



e-newsletter No. 100

engage!



From humble beginnings on July 1st, 2010, this issue of Engage! reaches the milestone of being number 100, now sent every fortnight to approximately 5000 Freemasons. It takes sustained effort and commitment to put together this e-newsletter each fortnight and there have been a multitude of contributors since 2010. Congratulations to each and every one of you for making Engage! what it is today, a core component of our overall communication strategy. By the way, if you know of a member (that has an email address) who is not receiving Engage!, please get them to add their email address into their membership record on salesforce.com.

Since the last issue, many Freemasons and their families (over 200) attended the Temple Beth Israel Shabbat Service for Freemasons. The Synagogue, in particular Rabbi Lazarow and the Vice President of their Board Robert Sward, made us all most welcome while we participated in their regular Saturday morning Service which Freemasons Victoria supports every 2 years. For those that couldn't attend, it is available for viewing on the internet at <http://www.tbi.org.au/live/>.

Over the next fortnight, the Grand Secretariat will be relocating to their new (albeit temporary) home at Royal Freemasons Coppin Centre in Moubray Street, Melbourne. While it is anticipated there will be minimum disruption to services being provided, your understanding and patience will be greatly appreciated.

Just another reminder about our October fund raising efforts during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the goal is (on average) for each Lodge to contribute \$130 (please note the \$130 is not intended as a maximum).

As I sign off this issue, once again, a huge congratulations to everyone who has been involved in having Engage! reach its 100th edition – we should all be very proud.

Kind regards
MWBro. Hillel Benedykt
Grand Master



Think Pink Bear Challenge Tally!

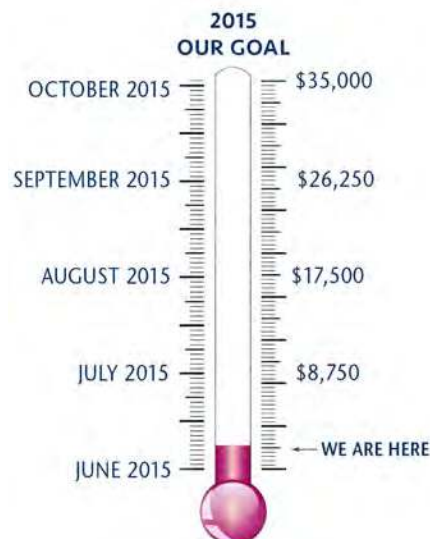
It'll be October before you know it, so don't forget to pledge your Lodge's support towards the Think Pink Challenge!

Remember, one box of cute little bears only costs your Lodge \$150 which can then be sold to friends, family and the community for \$10 each. Simple!

These gorgeous little bears make ideal Christmas gifts for kids and grandkids, and ALL proceeds will go towards the Think Pink Living Centre. It's a win win!

So challenge yourself!

Please contact Gabrielle Forman on 9411 0101 or email at gforman@freemasonsvic.net.au if you would like to purchase a box.



Membership matters

It's simple, it's not easy!

Wine is on track to overtake beer as the nation's drink of choice. The latest figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) show the average person is drinking 44 fewer standard drinks of beer than they were in 2008.

But wine consumption is up, by an average of seven glasses per person over the same time period.

So why is it so hard to find a glass of good wine at many Lodge Souths?

A few bottles, along with some wine glasses, on a side table will afford visitors and members alike the opportunity to enjoy their drink of choice.

Excellent wine, at affordable prices, labelled as Freemasons Victoria or your own Lodge label can be obtained through our Wine Club.

The Wine Club (Snobs Creek Estate) are offering to run Wine Master Classes at Lodges. This would be a great function to run on a non-ceremonial meeting night, an opportunity to bring along friends and can be used to raise funds for charity.

For more information call Gabrielle Forman on 9411 0100 or email gforman@freemasonsvic.net.au

Alternatively, call Marcus Gillon at Wine Land on 0426 200 075.

That's a WIN, WIN, WIN!

Remember, it's simple, it's not easy.



JOIN THE Freemasons Victoria *Wine Club* FREE TO JOIN!

Join the Freemasons Victoria Wine Club to enjoy a great range of drops and take advantage of some great prices.

We have teamed with *Wineland* to give all members and Lodges across Victoria, the opportunity to access their own wine purchasing account.

To access benefits for all Freemasons, remember to use this code when paying through the online payment gateway: **Freemasons**

Visit: www.wineland.net.au today to find out more.



ONLY
\$12.50
PER BOTTLE



Replacement Membership Cards - only \$5

Is your card lost, broken or damaged?

We will be running a bulk order of replacement membership cards in mid-August to facilitate the large number of members requesting replacement cards.

The membership card is a good record of your membership number, and is now being used at Quarterly Communications. It will also be used in the future for regional centres that host the broadcasts of Quarterly Communications, and is needed to log in to the Freemasons Victoria Members website.

Place your request with your Lodge Secretary who will be provided a spreadsheet order form. Payment to be made to your Lodge at the time of placing your request.

Hal Basham

On Sunday, a 96-year old former police officer by the name of Harry 'Hal' Basham from Hamilton, was awarded the National Service Medal & the Police Service Medal, 39 years after he became eligible.

Members of Hamilton Grange Lodge No. 45 would like to offer their congratulations for your service and and this amazing achievement. We're sure that our community would also like to congratulate you 'Hal' and wish you all the best too.



Image courtesy of the *Hamilton Spectator* Full story in the link below: <http://www.spec.com.au/2015/06/national-police-honour/>

Bro. Harry (Hal) Basham was presented with his 70 Years jewel at Hamilton Grange Lodge No. 45 on Tuesday 16 September 2014 by the youngest of his three sons WBro. Jim Basham (Baxter Lodge No. 934). The ceremony took place in the presence of Lodge members, Hal's wife, Bet, and other members of their family.

Freemasons Victoria's RWBro. Bruce Stockdale, presented Hal with his 70 Year Certificate, and together with WBro. Ian Basham (Rosebank Lodge No. 348) informed those present about Hal's Masonic journey which started at Donna Buang Lodge No. 324, Warburton, on 12 August 1944.

Hal joined Union Lodge of North Gippsland (UNGL) No. 62 in 1951 where he was a member for 12 years.

On a recent visit to Bairnsdale, accompanied by Ian and Jim, Hal was very warmly welcomed at ULNG No. 62 - after more than 50 years.

Hal said he was always taught to respect his elders, but at 95 he's having trouble finding them!



Hal Basham with his National Service and Police Service Medals.



Cheers to Hal Basham!

VANUATU NEEDS YOU



Make your contribution TODAY towards the Vanuatu Relief Appeal!

LET'S AIM TO RAISE \$50,000!!

The Appeal will remain open for donations until 30 November 2015 when funds will be transferred to the Lodge of Discovery in Vanuatu.

Please contact WBro. George Finniss of Lord Northcote Lodge on gfinniss@bigpond.net.au or call 0413 624 133, or VWBro. Jim Puohotaua of Lodge of Australia Felix on 0418 561 905 or email puohotaua@optusnet.com.au for more information.

Special Shabbat Service Anniversary of Henry Nathan

Nearly 250 Freemasons and their partners, together with the regular congregants, filled the synagogue to capacity for a special Shabbat Service at Temple Beth Israel on Saturday 4 July.

In his sermon, Rabbi Gersh Lazarow spoke of the many similarities between Judaism and Freemasonry; striving to improve the lives of others, by volunteering and giving their time freely without question, to make a better world.

A presentation was made to Grand Master Hillel Benedykt as a memento of his visit. Rabbi Lazarow also commented on the fact that Hillel is only the second Victorian Grand Master of the Jewish faith, the first being the late MWBro. Henry Nathan.

The Prayer for the Nation was read by Freemasons Victoria's Deputy Grand Master Don Reynolds and the Prayer for Israel was read by the late Henry Nathan's daughter, Jenni Sward. The day was also the anniversary of Henry Nathan's passing.



Rabbi Gersh Lazarow begins the Shabbat Service.



Cantor, Rhondda Hall speaks with Grand Master MWBro. Hillel Benedykt after the service.

Quality of life for terminally ill

Eastern Palliative Care, Mitcham is now \$750 better off thanks to a kind donation made on Friday 12 June by RWBro. Robert Paroissien. RWBro. Paroissien is the Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Victoria and said that the funds will assist EPC to continue offering a full range of support programs.

"The EPCs programs aim to improve the quality of life for individuals, carers and families of those suffering life-limiting or terminal illnesses", he said.



RWBro. Robert Paroissien presents a cheque to Eastern Palliative Care CEO Jeanette Moody.

EPC is the largest single provider of community based palliative care in Victoria, providing services to Local Government areas including Boroondara, Manningham, Maroondah, Monash, Whitehorse, Knox and the Yarra Ranges.

EPC Chief Executive Officer, Jeanette Moody said that the service takes an interdisciplinary approach, focused on the needs of the person living with a life threatening or life shortening illness.

"Funding for EPC is provided through State Government, community fundraising, donations and bequests. We are most grateful for the support we have received today", she said.

5 cent piece challenge!

Over the past four years, members of Gippsland Lodge No. 51 and members from Lodges throughout Gippsland have saved their 5 cent pieces to then donate to a charity of choice.

Since the initiative started, nearly \$1000 has been raised and donated to the Freemason's vehicle Charity Bash, Cystic Fibrosis Victoria and to a young quadriplegic boy in Traralgon.

The challenge has been set again – that all Victorian Lodges join in and surprise themselves at the amount that can be raised from that little 5 cent piece. Collect enough coins and you could see yourself at the 2015 September Quarterly Communication presenting the proceeds to the Grand Master for a charity research organisation.

Contact George Entwistle on georgeentwistle@bigpond.com for more information.

Bayside District donates to Peter Mac

The Bayside District and Sandringham Lodge presented cheques totalling \$4500 to Diane Isaacs last month to help her in her efforts to raise funds for the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

Diane, whose husband – a member of the Sandringham Lodge lost his fight to cancer in June 2010, was thrilled with the generosity.

“My family is raising funds as part of the ‘Everyday Hero’ program organised by the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.”

The Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre is the only specialist cancer hospital in Australia. It also houses the largest cancer research group in the country.

Cancer touches all of us either directly or indirectly during our lives. Today, more than half of those diagnosed with cancer will have a successful response to treatment. This significant progress is due to the dedication of clinicians, nurses, scientists, volunteers and benefactors, who are all creating a better future for people touched by cancer.

If you would like to raise funds for the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre visit: <https://www.everydayhero.com.au/event/supportingpetermac>



Diane Isaacs accepts a cheque from Ivan Harris of Sandringham Lodge.



Rutherglen Freemasons celebrate 150 years

Rutherglen Freemasons and their ladies gathered at the local Star Hotel, to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Freemasonry in Rutherglen.

Alexandra Lodge No. 1115 EC, (formed under the English Constitution), first met at the Star Hotel in 1865, but went into abeyance 20 years later. The present Rutherglen Lodge No. 188 opened in its own building in High Street in 1902 and is still going strong.

VWBro. Stan Clarke OAM, delivered a talk detailing the early history of Masonic activity around the Rutherglen District, at the conclusion of which, he presented a copy of his updated Masonic history of North East Victoria. Lodge Secretary VWBRO. Bill Black followed with a presentation of historical articles from Alexandra Lodge. These included the original charter, by-laws, appearance book, a copy of the first summons, and the stamp press for the common seal.



Members of Rutherglen Lodge No. 188.

Freemasons Victoria has a proud history of supporting the Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation.

Tickets are now on sale to attend the organisations’s signature event, the *Blue Ribbon Charity Ball*.

To be held at Crown Palladium on Friday 13 November, tickets for this fantastic event will sell out fast!

More details contact Chloe at chloe@remember.org.au or call 9555 8000

The Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation

TICKETS ON SALE JULY 13

Charity Ball

Friday November 13th 2015

A mega night of fine dining, dancing, entertainment, surprises and stunning prizes
- all to raise funds for the Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation.

You won't believe the legendary entertainment we have in store for you!

TICKETS Individual tickets or tables of 10 guests on sale from July 13th
Early Bird Special - \$1750 before 30th of September (\$175 per person)
Standard - \$2000 after 1st October (\$200 per person).
FOR MORE DETAILS email Chloe at chloe@remember.org.au or call 9555 8000

Open Houses Melbourne Volunteers NEEDED

Open Houses Melbourne (OHM) was a great success at the Collingwood Masonic Centre in 2014, with almost 500 visitors over two days. We hope to get more visitors for our second year of participating.



For most visitors it was their first chance to meet a “real live Freemason”, tour a Lodge room and find out what we get up to behind those normally closed doors. For us, it’s a rare chance to reach a completely new audience which in 2014, resulted in a number of candidates.

The Collingwood Masonic Centre will again be an OHM site this year. We are looking for volunteers to help support the event. Tasks will include Lodge room tours, and generally interacting with the public who are keen to find out about Freemasonry.

The weekend will be held over Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 July 2015, 10-4pm.

To sign up as a Masonic Volunteer for Open Houses Melbourne this year, please visit this link:

<http://www.abbotsfordhallforhire.org.au/open-houses-melbourne/volunteer-for-open-houses-melbourne-2015>

Eventide Homes prepares for summer with a little help from their friends at Marnoo Lodge

Representing Freemasons Victoria, WBro. Neil Thornton of Marnoo Lodge No. 360 presented a cheque \$9,900 to Eventide Homes Chief Executive Sue Blakey last month for the cost of fabrication and installation of a new shade sail.



Chief Executive Eventide Homes, Sue Blakey gratefully receives the \$9900 cheque from WBro. Neil Thornton.

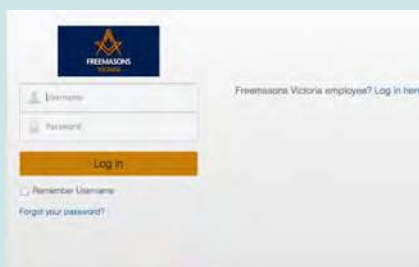
Marnoo Lodge No. 360 has assisted Eventide Homes for many years. In 2012 funds were donated for a ‘Sensory Garden’ that surrounds the Special Needs Wing and in 2013, the cost of sun blinds were covered for the same wing.

In October 2013 the then Grand Master of Freemasons Victoria, Bob Jones opened the new ‘Special Needs Wing’ to be known as “Warne House” in recognition of Dr Roger Warne, of Stawall.

Deadlines for content for coming issues:

Engage 101 - 29 July, 2015
Engage 102 - 12 August 2015

Remember, previous issues of *engage!* Newsletter can be found using the Publications tab in the Freemasons Victoria members intranet. **Just log in!**



Forgotten your username or password?


To access information from the Members Intranet you will first need to enter a **username** and **password**. Your username is your six digit member number followed by @freemasonsvic.net.au.


Your password can be reset by clicking ‘*Forgot your password*’. A new temporary password will be sent to your email address.

Enter your username and your new password into the login screen. If you are still unable to log in please contact Roger Schie at rschie@freemasonsvic.net.au



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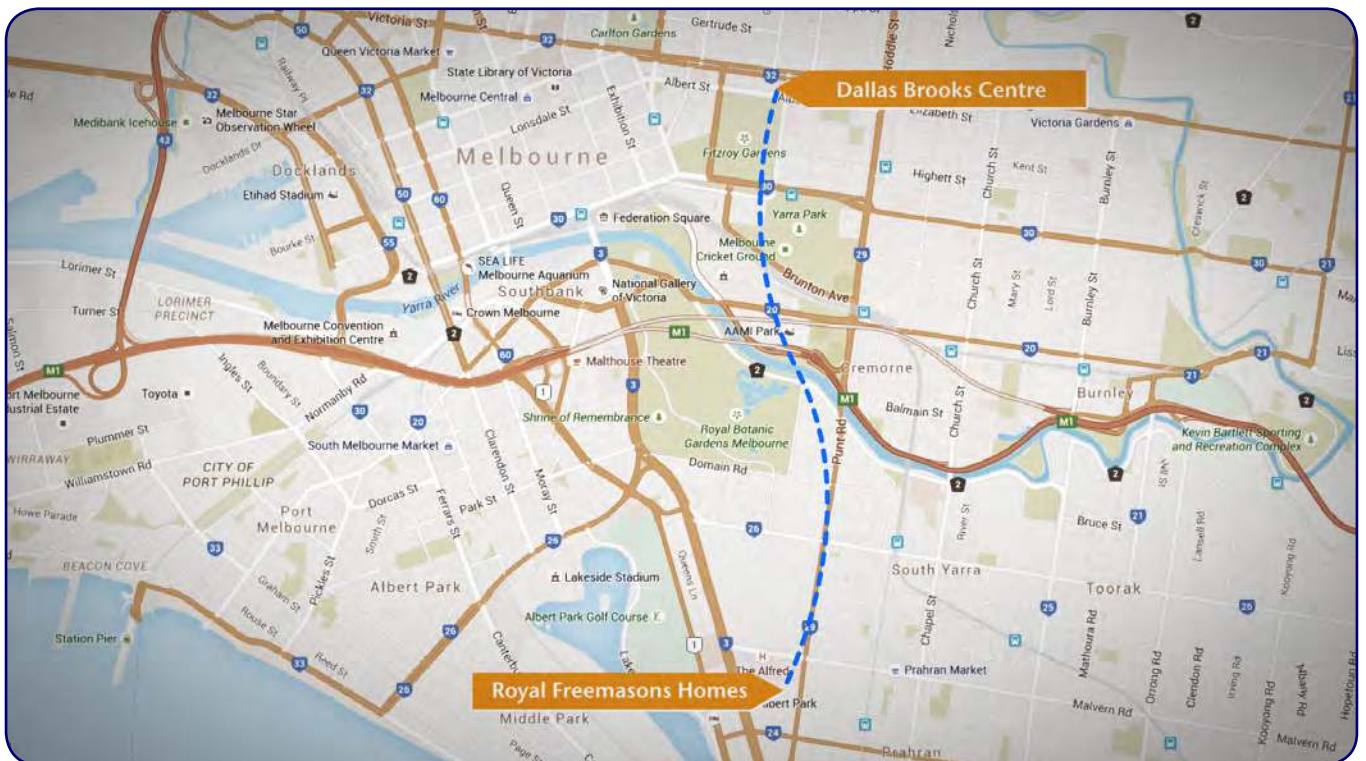
Freemasons Victoria is On The Move

After many years located at the Dallas Brooks Centre, Freemasons Victoria will be relocating to the **Royal Freemasons Homes W.A. Tope Building, 45 Moubay Street, Melbourne, on Monday 3 August 2015.**

The Freemasons Victoria Grand Secretariat will be closed from **Thursday 30 July** and will re-open at the Royal Freemasons Homes W.A. Tope Building on **Thursday 6 August.**

The Library and Museum will be closed from **Thursday 30 July** and will re-open at the Royal Freemasons Homes on **Monday 31 August.**

The Education Office is **NOW** closed and will re-open on **Thursday 6 August.**



During this relation period, we ask for your patience as there will be no operational phone lines, or access to email.

All email addresses, phone numbers and our PO Box address will remain the same.



**Have you been thinking
about joining the
Grand Lodge Ceremonial
Team?**



**Are you a Past Master
interested in
developing your ceremonial
to the next level?**

Want to get the real facts about what's involved?

**It's not all about the ceremonial,
so come along and find out more about the fellowship,
the personal growth and
self-development.**

**The Deputy Grand Master,
Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies and their partners
invite you, your wife/partner to attend
one of the information sessions to be held at:**

**Williamstown Masonic Centre
Thursday 23rd July, 7:30 p.m**

or

**Waverley Masonic Centre
Wednesday 29th July, 7:30 p.m**

**Please RSVP your attendance by Friday 17 July to
gpursuivant2015@freemasonsvic.net.au**

by Friday 17th July