



Our Principles Make a Difference

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Brethren All,

Last Sunday I awoke to read the disturbing news that Norwegian killer Anders Breivik may have at one time practiced Freemasonry. The news article showing him wearing Masonic regalia shocked me to my core, and I know my sentiments are shared by the Brethren all over the world. How could a man allegedly obligated as a Freemason be capable of contriving such hatred and taking the lives of over 90 innocent people?

The Grand Secretariat was quick to prepare a press statement which was released to media on Sunday afternoon. You can read a copy of it in this issue of *Engage!* I firmly believe that we must at this time stand together as a brotherhood and respond with conviction to questioning that may arise from this matter. Throughout our 300 year history, Freemasonry has been, and remains, an organisation that espouses peace, teaches acceptance, assists those in need and transcends religious, political and social boundaries. Let's not allow the actions of one individual divert us from our core tenets.

Yours in Freemasonry,

Vaughan Werner
Grand Master



Freemasons Victoria's press statement - Norwegian Killing Spree

After learning that Norwegian terrorist Anders Breivik allegedly practiced Freemasonry at one time, Freemasons Victoria was quick to release a statement to the press affirming our organisation as one that espouses peace, harmony and tolerance. [Click here](#) to read the press release.

'Freemasons in the CBD' Quarterly Luncheon – Tuesday 16 August 2011



Freemasons and their guests are invited to the next CBD luncheon to be held on Tuesday 16 August featuring special guest speaker Detective Senior Sergeant Charlie Bezzina, former top homicide detective.

Charlie Bezzina recently resigned from the Victoria Police Force after 37 years of service including 13 years as the head of the Homicide Squad. Charlie had an illustrious career with the Police Force and was affectionately regarded as the "best dressed detective in the Crime Squad". More importantly, he was regarded as a brilliant investigator who left no stone unturned and pursued murder suspects with a dogged determination.

Detective Senior Sergeant Charlie Bezzina commanded investigations into over 300 murders and 150 suspicious deaths including the Mr Cruel case, the Wales King Society murders, cricketer David Hookes, heart surgeon Victor Chang and underworld figure Alphonse Gangitano.

There are very few detectives who can match Charlie's broad experience and track record within the Homicide Squad.

Signed copies of his book *The Job: Fighting Crime From The Frontline* will be available to purchase for \$30 (cash only).

[View the invitation](#) and or [download the payment schedule](#).

Tickets \$55. Bookings: Donna De La Rue 03 9411 0103 or delarue@freemasonsvic.net.au

Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation's donations make a difference

Each year, the Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation issues grants to community organisations to assist them to establish and deliver charitable projects. Established in 1989 by senior Freemason The Hon. Mr Justice Williams, The Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation raises funds from the general public as well as from Freemasons to assist public charitable enterprises approved by the Foundation.

This year, grants totalling \$32,000 have been provided to Bravehearts (an organisation that works to prevent child sexual assault), to the Wesley Centre for their 'Life in Richmond Program', to the Drysdale CFA and to Karringal Inc. Baclinks program (a youth program for disadvantaged children).

The Swan Hill hospital also gratefully received a donation last week from the Foundation for \$6,600. RWBro. Jim Thompson PSGW presented the cheque, which will go towards the purchase of two Dinamap monitors and the purchase of resources to help treat lymphoedema.

A further \$10,000 was donated on 7 July by RWBro. Alan Lindsay PDGM to Bellarine Community Health for the specific purpose of remodelling and re-equipping the residents' hair salon at aged care facility Ann Nicholl House.

Since its inception in 1989, The Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation has been pleased to distribute grants totalling more than \$2.1 million to various organisations in the areas of child care, aged care, health and community and will continue to do so as part of Freemasons Victoria's aim to assist the community wherever a need is identified.



Pictured: RWBro. Jim Thompson presents a Swan Hill hospital representative with a cheque to fund worthy health projects

Freemasonry in the media

Last Monday, the Grand Secretary RWBro. Peter Henshall along with representatives from Lodges that meet at the Mt Waverley Centre, attended a media photoshoot for Monash Fairfax Community Newspaper. Journalist Daniel Tran is hopeful for a cover story on Freemasonry that debunks some of the myths. Keep your eyes peeled for the pictorial in coming weeks. Thank you to those members who gave their time to help promote Freemasonry in the Mt Waverley area.



Members of Mt Waverley Lodges along with Grand Secretary Peter Henshall.



Peter explaining some of the Lodge's symbolism to journalist Danny Tran.

Vietnam Vet Jim Bourke – Guest Speaker at Unanimity Club on 13 August

Nearly forty years ago, Pilot Officer Robert Carver and Flying Officer Michael Herbert vanished after a bombing mission in Vietnam. Earlier this year, what was believed to be the wreckage of their plane was discovered. This has led to hopes that the last two of the six Australian servicemen missing in action in Vietnam may soon be returned home. Jim Bourke is a Vietnam veteran and the driving force behind Operation Aussies Home.



Vietnam Veteran Jim Bourke

Jim Bourke will be the guest speaker at Unanimity Club's upcoming Annual Dinner at the Manningham Club on Saturday 13 August. Come and listen to the work Operation Aussies Home has been carrying out in researching and investigating other MIA cases from earlier conflicts around the world involving Australian Forces.

The evening includes a three-course dinner for \$60 with drinks at bar prices.

For more details and bookings contact the Club Secretary - Paul Baillie - prior to 5 August at pvb3@optusnet.com.au

Click here to read more about Jim's story on ABC's *Australian Story*.
<http://www.abc.net.au/austory/content/2007/s2060260.htm>

Grand Lodge Staff Movements

There is a number of staff changes happening at Grand Lodge which we would like to inform our membership about:

Lena Way – Maternity Leave



As much as she thought no one would notice her expanding waistline, Lena and her husband Ben are expecting their first baby in mid-September. She will be taking maternity leave from Monday 15 August and to fill her shoes whilst she's being a mum, WBro. Jim Puohotaua DGSuptMem will step into her role as Acting Manager Membership Services. Lena will continue to assist the membership department remotely following the birth of her baby and is anticipating returning to work on a part-time basis in early 2012.



WBro. Jim Puohotaua has been volunteering at Grand Lodge for over a year so is very familiar with how the membership team operates. He will bring breadth of management experience, in-depth Masonic knowledge and a solid ability to deliver project outcomes.

New Members Officer



We are pleased to announce the appointment of WBro. Ben Quick WM to the role of New Members Officer who will commence with the membership team on 1 August 2011. Ben will be responsible for responding to new member's enquiries, working with the New Member's Committee and volunteers, and developing strategies to increase membership applications. Welcome aboard Ben.

Bob Young – Masonic Services Advisor (Lodges)



Bob Young, formerly an Events Co-ordinator at the Dallas Brooks Centre, has been appointed as the Masonic Services Advisor (Lodges) following some changes in the Masonic Services department. He will have responsibility for a number of increased functions including, management and sales of Masonic merchandise and an increased role in management and preservation of the Masonic Heritage. Bob also will pick up some of the functions around administration of the Lodges that meet at the Dallas Brooks Centre.

A Reminder to Secretaries

Rule 146A

As per Rule **146A** in the Constitution, if a member resigns due to relocation, the Secretary of his Lodge should inform him of the Lodges working in that area and shall request him to nominate the one to which his current membership shall be provisionally transferred. Upon the Brother making such a nomination, the Lodge Secretary shall complete the Transfer form set out in the 10th schedule and forward one copy to the Secretary of the Lodge nominated and retain one copy for Lodge records. Should the Brother not make any nomination, the Lodge Secretary shall nevertheless make the provisional nomination of the Lodge and otherwise complete the said form.

We understand the enormous job Secretaries have, and the mountain of paperwork that comes with it, however it is important that Brethren transferring to new locations are informed of how they may continue their Freemasonry.

Lodge Meeting Reports and Masters & Warden's Returns

As with every membership system, it is vital that changes be communicated to maintain integrity and accuracy. Our constitution requires Lodges to submit a Lodge Meeting Report within 14 days of every meeting detailing any alterations to the members' particulars. This is necessary even where no alterations are applicable so as to ensure that a report has not gone astray or been forgotten.

Sometimes changes occur between meetings, and it is prudent to advise as soon as practicable by submitting a supplementary report. This is particularly important with deaths and changes of address where the compiling of our "Sprig of Acacia" may be imminent or the address listing for our Journal is to be sent to the distributor.

The timely attention to reports also applies to the Return of Master & Wardens. The information it contains ensures the greater accuracy of our Masonic Guide and website data, both of which ought to be as up-to-date as possible. These returns may be submitted earlier, having regard to the copy deadlines in the Guide and the date of installation.

There are far too many Lodge Meeting Reports and Returns of Master & Wardens not being submitted as prescribed, and Lodge Secretaries are urged to pay due attention to the prompt submission of their Lodge reports. Thank you for your assistance.

New Membership Database System

As some of you may be aware, Freemasons Victoria will soon introduce a new membership database system which will allow Secretaries and District Co-ordinators access to relevant data via 'customer portal licences'. Members will also be able to update editable fields of their own records by accessing the system via the Freemasons Victoria intranet. This means members can, for example, update their own email address, next of kin or address. This week, Secretaries and District Co-ordinators received a pre-launch communication from Grand Lodge explaining more about the system. If you have any questions, please direct them to: support@freemasonsvic.net.au.

Changes to the Book of Constitutions – Open Forum

Last year we began a project to review the Book of Constitutions and see comments from the members.

While a number of very well considered suggestions were received, some members commented that there was inadequate time to review the proposed Book of Constitutions and coordinate an adequate response. With this in mind, we have extended the period of review and ask all Lodges to make a point of reviewing this document (a copy of which is available from the Freemasons Victoria website) and provide this office with its feedback.

The last of four Open Forums will be conducted at the Dallas Brooks Centre from **7.30pm on Monday 29 August**. This forum will enable members to express their views and receive information about the proposed changes.

Would you like to contribute to *Freemasonry Victoria* magazine?



If there is a new book that you have heard about and would like to read and review it for *Freemasonry Victoria*, the quarterly magazine, please email Emma Morris, emorris@freemasonsvic.net.au with the title and author of the book you wish to review, and we will arrange for the book to be sent to you.

We are always interested in hearing from members who have a story idea or would like to write an article. The stories don't necessarily need to be Masonic (we are happy to have travel, health, lifestyle stories) but the contributor should have a Masonic connection. Please email editor@freemasonsvic.net.au if you are interested.

Calling all rev heads!



Do you have a 'pimped up ride' or a classic beauty that still turns heads? *Freemasonry Victoria* magazine would like to feature you and your beloved ... car for an upcoming magazine pictorial. Please contact: editor@freemasonsvic.net.au

Become a Fan of Freemasons Victoria on Facebook



Freemasons Victoria has officially reached over 4,000 Facebook friends (you can review the page here, even if you are not on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Freemasons-Victoria/116970862587>).

Facebook is a great way to stay connected with member and Lodge news, information, events and pictorials from all 17 Districts. If you have news and information you would like posted on Freemasons Victoria's official Facebook site, please email a brief description along with an image to emorris@freemasonsvic.net.au with 'Facebook Posting' in the subject line.

Clifton Hill Lodge Helps Those in Need Keep Warm this Winter

Last week The Clifton Hill Lodge Social Club responded to an appeal from the Eastern Suburbs Emergency Relief Network. The Network had recently publicised in the local papers that they were desperate for double bed and queen size blankets. Network Chairman James Jameison said that their Mitcham warehouse had literally run out of blankets due to the early onset of cold weather this year. Mr Jameison said that there were many people in the area who were struggling and can't afford proper heating and it is only going to get worse as the depth of winter approaches. With no Government funding, the Network was limited in what it could do to help and was calling for donations.

The Clifton Hill Lodge Social Club discussed the matter at its last meeting and the members voted unanimously that it was a worthy cause and that it was a viable way to assist, rather than donating cash. The CH 90 Social Club purchased 20 queen-size blankets (out of club funds) from 'Bed Bath and More' at the Pines Shopping Centre and when Bed Bath and More heard what we were doing, they added two more to the package.

A little irony emerged when the Worshipful Master was greeted by James Jamieson; he advised that he was Master of the Clifton Hill Lodge No. 335 in 1969/70 when it was based in Queens Parade Clifton Hill.



Pictured: Clifton Hill Lodge Worshipful Master, WBro. John Beveridge (centre) presenting the blankets to Eastern Suburbs Eastern relief Network Chairman James Jamieson and Committee Member Elizabeth Harms.