

Engage Newsletter #108

Grand Master's Message



The exciting news Sue and I received while in Perth for the Western Australian Grand Installation was the arrival of our latest grandson Dean Nadav Lazarus. You can see in the photo Dean is working on perfecting his Grand Honours. Wonderful life events such as the birth of a child help us to keep everything in perspective. For Freemasons the priorities are family, work then Freemasonry. After all, Freemasonry based on its position in the priority list is our hobby and most people take up a hobby for their enjoyment.

I realise that October is behind us now, but the cheques are still rolling for Think Pink which is great. The total amount raised will be available very soon! I would anticipate the results will be published in the next issue of Engage!. Now that it's November, many of our Brethren will be taking part in Movember and if you care to look at the Movember website, there is a page dedicated to Freemasons Victoria.

Tomorrow I will take part in our annual Field of Remembrance to be held at the South Eastern Masonic Centre. This year 11 November marks the 97th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War (1914–18). Each year on this day Australians observe one minute's silence at 11am, in memory of those who died or suffered in all wars and armed conflicts. If you're available at 10.45am tomorrow (Friday 6th), we'd love to see you there.

Membership Matters



What would an extraordinary Lodge do?

All Lodges should have a goal for membership recruitment and a process to achieve that goal. The process must maintain the focus of members on the goal for the goal to be achieved.

1. Set a goal.

A goal needs to be measured against the SMART test.

An example or recommendation for every Lodge would be "To have **every active** member of the Lodge introduce one person to Freemasonry over the next 24 months.

Specific – this can't get any clearer

Measurable – list your members and tick off when each has introduced one person

Achievable – just the active members, one person each, 24 months – achievable? Yes

Relevant – this continuity of the organisation depends on new people joining, yes

Time Bound – over the next 24 months, – yes.

2. Write it down

Minute the goal, have it restated on every communication your Lodge has; notice paper, website, Facebook page, function flyers etc.

3. Give it air

Read your goal out at the start of every Lodge meeting, not in the last minute before the lodge is closed, when everyone is focused on the party pies and refreshments. Make membership the first item of business on the agenda, because that is how important it is.

4. Measure it

If you don't measure, how do you know your progress? If you want to lose weight, you will get on the scales regularly.

5. Recognise achievement

We have all heard the words 'unite in the grand design of being happy and communicating happiness to others'. Our organisation is about happiness, therefore reflect on the words of Franklin D. Roosevelt – *Happiness lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort.*

It would therefore follow that to recognise achievement promotes happiness.

Freemasonry has a broad range of recognitions for achievement; pins, jewels, certificates, and Grand Rank conferrals. However the simplest of all is acclamation, use it more often.

How should we recognise the introduction of a person to Freemasonry?

Simple, have the members who have achieved this, stand at the start of the meeting and recognise them with a round of applause.

Can your Lodge be an extraordinary Lodge?

Our talented musicians for 2016



Two weeks ago in Engage we congratulated the 2016 Grand Lodge Team Members. This week we would like to congratulate the musicians who have been appointed for another year to the team.

Music is a very important part of our Installation Ceremony and without our musicians the ceremony would not be of the same high standard. So congratulations to all our Grand Heralds and our Grand Organists for the wonderful work they do and we look forward to hearing them all for many years to come as part of the Grand Lodge Ceremonial Team.

The 2016 list of members including Grand Wardens, Grand Chaplains, Grand Deacons, Grand Sword Bearers, Grand Standard Bearers, Grand Pursuivants and Grand Stewards was featured in [engage! Newsletter #107](#).

Grand Organists 2016

Wes Jolley
Len Kirchner
Col Perkins
Clive Smith
Stan Edelsten
Alf Clements
Peter Dettmann
Don Hall
Peter Dillon-Shallard
Neil Jarrott
Brian McDowell
Peter Cain
John Schneider
Mark Gealer
John Cantrill
Richard Skilbeck

Grand Heralds 2016

Milton Alexandrakis
Ron Farrington
John Freudenstein
Warren Gilbert
David Jones
Marc Law
Rod Lomax
Robert Marks
Bart McDiarmid
Ian Spargo
Don Moore
Kevin Stewart
Sammy Taylor
Jack Walker
Peter West
Geoff Lowe
Jim Puohotaua

President of the Board of General Purposes Designate for 2016



RWBro. Richard Elkington will succeed the current President of the Board of General Purposes in April 2016.

Richard's biography

Known as the “governator” in the office. Richard Elkington has a unique record of service to, firstly, the brown coal sector in the Latrobe Valley, to industry and sector leadership and to the Regional Community.

He graduated in mechanical engineering and worked for over 40 years in the Latrobe Valley lignite – based power generation industry and held a number of Senior Executive positions at General Manager level at the then Loy Yang Power- Victoria’s largest power and mining company. For 15 years, Richard managed Government and Community engagement and environmental performance and planning – even when managing the Power Generation activity.

He has held a number of industry leadership positions including as a long-term member of the Executive Council of the Victorian Employers Chamber of Commerce and Industry and an influential role within the Energy Supply Association of Australia and the National Generators Forum where his political astuteness confronted the challenges posed by commitment to CO2 emissions reduction.

In addition, Richard has chaired one of the largest Regional Water and Waste Water Authorities – Gippsland Water and, in this role, was particularly concerned to support the development of regional

business. He is currently Chair of Regional Development Australia – Gippsland, where he acts as an advocate to the State and Federal Governments for the funding of key Gippsland Projects, especially the provision of enabling infrastructure. He is also currently a Director of both East Gippsland Water and Gippsland Ports.

He is Co-chair of the Regional Transport Advisory Group, a member of the Coal Resources Victoria Advisory Committee. In addition, when he has any free time, Richard is engaged in a range of community activities including Community Radio.

Lodge of Unity BBQ



Lodge of Unity No. 54 held a fundraising BBQ at Woolworths in Bright on Saturday 31 October.

An amount of \$251.30 was raised, including a donation from Woolworths of BBQ essentials. WBro. Barry Forster said he was pleased with the interest received, saying that the team gave out a number of membership enquiry cards.

Funds raised will go towards the Lodge of Unity's chosen charity (TBA).

Chairman of the Board of Royal Freemasons



Royal Freemasons is pleased to announce the appointment of RWBro. Denis Henry as the Chairman of the Board of Royal Freemasons.

As the Managing Director of Melbourne Trailer and Caravan Supplies, RWBro. Henry has over 40 years of extensive expertise in the RV industry, governance, finance and executive management. Melbourne Trailer and Caravan Supplies is one of the largest suppliers of caravan components in Australia.

RWBro. Denis commenced as Board Director in 2009 and was elected Deputy Chairman in 2012. He is also a member of the Royal Freemasons Finance, Investment and Audit Committee.

Denis has been a member of Freemasons Victoria since 1979. He has served on various Masonic committees and had extensive involvement in training and management of the ceremonial team in his role as Grand Director of Ceremonies in 2002. He is currently district representative for the Grand Lodge Electoral College, Secretary of the Planning & General Purpose Committee of the Mordialloc Lodge of Charity and Honorary Secretary of the Grand Directors Association.

In 2014, RWBro. Henry was appointed to the Grand Lodge Team as Senior Grand Warden and holds the masonic rank of PSGW (Past Senior Grand Warden).

RWBro. Henry replaces WBro. Ian Buckingham who has led the Board for the past three years. Royal Freemasons is indebted to the immediate past Board Chairman, WBro. Buckingham for his stewardship of the Chair and of Royal Freemasons, particularly in the establishment of its growth strategy.

Please join Royal Freemasons in wishing RWBro. Henry every success in his new appointment as Chairman of the Board as the organisation continues to grow, care for more Victorians and exceed the expectations of its customers in an ever changing market.

Royal Freemasons operates a network of accommodation, services and facilities in retirement, home care and residential aged care. Royal Freemasons is grateful for the strong support it receives from Masonic Lodges and the general community as it continues to innovate tradition in pursuit of excellence.

National Ride 2 Work Day 2015



Wednesday 14 October was *National Ride2Work Day*. The day celebrates the benefits of riding to work and is intended to normalise the idea of riding to work and, encourage more Australians to ride to work on a regular basis.

Bro. Basel Alogaidi of Diamond Valley Lodge No. 252 and Freemasons Cycling Club member accepted the challenge.

Basel's riding journey started when he found a bicycle on a nature strip one day. He took it home, gave it some love and new tyres and a cyclist was born! Not wanting to overdo it, he starting by riding from home to the train station, a distance of about 5kms. From there he and his bike would catch the train to work and later reverse the process to get home.

It wasn't long before Basel started to feel the benefits of his new found exercise regime. His sleeping patterns improved and he started to feel more energetic. It wasn't long before he added a station to his ride and increased the riding distance to 10kms on the bike, morning and night.

After a comment from a friend about the size of his bike Basel 'got on his bike' and bought a new one. That, he says, improved his riding and the enjoyment of it, even more. Basel now alternates his cycling with a gym workout and enjoys the health benefits gained by participating in both activities.

Basel joined the Freemasons Cycling Club for this years' MS Melbourne Cycle.

"It was a challenge for me to ride the 50km, and in a group for the first time, but it was for a good cause and we had a great day" Basel said.

"I would encourage everyone to get a bike, start small (in distance, not bike size) and enjoy the health benefits it brings ", Basel said.

Thinking Pink at the Coppin Centre



Freemasons Victoria staff and volunteers held a barbecue to raise funds for Think Pink, at The Homes Coppin Centre on Thursday 29 October.

Monash District Coordinator WBro. Lionel May helped out with the trusty Freemasons Victoria mobile barbecue, and Executive Assistant Julia Edwards organised the event, the food and beverages.

Prior to the day, Julia had contacted Coles, Prahran letting them know of Freemasons Victoria's Think Pink Campaign. Coles came to the party (so-to-speak) and provided a voucher to cater for all of the food and barbecue requirements.

In total \$130 was raised towards Breast Cancer Awareness.

Fantastic weather, good food, and pirates!



Freemasons from across Gippsland, together with their families and friends, gathered at the Coal Creek Historical Park in Korumburra for the first event organised by the new Gippsland Freemasons Social Network last month.

The annual Coal Creek pirates day added a colourful backdrop to a great day of meeting friends and socialising. The open age pirates costume prize was even won by one of our members.

A wonderful representation from Grand Lodge provided all of those present with the opportunity to chat with some of the key members of our organisation while enjoying a BBQ snag and a cold drink.

The gathering took place right outside the Lodge building that forms part of the historical park, and the Worshipful Master of the Lodge, WBro. David Kent gave an excellent presentation regarding its history and future.

The day was well attended, including visits from the Grand Master MWBro. Hilel Benedykt, the Deputy Grand Master elect RWBro. Keith Murray, and the Manager of Membership Services, RWBro. Bruce Stockdale.

The Gippsland Freemasons Social Network (GFSN) is a new initiative covering the Gippsland districts 109 and 105. The group aims to connect Freemasons and their families across all of Gippsland and provide casual events where you can bring along people interested in the Craft. The group is also working on initiatives to help local Freemasons know what is going on across Gippsland, including a re-invigoration of the old Lodge place-mat.

To join the mailing list or offer support, email the GFSN at Gippsland.Freemasons.Network@gmail.com.

Life Enriched by Bellarine Otway



The Bellarine Otway District presented a cheque for \$6000 to the Wesley Centre for Life Enrichment in Geelong, last month to assist with Crisis Counselling Services.

Crisis Counselling covers areas such as Domestic Violence, Grief, Family, Immediate Crisis Counselling, and counselling for the management of terminal illnesses.

The Wesley Centre in Geelong has been providing Counselling Services since 2003.

Sandringham Village Festival



It was a very successful day for Freemasonry at the Sandringham Village Festival last month.

Organised by the Sandringham Community Sub-Committee, the Freemasons Victoria stand offered information and materials to encourage members of the community to find out more about Freemasonry.

Sandringham District Lodge Secretary WBro. Peter Budd said he was very pleased with the interest shown.

“We learned a lot about the benefits of attending an event such as this, and we feel we exceeded all of our goals for the day”, he said.

The Freemasons Victoria team also used this opportunity to raise funds for the Think Pink Campaign and handed out a lot of brochures, chatted to dozens of men and women and took some membership enquiries.

“We enjoyed a good deal of fellowship, and most importantly put ourselves out into the local community”, Peter said.

Peter said that when discussing Freemasonry with the community, the team promoted and talked about every aspect of the organisation including the Royal Freemasons Homes, the Task Force, and the great community work that Freemasonry does across the Bayside and Victoria in general.

The following members volunteered their time towards the stand; RWBro. Jim Mitchell, Bro. Keith Beard, Bro. Max Marchione, WBro. John Sibly, Bro. Jason Dawson, RWBro. Colin Styles, WBro. Peter Berkeley, VWBro. Ed Mackenzie and RWBro. Bill Morecroft, WBro. Bruce Warren, WBro. George Mason and RWBro. David McGee.

135 bears for 135 new babies



Mercy Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit has just taken possession of 135 pink and white fluffy Think Pink bears, thanks to SEAVic Lodge No. 8. The bears, part of Freemasons Victoria's Think Pink Campaign were purchased by SEAVic Lodge so that a donation could be made to the Hospital on Wednesday 28 October. Worship Master RWBro. Keith Murray was keen to ensure that the bears went to a good home, and in this case, to 135 new parents.

"The Think Pink Bears are a symbol of compassion and good will, in a time when parents need as much support as possible," Keith said.

Also joining in the presentation were SEAVIC members RWBro. Jim Mitchell and his wife Jenny, VWBro. Chris Andrews and his wife Dorothy and Bro. Larry Jackson. A mammoth hand over of cuddly bears would not be the same without a beautiful baby girl to add to the fun, so SEAVIC's Bro. Thomas Williamson and his wife Stephanie brought little Mia with them to the presentation, Mia sound asleep and not a peep throughout the event. Mia was born on Monday 12 October.

Theresa Arnold, Nurse Unit Manager of the Neonatal Intensive Care thanked Freemasons Victoria for the 135 bear donation saying that it was a very special gift that would be gratefully accepted at the Hospital.

New helmets for Disabled Riders



Members of the Guiding Star Lodge in Ballarat have recognised the needs of the youth from *Riding For the Disabled Ballarat* (RFDB) in providing funds for the organisation to purchase new riding helmets.

Together with the Freemasons Foundation the Lodge has donated \$1000 for the purchase of 20 new helmets that meet Australian Safety Standards.

RFDB Secretary Bev Hutchinson said that this donation has come at the right time as the ASS dictate that riding helmets must be changed every five years. So in order to satisfy insurance commitments, RFDB need to replace their current helmets which are shared by 50 riders over five riding sessions.

All ages and abilities are catered for with riders from ages five to 62 years. Disabilities include Autism, Down Syndrome, Asperger's and Cerebral Palsy.

There is a team of around 40 dedicated volunteers who assist the riders each Friday.

In presenting the cheque to RFDB Treasurer Kirsty Beckett, Guiding Star Lodge's WBro. Graeme Brown said that the Lodge was more than happy to support the RFDB with the purchase of the helmets and he congratulated the committee on their dedication in assisting these disabled people.

Scholarship for Bright Young Star



At the October meeting of the Lodge of Unity (Bright) Student Matthew West was presented with the 2015 Bright P-12 College VCE Scholarship award at the Lodge of Unity (Bright) meeting this month.

Funds raised by the Lodge of Unity, also included a contribution from the Bright Bendigo Community Bank, and was matched by the Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation.

This is the 5th year of the Lodge's scholarship, and all applicants, together with their parents, attended the meeting for the announcement. Worshipful Master, WBro. Barry Forster presented a \$1500 cheque, acknowledging the high standard of all applicants.

Matt is looking to become an officer in the Australian Army, and the money will be used to assist with his further education.

The Freemason's principles of tolerance, equality, charity, honour, morality and individual self-development form part of the interview process, with each student providing their own examples in past behaviour and decision making.

Our ANZAC Nurses



Freemasons Foundation Directors VWBro. Dr George Streightberg and RWBro. Barry Minster attended the opening of the *Our ANZAC Nurses Service and Sacrifice Exhibition* at the Monash Medical Centre this month.

The Nurses Memorial Centre was officially opened by State Governor Linda Dessau AM in the presence of nearly 200 guests in April, and the exhibition is a tribute to nurses past and present.

Barry said that he was very proud to be invited to the exhibition and that it was an honour to acknowledge these remarkable women.

Said to be a 'living memorial' to the heroism and sacrifice of Australian nurses who died in World War II, the display celebrates the bravery of nurses who worked alongside soldiers and civilians in war times and who were instrumental in influencing the nursing profession as it stands today.

The Centre was established by Vivian Bullwinkle, the sole survivor of 1942 Banka Island Massacre.

Monash Health is now negotiating to offer nursing scholarships to Monash Health nurses.

- END -