



e-newsletter No. 69

# engage!



## A word from the Grand Master

No doubt many of you are wondering what the first two weeks as Grand Master have been like for me. What has struck me is the diversity of activities matched by the diversity of the people I've met. Before expanding on this, I must again thank all the resources involved in implementing and being part of the Grand Installation functions. This includes many of the staff from the Grand Secretariat and a large array of amazing volunteers. The positive feedback continues to pour in, something every Freemason in Victoria should be proud of.

The activities of the Grand Master do tend to fall into three distinct areas; ceremonial, the management of the organisation and being the public face of Freemasons Victoria. I'm pleased to report that the first two weeks have covered all these aspects of the role.

On the ceremonial front, the brand new 2014 Grand Team have already officiated at a number of functions including an Open Installation at Kyneton. Each ceremonial activity brings with it different opportunities and challenges. It has been mandated that every Master Mason who becomes Master-Elect of his Lodge will have the opportunity to be installed as Master by the current Grand Team. While not always possible, this is the goal. The Approved Teams guidelines are being revised, and as of 30 June this year, all approved teams (with the exception of former active Grand Teams) will need to be re-approved in order to continue conducting Installations. This is to ensure each Lodge, on its annual night of Installation, experiences ceremonial excellence.

In terms of the management of the organisation, there has been one item of significance; the continued preparations for the exciting new philanthropic structure to be voted on at the June Quarterly. You will learn more about this key strategic initiative over the ensuing months.

I'd like to highlight just two of the public activities I have participated in. One was the presentation of a \$10,000 cheque on behalf of the Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation to the Burnett Institute, and the other was attending the graduation of Squad 3 at the Police Academy. The Burnett Institute is an Australian, not-for-profit, unaligned and independent organisation that links medical research with public health action. This includes novel discoveries, such as the development of new vaccines and diagnostic tests. As part of the cheque presentation, we were given a tour of the facility which was fascinating. It's as close as I ever want to get to malaria, HIV and Hepatitis-C. To share in a graduation of new police constables at the Police Academy just served to reinforce how much our values and those of Victoria Police are so well aligned. It was a moving and meaningful ceremony.

In all the activities I have participated in, I have met some fantastic people, Freemasons and non-Freemasons alike – there are great people in the world and many of them either are Freemasons or have great respect for Freemasonry – it's all very humbling.

Finally, I'd like to congratulate the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Victoria on celebrating its 125 years, and of course, the re-installation of Most Eminent Companion Graeme O'Donnell as First Grand Principal. It was a wonderful weekend.

MWBro. Hillel Benedykt

## Swan Hill Lodge sets the bar high for Legacy

Open the windows! Racing towards the Future! Make your Lodges places where men want to be!  
How many times have we heard these phrases over the years?

Well, these sayings were heard loud and clear on Saturday 5th April in Swan Hill Lodge where the 2013 Grand Lodge Ceremonial Team visited to demonstrate the *Ceremony of the Unknown Soldier* and the well-known *Vacant Chair Ceremony*. Swan Hill Mayor Les McPhee laid a wreath as part of this very moving ceremony. These were performed to a capacity crowd in excess of 160, all of whom we expect went away with very different and possibly new feelings of Freemasonry.

This night came about through suggestions from a very new Brother, who convinced the 'movers and shakers' of Swan Hill Lodge to put on the Ceremony as an open night combined with a fund raising effort with Legacy as the main recipient.

The basic team were a group of rather young new members, who went at it with great enthusiasm. The Ceremony was carried out with the precision and decorum that we have all witnessed before in these extremely well trained and rehearsed Grand Lodge Teams.

The event was MCd by VWBro. Andrew McPhee, whose wit in keeping the whole crowd in a festive mood was matched equally by MWBro. Bob Jones PGM.

MWBro. Bob set the course for the evening by presenting to Donna Rullo a cheque for \$5,000 for her passionate project *Women Touched by Cancer*, but after her heart felt response MWBro. Bob doubled it to \$10,000. This donation was a result of the funds raised from 2013 Grand Lodge Team Ladies *Think Pink* fundraising.

The MC carried out further extractions and fines with great humour which were very well accepted, again furthering the cause of Legacy.

A monster raffle had been organised with all prizes being donated by local businesses. The result of all these raffles, and fines placed MWBro. Bob in the happy position of being able to present the President of Swan Hill Legacy, Mr Harold Heslop with a cheque for \$6,000. The Freemasons Board of Benevolence was part contributor to both of these donations.

Musical interludes were provided by Bro. Jim Puohotaua, Bro. Ian Goddard and Bro. Roger Manderson. Thanks to you all.

Full marks must go to the younger members organising committee whose enthusiasm really made it tick and also top marks to the "Elder Statesmen" in Swan Hill Lodge who encouraged this initiative.



The Ceremony of the Unknown Soldier.



MWBro. Bob Jones PGM presents the cheque to Harold Heslop, President Swan Hill Legacy.



VWBro. Andrew McPhee and Donna Rullo, from Women Touched By Cancer.



## Brazil represented at Grand Installation

Among the visiting delegations to the Freemasons Victoria Grand Installation on 20 March 2014, was Bro. Alferio Di Giamo, Assistant Grand Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Orient of Brazil.

While not received under the wands, he took his place on the dias with other overseas visitors and received a warm welcome from MWBro. Bob Jones.

It was Bro. Alferio's second visit to our jurisdiction having attended the Grand Installation of MWBro. Bruce Bartrop in 2006. The Brazilian visitor was met by RWBro. Roy Taylor PJGW, the United Grand Lodge of Victoria's representative to the Grand Orient. On his return to San Paulo, Bro. Alferio will be appointed the Grand Orient's representative to the United Grand Lodge of Victoria.

RWBro. Roy said that meeting Bro. Alferio in person would lead to closer ties between the two jurisdictions.

Accompanied by his son WBro. Dom Di Giamo from Yarra Glen Lodge No. 762, both attended the Grand Installation Banquet, sitting at a table with some Past Grand Masters and said they were very well received.

## Installation at Carisbrook

Ken Battersby from Daisy Hill was Installed as Master of Carisbrook Masonic Lodge No. 405 on Saturday 29 March.

The Installation Ceremony was conducted by VWBro. Graeme Porter assisted by the 'Highlanders Installation Team' and was attended by 56 members, visitors and ladies.

During the Installation the ladies were treated to a talk by Noelene Evens who spoke about her trek over the Kokoda Track. Ken was supported by his wife Charlotte, two of their daughters Kathryn and Evelyn, son Andrew and Ken's brother Ted.

At the conclusion of the Installation and investiture of officers, those present were treated to a sumptuous Spit Roast.



Bro. Alferio Di Giamo with his son WBro. Dom Di Giamo of Yarra Glen Lodge and RWBro. Roy Taylor PJGW the UGLV's representative to the Grand orient of Brazil.



WBro. Ken escorted by son Andrew after the Installation.

## A donation of 'sports' wheelchairs

Freemasons Victoria and the Lord Northcote Lodge No. 191 has recently raised enough funds to support *Disability Sport and Recreation* to purchase three new junior wheelchairs.

The charity organisation, located in Fitzroy provides and promotes positive health outcomes for Victorians with disabilities through participation in sport and recreation. Without the support of the community, providing equipment such as the wheelchairs simply would not be possible. It has been through the continued support of long-term donor RWBro. Ray Kelly and his relationship with the Freemasons, and the tireless work of Bro. George Finniss in fundraising through Lord Northcote Lodge, that the purchase has been made possible.

The sports chairs will be added to the Disability Sport and Recreation's adaptive equipment library, and will be available to members. The equipment library aims to reduce financial and equipment barriers to participation in sport and recreation. Each wheelchair has the capacity to assist 50 children with disability in its lifetime.

For more information about the good work of Disability, Sport and Recreation, visit: <http://www.dsr.org.au/>  
Further information about Lord Northcote Lodge can be found at <http://lordnorthcotelodge.com.au/>

## 2014 Grand Lodge Ceremonial Team hits the road

With the hype and excitement of the Grand Installation still fresh in their minds, the members of the 2014 Grand Lodge Ceremonial Team travelled to Kyneton Lodge No. 192 on 29th March to carry out its first Installation as the active team.

The excitement and expectation was very evident, particularly on the faces of the 'first timers'. The Grand Master and the 13 remaining members of the Installing Team were supported on this auspicious occasion by four Past Deputy Grand Masters including newly elevated RWBro. Barry Brooks, members of the 2014 Team and Team Ladies.

This event was special on several counts:

- Our Grand Master MWBro. Hillel Benedykt officiated in his first Installation as Grand Master
- The Master Elect was David McCoy, a Master Mason
- Our Grand Master had given approval for the investiture of officers to take place in the presence of Ladies and a number of non-Freemason men which added additional pressure.

At the conclusion of Installations the Grand Director in his debrief said, given the circumstances he was happy with the Team's performance, especially as this was the Team's first job.



Bro. George Finniss, DSR Member and Australian Gliders Representative, Melanie Adams, RWBro. Ray Kelly, Tim Nield, DSR Manager - Community and Member Services.



Grand Master MWBro. Hillel Benedykt addresses guests with Grand Director WBro. Harry Pitaro in the background. The distinctive Egyptian murals in the background are typical of this small but impressive Lodge Room.

## 125th Anniversary celebrations and Grand Installation of Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Victoria

The Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Victoria celebrated its 125th Anniversary in fine style on the weekend 4th – 6th April 2014.

The Grand Chapter was formed on Thursday 21 March 1889, the day after the formation of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria.

Delegations were received from all Grand Chapters throughout Australia and New Zealand. These were entertained at a Reception at the Amora Hotel on the evening of Friday 4 April 2014.

The following day, in the Dallas Brooks Hall, Supreme Grand Chapter opened at 1:30pm for the Grand Convocation; at 2:00pm Delegations, including the Grand Lodge of Victoria and Grand Mark Victoria were formally welcomed. This was then followed by a demonstration, by a hand-picked team of the Nineteenth Century 'Perfection' Royal Arch Ritual – in period dress.

The Grand Lecturer, VEmComp. Robert Redman presented a very fine 125th Anniversary Oration. After a short call off for afternoon tea, MEmComp. Graeme O'Donnell was re-Installed as the Most Eminent First Grand Principal; REmComp. Peter Crick as DGZ; VEmComp Mal Kewish, GIWkgs as GH; VEmComp Peter Godson, PGDC as GJ and Grand Officers were invested.

The ceremonial was complimented by a banquet and entertainment worthy of the occasion.

A Social Day on Sunday 6th April 2014 was held at the Police Academy involving a tour of the facility and a sumptuous BBQ.

A special '125th Anniversary' badge for wear on the ribbon of the Jewel of the Order is available from the Office of the GSE.

A number of other functions are planned for the coming 12 months to fully celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the Foundation of Supreme Grand Chapter.



VEmComp. Bruce Cowie, Grand Scribe Nehemiah.



REmComp. Wayne Smith, Grand Scribe Ezra with VEmComp. Graham Fenton, Grand Treasurer.



L-R: MEmComp. Robert Paroissien PGZ, REmComp. Peter Crick DGZ, REmComp. Dennis Livingston 2nd Grand Principal, MEmComp. Graeme O'Donnell GZ, and REmComp. Grahame Cameron 3rd Grand Principal.



Re-enactment of 19C. Chapter

## Our library and museum collection: condition reports and identifying the needs of a collection

How we care for and maintain our cultural heritage reflects upon how our objects, books and ephemera survives into the future for generations. Therefore it is important that all Lodges and Centres, review and assess their collections to understand firstly, what they hold and care for and secondly, to review the collections current condition.

Currently Freemasons Victoria is undertaking such a process in which the collections within the Library, Museum and within the Dallas Brooks Centre are being evaluated. As part of this evaluation, and with the support of students and graduates from the Master of Cultural Materials Conservation from the University of Melbourne, individual condition reports are being developed for these collections.

Through this process we will be able to highlight the objects or books general condition, identify what the object is made from as well as give future recommendations for its future storage and conservation. Through this process and the ability to promote these collections through involving and supervising university students, a greater appreciation and deeper understanding of the history of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria and Freemasonry in general will be acquired.

If you wish to get more information about this project or enquire generally about conservation of your collection, please contact Samantha Fabry, Collections Manager on sfabry@freemasonsvic.net.au.



Samantha Fabry Freemasons Victoria Collection Manager undertaking a condition report with assistance from Marlene Gray 2nd year student in the Master of Cultural Materials Conservation at the University of Melbourne.

### Calling all musical Freemasons

We would be very interested to hear from musicians as we are developing new content for Channel 31 *Freemasons: The Inside Story*.

If you play an instrument, write your own music, teach music, or participate in a band we'd love to hear from you.

Please contact Erin Olsen on 9411 0124 or email eolsen@freemasonsvic.net.au

#### ACTION LIST

<p><b>Don't forget to buy your FHA Diary.</b> Diaries can be purchased for \$5 from The Grand Secretariat at 300 Albert Street, East Melbourne or by calling (03) 9411 0100.</p>	 ✓
<p><b>Dont forget to buy your limited edition 125th Anniversary merchandise.</b> Cufflinks, tie pins, ties and mugs are all available from 300 Albert Street, East Melbourne or by ordering through the online e-shop on the Freemasons Victoria members intranet.</p>	 ✓

#### Deadlines for content for coming issues:

Engage 70 - 23 April  
Engage 71 - 7 May  
Engage 72 - 21 May

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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