



Freemasons  
Victoria

SUMMER 2024

THE VICTORIAN

# FREEMASON



## Unique Fraternal Aprons

Highlighting a unique collection of aprons, drawn from Masonic collections across Victoria to showcase the rich symbolism of Freemasonry.

## The Grand Master's Message

MWBro. Anthony Bucca's message from the December Quarterly Communication.

## King Solomon's Temple

From this edition of The Square, the story behind the construction and eventual destruction of King Solomon's Temple

# *Grand* INSTALLATION

21-23 March 2025



*Welcome to  
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as Grand Master of the  
United Grand Lodge of Victoria

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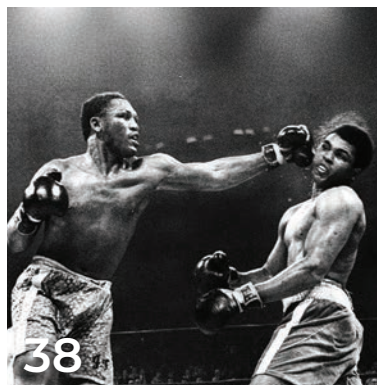
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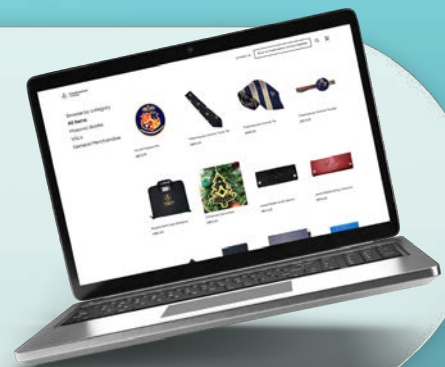
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1 AUGUST - 31 OCTOBER 2024

# NEW MEMBERS

# WELCOME

Ritchie Abolins	Lodge Devotion	723	Daniel Lewis	Bendigo City Lodge	714
Nasser Babae	The Diamond Valley Lodge	252	Jayson Lim	Lodge Killara	259
Joey Bacalla	The Sunshine Wisdom Lodge	226	Norman Lopez	The Derrimut Daylight Lodge	905
Kirby Baybay	Lodge Killara	259	Tan Luong	The Derrimut Daylight Lodge	905
William Bennett	Lodge Liberation	674	Robert Madgwick	Sandringham District Lodge	220
Quintann Beswick	Guiding Star Lodge	922	Shannon McLure	Carisbrook Lodge	405
Aziz Bozkurt	North Melbourne Lodge	41	Keith McNamara	All Nations Lodge	28
Roni Bulut	The Lodge of Evolution	931	Miracle Mihreteab Haile	Gardenvale Mobility Lodge	243
Jerome Cantutay	Union Lodge of North Gippsland	62	Jurgen Molina	Lord Carrington Lodge	111
Robert Cilia	Lord Northcote Lodge	191	Diego Monteiro da Silva	Phillip Island Lodge	512
Chester Cruz	Lodge Killara	259	Harold Moreno Orozco	The Lodge of Evolution	931
Claro De Leon	Kyabram Lodge	225	Omid Movafagh	Robbie Burns Phoenix Lodge	88
Romeo Dionisio	Kyabram Lodge	225	Clément Narozny	Rosebank Lodge	348
Precious Ebere	Djerriwarrh Lodge	891	Richard Panitan	Campaspe Valley Lodge	937
Paolo Escudero	Altona Lodge	572	Alex Polachek	Seymour Lodge	87
Jones Faygan	Lodge Killara	259	Darcy Porcaro	Sandringham District Lodge	220
Michael Frost	Mount Franklin-St. George Lodge	12	Mathew Quinn	Mildura Lodge	170
Nuno Goncalves	Williamstown Lodge	16	Steven Reynolds	United Schools' Lodge	941
Kunal Harnal	Lodge Liberation	674	Ioannis Sabo-Strigas	Beechworth Lodge of St. John	14
Reuben Hasandedic	Yarra Glen Lodge	762	Alexander Susic	United Schools' Lodge	941
Daniel Haslam	Footscray St. John's Lodge	71	Pierre Testart	Sandringham District Lodge	220
Mehdi Heidari	Lodge of Australia Felix	1	Christopher Trood	Kensington-Glenroy Lodge	77
Pedro Hercz Merlo	Campaspe Valley Lodge	937	Tomas Tucker	Williamstown Lodge	16
Hashem Jamal	Weston Street United Lodge	94	Ikram Umit	Lord Northcote Lodge	191
John Kamer	The King David Lodge	460	Geoffery Ward	Creswick Havilah Lodge	26
Kieran Kearns	Berwick Balcara Lodge	359	Russell West	Gippsland Lodge	51
Noah Kerin	Lara Lodge	834	Andrew White	Prince of Wales Lodge	40
			Dominic Wilkinson	The Lodge of Evolution	931

## Message from the Editor

That's a wrap for the 2024 editions of The Victorian Freemason!

Together, we've celebrated the essence of what it means to be a Victorian Freemason, reaching our 135th anniversary, highlighting our traditions, philanthropy, and global connections in our magazine.

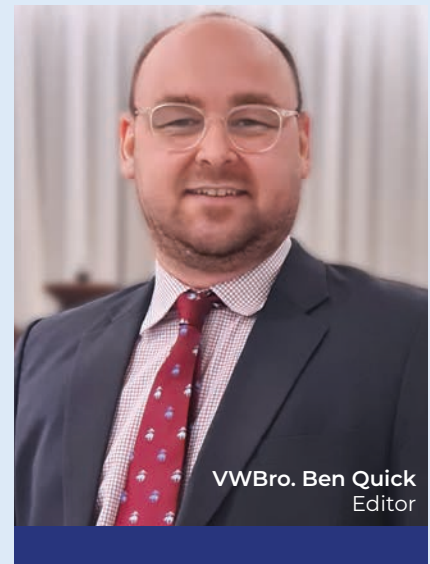
A standout feature this year was our Masonic Convention, bringing Brethren together from across our state to share knowledge, strengthen connections, and meet some amazing Masonic speakers. Our Convention keeps getting better and better; a big congratulations to the Convention Committee who once again put on a great show.

Philanthropy shone brightly this year, thanks to the incredible work of the Freemasons Foundation and the Lodges partnering with them. Together, we've made a meaningful impact in our communities, including the highly successful 'Sleep at the 'G', which raised an astounding \$109,267 for those experiencing homelessness. These initiatives remind us of the power of combined efforts in making a real difference.

This year also marked the 175th anniversary of the Geelong Lodge of Unity and Prudence No. 5; we showcased the wonderful celebration of this milestone. There were also countless Installations, Consecrations and special Lodge events that we have been proud to highlight.

We also celebrated the achievements of Freemasonry in Beyond the Craft, expanding the stories and education of Mark and Chapter. The Victorian Lodge of Research No. 218 continued its exceptional work, deepening our understanding of Masonic education through 'Thoughts for the Enquiring Freemason' along with RWBro. Kent Henderson's book, '300 Famous Freemasons', which gave us a fascinating glimpse into the lives of Masons who have shaped history. Finally, finishing each edition with articles from 'The Square' offered valuable insight into the Craft and provided members with a further advancement in Masonic knowledge.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to The Victorian Freemason this year—your stories, ideas, and support are what bring this publication to life.



VVBro. Ben Quick  
Editor

As we look ahead to 2025, we're excited to keep sharing the incredible stories, achievements, and contributions of Freemasons across Victoria.

Wherever you are reading this in the world, Merry Christmas, happy holidays, and keep enjoying your Freemasonry.



# Unique Fraternal Aprons



For the Summer 2024 edition of The Victorian Freemason, we're excited to highlight a unique collection of aprons. These aprons, drawn from Masonic collections across Victoria, showcase the rich symbolism of Freemasonry, its higher orders and degrees, as well as the fascinating world of friendly societies often mistaken for Freemasonry.

If you own an apron that you'd like to donate to Freemasons Victoria for preservation, we'd love to hear from you. Please reach out to Sam Fabry via [samantha.fabry@freemasonsvic.net.au](mailto:samantha.fabry@freemasonsvic.net.au)

◀ A cream silk apron from the 1830s. There is a black plate print in the centre, which depicts a Masonic temple and biblical figures. In the centre of the front flap is another plate print of a six-pointed star and a central "G". Graphic pencil marks border the apron. The apron is lined with natural-coloured cotton and is hand stitched roughly with cotton thread. Stamped "W. Moffitt Sculpt"

The white colour of the Masonic apron symbolises purity and innocence. It signifies a Freemason's pure intentions and the commitment to leading a life of virtue and integrity.

▶ A Masonic apron from the 1790s made of silk and vellum; hand painted with Masonic emblems. Featuring the pillars, archway and chequered pavement along with the sun, moon and all seeing-eye.

The grey/green border is sewn in a frame around the apron. There is a semi-circular flap across the top of the apron.



◀ A silk apron with hand-painted images in gold, green, red and black from the 1790s. The central image contains two columns supporting two trumpeting angels and an arch. Along the sides are Masonic symbols. The black silk upper flap is painted with the sun and moon either side of a square and compasses. The outside of the main body is bordered in blue silk. There are two cream-coloured ties attached to either side of the flap. The lining of apron appears to be linen.

On main body (painted): "We Have Found It." Central: "NOSTER DEUS ST SPES." Below: "HOLY BIBLE/CHAP. XX"





▲  
A rectangular cotton apron from the 1790s, complete with an upper flap of blue silk delicately embroidered with red and white Masonic symbols.



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## Get to Know Dr. Sam Fabry

### What is your role at Freemasons Victoria?

In July 2024, I was employed by Freemasons Victoria to undertake the role of Collections & Archives Manager. In this role, I am responsible for working with the Grand Lodge Library, archives and object collections. I am also responsible for developing the new Grand Lodge Library in collaboration with key stakeholders including the Grand Secretary, Deputy Grand Master, Senior staff, Property Manager and various consultants and contractors. In addition to this, I support and assist where possible Lodges with the conservation and protection of their cultural heritage, where possible.

### What projects are you currently working on?

I am currently reviewing the FMV library, archives, and object collections, which are stored at various locations. In these locations, I am working on creating storage areas to hold these collections as well as future collections that may be donated to the Grand Lodge Library. I am also working on the design of the new Grand Lodge Library along with an area for the conservation and storage of significant items of Masonic cultural heritage.

I am very interested in making

contact with Masonic Lodges in Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo, and Sale. In the past, libraries were held in these locations, which allowed many Masons within these regions to research Masonic history and heritage. In the future, I would like to investigate these regions to see if there was interest to reestablish spaces where Freemasons, researchers and the general public could acquire or investigate specific information. These sites could be used as a "Regional Research Hub". This will result in various regions becoming custodians of their own history and heritage.

One area that has been examined to become a RRH is the Ballarat Masonic Centre. Designed with a library and archives centre, it has recently had shelving installed to maintain the various Lodge books. It will allow for an increase of Lodge books to be also brought into the Centre for safety and care. A number of Lodge books within "The Roger Porteous Library and Robert Bell Archives Centre", date from the Eureka Stockade period. A number of the members recorded in these books were directly involved in the uprising and establishment of Ballarat. As a result, this material is both nationally and internationally significant and therefore has the potential to be used for higher research, genealogical studies, and



Dr. Sam Fabry.

international collaborative projects.

### How can members contact you and what can you help with?

Members who are interested in making contact with me can directly send me an email via samantha.fabry@freemasonsvic.net.au

Members who are interested in knowing more information on how to store or preserve their Lodge material can make contact with me. I will do my best to give assistance or direct them to someone who can support them if it is a conservation issue.

Unfortunately, at this current time, I am unable to assist with any research within the Grand Lodge Library archive until the library, archives and object collections have been once again brought together. Any old membership enquiries will have to wait until the Grand Lodge Library has been completed.







# RIDE for Melbourne Legacy

By Bro. Jonathan Mackay.



Bro. Jonathan Mackay.



Under the scorching Australian sun, my impromptu adventure began with a simple click on a Facebook ad. Little did I know that this spur-of-the-moment decision would lead me on a soul-testing journey through the rugged Outback, all in the name of charity.

Fuelled by a desire to challenge myself, I decided to bring others along with me on this epic ride by raising funds for Melbourne Legacy. I find that setting challenges serves as my personal form of accountability, ensuring I push myself beyond my limits. And let me tell you, there were countless moments along the way where I was tempted to throw in the towel.

As I scanned the weather forecast for the week ahead, I couldn't help but feel a sense of trepidation. With temperatures fluctuating between 15 and a sweltering 40 degrees, accompanied by relentless 20-30km NNW winds, it seemed Mother Nature was determined to test my resolve. Yet, undeterred, I embarked on this arduous journey.

The first day, a mere 46km stretch, may have seemed manageable on paper. However, the reality proved to be vastly different. Navigating roads that resembled more of an off-road 4WD track, I found myself physically drained after a gruelling 2.5 hours of cycling.

Day two loomed ahead, presenting the ultimate challenge. Setting out at the crack of dawn, we ventured 50km north on the unforgiving Stuart Highway before veering east onto rough terrain. The following 100km consisted of treacherous, undulating

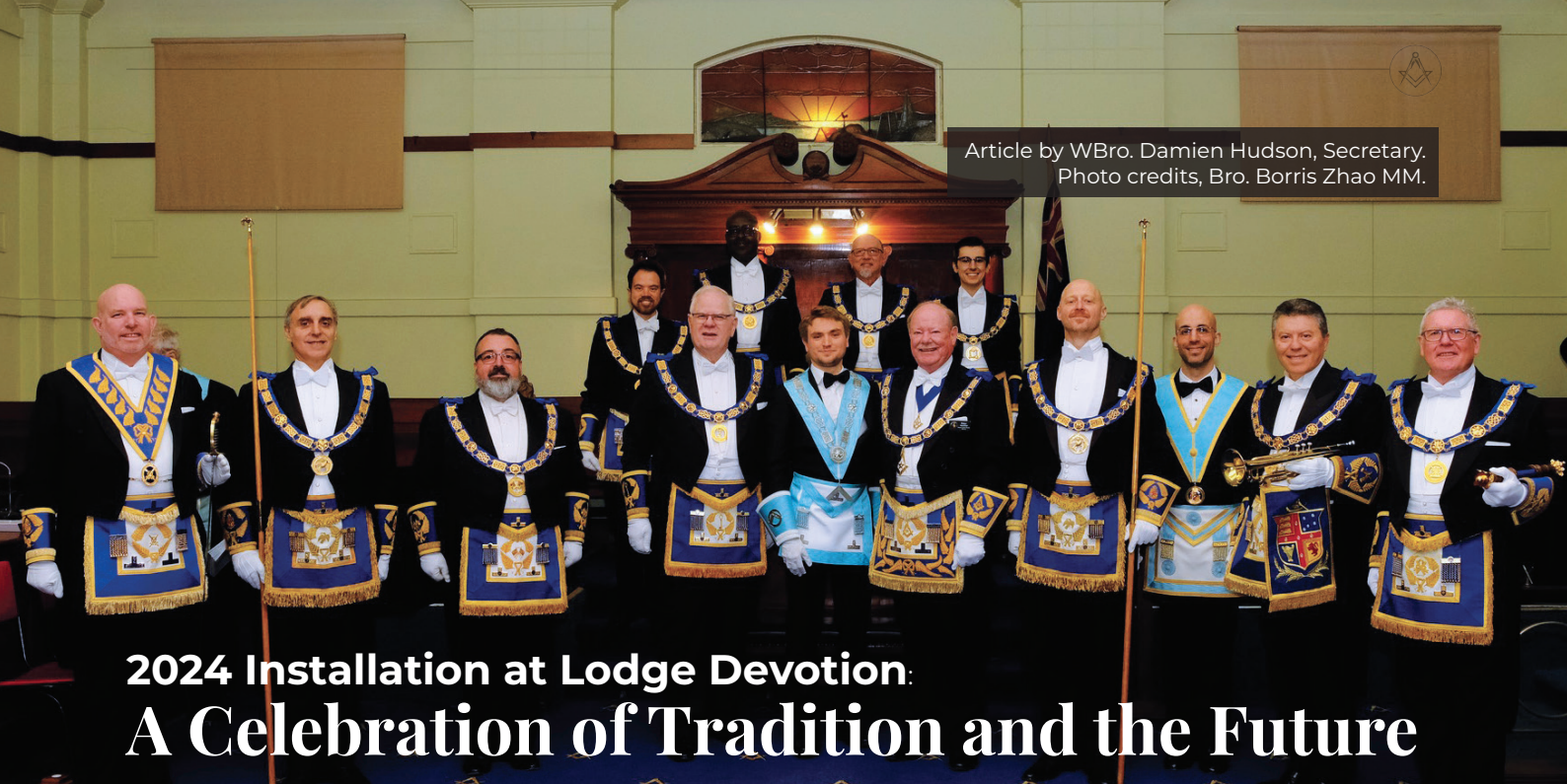
hills marred by vicious corrugations that tested every fibre of my being. Despite the hardships, I persevered and reached Hale River Homestead by late afternoon, embracing the solace of rest and camp.

With the scorching heat bearing down on us, the final two days demanded an early start. The road conditions showed no mercy, with the unforgiving corrugations only worsening as the journey progressed. My body, running on fumes, struggled to keep pace, rendering me unable to replenish my energy reserves with food.

My memory of those final days is hazy, consumed by an unrelenting focus on reaching the finish line. There were moments of doubt, emotional outbursts, and tears shed in exhaustion. Yet, as I pedalled into the bustling beer garden of the Alice Springs brewery, greeted by a chorus of cheers and applause, a wave of elation washed over me.

Dismounting my bike, I made my way to the bar, hands trembling with fatigue, and ordered a well-deserved Bundy and Coke to replenish my depleted energy levels. The final tally of \$5,500 exceeded my wildest expectations, underscoring the incredible generosity of those who supported me on my journey.

In the aftermath of this gruelling endeavour, as I reflect on the trials endured and the triumphs celebrated, I am left with a profound sense of accomplishment. This ride, with all its physical and mental challenges, stands as a testament to the power of determination, resilience, and unwavering support. 🏆



## 2024 Installation at Lodge Devotion: A Celebration of Tradition and the Future

Lodge Devotion No. 723 was honoured to warmly welcome our Grand Master Elect, RWBro. Peter Henshall DGM and a team of friendly and capable Grand Lodge officers for our Installation. The whole day highlighted our deep respect for Masonic traditions and time-honoured principles that bind our community. We should aim to be a community cornerstone, offering a place where tradition and progress coexist harmoniously and in synergy.

The Installation of Worshipful Master Dr Casey Furlong celebrated the past, present and future of our Masonic community. The festive evening was marked by smiles, happiness, tradition, and the warm fellowship that Lodge Devotion is known for. Special efforts on presentation, food, lighting, and music were small touches that created a party atmosphere for the event.

WBro. Casey, along with his Wardens, Bro. Robert Jamison and Bro. Carl Cukurs, exemplify the Lodge's focus on developing capable leaders and successfully passing the baton of Freemasonry from generation to generation. The entire progressive team comprise Master Masons who are learning to carry Lodge Devotion forward. All Lodges need to commit to carrying forward our traditions by engaging the next generation, their partners and families. The dedication and development of members is essential to ensuring the Lodge's continued growth and stability, reminding all who attended of the importance of nurturing leaders committed to carrying the Lodge's legacy forward. That said, we have come a long way in two decades, where visiting Freemasons predicted Devotion's imminent death due to low numbers where those visitors were required to open the Lodge.

Today, we have about 40 members, with 21 of them being of 30 to 49 years of age. Devotion stayed positive, inclusive, and focused on recruitment and retention. Retention, and not just the Initiation, of new members is ultimately critical to a Lodge's future.

The evening drew an enthusiastic crowd, including partners, family members, and guests who represent the future of our Lodge and comprise "the Devotion Family". Their presence underscored the inclusive spirit that Lodge Devotion values, welcoming all who wish to share in our ideals.

Held in the historic and cherished Collingwood Masonic Centre, the hall has been preserved only through the dedication of past and present generations of Freemasons, families and friends. Completed in 1928, the Hall's historic architecture and rich heritage provided a fitting venue for the day and remains a vital asset to the broader community, available for events serving a wider community beyond Freemasonry. This reflects our commitment to community engagement and preservation of our Masonic legacy. This event underscored the hall's importance not only as a meeting place but as a living symbol of our shared traditions.

The evening provided an inspiring glimpse into the importance of guiding the next generation of Masonic leaders and reaffirmed Devotion's commitment to both heritage and growth, ensuring that our Lodge and its historic hall will continue to serve as a place for fellowship and leadership development for generations to come. Congratulations to all who made the day such a success, member and visitor alike. 



Laying of the Foundation Stone at 141 Gipps St, Abbotsford. 27 October 1928.





# 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Fireman's Night



On 24 May 2024, the 70th Anniversary of the Fireman's Night was celebrated at the Southeastern Masonic Centre in Keysborough, hosted by the Mordialloc Lodge of Charity No. 258, which has organised the event for the past 14 years. After a two-year break due to COVID-19, the event returned with a memorable evening enjoyed by both Freemasons and non-members alike.

The guest speaker, David Mann of 3AW, delivered an entertaining address, sharing stories of his encounters with notable figures such as Sammy Davis Jr. and Queen Elizabeth II. RWBro. Col Langley provided a historical overview of the event, tracing its roots back to June 1952, when the first Fireman's Night was held by the Carrum Lodge at the Mordialloc Masonic Centre, with 82 firemen in attendance. The concept was the brainchild of WBro. Harold Barnes.

In the 1960s and 70s, the event grew significantly, with over 300 attendees, including firemen who travelled from across the state, including places like Mildura, Nhill, Mount Beauty and Omeo. A highlight of the night was the raffle, where prizes varied from potatoes from Ballarat to oranges from Mildura, with one long-standing favorite being a set of steak knives donated by the late WBro. Jack MacDonald.

The evening was made even more festive with decorations, including cards displaying the names of fire brigades that had attended over the years, and arm badges from fire brigades worldwide. A Fire Bell, donated by Bro. C.A. Daw, Chief Officer of the Country Fire Authority, was used by the Director of Ceremonies.

The attendance of the Most Worshipful Grand Master or his representative was always a special moment, with one Grand Master remarking that Fireman's Night was a valuable tradition for Freemasonry.

After over 30 years of hosting, RWBro. Langley announced that this 70th Anniversary would be his final year overseeing the event, expressing his joy in seeing Brethren travel from all over Victoria to be part of this cherished tradition. ✧



Paid CFA firefighters work alongside volunteers at 34 integrated stations. (AAP: Joe Castro)



Guest speaker, David Mann of 3AW.



In over 1,200 communities across Victoria, CFA Brigade volunteers are proudly making a difference.



VWBro. Geoff Paton

# Grand Chaplain REVS THINGS UP

By RWBro. Ash Long



VWBro. Geoff Paton GChap, one of Freemasons Victoria's two Grand Chaplains, is expected to act reverently in his Masonic duties. But only a few know of his history of revving things up on the racetrack with several of the fastest street cars in the country.

As the owner of the Super Plus 'speed shop' in Dandenong, Bro. Geoff wanted a car to promote the high performance image of his business, so he built a 454 Chevy 'King Rat' Torana, hooked up to a Turbo 400 trans and nine-inch Ford rear-end.

The LX hatch, red in colour of course (red cars go much faster), was capable of 137 miles per hour at the end of the quarter mile after accelerating from a standing start; over a longer distance it would have a much higher top speed (280+km/h), which he described as "dial your own horsepower" and "if in doubt, bore it out".

Geoff told Street Machine magazine back in 1985, almost 40 years ago, that he started his love affair with power after buying a 350-powered A9X that got down the track in 12.78 seconds at more than 116mph on street tyres.

Next came a 400 Chevy-powered EH that went 11.8 on slicks. "The possibilities with a big-block are just about endless as far as power output is concerned," Geoff said.

The big-block 'King Rat' used a combination of super and Avgas, and the introduction of nitrous oxide to the mix shaved eight-tenths of a second off the times.

Geoff said that the addition of the 'laughing gas' at the flick of a switch bumped up performance from 10.7 @ 128mph to 9.94 @ 137mph.

The 'King Rat' was quite suitable for street motoring, with standard Torana springs and shocks, with the vehicle having been originally purchased for \$2,000. The interior was basically stock, except with the addition of a full circuit-racing type roll cage.

Geoff's push for power was not confined to the bitumen. He described building an engine for a boat: "My engine builder was on holidays at the time and we had to get the engine out to the boat builder. It is a 7.4 litre Chevrolet Big Block engine and the boat ended up being a rocket ship."

In a more recent Street Machine feature (2022), Geoff Paton was described as "Aussie street machining royalty in the mid-to-late 1980s".

The feature recalled a wheelstanding Cortina belonging to Geoff that held the Australian record of 9.52 seconds for the quarter-mile, set at Calder Park.

In 1989, Geoff won the inaugural Australian Street Machine Drag Racing Championships in a black big-block HJ sedan.

Asked to reflect on his motor sport days, Geoff said: "To be honest at first I wasn't keen on racing, but it was great marketing for the business. Don't get me wrong, I loved cars - which is one of the reasons I bought Super Plus in 1979 - but I never thought about going racing," Geoff told Street Machine.

"Everybody who worked for me was building and racing cars. Most of my customers were racers, and seeing as my partner Hans Van Dyk and I sponsored racers Andrew and Wayne Rowe, I thought I'd have a go as a bit of fun.



"I bought a brand-new Torana hatchback. Back then you could buy a complete car with full interior but no running gear from the Holden Dealer, it was sitting on a pallet and you fitted it out yourself.

"With a small-block Chev, TH400 and 10-bolt, it ran 12.78, which gave me a bit of a taste for racing."

Geoff explains that he studied Mechanical Engineering at Monash University where he met his future wife, Ursula, who was studying science. Following that, he worked at the Research and Development Division of Mercedes Benz in Stuttgart, Germany."

These days, whilst still keeping a passing interest in motor sport, Geoff and Ursula are active in Freemasonry through Lodges Gardenvale Mobility, Amicus, Seymour and Rutherglen. They have three children, four grandchildren and live between Melbourne and a rural property at Nagambie.



# Gisborne Lodge: A Social Country/City Lodge

Gisborne Lodge has had an eventful few years, marked by several milestones, including the centenary celebrations and reconsecration in 2022, the introduction of a Friday Masonic fireside chat, a renewed visiting schedule, and the redecoration of the South. Most notably, in 2024, the Lodge was honoured with the Lodge of the Year award. Situated at the northern edge of the Northern District, Gisborne Lodge is a friendly country Lodge with a touch of city flair.

## A Proud History

Gisborne Lodge No. 298 was established following a meeting of Masonic members at Mr. Whipp's residence on 22 June 1920. The purpose was to discuss the formation of a Lodge in Gisborne to serve the convenience of gentlemen from the Macedon, Riddell, Sunbury, and Gisborne districts. Fifteen members of Zetland Lodge attended, with each generously donating £5 to support the foundation. A special meeting of Zetland Lodge was held in Gisborne on 13 May 1922, for the purpose of opening and consecrating the new Lodge, now known as Gisborne Lodge No. 298, on the land purchased at 60 Aitken Street. The ceremony drew over 200 Brethren, including members from surrounding Lodges and representatives of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria.

For over 102 years, the Lodge has been carefully maintained by its members and Worshipful Masters. Today, Gisborne Lodge plays an active role in the resurgence of visitors, attendance, and new members across Victoria. The Brethren take pride in their high standard of ritual work, strong sense of brotherly love, and the warm welcome extended in the South.

## A Social Meeting Place

In the winter months, the Lodge's open fire creates a special atmosphere, especially during the regular Friday Masonic fireside chats. These relaxed gatherings offer Brethren from surrounding Lodges, along with friends and family, the chance to bond over a glass of wine or a game of pool.



## Recent Highlights

In March 2024, Gisborne Lodge had the honour of welcoming the Grand Master, MWBro. Anthony Bucca, who attended a 3rd degree ceremony and presented a 65-Year Jewel to WBro. Jack Harris OAM, PGStdB. Last month, with the participation of nine visiting Worshipful Masters, we raised Bro. Vikrant, adding a celebration of Brotherhood to the ceremony.

The Lodge building has undergone several upgrades, including night-time illumination of the Lodge and the square and compasses, the installation of a Masonic wall clock, and portraits of the Deputy, current, and past Grand Masters adorning the walls. A pool table adds to the Friday night entertainment. The Lodge room has also been refreshed with a new coat of paint and carpet, courtesy of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria.

The Brethren of Gisborne Lodge extend their heartfelt thanks to all who have supported the Lodge over the years. We look forward to continuing our visits to other Lodges and warmly welcome all Brethren who can make their way to Gisborne to share brotherly love, relief, and truth.

Gisborne Lodge No. 298 meets on the second Thursday of every month (except January) at 7:00pm. ⚔





## 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: [marketing@freemasonsvic.net.au](mailto:marketing@freemasonsvic.net.au)

**We look forward to hearing from you!**



## Hosting Brotherhood and Fellowship

The Worshipful Master of Southern Cross Lodge No. 24, WBro. Dusty Miller (centre left) and the Worshipful Master of Ivanhoe Lodge No. 584, WBro. Travers Gascoigne GSwdB (centre right), with members of Southern Cross Lodge alongside members of Ivanhoe Lodge at a recent afternoon of Brotherhood and fellowship.

A delightful gathering of Brethren who have enjoyed the Lodge work

conducted by Ivanhoe Lodge. They mingled and enjoyed each other's company. Many of the Brethren were meeting for the first time.

In the South, children played games in the corner, their giggles echoing through the room, while the Brethren and their wives engaged in spirited discussions, sharing stories on various topics and their shared interests. ⚔



## Entered Apprentices

An impressive array of Entered Apprentice Freemasons were present at the Mitchell Lodge No. 929 meeting held on 26 June 2024 at the Broadford Masonic Centre.

From left to right are RWBro. John Glover, Bro. Zachary Foster (Seymour Lodge No. 87), Bro. Orry Wiggett (Seymour Lodge No. 87), Bro. Bradley Lobb (Euroa Vega Lodge No. 185), Bro. John Davison (Mitchell Lodge No. 929), Bro. Andrew Snelling (Marangan Lodge No. 64).

Congratulations Brethren and good luck on your Masonic Journey. ⚔



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## Who We Are

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# Your Foundation is Here to Support the Causes You Care About



## GRANTS AVAILABLE

FFV is now inviting applications for FFV Masonic Grants, which support Lodges in their philanthropic activities.

The program offers grants for initiatives in education, health/medical research, community development, youth development and Indigenous programs.

Applying for a FFV Masonic Grant is easier than you think and a successful outcome means additional support for the local charity and the community it supports.

Applications are open until **31 May 2025**, but the sooner you apply, the sooner the funds can be making an impact.



Scan me to find out more about Masonic Grants or make an application.



FFV's work is fuelled by the generosity of Freemasons and supporters past and present, who share our vision for a stronger, more compassionate Victoria. Together, we continue to strengthen the fabric of our communities, ensuring every dollar invested brings hope, opportunity and tangible benefits to those we serve.

In the financial year 2023-24, **FFV contributed \$2,509,876 towards impactful community projects**, including substantial support to education and local initiatives. A key highlight was the distribution of **102 Masonic Grants**, totalling \$564,317, to support Lodges' local charitable endeavours. In the report, you can read about such initiatives from Spring Vale Lodge, Monash Lodge, Lodge Belvoir, Portland Lodge, and Ballarat Freemasons. These grants enable local Freemasons to directly

invest in projects that make a real difference in their communities, like the Royal South Street Society Ballarat Eisteddfod, The Albury Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre, Melbourne's Mobile Stroke Unit and the Portland College Re-engagement Program.

FFV's commitment to education also made a significant impact, with \$499,526 allocated through our Education programs, helping **482 Victorian students** on their learning journeys, through our scholarships programs and those of Masonic Lodges. Additionally, we supported **29 Community Grants**, amounting to \$803,604, which enabled not-for-profits and charitable organisations across the state to carry out vital projects in our focus areas. Our Report features the work of Standing Tall, an impactful student mentoring program in Hamilton; RizeUp – an organisation that supports families and children

affected by family and domestic violence through providing safe and comforting home environments; and the COMFIRM Trial – a clinical trial of a new way to better manage low-grade prostate cancer, among others.

I invite you to read our annual report online or contact the office for a copy to be sent to you.

Garry James, FFV Chairman.



Scan me to download the FFV 2023 - 2024 Annual Report.



# 2025 FFV Scholarships

Applications for FFV's annual Scholarships program for 2025 open on 1 December 2024 and close in February 2025.

The program provides vital financial assistance to students, helping to ease the burden of educational costs for both secondary and first-year tertiary students.

The eligibility criteria goes beyond academic excellence, with consideration also given to financial need and community involvement. It's an invaluable opportunity for students who need a helping hand in their educational journey.

We encourage you to share this information with secondary and tertiary students. Whether it's a family member, neighbour or community connection, spreading the word about these scholarships can help young people access crucial financial support and pursue their educational aspirations.

To apply or for further information visit our website [www.freemasonsfoundation.org](http://www.freemasonsfoundation.org)



Scan me to find out more about FFV Scholarships or make an application.

## Scholarship spotlight: McKeely Hol – on the path to Law

McKeely Hol grew up in the close-knit town of Portland, Victoria, where she honed her passion for leadership and community involvement. A former school captain at Monivae College, McKeely is now a driven Bachelor of Laws student at Deakin University in Melbourne. Her journey has been profoundly shaped by her experiences and her commitment to helping others navigate challenging situations.

Moving five hours from home was a leap for McKeely, and the support from FFV made all the difference. "The scholarship relieved me of the financial pressure of moving away and enabled me to focus on my studies, wellbeing and forming new connections," she says.


At the 2024 Scholarship Presentations, McKeely addressed this year's scholarship recipients and their loved ones, as well as representatives from FFV and Freemasons Victoria.

Reflecting on her path to law, McKeely recalled her early encounters with the legal system through VCE studies and a career quiz in Year 10. The quiz suggested a career as a barrister – a recommendation she took to heart after discovering her passion for justice and advocacy. She later joined Deakin's Accelerate program, completing the first two units of her degree, while finishing Year 12. "It was a challenge managing university, VCE and being school captain, but it was all worth it. I had found my passion," she said.

McKeely's drive also stems from a personal journey through hardship. At age 14, she began experiencing unexplained seizures, a condition

that disrupted her life and forced her to adapt. "It became my norm," she shared the speech, "but I told myself, I'm going through this hard time, so someone else doesn't have to." This perspective inspired her commitment to community service, from volunteering with the Portland Blue Light Disco to fostering kittens with the RSPCA.

The FFV scholarship has opened doors, allowing McKeely to focus on excelling in her studies and immersing herself in university life. As Sponsorship Officer for the Deakin Law Students' Society, she is connecting with legal professionals and building a foundation for her future legal career, where she hopes to advocate for justice and give back to the community.

For McKeely, the scholarship has been more than financial aid – it has been a stepping stone to achieving her dreams. Her final message to the 2024 cohort of scholarship recipients? "Don't let your past stop you from fulfilling your future potential. Challenges will come, but they are just part of your story – they do not define you." 





**Freemasons**  
Foundation Victoria



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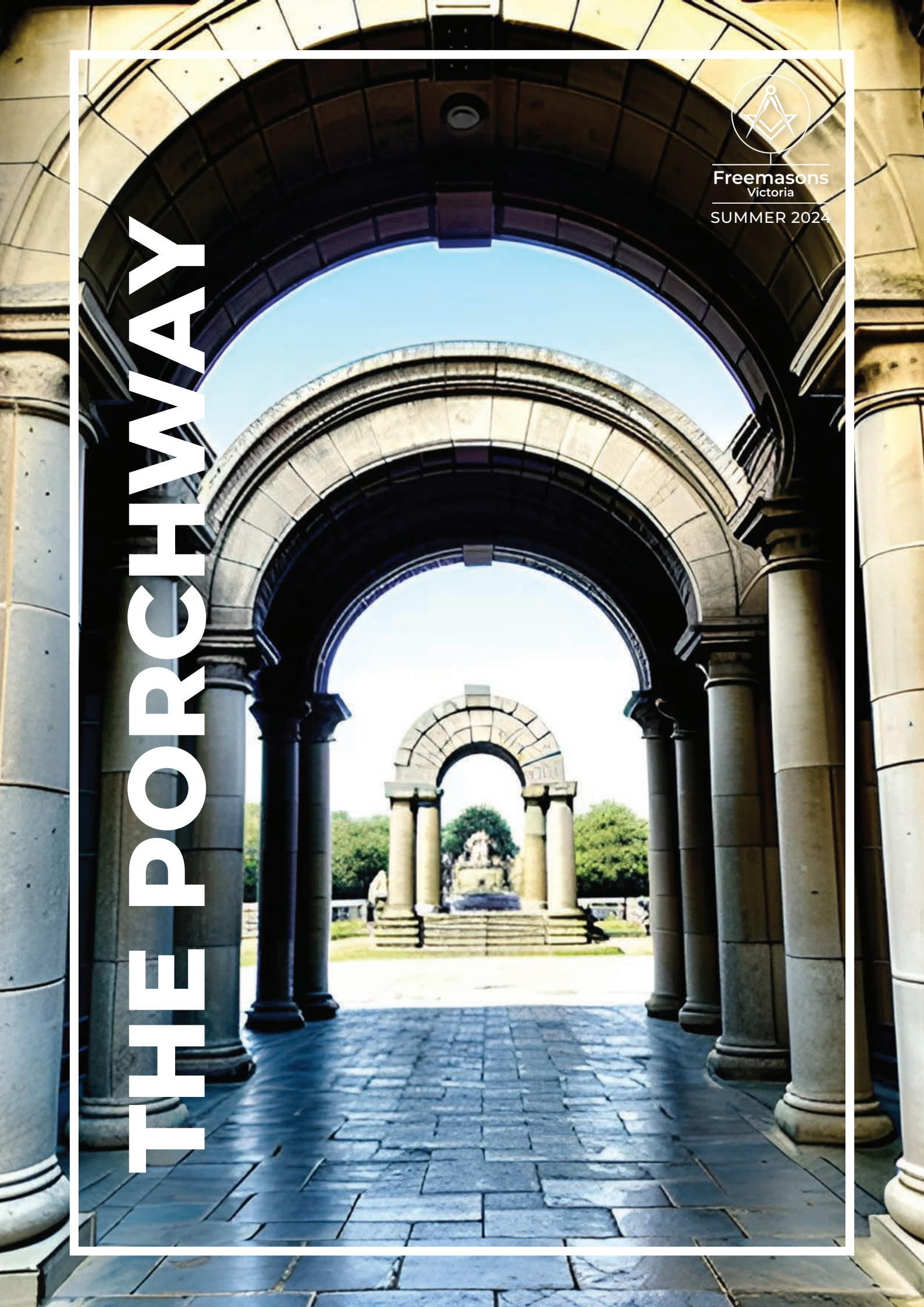


# THE PORCHWAY



Freemasons  
Victoria

SUMMER 2024





# The Grand Master's Message

Brethren

It warms my heart that this Quarterly Communication is a 'full house' Occupational Health and Safety Laws mean that we cannot get another single person in this place tonight. Such is the enthusiasm of Brethren from right across Victoria, a number of whom have travelled long distances to be here.

This is my 45th year in Freemasonry. I was initiated at City of Brunswick United Lodge No. 244 in 1980, and I have come to know so many of you on a first-name basis over the journey. Not only have you become my Brothers, but many have become my genuine and close friends. No-one can do it all by themselves. This has been a wonderful team effort.

Together, we have been able to excel in our work in our Lodge Rooms, to clink a glass in the 'South', and to do wonderful work in the community.

In September 2019, I was proclaimed as your Deputy Grand Master-Elect. That was to begin a journey of 2,012 days until Saturday, March 22, 2025, when - Great Architect of the Universe willing - our Grand Master-Elect, RWBro. Peter Henshall, is due to be installed.

The office stats man tells me that it is 94 days away (but who's counting?).

Back in 2019, I wrote: "We are unique and for too long we have been concerned with numbers and minutiae rather than the big picture.

"Our organisation will always appeal to good men and as numbers inevitably continue to decrease, we will need good and inspiring leadership and communication. We must go back to basics and acknowledge what we are - a fraternal, voluntary and benevolent group of good men. We are not a slogan".

I can tell you that in that past, Freemasons Victoria paid out a lot of money to consultants to tell us how bad we were at so many things. The Ethics Centre Report told us aspects of our organisation scored zero or one out of 10.

Another highly paid consultant suggested that we close everything and start again. We paid handsomely at the time for that advice.

It followed that Freemasons Victoria members had a demoralised view of their Order, and all the comments of consultants became self-fulfilling

prophecies. Our self-talk was that we were 'losers'. And it had to be true, because that is what they told us, and they were experts.

At that stage, we also had public relations consultants on standby for potential crisis management situations.

I became your Deputy Grand Master in 2020. This was at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, when Victoria had six lockdowns over 262 days. Freemasonry in this State was shut for even longer. Maintaining morale in an organisation of thousands of men through circumstances like this was not an easy task, but I want to congratulate you all in the way that you brought Victorian Freemasonry to a better place on the other side of the pandemic.

As you know, unexpectedly, I was advised late in the afternoon of August 4, 2022, that I was to become Acting Grand Master from 5pm that day. In March 2023, I was officially installed as Grand Master, for a term that will total two years and almost 9 months. A pretty long stint I can tell you.

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*"Leadership is about inspiration, courage, imagination, empowerment and the ability to involve others at all levels."*

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My vision statement from 2019 when I stood for election said: "I see the Grand Master as being the custodian of our landmarks and usages, the public face and spokesman for the organisation, a communicator, and a leader in every sense of the word - not a ruler.

"He must have the ability to embrace problems and to unify and engage our membership. Leadership is about inspiration, courage, imagination, empowerment and the ability to involve others at all levels.

"We have of late become too concerned with 'Corporatese' such as branding, product, today's man, the Masonic experience and so on. We need to recapture the essence of our fraternity.

"No-one knows the organisation better than we do and we have enough talent to handle such matters in house," I said.

And, Brethren, that's exactly what we did together. I am pleased to say from that afternoon in August 2022, we dispensed with management consultants. We haven't had a new Committee in that entire time. We haven't written a single 'Term of Reference'. We made the 180-degree U-turn, and we deliberately set out to believe in ourselves again. We rolled up our sleeves and got to work.

We sometimes appeared to be more concerned with committees and being seen to be doing something and had in my view forgotten to concentrate on real change. Action, not talk was required. It was a communications strategy where we began to again view ourselves as 'winners', not 'losers'. We started achieving so many things together.

Our deliberate plan was - in my term - to put internal organisation matters into order, with the vision that the next Grand Master would be then in a position to confidently take Freemasonry back into the community and resume our rightful position amongst other leaders in commerce, government, education and community. If anything, we are probably about 8-9 months ahead of where we designed we might be.

So, what have we achieved together?

In 2019, I stated that we needed to see Lodges "meet in attractive, modern and financially self-supporting buildings, and that Freemasons Victoria operates within its financial means". It is so pleasing that some \$2 million of essential Occupational Health and Safety works are this year underway at Masonic Centres across the State. There have been lots of other improvements at various centres as well.

We added Brighton, Ivalda, Mount Waverley and Pakenham to the Freemasons Victoria balance sheet, which added maybe \$25 plus million in assets to our organisation. We have settled on the sale of other disused former centres and the proceeds will be applied to remaining buildings in those districts. Hopefully more Masonic Centres will appreciate the need to have a united front for land tax, rates, taxation and so on to keep this organisation fiscally in control. You all know my views on the ownership of Masonic property, and I won't revisit that tonight.

Works are currently underway to commission the Cafe at East Melbourne, which has been vacant for over 5 years. An unbelievable state of affairs. It is envisaged that it will be up and running before the end of January next year and I trust it will be much appreciated by the Brethren and residents of Eastbourne.

In our Lodges, hopefully we are well advanced in the removal of the 'us and them' thinking. I trust that we have finally come to the realisation that we are all members of Grand Lodge.

In the last 5½-years, we will have visited a large number of Lodges. We have travelled the length and breadth of Victoria and beyond. Without exception, at every Lodge, Anna, I and the Teams have been welcomed with great warmth and genuine brotherhood. We have met friendly people and have been shown the best hospitality.

Brethren are justifiably proud of the advances that they are making with their ritual. Our ritual and teachings are what set us apart from other community organisations.

We have taken our Victorian teams to events such 'Hands Across the Border' with our Brethren from New South Wales and the ACT. We have visited every Australasian jurisdiction including New Zealand.

Our teams have visited the Philippines and Malaysia, and we have been invited back to Malaysia in February next to perform a demonstration of our Ceremony of Installation and an open Investiture of Officers, such is the high regard for the ceremonial prowess of our Grand Lodge Ceremonial Teams.

In the community, again together, Freemasons Victoria was out there with 150 volunteers at more than two dozen Bunnings sites across the state, to man sausage sizzles to support the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal. Our Geelong members manned APCO service stations to raise money for the kids' hospital.

Together, more than 100 of us, attended the Sleep at The 'G event to fight youth homelessness. This great event saw us on top of the leader board and we raised nearly \$110,000 for the Melbourne City Mission's good works.

We breathed life back into the Wakanyanas event at Queenscliff in its 108th year. A large number attended this annual event, and we presented more than \$22,000 so that disadvantaged kids from a Gippsland bushfire region could have a summer holiday at Cottage by The Sea. It's on again so please support this wonderful event in which the late Sir Robert Menzies had a hand in the early days.

We won positive national TV publicity on A Current Affair for Freemasonry when we had a cheque presentation of more than \$40,000 for Fr. Bob Maguire's Foundation for food for disadvantaged families in Melbourne's North-West. We went back to Banksia Gardens in Broadmeadows a few months ago to present a vehicle for them to transport families and food. It is prominently sign-written with Freemasons Victoria livery.

We are still in discussions with Melbourne Legacy about a fundraiser later next year.

We gave hundreds of thousands of dollars to flood victims. We were there with money for bushfire victims. Our Freemasons Foundation has given away more than \$2.5 million annually to a whole range of projects, including scholarships.

Our Australia Day BBQ which will be held again next year for the 4th time has raised some \$25,000 cash for Community Relief food parcels. Lodges across Victoria continue their work in cash and in kind, worth large sums of money annually. Brethren, this is a great organisation. Forget whatever the management consultants told us years ago; Freemasons Victoria is a team of absolute winners. Any active Freemason will confirm that this is a wonderful fraternity.

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*"We rolled up our sleeves and got to work. Action, not talk. It was a communications strategy where we began to again view ourselves as 'winners'"*

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Please let me tell you about some outstanding Freemasons.

First, my thanks to the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Master-Elect, RWBro. Peter Henshall, who has done it the way that it should be done. Over more than three decades, Peter and I have both served in various senior positions, and in many teams. Leaving aside the fact that he is an accountant and a past Sword Bearer and I guess that's what he was best suited to, Peter has consistently and genuinely presented a united and loyal leadership front to our members, and for that I extend particular thanks. Anna and I extend every good wish to Peter and Sharon for their 2-year term.

Similarly, we again congratulate RWBro. Myles King OAM and Isabella on their elevation and we look forward

to their ongoing roles, especially as Grand Master and First Lady in 2027-28.

It is nice to be important as Grand Master, but it truly is about being a servant leader, a giver rather than a taker. It is not about the bling and the tails and the chains, the jewels, it is not about being a ruler, it is about being of service to our valued members. Like just about every other member, a Grand Master's service is totally voluntary, and I have ensured that expense both local and overseas has been kept to a bare minimum. We have all been as frugal as possible and gone are the days of the extravagances of the past. We are well and truly living within our means and budget.

Over these last 4 or 5 years we have been blessed with some fine Wardens, Grand Chaplains, Grand Treasurers, Grand Registrars, Grand Almoners, Grand Supers of Membership, Works, Workings, Communication and Education, Grand Directors, our musicians and choristers.

I have also been blessed with 3 wonderful teams. I took over as Acting GM and spent nearly 9 months with the then team and my own 2 teams have been amazing ambassadors for the craft, - loyal, courteous, humble and I'm honoured to have served with each of you. I'll never forget the friendships and the camaraderie and great times in the service of this amazing organisation.

Two Senior Grand Officers have been there for the full journey. I had spoken to both Brethren when I was elected in July 2019 and asked them to come on the journey with me. They both said yes and in fact assumed their roles in my predecessor's first team.

Our Grand Superintendent of Workings, VWBro. Wes Turnbull will be retiring in March. It is Bro. Wes who has consistently stood up for the importance of our ritual and ceremonial. He has never compromised on keeping the standard high. And it is Wes who put into action my direction to re-form the Exemplification Team. Thank you for everything, Brother Wes.

Also riding off into the sunset is our Grand Superintendent of Communication, RWBro. Ash Long PJGW, who has been there 24/7 for every minute of my 5½ years. What could possibly go wrong when you put two type A personalities together in a high-pressure management scenario? It might be my memory playing tricks, but over those 2,000 odd days, even though there has been the fiercest contest of many, many ideas, I can't recall ever having a very serious blue with Bro. Ash. Of course, I would always settle any dispute by



saying "I'm the Grand Master and you're not" -apologies to Rex Hunt. Ash took on all the uncomfortable jobs and the behind-the-scenes slogs. The logistics for the Bunnings Childrens' Hospital sausage sizzle, Sleep at the 'G and many others. It's easy for GM's to come up with ideas but you need the support to bring those ideas to fruition. Thank you, Brother Ash.

I announce this evening that I've promoted brothers Wes and Ash to PJGW and PSGW respectively effective tonight as my personal thanks for their unstinting loyalty and commitment to their roles

The same dedication has applied at Lodge level across the state. Masters, office bearers, rank-and-file, our Master Masons, Fellow-Crafts and our latest Entered Apprentices. You have been quite outstanding. We are seeing a 'new breed' of younger Freemason, who accepts our Craft for what it is. It makes me immensely proud to see the way in which they embrace our values.

In the first few years, we adopted a new management structure. Whether it be the old Board of General Purposes, the Masonic Governing Council, the interim or the permanent Masonic Council and Commercial Council, I want to say thank you to every member and every person who stood as a candidate. Thanks also to our external members on the Commercial Council and the Companies who have donated their time to share their specialist knowledge. Thank you to all the VAT members for their unstinting loyalty and service to the organisation.

This organisation functions as it does because of our office staff led by the Grand Secretary-Manager, RWBro. Bruce Cowie, supported by Julia Edwards, and team members including Graham Berry and Ben Quick. My personal thanks to them, and those who I have not mentioned by name.

The Past Deputy Grand Masters and the Past Grand Masters have always been there with their wise counsel, and their advice has been what they honestly believed was best for the organisation. I haven't always accepted their advice, however. We are all different, we all have our own views, and history will judge each of us for our legacies. I thank all of them for their goodwill and support.

Now, let's take off our rose-coloured glasses for just a moment. There have also been some very difficult jobs over the past five years. We had to deal with a handful of people who no longer wanted to be members, or did not wish to play by our long-established rules. They made their own choices, and they must realise

there are consequences for every choice that we make in life. You cannot break the rules, you cannot injure people, you cannot defame, without consequences. Freemasons stand for best behaviour.

Sometimes we had to take what was considered as drastic action at the time. I do not resilite from being faithful to the commitments I made to the membership at the start of this journey. Being firm also comes with its drawbacks. Just a month ago at the Mark Quarterly Communication a Brother turned away from me and refused to shake my hand. I asked what his problem was. He told me that it was because of what I "did to the Earl of Dunmore Lodge". I bluntly told him to get his facts straight and that his conduct was not that of a good Freemason and walked away to avoid a scene. To set the record straight, three Lodges in this jurisdiction were given permission to perform foreign ritual. Without going into the details, on the recommendation of the Grand Inspector of Workings and the Masonic Council and after consultation with the Grand Master Elect, I decreed that those Lodges would be required to work Victorian Ritual henceforth. I did allow them to perform a demonstration once a year and to perform demonstrations at any of our Lodges by invitation.

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*"I look out now, and see so many friendly faces. It is a memory that I will hold tight. Freemasonry in this state is again on an upward trajectory."*

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I'm sorry if some Brethren believe that they have an inalienable right to discard our usages and traditions which I swore to uphold. The only approved ritual in Victoria is that approved by the Grand Master of the day and that which has been used since the formation of this Grand Lodge. I would suggest that any Brother who has an issue with that takes the time to read the Warrant granted to his Lodge. You can't please all the Brethren all the time!

Brethren, we have not completed our work yet, and Masonry teaches us that we all transition to different roles.

The one thing which will remain with me as I too ride off into the sunset will be the thousands of good men I have met on this journey. I thank you all for your genuine courtesy and commitment to this great fraternity

which I'm sure will grow and prosper and will once again become an integral part of the fabric of our society.

Before I close tonight, the biggest note of appreciation I wish to make is to our first lady, Anna. She has brought her own class, dignity and style to the role. At every visit both local and overseas she has made with me, Anna has presented with elegance, humility and friendliness. It is no secret that over the journey, Anna faced her own serious health challenges. It has not been easy. I thank Anna for her unconditional support.

Anna and I extend sincere Seasons Greetings to everyone. We hope that you get to enjoy good times with family and friends, and that you and yours are blessed with fine health, good fortune and an abundance of happiness in the year ahead.

I look out now and see so many friendly faces. It is a memory that I will hold tight. I sincerely hope that Freemasonry in this state is again on an upward trajectory and if we together have played a small part in that then I'm grateful.

In conclusion, my sincere words as I address a Communication as Grand Master for the last time are simple ones: "Thank You one and all!"



**MWBro. Anthony Bucca**  
Grand Master  
United Grand Lodge of Victoria



The Victorian Freemasons Convention 2024.



The Grand Installation 2024.



Principal of the Order Installation 2024.



The Grand Banquet 2024.



Taipei 2006



The Good Friday Appeal 2024.



Hands Across the Border 2024.



Sleep at the 'G donation 2024.



Banksia Gardens car donation 2024.



Grand Master Mason of Scotland visit 2024.



Father Bob's donation 2022.



AGPurs 1990.



Sleep at the 'G 2024.



# COMING SOON!

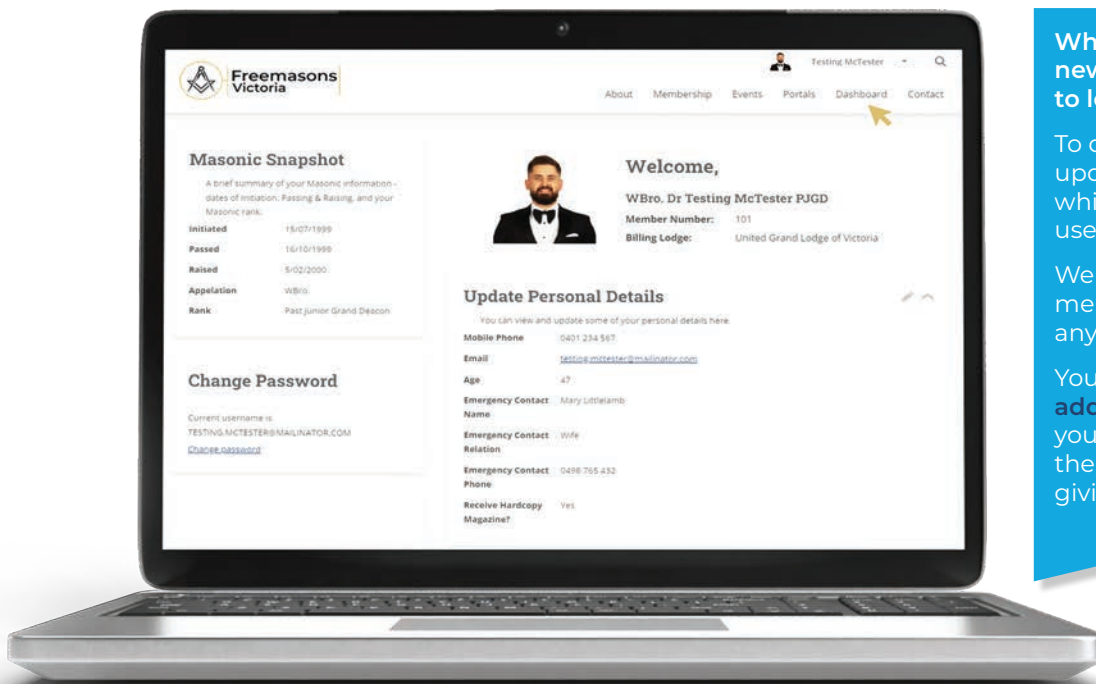


We are excited to announce that our transition to our new membership database built in the **iMIS EMS** platform is almost here.

This transition will also see an updated public website, member portal, secretary portal, and other functionality planned for the near future - *built by members, for members.*

## Your new Member's Dashboard:

- » View and update personal information & emergency contact
- » View your Masonic Record including degrees, affiliations and offices, ranks & service awards
- » Change your password and email preferences



When we go live in the new system, you will want to log in and explore.

To do that, we need your updated email address, which will also be your username.

We won't need to use your member number to log in anymore.

You can update your email address today by emailing your name and Lodge to the Grand Secretariat or giving us a call.

## What do you need to do?

You will get a launch email with the link to the sign in page. You will then click the "forgot username" option underneath the 'SIGN IN' button. Following the steps will help you set up your password – it should take about 60 seconds.

### Example:

sysadmin@freemasonsvic.net.au  
to me ▾

We received a request for the username associated with this email address.

**EXAMPLE.PERSON@MAIL.COM**

Please click the link below to return to our website and sign in:

[https://freemasonsvic.net.au/example\\_username\\_reset\\_link](https://freemasonsvic.net.au/example_username_reset_link)

### Member Portal

**Username**

**Password**

**SIGN IN**

[Forgot username?](#) | [Forgot password?](#)





# 2025 Grand Lodge Ceremonial Team

## Congratulations to the 2025 Grand Lodge Ceremonial Team

<b>Grand Master</b>	MWBro. Peter Henshall	Lodge Fraternal No. 603
<b>Deputy Grand Master</b>	RWBro. Myles King OAM	Lodge Amicus No. 928
<b>Senior Grand Warden</b>	RWBro. Bruce Stockdale	The Mordialloc Lodge of Charity No. 258
<b>Junior Grand Warden</b>	RWBro. David Ellwood	Sir John Quick Lodge No. 933
<b>Grand Secretary</b>	RWBro. Bruce Cowie	Blackburn United Lodge No. 915
<b>Grand Chaplain</b>	VWBro. Rabbi Richard Wainstein	Moorabbin Lodge No. 161
<b>Grand Chaplain</b>	VWBro. Geoff Paton	Seymour Lodge No. 87
<b>Grand Treasurer</b>	VWBro. Ron Ferdinands	Lodge Liberation No. 674
<b>Grand Registrar</b>	VWBro. Peter Billings	Duke of Sussex Lodge No. 48
<b>Grand Almoner</b>	VWBro. Terry Clifton	Williamstown Lodge No. 16
<b>Grand Almoner (Welfare)</b>	RWBro. Ted Stephens OAM	Berwick Balcara Lodge No. 359
<b>Grand Superintendent of Membership</b>	VWBro. Wayne Millard	Peace and Loyalty Lodge No. 261
<b>Grand Superintendent of Works</b>	VWBro. Steve Simpson	Lodge of Quest No. 587
<b>Grand Inspector of Workings</b>	VWBro. Stephen Latimer	Zetland Lodge No. 25
<b>Grand Superintendent of Education</b>	VWBro. Brendan Kyne	Gordon Lodge No. 99
<b>Grand Director of Ceremonies</b>	VWBro. Bruce Carey	The Mordialloc Lodge of Charity No. 258
<b>Grand Director of Music</b>	VWBro. Jim Taylor	Geelong Lodge of Unity and Prudence No. 5
<b>Deputy Grand Superintendent of Education (Finance)</b>	WBro. Neil Hart-Smith	Old Scotch Collegians' Lodge No. 396
<b>Grand Organist</b>	RWBro. Roger Manderson	Lodge Killara No. 259
<b>Grand Herald</b>	VWBro. Geoff Lowe	United Service Lodge No. 330
<b>Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies</b>	WBro. Adrian Kamer	Geelong Lodge of Unity and Prudence No. 5
<b>Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies</b>	WBro. Robert Callant	Trentham Lodge No. 130
<b>Grand Pursuivant</b>	WBro. David Foong	Lodge Cathay No. 38
<b>Senior Grand Deacon</b>	WBro. Giorgio Migliaccio	The Spring Vale Lodge No. 389
<b>Senior Grand Deacon</b>	WBro. Thenakaran Nadarajah	The Clifton Hill Lodge No. 90
<b>Senior Grand Deacon</b>	WBro. David Bilton	Carisbrook Lodge No. 405
<b>Junior Grand Deacon</b>	WBro. Hans Richmond	Berwick Balcara Lodge No. 359
<b>Junior Grand Deacon</b>	WBro. Phil Davenport	Baden Powell Lodge No. 488
<b>Junior Grand Deacon</b>	WBro. Robert Haughton	Sir John Quick Lodge No. 933
<b>Grand Sword Bearer</b>	WBro. Ethan Holmes	The Revival Lodge No. 926
<b>Grand Sword Bearer</b>	WBro. Ted Wambui	Henty Lodge No. 279
<b>Grand Sword Bearer</b>	WBro. Russell Sincock	Cohuna Lodge No. 227
<b>Grand Standard Bearer</b>	WBro. Tommaso Butera	Lodge of Quest No. 587
<b>Grand Standard Bearer</b>	WBro. Bruce Brabender	Lodge Liberation No. 674
<b>Grand Standard Bearer</b>	WBro. Neville Wharton	United Ararat Lodge No. 935
<b>Assistant Grand Pursuivant</b>	WBro. Curbinder Gill	Blackburn United Lodge No. 915
<b>Assistant Grand Pursuivant</b>	WBro. Greg Todio	City of Footscray-Wyndham Lodge No. 239
<b>Assistant Grand Pursuivant</b>	WBro. Franz Obermoser	Gisborne Lodge No. 298
<b>Grand Steward</b>	WBro. Peter Daly	Gardenvale Mobility Lodge No. 243
<b>Grand Steward</b>	WBro. David Kamer	Baden Powell Lodge No. 488
<b>Grand Steward</b>	WBro. Stephan Koenig	Samaritan Lodge No. 380
<b>Grand Steward</b>	WBro. Christian Manalo	Plaridel Lodge No. 1893
<b>Grand Steward</b>	WBro. Kevin Richardson	The Brighton District Lodge No. 37
<b>Grand Steward</b>	WBro. Jason Trias	The Spring Vale Lodge No. 389
<b>Grand Steward</b>	WBro. Graham Whiteside	Lodge of Progress No. 940
<b>Grand Steward</b>	WBro. Greg Brown	Mildura Lodge No. 170
<b>Grand Steward</b>	WBro. David Game	Zetland Lodge No. 25
<b>Grand Steward</b>	WBro. Graeme Robinson	Duke of Abercorn Lodge No. 137
<b>Grand Steward</b>	WBro. Alf Woods	Cohuna Lodge No. 227
<b>Grand Tyler</b>	WBro. Stretch Jarvis	United Service Lodge No. 330
<b>Grand Master's Assistant</b>	Bro. Berkan Yilmaz	Ivanhoe Lodge No. 584
<b>Grand Master's Assistant</b>	Bro. Peter Sampsonidis	Gregorios Lodge No. 865
<b>Grand Master's Assistant</b>	Bro. Michael Musolino	Lodge Devotion No. 723



# Message from the Grand Secretary

Brethren,

As another year draws to a close, I am reminded of all the work that is being done by our Lodges and our members for Freemasonry.

*"I would like to thank each of the District Coordinators and the Deputy District Coordinators for their dedication and commitment."*

It is appropriate that I thank each and every member who has assisted in the administration and daily running of our Lodges. The untold hours put in by the members to keep our Lodges running is immense and is appreciated.

I would like to thank each of the District Coordinators and the Deputy District Coordinators for their dedication and commitment. 2024 saw the rationalisation of the districts from 17 to 12. This posed a challenge; however the tyranny of distance has been overcome with the appointment of Deputy District Coordinators who are close to the ground and able to provide advice and guidance to Lodges.

I am fortunate to have a dedicated team of staff who have contributed to the operations of the Secretariat and to the ongoing administration of Freemasonry. I will not name each but to each I give my thanks.

The Senior Grand Officers with whom I work closely have each provided a valuable contribution and I thank each of them for responding to my questions, requests, and challenges with good humour and grace.

Freemasonry is at the end of the day about members and their participation both in the Lodge and in their respective communities. I am constantly amazed by the efforts of so many members who are contributing their own free time, labour and money to support so many worthy causes.

Brethren, 2025 is shaping up to be an exciting year. The implementation of the new membership system that will see members being able to access their own information quickly and easily as well as Lodge Secretaries being able to log in and complete the Lodge administration quickly and efficiently, is eagerly awaited.

*"I am constantly amazed by the efforts of so many members who are contributing their own free time, labour and money to support so many worthy causes."*

2024 has seen significant efforts in the property area, and 2025 will see the fruition of a number of significant projects including the substantial upgrade to the Ivalda Masonic Centre and the centenary celebrations scheduled in May. Many other Masonic Centres are undergoing maintenance work and significant development.

2024 saw the Consecration of two new Lodges that in both cases can be seen as back to the future. That is the Travellers' Washington Lodge and the Sir Redmond Barry Lodge. New Lodges show there is still life in the organisation and new members being initiated every week shows that there is interest, and as long as new Lodges and members are a reality we are an organisation with a bright future.

*"New Lodges show there is still life in the organisation and new members being initiated every week shows that there is interest"*

I wish each and every member the complements of the season and I hope that the holiday season will provide every one with an opportunity to rest and recharge with their families and friends.



**RWBro. Bruce Cowie**  
Grand Secretary  
United Grand Lodge of Victoria

## FREEMASONS VICTORIA OFFICE CLOSURE SCHEDULE

**THURSDAY 19 DECEMBER 2024 - MONDAY 13 JANUARY 2025**

The office of Freemasons Victoria will be closed from close of business on Thursday 19 December 2024 and will reopen on Monday 13 January 2025. While our staff take some much needed time off, we hope everyone enjoys the holiday season and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year!



# Service Awards

1 AUGUST - 31 OCTOBER

## CONGRATULATIONS

### 50 Years

VWBro. William Black	Rutherglen Lodge	188
VWBro. James Hinchcliffe	Mitchell Lodge	929
WBro. Kevin Bye	The Lowan Lodge	107
WBro. Michael Graham	Peace and Loyalty Lodge	261
WBro. Graeme Moffatt	Campaspe Valley Lodge	937
WBro. David Richards	Sir John Quick Lodge	933
WBro. Noel Sargeant	Cohuna Lodge	227
WBro. Neil Slater	Fairfield Lodge	254
WBro. Martin Streager	Lodge of Welcome	510
Bro. Irwin Sinclair	Dandenong Lodge	635

### 60 Years

RWBro. Allan Farber	Lodge Fraternal	603
VWBro. Albert Coleman	Gippsland Lodge	51
WBro. Ronald Chalmers	Lodge of Good Companions	647
WBro. Bruce Shand	Peace and Loyalty Lodge	261
WBro. Edward Stanyer	Sunbury Macedon Ranges Lodge	97
WBro. Rueben Stephens	Sir John Quick Lodge	933
VWBro. Robert Gooding	Dimboola Lodge	144
WBro. Hugh Robertson	Heathcote Lodge	30
WBro. Frederick Weightman	Prince of Wales Lodge	40

\*Deceased since presentation.

### 65 Years

RWBro. Graeme Turpie	Golden and Corinthian Lodge	7
VWBro. Robert Stephenson	Henty Lodge	279
WBro. John Dunstan	The Brighton District Lodge	37
WBro. Roy Grierson	Golden and Corinthian Lodge	7
WBro. Stewart Mackie	Union Lodge of North Gippsland	62
WBro. Douglas McTier	Yarrawonga Lodge of St. David	103
WBro. Roy Nicol	Prince of Wales Lodge	40
WBro. Allan Saunders	Portland Lodge of Victoria	6
WBro. Kenneth Stuart	Rutherglen Lodge	188
WBro. Graham Threlfall	Yarrawonga Lodge of St. David	103
WBro. John Tucker	Lodge Belvoir	727
WBro. Stanley Bacon	The Clifton Hill Lodge	90
Bro. George Habel	Hamilton Grange Lodge	45

### 70 Years

RWBro. Edward Gibbs	Moorabbin Lodge	161
RWBro. Graeme Hindson	Allara Lodge	855
RWBro. Warren Nankervis	Marangan Lodge	64
RWBro. Ian Shadforth	Baden Powell Lodge	488
VWBro. Harold Dunn	United Ararat Lodge	935
VWBro. James Mitchell	Sandringham District Lodge	220
Bro. Brian Guthridge	Hamilton Grange Lodge	45

## 70 Years Of Masonic And Community Service Is No Small Achievement

At the 9 September meeting of United Ararat Lodge No. 935, the Lodge celebrated 70 years of service by VWBro. Harold James (Jim) Dunn PGIWkgs.


Jim began a long and distinguished teaching career as a teenage trainee teacher. Jim completed his training and was eventually posted to a one teacher school in the northern Mallee, meaning a bus trip from his hometown of Stawell followed by a train trip along a spur line then a trip on the railway fettler's trolley to his school each day.

Having organised the arduous travel and a day off, Jim was initiated in Eureka Morning Star Lodge at Stawell just over 70 years ago. Upon his promotion to Ararat Primary School, Jim ultimately joined the Lodge of Ophir No. 27 and upon its closure has continued his membership with its successor: the United Ararat Lodge No. 935.

Now in his 90s, Jim can't attend often but maintains a keen interest in his Lodge. At the September meeting RWBro. Bill Jones OAM PSGW had the

honour of presenting VWBro. Jim with his 70-year service award. Jim's late wife, May taught RWBro. Bill in prep in 1959 and Jim taught him in grades 4- 6, later acting as RWBro. Bill's supervision teacher during his final training placement in 1974. RWBro. Bill's first year as a steward was in VWBro. Jim's term as Worshipful Master. The relationship continued with RWBro. Bill returning to Ararat Primary School as Principal after VWBro. Jim had retired.

The school has had a heritage of installing an ANZAC floral tribute every year since 1956. VWBro. Jim took over the management of the layout of this tribute in 1958 and continues this role to the present day and supervising RWBro. Bill in setting out the tribute.

RWBro. Bill and VWBro. Jim have both been City Councillors, Mayors of Ararat and committed community leaders. This is a story of a student and his teacher having a combined commitment to our community spanning more than 150 years and a shared total Masonic history of over 120 years. 





# Celebrating a 75 Year Jewel

On the evening of 28 October 2024, Spring Vale Lodge No. 389 hosted an extraordinary meeting to commemorate the remarkable milestone of RWBro. Ivan (Bill) Warner OAM PSGW, who celebrated an impressive 75 years in Freemasonry. The event was a memorable occasion that brought together family, friends, and members of the Lodge to honour RWBro. Bill's dedication and contributions over the decades.

The atmosphere in the Lodge room was filled with warmth and reverence as Most Worshipful Brother Don Reynolds PGM presented RWBro. Bill with the prestigious 75-year jewel. This recognition was a fitting tribute to a man whose life has been marked by an unwavering commitment to the principles of Freemasonry and to his community.

Following the formal presentation, attendees moved to the banquet room, where they enjoyed a delicious meal while sharing stories and reflections on RWBro. Bill's extensive service. The gathering provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate not only his dedication to Spring Vale Lodge but also his broader impact on the community.

RWBro. Bill's contributions throughout his lifetime are noteworthy and numerous, including:

- Awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in 1984.
- Received the Queen's Police Medal in 1971.
- Honoured with the FMV 70-Year Service Award in 2019.
- Inducted into the FMV Hall of Fame in 2015.
- Recognised as a Living Treasure by COGD in 2005.
- Named Senior Citizen of the Year by COSV in 1995.
- Served multiple terms as Mayor of COSV.
- Provided leadership as President of the VPAssoc.

The evening was a heartfelt tribute to a true Masonic treasure, filled with admiration and gratitude for RWBro. Ivan (Bill) Warner's lifelong dedication and service. The members of Spring Vale Lodge No. 389 extend their heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined in the celebration of this significant milestone, making it an unforgettable night for all involved. ✨



# Loving Freemasonry at 98

RWBro. Hugh George Hendry PJGW, who is now approaching 98 years of age, was presented with his 60-year bar by MWBro. Richard Elkington OAM PGM at the combined September meeting of the Duke of Connaught No. 190 and Outtrim Lodge No. 209 held at the South Gippsland Masonic Centre in Korumburra.

This was celebrated with his partner Jenny, together with family and friends. Hugh still regularly attends Lodge and enjoys his Freemasonry.

Together with Richard Elkington we learned that Hugh was born on 26 December 1926 in Kyabram Victoria, and Hugh gave us an amazing insight into his life as a boy, living through the Great Depression in the early 1930s, right through to his adulthood.

At 18 years of age, Hugh joined the RAAF during World War II and was trained as a cook.

After the war, Hugh became a butcher and did an apprenticeship in Church Street in Middle Brighton, ater moving to Bordertown in South Australia to work as a butcher for a couple of years.

After moving back to Melbourne for a while, Hugh then moved to Heyfield in Victoria for another couple of years and eventually purchased the butcher shop in Bena, South Gippsland.

Hugh's grandfather, two uncles and a brother were Freemasons, as were many of his friends in Bena, which lead to Hugh joining the Craft in June of 1964, at the age of 37.

Hugh Hugh was a past member of The Coal Creek Lodge No. 907 and has served in every office and became Worshipful Master of the Korumburra Lodge No. 175 for the first time in 1977. Hugh is also a member of many other Masonic Orders including:

- The Mark.
- The Chapter.
- The Ark Mariners.
- The Royal and Select.
- The Red Cross of Constantine.
- The Knights Templar.
- and has attained the 18th, 30th and 32nd degrees.



Hugh has served as Worshipful Master on 13 different occasions, holds Grand Rank in many of the Orders and, until recently, held office within a number of them.

Following a lifetime of service to the community, Hugh is still involved with his community through Freemasonry and his local RSL branch..

One can only congratulate and be amazed by Hugh's commitment and achievements through his many years as a Freemason. ✨

# BEYOND THE CRAFT



Freemasons  
Victoria

SUMMER 2024





# Message from the Grand Master



Dear Brethren,

As we approach the New Year, I want to extend my fraternal greetings and best wishes to you all for the upcoming Christmas break, and I hope that your celebrations will be enjoyed with your family and friends. Over the past few months, I've been privileged to attend many Installations and meetings that have been well attended and are very much indicative of the reinvigorated spirit that I have seen throughout the jurisdiction. It has been some time since I have seen such a large number of newly advanced Brethren in our Lodges and it is most encouraging to see them taking office and being engaged. Our more experienced members are being proactive in mentoring and guiding them as they progress and learn more about our order, which is much appreciated and pleasing to see.

By the time this goes to print we will have had the November Communication with the first Ark Assembly having been held. I am indebted to our Grand Lecturer,

VWBro. Glenn Hollibone, for his excellent service in putting together the opening and closing rituals as well as the presentation of the Pillars of Enoch. which I am sure will be very well received by all present. The Grand Lecturer has written many educational articles and lectures that are available on the Mark website or by request either through the Chamar office or through the GMDR for the district.

Next year, we look forward to celebrating the centenary of the Victory United Brunswick Ark Mariner Lodge with a Rededication ceremony followed by the Enthronement of the new Commander. I'm sure the day's celebrations will mark the beginning of another era for the Lodge and its members, and I am sure that they will be well supported on this occasion in March 2025.

Fraternal regards

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



## Past Grand Master Honoured With 60 Year Service Jewel

On 8 October 2024, MWBro. Bruce Everard Bartrop, Past Grand Master, received his 60-year jewel at the Installation ceremony of Ballarat St. George Mark Lodge No. 24.

Bruce married Adela Evans in 1959, and together they had two daughters and a son. Sadly, Adela passed away unexpectedly on 30 June 2024. She had been a tremendous support to Bruce throughout their life together.

Bruce holds several degrees in real estate and business management. He has served as the president of the Real Estate Institute of both Victoria and Australia. His community service includes becoming a Paul Harris Fellow with Rotary, serving as a Past District Governor, and being honoured as a life member of Apex.

Bruce's father, Edgar Bartrop, founded the family's real estate business while also preaching the Gospel at the Methodist church on Sundays. Following in his father's footsteps, Bruce began working in real estate right after school. He has been involved in auctions and sales ever since and continues to visit the office daily for a few hours.

### Craft

MWBro. Bruce was initiated into Sturt Lodge No. 427 on 7 December 1957, passed on 6 September 1958, and raised on 2 May 1959. He served as Worshipful Master of Sturt Lodge No. 427 in 1970. In 1998, Sturt Lodge amalgamated with Buninyong Lodge to form Sturt-Buninyong United Lodge No. 23.

On 2 February 2013, MWBro. Bruce joined Letchworth Kilwinning Lodge No. 2. His involvement with the United Grand Lodge of Victoria Grand Ceremonial Team began in 1983 when he joined his first active team. He remained in active teams until becoming Grand Master in 2005. He also served as President of the Board of Benevolence from 1990 to 1992.

### Holy Royal Arch Chapter

REmComp. Bartrop was exalted in the Ballarat Holy Royal Arch Chapter No. 83 in 1961 and later became Zerubbabel in 1977. In 2002, he transferred to St. George Holy Royal Arch Chapter No. 7. In 1994, REmComp. Bartrop was conferred with the grand rank of Past Grand Haggai. On 27 January 2021, REmComp. Bartrop was honoured with a 60-year service jewel. He also serves as the representative for Tennessee.




MWBro. Bruce Bartrop, MWBro. Ron Goodburn and WBro. Aaron Crump.

### Mark Lodge

MWBro. Bartrop was advanced in the Ballarat Mark Lodge No. 114 on 10 November 1964 and became Worshipful Master in 1973. He participated in active Grand Mark teams from 1977 until 1995, when he was installed as Grand Master of The United Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Victoria. Since 1996, he has served as the representative for England.

### Royal Ark Mariners

MWBro. Bartrop was elevated in the Ballarat Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No. 114 on 14 June 1977 and was Worshipful Commander in 1985. 

By RWBro. Geoff Worsley PSGW



# A Short Symbolical Journey Through the Mark Degree

The Advancement degree of Mark Masonry is the fourth regular step in Freemasonry and an integral part of 'Pure and ancient Freemasonry' as defined by Rule 2 of the Craft constitution. The ceremony involves a symbolical journey through two distinct stages, each with its own lessons and teachings. The first in being acknowledged as a Mark Man; and the Second being Advancement to the honourable degree of a Mark Master Mason.

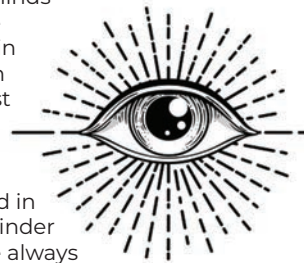
The First section takes us back to our operative roots with the selection of a mark by which our work will be known, whilst being instructed in the method by which our ancient Brethren receive their wages due to patience, industry, and merit. This section is an extension or amplification of the Craft Fellow Craft degree. During this preliminary journey, the candidate must take an obligation similar to that he experienced in the Craft; Once again the Square and Compasses are displayed on the V.S.L.

The Square and Compasses have long been used to represent the basic foundations of Freemasonry and are the most recognisable symbol associated with all four degrees that comprise Pure and Ancient Freemasonry here in Victoria. The Compasses symbolise justice of the Creator, as well as acting as our moral compass that guides us along our symbolical journey. It also points out our own ability to make good choices and to remain steadfast in our own convictions. The Square is a symbol of balance and harmony, as well as a reminder to be honest in all dealings with others. The two tools, when combined, form an equilateral triangle, which is symbolic of the perfect balance between mind, body and soul that all Freemasons strive for in their lives.

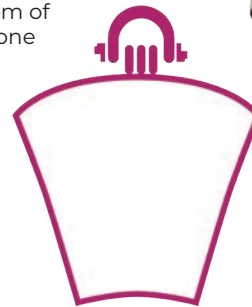


The Second section is a journey that is a test of faith and fortitude and seeks to illustrate the events immediately beyond the degree of a Master Mason. Freemasons must demonstrate their dedication to Freemasonry and their willingness to follow its teachings in order to pass this test. This section can be viewed as a journey of self-discovery, as it allows the candidate to reflect on their own physical and spiritual worth within the passage of life.


The journey takes the candidate from the symbolical quarries at Jerusalem, where we work to shape our minds "as living stones for that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens," to a presentation to the Overseers, which is a test of a Brother's fortitude. The jewel of these Overseers is the All-Seeing Eye. The All-Seeing Eye represents the Creator, and in Mark Masonry, serves as a reminder that our words and actions are always observed and recorded by a higher power, so we must always strive to act according to our highest principles.



Our ultimate reward in this degree is the investiture of the Keystone jewel. The Keystone is the emblem of a Mark Master Mason. The Keystone can be viewed as a symbol of strength and stability, as well as accomplishment of our symbolical journey; something which all Master Masons should strive for.



The investiture of the Keystone jewel should ever remind the Brethren that they are part of something special and that all Freemasons should strive to reach their full potential.

Symbols are what Freemasons use to help understand its principles and beliefs more deeply. Each symbol carries its own unique meaning, which can help us better assist us in understanding our ancient Craft. 



By VWBro. Glenn S.L. Hollibone  
Grand Lecturer

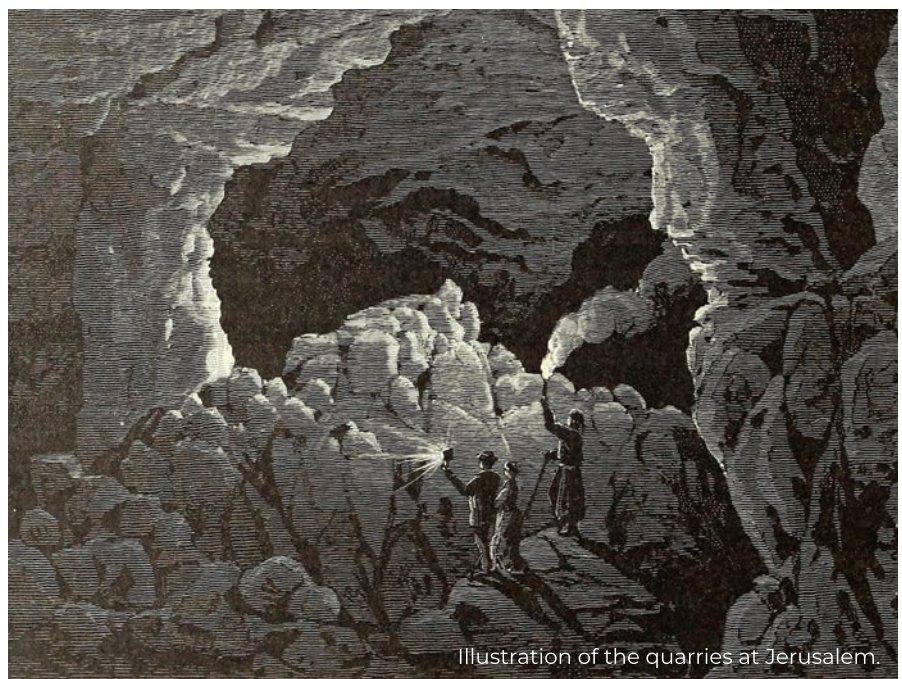


Illustration of the quarries at Jerusalem.



# Message from the First Grand Principal



Companions and Brethren, summer is here, and many of us are thinking of holidays and being somewhere cool. Others living in fire-prone areas will be thinking of the potential of bushfire and preparing plans of safety. Then, of course, there are the celebrations of Christmas and New Year. And so, those things associated with Summer will be for some a source of happiness and well-being; for others the cause of worry and despair. Thinking about Christmas and New Year, is there any connection between these celebrations and Freemasonry in general and Royal Arch Masonry in particular?

Firstly, Christmas. Amid all the hype and commercialism attached to celebrating Christmas, I am sure we all know the true essence at the core of these celebrations. From the orthodox point of view, the birth of Jesus heralds a new beginning. Celebrating this new beginning is of course ancient, having spanned two thousand years in its many guises. Celebrating New Year is also ancient with Rosh Hashanah a Jewish celebration spanning the ages to this day. It is called the 'Day of the Shofar Blast' in which God's rule in the life of the people is recalled. The shofar is usually translated as a ram's horn and its blowing reminds the people of an imperfect past and God's offering of a new beginning.

In our secular culture our celebrations of New Year often include large crowds, fireworks and so on. What are we celebrating? Is it not a new beginning - letting go of the past with the anticipation of a better future?

Initiation means a new beginning, and in our Masonic ceremonies we leave aside the past to begin a new journey. In so doing we contemplate allegories, symbols and mythological stories to enable us to experience the same joy and peace that comes with the blast of the shofar and proclaimed at Christmas time in the story of the shepherds. This is especially true when, climbing the winding staircase, we enter the middle chamber of our inner being and realise the divine presence within. In our Royal Arch Exaltation ceremony, having been lowered to the very depths of being, we make a similar discovery and we again experience profound joy and peace.

And so, we may now see a link between Christmas, New Year and our Masonic ceremonies. Just as we make use of ancient symbols and stories to enable those who participate in our ceremonies to set aside the past and experience transformation and a positive future, so too even in our secular celebrations we use the ancient symbols and stories that still capture the imaginations of many in our community.



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



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

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

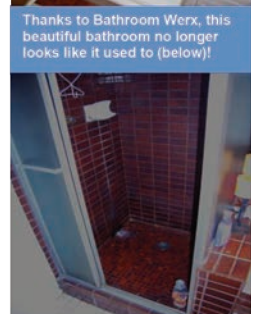
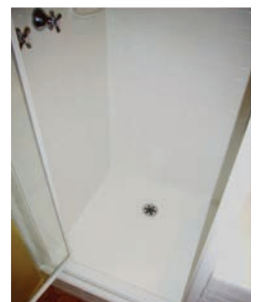
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Moses elects the Council of Seventy Elders.

# 72 Elders


Companions may have noticed that during the ceremony of Exaltation, when the candidate is invested with his robe, sash, jewel etc., he is entrusted with a staff of office, which he is "always permitted to bear, unless seventy two of the Elders are present". He is immediately relieved of this staff by the DC, making the less reverent of us wonder whether 72 elders have suddenly just arrived; what is this all about?

The "Seventy-two Elders" refers to the Supreme Council of State, the governing body of Israel. In our ritual, it is referred to as the Grand Sanhedrim, although that particular body did not come into existence until about 160 BC in the days of Judas Maccabeus; nevertheless, such a Council had existed from the earliest times — at least since God ordered Moses to select seventy of the Elders and leaders of Israel to assist him in the governing of the nation. (Numbers 11:16). It is thought that Solomon had a council of 70 advisers, although this may be only a legend. The Sanhedrim (an Aramaic word) or Sanhedrin (Hebrew) when formed, sat daily, except on the Sabbath and feast days, and consisted of seventy of the priests, scribes and learned men under the superintendence of a prince: thus making seventy-one in total.

We are not sure how the figure of 72 Elders came to be used in Royal Arch ceremony. There are several theories, but none can be fully substantiated; perhaps the most practical is that Moses selected a deputy leader, thereby bringing the total to 72 from 71 — but again, there is no hard evidence. Certainly, the number of 72 has been used since the formation of the Chapter.

You will recall that in our ceremony the Sojourners, having been given their task of clearing the ground for the foundation of the second Temple, are warned that should they discover anything of importance they are to

communicate it to "none but the Grand Sanhedrim now sitting". When their momentous discovery is duly reported, it is not surprising that they are rewarded by being elevated to the status of Councillors. As such, they would have carried a staff of office. This has been a common mark of executive office through much of history until quite recent times; used by officials of Court and Parliament, Heralds and military officers; indeed, it is still in use in the form of the Field Marshal's baton, or even as the DC's baton and Deacons wands in a Freemasons' Lodge. However, as the Sanhedrim was limited to the official number of 72, should all the other members of the Council show up, the newly appointed members would have had to give way to their seniors.

It is unknown whether the Companions in the early Chapters all carried wands at their meetings; they may well have done so. After all, we still use an arch of wands when the candidate is "brought to light" at his exaltation. This may be the remnant of an early custom, and seems likely. We do know that early Chapters were indeed limited to 72 members, possibly excluding the Principals and Scribes, possibly excluding the Principals and Scribes, and that regulations stated that if that number was exceeded, the extra companions could not be considered to be councillors or hold the staff of office. 

*By V.E.Comp Russ Sheldrick,  
Grand Lecturer*





# The Emblematical Sacred Triangle

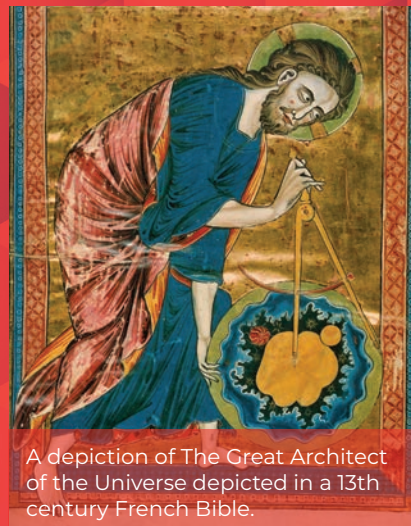
By VVBro. Glenn S.L. Hollibone  
Grand Lecturer

In Freemasonry the triangle symbol is a simple one, but is also one with a great amount of meaning behind it. There is, in fact, no other symbol which is more various in its application or more generally diffused throughout the whole system of Freemasonry.

The equilateral triangle is to be found scattered throughout the Masonic system. It forms, in the Royal Ark Mariners as in the Royal Arch, the symbol within which the jewels of the Officers are placed. It is in other degrees and Rites of Masonry known as the sacred Delta, presenting itself as the symbol of the Great Architect of the Universe.



In conclusion, Masonic symbols take on meanings that are sometimes glanced over or may not appear to be obvious. It is for this reason that we should foster in our candidates the contemplation and study of these images in order to develop a personal message from each Masonic symbol and apply it towards their own Masonic journey. Through our symbols, material items such as the simple triangle that are laid before us become spiritual and it is ultimately the spiritual that becomes credible. Brethren, this symbol deserves more of your attention and contemplation. ✧



A depiction of The Great Architect of the Universe depicted in a 13th century French Bible.

This symbol, while perhaps more forcefully presented within the degree of the Royal Ark Mariner Mason, is nevertheless, in the possession of the Master Mason. Esoterically, the Equilateral Triangle is embodied by the Square and Compasses as, when the Compasses are opened to the extent of sixty degrees (as they should be), and a third line is drawn connecting the two ends of the extended legs, we have a complete Equilateral Triangle.



A Royal Ark Mariner Lodge is laid out with the Commander in the East and Sons Japheth and Shem in the West in a triangular arrangement as was found within the Ancient Craft Lodges. The triangle or delta is central to the whole ceremony and one can be reminded of it with every step the candidate and deacons take. This triangular form of the Lodge is distinctly different to that of a Craft or Mark Lodge and reflects the symbolism of Royal Ark Mariner Masonry, which is the relationship of a Brother with his Creator.



The Triangle or Delta draws the candidate's attention to what is probably the world's oldest symbol of the deity, and fixes his attention upon the seeking of excellence or fulfilment.



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# The Caledonians

## Demonstrations of the Scottish Craft Degrees

An era of Freemasonry is diminishing and sadly may come to an end in Victoria. The Caledonian Demonstration Team; most of its current members are in their 80s and, unfortunately, many attempts to recruit new blood have been unsuccessful.

The group was formed in the early '50s by the many Scots who emigrated to Australia at that time, many of whom settled in the western suburbs of Melbourne, where there were many heavy engineering jobs available; Massey Ferguson and International Harvester being notable examples.

Most of these tradesmen were also Freemasons and soon made themselves known among the local fraternity, integrating into the various Lodges in the area.

However, the local Freemasons soon got fed up with the Scots repeating these familiar words; "That's no how we do it in Scotland". The response being, "show us", and that is how the Demonstration Team started. The degrees were first worked in the Sunshine and Footscray areas.

As a young Mason, some 50 years ago, one can still remember the ritual being delivered by members of the team. There was no prompting being given, nor was it needed, and how they moved without a DC, still doing the same but with each member delivering the ritual in his own way so that one could never see the same ceremony twice.

Word soon spread about this new group among the Lodges and by the late sixties they were travelling to all points of the compass within Victoria and on a few occasions, interstate to South Australia & NSW.

In the early days, they worked as a Lodge; complete with their own notice paper. Remnants of such papers indicate that the Caledonians often undertook demonstrations four or five times a week, having had the membership numbers to enable them to do so. Most members were able to cover multiple charges.

As well as degree ceremonies, the team also carried out Installations, mostly for those of Scottish heritage.

In these formative days it was decided that any monies raised by the group would go to aid our Freemasons Hospital and The Homes. In this current period, the Lodge where the team demonstrate decide on which charity the money will go to. Blaze Aid, Red Cross, Anglicare, the 2020 Bushfire Appeal, and Taralye to name a few. Since the group's inception, the total funds raised for Masonic and other groups is in the region of \$300,000 to \$400,000.

There are still some Caledonians available to demonstrate some of the skills and are available upon request. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿

*By RWBro. Tom Stirling PJGW*

### GET IN TOUCH

For more information please contact -

**RWBro. Tom Stirling PJGW**

Email: [glenwattle7@outlook.com](mailto:glenwattle7@outlook.com)



THOUGHTS FOR THE ENQUIRING MASON

# Freemasonry and the Leo Taxil

# HOAX



Leo Taxil was born Gabriel-Antoine Jogand-Pagès in 1854 near Marseille, France. Educated in Jesuit schools, Taxil was a French writer and journalist who became known for his strong anti-Catholic and anti-clerical views. He achieved notoriety during the 1870s when he wrote books and pamphlets that were decidedly anti-Catholic Church, anti-clerical and anti-Jesuits. These publications had sensational titles such as, The Grotesque Cassocks, The Bible for Laughs, The Secret Loves of Pius IX, The Jesuit's Son and A Female Pope.

For these scurrilous works, in 1879, Leo Taxil was tried at the Seine Assizes for writing a pamphlet that was accused of insulting a religion recognized by the state, for which he was eventually acquitted.

Undeterred, Taxil continued to produce anti-clerical material right up until Pope Leo XIII issued another encyclical condemning Freemasonry claiming, "...the Freemasons no longer making any secret of their purposes, they are now boldly rising up against God Himself. They are planning the destruction of holy Church publicly and openly..."

Many writers have concluded that with this encyclical, Taxil seized another opportunity to peddle his craft and make some money. In July 1885 Taxil repented and expressed his deepest shame for writing such anti-clerical works, confessed his sins, sought absolution and embraced the Catholic Church. Amongst his sins he claimed that for a short while he was a Freemason but had cut ties with the Craft in 1881.

Leo Taxil now devoted himself, with the same passion as his anti-clerical writings, to produce a series of works denouncing Freemasonry and exposing its lewd and debauched activities. Knowing his audience, Taxil focused on Lodges of Adoption (male and female French lodges) where he told tales of great sexual excess and devil worshipping lesbians. The leaders of the Catholic Church congratulated Taxil for exposing the heinous crimes of the Freemasons.

Taxil's Masonic exposes grew more and more outlandish; that Albert Pike communicated with other satanic leaders of Freemasonry through the medium of a talking magical silver toad.

At the Geographical Society in Paris on 19 April 1897, Leo Taxil claimed he would reveal all, and that he did when he informed the crowd audience that all he had written denouncing Freemasonry and its debauched activities was a lie and that he had made the whole thing up. It was a hoax.

"The public made me what I am; the arch-liar of the period," confessed Taxil, "for when I first commenced to write against the Masons my object was amusement pure and simple. The crimes I laid at their door were so grotesque, so impossible, so widely exaggerated, I thought everybody would see the joke and give me credit for originating a new line of humour. But my readers wouldn't have it so; they accepted my fables as gospel truth, and the more I lied for the purpose of showing that I lied, the more convinced became they that I was a paragon of veracity."



Top Image: Leo Taxil.  
Bottom Image: Poster advertising the work of Leo Taxil.

Parisian newspaper with the account of Leo Taxil's confession to the Taxil hoax.



# The Victorian Lodge of Research No.218



## Lecture Programme 2025 4th Friday Spring & October

Dates	Lecture	Presenter	Meeting Format
Friday 28 March	Proclamation of Master and Investiture of Officers Installation Paper by MWBro. Peter Henshall GM		Grandview Hotel and online
Thursday 24 April	The Rum Rebellion & The Eureka Stockade	RWBro. Ian Upjohn	Grandview Hotel and online
Friday 23 May	Stoic Philosophy and Freemasonry	Bro. James Constance	Grandview Hotel and online
Friday 27 June	The Feast of St John online event	Guest speaker and videos	Online Meeting
Friday 25 July	<i>Lodge in recess</i>	<i>Lodge in recess</i>	<i>Lodge in recess</i>
Friday 22 August	Aleister Crowley - Living Evil?	WBro. Dr Lewis Allan	Grandview Hotel and online
Thursday 25 September	Anthony Fenn Kemp - Masonic Scoundrel?	WBro. Michael Hyland	Grandview Hotel and online
Friday 24 October	Under the Sign of the Southern Cross - Masonic Heraldry in Australasia	WBro. Nik Sakellaropoulos	Grandview Hotel and online



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From "300 FAMOUS FREEMASONS"  
by RWBro. Kent Henderson



# 'Smokin' Joe Frazier

## World Heavyweight Boxing Champion

One of the greatest world heavyweight boxing champions of all time, Billy Joe Frazier was born on 12 January 1944, in Beaufort, South Carolina. His parents, Rubin and Dolly Frazier, were sharecroppers, so the family was financially insecure.

Frazier quit school at 13 and two years later he moved to New York City to live with an older brother and find work. Employment, however, was hard to come by. But Frazier dreamed of being a great boxer; of becoming the next Joe Louis.

After moving to Philadelphia, Frazier found work at a slaughterhouse, where he routinely punched sides of beef stored in a refrigerated room. That scene later inspired Sylvester Stallone for his famous 1976 film, *Rocky*.

It wasn't until 1961, now aged 17, that Frazier entered the ring and actually began to box. He was rough and undisciplined, but his unpolished talent caught the eye of trainer Yank Durham. Under the direction of Durham, who shortened Frazier's punches and added power to his devastating left hook, the young boxer

quickly found success.

For three straight years, he was the Middle Atlantic Golden Gloves Champion, and he captured the gold medal at the 1964 Summer Olympics in Tokyo. He turned professional in 1965 and in just under a year had compiled an 11-0 record.

In March 1968 he was crowned heavyweight champion, a result that stemmed in part from Muhammad Ali getting stripped of his heavyweight title the year before, after refusing to be drafted.

In 1970 Ali successfully sued to get his boxing license back, setting the stage for the sport's highly anticipated matchup between Frazier and Ali.

While the two fighters may have respected each other, they were clearly not friends. Frazier was unimpressed with the vocal Ali, who repeatedly called him a 'gorilla' and an 'Uncle Tom'. Years later Frazier's anger cooled. After seeing Ali, battling Parkinson's disease, light the flame at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Frazier told reporters that he no longer had any bitter feelings towards Ali.

Their first battle, dubbed the Fight of the Century took place at New York's Madison Square Garden on 8 March 1971. Despite being lighter and shorter than Ali, Frazier, in front of a packed house, wore Ali down. He took the fight with a unanimous decision, delivering Ali his first professional defeat. The victory catapulted him into full-fledged stardom and riches. He purchased a 368-acre farm not far from where he'd grown up and became one of first African Americans to speak in front of the South Carolina Legislature.

In 1974, Frazier, who'd lost his title the year before to George Foreman, stepped into the ring against Ali again. This time it was Ali who came out victorious. Their final battle came in 1975 in the Philippines.

Dubbed the Thrilla in Manila, it is considered the sport's greatest fight by most boxing historians. The match lasted 14 bruising rounds before Frazier, battling eyesight issues, was prevented from coming out for the final round by his trainer, Eddie Futch. It was the 'closest thing to dyin' I know of,' Ali later said after the fight.

In 1976, at the age of 32, Frazier retired. He briefly returned to the ring in 1981, but quickly retired again, and for good, after just one fight.

In terms of family, Frazier had 11 children. He and his wife, Florence Smith, divorced in 1985. Frazier remained with his long-time girlfriend of forty years, Denise Menz, until his death. His post-boxing years saw him manage the career of his oldest son, Marvis, a heavyweight. His daughter, Jacqui Frazier-Lyde, also took up boxing and eventually fought Ali's daughter, Laila Ali, in a fight called Ali-Frazier IV. Ali came out victorious.

Frazier also became something of a television celebrity. He appeared as himself in an episode of *The Simpsons* in 1992, and another in 2006, having also had many other TV appearances. He appeared as himself in the Academy Award winning 1976 movie, *Rocky*.

Frazier released his autobiography in March 1996, entitled *Smokin' Joe: The Autobiography of a Heavyweight Champion of the World, Smokin' Joe Frazier*.

He also wrote *Box Like the Pros*, a complete introduction to the sport, including the game's history, rules of the ring, how fights are scored, how to spar, the basics of defence and offence, the fighter's workout, a directory of boxing gyms, and much more. *Box Like the Pros* is an instruction manual, a historical reference tool and an insider's guide to the sport.

Frazier lived in Philadelphia where he owned and managed a boxing gym. Frazier put the gym up for sale in mid-2009. Previous to the gym being put up for sale, Frazier formed the Smokin Joe Frazier Foundation – designed to give back to troubled and in need youth. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has named Joe Frazier's gym in its 25th list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. In 2013, the gym was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Frazier died from liver cancer on 7 November 2011, at the age of 67. Upon hearing of Frazier's death, Muhammad Ali said, 'The world has lost a great champion. I will always remember Joe with respect and admiration'. Frazier's private funeral took place on 14 November at the Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church in Philadelphia and, in addition to friends and family, it was attended by Muhammad Ali, promoter Don King, and Magic Johnson, among others.

Brother Joe Frazier was initiated in M. B. Taylor Lodge No 141 in Hammonton, New Jersey, on 28 January 2008 (Grand Lodge of New Jersey); which was 'late in life' – he died four years later.



Frazier in 1996.



Olympic gold medalist at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.



Joe Frazier (left) throwing a punch at Hans Huber of Germany during the heavyweight boxing gold medal bout at the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo.



Joe Frazier petitioned MB Taylor Lodge No. 141 in Hammonton, NJ on 28 January 2008.



# The Temple and the Vault by Travis Trinca

## Discover the Hidden Power of Initiatic Myths in Freemasonry

Within Freemasonry, we find a multitude of stories.

To the esotericist, the language, symbols, and allegories employed in Freemasonry are not simply an antiquated hangover from our less enlightened forefathers. They are deliberate, purposeful, and well-guided systems of instruction — an active method of instruction that reaches beyond simple storytelling. Candidates don't just read or hear about these stories; they live them by participating in dramatic re-enactments. This book explores why such initiatic myths are more than just entertaining tales.

The practice of using allegorical dramas to impart wisdom isn't unique to Freemasonry. In fact, many of the ancient initiatic Mystery rites were centred around very similar stories. For instance, in the ancient Greek Eleusinian Mysteries initiates were led through dramatic rituals designed to bring initiates to an inner understanding of their relationship to Man, Nature, and the Gods. In one famous part of the Eleusinian rites, the great secret revealed was nothing more than wheat (although, curiously translated to corn by some British translators). To the uninitiated, this might seem insignificant, but in context of the myth of Persephone's abduction by Hades, the rite being held in the dark vault-like atmosphere of a cave, and the ritual being held in the late-Summer, this symbol held profound meaning. It symbolised life, death, and rebirth. It was perhaps the next best thing to extracting from the candidate the Divine Spark within and presenting it to their attention. This is similar to the secrets within Freemasonry and its appendant bodies. To the uninitiated, they might mean very little. But within the context of our dramas, with some sincere thought and reflection, some meaning can be unlocked.

The true power of these initiatic myths lies not in the literal interpretation of their elements but in their ability to strike a sympathetic chord within our own being. It's about the context in which they're revealed and the emotional journey of the initiate. In ritual, these secrets are not just shown; they are experienced. This book explains how this approach elevates these stories into transformative experiences, bridging the gap between allegory and personal realisation.

Freemasonry is just one example. Other initiatic organisations, both historical and contemporary, use similar methods. Whether it's the Masonic lodge or an ancient mystery temple, these societies share a common theme: they present their aspirants with a symbolic journey that leads them to deeper truths about themselves and the universe.

This book not only presents an analysis of Freemasonry's most significant narratives but also explores the narratives behind other historically significant esoteric traditions. Readers will gain an understanding of the origins of these stories and why they continue to hold such enduring appeal for their members. Through a blend of historical exploration and esoteric insight, this work uncovers the purpose behind the symbols and rituals used in initiatic orders.

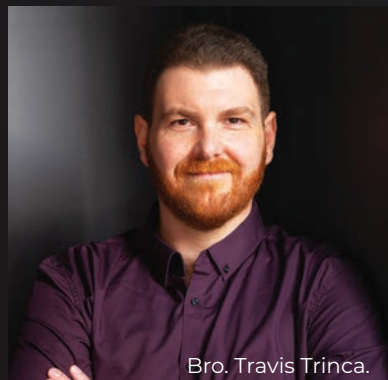
Whether you're a seasoned Freemason, an esoteric enthusiast, or simply curious about the inner workings of initiatic societies, this book provides a detailed look into the role that these myths play. ✨



Scan the QR code to purchase the book.

### THE AUTHOR

Travis Trinca is a dedicated Freemason and Rosicrucian with a passion for exploring esoteric traditions. His work, "Who are the Rosicrucians?" earned him the Companion of Christian Rosenkreutz award. Travis is known for making complex philosophical ideas accessible and engaging, which has made him a popular speaker in Masonic and esoteric communities. He is currently Junior Warden at North Melbourne Lodge No. 41.



Bro. Travis Trinca.

## The Temple and the Vault

Travis Trinca

### REVIEWS

"This eminently readable book sets out to provide the answers to even the questions you may not be knowledgeable enough to ask... and delivers."

**WBro. Dr Les Mighalls**  
The Bank Place Lodge No. 942

"The Temple and the Vault is an engaging introduction to Freemasonry, Rosicrucianism, and the Western Esoteric tradition. Travis highlights the power of stories and enchantment in these traditions, showing how they play a key and foundational role which should not be forgotten or diminished. Highly recommended for those looking to explore the magic of esoteric traditions."

**Bro. Sebastiano Della Lena**  
Garibaldi Lodge No. 890

"Speaking as an initiate, Trinca analyses the structure of the myths used to teach archetypal aspirations within Masonic and Rosicrucian orders, offering insights both as a scholarly historian and as a member who has experienced the initiatic myths firsthand. The book explains the models, structures, and internal functions of specific ranking systems, as well as the rituals that allow candidates to progress. Written in an insightful yet jovial tone, Trinca promises an entertaining as well as a concisely informative read."

**Bro. Michael Zoupa**  
The Lodge of Evolution No. 931

# the SQUARE

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**IN THIS EDITION**  
The Lost Grand Master  
King Solomon's Temple  
Universal Rite



# The Lost Grand Master

It was the subject of much confusion and politicking, but from around 1600 to 1736, a tradition existed that the Sinclair family of Roslin (later St. Clairs of Rosslyn) were the hereditary heirs of the operative mason craft in Scotland, even though more urgent political matters occurring during the later months of 1637 appear to have forever stalled a final decision on competing claims.

At the formation of the Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of Scotland in 1736, William St. Clair of Rosslyn formally abandoned he and his heirs' claim as hereditary protectors of the operative craft, however tenuous the claim may have been in the first instance, in order to become the first Grand Master of that speculative Grand Lodge.

Masonic historian David Stevenson argues that despite their distinguished place in Scottish Masonic history, owing largely to William St. Clair's chairmanship of the fledgling Grand Lodge, neither he or his family contributed a great deal to the operative or speculative crafts.

## William St. Clair (1700-1778)

William St. Clair was a member of the Clan Sinclair. He was styled Baron of Roslin; this was not a peerage but a Scottish feudal barony.

He was a descendant of the family noted for the building of the famous Rosslyn Chapel, situated outside Edinburgh, and which has taken its

place, rightly or wrongly, in Scottish Masonic lore.

He was initiated into Craft Freemasonry in Lodge Canongate Kilwinning, No. 2, Edinburgh, on 18 May, and passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on 2 June 1736.

In an extraordinary procedure, the Lodge met again on 22 November 1736, and St. Clair was in turn raised to the degree of Master Mason, before being made Junior Warden, Senior Warden, and Master of the Lodge.

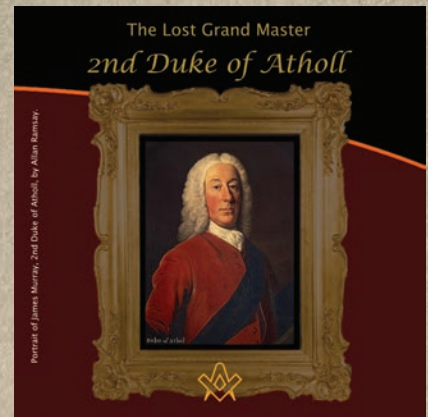
St. Clair was clearly being 'fast tracked' in order to take up his leadership role with the Grand Lodge.

By acclamation, he was elected Grand Master Mason of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, on St. Andrews Day, 30 November 1736.

Prior to his election, St. Clair read out his renunciation of his dubious hereditary claim. He had signed the document from which he read, on 24 November.

Approaching the end of his tenure as Grand Master, and as his family no longer retained hereditary claims, St. Clair began casting around for a successor.

In a letter dated 1 September 1737, he wrote to James Murray, 2nd Duke of Atholl, advising him that it was the wish of both himself, and the members of the Lodges then in existence in Scotland, that the Duke succeed him as Grand Master Mason:



My Lord,

*As I have just now the honour to be the Grand Master of the Masons in Scotland, of consequence the nomination of a Grand Master for the ensuing Election devolves upon me, and as it is customary to nominat (sic) the successor upon the quarterly communication preceding the election which is fixed to St. Andrew's day, and the quarterly communication is upon the twelfth of October, so the reason of troubling your Grace with this is to know if you will allow me the honour to name your Grace, which if agreeable to yourself, I'm positive will be much more so to the Lodges in General of Scotland.*

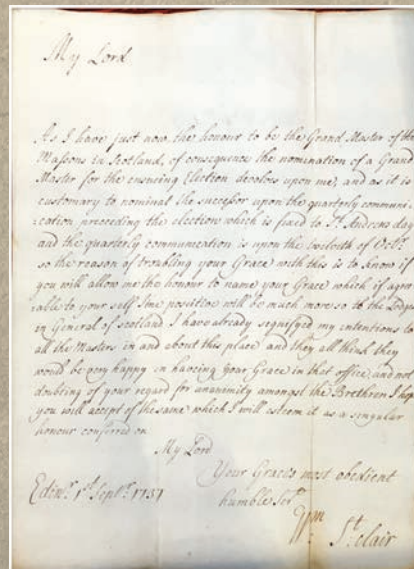
*I have already signified my intentions to all the Masters in and about this place, and they all think they would be very happy in having your Grace in that office, and not doubting of your regard for unanimity amongst the Brethren, I hope you will accept of the same, which I will esteem it as a singular honour conferred on*

My Lord

*Your Grace's most obedient humble servant*

Wm: St: clair

Edinburgh: 1 September 1737.





## James Murray: 2nd Duke of Atholl (1690-1764)

Murray was born in Edinburgh on 28 September 1690, the third son of John Murray, 1st Duke of Atholl, and his wife, Lady Katherine Douglas-Hamilton.

In the normal course of events, Murray would not have succeeded to the title of Duke of Atholl, but due to taking part in the Jacobite rebellion of 1715, his older brother William, Marquess of Tullibardine, was 'attainted' (dishonoured/disgraced), and by an act of parliament the dukedom was passed to James.

In 1715, James was elected a member of parliament for the city of Perth, Scotland, and was successfully re-elected in 1722.

He succeeded to the peerage following the death of his father in 1724, and in another act of parliament in 1733, it was clarified that the attainder of his older brother, William, in 1715 did not extend to any honourable descendent of James or his late father.

In June 1724, he was made a Lord Privy Seal, succeeding Lord Ilay. In 1734, he was admitted a member of the Order of the Thistle.

The Duke was the grandson of Lady Amelia Sophia Stanley, daughter of James Stanley, 7th Earl of Derby, and despite legal challenges from other family claimants, in 1736, he succeeded to the sovereignty of the Isle of Man, and the title 'Lord of Man' as well as the ancient barony of Strange, following the death of James, 10th Earl of Derby.

His succession to the Isle of Man brought with it many problems, including issues surrounding the prevalence of smuggling and piracy.

From 1737 to 1741, the duke sat in parliament, both as an English baron, and a Scottish representative peer. During the 1745 Jacobite rebellion, and as the forces of 'Bonnie Prince Charlie' (Prince Charles Edward Stuart), made inroads into highland Perthshire, the Duke fled southwards to England.

During this period, his older brother, the staunch Jacobite, William, took over possession of the family seat of Blair Castle at Blair Atholl, Perthshire. James joined the army of the Duke of Cumberland and returned northwards with him in the early months of 1746.

The Jacobite Rebellion of 1745, was finally, and brutally, ended at the Battle of Culloden on the 16 April 1746, the last pitched battle fought on British soil.



## The Duke and Freemasonry

It is not known where the 2nd Duke was initiated into Craft Freemasonry. It has been conjectured that he may have been made a 'gentleman Mason' in a Scottish operative lodge, or that he was initiated into an English lodge during a visit to that country.

He is recorded as attending a meeting of the Grand Lodge of England on the 17 April 1735.

A number of other Scottish noblemen were also in attendance. This meeting took place the year prior to the formation of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Writing of this meeting in his paper "The Dukes of Atholl and Freemasonry" read to the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, No. 2076, London, on 5 May 1967, Bro. W.G. Fisher observes:

"The Grand Lodge of Scotland was formed in the following year, but the Duke did not take any part in this, nor does he appear to have been considered for the Grand Mastership."

The discovery of William St. Clair's letter clearly shows that the Duke was most definitely considered for the role.

Although the Lodge of Dunkeld was not formally constituted until April 1737, the present Lodge (The United Lodge of Dunkeld 14) state that their first minute book records the formation of a 'second Lodge' on 27 December 1734.

In July 1735, James Murray became the first of several Dukes of Atholl to be elected Master of the Lodge. He was Master of the Lodge again from 1747 to 1750.

This tends to suggest that it is most likely that the duke was initiated into this, or an even earlier Lodge, in the

## Atholl Grand Masters

No record has yet been found of the Duke's response to St. Clair's request, but it was clearly negative, as on 5 October 1737, the Master of the Lodge announced in Lodge Canongate Kilwinning, No. 2, that St. Clair had now selected William Home, the 8th Earl of Home (1681-1761) as his appointed successor, and was awaiting his reply as to whether or not he accepted.

There was apparently a third possible candidate, John Lindsay, 20th Earl of Crawford (1702-1749), who had been Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England in 1734; but support for him seems to have been sparse, and the present writer has no evidence he was personally approached by St. Clair.

The Earl of Home clearly declined the invitation too, as the post was eventually accepted by George Mackenzie, 3rd Earl of Cromartie, who was elected Grand Master Mason of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Scotland on 30 November 1737.

Given the magnitude of the Duke of Atholl's commitments elsewhere at this particular time, it really comes as no surprise that he declined St. Clair's invitation.


Notwithstanding, a number of his descendants were less reticent:

John Murray, 3rd Duke of Atholl, was Grand Master of the Antients Grand Lodge of England from 1771 to 1774, and Grand Master Mason of Scotland from 1773 to 1774.

John Murray, 4th Duke of Atholl was Grand Master of the Antients Grand Lodge of England, from 1775 to 1781, and then again, from 1791 to 1813, and Grand Master Mason of Scotland, from 1778 to 1780.

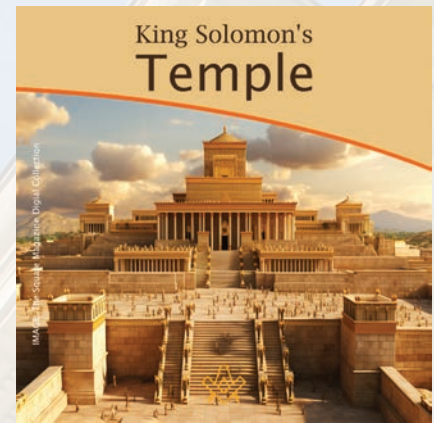
George Murray, 6th Duke of Atholl (formerly Lord Glenlyon), was Grand Master Mason of Scotland for an extensive period between 1843 and 1864.

John Stewart-Murray, 8th Duke of Atholl (formerly Marquess of Tullibardine), was Grand Master Mason of Scotland from 1909 to 1913.

James Murray, 2nd Duke of Atholl, died at Dunkeld, Perthshire, on 8 January 1764. 



Coat of arms of the 2nd to 4th Dukes of Atholl. ▶



**K**ing Solomon's Temple, also known as the First Temple, holds great significance in the religious and historical contexts of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

The temple was built during the reign of King Solomon, the third King of Israel, in the 10th century BCE. It was considered to be the spiritual centre of ancient Israel, serving as a place of worship and housing the Ark of the Covenant.

In this in-depth article, we delve into the story behind the construction and eventual destruction of Solomon's Temple, as well as its ongoing role within scholarly debate and overall cultural impact.

### King Solomon's Connection to the Temple

King Solomon, the son of King David and Bathsheba, ruled the United Kingdom of Israel in the 10th century BCE. According to the Hebrew Bible, Solomon was a wise and prosperous ruler. One of his most well-known accomplishments was the construction of the temple in Jerusalem, which was intended as a house of worship and a place to store Israel's religious artifacts, such as the Ark of the Covenant.

The Hebrew Bible, specifically, the books of the First Kings and Second Chronicles, provides an account of the construction of Solomon's Temple. These narrative claims that Solomon built the temple to honour God and solidify Israel's worship of Yahweh. The temple was designed to be not only a physical representation of the divine presence but also an axis mundi, connecting heaven and earth.

The dating of the temple's construction and the identity of its builder have been subjects of debate among scholars. The generally accepted view is that Solomon's Temple was built around the mid-10th century BCE. However, other scholars propose alternative dates for the temple's construction, ranging from the 12th to the 8th century BCE. Some argue that the temple was not built by Solomon but by other rulers, such as Omri or Ahaz.

### Construction and Architecture

The Hebrew Bible, particularly the First Kings and Second Chronicles, offers a description of the temple's construction. The temple was approximately 90 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 45 feet high. It was

designed with three main sections: the porchway, the Holy Place, and the Holy of Holies.

The architectural features of Solomon's Temple were heavily influenced by other ancient Near Eastern temples. The temple was constructed with stone, cedar wood, and gold. Stone blocks formed the foundation and walls, while cedar wood was used for the beams, roof, and flooring. The gold adorned several parts of the temple, including its walls, furnishings, and sacred objects.

The temple contained several unique elements in its design. For instance, it featured two massive, freestanding pillars known as Boaz and Jachin. Additionally, the walls of King Solomon's Temple were adorned with intricate carvings of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers.

The authenticity of the biblical account of Solomon's Temple construction is a matter of debate among scholars. While some believe that the temple described in the Hebrew Bible was a historical reality, others argue that it is a literary and theological construction that amalgamated various religious concepts and historical events.





## Archaeological Evidence and Debate

While no definitive archaeological evidence has been discovered that conclusively identifies the remains of King Solomon's Temple, several findings in and around Jerusalem suggest the possible existence of a temple in the area. Excavations on the Temple Mount have yielded structures and artifacts from the First Temple period, such as the Ophel Inscription and pottery shards.

The archaeological evidence for King Solomon's Temple has generated substantial debate among scholars. Some argue that the temple indeed existed as described in the Hebrew Bible, while others maintain that the temple, if it existed at all, was likely a less grandiose structure than that described in the biblical account. As archaeological methods and technologies continue to advance, the quest to understand the historical reality of Solomon's Temple persists.

## The Holy of Holies

The Holy of Holies, also known as the inner sanctuary, was the temple's most sacred chamber. Only the High Priest was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies, and even then, it was only once a year on the Day of Atonement. The purpose of this restriction was to maintain the sanctity of the space and protect it from human contamination.

The Ark of the Covenant was an ornate chest containing the Ten Commandments inscribed on two stone tablets. This sacred artifact resided in the Holy of Holies, symbolizing God's presence among the Israelites. The Ark reinforced the sanctity of the temple and its unique function in ancient Israel's religious life.

## Function and Worship

King Solomon's Temple primarily functioned as a house of assembly and worship for the Israelites. It was the centre of religious practices that included sacrifices, prayers, and rituals. The temple also played a pivotal role in the celebration of religious festivals and ceremonies, such as Passover and the annual pilgrimage known as the Feast of Tabernacles.

The religious practices conducted within the temple were diverse and central to Israelite culture. Sacrifices, such as burnt offerings and the peace offering, were conducted as a means of communication with God. The temple was also the site for the Levitical rituals, rites of purification, and the practice of tithing. These practices formed the backbone of Israelite religious life and social cohesion.

## Destruction and Aftermath

In 587 BCE, King Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylon invaded Jerusalem, leading to the eventual destruction of King Solomon's Temple. This event became known as the Babylonian exile and had a profound impact on the religious beliefs and identity of the Jewish people.

The destruction of Solomon's Temple ushered in a period of religious transformation among the Israelite population. The loss of the physical temple forced a reconsideration of the religious practices, ultimately leading to the development of Jewish monotheism. This transition involved a new focus on studying and interpreting the Torah, rather than the rituals and sacrifices once conducted at the temple.

## Conclusion

King Solomon's Temple remains an enduring symbol of religious, historical, and cultural significance. Its story highlights the complexities of ancient Israelite religious beliefs and the ongoing debate surrounding the authenticity of the biblical narratives. The temple's destruction and its lasting influence on Jewish monotheism reveal the resilience and adaptability of religious traditions in the face of adversity. As scholars continue to search for definitive evidence, the temple's enigmatic legacy endures as a testament to the power of faith and human imagination. ✨





# Universal Rite

Freemasonry has long stood as a bastion of esoteric knowledge and fraternity, its rites and rituals infused with deep symbolic meaning intended to guide its adherents on a path of personal development and enlightenment.

The Universal Rite represents a significant evolution within this tradition, emerging as a modern adaptation of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite (REAA).

This transformation is not merely a change but an expansion, designed to accommodate the demands and ethos of the contemporary world while preserving the core essence of Masonic philosophy.

The adaptation mirrors society's progression and highlights Freemasonry's responsiveness to the changing contexts in which it finds itself.

As societies evolve, so too must the systems and traditions that serve them, ensuring relevance and continuity.

The Universal Rite thus represents a bridge between the historic mystique of Masonry and the bright, ever-changing future.

## Integration of Contemporary Principles

A pivotal aspect of the Universal Rite's relevance in the modern epoch lies in its integration of contemporary philosophical and scientific principles.

This incorporation goes beyond mere surface adjustment, weaving esoteric, spiritualist, historical, rational, and scientific themes deeply into the fabric of Masonic rituals.

The inclusion of these elements represents a conscious effort to both preserve and perpetuate Masonry's inherent desire for the pursuit of knowledge and wisdom.

This adjustment ensures that Masonry remains a living tradition, actively engaging with the world's current intellectual currents.

It underscores a fundamental Masonic allegory:

*The temple of wisdom is never complete but is perpetually under construction, with each generation laying new stones upon the foundation of old. In this sense, the Universal Rite is both a guardian of tradition and a pioneer of new spiritual and intellectual frontiers.*

## Continuity and Adaptation

The challenge faced by any longstanding tradition is maintaining

its identity and core values amidst necessary changes.

The Universal Rite successfully navigates this challenge by maintaining the fundamental structure of the REAA while simultaneously adapting to the times.

The central degrees, symbols, and rituals that define the Masonic experience are preserved, ensuring that the essence of the Masonic journey—its allegorical ascent through degrees of enlightenment and understanding—remains intact.

Yet, adaptation is evident in the way these elements are presented and interpreted. These modifications are reflective of Masonry's acknowledgment that truth is not static but dynamic, evolving with new discoveries and insights.

In Masonic terms, this adaptability could be likened to the pliability of the rough ashlar, which is gradually shaped into the perfect ashlar, ready to fit into the grand architectural plan.

## Promotion of Universality

The Universal Rite, as its name suggests, emphasizes the universal nature of Masonic teachings.

Freemasonry has historically prided itself on being a universal brotherhood, and this rite further expands on this by making Masonic wisdom accessible and relevant to a broader audience.

This inclusivity is crucial, reflecting the Masonic ideal that light—symbolic of knowledge—should be available to all who seek it, regardless of background.

This universality also resonates with the Masonic concept of the global temple, an allegorical structure that encompasses all humanity, built not of stone but of moral and ethical teachings.

By adapting its rituals to be more inclusive, the Universal Rite helps lay the foundations for a more profound and widespread understanding of Masonic principles.

## Inter-cultural Dialogue

One of the most significant contributions of the Universal Rite is its promotion of intercultural dialogue.

In a world that is increasingly interconnected yet paradoxically divided, the ability to foster dialogue across cultural and spiritual divides is invaluable.

The Rite's adaptation and inclusion strategies function as bridges, facilitating not just tolerance but a deeper mutual respect and understanding.



This promotion of dialogue is deeply Masonic, mirroring the allegory of the trestle-board in Masonic Lodges, which symbolises the plan by which Masons live their lives.

## Contribution to Global Fraternity


In all these elements—evolution, integration, continuity, universality, and dialogue—the Universal Rite asserts itself as a modern manifestation of the Masonic pursuit of global fraternity.

As Masons are taught to square their actions by the square of virtue and circumscribe their desires and passions, so too the Rite shapes and modulates itself to be an instrument of peace and understanding.

The Masonic allegory of the brotherhood of all mankind under the fatherhood of God finds practical expression in the Universal Rite's principles.

By celebrating human diversity and promoting unity and harmony, it embodies the age-old Masonic ideals of fraternity, equality, and progress today, when the world needs these values more than ever.

Therefore, the Universal Rite can be seen not only as a response to the times but as a reaffirmation of the timeless values that Freemasonry has championed since its inception.

This dynamic synthesis of the old and the new, the universal and the particular, the spiritual and the rational, encapsulates the enduring wisdom and adaptability of Masonry—a tradition both ancient and eternally new. 



# 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](http://www.freemasons.nz.org/2025-grand-installation-and-grand-communication)

