

## Freemasons Victoria Wins Community Heritage Grant

Freemasons Victoria Library and Museum has been awarded a Federal Community Heritage Grant to fund a Significance Assessment report to be produced for their entire collection.



The grant was announced at the National Library of Australia in Canberra on 25 October, 2016.

This year, grants worth \$415,075 have been distributed to 77 community groups and organisations from around Australia to assist in the identification and preservation of community owned but nationally significant heritage collections. In addition, Samantha Fabry, Collections Manager from Freemasons Victoria Library and Museum attended a three-day intensive preservation and collection management workshop held at the National Library, the National Archives of Australia, the National Museum of Australia and the National Film and Sound Archive in Canberra.

Samantha said the grant was important in supporting the effort to preserve Freemasons Victoria's heritage at the grassroots level.

“While the grant provides the funds, the workshop offers the expertise to help us protect our collection and make it accessible while it remains in the local context,” Samantha said.

Director-General of the National Library of Australia, Ms Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, said the CHG program showed the commitment by the National Library, along with its partner institutions and the Federal Government, in encouraging communities to care for the nation’s heritage, be it in small country towns or capital cities.

CHG is managed by the National Library. It is funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Communications and the Arts; the National Archives of Australia; the National Film and Sound Archive; the National Museum of Australia and the National Library.

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## Young Virtuoso of the Year Award 2016

Freemasons Victoria have a long and proud history of supporting youth in the community, providing opportunities for self-development and seeking excellence in all pursuits. As the main sponsor of the both the Victoria Young Performer Award and the Young Virtuoso of the Year Award this year, Freemasons Victoria has joined with the Fine Music Network to provide the best and brightest young musicians the opportunity to kick start a major performing career.



*Pictured is last year's winner of the Young Virtuoso of the Year Award, Melbourne-trained clarinettist Magdalenna Krstevka (centre) with WBro. Alan Richmond, 3MBS Champion Patron and representing Freemasons Victoria (left) and Thilo Troschke, 3MBS Chairman (right). Photo credit Dan Rotman*

The most talented young musicians from across Australia will compete for the prestigious title of Young Virtuoso of the Year in Melbourne later this month.

The annual competition is run by the Australian Fine Music Network, a collaboration between Fine Music (Sydney), 3MBS (Melbourne), 4MBS (Brisbane), 5MBS (Adelaide) and Art Sound (Canberra). The winners from each state's own Young Performer Award competition make up the finalists for the Young Virtuoso of the Year Award. The young musician judged to be the best on the day will take home a generous cash prize of \$10,000.

Previous Victorian winners of the Young Virtuoso of the Award include pianists Hoang Pham, Matthew Kam and Stephen Ma, violinist Tessa Ho and clarinettist Magdalena Krstevka.

**The 2016 National Fine Music Network Young Virtuoso of the Year Award will take place 2pm, Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November at St Johns Southgate. To get tickets for this free event please contact 3MBS: [rsvp@3mbs.org.au](mailto:rsvp@3mbs.org.au) or (03) 9416 1035.**

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## **Sturt-Buninyong United Lodge Supports Shower Bus Project**

The social committee of the Sturt-Buninyong United Lodge raises money via an annual fruit sale to support the Lodge's charitable efforts within the local Ballarat community. The committee is always on the lookout for worthy local causes to support, and the commencement of a project to provide a shower bus for the homeless people of Ballarat attracted their attention. The social committee committed \$1000 towards the project, and applied to the Freemasons Foundation to support their donation.

The shower bus when completed will provide a facility for the homeless in Ballarat to have access to a clean shower and fresh clothing. The bus will be stocked with all manner of clothing and other materials for general health and well-being. It will complement the soup bus, which is already in operation, and both will operate in the same vicinity. It is expected that the shower bus will commence operation during November.



*At the presentation of the \$2000 donation (L to R) Bro. Ken Jenkin, Social Committee President, Mike McCaw and Constantine Osuchukwu from One Humanity Shower Bus Inc. and Bro. Alan Glasson, Social Committee Assistant Secretary.*

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## Ride For Headspace 2017

The Freemasons Cycling Club is currently organising the "Ride for **headspace** 2017."

Members of the FMCC (Vic) will cycle from **headspace** offices in Wodonga to Ballarat, a distance of approximately 430kms, in support of **headspace** National Youth Mental Health Foundation in Victoria.

Freemasons Cycling Club plan to raise awareness on the importance of mental health as well as raise funds for Headspace as an organisation through the physical and mental health benefits of bicycling.

This ride represents an opportunity to exemplify Freemasons core values and capture the imagination of those in support. The event is from 28 February and 3 March 2017.

For further information contact WBro. Malcolm Mann via email at [malcolm.fmcc.vic@gmail.com](mailto:malcolm.fmcc.vic@gmail.com)

Come along for the ride!

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# Member Profiles: Good Men, Good Values, Good Guidance



**Freemasonry – What it means to me.**

**By Bro. Timothy Clark, a Master Mason and Director of Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited**

In 2012 I began a journey unlike any other offered to young men in the modern world. It was a journey I knew nothing about. I didn't know where it would take me, or where it would end. Four years later and I still don't know where this journey will take me, however I do know a little more about what freemasonry means to me.

My late grandfather Fredrick Smythe was a passionate Freemason, but most importantly he was a good, kind, family man too. I saw him as a devoted father and grandfather, social and very philanthropic. He loved freemasonry, and in his later years it kept him active, ensuring a healthy mind.

When asked what sparked my initial attraction to freemasonry, the answer initially was relatively simple. Yet today my answer is not. Freemasonry offers so much more than just the elements I

expected to find, and the reality is that freemasonry can be whatever you would like it to be.

Aside from the philanthropic component, there is ritual and ceremony; which creates confidence whilst teaching patience and discipline. To some freemasonry can be purely social; the friendships gained are likely to be lifelong and prosperous. Yet still, this is not what I feel Freemasonry offers most to today's younger man.

For me, the most valuable aspect of Freemasonry is the life lessons we are taught and the values we are encouraged to uphold. Furthermore, the way in which freemasonry teaches us these lessons is exquisite in its nature. Our rituals have significance and meaning, but so does the company we keep; the company of other brethren.

The greatest lessons I have learn in my Masonic journey thus far stem from informal counsel from other brethren. Brethren whom have travelled paths which I am now taking, passing on their experiences – good and bad – in the hope that this may assist me to make wise decisions for my future, and for those who I care about, my family.

You see, our fraternity is full of good men from all walks of life. Diverse men from all sections of society with differing backgrounds, stories, setbacks and successes. Yet for all our differences – religious and political included, we all share a common belief; that we are good men, of good

character and sound moral standing. We are men who wish to help our families, our community and each other.

It is because of this common trait that younger members should take counsel from our brothers and trust that the lessons and knowledge they are sharing may someday help us make an informed decision. It may help us avoid a mistake which they have made themselves, or it may even guide us in a particular direction. This wealth of wisdom and knowledge exists within our organisation, and what's more, it's free to those who wish to hear it.

Freemasonry needs to highlight the fact that these - albeit informal in nature - personal development opportunities exist within our organisation. We need to inform the wider community that we are an organisation of good men with good values, and offer good guidance for young men starting their journey into adult life.

It is important to state that society has rapidly changed in the past few decades and the world today would be almost unrecognisable to my late grandfather. It saddens me to say that many things in life today don't have meaning, lack purpose or are simply considered disposable. Yet knowledge and wisdom to the modern man is more valuable now, than ever. It is a powerful tool and Freemasonry offers it for free to those who wish to hear it. We need to tell our friends, family and colleagues this. Let's inform them of the wonderful work freemasonry does within the community.

Let's spread our message to young men and inform them that we are an organisation which encourages them to excel, supports them when in need, and counsels them when facing an uncertain path. If we do this, we will attract new men and their families. Let's then help them be wiser, be kinder, more accepting to others. If we do this we will grow, and when I have a grandson of my own, he too will enjoy the friendship, counsel and wisdom which Freemasonry offers, and holds so dear.

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## Member Profiles: Why I love Freemasonry



By **WBro. Edy Wilfling**

### What does being a Freemason mean to you?

Freemasonry means being part of a group or society that offers opportunity for learning, personal development and growth, honesty, integrity, and supporting members, their families, as well as the wider community.

### What are the benefits of being a Freemason?

There are many benefits from becoming a freemason, and these benefits can vary from individual to individual. For me however, the benefits are not

tangible in any specific way. It is the sense of belonging to an organisation that I know is there to help and care for its members.

### **What philanthropic initiatives have you been working on?**

The Mornington Lodge fund a scholarship in memory of one of its members who became the Grand Master of Victoria in 1993, Most Worshipful Brother John Willoughby Humphris.

The scholarship is awarded to a worthy student, chosen by the Principal and Staff, of the Mornington Secondary College. The Lodge is actively raising funds through various activities to increase the amount of the scholarship and in the hope of having a second scholarship available in the near future.

### **Why does the world need freemasonry?**

The world needs freemasonry for the pure philanthropy achieved on a daily basis. Freemasons continually and silently raise money for local charities, with no hidden agenda or wish for recognition, during times of peace and during times of disaster.

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# **Secrets of Early Creswick As Revealed By Freemasons Victoria**

The small historic township of Creswick in the heart of Victoria's central goldfields, just 16 kms north of Ballarat has been the site of a significant discovery of historic documents and artefacts.

The discovery was made under the floorboards of the Masonic Centre in the main street.



**The Creswick Havilah Masonic Lodge**

Samantha Fabry, Freemasons Victoria Collections Manager said, "The papers, photographs, letters, receipts, and the wealth of artefacts discovered are all original and date from 1859 onwards, and

serve to demonstrate the close relationship between the Lodge, the people and businesses of the district.

"The Lodge commenced in 1859, with authorisation being received from England for its founding. The building was constructed in 1890 by local tradesmen, previous meetings were temporarily held at The American Hotel."

Ms Fabry said an extensive exhibition has been mounted through cooperation between the Creswick Havilah Lodge and the Creswick and District Historical Society, to enable the Creswick community, visitors, historians and Freemasons from everywhere to examine and evaluate their find.

When: 16th October 2016 to 6th November, 2016

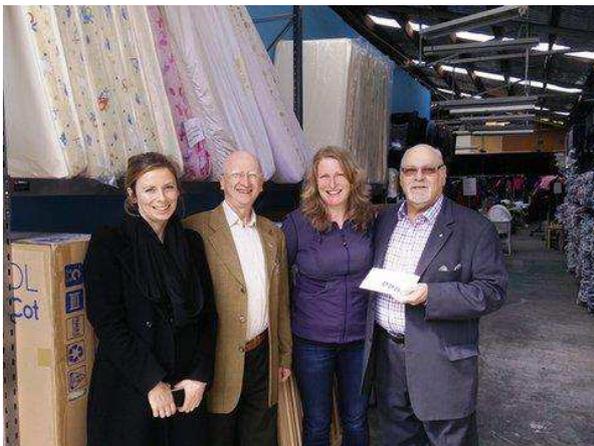
Times: 10:00am - 4:30pm daily

Place: Creswick Masonic Centre, 96 Albert Street, Creswick

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## Spreading Awareness about Freemasonry and Supporting Local Charities in our Community

On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2016 WBro. Sam Lewin and WBro. Simon Benedykt embarked on a road trip to spread the Freemasonry message and to support local charities within their community. The first stop on the journey was with the St Kilda Mums who raise money for local charities with sausage sizzles, social events and raffles. Sam and Simon presented them with a cheque to buy eleven new cots and mattresses for the St Kilda Mum's Cots for Tots Appeal.



**St. Kilda Mums: Fiona and Jess with WBro. Sam Lewin (Middle) and WBro. Simon Benedykt**

Second stop for the trip was "Stand Up" a humanitarian organization seeking to inspire the Jewish community to work towards the promotion of social justice. They work with vulnerable communities in order to help them develop the skills and networks to take action on their own behalf. "Empowering; Engaging; Educating;"



**Left: Adrienne and Lisa Buchner with WBro. Sam Lewin**

Next was the Children’s Hospice and Family Support where Very Special Kids cares for children with life-threatening conditions by providing a children’s hospice and professional family support services. They help more than 900 families across Victoria with ongoing support from diagnosis all the way through to recovery or bereavement.



**Very Special Kids: WBro. Simon Benedykt with Taryn O’Brien and WBro. Sam Lewin.**

From here WBro. Sam Lewin and WBro. Simon Benedykt continued on to Access Inc. This independent not for profit organization works to help people with disability achieve their life goals. They run a range of innovative and cutting edge programs, as well as activities, designed to enrich the lives of its members and the Community. Access’s activities are designed to shift the perception of people with disability by advocating for their inclusion and gaining acceptance for their positive contribution to

society.

“Your support enables Access Inc. to continue its work to make this dream a reality. With your help, we have been able to reach out to over 690 families with children who have a disability. Thank you for supporting our dream,” said Vicki Factor, President of Access Inc.



**WBro. Simon Benedykt, Louisa Gibson and WBro. Sam Lewin**

The last stop for the day was the Community Security Group, which plays a vital protection role in keeping the Victorian Jewish community safe. Community Security Group relies on donations in order to carry out its mission. Their duties include providing highly trained volunteers to protect the Jewish community at Synagogues on Shabbat and Yom Tov, protecting the Jewish community's major events, responding to security emergencies 24/7, investigating anti-Semitic incidents, training schools parents to protect the children at Jewish schools, training commercial security guards at Jewish schools and other facilities, providing security advice for Jewish community organisations, and liaising with State and Federal Police to ensure the community is best protected.

After a long day WBro. Sam Lewin and WBro. Simon Benedykt were feeling benevolent and also very humbled by this experience. In total \$6250 was donated on behalf of Lodge Fraternal No 603 and Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited.

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# FREEMASONS VICTORIA

# FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

## 2016

### Remembrance Event

### Invitation

The Grand Master, Don Reynolds takes pleasure in inviting you to a special commemorative event in recognition of Victorians who have served the nation and in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Long Tan Battle. Freemasons Victoria extends appreciation to the 5000 Poppies Community Tribute of Respect and Remembrance.

Date: Tuesday 8th November, 2016

Time: 9:30am – 12:30pm

Venue: Keysborough Masonic Centre  
270 Hutton Road  
Keysborough Vic 3173

RSVP: Tuesday 1st November  
[www.trybooking.com/MKUC](http://www.trybooking.com/MKUC) OR [www.trybooking.com/218194](http://www.trybooking.com/218194)  
RSVP is essential - please print and bring your ticket along for entry  
For enquiries please contact Julia Edwards on 9411 0103

Dress: Gentlemen: Lounge suit or jacket and tie  
Ladies: Smart day wear

Parking: 60 car parks available onsite at Keysborough Masonic Centre

Guests are invited to witness a special Masonic tribute to ex-service men and women. Light refreshments will be served following the Long Tan Ceremony.

**PLEASE NOTE: Bookings are essential. Only 60 seats available & guest names will be checked off at the door.**

**Security will close access to the car park by 9.45am in preparation for the wreath laying ceremony. No vehicle access to the car park will be permitted after this time.**