

## Engage Newsletter #110

### Goulburn Valley St George supports Scouts



Goulburn Valley St George Lodge has been a supporter of the 1st North Shepparton Scouts for the past 4 years.

Two years ago the Lodge also took the 1st Kialla Scouts under its wing.

Each year the Lodge presents a Shield and Certificates of Achievement to patrol members of the winning patrols . It also includes a donation to assist the groups with costs associated with allowing the Scouts to attend camps and activities.

At the Lodge meeting held on Tuesday 24 November members made the official presentation.

This year Goulburn Valley St George Lodge has applied to the Freemasons Foundation to match the grants that are in the pipe-line.

### Recognising RWBro Ronald G. Harrison PSGW



Members and guests in attendance on Tuesday 1 December at the Melton Lodge of Instruction No. 261, were pleased to acknowledge the valuable contribution made by RWBro. Ronald G. Harrison PSGW as the Lecture Master for the past 34 years.

Ron joined the Melton Lodge in May 1981 following a year spent as a Grand Steward with the 1980 Grand lodge Ceremonial Team. He obviously felt he had something to offer and he's been doing that ever since, creating a record that's not likely to be equalled.

During his 34 years with the Lodge, he has been the Deputy Lecture Master between the years 1982 – 1992 (10 years) and Lecture Master between 1992 – 2015 (23 years).

At the recent meeting, Honorary Membership was awarded to Ron and the members also conferred upon him, the title of Lecture Master Emeritus in recognition of his service.

District Co-ordinator WBro. Jeff Denison PGStdB and District Education Officer, WBro. Steve Foss PGStdB were present to congratulate Ron and are pictured with him holding his Certificate of Appreciation.

Also present, together with 19 members of the Lodge, was WBro. Rodney Harwood PGStdB, Mrs Georgina Harrison, Mrs Elaine Johnson (wife of the late WBro. Leo [Tiger] Johnson OAM PGStdB – Deputy Lecture Master 1997 – 2014) and Mrs Diane Harris, wife of the current Lecture Master.

Melton Lodge of Instruction No. 261, meet at the Melton Masonic Centre on the first Wednesday of each month (except January and December) at 7:45p.m and provide guidance and assistance to interested Brethren just as they've been doing since 1973.

### Grant assists college with presentation night



Freemasons Foundation Victoria, together with Marnoo Lodge, presented a cheque to the Stawell Secondary College to support its presentation evening.

The cheque was presented to college Principal Nicholas Lynch by the Marnoo Lodge's WBro. Joe Cincotta. The funds are to be awarded to successful students at the college's annual awards night later this year.

Philanthropy is one of the core values of Freemasonry to the benefit of local community enterprises.

Eventide Homes in Stawell have been awarded grants during the past three years to a total of \$22,400.

The annual Christmas barbecue at Marnoo has also, for the past 20 years, donated \$600 per annum to community projects.

Freemasonry is progressively becoming more open in its teachings and benevolent grants to the community and individuals.

*C/- Stawell Times, 30/11/15*

### A place to call home | Streeton Park



Royal Freemasons Homes' *Streeton Park on the Yarra* has opened the doors to its new residents.

An afternoon tea was held in October for the purchasers and their families, giving them a chance to mingle and view their completed apartments for the first time.

A question-and-answer session was led by Royal Freemasons Homes Chief Executive Felix Pintado, with an afternoon tea served in the stunning restaurant area.

Residents will begin moving into their new apartments from December 2015.

## Freemasons and their fancy follicles



Freemasons Victoria has once again exceeded all expectations in the area of fancy follicles, for this year's charity efforts for Movember .

A campaign to raise funds and awareness for prostate cancer, Movember's aims are to make a global contribution towards men living happier, healthier and longer lives.

The challenge was set earlier in October for members to try to grow their mo's beyond that of WBro. Charlie Freedman, who last year raised the most funds.

A team of eight was formed and for the month of November each were banned from the razor!

Charlie was joined by members from across the Victoria, including Jack Kilavuz, Rajdeep Sran, Carey Rudd, John Ledger, David Cabler, James Bell and Brendon Falzon.

By the end of the month, the hairy crew raised a sum of \$2584!! Congratulations must also go to Jack Kilavuz specifically who was the highest individual fund raiser with a total of \$1008!!

## Vision Australia brings rare book to life



A 200 page, leather-bound book, written and printed entirely in braille was recently discovered during the relocation of Freemasons Victoria from the Dallas Brooks Centre. With no real indication of the context of the book, or by whom it was written, Library & Museum Collections Manager Samantha Fabry engaged a braille specialist from *Vision Australia* to translate the rare publication.

Librarian Jamie Kelly, of the Vision Australia Library in Kooyong, analysed the book in confidence, first establishing that it was dated 10 December, 1930.

Page by page, Jamie softly touched each of the pages, able to relay the contents of the book.

"Working in the first Degrees", he said.

"To open the Lodge...Entry and presentation of candidates...Obligation..." he continued.

With the reading of the contents page, Samantha was able to ascertain that this book was in fact the *Rituals and Ceremony of Workings of the 3 Degrees in Freemasonry*, as it states in its introduction.

### INTRODUCTION

*Rituals and Ceremony of Workings of the 3 Degrees in Freemasonry of Combermere Lodge under construction as UGLE.*

Jamie read the Preface, saying that the book seemed to be written by and for the same person.

## PREFACE

*This volume of braille was written by B.E. Glew for his instruction and guidance on the Degree Working and Ceremonials as laid down in the ritual for Freemasons compiled with the assistance of BTC Hall of ANZAC Hostel, Brighton and to whom my very best thanks are due for his great help given so freely.*

Opened on 5 July 1919, ANZAC Hostel (which today operates as a care facility for the elderly) was used by the Repatriation Department for the care of permanently disabled veterans from WWI. Although this book was published 11 years after WWI, it was possibly used by blind war veterans who lived at ANZAC Hostel including those veterans who fought during WWII.

Coincidentally, if we look back at Freemasonry at this time, Past Grand Master MWBro. Frank. E. Pettifer (1945-47) was Honorary Treasurer and Trustee for the Victorian Association of Braille Writers from 1934 till his death in 1946. MWBro. Pettifer was well known for supporting the translation of books into braille and therefore could have been responsible for encouraging this translation.

The rare book is now in the possession of the Freemasons Victoria Library & Museum in a display case, for all to see.

## Victorian Boy Scouts and the Great War



The **Victorian Boy Scouts and the Great War Exhibition** was officially opened last month, at the Victorian Scout Centre in Mt Waverley.

This display highlights some of the most significant objects within the Scout Heritage Victoria collection which focuses directly on the Scouts involvement within World War 1.

Curated by Scout Heritage Victoria this exhibition was supported by the Victorian Government through the ANZAC Centenary Community Grants Program – Veterans Fund.

Scouting commenced in Victoria in 1908, one year after its inception in England in 1907. The Founder, Robert Baden-Powell, wrote a series of articles under the title of 'Scouting for Boys' which created considerable interest from young boys who eagerly followed his ideas on camp-craft, hiking and leadership skills.

Scout Troops sprung up around the suburbs of Melbourne and quickly expanded into country areas. Adults were quickly recruited to become Scoutmasters and an umbrella Headquarters (reporting to Imperial HQ in England) was established.

With the outbreak of WWI Scouting lost many of its leaders who enlisted for service to the nation. During the war years, Scouting continued unabated with older boys in the Troop stepping up to take on the vacant leadership roles.

Scouts were also involved in War Service activities and War Service badges were awarded for their efforts. At the end of the war, many soldiers returned home and resumed their Scouting activities, whereas others paid the ultimate sacrifice.

This exhibition is dedicated to their memory and recognises the efforts of so many members involved in the development of Scouting in Victoria.

### Moving Lodge Service



Members of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Lodge conducted a commemorative ceremony of the Battle of Long Tan at Union North Gippsland Lodge last month.

Many of the members of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Lodge are ex-servicemen or ex-police officers, but the Lodge is not restricted to those who have served. Members who have an interest in the memorial of those who lost their lives at war are most welcome.

The 45 Lodge members attended the moving ceremony to hear the names of those killed read out and a candle extinguished for each of the 18 servicemen who died in the August 18, 1966 battle.

The battle saw the action of 108 ANZACS against a Viet Cong (North Vietnamese) force estimated between 1,500 and 2,500. The Battle was one of the heaviest conflicts of the Vietnam War as well as one of the few battles in the recorded history of the world to be won against such odds.

As if to match the conditions of the battle itself, the day of the service poured with rain.

Members also used the night as an opportunity to raise funds for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Lodge charitable fund.

*Reference:*

[www.australia.com.au](http://www.australia.com.au)

*Picture C/- Bairnsdale Advertiser 20/11/15*

### Chaffey Secondary School wins the race with pedal power



Mildura Lodge and the Freemasons Foundation have assisted the Chaffey Secondary College in Mildura over the last three years, where selected year 9 and 10 students undertake to develop a 'human powered vehicle' as part of their learning.

This is a significant project that develops a range of leadership, team work, planning, negotiation and construction skills.

Last weekend 'Team Flash' of Chaffey Secondary School took to the Maryborough 1.8km track for the RACV 24 hour Energy Breakthrough challenge. Among 300 other teams from schools across the

state, Team Flash entered its team of 15 including its youngest drivers Molly Konecny and Gabby Alessi (13 years).

Chaffey Secondary College technology teacher Peter Levey said that students had been in training for this event for a semester, and he was very proud of their performance.

“The challenge started at 1:30pm on Saturday and finished at 1:30am on the Sunday”, he said.

The three-wheeled vehicle had received a make-over in the last few weeks to increase its performance, Levey saying that one of the improvements made was the installation of a reversing camera.

“We also modified the vehicle to include extra lighting, for this kind of an event”, he said.

The vehicle reaches speeds of up to 60km per hour and takes about three minutes to complete a 1.8 km lap.

### **The Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute is now Analytically Balanced**



The Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute now has a new Analytical Balance, thanks to a \$3000 donation from Guiding Star Lodge No. 922 (Ballarat) and the Freemasons Foundation.

The Analytical Balance is an indispensable piece of equipment for any modern laboratory and is used for weighing out minute quantities of valuable chemical reagents to an accuracy of 0.0001 of a gram. The equipment is also used for checking the calibration of laboratory liquid handling pipettes to ensure consistent experimental accuracy and reproducibility.

Professor George Kannourakis thanked Guiding Star Lodge and the Freemasons Foundation for the generous donation and continued support.

### **Mark Masters Association of Victoria says ‘We Care’**



At the Grand Communication of the United Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Victoria held on 18 November 2015, the President of the Mark Masters Association of Victoria was pleased to present a cheque for \$500 to the Most Worshipful Grand Master for the “We Care” Charitable Trust. The money was the result of the raffle held at the Annual Dinner Dance of the Association.

The Mark Masters Association of Victoria now in its 88<sup>th</sup> year was established in 1927 and is the oldest and largest Past Masters group in Victoria and possibly Australia.

The prime aim of the MMAV is to encourage Masters and Past Masters to visit their sister Lodges, to form friendships and support Grand Mark charities and more particularly the “We Care Appeal”.

The Annual General Meeting in October 1930 saw MWBro. Edward Coulson, Grand Master honour the Association by becoming a member, and in 1976 the policy of having a Patron of the Association was introduced in the presence of MWBro. Glen Johnston, Grand Master – a tradition that continues today.

As we approach the Association's eighty-ninth year, the MMAV will continue its support of Grand Mark and encourage participation by all members to continue to be part of this wonderful and friendly Degree.

### Chorus of Approval



The Royal Freemasons community choir has continued to raise its voice with performances throughout the year since commencing in May 2015.

Generous community contributions, through a 2014-15 appeal, helped launch the ‘Royal Freemasons With One Voice Eastern’ choir at Centennial Lodge, in partnership with Creativity Australia.

Residents, volunteers and families from Centennial Lodge, Darvall Lodge, Elizabeth Gardens, Monash Gardens and Monash Gardens Village enjoyed their first choir rehearsal in May, under the direction of Musical Director, Michelle Morgan, and supported by members of the ‘With One Voice Greater Dandenong’ choir.

The choir has since been a dedicated weekly activity and the program has proved a resounding success in helping staff and customers build new friendships and foster a sense of belonging to the local community.

Recently, the choir performed at an evening soiree, called ‘Sing for Good’, to raise funds for a range of charitable causes. It also has plans to perform at different events in the coming year.

Research has shown that singing in a group has the ability to improve mental and physical well-being, and further roll-out of the choir to other sites is being evaluated.

## Setting the Standard in Residential Care



### **Royal Freemasons Coppin Suites**

18 Premium Suites / Private & Secure

Meeting the demand for premium residential aged care living in central Melbourne, Coppin Suites offers penthouse rooms with a view, well-appointed fixtures and amenities flowing through to the dining and lounge areas, supported by quality care and services.

Coppin Suites provides fully furnished one bedroom suites, some with balconies, outlooks of Melbourne's skyline and parks and gardens. Some penthouses also incorporate a kitchenette to support a more independent living environment.

Flexible Living options with 20-44 Square Metres. Coppin Suites exceeds the expectations and preferences of the current aged care consumer, providing a private and secure place of residence with the comfort and amenity they are accustomed to alongside hotel quality features and 24 hour care and services.

**For all enquiries please call 1300 176 925**

## Financial Statements Available



Following the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting of Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited the audited financial statements of the Freemasons Benevolent Fund and the Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation, were received and adopted by all Board members at the AGM, and are now available for viewing on the following websites:

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

[www.freemasonsvic.net.au](http://www.freemasonsvic.net.au) (members site)

[www.acnc.gov.au](http://www.acnc.gov.au)

## Refit for the Alma Doepel



The Alma Doepel was launched in October 1903 on the Bellingen River, New South Wales. After working a number of years around the coasts of Australia and New Zealand and serving the army in World War II it was refitted in 1976-78 as a Training and Maritime Education vessel for Australian youth.

In 1999 the schooner was laid up and transferred to Port Macquarie as a museum ship. Under the ownership of *Sale and Adventure* the vessel was returned to Melbourne in 2009 for a complete refit. In excess of 1.5 million dollars is required to complete the restoration of the vessel, which is the last 3-masted top sail schooners remaining in Australia.

The Y2K-ers Masters Group agreed to support one of the fundraising activities associated with the refit project, the 'Buy a Plank Appeal'. This appeal enables a donor to sponsor a plank of Australian spotted gum 6 metres long which will be used in the restoration of the hull of the vessel.

The cost of each plank is \$500. The Y2K-ers Masters Group was most appreciative that the Freemasons Foundation agreed to match the donation. All plank donors are acknowledged by a plaque on an honour board located at the vessel's home port.

It is the goal of Sail and Adventure to have the restoration completed in 2016 enabling the schooner to resume its life as a Youth Sail Training and Maritime Education vessel.

## 2016 Scholarship Application Forms



Freemasons Foundation Victoria, annually awards over \$400,000 in Scholarships and Bursaries, for academic excellence or for students requiring financial support to complete their studies.

There is a range of Scholarships on offer, some of them in particular fields such as the Environmental Scholarship, the Harry Burt Memorial Architecture Scholarship, the Dr. Robin Gray Music Scholarship and the Eliezer Benedykt Memorial Scholarship.

Please note that in some categories a number of identical scholarships are on offer.

Application Forms are now available to download via the Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited webpage at:

<http://www.freemasonsfoundation.org/>

Please contact Neil Cripps at [ncripps@freemasonsvic.net.au](mailto:ncripps@freemasonsvic.net.au) should you have any issues downloading the forms.

## Pontiacs, pistons, ploughs and pumps for Commonwealth Lodge's Annual Charity Day



The make-shift car park of 170 Huntingfords Road, Boorool was packed on Sunday 22 November, for the Commonwealth Lodge's Annual Charity Day.

Held at the property of WBro. Norm Geary and his wife Sandra, the Charity Day was a great opportunity to showcase Norm's incredible museum of past era memorabilia as well as raise funds.

Norm's museum, located two hours from Melbourne in the South Gippsland, boasts four large sheds jam packed full of farming and mechanical equipment dating back as early as the late 1800s. One of the most interesting items is the 1928 Regent Theatre crude oil lubricated engine which Norm had much pleasure in cranking up for all to witness.

"When the engine was in use, it would've only done about 100 hours because it was rarely needed, and when it was required, there was no one there to start it! So it's basically new!" Norm said.

Among the collection, a number of 1920s Pontiacs in varying conditions were on display as well as tractors, harvesters, generators, diesel oscillating saws, pumps and a huge collection of glass bottles and electrical generators and switchboards. Visitors wandered the sheds in ore of just how many items have been saved or restored over the years.

Norm, who has been collecting since the late 60s, said that his interest in such things comes from a passion for all things mechanical.

"I just look at an engine or anything mechanical, and it just makes sense to me", he said.

The Gippsland Freemasons Social Network (GFSN), headed by Norm's son WBro. Andrew Geary was there to support the charity effort, coordinating competitions for children, and making sure barbecue and kitchen facilities were available for all to use.

Later in the day, WBro. Jim Geary joined the party; making up the three generations of Geary's all members of Commonwealth Lodge No. 186. WBro. Jim (88) had just come from a wood turning workshop and said that he is still very active in Lodge.

The Charity Day raised \$1400 and saw 120 people walk through the gate, WBro. Andrew Geary saying that he was impressed with the turn out.

"This is a great example of how Freemasonry can bring together members of more than one Lodge, members of the wider community as well as support local charities".

For more information on how you can get involved in the Gippsland Freemasons Social Network contact Bro. Andrew Geary on 0400 527 689, email [Gippsland.Freemasons.Network@gmail.com](mailto:Gippsland.Freemasons.Network@gmail.com) or visit the GFSN Facebook page at <https://m.facebook.com/GippslandFreemasonsNetwork/>

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