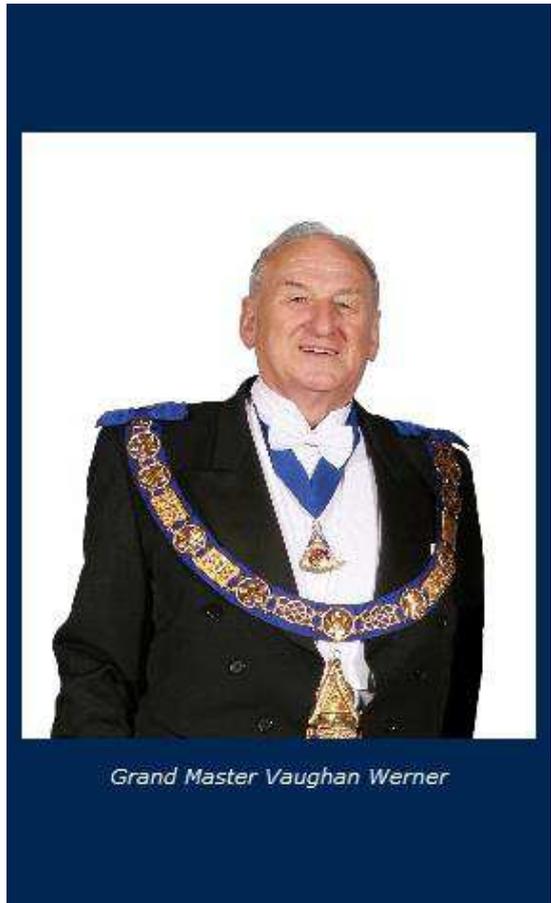


Brethren All,

Bev and I would like to extend our thanks to the members, guests and staff who attended my re-installation on Saturday 19 March. As soprano Siobhan Stagg's vibrato echoed across the auditorium, I couldn't help but take a moment to silently reflect on the past year's achievements.

Twelve months ago I compared our task of improving membership to "turning around the Titanic". There are now signs that the bow is coming around:-

- Retention of members has increased and the resignation rate slowed significantly, thus stabilising our membership for the first time in decades.
- Initiations have increased by 22%.
- Last November saw a small net increase in membership for the month – a first for many years.
- The Accreditation process and the MAPs program have improved member engagement.
- Our deeper involvement with the community in working through partnerships is proving positive.
- The media in general is taking more interest in what Freemasonry actually does in support of the community.



Membership growth is the future of the Craft in Victoria. Grand Lodge is providing the strategies, the guidance, the programs and the professional people to drive those programs and assist Lodges as needed. Brethren, please use these facilities and remember, each of you is a public relations agent on behalf of the Craft. As individuals, you are the strongest form of advertising that we have, and you have a responsibility to help build our membership.

Yours in Freemasonry,  
Vaughan Werner  
Grand Master

By Lena Way



Grand Master MWBro Vaughan Werner

Until Saturday 19 March, I was a Grand Installation virgin. Having worked at the Shrine of Remembrance for four years, I'd had some exposure to the precise military-style solemnity associated with such ceremonial occasions. Nonetheless, I was intrigued with the ancient ritual performed marking the affirmation of MWBro. Vaughan Werner as the Grand Master, or as some of my friends prefer, the Grand 'Pooh Bah'.

I recall a number of observations during the three and a half hours that spanned the Quarterly Communication and Installation Ceremony. I remember marvelling at the Director of Ceremonies, VWBro. Mark Eadon's ability memorise so many movements and annotations and WBro. Chris Miras's skill in maneuvering his sword without beheading the person next to him. I felt for WBro. Jim Puohotaua and fellow band members sitting up in the nose-bleed section – I thought it must get quite hot up there after several fanfares. I was impressed with the Conductor

of the choir Bro. Princeton Miller, Grand Organist VWBro. Roger Manderson, pianist Bro. Max Castree, RWBro. Barry Reaper for painstakingly following every single word of the ceremony in case a prompt was required and the Grand Chaplain for delivering prayers in such a fluent, Sean Connery-like manner. I note the sign of fidelity and grand honours replace the military salute, gold chains replace stripes and the more fancy your apron is and the bigger your chair, the more senior you are!

After a few hours, my rear was aching in the less-than-comfortable lounge level seats of the auditorium, so how did the Grand Officers manage to sit still in those rigid chairs for so long, let alone without a comfort break? I could sense the octogenarian sitting next to my husband Ben becoming increasingly agitated as his splayed legs kept encroaching on her leg room. I guess no one wants someone else's legs on their lap. Uncomfortable seats aside, I gained a new level of understanding for Freemasonry, the hierarchy of office, how revered Grand Masters and Past Grand Masters are (of course) and how sharp one's memory must be to learn such extensive passages of ritual. It was a grand occasion, a well executed ceremony and something I can add to my repertoire of first-time experiences. Congratulations to all those who participated in this memorable event, to all those who received promotions and I look forward to another year under the Grand Master's leadership.

Oh, and Second Grand Principal REmComp. Ron Harrison assures me no animal was harmed during the making of his robe. Is that true?

## Why I love Freemasonry

Engage! would like to introduce you to some Freemasons who commenced their new positions as of the Grand Installation held on 19 March. Here's why they love Freemasonry:



**VWBro. Clive Hardeman PGInspWkgs**

District Co-ordinator Bayside District. Freemason for 34 years

*"I love Freemasonry because of the challenge to understand and learn the ritual, and the wonderful friendships you make."*



**WBro. Jim Puohotau PJGD**

Deputy Grand Superintendent of Membership. Freemason for 14 years.

*"I love the pomp and pageantry of Masonic Ceremony done well, the eloquence of charges executed by our Masonic orators, but most of all by being a part of an organisation which actively teaches and practices self-development in an environment in which every effort is made to foster respect, honesty and harmony amongst its members. One night a month at each of my two Lodges is a time of personal reflection."*



**WBro. Bruce Cowie PJGD**

Manager - Masonic Services. Freemason for 14 years.

*"I love Freemasonry because it provides a philosophy for life, contains many mysteries and unknowns and has a rich history. It is an organisation with purposes that are larger than life. I gain a great deal of satisfaction working for the improvement of myself and others."*



**VWBro. John Osborne GInspWkgs**

Grand Inspector of Workings. Freemason for 29 years.

*"Being a tradie and running our family business for over 40 years, and working every day in overalls and work clothes, it is a real buzz for me to knock-off, have a shower and get dressed up, go to Lodge and be among friends. The last thing that enters my mind whilst at Lodge is work."*

*Both my wife Jeanette and I have made many life long friends during that time, we love the social side of Freemasonry that exists not only among the members and ladies of our own Lodge, but also within Grand Lodge and the Grand Ceremonial*

*Teams. I love to visit a Lodge and find an old friend that I haven't seen for years. I love to see good work done in the Lodge. I love to see the younger generations joining our ranks. I love to see how Freemasons look after one another."*

### **X-ped Membership Materials available**

Approximately 120 members attended the Membership presentation at X-ped titled, "How to Promote Your Lodge & Recruit New Members". The feedback on the presentation has been very positive with members requesting additional copies of the material to take back to their Lodge. The PowerPoint presentation given on the day, plus all associated materials, can be obtained by emailing Manager Membership Services, Lena Way at: [way@freemasonsvic.net.au](mailto:way@freemasonsvic.net.au). You will receive a disk of materials which you might present at your Lodge as part of a membership evening.

### **Buildings Update**

The Williamstown project is progressing well, with the new building portion taking shape. All underpinning works have concluded ensuring the integrity of the existing structure for the future. It is anticipated that the building will be lock-up level by the end of April and internal works started.

The Ballarat project has recommenced after the delays imposed by the sewage alteration. The primary Lodge room and kitchen are nearing completion with the new building extension expected to commence over the coming weeks. Both projects are anticipated to be handed over to members in July/August.

The Werribee renovation project is complete and features updated facilities in the Lodge including a kitchen and anterooms, whilst in Yarrawonga, we have undertaken repairs to the Supper Room, Facade and Roof.



New anteroom at the Werribee Masonic Centre



The newly renovated Lodge Room at Werribee



Yarrawonga after roof and facade repairs

## Grand Master Makes a Flying Visit to Flood Impacted Regions

On 15 February, the Grand Master, MWBro. Vaughan Werner, accompanied by RWBro. Barry Reaper and RWBro. Peter Henshall made a flying visit to Rochester, Echuca and Lockington to conduct an inspection of the local Masonic Centres damaged by recent floods.

Echuca Lodge presented to the Grand Master two \$500 cheques, one for the Victorian Disaster Recovery Appeal and the other to the Freemasons Victoria 'Queensland Flood Relief Appeal'. A number of representatives from local Lodges then adjourned to the Moama Bowling Club for a general discussion about the future of Freemasonry in the Echuca area.



L-R: RWBro. Peter Henshall PSGW Grand Secretary, RWBro. John Stapleton SGW, MWBro. Vaughan Werner GM, WBro. Lee Pattinson, RWBro. Barry Reaper PDGM.

## To Be Involved Is To Belong: Engaging Master Masons

By John Osborne, Grand Inspector of Workings

It is my firm belief that it is incumbent upon us all as Freemasons to maintain a high level of involvement in our Ceremonial among our Master Masons and in particular with the younger members who are joining our ranks.

***To be involved is to belong*** and it is very important to keep the level of interest high so that our newer members will not simply sit in the Lodge room and be bored by watching and listening and not participating.

There are quite a few areas in our Ceremonies where our Master Masons are permitted to participate, particularly in the Ceremony of the first degree.

The preamble prior to the entry of the Candidate is one of the addresses that a Master Mason can learn and deliver, it is not considered a long charge, and will be an introduction to speaking to the members and visitors, and participating in the Lodge Ceremony.

Other charges that a Master Mason can deliver in the first degree are, "The extension to the Badge", "The Reasons", "The Lesser Lights", "Tracing Board" and "The charge after Initiation"

The Working Tools in all three degrees can also be done by a Master Mason (from the floor of the Lodge) but only if ***both*** invested Wardens are not in attendance.

There are also several charges that can be delivered by a Master Mason in both the Second and Third Degrees; the Lodge Secretary or the Director of Ceremonies can provide further information if required.

Brethren below the rank of a Master Mason are not permitted to deliver a charge in open Lodge; they will have questions and answers to learn, and will need to attend MAP courses.

It is considered to be not in the best interests of these Brethren to overload them with learning ritual at this early stage in their Masonic career. That will come along soon enough, but they can certainly participate in

the "Lodge South" by welcoming visitors, drawing the raffle, etc. This is also part of the learning curve and will assist with confidence building, and will stand them in good stead further down the track.

Interested Brethren are recommended to contact their Lodge Mentor, the Lodge Secretary, or the Lodge Director of Ceremonies for further information.

### Daylight Lodges



Thought to be the first daylight Lodges in the world, Thespian Lodge No. 232 (formed 1914) and Orpheus Lodge No. 394 (formed 1925) were established to cater for Brethren, who because of their employment in the entertainment and media arenas, could not attend Masonic meetings at nighttime. The current era of daylight Lodges began in 1975 when a number of Freemasons residing on the Mornington Peninsula petitioned to form a daylight Lodge for Brethren like themselves who had retired and wished to continue their Masonic involvement, but were unable or did not wish to go out at night. The Lodge was called Allara, an Aboriginal word for 'daylight' and was consecrated in 1976. The concept of the daylight Lodge extended far beyond expectations where today there are 44 daylight and twilight Lodges in Victoria.

Daylight Lodges cater for retired Brethren, shift workers, professionals and members with young families who cannot or do not wish to attend nighttime meetings or drive at night. The average participation rate of daylight Lodges is 62% versus nighttime Lodges at 47%, yet perhaps due to the higher average age of daylight Lodges, the average number of members in daylight Lodges is 36 versus nighttime Lodges at 46, which

tells us succession planning and active membership recruitment in our daylight Lodges is vital if they are to survive.

The higher average age of Brethren in daylight Lodges could give rise to fears that Lodge work could generally suffer, but it seems the opposite is true. The vast experience of daylight members ensures that ritual and ceremonial activity proceeds at a satisfactory level.

Perhaps another advantage of daylight Lodges is that the Festive Board is held at lunchtime, not 10pm, which by anyone's standards, is a late dinner!

In analysing daylight Lodges in Victoria, it is clear there is a place for them, and as a statewide organisation, we should look to have a spread of daylight Lodges to cater for members who need or desire this type of membership. For example, if Sunraysia Daylight Lodge was to hand in its Warrant, what impact would this have on Freemasonry in the district? District Co-ordinators will soon be asked to undertake an audit of Lodges in their District, and are asked to do so bearing in mind the importance of daylight Lodges existing throughout the state.

Should any Lodges require membership recruitment assistance, please contact Lena Way, Manager Membership Services on (03) 9411 0111.



RWBro. John, Bro. Grant & RWBro. Jim.

### **Echuca Lodge Trifecta**

In the presence of 45 Freemasons from across Northern Victoria, Melbourne and Southern NSW, Echuca Lodge initiated Bro. Grant Stapleton into Freemasonry, completing an unusual trifecta in that he joins his father, RWBro. John JGW and his Grandfather RWBro. Jim PJGW in the same Lodge. The ceremony of Initiation was conducted by members of Echuca Lodge with some assistance from surrounding Lodges, with the Obligation very capably administered by Grant's father. What wonderful family tradition in Freemasonry.

### **Gala Ladies Night, United Press Lodge**

On 30 April, United Press Lodge is holding a Gala Ladies Night to round off the successful year of WBro. Rob Hamilton PGStdB as the Worshipful Master.

It will also be an auspicious occasion for a Past Master of the Lodge, RWBro Allan Paull PJGW, who will have his autobiography launched by MWBro. John Wilson PGM.

The sale of Allan's books will support the Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation of which he is a trustee.

For bookings and further information: Bro. Vic Leigh- 9379 2939 or RWBro. Allan Paull- 9889 6056.



RWBro. Allan Paull, from the cover of his book *Who The Hell Is Allan Paull*.

### **Freemasonry On Show at The Sunbury SunFest Festival**



The annual Sunbury *SunFest* festival was held on the weekend of 19 and 20 March being the festival's 175th anniversary. In excess of 30,000 visitors attended, and although it clashed with the Grand Installation, members of the Macedon Rangers No. 97 and Sunbury No. 854 Lodges were not deterred from organising a Masonic display and information booth, featuring our popular and well-travelled mannequins.

Well travelled mannequins feature at SunFest.

WBro. Colin Randall from Sunbury Lodge reported that the display proved very popular, particularly among the female visitors with comment such as, "I remember my father's days in the Craft", and others seen to be nudging their husbands/partners with comments such as, "this is an organisation you should join". The display was also noticed by overseas visitors who expressed their amazement at the public face of Freemasonry in Australia, and clearly Victoria is leading the way in this regard. Several member information packs were handed out and there was genuine interest in joining from two visitors. This event was a lead-up to the Macedon Ranges Open night to be held in Romsey on the 14 April 2011.

### Guess Who

"Look what I snapped!" The first person to guess who this is laying a line will receive a Freemasons Victoria polo shirt. Send your response to [way@freemasonsvic.net.au](mailto:way@freemasonsvic.net.au).



Guess who. A spot of fishing down south.

### 'Freemasons in the CBD' Quarterly Luncheon

Freemasons and their guests are invited to the next CBD luncheon to be held on **Tuesday 17 May**, (12:00pm – 2:00pm) at Morgans @ 401, featuring special guest speaker Simon McKeon - 2011 Australian of the Year and leading businessman, philanthropist and sportsman. Tickets \$55. Bookings: Donna De La Rue 9411 0103 / [delarue@freemasonsvic.net.au](mailto:delarue@freemasonsvic.net.au)

[Click here to view the invitation.](#)

### New Initiates' Cocktail Party

Were you initiated after December 2008? Book now for this special event for new members and their guests to be held on **Friday 20 May** at 7:30pm. The evening will feature a range of entertainment, an address by the Grand Master and a surprise guest speaker. Get to know your fellow Masons. Tickets \$40 (includes cocktail food and beverages). Bookings: Donna De La Rue 9411 0103 / [delarue@freemasonsvic.net.au](mailto:delarue@freemasonsvic.net.au).

**Freemasonry Victoria Magazine**

The autumn edition of *Freemasonry Victoria* will be delivered to members by the end of next week. We hope you enjoy this edition of the magazine. If you know of any businesses, libraries or community centres willing to stock and display our magazine, please email Lena Way at [way@freemasonsvic.net.au](mailto:way@freemasonsvic.net.au).

### **New Born**

Member of Lodge of Evolution Bro. Henry Trusiak and his wife Jitka just welcomed a new baby Susan Marie, born Sunday 13 March at 3.210 kilograms, a little over 7lbs. Congratulations Henry and Jitka.



...and then there were four!

### **Freemasons further contribution to Regional Health Services**

The four Masonic Lodges from Bairnsdale & Omeo combined to carry out a fundraising coach tour to Ensay on Saturday 13 March. Commentary on the origins of place names and the history of the area between Bruthen & Ensay was provided, plus stories and humor. The highlight of the day was a spectacular dance performance by a local Philippine Cultural Dance Group.

The eighty people in attendance were delighted with the event and collectively raised \$750 for the Bairnsdale Oncology Unit and Ensay Bush Nursing Centre. Well done.



Filipino dance group help raise money for regional health causes.