

Engage!



A word from the Grand Master

Dear Brethren All,

Welcome to our first Issue of *Engage!* for the 2012 year. This year is proving to be a big year for Freemasonry in Victoria with many exciting upcoming events. I am especially looking forward to the biggest event of the year, the Grand Installation and associated functions, which as most will already be well aware is being held from the 21st to the 25th of March.

Brethren I trust you and your respective families have enjoyed a time of relaxation over the holiday break and all now ready to face 2012 with renewed vigour and energy.

I am reliably informed by our Membership Team at Grand Lodge that with the festive season now behind us *Engage!* will revert back to being our fortnightly e-newsletter. You can help our Membership Team by submitting newsworthy articles for publication. Of particular interest are comments from our newer members such as the interview with Brother Simon Morris in this current issue.

I would like to conclude this brief introduction with the comment that although we have made significant inroads into reducing the number of resignations, increasing the number of initiations, and lowering the average of our membership, we must not only maintain but increase our recruitment and retention efforts if we are to achieve the targets set. The following simple quote is I believe quite apt:

“If it is to be it is up to me”

Yours Fraternally,
Vaughan Werner
Grand Master

Bow Tie Fridays

Fridays are a special day at the Grand Lodge office. To end the working week with a smile, the Grand Lodge team participates in 'Bow tie Fridays' to raise fund for Zaidee's Rainbow Foundation. The foundation aims to create national awareness of organ and tissue donation. You can read Zaidee's story at www.zaidee.org



L to R: Peter Henshall - Grand Secretary, Tony Morris, Ben Quick, Erin Olsen, Jenny Galea, Bob Young, Jillian McAnally, Bruce Cowie, Heather McKinnon, Roger Schie, Ray King - Chamar



Ray and Irene Middlebrook presenting a cheque to Cancer Council Victoria

Foresters help find a cure

In 1993 the 117 District Masters' Group was formed and named the 'Foresters'. Twenty years later, this group still meets bound by values encompassing fellowship and good will. To date the group has raised over \$30,000 for charity.

Ray and Irene Middlebrook are two of the group's hardest working members. When their son Graeme passed away from cancer, additional efforts from the group were sparked in order to raise funds for cancer research.

In 2011 over \$3000 was raised for cancer research which also included efforts by the 7/99 Diggers Group. This amount was matched dollar for dollar by the Freemasons Victoria Board of Benevolence.

The Foresters continue to maintain friendships made and give purpose to social enjoyment. They encourage all Masters' groups to continue their fellowship after their year in office has ended.

Teamwork at its finest



VWBro. Frank Lindsay and Joan Lindsay with Major Stephen on behalf of the Salvation Army

Some 11 years ago, a Past Master of the Drouin and Koo Wee Rup Lodges, VWBro. Frank Lindsay and his wife Joan began making wooden toys for the Salvation Army. Not only were they keeping themselves busy and active, they were assisting children in their community who would otherwise go without on Christmas.

Countless hours are spent crafting the final products and all are made using timber donation from various sources. Frank builds each item in his workshop and they are then painted by Joan.

This past Christmas Frank and Joan proudly donated over 200 of their hand-made toys to the Salvation Army which included trains, chairs and tables, doll cradles and push along carts.

Freemasons in the CBD Quarterly Luncheon

Freemasons and their guests are cordially invited to the next CBD luncheon on Friday 9th March 2012 (12:30pm - 2:30pm) on the floor of Grand Lodge at 300 Albert Street, East Melbourne.

The luncheon will feature special guest speaker Dr Kathy Alexander, Chief Executive Officer of the City of Melbourne.

Assoc Prof. Kathy Alexander has qualifications in psychology and public health management and has more than 20 years experience in leading service organisations. Kathy's work has been recognised with several national best practice awards and leadership positions on a number of boards.

Tickets are \$55 and include a two course lunch and beverages and this time will feature on the floor of Grand Lodge.

Bookings are open now and can be made with:

Donna De La Rue 9411 0103 or delarue@freemasonsvic.net.au

2012 Grand Installation and associated functions

Ensure your calendar is marked for the 2012 Grand Installation of RWBro. Bob Jones, Grand Master - Elect.

Key dates:

Quarterly Communication –

Wednesday 21/03/12

Guests Reception –

Thursday 22/03/12, 6:30pm

Grand Installation –

Friday 23/03/12, 6:00pm

Ladies Brunch –

Saturday 24/03/12, 10:00am

Grand Banquet –

Saturday 24/03/12 6:00pm

Church Service (FREE) –

Sunday 25/03/12 11:00am

Farewell Luncheon –

Sunday 25/03/12 12:30pm



New member Bro. Simon Morris

New member interview

Engage catches up with new member Bro. Simon Morris and chats about his introduction to Freemasonry and interesting career.

When did you first come to learn about Freemasonry?

As a young boy I faithfully followed my father as he attended to lodge business, gardening at the local Masonic Centre or visiting members and widows. My first memory of attending the lodge room is of myself as a 3 year old. It must have been a moving experience because I wet my pants right on the black and white squared carpet. Dad

was not impressed. My father, Lindsay Morris, was initiated in the early 1960s and installed as WM of Argyle Lodge (Traralgon) in 1975. The lodge and those he shared the masonic journey with were a very important part of his life and therefore as a young child a formative part of mine also.

Why did you want to become a Freemason?

As I grew, the members of the lodge became my unofficial uncles; their concern for me was very much demonstrated, yet not fully appreciated by myself until my father unexpectedly died in 1984. As an angry and confused teenager, my life and future was very much in the balance, but for the caring and positive influence of these men in my life. This was many years ago, yet it has always remained with me. As I now contemplate that time, I feel a heartfelt gratitude to those ordinary members who demonstrated the eternal truth that even the smallest daily act of charity and kindness can impact lives for decades.

What was your initiation experience like?

I was feeling excited and a little anxious about the upcoming event; my biggest concern and hope was that history didn't repeat itself, like when I was 3 years old at my father's lodge. To be completely honest, during the ceremony, it reminded me of my wedding day all those years ago – I was nervous (wearing a funny suit I would never wear again); I had no idea what was happening (just turned up – leaving the planning to the much more experienced); was surrounded by people I didn't really know (yet who I knew cared for me and had my best interests at heart) and was filled with feelings of excitement about future possibilities.

What does your current job involve?

In 2009 I returned to Victoria from a decade in the Northern Territory. I joined the Department of Justice as a Sheriff's Officer, appointed by the Governor in Council as a Bailiff of the Supreme Court and am based in the Southern Metropolitan Region. Duties include the execution of criminal and civil warrants from Victorian, interstate and Federal Courts by conducting investigations to locate individuals or assets, demand payment and enforce a range of sanctions, including arrest against defendants who fail to comply.

New initiates' cocktail function

Were you initiated after December 2009?

Freemasons Victoria's Grand Master Vaughan Werner and Bob Jones, Grand Master Elect invite you and your partner/guest to enjoy an entertaining evening to celebrate your initiation and meet other Freemasons.

When: Friday 2nd of March, 2012

Where: View Rooms, Dallas Brooks Centre
300 Albert Street,
East Melbourne

Time: 7:00pm for 7:30pm start
Evening concludes at 10:00pm

Tickets: \$40.00 (includes finger food and beverages)

RSVP: 24 February 2012

Bookings essential Contact Donna De La Rue 9411 0103 or delarue@freemasonsvic.net.au

Order of the Eastern Star Open Information Day

The Order of the Eastern Star has started a new chapter in Geelong.

To celebrate and Open Day for the 'Geelong Star Club' is being held.

Here, you can learn all about this world-wide fraternal organisation.

The 'Order of the Eastern Star' is a social order of men and women and is based upon the purposes of Charity, Education, Fraternal and Science.

When: Saturday, 18th February 2012

Time: 5:00pm

Where: Geelong Masonic Centre
Address: Regent Street, Belmont
A Casserole Tea will be provided
Please bring a gold coin donation

Further information can be obtained from: Dorothy Hamill 5244 4177
hamill@tadaust.org.au
or Sylvia Lowe 9974 2808
sybeth13@bigpond.net.au

New member interview continued...

Tell me about your career history?

Over the past few decades, with the completion of relevant tertiary studies I have gained experience through a variety of jobs, revolving around military service, being an ordained minister of religion, law enforcement and policing. These jobs have been diverse and in very different locations yet, have all involved service to others and offering support to individuals from diverse backgrounds, often facing times of crisis or significant change.

Notably, I have served as an RAAF Flight Steward, providing in-flight cabin service to members of the Royal Family, Government and Defence Force, in both domestic and international operations.

After the completion of tertiary studies, I was commissioned and ordained, with my wife Trish, as a Salvation Army Officer, carrying out a variety of pastoral and welfare duties. I was later appointed as a full-time Chaplain to the Northern Territory Police, with the additional role of an Australian Army Chaplain, based in Darwin.

In more recent years, between full time stretches as a Commissioned Officer in the Australian Army Reserve, I was employed in a number of law enforcement roles, including as a sworn member of the Northern Territory Police, performing a number of specialised administrative roles.

What have been some career highlights?

In 2006 as part of reserve military service I was posted to the role of 2IC of the Operational Support Squadron, North West Mobile Force. This is one of a number of unique Australian Army units operating in the remote north, providing a regional surveillance force, with a majority of its members being indigenous people from all over the Northern Territory and the Kimberley. As part of my role, I was appointed as the Senior Instructor of the Induction (recruit) Course. In this role I coordinated a training camp program for new recruits to learn the basic military skills, the vast majority of who were from remote Aboriginal communities.

A week into training, while I was dealing with the second outbreak of scabies in the camp, reports started to filter back that a number of the recruits had complained about bullying of a racist nature between the different cultural groups, with some recruits threatening to leave. It was agreed by the staff that this needed to be addressed immediately as time, training and resources would be compromised, yet because the recruits were new to military life and generally from traditional backgrounds, the usual military style 'sergeant major' rant and rave on the parade ground would not be productive.

I requested the staff and recruits assembled in the surrounding bush sitting under the trees. I then attempted to explain, as an elder might share traditional teaching, Defence Equity and Diversity Policy using traditional imagery. Highlighting that we all come from different 'skins' or families, I explained that we all put on the 'green skin' now we are in the army, making us a family of warriors. As at home, we need to show respect to our family members, elders, traditions and culture. This helped the group understand the collaborative nature of military service, assisted in the focusing on training and gave a reference point to address any future related issues that arose. I believe that this process help fostered a fair and ethical environment, assisting the team to address difficulties and refocus them to come together to achieve organisational goals. This was one of the most intense few weeks of my life. I finished that appointment with some personal satisfaction, much respect for the Senior NCO instructors and my new indigenous comrades, and many new grey hairs.

Calendar of events

UPCOMING LODGE OPEN EVENTS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

Wednesday 8, 7:30PM

Bellarine/Otways Open

Bellarine Masonic Centre

60 Learmonth Street,

Queenscliff

Contact: Dick Clark 5258 2680

Saturday 11, 3:00PM

Mt Shadwell Open

Mortlake Masonic Centre

Shaw Street,

Mortlake

Contact: Michael Gilmour 5599 2941

Thursday 16, 7:00PM

Hampden Open Night

Terang Masonic Centre

Corner Tobin Street and Warrnambool

Rd, Terang

Contact: Robin Bryce 0409 188 541

Saturday 18, 3:00PM

Lodge Amalthea Open Installation

Masonic Centre of Victoria

300 Albert Street,

East Melbourne

Followed by a dinner at the Melbourne club

Contact: Patrick Horton 0417 455 233

Sunday 19, 12:00PM

Latrobe Valley Family Open

Latrobe Valley Masonic Centre

Lodge Drive,

Traralgon

Contact: Max Paulet 5174 4796

Friday 24, 7:00PM

Belgrave Open Night

Belgrave Masonic Centre

33 Bayview Road,

Belgrave

Contact: Roger Thompson 9762 2688

If you would like your event to appear in *engage!* please email your event to editor@freemasons.net.au



Grand Secretary Peter Henshall and Wendy Stapleton presenting bikes to school children

Bikes 4 kids

Freemasons Victoria presented 100 bikes and helmets to disadvantaged children as part of the Bikes 4 Kids program.

This was the fourth year that Freemasons Victoria and Variety – the Children's Charity have joined forces to provide bikes to children so that they can live, laugh and learn. The presentation at the Dallas Brooks Centre was the first of five bike presentations held across Victoria in the lead up to Christmas, during which over 1000 bikes were given away.

A total of \$80,000 has been donated, ensuring disadvantaged Victorian children received a new bike just in time for Christmas.



Mt Franklin-St George Lodge hand over hampers to Hepburn Health

Helpful hampers

The members of the Mt Franklin-St George Lodge in Daylesford brought Christmas cheer to Hepburn Health by donating festive food hampers. The Lodge donated \$1,000 worth of hampers in order to assist people in celebrating Christmas. Recipients were very appreciative of the Lodge's efforts which involved both fundraising initiatives and assistance from the Board of Benevolence.



WBro. Colin 'Taxi' Fletcher with his decorated motorcycle

Sidecars instead of sleighs

Members from the Victorian Masonic Motorcycle Association took part in the annual Alpine Toy Run just before Christmas last year. Armed with toys, the riders hit the Great Alpine Road, stopping over in Myrtleford before arriving at the Salvation Army building in Beechworth. They were warmly welcomed by plenty of smiles, gratitude and a barbecue lunch. The Alpine Toy Run, now in its 11th year combines a love of motorbike riding with a love of community.



WBro. Bob White, RWBro. Ray Kelly and Ivy in the South

A reason to celebrate

Mitchell Lodge proudly celebrated the opening of their new South hall after their previous building was in need of replacement. The opening attracted over 150 attendees who joined in the celebrations. Several presentations also took place including the unveiling of the new plaque, two 50 Year Jewels and a Certificate of Appreciation to the Broadford RSL as they kindly allowed the Mitchell Lodge members to use their hall while the new Lodge building was being constructed.



Back row L to R: VWBro. Graeme Kitney, WBro. Glen Clement, WBro. Merv Dyer, VWBro. Bernard Henry
Front row L to R: WBro. Ian McMurtrie, WBro. Gary Edwards

Task Force needs your help

The Freemasons Victoria Task Force is still hard at work as a result of last summers devastating bush fires. Task Force secretary and field worker, Glen Clement, is still often found crawling exhaustedly back into his tent after another hard days work of helping out bushfire victims with their long recovery process.

In March the Task Force will undertake a new project and need volunteers. The project involves re-vegetation of the Kingslake Youth Group's new building, which was recently rebuilt after being destroyed by the bushfires. The Task Force requires 20 volunteers during March to replant shrubs and trees.

Kingslake is only a short drive from Melbourne and the task does not involve strenuous work. If you can assist please register your details with Glen on 0418184382 or email glencllementlodgesa@gmail.com

Encouraging education



WBro. Ron Lowen presenting cheque to scholarship recipient Steven Pack

Many Lodges have been promoting the value of education with the presentations of scholarships to students in their communities. At the Bright College Awards ceremony, Lodge Unity announced Steven Pack as the winner of the Lodge's Education

Scholarship. This Scholarship is to assist a Year 12 young man with his future training and/or entry into the workplace. Steven was presented with a cheque of \$500.

Worshipful Brother Ron indicated that in the interview of the applicants, it was the enthusiasm and obvious enjoyment displayed by Steven in his chosen field of boilermaker, which made him stand out from the other applicants. He was also able to provide specific personal examples of the 3 main Masonic principles of Freemasonry.

Steven not only completed his VCE units, but also a Certificate 3 in Welding and Sheet Metal Fabrication, and worked 1 day a week in a school based Apprenticeship with his local employer - Authentic Engineering.

Bringing the Christmas spirit to large crowds

A Christmas parade and night of carols was organised by members of the Mount Shadwell Lodge, attracting a crowd of over 500 people.

Ideal weather conditions and spectacle of colour, tinsel, local talent and a visit from Sanata brought out the Christmas spirit in the town or Mortlake.

The Lodge hopes to outdo themselves next year by hosting an even bigger and better event.



Children participating in the Christmas parade



WorBro. Stephen Vick and WorBro. Noel Saffin promoting the Lodge



Local entertainment keeps the crowd dancing



Children lining up to see Santa