



Our Principles Make a Difference

Engage! | Issue 20 | www.freemasonsvic.net.au

Brethren All,

It is indeed my pleasure to present you with Issue 20 of *Engage!*

Last Friday 24 June, Freemasons Victoria, along with the ABC's Ian 'Macca' McNamara proudly hosted the 'Victorian Flood Relief Appeal' concert at the Dallas Brooks Centre. \$25,000 was raised which will all be dispersed to families and communities affected by the Victorian floods earlier this year. Freemasons Victoria would like to thank all those who attended and for their generosity towards the deserving recipients of this appeal.

In a sign of the growing strength of our organisation, we will dedicate three new Masonic buildings over the coming months as well as form several new Lodges, which you can read about in this issue. We should all be encouraged by our promising Masonic outlook.

Yours in Freemasonry,

Vaughan Werner
Grand Master



Membership Overview – June 2011

The following statistics provide an outline of Freemasons Victoria's membership situation for the month of June:

- Grand Lodge received 68 enquiries for membership, 100% of which were generated from Freemasons Victoria's website.
- Freemasons Victoria initiated 29 new members across the state with a further 40 propositions received.
- Grand Lodge generated and received 29 membership applications.
- The average age for new Initiates for June was 40-years-of-age
- Middle Park Lodge, Lord Carrington Lodge and Lodge of Evolution are leading the way with 6 new initiates each for the period between January and June 2011.
- Freemasons Victoria has initiated 186 members across the state for the year-to-date (January – June 2011).
- The number of affiliated members in Victoria is currently 12,879.

Congratulations Lodge Integrity!

You may remember that in the very first edition of *Engage!* released on 26 July 2010, a membership competition was announced where the Lodge with the highest membership percentage increase achieved by 30 June 2011 (as proportional to their total membership) would receive a full refund for the aggregate value of new initiate's fees paid for the period. This would give the Lodge an opportunity to use those funds for member education, community programs or future recruitment/promotional campaigns. Freemasons Victoria is pleased to announce that the winner of this competition is **Lodge Integrity** with a membership percentage increase of **21%**. Well done to all members of this Lodge!

Other Lodges which achieved notable membership increases were:

Lodge	No.	New Initiates	Total M'ship	% Increase
Arcadian-Veritas Lodge	340	5	30	20.00
Warragul Lodge	677	5	31	19.23
Avoca Lodge	213	8	51	18.60
Lodge Devotion	723	5	35	16.67
The Lodge of Evolution	931	7	49	16.67
City of Footscray-Wyndham Lodge	239	5	38	15.15
Francis Ormond Lodge	286	4	31	14.81
Middle Park Lodge	206	12	94	14.63
Brighton Grammarians' Lodge	433	4	33	13.79

All Lodges: your membership recruitment target is 2 new members per Lodge per year, or proportionately, 1 new member for every 10 members in your Lodge, per year. There are resources available to you at Grand Lodge to assist you with your recruitment and promotional efforts. Please contact Lena Way, Manager Membership Services at way@freemasonsvic.net.au for assistance.

Freemasons Victoria in the Media

Grand Master Hits it off with the ladies on 'the couch' on Channel Ten's *The Circle*

Freemasons Victoria's Grand Master, MWBro. Vaughan Werner was a special guest on Network Ten's Logie award-winning program *The Circle* on Monday 27 June 2011.

The segment featured footage of the Installation of the Grand Master and the investiture of his Grand Officers held on 19 March 2011.

Reporter Sean Lynch attended the Grand Installation and interviewed both the Grand Master and VWBro. Wes Turnbull PGDC after the ceremony.

The Grand Master joined presenters Chrissie Swan, Denise Drysdale, Yumi Stynes and Gorgi Coghlan live on 'the couch' to further discuss Freemasonry and answer questions about the Grand Installation, regalia and the value of women in Freemasonry.

[Click here](#) to watch the segment, 'The Freemasons: separating fact from myth'.

<http://www.freemasonsvic.net.au/NewsArticle/News/tabid/267/Default.aspx?newsID=194>

Feature in *The Age*

The Grand Master along with members WBro. Fotios Spiridonos SGD, WBro. David Bloom WM and Bro. Ramsey El-atm MM featured in an article in *The Age* newspaper about Freemason's Victoria's increasing membership and diversity on 29 June 2011. To view the article, [Click here](#)

<http://www.freemasonsvic.net.au/NewsArticle/News/tabid/267/Default.aspx?newsID=195>

Compass on ABC TV – Sunday 14 August at 10pm

As part of ABC TV's *Compass* program, a series called 'Whatever happened to ...' will feature a story on Freemasonry in Australia, including footage of a Victorian Open Investiture Ceremony and interviews with several Victorian Freemasons and staff. The program will go to air on Sunday 14 August at 10pm on ABC 1.

New Masonic Lodges opening in July

New Lodge to Form at Lilydale Masonic Centre

The soon-to-open Lilydale Lodge is borne out of the amalgamation of Yarra Valley-Donna Buang Lodge and the Orient Lodge of Lilydale. The new Lodge will be celebrated with an Installation Ceremony on Thursday 28 July at 6.30pm at the Lilydale Masonic Centre. The Lodge will meet on the fourth Thursday of every month. Freemasons interested in joining or who wish to attend the Installation, should contact the Secretary:

Graham Simpson – (03) 5964 3784 / gramham_simpson@optusnet.com.au

Campaspe Valley Lodge (Echuca)

Campaspe Valley Lodge is the result three existing Lodges (Millewa Lodge, Echuca Lodge and Rochester Lodge) joining forces to strengthen Masonic alliances in the region. The Lodge will meet on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm at the Echuca Masonic Centre. The Lodge will be Consecrated by the Grand Master and the Grand Ceremonial Team on Saturday 30 July. Freemasons who wish to attend should contact: Geoff Becker on (03) 5482 5549.

SEAVIC Lodge

SEAVIC Lodge was Consecrated on Saturday 2 July at the Dallas Brooks Centre. The Consecration, attended by in excess of 100 Brethren, was followed by an Open Installation which was attended by families and partners. The SEAVIC Lodge includes members from both Australia and South East Asia, and was formed with the purpose of developing fraternal relations with our Asian Brothers. SEAVIC is welcoming new members and meets on the third Friday of even months at the Dallas Brooks Centre.



Pictured: SEAVIC members proudly parading their new apparel purchased from the Freemasons Victoria e-store. Members and their partners purchased a variety of customised items including fleece pullovers, sleeveless vests, dress jackets, weatherproof parkas and rugby tops, all featuring the square and compasses logo with 'SEAVIC' embroidered underneath. **Any Lodge that purchases 10 or more apparel items from the Freemasons Victoria e-store is able to have their items custom embroidered.**

<http://www.freemasonsvic.net.au/Membership/MerchandiseEStore/tabid/390/Default.asp>

New Masonic Buildings Set to Launch

Continuing to build on our strong foundations, Freemasons Victoria will dedicate three new Masonic buildings over the coming months:

- Wangaratta Masonic Centre: a Dedication Ceremony will be held on Saturday 20 August to formally open the new Centre on Appin Street.
- Ballarat Masonic Centre: A Dedication Ceremony will be held on Saturday 15 October to officially open this brand new Centre on Barkly Street.
- Williamstown Masonic Centre: This fully refurbished Centre located on Electra Street will be Dedicated on Saturday 22 October.

More information will follow on all of these Dedications. There are tremendous membership opportunities for the Lodges which will utilise these Centres. Staff at Grand Lodge are looking forward to working with these Lodges and their members to optimise promotional and recruitment programs.

Lodge Accreditation

The Accreditation & Quality Management Committee has revised and updated documentation for Lodges wanting to proceed to accreditation as well as Lodges who have already been approved for Full or Provisional Accreditation.

All Lodges are encouraged to download the **Lodge Information Pack 2011** from the Freemasons Victoria Intranet site, <http://www.freemasonsvic.net.au/MemberLogIn/> then go to 'Lodge Accreditation'. This Pack contains information to assist Lodges to proceed toward accreditation as well as provides valuable information for Lodges already accredited. It refers the user to other documentation vital to achieving accreditation for the first time or continuing with accreditation into the future.

All documentation necessary for proceeding to accreditation can be accessed from the Intranet site, including application forms.

For any enquiries or assistance please contact the Accreditation & Quality Management Committee Secretary, RWBro Ray Kelly PJGW by email: raykelly@msn.com.au or during business hours on 0418 325 201.

Maryborough Masonic Centre Open Night

Maryborough Masonic Centre Open Night was recently held on Friday 17 June. The night was hosted by Maryborough Lodge and supported by the District Lodges of Avoca, Carisbrook, Dunolly and Talbot. Forty-three guests attended including local Masons. The evening was presented by WBro. Jim Puohotaua DGSuptMem, who according to Secretary WBro. Joseph Mercieca PM, "was outstanding and maintained the complete attention of the audience with his informal and often witty explanation of the Lodge Room and its goings on." *Engage!* Is looking forward to hearing how many candidates result from this successful evening.



Pictured: WBro. Jim Puohotaua DGSuptMem presents potential candidate Brent Driscoll (Avoca) with Masonic literature.
Photo courtesy of WBro. Joseph Mercieca

Williamstown Daylight Lodge Welcomes New Worshipful Master

On Monday 13 June, RWBro. Bob Jones DGM assisted by the current Grand Ceremonial Team, presided over the Installation of WBro. Bob Merlo as worshipful Master of Williamstown Daylight Lodge. This is the first time that a Master has been installed into a Fellowship Lodge. Williamstown Daylight Lodge is the first Warranted Lodge to be granted fellowship status; the only other Fellowship Lodge being 'Hand of Friendship' at the Freemasons Homes which is a licensed Lodge of Instruction.

During his toast to the new Worshipful Master in the South, RWBro. Jones impressed upon the members of the Lodge the importance of their responsibility as the first Fellowship Lodge, and the need to work hard to make sure the new status worked. In their case, the importance of keeping a daylight facility available in the Williamstown area was paramount to the decision to grant Fellowship status, and the members know they must work assiduously to recruit and retain members in that area. He assured those attending that Grand Lodge, the District Coordinator and himself were all ready and willing to assist them in their efforts.



Pictured: RWBro. Bob Jones DGM speaking to members of Williamstown Daylight Lodge on the Installation of WBro. Bob Merlo as their Worshipful Master.

Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation donates to TLC for Kids

VWBro. David Seymour PGIWkgs, District Coordinator for the Western District, recently represented the Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation by presenting a cheque for \$15,000 to TLC for Kids. The presentation was made on Centre Stage at Highpoint Shopping Centre during TLC for Kids' Annual 'Tracky Dack Day' festivities.

While presenting the cheque, David took the opportunity to tell the assembled group about the many charitable donations made by Freemasons Victoria in recent times, which was warmly received. TLC for Kids is a unique children's charity providing immediate distraction and urgent support for disadvantaged, sick children and their families. By implementing a simple yet effective referral system, health care professionals are able to request TLC for Kids' services. Any child with any illness or health related issue receives help and support via the referral system, currently the fastest system available for sick children.

In accepting the cheque, Mr Tim Conolan, CEO of TLC for Kids, thanked the Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation for their generosity and explained that the \$15,000 would enable TLC for Kids to immediately assist 30 families. "TLC for Kids does such wonderful work, that I intend to keep them on our charity radar," said David Seymour. "Their work is too important to be forgotten". For more information on TLC for Kids visit: <http://www.tlcforkids.org.au/>



Pictured: VWBro. David Seymour presenting a cheque for \$15,000 from the Freemasons Public Charity Foundation to Mr Tim Conolan, CEO TLC for Kids.

Echuca Lodge in Tune with Local Band

The Echuca Lodge and Freemasonry Victoria's Board of Benevolence have generously donated a tenor horn to Echuca's renowned Federal Band. The band have been going strong for over 150 years and members' ages range from 12 all the way through to 85. The Lodge has previously donated two cornets and one flugelhorn.



Pictured: Band members with VWBro. Col Perkins, PGIWkgs, Grand Lodge Organist and WBro. Fred Bridgewater PGStdB. Photo courtesy of Col Perkin.

Your Magazine

The winter edition of *Freemasons Victoria* will be in your letterbox next week. Freemasons Victoria now has over 300 public outlets across the state stocking and displaying the magazine.