

engage!

A word from the Grand Master

Freemasons Victoria is clearly 'racing toward the future' if the busy schedule of the past few weeks is any indication. In my second year of office, the challenge continues to further the initiatives that we have been building and maintain the momentum of existing projects through to completion. The Grand Installation was well received with positive reviews from almost 800 in attendance on the night and the enormous number who joined us for the live stream on the internet.

Congratulations to the 2013 Grand Lodge Team who are well prepared for this year's busy calendar. They are eager to meet the members in their own and other districts to build on the friendships that we foster. Thanks also to the 2012-13 team for their excellent work at events across the state. Special mention and thanks must also go to our sponsors Mirvac, Charter Keck Cramer, Little Residential and KPMG.

I would like to recognise the work of every Lodge and District who has taken up the challenge to 'Race towards the Future' with involvement in promoting our Craft in the community. We have more Open Days, Open Installations and Business Luncheons on the agenda, and with regular television and radio appearances, our visibility in the local community is definitely on the rise.



Lights, Camera ...

Freemasons: The Inside Story is now up to Episode 5 and the feedback has been very positive from Victorian members and even from interstate and overseas viewers via the Channel 31 website.

Be sure to spread the word to anyone who has ever asked you about Freemasonry, and make sure you and your family tune in to Channel 31 on Monday nights at 8:30pm. If you don't receive Channel 31 in your area, the Channel 31 website features catch up streaming of the last few episodes:

The promotional material for the show is here: [YouTube channel](#)

The last few episode can be found here: [Freemasons: The Inside Story](#)

Copies of the program will also be made available through the Lodge network.

Grand Installation

The 2013 Grand Installation was an enormous success with the Quarterly Communication and online broadcasting of the Grand Installation. As predicted, it was a wonderful night with Brethren and guests in attendance from interstate and overseas.

Nerves were not a problem for the Grand Master or the teams as their confidence became apparent on the stage and on the internet broadcasts throughout the ceremony.



The forecourt was abuzz beforehand with members and visitors from local, regional and international locations meeting up and reconnecting - in some cases after not seeing each other for many years. Darting through the crowd were two film crews - one providing live streaming on the internet and the other to capture the evening for Channel 31.



In all, the evening was spectacular, and well worth the effort to attend live.



Cheer on the Ashes win in 2013

If there is one thing that Australia rightly deserves at the moment it is to win the Ashes 2013 Second Test in London.

You can be there to take part in the celebrations with the Ashes Test Cricket Supporters Tour 2013.

The tour package includes confirmed tickets to the 2nd test at Lord's in London, international flights with Etihad, ideally located accommodation, group dinners and activities.

The tour has been put forward by MW Bro. John Evans and the Associate Global Services. He would love to have you along to witness what we hope will be a resoundingly successful Ashes Test season for Australia.

For enquiries, please contact Associate Global Service on (03) 9521 0464 or info@ashescrickettour2013.com

Open for Inspection

Monash Gully Open Night on Friday, 31st May 2013 (7pm).

An open night is a great opportunity to bring friends together and share your Masonic experience with those you think would make a great contribution to Freemasonry. It is on at the Waverley Masonic Centre, 318 – 322 Stephenson's Road Mount Waverley. For more details, contact Graeme Dinn on 9802 2170 or

monash.open.night@gmail.com

CBD Luncheon

The CBD Luncheon for March was well attended and featured special guest speaker Mike Zafiropoulos AM, JP, Board Chair of Channel 31. Mike outlined the operation of the Channel 31 project and the challenges facing the media in general and community broadcasting in particular. He spoke about the positive responses of his audience to *Freemasons: The Inside Story* and the program influence on the community.

He fielded questions about the direction of Channel 31 in the light of the media reforms and the changing landscape of television. Mike was also very diplomatic in his response to the relative popularity of *Freemasons: The Inside Story* to their legendary Fishcam program.



the Next CBD Luncheon is planned for 11 June. Guest Speaker Alastair Lucas AM, Chair of the Burnet Institute and Director of Goldman Sachs

More than just words

On Friday the 1st of March The Lodge of Australia Felix No1 was delighted to be able to make a donation to the Glenallen School in Glen Waverley to help these children with severe disability to learn to communicate. A simple request by the Senior Speech Pathologist, Gil Greenwood, was immediately taken up by members of the Lodge who voted unanimously to supply a Daessy Rolling Mount for an Electronic Communication Device and Mounting Plate, for use in communication with non-verbal students.



The presentation took place before a full meeting of the school. Present were over 120 children with their carers. Guest speaker, The Hon. Anna Burke, speaker of the House of Representatives, acknowledged the work of Freemasons in the community.

The gift was received by a young student whose parents kindly allowed her to be photographed. Gil was delighted with the gift as they had been trying to address this need for some time.

Calling all Accountants!

The Maroondah Masonic Centre, Ringwood requires the services of a qualified accountant to fill the position of Honorary Treasurer. The Centre is administered by a proprietary company whose accounts are subject to professional audit and ASIC requirements. The Company's accounts are held in MYOB and Excel.

Please contact:

Secretary, Stuart McEwan on 5256 2638, Mob:0413 541 366

Chairman, Graham Duff on 9874 7492, Mob: 0419 894 465

Submissions for Print

We are compiling the Autumn Edition of *Freemasonry Victoria* Magazine and would love to include insights and articles that relate to the interesting things that happen in your Lodge, and the many stories that follow on from your Masonic experience.

We are keen to highlight how Freemasonry enriches the community as well as the enormous charitable work that we do.

From a personal perspective, you may even like to share with us what Freemasonry means to you and how it has helped to shape you into the person you are today.

Email your submission to editor@freemasonsvic.net.au

My Fair Lady Ball

Amid the everyday activities of modern life, the opportunity to dress up and attend a classic ball is still a very special occasion. With all its finery, the My Fair Lady Ball is an occasion where members, visitors and their partners can enjoy the fine dining and entertainment of the Regent Theatre in Melbourne and is a highlight on the calendars of many members.

The 2013 My Fair Lady Ball has grown significantly since the event's original inception. This year alone, the ball has raised over \$91,000 for charity and will continue building on this tremendous amount.

Held on Saturday 23 February 2013, the black-tie event, a highlight on the Melbourne social calendar, supported the ongoing needs of SVI St Vincent's Institute Medical Research and Make-A-Wish® Australia. This endeavour is assisted by generous sponsorships and donations from Care Park, Privilege, Bank of Melbourne and Alf's Café. An exciting line up of silent auction items also made this a night to remember.

Well done to all involved for a fantastic fundraising effort.



Get Involved!

The Membership Team at Freemasons Victoria are looking for volunteers with skills and experience in multimedia, television and radio production and presentation, editing and other marketing and media skills.

Send your details, along with a brief run-down of what you can help with, to the team via media@freemasonsvic.net.au

The 'FMV Press Club' will be called with interested parties soon.

Open Events

All Open Events can be found on the Freemasons Victoria website - [Events Calendar](#). Just click the link on the homepage!

Bringing a friend to experience an open event can be a lot of fun, and showcases the ceremonial side of Freemasonry. The following events are on our radar:

Kyabram Centennial - Open Consecration and Open Investiture (4/5/2013)

Sunshine Wisdom - Open Investiture (11/5/2013)

Monash Gully Open Night on Friday, 31st May 2013 (7pm)

Gardenvale Redevelopment

The redevelopment of the Gardenvale Masonic Centre is well under way with a little help from the Grand Master. According to our sources, the Grand Master was in the area and inspected the beginning of the demolition of the property.

Seizing the opportunity to become an operative mason, he grabbed a sledgehammer to assist with the work.



The Grand Master takes to the walls!

Preliminary concept plans have been prepared, which outline a development scenario that includes a mix of Masonic and commercial facilities as well as adequate undercover car parking. In simple terms the plans indicate a development of some 4,500m² with approximately 90 car spaces and roof top signage.



The Gardenvale site redevelopment is likely to be in the order of \$15.6 million. It is proposed that this will be funded from the redevelopment and/or sale of the existing Masonic Centres in the District.

The project, once completed will generate sufficient net income to ensure adequate funds are retained for ongoing maintenance and refurbishment of the site.

Lodges that currently meet at the Gardenvale Masonic Centre have relocated to the Moorabbin, Sandringham or Brighton Masonic Centres, while the redevelopment is taking place.

A Planning application has been made for the new Gardenvale building.

Lodges that meet at the Moorabbin, Sandringham and Brighton Masonic Centres will continue to meet there for at least the next two years, during the planning and construction phases of the redevelopment. When it comes time to move to the new Bayside Masonic Centre, the accommodation needs of all Lodges affected by the development will be discussed and agreed upon.



Story Time

Its great to hear a new story and we love to hear the big news from your District.

If there is something going on in your region that you think that we should know about, please send us an email to share it.

We have in the past used stories that relate to interesting and unusual things that happen in the community, and in Masonic Centres across the state.

Natural photos always help to deliver the story and the more content you can provide us with allows us to fully report on the newsworthy aspects of what is going on.

Send your details, along with a brief run-down of what you can share, to the team via media@freemasonsvic.net.au

Famous Freemasons Quote:

“Always acknowledge a fault. This will throw those in authority off their guard and give you an opportunity to commit more.”

Bro. Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain) US humorist and author (1835-1910)

Polar Star Lodge No. 79 A.F.& A.M., Missouri, USA

Bikies roll into Deniliquin

Deniliquin cystic fibrosis sufferers Aaron Simmons and Jamie Chattaway were the first two people to welcome the Victorian Masonic Motorcycle Association (VMMA) into town on Friday.

Both men know the effects of cystic fibrosis (CF) all too well, and appreciate the fundraising efforts of the Masonic bikers who revved into town around midday.

The 10 members were taking part in a three-and-a-half day ride, leaving Melbourne on February 28 and riding more than 1100km through Rutherglen, Deniliquin, Cohuna and Queenscliff to raise money to support the fight against the disease.



“It’s a worthwhile event ... they’re helping us out and raising money for things that we need,” Aaron said.

“They were really nice people and offered to come back to Deni and help with any other CF events in future.”

This was the VMMA’s fourth bi-annual ride for the Cystic Fybrois Victoria (CFV) Foundation. All trips are fully funded by members, meaning all funds collected go straight to the charity of their choice.

They collected donations during the ride and the event culminated with a charity auction in Queenscliff on Saturday.

While the exact amount has not been finalised, VMMA president Gary Power said the ride has raised over \$16,000 for CFV.

For further information on the VMMA visit <http://www.vmma.net.au/news.htm>.



Task Force Update

The Task Force has been very busy out at collection sites across the state.

Task Force Executive Graeme Kitney is the Good Friday Appeal Coordinator who delivered the early news about the collection activities of Good Friday.

According to the latest figures, the collections on the day totalled \$75,881.80 from all sites. This result is 40% up on last year and is clearly outstanding. With more than thirty new sites and an increase in the number of organised volunteers, the event draws on the skills of around 450 Freemasons and their family and/or friends who manned over 110 sites.

At the end of the night the Grand Master expressed his appreciation and thanks to all our volunteers for their work in supporting the Royal Childrens Hospital and to show the public that Freemasons work for the community.



Task Force Volunteers

Merv Dyer and the Task Force are interested in expanding the skills base of volunteers to help with important Task Force initiatives in the community.

If you are interested in becoming involved then please call 9411 0111.

Ivanhoe market

The Ivalda Market Day was held on Sunday 17 March 2013 at the Ivalda Masonic Centre in Ivanhoe. The event was organised by The Lord Northcote Lodge No.191 to assist the Ivalda Trust in the upkeep and maintenance of the Centre.

A number of visitors braved the cold and inclement weather on that day and contributed to the overwhelming success of the first Ivalda Market event. Some were intrigued by the venue as they never heard of or visited a Masonic Lodge and were very impressed with what they saw.



People registered their interest with such enthusiasm that the supply of 'Masonic Packs' was soon depleted. RW Bro Ray Kelly was impressed by the number of approaches he received from women stall holders who were interested in Freemasonry for their sons, a number were so impressed by Freemasonry that they insisted on taking all brochures including the application form. Sincere thanks go to Penny Williams putting forward the idea and organising the set up of this eventful day. It is hoped that further like events will follow in a not too distant future.

Wangaratta Open Day

The Open Day at Wangaratta was great success with an impressive donation of \$2,800 made to a number of groups. Wangaratta Child Care Centre, Probus Club of Appin Park, Wangaratta Woodworkers, Eldorado Rural Fire Brigade, Peechelba Progress Association, Moyhu Valley Lodge and Marangan Lodge all received a share of the funds raised.



Fundraising from the sale of top quality wine has been very successful for the Lodge and over the past 10 years, over \$40,000 has been provided to local groups.

Wangaratta Lodge of St John will also be donating money to the Montessori School at Beechworth in conjunction with the Beechworth Lodge of St. John in the next month or so.

In the course of the day, there were at least four potential new members to register and expression of interest in joining Freemasonry.

Got a Collection?

Freemasons Victoria Magazine is searching for Masons with collectable curiosities to feature in upcoming editions.

Collections don't need to have a Masonic element – the more strange, obscure, interesting and quirky the better!

Get in touch with us via editor@freemasonsvic.net.au



(Image courtesy www.masonicsupplyshop.com)

Sporting Chance

If you are involved in sport or know of a familiar sporting identity with a connection to Freemasonry, then we would like to hear from you.

Currently in planning is our "Freemasons in Sport" Episode for the Channel 31 series *Freemasons: The Inside Story*.



The connection with sport can be on a local, district, state or national level and we would love to include your input to our content planning.

Online Analytics - Grand Lodge Web Pages

The addition of Online Analytics reporting to *engage!* gives an overview of our online performance. In this edition, the popularity of web pages on the Freemasons Victoria website based on visits and unique visitor statistics will be highlighted. This month, we registered over 7,000 unique views to the membership page, and therefore about 4,000 return visits to the page.

Other statistics show a spike in traffic through the home page that went through to watch the internet web stream of the Grand Installation on March 22.

Page path level 1	Pageviews	Unique Pageviews	Avg. Time on Page
1. Membership/	11,101	7,096	00:00:51
2. Home page	9,603	6,827	00:02:07
3. ContactUs/	7,422	2,881	00:00:50
4. SecretsnbspnbsUnlocked	4,307	3,520	00:01:30
5. OurHistory.	2,308	1,937	00:01:17
6. NewsArticle/	1,775	1,345	00:01:51
7. MemberLogin/	1,382	411	00:00:53
8. MemberLodgeSecretary	1,290	829	00:01:06
9. Community/	1,213	947	00:00:47
10. Benevolence/	1,049	754	00:01:21

Action List	✓
Stay connected via social media by connecting with our pages on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facebook • Twitter • LinkedIn • Flickr • Google+ 	
Note the Combined Lodges ANZAC Reunion Meeting at Darebin Masonic Centre on April 20, 2013, 1100hours. Contact VWBro. Alan Mitchell on 0417 130 945 alanmit@optusnet.com.au Cost is \$35.00	
Attend Grand Lodge Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kyabram Centennial Open Day and Open Investiture - Saturday 4 May 2013 • Sunshine Wisdom - Open Investiture (11/5/2013) • Monash Gully Open Night on Friday, 31st May 2013 (7pm) 	
Contact the media department to have your Lodge web page uploaded	
Remind your friends and family to tune into <i>Freemasons: The Inside Story</i> at 8:30pm on Mondays.	

Let's hear it!

If you have a jewel presentation, special visitor, Open Installation or other special event in your Lodge, please remember to send us a natural photo (no grips in the picture, please!) and the full story of your special happening.

Email your submission to editor@freemasonsvic.net.au



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