

engage! Newsletter No. 125

Headlines

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A Day of Masonic Excellence

Freemasons Victoria will be conducting a series of forum sessions prior to the September Quarterly Communication.

Commencing at 2:30pm, the first session is an opportunity to meet with the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, President and Board Members for an interchange of ideas on what **the masonic landscape will look like as we head to 2025**.

This will be followed by a session on **Member and Masonic Service** with the Assistant Grand Secretary Bruce Cowie.

Membership Growth and Sustainability will be the next area of focus, lead by Bruce Stockdale Manager – Membership.

The **Blue Lounge Social Group** leaders and members will lead the final session on how they are contributing to the growth and sustainability of freemasonry with a focus on young people.

Seating is limited to 100 for the forum sessions. Seats can be reserved via the link <https://www.trybooking.com/MINF>

The Quarterly Communication, which will again to be webcast, will commence at 7:30 pm in the Ulumbarra Theatre which has a capacity of over 1000 seats.

Additional designated centres are being arranged, especially in the metropolitan area for those unable to attend in Bendigo.

AGENDA

- 2.30 p.m. Meet the Grand Master, the DGM, PBGP and Board Members to find out more about what do you expect our Masonic Landscape to look like in the lead up to 2025 and beyond.
- 3.30 p.m. Member / Masonic Services – Bruce Cowie (Assistant Grand Secretary)
- 4.30 p.m. Membership – Growth and Sustainability – Bruce Stockdale
- 5.30 p.m. Meet the Blue Lounge Social Group
- **7.30 p.m. Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge**

Board of General Purposes Highlights

RW Bro Richard Elkington has produced a comprehensive report to members including:

- approval of the Strategic and Structural Change Plan
- Strategic Planning workshop in Q4 2016
- Planned release of the business plan in Q1 2017
- Advertising for Chief Executive position
- 2016- 17 interim budget

The full report is available on engagefmv.org

2017 Grand Lodge Ceremonial Team Country component

Past and current Masters of lodges in the South West, Central highland and Bellarine Otway Districts are invited to attend, with their wives and partners, information sessions as a prelude to the selection process for the 2017 Grand Lodge Ceremonial Team Country Component.

MW Bro Don Reynold GM will outline his expectations for the team, assisted by VW Bro Myles King, Grand Director of Ceremonies.

Mya, Don's partner and Isabella, GDC wife will also be present to provide an overview of their experiences as part of the team.

The information sessions – 1 to 2 hours duration - will be:

- Geelong Masonic Centre Sundays August 7 commencing 1:00pm
- Camperdown Masonic Centres Sundays August 14 commencing 1:00pm

Light refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the sessions.

Expressions of interest to be submitted to gpursuivant@freemasonsvic.net.au

Advice will be given on the assessment and interview process dates and timings.

The full report is available on engagefmv.org

Monash Gully District Gala Charity Night



Interchange Outer East, Sibling Program which provides support and outings for the families of disabled children and young adults, was the beneficiary of the fundraising efforts of the Monash Gully District.

Interchange Outer East, Sibling Program has been the major Monash District charity for about the last 8 years.

The District Gala Charity night was hosted by Henty Lodge 279 at the Mount Waverley Masonic Centre raised in the vicinity of \$4000. The night was MC's capably by Chris Stephenson, keeping timing on a tight rein.

The support of donors for auction items from Freemasons and businesses was overwhelming with 30 high quality items which were auctioned over two sessions with frantic bidding controlled by their auctioneer David Pearce assisted by Frederic Perron.

Those present enjoyed the buffet banquet, comprising 6 roast meats with various seasonal vegetables, condiments and a large salad selection. Tea, coffee and many sweets were available, as were mini French slices provided by Frederic Perron, one of our members.

The current Australian Latin American Ballroom Champions, Darol and Yvette, were one of the highlights of the evening, performing three amazing and colourful routines.

Grand Master Don Reynolds and his partner Mya, Immediate Past Grand Master Hillel Benedykt and Sue, GDC Miles King and PGDC Chris Kypreos and their wives represented Grand Lodge.

We were pleased to be joined for the evening by several staff from Interchange Outer East .

MW Bro. Don Reynolds a former joining member of Henty Lodge, it was great to have him "home", responded to the visitors toast proposed by John Willcox. He thanked all who made the night happen, both organisers and guests, and then challenged all Freemasons to wear their Masonic lapel pin everywhere.

"Promote Freemasonry" he said, "be proud of what we achieve in individuals, in families and in the community".

MW Bro Don also offered Interchange Outer East an extra \$500 if they display a Masonic banner on their site for 12 months.

The Eurack Avenue of Honour



The Eurack Avenue of Honour in Western Victoria, the Oldest Avenue of Honour in the state, celebrated its centenary on Sunday 24 July.

This community celebration, sponsored by Rosebank Lodge No.348 with the assistance of the Freemasons Foundation was attended by 320 people, many travelling long distances to be present, one gentleman coming from as far away as Perth WA.

The Avenue of Honour was planted in July 1916, by school children from Eurack Primary School as an Arbour Day project. The project honours the thirty men, including 4 sets of brothers, from the Eurack district who enlisted for WW1.

Only twenty trees were planted, with one additional tree to honour "Lord Kitchener" the Senior British Army Officer who was killed in November 1916.

Avenues of Honour are usually planted to honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country but the Eurack Avenue is unusual as it honours all who enlisted.

The Eurack Recreation Committee contacted Rosebank Lodge several months ago, seeking financial support to stage the Centenary Celebration. The lodge executive met with the Eurack committee and after hearing their submission the lodge offered \$1000 which was supported with \$3000 from the Freemasons Foundation Victoria.

Importantly, Lodge members provided a lot of manpower and assisted with the preparations in the weeks leading up to celebration. In appreciation of the support provided by Freemasons the Eurack committee invited the MWGM to address the celebration and unveil a plaque on behalf of Freemasons Victoria.

Wreaths were laid by Sarah Henderson, Richard Riordan, Cr. Terry Woodcroft; Wor. Bro. Peter Schultz (on behalf of the Korean Veterans Ass.); by four primary school children in honour of four men about whom the committee have been unable to unearth any information.

A narrative of the men from Eurack was presented by members of the Eurack committee and a memorial plaque was unveiled, together with a plaque from Freemasons Victoria honouring all Australians who had lost their lives in all theatres of war.

This was another successful community event in which Rosebank Lodge was proud to be asked to be part of as it further strengthens the ties which the lodge has with the community.

Rosebank Lodge also engages with the community by arranging other community activities include the Beac Anzac Day Dawn Service & Breakfast, Eric Richardson Community BBQ, Scholarships for Beac Primary School, Annual Church Service & Luncheon, repaired fencing & cleaned up Beac Tennis Courts and up and coming BBQ Lunch & Entertainment for 50 Intellectually Disabled Adults (Nov. 2016)