

# Engage Newsletter #109

## Grand Master's Message



Since the last issue (of Engage), Sue and I have another grandchild, this time born in London to Adam and Claire Benedykt. It's a girl – Chloe Anna Benedykt. We are thrilled at having gone from 2 to 4 grandchildren in a matter of a few weeks. As I alluded to the other week, a new healthy life helps put many things into perspective.

The last few weeks had quite a philanthropic flavour. I presented a cheque for \$50,000 that will enable the development of a facility at Epworth Richmond in the joint name of the Blue Ribbon Foundation, Freemasons Victoria and Epworth. I attended the opening of the Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute where I was able to tour the research laboratory and witness the Nano Drop Analyser (Spectrophotometer) in action which was purchased for \$10,000 out of the proceedings of last year's October fundraising. I was also a guest at a dinner hosted by the Epworth Hospital who were honouring two of our Brethren who are inspirational yet humble men and significant benefactors of the Hospital. As Chairman of Members of the Freemasons Foundation I also had the opportunity to preside over the Annual General Meeting one year after the establishment of the Foundation.

I am pleased to advise you our October fundraising goal looks like it will be exceeded once the money stops coming in! I am extremely hopeful the Freemasons Foundation will contribute at least the same proportion they did last year, perhaps even a little more, so it's going to be a great result. All the Lodges and Brethren that contributed should give themselves a huge pat on the back for a job well done!

## Membership Matters | A Missed Opportunity?



A member's first night in Freemasonry is an opportunity for great celebration.

The new member has travelled the path from interest, enquiry, application, and interview and now has taken his first step in Freemasonry.

Lodges have a banquet to celebrate when a Master is installed, even if it is the second, third, fourth time as Master.

Shouldn't we equally celebrate the most important night in a Freemason's journey, his first night?

Exhilaration, excitement, nervousness: just some of the mix of emotions that we have all felt on our first night. So impressive and impactful is the ceremonial part of night that most of us can recall vividly, part if not all of that important night.

Further, isn't this the time when a new member would be most likely to recommend to your friends that they should consider joining? Having a member's friends and family in the south, sharing in this important moment, builds that opportunity.

Ideas to consider ensuring that the night;

1. reflects the importance of the occasion
  2. recognises the candidate as being the important person for the night
  3. makes the best possible impression on our new member
  4. welcomes his family and friends
  5. encourages family and friends to make enquiries
- Leading up to the night:
    - Involve him and his family in any events, particularly social, and events the Lodge and District hold.
  - Before the night:
    - Invite his family and friends
    - Ensure the candidates clothing is clean, pressed and fits
    - Organise for the family and friends to arrive at 9:00pm
    - Brief him and help him, if needed, to prepare a response to his toast
    - Invite the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, or other Senior Grand Officers, District Co-ordinator, Past Grand Masters and Past Deputy Grand Masters from the area
    - Invite members of all the local Lodges to attend to ensure vibrancy in the Lodge as well as the south.
  - On the night:
    - Have a welcome drink and refreshments before the meeting
    - Make sure there is someone to welcome and host guests if the ceremony is prolonged
    - have his proposer wait with him outside the Lodge room
  - In the Lodge room:
    - Reduce or defer any other items that will prolong proceedings
    - Invite all visiting Freemasons to be at the opening
    - Make sure everyone has a copy of the odes (50c from Freemasons Victoria)
  - After the ceremony
    - Invite the friends and family to look inside the Lodge room
    - Reduce the 'other speeches' to a barest minimum
    - Make sure the supper is of suitable standard for the celebration

**Above all make it a fun and memorable night!**

## Redevelopment of the Masonic Centre of Victoria site



Following the finalisation of the planning permit for this development, the Board of General Purposes has now agreed to Mirvac entering into a contract for the demolition of the site with Delta Group Pty. Ltd., which is the country's largest demolition contractor.

Delta Group, which was selected from a tender process is a well credentialed organisation, with over 30 years' experience, offering a one-stop-shop' that adds certainty and value to construction and demolition projects of all sizes.

Delta Group excels at creating innovative solutions that safely accelerate project schedules while enhancing the quality of result and reducing cost.

During demolition, a hoarding will surround the site, advertising the project and project partners.

We have now reached a major milestone in this project which we can all be proud of.

Part of the demolition involved the repatriation of a number of artefacts, such as the two pillars that stood at the Albert Street entrance of the building, a number of Foundation Stones and a number of internal features such as the Grand Staircase (which will be used in one form or another in the new building).

While they will not be used in the new development, we have also found a home for each of the pipe organs, including the organ in the auditorium. The decorative pipes which represented a stylised map of Victoria have been retained to be used as a feature in the new building.

For more information on this development visit:

[eastmelbourneconstruction.mirvac.com](http://eastmelbourneconstruction.mirvac.com) for the latest project information and frequently asked questions.

## Letter to Grand Lodge Nationalé Francoise



Brethren

Recent terror attacks in Paris have been extensively publicised by the media over the last week and I am sure that we all feel deeply for those who are victims of the cowardly and despicable acts.

On behalf of all Freemasons in Victoria I wrote to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge Nationalé Francoise to express our deep sadness upon hearing of these acts of terrorism, and to let all of the Brethren in France know that we support them at this most difficult time.

On Thursday 19 November, Freemasons Victoria received a response from the French Grand Chancellery in recognition and thanks to the world-wide expressions of fraternal support shown by Grand Lodges in amity.

These documents are attached below for your reference, please click on the links provided.

Peter Henshall  
Grand Secretary

[Letter to Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge Nationale Francoise from Freemasons Victoria.](#)

[Letter from the French Grand Chancellery](#)

[Letter from Grand Master Jean-Pierre Servel to the Brethren of France.](#)

### **Library & Museum opens its doors!**



Collections Manager Samantha Fabry was joined by all of the volunteers who have assisted in the relocation of the Freemasons Victoria Library & Museum on Wednesday 18 November. The group came together to celebrate the official opening of the service, which saw members of the Grand Secretariat and volunteers attend.

The Collections Team has been hard at work since 2014 when archiving and cataloguing of the collection began, prior to Freemasons Victoria's move from the Dallas Brooks Centre.

All are welcome to visit the Library & Museum between 10am -3pm Monday to Friday. Please attend the reception desk on arrival.

### **Wesley Collegians' Lodge celebrates its 1000th meeting in the spirit of philanthropy**



Wesley Collegians' members met for three very special reasons this month. Not only was it the 1000<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Lodge, consecrated in 1924, but it was also the Lodge's opportunity to announce its donation towards the Freemasons Victoria Think Pink campaign.

Additionally on this occasion, Wesley Collegians' Lodge had invited Ambassador for *Beyond Blue*, Mr Craig Membrey as guest speaker, who spoke about youth suicide, its impact on family and friends, and how each and every one of us has a part to play in raising awareness of this issue.

Craig, a hard working businessman from the transport industry and father of five, lost his 17 year old son to suicide in 2011. He spoke of the reasons why youth make this fatal choice, and how drug use, peer pressure and depression all contributed to his son's death.

"My son indicated he needed help, but the warning signs were ignored," he said.

Now acting as an Ambassador for Beyond Blue, Craig told of the first time he reached out to the organisation. He said that he tried a couple of times to call but ended up going straight to the top, to founder, Jeff Kennett. Craig said that with Kennett's full support he now campaigns for awareness of

the tragedy of suicide using his truck, the 'Rowan' truck. The 'Rowan' truck, named after his late son, is decorated with images of his son and sports the Beyond Blue logo, spreading awareness where ever it goes.

"Yes, money is important. Beyond Blue needs all of the funding it can get, but most importantly it's about awareness and making sure that youth know where they can turn for support and information," he said. "It's about not being afraid to talk about it, or ask questions".

Members were moved by his presentation, asking Craig many questions. At the conclusion of the talk, Master of the Lodge, WBro. Robert Thorpe presented Craig with a donation of \$5000 towards Beyond Blue.

Craig Membrey was interviewed on ABC's *4 Corners* in 2012 among seven other families from the South East region of Melbourne who have experienced youth suicide.

*There is No 3G in Heaven*, September 2012

<http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/stories/2012/09/06/3584646.htm>

Representing Freemasons Victoria, Communications Manager Gabrielle Forman accepted a cheque from the Lodge towards the Think Pink campaign. With the proceeds of the little Think Pink Bear along with individual contributions, the Lodge raised \$800 towards the Grand Master's challenge.

Finally, and in recognition of all of the faces that have graced Wesley Collegian's Lodge in its 91 year history, a toast was made by WBro. Selwyn Allen. Many visitors from other Lodges were there to celebrate the milestone, all very impressed with the hospitality shown throughout the evening.

### **Burgundy Ladies Think Pink**



At the recent Annual General Meeting of the Grand Chapter Burgundy Ladies Association, Kaye Ives (wife of RWBro. John Ives PJGW) suggested that the Burgundy Ladies support the breast cancer awareness. Members enthusiastically agreed and a cheque has now been donated towards the Freemasons Victoria Think Pink Appeal.

The Burgundy Ladies Association presented the cheque for \$500.00 to the Grand Master's representative, RWBro. John Molnar SW at the recent Quarterly Convocation on 21 October 2015.

### **Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited holds its first Annual General Meeting.**



On Wednesday 11 November the Trustees, Directors, Committee Members and guests from the Board of General Purposes met at the Annual General Meeting of Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited, held at Coppin Hall, Royal Freemasons Homes.

Those present included all five of the trustees, being Grand Master MWBro. Hillel Benedykt, Deputy Grand Master RWBro. Don Reynolds and Past Grand Master MWBro. Bob Jones, RWBro. Dr. John Maynard PDGM and RWBro. George Sutherland PDGM.

The trustees had reviewed the activities and governance during the previous twelve month period, following the most significant restructuring of the charitable aspect of Victorian Freemasonry in over 125 years.

A number of items were discussed in detail including the future aims and challenges faced by the organisation for the ensuing year.

The overwhelming consensus was that the first year had many successes and the Foundation had established a strong base to take the organisation forward in the right direction.

In closing the meeting the Chairman of Trustees, MWBro. Hillel Benedykt, thanked the Directors and Committee Members for the work they had put in during the past 12 months.

Financial reports will be published shortly on the Foundation's website, which outline relevant and necessary information for the public's viewing.

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

### **Richards, the Star of the East, Omeo**



The Star of the East Lodge in Omeo held its annual Installation with WBro. Stephen Richards being Installed as Master for the second time on 17 October, 2015.

The Installing team, led by the new Master's cousin WBro Daryl Cook PJGD was composed of Past Masters from across the State, being chosen by the new Worshipful Master under a dispensation from Grand Lodge to appoint an Installing team of the Master's choice. Deputy Grand Master RWBro. Don Reynolds accepted the Master's invitation to experience genuine High Country fellowship.

It was a big weekend for Omeo with Past Masters travelling from as far away as Horsham, Pakenham, Orbost, Bairnsdale, Melbourne, Lakes Entrance, Mallacoota, Inverloch, Traralgon, Tallangatta and Wodonga from the North. Fifty-seven Freemasons attended the Installation and 111 Freemasons, guests and ladies attended a formal dinner at the Omeo Recreation Reserve afterwards.

During the installation the ladies and guests were entertained by Omeo's own classical guitarist, Tony Graham, who played and explained how he makes his own guitars.

Although it may be a small Lodge, Installations and visitations by other Freemasons are integral to its welcoming atmosphere. Omeo is a forward thinking Lodge, being one of the first Lodges to include women at Installation banquets, dating back to the early 1980's.

A feature of the evening was the laminated place-mats that were created by the newly installed Master's wife Kaye, depicting historical photographs of the Lodge building and a brief history of the Lodge.

For those visiting Omeo, the Star of the East Lodge provided a breakfast for more than fifty guests at the Lodge building the following morning.

The Star of the East Lodge No. 116 in Omeo is among the oldest Masonic Lodges in Victoria being started at Omeo in 1886. Thomas Easton, founding Master, went on to be Master three times and was an active community leader in the Omeo Shire, being Shire Secretary and involved with founding the Omeo library and hospital. The current Lodge building in Omeo was first used in 1919 and the Lodge has held its meetings there ever since on the 3rd Saturday of the month, except January.

### **Black Tie for Blue Ribbon**



The boys in blue went black (tie) and the girls were frocked up for this year's Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Ball on Friday 13 November. Held at the Crown Palladium, the event saw more than 1000 guests attend, with many taking part in the live auction. Raffle tickets for jewellery and travel items, and the famous Constable T. Bear were on sale as well as your very own personalised commemorative postage stamp and photo shoot.

Freemasons Victoria, represented by members of the Freemasons Foundation, Grand Team and Grand Secretariat were all there to pledge their support for the Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation, and to make a surprise presentation at the conclusion of the evening.

CEO, Blue Ribbon Foundation Mr Neil Soullier and Chair of the Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation Mr Bill Noonan OAM took over from MC John Deeks on stage to formally recognise those who had contributed to the success of the evening and to thank partners and sponsors for their ongoing support.

Freemasons Victoria Grand Master Hillel Benedykt accompanied by Bro. Andre Clayton of the Freemasons Foundation were welcomed to the podium where Hillel announced a \$50,000 donation, which took the evening's proceeds well over \$200,000.

"Freemasons Victoria recognises the tireless work of the Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation, and all that it does for those who have been affected by the loss of a loved one while on duty. It is for this reason that I am very proud to announce a donation to this important cause of \$50,000", Hillel said.

Further large donations were made, followed by a night of dancing and good fun to a Beatles tribute band that kept guests entertained throughout the event.

### **Thinking Pink in Bairnsdale**



Local breast cancer patients were given a welcome boost recently when \$5000 of funds raised by FMV for Think Pink were allocated to Bairnsdale Regional Health Service's breast care nurse service.

The Service helps with the initial diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer.

One of the only two regional hospitals to receive a donation of this type, BRHS was very appreciative of the generous donation.

“Our breast care nurse service is vital to women in our local community”, BRHS CEO Theresa Tierney said at the handover.

“Fundraising from community based organisations such as Freemasons Victoria enables us to continue to evolve and improve the services that we offer.”

### **The Running Cam has run!**



Freemasons Victoria’s MWBro. Bob Jones PGM would be very proud knowing his son Cameron completed the Melbourne Marathon on Sunday 18 October, in a time of 3 hours, 58 minutes and 27 seconds. Six months of training certainly paid off, with Cam only stopping once to catch his breath and stretch out a cramp!

“At the end, it was quite emotional. Dad knew exactly what I had just put myself through, he himself running a 42 kilometre marathon in the 80’s when he was around my age. And seeing mum so excited was amazing and made it all worth it”, Cam said.

Freemasons, friends and family were all at the marathon on the side-lines to cheer Cam on, and his best mate Darren and girlfriend Katrina riding beside him the whole way on their bikes for encouragement.

“The last 10 kilometres was carnage – there were people on stretchers, people sitting down, people walking. Even in the last 100 metres people were still stopping because of cramp. One man even crawled across the finish line!” Cam said.

Cam raised \$21,482 for the Alzheimer’s Australia Dementia Research Foundation. Contributions came from St Marks Lodge as well as other Lodges, the Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation, individuals as well as the Grand Directors Society, Swords Society, and Recar colleagues. All were in attendance on Friday 13 November when Cam was formally recognised for his efforts at St. Marks Lodge with a cheque presentation and celebration.

*Get the full story in the Summer edition of Freemasonry Victoria Magazine.*

### **78th Last Post for RWBro. Harry John**



“On Remembrance Day, 11 November 1938 I was a cornet player in my primary school band. At the school ceremony I was asked to play the Last Post. My mother was a war widow and asked me to do the same for her each year. I have done that every year since, and this year at Dimboola Lodge No. 144 I sounded the call for the seventy eighth time.

On this occasion I had the privilege of using a very historic bugle. It was used by a New Zealand bugler at Gallipoli on 25 / 4 / 1915. Everywhere the regiment went this bugler scratched the name on the bugle. Names like Armentieres, the Somme, Picardi, Pashendale, Walkers Ridge, Schrapnel Gully and many others. It shows signs of much use, but it is without doubt, the best sounding bugle that I have ever played.

During those seventy seven years, I have sounded the Last Post in some strange places. On golf courses, on trains, on railway platforms, in caravan parks, out on the bay fishing and one year on the footpath outside Myer. Where I was, on that special day, I sounded the call”.

RWBro. Harry John PJGW was initiated in the Chelsea Lodge in 1952. He served as Grand Herald in the Mark, Ark, Craft, HRA Chapter and the Royal and Select Masters.

### **A new home for the Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute**



Grand Master MWBro. Hillel Benedykt and his wife Sue attended the official opening of the Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Laboratories on Wednesday 18 November.

Held at the Federation University Australia in Ballarat, the event recognised those involved in the Institute’s move from the grounds of the St John of God Hospital, to its new purpose built laboratories on the Federation University’s SMB Campus.

The Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute came into being from the vision of a 13 year old girl. In 1990, Fiona was diagnosed with Ewings Sarcoma – a rare cancer of the muscle. She underwent chemotherapy at the Royal Children’s Hospital. Ewings Sarcoma at this time had a survival rate of 5 per cent and despite treatment Fiona’s disease progressed. She died in October 1991 at age 14.

In Fiona’s final days she asked her doctor Dr George Kannourakis to promise her that he would be involved in research so that other people would not have to go through what she was going through. After Fiona’s death, Fiona’s mother Gail Elsey and a support group of Ballarat residents set about keeping their promise to Fiona.

Today, with the kind support and generosity of the Institute’s community of donors, cancer research at the Institute continues in the new Laboratories at the University. The new home is a reflection of the continuous growth of the organisation, from its very humble beginnings over a decade ago.

Freemasons Victoria, a supporter of the Institute used the event as an opportunity to donate a \$10,000 cheque to Founder Gail Elsey. This contribution has helped to purchase much needed research equipment.

For more information on the Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute visit [www.fecri.or.au](http://www.fecri.or.au)

## The Mouse that Roared – Commonwealth Lodge



Commonwealth Lodge, a Lodge of only 25 members meeting in the small (population of just over 2500) Gippsland town of Mirboo North has taken a leading role in its community by initiating and hosting an information night on the modern scourge know as ICE.

The recognition gained for Freemasonry in the immediate and broader community is invaluable.

Importantly, Freemasonry has shown itself to be part of the community by getting out of the Lodge room, taking an outward looking stance, identifying a problem and doing something about it.

*Simple, but definitely not easy.*

This is an exciting example of what can be achieved when members have a passion and are willing to do whatever it takes rather than whatever they can do. It is an example of the pathway back into the community that illustrates that Freemasonry is relevant in modern society. It is an example of what ANY Lodge can do.

Coordinated by Commonwealth Lodge's Bro. Andrew Geary and his partner Anita, and hosted by WBro. Greg Smith, the event was conducted to raise awareness of the drug ICE and its impact in the community.

The drug is known for causing extreme agitated behaviour – causes users to feel judged and stops them seeking the help they need.

Nearly seventy people attended the forum including local media, health professionals, emergency services representatives, politicians, parents and children.

Guest speaker, 23 year old Rebecca Slavin of Inverloch provided an empowering talk on her experiences as an ICE addict, and her battle to kick the drug.

"I had a desire to be accepted and mixed with the wrong crowd at age 13," she said. "I found acceptance in the party scene. I was the 'fun' one."

As her addiction spiralled and she became a regular ICE user, she said her skin turned grey and her body became frail.

Rebecca described herself as "drowning in her addiction", but her life changed when she walked through the gates of *Teen Challenge*, an ICE rehabilitation facility in Western Australia.

"I was with Teen Challenge for 14 months. They helped me choose 'life' instead of the dangerous drug path", she said.

Now a reformed ICE user, Rebecca said that her vision is to help others and she wants to do this by setting up a rehabilitation centre and support group.

Audience members were captivated with her story, some became emotional and others mentioned afterwards how important it was to raise this kind of awareness within the community.

Guest speakers from the LaTrobe Regional Hospital included Senior Clinician Gillian Ashton who spoke about ICE and alcohol dependency, and Korumburra's community mental health social worker Peter Little who discussed the management of mental health issues and how the community can support each other.

"We need to keep up this momentum by holding these forums and raising the profiles of services that can help people who are struggling." Peter said.

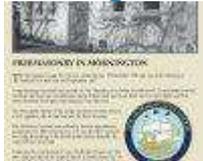
Guests were encouraged to ask questions and raise concerns at the end of the night. One gentleman, an ambulance driver expressed his concerns for those effected by ICE as their behaviour is erratic and explosive.

"We see people affected by ICE unfortunately all too regularly. Users are unpredictable and difficult to manage for emergency services, police and medical staff. These support staff are subject to violent outbursts and often the user has no recollection of their behaviour after the incident," he said.

Click this link to hear Rebecca's speech <http://YouTube.be/YWG4F8Tf45Y>

The Commonwealth Lodge has pledged to use all proceeds from the evening to support Rebecca with her goal. If you would like to contribute towards supporting Rebecca, please contact Andrew Geary at Commonwealth Lodge on 0400 527 689.

## Mornington Lodge Plaque to be Unveiled



A Masonic plaque will be unveiled on Tuesday 24 November 2015, at the Mornington Mechanics Hall.

A plaque has recently been fixed to the right hand side of the door of the façade of the old Mechanics Hall in Main Street Mornington. Approval was given to erect the plaque after negotiation with The Mornington Peninsula Historical Society and The Shire.

The plaque refers to the Mornington Lodge this year celebrating 125 years of participation in and support of the Mornington Community. It also points out that the Lodge meetings were held at the Mechanics Institute from December 1890 until September 1921, when we moved to our present location.

The Foundation Master of the Lodge at the time was Henry E. Moors, a civil engineer and at the time Shire Secretary.

The Chief Executive Officer of The Shire, Carl Cowie has been invited to unveil the plaque. Some members may have met Carl at the Lodge's recent Gala Dinner. This choice is very appropriate as the position of CEO, today equates to that of Shire Secretary in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

The ceremony will take place at the door of the Mechanics Hall façade:

The Old Mechanics Institute, Main Street Mornington  
(Opposite DOC Restaurant)

12:00 noon on Tuesday 24 November 2015

Please make every effort to attend with family and friends, as, apart from being a significant happening in the history of the Lodge and the Mornington District, this ceremony may well result in favourable publicity at this critical time in the life of the Mornington Lodge.

### The new FHA 2016 Diary is HERE



The new FHA 2016 Diary is NOW AVAILABLE for only \$5!!  
Get your copy NOW by calling the Grand Secretariat on 9411 0111.

Limited stocks – don't miss out!

### Freemasons Cycling Club members to saddle up for Chiltern Mo Ride (again)



Sunday 22 November has been set aside for the 2015 edition of the Chiltern Mo Ride, an event which involves specific rides for 'hard core' cyclists, the determined amateur, social cyclists and cycling families... all on the same day!

**The Chiltern Mo Ride 2015**, which raises funds for the *Movember Foundation* also aims to raise awareness about men's health issues in the local and surrounding communities.

Freemasons Cycling Club members will be riding in the 65km event, as has become their usual custom since the events inception.

This year, for the first time, the brethren of Wodonga and Rutherglen Lodges have been invited to attend to talk to people about Freemasonry in general, and how Freemasons support local charitable causes.

Go to [http://www.chilternvc.com/visitor\\_activities/activities\\_cycling.html](http://www.chilternvc.com/visitor_activities/activities_cycling.html) to get more information about the cycling and other events to be held across the weekend.

### Our Field of Remembrance | Keysborough



Remembrance Day arrived early in Keysborough, with the South Eastern Masonic Centre open to the public and 'in full bloom' on Friday 6 November.

Freemasons Victoria's red poppies were planted in the front lawn of the Centre, to honour the men and women who served or made the ultimate sacrifice for the nation.

The event included the *Ceremony of the Unknown Soldier*, coordinated by WBro. Jim Puohotaua, and a wreath-laying.

It was a rare opportunity for members of the public to witness a Masonic ceremony that is only carried out once a year and to see the Victoria Police Shrine Guards who made up the catafalque party.

Grand Master MWBro. Hillel Benedykt said that it was a very moving ceremony and one that will be remembered.

“This is the first time that the event has been held in a venue other than the Dallas Brooks Centre – it has been wonderful to see so many in attendance”, he said.

Prominent Freemasons who served Australia include Sir Edward ‘Weary’ Dunlop, a Lieutenant Colonel with the Royal Australian Army in World War II, and Flight Lieutenant Bud Tingwell, who served with the Royal Australian Air Force during WWII.

### **InterChange Outer East Siblings Program gets a boost**



District Coordinator for Monash Gully District WBro. Lionel May presented a \$30,000 donation to the staff of InterChange Outer East on Tuesday 10 November, on behalf of the Freemasons Foundation.

The non-profit, community based organisation, provides support to families who have a young person with a disability, living in the outer eastern region of Melbourne. Interchange Outer East’s Siblings Program receives no government funding or external financial support other than that of funds donated by Freemasons Victoria.

“We are so grateful for the kind donation Freemasons Victoria has made to this Program”, CEO Fred Brumhead said “These children can now enjoy opportunities they may not normally get, to socialise and take part in activities with other kids in similar circumstances”.

The Siblings Program is a unique way for children to engage with others on many different levels, either in an activity setting, or at the InterChange Outer East ‘home’ in Ferntree Gully. Children are involved in drawing and games, as well as camps and day trips. Parents with a young disabled child may feel that they are restricted in trying to find options for *both* siblings to enjoy – this is a great way for the sibling to never miss out on HAVING FUN!

Freemasons Victoria’s WBro. Peter Atkin, RWBro. Graham Flaherty, RWBro. Keith Thornton, WBro. Roger Gilbert-Kent, WBro. Peter White and RWBro. Mervyn Hallam were all there to make the donation, including Freemasons Foundation Director RWBro. Barry Minster who volunteered his time to video the InterChange Outer East crew for a short-film.

## Belvoir supports the community



If you have ever purchased a BBQ sausage, or a soft drink from the Freemasons outside Woolworths in Wodonga on any Friday, or occasionally outside Bunnings and wondered where the money goes.

Here is the answer!

Each year at the Lodge's October meeting, Lodge Belvoir distributes the funds raised to various local organisations and individuals in the local community.

The recipients this year included among others Belvoir Special School, Uniting Care, Salvation Army, Scout Groups and 10 Student Bursaries across schools in the Wodonga area.

Some 90 non-Freemasons from the local community attended the last meeting.

Approximately \$9000 was distributed this year and it is hoped that this figure will be exceeded next year.

This year, as in the past, the Community in the North East has enjoyed the support of the broader organisation of Freemasonry in Victoria.

Director of the Freemasons Foundation VWBro. Frank Fordyce was on hand to participate at this year's distribution and explain the operation of the Foundation.

All Freemasons in the North East and throughout Victoria express their sincere thanks to all the customers that support their efforts and the businesses like Woolworths and Bunnings that help make this possible.

## Monash Lodge donates to Royal Freemasons Homes



Royal Freemasons was very pleased to receive funds raised by Monash Lodge to assist with its fundraising appeals on Saturday 17 October. The presentation, held at the Waverley Masonic Centre was attended by over 100 guests consisting of Freemasons, family and members of the local community. Monash Lodge donated \$3,000 to the Homes to purchase therapeutic Robotic seals and upgrade its garden facilities for dementia residents and customers.

Previously, Monash Lodge has generously donated \$1,500 towards Royal Freemason's Garden Therapy appeal for Monash Gardens. The funds have been used to create new 'sensory garden areas' designed to provide an enhanced outdoor experience for residents, particularly those with dementia. The new gardens will be places for residents to sit, walk and experience the outdoors.

Monash Lodge has been supporting Royal Freemasons to advance its mission of providing quality care and accommodation to customers in Monash Gardens.

## Lodge of Australia Felix donates to Prostate Cancer Support Group



WBro. Bob Couzin Wood, Chairman of the Lodge of Australia Felix Charity and Community Awareness Committee, presented a cheque for \$500 to Mr. Frank Blackwell, the Leader of the Box Hill Prostate Cancer Support Group (PCSG) on Tuesday 20 October.

In making this donation the Lodge of Australia Felix No. 1 joins the Box Hill RSL as a major sponsor for the organisation's Open Day that was held 18 November 2015. The Box Hill PCSG meets at 9.30am on the third Tuesday of each month at the Box Hill RSL. Based on information obtained from the Group's website; In Australia, around 20,000 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer each year and more than 3,000 men die of this type of cancer – more than the number of women who die of breast cancer. Studies show that a diagnosis of cancer can be very stressful. Peer support from people with similar experiences has been found to be very effective in reducing this stress. Peer support is a system of giving and receiving help, founded on the principle of mutual respect and shared understanding of the cancer journey for people with prostate cancer. The opportunity to connect with peers with lived experience of cancer can be very powerful to reduce psychological stress. The very strong message was that a simple blood test or even better still internal inspection in men particularly those over the age of 55 should be mandatory. There are many stories told of men who held off having the tests only to fall victim to this dreadful disease. The message is clear if you're in the high risk group – don't delay.

Prior to the cheque presentation VWBro. Jim Puohotaua was invited to talk on the background to the Lodges decision to make such a generous donation. Jim explained that WBro. Rob Body, a member of the Lodge and also a member of the Box Hill PCSG, submitted a proposal to the Lodge to sponsor the open night. This proposal was considered by and approved by the members of the Lodge.

Jim spoke briefly on the wide and varied community activities undertaken by the Freemasons of Victoria in general and Lodge of Australia Felix in particular. Jim however confined his focus to two of the keys organisations supported – Epworth Freemasons Hospital for Prostate Cancer Research and the Think Pink Foundation for which Freemasons in Victoria fund a full time nurse at the Living Centre and also annually contribute between \$35,000 to \$50,000 for the Centre's running costs.

## Jonadab Lodge No. 771 Think Pink Breakfast BBQ



Jonadab Lodge No. 771 has again held a Think Pink Breakfast BBQ in aid of Freemasons Victoria's Breast Cancer Appeal, this having now become an annual event for the Lodge. The breakfast was again held at the home of RWBro. Cliff Smart and his wife Tina.

More funds were raised this year than ever before, totalling \$720 (an increase of \$114 over the previous year). Entry fees, special effort receipts and donations contributed to this excellent result. Fines were to be paid for non-wearing of something pink but none were issued – as all present joined in the pink theme.

Jonadab Lodge has a proud record of raising funds at some great social events, with this year's Think Pink Breakfast BBQ no exception.

A great morning of fun and fellowship being had by all.

### Presentation of 70 Year Jewel to Bro. Eric Rowley



Three members of the Gippsland Mark Lodge No 52, WBro. Don Roy, VWBro. David Grant and RWBro. Ian Coad had the pleasure of presenting a jewel marking 70 years of membership of the Mark Degree, to Bro. Eric Ormond Rowley on Monday 2 November.

Eric was advanced into the Morwell Mark Lodge No. 102, on 10 August 1945, and when the Morwell Lodge handed in its warrant in 1995, he joined the Gippsland Lodge No. 52.

Eric related in clear detail, his early years on the family farm in the Cowwarr area before moving to a bush block of around 190 acres in the Churchill area. This block was cleared and operated as a dairy farm from which Eric retired in 1975 and continued to work as a farm contractor until he fully retired. Eric, now 101 years old, lives in Churchill with his wife Dorothy, both are still very active.

### A new 'spin' on floor work



WBro. Harry Adlerstein PGStdB was installed as Worshipful Master of Mount Scopus and Collegians Lodge No 689 on 27 October.

This was an installation with a difference.

The installation was originally going to take place on 20 September but due to circumstances beyond the Lodge's control this did not eventuate, and a Master Elect was needed.

WBro. Harry put up his hand to take the reins subject to confirmation from a "higher authority"- his wife. As he is temporarily confined to a wheel chair the installation ceremony was not going to be easy.

On the night of Installation there was no East. It was moved to the floor and Harry was moved around in his wheelchair accordingly.

Grand Master MWBro. Hillel Benedykt and the 2015 Grand Lodge Ceremonial team did a fantastic job with the modified ceremony and evening.

**-END-**