

engage!



A word from the Grand Master

Welcome to *engage!* Since the last edition, I have celebrated one month in the job and there isn't a better way to mark such an occasion than giving away money – who knew the fairly simple act of signing a cheque and giving it to worthwhile causes would be so satisfying!

The Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal kicked off April's cheque-giving activities with a little over \$51,000 being contributed by Freemasons Victoria. Another great initiative that I heard about and just knew we had to contribute to in some way was Julie Hoffmann's 'Burpee Challenge' which was set up in memory of Julie's 13-year-old niece Stacey who died while waiting for a heart transplant. All funds go to Heart Kids.

I headed to Numurkah Hospital to present a cheque for \$10,000, which will go towards their flood appeal. The hospital was completely inundated with water during the most recent floods and I know the donation will be well spent. I have heard the SecondBite van has been hard at work collecting and distributing rescued food in the West; Waverley Industries has just received their van, and I'm positive its success will follow suit.

On the weekend of April 21-22 I also attended the South Australia Grand Installation of M.W.Bro. Bob Parsons. It was a wonderful occasion and Victoria was well represented – thank you to the 65 Brethren and Ladies who attended and flew the flag for Freemasons Victoria.

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

Good Friday Appeal

Many Freemason Victoria volunteers are to be congratulated for their efforts in the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal. While most use the public holiday to catch up on some much-needed sleep, spend time with friends or a take the kids to the cinema, the 400 Task Force volunteers and friends spent the day like they do every other Good

Friday: out on the streets – rain, hail or shine - shaking collection cans for Uncle Bobs Club. This year's total donation hit a record \$507,000 with Freemasons contributing a little over \$51,000. This was an amazing effort with the Freemason volunteers displaying excellent team work and getting behind this cause 100 per cent.



M.W.Bro. Bob Jones, GM with volunteers Fernando Casada and Hayden Carroll.



Local Freemasons man the mobile Lodge at the Farm World expo

Freemasons at Farm World

The Freemasons Victoria Mobile Lodge recently made an appearance at the Farm World expo at Warragul's Lardner Park. The four-day expo is Victoria's largest regional mixed-farming event, attracting crowds of more than 50,000 each year.

Gippsland/South West District co-ordinator RWBro. Ian Coad organised the initiative and Lodge members from across the district manned the stand, which attracted plenty of interest with many stopping to take a look and have a chat and to collect a Prospect Kit.



L to R: VWBro. David Seymour, MWBro. Bob Jones, SecondBite Executive Director Katy Barfield, VWBro. Frank Fordyce and WBro. Ted Finch with the new van.

A new set of wheels

Grand Master Bob Jones handed over the keys to a brand new Mercedes Sprinter van to SecondBite last month, a Kensington-based charity which collects rescued produce from various food donors including Coles, Heinz, Bakers Delight and ALDI, and distributes boxes filled with fruit and veggies to over 221 community food programs across Melbourne.

The program organisers then distribute the food which ends up on the table of thousands of needy Victorians who would have otherwise not been able to afford a decent meal.

Freemasons in the Western District raised money for the van through fundraising activities and then approached the Board of Benevolence who matched the donation.

The new van means an extra 7000kg (or 14,000 meals) of produce will be distributed to community programs in Melbourne's west each week.

Order the 2012 Grand Installation DVD

We are 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 or contact Donna De Le Rue on 94110111.

For a preview of the DVD visit:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXOVSBriN8k>

Second hand suits

Near-new, good quality suits are now available from Posh Opp Shoppe. They have a wide range of high quality men's dinner suits, lounge suits and outfits at low prices and in many sizes to meet your tastes and needs.

The shop is volunteer-run with proceeds going to the integration of children with disabilities into traditional schooling.

For more information call: 9572 2248

The POSH OPP SHOPPE is located at 1226 Glenhuntly Road (cnr Grange Road), Glenhuntly.

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



L to R: WBro. Daryl Barling, RWBro. Len Baker, Member for Wannon Dan Tehan, and WBro. Bill Morris with the flag.

High flying gift

The members of United Ararat Lodge were recently visited by the Federal Member of Parliament for Wannon who presented them with a new Australian flag for the Ararat Masonic Centre. The flag presentation was part of ongoing efforts at the Lodge to remain an integral part of the Ararat community.



Julie Hoffman prepares to tackle 1500 burpees.

Bumper burpees

On April 14, Emerald resident Julie Hoffmann recently planned a fundraiser 'Hoffy's Burpee Challenge' in honour of her 13-year-old niece Stacey, who died waiting for a heart transplant in 2007. The Heart Kids charity event involved the mother of three to complete 1500 burpees – the “world’s worst exercise” according to Julie. This challenge was to honour what would have been Stacey’s 18th birthday. Unfortunately, Julie had to stop at the 959 mark. “I had a sinus and chest infection which was border line pleurisy and I also had a virus for three weeks prior,” says Julie. “I had been having dizzy spells for around 10 days prior and just hoped that I’d get up there and it’d all go away,” she says. “But I was finishing that hour no matter how hard it got. The Heart Kids kids don’t get the opportunity to stop when the going gets tough, so neither would I. I finished the hour and my trainer and the paramedic carried me off the stage.”

Australia Fenix sponsored Julie with the Board of Benevolence matching the donation dollar for dollar; a total of \$3002 was donated. Julie is now focusing on next year’s challenge and we wish her luck!

Ionic Coaching Commencement 2012

The Ionic Coaching service will commence on Saturday 5th May at 'The Avenue' Uniting Church at 46 Blackburn Road, Blackburn.

Ionic is a community based coaching service that's dedicated to helping students in years 6 – 12 improve their performance in English and Mathematics.

This is the 62nd year of operation for this Masonic activity and the first class of the year will be opened by Grand Master Bob Jones at 9:00am.

For more information about the Ionic Coaching service, dates and location map please visit www.ionic.org.au

Want to learn to play the organ?

Grand Organist, WBro. Robert Moore conducts an organ course for beginners and rusty Lodge organists every Saturday morning at the Dallas Brooks Centre. 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: delarue@freemasonsvic.net.au

Monash Consecration

The Steering Committee of the new Monash Lodge wish to advise that, unfortunately, due to the restriction of numbers in the Waverley Masonic Centre attendance at the upcoming Consecration and Installation must be by invitation only.

For more information please contact Kevin Fowler at kevfow@tpg.com.au



WBro. Shane Mason presents the 60 year jewel to Bro. Jack Mackenzie.

A special jewel presentation

Bro. Jack Mackenzie was recently presented with a 60 Year Jewel however, this was not a typical jewel presentation. Jack is a member of the Artarmon United Lodge under the NSW constitution. Not wanting Jack to miss out on his jewel presentation, his Lodge contacted the Grand Lodge of Victoria requesting that Jack be presented with his jewel by Victorian representatives. Jack was delighted when Lilydale Lodge's IPM WBro. Shane Mason and Secretary WBro. Graham Simpson presented 60 Year Jewel at his retirement village earlier this month.



430 Squadron Air Cadets are pictured with ex-commanding officers, Kyneton Lodge representatives and a senior air officer, taking possession of new lights and a generator.

And then there was light

Thanks to the Kyneton Lodge, 430 Aquadron Air Cadets no longer have to carry out their Friday night parade, marching practice and drill work in the dark. The Kyneton Lodge organised the donation of lights and a generator to be provided by the RAAF Association after Lodge Secretary RWBro. Brian Davenport became aware of the lighting problem after presenting an award at a marching session. The presentation was attended by leading members of the RAAF Association as well as two members of Kyneton's original Flight 20 Squadron.

Open Lodge happenings

Saturday 5 May, 3pm

North Gippsland Open Investiture

Bairnsdale Masonic Centre

9 Francis Street, Bairnsdale

After the ceremony all are invited to attend the Bairnsdale RSL where there will be a sit down two course dinner for \$25.00 per person. Places are limited.

Contact Bob Mallows on 0418 100 993

Saturday 26 May, 4pm

Lodge Fraternal Open Investiture

Gardenvale Masonic Centre

237 Nepean Highway, Gardenvale

A banquet will also be held at the centre after the ceremony at a cost of \$35 p.p.

If you would like to attend please

contact Jonathan Ivanyi at

secretary@lodgefraternal.com

Want your event to appear in engage?

Email event details to:

media@freemasonsVIC.net.au

Annual Masonic Synagogue Service

The Melbourne Hebrew Congregation will be holding their Annual Masonic Synagogue Service on Saturday May 12 at 9:30am.

The service is regarded as an enjoyable morning, appreciated by the many non-Jewish visitors and regular congregants alike.

Wives are most welcome and arrangements will be made for them in the Ladies Gallery upstairs, during the synagogue service.

It is customary for gentlemen to wear head-coverings in the synagogue and these will be available if necessary.

The service will be held at the Synagogue Chambers, Toorak Road, South Yarra.



The Masonic Penguins and their mascot pose for a group photo.

Waddling to win

Last month the Masonic Penguins made their mark at the fifth annual Seymour Relay for Life.

The Seymour and Yea lodges combined forces to raise their target of \$5000 which was then matched by the Board of Benevolence. The 22-strong team consisting of Lodge members, families and friends took turns in keeping the baton moving in a relay-style walk overnight. They were also joined on the oval by their mascot, a 150cm blow-up penguin.

A highlight of the event was the Candlelight Ceremony where participants placed hundreds of candle tributes around the oval with messages of hope and memorials to family and friends lost to cancer. A candle was lit in memory of Seymour Lodge Past Master Jeff Harris who lost his fight to cancer last year.



RWBro. Jack Simpson presents a cheque to Rhonda Craig, Baptistcare's Program Manager of Southern Metropolitan Community Packages.

Marvellous Masters

The Celestials Masters Group 2009 – 2010 have donated \$750 Baptistcare's Southern Metropolitan Community Packages to assist with the purchase of a vehicle suitable for transporting a client and her wheelchair.

Although this amount has not covered the full cost, it will greatly assist the client to remain active in her local community.

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.

Freemasons Victoria website

The Freemasons Victoria website is currently undergoing some changes. We appreciate your patience while the updates are underway. Many of the documents available on the intranet are now up-to-date, including the Grand Secretary's Bulletin, Board of Benevolence documents and Book of Constitutions.

If you have any suggestions regarding improvements to the website please email them to:

media@freemasonsvic.net.au

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

Stay informed!

To stay up to date with the Freemasons Victoria news and happenings:



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