

## Engage Newsletter #111

### Season's Greetings from United Grand Lodge of Victoria



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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9sKHX3QnKsw&feature=youtu.be>

### Bro. Pat Daly a Star



On Friday 11 December Bro. Pat Daly, (also known as First Constable Pat Daly), of Gardenvale Mobility Lodge No. 243 was awarded the **Victoria Police Star**. The Victoria Police Star is awarded to Victoria Police that are killed or seriously injured in the course of their duty.

In the early hours of 4 February 2014 First Constable Pat Daly and his partner Leading Senior Constable Kevin Chalkley, pulled over a suspicious vehicle towing farm equipment. While Senior Constable Kevin approached the vehicle, Bro. Pat remained in the police vehicle to call in the registration. The suspect vehicle took off. By the time Senior Constable Kevin returned to the police car; the suspects had done a U-turn and deliberately rammed the police car sending the police car into a violent spin ending up in a fence. Both Bro. Pat and Kevin sustained injuries that placed them in hospital – in Bro. Pat's case he was thrown into the windscreen via the rear view mirror. As a result Bro. Pat sustained head and neck injuries including spine fractures, cuts and lacerations to the head. Bro. Pat was restricted to a neck brace for several months with limited duty.

Bro. Pat will not return to 100% fitness but has returned to full duty and continues to serve the Victorian community as a Policeman, Police Scouter and Freemason.

Bro. Pat's wife and family have remained by his side to support him during his rehabilitation – at the request of Bro. Pat's wife Courtney, the then Deputy Commissioner Tim Cartwright ensured that the smashed rear view mirror found its way to Courtney. It now resides in a perspex trophy box with the inscription "*Proof that Pat Daly uses his head*".

### The Link, Summer 2015



Check out the latest version of the Royal Freemasons Ltd. Newsletter, ***The Link!***

Full of great information, this issue introduces the new Chairman, Mr Denis Henry, showcases the Coppin Suites and details the success of the 2015 Seniors Festival, plus much much more!

[https://engagefmvdotorg.files.wordpress.com/2015/12/rf\\_thelink\\_summer2015\\_final.pdf](https://engagefmvdotorg.files.wordpress.com/2015/12/rf_thelink_summer2015_final.pdf)

## A message from Melbourne Youth Music



**Merry Christmas!** We're wrapping up a successful year of music-making and getting ready for the next.

Congratulations and thank you to everyone who auditioned for places in our 2016 ensembles. The standard overall was incredibly high and the team is looking forward to welcoming both new and returning young musicians next year.

Melbourne Youth Music participants come from a huge diversity of backgrounds, united by their love of music and its performance. One of our organisational beliefs is that no young learner should be excluded based on disadvantage. That's why we work so hard to make sure there is a range of financial assistance available to help students access our program. We offer support with the assistance of our wonderful friends at the Newsboys, Kimberley, Vizard and Freemasons Foundations and the Anna Chmiel Memorial Fund.

I am delighted to announce that a new stream of financial assistance is now available, supported by the Collier Charitable Fund, with a new \$20,000 fund established to assist with travel costs for students from regional Victoria. To view the range of support available, please visit [www.mym.org.au](http://www.mym.org.au)

If you, too, would like to help support others, I whole-heartedly invite you to make your own donation to the Melbourne Youth Music Student Fund. The 2016 Student Fund will provide a much-needed additional pool of funds to help families and children who would otherwise be unable to take part. Make your tax-deductible Christmas gift by visiting [www.givenow.com.au/mym](http://www.givenow.com.au/mym)

We have a busy year ahead and some exciting program announcements below. Thanks for your support and participation in 2015.

Please enjoy a happy and safe festive season!

Dorian Jones  
Chief Executive Officer

## A modern take on masonic symbolism



Artist and entrepreneur Matthew Greentree visited the Freemasons Victoria Library & Museum on Tuesday 15 December to showcase a series of works that incorporate masonic symbolism.

The six-year project that includes a selection of A2 posters, booklets, a stamp, a coin, gloves, a record cover and CDs has been a passion for Matthew, who said he has an interest in the meanings behind masonic shapes and symbols.

"I met with WBro. Jim Puahtohoa some time ago to gain a better understanding of how these masonic symbols could be best incorporated into my work".

A very deep, analytical thinker, Matthew's work is well structured, balanced and precise, using combinations of digital line work and design with photography.

Matthew's intriguing project will be housed temporarily at the Freemasons Victoria Library & Museum.

Contact Collections Manager Samantha Fabry for details and visiting times at [sfabry@freemasonsvic.net.au](mailto:sfabry@freemasonsvic.net.au).

### A Festive Poem from Philip D'Souza



*It was my first  
Then my second  
Then the third  
So called now a Master Mason  
Just like the many you have heard*

*For Masons are more in number  
But fewer are those in deed  
And before we start this festive season  
Reflection is our need*

*With our "wants" perfected through degrees  
Our "need" still yearns the chisel  
For perfection is a journey  
Embarked on the level*

*Pause now...*

*If ye be a worthy Mason?  
Conjure your thoughts indeed!  
The year ahead is that of abundance  
When thy compass is in heed*

**Philip D'Souza**

### December 2015 Quarterly Communication



The room was filled with festive cheer for the last Quarterly Communication held this year. Again, hosted at the Melbourne & Olympic Park Stadium function rooms, members enjoyed singing carols after hearing reports from the Board of General Purposes, Board of Directors of the Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited and Board of Directors of Royal Freemasons.

Members were saddened to hear of the passing of a long list of Brethren in the last quarter including three very special gentlemen who were recognised with eulogies; RWBro. Frank Harder OAM, PDGM, RWBro. Laurie Ogilvie PDGM and RWBro. Harold Kong PDGM.

Presentations were made by Clinton Amble of MIRVAC who spoke about the development process of the East Melbourne site, as well as returning the Foundation Stone.

Three separate votes were conducted on the changing of the constitution with respect to voting in Grand Lodge, the Leadership Electoral College and Board Electoral College. Results of the votes will be made available soon.

Director of Freemasons Foundation Victoria Ltd. Bro. Tim Clark captured everyone's attention with a video made especially to promote the good work of the Foundation, saying that in only 48 hours the presentation had been viewed not hundreds but THOUSANDS of times. This video can be viewed on the Freemasons Foundation home page at [www.freemasonsfoundation.org](http://www.freemasonsfoundation.org)

Certificates of Re-accreditation and Masonic Studies were presented by

the Grand Master to some well deserving members, one of whom was CEO of Royal Freemasons Homes, Bro. Felix Pintado.

Grand Master MWBro. Hillel Benedykt concluded the evening with a very inspiring speech, wishing all Brethren a safe and happy holiday season.

## Burns Supper



Calling all folk of Scottish heritage (and those who would like to be)... The Eshcol Daylight Lodge invites you to a traditional 'Burns Supper'. Saturday 30 January. Masonic Hall, Welsford Street, Shepparton. Contact Allan Thomson 0402 284 797.

## Monash Lodge Scholarships



Again this year Monash Lodge has presented two students from Mount Waverley Secondary College with \$750 scholarships which are awarded to the male and female student who most reflects the values and principles espoused by Freemasonry.

## Freemasons Victoria Bushfire Appeal Scholarships



Grand Secretary RWBro. Peter Henshall accompanied Grand Master MWBro. Hillel Benedykt on Tuesday 15 December at Marysville Primary School to personally present scholarship certificates of \$500 each to some very special children.

The tiny tourist town of Marysville has struggled five years after it was virtually wiped out by the Black Saturday bushfires.

Freemasons Victoria members from across the State, Australia and overseas raised \$1.2 million in response to the disaster and pledged to commit to ten years of scholarship support to those communities affected. It also contributed \$40,000 to each school in the affected area; Marysville Primary School, Middle Kinglake Primary School and Strathewen Primary School to assist in the re-establishment of library resources.

Leigh Woods, Principal Marysville Primary School said that the assistance given by Freemasons Victoria will further help the children and their families to get back on their feet.

Scholarships were also personally presented this week by the Grand Master and Grand Secretary to a further eight children for the same amount at Middle Kinglake Primary School and Strathewen Primary School.

## Magnificent Streeton Park launches to public



Freemasons officially opened their landmark retirement development *Streeton Park*, at a cocktail function at on Friday 11 December.

Situated on the banks of the Yarra amongst the beauty of the natural environment that inspired its namesake Arthur Streeton, the 84 apartments feature large balconies with glass balustrades, giving riverside apartments uninterrupted views.

The residents lounge and dining areas also enjoy panoramic river vistas.

Royal Freemasons are proud to deliver superior retirement accommodation to the area.

“Most people entering retirement stay within 10km of their old home in order to use familiar services and stay close to friends and family. This development gives residents of the inner north-east an opportunity to move into a state-of-the-art residence without leaving the area they love” said Royal Freemasons Trustee, Garry Sebo. “They can live in

a premium apartment with the peace of mind that Royal Freemasons have an extensive array of support services available to maintain independence, not just for residents of Streeton Park, but all over metropolitan Melbourne”.

Invited guests, including those who have expressed interest in purchasing, will enjoyed champagne and canapés while being entertained by the Kellie Santin Jazz Trio.

Some apartments remain for sale including those with river views. Pricing ranges between \$615,000 and \$1,550,000 and private tours can be arranged on 0424 779 048 or via [www.streetonpark.org.au](http://www.streetonpark.org.au)

### Royal Freemasons Homes Active Ageing Appeal



This Appeal supports programs to help reduce social isolation and improve quality of life for all customers.

Please contact Royal Freemasons Homes for more information at [info@royalfreemasons.org.au](mailto:info@royalfreemasons.org.au)

### Masons say NO to domestic violence



The issue of domestic violence and violence against women was front and centre at Freemasons Victoria's CBD Business Luncheon last Tuesday.

The last of the luncheons for the year, this one was particularly timely with the holiday season approaching and many spending more time with family. It is also particularly relevant given recent documentaries aired on television in the last month; *Hitting Home* ABC, *How Does Domestic Violence Begin?* ABC Q&A Special with Julia Baird and *Death in Plain Sight* SBS Dateline.

Freemasons from various Lodges across the State joined Grand Master Hillel Benedykt in welcoming CEO of Domestic Violence Victoria Fiona McCormack to the podium, to talk about the issue now referred to as an 'epidemic' in Australia, and reinforce the importance of bringing the topic out into the open.

"78 women are killed each year at the hands of a male, a woman is hospitalised every 3 minutes as a result of family violence and \$20 billion is spent each year in health care, refuge and loss of productivity", Fiona said.

As the horrifying statistics continued, guests listened to some of the reasons why domestic violence numbers have increased and what can be done to change the culture of this behaviour.

"The issue of domestic violence has largely been ignored, with women too afraid to speak out, and police taking very little action.

"Evidence shows that the issue is a social and cultural one. It's not in the genes, so thank fully these behaviours can be un-learned, but domestic violence is bred. It can stem from a family upbringing of abuse, and from the interactions young men have with other young men in proving their masculinity".

Fiona went on to explain that legislation has recently changed, now allowing the removal of the perpetrator from the environment, leaving the mother and the children in the safety of their home, but this support is limited.

“It’s difficult for some women to afford their independence however, especially those supporting children”, she said.

“The key to stamping out family or domestic violence is education. Education in schools and from a young age, that this behaviour is NOT OK, and the more men who discuss this with other men, the better”, Fiona said.

One guest stood up after the talk and suggested that each and every member at the event should return to their Lodges and discuss this issue as a group, to reinforce the importance of awareness and remind each other of the principles of Freemasonry, that a man has a responsibility to behave honourably in everything he does, acts with personal decency and personal responsibility, and inspires others to do the same.

If you or anyone you know is experiencing this kind of abuse, or if these stories raise feelings of depression or anxiety, support is available from:

**1800Respect – 1800 737 732 (24 hours)**

**Men’s Referral Service – 1300 766 491**

**Lifeline – 13 11 14 (24 hours)**

### **Tartan for Talbot!**



It was Joseph Mercieca’s last day as Master of the Talbot Lodge No. 42, on Wednesday 25 November (meeting as a Daylight Lodge), so he decided that the day should be remembered as ‘Tartan Day’ for both the Ladies and the members.

Everyone was asked to wear something Tartan! Some members wore their family Tartans, kilts and all!

“So wearing my ‘Royal Stewart’ kilt and tie to the meeting was some-what light-hearted, as was the south”, Joseph said.

The highlight of the Tartan Day was District Coordinator, WBro. Sam Whitehead who was fully dressed by his grand-daughters in a complete ‘Gilly’ outfit purchased on line for the occasion. Undeterred, Sam continued with the day.

## Masons Support East Timor Schools



Freemasons Victoria has generously donated \$3700 to support Beaconhills' East Timor School building project.

The recent cheque presentation at the Berwick Campus followed a visit by the campus' Senior Vocal Ensemble to Keysborough's South Eastern Masonic Centre in July, where they sang at the dinner.

The Companions donated \$947 on the night, with further donations later gathered from the Burgundy Ladies (partners of the Companions) and the Bairnsdale Chapter, along with a \$2000 donation from the Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation.

Peter Crick and his wife Deidre presented the cheque to Headmaster Tony Sheumack and thanked the choir for its performance in July.

"One of the choir spoke eloquently about the East Timor Friendship School project and how they were working towards the building of two school rooms with toilets and the supply of good quality water for the school", Mr Crick said.

He said Freemasons Victoria was proud to present a cheque for \$3700 to Beaconhills to support the project.

"We thank your students for being with us that evening and wish your College all the best in their endeavours with this most important project."

## North-West district celebrates



West District 101, that includes Border 466, Cohuna 227, Swan Hill 919 and Tresco 289, came together on Tuesday 1 December for a very special evening.

Bro. Peter Walsh was Initiated into Swan Hill Lodge in the presence of more than sixty guests, some from afar, as well as Deputy Grand Master RWBro. Don Reynolds, Senior Grand Warden VWBro. David Blake and Junior Grand Warden Bro. Peter Woods.

Worshipful Master Norm Mathiske was very proud to welcome Bro. Peter, who's Welcome Toast was proposed by long-time friend Bro. Tori Ficcaro, and responded to admirably.

Prior to Lodge closing, RWBro. Don Reynolds took a moment to announce that District Coordinators VWBro. David Blake and Bro. Peter Woods would be soon moving to higher positions within the organisation and would therefore be replaced. Bro. Peter Woods replacement as District Coordinator for North-West would be VWBro. Neil Gannon, and Neil's replacement as District Inspector of Workings will be WBro. Norm Mathiske.

RWBro. Don then called on RWBro. Jim Thompson, PSGW to be presented to him, and announced on behalf of Grand Master MWBro. Hillel Benedykt that he had been conferred the high rank of Past Deputy Grand Master.

RWBro. Jim has been very active in the area for many years. He served the 1999-2000 Grand Ceremonial Team as Junior Grand Warden, is Secretary of Swan Hill Masonic Company, currently Director of Ceremonies of Swan Hill Lodge No. 919 and holds the rank of Past Deputy Grand Master in the Mark Degree.

After a pleasant lunch the Murray Downs Country Club the following day, Swan Hill Lodge hosted its annual Christmas Dinner at the Swan Hill Club, once again attracting more than sixty guests.

A highlight of the evening was a presentation made by WBro. Norm Mathiske and Deputy Grand Master RWBro. Don Reynolds to Bill Compenteri and Sean Duffy of the E.W Tipping Foundation for a sum of \$10,000. This donation will support initiatives to ensure a quality of life for those with a disability.

### **Rebuilding Vanuatu**



Since April 2015, Freemasons Victoria's Lord Northcote Lodge and Lodge of Australia Felix have been raising funds for the Vanuatu Relief Appeal. Members of the Lodge have just announced a total of more than \$11,000 raised towards the cause.

Cyclone Pam struck Vanuatu with devastating force on 15 March this year, claiming lives and destroying schools, homes, hospitals and crops. This category-5 cyclone was one of the worst storms to ever hit the region. It is estimated that more than 180,000 were affected, and between 50-90 per cent of the country's infrastructure destroyed.

The Vanuatu Relief Appeal was established by members of both the Lord Northcote Lodge and Lodge of Australia Felix to provide funds to assist in rebuilding and/or equipping schools that were destroyed or severely damaged by this natural disaster.

With the selling of raffle tickets, a FaceBook campaign and a number of generous individual donations, the Freemasons Victoria Vanuatu Relief Appeal raised enough funds to provide considerable support to schools that lost all matter of equipment, furniture, books and resources in the tragedy. Fantastic effort!

### **Peter Atkin Encouragement Award**



Fairfield Lodge members and Bro. Peter Atkins' mother-in-law Antoinette Schellekens, presented a Certificate of Encouragement and scholarship funding to a student from Charles Latrobe College, Macleod earlier this month. in memory of Brother Peter Atkin.

The award, established in memory of late Bro. Peter Atkin in 2013, was presented at the Year 11 students' graduation night at Latrobe University on 3 December.

Hibaq Mohammed, who expressed an interest in continuing her schooling through to completing year 12, was chosen as a worthy candidate to receive the award.

Hibaq was born in Australia from Senegal parents but her mother has been raising her on her own as a single parent. She said that she would like to go to University to study law and is very grateful for the donation.

The Bro. Peter Atkin Scholarship Fund and Encouragement Award was established by Bro. Peter's wife Justine soon after Bro. Peter's untimely death in September 2013.

At just 30 years old, newly married and on his way to the Austin Hospital where he worked as a Bio-medical Engineer, he was tragically involved in an horrific car accident that took his life.

Following the accident his wife Justine suggested that Fairfield Lodge might like to assist in setting up a scholarship in the name of Peter.

Bro. Norm Willoughby pursued the suggestion and discovered that Charles Latrobe College, Macleod had a year 11 student that required an encouragement award. It is also interesting to note that Peter graduated from Latrobe University next to Charles Latrobe College.

There are particular awards that go to the best performers but sometimes there is an award that goes to a person who does all the training, is on time and performs to the best of their ability no matter the outcome. This award is commonly referred to as the coach's award, and in this case, an Encouragement Award.

Fairfield Lodge members agreed to donate \$500 to the cause.

Prior to the presentations Bro. Norm and WBro. Mark Vincent gave a brief overview to guests, of the principles of Freemasonry and the importance of devoting time to supporting the community, providing a helping hand for students, schools, those in aged care, or those suffering the effects of severe weather events such as bushfires and floods.

Antoinette Schellekens represented her daughter Justine at the presentation.

## Lodge histories and the Library & Museum



In an effort to make the new Freemasons Victoria Library & Museum at 45 Moubray Street the main access point for anyone wishing to research the history of Freemasonry within the state of Victoria, we are seeking to develop a folder on every Lodge.

While a few Lodges have been excellent in sending this information to us over the years, many folders still remain empty. Therefore if your Lodge has any stories, photos (preferably with names of persons depicted), historical information, copies of masonic talks or articles written by brethren then kindly consider offering them to our permanent collection.

This material will always be available for anyone conducting relevant masonic research on request. Any queries can be directed to the Volunteer Librarian on duty. 9411 0119 or [library@freemasonsvic.net.au](mailto:library@freemasonsvic.net.au)

***[Note: Due to space restrictions the Library & Museum is only able to accept documents which are no larger than A3 in size.]***

## Chiltern gets a visit from the boys in blue (lycra!)



Wodonga Lodge members teamed up with the Freemasons Cycling Club (Vic) to participate in the annual Chiltern Mo Ride event on 22 November to raise funds for the *Movember*.

While the riders readied their bikes and registered their attendance, Lodge members set up an information tent and signage. Both groups then teamed up to mingle with the growing crowd and engage in some friendly banter with the organisers.

At 8.30am, the team saddled up and headed out on their 65km journey through the picturesque surroundings of the region: first stop, Jones' Winery near Rutherglen. Arriving there to a friendly greeting, the Team topped up on fresh fruit, chatted with other riders coming and going and refilled water bottles. Bidding the volunteers a joyous farewell, they gathered together and got back on the road.

Under bright sunshine, they pedalled their way back towards Chiltern, picking up some other riders and tucking them into the Freemason echelon. Following another short stop along the road to Beechworth, more chatter, fruit and water, they hit the road for the last 20kms.

Riding Yackandandah Road through Chiltern Box-Ironbark National Park, the Team climbed the biggest hill on the ride and then raced into Barnawartha before turning towards Chiltern (and the finish line!)

Back at the start/finish line, the riders and Wodonga Lodge members again teamed up to make sure everyone knew the Freemasons were supporting *Movember* at the event. Another great ride in support of a great charity and some positive publicity for Freemasonry in a local community.

**- END -**