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FREEMASONS VICTORIA NEWSLETTER



**Australian Prostate Cancer Research**

*Australian Prostate Cancer Research supports men living with prostate cancer by providing best practice, research validated models of care and treatment, and facilitates research to find a cure.*

*APCR are offering Freemasons Victoria members a fast track health screening opportunity.*

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**



## Message from MWBro. Don Reynolds Grand Master

Dear Brethren

### **Civility, Courtesy, Manners**

Our friends in NSW and ACT have provided us with a salient message in the Editorial of their March 2017 Magazine. I refer you to the Editorial [HERE](#) where they remind us of the need to cease hostile and rude communications and to return to civil, courteous and well-mannered behaviour. An important lesson for us all and one that comes from our Masonic teachings.

### **Philippines Grand Installation**

It was great to represent Freemasons Victoria in Tagaytay in the Philippines at the Grand Installation of MW. Abraham N. Tolentino and the Annual Communication of Freemasons. See [HERE](#) some images of the event. Our partnership with the Freemasons community in this country remains most valuable and we look forward to welcoming our friends to our events in the future.

### **Grand Master's Movements**

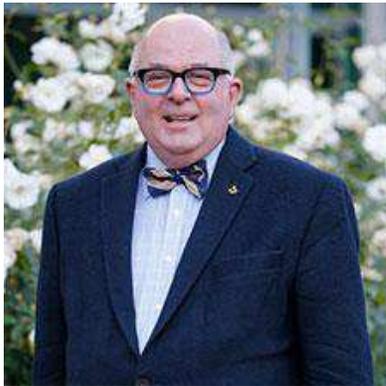
On Monday night I headed to Mirboo North where the team installed Bro. Andrew Geary, MM into Commonwealth Lodge No 186. A very enjoyable evening with Andrew's father and grandfather both taking part in the ceremony. On Tuesday I had a very busy day at Freemasons Victoria headquarters meeting with the Education volunteer team followed by a Strategic Planning and an Executive Meeting including the Chief Executive Officer and Grand Secretary. Tomorrow I travel down to Bairnsdale Masonic Centre for an Open Investiture at Union Lodge of North Gippsland where Bro Christopher Reed will be installed. The Lodge tyle at 4.00pm with ladies, guests and non-Freemasons welcome.

On Monday I will be at Brunswick North Masonic Centre for Bro. Dr



David Kram, MM to be installed into Lodge of Commerce No 837 tiling at 5.30pm. Tuesday I will be visiting Brighton District Lodge where I will be assisting in a double first degree. Wednesday I will be opening the Freemasons Victoria Scholarship Awards at MCEC before heading off for a visit to Berwick Balcara Lodge who are doing a first degree. Thursday evening at Coppin Hall I have the monthly Board of General Purposes Meeting and on Friday I will be in Lara Lodge No 834 where I will install Bro. Graeme Toll, MM into the chair. Lara tyles at 6.30pm.

On Saturday 13 May, I will be in my hometown at Colac Lodge where I will install WBro. Jim Prigg, PM on what will be a very special occasion for myself and the team. Ladies are welcome tiling at 4.30pm. Click [HERE](#) to see a full list of Installations and Events for May.



## Message from RWBro. Richard L. Elkington

President of the Board of General Purposes

My Brethren

### **In Conversation Series**

This week we discuss strategic directions further with our Grand Master, please join us in conversation [HERE](#).

### **The Wisdom of our PGMs**

Today begins a series of conversations with our wise elders who remind us of the real issues and the reasons for our love of Freemasonry. It was enlightening to spend time with Frank and Dorothy Poke and to engage on matters of significance from our past and the fundamentals for our future. I encourage you to spend some time with us [HERE](#).

### **Lodge Strategic Plan**

I do hope you have commenced putting in place arrangements to plan for your future in your Lodge. This week I look at Strategic Objective 2 which relates to Attracting New Members into your Lodge. Do you have an Engagement Officer in place? This is a critical step in attracting new members and engaging with your community. Take a look [HERE](#) at the initial training available. Have you formed a membership committee to prepare a plan to increase membership? Do you have a range of ways to create distinctiveness in your Lodge? Give consideration to shortening business at meetings and building greater variety in your South. Think about how a new member might find coming to your Lodge. Might there be things to do differently to be more welcoming and engaging?

### **We Must Be The Change**

I came across this interesting short article in the *Old Orky* publication from Texas by Todd E. Creason, 33°, the Founder of the Midnight Freemasons blog. Click [HERE](#) for a good read - particularly page 17!

## Message from RWBro. Bruce Cowie Grand Secretary

### Deputy Grand Master Selection Panel

Some weeks ago, I called for nominations for the Deputy Grand Master's Selection Panel. Three districts, Loddon, Gippsland East and Maroondah have failed to provide a nominee, accordingly it has been agreed to keep the applications open for those Districts until close of business on Wednesday 10 May 2017.

The Deputy Grand Master Selection Panel has one task and that is to pick the next Deputy Grand Master. To sit on this panel you must have the Masonic rank of PJGW or above and be a member of a Lodge in the District you want to represent. If you are interested, please as a matter of urgency contact your District Coordinator or myself.

### Pipe Organ History

WBro. Dennis Middendorp from Lord Carrington Lodge is currently engaging in a research project around pipe organs throughout history, in Masonic buildings in Melbourne. This historical project will be turned into an exciting article to be published in the Organ Historical Trust magazine.

Do you have any photos of organs from history? If so, send them through to **Dennis Middendorp**.



## Message from Jane Sydenham-Clarke Chief Executive Officer

Hello Members

### Help to Share Information!

This week we have a message from one of our really effective Lodge secretaries – Ray Sutton from Jonadab Lodge.

*Every Friday FMV publishes news about Freemasonry in our State. Messages that are important as we in our Lodges plan our future. As a Secretary, I review the contents carefully and share information with our members for example:*

- *Forward to members on email*
- *Create a Word document in date sequence by GM, PBGP, GS, CEO (see [HERE](#)) and send to the postal members with normal monthly meeting documents such as minutes of last meeting, Notice Paper and Gavel newsletter about 15 days before next meeting*
- *Sharing in conversations at social gatherings is a positive way of communicating some of the EDM information*

*Other ideas that could be helpful depending on your Lodge are:*

- *Put on your website*
- *Spread through leaders in discussions with members*
- *Share on Almoner visits*

*We are in an era of greater transparency in our organisation and we need to help with sharing our information!*

Please consider some of these ideas and help to share this weekly information.

#### **Events Calendar**

Are you listing your Events in the Victorian Masonic calendar? You can do so by clicking [HERE](#).

#### **Men's Health Week 12-18 June 2017**

Have you registered to attend the APCR for your free Health Checks during Men's Health Week? What plans do you have to promote health in your Lodge 12-18 June 2017? How about a nutritious meal for supper?

Men's Health Week, 12-18 June is our opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of men and boys in our community. Start your planning for the upcoming FMV Men's Health Week Expo at the APCR in North Melbourne. Men, women and families welcome! For more information on the event see [HERE](#).

#### **Submit Your Story - Men's Health**

We are calling for members to share their personal experiences of health related matters. Your stories will form part of a health community gallery on our website, to help raise awareness on the importance of looking after your health.

Make your submission via email to [Jessica Machell](#). Maximum 250 words, please include a landscape high resolution image of yourself to be included on the online gallery.

#### **Membership Coordinator**

Further to recent recruitment efforts as we have been refining our team, I am pleased to advise Freemason Max Broad has been appointed as Membership Coordinator where he will be supporting administrative functions and new FMV member enquiries. Please join me in welcoming Max!

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## Freemasons Helpdesk

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.

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## Upcoming Events

- **Annual Fireman's Night** - On Friday 26 May 2017, the Mordialloc Lodge of Charity No: 258 is celebrating the 65th Annual Fireman's Night at the South Eastern Masonic Centre in Keysborough. Further details [HERE](#).
- **Opera Gala Night** – On Saturday 24 June 2017, St Marks Lodge will be holding an Opera Gala Night at the Williamstown Town Hall in an effort to raise funds and awareness towards Alzheimer's Australia and the Dementia Research Foundation. The evening will feature five renowned artists who will each be dedicating their talents and time towards this important cause. Artists include Kathryn Radcliffe, soprano; Roger Howell, baritone; Liane Keegan, contralto; James Egglestone, tenor and Bro. David Barnard, piano. See [HERE](#) for details and make your booking NOW!

- **A Night for the Craft** - On Monday 3 July 2017, Brethren of the Commonwealth Lodge will be holding a social night where those new to Freemasonry are encouraged to attend. Learn more [HERE](#).

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## Media Highlights

### Tarra Lodge

27 April 2017 [Yarram Standard News](#) "Another great night at Tarra Lodge 127"

### Gippsland Lodge

2 May 2017 [Gippsland Times & Maffra Spectator](#) "Freemasons doors are open to new members"

### Bendigo Legacy

28 April 2017 [Bendigo Weekly](#) "Legacy Support"

2 May 2017 **WIN News Bendigo** "An historic Freemasons service has remembered those who went to war and never returned. The ceremony for the unknown soldier took place in Bendigo's Central Deborah Gold Mine"

### West Wimmera Holy Royal Arch Chapter 55 of Dimboola

3 May 2017 [Wimmera Mail Times Horsham](#) "Donald man holds honour"

**BUILDING A PERSONAL LEGACY  
THROUGH A JOURNEY OF GROWTH**

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