

HEADLINES

Your headline stories for this issue! Other news items are featured in 'ALL NEWS' and can be accessed from the top of the HOME page.

June 2016 Quarterly Communication



You are invited to attend the June 2016 Communication of Grand Lodge, to be held at the Melbourne and Olympic Park Function Centre, Batman Avenue, Melbourne on Wednesday 15 June 2016, commencing at 7:30pm.

The June 2016 Quarterly Communication will again be live streamed to the internet.

If you are unable to attend the Quarterly Communication in person, you can either log onto the internet and watch proceedings live, or attend one of the nominated Masonic Centres to join other members to view the Communication.

For log on instructions contact Gabrielle Forman at gforman@freemasonsvic.net.au or call 0448 373 399.

MASONIC CENTRES HOSTING LIVE STREAMING

The following Masonic Centres have been confirmed for live streaming:

Ballarat | Bendigo | Bairnsdale | Mildura | Shepparton | Swan Hill | Wangaratta | Warrnambool | Horsham | Geelong

Prior to the Communication, members of the Board of General Purposes will be available to address any questions or concerns you may have and to update you with current matters being considered by the Board.

Complimentary supper will be served after the Communication, with drinks available at bar prices.

PARKING

We again have enough parking for those attending the Quarterly Communication.

Free car parking for this event will only be available from 1pm. To take advantage of the free parking, you MUST get your parking ticket BEFORE entering the carpark from a member of the Freemasons Victoria TaskForce.

Proceed to the Eastern Car Park, Entrance D only (Olympic Boulevard below the Olympic Rings) where there will be a Freemasons Victoria Volunteer wearing a high-vis vest, who will give you a car park pass prior to entering the car park.

This ticket is to be used to enter and leave the car park at the end of the night.

Once you park your car, this ticket cannot be re-used and a new ticket cannot be reissued.

If you enter a different car park or do not get a ticket prior to entry, Freemasons Victoria cannot reimburse you.

Once you have parked your car please look for the “tear drop” banner and Task Force Member outside the car park where a shuttle bus service will run between the car park and the venue from 4p.m. until 7.15p.m.

The shuttle service will also run back to the car park at the conclusion of the event until 11p.m.

MOBILITY PARKING

For those with mobility issues, we have secured 80 car parks closer to the venue, and arrangements can be made to have you taken to the door of the Function Centre from the car park.

Please contact Julia Edwards at the Grand Secretariat on 0477 373 703 to arrange.

[CAR PARK MAP](#)

Please click on the link above to view the car park map with shuttle bus meeting point.

There are no other events on at any of the venues on the night of the June 2016 Quarterly Communication.

[PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPTIONS](#)

A list of public transport options is also linked to this message above.

For those with mobility issues, we have secured 80 car parks closer to the venue, and arrangements can be made to have you taken to the door of the Function Centre from the car park. Please contact Julia Edwards at the Grand Secretariat on 0477 373 703 to arrange.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Bring your membership card to the Quarterly Communication in order that your attendance is correctly recorded.

If you do not have your membership card you can complete a temporary card at the door.

The June 2016 Quarterly Communication will commence at 7.30pm sharp.

Please be seated by 7.15pm.

Wyndham Leaders of the Future



The Freemasons Foundation recently supported a group of twelve high school students, who are members of the Wyndham Leaders of the Future, to walk the Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea.

The group, that also included six members of Wyndham Victoria Police, one paramedic and one sponsor flew to Port Moresby on 17 April and started the trek the next day, completing the journey on ANZAC Day the following Monday.

The group is run by the Wyndham police, who selected 12 community-minded students who are striving to become future leaders, to take part in the walk.

The students were also accompanied on the track by Matthew Lamberth, a Freemason and member of Williamstown Lodge No. 16. Matthew was able to communicate with the students, share their highs and lows of the journey, and promote the benefits of Freemasonry.

“I think for just about everyone, it was the challenge; firstly just to complete the journey, and secondly, and most importantly, to feel what our soldiers went through. I think by completing the track you show respect to those who fought there and how important it was to Australia’s security”, Matthew said.

Students saw the locations of various major WWII battles and learned of the bravery of the soldiers who fought there. The 110 kilometre journey of steep mountainous terrain in 25-30 degree heat and rain was what was required to demonstrate leadership. Early nights and early mornings were the order of the day so that each day’s walk could commence between 6:15 and 6:30am.

Matthew said that the long steep hills, both ascending and descending were difficult for everyone. “The track was quite wet which made it even more difficult, with a lot of slipping and sliding, especially going downhill!”

The Kokoda Track certainly isn’t for everyone. Many prepare for months prior to taking on the journey, but nothing can really prepare you for injuries or accidents.

“If you do a fair bit of training before taking on the track you’ll be able to do it”, Matthew said. “It was great after a hard day to be able to get into camp and just take your shoes off and let your feet dry. I was lucky I didn’t sustain any injuries and my feet held up pretty well. I did get a bit of a stomach bug though, but that only lasted for one day”.

When Past Grand Master MWBro. Bob Jones announced the opportunity to join the young leaders on the Kokoda Track at a Lodge meeting one night, Matthew said he was keen to take up the challenge. “I’d always wanted to do Kokoda, so thought this might be my chance,” Matthew said.

“I think the battles that took place on the Kokoda Track during WWII were some of the most defining and important fights that Australian Soldiers have ever taken part in”.

Matthew said that he was fortunate enough to visit Gallipoli on ANZAC Day in 2007, and also has a military history with the RAAF, so it was all very relevant.

“While the Gallipoli Campaign is recognised as our most defining moment as a country, the soldiers on Kokoda saved Australia from the Japanese invasion. It was important for me to see how these soldiers overcame their adversity and hardship in atrocious conditions, conditions very different to Gallipoli, to keep our country safe”.

Matthew and the group carried their own packs in a bid to feel some, if only a tiny bit, of the hardship soldiers endured.

“I felt a massive sense of accomplishment and acknowledgment of those who fought and died where we walked”.

Integration not Isolation



Two hundred newly arrived non-English speaking children from immigrant and refugee backgrounds are now able to take part in swimming lessons, thanks to a further grant from the Freemasons Foundation.

The Western English Language School (WELS), comprises five campuses of over 500 students across the western suburbs of Melbourne, including Braybrook, Laverton, Werribee, Footscray and St. Albans. The school is now able to take more children, some of whom have never worn a pair of bathers before, to swimming lessons for the 2016 year.

The school, which was successful in receiving a small grant in 2015 to kick-start the swimming program in Footscray and provide a hire bus to the swimming centre, now has enough funds to expand the program to its St Albans and Werribee campuses. In addition, the school can now afford a special water proof backpack for each student so as they can carry their swimming gear. The school is also planning to purchase spare towels, bathers and goggles for those students who cannot afford their own.

WELS teacher and program coordinator Claire Kelly said that this isn't just about a day out at the pool.

"This is incredibly important to the children and their parents. Without swimming lessons and education about safety around water, these children have the potential to be at risk of water related accidents in the future".

"Going to the beach or the pool is a big part of our Aussie culture, so this program helps to introduce students and their families to our way of life, giving them confidence and knowledge for the future", she said.

Director of the Freemasons Foundation, RWBro. Barry Minster was at the Kensington Community Recreation Centre to formally present the cheque to the school and see for himself just how valuable this program is to the children.

"The Foundation is proud to provide opportunities for the disadvantaged to take part in activities that may not have otherwise been possible. This particular program has so many benefits in terms of water safety and education but also cultural integration with the Aussie way of life", he said.

The school is keen to continue offering swimming to their students for years to come but more help is needed. Please contact Gabrielle Forman on 9411 0101 or email gforman@freemasonsvic.net.au if you can contribute to the program by way of providing new swimming apparel, towels or goggles.

Innovative solutions to today's problems



Wouldn't you love to be able to solve the world's problems? Or just be involved with a group that works together with the same aims to come up with innovative solutions to issues such as poverty, homelessness and gender equality?

Since 2015, the Freemasons Foundation has supported UN Youth Victoria to do just that.

With substantial donations that have enabled students this opportunity, the Freemasons Foundation has enabled Victorian primary and secondary students to make it to the Grand Final.

UN Youth Victoria is part of a national organisation which aims to educate 15,000 students nationally each year about international issues and the role of the United Nations.

The recent UN Youth Victoria National Finals, held in Canberra and attended by Victorian students, was a great success with students providing original solutions to some of the problems that Australia faces.

By debate, discussion and advocacy they are preparing themselves to be the leaders of the future.

The Freemasons Foundation donated \$39,000 towards the youth development programs, at \$13,000 per year over three years.

For more information about the programs, visit: <https://unyouth.org.au/event/voice-national-finals/>

Other stories from this issue include: -

- **City of Greater Dandenong recognises our 2015 Hall of Famer**
- **Melbourne Observer hosts Freemasons Victoria**
- **Royal Freemasons Homes UPDATE**
- **Rain or shine Commonwealth Lodge provides a face for Freemasons Victoria**
- **It's on again...**
- **Traralgon welcomes little bugler**
- **Merchandise WINTER Sale!!**
- **Two jewels at Peace and Loyalty**
- **What to do in the event of a family emergency?!**
- **Cobram Masonic Centre gets the flicks**
- **Freemasons support classical vocal**
- **37th Annual Masonic Charity Golf Day**
- **New Members Night | Book NOW!**
- **Drive to Survive – The Inside Story**
- **Artificer: a wine for all palates (and Lodges!)**
- **Money for Maths at Columba Catholic Primary School**
- **Helping those who forget their passwords**

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