

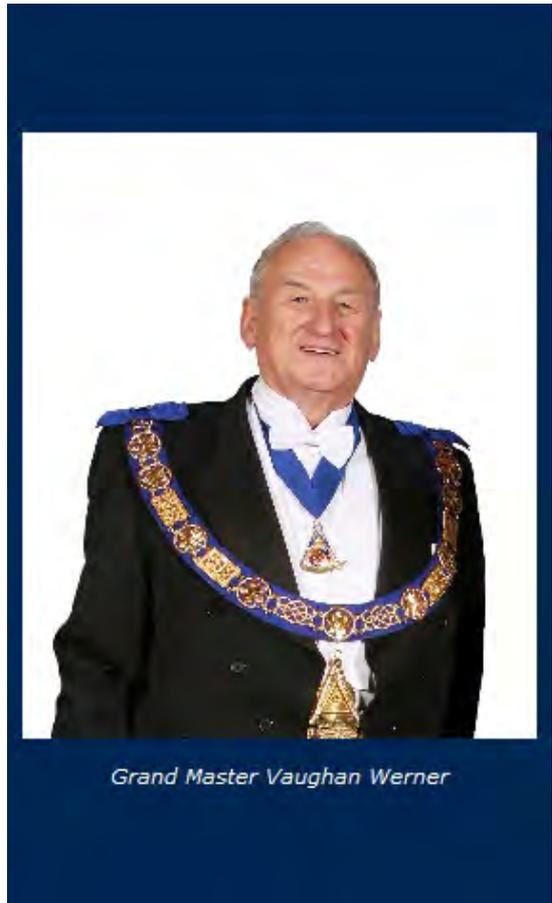
Brethren All,

Welcome to Issue 16 of *Engage!* We can take great encouragement from the numbers of young men with an average age of 36 years who have taken the step to become Freemasons in the past twelve months. It is stimulating to know there is indeed a considerable and steady vibrancy in our beloved Craft around the State.

When I meet new Freemasons, I detect that they are clearly pleased and personally satisfied with their decision to join. I also note that they are very quick on the uptake in identifying the personal rewards they are looking forward to receiving. These attributes alone are highly motivating for us all to continue our endeavours to promote Freemasonry to men looking for a decent and wholesome way of life – one that they can carry in their personal and professional environments.

In May, we welcome the return of RWBro. Greg Goding, PAGM, of the Queensland Constitution. RWBro. Greg last April provided an engaging address to some 400 members who found his strategies and philosophies for the future of Freemasonry highly motivating. I regard him as 'The Billy Graham of Freemasonry' and sincerely endorse and encourage all Brethren of all ages to embrace his forthcoming presentations scheduled in Melbourne and country Victoria.

Yours fraternally,  
Vaughan Werner  
Grand Master



*Grand Master Vaughan Werner*

An invitation to the Secretaries of all Lodges in Victoria has been sent for the forthcoming presentation led by RWBro. Greg Goding, PAGM entitled:

**“Order in the House”**

The keystone of the 2010 – 2013 Strategic Plan for Freemasons Victoria is Membership. Twelve months ago the targeted Membership Strategy was launched at Dallas Brooks Centre and it was stated that, “Membership growth and satisfaction is of vital importance to the future of Freemasonry in Victoria.”

To further continue the momentum achieved in 2010 we have arranged for a series of presentations to be conducted in both metropolitan and country Victoria.

RWBro. Greg Goding, PAGM is based in the Queensland Constitution and will present initiatives to assist Victorian Lodges in developing practices to make them successful in contemporary society. RWBro. Greg will share his keen insight into what the expectations are of the ‘modern Freemason’.

RWBro. Greg has obligingly agreed to speak at all the forums and will deliver a stimulating and inspirational address commencing 16 May 2011 at the following Masonic Centres:

**16 May 7.30pm Traralgon Masonic Centre.**

**17 May 7.30pm Shepparton Masonic Centre**

**18 May 7.30pm Dallas Brooks Centre**

**19 May 7.30 pm Geelong Masonic Centre**

At each function there will be plenty of opportunities for questions and discussion. Each function will be accompanied by a supper and it is hoped that every Lodge throughout Victoria will be represented at one or more of these events.

Further information on each of the country event is now available from your respective District Coordinators or by visiting the ‘Members Login Section’ of the website under the heading of ‘Forms & Downloads’.

Below is a summary of our new 87 members Initiated by Districts and Lodges YTD:

Initiations By Districts YTD		Initiations By Lodges YTD
101 North West	3	170, 466(2)
102 South West	1	154
103 Loddon	3	25, 405(2)
104 Goulburn	3	104, 131, 577
105 Gippsland East	5	202, 742, 875, 877(2)
106 Central Higlands	2	213, 922
107 Wimmera	0	
108 North East	3	197, 222, 727
109 Gippsland S/West	2	101, 323
110 Bellarine Otway	3	5, 163, 467
111 Central	15	49, 206(4), 300(2), 865, 890(2), 928, 931(4),
112 Bayside	11	243(2), 340(2), 376(2), 433(2) 460, 477, 681,
113 SE Mornington	7	290(2), 330(2), 359, 720, 912
114 Monash Gully	7	121, 279, 400, 654(2), 801, 866
115 Maroondah	7	13, 89, 247(2), 275, 662, 900
116 Northern	7	117, 252, 478(2), 703, 836, 924
117 Western	8	77, 187, 239(2), 572(2), 591, 740
	<b>87</b>	



Freemasons in the CBD Quarterly Luncheon Guest Speaker Simon McKeon

### **CBD 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)

### **New Initiates Cocktail Function**



Acoustic artist Sean McLoughlin will return to perform at the New Initiates' cocktail function

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).

## A grand performance, simply beautiful



Soprano Siobhan Stagg performing at Grand Installation

Blessed with a voice of “angelic purity and beauty” (*The Age*, 2010) soprano Siobhan Stagg is one of Australia’s rising stars. Originally from Mildura, Siobhan moved to Melbourne five years ago to pursue tertiary study at the University of Melbourne. Since graduating with an Honours degree in Music Performance in 2009, Siobhan has continued to train privately on a scholarship from the Dame Nellie Melba Opera Trust.

Siobhan is increasingly in demand as a soloist with some of Australia’s foremost ensembles and musicians. Recently Siobhan performed the role of Cleopatra in the Australian premiere of ‘Marc’Antonio e Cleopatra’, an opera written in 1725 by German composer, Johann Adolph Hasse. This April she is the soprano soloist for a period performance of J.S. Bach’s ‘St Matthew Passion’ at the Melbourne Recital Centre. She is a founding director of youth opera initiative, Opera Down Under, and has a Certificate III in Media (Radio Broadcasting).

### **At what age did you discover your love of music?**

My mum says I was gargling musically before I learned to speak, but my own first memories of loving music are from kindergarten. There’s a family video of me aged five jumping out from behind the curtains singing into a teaspoon, whilst my parents and two brothers are trying to eat their dinner. I was always singing, so I think they learned to tune out pretty quickly. While singing has always been a priority for me, it wasn’t until half way through my VCE that I realised I could study it at university. Until then singing had just been a hobby and I had intended to become a vet or a doctor. I’m glad I changed my mind!

### **Growing up, did you produce lounge room concerts for family and friends?**

Yes- it was my favourite thing to do. After graduating from the ‘Teaspoon Academy’, I recruited my two neighbours to help me present concerts for our parents in our lounge room. We hung bed sheets over an archway to create a stage curtain, and I raided mum’s makeup and wardrobe for costumes. Disney songs were a favourite back then, and it is still a secret dream of mine to do the voiceover for an animated film one day.

### **Is there a particular performer that inspired your career?**

Growing up in the nineties in Mildura, I didn’t get to see many live professional performances, but I do remember watching a VHS recording of the Victorian State Opera’s ‘The Pirates of Penzance’ over and over again. I would walk around the backyard trying to copy Mabel singing all those high staccato notes in ‘Poor Wand’ring One’. My poor neighbours! Nowadays I admire the voices of Dawn Upshaw and Barbara Bonney, and the performance panache of Cecilia Bartoli and Natalie Dessay.

### **What's it like to study music at University?**

I made the most of it and had a great time, but overall it's probably a lot drier than you would expect. It's an academically-based degree at Melbourne University, so most of the contact hours are in tutorials similar to those in the Arts faculty, writing essays on the history and context of core musical works, and analysing music theory. My time at university was enriched by my involvement in the Choir of Trinity College. As well as singing services each week, we recorded annually with ABC Classics and went on international tours. Over four years we sang in the USA, Europe, UK, New Zealand and South-East Asia. The opportunities that singing in the Trinity College Choir opened up personally and then professionally have been invaluable.

### **How did you feel winning the Dame Nellie Melba Opera Trust Scholarship and what did it entail to win it?**

I am so grateful for the financial and moral support offered by the Dame Nellie Melba Opera Trust. They facilitate an avenue for the professional development required between finishing an undergraduate degree and sustaining a full-time singing career. Established from the original endowment left by Melba when she died, this year the trust is supporting seven developing artists by funding individually-tailored private training programs, in the hope that 'another Melba may arise'.

The scholarships cover costs involved in building a performance career, including top-level tuition in singing, stagecraft, acting and languages. The team at the Dame Nellie Melba Opera Trust has become my much-loved musical family. I couldn't be doing what I am without them! [www.melbaoperatrust.com.au](http://www.melbaoperatrust.com.au)

### **Can you tell us about your first major performance?**

The first time I really experienced performing at a top level outside Mildura was as a soloist in the Victorian State School's Spectacular 'Retrospect', held at the Rod Laver Arena in 2003. It opened my eyes to a whole new world of musical possibility and made me fall in love with Melbourne. I got to know the VLine service very well, travelling 14 hours from Mildura to Melbourne and back on weekends for rehearsals.

### **What are your career highlights?**

While I've been lucky to have some wonderful opportunities so far, I'm still at the very outset of my career and there is a long way to go. I enjoy every performance, especially when I have the privilege of collaborating with singers and musicians I admire. A recent highlight for me was spending two weeks in Sydney as soloist with Paul Dyer and the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra. I'm looking forward to working with them again in October this year. Co-producing and performing in Mozart's 'The Impresario' for Opera Down Under in 2009 was a memorable achievement, and I enjoy performing for my home-crowd in Mildura whenever I am able.

### **Tell us about your Melbourne Recital Centre (MRC) solo performances...**

The Melbourne Recital Centre is a wonderful cultural asset for Melbourne. Since it's opening in February 2009, I've been fortunate to sing there several times for various concerts with La Compania, The Consort of Melbourne, Parkville Symphony Orchestra, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Chorus and the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra. It's a gorgeous setting and the acoustics are second to none, though it means the stakes are higher when every sound you make resonates throughout the hall (including clearing your throat and turning pages!)

### **What is next for you?**

I'm preparing for a few more concerts at the Recital Centre, including a program of Ravel songs with the Melbourne Art Song Collective and some more concerts with La Compania: The Renaissance Band. I'm busily writing some applications for scholarships to fund overseas study trips in the next twelve months-

I'm excited about extending my training to an international level. I'm also preparing two major recitals for my Masters degree at University of Melbourne.

**You recently performed at Freemasons Victoria's Grand Installation. What did you know about Freemasonry before your performance?**

I know that the Freemasons are really supportive of the arts in the community. As a teenager, my singing teacher used to hold our annual concert at the local Masonic Lodge in Mildura. More recently, the Freemasons sponsored the Acclaim Italian Opera Fellowship Award, in which I was one of ten national finalists. After an intense week of auditions and masterclasses, we performed a charity concert in Dallas Brooks Hall which was a great chance for us to put into practice all we had learnt during the week.

**Do you know any Freemasons or have a family connection to Freemasonry?**

My grandfather worked as a labourer for a Freemason, Mr William Birks Hawson, for some fifty years on a vineyard in Mildura. "Birks" was a great supporter of education and bequeathed a scholarship at Chaffey Secondary College, which I ended up being awarded in year seven, many years later.

**How did you feel when you first walked on to the Grand Lodge stage?**

I was impressed by the grandeur and ceremony of it all, and enjoyed being a part of Vaughan's installation. It was a unique experience having the audience sitting 360 degrees around me, and acoustically it is a beautiful hall to sing in.

**Would you consider coming back and performing for us again?**

I would be delighted to sing at another Freemasons event. Thanks for having me!

**Beneath the tree of Evolution**

By Mark Richardson



Lyndall and Mark at Grand Installation, March 2011

The diversification of all living organisms was described by Charles Darwin as "endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful." Or put simply, evolution.

Darwin's theories of evolution have for centuries sparked debate and have even made their way to television cartoon series like *The Simpsons*. Whether people believe in Darwin's theories or not, whenever I hear the word 'evolution' I will now fondly associate such 'endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful' to the members of the Lodge of Evolution No. 931.

Having commenced working at Freemasons Victoria in 2010, my fiancée Lyndall has accompanied me to a few Freemason Victoria's events, including the 2011 Grand Installation banquet. Inquisitive, supportive and generous by nature, Lyndall often tries to understand why I feel passionate about Freemasonry. I have been unable to explain the foundations of my passion. Yet, Lyndall continues to stand by my side and supports all I do, with guidance, without hesitation and without condition.

It's no secret that I was a passionate member of Scouts and Venturers and I am honored that my Grandfather was a Freemason whom I spent much of my childhood working on his projects with his mates that only after he passed, I learnt were actually Lodge projects and his mates, fellow Freemasons. Although my Grandfather and Scouts will always remain in the highest regard with meaning, Lyndall can only rely on my account through sharing stories, experiences, memories and expressions, similar to the struggle trying to explain the spirit of Freemasonry that I have discovered.

Through Lyndall's networking group on St Kilda Road - Club 3004, our mutual friend and club member, Baris Kelecioğlu and I regularly discuss Freemasonry over a beer or two. Baris soon started attending Freemason Victoria's social events and was recently Initiated into the Lodge of Evolution No. 931. Naturally, Lyndall and I wanted to celebrate Baris' Initiation but we were advised that although Lyndall would be welcome to attend celebrations in the 'South', Lyndall would be the only female present. On that basis, Lyndall weighed up the pros and cons of attending.

As Baris was being Initiated in Lodge, we were still at home debating whether we should attend his dinner, deciding to compromise and would celebrate elsewhere following his Lodge commitments. We arrived to the restaurant to tell him of our new plans and somehow got the timing wrong, arriving as dinner was being served.

On many levels, Lyndall felt instantly uncomfortable, feeling intrusive, put-on-the-spot, underdressed and quite nervous, whispering that we should leave. I informed Baris we wouldn't stay and we would meet up with him in a couple of hours. We proceeded to leave but were stopped by a few Brethren, namely, the Master of the Lodge WBro. Stuart McArthur, VWBro. Wes Turnbull, WBro. Damien Hudson and Lodge visitor New Membership Liaison Officer and Deputy Grand Superintendent of Membership WBro. Jim Puohotaua, all welcoming us to join the Lodge for dinner. We politely agreed.

Lyndall and I were immediately welcomed into the 'South' and were toasted by the members for joining them during the speeches. We were offered explanation of proceedings, guided when to stand and when to remain seated. Lyndall was engaged and seemed to me, quite at ease, feeling included and enjoying herself.

Immediately following dinner, many members of the Lodge took time aside out of their evening to learn more about Lyndall, enquiring about our children, her job, interests and her childhood. Lyndall was provided with detailed explanation about Freemasonry, the importance and value of woman in Freemasonry and why members shared a common love and passion for Freemasonry, enriching their lives, families and community.

Lyndall was not short of engaging conversation, a chair for comfort or the offer of a refreshing beverage during the night. Lodge of Evolution members not only opened the doors to their 'South' celebrations for both of us, but also opened Lyndall's mind to Freemasonry where together, we discovered the 'endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful' beneath what I now I refer to as 'the tree of Evolution'; a place where the spirit of Freemasonry blossomed, the spirit that through my job I have come to admire that is positive, rewarding and once touched, a feeling hard to shake. A feeling you want to talk about, made all the easier with your partner by your side, feeling the same way with appreciation and a little more understanding about my passion and the spirit of Freemasonry. Thank you Lodge of Evolution and congratulations to our friend and your new fraternal Brother, Baris.

## Celebrating Freemasonry at 'Bloke's Day Out'



Following the growing trend of Lodges utilising Freemasons Victoria's 'Mobile Lodge', Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 96 accepted the opportunity to showcase Freemasonry to the general public with an engaging display at the 'Blokies' Day Out' held in Johnstone Park, Geelong on 3 April 2011.

Launched in 2010, 'Blokies Day Out' is a unique event that celebrates what it is to be a male – 'A Celebration of Boys and Men'. Over 1,000 men and their families joined in a range of exciting activities and events hosted by a variety of Barwon region services and groups to encourage males to learn, experience, participate and share.

Over the course of the day, a number of enquiries regarding possible Freemason membership were received with information packs personally handed out by Lodge members with numerous quality questions put by the general public who visited the Lodge.

Brethren were open and delivered many of the organisations key communication messages. They lay to rest many misconceptions of what Freemasonry is and reinforced its place as an active organisation in the community. They wish to thank WBro. Jim Puohotaua, DGSuptMem and RWBro. Jim Spreadborough, PJGW for the key messages training conducted with members prior to the event.

The 'Mobile Lodge' was positively received and added value to the event and was promptly invited back to future events by the organisers.

## A Tee-rrific way to raise \$2,000 for Prostate Cancer Research



Left to Right: David Phelan – Pres. Yarram Golf Club , RWBro. Bill Kee – Tarra Masonic Lodge, David Bertoli – President of Rossmore Social Golf Club, Julie Sarll –Women’s winner, Craig Brown – Men’s winner,WBro. Laurie Argus – Master Tarra Masonic Lodge.

The Tarra Masonic Lodge No. 127 and the Yarram Golf Club recently combined forces to raise much needed funds for Prostate Cancer Research.

Sixty people joined in the effort to help support the cause playing a round of golf and enjoying a BBQ lunch. By all reports, it was a brisk morning when 36 golfers teed off from 8am and played 18 holes. Golfers from as far as Melbourne and Bairnsdale joined in the day.

Tarra Masonic Lodge provided the BBQ and Yarram Golf Club waived the Green fees for the day, so all money raised will be donated to the Prostate Cancer Foundation. A total of \$2,000 was raised with generous donations from Yarram Foodworks and the Rossmore Social Golf Club.

The women’s competition winner was Julie Sarll from Rosanna and the runners-up were Pauline Disting (Croydon) and Robyn Oehlmann (Heidelberg). Julie was presented with a Voucher from Allforms of Design.

The men’s competition winner was Craig Brown from Yallourn Nth on 44 points. He was one of eleven members of the Rossmore Social Golf Club that journeyed over to Yarram to help make the day such a success. Craig was presented with a Matterns Mitre 10 Voucher.

The men’s runners-up were Frank Purgar scoring 43 points, Chris Bailey 41, Paul Blasins 40, Hayden Brown 37 (Yallourn North), Ed Garratt 36, David Phelan 36, Danny McShane 35 and Neil Disting 34 from Bairnsdale.

Nearest to the pin on the 7th hole was Ed Garrett and on the 15th Rick Rooney from Yallourn North took the prize.

## Bennies Awards is pure 'Gold'



Collage of Bendigo Re-Union Lodge No.477 social events

On Saturday 9 April Bendigo Re-Union Lodge No. 477 hosted the third annual 'Bennies' award ceremony and social night. The 'Bennies' was developed as a spoof of the American Academy Awards 'The Oscars' to celebrate the successful and memorable events carried out during the year.

The Lodge Social Committee had developed over the past five years to deliver one unique event every two months. Although only being a member for under twelve months, Bro. Derek Del Nevo was proudly appointed as the new IT and Technical Director. The Committee created a film show of the social events and nominations of a dozen categories with a cross section of winners that included members and officers of the Lodge, family members, friends and even the canines! Guests enjoyed live entertainment and welcomed the talents of a wonderful singer before watching a comedy sketch depicting the 'secret history of the Lodge'.

The 'Bennies' Award Ceremony and myriad of socials during each year have developed Bendigo Re-Union Lodge into a very close knit group where all the members have become a family that practice what they preach on a daily basis.

## Freemasons Victoria's Grand Lodge Staff



To assist with putting faces to names, the 'Who's Who working at Freemasons Victoria's Grand Lodge will soon be posted on the official Freemasons Victoria website. All staff positions, key responsibilities and contact details will be available on-line. Featured above are a few of the faces working at Grand Lodge.

## The Royal Freemasons Homes bowled over with Freemasons support



Left to Right: Bro. Mal Hurst, WBro. Damien Hudson, Bev Werner, Bro. Neil Ashdon, MWBro. Vaughan Werner, Bro. Drew McIntyre & Bro. Mat Reily.

Freemasons Victoria's annual mixed 'Charity Lawn Bowls Day' that was held on 27 March at the Mount Waverley Bowling Club was deemed another success. Now in its tenth year, over 78 bowlers took to the green to *bend* a hand in efforts to raise much needed funds that will go towards providing premium quality care for Freemasons and the wider community.

Members of the Task Force played an integral part in the day to ensure participating Brethren their family and friends were well catered for by serving a delicious lunch at the end of the tournament.

RWBro. Vaughan Werner was joined by wife Bev to celebrate the day and to present the winning teams with trophies and to thank everyone involved, with particular mention to event organiser, RWBro. Joel Solomon OAM PJGW, Tournament Director, Helen Steel and Jan Patterson who recently retired from the Royal Freemasons Homes after twenty years of valuable service.

Task Force volunteer WBro. Damien Hudson, WM, Lodge Devotion No. 723 & Almoner Lodge Evolution No. 931 believes the event was a wonderful opportunity for Brethren of all ages to join in a fun-filled day whilst bonding in the spirit of Freemasonry. "It was great to see two Entered Apprentices and one Fellow Craft donating their time and effort in support of the Freemasons Homes and the Bowls Community. These recently Initiated men are a credit to their Lodge and Freemasonry. Spending time together is the best way to build the Brotherhood of Freemasonry, and there is no better way to do it than volunteering for a great cause."

## Freemasons sponsor team in 2011 'Brazilian Butterfly Queen of the Lake'



By Lewanna Morley-Smith

Have you ever had those kinds of feelings that one usually gets at the end of a long hard year – somewhat exhausted, and a little hung-over? When the hang-over subsides, that feeling also comes with a sense of relief of surviving another year (and another Christmas day!) Eventually there's also the anticipation for the New Year's celebrations and a surge of optimism kicks in.

It's generally when this feeling takes over we start pondering new beginnings, resolutions and re-prioritising life's activities - striving to improve one's health, fitness and wellbeing.

It was around this time in late December 2010, I emailed a group of friends excitably suggesting, 'Let's do this', (referring to a 10km 'Fun Run') – realising something 'good' would happen in the new year.

The 'Queen of the Lake' is an annual 5km or 10km 'Fun Run' around Albert Park Lake, and took place in February 2011. Participants were encouraged to raise funds for the Leukaemia Foundation by creating their own online web fundraising page.

The Leukaemia Foundation is the only national not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the care and cure of patients and families living with leukaemias, lymphomas, myeloma and related blood disorders.

I lost an uncle to Leukaemia, so this issue was close to my heart and inspired a group of my like-minded girlfriends aged from mid 20s through to early 50s out of bed each Sunday morning for a training plod (& chat!). We approached several businesses to sponsor our team, 'Inittawinnit' for the event, including Freemasons Victoria.

Our team wore distinctive white singlets with the names and logos of our sponsors that helped us find one another amongst the 2,250 mostly female participants. A total of \$35,956.70 was raised on the day for the Leukaemia Foundation, and our 'Inittawinnit' team were the 7<sup>th</sup> highest team raising \$850.

The 'Inittawinnit' wishes to thank Freemasons Victoria for your support, knowing you ran with us in the race to finding a cure for Leukaemia. There may be some distance to go, but each kilometre we ran, was a step closer. At the end of last year, I knew something 'good' would happen, and with the help of Freemasons, it did.

## STOP THE PRESS! Do you need help creating publicity and dealing with the media?



Image courtesy dailyator.com

Appearing in the news is not always easy to achieve. What is news? What makes your news newsworthy and puts you in the spotlight?

Freemasons Victoria Communications and Publicity Co-ordinator and newly appointed editor of *Freemasonry Victoria* Mark Richardson can assist you in the areas of external communications and media publicity.

Prior to joining Freemasons Victoria, Mark has, for over five years, been a lead journalist and editor for several Melbourne Media publications including; '3004 News', 'Melbourne City Living Guide', '3008 Docklands Magazine' and a regular columnist for Dengonet publications including the 'Japanese Lifestyle Newspaper' and editor of 'Japan's Food Guide to Melbourne'. Mark has also worked overseas in television broadcast and advertising.

Mark is able to directly assist with:

- Identifying media vehicles
- Pitching ideas and formulating angles to the media
- Writing and drafting media releases with Freemasons Victoria's key messages
- Providing quotations from the Grand Master and/or the Grand Secretary
- Arranging radio/television interviews
- Providing high resolution photography and pictorial images when requested by the media
- Dealing directly with the media on your behalf.

We recommend that if you would like to liaise with the press, email [richardson@freemasonsvic.net.au](mailto:richardson@freemasonsvic.net.au) or phone (03) 9411 0128

## Celebrating a true-blue Brother



Bro. Vic Albert Bradley, OAM for services to veterans and families and the community of Buninyong and has been involved with ex-service organisations since he returned from Active Service in New Guinea. Bro. Vic has been a member of the Buninyong RSL since 1948 in which he served as President on two occasions and later joined Ballarat Legacy in 1984. He has been an avid stalwart seller of Remembrance Day poppies, tokens and Legacy badges for 47 years.

In the Buninyong Community Bro. Vic is an active member of his lawn bowls team and has been a club member for 54 years. He is a strong supporter of the Senior Citizens by providing transport to many of the older residents and has been keen golfer and club member for thirty years.

Bro. Vic was Initiated into the Buninyong Lodge in 1966, presented with one of the first Royal Freemasons jewels in December 2010 by Sturt-Buninyong Lodge and continues to serve the Lodge as a Steward.

## **Preston Open Night packed to the rafters**



Following a consolidated local media campaign and letter-box drop, the Preston Masonic Centre opened their Lodge doors and welcomed 35 non-Freemasons guests to learn more about Freemasonry, 27 being males.

With the support of enthusiastic members, RWBro. Merv Hallam engaged visitors with a captivating presentation that provided an insight into the history of Freemasonry Lodge workings, Freemasonry symbols, regalia, the principles of Freemasonry, community achievements and explained the positive impact of using social media vehicles such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to introduce Freemasonry with younger members of the community.

Secretary WBro. Jeff Cripps, PM, believes part of the success of the night can be directly attributed to delivering sound pre-event communication. "We developed an effective media release with the assistance and direction of Grand Lodge. Once we had the message 'right' we contacted the local media that resulted in an in-depth interview that was published in two community newspapers. We were excited by the amount of curious and quality young men that turned-up. It was a successful evening."

## **No man stands so tall than to kneel down to help a child**



Melbourne Shrine Club members welcome new Initiates with honourable guests from the USA.

On Saturday 26 March 2011, the Melbourne Shrine Club held its second ceremonial for the Initiation of new Nobles. The ceremony was conducted by its own members and witnessed by the Potentate and Chief Rabban of Aahmes Shrine Temple, their international sponsors. A fun time was had by all!

Under the leadership of Noble Jason Basiuk, the ceremonial team performed the ceremony with such a high degree of excellence that the club has now been given official dispensation to carry out all future ceremonial for new candidates into Shrinedom. To become a 'Shriner', a candidate must have been raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason and an affiliated member in good standing.

Like their international counterparts, Melbourne Shrine Club's objective is to provide assistance to children with medical conditions such as serious burns, spinal injuries, cleft lip/palate etc. The club has recently been informed that they may soon be able to assist some of these children to receive free medical attention at Shriners Children's Hospitals in the USA, and the avenues for arranging this are now being investigated.

The Melbourne Shrine Club welcomes any eligible Freemason Brother who would like to join them in this great philanthropy. If you would like a guest speaker to provide an presentation in your Lodge (or the South), please contact Merv Dyer on 0417 344 271 or Melbourne Shrine Club Secretary Noble Terry Webster on 0425 755 224 or email [secretary@melbourneshrineclub.com](mailto:secretary@melbourneshrineclub.com)

**The Bairnsdale Mark Lodge No 26 celebrates 100 years of Mark Masonry**  
As published in the *'Bairnsdale Advertiser'*



WBro. Alan Somersville, WBro. Brian Hopkins and WBro. Bryce Jeffrey

On Saturday 5 March 2011 at the Bairnsdale Masonic Centre The Bairnsdale Mark Lodge celebrated its Centenary with a re-enactment of the Consecration of the Lodge.

The ceremony was done exactly as it would have been carried out on Saturday 2 March 1911 but this time 110 people including Mark Brethren, ladies and non-Freemasons were able to witness the proceedings. Ceremonial events which are open to the general public are becoming more frequent, especially when such a milestone is being celebrated, and this enables people who are not Freemasons to witness the ritual and splendour that Brethren participate in. Each person attending was given a booklet setting out the history of the Lodge and highlighting many important events that had occurred over the 100 years.

MWBro. Robert Paroissien, the Grand Master and a team of 21 Grand Lodge Ceremonial Officers from all over Victoria were in Bairnsdale for the celebration which later saw the current Master, WBro. Peter Crick vacating the chair and the Installation of WBro. Harry Stephens for the coming year.

During the Installation Ceremony Goodall's Buses entertained the ladies with a trip around Bairnsdale and Eagle Point taking in all the sites.

The RSL Club was the venue for the celebratory banquet where 90 ladies and gentlemen were treated to an excellent meal and refreshments. The next morning a scrumptious breakfast was provided at the Masonic Centre for over 40 people who had stayed in Bairnsdale overnight.

### **Would your Lodge members recognise a stroke?**



One in six people will have a stroke in their lifetime. Strokes can be prevented.

The Stroke Foundation has recently launched community education programs around Victoria with the aim of saving lives from a stroke and invites Freemason Victoria's Lodges to register for a *free* 'strokesafe' presentation.

Volunteer 'strokesafe' ambassadors for the National Stroke Foundation will share vital information about strokes, prevention and the need to get immediate treatment.

The 'strokesafe' presentation program will cover the following topics:

- What is a stroke?
- How to recognise the signs of a stroke
- What to do if someone is having a stroke
- How to prevent a stroke

The National Stroke Foundation CEO Dr Erin Lalor deemed the pilot 'strokesafe' ambassador program that was conducted in Melbourne in 2010 was a great success, with over 50 presentations conducted to over 1,000 people. The program is being expanded to now include some regional and rural areas of Victoria. This year, with the assistance of the newly trained volunteers, the program aims to reach over 3,000 people. "Many people don't realise that every 10 minutes an Australian suffers a stroke and this condition is a leading cause of death and disability," Dr Lalor said.

To arrange a 'strokesafe' presentation at your next Lodge meeting or during the 'South' contact Erin Burton on (03) 9670 1000 or email [eburton@strokefoundation.com.au](mailto:eburton@strokefoundation.com.au)

**The Masonic Club of Victoria is seeking two financial members to join the Board of Management.**

Since their last AGM in April 2010 the Board has lost two members – President WBro. Gary Crane and Committee Member Bro. Charlie Jenkins. This year the Treasurer will not be seeking re-election and WBro. Frank Dear will be unavailable due to health issues.

Nomination forms have been issued in the latest 'Clubman Newsletter'. The Masonic Club is a valued member of the 'Australian Association of Masonic Clubs' and will be in attendance at the upcoming convention that will be held in Adelaide in August 2011.

The Board meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, excluding December (meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday) at the Swiss Club in Melbourne.

If you are interested becoming a member, please contact the Secretary. Email [kenleckie6@bigpond.com](mailto:kenleckie6@bigpond.com)



LODGE AMICUS No 928  
 Secretary  
 Wor.Bro. Graham Shotton P.JGD  
 6 Werder Street  
 BOX HILL NORTH VIC 3120  
 T: 03 9558 9140  
 M: 0418 540 643  
 E: gshotton@freemasons.net.au

## Lodge Amicus "My Fair Lady Ball"

The Worshipful Master of Lodge Amicus No 928  
 Wor.Bro Chris Lambis cordially invites you to the

## Lodge Amicus "My Fair Lady Ball"

To be held on  
**Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> 2011**

From 7.00 pm to 1.00 am at  
 No 9, Darling Street, South Yarra

Your evening's enjoyment will commence with  
 Champagne and Canapés with live piano music, followed by a  
 sumptuous three course Banquet with quality wines and rounded out with  
 luscious handmade chocolates.

Spectacular entertainment with dancing throughout  
 the night to Melbourne's own, sensational *Trio de Force*



- ★ Valuable Door prizes, ★ An amazing Raffle
  - ★ Fantastic Auction with unique and spectacular items including:
    - ★ Yacht cruise
    - ★ Bali Holiday
    - ★ Mercedes Coupe for W/E
    - ★ \$2,000 Travel voucher
- Proceeds, acknowledged by Freemasonry Victoria's Board of Benevolence, go to  
 for Bowel Cancer Research.

Ticket Prices: \$150 each. If you cannot get there Virtual Tickets are \$50

Dress: Men Black Tie Ladies: After 5 short or long dress

Booking forms for 'real' and 'virtual' tickets available from Graham Shotton 0418 540 643 or 9011 7257 or  
 email [graham@royalfreemasons.org.au](mailto:graham@royalfreemasons.org.au)