



Freemasons
Victoria

SPRING 2024



NOVEMBER

THE VICTORIAN

Victorian
Freemasons
CONVENTION 2024



Victorian Freemasons Convention 2024

A recap of all the fun from the Victorian Freemasons Convention weekend.



Grand Installation & Communication 2025

This is being held from 24 to 26 October 2025 (Labour Weekend) in Christchurch. It will see the Business Session of the Grand Lodge and the Grand Installation of the new Grand Master and his Officers of the Grand Lodge. Venues include the James Hay Theatre at the Christchurch Town Hall, Te Pae Convention Centre and Crowne Plaza as the preferred hotel.

Freemasons and Partners are welcome to attend most of the events:



FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER

Grand Communication
Business Session (NZ Freemasons only)
Meet and Greet

SATURDAY 25 OCTOBER

Grand Installation
Grand Banquet

SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER

Free day for exploring
the wonders of Christchurch

Registration, events and accommodation details nearer the time.
www.freemasons.nz.org/2025-grand-installation-and-grand-communication

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

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**Freemasons
Victoria**

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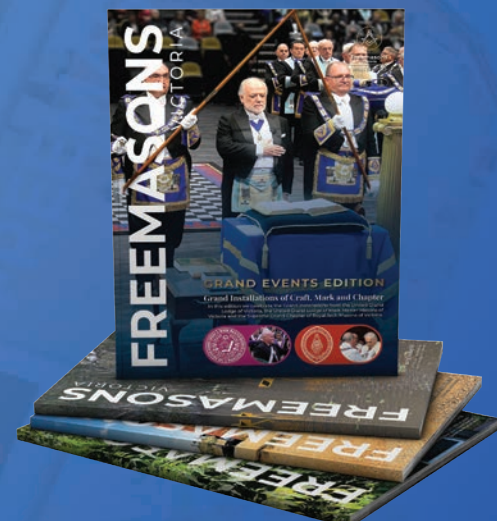
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The Victorian Freemason magazine is published quarterly in Autumn, Winter, Spring, and Summer.

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NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME

1 JUNE - 31 JULY 2024

Charles Ah Lan	Lodge Liberation	674	Peter Morrison	Orbost Lodge	402
Maz Azemi	Footscray St. John's Lodge	71	Marwan Moussa	Sunbury Macedon Ranges Lodge	97
Sherwood Bondad	Cranbourne Lodge	290	Matthew Mylecharane	United Schools' Lodge	941
George Campbell	The Earl of Dunmore Lodge	1686	Max Nash	Warrnambool Lodge	34
Daniel Campbell	The Earl of Dunmore Lodge	1686	Jason Oreta	The Derrimut Daylight Lodge	905
Peter Curran	Frankston Lodge	217	Anthony Osman	Lodge of Rapport	920
Albert De Guzman	Swan Hill Lodge	919	Rommel Paredes	Elrona Lodge	384
Edgar De Leon	Wimmera Lodge	70	Rodolfo Patricio	The Derrimut Daylight Lodge	905
Lemuel De Mesa	Carisbrook Lodge	405	Antonio Peralta	The Derrimut Daylight Lodge	905
Nathan Dickson	The Mordialloc Lodge of Charity	258	Fabio Petringa	Lord Northcote Lodge	191
Mackenzie Doiron	Weston Street United Lodge	94	David Reid	The Earl of Dunmore Lodge	1686
Steven French	Lodge Devotion	723	Shannon Saunders	Henty Lodge	279
Jobe Goldsbrough	The Mornington Lodge	160	Craig Sculpher	Gippsland Lodge	51
Peter Henley	Cranbourne Lodge	290	Peter Shields	The Brighton District Lodge	37
Jarad Leggett	Guiding Star Lodge	922	Harwinder Singh	Werribee Enterprise Lodge	187
Yaoting Li	Lodge of Australia Felix	1	George Sison	Portland Lodge of Victoria	6
Virgil Magtibay	Lord Carrington Lodge	111	Julian Swan	Sunbury Macedon Ranges Lodge	97
Paulo Manuele	Lodge Amalthea	914	Wenmin Wang	Lodge Liberation	674
Steven Mommen	Gippsland Lodge	51			

NEW DISTRICTS

As previously announced by the Masonic Council earlier this year, the newly condensed country districts are as follows:

North West Victoria District 101

- Existing District 101 North West
- Existing District 107 Wimmera
- Existing District 103 Loddon

South West Victoria District 102

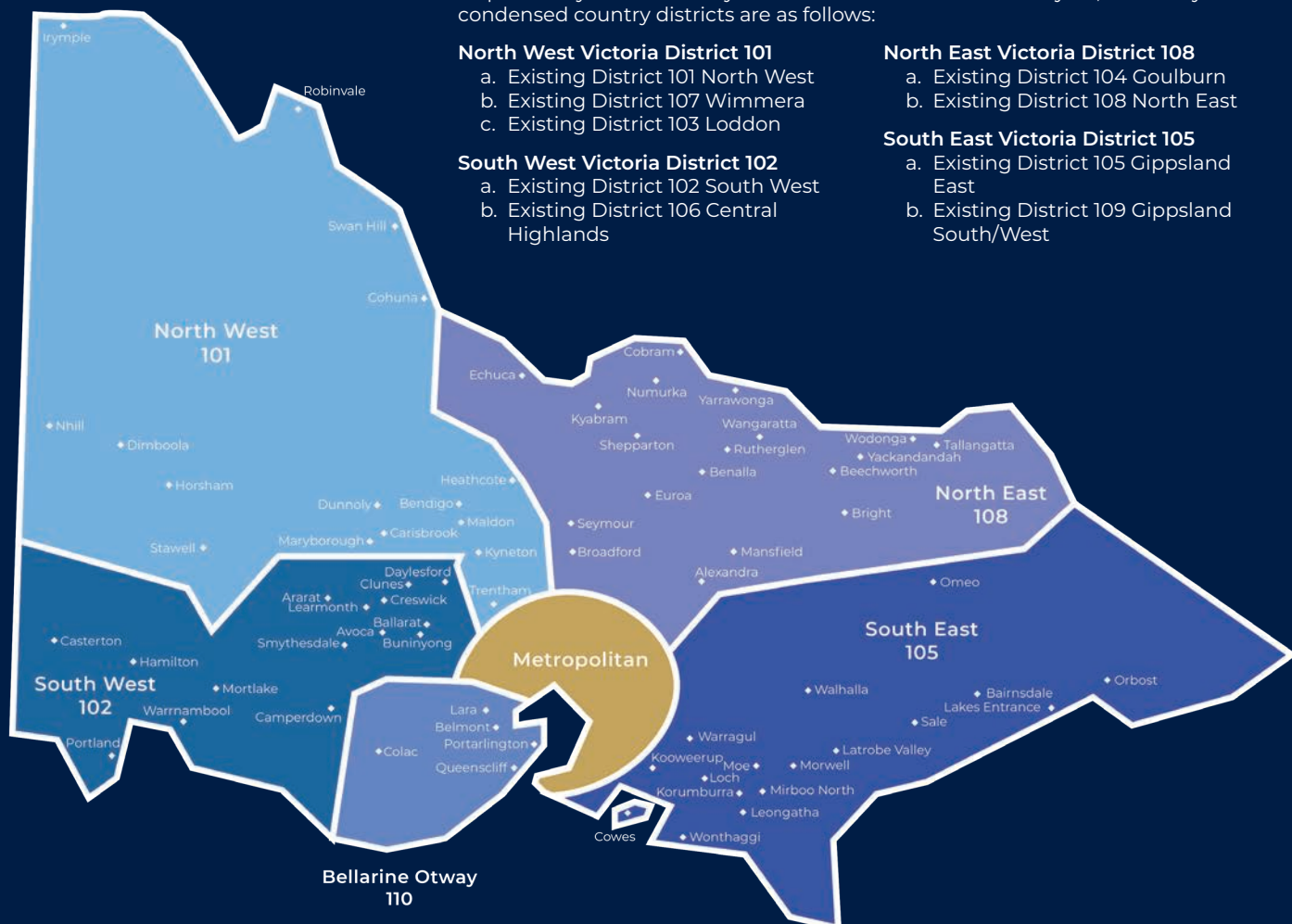
- Existing District 102 South West
- Existing District 106 Central Highlands

North East Victoria District 108

- Existing District 104 Goulburn
- Existing District 108 North East

South East Victoria District 105

- Existing District 105 Gippsland East
- Existing District 109 Gippsland South/West





Message from the Editor

You can tell a lot has been happening within Freemasonry when we have a bumper edition of The Victorian Freemason like this Spring edition. The Victorian Freemason Convention was a memorable highlight with WBro. Bob Cooper and WBro. Mike Kearsley making the long trip to be the keynote speakers. It was a fantastic weekend with over 400 conference participants.

Likewise, the Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Address and Dinner saw 200 Freemasons and guests come together to enjoy a wonderful address given by the Hon. John Howard AC. In the famous words of one of the conveners, it was truly "a night not to be missed".

All these wonderful events aside, it is just as inspiring to see the good work that Freemasons and our Masonic

family are doing to raise our profile as one of the largest charitable organisations in the State of Victoria; congratulations to your charitable success.

Thanks to all the contributions we received for this Spring edition, and to the many we couldn't fit in. Your positive and encouraging comments have been inspiring and we are committed to delivering your magazine showcasing the width and breadth of Freemasonry in our wonderful state and points of interest globally.

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



VWBro. Ben Quick
Editor

THE VICTORIAN FREEMASON

SUBMIT YOUR STORY!

If you have a story you would like to submit for the next edition of the Victorian Freemason magazine please get in contact with the Freemasons Victoria Marketing Department by emailing:

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We look forward to hearing from you!

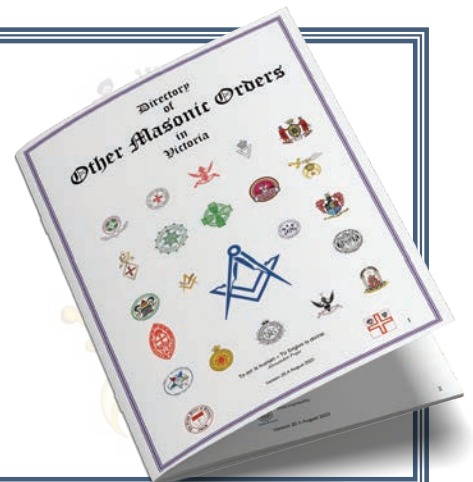


Other Orders Directory

Looking to join one of the many Orders that make up the Masonic family?

From the Knights Templar to the Knight Masons, this 44 page directory helps you find one of the many Masonic and Masonic-friendly Orders with their meeting place, schedule and whom to contact to find out more!

You can find it on the Freemasons Victoria website here: freemasonsvic.net.au/member-training/education-training/





The Victorian Freemasons Convention 2024

From 30 August to 1 September 2024, the second Victorian Freemasons Convention took place at Freemasons Melbourne, attracting more than 300 Brethren from around Victoria alone. The Convention aimed to provide insights into the Craft, Mark, Ark, Chapter, and other higher Masonic orders.

The event saw some great local speakers and two keynote speakers who are internationally renowned, in the persons of WBro. Bob Cooper and VWBro. Mike Kearsley.


WBro. Bob Cooper presented on Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday WBro. Cooper presented on Early

Scottish Freemasonry. On Sunday WBro. Bob spoke about The Free Gardeners and their history.

It was quite interesting to compare the story of the Craft and building of King Solomon's Temple and the story of the Free Gardeners who have King Solomon's Temple but claim that they completed it once all the gardens were completed at the temple. Quite a fascinating comparison and presentation on the Free Gardeners.

VWBro. Mike Kearsley presented on Sunday afternoon about his time as the editor of The Square Magazine, an international-renowned magazine that is read throughout the world.

The magazine covers all things related to Freemasonry. VWBro. Mike highlighted the research that is involved in creating such a detailed magazine and the Masonic ties that are needed to create such a wonderful publication. VWBro. Mike shared with us some of the solemn and humorous stories that he has collected throughout his Masonic career.

It was a great pleasure and privilege to host WBro. Bob Cooper and VWBro. Mike Kearsley for the Victorian Freemasons Convention 2024. They certainly are a wealth of knowledge. If you would like to purchase any of their books, they are available from the Victorian Lodge of Research No. 218. 



RWBro. Garry Runge at the CHAMAR stall.



The Freemasons Foundation stall.



WBro. Hans Richmond.



RWBro. Peter Henshall.



Convention guests.



Ladies of the Order of the Easter Star.



MWBro. Anthony Bucca.



WBro. Mike Kearsley.



WBro. Bob Cooper.

THE LECTURES

The lectures that were presented over the weekend included:

The Power of Ritual
by RWBro. V Rev Fred Shade.

Transcending Freemasonry
by VWBro. Neil Nyholm.

Angels in the Architecture
by Bro. Kane Ord.

Songs Lines, Silver Serpents and Secrets
by MWBro. Bill Jones PGM – MMMV.

Catechetical Lectures
by WBro. Nik Sakellaropoulos.

Freemasonry, Qabalah and the Tarot
by WBro. Dr Lewis Allan.

Grand Lodge of Macedonia
by WBro. Vuko Karov.

Grand Reflections on the meaning of the Royal Arch
by VWBro. Dr Mike Kearsley.

The 12 Tribes
by EmComp. Adam Bell

How to Recruit Quality Men for Freemasonry
by VWBro. Dr Wayne Millard and WBro. Damien Hudson.

Update on Library, Museum and Archives
by Dr Samantha Fabry.

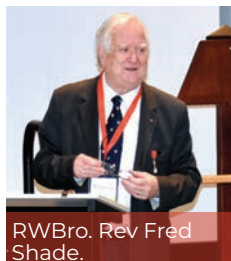
Freemasonry in Victoria in the 1860s
by VWBro. Brendan Kyne.



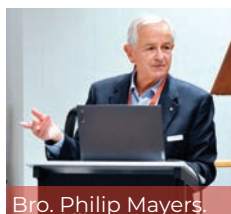
Bro. Philip Mayers at the Royal Freemason stall.



WBro. Vuko Karov.



RWBro. Rev Fred Shade.



Bro. Philip Mayers.



MEmComp Leonard Lacey, WBro. Bob Cooper, MWBro. Anthony Bucca and MWBro. Ron Goodburn.



THE AWARDS

Brother/Companion of the Year Award

Craft Brother of the Year -
Bro. Michael Dib,
Doutta Galla Lodge No. 902

Bro. Michael Dib is a dedicated member of the Lodge, actively supporting charity events and fellow members. He assists elderly members by providing transportation to meetings and stays connected with members through calls, coffee, or lunch. As a mentor, he guides Brethren through the three degrees, encouraging their participation in meetings and rehearsals. Additionally, he supports his local church's charity efforts and mentors university students.



Mark Brother of the Year -
Bro. Gary Bevern,
Concord Lodge of MMM No. 55

Bro. Gary Trevor Bevern led the successful Shrine of Remembrance Charity Event in 2022 and served as the main liaison between the Lodge and the Shrine. As the Lodge's Welfare Officer/Almoner, he provides transportation for members and support to those in need, including spending Christmas with a Brother who would have been alone. A mentor to new members, his dedication is evident despite being advised to slow down. His nomination was backed by over 20 supporters for this award.



Companions of the Year -
Companion Damien Hudson, City
of Abbotsford HRAC No. 9

Companion Damien Hudson is a dedicated member who attends every meeting and rehearsal, handling the setup and pack-down of the Chapter. He has proposed more than five Companions into the Order and played a key role in strategy sessions that revitalized the Chapter, growing its membership after COVID-19. His leadership and support inspire others, making him one of the Chapter's strongest members.

Companion Jonathan Evans,
Northern United HRAC No. 2

Since joining in 2018, Companion Jonathan Evans has become a key figure in his Chapter, currently serving as Assistant Sojourner. He helps with meeting setups, prepares and organises food for repasts, and manages cleanup. He also plays a vital role in Grand Chapter, administering the Grand Chapter Facebook page, contributing to the Pathway Ceremony video, developing branding documents, and supporting various committees. His contributions to both his Chapter and Grand Chapter have been invaluable.





Lodge/Chapter of the Year Award

Craft Lodge of the Year - Gisborne Lodge No. 298

The Worshipful Master's enthusiasm has sparked a renewed sense of pride among members, leading to improvements in both Ritual work and the Lodge's social events. The Lodge has seen an increase in visitors, who have enjoyed the welcoming atmosphere. Inspired by the WM, younger members have begun visiting older or inactive members, providing transportation to help them attend meetings. The Lodge also holds a weekly social night for members, their partners, and families, fostering a stronger sense of community. This has created a sincere bond between the older members, who are now mentoring the younger members on their Masonic journey.



VWBro. Rahim Samat.

Mark Lodge of the Year - Robbie Burns Lodge MMM No. 76

In the two years since COVID-19, Robbie Burns Lodge has grown its membership by 50%, a remarkable turnaround from six years ago when it considered returning its warrant. The Lodge revitalized itself with a strong Recruitment, Retention, and Engagement policy, setting measurable goals and tracking progress. It supports other Mark Lodges by providing Ceremonial Officers and has seen solid growth in its RAM Lodge. Despite health challenges, the WM has shown exemplary leadership. Members are actively involved and preparing for the Lodge's upcoming Centennial celebration.



VWBro. Glenn Hollibone.

Chapter of the Year - Dandenong Apex HRAC No. 70

Dandenong Apex HRAC had a busy year, exalting nine candidates, with three more to be voted on, and welcoming six new members. Their success stems from a Recruitment and Retention committee focused on growing and engaging membership. They hosted a "Supreme Saturday" with six local Chapters and completed a double EMM and double exaltation. The Chapter regularly supports ageing companions and assists those who can't drive at night. After the Lilydale Masonic Centre fire, they donated furnishings and robes to Billanook Chapter. Aiming to grow membership to 70, they are on track, with many members introducing new companions.



EmComp. Lionel May.

Community of the Year Award

Craft Community of the Year - North Melbourne Lodge No. 41

Since 2017, North Melbourne Lodge has donated over \$70,000 to Hotham Mission, a small local charity supporting the underprivileged. Their contributions have significantly impacted Hotham Mission's after-school program, providing nourishment, study help, and a safe space for secondary students, helping keep them away from negative influences. This partnership has revitalized the Lodge, which was once struggling, and now thrives with purpose and vibrancy. The Lodge's commitment to Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth has been key to its success.



Bro. Constantinos Farrugia.

Mark Community of the Year - Corinella Lodge of MMM No. 18

For the past three years, Corinella Mark No. 18, alongside St. George Craft No. 18, Southern Cross Craft No. 24, and Birdwood Chapter No. 28, has hosted the "Day of Unity" event in Maldon on Easter Monday. This event unites members from five degrees, as outlined in Rule No. 2 of the three constitutions, allowing them to participate in a parade wearing full regalia and carrying banners that represent the core values of Freemasonry. A charity raffle held during the event funds primary school scholarships across various towns.



WBro. Art Lynch.

Chapter Community of the Year - Valley HRAC No. 36

Valley HRAC No. 36, a small chapter with just 16 members (11 local), spearheaded an initiative to support men's prostate health. Through their efforts, they raised \$180,000 to purchase a Transperineal Biopsy Machine, the only one of its kind in northern Victoria. This machine allows men in the Goulburn Valley to undergo the procedure locally in Shepparton, rather than traveling to Melbourne. In addition to this achievement, the Chapter holds Bunnings BBQ fundraisers to support further community outreach.



MExComp. David Hayes.



The Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Address 2024

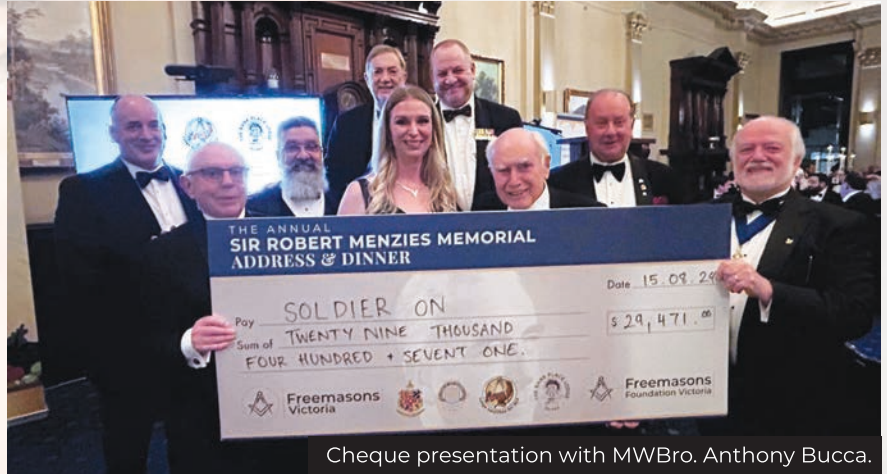


The 2024 Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Address and dinner, held at The Australian Club on 15 August, was another massive success. This year's speaker was the Honourable John Howard OM AC, who served as the 25th Prime Minister of Australia – and the second longest serving after Sir Robert himself. A speaker of such eminence was sure to attract a crowd, and the event was a complete sell-out, with 200 ladies, Brethren and guests attending – the capacity of the Club's Grand Dining Room.

The annual Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Address was first organised by Lodge Amalthea in 2011, as a charitable vehicle, and to honour the memory of Australia's lonest serving Prime Minister, Bro. Sir Robert Menzies. The guest speaker at the inaugural dinner, held at The Melbourne Club, was RWBro. the Right Honourable the 12th Earl of Dunmore – who spoke on his introduction into the House of Lords. Lord Dunmore, who has attended all twelve Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Addresses so far held, is now the distinguished patron of the event.

Since its inauguration, the event has been held variously at The Melbourne Club, The Athenaeum Club and in more recent years at The Australian Club. Over the 12 years it has been held (excluding the COVID-19 years of 2020 and 2021) we have been honoured by a fabulous array of guest speakers, who have included Sir James Hardy OBE, the famous Winemaker and Yachtsman; Hon Tony Abbott AC, 28th Prime Minister of Australia; Rt Rev Hon Dr Peter Hollingworth AC OBE, 23rd Governor-General of Australia; Professor Geoffrey Blainey AC, one of Australia's most distinguished historian; Dr David Kemp AC, former Federal Government Minister; and last year General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK CVO MC (Retd), 26th Governor General of Australia.

The Lodge of the Golden Fleece came on board as joint organiser of the 2023 event, and this year Bank Place Lodge joined the fray – making three organising Lodges. Mr Howard's



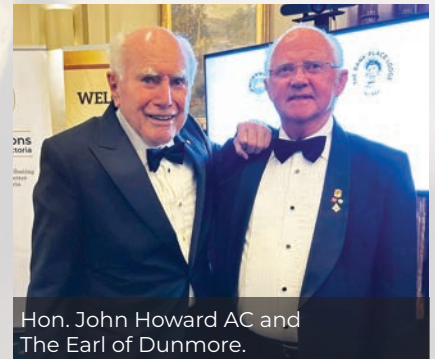
Cheque presentation with MWBro. Anthony Bucca.

address had a number of themes concerning his take on more recent Australian history and his vision for the future. His address was truly riveting, and received a sustained standing ovation upon completion.

The Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Address is also a major charity fundraiser. Each year, the chosen guest speaker is asked to nominate a charity to which donations are directed. This year, Mr Howard chose Soldier On – a most worthy charity supporting veteran servicemen and women. In addition to donations from the three hosting Lodges, this year – for the first time – a silent auction was held raising many thousands.

The culmination of the evening was a donation cheque presented by Freemasons Victoria Grand Master MWBro. Anthony Bucca – on behalf of the three organising Lodges, the Grand Master's Charity Fund and the Freemasons Foundation Victoria – for a magnificent total of \$29,491. The donation was received by the overwhelmed Soldier On CEO, Mrs Amy Cooper, who flew down from Canberra to attend this year's event.

Now, onto the 2025 Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Address, usually held in July or August. Next year's speaker will be another outstanding Australian. We look forward to seeing you there next year.



Hon. John Howard AC and The Earl of Dunmore.



WBro. David Bird and Hon. John Howard AC with VWBro. Daniel Jade.





A visitor from Scotland

Article correct at time of writing.



Bro. Dr Joseph John Morrow.



WBro. Alan Beck, RWBro. Peter Henshall, MWBro. Anthony Bucca and Bro. Dr Joseph John Morrow.

On 24 July 2024 Freemasons Victoria had a special visit from the Grand Master Mason of Scotland, Bro. Dr Joseph John Morrow.

He was installed as the 112th Grand Master Mason of Scotland on 30 November 2023.

Bro. Morrow is also the current Lord Lyon of Scotland who deals with all matters relating to Scottish Heraldry and Coats of Arms.

MWBro. Anthony Bucca was delighted to be able to give Bro. Morrow a guided tour of East Melbourne Masonic Centre.

Travelling with Bro. Morrow was Bro. Alan Beck, a well-known Freemason and tenor. They were both visiting Australia to attend The Melbourne Tartan Festival.

After the tour of East Melbourne the Brethren retired for afternoon tea and a great discussion ensued about the Craft and comparisons between the Victorian and Scottish jurisdictions.

Bro. Morrow was presented with some special gifts from Freemasons Victoria as mementos of his visit. ✧





WBro. Hugh Victor McKay and The Sunshine Harvester Company

The H.V. McKay story begins in the small country town of Drummartin, north of Bendigo, on 21 August 1865 when Nathaniel and Mary McKay's fifth child, Hugh Victor McKay was born. Hugh was one of 12 children born to the couple who migrated from Ireland in 1852. Nathaniel tried his hand as a stonemason, and then at mining in Ballarat, Stawell, and Bendigo before the family settled on a selection at Drummartin where he became a farmer.

Hugh was educated at Drummartin Primary School as well as being educated by his father, Nathaniel McKay. He finished school at the age of 13 and started working full time on the family farm.

Together with his father, Nathaniel and brother, John, they built their first prototype of the Stripper-Harvester, which they patented in January 1885 and named it the Sunshine Harvester in March 1885. An invention that went onto revolutionise the farming industry, not only in Australia but overseas and how farmers would harvest their wheat crops.

Initially the Sunshine Harvester was built under contract in Melbourne and Bendigo until they opened their own working factory in Ballarat in 1888.

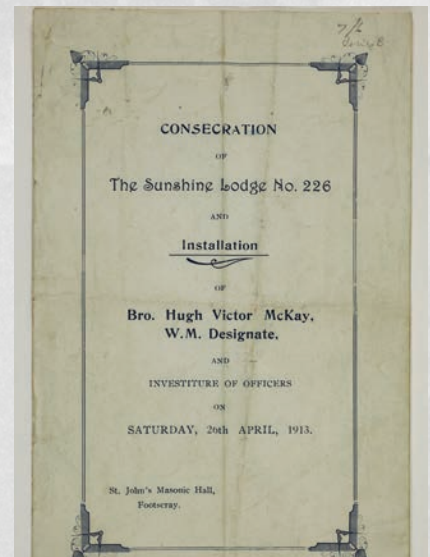
In 1904 H.V. McKay purchased the Braybrook Implement Works, a company that had closed due to the 1901 - 1902 Australian Drought. The purchase came with 64 ¾ acres of land at Braybrook Junction and an existing factory that had a railway line siding which meant that the Sunshine Harvesters could easily be distributed to customers directly from the Factory via rail.

The entire operation was moved from Ballarat to Braybrook Junction and renamed Sunshine Harvester Works.

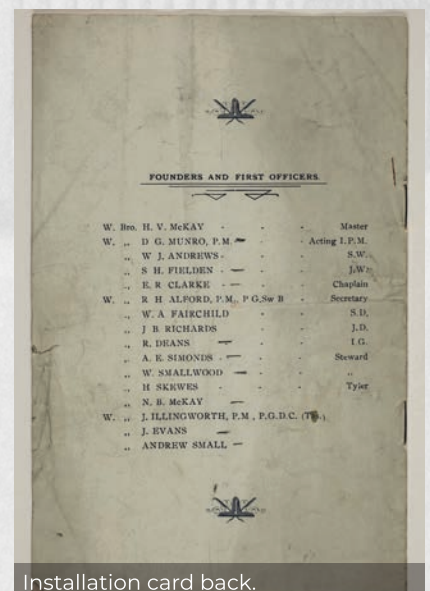
In 1906, Hugh McKay purchased 400 acres at Braybrook Junction with the aim of subdividing the land and encouraging his factory workers to live locally. Early on, fewer than 20 homes were built within a 1 mile radius of the factory but it grew rapidly due to expanding the factory and the establishment of infrastructure for his workers which included contributing to housing development, electricity supply, gardens and public facilities. Due to these efforts, he was able to build a thriving community that serviced his factory. >>>



First Sunshine Harvester Works in 1884.



Installation card front.



Installation card back.



WBro. Hugh Victor McKay.

In 1907 Braybrook Junction was renamed Sunshine, after the Sunshine Harvester Company that had developed the district and substantially contributed to its future.

By 1926 the factory employed more than 3,000 workers and covered 76 acres.

WBro. Hugh Victor McKay was initiated into Freemasonry at the Albert Victor Lodge No. 117 on 4 August 1902, which now meets at the Ivalda Masonic Centre in Ivanhoe.

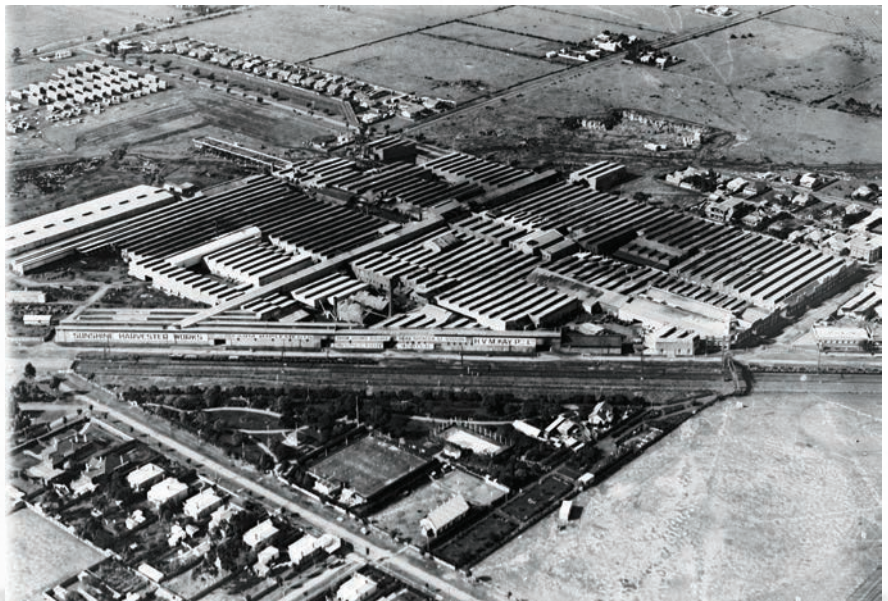
WBro. McKay was the foundation Worshipful Master of the Sunshine Masonic Lodge No. 226 in 1913. The Lodge is now called The Sunshine Wisdom Lodge No. 226.

WBro. McKay purchased Rupertswood mansion in Sunbury in 1922 and lived there until his death on 21 May 1926.

Ironically, Rupertswood was built by the first Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria, MWBro. William John Clarke. He lived there from 1874 until his death in 1897.

Rupertswood is the birthplace of the Ashes in Men's Test Cricket. The urn is believed to be a perfume bottle bought by Lady Janet Clarke at a Bazaar in Egypt. It was then presented to Ivo Bligh 8th Earl of Darnley, then-captain of the English Touring Cricket Team, in 1882 and 1883.

By WBro. Matt Salter.



Aerial photograph of Sunshine Harvester Works around 1930.



Sunshine harvesters at work in the field.



Rupertswood in Sunbury.



“An Old Wine in a New Bottle” The Rebirth of Travellers' Washington Lodge No. 9

The Bayside Masonic Centre buzzed with excitement on Saturday 7 September 2024, as Freemasons gathered to witness the re-establishment of Travellers' Washington Lodge No. 9. Under the leadership of VWBro. Shawn Momen PGIWkgs, and District Coordinator for Bayside District 112, over 170 Freemasons came together to celebrate the new beginning for this historic Lodge with 72 foundation members.

The day began with Moorabbin Lodge No. 161 opening as the petitioning Lodge. The Consecration of Travellers' Washington No. 9 was performed by the Most Worshipful Grand Master Anthony Bucca, marking the official return of this Foundation Warranted Lodge to active Masonic life.

After a short break for afternoon tea, the event continued with the Installation of the Foundation Worshipful Master. MWBro. Anthony Bucca, Grand Master, conducted the ceremony of Installation, installing VWBro. Shawn Momen as the new Worshipful Master of Travellers' Washington No. 9. A memorable moment during the installation was the investiture of 22 Stewards of varying ranks, a rare and impressive sight in Masonic circles.

The ceremony also included a special recognition for RWBro. the Rt. Hon. Malcolm Murray, 12th Earl of Dunmore, Foundation member and Lodge Patron, who was promoted to the rank of Past Senior Grand Warden by the Grand Master, an honour befitting the occasion.

The evening celebrations continued with a live band, a lively dinner, and a silent auction. Members, guests, and friends of the newly re-established lodge enjoyed a festive atmosphere,

marking the rebirth of Travellers' Washington Lodge No. 9 with joy and anticipation for the future. The night was a perfect balance of fellowship and ceremony, reflecting the bright future ahead for Travellers' Washington Lodge No. 9. As the Lodge steps into a new chapter, it carries forward its historic legacy with renewed purpose and energy, promising many more memorable moments to come.

A Brief History

Travellers' Washington Lodge No. 9 was initially formed as Washington Lodge No. 368 under the Irish Constitution in Melbourne, Victoria, in 1856. This Lodge was the first Lodge in the world out of the USA to be named after President and Illustrious Brother George Washington.

At the formation of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria in 1889, more than 137 Lodges under the English, Scottish, Irish, and Victorian Constitutions united under one banner as the United Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of Victoria.

Washington Lodge became a foundation Lodge of the new United Grand Lodge of Victoria and was granted No. 9 on the register.

This Lodge met at the Masonic Hall at 97 Swan Street, Richmond, from 1857. They have also met at several other locations including the Masonic Hall at 103 Bourke Street, Freemasons' Hall at 189 Swanston Street, the Ulster Family Hotel on the Corner of Spring and Lt. Collins Streets, Melbourne Masonic Hall at 65 Lonsdale St, Freemasons' Hall at 25 Collins Street, and the Dallas Brooks Centre until 2000, when the Lodge members returned their Warrant to Grand Lodge.



Bro. Matthew Henshall and RWBro. Peter Henshall.




VWBro. Shawn Momen, MWBro. Anthony Bucca and Mrs Anna Bucca.

The word 'Travellers' was added to their name in September 1895 after members of the Commercial Travellers' Club of Melbourne joined the Lodge. Subsequently, the meeting night was moved to the 4th Saturday of every month which had their meeting until June 2000.

In 2023, VWBro. Shawn Momen gathered a few like-minded members to form a new Lodge with the old name and number of Travellers' Washington Lodge No. 9.

VWBro. Momen prozed the idea to the Most Worshipful Grand Master to reform the Lodge and request a travelling Warrant to meet in various historical Masonic and non-Masonic buildings across Victoria.

This newly formed Lodge will aim for excellence in members' experience with quality ritual, ceremonial, social, and education while assisting many of country Victoria's Lodges and members with our activities. 

Travellers Washington

LODGE No 9

U.G.L.U



Treasurer
W.Bro Robert Arcumand P.G.Fous



A. Director of Ceremonies
W.Bro Phillip Barrowecchia - P.G.SindB



Lodge Patron
W.Bro The Honourable Malcolm Murray The Earl of Dunmore



Director of Ceremonies
W.Bro Doug Sisco P.G.SindB



Secretary
R.W.Bro Barry Joyce P.G.PAW



Junior Deacon
Bro David Davie - M.U.



Junior Warden
Bro Stephen Hall - M.U.



Worshipful Master
W.Bro Stuart Nomen P.G.P.Wygs



Senior Warden
W.Bro Jerry Phillips P.G.SD



Senior Deacon
W.Bro Giorgio Migliaccio P.G.Dura



Foundation Stewards



Chaplain
Bro Daniel Sosa - M.U.



Choir Master
W.Bro Matthew Palamara M.U. 220



Almoner
W.Bro Richard Weinstein P.Chap



Organist
W.Bro David Manalack P.Wyeg



Immediate Past Master
R.W.Bro John Rodrigo P.B.S.P.W.



Tyler
Bro Markie Perdikomuttis - M.U.



Charity Officer
W.Bro Robert Gardner - M.U. 167



A. Secretary
W.Bro Kiana Richmond - P.G.Pure



Education Officer
W.Bro Robert Bailan P.G.SindB



Inner Guard
Bro Tyler Sunsfjord - M.U.



FOUNDATION OFFICERS

First Consecration 1856

Resurrected 2024

The Battle of Long Tan Commemoration

The largest ever meeting of the Commemoration of the Battle of Long Tan was hosted by The Army Lodge at their regular meeting on Friday 20th July at the Inner East Masonic Centre, Box Hill. More than 90 attended a very moving ceremony that included Vietnam Veterans in key roles and a South that was at full capacity.

The Grand Master and Escort were in attendance and such a large number of (mostly Active) Grand Officers meant that introductions took some time. It was a testament to the regard in which our Veterans are held, and it was much appreciated.


The ceremony commemorates the extraordinary events of 18th August 1966 when 108 Australian soldiers from D Company, 6th Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment, accompanied by New Zealand artillery Forward Observers, encountered Vietnamese forces of between 1,500 and 2,500. 17 Australians were killed in action and 25 were wounded; one of whom later died. The losses on the Vietnamese side were at least 245 dead, an estimated 350 wounded, and three captured. Many Vietnamese dead and wounded were removed during the battle and for many years the Vietnamese hierarchy believed they had encountered a much larger force. If it had not been for the artillery support from Australian, New Zealand and American artillery, the courageous and perilous re-supply of ammunition at a critical juncture by 9th Squadron RAAF helicopter crews, and the just-in-time arrival of a Troop of the 1st Armoured Personnel Carrier Squadron, the situation would have been very much worse. This battle represented the highest number of Australian casualties incurred in any one engagement of the Vietnam War. This date has come to be recognised as Vietnam Veterans Day for the 60,000 Australians who served in that conflict from 1962-1973.

The ceremony was originally developed by the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Lodge but when they were unable to continue, the Grand Master of the day refused to have their Warrant returned and instructed it to be placed in the keeping of The Army Lodge on condition that they continue to host the Commemoration

Ceremony. The Warrant was proudly displayed again on the night and is one of only a few Travelling Warrants that exist in the Victorian Constitution. The Ceremony takes the form of placing the flags of Australia, New Zealand, USA and the Republic of South Vietnam at the corners of the pavement along with a replica of the Long Tan Cross towards the West and a Vacant Chair draped with the Australian Flag on the central Star. A bayonet recovered from the battlefield is extracted from a perfect ashlar and placed on the chair. 18 candles are lit on the Worshipful Master's Pedestal, the lights are dimmed, and the name, rank and place of birth of every deceased soldier is read out with a candle being snuffed. A bugler plays the Last Post and Reveille and a lone piper then enters and perambulates whilst playing Flowers of the Forest. It is a short ceremony but extremely moving and makes a strong impression on all who attend.

Freemasons from 36 Lodges attended, along with 10 visiting Worshipful Masters.

At the conclusion of the ceremony the attendees, including two non-Freemasons who might be future candidates, moved to a packed South. Apart from the usual Toasts, there was one to all Vietnam Veterans; a good number of whom were in attendance.

Brother Corporal Jonathan MacKay spoke briefly about his fund raising for a mental health project for Legacy and, with the help of a Rum Ration, a contribution from the Grand Master and the Freemasons Foundation, \$2,185.00 was raised in a very short space of time. The genuine nature of how he spoke of his own challenges as a serving soldier meant it was not necessary to say very much as a means to open the hearts and wallets of those who attended. 





Western District Fundraising Steps Up a Gear

Western District took on one of our biggest challenges to date: raising money to purchase a much-needed vehicle for a very special organisation: Banksia Gardens Community Services.

Banksia Gardens Community Services, which are situated in Broadmeadows - one of the most culturally diverse places in the whole of Australia - has over 80,000 people come through its doors each year to attend playgroups, study groups, classes, training courses, workshops, celebrations, meetings, programs, and outreach services.

Almost all the Lodges within Western District got behind this charity challenge, along with many Freemasons and friends all chipping in to donate. A combined district meeting turned into a lively fundraiser, raising an impressive \$2,850 in a single night, with 80 Brethren in attendance.


In just 30 days, \$12,400 was raised; however, the fundraising didn't stop there. The Grand Master generously contributed \$10,000 from his fund, and the Freemasons Foundation topped up the remaining amount to reach the total of \$40,500. With these efforts, the district was able to purchase a Mitsubishi Outlander 7-seater LS Black Limited Edition from Alan Mance in Footscray, who gave us an outstanding deal.

The campaign began on 1 June 2024, asking Lodges to raise money, and



by the first week of July, the goal had been achieved, with the car ready to be delivered by the 30 July 2024.

This car will now serve an important role in the north and west regions, transporting people in need to safe places, as well as delivering food to the elderly and disabled.

Special thanks go to MWBro. Bob Jones, Bro. Michael Carolino, WBro. Roy Esagunde, VWBro. Graeme Oldfield, WBro. Edmond Mansour, WBro. Samir El Bitar, and WBro. Peter Harris, Lord Carrington Lodge their dedication and support ensured the success of this project, and we are incredibly proud of Western District for coming together once again to support such a worthy cause. 

*By WBro. Emmanuel Marabeliotakis
PGStdB.*



WBro. Edmond Mansour and WBro. Lance McGregor.

I Now Present To Your Notice...

In early January 2024 we were excited to receive some Masonic belongings that belonged to WBro. Alexander Nottingham who was a member of Lodge of Fidelity No. 293 in Victoria.

We opened the postage bag and were greeted by a lovely leather-bound box measuring 14 ½ inches long, 10 inches wide and 2 ¾ inches high. Inside we found a complete set of Masonic Working tools set in a lovely blue velvet.

The working Tools were made by P. Blashki & Sons and date to around 1920.

They were a very popular option in Lodges that had a travelling warrant or didn't have a dedicated Masonic centre that they met in.

The working tools are made of brass which have been coated in silver. The working tools themselves have a wonderful intricate floral pattern

carved into them. They are certainly a beautiful set.

The Freemasons Victoria Library and Archives welcomes these and any other donations from members past and present and their families. We take pride in preserving our Masonic heritage for future generations of Freemasons to enjoy. 





NEWS FROM YOUR FOUNDATION



We are proud to have contributed more than **\$2.5 million** into the community in the Financial Year 23/24. Here are recent highlights and updates from some of the many projects that have benefited from your Foundation's programs.

Ronald McDonald House Charities Victoria & Tasmania

FFV board and staff recently visited Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) at Monash Children's Hospital. The RMHC facilities attempt to create 'normal' home-like environments for parents and siblings at a time when things are far from normal.

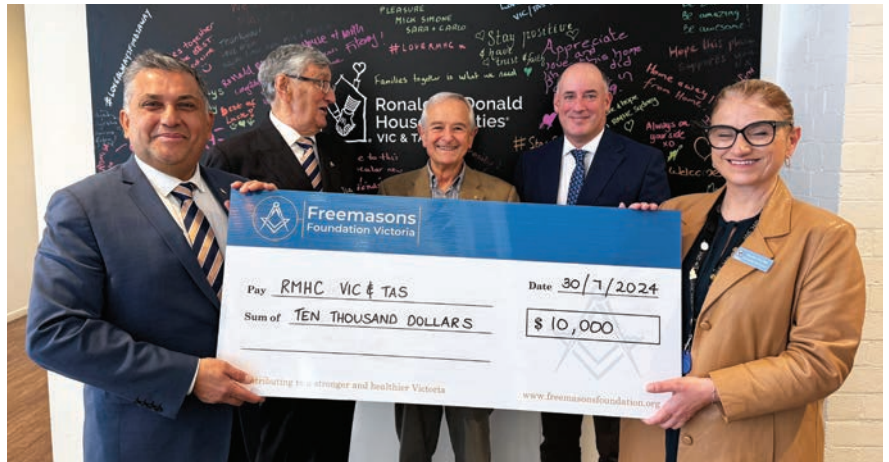
A FFV 2024 Community Grant funded The Early Years Empowerment Pilot Project, which employs an Early Years Educator at the facility, bringing pre-schoolers together to socialise and learn through play and provide some much-needed relief to parents.

FFV also supported Gregorios Lodge to enable RMHC to organise a 12-month Pet Therapy Program for families staying at their houses in Victoria through Lort Smith's Pet Therapy service.

"Dogs have a huge positive impact on wellbeing. They help reduce stress, lift our mood, and build connections and friendships. This makes family members feel stronger and better able to handle tough times. A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved for making this possible!"

– RMHC – Vic/Tas Facebook.

Top Picture: WBro. Carlos Quiroga, WBro. Ron Paterson, FFV Director Bro. Philip Mayers AM, FFV Deputy Chairman WBro. Matthew Schofield and Giovanna Cicchitti RMHC Key Relationship Manager.



FFV EO WBro. Neil Cripps; FFV Chairman RWBro. Garry James; Amanda Acutt, Freemasons Foundation Victoria Early Years Educator; FFV Director WBro. Rodney Lavin JP and FFV Deputy Chairman WBro. Matthew Schofield.

Support for Diamond Valley Residents in Tough Times

With the assistance of a FFV Masonic Grant, Greensborough Chapter were able to increase their donation to Diamond Valley Community Support (DVCS). The funding was directed to DVCS's Emergency Relief efforts, helping those in need within the local area by providing food vouchers, access to the food pantry, education support through their kids-assist program, health care prescriptions, op shop vouchers, fuel and PTV day passes, toiletry bags and more.



Greensborough Chapter's Chris Davis and Stephen Kapolitsas, DVCS Executive Officer Jeff Hallyburton, DVCS Emergency Relief Coordinator Lynne Murray, Greensborough Chapter's Wes Turnbull and Brian Naismith.



Sharing Food in Shepparton

Shepparton Foodshare has been sharing updates on their new purpose-built facility. It promises to be an incredible community asset. The purpose-built design will double their storage capacity, with a layout designed to maximise efficiency of goods in and goods out. There will be a separate controlled room for food repackaging and a large canopy area at the front to enable all weather receipt and collection of food. The design inside incorporates office and meeting spaces and a commercial kitchen. The commercial kitchen component has been predominately funded by a FFV Community Grant. It will assist Shepparton Foodshare to further reduce waste as they will be able to turn any excess produce into meals or preserves, while creating greater opportunities for community partnerships and collaboration.

Follow @sheppartonfoodshare on Facebook for more updates.



Café Enterprise Offers Much More Than a Nice Pour

They provide life-changing opportunities. Homelessness is a growing issue in Australia, with 28,000 youths under 25 experiencing it nightly. Social enterprises like For Change Co. are tackling this through education and employment, helping break the cycle of homelessness.

Through its Masonic Grants Program, the FFV has supported Melbourne St. Clair Reunion Lodge's project to fund hospitality training for three young people facing homelessness. The participants are referred by For Change Co.'s housing service partners, participants will undergo a 6-8 month paid training program across social enterprise cafés in Melbourne, part of the Pathways For Change initiative.

This training equips them with essential employability skills, aiming to transition them into long-term employment.

For Change Co. has been a leader in addressing youth homelessness since 2015, expanding from a single crêpe truck to six venues across Melbourne. These cafés provide hands-on training, mentorship, and job placement assistance, helping young people build confidence and secure stable jobs. The enterprise has trained 134 youths with over 18,877 hours of paid training, investing \$484,000 in wages—100% of their profits are reinvested to support its training programs.



Bro. Chris Redmund, Theresa from FFV, FFV Director Bro. Philip Myers, WBro. Alex Slater, RWBro. Myles and Isabella King.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Masonic Orders

FFV Masonic Grants,
open 1 July - 30 May 2025

Craft Lodges

FFV Education Grants,
open 1 July - 30 May 2025

Benevolence

Financial assistance for
Freemasons in distress

Scholarships

Open December 2024

Do you want the great charitable work of your Lodge to have an even bigger impact?

Masonic Orders can apply to Freemasons Foundation Victoria on behalf of their local nominated charity to support projects in the areas of Health & Medical Research, Community Development, Education, Youth Development Programs and Indigenous Programs.

FFV Education Grants are available to support your Lodge in its awards and scholarships programs for local schools.

www.freemasonsfoundation.org
enquiries@freemasonsfoundation.org
(03) 8535 4780



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

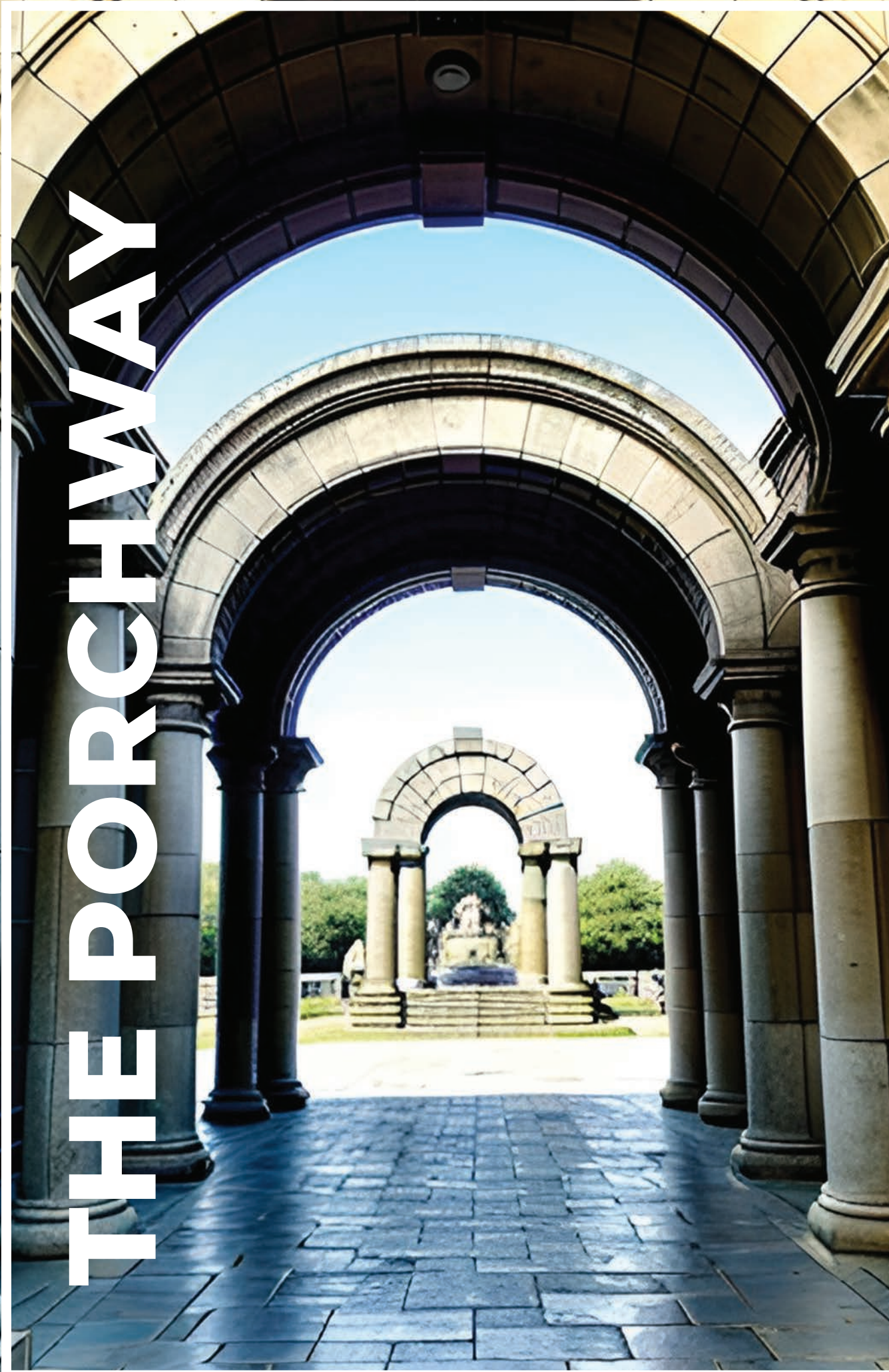
Once you have notified us of your Bequest, you will become a member of the 1889 Bequest Society, which was established to thank and acknowledge people in their lifetime for making a bequest.



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-Elect's Message

Brethren,

In November 1980, as part of his election-eve address - "A Vision of America" - Ronald Reagan referred to a "*Shining City on the Hill - for all the World to see*".

Reagan's reference was inspired by Puritan John Winthrop's lecture, delivered in March 1630, to the first group of Massachusetts Bay colonists as they embarked on the ship Arbella to settle Boston. In quoting the gospel according to St. Matthew (5:14), "*a city that is set on an hill cannot be hid,*" Winthrop warned his fellow Puritans that their new community would be "*as a city upon a hill, (where) the eyes of all people are upon us*", meaning that, if the Puritans failed to uphold their covenant with God, then their sins and errors would be exposed for all the world to see.

Just like Reagan's vision and Winthrop's challenge, we can be justifiably proud of the contribution to the Victorian and indeed the Australian community resulting from the skills developed through the Masonic experience. The enrichment of lives through participation in and understanding of our rich ceremonial tradition assists in building better men. This, combined with the identification and training of future leaders, will not only improve the Masonic experience for every member, but will continue to reinforce the point of difference that distinguishes Freemasonry from other social and civic groups, and can indeed be likened to a "*shining city on the hill - for all the world to see*".

Freemasonry, has allowed me to meet so many talented, interesting and principled men and women. It continues to inspire me to be better than I am by following their example. And it enriches my life with meaning, purpose and wisdom, which I hope, in some measure, I have been able to pass on to my family, friends and brother Freemasons.

I wish to share my experiences and passion with all members and assist to lead them to greater Masonic fulfillment for the benefit of themselves, their families and the community. In essence, I wish them... "*To be proud to be good Men*".

My Vision for Freemasons Victoria

Like Reagan, I have a vision. Not for America, but for Freemasons Victoria. I want, not only to build upon the excellent work of our Grand Master (and his predecessors) to ensure that Freemasonry makes all its

members happy and inspires them to communicate that happiness to others, but also to ensure that:

Freemasons Victoria is (and is recognised as) a harmonious and supportive organisation with an active, passionate and engaged membership.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to find every member openly advocating, that Freemasonry is **the place to belong, a happy and supportive place** and operates as an integral part of society. Comments like **my life is much better in so many ways for being a Freemason**, ought to be a natural part of our conversations with friends, family and co-workers.

Freemasonry should be about helping men to be as good a version of themselves as is achievable and ensuring a happy and supportive environment in which to meet, learn and share experiences.

We have and we will continue to **empower** our Lodges and our members by providing them with the leadership, guidance, facilities and support systems needed to ensure that they are actively engaged in the practice of Freemasonry.

I will charge the governance and administration to seek the views of all members, to understand what they want and need and to support them, rather than to prescribe or interfere with that enjoyment.

However, the ultimate success in achieving our vision will require a supreme effort from each and every one of us to become passionate advocates for the Craft and, where necessary, for sensible and measured change. By this commitment to each other and the Craft generally, we will demonstrate to the community, that which we hold dear to ourselves - the relevant and inspiring principles of Loyalty, Truth, Tolerance, Dignity and Compassion.

This will require a leadership approach, which is inclusive and that consults in all fundamental matters with the membership rather than simply responding to the "squeaky wheel", or a particular member demographic.

Freemasonry has a number of inherent strengths such as a strong set of unchanged values and principles, a diverse and loyal membership, an established and respected brand and strong philanthropic and community values. Yet if Freemasonry is to remain relevant, we need to seize the opportunity to address a number of strategic (or longer term) initiatives

as well as a number of operational (or shorter term) imperatives.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

To allow all of our members to become the best versions of themselves, we need to review and re-focus our strategic approach to firstly:

Improve the Masonic experience for our members, by concentrating on improving the retention and active engagement of existing members. In reigniting their engagement, we need to give Lodges and their members greater responsibility and flexibility to determine how they operate, while guarding against any departure from the established customs and ancient landmarks of the Order. We also need to win back lapsed members. We should encourage every Lodge to promote membership by refreshing the way we describe Freemasonry - **as an inspirational, relevant and compelling offering**. All new members must be properly mentored and provided with the tools to explore the history, heritage and rich traditions of Freemasonry. All of our meetings and social interactions must be full of variety and "zing". If we fail to firstly reinforce, maintain and then rebuild our membership base, we will be denying future generations the opportunities that we and our forebears have enjoyed. Treading water is not an option. Next, we need to;

♦ **Harness the I.P. and potential of our members** by identifying and developing a talented network of members and future leaders. Member surveys following initiation should be routinely conducted, to determine whether we have delivered on new members' expectations. A "skills audit" may also be done at this time to obtain valuable data about the expertise of new members, which is essential input into succession planning and talent management. Winning the hearts and minds of our members for change, is better facilitated by identifying champions and change agents at a local and district level. We must also;

♦ **Remove the Barriers between Governance and Operations** and empower each other for success by removing all constitutional and administrative structures that militate against that success. We have talked about this change for long enough, we have engaged with members considerably and we have progressed some of these changes. But the job is not complete. We must also; >>>



- ◆ **Strengthen our Philanthropic and Strategic Partnerships** to position ourselves as relevant in society, and well-respected as a philanthropic and community leader. This will include greater interaction with the Freemasons Foundation and the Freemasons Homes to improve operational and strategic cooperation. There also needs to be an environment and set of philanthropic programmes that individual Lodges and Lodge members can address, which not only assists in discharging their benevolent objectives, but also operates as attraction and retention initiatives. Some Lodges are already doing this well, but we need to reinforce the responsibility for all Lodges to be actively independent in charitable and benevolent activities, remembering always that this will be supported (rather than lead) by Freemasons Victoria and the Freemasons Foundation Victoria. Finally, we need to;
- ◆ **Engage Widely and Consult Freely** with all of our stakeholders, within and beyond Victoria to ensure proper lines of member communication are effective and obtain feedback about how well the Craft is operating and how well its objectives are understood. I believe that Freemasons Victoria should conduct an Annual General Meeting of Grand Lodge specifically to give a detailed and formal account of its activities, report on the finances of Freemasons Victoria, have the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee report on the risk and control environment and report in detail upon progress made against our Strategic initiatives.

OPERATIONAL IMPERATIVES

While having a clear and confident vision for the future, I also recognize that there are a number of issues that need to be addressed or progressed, to ensure that our path to that future vision can be more productively achieved. Some of these issues have, to varying degrees, been recognized and are being addressed. My point here is that they require resourcing and delivery sooner rather than later. They are matters of first priority:

1. Review how we identify, select, train and mentor our future leaders;
2. Bring together the three pillars of Freemasonry in Victoria (Chapter, Mark and Craft), in both an operational and strategic sense, by immediately initiating talks and developing a solid memorandum of understanding and plan;
3. Re-institute regular interstate Grand Lodge conversations, to

pursue cooperation on matters of mutual benefit to our respective members;

4. Provide, in the next financial budget, for the re-establishment and resourcing of a History and Heritage centre of excellence, and the establishment of District and/ or Lodge based historical archives, museums and resource centres;
5. Ensure that the dispute resolution process is transparent;
6. Reestablish our community profile at a local, district and State level, through the better utilisation of our social media platforms, including YouTube, and appropriate networking initiatives such as the reintroduction of CBD lunches and the active engagement of local and State community leaders;
7. Give power back to Lodges through targeted constitutional reform and support, as a prelude to more holistic constitutional change;
8. Improve the amenity, security and regulatory compliance of an appropriate suite of Masonic meeting places, to meet current and future expected member needs; and
9. Better support the work of local Lodge and member benevolent activities.

Moving Forward

While I have a solid vision for the future, I also want that future to be informed by the genuine opinions and suggestions of all members, for at the end of the day, it is you whom we serve.

It is far better to attend a meeting of members and have a good two-way conversation than preside over an installation or Quarterly Communication and have a one-way speech. To put it in the words of MWBro. Bob Jones, PGM – “The ears of a Grand Master should be full of his members’ voices”.

I will listen and create as many opportunities as is possible to speak directly with members. I may not agree with all of you, I may not be able to satisfy all of your requests and suggestions, but I will fight for your right to properly express them. I will however, insist on all our conversations and interactions being conducted in a cordial, respectful and objective manner. I will not tolerate misinformation and uninformed broadcasts as a show of discontent. Such behaviour is indecorous, often mischievous and un-Masonic, and will not be tolerated. We set ourselves high ideals and we should hold ourselves to those ideals, even when we disagree with each other.

I will not be a manager, but will strive to be a leader that is interested in direction, vision, goals and innovation, by guiding others and enabling them to act without undue interference.

Conclusion

Many leaders of the past, in the political, commercial and even the Masonic setting, have seen the need to demonstrate their success, their legacy, by creating and implementing some form of memorial, monument, or “ground breaking” change. If you are expecting this of me, I am afraid that you will be sadly disappointed.

While part of my role will involve change and innovation, in initiatives such as those that I have previously indicated, I will not pursue an agenda of change for change’s sake, but as part of an ongoing program of continuous improvement, building on the positive work of the past, which will empower each of us to move forward together strategically, steadfastly and in perfect harmony.

My measure of success is that Freemasonry continues, remains relevant to its members and the community and is left in no worse a shape than that in which I received it.

Freemasonry can help us build the best version of ourselves and can change our lives for the better. I know, it’s changed my life for the better. That is why I am passionate about Freemasonry and the opportunity to assist all current and future members in creating a path to the future health, happiness and prosperity of our wonderful Craft – A city that is set on an hill that cannot – that should not – be hid.

Thank you.



RWBro. Peter Henshall
Grand Master-Elect
United Grand Lodge of Victoria

Grand INSTALLATION

21-23 March 2025



*Welcome to
Melbourne*

RWBro. Peter Henshall
as Grand Master of the
United Grand Lodge of Victoria

Tickets

FRIDAY 21 MARCH
COCKTAIL PARTY
hosted by the Grand Master

SATURDAY 22 MARCH
GRAND INSTALLATION
& GRAND BANQUET

SUNDAY 23 MARCH
FAREWELL LUNCH

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The Grand Master's Message

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

Brethren,

My thanks to the Deputy Grand Master, who from tonight is Grand Master-Elect, for his vision statement for the term upon which he and Sharon will embark from next March.

I also extend my congratulations to RWBro. Myles King and Isabella. RWBro. Myles will also be known henceforth as the Deputy Grand Master-Elect. I also acknowledge the other nominees who put their hand up to be servant leaders of Freemasons Victoria.

That is what our great fraternity is about. Good men seeking to do good things. Similarly, we had more nominees than positions available for each of the Masonic Council and the Commercial Council. So, I thank each of the nominees, and I congratulate each of those who have been voted to those positions of great responsibility.

Brethren, Freemasons Victoria is wonderfully alive and well. In my term, I think there will have been consecrations of five new Lodges - an unprecedented number and an encouraging barometer of the health of our brotherhood in Victoria, where many members are seeking additional places to belong and new and different Lodges where they can enhance their masonic journey.

Earlier this month, we had the Consecration of Travellers' Washington Lodge and what a day that was - 22 stewards as foundation members; and in early December, the new Sir Redmond Barry Lodge will begin. A Lodge of lawyers and those involved in law enforcement and even those who have an interest in law. St Mark's Lodge - an exciting development in the Western District - a dining Lodge - will be consecrated early next year. There is discussion of more new Lodges so clearly there is a demand. The good part about all of this is that the new Lodges are attracting candidates - some even before they have been consecrated. They must be doing something right.

There has been an unprecedented number of maybe 15 or so re-consecrations during my two years and nine months as your Grand Master: some coming up are Berwick-Balcara, Marnoo at St. Arnaud, and Arlington on the Coast.

As always, these events are not about Grand Masters, or Grand Teams, they

are about the spotlight being on local Brethren and their great Lodges, some celebrating 100 years or more. My congratulations and best wishes to all concerned.

For some Grand Masters, the final six months of their term has been nicknamed the 'Lame Duck' period, where they might put the gear lever into neutral, and coast on to the finish line.

As you might expect, I do not intend to be a lame duck for half-a-year. Certainly, there will be an orderly and progressive handover to the Grand Master-Elect towards the moment he takes office in six months time. But let me assure you, there is too much happening in Freemasons Victoria to allow us to disengage and become idle.

We have seen the wonderful example of the official presentation by Freemasons Victoria of the vehicle to Banksia Gardens CEO Gina Dougall.

This was made possible by the efforts of a number of Brethren, particularly in the Western District, with numerous donations from Lodges, and generous support of individual Brethren and our Foundation.

My particular thanks to the Western District Coordinator, WBro. Emmanuel Marabeliotakis, for driving this project.

As well as our vibrant Lodges, and our charitable giving, we have plenty of things to do. On Saturday afternoon, 14 December, we will be holding a Christmas Party for our widows at East Melbourne.

There will be entertainment, a traditional Christmas lunch, and gifts for our widows. I want to see as many Lodges as possible book tickets for their widows, transport them there and back home, and accompany them to this special function.

It is not just confined to widows. Maybe there are some Freemasons who might enjoy an afternoon out at Christmas-time.

Booking details for this event, which was the brainchild of our Grand Superintendent of Communications, Ash Long, will be released by the Grand Secretary.

Just after Christmas there will be the traditional Wakanyanas lunch at Queenscliff to support disadvantaged kids - I think this will be the 108th year

of that event. In late January there will be our 4th annual Australia Day celebration at Bayside, to support Freemasons Community Relief.

Brethren, together we have come a long way in rebuilding Freemasons Victoria over the past five years or so.

The previously toxic social media environment of times past has been replaced with Lodges and members showing their pride in our Craft.

There is renewed vigour in our ritual and ceremonial work.

Across Victoria, we have recruited what I like to call the "new breed" of Freemason - good men who embrace our traditions, and who accept our glorious heritage for what it is. It is great to see older members unselfishly make way for their newer Brothers to take the wheel and have their turn in the sun. These are the qualities of a healthy organisation, actively setting about future success.

Brethren, thank you for the way in which you are proudly conducting yourself as worthy Freemasons all.



MWBro. Anthony Bucca
Grand Master
United Grand Lodge of Victoria



Message from the Grand Secretary

As the COVID-19 lockdowns, restrictions on movement and association, is more and more in the rearview mirror, it is timely to remember a number of matters that became evident as a result of a worldwide pandemic.

The freedom to attend Lodge and to mix with our friends and enjoy each others company was denied. Freemasonry was resilient and we continued to find ways to meet virtually and at least enjoy some level of fraternity. Now that period is over, and many have returned to Lodge. It is evident that there are many who have drifted away. We now need to look at ways to get members back to Lodge and our fraternity.

"Be courteous and considerate of others. It is a fundamental tenet of our organisation to follow up and find out why members are absent"

We cannot become complacent; COVID-19 along with many other seasonal illnesses are still very real and we must take precautions. Do not attend Lodge if you are unwell. Be courteous and considerate of others. It is a fundamental tenet of our organisation to follow up and find out why members are absent. Is it due to illness or is it some other reason?

I am aware that there are many Brethren who are suffering distress for many reasons. Freemasons Victoria is

fortunate in that we have the services of RWBro. Ted Stephens PJGW who is available to assist Brethren and their families with pro-bono counselling. You just need to reach out.

"Brethren, supporting each other is a fundamental part of our fraternity, and I have the ideal in my mind that every member will be accounted for at each meeting."

We have a Grand Almoner, VWBro. Terry Clifton, we have District Almoners to assist each Lodge. It is necessary for every Lodge to have an Almoner to assist Brethren in distress. We are encouraging Lodges to consider appointing not just an Almoner but an Almoners Committee.

Brethren, supporting each other is a fundamental part of our fraternity, and I have the ideal in my mind that every member will be accounted for at each meeting. If he is not in attendance, do we have an apology and a report as to his whereabouts? This should be fundamental.

Over the years the families of many members have become disillusioned with Freemasonry when it appears that Brethren who have given many years of service, are forgotten in their later years. Where is the brotherly love when a member is no longer able to attend Lodge and may be confined to home, hospital or some form of care facility and desperately wants the

contact with his Brothers at a lonely and difficult time? Brethren, this is not good for the fraternity, and we have lost the prospective membership of sons and grandsons who are disappointed when Freemasonry fails their father or grandfather at their most vulnerable time.

Freemasonry is for life. It does not stop when we cannot attend Lodge. Let us all get out and support our members.



RWBro. Bruce Cowie
Grand Secretary
United Grand Lodge of Victoria

Deputy Grand Master Announcement

The Deputy Grand Master Selection Panel formed in accordance with the rules set down in the Book of Constitutions, met on Saturday 17 August 2024 to interview three candidates for the position of Deputy Grand Master.

As a result of these interviews, I advise that the Panel elected RWBro. Myles King OAM, PSGW to the position of Deputy Grand Master.

Following the September Quarterly Communication, he became the Deputy Grand Master-Elect.

He will then be installed as Deputy Grand Master at the Grand Installation on 22 March 2025.

We wish Myles and Isabella a most successful term of office with the full support of our fraternity.





Service Awards CONGRATULATIONS

1 APRIL - 31 JULY 2024

50 Years

RWBro. Alan Jenkins	Berwick Balcara Lodge	359
RWBro. David Kearney	Wodonga Lodge	156
RWBro. William Fisher	Lodge of Concentration	753
RWBro. George Reid	Huon Daylight Lodge	874
VWBro. Colin Anderson	Guiding Star Lodge	922
VWBro. Norman Davies	Prince of Wales Lodge	40
VWBro. Alan Young	The Lodge of the Golden Fleece	300
WBro. Jeffrey Cripps	Antient York Lodge	80
WBro. Gordon Fisher	Leura Lodge	50
WBro. Charles Freedman	Ivanhoe Lodge	584
WBro. Arnold Kissick	Lord Carrington Lodge	111
WBro. Perry Knight	Rutherglen Lodge	188
WBro. Norman McDowell	Moorpanyal Lodge	467
WBro. Peter Rennie	Gisborne Lodge	298
WBro. Robert Sprague	Lodge Killara	259
WBro. Ian Willmott	The Lodge Metropolis	895
Bro. Allan Frost	Footscray St. John's Lodge	71
Bro. Douglas Logie	Elrona Lodge	384

65 Years

RWBro. Stanley Blackmore	Prince of Wales Lodge	40
RWBro. Donald Robinson	Rosebank Lodge	348
RWBro. John Raabe	Allara Lodge	855
RWBro. Peter McLaren	Peace and Loyalty Lodge	261
VWBro. Raymond Camm*	Lodge of Australia Felix	1
WBro. Graeme Fairbairn	Maroondah Daylight Lodge	607

60 Years

RWBro. Kenneth Brown	Gippsland Forest Lodge	101
RWBro. Hedley Harris	The Doutta Galla Lodge	902
RWBro. Rev Leonard Lacey	Brae Dale Lodge	936
RWBro. Thomas Stirling	Blackburn United Lodge	915
VWBro. Alan Dennis	Bairnsdale Daylight Lodge	877
VWBro. Peter Dillon-Shallard	Sir John Quick Lodge	933
WBro. Ronald Bear	Cohuna Lodge	227
WBro. Edward Sloan	Lodge Eshcol	785
Bro. Graeme Buckingham	Union Lodge of North Gippsland	62
Bro. Graeme Monks	Geelong Lodge of Unity and Prudence	5

70 Years

RWBro. Kenneth Barr	The Lodge Metropolis	895
RWBro. Ian Shadforth	Baden Powell Lodge	488
RWBro. Geoffrey Nelson	Duke of Abercorn Lodge	137
Bro. Edward Carroll	Lara Lodge	834
Bro. John Farrall	Warragul Lodge	677

75 Years

Bro. Albert Ah Yee	Union Lodge of North Gippsland	62
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*Deceased since presentation

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.



25 Years of Service



The Brethren at the Lodge of Good Companions No. 647 presented a 25 year service pin to WBro. Salvatore Zucarello on 17 June 2024. This service pin was actually 6 years overdue. Congratulations WBro. Sam!

Paying Tribute

In paying tribute to VWBro. Alan Young's 50 year jewel presentation, the Lodge of the Golden Fleece announced the establishment of the 'The Alan and Barbara Young Bursary'.

As much loved is VWBro. Alan, his late wife Mrs Barbara Young was equally loved and admired by the Golden Fleece family. It was Barbara's father WBro. Charles Jones (Past Mater 1973) who proposed Alan into the Lodge of the Golden Fleece.

This Bursary honours and recognises their service and in the highest esteem they are held.





60 Years of Service

Congratulations to RWBro. Hugh Hendry PJGW, on 60 years of service.

RWBro. Hendry was initiated into Korumburra Lodge No. 175 on 10 June 1964, passed 9 December 1964 and raised 9 June 1965. He was Worshipful Master in 1977 – 1978. He was also Worshipful Master of Coal Creek Lodge No. 907 in 1993 – 1994.

RWBro. Hendry was also a member of Coal Creek Lodge No. 907 from 1993 – 2016. A current member of Outtrim Lodge No. 209 from 2008 and Duke of Connaught Lodge No. 190 from 2022.

Well done RWBro. Hendry. ✧



65 Years of Service

Congratulations to WBro. Roy Nichol on receiving his 65 year service bar.

WBro. Nichol was initiated into Skipton Lodge No. 229 on 7 October 1958, passed on 2 June 1959 and raised on 5 January 1960. He was Worshipful Master in 1984-1985.

WBro. Nichol joined Prince of Wales Lodge No. 40 in 1997.

Well done, WBro. Nichol. ✧



70 Years of Service

Congratulations to VWBro. James Mitchell, PGIWkgs on 70 years of service.

VWBro. Mitchell was initiated into Beaumaris Lodge No. 458 on 15 July 1954, passed 21 October 1954 and raised 18 November 1954. He was Worshipful Master in 1981 – 1982.

VWBro. Mitchell was also a member of Black Rock-Beaumaris Lodge No. 370 from 1987 – 2010 and has been a member of Sandringham District Lodge No. 220 since 2010.

Well done VWBro. Mitchell. ✧



75 Years of Service at 102 Years Young

On Tuesday 13 August 2024 WBro. Jack Bullen travelled from his Woodend home with his son Robert, to attend a very special and rare occasion. WBro. Bullen, former Nhill resident and Bullen Bros. owner was presented with his 75 year Service Award and jewel.

WBro Jack joined Freemasonry in 1947 and has been a member ever since. At 102 years old you would forgive him for not attending too many recent meetings, but his wit and charisma are still very much alive.

The Worshipful Master of The Lowan Lodge No. 107, WBro. Rhys Webb interviewed WBro. Jack Bullen about his time in Freemasonry and how much it has changed since 1947. WBro. Jack was Worshipful Master 1963-1964 and said members from Rainbow, Jeparit, Kaniva, Dimboola, Warracknabeal, Minyip, 3 lodges in Horsham attended this event and even produced a picture to prove the amount of members present.

WBro. Jack said that society has changed a lot as well as principles and values but recommended Freemasonry to any man in the Wimmera who wants to make a difference in their community as well as in themselves. WBro. Jack left Nhill in 1984 and it was fitting

that WBro. Colin Merrett who went in as Worshipful Master that year presented him with his jewel. VWBro. John Teakle then presented him with a lapel pin and provided insight into WBro. Jack's Masonic career.

Mr Merv Schnieder who worked with WBro. Jack informed those present that he should have been a special member of Lowan Lodge 107 for all the years he helped WBro. Jack prepare for Lodge meetings. Freemasonry and Lowan Lodge 107 congratulate WBro. Jack on this amazing achievement and thank him for his dedication to Freemasonry for all these years. Freemasonry is an organisation of good men supporting each other, their families and the community. ✧



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



Since the last magazine there have been a number of significant events for all Freemasons irrespective of the order they may belong to. Craft, Mark and Chapter have all had their Grand Installations and each chose different venues to mark these occasions. For the Mark it was held at Freemasons Melbourne and thanks to the efforts of the assistant Grand Secretary, VWBro. Chris Wallace and his assistant Bro. Craig Spendlove, the afternoon and evening were a great success. 180 Brethren and ladies attended the Installation ceremony and afterwards at the celebration banquet with catering by Beth Lee and entertainment by Mr. Jason Vorherr, an accomplished singer songwriter. This was the first time we have held our Grand Installation at Freemasons Melbourne and it was remarked to be an excellent choice for future events.

"This was the first time we have held our Grand Installation at Freemasons Melbourne and it was remarked to be an excellent choice for future events."

There have been the usual Mark Lodge Installations and I and the Grand Team have enjoyed the hospitality of our Brethren across the state. A number of new candidates have been advanced over recent months and it has been my great privilege to meet and welcome them at the Installations I have attended. The Deputy Grand Master and both Wardens have officiated at those I couldn't attend and welcomed candidates on my behalf but without the presentation of a Mark lapel pin.

As was documented in the last edition, I had the pleasure of presenting Bro. Harry Dickson of Mordialloc Mark Lodge with his 80 year service jewel on 1 July with his family and Craft and Mark Brethren present. It is my understanding that he was the only Brother to receive 80 year service jewels for both Craft and Mark. Sadly, Harry was called to higher service shortly after receiving his award. It was my great honor to be asked by his family to present the Masonic service at his memorial service and the family consisting of four generations shared

many wonderful memories of his exceptional life over 105 years, SMIB.

On Saturday 23 March, Geelong Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No. 19 celebrated 100 years of Ark Mariner Masonry with a Re-Dedication ceremony at the Belmont Masonic Centre. A large number of ladies and guests enjoyed a ceremony that is not often performed and I am most appreciative of the dedication and commitment of the Enthronement Officers who give so freely of their time in support of this Order. All Mark Master Masons are enjoined to consider the Ark degree for the furtherance of their Masonic understanding.

Over three days, 2-4 August, we enjoyed the hospitality of the members of Dimboola Royal Ark Mariner Lodge and the West Wimmera Mark Lodge at Horsham Masonic Centre; this was in celebrating the Hands across the Border with the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of South Australia and the Northern Territory. Their Grand Master, MWBro. Gary Beardsell was accompanied by his DGM, RWBro. Andrew Charlton and a large delegation of Brethren. Also attending were MEmComp. Andrew Lockyer, 1st Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of South Australia and the Northern Territory and his Deputy, MEmComp. Eric Talmet. Supreme Grand Chapter of Victoria was represented by REmpComp. Robert Redman, Deputy 1st Grand Principal.

"All Mark Master Masons are enjoined to consider the Ark degree for the furtherance of their Masonic understanding."

After meeting on Friday afternoon for dinner and to renew friendships, we then on Saturday carried out the Enthronement of the new Commander, WBro. John McTaggart, and investiture of officers of Dimboola Ark. Following a short break the Installation of RWBro. Greg Harmer and Investiture of the Officers of West Wimmera Mark took place. After the required formalities were completed approximately 60 ladies and Brethren enjoyed a sumptuous meal and

a night of great fellowship at the Horsham Sportsman's Club and on Sunday morning the local members catered for breakfast before we departed to our various homes. The Mark is quite rightly called the friendly degree and we thank the members of both the Mark and Ark in Dimboola, West Wimmera for hosting this event so successfully.

"The Mark is quite rightly called the friendly degree and we thank the members of both the Mark and Ark in Dimboola, West Wimmera for hosting this event so successfully."



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



Defining Mark Masonry

By VWBro. Glenn Hollibone, PGMO, Grand Lecturer

To quote directly from Rule 2 of the Constitutions of the Craft here in Victoria:

"The United Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Victoria hereby declares that Freemasonry consists of the following degrees. The Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, the Master Mason, the Mark Master Mason, the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch of which Craft Masonry embraces the three first-named."

The earliest known documented reference to the Mark Degree comes from England and is found in a set of minutes recorded at a meeting of the Royal Arch Chapter of Friendship No 3, held at the George Tavern in Portsmouth, England, and dated 1st September 1769. It states that Bro. Thomas Dunckerley (a natural, but illegitimate, son of King George II) obtained a Warrant or Charter for that Chapter and "having lately rec'd the Mark" he made six of the brethren Mark Masons and Mark Masters. At that same meeting he taught them how to use the Masonic cypher and authorised them to make Fellow Crafts into Mark Masons, and Master Masons into Mark Masons. These minutes were written in code or cypher, and state:

"having lately rec'd the 'Mark' he made the bre'n 'Mark Masons' and 'Mark Masters'".

Thomas Dunckerley had each choose their mark and informed them of his manner of writing the masonic cypher which is to be used in the degree. It is important to note here that Bro. Dunckerley acknowledged them first as 'Mark Men' or 'Mark Masons' and then 'Advanced' them as 'Mark Masters'. Sometime between 1769 and the 1850s both degrees were combined in what is today's ritual of a single ceremony.

In the Mark Advancement ceremony, like most degrees in Freemasonry, the brother becomes a Mark Master Mason once the 'secrets' have been communicated. As a Mark Master Mason, the second degree tracing board and aspects of the third degree traditional history and tracing

board begin to make more sense and the connection with operative Freemasonry is made clear. Above all, the Keystone to the Sacred Arch of King Solomon's Temple is of central importance.

In its early form the Mark Man and Mark Master ceremonies were performed in Craft lodges and Royal Arch chapters at least as early as the mid 1700s, and because, as I have already stated, our ritual adds to the Fellow Craft degree and expands and explains further the Master Mason degree, its relationship to Pure and Ancient Freemasonry is of the utmost importance for Craft freemasons and companions of the Holy Royal Arch.

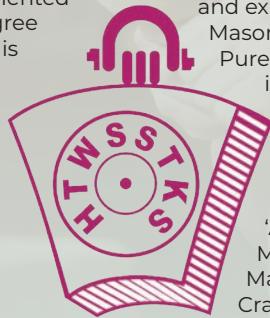
The ritual for the 'Advancement' of a Master Mason to the degree of Mark Master Mason, as with the three Craft degrees, takes place at the building of King Solomon's Temple. The candidate upon entering the Mark lodge is first tested to ensure that he has indeed taken the three degrees of Craft Freemasonry. The candidate is then invited to choose his Mason's Mark, which is entered in the Lodge's register of marks book. The granting of a Mark was set out by one William Schaw in his regulations for stonemasons in Scotland issued in 1598; the registration of such Marks has been an attribute of Scottish Freemasonry from that time on.

After he has chosen his Mark, it is explained, to the candidate, that he must present his Mark to receive wages for his work as a stonemason from the quarries where the stones are prepared for the Temple. The candidate duly presents his Mark, to the Senior Warden, and receives his wages in the form of a token. The Overseers of the lodge then proceed to examine stones supposedly cut in the quarries for use in the building of the Temple. A stone said to have been cut by the candidate is found unsuitable and appropriate action is taken. It is then reported that work on the Temple is at a standstill because of the lack of a stone cut in the form of a Keystone. Enquiry reveals that a suitable stone had been cut but it had been rejected by the master overseer due to the confusion that ensued

after the sudden departure of the Chief Architect. A search is made for the stone and upon discovery, and in gratitude, the candidate is given the signs and password of a Mark Master Mason.

The Mark Advancement ceremony can be succinctly defined as a Masonic ceremony conveying moral and ethical lessons using a ritualised allegory expanding on the three Craft degrees that also revolves around the building of King Solomon's Temple. To this can be added: It can be reasonably said that without the Mark Advancement degree the Symbolical Journey of a Master Mason, began by a brother as an Entered Apprentice, cannot be fully completed as, without becoming a Mark Master Mason, he lacks the understanding of Pure and Ancient Freemasonry in its broader sense.

The Advancement ceremony, just as in other degrees in Freemasonry, suggests and experience informs us, that there is further 'Light' to be found for the Master Mason willing to search for it in his toil in the quarries. We, as Craftsman, must never forget that there is always further 'Light' to be experienced in our Masonic journey.





ACRUX SHRINERS: Illuminating a Path of Charity in Australia

In 2010, a small group of Victorian Freemasons met in a café to discuss a noble idea: the formation of a Shrine Club that was dedicated to supporting various organisations that care for seriously ill, injured, incapacitated, or impaired children. Ever since that initial gathering, "Shriners Australia" has expanded from only having a club in Melbourne, to establishing Shrine Clubs across the country, including Queensland, New South Wales, and Western Australia, with efforts underway to expand into South Australia.

Shrine clubs in Australia were originally under the jurisdiction of the Aahmes Temple, which is based in Livermore, California, USA, which saw our fraternity grow significantly in membership. The rapid growth in membership highlighted the need for an independent Shrine Temple. After years of dedication, we received dispensation from Shriners International, the global governing body, to establish a new Temple in Australia. Thus, Acrux Shriners was born, headquartered in Melbourne, Victoria. Our goal is to exceed 300 members nationwide by year's end, enabling us to apply for a full Charter at the upcoming Shrine Imperial session in 2025.

Acrux Shriners is now the largest and southernmost Shrine Temple in the world, covering 7.692 million square kilometres.

The name Acrux, also known as "Alpha Crucis," is the brightest star in the Southern Cross, which is well known across the Southern Hemisphere and is present on five national flags across the globe, including our very own and New Zealand. Symbolically, the six stars that comprise this constellation represent Australia's six states.

The strength of Acrux Shriners is further amplified by the unwavering support from the Grand Lodges and their Grand Masters across all the states where we have established clubs. This includes our Past Grand Master, MWBro. Richard Elkington, being a member of Melbourne Shrine Club, and the Deputy Grand Master (Grand Master Elect) from The United Grand Lodge of NSW & ACT, RWBro. Khris Albano, being a member of Sydney Shrine Club.

Membership in Acrux Shriners is open to all Master Masons in good standing. Our Temple uniquely welcomes both Masons and non-Masons, family, and friends to our open ceremonies. We take pride in promoting Freemasonry within the community through our distinctive approach, focused on charity and support for those who cannot help themselves—particularly children. ✎



FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information or wish to join our philanthropy please email:
secretary.shriners.australia@gmail.com





Samuel R. A. Hogg Council's Fresh Start



The Samuel R. A. Hogg Council No. 39 has a rich history dating back to 1944, when it was first established as The East Belfast Council of Knight Masons No.39. For over six decades, it carried out its work, until 2008, when it returned its Warrant to the Grand Council. But this wasn't the end of its journey.

In 2009, Ven. Sir Knight Robert Barnes, Provincial Grand Superintendent for Australia, championed for the Warrant to be reissued and the Council be renamed in honour of the late Dr Samuel Robert Ambrose Hogg, a respected former member of the East Belfast Council, and who many Victorian Freemasons would remember as a respected Freemason in Melbourne. Thus, on 2 October 2010, at the Bendigo Masonic Centre in Victoria, the Samuel R. A. Hogg Council No. 39 was reconstituted and dedicated by the Most Excellent Great Chief, Bernard V. A. Woods, along with Venerable Sir Knight Michael J. Ward, and Ven. Sir Knight Robert Barnes.

For a time, the Council met in Bendigo, later moving 66 kilometres south to Kyneton. However, challenges such as the global pandemic and changing demographics in rural Victoria more recently prompted

the Council to relocate once more, this time to the Freemasons East Melbourne. This move was seen as vital for the survival of the Council, ensuring that it could continue this important Order and uphold the legacy of its namesake.

Now, with a fresh start at Freemasons East Melbourne, the Samuel R. A. Hogg Council No. 39 is embarking on an exciting new journey in metropolitan Melbourne. A renewed vision from its new administration which focuses on sustainability, growth, education and fraternity within Knight Masonry.

Settled in its new home, a new logo has been created for the Council. The logo features the Council's name,

the trowel and sword—the two most important tools of Knight Masonry.

The new move is already showing results with a large number of Freemasons holding the Mark and Chapter Degrees, already Samuel R. A. Hogg Council No. 39 has attracted 10 new applications.

The Samuel R. A. Hogg Council No. 39 is not only carrying on its proud history but also forging a bright future for Knight Masonry in Australia. ✨



Members of the Samuel R. A. Hogg Council.

Melbourne Council No. 2 Royal and Select Masters Re-established

After 12 months of meticulous planning, gathering regalia and restoring furniture, and a successful open night in 2023, the long-awaited re-establishment of Melbourne Council No. 2 Royal and Select Masters came to fruition on Saturday, 24 August 2024, when the Council was officially reconstituted after an 18-year hiatus.

The day's events took place at Freemasons East Melbourne and began with a Special Assembly of the Council, opened by Most Illustrious Companion, Richard Elkington OAM, with Grand Council Officers.

In a symbolic moment, the longest-serving member, Most Illustrious Companion Carl Stemp, returned the Council's original warrant. Most Illustrious Companion Stemp holds a unique place in the Council's history, having been a Companion of Melbourne Council No. 56 under the English Constitution and a foundation Companion of Melbourne Council No. 2 when it was first established under the Grand Council of Victoria. He also

happened to be the Grand Master who received the warrant when the council ceased to meet in 2006 making this a full-circle moment for him and the council.

Eleven former and present members of Cryptic Masonry joined the re-establishment of the Council joined by 11 candidates who took their Select Master degree, creating a day full of meaningful ceremonial.

The event culminated with the installation of Illustrious Companion Kent Henderson as Thrice Illustrious Master, Companion Bruce Cowie as



Deputy Master, and Companion Jack Aquilina as Principal Conductor of the Work.

Following the ceremonies, the celebrations continued with a luncheon, where the new Companions and new team installed and the Grand Council team reflected on the success of the day and the bright future ahead for Cryptic Masonry in Melbourne. ✨



Members of the Melbourne Council No. 2.



Triangles and Interlaced Triangles

Interlaced triangles are of many forms, those with which the English Mason is concerned being two: the hexalpha, or six-pointed star, a prominent emblem in Royal Arch masonry, and the pentalpha, or five-pointed star, which is for us the emblem of the Excellent Master Mason. The five-points refer to the constitution of man – the ancient elements of Earth, Air, Water and Fire, and the fifth point at the apex referring to Spirit. 'Alpha' comes into each name because the devices are formed with alphas - that is, 'A's' - suitably arranged. Eighteenth-century Masonry knew both of these devices, the 'Antients' preferring the five-pointed star and the 'Moderns' the six-pointed star. We can surmise that Masonry took the devices from alchemy, which, in its turn, found them awaiting it in that great body of traditional lore that always attributed magical properties to the triangle and particularly to triangles interlaced. They were symbols of the everlasting truth of the Deity, and became, in Christian days, emblems of Christ.



As to when and why the hexalpha was adopted by Royal Arch Masons in the eighteenth century very little can be said. As it was definitely a part of alchemical symbolism and from that source may have entered Freemasonry, it is possible that it was adopted as a Christian symbol, however incongruous the association of a definitely Jewish device with the Christian idea might appear to be. It is, of course, the motif of the Royal Arch jewel of England, Ireland, and Scotland.

An early example of the use of interlaced triangles having a definite masonic connection is the engraved portrait (date 1761) of Dr Francis Drake, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of ALL England.

The Royal Arch Jewel includes within the circle the interlaced triangles. On the obverse of the jewel, the words inscribed are the Greek word "Eurekamen", with its Latin equivalent "Invenimus", signifying "We have found it". There are also the phrases, "Cultor Dei" - "Worshipper

of God", and "Civis mundi" - "Citizen of the world". On the reverse of the jewel we have one triangle with the words: Concord, Truth, Peace. On the second triangle we have the words: Wisdom, Strength, Beauty. Interestingly, one masonic writer believed that this does not refer to the wisdom of K.S., the strength of K.H. or the beautifying hand of H.Ab, but to the "Omniscience, Omnipotence and Omnipresence" of the Deity.

Whatever may be the origin and meaning of the interlaced triangles, it has become a powerful symbol in Freemasonry in general and the Holy Royal Arch in particular. It leads us to contemplate matters material and also matters spiritual. For me, I see it also as referring to Man's prayer to God, and the response and blessing of the Almighty. ☩



Congratulations Companion Dad

A significant moment in any Companion's Masonic journey is presenting a service jewel to a fellow Companion, especially one who is a close friend or family member. Recently, REmComp. Wilfred John Webster, PGJ, had the special honour of presenting his own father, REmComp. Wilfred Oriel Webster, PGJ, with a 60-year service jewel at the West Wimmera Holy Royal Arch Chapter No. 55. ☩





Message from the First Grand Principal



Sitting at my desk and looking out the window, the sun is shining upon a beautiful day in the glorious Dandenong Ranges. Although it is not yet officially spring, the blossom, the wattle, the fragrance, all give us a sense of renewal, a warming of the heart, a spring in our step, as nature comes to life after the lifelessness of winter.

"Although it is not yet officially spring, the blossom, the wattle, the fragrance, all give us a sense of renewal, a warming of the heart, a spring in our step, as nature comes to life after the lifelessness of winter."

From the dawn of civilisation human beings have used the changing of the seasons in their search for meaning. As time went by myths, that is – sacred stories with deep spiritual meaning – developed and were incorporated into the ritual dramas of secret mystery orders. The purpose of these orders was with the use of allegory, symbol and myth, to initiate candidates into the mystery of life. Candidates were brought to light in such a way they were transformed. They were said to be blessed, born again, the possessors of a deep and abiding happiness. Several such orders were prominent in the ancient Greco-Roman era.

One such mystery order in Ancient Greece centred its ritual drama on the myth of Persephone, daughter of harvest Goddess Demeter, who is kidnapped by Hades and carried into the underworld. This symbolised the season of winter. Nature coming to life is symbolised by Demeter obtaining at least her daughter's temporary release, enabling the grain harvest to take place. However, the release is only temporary and Persephone must return, hence the changing of the seasons. Although it is not certain given the secrecy enforced by the mysteries, the candidates for initiation could have been taken through this story in the ceremony symbolising being brought from death to life.

By now it can be seen that like the ancient mysteries we in Freemasonry employ the same method of instruction - ritual drama, myth, allegory and symbolism. And what is

our purpose? The same as our ancient Brethren - happiness in a world of sadness, tragedy and suffering.

For those reading this and, for the first time, being introduced to this understanding of Freemasonry, permit me to ask you a few fundamental questions: Why do we have a ritual and elaborate ceremonial? Why, having not been divested of money and material substances of value the ceremony would need to be repeated? Where is the middle chamber and why the winding staircase? What meaning can be given to the five points of fellowship? For those who search and attempt to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge there is the opportunity for renewal, for regeneration to experience a real sense of blessedness in daily living.

"For those who search and attempt to make a daily advancement in masonic knowledge there is the opportunity for renewal, for regeneration to experience a real sense of blessedness in daily living."

I now turn attention to the Royal Arch. For those who are not Exalted Companions of our wonderful Order the journey has not been completed for it is in the Royal Arch that the genuine secret is revealed. That secret is the discovery of that happiness we have been exploring. The ancients in their ritual drama took the candidate on a journey - the exploration of self, their belief being that true happiness was achieved by knowing yourself. Freemasonry, and more particularly, the Royal Arch has that same belief. Without giving too much away, suffice it to say that in the Exaltation ceremony we are taken deep within ourselves and in doing so we make a wonderful discovery about ourselves, the power of which, if we understand it, is transforming. Like the changing of the season from winter to spring we, like nature, spiritually transform; our lives are able to flourish, and we can truly confront each day as if it were like the day of spring in the beautiful Dandenong Ranges.



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

Excerpts from the Communication of the First Grand Principal Grand Convocation 17 July 2024.

Special Thanks

I am sure most of you would be aware of my involvement in a road accident. The trauma that followed, initially in the chest and left knee, has continued in my legs and feet, thus making mobility very slow and sore, hence my inability to be at this Convocation this evening. I wish to thank REmComp Rob Redman our DGZ for occupying the chair this evening and to wish him well in the conduct of our proceedings...

Again, I would wish to express my appreciation to REmComp Rob Redman for willingly presiding at seven of these Installations, the remaining ceremony being in the capable hands of MEmComp John Ives PGZ...

The re-enactment ceremony was conducted by MEmComp John Ives PGZ; the ceremony of Installation by REmComp Rob Redman DGZ. Again I wish to thank them, not only for their work, but for their unhesitating commitment when the problem of my inability to attend was known...



A brief history of the Royal Ark Mariners Degree in Victoria



The Royal Ark Mariner ritual was developed during the late 18th century, although aspects reflect Freemasonry of the early 18th century - before the Hiram legend became the central theme of the Craft that it is today.

This degree, although worked under the aegis of the United Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Victoria and requiring every candidate to be a Mark Master Mason, has no historical connection whatsoever with that degree. Mark Grand Lodge's rule over the 'Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners' is simply an accident of fate that we inherited from the English model.

This degree was not introduced into Victoria until 1883; and when our Grand Lodge was formed on the 31 May 1899, only Kilwinning Royal Ark Mariner Lodge was on the Register, with 39 members.

The Ark degree progressed languidly over following years: Between 1899 and 1926 just six additional Royal Ark Mariner Lodges were formed; Bendigo Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No.12 (which became Neangar No. 62 in 1983) was dedicated on 13 November 1905; Geelong Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No. 19 dedicated on 22 March 1924, Moorabbin Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No. 38 dedicated on 8 November 1924, Malvern Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No. 39 dedicated on 27 March 1925 and Moira Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No. 4 was dedicated on 15 February 1926 at Benalla.

By 1928 there were seven constituent Royal Ark Mariner Lodges in Victoria and the Grand Master's Royal Ark Mariner Council was re-established after an absence of some 25 years with Deputy Grand Commander, RWBro. Rev. Albert Holden, as chairman. It was not until MWBro. Coulson's passing that his successor, MWBro. Dr James Nish elevated the degree and brought it to the attention of all Mark Lodges.

Four years passed until a new Royal Ark Mariner Lodge was dedicated at Freemasons' Hall, Collins Street, Melbourne, that being Coulson Commemoration Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No. 100 on 6 February 1932. When MWBro. Coulson died there were eight Royal Ark Mariner Lodges at work under this jurisdiction and two under the English Constitution, with the Victorian Lodges meeting at Bendigo, Malvern, Geelong, Moorabbin, Richmond and two in Melbourne.

In the late 1930s Ballarat Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No. 114, originally an



English constitution Lodge followed its Mark Lodge into the Victorian Constitution on 22 May 1937. This was followed by Robbie Burns Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No. 76, at Newport on 30 January 1937, and Camberwell Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No. 86 on 30 August 1938. During this period, Malvern Ark Mariner Lodge moved to Brunswick in 1937.

In June 1943, the Grand Commander, MWBro. Arthur J Dean selected several Enthroned Commanders holding Grand Mark Rank to assist him in the Royal Ark Mariner Enthronement ceremony. This was done as an experiment with a view of improving the ceremonial work and proved successful in every respect. As a result, at the May 1944 Grand Mark Installation, MWBro. Dean constituted those Worshipful Brethren who had so assisted into an official team for the ensuing year. Their names were recorded in the proceedings, and they entered Grand Lodge as a team, wearing the Royal Ark Mariner Chain Collars. As with the Mark degree, no new Royal Ark Mariner Lodges were dedicated during the main years of World War II.

Following the impetus given to the degree by MWBro. Dean, commencing early 1945, new Royal Ark Mariner Lodges were dedicated in St Kilda, Ararat, Korumburra, Mildura, Hamilton, Box Hill, Dandenong, Footscray, Elsternwick, Traralgon, Ivanhoe, Charlton, Sandringham, and Collingwood, all before the end of the 1940s.

In the 1950s new Royal Ark Mariner Lodges were dedicated at Camperdown, Brighton, Tatura, and Dimboola.

The 1960s added to the growing fraternity with Lodges formed at North Melbourne, Kerang, and Mordialloc, while in the 1970s new warrants were raised for Lodges meeting at Port Melbourne and Tallangatta. The 1980s saw only Lilydale Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No. 65 formed, on 9 July 1983.

The 1990s saw the trend for Daylight Lodges emerging, with Gordon Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No.20, Remembrance Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No.133, Dilkara Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No.143 and Bellarine Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No. 144 being dedicated. The 1990s also gave rise to the first Royal Ark Mariner Lodge not to be moored to a Mark Lodge: Central Highlands Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No. 147 which was dedicated by MWBro. Bruce Bartrop, Grand Commander, on 20 July 1996.

For the 2000s, Victorian Naval and Military Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No. 57 was dedicated on 13 December 2003, and then the last new Warrant on our Register - Pakenham Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No. 123 - was dedicated on 9 April 2011.

During the COVID-19 pandemic we experienced a pause in many of the things we take for granted in Masonry, such as greeting brethren with a firm handshake, dining together in the South and in our ceremonial work, but we have now resumed all our traditions and also taken up some new ones too: in 2023 a Grand Lecturer to The Antient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners of Victoria was appointed for the first time.

On Saturday, 23 March 2024, MWBro. Goodburn, Grand Commander, re-dedicated the Geelong Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No. 19, at the Geelong Masonic Centre, to mark its centenary.

During more than a century of state, national and global crises, this Fraternity has remained afloat. Perhaps one of the lessons, so profoundly taught within the brief but moving ceremony of the degree, has urged us to hold fast during times of upheaval; for we are taught that out of chaos and catastrophe mankind can survive and that we should face adversity together, whilst helping to look after those Brethren less fortunate than ourselves. ✧

By VW.Bro. Glenn Hollibone Grand Lecturer.



The Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Degrees Meet In Horsham

A very successful 'Hands across the Border' function was held at Horsham from 2 to 3 August 2024.

The Grand Master and Ceremonial Team of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of South Australia and the Northern Territory joined the United Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Victoria and the Antient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners of Victoria Ceremonial Teams for a weekend of social and Masonic events in Horsham.


The Enthronement of WBro. John McTaggart as the new Commander of the Dimboola Royal Ark Mariner Lodge and Installation of RWBro. Greg Harmer PSGW as the new Master of West Wimmera Mark Lodge were the work of the weekend.

Both Victorian teams presented excellent ritual and ceremonial which were greatly appreciated by all in attendance.

The weekend was enhanced by the presence of the First Grand Principal of the Grand Chapter of South Australia and Northern Territory and the Deputy First Grand Principal of Supreme Grand Chapter of Victoria.

At the time of planning it wasn't known that this event would signal a long term change of home for a number of Lodges in the Wimmera.

For the first time in many years the Horsham Masonic Centre is again home to a Lodge of Mark Master Masons and a Royal Arch Chapter and for the first time ever it's the home of a Royal Ark Mariner Lodge.

With the sad closure of the Dimboola Masonic Centre, West Wimmera Mark and Dimboola Royal Ark Mariner Lodges and West Wimmera Royal Arch Chapter together with Dimboola Craft Lodge are now meeting at the Horsham Masonic Centre. 



Happy Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Masons and Chapter Companions at Horsham Masonic Centre.



WBro. John McTaggart, the new Commander with REmComp. Robert Redman DGZ and surrounded by the Grand Masters and Deputy Grand Masters of Victoria and South Australia & NT and our local Past Grand Masters.





From "300 FAMOUS FREEMASONS"
by RWBro. Kent Henderson

John Wayne

Famous American Actor



Marion Robert Morrison (aka John Wayne) was born on 26 May 1907 at Winterset, Iowa; the son of Clyde Leonard Morrison, a pharmacist and Mary 'Molly' Alberta Brown. He acquired the nickname 'Duke' during his youth. Wayne's family moved to Palmdale, California, and then in 1916 to Glendale. He attended Glendale Union High School, and in 1925 he enrolled at the University of Southern California (Los Angeles) where he played football. He worked over summers at the Fox Film Corporation as a propman and developed a friendship with director John Ford, who cast him in some small film roles, starting in 1928.

Fox Studios chief, Winfield Sheehan, suggested 'John Wayne' as his film name. His first leading role came in director Raoul Walsh's *The Big Trail* (1930). During the next eight years Wayne starred in more than 60 low-budget motion pictures. He reached genuine star status when Ford cast him as the Ringo Kid in the classic western *Stagecoach* (1939). Ford's *The Long Voyage Home* (1940), a film based on several Eugene O'Neill one-act plays, featured one of Wayne's most praised performances in his early films.

With the advent of World War II, Wayne attempted to enlist in the Navy but was rejected because of his age and an old football injury. He spent the war years entertaining troops overseas and making films such as the popular action-adventures *Flying Tigers* (1942), *The Fighting Seabees* (1944), *They Were Expendable* (1945), and *Back to Bataan* (1945), all of which featured Wayne as quintessentially American fighting men who overcome great odds. He also appeared during this period in melodramas such as *The Spoilers* (1942) and *Flame of Barbary Coast* (1945). By the end of the war, he was firmly established as one of Hollywood's top stars.

Wayne's screen image was permanently defined in the many

classic films he made with directors John Ford and Howard Hawks up to the early 1960s. For Ford, Wayne starred in what has come to be known as the 'Cavalry Trilogy': *Fort Apache* (1949), *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon* (1949), and *Rio Grande* (1950) – films in which Wayne portrays cavalry officers of the Old West. His most iconic film in this era was *The Searchers* (1956), a film considered by many to be the greatest western ever made. Ford's exploration of the dark underbelly of Old West legends culminated in *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* (1962).

In all, the Ford-Wayne films present an Old West rendered obsolete by the very society it helped to create. Wayne also appeared in films for Ford that were not westerns, including standouts such as *The Quiet Man* (1952) and *Donovan's Reef* (1963).

for the greatest western of all time, features Wayne as an autocratic, monomaniacal cattle baron at odds with the orphan boy he has reared (portrayed in adulthood by Montgomery Clift in his first screen role) and the modern values he represents.

Wayne did not work with Hawks again until *Rio Bravo* (1959), a film born of Hawks's and Wayne's dissatisfaction with the popularity of *High Noon* (1952), the Gary Cooper western in which citizens of a western community are portrayed as weak-willed and cowardly when their sheriff asks their help in forming a posse. The sheriff portrayed by Wayne in *Rio Bravo*, conversely, is determined to do his duty with or without help from anyone. Although greeted with lukewarm reviews upon its release, >>>



Bro. Marion R Morrison (aka John Wayne) shown with the officers of Marion McDaniel Lodge No. 56, Tucson, Arizona. Front row (l. to r): James Wild, Junior Warden; Seneca Erman, Worshipful Master; John Wayne; Horton Weiss, Senior Warden; Robert Higel, Marshall.



John Wayne was a member of the York Rite, Shriners, and Scottish Rite.



Bro. John Wayne receiving his Volume of the Sacred Law from the Worshipful Master at Marion McDaniel Lodge No. 56 in Tucson, Arizona, July 1970.

Dorado (1967) and in Rio Lobo (1970), Hawks's final film.

Wayne's standout films for other directors include Sands of Iwo Jima (1949), in which his performance as an uncompromisingly tough Marine sergeant earned an Oscar nomination; Hondo (1953), perhaps the only classic western filmed in 3-D; The Alamo (1960), an epic-length film that Wayne himself directed and in which he starred as Davy Crockett; The Longest Day (1962) and In Harm's Way (1965), two hugely successful World War II epics; and McLintock! (1963), a slapstick western farce.

After a screen career of more than 40 years, Wayne was honoured with an Academy Award for his portrayal of the drunken, cantankerous, but endearing U.S. Marshal Rooster Cogburn in True Grit (1969), a role he reprised opposite Katharine Hepburn in Rooster Cogburn (1975), a partial remake of the Hepburn-Humphrey Bogart classic The African Queen (1951). Wayne's final film, The Shootist (1976), in which he portrays an aging gunfighter who is dying of cancer, was praised by many as his best western since Rio Bravo. This role was a poignant screen farewell for an actor who himself would succumb to cancer three years later.


Wayne endured criticism throughout his career from those who questioned his versatility as an actor. His ability to convey quiet tenderness, however, and his capacity for multilayered portrayals of complex characters, as in Red River and The Searchers, was often overlooked. Wayne himself was also the subject of controversy: his outspoken right-wing politics were admired by conservatives but derided by liberals as being naively jingoistic. Overall, he is considered a towering

cinematic icon and, to many, the greatest Hollywood star of all time.

Wayne was married three times and divorced twice: to Josephine Alicia Saenz, of Spanish American descent, and to Esperanza Baur, and Pilar Pallete, both of Hispanic descent. Overall, he had seven children.

Although he enrolled in a cancer vaccine study in an attempt to ward off the disease, Wayne died of stomach cancer on 11 June 1979, at the UCLA Medical Centre. He was buried in the Pacific View Memorial Park Cemetery in Corona del Mar, Newport Beach. He was posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Wayne was drawn to fraternal organisations throughout his life. Growing up, he was a member of

the Glendale DeMolay chapter and belonged to the Trojan Knights and Sigma Chi fraternities at the University of Southern California. Later in life, he followed in the footsteps of his father and became a Freemason in 1970. He would come to relish the time he spent among his Brothers, remarking that he felt at home in the Lodge as if his fame melted away. John Wayne's Masonic Lodge was Marion McDaniel Lodge No. 56 in Tucson, Arizona. Brother John Wayne was initiated in Marion McDaniel Lodge No. 56 in Tucson, Arizona, on 9 July 1970, passed on 10 July and raised on 11 July – in the space of three days. Soon after earning his degrees, he became a member of the York Rite, joined Al Malaikah Shrine Temple in Los Angeles, as well as 32nd-degree Scottish Rite Freemasonry. 



John Wayne in "The Searchers" 1956.



THOUGHTS FOR THE ENQUIRING FREEMASONS

FREEMASONRY and Bro. Ignaz Unterberger



Italian – Austrian artist Ignaz Unterberger was born in July 1748 in Gaßlöss (now called Cavalese), which is located in the Italian County of Tyrol. Renowned as a fabulous ski resort, the town has been a favourite holiday destination since the 16th century when it was the vacation resort of choice for the bishops and aristocrats of the region. He came from a family of artists for his uncle Franz Sebald Unterberger and his elder brother Christoph Unterberger were both acclaimed artists in their own right. Ignaz Unterberger arrived in Rome in 1769 and was quickly regarded for his ability to capture the Italian style.

He is more widely known in Masonic circles for his painting that is often referred to as "Reception at a Freemason's Lodge in Vienna." The painting depicts a blindfolded candidate during his initiation into an Austrian Masonic Lodge in 1789 and the drawn-back curtains makes the viewer feel they are being allowed a glimpse of something usually hidden from view. The Lodge room, lit by candle light, is ornate in its design with large twin pillars in the east and ornately carved wood panelled walls with alcoves for Minerva and Hermes, wisdom and light.

The Brothers are arrayed along benches about the walls and as we can see from their attire, these are gentlemen of class and status, for Nikolas Esterhazy, Prince of Hungary is the Master of the Lodge and Emanuel Schikaneder, German actor, singer, composer and "one of the most talented theatre men of his era," is seated next to Bro. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The fact the artist Ignaz Unterberger was able to paint such a setting with real known Brothers depicted in the piece would indicate he too was a Freemason. The artist has managed to capture some of the atmosphere of the ceremony with the Brothers holding drawn swords, adding to the intrigue and mystery of the meeting. It has been suggested that this was an initiation ceremony taking place at the Lodge Zur Neugekrönten Hoffnung (Newly Crowned Hope) in Vienna.

It brings us to the question of the accuracy of the artist in what he has depicted. It could be a stylised imagined Lodge room or equally as




Reception at a Freemason's Lodge in Vienna.

much it is not inconceivable that such a Lodge room for the aristocratic Freemasons did indeed exist in Vienna in the 1780s. But, what of the finer details, stylised or just random placements? The reason for the question is that most of the Brothers depicted in the painting have a square about their neck. They all can't be visiting Lodge Masters, especially as Mozart is depicted with a square about his neck and was never the Master of a Lodge. So, if the painting is accurate, why are so many Brothers shown wearing a square suspended from a collarette. Could the square once have indicated that a Brother was a Master Mason? On the other hand, consider this extract from Pritchard's *Masonry Dissected*: -

Q Where stands your Master?

A. In the East.

Q Why so?

A. As the Sun rises in the East and opens the Day, so the Master stands in the East [with his Right Hand upon his Left Breast being a Sign, and the Square about his Neck] to open the Lodge and to set his Men to Work. 



Ignaz Unterberger.

*Founder: VVBro. G. LOVE, Editor
Author: WBro. Brendan Kyne*



THE TRAVELLING MASON

A Visit to Quatuor Coronati Lodge London

By WBro. Brendan Kyne

In May 2024 I was honoured to be asked to present a paper to the Quatuor Coronati Lodge at Great Queens Street, London. Established in 1884, the Quatuor Coronati Lodge was the first ever Masonic Lodge dedicated to the academic study of the history of Freemasonry and in general has maintained that standard so that it is rightly termed the world's premier Masonic research Lodge. The paper that was selected to be presented to the Lodge was William Farquharson Lamonby (1839–1926) - A Portrait of an Unknown Freemason, which will be published in Vol. 137 of AQC.

The name William Lamonby will be familiar to anyone who has ever delved into one of VWBro. Peter Thornton's books on Freemasonry in Victoria. During the 1880s William Lamonby became very influential in Victorian Masonic affairs. Lamonby was born in England in 1839 and became an active Freemason and rose to the rank of a PPSGW – EC. Lamonby arrived in Victoria in early 1882 to take up a position with The Argus newspaper and stayed in Victoria for 10 years and played a large part in the Masonic affairs of the state. During his time in Victoria Lamonby became a member of the Combermere Lodge (E.C.) and was the driving force behind the building of the Ascot Vale Masonic Hall and was the founder and first Master of Gordon Lodge 99 (2112 EC). Upon his return to England RWBro. Lamonby was conferred the rank of Past Deputy Grand Master of the UGLV by Grand Master Sir William Clarke.




Skiddaw Lodge Room 1.

After the presentation in London, Sue and I embarked on a 1500-mile sojourn around the countryside of England and, whilst in the Lake District we stopped at the village of Cockermouth, where in May 1865, Lamonby was initiated at the then recently formed Skiddaw Lodge No. 1002. By chance we were able to get a tour of the Skiddaw Lodge room with WBro. Brian Graham, the current Treasurer of Skiddaw Lodge.

There were two other portraits of Lamonby in the Skiddaw Lodge room however, neither was up to the standard of the Lamonby portrait painted here in Melbourne in 1888 by the artist James Clarke Waite, who was the same artist who painted the portrait of the first Grand Master of UGLV, Sir William John Clarke.

Being able to present the 'A Portrait of an Unknown Freemason' paper in London, to have seen the actual Lamonby portrait for the first time and to visit Lamonby's Skiddaw Lodge building was a fitting end to many hours of research.

Sue and I also took in the sights of London, including the British Museum, John Soan's house, the Inns of Court, St Paul's Cathedral, the Wallace Collection, Sunday morning service at Temple Church and a myriad of castles and manor houses throughout England and Wales. As well as a tour of the fictitious town of "Causton" (Midsummer Murders) with WBro. David Peck, the WM of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, that included a visit to his pre-Norman village church. 



Skiddaw Lodge Building.



Lamonby Portrait.



William Farquharson Lamonby.



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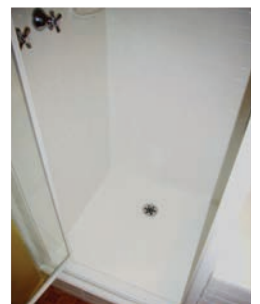
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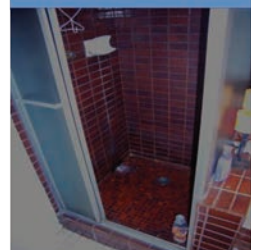
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IN THIS EDITION
The Trowel
Forget-Me-Not



The Trowel

The trowel is a fundamental instrument in the world of Masonry, used to signify and represent unity and brotherly love among its members. It not only has significant meaning within the Masonic context but also has a rich history connected to various traditions and events.

This article will delve into the origins and significance of trowel Masonic symbolism, examining its association with the Masonic family, the connection between trowel and sword, and the Society of the Trowel. By exploring these aspects, one will gain a deeper understanding of the role the trowel plays in Masonry and its enduring influence on the symbolical practices within the Order.

The Trowel as a Symbol of Unity and Brotherly Love

The trowel finds its roots in operative masonry, where it was used by stone masons to spread cement, binding the building's various components into a cohesive unit.

In speculative masonry, the trowel stands for a metaphorical cement – that of affection, kindness, unity, and brotherly love that binds together the Masonic fraternity regardless of geographical boundaries.

The trowel is considered the primary working tool for a Master Mason. The Apprentice Mason focuses on shaping raw materials using a gauge and gavel, while the Fellow Craft Mason employs the level, square, and plumb to position unhewn stones properly.

It is the Master Mason's duty to evaluate and attest the materials' accuracy and dependability, securing them permanently in place with the cement spread by the trowel. The cement signifies the unity and brotherly love experienced within the Masonic family.



The Trowel and Sword: Symbolism of Resistance and Social Duty

In the face of opposition in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, Nehemiah commanded that builders don their armor and wield a sword alongside their trowel. The combination of the trowel and sword symbolized that while unity and brotherly love were crucial, resistance to lawless violence and anti-social forces was also an essential aspect of social duty.

Origins: Nehemiah and Artaxerxes Longimanus

Nehemiah, appointed by Artaxerxes Longimanus as Governor of Judea, was given permission to rebuild Jerusalem's walls.

However, his actions faced resistance from Persian satraps and Samaritans who feared the re-establishment of an independent Kingdom of Judea. Josephus, a Jewish-Roman historian, notes that builders who worked on the walls were required to have their armor and sword beside them.

15th Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite

The trowel and sword symbol, having its origins in the story of Nehemiah, appears in the 15th Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite – the Knight of the East – which pertains to the building of Zerubbabel's Temple.

The degree's old instructions describe that the builders had to wield a sword and a trowel for both labor and defense purposes, ensuring their capability to counter any enemy threats.



Tracing Board of the English Royal Arch

The trowel and sword, albeit depicted without chronological accuracy, are also featured on the Tracing Board of the English Royal Arch. Dr. Oliver interprets this symbolism to mean that in addition to obeying lawful authority, resistance against lawless violence is a vital component of a person's social duty.



George Washinton bearing a trowel.



The Society of the Trowel: A Festive Association in Florence

The Formation of the Society

The Society of the Trowel was established in 1512 in Florence, Italy, drawing together some of the city's most renowned and educated inhabitants. However, this social club was not connected to Freemasonry. Instead, it was a festive association or dinner club for artists living in Florence during the Renaissance.

Originating from a light-hearted incident in which painters and sculptors dining together found a trowel and used it humorously, they decided to form a club to dine together annually. The annual meetings were held in memory of the accidental incident that led to their establishment.

Misinterpretations of Connection to Freemasonry

Despite having no ties to Freemasonry, some writers attributed the Society of the Trowel to be the

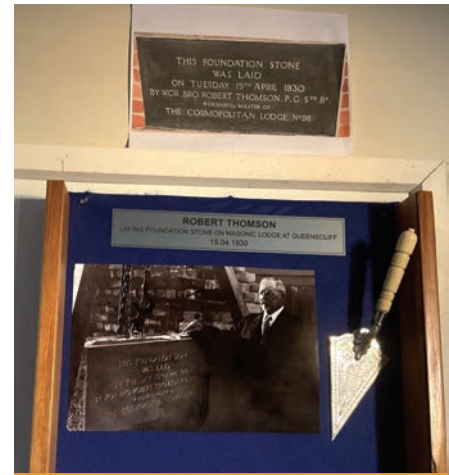
first appearance of Freemasonry in Florence. This misinformation stems from the fact that the Society used various trowel-related symbols, which were not related to Freemasonry symbolism but were only tokens of a festive gathering among artists in the city.

In conclusion, the trowel's Masonic symbolism holds great significance as a representation of unity and brotherly love within the Masonic fraternity.

Its connections to historical events and figures such as Nehemiah, Zerubbabel, and its usage in the context of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite underscore the importance of social duty and resistance to unjust violence.

Additionally, the Society of the Trowel in Renaissance Florence showcases the multifaceted influence of the trowel in history.

By understanding the trowel's Masonic symbolism, one can better appreciate the operative and speculative Masonic practices and appreciate the rich traditions intertwined with this powerful symbol. ✎



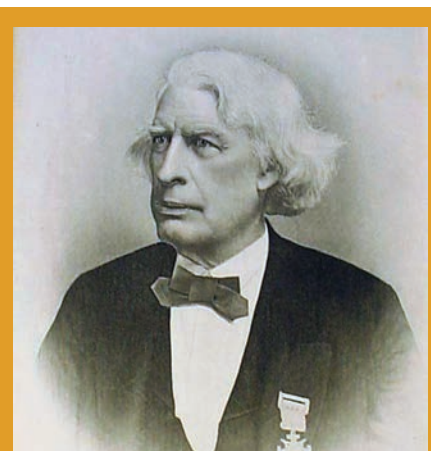
Queenscliff foundation masonic trowel.



Camberwell Temple foundation trowel.



Masonic Tie, 1889.



Article by: Albert G. Mackey

Albert Gallatin Mackey (1807 – 1881) was an American medical doctor and author.

He is best known for his books and articles about Freemasonry, particularly the Masonic Landmarks.

In 1849 he established The Southern and Western Masonic Miscellany, a weekly masonic magazine.

He served as Grand Lecturer and Grand Secretary of The Grand Lodge of South Carolina, as well as Secretary General of the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States.



Forget-Me-Not

The small blue forget-me-not flower was first used by the Grand Lodge Zur Sonne in 1926, as a Masonic emblem at the annual convention in Bremen, Germany.

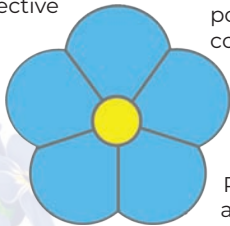
In 1938, a forget-me-not badge, made by the same factory as the Masonic badge, was chosen for the Nazi Party's Winterhilfswerk, the annual charity drive of the National Socialist People's Welfare (the welfare branch of the Nazi party).

This coincidence enabled Freemasons to wear the forget-me-not badge as a secret sign of membership.

After World War II, the forget-me-not flower was used again as a Masonic emblem in 1948 at the first Annual Convention of the United Grand Lodges of Germany in 1948.

The badge is now worn in the coat lapel by Freemasons around the world to remember all who suffered in the name of Freemasonry, especially those during the Nazi era.

Our reverence for the wisdom of the liberal arts and sciences provides us with a unique perspective on the architectural foundations and columns of the built world, as well as a healthy respect for mathematical numbers and letters.



In addition, we see, as others do not, the internal beauty of the natural world, from the grandeur of the sun, stars, and moon, to the sacred and solemn symbolism of the most modest acacia plant.

To be a Mason is to be in possession of a special gift, to always be in search of meaning, present or hidden, in the world around us.

The "forget-me-not" is the informal name of the Myosotis flower, generally known for being small, with 5 blue or purple petals.

Historically, it holds a place in the poetry of Wadsworth and Thoreau, medieval German legends, Christian hagiography, and English political history.

For Freemasons, the forget-me-not is a symbol that reminds us of resilience and resistance, and of love for the Fraternity and its principles, even under distress and persecution.

From its inception in 1933, Nazi Germany placed a strong emphasis on propaganda and achieving a positive public perception of its ideological goals.

This included legal, political, and civic restrictions against opponents of the regime, and those who were victims of its rigid racial and social ideology.

Along with Jews, homosexuals, those living with physical and mental handicaps, Catholics, and Jehovah's Witnesses – Freemasons were targeted for criminal prosecution and exclusion from society.

This was achieved in a number of ways. The Enabling Act of 1933 allowed for a governmental decree the following year that officially dissolved all Masonic Lodges within the Third Reich, confiscated their property, and formally barred those associated with Freemasonry from membership in the Nazi Party.

In 1934-5, the Ministry of Defense ruled that soldiers, officers, and civilian personnel could not be members of Masonic organizations, and Hitler declared a victory over "international Jewry" in which he linked antisemitism to conspiracy theories about Freemasonry.

Freemasons were considered political prisoners within the German concentration camp system, and thus forced to wear the inverted red triangle badge.

The head of the SD, the intelligence branch of the SS, Reinhard Heydrich, labeled Masons as "most implacable enemies of the German race."

He later demanded that Germany "root out from every German the indirect influence of the Jewish spirit" — "a Jewish, liberal, and Masonic infectious residue that remains in the unconscious of many, above all in the academic and intellectual world."

The SS featured two separate offices dedicated to pursuing Masonic properties and Freemasons, a process that would continue into the war and into countries under direct or indirect German control.

Vichy France declared Freemasons 'enemies of the state' and in Fascist Italy, Mussolini spoke out against Jewish-Bolshevik-Masonic conspiracies.

Anti-Freemasonry took many forms under the Nazis, both individual and collective, and in official and informal capacities.

The most popular charges were conspiratorial and antisemitic. That is, Freemasonry was linked to a variety of Nazi enemies – Communism, the international press, and Jews.



This was done in Party newspapers and literature, in political speeches, and through indoctrination events such as museum exhibitions.

For example, mock lodge displays were set up featuring skeletons in Masonic regalia alongside Jewish symbols or imposing the square and compass over or alongside a six-pointed Star of David.

Portraits of prominent Freemasons were displayed alongside a Torah scroll, and posters featuring the site of European radical political revolutions featured a Masonic apron.

Free association between and among Masons under Nazi control was dangerous.


There were Brothers, however, who were determined not to give up their identity as Freemasons, even under these most difficult of circumstances.

For example, at the concentration and later prison camp at Esterwegen, Belgian political prisoners formed the Loge Liberté chérie (Beloved Liberty Lodge) and conducted meetings and ritual in secret from 1943-1944.

In 1926, the Grand Lodge of Germany held its annual meeting in Bremen in northern Germany.

It adopted a blue forget-me-not badge as its emblem, which was produced by a local factory.

By coincidence, the same facility was called upon to produce a blue forget-me-not lapel pin in 1938 by the National Socialist People's Welfare Organization, to commemorate its Winterhilfswerk, or winter charitable contribution drive.

The pin was a gift to donors. Thus, the blue forget-me-not, ostensibly a symbol of Nazi social policy, became a symbol of Freemasonry – a clandestine badge of membership. 

Article by WBro. Alex Lehning of Washington Lodge No. 3 in Williston, Vermont.

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