and the profound happiness that knowledge brings. It is my profound hope that all of us will be so guided.



MEmComp. Leonard S Lacey
First Grand Principal
Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Victoria

Most Excellent Companion

Supreme Grand Chapter of Victoria wish to extend congratulations to our Grand Master of Freemasons Victoria, MWBro. Anthony Bucca, on being installed as a Principal of the Order in Northern United Chapter No. 2. ✨



MEmComp. Len Lacey and MExComp. Anthony Bucca



The Triple Tau



THE T-OVER-H AND THE TRIPLE TAU

The first four figures suggest how the T-over-H sign became the triple tau. The fifth figure shows the three taus apart.



The Triple Tau is a significant and unique symbol of the Royal Arch, and is second in importance only to the interlaced triangles that appear on the Chapter jewel and the banner in the Chapter room.

On some early Royal Arch jewels and aprons, they show that the original device was in fact a letter T over a letter H. This was not meant to refer to Thomas Harper, a Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Ancients in the first part of the nineteenth century, as some have asserted. He was a silversmith who designed and supplied a number of masonic jewels, and his name appears thereon. The letters were meant to refer to the Temple of Jerusalem, Templum Heirosolyma, and so it is just a coincidence that the engraver has the same initials.

At some time during the early part of the nineteenth century, a change took place; the letters lost their serifs and the 'tail' of the letter T dropped on to the 'crossbar' of the letter H. This now gave the appearance of three capital Ts joined together at the base of the 'tail'. The symbolic nature which could be attached to this was soon developed, and shortly afterwards we begin to find references to the triple tau in Royal Arch masonry, in its ritual, symbolism, and on certificates.

Triple Taus Variants

Tau is the name given to the nineteenth letter of the Greek alphabet and is shaped like a capital T. The tau was originally a cross, either a 'plus' sign or a 'multiplication' sign. Later on it was changed to a letter T as we know it today. It is the last letter of

the Hebrew alphabet and is known as tav or tov. In ancient times, the letter T was a mark or symbol of life.

The use of the Tau as a symbol is evidence of a Christian influence in early Royal Arch masonry, as it was in Craft Masonry. It is said that the shape of the cross on which Christ was crucified was in the form of a letter 'T'. (There is still much debate about what form of the cross was used at the time.) There are many artists who depict such a cross in their Crucifixion paintings, especially in the Crucifixion of Christ.

Because of the association with the Crucifixion, the cross in the form of a 'T', the tau-cross, came to have an especial significance for those of the Christian faith. The combination of three such crosses – the three taus combined as a triple device - with both their Golgothan and Trinitarian implications, would therefore be given a very special significance.

The tau is mentioned in Ezekiel chapter 9 verse 4, 'And the Lord said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.' The text does not refer to the nature of the mark to be made. In the Hebrew version, the word 'tav' is used. The root from which this word comes means 'a mark, or scribble.' It may be of interest to mention, that in the old Jewish Encyclopaedia (Vol. 1 499) there are reproduced old Hebrew and Samarian alphabets, where the letter tav is shown as a cross. Similarly, the Encyclopaedia Britannica

(Alphabet) has a Table showing the Hebrew letter tav being equivalent to a cross in both the Sabaeen and Aramaic alphabets.

Making the sign of the Cross is an action many Christians make as a sign of faith and invocation. Also, the priest makes the sign of the cross on the forehead and elsewhere of the recipient in the sacraments of Healing, Baptism and Extreme Unction.

In Jewish literature there is an interesting comment by Rashi (Rabbi Solomon ben Isaac, 1040-1105). Referring to the anointing of Aaron the High Priest, he says, 'This anointing was in the form of a X; he (Moses) put a drop of oil on his (Aaron's) head and another drop between his eyebrows and joined them with his finger into this shape, X.' By tradition the mark made on the door-posts on the eve of the Passover was a tau-cross.

Harry Mendoza (The Ensigns of the Twelve Tribes of Israel) suggests that to companions of the Jewish faith, it could also serve to remind them of three important Hebrew words, all beginning with the letter 'tav', namely:

- Torah** - the study of the Mosaic Law;
- Tefilah** - prayer, and
- Teshuba** - return to the ways of the righteous.

Whatever may have been the origin and original meaning of the triple tau, it is now a major symbol, and unique to the Supreme Degree of the Holy Royal Arch. ✧

By REmComp. VRev Frederick A. Shade PGJ, GLect.

60 Year Jewel - REmComp. William Church

There was some history in the making on Saturday 20 January when REmComp. William Stuart Church, Past Grand Jeshua was presented with his 60 year Jewel and certificate by REmComp. Robert Redman Deputy First Grand Principal. The presentation was made at the Wangaratta Chapter No. 96.

The Deputy First Grand Principal thanked Bill for his sixty years of commitment to the order and commended him for his service. ✧



REmComp. William Church and REmComp. Robert Redman.



The Officers in an Ark Mariner Lodge



The Officers in a Royal Ark Mariner Lodge are the same as in a regular Craft Lodge. However, some of them, while performing the same role, are named differently.

As in a Craft Lodge, where the Worshipful Master is seated in the East, in an Ark Lodge he sits in the same position, but he is called the Commander, representing Noah.

If a Commander has been previously installed as Master in a Mark Lodge, he is called Worshipful Commander. However, if a Mark Master Mason is the Commander he is called Brother Commander.

In a Craft Lodge the Master is Installed annually and Officers are Invested, whereas in an Ark Lodge the Commander is also Enthroned annually and Officers are Invested.

Seated in the East with the Commander are the Immediate Past Commander at his left and the Chaplain at his right.



Members of Sandringham RAM.

In an Ark Lodge the equivalent of the Senior Warden is called Japheth, and the Junior Warden equivalent is called Shem, two of the sons of Noah. They are seated at pedestals on the floor of the Lodge in a triangular arrangement with the Commander. Japheth is in the North-West and Shem in the South-West.

The administration of the Lodge is carried out by the Scribe, equivalent to the Secretary in a Craft Lodge and a Treasurer.

There is a Director of Ceremonies seated in the South-East and there may be an Assistant Director of Ceremonies appointed.

Positioned in the West on the floor of the Lodge are the Senior and Junior Deacons, each of which may have an Assistant appointed.

There is an Organist and Choirmaster, the same as in a Craft Lodge.

The equivalent of the Inner Guard is the Guardian seated at the door of the Lodge.

A number of Stewards may be appointed by the Commander.

Finally, the equivalent of the Tyler is called the Warder, and carries out similar duties.



Brethren of Royal Ark Mariners.

The Lodge provides collars for every officer which are of rainbow ribbon with a silver button and cord, and also Jewels of silver or White metal within a triangle.

The Commander wears a Crimson Robe with a Yellow border.

The Immediate Past Commander wears a Yellow Robe with a Black border.

Japheth wears a Green Robe with a Red Border and Shem wears a Blue Robe with a White Border.

The Chaplain wears a Black Robe with Green Stole in place of the usual Officer's Collar.

Deacons and Guardian wear White Robes bordered with rainbow ribbon.

The requirements to become a Royal Ark Mariner Mason are to be a Master Mason and a subscribing member in good standing of a Craft Lodge in Freemasonry Victoria or of a Craft Lodge under a jurisdiction recognised by Freemasonry Victoria.

You must be a Mark Master Mason and a subscribing member in good standing of a Mark Lodge under the United Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Victoria (UGLMMM) or of a Mark Lodge under a jurisdiction recognised by the UGLMMM.

You must agree to conform to the Regulations of the Fraternity.

Information about the Ark Mariner Degree is available at the web site: beyondthecraft.net.au.

Breathe new life into your bathroom... ...without the hassle of replacing!

What do you do when your bathroom is looking tired and worn out but a full-on replacement is totally unaffordable?

Are you tired of looking at the stains, cracks, rust, fading colours and dull fittings in your bathroom?

This is where Bathroom Werx - the Bathroom Makeover people - can come to your aid.

Instead of spending a fortune on an expensive bathroom renovation, Bathroom Werx can save you MANY thousands of dollars on a restoration process that will magically transform your bathroom to NEW.

All those nasty little quirks will be quickly repaired and everything will come up looking like new, so there will be no need to get rid of any fittings or fixtures that could leave your bank account gasping for air.

Bathroom Werx has fully trained specialist Tradesmen who will come into your home and do a no-mess, on-the-spot job. They'll repair damaged tiles, grout, and chipped enamel; I remove any rust and ugly water stains and then apply the unique Werx Enamel coating to your bathroom.

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It can be used to re-enamel your wall tiles, basins, vanities, shower bases and bathtubs and make them look brand new again...

Depending on the size of your bathroom, the whole bathroom makeover is done in around 48 hours, and can be used again 24 hours after completion of the work.

That means you are not out of a bathroom for weeks while you wait for other Tradesmen to turn up and do the work!

And to give you peace of mind, Bathroom Werx offers a **Seven Year** written guarantee which is supported by **38 years** of experience in this business.

Bathroom Werx has been upgrading bathrooms for the last 38 years not just in homes but also in top international hotels.

For more information call Bathroom Werx on

1800 644 171

for a **Free Information Package** which shows you how you can save thousands of dollars on your bathroom renovation. Or you can download one from our website:

www.bathroomWERX.com



Thanks to Bathroom Werx, this beautiful bathroom no longer looks like it used to (below)!



Bathroom Werx
Restore. Renew. Relax.



NEW MEMBERS

1 JANUARY – 1 JUNE 2024
MARK, ARK, & CHAPTER

Arash Azad	Keystone Mark Lodge	1	Benjamin Briggs	Belgrave Chapter	74
Robert Bass	Malvern-Waverley Lodge of Mark Master Masons	39	Robert Cameron	Western District Royal Arch Chapter	22
Alexander Beaton	Bacchus Marsh Mark Lodge	104	Prince Chuzhukunnil	Dandenong-Apex Holy Royal Arch Chapter	70
Brian Collis	Geelong United Lodge of Mark Master Masons	19	Mohammadamin Elahimoghadam	St George Chapter	7
Colin Cox	Colac Lodge of Mark Master Masons	49	Junnifer Fuerte	Greensborough Chapter	87
Ian Cross	Berwick Prince of Wales Mark Lodge	8	Alexander Harding	St Andrews in the South, Geelong Chapter	19
David Davie	Mordialloc Mark Lodge	91	Gregory Howden	Dandenong-Apex Holy Royal Arch Chapter	70
Michael Jardimco	Numurkah Lodge of Mark Master Masons	53	Charles Hutcheson	Dandenong-Apex Holy Royal Arch Chapter	70
Dimitrios Karanikas	Oakleigh Lodge of Mark Master Masons	48	Ian Hutcheson	Dandenong-Apex Holy Royal Arch Chapter	70
Hayden Kerr	Corinella Lodge of Mark Master Masons	18	David Illingworth	Lord Somers Australasian Holy Royal Arch Chapter	1
Christopher Klier	Wodonga Mark Lodge	151	Martin Mackay	Birdwood Chapter	28
Francis Hernandez	Concord Lodge of Mark Master Masons	55	Warren Macatol	Dandenong-Apex Holy Royal Arch Chapter	70
Jeffrey Holloway	Prospect Hill Mark Lodge	150	Nayson Murgo	Lord Somers Australasian Holy Royal Arch Chapter	1
Shayden Ismat	Geelong United Lodge of Mark Master Masons	19	Franz Obermoser	The Kyneton Royal Arch Chapter	21
Mitchell Maxwell	Geelong United Lodge of Mark Master Masons	19	Joey Santos	Dandenong-Apex Holy Royal Arch Chapter	70
Norman Mentiplay	Prospect Hill Mark Lodge	150	Wayne Sherlock	City of Abbotsford Holy Royal Arch Chapter	9
Carlos Mentos Moreno	Mordialloc Mark Lodge	91	Earlerwin Tiama	The Williamstown Chapter	75
Kenny Ong	Robbie Burns Lodge of Mark Master Masons	76	Henry Trusiak	The Williamstown Chapter	75
George Rabba	Berwick Prince of Wales Mark Lodge	8	Simon Lewis	Bayside Chapter	78
Dylan Rose	Corinella Lodge of Mark Master Masons	18	Allan McIntyre	West Wimmera Chapter	55
David Rose	Corinella Lodge of Mark Master Masons	18	Richard Payne	Lord Somers Australasian HRAC	1
Jed Soto	Robbie Burns Lodge of Mark Master Masons	76	Curt Luebker	Dandenong-Apex Holy Royal Arch Chapter	70
Ernest Soto	Robbie Burns Lodge of Mark Master Masons	76	Douglas Newberry	Melbourne Chapter	8
David Webb	Geelong United Lodge of Mark Master Masons	19	Peter Duggan	The Footscray Chapter	27
Paul Baillie	Sandringham	61	Kenny Ong	The Footscray Chapter	27
Kevin Geyer	Gladstone	72	Nicholas Sell	Whitehorse Chapter	124
Wayne Moncur	United Brunswick	14	Glenn Weeding	Dandenong-Apex Holy Royal Arch Chapter	70
Henry Trusiak	Robbie Burns	76	Schenjie Ubod	St George Chapter	7
			Anastasios Zafiriou	Lord Somers Australasian HRAC	1

Distinguished Filipino Visitors in Melbourne


Sir Robert Hobart Lodge No. 9 (Rectified Scottish Rite, under the Great Priory of Belgium) held an 'emergency' meeting on Saturday 8 June at Freemasons Melbourne, to receive into membership three distinguished Freemasons from the Philippines, who had had flown in especially from Manila.

The group was led by RWBro. Teddy Kalaw, who is Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines (the equivalent of our Grand Superintendent of Education). The ceremony of the 4th Grade (Scottish Master of St Andrew), whereupon four candidates – the Filipino trio and local candidate, Bro. Domenic La Rocca – were admitted in an excellent ceremony. The meeting was supported by local members, and

all the candidates expressed great satisfaction with their admission and the quality of the ceremony.

After lunch, our three Filipino Brethren traveled to Freemasons Bayside to attend a Triple First Degree working at The Earl of Dunmore Lodge – which works the Scottish McBride Ritual. They were most warmly received by the Lodge's Right Worshipful Master, Bro. Jack Aquilina, and witnessed

excellent ceremonial.

There are six degrees in the Rectified Scottish Rite (RER). The first three are the Craft Degrees (taken in any regular Lodge). The 4th Degree is taken upon joining the order, in a Lodge of Scottish Master of St Andrew. The 5th Degree (Squire Novice) and the 6th Degree (Knights Beneficent of the Holy City) are acquired as promotions over time. 



Members of Sir Robert Hobart No. 9.



Nelson Mandela President of South Africa

From '300 FAMOUS FREEMASONS' by RWBro. Kent Henderson

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was born in the village of Mvezo, in the Eastern Cape, on 18 July 1918. His mother was Nongqaphi Nosekeni and his father was Nkosi Mphakanyiswa Gadla Mandela.

He attended primary school in Qunu where his teacher, Miss Mdingane, gave him the name Nelson, in accordance with the custom of giving all schoolchildren 'Christian' names. He completed his Junior Certificate at Clarkebury Boarding Institute and went on to Healdtown, a Wesleyan secondary school, where he matriculated. He began his studies for a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University College of Fort Hare but did not complete the degree, as he was expelled for joining in a student protest.

Mandela moved to Johannesburg in 1941, where he worked as a mine security officer and after meeting Walter Sisulu, an estate agent, he was introduced to Lazer Sidelsky. He then did his articles through a firm of attorneys; Witkin, Eidelman and Sidelsky. He began studying for an LLB at the University of the

Witwatersrand, but by his own admission he was a poor student and left the university in 1952 without graduating. In 1989, while in the last months of his imprisonment, he obtained an LLB through the University of South Africa. He graduated in absentia at a ceremony in Cape Town.

Mandela joined the African National Congress (ANC) in 1944 when he helped to form the ANC Youth League (ANCYL). In 1944 he married Walter Sisulu's cousin, Evelyn Mase, a nurse. They divorced in 1958.

Mandela rose through the ranks of the ANCYL and in 1949, through its efforts, the ANC adopted a more radical mass-based policy, the Programme of Action. In 1952 he was chosen as the National Volunteer-in-Chief of the Defiance Campaign; a campaign of civil disobedience against six unjust laws. Along with 19 others, he was charged under the Suppression of Communism Act for their part in the campaign and sentenced to nine months of hard labour.

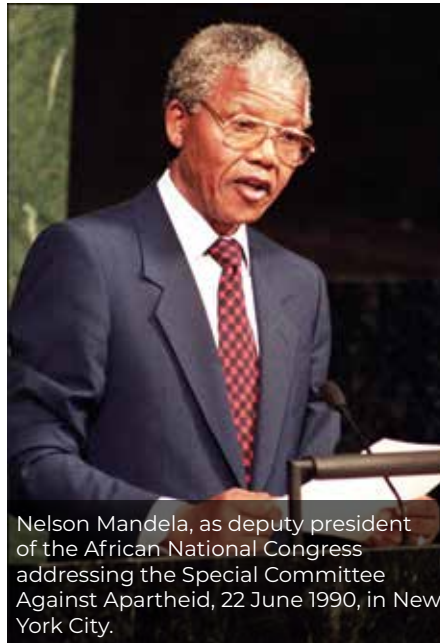
Over this period, he completed a two-

year diploma in law which allowed him to practise law, and in August 1952 he and Oliver Tambo established South Africa's first black law firm, Mandela & Tambo. At the end of 1952 he was banned for the first time. As a restricted person he was only permitted to watch in secret as the Freedom Charter was adopted in Kliptown on 26 June 1955. Mandela was arrested in a police swoop on 5 December 1956, which led to the 1956 Treason Trial. Men and women of all races found themselves in the dock in the marathon trial that only ended when the last 28 accused, including Mandela, were acquitted on 29 March 1961.

On 21 March 1960 police killed 69 unarmed people in a protest in Sharpeville against the pass laws. This led to the country's first state of emergency and the banning of the ANC and the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) on 8 April. Mandela and his colleagues in the Treason Trial were among thousands detained during the state of emergency. During his trial Mandela married a social worker, Winnie Madikizela, on 14 June 1958. The couple divorced in 1996. »»



1964, Nelson Mandela in prison on Robben Island, off Cape Town, for 18 of his 27 years behind bars.



Nelson Mandela, as deputy president of the African National Congress addressing the Special Committee Against Apartheid, 22 June 1990, in New York City.



In 2004 Nelson Mandela was inducted as an honorary member of Bailiff Grand Cross of the Order of St John.



Nelson Mandela inaugurated as president of South Africa on 10 May 1994.



Elizabeth II and South African President Nelson Mandela leaving St. George's Cathedral in Cape Town after attending a service to mark Human Rights Day 21 March 1995.

After he and his colleagues were acquitted in the Treason Trial, Mandela went underground and began planning a national strike for late March, but in the face of a massive mobilisation of state security, the strike was called off. In June 1961 he was asked to lead the armed struggle and helped to establish Umkhonto weSizwe (Spear of the Nation), which launched on 16 December 1961 with a series of explosions.

On 11 January 1962, using an adopted name, Mandela secretly left South Africa. He travelled around Africa and visited England to gain support for the armed struggle. He received military training in Morocco and Ethiopia and returned to South Africa in July 1962. He was arrested in a police roadblock outside Howick on 5 August. He was charged with leaving the country without a permit and inciting workers to strike. He was convicted and sentenced to five years' imprisonment, most of which he served on Robben Island. Within a month police raided a secret hideout in Johannesburg used by ANC, and several of his comrades were arrested.

On 9 October 1963 Mandela joined 10 others on trial for sabotage in what became known as the Rivonia Trial. On 20 April 1964, at the end of his trial, he delivered his famous 'Speech from the Dock' on 20 April. Together with seven co-accused, he was sentenced next day to life imprisonment and sent to Robben Island.

From November 1985, after prostate surgery, Mandela was held alone on Robben Island. On 12 August 1988 he was taken to hospital where he was diagnosed with tuberculosis. After more than three months in two hospitals he was transferred on 7 December 1988 to a house at Victor Verster Prison near Paarl where he spent his last 14 months of imprisonment. He was released on 11 February 1990, nine days after the unbanning of the ANC and nearly four months after the release of his remaining comrades. Throughout his imprisonment he had rejected at least three conditional offers of release.

Mandela immersed himself in official talks to end white minority rule and in 1991 was elected ANC President to

replace his ailing friend, Oliver Tambo. In 1993 he and President F. W. de Klerk jointly won the Nobel Peace Prize and on 27 April 1994 he voted for the first time in his life.

On 10 May 1994 he was inaugurated as South Africa's first democratically elected President. On his 80th birthday in 1998 he married Graça Machel, his third wife. True to his promise, Mandela stepped down in 1999 after one term as President. He never wavered in his devotion to democracy, equality and learning, despite terrible provocation. He died at his home in Johannesburg on 5 December 2013.

Brother Nelson Mandela was made a 'Mason at sight' by the then Grand Master of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina, William C. Parker Jr., on 28 June 1990, during Mandela's first visit to the United States. Subsequently, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina chartered Nelson Mandela Lodge No 843 at Soweto, South Africa. ✎



The Chequered Pavement

A near universal aspect to Freemasons' Lodges throughout the world is the beautiful mosaic pavement flooring. We know from ritual from the early 1700s that the mosaic pavement was already a crucial feature of the masons' lodge-room.

Q. Have you any furniture in your Lodge?

A. Yes

Q. What is it?

A. Mosaic pavement, blazing star, and indented tassel.

Q. What are they?

A. Mosaic pavement the ground floor of the Lodge...etc.

Our explanation of the first-degree tracing board states that:

"The mosaic pavement may justly be deemed the beautiful flooring of a Freemasons' lodge by reason of it being variegated and chequered. This points out the diversity of objects which decorate and adorn the creation, the animate as well as the inanimate parts thereof."

At a symbolic level the lodge pavement is said to represent extremes and balance; extremes as in pleasure and sadness, or prosperity and adversity, or good and evil, or vice and virtue. A mason has to find a proper balance to the extremes and vagaries of life and square his own pavement in his own personal temple.

For other masons the pavement can have further meanings; "...The black and white checkerboard floor found in all Masonic lodges represents the diversity the diversity of creation. But it is also reminiscent of the beaumont, the banner of the Knights Templar, who have so often been associated with Freemasonry..."

In the opinion of many writers, and according to masonic lore generally, the chequered pavement of a masons' lodge room is a representation of the flooring of King Solomon's Temple. One plausible explanation for the origin of this association of the chequered pavement and King Solomon's temple may be found in the Geneva Bible.

As many "Thoughts For The Enquiring Mason" readers would know the Geneva Bible was a definite contributor to the ritual of Freemasonry we know today. In particular the marginal notes and diagrams contained in the Geneva Bible were the source of some of the descriptions and interpretations that are unique to Freemasonry.



The Geneva Bible.

Interestingly, in these marginal diagrams, whenever King Solomon's Temple or his throne is shown in it is always illustrated with a black and white chequered pavement. Perhaps the Geneva Bible is the source not only of some of our ritual references but also our black and white chequered pavements – originally envisaged as representation of the flooring of KST as depicted in the Geneva Bible. ✨

Daily Advancement in Masonic Knowledge



Even though it may be a few years ago, can you remember the last sentence of the Final Charge of your Initiation? Do you recall that it enjoined you that, whilst not neglecting the ordinary duties of your station, you were to make a daily advancement in Masonic Studies? Do you wish to extend your Masonic knowledge? Do you really want to know what it's all about?

Well, there are a couple of ways that you can, both fairly painless.

First, you can join The Victorian Lodge of Research. The Lodge meets on the 4th Friday, March to October at the Grandview Hotel, corner of Station Street and Heidelberg Road, Fairfield at 7:30 pm. For the new programme of Lectures for 2024 see our website, vicolodgeofresearch218.com.au.

Currently, \$100 (\$75.00 for country members) gives you copies of the most interesting document we call "Thoughts for the Enquiring Mason" (T F T E M), as well, you receive a copy of all of the Lectures delivered in the Lodge from the previous year. We call this book the "Transactions of the V. L of R". Of course, being present at the meeting, being able to question the Lecturer on his paper and enjoying the company of likeminded Freemasons can't be surpassed. For further enquiries contact our Secretary, VWBro. Brendan Kyne GSuptEd, at education@vicolodgeofresearch218.com.au

Second, if this is not to your immediate ability, join the Victorian Lodge of Research Correspondence Circle. The Circle provides you with our Transactions, copies of the T F T E M papers, as well as being able to exercise the usual visiting rights of Masons in good standing. All this for, currently, \$35.

If this avenue of knowledge is more for you, contact the Circle Convenor, RWBro. Alan Jennings at ajjay357@bigpond.com or phone on 0458 219 279. ✨

the SQUARE

Edition 2 2024



IN THIS EDITION



The Guinea's Stamp

That rank is but the guinea's stamp,
the man himself's the gold.

But what does this mean, even given the lyric and tone of Burns' time? It is oft times used in a derogatory sense, (somewhat in good humour) between Masons (or not) on the achieving of honours.

But its antecedents are much more complex than that. Note the Final Charge, sometimes said by a Junior Warden when closing the lodge in the second degree.

"happy we have met,
happy we have been,
happily we part and
happy to meet again..."

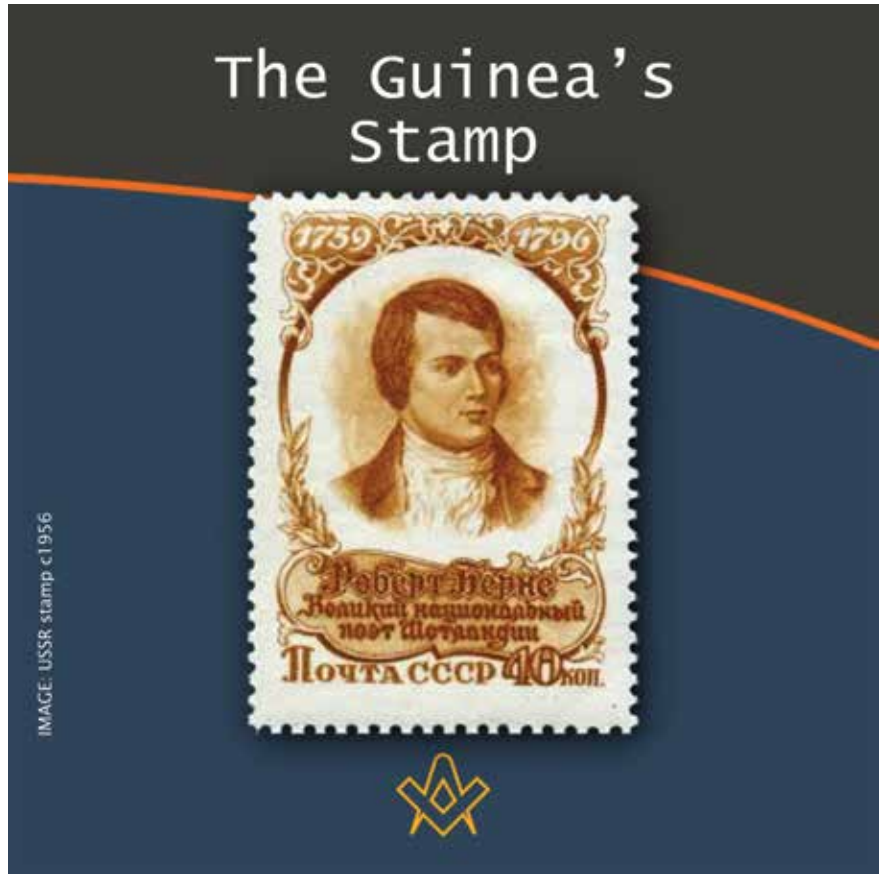
It would appear that the origin of the verse was mid nineteenth century and is used in some lodge's festive boards as a Tyler's final toast (before or part of):

Dear Brethren of the mystic tie
the night is waning fast. Our duties done,
our feast is o'er, this song must be the last.
Goodnight, goodnight once more,
once more repeat the farewell strain.
Happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to meet again.

This stanza is in fact the last verse of a six-verse poem, entitled "The Final Toast". It is not commonly known that there is more than one verse and very few would be able to recite the entire poem.



"The Masonic Vocal Manual" – This version published by Robert Macoy, New York, 1859.



The poem has been used in various countries from time to time, but its earliest printing was in the "Masonic Vocal Manual" published at Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire, in July 1852.

A number of different versions have been printed over the years, but the original (slightly edited) reads as follows:

Are your glasses charged in the West
and South?
The Worshipful Master cries;
They're charged in the West, They're
charged in the South,
Are the Wardens' prompt replies;
Then to our final toast to-night your
glasses fairly drain
Happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to
meet again
Oh! Happy to meet again!
The Masons' social brotherhood
around the festive board,
Reveals a wealth more precious far
than selfish miser's hoard
They freely share the priceless stores
that generous hearts contain
Happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to
meet again!
We work like masons free and true,
and when our task is done,
A merry song and cheering glass are
not unduly won;
And only at our farewell pledge is

pleasure touched with pain
Happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to
meet again!
Amidst our mirth we drink "To all poor
Masons o'er all the world"
On every shore our flag of love is
gloriously unfurled,
We prize each brother, fair or dark,
who bears no moral stain
Happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to
meet again!
The Mason feels the noble truth the
Scottish peasant told
That rank is but the guinea's stamp,
the man himself's the gold
With us the rich and poor unite and
equal rights maintain
Happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to
meet again! etc

The author of the poem has from time to time been said to be Rudyard Kipling or even Robbie Burns, both well-known and dedicated Freemasons.

Whilst there are certain lines that may be classic Burns (i.e., the reference to the Scottish peasant or the phrase, "the mystic tie"), or the fact that it was written in India where Kipling spent most of his life, the final toast was written by a Freemason, Bro. David Lester Richardson.

Richardson was born in London on 22



David Lester Richardson, Calcutta Monthly Journal and General Register of Occurrences ...for the year 1838 by Colesworthey Grant.



A Man's a Man for A' That Rabbie Burns sheet music.

In dissecting this line what is found is that 'rank' is a reference to 'poor' metal, or at least a less valuable metal that is needed to make a pressing stamp for the production of coinage. Naturally it would be an inferior metal but of harder substance (as gold is quite soft) for the purpose.

Therefore, the concept of rank (metal tool) being the means of stamping a gold coin obviously related to man in his development and therefore whatever a man is 'stamped' with he himself has the possibility, nay, the inner ability to be 'gold'. Gold, esoterically referring to a man's soul and certainly strength of character.

The natural conclusion for Freemasons is the benefit of learning through allegory and ritual, to achieve a better life and moral worthiness to their fellow man.

By Paul Gardner

January 1801, the son of Lieutenant Colonel David Thomas Richardson.

Bro. Richardson was initiated into the Lodge of Industry and Perseverance No. 126, Calcutta, (now No. 109 meeting in London) and although it appears he never took office he was obviously a regular attendee and partaker of much of the spirit within Freemasonry to have written such an ode

Whilst in Calcutta, Richardson met another Freemason, Professor William Henry Hammerton, born of Irish Parentage, in Nottingham, England in 1795.

Hammerton was initiated into the Aurora Lodge of Candour and Cordiality No. 816 in Calcutta, and eventually, in 1841, joined Richardson's lodge, No. 126.

This meeting led to "The Final Toast" being put to music during the 1840s,

with both artists complementing each other's skills.

Masons are aware that Robert Burns was a Freemason. He remained so all of his adult life and was Senior Warden of Lodge St Andrew, Dumfries, (dormant) when he died.

One of his most famous poems: "A Man's a Man for a' That", was sung at the official opening of the new Scottish parliament. Freemasons, especially Scottish Freemasons, all over the world are intensely proud that a Masonic Anthem was chosen to mark this historic occasion.

Is there for honest poverty
That hings his head, an' a' that?
The coward slave, we pass him by –
We dare be poor for a' that!
For a' that, an' a' that,
Our toils obscure, an' a' that,
The rank is but the guinea's stamp,
The man's the gowd for a' that.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Paul was Initiated into the Vale of Beck Lodge No. 6283 (UGLE) in the Province of West Kent, England serving virtually continuously in Office and occupying the WM Chair on three occasions.

Paul joined Stability Lodge No. 217 in 1997 (UGLE) and now resides with Kent Lodge No. 15, (UGLE) the oldest Atholl Lodge with continuous working since 1752, where he was Secretary and now Assistant Secretary and archivist, having been WM in 2002.

He was Secretary of the Association of Atholl Lodges which maintains the heritage of the remaining 124 lodges holding 'Antients' Warrants and has written a book on Laurence Dermott.



Audi Vide Tace

There are secrets possessed by the Mason which he must not divulge.

This supposes sealed lips. There are secrets held by Masonry which the individual Mason can only seize if he is willing and able to work for them. This demands effort, toil and tenacity. May we be granted the grace and the steadfastness of purpose to discharge fully both tasks. [George H. T. French]

audi | vide | tace

These three Latin words can be found in the Coat of Arms of the United Grand Lodge of England. This motto was adopted upon the "Union of December 1813" when:

The motto "Audi, vide, tace" made its first appearance in the Freemasons' Calendar from 1777

It is derived from a line of "leonine" verse (of a type much used in the Middle Ages) and in full is "Audi, Vide, Tace, Si Vis Vivere In Pace" – meaning hear, see and hold your tongue, if in peace you would live on.

Leonine verse is a type of versification based on internal rhyme, and commonly used in Latin verse of the European Middle Ages.



Coat of Arms United Grand Lodge of England.

Masonic author George H. T. French describes the meaning of the motto:

"The first two words, audi, vide, refer to the alertness conducive to the acquisition of knowledge. For it is through these two senses, hearing and seeing, that we absorb most of our information. Tace, or be silent, refers to the dissemination of information, and alerts one to the desirability of thinking before speaking, of deciding what should be kept hidden, of ever bearing in remembrance those truly Masonic

virtues, silence and circumspection."

"Audi, Vide, Tace" by George H. T. French, Published in The Texas Freemason, September 1973

Taylor's Ritual: MM Certificate Presentation

Listen, Observe, Be Silent – a good moto for the wise freemason

There are various reasons for being silent if one has started to penetrate the hidden mysteries of nature and science:

- » avoiding attack by those offended by their own ignorance
- » preventing the unworthy from using the technical knowledge for improper ends
- » avoiding sceptical mental influences disturbing the unfoldment of the knowing
- » keeping faith with inner plane influences.

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, "tace" is Latin for a candle.

"Tace" as a verb means "to be silent". As a noun tace means "candle". A candle is silent and emits light. Thus the wisdom of silence in the pursuit and protection of Masonic light.

This Latin saying is a vulgata for one of the best advices we can have nowadays: Listen, Observe, Be Silent.

The Vulgate is a late 4th-century Latin translation of the Bible that was to become the Catholic Church's officially promulgated Latin version of the Bible during the 16th century, and is still used fundamentally in the Latin Church to this day.

"it is better to remain silent at the risk of being thought a fool, than to talk and remove all doubt of it"

There are many other examples of similar exhortations to "remain silent" used throughout the world, from various cultures and societies. The depiction of the 'three wise monkeys' are probably the best known example of a 'code of proprietary conduct':

... hear no evil
see no evil
speak no evil ...

According to research, this originates from a 17th century carving over a door of the famous Tōshō-gū shrine in Nikkō, Japan. The carvings at Tōshō-gū Shrine were carved by Hidari Jingoro, and believed to have



incorporated Confucius's Code of Conduct, using the monkey as a way to depict man's life cycle.

In Chinese, a similar phrase exists in the late Analects of Confucius from 2nd to 4th century BC:

"Look not at what is contrary to propriety; listen not to what is contrary to propriety; speak not what is contrary to propriety; make no movement which is contrary to propriety."



A World War II poster directed at participants in the Manhattan project.

And in many other situations, people are asked to remain silent – above is a World War II poster directed at participants in the Manhattan Project

In conclusion:

"it is better to remain silent at the risk of being thought a fool, than to talk and remove all doubt of it". 🙊



Sea Chest from the Orlop Desk of HMS Victory

In 2005, Bro. Roger Trise asked Bro. Hugh O'Neill to examine a sea chest in the Portsmouth Naval Museum that had been brought to his attention by museum staff.

Below are photographs Roger took, some heavily enhanced to bring out faint detail, along with brief descriptions. A brass nameplate on the outside of the chest bears the name of William Saunders.

According to the Victory Trafalgar Muster Roll: There was only one William Sanders an English Able Seaman aged 31. There were two other Saunders: Isaac an American Able Seaman (21) and John, a Boy of 16.

This image is on paper attached to the inside of the lid of the chest. There's an unrelated piece of decorative paper strip along the bottom, apparently as an attempt to attach the bottom edge more securely. The whole is quite damaged by the effects of seawater as would be expected, making parts of the imagery indistinct, requiring close examination.



The central part shows an arch with S&C and a triangle, a column on each side wrapped in foliage with fruit (plenty) and surmounted by a sphere. A key is also shown on each side.

Very close examination of the original reveals faint images of figures which could be F, H & C. The first two are on either side of the main image, outside the two columns and the former, at the right, can be identified by a faint cross.



The left hand image is too damaged to identify. The faint image above the arch appears to be the third one of that group.

A clearer view of the central portion showing the square and compass, triangle and the 'charity' figure above.

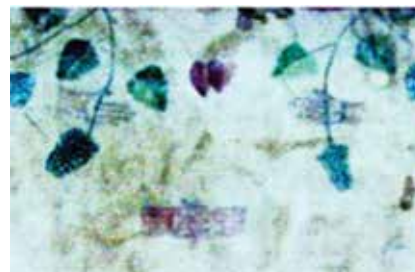


The lower centre depicts a squared pavement with a coffin and three lesser lights. Either side of the central light are, on the left, a faint image of the moon surrounded by seven stars and, on the right, a faint image of the sun.

A seven-pointed blazing star is above the central light. At upper left is a beehive, denoting industry, on a supporting table. While on the right is what appears to be a crude representation of a church with spire, the pointed tip of which can be seen in the upper two images.

In the centre, some distance above the arch are two hands joined in friendship.

A clearer view of the seated figure of 'faith', to the right of the rightmost column, with cross held high and



an open book. The figure to the left of the leftmost column, which would be 'hope', is damaged beyond recognition.

The photograph below is on the deck of H.M.S. Victory at the beginning of the 20th century, showing the same crest of flags as seen in the upper corners of the sea chest image. ⚓



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