

engage!



A word from the Grand Master

This issue I thought I would focus on just 2 areas, one of them Lodge related and the other community related. On the Lodge front, I had the pleasure of attending the Installation and Open Investiture of Officers at the Garibaldi Lodge – a Lodge rich in its proud Italian heritage. The first part of the Installation (open to Freemasons only), had approximately 95 Brethren in the Lodge room when Bro Matteo Donato was installed as Master. When the ladies and other guests were admitted, the numbers in the Lodge room swelled to about 140 (including the Master’s wife Helen), as the Garibaldi Officers were invested. Approximately 200 guests then took part in a sumptuous Greek (yes, Greek) banquet. Please note, this Lodge did not meet in its usual meeting place, did not hold the South where it usually does, but I can assure you, as can 199 other people, this was a fantastic afternoon and evening of Freemasonry. Well done Garibaldi Lodge.

Healesville Lodge (consecrated in 1919), had their Installation (Freemasons only) conducted by a sitting Grand Master for the very first time. While the Brethren were at the Installation, the ladies were touched to hear Kate Wilson’s story - she lost everything in the Black Saturday bushfires and now writes children’s books based on her experiences, such as Black Saturday was my dad’s Birthday. Congratulations to the new Master, WBro Paul Worley and to the Healesville Lodge.

Led by the Uncle Bobs Club, associated with the Good Friday Appeal since 1948, together with the MFB, CFA, 7-11 Stores, Freemasons Victoria and other partners, an incredible network of thousands of volunteers combined to produce an amazing charitable outcome. Several hundred Freemasons and their families assisted by “rattling the collection tins” at in excess of 100 7-11 stores on Good Friday. It was great to see children of Freemasons who were assisting for their second or third year – what a great lesson in life. The logistics of ensuring the stores had collectors and arranging for the tins to get to the Convention Centre in time to be counted for the cheque presentation is a study in planning, organising and volunteering. Well done to the Freemasons Task Force, collecting \$87,183.51 which was counted by hand that day – a massive effort. Including our contribution, Uncle Bobs Club later presented a cheque for \$588,000.00.

I look forward to sharing with you my activities surrounding the various ANZAC Day commemorations in the next issue.



Lodge of Australia Felix helps our boys Soldier On

Lodge of Australia Felix No. 1 raised \$6000 towards a different kind of expedition for returned serviceman, Scott Delany. Scott, a 26 year old veteran who served in East Timor in 2006 and Iraq in 2007, will be walking the Kokoda Trail along with 22 students as part of a recovery exercise organised by the Wyndham Leaders of the Future Program and Soldier On, to lift spirits and help others. Soldier On supports Australian service men and women who have been wounded physically or psychologically in contemporary conflicts. This includes conflicts after 1990, as well as serving members who were wounded in training or other exercises. Soldier On does this in several different ways, in an effort to make a financial, physical and emotional link with those who have been wounded. Four areas Soldier On works to help are in rehabilitation, adventure events, community events and education, employment and empowerment.

Wyndham Leaders of the Future is an innovative program to target young people who are engaged and striving to become future leaders in their communities. Established by Wyndham Police, the program aims to help develop the leadership skills of the area's young people as well as provide an opportunity to build valuable relationships.

The Kokoda Trail trip will enable veterans like Scott to assist students with personal development and improvement as well as regain his own confidence and strength both mentally and physically.

The funds raised by members of Lodge of Australia Felix and with support from the Freemasons Victoria Board of Benevolence have gone towards Scott's airfare, back-pack and boots needed for the trek. Presenting the cheque, Lodge of Australia Felix member Dr Peter Prideaux spoke about the scars left behind from war and that often these scars aren't just physical. Many soldiers return with depression, or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) which can be just as debilitating as a physical injury. "There was once a day when those who suffered from depression were ignored, but organisations like Soldier On have enabled more community awareness and understanding of issues like PTSD", Dr Prideaux said. Anthony Krupa, a recovering soldier and spokesperson from the Wyndham Leaders of the Future Program accompanied Scott at the presentation and made a heartfelt speech about his personal battles with PTSD.

"Usually the story of a soldier's wounding and their recovery is not told so educating the public about their journey is important – it helps to ease the transition from service to civilian", Anthony said. The group will depart on Wednesday 16 April and return on 24 April, just before ANZAC Day. For more information about Soldier On visit: <http://soldieron.org.au/>



Hikers at the Kokoda Trail

Kyneton Lodge No. 192 Open Night

Kyneton Lodge No. 192 will be opening it's doors for an Open Night on Wednesday 21 May from 7:30pm

The guest speaker for the evening will be VWBro. Ruary Bucknall, Grand Superintendent of Membership.

Kyneton Lodge encourages unaffiliated brethren from around the Macedon Ranges District to come along for this evening.

Please contact VWBro. Ern Hinneberg on hinne@oneseniors.com.au or RWBro. Brian Davenport on bda44864@bigpond.net.au or call 0467 036 909 to register your attendance.



Freemasons Charity Bowls Day

On Sunday 6 April 2014 a wonderful day of bowls were held at the Mt Waverly Bowling Club to help raise funds towards the Royal Freemasons Homes.

A mixed-team event, all enjoyed the opportunity to pop on their whites, have a bowl amongst friends, as well as enjoy a catered lunch, thanks to the support of the Freemasons Victoria Taskforce. Over the years, the Royal Freemasons Homes has evolved to meet the changing needs of the community, and today operates a state-wide network of accommodation, services and facilities in retirement living, in-home community care and residential aged care. For more information about the Mt Waverly Bowling Club visit: www.mwbc.com.au. Many thanks go to Joel Solomon and Aleck Miller who voluntarily organised the event.



Enjoying the bowling at the Mt Waverly Bowling Club.

Agusan Valley Lodge, Philippines host Gippsland Lakes Lodge No. 715

RWBro. John Britton of Gippsland Lakes Lodge No. 715 and two other Past Masters WBro. Harry Stephens, Union Lodge of North Gippsland No. 62 and WBro. Len Prettijohn, Bairnsdale Daylight Lodge No. 877 visited the Lodge of Agusan Valley No. 160 on the register of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines for their 54th Installation.

WBro. James Moore, PGStdB specially invited the group to attend the installation, having moved to the Philippines, but who is still a member of Gippsland Lakes Lodge. WBro. James is now a member of Agusan Valley Lodge and has been invested there for the fifth year as Chaplain.

As international visitors the group was given the sincerest of welcomes by members of the Lodge of Agusan Valley and were looked after so well that WBro. John said that he hopes to attend next year as well.

“The installation banquet was one of the best we have ever attended”, WBro. John said. “In excess of 300 people were in attendance. We hope to have other brethren accompany us next time and hopefully some of the members of the grand team that WBro. James was a part of as a Grand Steward”, WBro. John said.



WBro. Len Prettijohn, Past Master of Bairnsdale Daylight Lodge; MWBro. Peter U Lim Lo Suy, PGM; VVBro. Alipio G Olita Jr., DDGM Installing Master; WBro. Jesus A Tantay, WM; WBro. James E Moore, PGStdB and Chaplain for 5 years in this lodge; WBro. Harry Stephens, Past Master of The Union Lodge of North Gippsland; RWBro. John Britton PJGW, Past Master of the Gippsland Lakes Lodge.



Members of the Lodge of Agusan Valley Lodge

Freemasons march at the Bendigo Gala Easter Parade

On Sunday 20 April some of us were eating chocolate eggs, some of us were camping, some of us were even shaking the can for the Good Friday Appeal, but others were marching at the Bendigo Gala Easter Parade.

The Parade, part of the town's Easter Festival, running from 18-21 April, was a sea of colourful costumes and faces - including those from Freemasons Victoria! Ken Crouch, District Coordinator and member of Golden & Corinthian, said it was great to be a part of the march this year, with around a dozen other Freemasons on the day. “Not many metropolitan members know about this wonderful parade, so it would be great if next year more members could get involved. It's a lot of fun!”, he said. The Festival, which includes four packed days of family and community activities, was featured the following week in the ‘Bendigo Advertiser’.

Check out: www.bendigoadvertiser.com.au for a full gallery of parade images.



WBro. Brendon Tuena PJGD, VVBro. Ken Crouch PGIW, WBro. Richard Penna PSGD, WBro. Mal Pethybridge and Bro. Lynwood Stork.



Bro. Steffan Stanway, VVBro. Ken Crouch PGIW, WBro. Richard Penna PSGD and Bro. Lynwood Stork.

Flag Party

On Monday 7 April 2014, the Kyneton Lodge No. 192 conducted the Ceremony of the Vacant Chair to remember those who lost their lives bravely serving their country in wars past. Kyneton Lodge has carried out this special Ceremony for the last 29 years, and for the last six, members of the Macedon Ranges Shire 430 Air Cadet Squadron have been present to parade and display the four flags around the pavement. This year the Flag Party, including a Piper, were all young ladies.

Together with members of the Lodge, the Flag Party form the escort party as a guard around a mound of dirt. A rifle in reverse is placed where a soldier is laid to rest in the battle field. On some occasions the memorial is dedicated to the Battle of Long Tan with a replica cross, and plague to bare a date in 1969.

This ceremony has been carried out in a number of Lodges throughout Victoria over many years, from Dromana, Albert Victor, Diamond Valley (9 times), Donald, and Lockington.

At the end of the night the Oration to the Ceremony of the Vacant Chair this year was made by Wing Commander, WBro. Nick Leray Meyer, A.M. There were over 50 people present on this occasion with the Kyneton Municipal band entertaining in the South.



Four Air Cadets with their Admin Officer, Corporal Jenny Taylor and Flag Officer Lou Perez.



Members of the 430 Air Cadet Squadron, Macedon Ranges Shire.

ACTION LIST

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.



Limited Edition 125th Anniversary Merchandise!

Don't forget to buy your limited edition 125th Anniversary merchandise. Cufflinks, tie pins 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.



FREEMASONS VICTORIA
YOUTUBE

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

Deadlines for content for coming issues:

Engage 71 - 7 May
Engage 72 - 21 May
Engage 73 - 4 June

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



 facebook.com/freemasonsvic

 [@freemasonsvic](https://twitter.com/freemasonsvic)

 youtube.com/

 linkedin.com/company/freemasons-victoria



• 2014 •

THINK PINK MASQUERADE BALL

Join us for our biggest event of the year!

The Think Pink Foundation cordially invites you to join us for a wondrous evening of fantasy, fabulous entertainment and culinary delights.

A feast for the eye as well as the appetite!

Once again, Dr Sally Cockburn (AKA Dr Feelgood 3AW) will be our Master of Ceremonies and as usual there be a fabulous range of goods, services and experiences to bid on in our live and silent auctions, as well as lots of opportunities to help the Think Pink Foundation through fun activities.

Dress code is Black Tie with a 'touch of pink'. Who knows? You could win a prize for the best mask!

All donations over \$2.00 are fully tax-deductible and funds raised from the Ball will be directed to facilitate our Living Centre programs to support breast cancer patients and their families.

Date

Saturday 17th May 2014

Time

6.30pm till late

Venue

The Palladium Ballroom
Crown Entertainment Complex
8 Whiteman Street,
Southbank Victoria 3008

R.S.V.P

9th May 2014

Book Now!

Tickets \$250 each or
Sponsor a table of 10 (\$2,500)
Tickets: www.thinkpink.org.au
Enquires: rsvp@thinkpink.org.au

Think Pink Foundation - Enabling a better journey through breast cancer.



Proud Platinum Sponsor

