The highlight for me since the last issue of Engage has been the Annual Scholarship Presentation evening. It is a real showcase for Freemasons Victoria and this was the first year it was conducted under the umbrella of the Freemasons Foundation.

Over 350 people were in attendance and there was in excess of 100 scholarship recipients from year 7 through to mature age students, and approximately $230,000 was awarded. The Presentation runs for approximately one hour and is well received by the recipients and their families, all of whom consider it a very professionally conducted event.

For me it is always a special occasion as together with my brothers Simon and Ron, we honour our late father by awarding the Eliezer Benedykt Memorial Scholarship for Music. This year represented the 13th time it has been awarded. Could I suggest it would be a great way for any family or Lodge to perpetuate someone’s memory in a positive and meaningful way?

Together with a delegation of Grand Lodge Officers, I attended the re-Installation of MWBro. Doug Mount as the Grand Master of Mark Master Masons of Victoria followed by the Grand Banquet. I’ve known MWBro. Doug for many years and it’s great to see the relationship continue to develop between Mark, Craft and Chapter. My congratulations to Grand Mark for every success in this ensuing year.

I attended two “stakeholder” meetings recently, one with the leaders of Mark and Chapter, the other with the Past Grand Masters. These meetings are always filled with open and candid discussions plus a great exchange of ideas, suggestions and feedback. There are a number of other groups I meet with on a regular basis such as Past Deputy Grand Masters and District Coordinators and this is just one way where there is ample opportunity for two-way communication.

As we approach the June Quarterly Communication, I look forward to announcing the location of subsequent meetings once the Dallas Brooks Centre becomes unavailable. The June Quarterly Communication will also see the announcement of candidates for the next Deputy Grand Master. I find it hard to believe that we are already discussing my successor’s successor!

Kind regards
MWBro. Hillel Benedykt
Grand Master
More than 100 Victorian students are now financially better off thanks to a Freemasons Foundation Scholarship, presented on Wednesday 13 May.

The Scholarships, ranging from $400 to $7000 have been awarded to students who have shown potential in their schooling, sport or musical ambitions.

With parents, grand-parents, brothers and sisters all in attendance to support the recipients, the Scholarships Presentation evening was a great success with more than 350 guests in attendance.

Peter Henshall, Master of Ceremonies hosted the event, supported by Chair of Trustees Grand Master Hillel Benedykt; Freemasons Foundation Company Secretary Roy Alderton, and Chairman of the Scholarships Committee, George Streitberg.

A very inspiring presentation launched the evening, with last year’s Freemasons Victoria Scholarship (the larger of the funds) recipient Meg Stevenson detailing how the scholarship she received in 2014 has enabled her to continue with her sporting and academic activities.

“Running marathons takes a lot of time, energy and commitment, as well as financing trips to interstate, and paying for entry fees. The scholarship has helped me pursue my sporting interests for which I am so grateful,” Meg said.

Along with a number of Middle School and Post-Secondary scholarships, this year’s awards also included some new and unique scholarships including the Lodge Judah, Arch Moffitt Educational Fund ($400), awarded to Sophie Allen and Frances Daymond, the James Meldrum Scholarship ($1500) awarded to Jordan Sandler, and the Lodge of Tradition No. 746 Scholarship ($800) awarded to Tiffany Brodie.

A musical interlude was performed by Christopher Davis, recipient of the Dr Robin Gray Scholarship ($4500), who played the French horn, accompanied by a pianist. Sadly, Dr Robin Gray passed away peacefully the following weekend.

The final, and most sought after scholarship for the evening, the 2015 Freemasons Victoria Scholarship, was awarded to 18 year old Harry Tibballs, who said that he would like to continue his studies in Bio Medicine at Melbourne University and would like to become a Doctor in Paediatrics.

“I’ve always wanted to help people, and better the lives of others,” Harry said, “Quality of life is important”.

Grand Master MWBro. Hillel Benedykt concluded the evening with some words of wisdom, encouraging the students to cherish opportunities to study and travel, and never lose sight of the goal ahead.
Vahland commemorated

Golden and Corinthian Lodge No. 7 held a Vahland Commemoration evening in the Bendigo Bank Theatre at the Capital Theatre Arts Centre on 12 May 2015.

Eighty-five people attended, among them the Mayor of the City of Greater Bendigo Councillor Peter Cox; President of the Bendigo Historical Society Mr. Jim Evans and the City of Greater Bendigo Heritage Planner Advisor Ms Danielle Orr.

The night marked the 158th Anniversary of the initiation of RWBro. William Charles Vahland into the Golden Lodge of Bendigo and was part of the National Trust and City of Greater Bendigo Heritage Festival, honouring the role Vahland played in being the architect of more than 200 notable buildings in Bendigo and other centres during the last half of the 19th Century.

The meeting was held in the magnificently ornate former Masonic Temple designed by Vahland, (now part of the city’s Capital Theatre Arts Centre).


The Masonic symbols and furnishings still existent in what is now the Bendigo Bank Theatre were explained, and a number of questions about Vahland and Freemasonry in were answered, before copies of the book Gold and Blue – a History of Freemasonry in Bendigo were presented to special guests and members of the public. The publication is a combined effort by David Beagley and members of the Golden and Corinthian Lodge.

The evening generated a lot of interest from younger male members of the public, all receiving membership packs prior to their departure.

To purchase Gold and Blue for only $20 contact David Beagley at beagley@impulse.net.au.
Providing much needed relief in the West

Those most in need in the Western suburbs will benefit from a recent $10,000 donation made by the Freemasons Foundation.

The Western Emergency Relief Network (WERN) supports those who experience family violence, house fires or homelessness, and offers free material aid including furniture, white goods and other necessary house hold items. The Network held the official opening of its storage facility on Friday 8 May, guests including local councillors, the Rotary Governor of the District Mr Murray Verso, and other support organisations.

Founded by Melton Valley Rotarian Ross Butterworth, the network will also help refugees and newly arrived migrants.

“The Freemasons Foundation donation will assist our efforts in changing the lives for those marginalised in our society or suffering trauma through emergency circumstances,” Ross said.

Ted Finch, representing the Freemasons Foundation said that the $10,000 donation will supply the fuel for the delivery truck.

“The organisation will need to run a number of deliveries across the western suburbs each day, so our donation will help pay for fuel to keep the trucks running,” Ted said, “There will also be a sign with our logo on the back of the truck saying ‘Fuelled by Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited’”.

WERN currently holds over 1,500 items of furniture, electrical and white goods, bedding and kitchenware in support of other welfare and support agencies. The Network is calling for volunteers to continue helping inspection of furniture, sometimes cleaning and conducting minor repairs.

If you’d like to know more about WERN or you would like to lend a hand, please contact Ross Butterworth on 0411 228 311 or email butterworth.8@bigpond.com.

Cancer research funding to Fiona Elsey

Guiding Star Lodge No. 922 continues to be a great supporter of the Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute, and has recently donated $200 to the Institute, as part of a $1500 pledge for the years 2015-16.

Personally presenting the cheque to Gail Elsey, was Bro. Ron Broom (left) and WBro. Graeme Brown.

“The Lodge has made regular contributions to the Institute, assisted by the Freemasons Board of Benevolence, over the past 18 months,” Graeme said.

The Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute was officially opened in 1998 by Gail Elsey, in the name of her daughter Fiona, after she lost her cancer fight in 1991.

Through world-class research the Institute aims to bring hope to those touched by cancer and to advance the understanding and treatment of cancer by making an internationally recognised contribution to cancer research.

For further information about the Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute or how you can donate visit: http://www.fecri.org.au/
Swimming lessons now a possibility in the West

When was the last time you went to the beach? Or visited a public swimming pool? Some of us take for granted that we can swim, or that water for leisure has always been accessible, but not for these kids.

Some of the children of the Western English Language School in Footscray have never had the opportunity to learn how to swim, let alone jump in a pool!

So a recent $5000 donation made by the Freemasons Foundation to support the school with the purchase of a bus to enable the children to travel to swimming lessons at the Ascot Vale Swimming Centre is invaluable!

Teacher and coordinator Clare Kelly said that the donation has helped the school enormously.

“Without this funding, getting to the lessons just wouldn’t be possible. We had no way of safely transporting the children to and from the Swimming Centre, and the additional cost to parents to support a hire-bus was too much,” she said.

Representing the Freemasons Foundation WBro. Ted Finch, said he was more than happy to assist.

“More and more we hear about the need to teach children how to swim, and about safety in the water, from an early age. No child should miss out,” he said.

The Western English Language School is a unique facility that prepares students for participation in mainstream schooling and Australian society. It helps develop newly arrived students’ awareness and understanding of Australia as a multi-cultural society and provides a comprehensive, challenging and culturally inclusive curriculum that fosters acceptance and understanding of other cultures and beliefs.

Some of the students at the school have come from some of the most war torn countries in the world such as Siria, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Laos.

“We’re so grateful for the support of the Freemasons. The kids can now look forward to swimming lessons - 20 lessons throughout the year,” Clare said.
The long running association between the Cohuna Retirement Village and Cohuna Lodge No. 227 has continued with a generous donation.

Lodge members met with Board president Christine Morris at the retirement village on Friday 8 May to present the cheque for $22,000 for the purchase of new chairs.

WBro. Jim Taylor said that $1000 was raised at the Cohuna Lodge Charity Golf Day in October last year, and this amount was matched by the Freemasons Foundation.

The remaining $20,000 was a grant received from the Freemasons Foundation after members had submitted an application demonstrating the Lodge’s past support of the retirement village.

This support dates back to when the village opened in 1969. Members were rostered to mow the lawns as volunteers in those early days, while in the years since they have built garden beds, laid pavers, planted lawns and installed watering systems.

Eight members have also served on the village board of management, with RWBro. Ted Jackson and receiving life membership.

“We feel honoured to be have been able to assist the village and I know this assistance will continue,” Jim said.

Christine Morris said the money will provide for new chairs throughout the village, including in the dining and multipurpose rooms.

“We have a hotchpotch collection currently and they really are in need of replacement,” Christine said, “It’s such a great job by the Freemasons - we’d be lost with out them. They have a long history of working with the village and supporting us, and we really appreciate it,” she said.
Archery takes off in Ballarat

Guiding Star Lodge in Ballarat hosted an Archery Day last month, inviting thirty-five members and their families from three district Lodges; Guiding Star, Sturt/Buninyong United and Prince of Wales to participate.

The day was supported by the Wendouree Archery Club, who provided a very important opening safety session to make sure no one ended up on the wrong end of an arrow.

This was followed by a practice session, when most took up a bow and arrow for the first time.

Club officials set the targets at 10 metres. A miss on the target usually meant the arrow went many more metres down the range, with a long walk by the archer at the end of the session to collect it.

Re-curve bows were used on the day as opposed to long bows, with archers surprised how strong the line was to pull back before releasing it.

Glenn Brundell of Guiding Star Lodge caused some interest with his hunting bow, with its various gears and winches, as didn’t look like a bow at all. A far cry from when we would tie a piece of string onto a bent stick and aim at an apple as kids!

Lodges made up four teams of four with five shoots for each Bowman.

Sturt/Buninyong Lodge won the day taking home a perpetual shield which will be played for each year.

Organiser and club member Frank Benney of Guiding Star Lodge said archery was becoming quite popular, with ‘come and try sessions’ run each Saturday morning.

“For the brethren who took part for the first time, it certainly provided a great interest away from the ball sports,” Frank said.

The day also raised $500 towards the Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Centre.

Assessors and Trainers WANTED

The Ritual and Ceremonial Committee are seeking interested Brethren to be appointed as Assessors and Trainers within the jurisdiction. Our ritual is key and we are seeking expressions of interest from brethren with a keen desire to supporting the ongoing improvement of our Ceremonies within lodges.

Applicants will be supported with training and an understanding of what is expected within lodges but interested Brethren should have the following qualities:

• A keen understanding of our ritual and the Information of Lodge Workings, and

• A supportive and helpful manner and a confidence in delivery of our services.

Previous experience within Grand Lodge teams is not necessary. The key selection criteria will be based on a Brother’s ability to support the objectives of the Ritual and Ceremonial Committee.

Expressions of interest should be completed on the prescribed form available from the Grand Secretariat.

All applications will be reviewed on merit.

For more information, please contact WBro. Justin Stark Secretary R&C Committee Email: ritual.freemasonsvic@gmail.com or phone: 0429 780 386.
Nhill Swamp Boardwalk Committee scoops the pool!

Members of the Lowan Lodge No. 107, the Rotary Club of Nhill as well as the Karen Community, West Wimmera Health Service and Parks Victoria have been formally recognised this month, winning the Volunteering Western Victoria Award in the category of Energy Conservation and Environment for 2015.

The Boardwalk, which has been in re-construction for nearly two years, has relied solely on voluntary support, to enable its restoration and be functional again for tourists and the community.

Merv established a Committee comprising three representatives from Lowan Lodge and three representatives from the Rotary Club of Nhill, and with the support of the then Freemasons Victoria Board of Benevolence and the Minister for Environment and Climate Change, the Hon. Ryan Smith, the Boardwalk reconstruction was funded in the order of $60,000. Local business agreed to supply service, building materials and equipment at a reduced rate, and members of the community including the Karen community provided many physical hours towards the project.

By April 2015, the newly refurbished Boardwalk linked the Highway Park entrance with the downtown Nhill Lake, enabling the main part of the Boardwalk to be re-opened to the public. The Bird Observatory is the last component of the Boardwalk to be completed and once in place, the official grand opening ceremony of the Nhill Swamp Boardwalk will be organised.

The Committee would like to thank all of the participatants of this project including the Karen community, Wimmera Health Service, Parks Victoria and the comminuity at large. The project has come in within budget, which would not have been possible without the outstanding contribitions from Freemasons Victoria and the Victorian Government.

So, the next time you are travelling to, or through, Nhill be sure to visit the Swamp Boardwalk and enjoy the enduring legacy of Victorian Freemasonry’s legacy in Western Victoria.

The Nhill Swamp Boardwalk Committee receives the Volunteering Western Victoria Award. Members include Taskforce Chairman WBros. Merv Dyer, Ken Dodds; Lowan Lodge; WBros. Bill Howath, WBro. Bill Howath, Lowan Lodge; WBro. Graham Price, Lowan Lodge; Laurie Robins, Nhill Rotary Club President; Glenn Fraser, Rotary; and WBro. John Teakle, Rotary and Lowan Lodge.

Photo C/- Nhill Free Press
Recently Yarraville Lodge No. 164 held two pleasant events.

The first consisted of an Initiation and a 50 year Service Award.

Bro. Scott Eichler was initiated and welcomed into Freemasonry with the support of his very proud Grandfather, RWBro. Nat Eichler PGJW and Scott’s Uncle WBro. Rick Dwyer who took part in the Ceremony.

The Lodge was closed and several members of the Eichler family were admitted, including Scott’s Father, WBro. Geoffrey Eichler.

VWBro. Ray Middlebrook PGIW then invested Nat with his 50 Year Service Award, thanking him for the wonderful service he has given to Freemasonry, and congratulating him on his work as a long standing member of the team restoring the Liberator Bomber at the Werribee Aviation Museum.

In reply, RWBro. Eichler thanked all of the people who had supported him over many years.

By coincidence, three months later a similar event took place...

Bro. Michael Truong was also initiated and welcomed into Freemasonry by members of the Lodge. After the Lodge was closed, several members of the Brown family were admitted and their Father, (and Grandfather), VWBro. Ron Brown PGIW was invested with his 50 Year Service Award by RWBro. Ian Sterritt PGIW, recalling some of their adventures together and thanking Ron on behalf of members of the Lodge for his contribution to the Craft.

In reply, Ron thanked all for their help over many years and, in particular, his family for their support in recent times.

In the last four years each Initiate, Fellow Craft and Master Mason will have completed a MAP for each of their three degrees. But do Freemasons who joined prior to this time know what they are, where they came from, the reason behind them and how interesting they are?

All Freemasons who joined Freemasonry prior to 2000 are encouraged to take up the challenge and take a daily advancement (in three stages) to fully understand what your Victorian Ritual is all about.

The quote below relates to the Premier Grand Lodge of Westminster and London setting out the three degrees of Speculative Freemasonry as the rites of passage in circa 1723.

Dr. John Theophilus Desaguliers, a Fellow of the Royal Society, was party to the conversion of the simple single ritual of initiation into three ceremonies, symbolically using the working tools and clothes of the operative mason. The graduation through work from apprentice and Journeyman to master mason was converted into the three degrees of masonry (birth, the journey through life, death and rebirth - the ‘rites of passage’).

For more information please see the back of this newsletter, and/or contact WBro Iain Taylor at secretary@baxter934.org.au.
Freemasons Victoria Vanuatu Relief Appeal

Cyclone Pam struck Vanuatu with devastating force on 15 March, claiming lives and destroying homes, hospitals and crops. This Category-5 cyclone was one of the worst storms to ever hit the region. It is estimated that more than 180,000 people have been affected, and between 50-90 per cent of infrastructure destroyed.

A Vanuatu Relief Fund has been established by members of the both the Lodge of Australia Felix No. 1 and Lord Northcote Lodge No. 191 to provide funds to assist in rebuilding and/or equipping schools that were destroyed or severely damaged by this recent natural disaster.

LET’S AIM TO RAISE AT LEAST $50,000

The Appeal will remain open for donations until 30 November 2015, when funds will be transferred to the Lodge of Discovery in Vanuatu.

Please contact WBro. George Finniss of Lord Northcote Lodge on gfinniss@bigpond.net.au or call 0413 624 133, or VWBro. Jim Puohotaua of Lodge of Australia Felix on puohotaua@optusnet.com.au or call 0418 561 905, for more information.

Alternatively, tax free donations can be made via the Freemasons Victoria Vanuatu Relief Appeal Face Book Page.

Masons on the Road

Come and join Lodge Amalthea No. 914 when its members visit some very interesting Lodges through May and June 2015.

Grab some other Master Masons for a great night ‘on the road’ visiting other Lodges and meeting new Masons. No Lodge is ever the same and your Masonic knowledge will really start growing once you are out there visiting.

Upcoming Master Mason on the Road events:

Lodge Amalthea No. 914
Freemasonry in the Movies, P III
Tuesday 26 May

Prahran Temple - St Edmonds Rd, Prahran
Tyle @ 6.15pm
South - $80 (three course supper, wines, single malts, etc.)

Lodge Combermere No. 752
Installation under the English Constitution
Tuesday 16 June

Ivalda Temple - 40 Salisbury Rd, Ivanhoe
Tyle @ 7pm
South - $25

Please register your attendance via the Master Masons on the Road Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/mastermasonsontheroad?ref=ts, or email Michael Maher on mmaher@tggroup.com.au.
Special Shabbat Service

Freemasons and their families are invited to a special Shabbat (Sabbath) Service to honour Freemasonry. Grand Master MWBro. Hillel Benedykt, together with members of the 2015 Grand Ceremonial Team, will be in attendance.

The service will conclude at approximately 12 noon and will be followed by a Kiddush (light refreshments).

DATE: Saturday 4 July 2015
TIME: 9:30am for a 10:00am start
PLACE: Temple Beth Israel, 76 Alma Road, St Kilda
DRESS: Gentlemen - Lounge Suit (No regalia)
Head covering is necessary for gentlemen and will be available on arrival. Ladies – smart casual

CONTACT: Please confirm your attendance for catering purposes by contacting WBro. Ron Aarons at paparon@optusnet.com.au or call (03) 9563 4737.

Murray Mullins turns 100!

WBro. Murray (Hamilton) Mullins, of Sandringham District Lodge No. 220, celebrated his 100th birthday on 1 May this year, at the Kingston Golf Club with friends and family.

Murray, who puts his longevity down to a love of sport and hard work, said that he stopped playing lawn bowls when he was in his 90s.

“Our family operated a hardware store in Cheltenham, and I was asked by a gentleman who had an account with us, whether I would be interested in playing a few games. That was in 1963, and I’m still a member!” Murray said.

Along with being Club Champion in 1983 and Best Pennant Skipper in 1988-89, then again in 1995-96 Murray was also Club President in the 1980s, an achievement he is most proud of.

Shortly after his birthday he and his son David were met and congratulated by fellow brethren RWBro. Graeme O’Donnell, WBro. Bruce Warren, and RWBro. Peter Crick.

Lodge Belvoir recognises VWBro. Walter Swingler

WBro. Walter Raymond Swingler, received his 60 year Jewel last month.

VWBro. Walter has been a very committed Freemason, in Lodge Belvoir No. 727 in particular. He is a great ritualist and a kind and patient mentor to many.

Walter will be 93 on 22 July and although not enjoying the best of health at present, he maintains a keen interest in the affairs of the Lodge, and always has a smile for visitors.
Freemasons in the CBD Business Luncheon

Freemasons Victoria invites you and your guest to a very special CBD Business Luncheon.

Special Guest Speaker: Felix Pintado

Felix is the Chief Executive of Royal Freemasons Ltd, one of Victoria’s longest standing and most respected Aged Care and Senior Living providers. Before making the move to Aged Care, he worked in the health service industry for nearly 30 years, having previously held key executive positions in specialist and tertiary acute hospitals in Australia and New Zealand.

A Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management and of the Australasian College of Health Service Management, he is also the Chairman of Health Purchasing Victoria, Deputy Vice President of Leading Age Services Australia in Victoria and Vice President of the Masonic Care Alliance. Last year, Felix was appointed Honorary Consul of the Republic of the Philippines in Victoria.

Felix will share his insights on how Royal Freemasons is addressing the challenge of an ageing population and redefining Aged Care in the process.

When: Tuesday 9 June
Where: Rendezvous Grand Hotel
328 Flinders Street, Melbourne
(Parking Flat-Rate $25)
Time: 12:00pm – 2:00pm
Tickets: $55.00 (includes a fabulous two-course lunch and beverages)
Book online www.trybooking.com/137210
RSVP: Wednesday 3 June 2015
More Info: Elise Clark-Higham on 03 9411 0107 or design@freemasonsvic.net.au

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL!!
RSVP by Wednesday 3 June 2015 to Elise Clark-Higham: design@freemasonsvic.net.au or (03) 9411 0107 or book online at www.trybooking.com/137210

Freemasons Victoria Wine Club
FREE TO JOIN!

Join the Freemasons Victoria Wine Club to enjoy a great range of drops and take advantage of some great prices.

We have teamed with Wineland to give all members and Lodges across Victoria, the opportunity to access their own wine purchasing account.

Visit: www.wineland.net.au today to find out more.

To access benefits for all Freemasons, remember to use this code when paying through the online payment gateway: Freemasons

ONLY $12.50 PER BOTTLE

Deadlines for content for coming issues:

Engage 97 - 3 June 2015
Engage 98 - 17 June 2015

Remember, previous issues of engage! Newsletter can be found using the Publications tab in the Freemasons Victoria members intranet. Just log in!
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What is the background to the MAPs?
After each of the World Wars men were looking for something they had lost when war ended, mateship of like-minded people. Camaraderie played an important part in their service lives so when they were discharged, something was missing. Freemasonry filled that gap and they joined in droves.

Lodges were then overwhelmed with membership and to “get them in” lodges went into overdrive. Some lodges were carrying out multiple Initiations, Passings and Raisings. There was no time for education, talks or lectures. When questions were asking about the ceremonies, the symbols and their meanings, the answer given was “read your book and start to learn the ritual”. After a time freemasons become disgruntled and starting to leave Freemasonry.

Something had to be done to stem the flow. Three men early in 1990 WBro. Geoff Steventon, RWBro. Mervyn Hallam and RWBro. Alan Humphries joined forces to put together a “Mentor Manual”. The death of RWBro. Humphries left WBro. Steventon and RWBro. Hallam to complete the programme. After several years of drafting, evaluating and training, the system although not mandatory was up and running in some Lodges.

In 2000 the office of Grand Lecturer was changed to Grand Superintendent of Education. WBro. Steventon was appointed to that office and he had a vision for a Masonic Education system which would enhance/replace the Mentor Scheme. This vision required appointing District Education Officers to oversee the basic education in their respective Districts. Due to personal reasons WBro. Steventon stood down as Grand Superintendent after one year and the plan was shelved.

In 2004 RWBro. Hallam was appointed to the Education Committee. While researching old Mentor papers he came across WBro. Steventon’s original papers re: District Education Officers. With WBro. Steventon’s blessing RWBro. Hallam and the Education Committee set about drafting a document that was suitable for presentation to the Board of General Purposes (BGP). Initially it was knocked back.

A year later the Education Committee re-vamped the original document and made another submission to the BGP. This time it got the go-ahead for a “Pilot Programme” to include a country and metropolitan Lodge and report back.

In 2006 RWBro. Hallam presented a “Walk through the First Degree” at Phillip Island Lodge and Peace and Loyalty Lodge. The response was overwhelming. Many of the older members came forward with comments like; “Why weren’t we doing this 20 years ago,” and “I’ve learnt more tonight about Freemasonry than I have in the past 50 years.” Letters to this effect were sent to the Grand Secretary encouraging a system such as this to be introduced.

The BGP pleased with the outcome added its support to the introduction of the Program. In March 2007 RWBro. Hallam as Grand Superintendent introduced over the next four years the program now known as the “Masonic Advancement Program” (MAP) to Freemasons Victoria and is now set firmly into our Constitution for the benefit of all.

Now you know where the Masonic Advancement Programme came from and why.

What do the MAPs involve?
The MAP is conducted in a Lodge Room in a convivial atmosphere and the dress is smart casual. There are light refreshments available after each MAP. Here all candidates and mentors alike can and do make new friendships.

A candidate having completed his Initiation and before doing his Second Degree must undertake his MAP 1. Likewise the Fellow Craft must attend a MAP 2 prior to doing his Third Degree and similarly the Master Mason must complete his MAP 3 before he can receive his Master Mason Certificate.

How is a MAP Conducted?
After a short introduction the presenter talks through the Degree. This does not mean he conducts a ceremony but that he explains the reasons, allegories (and the history) behind; the mode of dress, why and how the candidate perambulated round the Lodge room, the steps taken, the symbols within the ceremony and their allegories, the furniture of the Lodge and an explanation of the ritual and charges within the ritual. As the candidate progresses through his Degrees and attends the MAP associated with those Degrees, he then becomes aware of how each Degree ties in with one another and the progress he is making. During the MAPs it is also a time to ask those questions everyone wanted to ask but were too embarrassed to do so. The MAP also answers that declaration “Freemasonry is a system of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated with symbols.”

These are just some of the explanations discussed at the MAPs. Why not go along to the next MAP in your District and support the candidates. Make an advancement in daily knowledge and become conversant with the knowledge you were denied when you went through your Degrees.
125TH ANNIVERSARY MERCHANDISE AT CLEARANCE PRICES!!

125TH CUFF LINKS $5.00

125TH LAPEL BADGE $3.00

125TH TIE PIN $5.00

125TH TIE $25.00

125TH COFFEE MUG $5.00

125TH WINE GLASS $6.00 EA

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OR CALL (03) 9411 0100

SOLD OUT
A Royal Freemasons initiative focussing on delivering a better quality of life for customers with Dementia.

Royal Freemasons seeks your support to buy Therapeutic Robot Seals for our dementia aged care customers.

These are some of the first therapeutic robotic seals to arrive in Australia. They will allow the documented benefits of animal therapy to be experienced by Royal Freemasons customers. The purchased baby seals will be part of a research study to understand how they can improve quality of life for customers and caregivers.

The robotic pet has five kinds of sensors: tactile, light, audition, temperature, and posture sensors, with which it can perceive people and its environment. By interaction with people, it responds as if it is alive, moving its head and legs, making sounds, and showing the user’s preferred behaviour.

The robot provides the benefits of animal therapy to people in facilities. Some of the benefits are:
- Reduce customer stress and their caregivers
- Stimulates interaction between customers and caregivers
- Psychological effect on customers, improving their relaxation and motivation
- Improves the socialisation of customers with each other and with caregivers

The financial support required to purchase the therapeutic robots is just one of the initiatives Royal Freemasons has committed to in its continuing efforts to help its aged care customers.

Your donation means a great deal to our customers.

No matter how small or large, everyone who contributes to the Royal Freemasons Therapeutic Robot Seal Appeal makes a big difference to enhancing the lives of our customers.

Yes, I/we would like to make a donation to the Royal Freemasons Therapeutic Robot Seal Appeal 2015

☐ $25  ☐ $50  ☐ $75  ☐ $100  ☐ Other $ ..............

Tick box ☐ I have enclosed a cheque payable to Royal Freemasons
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