

Brethren All,

The past fortnight has painted a clear picture of our solidarity and bright future. Together with my wife Bev, I have been privileged to visit various Districts and Lodges and enjoy a variety of social events. I have personally witnessed the positive enthusiasm that exists within Freemasonry that will ensure our upward spiral as new membership enquiries continue.

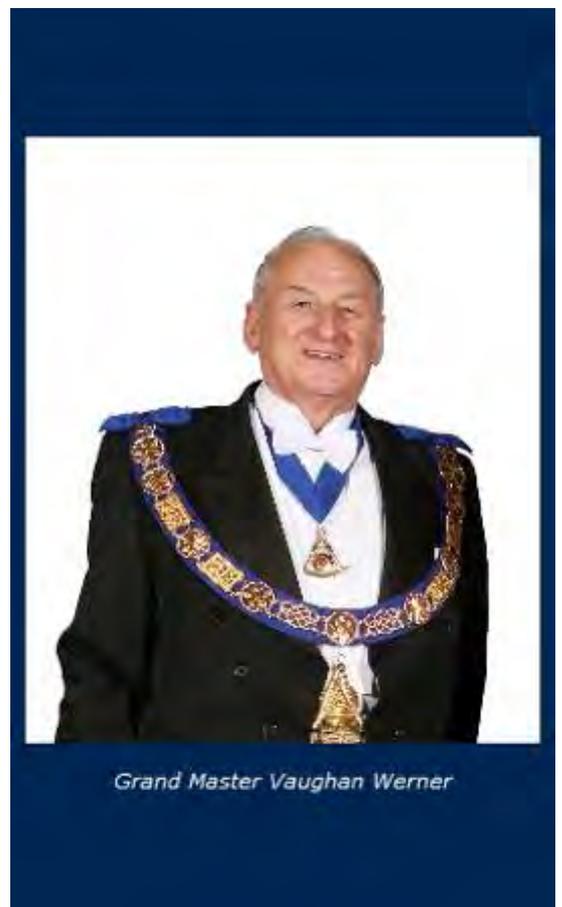
I was extremely proud of the warm welcome extended to RWBro. Greg Goding and his wife Janelle, who travelled from Queensland for Greg's insightful 'Order in the House' presentations. RWBro. Greg provided a fresh dimension to the way in which Lodges can succeed by adopting certain procedures to ensure we remain appealing to current and new members. Greg's vision was inspiring and I was honored to present him with a cheque for Freemasons Queensland for \$150,000 for the monies raised (to date) for the Queensland Flood Relief Appeal.

I was also impressed by the presentation of the '2011 Australian of The Year', Simon McKeon, at our recent quarterly 'Freemasons in the CBD Luncheon'. Simon's philanthropic pursuits and successes in community welfare align with our fundamental principles of making a positive difference, reminding me to the lives of many within our Districts and communities, alerting me to the fact that we remain on the right track to creating a brighter future to those less fortunate than ourselves.

Yours in Freemasonry

Vaughan Werner

Grand Master



Freemasons in the CBD Quarterly Luncheon



Freemasons in the CBD welcome guest speaker '2011 Australian of The Year' Simon McKeon to Morgans@401

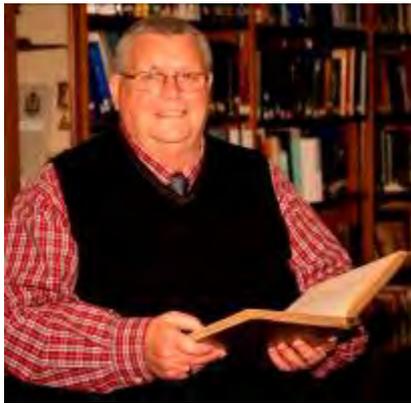
Freemasons living and working in Melbourne's CBD recently enjoyed the third luncheon at Morgans@401 located at 401 Collins Street, Melbourne. The CBD networking initiative has significantly grown in popularity with an increase of partners and guests joining members on the day.

Over 70 guests enjoyed pre-lunch drinks and networking before being officially welcomed at the luncheon by MC VWBro. David Gibbs PGIWkgs and Grand Master MWBro. Vaughan Werner before special guest RWBro. Greg Goding from Queensland thanked Victoria for their support in raising much-needed funds for the people of Queensland that were affected by the devastating floods.

Following the main course, VWBro. David Gibbs welcomed keynote speaker, Simon McKeon, '2011 Australian of the Year' to share his inspirational journey from being a leading professional to combining both business and his philanthropic successes that have changed the lives of many disadvantaged and underprivileged Australians.

Other notable guests included Channel Seven News Producer Mark Gillies and News Director Steve Carey.

Meet your new Grand Librarian – RWBro. Jim Spreadborough



Engage! recently caught up with Freemasons Victoria's newly appointed Grand Librarian RWBro. Jim Spreadborough. Jim is well aware that his predecessor Peter Thornton, who gives great service to Freemasonry, left very large shoes to fill. Jim is not daunted by the job ahead of him adding that he had a vision for the Library; of the part it plays not only in Masonic education and research but how its focus can be broadened to include interesting portraits, interesting Masonic memorabilia, interpretive displays about the role Freemasons played in the founding and development of Victoria.

Jim spent most of his business working life in the employ of BHP in the Sales and Marketing Division. Jim's natural talent as a trainer very quickly saw him catapulted into a senior position responsible within BHP for Sales and Marketing.

Jim joined Freemasonry as an initiate in the Carnegie Lodge No. 287 on the 13 June 1967. The Lodge amalgamated with Glenhuntly and Ormond Lodge to form the Morton Ray Lodge No 237 in December 1984. Jim is currently a member of the Lodge of Good Companions, which meets at the Mount Waverley Masonic Centre.

In 1978 Jim was appointed a Liaison Officer for the Monash District. He was appointed Assistant District Inspector of Workings in 1985.

In 1988 Jim was invited to join the Warden's Course Team as a Syndicate Leader, and thus began an association with Education within Freemasons Victoria which has spanned 23 years. In typical modesty, Jim states that, "I think I have made some worthwhile contribution to Education in Freemasons Victoria." When pushed for a career highlight, Jim quickly responded that it was meeting up with students of the Warden's courses years later and seeing how they had developed in confidence, in public speaking and ritual presentation and more especially the numbers who had achieved appointments to Grand Lodge Ceremonial Teams including Senior Grand Officers.

Never one to sit back and rest on his laurels, Jim accepted an appointment to the Grand Lodge Marketing Committee in 1989 and to the Education Committee in the mid 1990s. Until this year Jim said he had served under every Grand Superintendent of Education.

Jim's primary role as Freemasons Victoria Grand Librarian will focus on preserving and showcasing the Masonic heritage by continuing the project of and cataloguing artefacts, photographs, regalia, books, magazines, Lodge warrants, letters, jewels and general memorabilia.

The Freemasons Victoria Library annual membership fee is only \$1.00 per annum and \$10.00 for Life Membership. The Library is open to members, family and the general public:

Monday – Friday 9.00am to 12.15pm & 1.00pm to 2.30pm

Wednesday 9.00am to 12.15pm & 1.00pm to 2.30pm & 3.15pm to 7.15pm

The Library is closed on weekends and public holidays

Library Volunteers Required:

If you can spare a half day of service to assist in the Library, please contact RWBro. Jim Spreadborough, Grand Librarian on 9411 0119. Free car parking and lunch will be provided.

The Freemason tradition continues with the Initiation of Bro. Maxwell Peter Broad



Left to Right: Maxwell A. Broad PJGD, Peter Somic PM, Maxwell P. Broad EA & Ross Broad PM.

Coming from a Masonic family it was inevitable that Maxwell Broad (Max) would also join the fraternity, something that he has been looking forward to for some time. On 20 April 2011 Lodge of Orana No. 836 Initiated the 18-year-old into Freemasonry, joining his father Ross Broad P.M. (Lodge Secretary), grandfather Maxwell A Broad PJGD and his godfather Peter Somic P.M. as a member of this Lodge.

Having grown up in and around Orana, Bro. Max had been waiting for this day for many years, with a large group of visitors attending to see the young man they have known become a Freemason. Both his father and grandfather took much pride in assisting in the ceremony.

Max is currently studying Commerce at Swinburne University and proud to be continuing his family's long involvement in Freemasonry. "I wanted to become a member to carry on our family tradition of principled men. I want to make my family proud," Max said.

In addition to his father and grandfather, his uncle Bro. Wayne Broad is also a Freemason. The family tradition extends back even further, to his great grandfather (William James), his many uncles and to the beginning of Freemasonry in Victoria, with one of his ancestors being Initiated under the Irish Constitution, in Ireland.

New Member Profile

Introducing Bro. Philip Sidebottom - Middle Park Lodge No. 206



'There are three passions in my life; one is shopping, another is community work and the third is now Freemasonry,' says Philip Sidebottom with typical good humour.

Bro. Phillip was introduced to Freemasonry at the official opening of the Think Pink Living Centre at 390 St Kilda Road last October, the foundation he helped get off the ground. Philip's long association with the St Kilda Road precinct encompasses 15 years as a Royal Australian Air Force Drum Major, as well as being Facilities Manager for Knight Frank, also based at 390 St Kilda Road.

Philip's commitment to community work has seen several important projects driven through to fruition, while his boundless enthusiasm for good causes has a tendency to rub off on everybody he meets.

'I love being involved in the community. It's not my work, it's a hobby. Any time I'm sitting down with somebody to have lunch or coffee, and I've got an opportunity to throw it into the conversation, I do. I had a meeting scheduled the other day and nearly cancelled because I had so much on. And I thought, no, I'll have a conversation with this guy. He'd come down from Sydney to talk about his cleaning business, and by the end of it, he had donated \$20,000 to the Think Pink Centre,' said Philip. He noticed my 'Square and Compasses' on my jacket and we spent another hour discussing Freemasonry and why I decided to join.

Coming from a demolition background, Philip's commitment to charitable ventures is entwined with his desire to reduce waste.

“One of my existing clients with my demolition company has a regular source of books coming in that were just getting thrown out. I thought, why don’t we bundle them up and get them to where they’ll be needed? With the help of Rotary, the books have been shipped to developing countries instead of becoming landfill. The demolition background has given me a sense of the importance of recycling and reusing,” says Phillip.

Of Phillip’s many ongoing projects to which he has made a lifelong commitment, arguably the one that gets him most excited is the Think Pink Living Centre where Freemasons Victoria sponsors Australia’s first ever Breast Care Nurse, Ms Kathryn Wallace.

“The first day I started working on St Kilda Road, for Mirvac, I got a call from the Chair of the Foundation, Irene Hendel, seeking a space for the Think Pink Living Centre. She said “We’ve just been awarded a cheque from Kmart to pay our rent for the next 5 years. We’re looking for a site with great street exposure, can you think of anywhere in the area?” So I’d just started working in a building for Mirvac at 390 St Kilda Road, and I said, “Come and have a look at the ground floor of this building.” When she came back with the directors, Mirvac decided to give them the ground floor offices at a specially considered rate plus the old caretaker’s apartment in the building rent-free for 5 years, which is used for patient accommodation. It was so run down at the time, a really disgusting place. I said, “if you can look past that, I think it’s perfect. They loved it.”

“When the centre officially opened, I met the likes of the Grand Master, Vaughan Werner, Barry Reaper, Peter Henshall and Frank Fordyce. I was blown away by the generosity and support of Freemasons Victoria. After the Grand Master’s speech and announcement of Freemasons pledge, I went away and researched more into Freemasonry and together with my wife, and we spoke to Vaughan and Barry Reaper in detail. With the support of my family, I filled out my application form because we felt Freemasonry was a progressive and meaningful organisation that my entire family and community would be benefit from. I love the fact that I have so many new Brothers to make a positive difference with and I enjoy promoting myself as a proud Freemason within my many charitable, work and social circles. It is a privilege for me to be around men who are really up to something in the community. I was inspired by the Grand Master’s quote at the Think Pink Living Centre’s opening, “Freemasons are the silent majority out there making a difference. I love it.”

Deputy Grand Master RWBro. Bob Jones' Easter mission complete



At Easter, our DGM, RWBro. Bob Jones, returned to the professional racing scene, the holy grail of motor sport, Bathurst.

Bob joined the team as manager and support engineer for his son Robert, a sign writer by day and professional race car driver at all other times.

Bob commented, "The organisers of the annual Easter event at Bathurst welcomed the inclusion of Formula Fords at the meet. We still have the two cars that Robbie and his younger brother Cameron drove for many years. So we decided (or more correctly the boys decided!) to brush off the cobwebs and have a run. We had a great time."

46 cars took to the track over three race and despite a few set backs (like Robbie infringing the rules), and we finished in fifth place overall for the weekend.

"I was also proud to display the Masonic 'Square and Compasses' and Freemasonry Victoria's logo on the race car that caught the attention of one of the race officials who turned out to be a Pat Master in the NSW Constitution. He and explained that in all the years he had been around motorsport, he had never linked Freemasonry with it in any way. He was so impressed with all I told him about our membership resurge and our about our recent achievements, that he promised me he would dust off the dinner suit and go to Lodge again."

'Freemasons Victoria's 2011 student scholarships rings the bell of 'appreciation.'



On the evening of Wednesday 11 May, over 400 guests visited Grand Lodge for the student 'Scholarships' presentation. 101 scholarships totaling \$182,000 were presented to students at secondary level and also to those entering university in 2011.

The most prestigious scholarship presented on the evening was the 'Freemasons Victoria Scholarship' that was awarded to Duncan Knowles who is studying a Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Melbourne. This scholarship is valued at \$7,000 per annum for the tenure of Duncan's course.

The 'Eleizer Benedykt Memorial Scholarship' was awarded to Alahana Somerville for music and the 'Bill Burrell Memorial Scholarship' was awarded to Jessica Beveridge for piano accompanying.

Presentations were made by MWBro. Vaughan Werner, GM, VWBro. Frank Fordyce, PBB, VWBro. Dr. Robin Gray, Chairman of the Scholarships Committee and WBro. Simon Benedykt PGStdB, WBro. Ronald Benedykt, PM and Sue Benedykt represented her husband RWBro. Hillel Benedykt, PSGW.

Information about Freemasonry and copies of the *Freemasonry Victoria* magazine were distributed on the evening and students and parents had the opportunity to have their photo taken with the Grand Master inside the mobile Lodge that was on display to showcase Freemasonry. This resulted in 10 Freemasons Victoria membership packs being issued.

Copies of the scholarship photos can be seen viewed on Facebook – Freemasons Victoria.



FREEMASONS
Victoria



MWBro Vaughan Werner
Grand Master

You are cordially invited to attend the

Re-Consecration

of the

Argyle Lodge No. 105

to celebrate its

125th Anniversary

Ladies and non-Freemasons
are most welcome.

Saturday June 4th, 2011

Tying at 2.00pm

La Trobe Valley Masonic Centre
Lodge Drive, Traralgon

Followed by afternoon tea

(RSVP to Rodney Lavin 03 5176 0618 or

rodneylavin@bigpond.com)

The sky is never the limit to support our Brothers



WBro. J. Mercieca (Carisbrook), VWBro G. Porter PGIW (Avoca), WBro. D. Bilton (Carisbrook), MWBro. Adrian Burton GM of Freemasons Queensland, WBro. Trevor McDowell, Trevor's wife Carol, Bro T. Redpath (Avoca), Bro. S. Edmondson, Maryborough, WBro. Battersby (Carisbrook), WBro. M. Edmondson (Maryborough) & WBro K. Calder PSGD (Dunnolly).

In early May, nine Brethren from the Central Goldfields travelled to 'Maroochy Lodge No. 168 UGLQ to attend the Installation of Bro. Trevor McDowell, a close friend of Bro. Tim Redpath of Avoca Lodge No. 213.

Bro. Tim invited several Victorian members from the Central District to the Queensland Installation and so word got around and Bro. Tim was overwhelmed by the supportive response.

The Master of the Lodge delayed the Installation by 1 hour to ensure the Victorian visitors could attend. The Master elect was also overwhelmed by the visit from the Victorian members.

The Grand Master of UGLQ, MWBro. Adrian Burton was accompanied by Grand Lodge Officers to conduct the Installation ceremony which was followed a most sumptuous banquet.

Members of the Central Goldfields Lodges and the Maroochy Lodge have remained in touch over emails and future reciprocal trips have been planned.

Brethren unite for Uncle Bobs Club



Celebrating the 80th Anniversary of the 'Good Friday Appeal' Uncle Bobs Club raised a new 'Record Amount ' totaling \$420,000.00.

On Saturday April 16, Brethren from Northern District 116 were permitted to collect donations outside selected TAB outlets which contributed to the overall amount. The money raised will make a BIG difference to the young patients in the Royal Children's Hospital.

Volunteers from Northern District 116 at were stationed at nominated TAB sites and raised the following; Preston \$52.25, Heidelberg \$60.60 (including George's grandson Tyler), Fairfield \$55.55 and Keilor \$73.75.

Elrona Lodge No. 384, Lodge of Orana No. 836 and the Jubilee Mark Lodge No. 50 collectively raised \$251.25.

On Good Friday itself, volunteers from Western District 117 collected at the Caltex Service Station in Werribee and raised \$1,242.70, whilst volunteers from the Northern District 116 were assigned to the corners of Sharps Road and Melrose Drive in Tullamarine raising a total of \$5,182.65.

Images from Good Friday 2011 and a video clip of the Uncle Bob's Club cheque presentation can be viewed at www.unclebobsclub.org.au .

2011 GRAND LODGE TEAM FUNDRAISER



Presents the 'must see' comedy

" IT'S MY PARTY "

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORTING THE ANNUAL FREEMASONS VICTORIA'S PINK BREAKFAST

WHEN : FRIDAY 29 JULY

TIME : 8.00 PM (arrive by 7.30 pm)
Sherries on arrival

WHERE : MT.ELIZA COMMUNITY CENTRE
CANADIAN BAY ROAD, MT. ELIZA

COST : \$ 25.00 per person

B.Y.O : DRINKS & NIBBLES (Tea & Coffee provided)
RAFFLE MONEY

CABARET STYLE SEATING

R.S.V.P : BY FRIDAY 8TH JULY (on the form below)

POST TO : DENIS HENRY
24 WESLEY COURT
KEYSBOROUGH. 3173

EMAIL: denis@melbournetrailers.com.au

In the News...



Grand Master visits lodge

The Cobram Freemasons were honoured with a visit by Grand Master Vaughan Werner and Grand Secretary Peter Henshall on Wednesday morning.

It was the first time Grand Master had attended the local lodge.

The lodge is a heritage-listed building and lodge members are hoping to secure funding for renovations.

Cobram Freemason's secretary Arthur Connor said the lodge members were excited to have the Grand Master in attendance.

"The Cobram lodge is the oldest building in the community and should be preserved."

"There is a possibility of funding from Heritage Victoria, as well as the Moira Shire, and we are hoping to secure funds to conduct renovations."

Grand Master Werner said he was pleased to meet with local members and have the chance to look around the lodge.

The Cobram Freemasons boast a membership of 27, and pride themselves on community involvement.



Honoured: (From left) Ray Donnan, Ian Cuss, Peter Henshall, Vaughan Werner and Trevor Hocking.

They have been meeting at the Oak St lodge since 1921.

"Freemasonry offers men a principled way of life, a sense of belonging and of personal growth," Mr Connor said.

"The principles by which a Freemason is expected to conduct himself are based on tolerance, equality, charity and honour."

"Freemasons pursue their personal development by working towards the betterment of all humanity through widespread community involvement."

Lodge members meet on the last Thursday of the month.

The Brethren of Cobram Lodge No.282 recently welcomed a visit from the Grand Master MWBro. Vaughan Werner and the Grand Secretary RWBro. Peter Henshall, PSGW to the Lodge. Bro. Ian Cuss, JW arranged for Jessica Craig, the Editor of the local paper to report on their official visit. The nature of the visit was to discuss the future and direction of the Lodge that currently has 27 members and is the oldest building in Cobram and requires renovations prior to being heritage listed.

New Members Officer – Fixed Term Role

A new, fixed-term role has been created in the Membership Department with the prime focus of providing quality service to potential candidates and new members.

The New Members Officer is principally responsible for co-ordinating the processes involved in converting membership enquiries to applications and must have strong Masonic knowledge, excellent interpersonal skills, sound computer literacy, high level organisational skills, and, the ability to relate to potential candidates of different ages, creed and social backgrounds.

Using strong administration, data entry and computer literacy skills, the New Members Officer is able to accurately maintain enquiry records, respond to enquiries within 48 hours, assist candidates to complete application forms and issue necessary paperwork to facilitate interviews with the New Member's Committee.

This role will be offered as a 12 month contract commencing immediately with the opportunity to move into a similar role in June 2012.

For a copy of the Position Description, please [click here](#). For enquiries regarding the role, please contact Lena Way, Manager Membership Services on 9411 0117.

New Initiates' Celebrated in Grand Style in May



Pictured: Grand Master MVBro. Vaughan Werner presents RWBro. Greg Goding from Queensland with a cheque for \$150,000 for the Queensland Flood Appeal .

New Freemasons Initiated after December 2008 were celebrated at the second New Initiates' Cocktail Function that was held at the Dallas Brooks Centre on Friday 20 May 2011.

Over 100 guests attended the event that is designed for new members, partners and their guests to come together in an informal and relaxed environment to share a few drinks, strengthen their friendships and meet Brethren from other Lodges represented from all Districts.

The evening commenced with a Freemasonry information session and tour of the Lodge Room No.1 hosted by members of the Young Members Committee and presented by RWBro. Mervyn Hallam.

The event was hosted by the Grand Master MVBro. Vaughan Werner with VVBro. Wes Turnbull as Master of Ceremonies. During the course of the evening, the Grand Master presented a cheque for \$150,000 to RWBro. Greg Goding of the Freemasons Queensland Constitution from the monies raised for the Freemasons Victoria's Queensland Flood Appeal. RWBro. Greg expressed the heartfelt appreciation on behalf of all Brethren and community members that will receive direct assistance and benefit from the much-needed fundraising efforts.

Members of the Young Members Committee kept everyone engaged through hosting an innovative social networking activity (Who has the mystery key?) whilst Melbourne's popular acoustic solo guitarist added to the party 'vibe' performing a range of popular cover songs. Melbourne's highly sought after caricaturist Gavin Bell was kept busy with guests lining-up for a personalised caricature cartoon image to have as a keep-sake memento of the occasion.

As guests mingled and took to learning more about Ionic and Doric student coaching services and the benefits of becoming involved with the Task Force, The Grand Master again took to the lectern to make a special announcement for all new Initiates – 'The Grand Master 's New Initiate Award'.

The award will be open to Newly Initiated Brethren who have been in the Craft for less than five years and have made a significant contribution to their Lodge, District, Community and/or Charity. The winner of this award will have exemplified Masonic Principles in all nominated categories.

The winner will be presented the award at the September Quarterly Communication and appear on the front cover of the Inner Sanctum in Freemasonry Victoria magazine's with a story of their achievement with additional publicity in *Engage!* E-Newsletter and their nominated local newspaper.

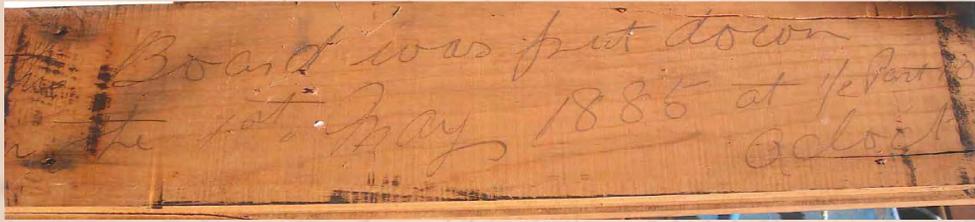
More information on the 'Grand Master's New Members Award' can be obtained from your Lodge Secretary in early July.

MEET SOME OF THE CHARACTERS WHO ATTENDED THE NEW INITIATES COCKTAIL FUNCTION 20 MAY 2011



SEE MORE ON FACEBOOK—FREEMASONS VICTORIA

Historical discovery at Beechworth



Above: A section of the plank with the inscription. Left: The entirety of the plank.

Members of the Beechworth Lodge of St John No. 14 were recently astounded by the discovery of a hand-signed plank inscribed with the following, "whoever should see this please remember us," and included the names of the builders that worked on the original floor laying on '1 May 1885 at 1/2 past 10 o'clock'.

This historical find was discovered during Lodge renovations during the stage of connecting the old floor to the new floor of the female amenities. Builder WBro. Bill Lowen removed the old carpet with WBro. Bill Sheedy & WBro. Charles Wright, WM, and discovered the floors previously joined an estimated 25 years ago.

When it was determined that 'dry rot' on the west side of the floor had ruined the floor beyond repair (caused by water leakage and poor under floor ventilation), it was decided that the whole floor needed to be removed and replaced. During the uplifting process, the board was discovered by builder WBro. Bill Lowen and presented to the Lodge.



Above: A section of the plank with the inscription written in 1885 by the builders.