

Brethren All,

It is indeed my pleasure to present you with Issue 17 of *Engage!* E-News. As you will discover the past fortnight has yet again been a hive of activity for Brethren across the state, showcasing our fundamental principles to our Victorian communities.

I wish to reinforce my endorsement and encouragement for Brethren to be in attendance at the forthcoming “Order in the House” presentations of RWBro. Greg Goding, PAGM, of the Queensland Constitution. These special presentations about ‘Membership Growth and Satisfaction’ will commence on 16 May and will be held in the CBD, Traralgon, Shepparton and Geelong. Please visit our website for all “Order in the House” presentation locations and times within the ‘Members Login Section’ under the heading ‘Forms & Downloads’.

I have recently been advised by our team at Grand Lodge that tickets are selling fast for two of our popular upcoming events – ‘*Freemasons in the CBD Quarterly Luncheon*’ and the ‘*New Initiates*’ Cocktail Function’. I urge interested Brethren to confirm your attendance along with your partners or friends. Donna De La Rue at Grand Lodge. Email: - delarue@freemasonsvic.net.au or (03) 9411 0103



Yours in Freemasonry
Vaughan Werner
Grand Master

Freemasons in the CBD Quarterly Luncheon 17 May 2011



Freemasons in the CBD Quarterly Luncheon Guest Speaker Simon McKeon

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

New Initiates Cocktail Function 20 May 2011



Acoustic artist Sean McLaughlin 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.

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’.

Young Member Interview

Bro. Ramsey El-atm, MM – The Revival Lodge No. 926



With a year to complete his Bachelor of Finance at Latrobe University, Bro. Ramsey El-atm recently celebrated his 20th birthday, just a month after being raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason in The Revival Lodge No. 926. Bro. Ramsey is of the Muslim faith and was obligated in each degree on his own copy of the 'Koran'.

Engage! recently spoke with Bro. Ramsey...

When did you first discover Freemasonry?

I first discovered Freemasonry as a boy visiting a relative. My family passed by the Epworth Freemasons Hospital, and that was when I first inquired into Freemasonry.

After looking into Freemasonry, was there a particular aspect of that inspired you to join?

The facet that most influenced my decision to join was the prospect of becoming a better individual.

At 20-years-of-age, how do you feel being the youngest Master Mason in your Lodge?

As a much younger individual, at first it was a little daunting, but over time I came to know and befriend my fellow Brethren, and became more comfortable at Lodge events and meetings. As the saying goes, "age is just a number." The best advice I received was to take Freemasonry at my own pace, and to be comfortable with the Craft.

You are of the Muslim faith and obligated in each degree on your own copy of the Koran. What was that experience like?

At first I was nervous that Koran may not be handled in the correct manner during the proceedings of each degree as it's a Holy book. I was happy to see that it was indeed handled correctly and felt honoured that I was obligated on my family Koran. My Koran has been with my family for many years, and we have discussed that if my brothers were to join the Craft, that they are to use the same one.

Have friends and family been receptive and supportive of you becoming a Freemason?

My family and friends are quite supportive of my decision. After dispelling any myths and incorrect theories about Freemasonry, my family and friends are comfortable with Freemasonry. With proper explanation of the Craft, many of them have given thought to future involvement.

What do you hope to discover and experience in your Masonic journey?

I hope to gain some sort of enlightenment during my journey as a Freemason. Many great men of the past have preached that such enlightenment they discovered during their time in the Craft. I also want to better myself as an individual, and to become a man of a high moral and ethical standard.

Your Lodge has quite a few members under the age of fifty, how would you best describe the vibe of the Lodge?

The vibe of the Revival Lodge seems to me to be very "joyous and fun." Many of the men routinely make jokes and I would describe the Lodge as a very funny place with a happy atmosphere.

What do you attribute the success of your Lodge to be in terms of attracting new members?

I don't particularly attribute the success of the Revival Lodge as singular. I think it may have been luck as many of the young members live within close proximity to the Lodge. I think that a recent decline in social and moral values has good men in search of something that is good and true, and something that is worth being involved in and to better oneself.

How do you introduce Freemasonry to your friends?

I first dispel any myths, rumours or conspiracies about the Craft. I inform my friends of the benefits and the many good facets that the Craft contains and explain the reasoning behind why I wanted join.

What Freemasonry apparel or accessories do you mostly wear outside of Lodge?

The apparel that I wear most to non-Masonic events is the Masonic badge I was presented at the completion of my first degree. I am planning to have my sentimental ring altered to include the Masonic 'Square and Compasses'.

Where do you see Freemasonry in ten years when you celebrate your 30th birthday?

I see Freemasonry in 10 years to be on the rise. With many younger faces entering the Craft these days, I hope that Freemasonry will be as popular as it was decades ago.

Freemasons provide major financial assistance for cancer patients



Health Minister, David Davis discusses plans for the new Oncology centre during the media presentation at the Shepparton Hospital. Photo: Alicia Zeqir Published by 'The Adviser'.

Goulburn Valley Freemasons recently pledged their support for the community of Shepparton, providing \$196,717 towards the \$1.9 million state-of-the-art Goulburn Valley Health Oncology facility due for completion in June.

Freemasons partnership was the brainchild of WBro. Richard Green and together with MWBro. Vaughan Werner, the Grand Master and VWBro. Frank Fordyce, President Board of Benevolence and local Goulburn Valley Freemasons members proudly handed-over the cheque during the official media presentation spear-headed by the Victorian Health Minister, David Davis.

The project is set to include a new 10-chair, two-bed medical day stay oncology unit, specialist oncology consultation rooms, a breast care nurses station, a patient education and resource room and a pathology collection centre.

Maltese Australian Association Remembrance Service



The annual Maltese Australian Association Remembrance Service was held at the 'Shelter of Peace' in April to commemorate the 68th anniversary of the awarding of the George Cross to the people of Malta. The award is the civilian equivalent of the Victoria Cross and was granted to the island nation by King George VI to recognise the tenacity and bravery displayed by the Maltese people during WW2. (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Award_of_the_George_Cross_to_Malta for more).

The ceremony was compered by VWBro. Wesley Turnbull PGDC, who was photographed at the Shrine's Visitor Centre with WBro. Alan Stebbing PJGD (Shrine of Remembrance Guide) and WBro. Reginald Vella PGStdB following the ceremony.

Romsey Masonic Centre 'Open Night'



More than 60 people attended the Romsey Masonic Centre 'Open Night' in April hosted by Macedon Ranges Lodge No. 97 and Sunbury Lodge No. 854. Guest speaker VWBro. David George presented an insightful overview on the principles of Freemasonry to members, family guests and the general public who attended.

The Open Night was advertised in the local paper *'The Weekly'* for two consecutive weeks prior to the event with a supportive general article on Freemasonry. Visitors travelled from as far away as Hoppers Crossing, Kangaroo Flat and Heathcote.

“Oh what a *PINK* feeling!” The bug is unveiled on St Kilda Road



Pictured: Members of the Think Pink Living Centre and Pink Hygiene jump with joy to celebrate their new partnership and unveiling of the new *PINK* ‘Bug’ that will travel around Victoria transporting patients to and from hospital.

Breast cancer patients travelling long distances to Melbourne hospitals for treatment are now able to experience transport services provided at The Think Pink Foundation’s Living Centre as a result of Pink Hygiene Solutions donating a pink ‘bug’ Beetle Volkswagen.

The pink vehicle will be driven by trained volunteers to enhance the quality services provided to patients and their carers to The Living Centre for support and treatment offered by the centre’s Breast Care Nurse, Kathryn Wallace who is proudly sponsored by Freemasons Victoria as part of a three year on-going partnership.

Special Olympics come to Werribee



Pictured: Special Olympics Volunteers

The Special Olympics are an international voluntary program of sports training and competition for people of all ages with an intellectual disability. Sports involved include aquatics, track & field, basketball, bocce, gymnastics, soccer, softball, tennis and ten pin bowling.

Starting in Victoria in 1975 the program has been growing ever since, and Werribee was host of the latest competition over the weekend of 16 & 17 April. Freemasonry Victoria has been involved with the Special Olympics for many years and this event presented Freemasons of Western District 117 with the opportunity to play an integral role of providing and preparing lunches for approximately 200 athletes and volunteers on each of the two days of competition.

The weekend went off without a hitch and the volunteers all agreed that it was a fun occasion as well as providing some 'hands on' benevolence to the local community. VWBro. David Seymour, PGIWkgs (District Coordinator Western District 117) would like to thank all the volunteers and partnering companies that generously provided bread rolls, muesli bars, fruit juice and fruit.

Plenty Valley Freemasons donate \$3,000 to the Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre Appeal



L-R: Olivia Newton-John (photo courtesy zimbio.com) Tricia Austin, WBro. Wayne Young, WM, Melissa Cramp, WBro. Daryl Collins PJGD and WBro. Don Austin, PJGD.

Members of the Plenty Valley Lodge No.703 recently presented Melissa Cramp (Fundraising Community Projects Co-ordinator) with \$3,000 donated to the Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre Appeal.

The Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre was established to build on more than 125 years of cancer care and expertise at the Austin Hospital, treating all types of cancer. The centre focuses on developing innovative cancer therapies and international research programs, with the best of patient-centred care and medical treatment.

Freemasonry stepping into a bright future at the Bendigo Easter Parade



Bendigo City Lodge No. 714 was joined by members representing Lodges within the Central District along with members of the Victoria Masonic Motorcycle Association (VMMA) to raise awareness of Freemasonry

in the Bendigo Easter Fair Parade. This parade first took to the streets in 1871 and this year local Brethren were also joined by the Variety Bash vehicle No. 321, a trike motorcycle and five additional motorcycles.

Working in conjunction with Grand Lodge, the Membership Services Department supplied pamphlets to distribute along the parade route with spectators stepping forward to obtain information on Freemasonry. As a result we received many promising membership enquiries.

Seeking a chip off the ol' block?



Photo published in Freemasonry Victoria Issue 119 Autumn 2009 (page 6 – 'The Toy Maker' by WBro. Robert Reid)

VWBro. Jim Beckenall, OAM, PGIWkgs and Past Master of the Lodge of Goodwill, has for over twenty years mastered the art of carving smiles on the faces of Melbourne's underprivileged children by manufacturing and distributing hand-made wooden toys.

Having made over 7,000 wooden toys from original patterns and templates in his Preston West backyard shed, 93-year-old VWBro. Jim is hanging up his tool-bag and seeking someone or a Lodge with a genuine passion and love of craft woodwork to take over the not-for-profit business for future generations of children to enjoy.

VWBro. Jim is offering the right person (or group) original toy patterns, templates, toy samples, wood, material and some tools along with established distribution networks, such as NAB, The Melbourne City Council, Smith Family and Victoria Relief located in Yarraville.

VWBro. Jim invites ("genuine-only") persons with a creative flair and interest in woodcraft to make contact and arrange a private presentation of his wooden toy library that boasts delicate and colourful animals such as elephants, camels and horses on wheels and an selection of wooden carts, rockers, doll prams and an array of handmade 'pull-a-longs'. Phone: (03) 9354 2273.

Presenting a jewel to a Masonic treasure



The Worshipful Master and Brethren of the Victorian Naval and Military Lodge recently had the pleasure of visiting VWBro. Alby Rogers PGIWkgs at his Caulfield nursing home and presenting him with his 60 year jewel.

VWBro. Alby has been a staunch supporter of the Lodge but recent ill health has prevented his attendance and a surprise presentation was organised at the Nursing Home. This was attended by family and friends.

VWBro. Albert Rogers was Initiated into the Lodge of Endeavour during March 1951, Passed in April 1951 and Raised in Nov 1951. He was conferred with PGStdB in 1988, PJGD in 1996 and PGIWkgs in 2005.

Congratulations VWBro. Alby.

If you enjoy singing in the rain, then...“*YOUR*” CHOIR NEEDS YOU!”



Do you find yourself singing in the rain, singing in the shower or singing in the car? At parties do you sing Happy Birthday? At Lodge do you sing Advance Australia Fair? If you can sing any of these things and have a reasonable grasp of melody, then the Victorian Freemasons Choir will be happy to utilise your talents.

The Victorian Freemasons Choir, formally known as the Grand Lodge Choir, has been in existence since 1928. The Choir's aim is to return to its former glory with 50-60 choristers performing at the Grand Installation and at each Quarterly.

The extended brief of the Choir is to sing the odes at Lodge degree ceremonies particularly the Charity Ode when requested by the Lodge.

The Choir also performs concerts and provides entertainment at homes for the elderly and urgently requires younger Brethren to help take it into the next phase, over the coming years. Members do not have to be available for all performances.

For more information contact the Victorian Freemasons Choir Secretary Bro. Len Richardson on (03) 9807 9595

The Victorian Lodge of Research No. 218
under the United Grand Lodge of Victoria
Consecrated 30-10-1911

WBro.V.Rev. Frederick A Shade PJGD
Centenary Master



INVITATION TO AN

OPEN MEETING

Friday 27 May 2011
Ivalda Masonic Temple
at 7.30 pm

Topic: FREEMASONRY AND RELIGION

Panel Discussion

Wor.Bro.V.Rev. Frederick Shade (Chairman)
RWBro. Rev. Dr. Ian Hunter (Grand Chaplain)
WBro. Rev. Philip Kissick
The R.Rev. James White

Each of the speakers is an experienced minister in his church and has a special interest in this subject, one that is very topical in Freemasonry and the community in general. Each speaker will make a presentation on an aspect of the subject and plenty of time has been allocated for discussion. The meeting is **open to Freemasons and non-Freemasons**.

Dress is dinner suit or dark lounge suit (no regalia), ladies after 5 dress. Please make your booking with the Secretary for catering purposes. Supper is \$15.00 per person.

The Secretary: WBro. Alan E. Jennings, PJGD
212 Lower Plenty Rd,
ROSANNA, Vic. 3084
Tel: (03) 9459 9610
Email: ajay@alphalink.com.au

The Worshipful Master, Officers and Brethren desire the pleasure of the company of you and your partner at the Lodge Fraternal No. 603



**INSTALLATION OF
Bro. Anthony Gary Kaye**

"MASTER ELECT"
As Worshipful Master
and
Investiture of Officers

The Ceremony will be conducted by:

RWBro. Robert Kenneth Jones - Deputy Grand Master

Assisted by members of the 2011-2012 Grand Lodge Ceremonial Team

Where: GARDENVALE MASONIC CENTRE
233-237 Nepean Highway, Gardenvale 3185

When: Saturday 28 May 2011

Time: 4.15pm with the Open Installation Ceremony commencing at 6.00pm sharp
An Installation Banquet will follow, commencing at 7.45pm.

Dress: Evening

Cost: \$30.00 per person

RSVP: Friday 20 May 2011 to:
Secretary: WBro. Jeff Tait
Email: fratsec@gmail.com

Mobile: 0407 007 602

Treasurer: WBro. Simon Benedykt

Email: treasurer@lodgefraternal.com

Mobile: 0408 123 009

All Brethren, their partners and non-Masonic guests are most welcome



Northern District No. 116

An invitation is cordially extended to all MM's, PM's, present and prospective Lodge Officers, to attend an Exemplification by the GL Ceremonial Team at **Lodge Aquila No. 530 at the Brunswick Nth Masonic Centre, Davies St.**

on Monday 23 May 2011.

The Lodge will Tyle at 6:30pm sharp and all visitors are to be admitted by 7:00pm please.

The exemplification will consist of a Full Closing in the 3rd & 2nd Degree and the Initiation (1st Degree) ceremony.

Please RSVP to Bob Malcolm the Secretary of Lodge Aquila at rgm.malcolm@bigpond.com or on 9333 2122 by Monday 16 May.