

Dear Brethren All,

Following the recent ABC Compass Program that featured “Whatever Happened to the Freemasons”, I reflected on the words of Geraldine Doogue who referred to “Freemasonry reinventing itself to meet modern demands”. The expression does largely encapsulate what we must do to become part of 21st century society and to raise the image of Freemasonry in our communities.

It simply tells us that if we are to be widely accepted as a viable and desirable community organisation, then we must fundamentally be prepared to sell our product to the people who comprise our communities. What that entails is for every Freemason to follow the example of those who appeared on the Compass program and were willing to expose to the wide world exactly what Freemasonry means to them as a positive adjunct to their lives.

Frequently when asked by a person in the media what Freemasonry is, I commence with the statement that “To be made a Freemason is the beginning of a wonderful journey through life”! I have found that to make a strong one-line statement at the outset captures their attention for what will follow.

I then go on to expound a little on how we have developed from the operative stonemasons and followed their sound philosophies of life which so often sustained them in foreign communities. I add such virtues as assisting a young man to build confidence in himself, develop the art of public speaking, to seek excellence in all that he undertakes, to practice moral standards, build strong friendships, remind him to strongly hold to his family values, practice some charity and benevolence and to keep his priorities in life in their proper order.

The Compass program also projected the ladies perspective of Freemasonry. Brethren, never underestimate the value of our ladies in relation to the power that they hold in promoting the image of the Craft. It is true that if they have a full understanding of the principles and tenets of Freemasonry, they will be more comfortable with it and be more encouraging for their husbands to be involved in an organisation that promotes decency, moral and family values, along with a peaceful way of life. The program clearly illustrated how the voice of a lady who supports her husband in Freemasonry, is a very strong voice in promoting the Craft to others! All our ladies ask is that we conduct ourselves as gentlemen in return for their support, which our principles teach us to do that in any case.



Grand Master Vaughan Werner

I have received only favourable reports from non-Masonic associates who viewed the Compass program. Others have received the same supportive comments. Brethren, this type of favourable feedback is a clear guide for all of us to go out and not be afraid to at least tell our own "Masonic Story". Above all, tell others why you are happy and proud to be a Freemason and the positive influence that it has had on your life. The time is indeed ripe and has never been more favourable to do so!

We are finding that our candidates are coming from sources that we previously had not considered. Some take longer than others to decide whether they may wish to become a Freemason. What is most important is that we who are Freemasons openly and joyfully promote the Craft to others. You may ultimately be surprised where and to whom your message may reach.

I conclude with the title of an address by MWBro. David Mace PGM of New Zealand. ***"IT IS TIME TO RESTORE FREEMASONRY TO ITS PROPER STANDING IN THE COMMUNITY!"***

Yours Fraternally,

Vaughan Werner
Grand Master

To View the Compass Program Click on Link Below

<http://www.abc.net.au/compass/s3273900.htm>

Masons and Gardeners

Members of the 'Yarra Glen Lodge' were recently treated to a Historical Lecture Presented by the members of The Grand United Order of Free Gardeners.

The Order of Free Gardeners is a fraternal society that was founded in Scotland in the middle of the 17th Century, and later spread to England and Ireland and the Commonwealth. Like numerous other friendly societies of the time, its principal aim was the sharing of knowledge and secrets linked to the profession. In the 19th Century, its activities of mutual insurance became predominant. By the end of the 20th Century the Order became almost entirely extinct.

Today there is one surviving Free Gardeners Lodge with 20 members still practicing the craft of 'Free Gardenry', meeting at the Kew Masonic Centre.



Left to Right: John Deagan Gsec., MWBro. Don Cottingham, PGM., MWBro. Peter MacLean, PGM., WBro. Ben Quick, WM., Bro Wayne Barry, SW., Bro Aaron Donovan JW.

Swan Hill Lodge raise \$8000 for The Salvation Army



Brother Jim Thompson (second from left) in the Swan Hill Guardian.

The Swan Hill Lodge has been featured in their local newspaper after helping to raise \$8000 for The Salvation Army's Red Cross appeal in July. This is the eighth year that WBro. Don Wilkie has organised the members participation. Their efforts are to be commended.

Freemasons Victoria Pink Breakfast

Due to the success of the **Freemasons Victoria Pink Breakfast** over the last 2 years, Bev Werner and the Ladies of the 2011 Grand Lodge Team are proudly hosting the event again this year on Saturday 8th October.

We are all aware of the prevalence of cancer in our society and we encourage Brethren and their families to stand behind this important initiative to help raise funds for the National Cancer Foundation.

Details are as follows:

Saturday 8th October 9:00am – 11:30am

Albert Ballroom at Dallas Brooks Centre

Tickets are a donation of \$30pp which includes a delicious light breakfast, door prizes, auctions and a fun morning guaranteed. **Bookings are essential.** If you could organise tables of 10 in the name of your Lodge / Group this would be greatly appreciated, however, we are more than happy to accept smaller groups or individual bookings. RSVP: 30/09/11.

Donation of Items

If you have anything that you'd like to donate as prizes for this wonderful event, such as crafts, products, vouchers, etc. please contact Donna on 03 9411 0103 or delarue@freemasonsvic.net.au

The Ladies of the Grand Team look forward to you joining them. Don't forget to don yourself in **PINK** as prizes are awarded for the best **PINK** outfit!

Bookings: Donna De La Rue
E: delarue@freemasonsvic.net.au
P: 03 9411 0103

Penguins to enter relay



Seymour Lodge participating in the 2010 Relay for Life

Seymour Lodge is participating in their third Cancer Council's Relay for Life. It is a unique event where teams of 10 to 15 challenge themselves to take turns to keep a baton moving in a relay style walk or run overnight. Last year the 'Masonic Penguins' raised \$3700 and are getting in early this year, hoping to reach their goal of \$5000 for this year.

The relay will be held at Kings Park in Seymour. It will begin at 3:00pm on March 31 2012 and end at 10:00am on April 1. Make a note in your diary and support the team by paying them a visit. Don't forget

to look out for their mascot, a 150cm blow-up penguin walking around the course. To register or donate to the Masonic Penguins, visit www.relayforlife.org.au

Grammarian Freemasons Reunion Night

The Worshipful Master of the Old Melburnians' Lodge is inviting all old boys of the School and members of the Grammar community to the September meeting to be held at the Prahran Masonic Centre on Tuesday 6th September 2011, Tying at 7.30pm. This is a recommencement of the previous annual reunion nights for old boys and members of the Grammar family who are not members of the Lodge.

Contact John Plowright 9866 4059 johnplowright@bigpond.com

Help needed to locate our "Travelling Gavel"

Lodges based in the Ballarat area and part of the Central Highlands District have been moving their travelling gavel around for many years as a means of encouraging brethren to visit. The Gavel is accompanied by a case and a recording of its travels.

Alas it appears the gavel has become lost. The gavel may have been exchanged with a lodge outside of the district.

If anybody knows anything about the current whereabouts of the gavel please contact Ron Fleming rj_lifleming@bigpond.com

Assistance needed

If any Brethren are able to identify or provide budget accommodation to one of our beneficiaries and her granddaughter while they are in Melbourne to be with a critically injured family member please contact Freemasons Victoria 9411 0111.

Donation from Freemasons Victoria to purchase playground equipment

Pupils attending the Broadmeadows Special Developmental School will benefit from a donation of \$10,000.00 made possible by the generosity of the trustees of the Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation.

The District Co-ordinator of the ND 116, WBro Peter Harris PGStdB recently visited the school to present the cheque, meet some of students and inspect the site of a new playground that is planned to be constructed adjacent to the school, when it moves to its new location nearby.



Whilst he was there, a pleasant young man named Curtis presented an appreciation certificate to Peter on behalf of the children, parents and staff and read a 'Thank-You' message to Freemasons Victoria for helping with the purchase of playground equipment for the new school. Another highlight was a visit to Room 4 of the school where a small group of students were practising their delightful singing skills.

Currently there are almost 100 children with learning difficulties who attend the school and some come from as far away as Craigieburn and Wallan. They are supervised daily by 50 staff comprising of primary school teachers and a variety of specialist and occupational therapists.

Making a real difference

Last year Freemasons Victoria donated \$20,000 to enable Variety, the children's charity, to present 100 bikes and helmets to children who were sick, disadvantaged or had special needs.

We recently had some wonderful feedback from the Kalparrin Early Childhood Intervention Program who have been loaning out the bikes to children as part of their early Intervention program. They reported that having the loan bikes has proven to be a valuable part of their program.

They wrote of heart warming stories about how the bikes have enhanced the way they been able to support families to support their children and of the significant gains some children have been able to make.

A four year old girl who needed to use an Ankle Foot Orthotic (i.e. a plastic splint that fits in her shoe to help her control the 'rolling in' at her ankles and potential sagging of her knees) was able to use a bike to improve the strength in her legs such that she now only wears a simple foot orthotics (like little arch supports) as her legs have got strong enough to support her weight when walking without her knees collapsing.

Another young boy who had chronic respiratory difficulties and poor health due to his extreme prematurity, used to be in intensive care each winter. He was unable to walk up the flight of stairs in the family home and had to be either carried up or crawl up on his hands and knees. He also had issues around sleeping. The bike helped not only improve his muscle strength, but his cardio- respiratory fitness. He is now walking up the stairs. His family have since purchased a commercially available bike for him.

Mark Lodge celebrates its centenary

One hundred years ago, the Grenville Masonic Lodge was formed in St. Arnaud with the names of leading citizens in the first minute book. Last month the members met to celebrate its centenary by staging a re-enactment of the original concentration service performed in 1911 before a gathering of fellow masons and guests.



(Left clockwise): RWBro Brian David Wharton, PSGW., WorBro Hadyen Bailey, PJGD., WorBro Ray Walker, PGStdB., WorBro Derek Bibby, PGStdB., WorBro Mervyn Leslie McEwen, PM., VWBro Ian Edward McConnell, PGIWkgs, RWBro Bryan Chipperfield, PJGW., Grand Director: RWBro Peter Julier, PJGW.