

Ringwood Rose Croix Open Night

New Freemasons Victoria Chief Executive attends the Ringwood Rose Croix open night and witnesses Masonic charity first hand



On the evening on Tuesday 30th September, Ringwood Rose Croix threw their doors open to Freemasons and guests to promote the benefits of belonging to the Rite. Ringwood Rose Croix No. 55 is looking for new members, and felt that hosting an open night in conjunction with a charity donation would be a great way to spread the word.

The aim was to promote to Craft members the great opportunities that exist beyond the first three degrees. Chapters and Orders membership plays an important role in a Freemason's advancement and Masonic education, and is critical to a Lodge's continuing success.

The special guest for the evening was Jane Sydenham-Clarke, the Chief Executive of Freemasons Victoria, who provided a snapshot of her previous business background and her delight to be now working with Freemasons Victoria.



She welcomed members of CleftPals Victoria, a family support group for parents whose children are born with a cleft palate, (founded by WBro. Joel Solomon), and witnessed first-hand the generosity of Freemasons. CleftPals Victoria was presented with two cheques - one for \$750 from the Ringwood Chapter and \$1250 from the Freemasons Foundation. An outline of their work was presented by Mrs Pope and Mark Banks.

Guests also enjoyed a presentation by V.III.Bro. Dr. Chris Wallace who outlined the history of the Rite, its development over the years and what is involved in membership.

With attendance from nine potential new candidates for Ringwood Rose Croix and seven potential new members for the Craft, the night was a clear success.

The higher degrees such as those in the Scottish Rite, have much to offer as they provide a different background to that of the Craft. Being a member of this Order exposes members to the history of the 33 degrees that evolved in Europe. The name ironically has nothing to do with Scotland; rather it comes from the French word 'Ecosais'. The Rite recognises the first three Craft degrees as the first three in the Rite, and several of the 33 degrees are conferred rather than being worked. Many of these intermediate degrees are demonstrated during the year.

Kind Act from Marangan Lodge

Anj Barker is one of those inspirational people you are lucky to meet in your lifetime.

Ms Barker is a survivor of domestic violence. In 2002, when she was just 16 years old, her boyfriend at the time violently beat her into a coma in a park in Benalla. Her parents were told she would be left in a permanent vegetative state with a traumatic brain injury; a Diffused Axonal Brain Injury. Ms Barker was hospitalised for three years in Melbourne.

It took five years of intensive therapy for her to speak again. She is now wheelchair bound, but is hopeful she may one day walk again.

The Barker family have travelled over 300,000 kilometres across Australia to speak to children and raise awareness about violence against women. Those who have had the privilege of listening to one of Ms Barker's talks have commented that it is a life-changing experience.



"It gives me such a great feeling educating people so that it is prevented from happening to them," said Ms Barker.

Marangan Lodge of Benalla presented Anj with a cheque for \$1500 at the Lakeside Farmers Market. The money was generated from a year's worth of sausage sizzle fundraising in the local area, and is the start of what the Lodge hopes will be more funds raised towards a campaign against domestic violence.

Anj intends to put the donation towards a new van, so she can travel around with more comfort and convenience.

No Secrets! Freemasonry on Display

Young Lowan Lodge members Bro. Rhys Webb and Bro. W.A Larkins are bringing Freemasonry into the open with an innovative shop window display on the main street of Nhill.



New to Lowan Lodge, Brothers Webb and Larkins are keen to show their community Freemasonry has nothing to hide. They hope to raise awareness and promote Freemasonry in the Nhill district with their shop window display which contains members' memorabilia such as jewels, aprons, cases, fact sheets and the English constitution warrant of the Lodge.

It also provides visitors with information on what Freemasonry is, and how to join.

Both interstate and Victorian Freemasons passing through the town have contacted Lowan Lodge to say it's a great display and is intriguing to members and the general public.

Together, Webb and Larkin came up with the idea when they were thinking of ways to attract and inform members of the community about Freemasonry.

"The main purpose of the display is to show the local community what Freemasonry is all about; dispel myths and try to engage all men within our community; both members and non-members," said Rhys.

The Brothers have received fantastic feedback from both members and the public. One reaction from a Past Grand Standard Bearer from the South Australian Constitution passing through Nhill commented to the Secretary of Lowan Lodge



that, "It was great to see younger members taking initiative and that it was an excellent display."

Members of the community have commented that they have learned more about Freemasonry because of this display.

The creative project took three weeks to plan and implement with thanks to the Nhill Pharmacy for kindly donating the shop front space.

Generous support to Kalparrin Childhood Services

At the July meeting of Elrona Lodge no. 384, those present in the south witnessed a cheque being presented to Kalparrin Early Childhood Intervention Services. The recipient of the \$4,000 cheque was Mr. Mark Baigent, CEO of Kalparrin Early Childhood Intervention Services.



Elrona Lodge raised an impressive \$2,000 which was delivered from a Sausage Sizzle, which took place at Bunnings in Eltham. It was also generated from the proceeds of raffles. The cheque was presented by Elrona Lodge's WBro. Richard Coates and Carol-Scholes-Robertson Board member of the Freemasons Foundation.

The amount raised was matched by Freemasons Victoria.

Kalparrin's mission is to support children with additional needs in order to help them reach their full potential.

Their aim is to provide children and families with the skills, knowledge and support needed to optimise the development of each child as well as their opportunities and potential for the future.

The funds will be used to help cover the costs of construction of Kalparrin's new Therapy Equipment Storage Room, which has recently received building approval from Banyule City Council. The construction is due to commence in the next few weeks.

Kalparrin, which is based in Greensborough has been the chosen charity of Elrona Lodge since 2011, and it is evident that their relationship remains strong.

Over the last 5 years, Elrona Lodge has contributed an amazing \$18,000 to Kalparrin Early Childhood Intervention Services.

Kalparrin have expressed their appreciation to Elrona Lodge by saying "THANK YOU once again to each and every Freemason of Elrona Lodge No. 384, for your incredible efforts in support of Kalparrin's Incredible Kids!".

Bayside District Church Service 2016

This year's Bayside District Church Service will be held at St. Peter's Anglican Church, Were Street, Brighton Beach, at 10.00am on Sunday October 2, 2016.

The Grand Master has declared it an official visit and so a large number of the team and their wives/partners /girl friends will be present. The Freemason's Community choir will be in attendance and will be presenting an anthem during the service.

At the conclusion of the service a cheque will be presented to the Taskforce Community Agency which provides support for those affected by drug and/or alcohol abuse, as well as helping homeless and disadvantaged youth in the Bayside District. Should your Lodge wish to add a contribution to this charity please contact WBro. Alan Tyndall as soon as possible.

Please put this date in your diaries as we would like to have a large attendance to indicate to the Bayside Community that Freemasonry is alive and well. This is also one of the few times that we can meet as a District to be involved in an activity so please try and attend.

Hearts of Oak Lodge always meet for lunch afterwards and if you would like to join them please contact their Secretary Alan Tyndall on 0417 521 507 or by email: alanetyndall@iprimus.com.au

We promise you a great morning.

Freemasonry in Creswick – The Secrets of the “Goat Cage”

Have you ever wondered about the workings of Freemasonry? Have you ever wished you could look inside that classical building in Albert Street? Are you interested in the history of Creswick and District, looked at from a different angle? Now is your opportunity.



The Creswick Havilah Lodge recently decided it was time to sort through the contents of the undercroft, a space under the floor of the foyer at the front of the building. It was a repository of artefacts, old documents and records of former times. The Creswick and District Historical Society were asked whether they could examine the old archives to see what might be deemed historical. Of course, the answer was “Yes please” and Secretary Val Lawrence and President Jack Van Beveren went with Lodge archivist Michael Clark to examine what was there.

The Supper Room of the Lodge is located beneath the Lodge building and is mostly used, as the name implies, for dining after Lodge meetings. Up some stairs is the kitchen and then through a small door is the undercroft, sometimes referred to as the “Goat Cage”.

As they sifted through the hoard, they began to realise the scope and value of the archive contained in it. The records revealed the close relationship between the activities and commercial life of the town and the workings of the Lodge from 1859 on. There were invoices and receipts for everything from food and drink to clothing and Lodge furnishings, and even silverware and jewellery. There was the original Warrant from the Grand Lodge in London, dated 1859, authorising the establishment of the Lodge. There is a portrait of Sir Alexander Peacock, Victorian Premier at the time, in his full Masonic regalia, and many letters seeking aid from the Lodge by townspeople and former Masons fallen on hard times.

The Creswick Havilah Lodge and the Creswick and District Historical Society are mounting an exhibition of items from the “Goat Cage” and other treasures, to enable the Creswick community and visitors, Freemasons from everywhere, and historians to examine and evaluate their find.

Details of the Exhibition are as follows:

DATE: 16th October to 6th November, 2016

TIMES: 10:00am to 4:30pm daily

VENUE: Creswick’s beautiful and historic Havilah Lodge building, Albert Street, Creswick

ENTRY: By gold coin donation

CONTACTS:

Mrs Val Lawrence, Creswick & District Historical Society - T: 5345 1310 E:valanlaw@gmail.com

Michael Clark, Havilah Lodge T: 5345 1161 E: remclark@netconnect.com.au



Warrnambool Freemasons
present



RACING FOR FOODSHARE

on Melbourne Cup Eve

Fun Filled Charity Fundraiser
for FoodShare Warrnambool

MC'ed by Richard Ziegeler



- * **Phantom Race Call by Phillip Kelly**
- * **Mock Horse Races**
- * **Outrageous Fashions on the Field
(Ladies & Men)**
- * **Two Course Meal w/Tea & Coffee**
- * **Drinks at bar prices**
- * **Spot Prizes**



At the Warrnambool Football Club Oval Room
on Monday 31st October at 6:30pm for 7:00pm start.

Get your family and friends together for a great night.
\$30 per person (tables of 10) - limited tickets available.
(Please advise of any special dietary requirements)



Strictly payment in advance by Monday 24th October
to Neil Smith at Spectrum, 377 Raglan Parade, Warrnambool.
All enquiries to neil@spectrum-oz.com or 0418 529 427.