

THE VICTORIAN

# FREEMASON



Freemasons  
Victoria

AUTUMN 2025



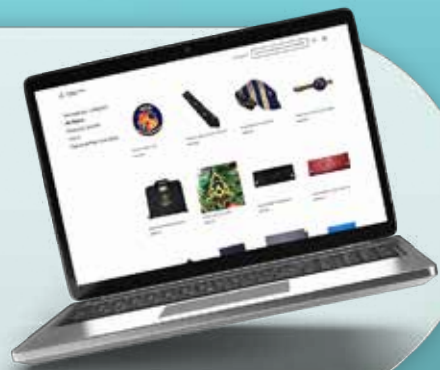
## Grand Installation 2025

In this edition we celebrate the Grand Installation of M.W. Bro. Peter John Henshall as the 49th Grand Master of the UGLV.

# FREEMASONS VICTORIA MERCHANDISE STORE



For all your Masonic accessories  
**freemasonsvic.square.site**



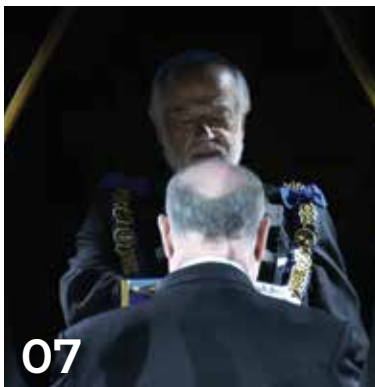


## CONTENTS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Welcome New Members                            | 04 |
| A Message from the Editor                      | 04 |
| Grand Installation 2025                        | 06 |
| Formation of the Sir Redmond Barry Lodge       | 10 |
| Australia Day Celebrations                     | 11 |
| Spreading Christmas Cheer                      | 12 |
| Supporting Monash Carols by Candlelight        | 12 |
| Blazing Star Toy Run                           | 13 |
| Cranbourne Lodge's Annual 'Robbie Burns Night' | 14 |
| Where Do You Wear Yours?                       | 14 |
| A Hidden Gem in Smythesdale                    | 16 |
| A Night of Significance                        | 18 |
| FFV: Community Innovation in Victoria          | 19 |
| FFV: A Nature Based Haven for Dementia Care    | 19 |
| FFV: Whittlesea Lodge Energising Communities   | 20 |
| A Message from the Grand Master                | 24 |
| A Message from the Grand Secretary             | 27 |
| Service Awards                                 | 28 |
| Vale MWBro. The Hon Austin Asche AC KC         | 30 |
| Vale RWBro. Peter Bryce PDGM                   | 31 |
| Message from the Grand Master of the Mark      | 33 |
| Pure and Ancient Freemasonry, Rule 2           | 34 |
| Some Aspects of Royal Ark Mariner Masonry      | 35 |
| Message from the First Grand Principal         | 36 |
| The Temples of Jerusalem                       | 37 |
| Knight Templars                                | 38 |
| TFTEM: Freemasonry – Why Geometry?             | 39 |
| TFTEM: Freemasonry and the Prince's Pillar     | 40 |
| General Douglas MacArthur: Five-Star General   | 41 |

## SUBMIT YOUR STORY!

If you have a story you would like to submit for the next edition of the magazine, please get in contact with the Freemasons Victoria Marketing Department by emailing:  
[marketing@freemasonsvic.net.au](mailto:marketing@freemasonsvic.net.au)



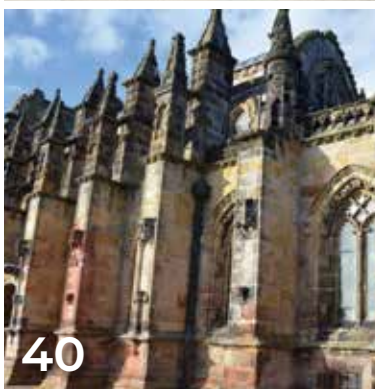
07



19



37



40



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

## CONTACT US

[marketing@freemasonsvic.net.au](mailto:marketing@freemasonsvic.net.au)  
 Telephone: (03) 9411 0111

Level 2/288 Victoria Parade,  
East Melbourne, VIC 3002  
 PO Box 553,  
East Melbourne, VIC 8002

## PUBLISHER

The Victorian Freemason  
magazine is published by  
Square One Publications Ltd  
(ACN 005 631 470)  
 Level 2/288 Victoria Pde  
East Melbourne VIC 3002

## EDITORIAL TEAM

VWBro. Ben Quick  
Editor

Mr. Michael King  
Creative Designer

WBro. Matt Salter  
Support

WBro. Thau Tsen  
Photographer

Bro. Roscher Borom  
Support

Bro. William Lewis  
Support



Freemasons  
Victoria

## ADVERTISE TO 7,000 FREEMASONS JOURNAL ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

Are you looking to expand your customer base?

The Freemasons Victoria Journal is a great opportunity for advertisers to generate increased exposure for their business or service.

Why not secure prominent advertising space in our recognised and respected member publication? Several cost-effective ad sizes and page location options are currently available.

The Freemasons Victoria Journal is published quarterly in Autumn, Winter, Spring, and Summer.

For more information or to request an order form, email:  
[marketing@freemasonsvic.net.au](mailto:marketing@freemasonsvic.net.au)





# NEW MEMBERS

1 NOVEMBER 2024 - 31 JANUARY 2025

# WELCOME

|                        |                                   |     |                     |                                     |     |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Vincent Calderone      | The Brighton District Lodge       | 37  | Jacob Williams      | The United Memorial & Merbein Lodge | 327 |
| Nima Sadeghi           | Lodge Bharat                      | 945 | Shehan Tambinayagam | Gippsland Forest Lodge              | 101 |
| Aron Cranenburgh       | Lodge Bharat                      | 945 | Robert Mackintosh   | Gippsland Lodge                     | 51  |
| Drew Cole              | The Lodge of Evolution            | 931 | Chamberlin Abon     | Gippsland Lodge                     | 51  |
| Antoine Dang Van Nha   | Lodge Amalthea                    | 914 | Rommel Magadan      | Gippsland Lodge                     | 51  |
| Sherwin Legaspi        | Melbourne St. Clair Reunion Lodge | 17  | Darcy Wood          | Keysborough Lodge                   | 912 |
| Lorenzo Hartigan       | Melbourne St. Clair Reunion Lodge | 17  | Manual Velarde      | Baxter Lodge                        | 934 |
| Cristian Roucas        | Lodge of Good Companions          | 647 | Arthur Perez        | Cranbourne Lodge                    | 290 |
| Darcy Kelly            | Peace and Loyalty Lodge           | 261 | Romen Donato        | Cranbourne Lodge                    | 290 |
| Reggie Chang           | Baden Powell Lodge                | 488 | Ashley Dahlstrom    | Cranbourne Lodge                    | 290 |
| Syed Abbas             | Victoria Lodge                    | 82  | Aries Ramos         | Warrnambool Lodge                   | 34  |
| Benjamin Weir          | Kyabram Lodge                     | 225 | Allen Calingayan    | St. Johns Lodge                     | 36  |
| Danyllo Alves de Faria | Lodge Belvoir                     | 727 | Luke Borg           | Guiding Star Lodge                  | 922 |
| Liam Nicolson          | Rutherglen Lodge                  | 188 | Milton Meier        | Glenelg Lodge                       | 154 |
| Darren Horsburgh       | Wodonga Lodge                     | 156 | Jan Co              | Werribee Enterprise Lodge           | 187 |
| Matthew Fitzpatrick    | Wangaratta Lodge of St. John      | 66  | Damian Slad         | Werribee Enterprise Lodge           | 187 |
| Kenneth Locke          | Mildura Lodge                     | 170 |                     |                                     |     |

## Message from the Editor

With a new Grand Master comes a new chapter for Victorian Freemasonry, and we couldn't be more excited about the road ahead. Freemasonry is built on tradition, but it also thrives on fresh ideas and a shared commitment to progress. Our 'Victorian Freemason' magazine is no different.

Publications evolve, just as our Craft does. The goal has always been to inform, inspire, and connect Victorian Freemasons across the entire Masonic family, and that remains unchanged.

This new year we look forward to continual improvement in our approach—sharpening our focus, listening to our readers, and ensuring that The Victorian Freemason continues to deliver a magazine worth looking forward to not just here in Victoria, but for our interstate and international Brethren as well.

One of the most rewarding parts of this journey has been hearing from so many of you about how much you enjoy the refreshed and refocused magazine. Your feedback is invaluable and knowing that the overwhelming majority of our members appreciate the content and style makes all the hard work worthwhile. After all, The Victorian Freemason is your magazine, and it will continue to grow and improve with your positive support.

The magazine team and I continue to choose to look ahead with optimism, collaboration, and integrity. The work speaks for itself, and the support from our readers makes it clear—we are on the right path. Thank you for supporting us.



VWBro. Ben Quick  
Editor

# Grand INSTALLATION 2025

The United Grand Lodge of Victoria marked a significant chapter in our history with the Grand Installation of Most Worshipful Brother Peter John Henshall as our 49th Grand Master.

Held over the weekend of 21–23 March 2025 at the Sofitel Melbourne on Collins, the occasion brought together Freemasons from across Australia, New Zealand, and further abroad to witness this important milestone.

The Grand Installation weekend began on Friday evening with a warm welcome reception at Sofi's Lounge.





Brethren and guests gathered in good spirits, renewing friendships and setting the tone for the weekend ahead.

Saturday's Grand Installation Ceremony, held in the Grand Ballroom, saw MWBro. Henshall installed as Grand Master, with RWBro. Myles King OAM invested as Deputy Grand Master. The room was filled with representatives from interstate and overseas jurisdictions, underlining the strength of fraternal ties across borders.

Following the ceremony, the Grand Banquet provided a fitting celebration. Guests were treated to fine dining and fellowship, with heartfelt speeches acknowledging the contributions of the outgoing Grand Master, MWBro. Anthony Bucca, and the bright future ahead under MWBro. Henshall's guidance.

The weekend concluded on Sunday with a farewell lunch at the Jim Stynes Grill at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, giving guests a chance to relax, reflect, and share in the spirit of unity that defines the Craft.

MWBro. Henshall steps into the role with a deep understanding of Freemasonry's values and a strong background in leadership, having previously served as Deputy Grand Master and in numerous senior roles within the Craft including Grand Secretary, Senior Grand Warden, and Grand Treasurer. His vision balances respect for tradition with a forward-looking approach to strengthening the organisation's role in modern society, "With wisdom we lead, in strength we serve, by beauty we build."





MWBro. Anthony Bucca.



Sharon Henshall, Anna Bucca and MWBro. Peter Henshall.



MWBro. Jeffrey Harper AFSM.



Hugh Cattermole, Peter and Maike Shellie, MWBro. Bob Jones and MWBro. Peter Henshall.



David and Irene Hendel, MWBro. Don Reynolds and Mya Grayly.



WBro. Peter Gallagher, VWBro. Greame Oldfield, Geoff Lowe, WBro. David Foong, WBro. Sudarshan Ramakrishnan.



MWBro. Peter and Sharon Henshall, RWBro Myles and Isabella King.



RWBro. Alex Thomson, VWBro. Ben Quick, WBro. Jason Gribble, and Bro. Roscher Borom.



MWBro. Peter Henshall and RWBro. Dunstan Fernandez.



RWBro. Bruce Cowie, MWBro. Ron Goodburn, and guests.



MWBro. Ron Goodburn, MWBro. Peter Julier, David Drysdale and MWBro. Peter Henshall.



MWBro. Khris Albano and the UGL NSW & ACT delegation.





MWBro. Anthony Bucca and MWBro. Peter Henshall.



VWBro. Frank Lombardo, MWBro. Anthony Bucca, MWBro. Peter Henshall and RWBro. Bruce Cowie.



MWBro. Anthony Bucca, MWBro. Don Reynolds and MWBro Peter Henshall.



MWBro Peter Henshall and RWBro. Myles King.



RWBro. Myles King, MWBro Peter Henshall, MWBro. Anthony Bucca.



MWBro. Peter Henshall and RWBro. John Rodrigo.



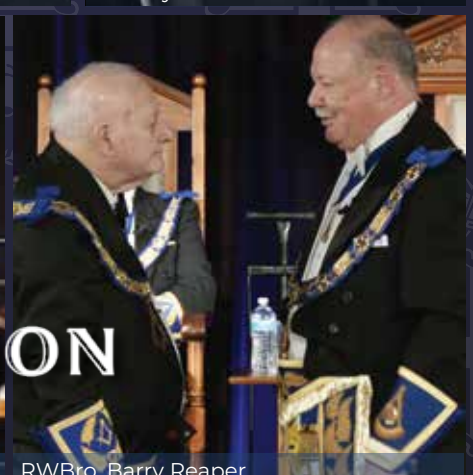
Lindsay Ondracek.



MWBro. Peter Henshall.



RWBro. David Ellwood.



RWBro. Barry Reaper.

# Grand INSTALLATION





MWBro. Jeffrey and Dorothy Harper.



WBro. Sahi Sanmugathas, WBro. Ramil Magnaye, Chrisanta Muli WBro. David Foong, WBro. Peter Sotir and WBro. Ted Wambi.



MWBro. Jim Walker.



MWBro. Garry Sebo AM.



Donna De La Rue & MWBro. Bob Jones.



MWBro. Peter Henshall.



MWBro. Khris Albano, MWBro. Peter and Sharon Henshall.



Brethren with MWBro. Abel W K Arumugam.



VWBro. Teodora Kalaw and MWBro. Anthony Bucca.



Bro. Matthew Henshall MWBro. Peter Henshall and WBro. Thau Tsen.



MWBro. Anthony and Anna Bucca.



RWBro. Barry and Jill Dyce.



MWBro. Abel W K Arumugam and WBro. Ted Wambi.





MWBro. Peter Henshall, MWBro. Les Hicks and MWBro. Tony Bucca.



MWBro. Bob Jones, MWBro. Les Hicks and MWBro. Derek Robson.



MWBro. Peter Henshall and guests.



MWBro. Peter and Sharon Henshall.



RWBro. Myles and Isabella King.



MWBro. Hillel and Sue Benedykt.



Mya Grayly and Pat Stewart.



VWBro. Teodora Kalaw, VWBro. Felix Pintado and MWBro. Khris Albano.



MWBro. Peter Henshall.



MWBro. Don Reynolds and MWBro. Hillel Benedykt.



MWBro. Anthony and Anna Bucca.







# The Formation of the Sir Redmond Barry Lodge No. 3

## A Legacy of Fraternity and Service

Traditionally, Masonic Lodges have played a vital role in fostering camaraderie, moral guidance, and service to the community. The newly formed Sir Redmond Barry Lodge No. 3 is committed to the enduring values of brotherhood, charity, and personal development. Named in honour of Sir Redmond Barry, an eminent figure in Melbourne's history, the Lodge carries forward a legacy of intellectual pursuit, justice, and public service.

### The Man Behind the Name

Sir Redmond Barry was a towering figure in 19th-century Australia, particularly in Melbourne. Born in Ireland in 1813, Barry immigrated to Australia in 1839, where he rapidly rose through the legal and academic ranks. He was instrumental in establishing institutions such as the Supreme Court of Victoria, the University of Melbourne, and the State Library of Victoria.

Sir Redmond Barry was the presiding judge at Ned Kelly's trial.

His commitment to justice and education left an indelible mark on Australian society, making him a fitting namesake for a Lodge dedicated to enlightenment and service.



### The Genesis of the Lodge

The formation of Sir Redmond Barry Lodge was driven by a group of like-minded individuals who sought to create an organisation rooted in tradition yet forward-thinking in its mission. With the guiding principles of Freemasonry, the Lodge was consecrated on 7 December 2024 at Freemasons Bayside.

The foundation members include legal professionals and individuals with backgrounds directly related to the law, all united by a shared commitment to ethical leadership and personal development.

Sir Redmond Barry Lodge shares a deep connection with the Lodge of Australasia, which was formed in 1844 and closely associated with the legal profession. Unfortunately, the Lodge of Australasia returned its warrant in 1983. In an effort to restore links between Freemasons Victoria and the broader legal industry, the new Lodge requested and was granted the use of the number 3, formerly assigned to the Lodge of Australasia.

The establishment of the Sir Redmond Barry Lodge was made possible with the assistance of the University Lodge, acknowledging Barry's instrumental role in founding the University of Melbourne.

It was also fitting that the last surviving member of the Lodge of Australasia, WBro. Peter Lees PGStdB, was invited to occupy the Master's chair of University Lodge to open the Lodge and welcome MWBro. Tony Bucca, Grand Master—himself a lawyer—and his consecrating team.

A number of items from the Freemasons Victoria archives belonging to the Lodge of Australasia were displayed, generating great interest. The appointed Immediate Past Master was presented with a Past Master's Jewel that once belonged to WBro. Ernst Stenborg PSGD, who was initiated into the Lodge of Australasia No. 3 on 21st February 1935 and served as Worshipful Master from 1949 to 1950. WBro. Stenborg also served with the Royal Australian Air Force during World War II.

### Core Principles and Activities

The Sir Redmond Barry Lodge operates under the core tenets of:

- **Brotherhood** – Creating a strong network of individuals who support each other in personal and professional endeavours.
- **Education** – Encouraging continuous learning and intellectual discussion among its members.
- **Benevolence and Charity** – Supporting members and their connections while engaging in charitable initiatives that benefit the broader community.
- **Tradition and Ritual** – Upholding time-honoured Masonic practices that connect members to a rich historical lineage and the pursuit of excellence.

The Lodge has planned regular meetings, lectures, and events that contribute to the well-being of both its members and the wider society. Scholarships, community outreach programs, and mentorship initiatives are integral to its mission.

### A Lasting Impact

By honouring the legacy of its namesake and fostering a spirit of lifelong learning and benevolence, Sir Redmond Barry Lodge is committed to inspiring and uplifting its members and the society they serve. As it grows, the Lodge remains steadfast in upholding the ideals that have guided its formation, ensuring a lasting impact for generations to come.

For those who seek a Lodge that blends tradition with a progressive vision, Sir Redmond Barry Lodge offers a meaningful and enriching experience. Whether through intellectual engagement, service projects, or the bonds of brotherhood, its members continue to build upon a foundation of excellence and dedication. 🏛️





# Australia Day Celebrations

Australia Day is a time to come together and celebrate everything that makes our country unique – from its diverse culture and rich history to the spirit of mateship that brings communities closer. This year, Australia Day was marked with a range of local events across the region, with several venues hosting gatherings filled with fun, food, and fellowship.

One such celebration took place at the Bayside Masonic Centre, where around 50 Freemasons came together to mark the occasion. The event featured a classic Aussie BBQ, plenty of cool drinks, and a relaxed, festive atmosphere. It was a great opportunity for members and their families to connect, share stories, and reflect on the values that tie them to both their fraternity and the broader Australian community. The day was a wonderful reminder of the importance of unity, camaraderie, and pride in our national identity. ✨

A cheque presentation to Freemasons Community Relief of \$5,000. ▶



RWBro. Lionel May.



WBro. Sashi Sanmugathas, WBro. Rod Segal, Bro. Kolitha Gunadasa, WBro. Raymond Ng, VWBro. Shawn Momen, MWBro. Tony Bucca, WBro. Frank Foo.



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

**615 Mountain Highway, Bayswater,  
Victoria 3153**

**(03) 9720 1719**

**[www.bayswaterdental.com.au](http://www.bayswaterdental.com.au)**

**For all aspects of  
dental care including  
treatment for sleep  
apnoea**

**Also available as an  
Expert Witness in  
General Dentistry**



**TYLER'S TOAST**



**OAK AGED TAWNY**

*"To warm each  
faithful heart."*

**The Perfect Tawny to enjoy  
together in the south.**

This stunning Bottle is a beautiful keepsake, a wonderful Gift of Appreciation or when a Milestone is achieved. An exceptional Oak Aged Tawny, easy to drink offering unique characteristics and experiences with every sip.

For all orders visit **[www.tylerstoast.com](http://www.tylerstoast.com)**

HERBAL LORE - DAYLESFORD, VICTORIA





CATCH-UP

## Spreading Christmas Cheer Freemasons Victoria Hosts Special Luncheon for Widows

On Saturday 14 December 2024, Freemasons Victoria hosted a heartwarming Christmas Lunch for the widows of past members—an event filled with festive spirit, thoughtful gestures, and genuine community connection. Held Freemasons Melbourne, the luncheon was a beautiful way to honour those who remain an important part of our Masonic family.

Guests were treated to a traditional Christmas meal complete with pudding, beverages, and a special gift pack, generously sponsored by Lodge Amicus No. 928. Entertainment was provided by none other than Brendan Scott of 3AW, whose performance added a lively and joyful touch to the afternoon. In a true show of care and camaraderie, transport for all widows was arranged by members of their respective Lodges, ensuring everyone could attend and feel included. The event was a touching reminder of the enduring support and fellowship that lies at the heart of Freemasonry. ✨



## Monash Gully Freemasons Supporting Monash Carols by Candlelight *since 2001*

CATCH-UP

Monash Gully Freemasons have long been a pillar of support within the community, and their annual assistance with the Monash Council Carols by Candlelight is a shining example of their dedication. Each year, as the festive season approaches, the Freemasons of Monash Gully prepare to contribute their time and effort to ensure the success of this beloved local event.

Monash Gully Freemasons have been instrumental in supporting the Monash Carols by Candlelight since 2001. Their involvement often includes organising our volunteers to ensure the success of the event. Not only is it their participation, but also their commitment to upholding traditions that bring joy and unity to the community.

With a large number of volunteers required to manage the event, the Freemasons' experience in coordination proves invaluable. Their presence fosters a sense of community and camaraderie. They engage with attendees, sharing the history and values of Freemasonry, and promoting a sense of goodwill and fellowship.

The evening featured enchanting performances by local talents. Carols by Candlelight 2024 welcomed over 18,000 community members to celebrate the festive season together. ✨





# BLAZING STAR TOY RUN



On 15 December 2024, The Widows Sons Masonic Riders Club organised an incredible motorcycle run with a heartfelt mission—collecting toys for disadvantaged children in the lead-up to Christmas. The event brought together passionate riders who hit the road for an epic 550-kilometre journey, spreading festive cheer and generosity along the way. Starting in Dandenong, the convoy made its way through to the Geelong Masonic Centre, Ballarat Masonic Centre, the Macedon Ranges Masonic Centre, and the Mount Waverley Masonic Centre, before making a final stop the Keysborough Masonic Centre.

At each stop, toys were gathered to be donated to children in need, culminating in a generous final batch delivered to Monash Childrens Hospital and its satellite children's wards. The event was a powerful demonstration of community spirit, compassion, and the impact of collective action. Thanks to the dedication and planning of the Widows Sons Masonic Riders Club, the ride was not only a scenic and spirited adventure—it was a meaningful gesture that brought hope and joy to countless children this holiday season. 🎄





Auld Lang Syne.

## Cranbourne Lodge No. 290, Annual 'Robbie Burns Night'

Monday 20 January 2025 saw the Cranbourne Lodge hold its annual celebration of the birth of Robbie Burns, which has been held each January for over 35 years (excluding COVID).

This was to be a fun night with a short Lodge meeting to greet Spring Vale Lodge on their official visit, then off to the South PLUS a further 33 Ladies and Gentlemen. Over 102 people sat down to a scrumptious meal of Haggis!

We were again royally entertained by the Frankston RSL Pipe & Drums Band.

The daughter of our Senior Warden, Jason Liddle, wrote her opinion of the night!

### My first Haggis/Robbie Burns Night by Grace Liddle

"When Dad first told us about this Haggis night at the Lodge. I said... 'What! And you eat this!'"

There was also to be a Pipe Band performing. I had never seen a Pipe Band before.

So, the day arrives and we are off to the Lodge, thinking 'I would rather have pizza than whatever they are having for food!'

Dad is wearing something called a kilt. And you could see his hairy legs, and I was also blinded by his pale coloured legs. How embarrassing!!

We arrived to see about 100 seats for all of the guests. People begin to arrive for whatever Haggis is! 'Do they have pizza, Dad?' I asked.

Soon, more men come out of the Lodge Room, the Pipe Band arrives and a toast (or sacrifice, because he kept stabbing it!) to the Haggis is performed by a funny talking man. (I find out later he spoke with a Scottish Accent!)

He talks about the history of the Haggis, then they parade the Haggis around the room with the Pipe Band for all of us to see. At the front was a man with a Sword. There is also a man carrying a tray of, what my Dad said, was whisky!

This part was rather good.

Then they start serving us our dinner of Haggis. Well, when my plate arrives there is mashed potatoes and pumpkin with this oddly looking stuff on the plate!

Where do I start? I look to my sister to see if she has tasted it, and think "will she die?" She tried it and lived so, I said to myself 'it was safe to eat!'

In goes the fork. I look unsure about this. I taste this Haggis and to my surprise it is rather good. Well! I had to have a second plate!

The Pipe Band marches into the dining room, playing for us as we enjoy our dinner.

Happy to Meet.



Frankston RSL Pipe Drums Band.

Dinner over, the Pipe Band came back a little later and played some more. I also enjoyed that!

Dessert followed, then some speeches before packing up time and to go home! Hope to be back next year! (Dad will be the Boss then!)" 🍷

## Jodie Sharam Knox Tertiary Scholarships

The Jodie Sharam Knox Tertiary Scholarships have once again honoured outstanding students! This year's winners each received an incredible \$4,000, which will fuel their academic journeys and support their aspirations in the years to come.

Since its inception in 1989, the scholarship program has grown exponentially. What started as a single award has blossomed into a powerful fund, thanks to smart investments and generous contributions from local Lodges.

And this year, with the incredible backing of the Freemasons Foundation Victoria, the Lodge proudly allocated a massive \$20,000 to help these bright minds reach their full potential!

The photo captures four of the recipients—while the fifth, who had already begun her studies, was unable to join in person. What an inspiring moment for all involved! 🍷







# Where do you wear yours?

"I know that symbol - my father died 4 years ago today - this is surreal, he loved Freemasonry so much - you've made my day" - my optometrist.

"That's a Masonic symbol isn't it? My Father was the Worshipful Master in Sale, it was such a huge and wonderful part of our lives" - told to me through tears by the Chief Librarian of The Melbourne Athenaeum, whose mother we will invite to join the Widows Christmas lunch at FMV.

"My Grandfather was a Mason, I got his case when he died, though my father didn't join and has passed. I've always wanted to be Mason... can you tell me more?"

After meetings, I've started taking my pin off my lodge suit and putting it on my general attire.

It's having a profound effect with the people I meet.

Where do you wear yours?

By Bro. Philip Bateman, Lodge Devotion No. 723



Government Provider of Home Support Services Supporting you to continue to live as independently as possible



## Who We Are

CommCare is a Commonwealth Government provider of In-Home Aged Care Services, recognised as the reliable and trustworthy In-Home professional age care services solution for clients in the Eastern and Outer Eastern Suburbs of Melbourne. We are committed to tailoring plans to meet all of your health and home needs, going above and beyond to ensure you get the best care available.

Services are tailored and range to assist both Government Funded Home Care Packages, as well as services on a Privately Funded basis.

If you require a home care package we can assist you to apply. If you already have been granted a home care package or expecting one then we can help. **Just call WBro. Bill O'Shea.**

## Services

Personal Care  
Nursing & Allied Health Care  
Family In-Home Respite  
24 Hour Care  
Domestic Duties  
Garden & Home Maintenance  
Social Support  
Out and About  
Private Care Services  
Financial Affairs  
Specific Care



[www.commcarehomecare.com](http://www.commcarehomecare.com)  
[info@commcarehomecare.com](mailto:info@commcarehomecare.com)

(03) 9803 3504  
Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

Comm Care Head Office, Bldg 1,  
Level 1, 303-313 Burwood Hwy,  
Burwood East, VIC 3151



# The Prince of Wales Lodge Masonic Rest Home: A Hidden Gem in Smythesdale

A significant piece of Masonic heritage has re-emerged in the rural township of Smythesdale, near Ballarat. A property listed for sale at 55 Brooke Street has drawn attention for its distinct Masonic features, including a foundation stone and the Prince of Wales "Ich Dien" crest on its façade.



Members of Freemasons Victoria, in consultation with Prince of Wales Lodge No. 40, recently inspected the property and began tracing its origins. Their research confirmed the building was originally established as the Prince of Wales Masonic Rest Home.

On 16 November 1927, allotments 7 and 8 on Brooke Street were acquired for £5 by WBro. Edward Thomas and other Trustees of the Lodge. Construction fundraising commenced in August 1928, and the foundation stone was laid on 1 February 1930 by WBro. Edward Thomas, PSGD, and WBro. E.K. Brooks, Worshipful Master at the time.

The Rest Home was built to provide accommodation for travelling Freemasons—a practical initiative during a period when long-distance travel was less accessible. Each contributor to the building fund received a commemorative certificate acknowledging their support.

The home's location was strategic: directly opposite the Lodge and just one block from the

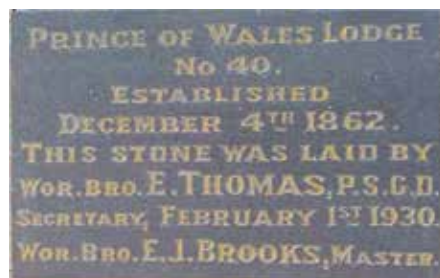
railway station, which connected Smythesdale via the Ballarat to Skipton line. This railway, operating from the late 19th century until its closure in 1976, provided a vital link for members across the region, including those attending Skipton Lodge No. 229 and Orion Lodge No. 53 in Ballarat.

One of the most compelling artifacts uncovered during the investigation was the home's original guest book. The earliest recorded entry is from 22 February 1931, signed by WBro. John Trekardo of Orion Lodge No. 53, who wrote a brief message of goodwill: "Hearty Congratulations to Prince of Wales." The book includes entries from numerous visiting Brethren and their families, offering a snapshot of the building's longstanding role in Masonic life.

Today, the Prince of Wales Lodge still preserves key relics from the home, including the ceremonial foundation stone trowel and the symbolic key to the property. These artifacts remain on display in the Lodge as a tribute to the building's past.

The Rest Home remained under the Lodge's ownership until approximately 1975. It had been rented out in its later years before being sold to private owners, who have occupied the home for the past five decades.

This rediscovered chapter of regional Freemasonry sheds light on a thoughtful initiative by past members and highlights the enduring legacy of fraternity and service embedded in Victoria's Masonic history.





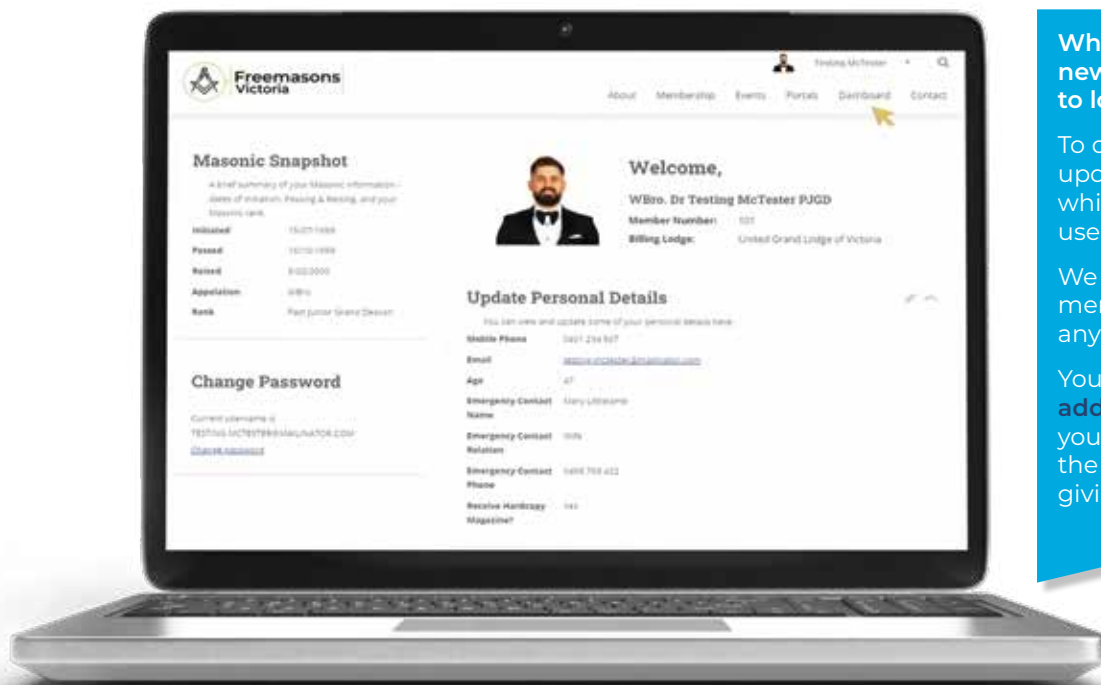


**We are excited to announce that our transition to our new membership database built in the iMIS EMS platform is here.**

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?](#)







# A Night of Significance

## at the Geelong Lodge of Unity and Prudence No. 5

On 13 February 2025, the Geelong Lodge of Unity and Prudence witnessed an extraordinary evening, a moment in time where history, tradition, and brotherhood converged. It was a night that will be remembered—a rare confluence of past and future, as the Lodge celebrated both the initiation of a new Brother and the remarkable 50 year Masonic journey of another.

### A Special Initiation: Bro. Brett Carson

The initiation of Bro. Brett Carson was a significant occasion in itself. However, what made this event truly special was the deep personal connection between Bro. Brett and Worshipful Master, WBro. Riley Ellett. Having been close friends for over 15 years, WBro. Riley Ellett had the distinct honour of initiating Bro. Brett into the Craft, symbolising the timeless bonds of brotherhood and the passing of Masonic wisdom from one generation to the next.

Adding to the uniqueness of the evening, Bro. Brett's initiation took place exactly 50 years after Bro. Keith Jepson PGTyler took his first steps into Freemasonry on the very same date, 13 February. This remarkable coincidence underscores the continuity of the Craft, where one generation's journey begins as another's legacy is honoured.

Bro. Brett's initiation marks the beginning of what we trust will be a long and rewarding Masonic journey. Surrounded by the warmth and support of the Brethren, his first steps in Freemasonry serve as a reminder of our Order's enduring strength and relevance in today's world.



Bro. Brett Carson and WBro. Riley Ellett.

### Honouring 50 Years of Service:

#### Bro. Keith Jepson PGTyler

While one Brother began his journey, another was honoured for his unwavering dedication. Bro. Keith Jepson PGTyler was presented with his 50-year jewel by RWBro. Max Poyser PJGW, in recognition of half a century of committed service to the Craft.

Reflecting on Bro. Keith's extraordinary contributions, RWBro. Max Poyser PJGW remarked, "In my time in Freemasonry, I have seen many presentations of 50-year jewels, but none more worthy than this one."

Bro. Keith's Masonic career is nothing short of remarkable. Initiated into the Geelong Lodge of Unity and Prudence on 3 February 1975, he was passed to the Second Degree on 10 July 1975 and raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on 12 February 1976. Over the decades, he has been a pillar of the Lodge, holding positions that demonstrated his commitment and passion for the Craft.

Bro. Keith holds two records within the Geelong Lodge of Unity and Prudence, and possibly within Freemasonry in Victoria. He served as Lodge Secretary from 1979 to 2005—a remarkable tenure of 24 years. Following this, he took charge of the attendance book, ensuring every Brother was warmly welcomed for another 20 years, from 2005 to 2025. His familiar, friendly face has greeted members and visitors alike, fostering the warmth and camaraderie that define Freemasonry.

In addition to his Lodge service, Bro. Keith was conferred the distinguished rank of Past Grand Tyler on the 21st of March 1990, further cementing his place as a revered and respected member of the Masonic community.

### A Rare and Momentous Occasion

It is rare for a Lodge to witness two such significant events on the same night. The initiation of Bro. Brett Carson and the honouring of Bro. Keith Jepson PGTyler with his 50-year jewel created an evening filled with both reflection and hope. As one Brother began his Masonic path and another was celebrated for his lifetime of dedication, the night symbolized the very essence of Freemasonry, the seamless passing of tradition from one generation to the next.

The Brethren of the Geelong Lodge of Unity and Prudence will long remember this night as a testament to the enduring values of the Craft and the timeless bonds that unite Masons across the ages. ✨



Bro. Keith Jepson PGTyler with RWBro. Max Poyser PJGW.

## 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!**







# COMMUNITY INNOVATION POWERED BY FREEMASONS FOUNDATION GRANTS IN VICTORIA

Across Victoria, grassroots organisations are turning big ideas into real-world impact, thanks to funding support from Freemasons Foundation Victoria (FFV). The Foundation's latest round of Community Grants **awarded \$710,325 to 29 projects in December**, helping to strengthen communities, improve wellbeing and create lasting change.

From mental health programs and youth development initiatives to food relief services and digital upgrades, this funding supports organisations that are making a real difference. FFV Chairman Garry James highlighted the importance of these investments: "These grants are more than financial contributions; they're an investment in Victoria's future. We're inspired by the dedication of this year's recipients and proud to support their work."

## A Nature-Based Haven For Dementia Care

One such recipient is the Heathcote Dementia Alliance, which is creating a unique nature-based sanctuary to support people living with dementia and their carers.

Thanks to a \$33,390 FFV Community Grant, work has begun on Freemasons Way, an innovative two-kilometre network of walking trails set amidst 10 tranquil acres along Lake Eppalock. Designed to enhance mental and physical wellbeing, the trails offer a safe, structured space for individuals to enjoy the outdoors, stay active, and connect with others.

The project responds to a real need in rural and regional areas, where respite services can feel clinical and isolating. By creating an inclusive, nature-rich environment, Freemasons Way will provide a welcoming space that fosters movement, relaxation, and social engagement. It will feature wheelchair-friendly paths, sensory gardens, an orchard, a lakeside area, and even a campfire space for storytelling and reflection.

With strong community partnerships, including the Bendigo District Aboriginal Cooperative and Thorne Harbour Country, the project ensures cultural inclusivity and accessibility for all. Once complete, Freemasons Way will support approximately 150 participants annually, providing a much-needed respite option for rural and regional communities.

This is just one example of how FFV's Community Grants are enabling grassroots organisations to bring life-changing initiatives to Victoria. To learn more about how you can support or apply for funding, visit [www.freemasonsfoundation.org](http://www.freemasonsfoundation.org).



15 truckloads of granite sand were delivered.



The foundations of the pathways are starting to take shape.



Painted drums to feature corten steel art installations depicting native flora and fauna.







# FROM SOLAR TO STRETCHERS – Whittlesea Lodge Energising the Community

Through grant funding and grassroots fundraising efforts, the Whittlesea Masonic Lodge has provided much-needed financial support to local organisations, making a tangible difference to vital services in the area.

## Enhancing Emergency Response

The Lodge, supported by an FFV Masonic Grant, donated \$3,312 toward the purchase of three vacuum mattresses for the Whittlesea Ambulance Station. These mattresses, designed to provide superior immobilisation for patients suffering from trauma, will be used across three ambulances responding to emergencies in rugged and remote locations, such as Mt Disappointment.

To showcase the effectiveness of the new equipment, paramedics from the Whittlesea Ambulance Station attended a Lodge information night in February, demonstrating how vacuum mattresses improve patient safety and comfort.

In March, another presentation was held to donate funding for a chainsaw for the local SES. Pictures left to right Gary Doorbar, Controller, Seb DiNatali Controller Unit Education Officer and WBro. Haydn Gregson.



WBro. Haydn Gregson and WBro. Wing Commander Bruce Wilde.



Whittlesea Lodge members present the cheque to Whittlesea Ambulance paramedics Kate Collins and Rachel Adams.

## Reducing Energy Costs and Spreading Festive Cheer

Another Masonic grant of \$6,351 was awarded towards the \$19,053 cost of installing solar panels and battery storage to benefit the Whittlesea Food Share donation centre, run by Whittlesea Ministries Incorporated. The centre provides food and essential items to those in need, and by reducing electricity costs, more resources can be directed toward supporting vulnerable individuals and families in the Whittlesea area.

The cheque presentation took place at the Lodge's Christmas dinner celebration, where members also made additional donations, reinforcing their dedication to community welfare.

The Food Share Centre wasn't the only recipient of the Lodge's charity at the Christmas dinner. They also presented a cheque for \$400 to the Whittlesea Fire Brigade as a token of appreciation for their ongoing dedication to protecting the community. In the



spirit of giving, Lodge families also donated toys for disadvantaged children. The Fire Brigade played a special role in the celebrations, transporting Santa to the event and helping distribute gifts to children of Lodge families.

Left to Right: David Kleesh, Les Booth, Lyn Booth, Cheryl Manicolo, WBro. Haydn Gregson, WBro. David Draper, Liz Draper, Jenny Mason, Linda Gregson and Rhonda Makin.





## Fundraising in Action

The Lodge's Worshipful Master, WBro. Haydn Gregson, a long-time Freemason who has been actively involved in charitable work across multiple lodges, spoke about the importance of FFV in enabling lodges to amplify their impact.

"I think the Foundation is an absolutely fantastic adjunct to Freemasonry because we can make our donations matter."  
WBro. Haydn Gregson

Although he has only been a member of the Whittlesea Lodge for less than a year, he has already played a key role in securing funding for local projects, alongside WBro. David Draper PGStwd. They have plans to join forces with The Diamond Valley Lodge, Gregorios and Melbourne St. Clair Reunion to help fund a trailer for the Whittlesea SES.

The Lodge also remains committed to fundraising through grassroots initiatives such as Bunnings barbecues, dinner dances, and wood raffles, with members recently processing two trailer loads of wood for their next raffle.

Reflecting on the broader impact of the Lodge's charitable work, WBro. Gregson noted the importance of publicity and community engagement: ***"I believe in publicity, and I love to do it for the Foundation. There's no such thing as a free lunch—we have to make sure people know the good work we do."***



## Acknowledging Community Efforts

The Whittlesea Masonic Lodge also extends its gratitude to its Ladies' Social Committee, whose exceptional catering at Lodge meetings plays a crucial role in fostering camaraderie among members. Their dedication ensures that meetings are not just about business but also about community and connection.

Through a combination of grants, donations, and fundraising efforts, the Whittlesea Masonic Lodge continues to uphold its commitment to community service, ensuring that local emergency services, charities, and vulnerable residents receive the support they need.

This article is part of Freemasons Foundation Victoria's ongoing efforts to highlight the meaningful contributions made by Masonic Lodges across the state. To learn more about how Lodges are making a difference in their communities, visit [www.freemasonsfoundation.org](http://www.freemasonsfoundation.org).





# CHARITY & BENEVOLENCE

Make a lasting impact



Leave a lasting legacy  
with a bequest to your  
Foundation.

BEQUESTS



Establish a Named  
Sub-Fund to support  
what matters to you.

SUB-FUNDS



Your tax-deductible  
gift improves the lives  
and opportunities of  
Victorians.

DONATIONS



**Freemasons**  
Foundation Victoria

*Be part of something great*

[www.freemasonsfoundation.org](http://www.freemasonsfoundation.org)



## Freemasons Foundation Victoria Benevolence Program

FFV's Benevolence program ensures that members of Freemasons Victoria and their families are not alone during times of need. The Benevolence Program provides financial assistance for essential needs, ensuring dignity and relief in challenging circumstances.

The program can assist with:

- Food, fuel, utilities, rent, and motor vehicle expenses
- Education and essential medical costs
- Funeral expenses (up to \$7,000 for cremations, \$9,000 for burials)
- Financial or counselling advice

Eligible individuals may receive up to **\$15,000 per year** in financial support.

### Eligibility and applications

The program is available to:

- Victorian Freemasons unable to provide for their needs
- Dependents of Victorian Freemasons in financial hardship
- Spouses, children, or dependents of deceased Freemasons

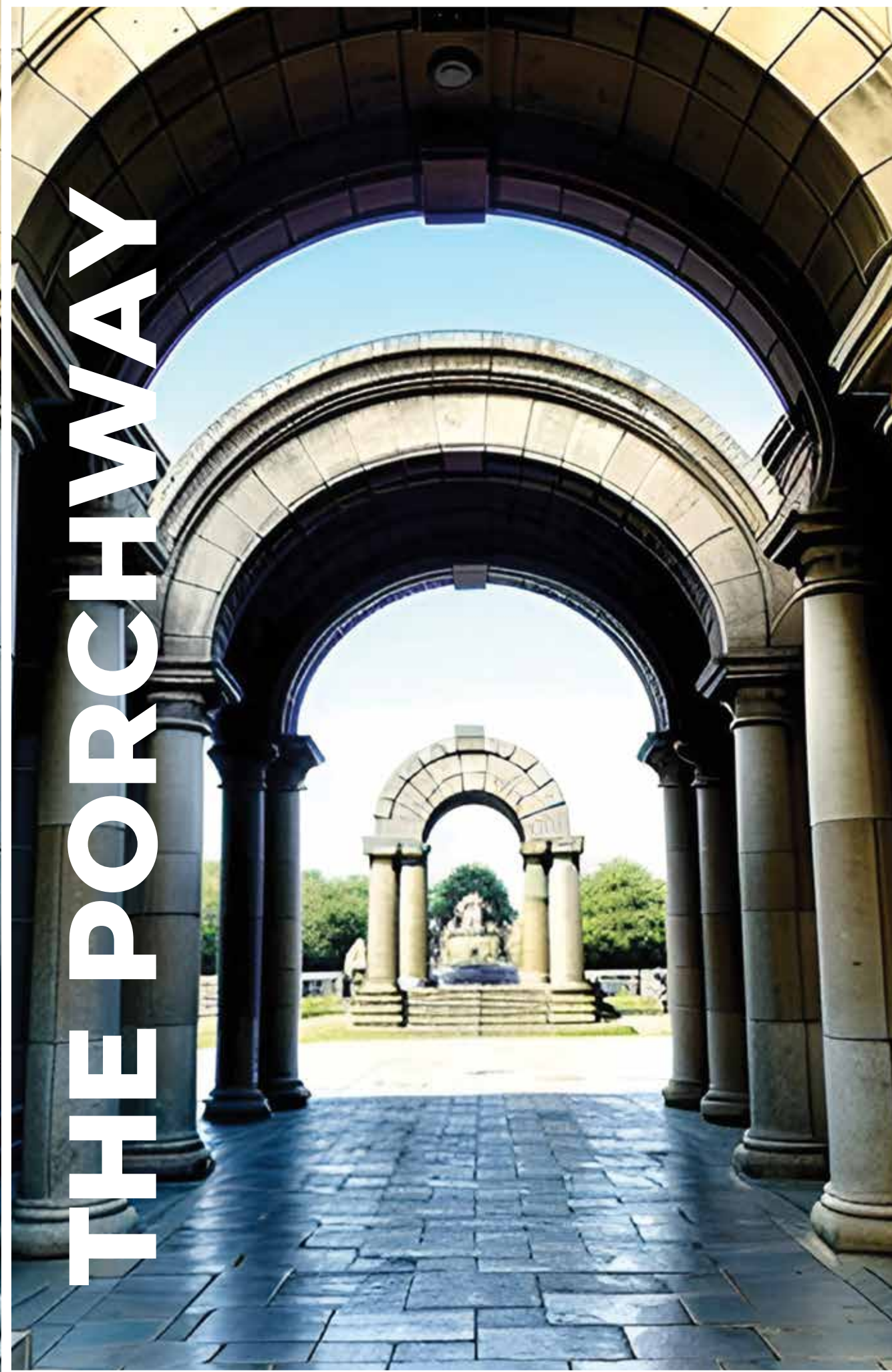
Applications must include supporting documents (e.g. invoices) and be endorsed by the Worshipful Master, Lodge Secretary, and Lodge Almoner. Applications should not be discussed in open Lodge meetings.

Head to <https://www.freemasonsfoundation.org/financialassistance> for more information and frequently asked questions.





# THE PORCHWAY







# The Grand Master's Message

The Grand Master's Grand Installation speech.

Brethren and guests,

About 18 months ago, a young well-educated professional man (not a lawyer) came to me and said – “I think I would like to join Freemasonry”. He was around 40 years old and had obviously done his research into what Freemasonry was and the principles it stood for. He felt that at his stage of life, it was the right time to commit to an organisation that espoused many of the values that matched his own. It was my honour to attend and be part of his initiation, some months later.

Today, that young man's father... stands before you with the same pride and honour that he felt in November 2023.

When a man enters a Lodge, on the night of his initiation, he is asked whether he feels anything. Freemasons will understand that this question is asked in response to a physical action and is designed to impress upon the candidate the seriousness of the undertaking he is about to enter into and the need to put his faith in those that are entrusted with his introduction into the Craft.

As impressive as that first question is on a new Mason, we should always be asking ourselves, in respect of all our Masonic interactions, whether we feel anything. Not something physical, but something emotional, something of meaning, something that has contributed to us feeling happy, satisfied, secure or enriched. Something to be grateful for.

And as I stand before you today, I confess that I have a great deal to be grateful for.

We have just heard a magnificent rendition of the stirring anthem, *You Raise Me Up*, by Lindsay Ondracek. Its lyrics bear repeating...

“You raise me up so I can stand on mountains, you raise me up to walk on stormy seas. I am strong when I am on your shoulders, you raise me up to more than I can be”.

This musical item was not performed tonight just to provide entertainment, although it surely did that, but it was also designed to prompt the question of whether “You feel something”. What raises you up?

Freemasonry “Raises me up”.

In what other organisation can you make so many lasting and meaningful friendships, based on mutual respect

and a genuine concern for others. What other organisation can provide a “safe haven” from the daily trials and tribulations of the outside world, wherein we can contemplate and gain perspective on that which really matters? An organisation that exposes us to a diverse membership, engendering an appreciation of differing points of view and promoting tolerance and understanding? What other organisation provides solid traditions and a sense of occasion, through our thoughtful ceremonies? And finally, is there any other organisation that so perfectly provides a sense of pride and satisfaction in being part of something that is bigger than any one individual with the ability to contribute to the welfare of society and those who are not as well off as ourselves?

*“In what other organisation can you make so many lasting and meaningful friendships, based on mutual respect and a genuine concern for others?”*

So, I am not only grateful for the trust and confidence that you have put in me to be your 49th Grand Master, but I am and will be eternally grateful to be a Freemason and be uplifted by Freemasonry.

Over the past 136 years, Freemasons Victoria has been instrumental in the development of Victorian society, but more importantly, it has been fundamental to the health, happiness and well-being of its members and their families.

I am most conscious of the heritage that my predecessors in office have created and that I have today been charged with protecting. I am grateful for their example and more particularly for the counsel, support and encouragement of those PGMs that I have come to know personally through involvement at either the Freemasons Homes or within Freemasons Victoria, which accounts for almost all since MWBro. Gregory, who incidentally was an accountant and highly regarded finance professional (not a lawyer). Just saying!

I am particularly proud, to be wearing the regalia of one of those Past Grand Masters, MWBro. Carl Stewart, whom I

had come to know well, professionally and Masonically, and I am deeply honoured that MWBro. Carl's widow, Pat has given her gracious permission for me to have Carl's regalia. Pat is with us this afternoon. Pat, many, many thanks for your kind gesture and continuing friendship.

I am, as I am sure you are, tremendously grateful for the individual and collective contribution of our Past Grand Masters, to the preservation and promotion of our wonderful Craft.

Today's ceremony, as well as the other associated events this weekend, is a cause for celebration. Celebrating a new Masonic year, the introduction of another Grand Lodge Ceremonial Team to the membership and a time for us all to reaffirm our commitment to this wonderful Craft, to which we all passionately belong.

Today is also a time for expressing thanks.

Could I firstly thank our Immediate Past Grand Master.

I will have a little more to say about Tony at the Grand Banquet this evening, but I am sure that you will all agree that we owe him a great debt of gratitude for his service to the Craft, particularly over the last five years, and I extend my personal thanks and appreciation for his friendship over many years, particularly during our relationship as Grand Master and Deputy. I also thank his lovely wife, Anna, for her support of Tony in his role, her service to Freemasonry and importantly her kindness and courtesy to Sharon and I.

The example of my parents, and later parents-in-law, who had instilled in me the principles of tolerance, understanding and loyalty, were instrumental in me joining Freemasonry, an organisation that amply exemplifies those principles. While they are no longer with us, for me to express my thanks to them personally, I hope that they will be looking down on us with some pride and satisfaction today.

Hymie Goldman, Jules Hoffman and Leon Cohen, are names that you most probably do not know. But without their support, encouragement and mentoring, I would not have been able to do what I have done in Freemasonry. During my formative years as a Freemason, Jules would always joke that “when you become Grand Master, I will be there to >>>





support you and watch you get installed". Unfortunately, at 96, Jules passed away a little over a month ago. Well mate you just missed being with us today, but Leon and his family are and I extend to him and them my sincere thanks and appreciation for all they have done for me in my Masonic career. They have all been a tremendous inspiration. True Freemasons.

In fact, I thank all those who have supported and advised me, over the journey – and believe me there have been – "plenty of people willing to give me advice, whether I needed it or not".

I have had the pleasure of Chairing the PDGM's forum for the last two and a half years. This group of very experienced Freemasons have provided useful (and sometimes insightful) input into a wide range of matters, relevant to the health of the Craft and the welfare of its members. While we have lost a number of PDGMs over that period, there remains an active and committed group. I thank them sincerely for their past and continuing participation and dedication.

As part of my vision for the future, which I outlined to the members in September last year, I spoke of the importance of strengthening the bonds between Craft, Mark and Chapter Freemasonry in Victoria, by jointly engaging in programmes of mutual benefit to all of our members. I thank the leaders of Mark and Chapter for their past support and willingness to actively pursue this objective. It would be remiss if I didn't remind you of the joint installation celebrations of Mark and Chapter in May this year, for which we wish Geoff Goodes and Robert Redman, all the very best as they take on the leadership of those Orders.

I would like to sincerely thank all Sponsors for their generous support, without which our Installation celebrations would not be what they are. I will have a little more to say at the banquet this evening, but please know that your support and continued interest in Freemasons Victoria is greatly appreciated.

I would like to acknowledge and thank all of the past Ceremonial Teams that I have been involved in for their kindness and courtesies (many of which are represented here today). I would especially like to thank and congratulate RWBro. Frank Lombardo and his GL team for the magnificent way in which they conducted today's Grand Lodge Installation ceremony. Well done fellas.

As a new ceremonial team begins, some officers retire from their positions. This year, two long serving

and well respected Senior Grand Officers retire from their portfolio. I refer to RWBro. Ash Long and RWBro. Wes Turnbull. I would like to express my sincere thanks to both of them for the tremendous work they have done for the Craft.

Thank you also to the Escort Masters, who performed so well today. A testament to their dedication and also the training they received, for which we are indebted to both RWBro. Wes and VWBro. Harry Blatt.

A big thanks to the Brethren of the Lodge of the Golden Fleece, who today have acted as ushers. Your efforts have considerably contributed to the efficiency and smooth running of the Grand Installation.

Can I also thank the Choir, Heralds, and Musicians for their tremendous support. They have all performed so professionally and significantly added to the atmosphere and meaning of our ceremonies. Special thanks to RWBro. Roger Manderson, Grand Organist, VWBro. Geoff Lowe, Grand Herald, and RWBro. Barry Reaper, today's conductor, for their individual and combined efforts in making the musical component of today's ceremony so special.

---

*"In fact, I thank all those who have supported and advised me, over the journey – and believe me there have been – plenty of people willing to give me advice, whether I needed it or not"*

---

Music is most important to Freemasons in the performance of their ceremonies. We are very lucky in Victoria to have a band of dedicated Organists and Heralds, some who have held that position for many many years. Too often we take their considerable efforts for granted, and today I would like to recognise two musicians that have given so much to our organisation over an extended period of time.

To allow me to do this, Past Grand Director of Ceremonies, would you firstly present to me on the floor of Grand Lodge RWBro. Barry Reaper, PDGM.

RWBro. Barry, this is the last occasion at which you will conduct the Grand Lodge Choir, which you have done for many years, contributing significantly to the musical portions of our ceremonies. You have also given magnificent service to Freemasonry in other capacities, including being

its Grand Director of Music, Grand Secretary and President of the Board of General Purposes. In recognition of this significant and continued service, I wonder whether you would accept the Grand Master's Order of Service?

Please wear this Order of Service with pride, in the full knowledge that your service to Freemasonry is greatly appreciated and well deserved. And to mark the occasion, please also accept this certificate. Congratulations.

I would also have liked to recognise another Brother with the Grand Master's Order of Service. That Brother is RWBro. John Cantrill, who has also given great service to Freemasonry, as an Organist for many years. Unfortunately, RWBro. John is unable to be with us today due to ill health. I have left a message of congratulations with him and will make this presentation to him at a future convenient time.

I think we should all join in thanking these two well deserved recipients, in the usual manner.

To the 2025/26 Ceremonial Team, and their leader VWBro. Bruce Carey (and Jackie), congratulations on your investiture. I look forward to working with all of you during the coming year and cementing friendships, which I know will endure for many years.

For the training for both today's installation and the ceremonial work ahead for the new Team, we owe a great debt of gratitude to a dedicated group of Past Grand Directors, under the stern gaze of MWBro. Don Reynolds. The quality of your individual and collective expertise and your willingness to take a personal interest in the success of both the outgoing and incoming Teams is greatly appreciated and will never be forgotten.

My sincere thanks to the Grand Secretary and his Staff, for all of the effort (above and beyond their normal duties) that they have given to make yesterday, today, tonight and tomorrow possible. While it is dangerous to individualise, I would particularly like to thank Ms. Julia Edwards and VWBro. Graham Berry for their extraordinary commitment to making all of this happen. In the planning and execution of these events, a number of obstacles were put in their way, but they didn't flinch; they moved on steadfastly and with purpose to ensure everything should be just right. Without them we would be lost.

I am blown away by the visiting Delegations from interstate and overseas. Thank you very much for being with us today. »»





While we meet in this lovely venue, it, unfortunately, can only safely accommodate around 650 people for the installation and 600 for the banquet. I know that many more would be with us otherwise. Some of our members and families will be watching this Grand Installation on replay, from designated Masonic Centres around Victoria. To all of you, my sincere thanks for your continued support and involvement in Freemasonry. Thanks also to the many well-wishers, who have written or given me a call. I am deeply humbled by your kind thoughts and your ongoing support.

Finally, I owe a huge debt of gratitude to my wife and family for all the support that they have given to me, not only this weekend, but throughout my whole Masonic career. Without their understanding and tolerance, none of this would have been possible. I love you all dearly and will always be indebted to you. Your support means more than I can adequately express.

The challenge to “feel something” has made a significant impression on me and framed my approach to Freemasonry, since it was first

expressed, by a very close personal and Masonic friend, just over 11 years ago. Well 11 years and three days ago, to be precise.

Now, as we enter a new Masonic year, I hope that Freemasonry continues to make all of you “feel something” and I pledge to do everything possible to make your Masonic experience one which “Raises you up”.

Thank you.

---

*"I owe a huge debt of gratitude to my wife and family for all the support that they have given to me, not only this weekend, but throughout my whole Masonic career"*

---



MWBro. Peter Henshal  
Grand Master UGLV







# Message from the Grand Secretary

Brethren, do you know the members of your Lodge? Do you know the name of the wife or partner of each member? Do you know what family they might have, what interests they pursue, or what they do professionally?

I have attended a number of funerals recently of members I knew; or as it turns out I did not know well at all. I learnt so much about them from friends and relatives.

While we take members through various stages of development, sit with them in Lodge, and support them in their Lodge endeavours, do we really know them?

Men are notorious for not asking questions. We should take the opportunity to get to know our brothers while we can. They all have stories that we should learn.

Some people are reluctant to talk about themselves, but when given the opportunity will talk endlessly about who they are and what interests them both within and beyond Freemasonry. We need to start that conversation.

Let's make a commitment to know our Lodge members. After all, we make enquiries when they join but do not move on and when they meet new people they do not necessarily share.

In conclusion, how well we know our Brethren is how we may support them when they need assistance. People will feel more inclined to reach out if they are comfortable with their genuine friends. This friendship will hopefully enable a brother to feel comfortable to ask for help or be able to offer support when a difficulty arises.



**RWBro. Bruce Cowie**  
Grand Secretary UGLV







# Service Awards

1 NOVEMBER 2024 - 31 JANUARY 2025

CONGRATULATIONS

## 50 Years

|                       |                                   |     |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|
| RWBro. Barry Miller   | Melbourne St. Clair Reunion Lodge | 17  |
| VWBro. John Teakle    | The Lowan Lodge                   | 107 |
| VWBro. Michael Zeeng  | Gardenvale Mobility Lodge         | 243 |
| WBro. Leslie Ayres    | Lord Carrington Lodge             | 111 |
| WBro. Donald Fraser   | The United Press Lodge            | 281 |
| WBro. Robert Gale     | Albert Edward Lodge               | 59  |
| WBro. William Harding | Blue Dandenongs Lodge             | 859 |
| WBro. Graeme Hawke    | Ivanhoe Lodge                     | 584 |
| WBro. Brian Holliday  | Moorpanyal Lodge                  | 467 |
| WBro. John Johnston   | Lodge of Concentration            | 753 |
| WBro. Adrian Mitchell | Phillip Island Lodge              | 512 |
| WBro. Donald Smedley  | Huon Daylight Lodge               | 874 |

## 60 Years

|                            |                         |     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----|
| RWBro. Rodney Willcox      | Henty Lodge             | 279 |
| VWBro. Robert Gooding      | Dimboola Lodge          | 144 |
| VWBro. John (Neil) Webster | Glenelg Lodge           | 154 |
| WBro. John Brown           | Avoca Lodge             | 213 |
| WBro. Jon Howell           | Avoca Lodge             | 213 |
| WBro. John Kelly           | Essendon Daylight Lodge | 861 |
| Bro. Ian Stapleton         | Campaspe Valley Lodge   | 937 |
| Bro. Raymond Frith         | Phillip Island Lodge    | 512 |

## 65 Years

|                              |                                     |     |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----|
| RWBro. John Short            | The United Memorial & Merbein Lodge | 327 |
| RWBro. Norman (Jack) Simpson | Lodge of Rapport                    | 920 |
| RWBro. Allan Paull           | The United Press Lodge              | 281 |
| WBro. Albert Bennett         | Sale Daylight Lodge                 | 875 |
| WBro. Graham Colley          | Wangaratta Lodge of St. John        | 66  |
| WBro. Alexander Pithie       | Williamstown Lodge                  | 16  |
| WBro. Allan Saunders         | Portland Lodge of Victoria          | 6   |

## 70 Years

|                        |                                 |     |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|-----|
| RWBro. George Turpin   | Middle Park Lodge               | 206 |
| WBro. Alan Bunton      | The Brighton District Lodge     | 37  |
| WBro. Walter Prebble   | Allara Lodge                    | 855 |
| WBro. Barry Tinkler    | The Army Lodge                  | 478 |
| WBro. Walter Wing      | The Brighton District Lodge     | 37  |
| Bro. Graeme Baldwin    | The Brighton District Lodge     | 37  |
| Bro. Brian Guthridge   | Hamilton Grange Lodge           | 45  |
| Bro. Neville Pankhurst | Kyabram Lodge                   | 225 |
| Bro. James Watson      | The Mordialloc Lodge of Charity | 258 |

## 75 Years

|                              |                       |     |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----|
| RWBro. Andrew Keltie         | Berwick Balcara Lodge | 359 |
| WBro. Robert (Keith) Lampard | Keysborough Lodge     | 912 |

### SERVICE AWARD APPLICATIONS

Applications for a Masonic Service Awards are completed by your Lodge Secretary and sent to the Grand Secretariat. Once approved, the bar or jewel is ordered and sent to your Lodge Secretary to arrange presentation.



### Gardenvale Mobility Lodge No. 243

50 years of service to Freemasonry

Congratulations to VWBro. Michael Zeeng on receiving his 50 year service Jewel.

Well done VWBro. Zeeng.



### Koo-Wee-Rup Lodge No. 323

60 years of service to Freemasonry.

Congratulations to WBro. Arthur Bell, on receiving his 60 year service Jewel.

Well done WBro. Bell.



### Mansfield Lodge No. 158

60 years of service to Freemasonry.

Congratulations to VWBro. William Fraser PGIW, on receiving his Jubilee Certificate.

Well done VWBro. Fraser.







## Portland Lodge of Victoria No. 6

65 years of service to Freemasonry.

Congratulations to WBro. Allan Saunders PJGD on receiving his 65 year service bar.

Well done WBro. Saunders.



## Lodge of Rapport No. 920

65 years of service to Freemasonry.

Congratulations to RWBro. Norman (Jack) Simpson PDGM, on receiving his 65 year service bar.

Well done RWBro. Simpson.



## Sale Daylight Lodge No. 875

65 years of service to Freemasonry.

Congratulations to WBro. Albert (Bert) Bennett, on receiving his 65 year service Bar.

Well done WBro. Bennett.



## Celebrating 70 Years of Service to Victoria Lodge No. 82

Victoria Lodge No. 82 proudly presented VWBro. Eric Darbyshire PGIWkgs with his 70-year service jewel. The honor was bestowed by RWBro. Brian Annand PJGW, in recognition of his seven decades of dedication.

VWBro. Eric's Masonic journey began with his initiation on 9 March 1954, followed by his passing on 8 June 1954 and raising on 10 August 1954. He later served as Worshipful Master of Victoria Lodge on 12 October 1965.



## Middle Park Lodge No. 206

70 years of service to Freemasonry.

Congratulations to RWBro. George Turpin PSGW on receiving his 70 year service jewel.

Well done RWBro. Turpin.



Hearing Aid Fittings  
Ear Wax Removal  
All Types of Hearing Devices  
Repairs, Earmoulds, Batteries  
Hearing Aid & Earmould Manufacturing  
**40 YEARS EXPERIENCE**

**Generous Discounts for Freemasons**

All Enquiries: 0434 247 282  
[anthony@anthonyplumbhearing.com.au](mailto:anthony@anthonyplumbhearing.com.au)

City Office: Suit 205, Level 2,  
365 Little Collins St, Melbourne 3000

Templestowe Office: Shop 79, The Pines,  
181 Reynolds Rd, Doncaster East 3106

Kilsyth Office: 9 Southfork Drive,  
Kilsyth South 3137





## Vale M.W.Bro. The Hon Austin Asche AC KC

Our Most Worshipful Past Grand Master, M.W.Bro. The Honourable Keith John Austin Asche AC KC laid down his working tools and was called to the Grand Lodge Above on Saturday 14 December 2024; he was a Freemason whose legacy has left an indelible mark on the legal profession, academia, Freemasonry, and the broader community.

Born in Melbourne, his early years were spent in Darwin, where he attended Darwin Primary School.

He served our nation in the Royal Australian Air Force during the closing years of the Second World War. After the war, he pursued the study of law at The University of Melbourne, a decision that led to an illustrious career in the legal profession. Admitted first to the Queensland Bar and then to the Victorian Bar in 1954, he practised with distinction for over two decades, taking silk as Queen's Counsel in 1972.

In 1976, he became the first Victorian appointed as a Justice of the newly formed Family Court of Australia, pioneering work in an evolving legal arena. Later, in 1986, he was appointed Justice of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory, where he served with honour, ultimately rising to Chief Justice.

Outside the courtroom, his dedication to education was extraordinary. He served as Vice-President and then President of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Chancellor of Deakin University, and Chancellor of the Northern Territory University.

His service extended to many areas of his life, as an Honorary Colonel of the North West Mobile Force and a Knight of the Most Venerable Order of

the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem. He became a Companion of the Order of Australia in 1994, received the Centenary Medal in 2003, and in 2007 was named Freeman of the City of Darwin.

Most Worshipful Brother Austin was a man of great commitment to Freemasonry. Initiated and passed to the second degree in 1953 and raised in 1966 in Sir Samuel Walker Griffith Lodge No. 408 of the Queensland Constitution, he later returned to Melbourne and became a foundation member of the Lodge of Famonsel No. 842 in 1967, eventually serving as Worshipful Master in 1974. He was a member of the Lodge of Schnapper Point No. 903 until its closure and remained a member of Lodge of the Great Ocean Road No. 886.

His Masonic journey was one of distinction: he served as Grand Registrar from 1977 - 1981, Senior Grand Warden from 1981 - 1982, and Deputy Grand Master from 1982 - 1984

before being installed as Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria in 1984. Notably, he was the first non-South Australian to be conferred the title of Honorary Grand Master by the Grand Lodge of South Australia. Of many recognitions, one in particular of which he was proud was having the Freemasons Victoria Legal Moot named in his honour.

Beyond titles and achievements, Most Worshipful Brother Austin will be remembered for his humility, wisdom, and unwavering dedication to those he served. He is now reunited with his beloved wife, Dr. Valerie.

He lived respected and died regretted.




## Vale RWBro. Peter Bryce PDGM

The Grand Secretariat was sadly advised on 6 January 2025 of the passing to the Grand Lodge Above of RWBro. Peter Bryce PDGM.

RWBro. Peter was Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria between 1996 - 2002.

He was a Freemason and leader held in the highest esteem.

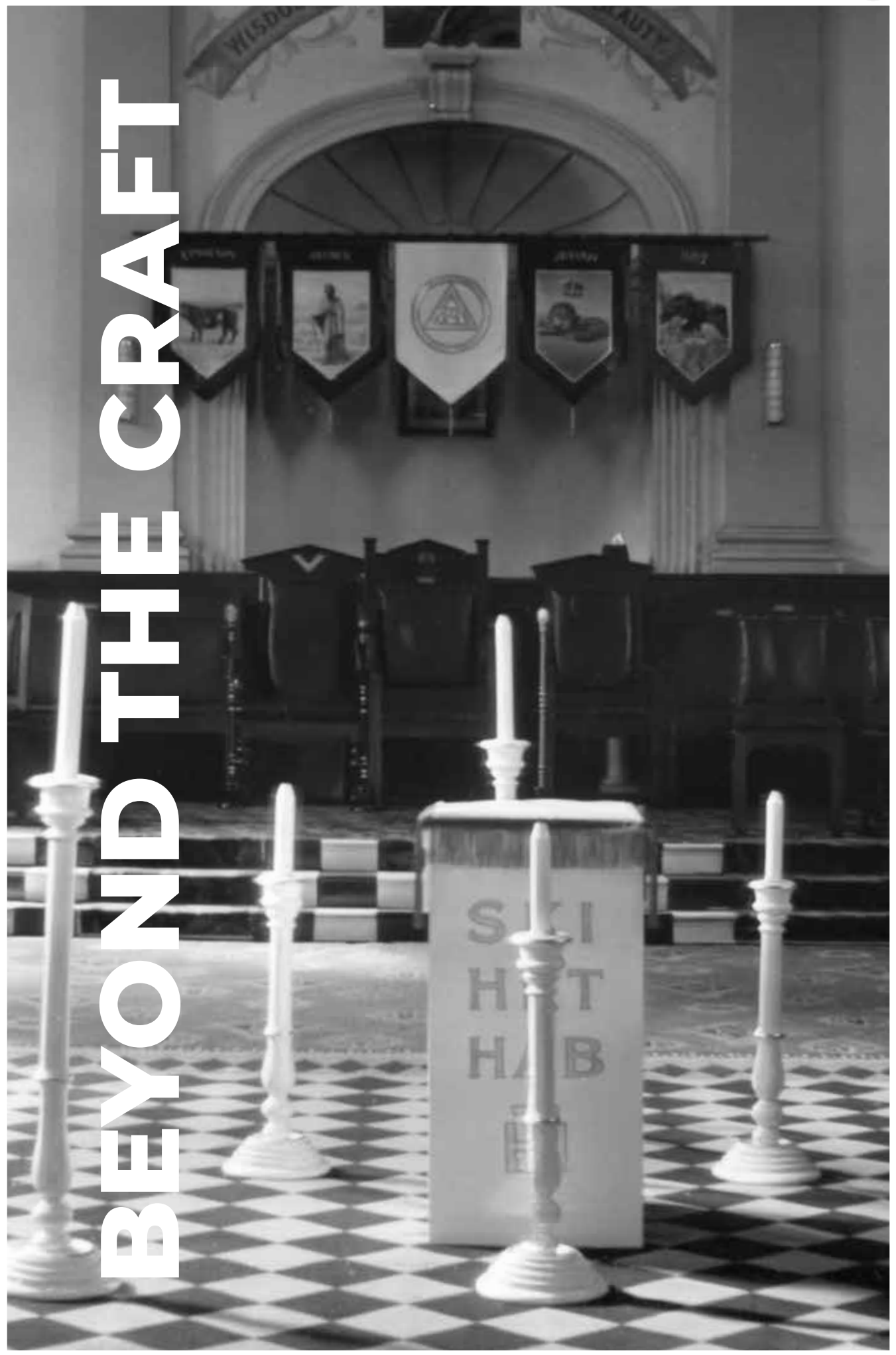
A Requiem Mass was held for him at St. Peters Anglican Church, Eastern Hill on Wednesday 22 January 2025.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this sad time. 





# BEYOND THE CRAFT







*Congratulations*

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER VICTORIA  
& UNITED GRAND LODGE OF MARK  
MASTER MASONS VICTORIA

*Grand*  
**INSTALLATION**





# Message from the Grand Master

The last few months have been particularly busy with many Lodges of both Mark and Ark Mariners having their Installations or Enthronements towards the latter part of the year.

I have been greatly encouraged by the number of newly advanced Brethren I have been able to meet at these occasions; but not so for newly Elevated brothers in our Ark Mariner Degree. I would encourage all members of the Mark not yet a member to seriously consider becoming an Ark Mariner. This Degree has been suggested to be one of the oldest degrees in Freemasonry and pre-dates the third degree in the Craft, having many colourful and engaging aspects that are well worth contemplating as we also find in our Mark Degree.

At the November 2024 Mark Communication we trailed a Grand Council of Royal Ark Mariners that was well received by those in attendance and will be added to our future calendar of events; but as a separate event, as the one negative of the night was having two meetings together, making for a very late night. If some of you are wondering why I am promoting the Royal Ark

Mariner Degree it is because as Grand Master of the Mark I also became Grand Commander of the Royal Ark Mariner Order with much the same ceremonial and administrative requirements as in the Mark.

There have been a number of our Lodges facing serious disruption with having to find alternative meeting places after closure or destruction of their usual Masonic centres, Dimboola and Lilydale being two such. Thankfully, the members have found suitable venues and are continuing to meet without too much disruption. I should mention Ivalda also; I am reliably informed that the current works are on schedule and the tenant Lodges will soon be able to return.

A number of our members are celebrating significant milestones in their Mark and Mariner Lodges with several service awards being presented to mark 50, 60 and 65 years of membership and I congratulate them on this significant achievement. One of the great privileges as Grand Master is being invited to present some of these awards and being able to recognize the wonderful contribution these Brethren have made to our orders.



**MWBro. Ronald W Goodburn**  
Grand Master UGLMMV

## Message from the CHAMAR Office

The Board of Chamar are very pleased to report that VWBro./ VEmComp. John Molnar OAM has been appointed as the Executive Officer of Chamar and the WeCare Charitable Trust.

He commenced his duties on 3 February 2025 and brings a wealth of experience and talent to the role. As the Executive Officer and a very senior Freemason, including within the Mark and Royal Arch, he will also shortly take up appointment as the Grand Secretary for Grand Mark, Grand Scribe for Royal Ark Mariner Masonry and Grand Scribe Ezra for Supreme Grand Chapter.

The Board has also appointed Mr. Caleb O'Flynn as Administrative Assistant in the Joint Secretariat, to support John in the office.

We congratulate them and wish them both well in their new roles.

## Celebrating 60 Years of Marking Well

A remarkable milestone in Mark Masonry, WBro. Jack Huxtable PGStdB marks 60 years of dedication to the Mark degree. His journey began with his advancement on 21 January 1965, leading to his installation as Worshipful Master on 15 July 1995.

Beyond the Mark degree, he has achieved 72 years of service in the Craft and 60 years in the Chapter.

A heartfelt congratulations to WBro. Jack Huxtable on this outstanding dedication and achievement. 🎉



◀ Presentation of a 60 Year Jewel to RWBro. Allan Saunders PJGW. 🎉







# Pure and Ancient Freemasonry

## Rule 2 and the Pursuit of Happiness

Freemasonry was never intended as a sanctuary for men that have strayed from the straight and narrow; it was never a fraternity designed to make wayward men better; as Freemasonry has rules deigned to keep such men at arms-length from our hallowed doors. Freemasonry has always and always will maintain the highest standards of moral and social virtue; and this is what is expected of all candidates for Freemasonry. But having accepted a man as a candidate for its mysteries, what is the outcome we desire for all candidates?

We are often informed that the very design of Freemasonry is to make available, to the Brethren, the very tools to enable them to be wiser, better, and therefore happier; and who would not want to be wiser, better, and consequently happier? Is the design and ultimate goal of Freemasonry, a world-wide fraternity, too good to be true? Can all candidates to the fraternity be wiser, better and consequently happier?

Thousands of men can be admitted and made members of our fraternity, but the ultimate responsibility, with the encouragement of his fellow brethren, to become a 'Freemason' belongs to the individual.

Rule 2 of the Book of Constitutions states: 'The United Grand Lodge of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of Victoria hereby declares that Freemasonry consists of the following degrees - the Entered Apprentice; the Fellow Craft; the Master Mason; the Mark Master Mason; the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch'. Craft Freemasonry embraces the three first-named of the above.



This Rule alone states that there is more to look at than just the Craft. We have the Mark Master Masons degree of Advancement and the Supreme Degree of the Holy Royal



Arch to add to the three Craft degrees. The three Orders have combined with one thought in view and that is that all Freemasons should embrace Rule 2 of the Craft Constitutions, and as such act in "Unity" of thought word and deed. To this end there is a Unity badge available to all Brethren who take this complete journey. This declaration of unity shows that there is more depth to Freemasonry here in Victoria. More is the pity that some of the Brethren are not prepared to investigate or take the Craft Rule 2 seriously, which may be some explanation of why we have a disproportionate number of Craft to Mark to Chapter numbers. Few seem to want to commit to pursuing the road required to become a Unity Badge Freemason: perhaps we, as a group in general, are not communicating this to our members adequately, or they are not motivated for other reasons to seek it?

If Freemasonry finds ways to make men wiser and better through study, reason, and encouraging passionate enthusiasm, their members should consequently find themselves happier men. This is a very achievable goal; but in order to do so we must provide

the tools and knowledge to our members. This would give all Brethren the implements required for such a transformation to take place. This transformation begins in the Craft, and travels through the Mark and the Holy Royal Arch as these degrees open the doors to many other Orders and Rites.

When a brother perceives and embraces ideas from the teachings of the five degrees of Pure and Ancient Masonry, as defined in Rule 2, this allows him to transcend the 'Self'; which, in philosophy, can be defined as an individual's own being, knowledge, values, and the relationship between these attributes; he then will be enabled to use the tools of Freemasonry to developed a true sense of purpose in a journey towards an understanding of how the all-encompassing teachings of the Craft, Mark, and Holy Royal Arch relate to the individual's self-concept, basic values, attitudes, and motives; or simply put, a person's true self.

These ancient teachings that have, for thousands of years, taught esoteric traditions, demonstrate a kinship to the symbolism and teachings of Hermeticism, Gnosticism and Neoplatonism. These teachings enable a Brother to transcend in his thinking and his behaviour towards a universally accepted Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of the Creator of All Things.

Candidates for Freemasonry should be those that are searching for a deeper meaning to life, men that yearn for a bond that goes beyond senseless shallow desires, and for a true understanding of the 'Self'; with a brother's initiation into Craft Masonry lighting the way of ultimately emanating a sense of happiness in all its members. Perhaps it up to the Rule 2 'Unity' members that comprise the Craft, Mark Masonry and the Holy Royal Arch to act as a well-lit path of knowledge that illuminates and guides the brethren dispelling the darkness of ignorance. Thus we can be wiser, better and consequently happier. ✨

*By VWBro. Glenn Hollibone  
Grand Lecturer*



# Some aspects of Royal Ark Mariner Masonry



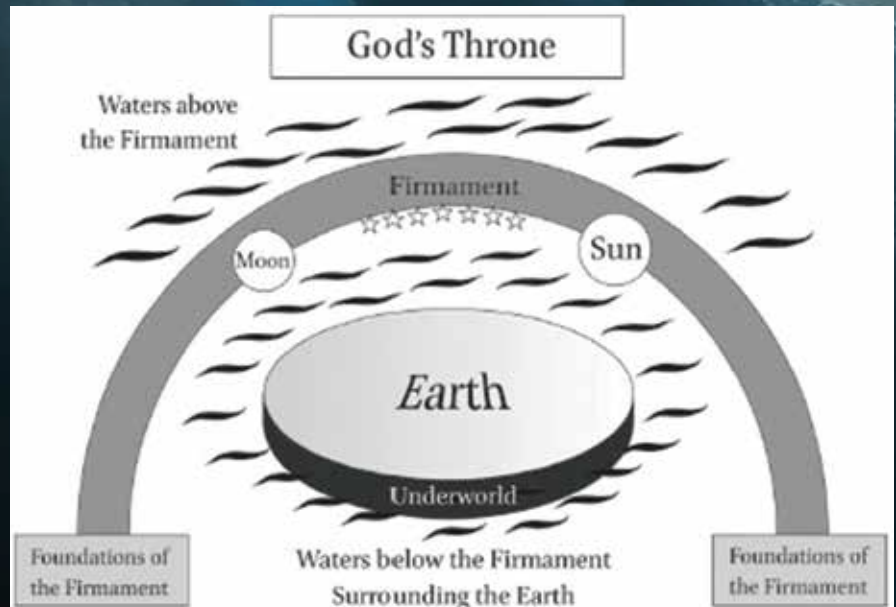
The Royal Ark Mariners Degree as we know it today has little connection with the modern Craft, Holy Royal Arch or the Mark rituals; the story line of the degree ceremony clearly separates and distinguishes it from those orders connected with the Temples at Jerusalem. The historic, and current, prerequisite here in Victoria to be made a Royal Ark Mariner Mason is to be a Mark Master Mason.

Like most degrees in Freemasonry, the early history of the Royal Ark Mariner degree is ambiguous to say the least, and its exact origin is unknown. It is acknowledged that the degree, in some format, has been worked for more than two hundred and fifty years

The narrative of this degree contains events before, during, and after the Great Deluge. The apron and emblems of this degree are easily recognisable as they are a very standard Lodge pattern with three rainbow-coloured rosettes and a rainbow coloured border.

The story of the Great Deluge and hence the narrative of the Royal Ark Mariner degree's principal focus is on the biblical story of Noah and the Ark, symbolising the idea of humanity's survival through adversity, the importance of adherence to divine will, and the concept of regeneration following the chaos, with the Ark representing a vessel of deliverance and the candidate's own spiritual journey through life's challenges.

The degree starts out by emphasising, to the initiate, the virtues of wisdom, strength and beauty which were so impressed upon our Minds in Craft Masonry with the emphasis here in relation to Noah and his masterful deed in building the Ark.



Overall, the degree celebrates the providence and mercy of God in saving Noah and his family from the destruction metered out to all others. During the ceremony an Olive Branch is presented as a symbol or a representation of a hope of a better 'after life'.

Noah's three-deck Ark itself is a representation of the three-level Hebrew cosmos in miniature: heavens, earth (the Ark) and waters beneath.

Like both the Craft and Mark ceremonies, the Royal Ark Mariner's Elevation ceremony has reference to that great Masonic allegory of Building. However, in this degree, the issue is not how to build something, but rather the ceremony celebrates a man who did so, in this case Noah in his construction of the Ark; which the ritual describes as the 'Ark of Safety' or 'Haven of Rest'. Furthermore, it

teaches the futility of relying on any human endeavour or device to escape divine justice without the direct instructions of the Almighty. The ceremony concludes with the lessons of watchfulness, discretion, brotherly love, truth and charity.

The study of the story of Noah, the events of the Deluge, and the efforts of the survivors, offers Freemasons an opportunity to find other sources, besides the three Craft degrees, for a deeper look within and for further contemplation on our own morals, adversities in life, our obligation to support to each other and to our faith in the Creator of All Things.

*By VWBro. Glenn Hollibone  
Grand Lecturer*







# Message from the First Grand Principal



Companions, this message is - for me at least - a significant one, as it is my last before I join that illustrious body of men - the Past Grand Zerubbabels. This being so, I wish to express my deep appreciation to the members of both my teams over the past two years for their loyalty and hard work. I would especially thank my Co-Grand Principals – REmComp. Robert Redman DGZ, GZ Elect, REmComp. Peter White GH, REmComp. Drago Dragojlovic GH, REmComp. Rodger Marsden GJ, and REmComp. Ruary Bucknall GJ. I would also thank REmComp. Peter King PDGZ, for his assisting as GJ when REmComp. Rodger Marsden was unwell. Appreciation should also be expressed for the work of our Grand Directors, VEmComp. Mark Eadon and VEmComp. Ken Calder, for their training and direction of the teams. To VEmComp. Chris Wallace GZE, I wish to express my deep appreciation for his outstanding administration and his wise counsel over the past two years. What was to be a temporary two-month appointment morphed into two years. I thank you, Chris, for all you have done. To the Past Grand Zerubbabels, always in the background ready to offer wise counsel, I thank you also.

*"I wish to express my deep appreciation to the members of both my teams over the past two years for their loyalty and hard work"*

There are many duties in the background which need to be undertaken as First Grand Principal, but none are as important as being at our Chapter Installations, catching up with old friends and making new ones. As always, the Team has been warmly received in a convivial atmosphere. My only regret is, that having been involved in a serious road accident, I missed conducting several Installations. My sincere appreciation to REmComp. Redman for carrying out the work while I was recovering.

Speaking of work carried out in the background, I would acknowledge the work of the Supreme Committee and its President REmComp. Colin Prout PDGZ, and the committees appointed under its direction - the Membership Committee under REmComp. Peter

White PGH, and the Education Committee under REmComp. Fred Shade PGJ GrLect.

One of the great privileges of office is to be able to acknowledge the work of fellow companions with conferments and promotions. Special mention should be made to four outstanding companions of our Order who were the recipients of Past Deputy First Grand Principal - the highest rank that can be conferred. I refer to REmComp. Carl Stemp, REmComp. Peter Thick, REmComp. Colin Prout and REmComp. Peter King. Another enjoyable privilege is to be able to represent our Order with our interstate companions. I was able to attend the Grand Installations of NSW and Tasmania where I, and those who accompanied me, were received with great warmth.

*"One of the great privileges of office is to be able to acknowledge the work of fellow companions with conferments and promotions"*

Over the past two years I have attended nearly all of the Quarterly Communications of Grand Craft and Grand Mark with the support of my Co Grand Principals. I thank MWBro. Tony Bucca and MWBro. Ron Goodburn for their kind invitations to attend and for their friendship and for the close relationship between our Orders.

I now wish to make special acknowledgement of my wife Anne's support and hard work over the past two years. Her wise counsel, her work in preparing for the Grand Installations and for her position as President of the Burgundy Ladies have taken up a great deal of her time and energy for which I am deeply grateful.

Finally, as the conclusion of my term of office is very clearly on the horizon I have been reflecting on the rather long journey which has brought me to this position. I am grateful to have been on this journey over so many years and to the Grand Zerubbabels who have seen fit to invite me into their teams, particularly MEmComp. David Paroissien who appointed me Grand Steward, his late brother MEmComp. Robert for inviting me back as Grand Standard Bearer, and after several appointments

MEmComp. Hugh Campbell for inviting me to be Second Grand Principal and finally to MEmComp. John Ives for nominating me as First Grand Principal with the endorsement of the Past First Grand Principals. It has indeed been a wonderful Journey.

To REmComp. Robert Redman GZ Elect and his deputy REmComp. Robert Taylor and the team they are to lead, I wish them all the very best for the year to come and trust that their enjoyment will be as fulfilling as mine has been over the past two years.



**MEmComp Leonard S Lacey**  
First Grand Principal SGRAMV







# The Temples of Jerusalem

The Order of the Holy Royal Arch has an interest in the history of the two temples that were built at Jerusalem. In fact, it commences its study with the tabernacle of Moses and designates, masonically speaking, the three constructions as lodges or Grand Lodges.

The first or Holy Lodge was opened two years after the exodus of the Israelites from their Egyptian bondage (c1250BC) by Moses, the inspired law-giver, Aholiab the architect, and Bezaleel the carver and embroiderer. It was first set up at the foot of Mount Horeb in the wilderness of Sinai. In this tabernacle were housed the Ark of the Covenant and the two tablets of the Ten Commandments.

The tabernacle was divided into three parts: the outer courtyard, the holy place, and the Holy of Holies (Sanctum Sanctorum). The holy place contained the table of the Presence, the altar of incense, and the seven-branched candelabrum. The outer courtyard was not covered as this was the place of offering sacrifices. The sanctuary and Holy of Holies were covered with skins and there were also curtains of different colours.

Solomon King of Israel, Hiram King of Tyre and Hiram Abiff built the first temple on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem (c1,000BC). This site goes back to the time of Abraham. Details of its construction are central to the three Craft degrees. This temple is designated as the second or Sacred Lodge and its layout mirrored that of Moses' tabernacle but was more elaborate. For example, two pillars were placed in the porchway. (There were no spherical balls atop of the pillars; this is an innovation by modern Freemasons.) The overall design of the temple was very similar to that of a Phoenician temple of that period.

About c500BC the people of Israel were taken into captivity and sent to Babylon, where they stayed for 70 years as prophesied by the prophet Jeremiah. The second Temple, designated the third or Grand and Royal Lodge, was built on the site of Solomon's Temple on their return to Jerusalem, by Zerubbabel the prince of the people, Haggai the prophet and Jeshua the high priest, who was the son of Josedech. King Herod (1st century BC) rebuilt the temple on a grander scale. It was destroyed in 73AD, together with the whole city of Jerusalem, by the Romans.

Zerubbabel's temple is central to the degree of the Holy Royal Arch. There is much that is revealed to the



Zerubbabel's Temple.



King Solomon's Temple.

candidate during his "exaltation", not only about its construction and its sacred contents, but also revelations about the nature of the Divine.

In the Holy Royal Arch we move from the Moral Philosophy of the Craft degrees to a Spiritual Philosophy; it brings us closer to the divine and the ancient teachings. After his journey, in which he descends and then ascends, the candidate is brought before the Grand Sanhedrin – the rulers of the nation. As a result of his work and discovery, he is elevated to a seat on the Grand Sanhedrin as one of the "princes and rulers of Israel", and more knowledge is communicated to him.

Further knowledge of the Supreme Degree is communicated when a companion is installed respectively as 3rd, 2nd and 1st Principal of the chapter.

What is also significant in this degree is that the candidate is provided with information regarding all three 'Grand Lodges'. The history of the people and the knowledge that their leaders in particular had gained during their leadership is presented to the new member. The ceremony of exaltation in this degree is elaborate, colourful and profound. ✨

*By Frederick Shade, Grand Lecturer*





## Freemasons Gather for Knights Templar Open Night in East Melbourne

More than 30 Freemasons came together at Freemasons Melbourne for a special Knights Templar Open Night, hosted by Victoria Centenary Preceptory No. 13. The event, held on Thursday, 20 February 2025, offered an opportunity for Brethren to explore the rich history and traditions of the Knights Templar Order.

A highlight of the evening was the presence of the Grand Master, Most Eminent Knight Gordon Brown G.C.T., who extended a warm welcome to all in attendance. Under the guidance of Eminent Preceptor, Em. Kt. Jack Aquilina, and the Preceptory Registrar Em. Kt David Bird, the night provided

an insightful look into the origins and evolution of the Order, drawing connections between the medieval Knights Templar and their modern Masonic counterparts.

Attendees were taken through the history of the Templars, the evolution of the Order in Freemasonry, and the significance of its ceremonial regalia. The realism of the Knights Templar ceremony, combined with the striking historical dress, left a lasting impression on guests, many of whom expressed keen interest in learning more.

The Victorian Centenary Preceptory, founded in 1955, continues to uphold

the traditions of the Knights Templar. As it seeks to establish its new home at Freemasons Melbourne, the Open Night served as an important step in sharing the Order's heritage and inviting new members to take the next step. ✨

Want to know more? Contact the Great Chancellor Rt. Em. Kt. Gavin Myers: [ktvictoria01@gmail.com](mailto:ktvictoria01@gmail.com)

## An Official visit of Knights Templar and HRAC

An official visit occurred at Horsham Masonic Centre between West Wimmera Chapter 55 and Werrigar Preceptory 8 on Thursday 10 April 2025. Both are different orders within Freemasonry and work together for bettering men in our communities. Members for both orders are from Nhill, Hopetoun, Horsham, Portland, Warrnambool and Dimboola. A great talk was presented by Ekt Chris Wallace who spoke about both Red Cross of Constantine and the Knights Templar and why members of the Chapter should look at joining both Orders. ✨







## Thoughts for the Enquiring Mason

# Freemasonry – Why Geometry?

You may have noticed that during the course of the second degree in Freemasonry there were constant references to the Science of Geometry. Why is there this emphasis on Geometry, and how does it fit into the overall structure of Freemasonry?

Freemasonry supposedly is built upon the structures of the operative stonemasons who employed the secrets of geometry to create the wondrous stone buildings of the Middle Ages, such as the great cathedrals and palaces still seen today throughout Europe. The science of geometry was essential for the construction of these towering edifices and this knowledge formed part of the secrets of the operative stonemasons.

These secrets were closely guarded, for without knowledge of the fundamentals of geometry those impressive structure would not have stood the test of time. The Cooke Manuscript (circa 1450), a manuscript purported to have been used by operative stonemasons, devotes pages to Geometry stating that:

“...all sciences exist only through the science of Geometry... the science by which all reasoning men live...”

Another early manuscript used by operative masons, the Regius or Halliwell Manuscript, estimated to have been written around 1390, was originally entitled “The Constitutions of the art of Geometry according to Euclid”.

The earliest fragments of the rituals of Freemasonry dating from the late 1600s stressed the importance of Geometry with the letter “G” originally representing the science of geometry.

The Wilkinson Manuscript, which dates from around 1727, has this to say about Geometry and the letter “G”:

Q. What is the Centre of your Lodge?

A. The Letter G.

Q. What does it signify?

A. Geometry.

In 1730, Freemason Samuel Prichard published a book called *Masonry Dissected*, which was a public exposure of the Freemasons' ritual then used in London English Lodges at the time, and it also stresses the concept of the letter “G” representing Geometry.

Q. Are you a Fellow-Craft?

A. I am.

Q. Why was you made a fellow-Craft?

A. For the sake of the letter G.


Q. What does that G denote?

A. Geometry or the fifth Science.

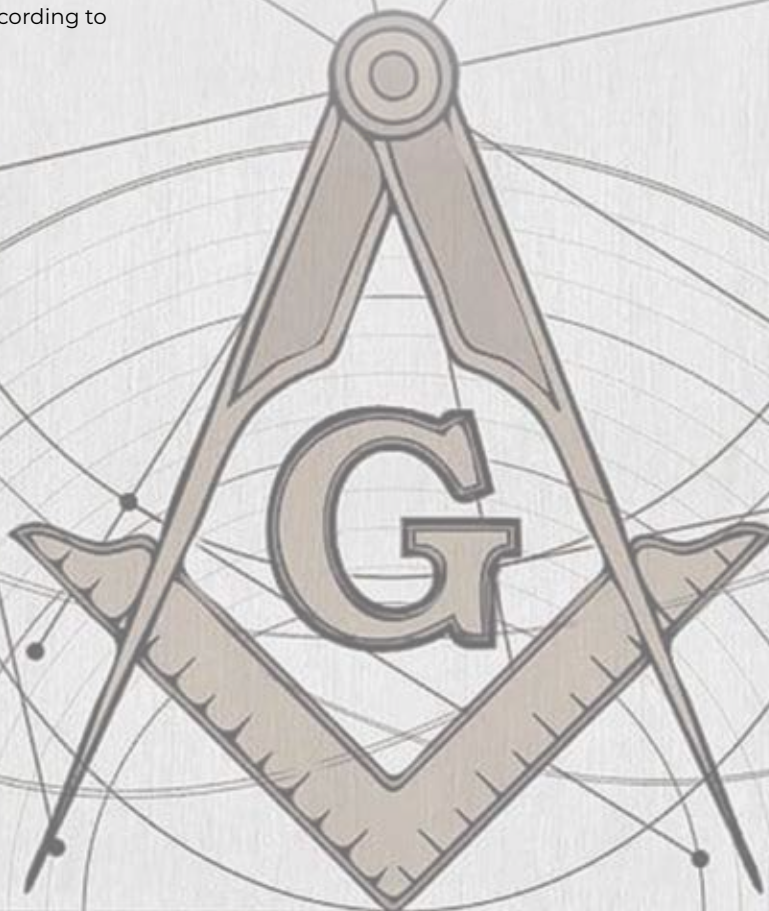
In 1772, Freemason William Preston published a work entitled *Illustrations of Masonry* in which he stated that, “...originally Masonry and Geometry must have been synonymous terms...”

So, the study of Geometry was very much reflective of the intellectual mind-set of the early 1700s, where a belief in the search for knowledge that was lost, coupled with the concept that the study of Geometry, and to a lesser degree Alchemy, was to comprehend the works of God, a way of obtaining a deeper understanding of the Divine.

Johannes Kepler (1571-1630) a German mathematician, astronomer, astrologer, and key figure in the 17th-century scientific revolution, stated that, “...I sometimes wonder whether the whole of nature and all beauty of the heavens is not symbolised in Geometry...”

Consequently, in the 1700s when our current Masonic ritual was taking shape, there was awe at the geometry of nature and widespread belief that if a Freemason understood the basics of Geometry he could unlock and understand the works of God. And, this is why at the end of the Fellow Craft degree, we are enjoined to study the liberal arts “which so effectively polish and adorn the mind ...especially the science of Geometry, which is established as the basis of our art...” 

By VWBro. Brendan Kyne.







# Thoughts for the Enquiring Mason

## Freemasonry and the Prince's Pillar

Rosslyn Chapel has in recent years appeared in various books and movies, in particular the De Vinci Code, and has been in most cases associated with Freemasonry and the Knights Templar. Numerous writers over the last twenty years have claimed that the Chapel contains certain buried or hidden items ranging from the Holy Grail (smash the pillar to find it), the Ark of the Covenant, the last resting place of Mary Magdalene, ancient scrolls, the embalmed head of Jesus Christ and various Knights Templar treasures. This list is by no means all of the most recent claimed theories.

Rosslyn Chapel, or to give it its official name, the Collegiate Chapel of St Matthew, is an ornate 15th century medieval chapel 7 miles south of Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland, founded in 1446 by Sir William St. Clair, third and last prince (Jarl) of Orkney. The reverend Father Hay, historian, archivist and family priest for the St Clair family, wrote in the early 1690s that the reason why William St. Clair built the Chapel was:

"...to the end he might not seem altogether unthankful to God for the benefices he received from him. It came to his mind to build a house for God's service, of a most curious work..."

So, according to the family historian, the Chapel was built to thank God for favours already received.

The chapel is most famous for the interior carvings, with the small space packed with an overwhelming exuberance of carvings. The Chapel has 14 internal pillars; two of which are more ornate than the rest; with one in particular, referred to today as the 'apprentice pillar', is of supposed Masonic interest. The story or legend that goes with this pillar is that due to ornate nature of its carvings, the Master Mason in charge of works decided to travel to Italy to view the original version of the pillar.

Whilst the MM was away a lowly apprentice attempts and completes the pillar so when the MM returns,



he demanded to know who had carved this beautiful pillar. When an apprentice stepped forward the MM was so enraged that the apprentice was able to create such a thing of beauty he struck him a violent blow to the forehead, which laid him lifeless at his feet. Realising what he had done, the MM later took his own life. In the south-west corner, of the Chapel is a carving of a head with a deep gash to the right temple and opposite, in the north-west corner is another head said to be that of the MM. A little further along is a third carved head said to be that of the grieving mother – a widow. Is the legend of Hiram Abiff based on a true story from the building of Rosslyn Chapel?

Curiously, John Slezer in his book *Theatrum Scotiae* (1693) - in his description of Rosslyn he stated, "...the most curious part of the building is...that which is called the Prince's Pillar..." He even mentions that he thought the pillar was probably named after the founder of the Chapel – Prince William St. Clair.

In short, the carved head of the murdered apprentice was not originally carved as such and ochre, chalk or paint was added afterwards



to indicate a wound - the wound was not a part of the original carving.

250 years after the construction of the Chapel, someone has deliberately tampered with the original carving to give it a certain possible Masonic connection.

If the Chapel had Masonic connections, why indulge in this charade? ✨

By VWBro. Brendan Kyne





**From Famous Freemasons Who Changed The World**  
by RWBro. Kent Henderson

# General Douglas MacArthur American Five-Star General



Douglas MacArthur was born on 26 January, 1880 at the Little Rock Barracks, Arkansas. His parents were Arthur MacArthur Jr, a US Army captain, and Mary Pinkney Hardy MacArthur. His early childhood was spent on western frontier outposts where his father was stationed. In July 1889 the family moved to Washington, D.C., where he attended the Force Public School.

In 1903, MacArthur graduated at the top of his class from the West Point Military Academy. In the years leading up to World War I, he was stationed in the Philippines and around the United States. After the United States entered World War I in 1917, MacArthur helped lead the 42nd 'Rainbow' Division in France and was promoted brigadier general at age 37.

From 1919 to 1922 he served as the superintendent of West Point and directed reforms intended to modernize the school. In 1922 he wed Louise Cromwell Brooks. They divorced in 1929, and in 1937 her married Jean Faircloth.

In 1930 President Herbert Hoover named MacArthur chief of staff of the Army, with the rank of general. After finishing his term as such in 1935, he was given the job of creating an armed force for the Philippines, which became a commonwealth of the United States that year. In 1937, upon being recalled to the United States, he resigned from the military, stating that his mission wasn't finished. He remained in the Philippines, where he served as a civilian advisor to President Manuel Quezon, who had appointed him field marshal of the Philippines.

In 1941, with Japan posing an increasing threat, MacArthur was recalled to active duty as commander of U.S. Army forces in the Far East. On 8 December 1941, his air force was destroyed in a surprise attack by the Japanese, who soon invaded the Philippines. MacArthur's forces retreated to the Bataan Peninsula, where they struggled to survive.

In March 1942, on orders from President Franklin Roosevelt, MacArthur, his family and members of his staff evacuated Corregidor Island in PT boats and escaped to Australia. Shortly afterward, MacArthur made his famous promise: 'I shall return.' U.S.-Filipino forces fell to Japan in May 1942.

In April 1942, MacArthur was appointed supreme commander of Allied forces in the Southwest Pacific and awarded the Medal of Honour for his defence of the Philippines. He spent the next two-and-a-half years commanding an island-hopping campaign in the Pacific before famously returning to liberate the Philippines in October 1944. Wading ashore at Leyte, he announced: 'I have returned. By the grace of Almighty God, our forces stand again on Philippine soil.' In December 1944, he was promoted to the highest rank of 5 Star general – General of the Army and given command of all Army forces in the Pacific.

On 2 September 1945, MacArthur officially accepted Japan's surrender aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. From 1945 to 1951, as Allied commander of the Japanese occupation, MacArthur oversaw the successful demobilization of Japan's military forces, the restoration of its economy, the drafting of a new constitution, and many other reforms.

In June 1950, Communist forces from North Korea invaded the western-allied Republic of South Korea, launching the Korean War. MacArthur was put in charge of the American-led coalition of United Nations troops. His troops repelled the North Koreans and eventually drove them back toward the Chinese border. MacArthur met with President Truman, who worried that the communist government of the People's Republic of China might view the invasion as a hostile act and intervene in the conflict. The general assured him the chances of a Chinese intervention were remote.

However, in November 1950, a massive force of Chinese troops crossed into North Korea and attacked the American lines, driving the U.S. troops back into South Korea. MacArthur asked for permission to bomb communist China and use Nationalist Chinese forces from Taiwan against the People's Republic of China. Truman refused these requests, and a public dispute arose between the two men.

As a result, on 11 April 1951, Truman removed MacArthur from his command for insubordination. In an address to Americans that day, the president stated, 'I believe that we must try to limit the war to Korea for

these vital reasons: to make sure that the precious lives of our fighting men are not wasted; to see that the security of our country and the free world is not needlessly jeopardized; and to prevent a third world war.' MacArthur had been fired, he said, 'so that there would be no doubt or confusion as to the real purpose and aim of our policy.' MacArthur's dismissal set off an uproar among the American public, but Truman remained committed to keeping the conflict in Korea as a 'limited war.'

In April 1951, MacArthur returned to the United States, where he was welcomed as a hero and honoured with parades in various cities. On 19 April, he gave a televised address before a joint session of Congress in which he heavily criticized Truman's Korean policy. He ended with a quote from an old army song: 'Old soldiers never die; they just fade away.'

MacArthur and his wife took up residence in a suite at New York City's Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. In 1952, there were calls for MacArthur to run for president as a Republican; however, the party ultimately chose General Dwight Eisenhower, who went on to win the general election.

Douglas MacArthur died at Walter Reed Army Medical Centre, in Washington, D.C., on 5 April 1964, of liver disease, at the age of 84. After a state funeral, he was buried in the rotunda of the Douglas MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk, Virginia.

Brother Douglas MacArthur was made a Mason at Sight by the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines on 17 January 1936, in Manila Lodge No 1. He received the 32nd degree in the Scottish Rite on 28 March 1936, and was coroneted as a 33rd Degree Mason in the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo on 8 December 1947. ⚡





*On behalf of the United Grand Lodge of Queensland,  
we have the pleasure of inviting you to attend the*

# 2025 Grand Installation

*of RW Bro David Gray DGM as Grand Master*

Friday 4th July

Meet & Greet 6pm - 8pm  
(Pullman Hotel - King George Square)

Saturday 5th July

Ladies Breakfast 7am - 10:30am  
(Pullman Hotel - King George Square)



Grand Installation Ceremony 2pm - 5pm  
(Grand Hall - Masonic Memorial Centre)

Installation Banquet 6:30pm - 10:30pm  
(Pullman Hotel, King George Square)

Sunday 6th July

Farewell Lunch 12:30pm - 3:30pm  
(Pullman Hotel - King George Square)







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



