

engage!



A word from the Grand Master

I'd like to say things are slowing down as we draw nearer to Christmas but this has not been the case. On Saturday 26 October we carried out the 50 year Reconsecration of Lodge of Orana. Then our week saw us travel the State to continue our roll-out of the 2013-2016 Strategic Plan. Monday 28 October started us off in Wangaratta, progressing to Swan Hill on Tuesday, Horsham on Wednesday and on Thursday we raced back to Melbourne for a Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation meeting at midday, then back out to Geelong that evening to launch the Strategic Plan to the Bellarine Otway District. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the brethren who joined us at these meetings and I look forward to those Districts implementing their own Plan in line with the 2013-16 Strategic Plan.

On the morning of Friday 1 November, the Grand Secretary and I were back in the editing studios. I am pleased to announce that, due to popular demand and the success of *Freemasons: The Inside Story*, we are moving forward with a second series commencing March 2014. I urge everyone to tune into Channel 31 on Monday evenings at 8pm for our Summer Series, which collates some of the work from the first series, plus a couple of extra features, commencing Monday 2nd December at 8pm.

Friday evening saw me back in the car and travelling to Ballarat to enjoy a warm and friendly evening with Grand Lodge Officers for the annual dinner in Ballarat. Then on Saturday I installed WBro. Damian Hudson at Lodge of Evolution No.931. Sunday, Monday and Tuesday of the Melbourne Cup weekend, I took advantage of the Victorian holiday, to visit branches of my business in Queensland.

On Wednesday I travelled to Traralgon to assist WBro. Rod Lavin, IPM of Argyle Lodge No. 105, to present a Toyota Coaster Bus to the Cooinda Hill Special School. Half of these funds were raised by Rod and the brethren of Argyle Lodge, whilst the rest was a very generous donation from the Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation, supported by MWBro. Vaughan Werner, PGM. Presentations like these make me proud to be the Grand Master of such a wonderful organisation supporting local community projects

Thursday 7th November I was pleased to attend the Eastern Business Luncheon to hear Melissa Jack, a very inspiring young lady and life coach, speak about Men's Health and that evening I installed a brilliant young man, Bro. Paul Daniels into the Chair of Old Scotch Collegians Lodge. I am confident that Bro. Paul will lead his Lodge along an exciting and successful path in the next twelve months.

On Friday I was overjoyed to participate in a very moving ceremony of our inaugural Field of Remembrance. I was pleased to host, amongst other dignitaries, The Hon. Jason Wood, MP of Latrobe, representing Senator The Hon. Michael Ronaldson, Minister for Veterans Affairs. The front lawn of the Dallas Brooks Centre gained much public interest as a Field of Remembrance, with many stopping to read the messages people had left on the symbols in honour of our servicemen and women who had paid the ultimate price serving for our country. I would also like to personally thank WBro. Jim Pouhotaua and his team for carrying out the Ceremony of the Unknown Soldier.

Bob Jones

District Charity Challenge 2013

Five Lodges from District 106 participated in a Charity Challenge at the Ballarat Masonic Centre on 14 October 2013. A gathering of 60 supporters listened intently as St John's Lodge No. 36 put their case forward for the Men's Shed, Sturt Buninyong United for increased capacity of the Mt Clear PS Breakfast Club, Mount Franklin St George for ongoing welfare in schools in and around the Daylesford District, Guiding Star for the Lighthouse Foundation and All Nations for the support of the rapidly growing Clunes Youth Group, conducted under the direction of the Clunes Country Women's Association.

President of the Board of Benevolence VWBro. Frank Fordyce was impressed with the compassion of the presentations and handed cheques to four Lodges to assist their charity work with local organisations.



From left: Bro. Malcolm Hull, All Nations Lodge No. 28; VWBro. Frank Fordyce, Board of Benevolence; Bro. Peter Gallagher, Mt Franklin St George Lodge No. 12; WBro. Ray Schenk, St John's Lodge No. 36; RWBro. Roy Taylor, Guiding Star Lodge No. 922, and WBro. Ron Fleming, Sturt Buninyong United Lodge No. 23.

Bad weather no barrier for Guiding Star Lodge!

Members of Guiding Star Lodge No. 922 held a sausage sizzle recently to raise money for the various charities they support.

Bunnings gave the Lodge an anticipated boost by allocating it the Show Day holiday. Despite some appalling weather on the day, the Lodge was able to clear more than \$1000. Earlier, the Lodge raised a similar amount after competing in the District Charity Challenge.



Members of Guiding Star Lodge No. 22 on duty at the sausage sizzle outside Bunnings in Ballarat.

Bus for Cooinda Hill

Argyle Lodge No. 105, in Traralgon recently celebrated its 125th birthday, and in recognition of this milestone, decided it would embark on a charitable campaign to purchase a much needed bus for Cooinda Hill. Cooinda Hill is a disability service provider who provides day care services for over 70 members of the Latrobe Valley community. The Grand Master of Freemasons Victoria visited Traralgon to officially present Cooinda Hill with a made-for-purpose bus.

"I was very proud to be able to assist Cooinda Hill on this occasion with this brand new purpose-built bus. The bus will be beneficial for those with disabilities who have difficulty accessing suitable transport", Grand Master Bob Jones said.



Grand Master Bob Jones with Daniel (seated), Richard Elkington District Co-Ordinator and Rod Lavin of Argyle Lodge No.105

Freemasons Victoria Merchandise

The Freemasons Victoria e-store can be accessed at www.freemasonsvic.net.au via the member's log-in. If you do not have access to a computer, you can place an order over the phone (03) 9411 0111 or email: merchandise@freemasonsvic.net.au



Annual Communication

The District Grand Lodge of the Middle East under The Grand Lodge of Scotland held their Annual Communication in Bangkok, in October 2013.

This event is similar to a Victorian Quarterly Communication in that it is largely a business meeting for members of the District Grand Lodge and the 21 lodges of the district from Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Sarawak and Sabah. There are currently nearly 1200 Freemasons in this district. RWBro. Dunstan Fernandez, District Grand Master, presided and some 190 brethren enjoyed a full programme of events which included a golf competition, fellowship function and a formal banquet with 220 ladies and brethren at The Rembrandt Hotel.

Each year the Annual Communication is held at a different location in the District and the local Lodge acts as host. On this occasion the banquet was held at Lodge St. John 1072, of Bangkok, which is the oldest Masonic Lodge in Thailand and the second oldest in the district.

RWBro. Keith Murray, Grand Superintendent of Works, represented Freemasons Victoria this year and led a delegation of members from Seavic Lodge No 8. Seavic Lodge was the first Lodge in Australia to have a membership comprising of Victorian and also South East Asian members, currently consisting of just over 100 brethren with an almost equal representation from both.

Victoria was the only Australian Constitution represented and the strong ties between our jurisdictions continue to strengthen by the frequent attendance by brethren from both South East Asia and Victoria at their respective Communications.

On this particular occasion, WBro. Stuart Thompson, PGStb, was conferred with the honorary rank of District Senior Grand Warden, joining MWBro. John Evans, PGM as well as WBro. Kim Lai PJGD, as holding honorary rank in the District. This was a great surprise to WBro. Stuart, but was awarded in recognition of his many years of promoting strong ties between Freemasons Victoria and Freemasons in South East Asia.

The next Annual Communication will take place at Marina Bay Sands Resort, Singapore in October 2014. Also at this time The Annual Convocation of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Middle East, under The Grand Lodge of Scotland will also take place.

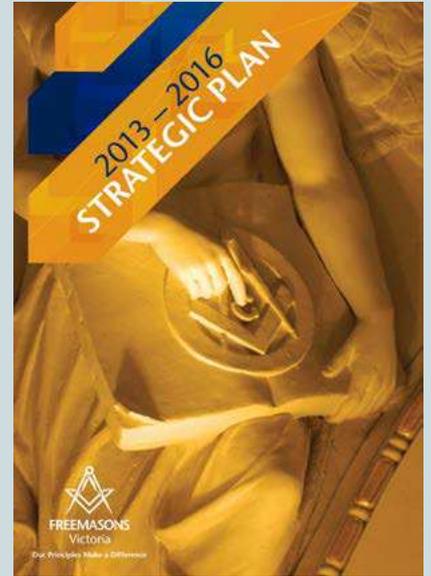


Any brethren and companions (or partners) interested in attending this event in 2014 should contact WBro. Peter Sotir, Secretary of Lodge Seavic on ambrosia_au@hotmail.com.

WBro. Stuart Thompson, SEAVIC Lodge No. 8 with RWBro. Dunstan Fernandez.

Freemasons Victoria Strategic Plan

The Freemasons Victoria Strategic Plan 2013-16 is online and can be found along with the Report on the 2010-13 Strategic Plan, on the Member Intranet under Grand Lodge Centre. Just click on the link.



November

Freemason's Victoria is participating in Movember again this year!

So grow your mo's for prostate cancer awareness and upload your mo photos. Visit Freemasons Victoria Movember page at:

<http://au.movember.com/team/963693>



WBro. Ben Quick, Movember 2012



Catalina Flying Boat Repair Unit

The Catalina Flying Boat Repair Unit was the only inland facility of its type during the conflict of World War II, and as such was a top secret station. Some 900 Air Force and Army personnel were stationed there, situated at Lake Boga, ten or so kilometres east of Swan Hill. During that time a total of seven personnel lost their lives, not as a result of fighting but rather, by accident. Those seven are buried in the War Memorial section of the Lake Boga Cemetery. During the 1950's, after the closure of the facility, a Catalina Flying Boat was preserved, together with the top secret radio communications bunker, to establish a unique museum unique in the world. The Lions Club of Lake Boga took on the task of continued preservation and enhancement for the benefit of visitors and five years ago, after much fundraising and government support, were able to build a hangar for the Catalina that had previously been on display in the open, and subject to the ravages of the weather.

With the opening of the hangar, visitor numbers have greatly improved, particularly among school children as a means of educating them about the conflict and the role played at Lake Boga. Prior to the opening of the hangar, memorabilia was confined to the bunker that housed the communications facility and was extremely cluttered making it difficult for more than a handful of people to visit at any one time. This has now changed with ample room in the hangar and the communication bunker restored to exactly as it was during war-time.

An interactive computer facility is also included in the new facility allowing visitors to search and learn on-screen.

The Lions Club of Lake Boga in conjunction with Swan Hill Lodge No. 919, applied to the Board of Benevolence in April 2013 for funds to establish a memorial garden and gazebo which lists the names of fallen personnel. The project cost \$4,000 and the Board provided those funds from the 'Green Thumb' account. On Tuesday 29 October, a plaque was officially unveiled, acknowledging the contribution from Freemasons Victoria to establish the garden and surrounding grounds, following which all present on the day enjoyed the hospitality of the Lake Boga Lions who have established their clubroom at the facility.



From left: VWBro. Frank Fordyce – President BoB; WBro. Graeme Wormley – Secretary Lake Boga Lions; RWBro. Jim Thompson PDGM, Swan Hill Lodge No. 919; Mr David Marks – President Lake Boga Lions Club.



Calling all TV Superstars!

Are you the next Ray Martin ?
Have you always wanted to be on TV?

Do you love Freemasonry and would you like to appear in the second series of Freemasons: The Inside Story – to be aired on Channel 31 from March – August 2014?

If yes – then this could be your big chance!

Freemasons Victoria is calling for members who want to be part of the series on a volunteer basis.

We are looking for 5 fresh new faces to be hosts on the upcoming series.

To be considered, you must meet the following requirements:

1. You must be an affiliated member
2. Your commitment will be varied so you must be flexible with your availability (be available during working hours and some weekends, with 2-3 weeks' notice).

The roles will be as hosts, interviewing fellow Freemasons, families and other subjects that are part of the production.

To be considered you will need to register for a casting session on **SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2013, 9:30am – 1:30pm**, at the Dallas Brooks Centre, 300 Albert Street, East Melbourne.

You will be required for 30 mins on the day – times to be allocated by Erin Olsen.

Please prepare a 2 minute presentation about yourself and some ideas on how you can contribute to the series, to be presented in front of camera on **SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER, 2013**
Contact Erin Olsen to register your interest at erin@freemasonsvic.net.au

Registrations **EXTENDED** to Wednesday 20 November 2013.

All casting times will be allocated after registration closes.

Soap Box Derby!

As we race towards the future, our successes are built on our efforts in the past and it was with this pearl of wisdom that some surprising information has finally made its way into the light.

Through a series of clandestine back alley meetings where spys exchange valuable bits of information with one another and danger lurking in the shadows waiting for the fatal lapse of attention, an innocent appearing scrap of paper was inadvertently dropped in error. This mistake was leaped upon by persons who cannot be identified and the information in question then passed through various nefarious hands to land at my desk.

It seems that a certain 1st Grand Principal (no names no pack drill) also has racing vehicles in his blood, as determined research has revealed that a certain 'freckle-faced, ginger haired' lad won racing honours way back in 1950. No less than a 2nd place was recorded at the prestigious and well contested 1950 Geelong Soap Box Derby. This pinnacle of racing achievement not only brought glory and admiration from all who witnessed the event but also drew media attention of the day with no less an important magazine than the extremely influential 'Womans Day & Home' magazine, 2 July 1951 issue, showcasing an article that featured the 'Lad' in question.



An even greater honour was bestowed upon our 'Lad' from Geelong as the article has photos showing him in friendly cahoots with none other than the famous cyclist Hubert Opperman later to become Sir Hubert Opperman. The whole media event was in aid of advertising the upcoming Commonwealth Jubilee Soap Box Derby and whilst we do not have the results of that derby at hand, or even if our 'Lad' participated, I'm sure if he did then a good accounting of him ensued.

'Woman's Day & Home' Magazine, 2 July 1951 issue, featured the 'Lad' in question. *By Bob Morcomb, Publicity Office, Grand Chapter, Victoria.*

Think Pink Fundraising with the Rangers!



Leilani Mitchell from WNBL Dandenong Rangers riding the Pink Quad bike which is 1st Prize in the Think Pink with Freemasons Victoria Raffle.

The culmination of our final Think Pink FUNdraising event during the national breast cancer awareness campaign is one we are very excited about.

We are proudly partnered with the Women's National Basketball League - Dandenong Rangers. Collectively we are continuing to raise funds, and awareness, by decking out the stadium, the crowd, and the team in PINK.

Funds raised will help support the Think Pink Living Centre and Epworth Freemasons Oncology Department. Come along in your most outrageous PINK outfit and join in the fun and games.

There are plenty of prizes and surprises to entertain you throughout the night. Don't miss your chance to support this wonderful partnership with the Jayco Rangers. Tip-off is at 7.30pm at Dandenong Basketball Stadium on Friday 15 November.

FHA Diaries now available!

At this time each year we sell a Diary that is produced by FHA Incorporated, the proceeds of which go to the Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation.

The Diary, that has served Freemasons since 1945, will be available for \$5.00 from the Grand Secretariat.

FHA Incorporated would like to take the opportunity to thank members for their continued support in all endeavours to assist the Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation in the work they carry out in the community.

All monies raised from the 2014 Diary sales will be distributed after the annual meeting of the FHA Incorporated in August 2014

Diaries can be purchased from Grand Secretariat at 300 Albert Street, East Melbourne or by calling (03) 9411 0100.



Deadlines for content for coming issues:

Engage 62 - 26 November
Engage 63 - 10 December

Don't forget, previous issues of *engage!* Newsletter can be found using the Publications tab in the Freemasons Victoria intranet. Just log in!

The Swords come to the Fore

At its most recent (33rd) Symposium, the Members of Excalibur met for a luncheon at the Malvern Valley Reception Centre. Excalibur members are all current or past Grand Sword Bearers. A great afternoon was had by all, and a raffle was conducted after the meal. The recipient organisation chosen was Ronald McDonald House.

This choice came about as Swords Leah and Nick Rinkel's grandson, Marko had been spending several months at the Royal Children's Hospital, receiving treatment for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia. Marko's family live on a farm in Yea, making it difficult for Belinda, Marko's Mum to be with him in hospital. Ronald McDonald House made sure there was always accommodation available when needed.

The raffle collected \$310, which was doubled by the Board of Benevolence. As a result it was with pride that Mum Belinda, Marko and Nick presented a total of \$620, to General Manager, Ronald Mc Donald House Mr Peter Bishop. Peter expressed his thanks to Freemasons Victoria for its generosity.



Marko with his Mum Belinda, as the cheque is presented by Nick Rinkel to General Manager, Ronald McDonald House, Mr Peter Bishop.

ACTION LIST

- Register your participation for Movember! Visit the Freemasons Victoria Movember webpage at <http://au.movember.com/>
- Don't forget to book in to attend the New Initiates Cocktail Function on 5 December, contact Erin Olsen on 9411 0102 or email: erin@freemasonsvic.net.au
- Send us your 125th Anniversary submissions for the next Freemasonry Victoria Magazine!
- Register your interest to host *Freemasons: The Inside Story* in 2014, contact Erin on 9411 0102 or email: erin@freemasonsvic.net.au



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**WIN A
CUSTOM BUILT
WEBSITE**

This Voucher Is
Redeemable For a
Custom Built, Four Page
Website, Worth

\$3,000

Courtesy Of Fuel Studio.

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Freemasons Homes Charity Golf Day

The annual Freemasons Homes Golf Day, officiated by RWBro. Bruce Stockdale PBGP was held on Monday 11 November at the Kingswood Golf Course.

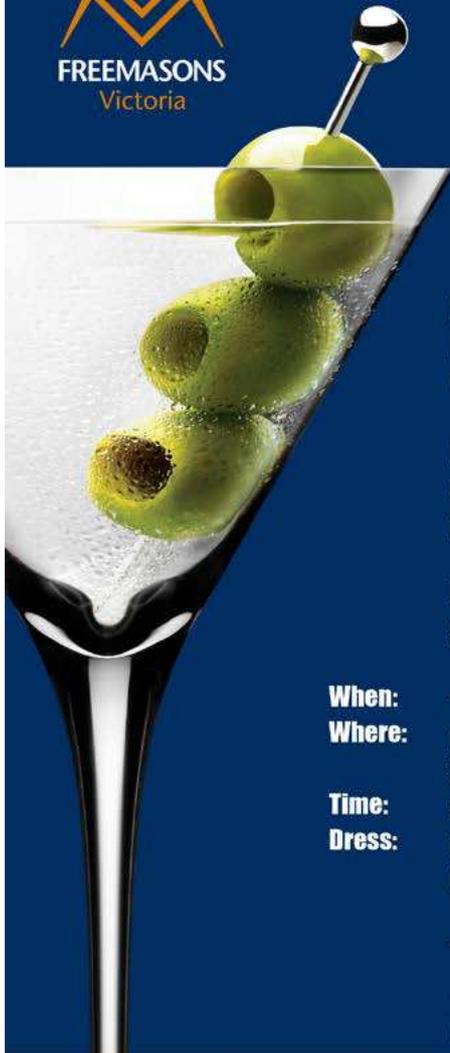
The Bendigo Bank team of Don Chenery, Philip Whiting, Peter Hawkins and George Waddell stole the major prize while RWor. Bro Keith Murray PGIWks had the longest drive, as did his wife Fiona Murray in the ladies competition. Rosemary Evans took out the Ladies trophy for the day. The biggest winner was the Freemasons Homes as a net profit of \$4188.70 was raised.

One auction item that was passed in was the voucher, as above, for a website to be built by Fuel Studio to the value of \$3,000. This is now available to anyone who would like to make an offer. Bids should be directed to WBro. Graeme Wallace on 0418 248 983 or email: graeme@netvigator.net.au



FREEMASONS VICTORIA PRESENTS 2013 NEW INITIATES

Cocktail Function



Grand Master MWBro. Robert Jones and Grand Master Elect RWBro. Hillel Benedykt invite you and your partner/guest to celebrate your initiation into Freemasonry.

Enjoy a fantastic evening with a surprise guest speaker, live entertainment and an opportunity to meet and mix with fellow new Freemasons.

Key note address by the Grand Master and an announcement about our 125th year celebrations for 2014.

When: Thursday 5 December 2013
Where: Promenade Room, Grand Lodge
300 Albert Street, East Melbourne
Time: 6:30pm for 7pm to 9:30pm
Dress: Men: lounge suit - tie optional
Ladies: after 5

**Tickets \$40 (admits 2)
\$10 from every ticket sold will be donated towards
the Royal Freemasons Homes**



**RSVP Erin Olsen by Friday 22 November 2013
erin@freemasonsvic.net.au | (03) 9411 0102**



**FREEMASONS
Victoria**

1809 Celebrating 125 Years 2014

Calling for Content

You don't have to dig too deep within the Freemasons Victoria archives to find interesting information about our heritage and the people who have made up our rich history.

With the anniversary of the United Grand Lodge approaching next year we would like to showcase some of the great stories that have made up the last 125 years, in Freemasonry Victoria Magazine, and on our website.

Stories can include:

- Memorable moments
- Major milestones
- Events in history
- People
- Archival discoveries
- Interesting facts

Contact:

The Editor
Freemasons Victoria
editor@freemasonsvic.net.au or (03)
9411 0101

We'd love to hear your ideas!

Don't forget to send highest resolution images or scans of at least 1MG.