

Engage Newsletter #113

2016 Grand Installation



The 2016 Grand Installation of RWBro. Don Reynolds is fast approaching.

Dates and venues have been confirmed for the following associated functions – please enter these into your calendar.

Visit the Rendezvous Hotel website at: [Rendezvous Hotel](#)

Contact Natalie at the Rendezvous Hotel to make your reservation on

(03) 9250 1888 or email reservations.melbourne@rendezvoushotels.com

Register with the Conference Secretariat online by visiting: www.hpe.com.au or download the form at http://www.freemasonsvic.net.au/media/uploads/GIBrochure_2016.pdf for printing and fax to High Profile Events on 03-9596 6668.

Funds help to broaden horizons



Disadvantaged youth will now have greater opportunity to explore broader horizons thanks to a \$10,000 grant from the Freemasons Foundation.

Presenting the cheque to the Ardoch Youth Foundation, Freemasons Foundation Board Director Jane Hill said that funding such as this will help Ardoch bridge the gap between unfortunate generational trends and a positive future.

“Ardoch provides the opportunities for children to seek new and exciting pathways, when these sorts of opportunities have not been available to them before, due to family breakdown or financial struggles”, she said.

Ardoch has provided education support to children and young people in disadvantaged communities for over 25 years. The work of Ardoch began in 1988 with founder Kathy Hilton’s determination to see a 17-year-old girl experiencing homelessness stay at school and complete her education. Since then, Ardoch has helped thousands of children and young people to stay at school, receive a helping hand with their education and have access to more choices and opportunities in life.

Its primary objective is to build the capacity of schools, early years services and communities to deliver targeted programs that will improve learning and well-being outcomes for children and young people in areas of high need and enable them to access learning, stay in school and reach their full potential.

Ardoch CEO Mandy Burns said that she was thrilled to receive the support.

“The *Broadening Horizons* Program connects children and young people in areas of high disadvantage with the world beyond their postcode.

“This assistance will change lives. It will allow children to go places they could never have gone to before, and reach their full potential.

“Disadvantaged children don’t get the same experiences as others. Some don’t get the books or stationary they need for school and some parents simply can’t afford the fees for excursions or class trips.” she said.

Mandy went on to explain that the excursions that Ardoch make possible include visits to the Art Gallery, the Museum and even the Grand Prix.

“Often it’s about transport and ensuring the children can get to these places”, she said.

“Children learn new behaviours, new language and new processes by being in situations they’re not familiar with – we offer a *Learning Through Lunch* program which opens their eyes to new foods, new cultures and preparation techniques”.

Learning Through Lunch takes primary school children on an excursion to a hospitality training centre and provides the opportunity to learn about hospitality careers, dining etiquette and to try different foods. Most importantly the experience provides a formative social experience of sharing a meal and meeting new people.

If you would like to learn more about Ardoch and the work it does for children from disadvantaged communities visit www.ardoch.org.au.

Freemasons Change Their Working Tools



Central Highlands Task Force members donned leather gloves, goggles, high-viz vests and took up wire cutters to assist *BlazeAid* in fence removal as part of the Scotsburn fire recovery program.

Ten members contributed 21 days with a further day arranged for Saturday 27 February.

On 19 December, the Scotsburn fire affected 42 properties, razed 4,200ha of bush and farmland, destroyed 12 houses along with hundreds of kilometres of fencing, killing around 2,500 head of sheep and other livestock.

Four Freemasons have property in and around the area with two being marginally impacted by the fire.

However, new life is emerging with a tinge of green across some areas and discovery of two blackwood seedlings in the fork of a very black tree.

BlazeAid started in 2009 after the Black Saturday bushfires in Victoria. Since then volunteers have helped over 3163 disaster affected property owners from 46 base camps across all States of Australia.

BlazeAid’s main focus is to assist property owners rebuild their fences that have been damaged or destroyed by natural disasters.

Contact Ron Fleming at rj_ljfleming@bigpond.com to join the working party.

22 bikes donated to disadvantaged youth



Disadvantaged teenagers from the northern suburbs are the beneficiaries of a donation of 22 bicycles through the Ivanhoe Grammarians Lodge and Freemasons Foundation.

The donation was an expansion of the *Toys for Tots* campaign (now Banyule Children's Gift Appeal) led for years by WBro. Max Fraser.

The campaign gathered pace in late November-December last year when the younger members of the Lodge added cash donations to the money applied by '584'.

The program for at-risk teenagers is coordinated through Bundoora Secondary College, by Kim Nicholls, who plans to speak briefly about the project at the **Ivanhoe Grammarians Lodge 'Buckley Night' on Thursday 4 February, 2016.**

At The Beach with WBro. Geoffrey Lott



We recently featured a story about the *At The Beach* art exhibition currently being hosted at the Point Nepean Lodge Masonic Centre in Sorrento. I couldn't resist taking a look for myself so I met with WBro. Geoffrey Lott for a tour as well as a peek inside the Lodge Room.

The walls of the exhibition space had been lined with paintings and art works referencing the local environment, its beaches and community. Each piece had something unique about it, whether it be the material it was made from or the subject it portrayed. Resident artist Rick Matear explained that he gets his inspiration from spending time outdoors.

"We had environmentalists, conservationists, teachers and interstate visitors here – it's been great for Sorrento's tourism", he said. "*At The Beach* was a summer exhibition, with pieces inspired by light, sun, sand, and water".

Curator and volunteer Nina Sullivan said that the exhibition has been very successful and funds raised will support a local charity.

"We've had an amazing response. There was an incredible buzz on opening night. Rick's mother Judy, also an artist, has managed to sell all of her work through this exhibition!"

Speaking with WBro. Geoffrey Lott, he said that when a visitor to the exhibition requested it, he would open up the Lodge Room doors for them to have a look inside.

“Two Freemason artists John Bredl and Hans Von Vlodrop have donated painting to our Lodge. Each of their works had to be taken down prior to the exhibition, but they’re always on the walls otherwise. It takes a bit of work to take all of the paintings down and rehang them after an exhibition, but it has been worth it for all of the exposure the Centre has had”, Geoff said.

Geoff, a 5th generation Freemason, and resident of Rosebud said that the Masonic Centre is very special, saying that it is just as beautiful as what Sorrento is, and everyone is always welcome.

Rick Matear has donated the piece *Red Hood Fishing Boat*, a piece worth more than \$700.

This group exhibition of paintings, sculptures, textiles, ceramics and books were contributed by some of Australia’s finest artists including David Palliser, Donald Ramsay, Linda Oy Ho, Maggie Vee, Mick Turner, Roland Harvey, Rick Matear, Sally Joubert, Wendy Golden, and Yvonne Patton.

The Point Nepean Lodge is seeking expressions of interest from Masonic Artists and Sculptors in Victoria who would be interested in a joint exhibition showcasing work from talented Freemasons to be held at the Sorrento Masonic Centre. Please contact WBro. Geoffrey Lott at pencad@bigpond.net.au or on 0438 844 193 if you are interested.

Other stories from this issue include:

- Melbourne Youth Music Update
- Public Surprised to see the Freemasons
- Masons Move Men’s Shed
- Get Ready for the Lake Hume Cycle Challenge

Please visit the ‘ALL NEWS’ section of *Engage!* Newsletter online to access these news items.

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