

## **Engage! -Issue 10**

As the year draws to a close, the festive season provides us with a wonderful time to reflect on the achievements of Freemasonry in Victoria throughout the year.

In 2010, we have seen many fantastic community achievements that Brethren in all 17 Districts have been directly involved in.

I am indeed proud of the way in which we have collectively embraced initiatives set-out in the 2010-2013 strategic plan. We have moved full steam ahead in the areas of membership, property acquisition and refurbishment, Lodge consolidation, communication and technology.

Brethren, I look forward to you joining with me in 2011 to further enhance our public image and showcase our fundamental and steadfast principles, which will undoubtedly keep a high level of interest of young men wanting to discover the of the Craft.

As we prepare to join with our families and celebrate this festive season, I encourage you to think about 2011 and how you can further contribute and make an even bigger difference to your Lodge and wider community. We are at beginning of the 'tide turning' but we must ensure we press on.

I would like to wish you and your loved ones a very safe and happy festive season. I certainly look forward to seeing you and your families at the Grand Installation in March 2011.

Yours in Freemasonry,

MWBro. Vaughan Werner

The Grand Master

## **A Christmas catch-up**

**By Mark Richardson**

Recently I met with a former work colleague for a pre Christmas celebratory drink in a busy CBD bar and bistro. Whilst I waited for Gary, I reflected on my working week. Naturally the 'madness' of finalising many projects during the week leading up to the silly season would mirror that of thousands of Melburnians. "Oh what fun!"

Amidst the rising levels of cheerful Christmas banter, Gary arrived and apologised for running late due to his silly season workload. Gary knew I had recently started working at Freemasons Victoria and knew little of what my role entailed.

At my previous place of employment, Gary was renowned as a keen networker, the 'man in the know' and seemed to be connected to everyone 'in the know'. Although we worked in separate departments, Gary and I shared each other's networking databases that at times, saw us networking up to five nights a week. On this particular night, I met with Gary straight after work, arriving to the city with my Freemasons Victoria business tie and 'Square and Compass' lapel-pin I had worn on official Freemason business with the Grand Master and Grand Secretary. This shaped the entire course of our evening.

Gary was proud to discuss his affiliation with Freemasons in New Zealand and I was able to dispel the myth that had prevented him from joining the Craft. He believed he was expected to donate a large percentage of his wage to a chosen Lodge. Gary continued to tell me that his grandfather and his great uncle were both Freemasons in New Zealand. I had no idea of Gary's passion and admiration for Freemasonry.

Similar conversations prevailed during the course of our catch-up. Gary introduced me to one of his work associates, Wayne, who immediately pointed to the 'Square and Compass' on my jacket and informed me that his close friend is a Master of a Freemasons Outer Eastern Lodge. Wayne couldn't speak more highly of the good work undertaken by Freemasons and was even aware of District 117's kind offer to lend their barbeque trailer to the Knox Boating Fishing Club's for their Christmas party after their barbeque trailer had been stolen. Wayne had read about that in the newspaper.

I was continually impressed by Gary's enthusiasm to draw out everything he knew about Freemasonry and as the conversation continued, Wayne officially pulled up a seat and joined us for dinner. I learnt that one of Wayne's associates Mel, is the grand-daughter of a past Master in Melbourne. He insisted I invite her and her boyfriend for a coffee and tour of the United Grand Lodge, suggesting, "You never know Mark, he may want to join because of Mel's passion for Freemasonry." I agreed, informing Gary and Wayne about our Lodge Open Nights.

By the end of the evening, I realised that we hadn't discussed anything about Gary's life. We hadn't raised our glasses to celebrate his work promotion. On my way home, I thought about Wayne's parting comment. "I really enjoyed tonight guys, it's was great to have a conversation with a degree of substance. Imagine this very same conversation taking place fifty years ago between three guys. How would one of them introduce Freemasonry? It's easier these days; Freemasons only have to display the 'Square and Compass' and a conversation will usually find it's way to them." We left 'Young & Jacksons' promising to meet up in the New Year.

During the festive season, remember to keep sharing your Masonic stories and rewarding experiences with all you celebrate with.

### **Membership Recruitment Update**

Between 1 January 2010 and 20 December 2010, we initiated 402 new members and when we combine these with the with December's figures, it will our best recruitment year in decades remainder.

The average age of new initiates throughout Victoria for November 2010 rose from 35-years-old in October to 47 in November due to the initiation of two 70+ members (bless them). However the average age of applicants received by Grand Lodge is 33-years-old.

In June 2010, we had a total of 13,256 affiliated members. As at 30 November, we had 13,235 affiliated members which is only a net loss of 21. We have finally drawn a line in the sand and as our Grand Master says, "we've started to turn around the Titanic!"

Middle Park has been the most outstanding Lodge with a total of 11 new initiates YTD. Williamstown and Bendigo City are not far behind at 7 ne initiates each.

For November, Grand Lodge accounted for 17 of the 34 new initiates, 50% of recruitment efforts for the State.

To see the Full District / Lodge Recruitment Figures 1 January 2010 to 30 November 2011 [click on this link](#)

### **Introducing Freemason Victoria's new Grand Secretary – RWBro. Peter Henshall, SGW**



RWBro. Peter Henshall, SGW with his wife Sharon

At the December Quarterly Communication, the Grand Master announced the appointment of RWBro. Peter Henshall, SGW as the Grand Secretary (designate) and Chief Executive Officer of Freemasons Victoria. Peter will take up that appointment with effect from the Grand Installation in March next year.

RWBro. Peter has been a Freemason for 30 years. He was initiated into the Lodge of Tradition in 1980, and was Master of that Lodge in 1987. In 2004 he was a foundation member of Lodge Amicus No. 928 and is currently Chairman of its Planning & General Purposes Committee.

From 1989 to 2007 Peter served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Royal Freemasons Homes. During this period he held the offices of Treasurer, Vice Chairman and Chairman. He has also been a member of the Grand Lodge Development and Finance Committees and in 2009 he was asked to be a part of the Grand Master's Bushfire Appeal Committee.

In 2001, RWBro. Peter was invited to be part of the Grand Lodge Ceremonial Team as Grand Sword Bearer. From 2006 – 2010 he was the Grand Treasurer and in 2010 was appointed Senior Grand Warden. During that period he served on the Board of General Purposes and was a member of the Board of Benevolence.

During the last 12 months he has occupied the role of Manager - Strategic Programs at Freemasons Victoria, leading the implementation of the 2010 – 2013 Strategic Plan.

All this demonstrates a strong commitment and extensive involvement with Freemasonry.

Peter is married to Sharon and has two adult children, Matthew and Emma. In his spare time he enjoys golf and is a passionate Collingwood supporter.

On the 20 March 2011, RWBro. Peter Henshall will become only the 10<sup>th</sup> Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge of Antient Free & Accepted Masons of Victoria.

I am sure you will all join us in wishing him well and supporting him during his term of office.

### **Students receive scholarships in re-opened fire-affected schools**



Strathewen Primary School student Tiahn Wood receives her Freemason 'Educational Scholarship' with proud mum Joanne

Freemasons Victoria's MWBro. Vaughan Werner, the Grand Master along with WBro. Geoff Lambe and Brethren from the Albert Edward Lodge No.59 in Alexandra and Wittlesea Lodge No.256 recently visited Middle Kinglake, Marysville and Strathewen Primary Schools to present four students at each school with a \$500 'Educational Scholarship'.

The Freemasons Victoria Educational Scholarships are part of the ongoing commitment to the schools destroyed by the Black Saturday fires following an initial donation of \$120,000 to the schools for educational materials.

Freemasons Victoria pledged \$40,000 over the next 10 years to assist students with their education. This 'Signature Project' was established to distribute the balance of funds raised as part of The Grand Master's Bushfire Appeal in 2009/2010 that raised almost \$1.2 million to aid in the reconstruction of townships and the restoration of community spirit.

The financial support provided to each of the school's four nominated students is envisaged to assist families in purchasing school supplies including text books, stationary, uniforms and to help ease the burden of financing extra curricular activities such as school excursions, music lessons and sporting pursuits.

The Grand Master, together with wife Beverley Werner and members of the Wittlesea Lodge No.256 celebrated the success of the 2010 'Educational Scholarships' with a special Christmas concert performed by Kinglake Central Primary School students.

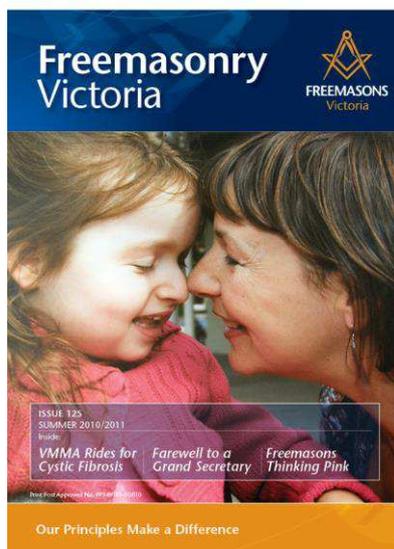
### **Promotion in Grand Rank**

*(For the attention of all Brethren)*

MWBro. Vaughan Werner, the Grand Master announced at the Quarterly Communication on 15 December 2010 that applications are now called for the promotion of Brethren in terms of existing Grand Rank Policy.

Applications are to be submitted by 15 February 2011 to become effective as from the Grand Installation on 19 March 2011. Please click [here](#) to download the form.

### **Magazine Distribution**



By now, you will have received your summer edition of *Freemasonry Victoria*. Members receive a version of the magazine which contains the *Inner Sanctum*, a section which contains member-centric content. We also produce a version with no *Inner Sanctum* which is designed for public consumption which we hope to distribute to doctors & dentist's surgeries, community centres, shops, libraries and cafes. In the last Grand Bulletin, Lodges were asked to make contact with and provide names and addresses for three businesses which would be happy to receive and display the magazine. I have only received two responses so far.

Lodges, could you please help me identify businesses in your area willing to stock the magazine – it's an important part of our promotional strategy. Email details to: [way@freemasonsvic.net.au](mailto:way@freemasonsvic.net.au). Thank you.

## **REGISTER FOR XPED11 NOW**

### **Don't Miss out**

**By Popular demand registrations extended to  
now close on 15 January 2010**

XPED11 Information & Training Day  
Saturday 19 February 2011  
An Information Day for all Victorian Freemasons  
Commencing at 9:00am and concluding by 4:30pm.



For more information email: [education-admin@freemasonsvic.net.au](mailto:education-admin@freemasonsvic.net.au)

### **Shop @ Freemasons Victoria's new online e-store**

As you might already know, we have recently launched our very own Freemasons Victoria E-Store. There are several ways you can make purchases from the e-store:

- Purchase online: follow this link to make online purchases: [\(insert link\)](#)
- Over the phone: call Reception on (03) 9411 0111 and place an order and pay via credit card or send a cheque.
- Make purchases over the counter at the Grand Lodge (300 Albert Street, East Melbourne) via cash, cheque or credit card payments.

There is a catalogue of all items available from the e-store which can be downloaded by [clicking here](#).

Instructions on how to make purchases can be obtained by [clicking here](#). If you do not have an account to login to the e-store, please email Derek Henry at [support@freemasonsvic.net.au](mailto:support@freemasonsvic.net.au) with your full name and Lodge details and we will create an account for you.

Happy Shopping and have a Merry Christmas!