

e-newsletter No. 29

# *engage!*



## A word from the Grand Master

Welcome to my first *engage!* as Grand Master. And what a busy couple of weeks we've had – there are many people to thank and for fear of forgetting someone, I will not try to list them all here, with the exception of Rt Wor Bro Barry Brooks who was responsible for the overall smooth running of the Grand Installation program, and the Grand Secretary and his wonderful staff who did an exceptional job of logistics and organisation. I hope to see all the volunteers who contributed in person over the next couple of weeks and months to say thanks, in the mean time please accept my heartfelt thanks via this letter.

A very special thank you does, however, need to go to our most recent Past Grand Master Vaughan Werner. Without your guidance and friendship over the past two years, and especially in the months leading up to the Installation, the transition from Deputy Grand Master to Grand Master would have been even more daunting than it was. Thank you Vaughan and Bev, it has been a terrific association so far, and you will always have a special place in my Masonic journey.

What I am learning fairly quickly though – and of course it was to be expected – is what a full schedule I have! After the Thanksgiving Service and Farewell Luncheon, it was no rest for the wicked with the Grand Master's Conference on Monday – a most worthwhile and informative day. On Wednesday I had my first official function as 'Grand Master' and I was thrilled to be able to present SecondBite's Executive Director Katy Barfield with the keys to a brand new Mercedes Sprinter van. Funded jointly by the Brethren of Western District No 117 and complemented by a generous grant from the Board of Benevolence, this new van will assist with the delivery of an extra 7,000kgs of fresh rescued food every week to needy people in Melbourne's west. I'm so glad that yet again, we have associated ourselves with such wonderful organisations that are actively helping the community.

Until next time; let's continue to Race Toward The Future

## Entering a new era

Unless you've been living under a rock for the past couple of months, Friday March 23 is a date cemented in many minds, and for good reason: MWBro. Bob Jones was installed as the new Grand Master. As predicted, it was a smashing night with Brethren and guests in attendance from interstate and overseas.

Those who couldn't attend in person didn't miss out - in a first, the event was webcast live on the internet with 2,000-plus viewers from all over Australia and countless across the world experiencing the Installation in the comfort of their own home. Well done to those Lodges who took the initiative to screen the event for members and guests!



MWBro. Bob Jones being installed as Grand Master



L to R: Mansfield Lodge Master, WBro. David Parsons, Bro. Eric Burt, Mansfield District Hospital Nurse Unit Manager Kay Gerrans and CEO Janene Ridley.

## Tuned in

Mansfield Masonic Lodge members donated a radio and headphones to the Mansfield District Hospital after Lodge member Bro. Eric Burt suggested they purchase the set for the benefit of the patients. Little did anyone know, Bro. Eric ended up being the first patient to make use of the unit after he was admitted into the hospital for treatment.



Bro. Alan Cashan in his new wheelchair

## A new spin on life

Members of the Derrimut Daylight Masonic Lodge recently presented a new motorised wheelchair to Bro. Alan Cashan. At the age of 30, Bro. Alan was diagnosed with MS and has since lost use of his arms and legs and been confined to a wheelchair. After 11 years, his last wheelchair needed to be replaced. Bro. Alan has been a Freemason since 1975 and despite his difficulties, he has been a regular face at monthly Lodge meetings.

His fellow Lodge members decided to do all they could to help Bro. Alan purchase a new wheelchair after finding out that a new one would cost about \$26,000 - an amount beyond Alan's means. The Lodge asked the Freemasons Victoria Benevolent Fund for assistance and together with some funds raised by the Lodge, the new wheelchair was presented to Bro. Alan.

At the presentation Robyn Soulsby, an occupational therapist with MS Australia and Bro. Alan's carer, spoke about MS and its effects. She also explained in detail how challenging it is for Bro. Alan to control a chair with nothing but chin control.

To prove the point and give an example, Bro. Alan gave a short demonstration of his ability to 'drive' around the Lodge room. Bro. Alan expressed his thanks to the Lodge and the Benevolent Fund and assured everyone that his new chair was a 300 per cent improvement on the old one! Bro. Alan now enjoys a more comfortable lifestyle at his care facility.

## Royal Freemasons Charity Golf Day

Royal Freemasons **16th Annual Open Charity Golf Day** will be held at the Portarlington Golf Club on May 7.

Mens and ladies 18-hole stableford events plus team events will take place, with 9:30am assembly time for a 10am start. \$25 entry fee includes a complimentary golf ball and post game refreshments.

All proceeds from the day are forwarded to the Royal Freemasons to enable continuing quality care for elderly citizens.

Visit [www.portarlingtongolf.com.au](http://www.portarlingtongolf.com.au) for an entry form or call Alan Lindsay on 5253 1426 for more information.

## Certificate of Masonic Studies

The next **Certificate of Masonic Studies** will commence at 7:30 pm on April 4 at the Southern Masonic Centre in Keysborough.

The course will be conducted over eight months under the tutelage of WBro. Iain Taylor, PGStdB. This certificate course is seen as the 'next step' after the Third Degree map and is open to all Master Masons.

Contact VWBro Alan Jennings on 9459 9610 or [ajjay@alphalink.com.au](mailto:ajjay@alphalink.com.au) for more information.

## Roll Call for Tertiary Educators

Our Grand Superintendent of Education, Dr Ruary Bucknall, would like to develop an **email correspondence forum** with Brethren who are employed in the tertiary education sector.

If you are so employed and would like to put forward suggestions regarding possible interface projects between Freemasons Victoria and Victorian tertiary institutions, please express your interest by emailing Ruary:

[masonic@bucknall.id.au](mailto:masonic@bucknall.id.au)



New Initiates Cocktail Party guests pose for the camera.

## New celebrations, old traditions

New Freemasons initiated after December 2009 were celebrated at the New Initiates' Cocktail Function, which was held as part of the Masonic Month of Celebration. The purpose of the event was to allow new members and their guests to come together in an informal and relaxed environment to share a few drinks, strengthen friendships, meet the Grand Master and Brethren from other Lodges.

Guests were kept engaged through conversation-starter games and modern-day magician Luke Hocking wowed guests with his wit and clever card tricks.

*ABC 7:30 Report* journalist Kirsten Veness interviewed new initiates. The segment is due to air in the upcoming weeks.



L to R: Father, WBro. Stephen Humphrey, new initiate Bro. Brett Humphrey, and grandfather, WBro. Maurie Humphrey.

## A family affair

The members of the Bacchus Marsh Daylight Lodge were delighted to initiate 18-year-old Brett Humphrey into Freemasonry at their February meeting. It was the first initiation at the Lodge for quite a few years, but what made the occasion even more momentous was that Bro. Brett joined his father, WBro. Stephen Humphrey and his grandfather, WBro. Maurie Humphrey as members of the same Lodge.

The Worshipful Master WBro. Stan Bell stood aside, while WBro. Stephen led his son through the obligation and WBro. Maurie the Junior Deacon led his grandson through the ceremony. With strong family ties to the Craft, Brett asked many questions and says he was "keen to become a Freemason for as long as he could remember".

### ANZAC Commemoration Service

On April 2 the Essendon Daylight Lodge will be presenting an **ANZAC Commemoration Service** including the Ceremony of the Vacant Chair. There will be a brief formal meeting of the Lodge at 10am to be followed (at approximately 10:30am) by the ANZAC Commemorative Service. All Brethren, ladies and friends are welcome to attend.

For more information, contact George Lawrence on 9337 8320.

### Want to learn to play the organ?

WBro. Robert Moore conducts a course for beginners and rusty **Lodge organists** at the Kew Masonic Centre every Saturday. Expressions of interest are now being sought for new applicants to join the course. For more information or to sign up, please email Donna De La Rue at [delarue@freemasonsvic.net.au](mailto:delarue@freemasonsvic.net.au)

### Good Friday Appeal

The Freemasons Victoria Task Force are seeking volunteers for the upcoming **Good Friday Appeal**. Volunteer duties include collecting on Good Friday at 7/11 stores and selected independent APCO service stations.

Volunteers in the metro area are also needed to assist **Uncle Bobs Club** at selected intersection collection points. Volunteers are needed to set up the corners with the necessary signage, registering volunteers, issuing collection tubs and collector vests, and liaising with the UBC counting room at Etihad Stadium.

If you can volunteer your time and expertise, please contact Graeme Kitney on 0408 590 089 or [gkitney@myone.com.au](mailto:gkitney@myone.com.au)



L to R top: MWBro. Bob Jones, VWBro. Peter Clark. L to R bottom: MWBro Murray Yaxley, MWBro. Vaughan Werner, WBro. The Right Honourable, The Earl of Dunmore; MWBro. John Evans; MWBro. Bruce Bartrop.

## In good company

Earlier this year Lord Dunmore was installed for a second year as Worshipful Master of Lodge Amalthea by the then-Grand Master Vaughan Werner and a team of Grand Lodge officers. The then-Grand Master was also accompanied by four Past Grand Masters, the then-Deputy Grand Master Bob Jones and the Past Pro Grand Master of Tasmania representing the Grand Master of Tasmania. Such was the contingent of Grand Lodge officers, Brethren and guests that most available seating on the ground floor of Lodge room No. 1 was occupied.

Over 160 Freemasons, wives, partners and guests almost filled the dining room at the Installation Dinner. Guests were entertained by a string quartet from Melbourne Youth Music. In his address the Past Grand Master remarked that Lodge Amalthea has set the bar when it comes to the quality of events. He particularly mentioned the Sir Robert Menzies Annual Address, a Lodge Amalthea event held annually at the Athenaeum Club. This year it will be held on Saturday July 21 and human rights lawyer, Julian Burnside QC will address guests. This event forms part of Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in Melbourne.



L to R: Mayor Bob Merriman, WBro. Dick Clark, Lisa Edwards and Michael Christiano Australia Day Ambassadors presenting the Community Service Award.

## Winners are grinners

Cosmopolitan Lodge has won the 2012 Borough of Queenscliffe Community Service Award for a health forum they organised and held late last year.

In conjunction with the Bellarine Masonic Centre and supported by Bellarine Community Health, the health forum was held to raise awareness of health and wellbeing issues amongst men and women and to encourage them to be proactive about their own health. The event attracted citizens of the Borough of Queenscliffe and was the third health initiative organised by the Cosmopolitan Lodge over the last five years. Congratulations to much-deserved members.

### Open Lodge happenings

**Saturday 14 April, 4pm**

**Rupertswood Open Investiture**  
Numurkah Masonic Centre, Corner  
Quinn and McCaskill Streets,  
Numurkah.

Please contact Geoffrey Thompson  
5821 4121 or  
[ggnthompson@mcmedia.com.au](mailto:ggnthompson@mcmedia.com.au)

**Saturday 20 April, 8pm**

**Diamond Valley Ceremony of the  
Vacant Chair**

Diamond Creek Masonic Centre, 46  
Hurtbridge Road, Diamond Creek.  
Please contact Des McQueen to  
register for catering purposes on  
9435 4208 or email  
[bonview@tpg.com.au](mailto:bonview@tpg.com.au)

**Saturday 28 April, 3pm**

**Myrtleford Open Investiture**

Myrtleford Masonic Centre  
Buffalo River Road, Myrtleford  
Contact Neil Geier on 5751 1490 or  
[cyneil@bigpond.com](mailto:cyneil@bigpond.com)

Want your event to appear in engage?  
Email event details to:  
[media@freemasonsvic.net.au](mailto:media@freemasonsvic.net.au)

### Position vacant

Expressions of interest are being sought for the position of **Membership Officer** within the Joint Secretariat – Royal Arch Chapter and Mark Degrees, Chamar Pty Ltd. The part time (30 hours per week) position is located at the Masonic Centre in East Melbourne.

Training will be provided, salary negotiable. The successful applicant will ideally start in early May.

Please contact the Joint Secretariat in strict confidence for more information, a copy of the job description or email applications to:

[king@freemasonsvic.net.au](mailto:king@freemasonsvic.net.au)

Applications close 5pm, Thursday  
April 12.



L to R: WBro. Bill Stevenson, WBro. Michael Gilmour, MWBro. Vaughan Werner, VWBro. Peter Clark at the Open Day.

## Shadwell showcase

The Mt Shadwell Open Day provided a wonderful opportunity for Mt Shadwell Lodge to educate visitors about Freemasonry, the history of the Lodge and the contribution that the Lodge has made over the past 115 years to the residents of Mortlake and the surrounding districts.

During the Open Day, a cheque on behalf of Mt Shadwell Lodge and its members, was presented to Steven Parker, Empty Arms' support and counselling organisation representative.

As well as gaining a number of prospective candidates, the Open Day raised the Lodge's public profile and educated the local community about Freemasonry and upcoming open-to-the-public events.



VWBro. Clive Hardeman and RWBro. Willis Parton test the new bicycles.

## Wheels in motion

Bayside District Co-ordinator Clive Hardeman visited the Cardiac Rehabilitation Unit at the Caulfield Hospital to hand over two specialised exercise bikes.

The Cardiac Rehabilitation Unit assists patients who have experienced a cardiac event, heart failure or require risk factor modification and the bikes will enable daily exercise for recovering patients.

Nurse unit manager Robyn Sheppard was greatly appreciative of the donation which was funded by the Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation.

### Firemans Night

The Mordialloc Lodge of Charity extends an invitation to all interested Brethren to attend the **60th Anniversary of the Fireman's Night** to be held on Friday May 25 at the South Eastern Masonic Centre, Hutton Road Keysborough at 7:15pm.

Emergency service Brethren are asked to wear their uniform.

For catering purposes register with: RWBro. Col Langley on 9795 2014 or RWBro. Fred Funston on 95712025.

### Order the 2012 Grand Installation DVD

We're accepting orders for the **2012 Grand Installation DVD** of Grand Master Bob Jones. The three-hour DVD includes highlights of the Installation Week, including speeches from the Banquet, Thanksgiving Service and Farewell Luncheon. Secure your copy today for delivery in early May.

Download the order form from [www.freemasonsvic.net.au](http://www.freemasonsvic.net.au) or contact Donna De Le Rue on 94110111.

### Masonic merchandise

A number of new Masonic items are now available to purchase. The Freemasons Victoria e-store can be accessed at the Member's Log-in area on our website. Please visit [www.freemasonsvic.net.au](http://www.freemasonsvic.net.au)

### Stay informed!

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