



e-newsletter No. 67

engage!



A word from the Grand Master

Here we are at the end of two years and how the time has flown, but my schedule hasn't gotten any lighter. After flying back from the Tasmanian Grand Installation on Monday 3 March and I went straight to the funeral of RWBro. Murray Hill, then back to Grand Lodge for the Grand Installation rehearsal.

Tuesday I was guest speaker at the CBD Luncheon, where I spoke of my personal, work and masonic life and reflected on the past two years as Grand Master. The standing ovation at the conclusion was overwhelming but very much appreciated.

Wednesday was my last full day meeting with my District Coordinators. I would like to publicly acknowledge the work they do and thank them sincerely for their efforts and support they have extended to me over the past two years.

Thursday morning started early editing two episodes of Series 2 of Freemasons: The Inside Story, which is setting even higher standards than Series 1. I am so proud to have lead this initiative, showing Freemasonry to the public, and around the world. The Summer Series DVD box-set (13 episodes) is now available to purchase via the Grand Secretariat and will also be on sale at the Grand Installation. Friday morning I drove to Traralgon, where I was joined by RWBro. George Sutherland to hand over a \$130,000 van to Life Education. This was an initiative of the Gippsland district brethren, supported by the Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation.

On Tuesday I attended the Dandenong Rangers WNBL Presentation Night, to thank them for their support of our Think Pink initiative last October, and on Wednesday I attended the Board of Benevolence and thanked them for their efforts over the past two years.

On Thursday I attended my final Board of General Purposes meeting, and after 14 years serving on the Board, this was an emotional farewell. Gathering my thoughts after this meeting, I moved onto my last Installation as Grand Master and installed Bro. Col. Jason Cooke, into the chair of Victorian Naval & Military Lodge. I was supported by nearly every member of the 2013 Ceremonial Team, my 2012 Team, the new 2014 team and members of Amicus and Williamstown Lodges plus members of the BGP. Around 60 current and past Grand Officers escorted me into the Lodge, a number I have never seen before in my Masonic career. I would like to thank every one of them for showing me their support.

As this is my final epistle to you as Grand Master, I must say it has been one hell of a ride. We said we were Racing Toward the Future and I leave the office of Grand Master satisfied with the progress we have made over the last two years. I have certainly tried my best to be the leader that Freemasons Victoria needs. Can I also take a moment to thank the Grand Secretary and his staff, particularly Donna, for all their hard work in keeping the wheels turning, and trying to keep me on track! To my Grand Directors, and the 2012 and 2013 Grand Lodge Ceremonial Teams, I thank you for your time, commitment and dedication to remain the best Ceremonial Officers in any Grand Lodge in the world. Freemasonry thanks you.

Finally, I leave the office of Grand Master with my head held high and with no 'petrol left in the tank', but I leave the Craft in very safe and secure hands. I wish Hillel and Sue, Don and Mya, the very best for a fulfilling term of office.

I thank you all.
Bob Jones, PGM-Elect

Grand Master Bob bids a final farewell

CBD Luncheon, Tuesday 4 March

Grand Master Bob Jones was the 'special guest' at last week's CBD Luncheon, held at the Dallas Brooks Centre on Tuesday 4 March.

While lunch was being served MWBro. Bob described his experiences as Grand Master over the last two years as well as some great times he has had with his family and friends.

"I'd like to be remembered as one who has always upheld our Masonic rules, embedded in the Book of Constitutions and someone who 'gets the job done'", he said.

MWBro. Bob, supported by his two sons Cameron and Robbie and his wife Kerrie spoke of some very proud moments during his time in the top job, saying that if it weren't for Freemasonry he may not have had the same wonderful experiences that he and his family have enjoyed over the years.

Growing up as a young adult, MWBro. Bob threw himself into car racing and established a very successful panel beating business 'BJ Body Worx', which is still thriving today. His entrepreneurial nature saw him then establish RECAR, a heavy vehicle repair centre that today employs approximately 300 staff.

MWBro. Bob said that now his term as Grand Master is complete he will focus more of his energy on his family and continue managing RECAR. The audience, made up of those from RECAR, as well as family, friends and his fellow brethren in Freemasonry gave him a standing ovation. His achievements, enthusiasm and all that he has accomplished in his life are inspiring.



Grand Master Bob Jones addresses the audience at his farewell luncheon.

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.



Stay tuned for a selection of 125th Anniversary items for Sale!

Freemasons Victoria Webcasts!

Don't forget to check out the latest webcasts on the Freemasons Victoria member intranet!

Just visit **VIDEOS – GRAND LODGE VIDEOS** (links). There you will find the Grand Master's and Grand Secretary's address.

Stay tuned for more exciting webcasts!



Calling all Freemasons in Sport

We would be very interested to hear from sports enthusiasts or those active in sport at this time, as we are developing new content for the second series of Channel 31.

If you play, coach, participate in any sport or have won an athletic award, we'd love to hear from you.

Likewise, if you have an impressive collection of sports memorabilia that you would be happy to showcase, give us a call! Please contact Erin Olsen on 9411 0124 or email eolsen@freemasonsvic.net.au



Coastal walk to benefit breast cancer sufferers

Karen Hitchings, breast cancer survivor, embarked on a challenge of a life time, walking from Apollo Bay to the Twelve Apostles in an effort to raise funds for the Think Pink Foundation and Living Centre this month. After being diagnosed with breast cancer in 2012, Karen underwent three major operations including a double mastectomy. Karen utilised the support services of the Think Pink Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation offering free support for women and their families through the breast cancer journey. Karen is now giving back, by walking the 104 kilometre journey up the Great Ocean Road.



Karen Hitchings with the Think Pink Foundation and Living Centre Volkswagen Beetle, preparing for her walking challenge.

“I’ve always wanted to tackle the Great Ocean Road Walk so last year I decided to do it, but raise funds at the same time and get my friends and family involved”, Karen said. Karen is quoted in the Colac Herald Newspaper as saying that the Think Pink Foundation helped her get through her breast cancer journey with positivity and a sense of humour, and that Think Pink Foundation Chair Irene Hendel provided her much inspiration. “It’s also made me appreciate each day and take more chances to do things that make me happy or take me out of my comfort zone”, Karen said. Karen plans on walking through Shelly Beach, Parker River, Aire River, Johanna, Ryans Den and Wreck Beach before finishing the walk at the twelve Apostles on Saturday 8 March.

For more information about the Think Pink Foundation and Living Centre, visit www.thinkpink.org.au

Relief after Typhoon

Bro. Malcolm Hurst of Lodge of Evolution No. 931 along with some valuable contacts within the shipping industry have just arranged a shipment of clothing to be sent to the Philippines. Bro. Malcolm said that he felt such a burning desire to help the community of the Philippines after the devastating typhoon of 8 November 2013, and that he knew he had to do something.

“Donations were collected through the local churches and then I arranged through my contacts within the shipping industry to get free shipping to the Philippines. I also arranged free boxes and tape-guns from VISY BOARD”, Bro. Malcolm said. Bro. Malcolm then wrote a letter to the Mayor of Davao, who responded saying that he would arrange collection of the container and distribution of the goods. He would also make sure that the container would get through customs tax-free.



The shipping container arrives in the Philippines safely.

Bro. Malcolm is also working on sending two more containers of bottled water – a resource the Pilipino community need so desperately, and is working on a project to assist building a school that will replace one of those lost in the typhoon. If you think you can assist Bro. Malcolm with his initiative, either physically or financially he can be contacted on 0407008008 or mal@malhurst.com.

Seymour’s Karingal Aged Care Centre Secures \$5000

RWBro. Ron Fullerton of Seymour Lodge No. 87 recently presented Mrs Judy Dahlke of the Seymour Elderly Citizens Hostel, with two cheques on behalf of the Lodge and the Board of Benevolence totalling \$5000.

This money will be used to fully furnish and fit out a residential room as well as secure the naming rights of that room on behalf of Freemasons Victoria at the recently built 60 bed facility.

RWBro. Fullerton has been actively involved as a member on the ‘Karingal Seymour’ Board of Governance for nine years.



Mrs Judy Dahlke receives a cheque from RWBro. Ron Fullerton.

Good Friday Appeal – Volunteers Needed!

Freemasons Victoria will once again be raising funds this year as part of the Royal Children’s Hospital Good Friday Appeal. 7/11 stores have asked that members collect donations at all of their stores in the metro area, with the exception of those in the CBD. This equates to a collection from nearly double the number of stores compared to last year - so we need double the number of volunteers. Let’s work together to beat last year’s total of \$75,000 and assist the appeal in support of the Royal Children’s Hospital. To volunteer please contact your local District Coordinator directly.



Not to be missed - A great day at the races!

The Masonic fraternity are warmly invited to join the Friends of Epworth at their Race Day on Saturday 29 March from 12.15pm at Moonee Valley. It's always a great day out!

The event starts at 12.15pm with a three-course lunch, all-day beverages, free parking and prizes awarded for Fashions on the Field. Tickets are available at \$130 each and can be booked in tables of six, eight or ten.

All Freemasons, their friends, family and colleagues are welcome to come along for a fabulous day out at the races. To reserve your table, contact Kathryn in the Epworth Medical Foundation on 03-9426 6359, email Kathryn.Johnston@epworth.org.au or go to www.emf.org.au

Proceeds will be directed towards the purchase of life-saving equipment at Freemasons Hospital.



Guests enjoy race day last year.

Doric Coaching Service

Session dates are now available for the next round of Doric Coaching. The Doric (Masonic) Education Coaching Service is a non-profit organisation administered as a community service by volunteer Freemasons. It is dedicated to helping students improve their performance in English and Mathematics for years 4-10. Sessions are usually 2 hours of Maths or 2 hours of English alternating each week. Tuition is scheduled between 9am – 11am on Saturday mornings.

Month	Day
May	3 rd , 10 th , 17 th , 24 th , 31 st
June	7 th , 14 th , 21 st
July	19 th , 26 th
August	2 nd , 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd , 30 th
September	6 th , 13 th

The Service is located in the Werribee Masonic Centre, 223-225 Watton Street, Werribee (corner of Watton and Greaves Streets – entry via Greaves Street).

To register your interest contact Graham West on 03-9741 6324 or 0412 567 518 or Ted Finch on 03-9741 8193 or 0412 829 729 or alternatively email vicmasons@optusnet.com.au

Grand Installation

All Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Masons and interested Craft Masons are encouraged to attend the Grand Installation on Saturday 17 May 2014 in the Dallas Brooks Hall, Masonic Centre of Victoria, commencing at 3.00pm. RWBro. Douglas Richard Mount, DGM will be Installed as Grand Master, RWBro. Ian Francis Coad, PJGW as Deputy Grand Master and Grand Officers Invested. Adding to the pageantry will be the reception of a number of Delegations from Inter-State as well as our own Grand Craft and Supreme Grand Chapter.

The Grand Banquet will follow the Ceremony of Grand Installation at 6.30pm. Ladies, Craft Masons and non-Freemasons are invited both to the ceremonial and the banquet. For further details visit our website www.grandmarkvic.net.au or telephone the Grand Secretary on 9411 0114.



David House - Reconnecting Community

David House is now \$2000 better off thanks to a generous donation made by the Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation and The Royal and Select Masons. These funds will help David House to provide a garden with large boulders to sit and relax in, and a meditation garden for the handicapped attendees.

“David House does tremendous work for Special needs people in the west, and is supported by the Freemasons in the west quite well”, Grand Master Bob said. Annecto (David House) is a community inclusion organisation working to reconnect people within the community. Secretary on 9411 0114.



L to R: WBro. Brian Leckie, member of Williamstown Lodge No. 16 and former Treasurer of David House, WBro. David Morgan representing The Royal and Select Masters of Victoria, Mrs Joan Cooney, Manager of Annecto David House in Yarraville, and Grand Master Bob Jones.

Mount Evelyn Rover Crew wins coveted BP Lodge Rover Service Award

On the recommendation of Scouts Australia-Victorian Branch, the Branch Rover Council, the Annual Baden Powell Lodge Rover Service Award was won by the Mount Evelyn Rover Crew.

Encouraging service to the Scout movement and the community is the prime objective of the Rover Service Award. The award is made on the recommendation of the Branch Rover Council and is based on the Crew who gains the highest number of "Crew Hours" in completing various service projects within the Scout movement and the community. Presentation of the award to the winning Rover Crew is made at the annual "Uniform Night" of the Baden Powell Lodge which is held on the 4th Monday nearest to the birth of the Founder of Scouting and Guiding (Major General Lord Baden-Powell 1st Baron of Gilwell).

This year the Award was presented by the Master of the Lodge WBro. Charles Charalambous, and supported by the Grand Master MWBro. Bob Jones and Mr Morris Orchard Assistant Chief Commissioner of Victoria.

This year attendance records were broken with 150 plus Freemasons and non-Freemasons in attendance which included representatives of past winning Rover Crews, a large number of scouting personnel and the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Victoria MWBro. Bob Jones who was accompanied by his personal Grand Lodge team and escort party. With the colour and pageantry of the Grand Lodge team coupled with so many Scouts wearing uniform, the evening was a great success and a night to remember. This year the event was filmed by Channel 31 as part of the Channel's new series on Freemasonry and is due to go to air later this year. The ceremony was followed by a sit down dinner and a rousing (indoor) camp fire, in short, a wonderful and memorable night was had by all.



Members of the Mt Evelyn Rover Crew - Winners of the Baden Powell Lodge (2013) Rover Service Award.



MWBro. Grand Master Bob Jones, Master of Baden - Powell Lodge, WBro. Charles Charalambous, Assistant Chief Commissioner Scouts Australia Victorian Branch Mr Morris Orchard and Crew Leader- Mt Evelyn Rover Crew Miss Esther Lang.

The van with the THE LOT

Earlier this year, members of the Morwell Lodge No. 202 presented Life Education Gippsland with a cheque for \$30,000. The funds were raised by Freemasons Victoria and the Public Charitable Foundation, and were going towards the purchase of a fully equipped mobile learning centre.

We are pleased to report that the fabulous new van was purchased and launched last week by Grand Master Bob Jones.

The Mobile Learning Centre is a travelling classroom that teaches children about good health and safety. The van is equipped with a wheelchair ramp enabling access for children with disabilities and will be available to primary school students in term one of next year.



The Life Education van.



RWBro. George Sutherland, PDGM with the Life Education giraffe at the launch of the Life Education Gippsland van.

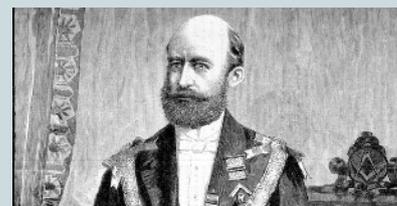
125 Images, 125 Years

As part of our 125th Anniversary celebrations, Freemasons Victoria will be featuring historical images in a new gallery on the Freemasons Victoria website.

The gallery, under the 125th Anniversary page, will be updated throughout the year with images that best represent our achievements, people and milestones. We would be very interested in receiving images from Lodges across the State, dating right back to 1889, so the call is out to dust off those albums.

Additionally, if you happen to find memorabilia or historic texts that you feel could be transferred effectively online as an image, please let us know.

Contact Bree Stewart on 9411 0128 or email bstewartfreemasonsvic.net.au



Sir William J. Clarke, Past Grand Master.



Victorian Freemasons, early 1900s.



Victorian Freemasons, in the Grand Lodge, early 1900s.

Clean up Australia Day

WBro. Jim Mitchell of Sandringham Lodge No. 220 was cleaning up Australia one bag at a time as part of Clean Up Australia Day this year. Clean Up Australia Day, held annually, kicked off on Sunday 2 March 2014, and according to WBro. Jim, anybody from all walks of life can participate in the initiative.

“To become a registered participant as I am, all you need to do is go online, click on ‘Join a clean-up site’, and fill in a simple questionnaire”, WBro. Jim said “On the day, you simply report to the Site Supervisor who is equipped with rubbish bags and gloves, and off you go!”, he said.

WBro. Jim said that his Site Supervisor of the Mentone District was Ms. Joanne Jeans who has been supporting this clean up for a number of years. “Clean up Australia welcomes anybody, company or group to join as a Community Sponsor of Clean up Australia Day. I wanted to show how Freemasonry helps to serve the community”, WBro. Jim said.



WBro. Jim Mitchell with Mentone Site Supervisor Ms Joanne Jeans cleaning up Australia.

For more information visit: www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au/join

ACTION LIST

<p>Don't forget to buy your FHA Diary. Diaries can be purchased for \$5 from The Grand Secretariat at 300 Albert Street, East Melbourne or by calling (03) 9411 0100.</p>	
<p>Buy your one-of-a-kind 125th Anniversary pin Only \$6 from Grand Secretariat – stock is limited!</p>	

REGISTRATIONS CLOSED

Bookings for the 2014 Grand Installation and associated functions have now closed and all events have **SOLD OUT**

The Grand Installation is a ticketed event and there are still limited tickets available for Gallery seating only.

Tickets can be purchased for \$25pp on the evening from the merchandise stall.





FREEMASONS
Victoria

FREEMASONS VICTORIA

YOUTUBE



Supreme Grand Chapter Of Royal Arch Masons Of Victoria 125th Anniversary Celebrations

All Royal Arch Masons and Craft Masons are encouraged to attend the Grand Installation to be held in the Dallas Brooks Hall, Masonic Centre of Victoria on Saturday 5 April 2014 at 1.30pm. This colourful and interesting ceremony will be enhanced by the reception of a number of Inter-State and Victorian Delegations. A mid-Nineteenth Century Royal Arch Ritual will also be worked as part of the 125th Anniversary Celebrations. The Grand Banquet will follow the Ceremony of Grand Installation at 6.30pm. Ladies, Craft Masons and non-Freemasons are invited both to the ceremonial and the Banquet. For further details visit our website www.grandchaptervic.net.au or telephone the Grand Scribe Ezra on 9411 0114.



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Deadlines for content for coming issues:

Engage 68 - 26 March
Engage 69 - 9 April
Engage 70 - 22 April

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

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