

Brethren All,

I am continually amazed by the enthusiasm of our staff and members. Freemasonry is such a diverse institution that is an honour to lead during such an exciting time in our history.

Recently I attended Xped 2011 with other Brethren and staff who gave up their Saturday to make a daily Advancement in Masonic Education. The day provided a wealth of informative, educational sessions that were received with gratitude and enthusiasm. I wish to congratulate RWBro. Merv Hallam, PDGM, GSuptEd and his committee for a job well done.

On a sad note, I was shocked and upset when two weeks ago, the news was received that Christchurch had suffered another devastating earthquake. It was only in November last year that we were in the beautiful city for the Grand Installation of MWBro. Selwyn Cooper. I know our collective thoughts and prayers go out to the residents of Christchurch as they start the daunting task of cleaning up and rebuilding their lives.

With tragedies closer to home, I am receiving reports from Brethren and their families who have been impacted by the recent floods in Country Victoria. I know the support provided by our Task Force, who continue to provide hands-on assistance to these people is greatly appreciated and other forms of assistance will be forthcoming. Brethren, this reflects the generosity and spirit of our members and truly makes me feel proud.

Yours in Freemasonry,
Vaughan Werner
Grand Master



Grand Master Vaughan Werner

Membership Update

These statistics take into account all reported data received (from Lodge Meeting Reports, etc) at Grand Lodge as at 5pm 28 February 2011.

Membership Initiations – February 2011

- During February, 34 members were initiated state wide.
- The average age of these new initiates is 38-years-old.
- New initiates by District for February were: Central (5), Bayside (5), Western (4), Northern (3), Loddon (2), Goulburn (2), Gippsland East (2), South East Mornington (2), North East (2), Maroondah (2), North West (1), South West (1), Central Highlands (1), Bellarine Otway (1) and Monash Gully (1).
- During February, Grand Lodge processed 19 applications of which 10 have been referred to Lodges, 4 are awaiting allocations by District Coordinators and 5 are awaiting meetings with the New Membership Committee.
- During February, 28 new propositions were received across the state.

Membership Initiations – Year to date (January - February 2011)

- 51 members were initiated YTD.
- The average age of these new initiates was 36-years-old.
- Districts with the highest totals for new initiates YTD are: Central (5), Bayside (5), Western (4), and Northern (3).
- The Lodge with the highest recruitment total is Middle Park with 4 new initiates.
- Taking into account all movements on our membership database including members pending re-affiliation after Lodge closures, the net loss of members for February was 9.

Statewide membership target by 2013:

- The Membership decline will have halted.
- We will have 13,400 members.
- The average age of our membership will have decreased at least to 65-years-old.

Your Lodge target now:

- **Recruit 2 new members per Lodge per year!**

XPED 2011 hailed a success

By Jim Puohotaua

The four letters 'XPED' are an abbreviation of the word Expedition and the last two digits are the last two digits of the current year.

An expedition according to *Wikipedia* refers to a long journey or voyage undertaken for a specific purpose, often exploratory. When developing the three year strategic plan in February 2007, the Education Committee adopted the word Expedition to align with our XPED mission.

XPED was first run in February 2008 with XPED08 and the expedition continued this year with XPED11 at the Dallas Brooks Centre on Saturday 19 February 2011.

XPED11 Round-Up

Presentations & Programs

- **Membership**
- **MAPS & Speakers' Panel**
- **Planning & Presentation Skills**
- **Lodge Accreditation & Renewal Update**
- **Communications Key Messages Templates**
- **Ceremonial Ritual WM, Wardens, & DC**
- **Communications Internet PC Workshop**
- **Ceremonial Ritual Deacons & Others**

Registrations

Registered	204
Presenters & volunteers	39 (Not included in Registered above)
TOTAL	243

Attendance

Registered and present	167
Presenters and volunteers	27
Walk-ins on the day	7

Total Actual	201
Apologies	28
Surveys completed	127

VMMA ride into Government House History



VMMA members arrive in style to Government House

Reported by: Chris Wells, VMMA Inc. President

Professor David de Kretser, Governor of Victoria and Mrs de Kretser hosted a grand reception at Government House on Thursday 3 March to acknowledge the VMMA's successful 'Breathless' 8-Day Ride around Victoria that raised much needed funds and awareness of Cystic Fibrosis.

Over 80 invited guests attended the morning VIP reception that included MWBro. Vaughan Werner Grand Master and RWBro. Frank Fordyce, PJGW, PBB, WBro. Chris Wells VMMA Inc. President and Mrs Jennifer Loughman Chair, Cystic Fibrosis Victoria Board.

The reception was held in the 'State Drawing Room' and commenced with the Governor making an opening address that acknowledged the VMMA's valued support of Cystic Fibrosis and the unique appeal of the Freemasons active motorcycle association.

Chris Wells was invited to speak on behalf of the VMMA making particular mention of the valued contribution of members who have made the 'Breathless Ride' a roaring success for the past three years. Chris shared the story of the special friendship that was developed between the VMMA and Kaiser Wehbe – a young Cystic Fibrosis sufferer who has received a double lung transplant.

Over the 8-day journey, VMMA members we were privileged to be part of many of Kaiser's first life experiences such as seeing a waterfall, playing in snow and being pillion on a very fast motorcycle. Kaiser had his heart set on being part of the recent Breathless Ride, but having a second double lung transplant prevented this. Kaiser sadly passed away in January 2011.

Chris presented Mrs Jennifer Loughman, Chair of CFV Board with a cheque for \$87,838.19 to close the official proceedings.

Students receive 'Bursary Awards' at Kyneton Lodge



Pictured: Students Alisha, Keegan, John, and Mitchell together with WBro. John Kelly representing the Board of Benevolence and RWBro. Brian Davenport, WM of the Kyneton Lodge.

On Monday 7 February 2011, four students each received \$200 for 'bursary awards'. Other organisations who received donations on the evening included the Kyneton Municipal Band, Macedon Children's Choir, The 430 Air Cadet Squadron of Kyneton and the Light Horse Monument Regiment Association.

The 4/19th Light Horse Regiment was first established in Kyneton with one Lodge member being part of the regiment in Major Harold Fyans, who was the Vet for all the horses in the First World War.

The Kyneton Municipal Band provided excellent entertainment for the night.

Lodge Amalthea installs a Peer of the Realm



Pictured Left to Right: VWBro. Kent Henderson PGIWkgs (IPM of Amalthea), WBro. The Rt Hon Earl of Dunmore WM (WM of Amalthea), MWBro. Carl Stewart PGM (installing Master) and WBro. David Blake AGDC.

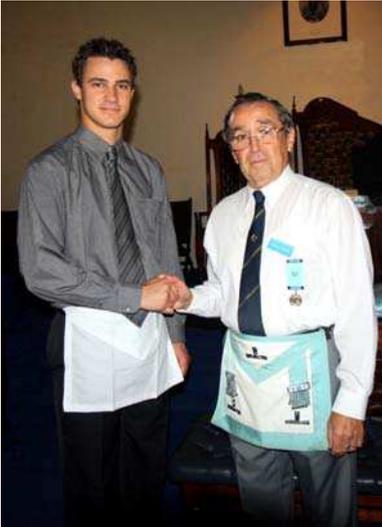
Only three Peers of the Realm have ever been installed into the Chair of a Craft lodge in Victoria – two have been serving Governors of Victoria (and Grand Masters) – the last being Lord Somers as WM of Army Lodge in 1930. The third is WBro. the Right Honorable Malcolm Kenneth Murray, 12th Earl of Dunmore, Viscount of Fincastle, Lord Murray of Blair, Moulin and Tillimet, and Knight of the Order of St. John – who was installed as Master on Lodge Amalthea 914 on Saturday 26 February at the Masonic Centre of Victoria.

The ceremony was conducted by MWBro. Carl Stewart, Past Grand Master (a member of the Lodge), and the current Grand Lodge Team. After the installation, 120 members, ladies and guests enjoyed an expansive ceremonial dinner at the Melbourne Club.

The Peerage of the Earls of Dunmore dates from 1686. Of the twelve Earls, ten have been Freemasons. The 4th, 6th and 10th Earls all served terms as Grand Master Mason of Scotland. The Earldom of Dunmore is the second most senior in the Scottish Peerage. The 12th Earl and his wife, Joy, Countess of Dunmore, reside in Tasmania – but regularly visit Melbourne (and England – he attended the Golden Jubilee celebrations of HM the Queen in 2002).

Lodge Amalthea is looking forward to an outstanding year under Lord Dunmore's leadership. At the July meeting of the Lodge (Saturday 26 July – at the Athenaeum Club), Lord Dunmore will be giving a talk on the House of Lords and his induction therein.

An adventure of a lifetime

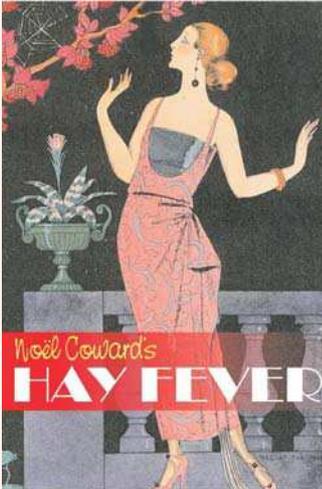


History was made on Friday 18 February 2011 at Bairnsdale Daylight Lodge No. 877 when Bro. Lee Robert Whitechurch, (20) was Initiated by his Grandfather RWBro. David Provan, Past Master of the Lodge & its current Director of Ceremonies.

The Worshipful Master WBro. Ted Gibson invited David back into the chair for this historical occasion – being a first for the Lodge.

An in-depth interview with Bro. Lee will be published in the upcoming Freemasonry Victoria Magazine as he leaves Paynesville to undertake 156 days of extensive training with the Australian Defence Force in Wagga and Sydney.

HAY FEVER: A PLAY BY NOEL COWARD



The Encore Theatre Company have kindly donated their time and resources to provide a charity performance of the popular production of *Hay Fever* at the Canterbury Lodge on Thursday 24 March, 2011.

All proceeds raised from this function will be directly donated to the Grand Master's Queensland Flood Relief Appeal to assist fellow Australians in their time of need.

Written by Noel Coward, Directed by Horrie Leek and arranged by Dominie Pty Ltd, *Hay Fever* tells the story of The Bliss family who are ultra-Bohemian. The family casually announces they have invited guests for the weekend and wind up suffering an uncomfortable dinner as the family introduces a word game only understood by them. Histrionics and terror see the terrified guests making a lively exit the next morning.

Where: Clayton Community Centre – Cooke Street, Clayton (Melway 79C3)
When: Thursday 24 March
Time: Pre-drinks 7:30pm for 8:00pm start
Cost: \$20.00 per person

Bookings & Payment:

WBro. Len Richardson - E: lenric1@bigpond.com PH: 98079595
WBro. Stuart Thompson E: astlian@bigpond.net.au PH: 9822 9707.

Family and friends are welcome. Venue capacity allows for 110 patrons so please be quick to secure the best seats. Wheelchair access and facilities are available.

Proud and emotional evening for a dad and his boys....



Pictured Left to Right: Bro. Jamie Austin, Bro. Stephen Austin and WBro. Don Austin, PJGD

The Passing of Stephen Austin to the Second Degree with his Brother Jamie as Senior Deacon and his Father Don carrying out the Obligation; was the catalyst for some exceptional delivery of charges at the Plenty Valley Lodge No. 703.

The high level of emotion and all round good spirit induced a few tears when WBro. Don took Stephen's hand and simply said, "Rise, my Son, duly obligated."

Don was extremely proud that his two sons have become Freemasons. "There are many highs and a few emotional moments when it comes to being proud. I can remember Jamie's Graduation Parade at RAAF Base Edinburgh as another proud and emotional moment we shared. The day Stephen was born I was fortunate to be with his mother Tricia and that occasion is also hard to beat. Tonight I am especially proud. I wish to thank all the Brethren for their special effort."

Freemasons Victoria partner with Melbourne Youth Music



On 19 February 2011 during the Melbourne Youth Orchestra's performance at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl in front of a 4,000 strong audience, Freemasons Victoria Grand Master, Vaughan Werner, presented a cheque for \$25,000 to Melbourne Youth Music as part of an ongoing partnership which will provide the support required to promote musical excellence in young people. Both Freemasons Victoria and Melbourne Youth Music are delighted to have found in each other a partner with such mutually complementary philosophies, principally, a commitment to continued personal development.

Melbourne Youth Music has long offered educational programs for young musicians which expand their access to, and enrich their experience of, high-quality ensemble music-making, and which build their confidence both as performers and as future leaders in the community.

The Ensemble Program has formed the core of MYM's work from the very beginning and is now in its 45th year of operation, continuing to provide educational and ensemble performance opportunities for students aged 8 – 25 years.

As part of the partnership agreement, members of the Melbourne Youth Music orchestra will perform at future Freemasons Quarterly Communications and Grand Installations.

Also present at the concert was RWBro. Frank Fordyce, PJGW, PBB, VWBro. Keith Murray, GSupWks along with wife Fiona and Vaughan's wife, Bev Werner.

Masons believe in a 'Fair Go'



Picture Left to Right: WBro. Rob Richardson, Radio Presenter and Columnist Yvonne Lawrence and Grand Master, Vaughan Werner at 3WBC 94.1 fm radio studio in Box Hill.

Grand Master, Vaughan Werner, was recently invited by 3WBC 94.1 *fm* by radio presenter Yvonne Lawrence and regular program contributor WBro. Rob Richardson to discuss all things Freemasonry.

3WBC is a community based broadcaster serving **Melbourne's Eastern Suburbs**, located approximately 15km to the east of the Melbourne CBD in the Box Hill Town Hall hub. 3WBC broadcasts a mix of local music, news, entertainment and sporting programs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

During the 45 minute interview, Vaughan and Yvonne discussed a range of issues including her family connections to Freemasonry, dispelling myths about the Roman Catholics not being able to become Freemasons, community involvement in charitable work, regalia, 'little black cases', open nights, Facebook, the internet and the continued self-development for young men wanting to join.

Yvonne commented in her regular column entitled '**Masons Believe in a Fair Go**' published in the Melbourne Observer, "I was a bit nervous preparing the interview because there is not much talk about what happens in the Craft but Vaughan was so down to earth and such an interesting and direct man I forgot my nerves in the first minute and enjoyed myself very much."

Classes commencing in March - 'Certificate of Masonic Studies'



The Victorian Lodge of Research will be conducting additional classes in their popular 'Certificate of Masonic Studies' commencing mid March 2011.

Venues include:

- South East Masonic Centre
- Ivalda Masonic Centre
- Gordon Masonic Centre

Note: New classes will commence at the Bendigo Masonic Centre in April or May.

Brethren desiring to make their 'daily advancement' are invited to register their interest with the Lodge Secretary, Alan Jennings, on 9459 9610 or email ajjay@alphalink.com.au

Application forms may be downloaded from www.viclodgeofresearch.com

CBD Quarterly Luncheon kicks goals with 'Freemasons in the CBD'



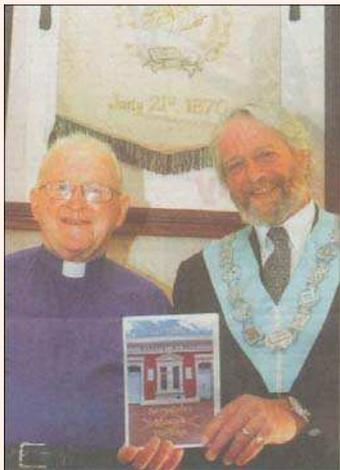
Over 60 Freemasons and their guests recently enjoyed the second 'Freemasons in the CBD' quarterly luncheon held at Morgans @ 401 Collins Street.

Amidst the colourful array of Freemasons Victoria balloons, streamers and a sea of AFL footy scarves, guests enjoyed a two-course meal whilst guest speaker ex-AFL Essendon footballer Mark Bolton and General Manager of youth homelessness organisation – LADDER took to the lectern and delivered an engaging presentation on his football career, advice received from Kevin Sheedy and the success story behind the rise of LADDER.

Grand Master, Vaughan Werner explained the way in which Freemasonry and sport have shared a wonderful relationship for decades. In 1941 - a group of like minded sportsman got together and formed the Sportsman's Lodge No. 543 at the Malvern Masonic Hall in High Street, Malvern. A larger Lodge called Sportsman Cramone also formed by the mid 70's and between the two Lodges there had been around 200 members, representing sports from horse racing, cricket, VFL, cycling, billiards, car racing, tennis, yachting and golf. Vaughan presented the official Member Register Book that recorded all members from 1941 until 1954.

The CBD luncheon was also attended by New Zealand's Grand Master, MWBro. Selwyn Cooper and his wife, Jan and 3AW's General Manager, Shane Healy and Program Director Clark Forbes. The luncheon was wonderfully MC'd by WBro. David Gibbs PGIWkgs.

Freemason's Book Launch



Pictured Left to Right: The Reverend Ted Gibson (Master of Bairnsdale Daylight Lodge) and Geoff Harwood (Master of the Union Lodge).

The Reverend Ted Gibson recently launched a book on Bairnsdale's Masonic Heritage at the Masonic Hall that coincided with the 141st anniversary of the original Union Lodge of North Gippsland in 1870. Copies of the book can be ordered through the Bairnsdale Daylight Lodge.

2011 Grand Installation Registrations Now Closing.

Registrations for the Quarterly Communication and Installation will officially close by the close of business on Wednesday 9 March 2011. For registration forms:- installation@freemasonsvic.net.au.

Tickets to the Grand Installation Banquet have completely sold-out.

Red Lodge Demonstration Night

One of the mysteries of Freemasonry, especially for newer members, is the world of Freemasonry that extends beyond the Craft. We younger Masons hear stories about the so-called fourth and fifth degrees, Scottish and York rites, Knights Templar, an invitation only 33rd degree and some strange Latin named ones that are hard to remember. Unfortunately, there is not a central place to research these 'other orders' and decide what interests you; what follows what; and when you should take the step beyond the Craft.

To assist in this research, Lodge Amalthea's second night for the year is a demonstration of five red lodges. The meeting is open to all members of the Craft and other lodges from around the district are encouraged to bring their newer members to the demonstration.

The background to each order will be given in detail, as well as a presentation of the regalia or costumes worn by members. There will be time for questions to satisfy potential candidates for these orders about the next step they are contemplating. There will be no one lodge of any order being promoted - the evening is about providing information on the order in general.

Lodge Amalthea tyles at 6.15pm on the third Tuesday of the odd months – this month is 22nd March. We dine out for a fantastic three course South which costs \$75.

RSVP at <http://on.fb.me/h2GU5Y> . Any questions please give Michael Maher on 0416 245 981.