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FREEMASONS VICTORIA NEWSLETTER



Message from MWBro. Don Reynolds Grand Master

Brethren

Easter Wishes

Warm wishes to you for a safe and peaceful holiday break.

Good Friday Appeal

Thank you to all our volunteers working today to collect for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal. We are very proud of your efforts and I am looking forward to dropping in on some locations during the day as well as visiting the Royal Children's Hospital and the Tally Room at the end of the night.

Grand Master's Movements

This EDM I am introducing a segment that enables me to share news about activities at hand and to advise on my movements in the weeks ahead, hopefully to encourage your participation through the Lodge Secretary. My recent focus has been on the United Service Lodge where the DGM and I attended to view the Ceremony of the Vacant Chair on Monday 10 April. This coming week my plans include:

- This Easter Saturday 15 April at 4 p.m. I will be installing Bro Phillip Neven MM at Koo Wee Rup Lodge in Koo Wee Rup
- On Easter Monday morning at 9.30am I am installing WBro Ivan Hardy PM Eureka Daylight Lodge in Ballarat
- Wednesday 19 April I will be installing Bro Richard Goddard of Healesville Lodge at Box Hill. Richard is the son of our Grand Lodge Herald Ian Goddard. I will be supported by the Deputy Grand Master and a number of Past Grand Masters. Lodge tyles at 6.30 p.m.
- On Saturday 22 April I will be attending the Combined Lodges Anzac Reunion Lodge Meeting at Ivalda then



heading off to the Grand Installation of the Supreme Grand Chapter of the Royal Arch Masons of Victoria.

Many initiatives are in planning as you can see from my schedule [HERE](#).



Message from RWBro. Richard L. Elkington President of the Board of General Purposes

My Brethren

Board of General Purposes

Your Board met last night and approved your Strategic Plan setting our direction through to 2025. Congratulations on your extensive involvement in building our pivotal plan and I look forward to your active engagement in bringing it to life! We face a challenge that can only be realised through our collective ownership and enablement. Together we can make a difference!

Masonic Symbolism and Hidden Meanings Presentation

FMV Library hosted the Masonic Symbolism and Hidden Meanings Presentation at Coppin Hall on Saturday 8 April. WBro. Brendan Kyne, from the Lodge of Research No. 218 gave a wonderful presentation on the significance of Masonic symbolism and the interpretation of its hidden meanings. Brendan covered various symbols (both masonic and non-masonic), their evolution and changing meaning. The presentation also looked at some of the public displays of Masonic symbolism in Victoria since the 1800s, as well as the interpretation and hidden message behind them. The presentation was also live streamed to Freemasons Victoria Facebook page and received great feedback! Click [HERE](#) to view the presentation.

Message from RWBro. Bruce Cowie Grand Secretary

Be Part of Forming a Virtual Lodge

A few weeks ago, I attended the Castle Island Virtual Lodge No.190. This is warranted under the Grand Lodge of Manitoba. This was an online meeting including a ritual for opening and closing the Lodge and the usual elements of a Lodge meeting. Each participant was in his own location. It was the individual responsibility to ensure their space was tyled.

Each participant logged on from their computer with a webcam. A central controller enabled the participants to see who was speaking.

In attendance were our Membership Manager Bro Andrew Power and our Masonic Services Manager WBro Ben Quick. It was pleasing also that a number of other Brethren in our jurisdiction also attended. In fact the work for the meeting was a presentation from Bro Jack Aquilina on the Blue Lounge.

Brethren, I found the whole experience of value as it gave an opportunity to see Freemasonry from another perspective and to meet some Brethren online who were enthusiastic about their Craft. It reinforced comments that Freemasonry is about the man not the physical place where they meet. It enabled fellowship and learning.



A virtual Lodge will not replace a traditional Lodge but rather provide a different experience.

There has been discussion on forming a virtual online Lodge in Victoria. I have had a number of discussions with interested members who have indicated that this would be an opportunity to experience Freemasonry in another form. If you are interested in being part of this initiative please send me an **email** with the title EOI Virtual Lodge. In the body of the email, please explain how you feel you could contribute and perhaps some thoughts on what you would like to see included.

I see this as another opportunity to provide a Masonic experience for Today's Man.

Preparation for Master Course

Keysborough Masonic Centre 6 May 2017, for information please contact me **HERE**.



Message from Jane Sydenham-Clarke Chief Executive Officer

Hello Members

Head of Marketing

I am delighted to advise that further to a rigorous selection process in a field of over 120 applicants, Christina Chia has been appointed Head of Marketing for Freemasons Victoria commencing 15 May 2017. Please join me in welcoming Christina!

Freemasons Foundation - Design and Marketing Positions

Do you enjoy giving back to the community? Are you qualified or skilled in digital design and marketing? The Freemasons Foundation Victoria is looking for volunteers to join the Marketing and Communications committee in a formal role. As a committee member you will work with the Board of Directors to carry out the philanthropic efforts undertaken by Freemasons within Victoria, by assisting with design and social media elements. Knowledge of the Adobe CC (Creative Cloud) or other similar design software is required for this role which is estimated to require a few hours of your time per month. It is hoped that as a successful committee member, you become familiar with the Foundation's philanthropic activities and aspire to progress to a Director position in the future as opportunities arise. If you would like to discuss this wonderful opportunity further, please contact Bro. Timothy Clark on 0418 418 468 or via **email**.

More information on the Freemasons Foundation can be found **HERE**.

FMV Helpdesk System

As part of our commitment to responsiveness, accountability and agility, we have taken feedback from the Strategic Planning workshops and implemented the FMV Helpdesk system. Now when you email **membership** for any membership enquiries, or **marketing** for any media and marketing enquiries, your email will be handled by our Helpdesk system which means you will receive notification as we work to deliver swift responses. Alternatively, you can visit **support** and submit your enquiries via our Helpdesk system directly. Over the coming weeks and months, as we gather more information about your needs, we will be populating our FAQ/Knowledge Base which will be a directory of answers to your most pressing questions.

NDIS

Do you have expertise in the National Disability Insurance Scheme?

Could you be interested in helping us with navigating the development of a possible new project in partnership with the Freemasons Foundation and Royal Freemasons? Please contact me [HERE](#).

Media Highlights

Bairnsdale Masonic Centre Rededication Ceremony

7 April 2017 [Bairnsdale Advertiser](#) "Surprise after surprise at Bairnsdale Masonic Lodge"

7 April 2017 [Bairnsdale Advertiser](#) "Centre dedication ceremony 130 years on"

12 April 2017 [Lakes Post Lakes Entrance](#) "Masonic dedication surprise"

Mount Shadwell Masonic Lodge - Mortlake

7 April 2017 [Mortlake Dispatch](#) "Local men urged to address health issues"

Portland Lodge

7 April 2017 [Portland Observer](#) "Heywood resident in new role with Freemasons"

Anzac Day Commemoration

8 April 2017 [news.com.au](#) "How the loss of a mate and a mission to Gallipoli changed Cameron Baird into a modern Australian warrior"

West Wimmera Region Blue Lounge Social Club

11 April 2017 [Wimmera Mail Times](#) "Sale to give plane project a real lift"

12 April 2017 [Shepparton News](#) "Injury leads to 70 years of wedded bliss"

Mornington Freemasons

11 April 2017 [Mornington News](#) "Foundation support"

FMV Engage Newsletter

This week's **FMV Engage Newsletter No. 141** contains many interesting stories including: the Anzac Clay Project continues at the Victorian Naval and Military Lodge; A special delivery for Bendigo Masonic Centre and Freemasons Support On the Line.

Other featured stories include: the Wimmera Lodge Initiates Bro. Chad Cross; Surprise after surprise at the Dedication Ceremony at Bairnsdale Masonic Centre and a Special Anzac Day Event.

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