

Engage Newsletter #118



Freemasons Victoria Celebrates the Installation of Grand Master MWBro. Don Reynolds

Freemasons Victoria celebrated its night of nights on Friday 1 April with the Grand Installation of its newest Grand Master, Don Reynolds.

More than 700 guests, as well as interstate and overseas delegates attended the event, held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, a venue that seemed perfect for the structure and size of the occasion.

All the pomp and ceremony that one would expect at this Installation was masterfully carried out, full credit to Grand Director of Ceremonies Chrys Kypreos who not only bid farewell to the Officers of the 2014-2015 Grand Team, but welcomed the incoming 2016-2017 Team with perfection.

Immediate Past Grand Master Hillel Benedykt reinforced the importance of taking the responsibility of Grand Master for Victoria and the unwavering commitment to the fraternity required. He also wished Don and his partner Mya all the very best for the duration of his term saying that he had every faith that Don would be successful.

Many watched the webcast via internet feed from regional Masonic Centres as well as on Channel 31 which aired the event live.

The Installation was followed by a wonderful Grand Banquet on the Saturday evening at the Convention Centre's Melbourne Room where guests enjoyed pop band Babba and danced into the wee hours.

Celebrations were still in full swing on the Sunday, some a little more weary than others, arriving at 11am for the Royal Freemasons Homes Open Day and Farewell Celebration. Freemasons Victoria hosted a series of marquees showcasing the Freemasons Foundation, the membership team, merchandise as well as supporting partners Scouts, Blue Ribbon and the Think Pink Living Centre. Members, their families and children enjoyed this family fun day, of music, face painting and fabulous food.

Freemasons Victoria would like to thank its sponsors MIRVAC, LITTLE Properties, CREO, JB Were, McKean Park and Secure Parking for their generous support this year and Conference Secretariat High Profile Events for managing the event logistics over the three days.



Good Friday Appeal breaks another record

Members from all over Victoria were out in force on Friday 25 March to raise funds for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal.

Rattling their tins and wearing high viz vests, you couldn't miss the Freemasons, standing at 7-11's everywhere.

Deputy Grand Master RWBro. Don Reynolds visited many of the 7-11 locations, and was later seen on Channel 7's GFA program with the crew from the Uncle Bob's Club.

In total, the Uncle Bob's Club, with help from all of the volunteers from Freemasons Victoria, raised a whopping \$507,074.00 towards the appeal.

"I was extremely proud to represent Freemasons Victoria this Good Friday Appeal and was so pleased to see so many members out raising funds on the Friday", RWBro. Don said.

This year's event broke last year's record, raising \$17,445,624.38, \$2 million more than last year!



Research into PTSD – volunteers needed!

Communications Manager Gabrielle Forman recently met with researcher and PhD Candidate Tia Cummins at the Austin Hospital to find out more about studies into Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Prompted by RWBro. John Austin of Comacine-Acanthus Lodge No. 400, who had given a very informative talk to members of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Lodge No. 921 about the disorder, Gabrielle endeavoured to find out as much as she could in an effort to help with the studies.

Tia, who is located in the Molecular Imaging & Therapy Unit is working hard to establish possible links with those with PTSD (with or without a head injury) and the onset of Alzheimer's Disease.

In order to complete the studies Tia needs volunteers between the age of 60 and 85, who have had PTSD since their 20s/30s.

The studies will be conducted in the following way:

There will be 3 groups making up 150 veterans

– 50 with PTSD

– 50 with head injury (with or without PTSD) i.e. veterans with a history of a head injury: this includes any head injury that was sustained during service, whether it's combat, fall, or sports related. This includes anyone who lost consciousness for seconds/minutes/hours/days, or those who stayed conscious, but felt dizzy or confused after the injury.

– 50 with no PTSD or head injury.

The volunteer will take part in a medical interview with a psychiatrist, a memory assessment, and have 3 PET scans and 1 MRI.

Then, in 18 months, another memory assessment will be conducted.

Tia has so far recruited 85 of the 150 volunteers needed. The PTSD group is nearly full so the focus is on the head injury group, and the group without PTSD/head injury.

If you think you may be able to assist Tia with her studies, please contact Gabrielle Forman by email at gforman@freemasonsvic.net.au.

For further information about the studies visit:

<http://brainpet.org/read-me/>

For further information about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder visit:

<http://phoenixaustralia.org/?s=PTSD>



Lodge Devotion steps back in time...

Lodge Devotion held its second Table Lodge meeting on Saturday 19 March at the Collingwood Masonic Centre. A Table Lodge is scripted and contains the "Ceremony of the Seven Toasts". In between the scripted sessions there were quite a few entertaining speeches from the floor.

The 2015 Table Lodge meeting was an amazing night and members were unsure whether they would be able to recapture such a great evening... and indeed they did.

The "theatre" was beefed up with some members donning period costume. It was good to see the Tyler's toast at about 10pm and not see a single brother leave until long after it!

Again this year members hosted a raffle in favour of fining brethren. Worshipful Master WBro. Craig Farrington fined members and visitors alike without fear or favour. An amount (\$1-\$2) was occasionally nominated, but generally people just threw change of their own choosing into the metal

container in the middle of the pavement – it got harder to do as the night wore on, and not just because we turned down the lights.

Transgressions included “cannons” (glasses) misaligned, getting the movements in the toasts wrong, one poor visitor was fined for using big words, a member for swaying, the Tyler because his sword was not big enough. Brothers were loudly suggesting fines from their seats.

“Having fun in Freemasonry” is often spoken about but not often seen... for some folk on Sunday morning – it became evident that “too much fun” had been had, (if there is such a thing). So many members stayed long after the Table Lodge closed, all laughing, smiling and talking. A Table Lodge is a great way to spark warmth and offer a rare Masonic experience.

Worshipful Master WBro. Craig Farrington also took the opportunity to quiz some of the newer brothers on questions about Masonic knowledge. Restricting the meeting to Freemasons only allowed this. In true Devotion style merriment was married with education and fellowship with wine and good food and even better company.

Special thanks to those who helped set and pack up and to WBro. Mark Bellmaine for working on tweaking the words and format of our ceremony document.

VIVAT !!!

Vivat!! Vivat!! Vivat!!

Wikipedia says Vive, Viva and Vivat are interjections used in the Romance languages. Vive in French, Viva in Italian, Portuguese and Spanish, and Vivat in Latin and Romanian are all forms of the verb “to live”.

Mackey’s Encyclopaedia of Freemasonry explains that “Vivat! Vivat! Vivat!” is the acclamation which accompanies the honours in the French Rite....”the cry of joy of Freemasons of the French Rite.”

The Latin Vivat signifies, “May he live”.

Boiste (Dictionnaire Universel) defines it as “a cry of applause which expresses the wish for the preservation of anyone”.

The French Freemasons say, “he was received with the triple vivat,” to denote that “He was received with the highest honours of the Lodge.”

Information including history and notes about the Table Lodge is on the Lodge Devotion website at:

<http://www.lodgedevotion.net/devotionnews/education-editorial-articles/table-lodge—ceremony-of-the-seven-toasts-2015-04>



The charge of the Australian Light Horse at Beersheba

Become a part of history...



The 31st October 2017 will mark 100 years since one of the most famous and last great cavalry charges in history...

The charge of the Australian Light Horse at Beersheba

In a stunning operation at dusk on October 31, the 4th Light Horse Brigade smashed through the Turkish line and captured the town of Beersheba, opening the path to Jerusalem and the eventual end to Ottoman rule in Palestine.

To mark the occasion, the Israel Travel Center will be hosting a **FREE informational talk** by world-renowned expert and Chairman of The Society for the Heritage of WWI in the Land of Israel, Eran Tearosh, to be held at:

**St Kilda RSL, 88 Ackland St, St Kilda VIC
6:00-8:00pm on Tuesday 24th May 2016**

For your chance to win a \$250 travel gift voucher redeemable at the Israel Travel Center, simply register your interest at...

www.beersheba2017.com



(02) 9371-8166
sales@israeltravelcentre.com.au

Other stories from this issue include:

- MYM Update
- A bit of 'celebrity' at District 115
- Ukuleles a Strummin' in Bairnsdale
- We pay tribute to RWBro. Dennis Walker
- Immediate Past Grand Master Hits the Press in the Australian Jewish News
- Two very proud Freemasons...correction! Only one!
- Want to come to Lodge EOS?
- What would we do without Jill?

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