



The September Quarterly Communication will be the first occasion that Freemasons Victoria will meet at the Melbourne and Olympic Park Stadium. Much preparation has been made to ensure that this event will be an exciting one. The Melbourne and Olympic Park Stadium facility offers Freemasons Victoria with ample space to conduct our meeting, excellent audio visual capabilities and catering.

At this Quarterly Communication important governance information will be presented about the proposed changes to the constitution, concerning voting at Grand Lodge, the Board Electoral College and the Leadership Electoral College. These proposals, having been extensively communicated and discussed throughout the state over the past months, and submissions received and considered by the Board, will be voted on at the December Quarterly Communication. I strongly encourage you all to attend.

A guide that details the relocation of the Quarterly Communication will be distributed to members prior to Wednesday 16 September, and will be made available on the Freemasons Victoria website. Please take a moment to read the guide, noting location and parking requirements. Please remember to bring your membership card to register your attendance at this Quarterly Communication.

Freemasons Victoria has now settled in to its corporate facility at the Royal Freemasons Coppin Centre. The new Library and Museum will be open at the end of this month - visitors are most welcome. Please report to reception at the W.A. Tope Building on arrival.

Kind regards
M.W. Bro. 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

Let's be positive

I am currently reading a book that emphasises the difference of being in a positive, neutral or a negative environment.

Within Freemasons Victoria there are a growing number of bright and shining examples of very positive groups, groups who are willing to try some new things to generate enthusiasm, interest and excitement that can engage our current members, re-engage inactive members and most importantly attract new members. Below are a few examples:



The Blue Lounge – run in Brunswick Masonic Centre – every second Friday evening providing the opportunity to drop in, catch up, and socialise with like minded young people. The Masonic Centre Management Committee have encouraged the leaders of the Blue Lounge by providing them with the use of the old Library to use and set up as a social club. It is open for members to bring their partners/wives and friends.

Glenroy Lodge - Billiards and Pool nights. An informal fortnightly social gathering for members to come and bring their friends into an environment that will engage non-masons in an atmosphere of fellowship. A few games of pool, refreshments and chat amongst friends has already created enquiries about joining.

Swan Hill Freemasons – having successfully raised \$10,000 for Legacy last year, this year by involving the wider community, they have raised \$35,000 to fund the establishment of a hospice in Swan Hill. They have now approached the local school and asked the simple question – “How can we help you?” Their target is now to provide funds for a bus to transport the students for school based activities.

Bendigo District – a committee of young Freemasons has been formed to engage the community and reinvigorate Freemasonry in the district. Having identified depression as a major problem in the area they are leading Bendigo Freemasons in raising funds, the target \$50,000, to assist with the battle against this illness.

Gippsland – five young Freemasons were empowered by the District Coordinator to reinvigorate Freemasonry in the area, through a focus on social events. They have formed the “Gippsland Masonic Social Network” aimed at driving a number of events targeting younger families. The events are to be ‘family focused’ to encourage young non-Freemasons to attend and become engaged.

These are just some of the examples of young Freemasons bringing drive to the organisation, which with the support of the general membership, will re-engage the broader community.

Let's make Freemasons Victoria a more amazing place to be.

Bruce Stockdale
Manager, Membership



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.

Ballarat Lodges combine to support young Mums

Ballarat Lodges have combined to support young mums in the area, with a donation of \$900 towards the Link-Up Young Parents Program. Not only that, members of the Combined Lodges Committee helped host a Deb Ball for these young parents, that included transport to and from the event as well as dance lessons and photography.

The Deb Ball, held on Friday 24 July had 140 in attendance. Four Ballarat Lodges made a financial donation on the night, Ballarat Yarrowee No. 10, Guiding Star No. 922, Sturt Buninyong United No. 23 and St Johns No. 36.



L-R: WBro. Ron Fleming, Sturt Buninyong United Lodge; WBro. Brian Coffey, Sturt Buninyong United and Chairman of the Lodges Committee; David Stuchbery, Principal Ballarat Secondary College, Peter Innes, Coordinator Link-Up Young Mums Program; Bro. Sam Jobe, Guiding Star Lodge and Bro. Nathaniel Buchanan, Ballarat Yarrowee Lodge.

The Link-Up Young Parents Program, operating out of Ballarat Secondary College was established nine years ago and is a support and mentoring service that takes girls out of the normal classroom situation to a separate campus, the Delacombe Learning and Education Centre. The Program offers numeracy and literacy, and general adult education.

A week later, Combined Lodges Coordinator WBro. Brian Coffey of Sturt Buninyong United Lodge visited the Delacombe Learning Centre to speak to Ashlina, one of the girls, and to Renee, one of the teachers involved in the Program.

“When you meet these young women and see what a life changing experience the Link-Up Young Mums Program offers there can be no doubt that our financial support is well spent,” he said.



Debs and their partners on Friday 24 July, 2015.

Guiding Star acknowledges musical stalwart

Initiated into Hope Lodge No. 274 in July 1955, and now a member of Guiding Star Lodge No. 922 after amalgamation, WBro. Richard Bayly told members that 55 years of his 60 years as a member of the Craft he had always been a Lodge organist.

WBro. Richard was replying to the recent presentation of his 60 year jewel by RWBro. Barry Dowsing.

A teacher of music at local schools from 1955 until 1999, and church organist, WBro. Richard was awarded an OAM recognising his contribution to music over many years.

His unique presentation of charges, particularly those in the First Degree are met with (quiet) audible commendation from members in the Lodge Room. Candidates being addressed by him are left with a lasting impression that WBro. Richard was speaking to them... and them only.

RWBro. Dowsing said his close friend had given much to Freemasonry in Ballarat. WBro. Richard said music and Freemasonry had been his life. His address to acknowledge the award was received with a standing ovation.



Guiding Star Lodge organist WBro. Richard Bayly, OAM accepts his 60 year jewel from RWBro. Barry Dowsing, PJGW.

The Boardwalk Opens

In June 2013, the Lowan Lodge No. 107 in Nhill, Victoria responded to a request from the Nhill Rotary Club for assistance with funding to save the Nhill Swamp Boardwalk. A combined total of over \$60,000 was raised with assistance from Freemasons Victoria's Board of Benevolence and with further assistance from the Victorian Government and the then Minister for Environment and Climate Change, the Hon. Ryan Smith.

The culmination of the project came with the celebrations at the opening ceremony held on Sunday 16 August 2015. This great event was attended by the Hon. Emma Kealy, Member for Lowan, along with representatives of Freemasons Victoria including Taskforce Chairman, Merv Dyer, Rotary representation headed by District leader, Ken McNerney, Hindmarsh Shire, Parks Victoria, Rotary and Lodge members and a number of community supporters and users of the Boardwalk.

WBro. Bill Howarth, of the Lowan Lodge commented on the day that "the outcome of the project has created a resurgence of interest in Freemasonry in the Nhill district, and all done by good spirit and goodwill for the Nhill Community".

Nhill Rotary Club president Laurie Robins said the refurbishment would benefit Nhill's economy.

"It's a fantastic result," he said.

"It will mean another popular tourist attraction will open again in the township of Nhill."



Worshipful Master of the Lowan Lodge, WBro. Bill Howarth addresses guests at the opening ceremony.



The Committee at the entrance to the newly refurbished Nhill Swamp Boardwalk.

Pull on ya FMCC jersey!

Under a bright blue, sun drenched sky the riders of the Freemasons Cycling Club (Vic) and their partners met in Violet Town for 'Pull on ya Jersey' day last Sunday.

While the lads mounted up and pedalled off towards Dookie to blow off the winter cobwebs and plan the seasons rides, their partners wandered around the Violet Town community market.

The market was given a big thumbs up for the variety and quality of produce available and the visitor friendliness of the layout and crowd.

FMCC Coordinator WBro. Malcolm Mann said that over the warmer months the FMCC jersey will again be seen in a number of fundraising pelotons.

"We're looking forward to continuing our promotion of the charitable causes we're riding for to the public and Freemasons of Victoria," he said.

On the rider's return, the two groups met up for lunch to tell tales about their morning's activities and chat with interested stall-holders about the jersey.



The Dress Maker

Join the Epworth Medical Foundation for a night at the movies with Kate Winslet.

On Wednesday 21 October at 7pm, the Rivoli Cinema in Hawthorn East will feature a premiere showing of *The Dressmaker*, a story of love, revenge and haute couture.

When glamorous Tilly Dunnage (Kate Winslet) returns from Paris to rural Australia to care for her ailing mother (Judi Davis). She transforms the women of her home town with her European style and beautiful clothes.

Tickets \$35 - includes movie plus popcorn, a delicious choc top and entry into a raffle with stylish prizes fitting the designer theme.

Seats are limited so book early! For tickets contact: Jo Payne, Epworth Medical Foundation on 9516 2826 or joanna.payne@epworth.org.au



2016 Ensemble Program applications now open

The Melbourne Youth Music Ensemble Program brings together talented music students from around Victoria to expand their music education, play engaging repertoire and take part in unforgettable performance experiences!

The MYM 2016 Ensemble Program offers many opportunities for young musicians aged 8 to 25, from AMEB Grade 2 and upwards, and caters for all ensemble instruments across orchestras, bands and string groups.

Applications are open now and can be made via the MYM website at mym.org.au before 5pm Friday 16 October 2015.



Sensory room for Able Australia

Children with severe intellectual disabilities in Dandenong can now access the various health benefits of sensory stimulation thanks to a donation from the Freemasons Foundation Victoria.

Earlier this year, the Foundation approved a \$15,000 donation for Able Australia to develop a sensory room at their family support house in Melbourne's south-east.

Sensory stimulation is an important therapy for people with limited or non-responsive sensory nerves, as it offers a range of experiences that stimulate their responses.

Foundation Director, VWBro. David Gibbs visited the recently completed project and joined the Able Australia team for a celebratory morning tea.

During the visit he was given a brief tour of the property which included the new sensory room which has been created out of an unused shed.

In the coming weeks, the room will be completed with the installation of tactile wall hangings, special lighting and other sensory equipment.



L-R: Area Manager, Romi Tariq; Team Leader, Ruchita Panchal; Able Australia CEO, Kaye Collard; Foundation Director, VWBro. David Gibbs and Maintenance Coordinator, Ron Daniels.

Last chance to book for this month's CBD Luncheon!

Freemasons in the CBD Business Luncheon

Freemasons Victoria invites you and your colleagues to a very special CBD Business Luncheon
Book a table of 8 for a special rate of only \$400!



Special Guest Speaker: Todd Harper



Cancer Council Victoria CEO Todd Harper will speak about the current cancer landscape and what the organisation is doing to reduce the impact of this disease on the Victorian community.

He will share the organisation's rationale in supporting unique cancer research, the impacts of their internationally recognised prevention work, and the need to grow to support the increasing number of people living with cancer.

Join us in hearing about the important work of Cancer Council Victoria, a cancer charity dedicated to improving outcomes for all cancers and all Victorians.



When: Tuesday 8 September
Where: Rendezvous Grand Hotel
328 Flinders Street, Melbourne
(Parking Flat-Rate \$25)
Time: 12:00pm – 2:00pm
Tickets: Ladies and gentlemen \$55.00 (includes two-course lunch and beverages)
[Book online www.trybooking.com/152966](http://www.trybooking.com/152966)
RSVP: Wednesday 2 September 2015
More Info: Julia Edwards on 03 9411 0103 or jedwards@freemasonsvic.net.au

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL!!

RSVP by Wednesday 2 September 2015 to
Julia Edwards: jedwards@freemasonsvic.net.au or (03) 9411 0103

Upcoming event!

Carnevale Grand Ball

Lodge Amicus No. 928

www.amicuscarnevale.com

Lodge Amicus is proud to announce that on Saturday 6 February 2016, it will host a Carnevale Grand Ball.

'Carnevale' is a masked fancy dress ball based on the traditions of Venice Carnevale.

Take the opportunity to dress up and enjoy yourselves. Prizes will be awarded for best costume, best mask and most original outfit.

Funds raised at the Carnevale Grand Ball will principally go towards lung cancer research.

Venue:

San Remo Ballroom

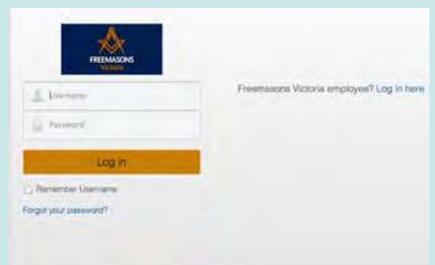
365 Nicholson Street, Carlton North, Victoria 3054



Deadline for content for coming issue:

Engage #104 - 9 September 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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The Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation

Charity Ball



Friday 13th November 7.00pm for 7.30pm
Palladium at Crown

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

We invite you to join us for the 2015 Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation Charity Ball. A night that promises to be more exciting than ever before and an opportunity to support the Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation to continue its important work across Victoria.

The ball starts as you arrive to walk the red carpet for pre-dinner drinks, followed by a 3 course dinner, entertainment and dancing in the Palladium Ballroom. An incredible showcase of prizes are also on offer as part of the raffle, silent auction and live main auction. All hosted by the wonderful John Deeks.

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



TICKETS Individual tickets or tables of 10 guests are now available for purchase
Early Bird Special - \$1750 before 30th of September (\$175 per person)
Standard - \$2000 after 1st October (\$200 per person).

TO BOOK fill in the form below or contact Chloe at chloe@remember.org.au or 9555 8000

DRESS CODE Formal (Black Tie or Mess Dress)

The Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation Charity Ball is conducted by the Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation Inc (A0028572P) ABN: 40 715 029 918.
P.O. Box 2012 Moorabbin Victoria 3189 Australia. Telephone: 03 9555 8000. Website: www.remember.org.au
Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation is a registered, tax-deductible Charity (DGR)

To order your tickets for the Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation 2015 Charity Ball please fill out the below form

Mr /Mrs /Ms Given Name _____ Surname _____

Address _____

Suburb/Town _____ State _____ Post Code _____

Email _____ Phone _____

How many tickets would you like to purchase? _____

*Please note one table sits 10 people

Payment Details

Payment Enclosed Cheque Money Order Credit Card

Card number _____ Expiry Date _____ / _____

Authorised Signature _____

Please post your completed order form along with payment to
Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation, PO Box 2012, Moorabbin Victoria 3189