



A word from the Grand Master

On Monday 11th November I raced out to the Royal Freemasons Golf Day at Kingswood Golf Club to start proceedings, then that evening I had the pleasure of joining the United Services Lodge in celebrating the 100th Birthday of MWBro Dr John Connell, PGM where I was accompanied by the DGM, 6 PGMs and a great many PDGMs. What a wonderful tribute night to such an iconic Freemason.

On Tuesday 12th November we brought the District Coordinators together for a meeting to update and discuss topical items, followed that evening by the Senior Grand Officers Forum, which are held every quarter. Many items were discussed and both meetings were very productive. It was great to see so many attend too.

On Wednesday 13th November I visited my own lodge at Williamstown and enjoyed fraternal relations with my fellow brethren. I actually had the pleasure of being Junior Deacon for the night at a 3rd Degree, which was a very enjoyable experience.

Thursday 14th November found me back in at Grand Lodge for the Board of General Purposes meeting and on Friday evening, in my absence, Freemasons Victoria held its last Think Pink breast cancer awareness fundraiser for the year. We supported WNBL Dandenong Jayco Rangers as they competed against Logan from Queensland. Everyone that attended enjoyed a fabulous night of fun and I'd like to thank all of the volunteers that turned up to help out. They certainly enriched our night and made it such a successful evening. I am told that the stadium was awash in pink. The entire team was dressed in our pink square & compass t-shirts, as was the officials on the score bench, right down to the pink towels that were used by the team during the game. We hope to be able to announce our final amount of funds raised at the CBD Luncheon on Tuesday 10th December.

On Friday 15th November, I flew to Wellington in New Zealand, joined by the Deputy Grand Master and 42 other Victorians to celebrate the Grand Installation of the incoming Grand Master of New Zealand, MWBro. John Litton. A great weekend of festivities was enjoyed by all. Then 25 of our brethren, including their partners, stayed on for some rest and relaxation to tour the South Island of New Zealand where we enjoyed beautiful weather, scenery and some adventure activities such as a ride on the Shotover Jetboat, a Helicopter flight, white-water rafting and some of us were crazy enough to jump off a bridge with some elastic tied to our ankles. Yes your Grand Master did bungy jump! Adrenaline rush plus! My congratulations not only go to the DGM for taking the leap, but also to WBro. Jim Puohotaua and WBro. Peter Barrand who bungy jumped to overcome their fear of heights! Very proud of all of you.

I would have thought that this year would be winding down by now, but it just seems to be getting faster.

I hope to see you all at the Christmas Quarterly on Wednesday 18th December.

Bob Jones

Great Wall proves great experience

Sixteen participants have returned home after a ten day trek along the Great Wall of China, raising \$75,000 for cancer services at Epworth HealthCare including the Freemasons Hospital in East Melbourne. The Hike for Health included both restored and unrestored sections of the wall, segmented with magnificent watchtowers built from 560AD atop mountain ridges providing magnificent views over the local area. Included in the troupe were medical staff, patients recovering from cancer as well as their friends and family.

There is no doubt the walk presented a challenge with long stretches of steep inclines and some steps almost a metre high. Despite this the group persevered, all finishing with an enormous sense of camaraderie, achievement and satisfaction.

“The Wall is a metaphor for a journey,” Cathi Biddick recorded on the group’s blog. “It stretches out before you with ups and downs and seemingly never ends. I have a friend undergoing cancer treatment. When I find the walk hard, I find it helpful to think of those going through chemotherapy or radiotherapy and remember how much harder their journey is. I know this hike will end, but cancer patients don’t know how long or hard their individual journey will be, or where and how it ends,” she wrote.



Taking on the challenge of one of the great wonders of the world.

The Hike for Health will be held again next year to raise funds for cancer services at Epworth, for further information contact the Epworth Medical



The group takes a breather along the Great Wall of China.

A Chance Meeting

A contingent of Army Cadets, families and representatives attended the November Ceremony of the Unknown Warrior which was hosted by the Mooroopna Lodge.

WBro. John Canty WM, VWBro. Alan McCormick and WBro. Barry Bolitho attended the “End-of-year March” of Army Cadet Units at Victory Park, Shepparton on Sunday 24 November. This was the first time the units have marched together as a battalion with the cadets’ co-ordinating the event, unveiling a march with units from across Victoria. The 38th battalion is comprised of units in Watsonia, Shepparton, Bendigo, Deniliquin, Echuca and Wangaratta. Afterwards, the Mooroopna Lodge members congratulated Lieutenant Colonel Don Shearman RFD Commander of the Victorian Australian Army Cadets Brigade on his address discovering that Lt. Col. Don Shearman is the Worshipful Master of The Army Lodge No. 478.



VWBro. Alan McCormick Mooroopna Lodge, Lieutenant Colonel (AAC) Don Shearman RFD (Commander Australian Army Cadets Brigade); WBro. John Canty Mooroopna Lodge; Capt. Beryl Holm, 38th Army Cadet Unit; Peter Mc Phee OAM President Shepparton RSL Sub branch, WBro. Barry Bolitho, Mooroopna Lodge.

Scholarship Awards

The Board of Benevolence has awarded two worthy youths with Education Scholarships to go toward their tertiary degrees. Jacob Jinnette will put his scholarship towards his Teaching Degree whilst Bradley Chalwell will further his education in the Visual Arts.

The awards were presented by WBro. Ron Lowen and WBro. Tony Meighan at the Installation banquet.



Bradley Chalwell, WBro. Ron Lowen, WBro. Tony Meighan and Jacob Jinnette.

Maroondah Festival

Every year the Whitehorse and Maroondah Festivals are held at Croydon. This year WBro. Graham Dines invited The Lilydale Lodge No. 108 to run the stand at Croydon Oval.

Despite the windy weather the festival ran from 10am to 5pm, with a mix of crafts, clubs, exhibitions and rides. Lodge members WBro. Stephen Seward and WBro. Derek Godwin kept busy with their newest candidate Bro. Nima Bekloo handing out pamphlets with information on becoming a Freemason.



Maroondah Festival display held at Croydon Oval manned by MWBro Stephen Seward and WBro. Derek Godwin.

Wodonga Lodge No. 156 - Cycling to a new future

Freemasons Victoria is proud to introduce a new group of like-minded individuals who, after considerable efforts to establish an identity, can finally stand united (or ride united) for charity.

The Freemason Cycling Club which is actually an international body, has welcomed our local Freemasons into the team, and has provided members with their very own cycling jerseys. Freemasonry at a local level will be represented on their helmets, along with the Freemasons Victoria 125th Anniversary logo.

The Freemason Cycling Club was discovered in the USA and is based in New York City. The Club has members world-wide and now this includes Australia. Contact was made with the Club by Malcolm Mann and using the brilliance of internet technology and social media, the Wodonga cyclists have found a new home.

These fit young members will be riding for charity but will also be spreading information regarding Freemasonry in an effort to recruit new members from the community, into the organisation. WBro. Milton Mann, of the Wodonga Lodge No. 156 said that with so many avid cyclists in his lodge, he was keen to establish a proper team.

"As a lodge with this many keen cyclists it was important for us to meet and ride together for a common purpose, that being to raise money for charity in support of community fund raisers, and put Freemasonry in the public eye for all to see. We wanted to show that a group of men concerned with health and wellbeing are also members of a great organisation", Milton said.

The brand new Freemason Cycling Club jerseys were presented to riders at the October installation of Darren Hill, on the eve of the team's first fund raising charity ride, Ride Against Poverty and Care-van. More than one hundred riders took part, riding 52 gruelling kilometres around the hilly outskirts of Albury in New South Wales, and raising a total of \$600 for the homeless. Care-van provides meals and support to the homeless in the Albury Wodonga area.

Wodonga Lodge Freemasons who took part in the challenge include Darren Hill, Milton Mann, Malcolm Mann, Cyril Land, Clinton D' Aferia and Darren Koetsveld along with the Lodge Secretary Mat Poppins who will support the team with information about Freemasonry for the community.

Ms Jodie Tiernan of Care-van was extremely happy to have the support of the Wodonga Freemasons on this occasion and said she would even submit the group photo (featured), for the Care-van Newsletter.

Arrangements are in place to support a ride for Legacy and Movember this month with a big plan to tackle 100km in the Lake Hume Cycle Challenge being planned for February 2014. So far the International Freemason Cycling Club has raised over \$6000 in this, the first year of its existence and it is hoped that that number is greatly improved upon in the future. If you're a keen rider, you don't mind wearing lycra, and you want to join in with a group of like-minded guys to ride for charity, contact Milton Mann on 0407 259 272 or email m2sportsindustries@gmail.com



Left to Right: Milton Mann , Darren Hill, Jodie Tiernan of Care-van, Cyril Land and Malcolm Mann



50 Year Jewels

Brae Dale Lodge No. 936 awarded two members with a 50 year jewel this month.

WBro. Neville Simmons, PGStdB and RWBro. Leonard Lacey, PJGW were presented their jewels by WBro. Carl Stemp, PJGW. On the same night Brae Dale Lodge had the pleasure of attending a talk by Mr Brian Morgan, historian of the "Stawell Gift". The Australia Post Stawell Gift has been held since 1878, and has developed into one of the world's most famous and prestigious foot races.

Brian educated Brae Dale Lodge members on how the race was first born in the UK, right through until its present day format.



WBro. Neville Simmons and WBro. Leonard Lacey awarded 50 year Jewels by WBro. Carl Stemp.

Charitable donations at Wodonga

Earlier this month WBro. Roger Thompson PGStdB, Secretary of Brae Dale Lodge No. 936, was presented with a cheque for \$500 at Lodge Belvoir No. 727. WBro. Roger received the cheque for the Spinocerebellar Staxia Support Group of which he is President, alongside the Secretary of the same charity Ms Marie Dunn. The presentation took place at Wodonga on Wednesday 4th of November.



Marie Dunn, Secretary Spinocerebellar Staxia Support Group received the cheque from Brae Dale Lodge No. 936.

Lodge of Balnarring No. 850 Beginning of a Family Affair

In June 2013 Lodge of Balnarring No. 850 conducted an information night. Brethren welcomed potential candidates into Freemasonry. This may not seem out of the ordinary, however, both of the potential candidates who attended were the sons of Senior Warden Bro. Barry Hodder.

Eldest son William, 30, and youngest son Matthew, 22, were welcomed into the South along with brethren and visitors. So impressed were they that the following morning they asked to commence their journey into becoming Freemasons.

On the second Friday in September, William was Initiated into Freemasonry and in October his younger brother followed, resulting in three Bro. Hodder in the Lodge, with Bro. Barry (SW) being Installed in the Chair for the first time in November allowing William and Matthew to assist their Dad by safeguarding collars and jewels for the Installing team, led by VWBro. Roy Alderton, Grand Treasurer.

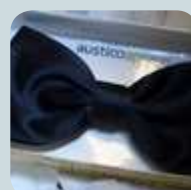
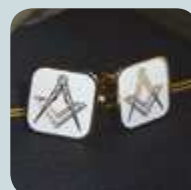
On 8th November the new team was Installed with a number of visiting Masters, Past Masters and brethren from across the Mornington Peninsula, including members of the District Panel and the District Coordinator.



The Hodder Family

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



Freemasons Victoria Strategic Plan

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



To: All Royal Arch Chapters and All Mark and Ark Mariner Lodges

We Care Appeal

At the last meeting of the Board of Directors of the “We Care” Charitable Trust, two worthy projects were considered and approved. The first was for the provision of a ‘Lucas 2 Chest Compression System.’ This item was drawn to the Boards attention by TV and media coverage of Vanessa Tanasio who was clinically dead for 42 minutes but the Lucas 2 was able to keep the blood flowing to her brain and, at the same time, allowed doctors to perform emergency heart surgery. Ms Tanasio returned home some weeks later after making a full recovery. The Board noted (according to The Herald Sun News) that there was only one of these machines in Australia. At its meeting on 12th November 2013 the Board approved the immediate purchase of one Lucas 2 Chest Compression System for the very busy Royal Melbourne Hospital. If funds allow, a second machine may be purchased.

The second project is in support of the ‘Skin & Cancer Foundation Inc.’ The Skin & Cancer Foundation is Australia’s leading dermatology centre, providing over 25,000 clinical services, registrar and dermatologist training, community skin health education and clinical research. Medical photography plays a critical role in dermatology. The Foundation has a specialist medical dermatology photography unit staffed by qualified medical photographers, the unit photographs, processes and records high definition images of a very wide range of dermatological conditions, for the purposes of clinical treatment, education and research. The Board has agreed to support this worthy project for the general upgrade of the facility, together with the purchase of specialist photographic equipment and associated software. The Board is convinced that this is a very worthy project deserving of the financial support of the “We Care” Charitable Trust.

The Board requests that all Mark and Ark Mariner Lodges and Royal Arch Chapters consider the merits of this project and offer a donation to the Trust accordingly, perhaps the proceeds of your Lodges/Chapters Christmas raffle or other special effort. Mark, Ark and Chapter Masons have a wonderful reputation for the charitable work undertaken by the “We Care” Charitable Trust and this project should be no exception. Your support is most earnestly sought. Cheques should be made payable to the “We Care” Charitable Trust and forwarded to the Mark and Chapter Office.

Brethren and Companions, skin cancer is one of the major continuing problems of our community. This project will greatly assist with the clinical treatment, education and research of a very wide range of dermatological conditions. “We” simply have to “Care.”



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.



The date for the Good Friday Appeal next year will be April 18 at the Melbourne Conference and Exhibition Centre, not Etihad Stadium.

7/11 Executive has requested that Freemasons collect at all their stores, except for those in the CBD. 7/11 have agreed to put GFA collection tins in all their stores six weeks before Good Friday. Each District will be supplied with 10 collection tubs for each 7/11 store. For more information contact Graeme Kitney on 0408 590 089.





Dandenong Jayco Rangers Thinking Pink

Freemasons Victoria Grand Master Bob Jones and Deputy Grand Master Hillel Benedykt invite you and your guests to our quarterly CBD business luncheon.

**Guest Speakers: Mark Wright,
coach of WNBL Dandenong Jayco Rangers and
Leilani Mitchell,
Dandenong Jayco Rangers Point Guard.**

New York Liberty star Leilani Mitchell, was named Most Improved Player in the WNBA in 2010 and has relocated to play in her mother's home country (Australia) which for Leilani is really special. In 2009, Leilani's mother Ellie passed away after a battle with breast cancer. After losing her closest friend she is fulfilling one of her mother's longest held wishes by playing basketball here in Australia.

From 2002-2004 Mark Wright was Head Coach for the Victoria Giants NBL, and from 2000-2003 Assistant Head Coach to the Australian Opals. In season 2010/11, Mark returned to coach the Jayco Rangers following a seven year basketball hiatus. Wright's no-nonsense attitude immediately impacted the playing group, assisting them to a return to the WNBL playoffs in his first season back on the sidelines.

2011/12 was Wright's most successful season at the helm of the Jayco Rangers program, guiding his team to the WNBL Championship, defeating cross town rival the Bulleen Boomers 94-70 in front of a sold out crowd.

When: Tuesday 10 December 2013

Where: Ground Floor Function Room
Morgans at 401
401 Collins Street, Melbourne

Time: 12:00pm – 2:00pm

Tickets: \$60.00 for Freemasons | \$55.00 for non-Freemason
guests (includes two-course lunch and beverages)

Bookings essential
RSVP by Wednesday 4th December
to Donna De La Rue (03 9411 0103
delarue@freemasonsvic.net.au
<http://www.trybooking.com/69389>



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.



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
erin@freemasonsvic.net.au | (03) 9411 0102





Invitation to Christmas Party

You are invited to the Interchange Outer East Christmas Party! The party will be held at Mt Morton Camp & Conference Centre, Fairmont Ave, Belgrave Heights on Saturday 21 December from 12-6pm. A special presentation will be made by Freemasons at 2.30pm. Activities throughout the day include a flying fox, giant swing and Fred's Soccer Tournament!

RSVP Jenna by Friday 6 December on (03)9758 5522 or email jenna.tatterson@ioe.org.au

* Free entry for all

Freemasons The Inside Story Summer Series




The 2013 Summer Series of Freemasons: The Inside Story will be on every Monday at 8.30 pm on Channel 31. If you cannot get Channel 31 you can go to www.c31.org.au and watch it online.

The Summer Series features all the great segments from our first series this year. Stay tuned!

8.30 pm Mondays

From December 2nd to February 24th

Channel 31, Freemasons: The Inside Story Summer Series

The 2013/14 Summer Series of Freemasons: The Inside Story will be airing at 8:30pm on Monday nights on Channel 31, from 2 December to 24 February. For those who may have missed any of the episodes featured this year, the Summer Series provides a great round up of the best of our great program.

Deadlines for content for coming issues:


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!



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