

Freemason

Humility – Kindness – Generosity



Our new leadership
team



Freemason



The Official Journal of
**The United Grand Lodge of New South
Wales and Australian Capital Territory
of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons**

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The Grand Master speaks	3
Why we love The Phantom	4
Masonic Studies	6
What's On?	6
NSW Masonic Club	7
From the Grand Chaplain	10
Remembrance Day 2021	11
Bourke fire damage	12
Oberon snow damage	13
Fires can't destroy enthusiasm	14
101 and going strong	15
Christmas traditions	16
Banned jewels	18
Grand Installation 2021	20
Grand Officers 2021	24

Grand Installation Banquet	26
Teamwork in action	28
Famous mason	30
Improve your writing	32
Hot air in the lodge	34
Book review	35
A Start in Life	36
A boat afraid of the water	38
Associated Orders	40
Editorial	41
Letters to the Editor	41
Around the lodges	42
Crossword	45
Service Certificates and Initiates	46

EDITORIAL POLICY

Aims of the Freemason magazine

- › To uphold and promote those values, morals and virtues which Freemasonry believes are universal and enduring.
- › To foster a better understanding of Freemasonry within the general community.
- › To provide a forum for discussion on masonic issues.
- › To publicise the charitable works of Freemasonry.
- › To provide articles of interest and education and to disseminate masonic news and views.
- › To recognise masons who make significant contributions to the Craft and the wider community.

COVER IMAGE:
L-R: DGM RW Bro Dr. Graeme Moller,
GM MW Bro Lesley Hicks,
and AGM RW Bro Khris Albano.
Photo by W Bro Terry McCallum



Grand Master's Address

Past Grand Masters, distinguished guests, ladies, gentlemen, and brethren. **I stand before you all as a very proud and determined man.**

Proud because I have been elected to continue the important work of my predecessors, to lead us into the future and to uphold the integrity and importance of this, the highest masonic office within our jurisdiction. Determined because there is always much to do to ensure that our wonderful Craft continues to grow and strengthen.

I come to this chair with a simple background and philosophy, one of hard work and perseverance. Over a 30-year period I have built my own membership-based organisation from humble beginnings into a world class entity consisting of thousands of members. During that time I experienced the usual hardships that would make many walk away, but success eventually came, as it always does with honesty, sound leadership and hard work. Over many years the Craft has become a part of who I am and now I have the amazing opportunity to, in some small way, put my own mark on what I believe is one of the most important organisations on this planet. I can assure you that, with regards to our continued success, I will always be willing to lead the way.

I am not moving forward with any one initiative and while we will of course be working hard on membership I do recognise that we need to get everything right to create that perfect storm of constant enquiry and membership activity. Attractive and inviting masonic meeting places, good communication, well

presented, informative and interesting masonic education, caring charitable works, and a broad-based promotional campaign are all important when creating success. Likewise sound, responsible fiscal management and good governance. It is these things that will continue to be closely monitored and addressed.

We have already recognised that attractive masonic meeting places is where it all begins. Our jurisdiction is already blessed with many wonderful buildings. With many of our buildings already being well kept, brightly painted, lawns mowed and with prominent, well-placed signage their town surely knows that they are open for business. It is here that our opportunity to promote the Craft and perform our charitable work really begins.

With communication in mind, I intend to continue with the informative newsletter established by MW Bro Derek Robson. The impact and importance of

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... continued on page 8



2021 is the 85th anniversary of that purple-suited hero who was always available at the local newsagent. W Bro Leon Wild is a writer and WM of Lodge Southern Cross 91. He's not telling if he wears purple undies.

I'm talking about The Phantom of course. The Ghost Who Walks, Guardian of the Eastern Dark jungles and friend to the pygmy tribe of the Bandar. *The Phantom* was the creation of an American, Lee Falk (1905–99), who also created the *Mandrake the Magician* series.

Together with his wolf-dog Devil and trusty steed Hero, the Phantom is well known for fighting evil and tyranny – and he was on the scene well before Batman and Spiderman. Our Phantom is the 21st Phantom, from a long line who have each followed in his father's footsteps for hundreds of years: Ghost Who Walks, Who Cannot Die.

The very first comic shows the first Phantom swearing a solemn oath on the skull of his father's killer.

'I swear to devote my life to the destruction of piracy, greed, cruelty, and injustice, in all their forms! My sons and their sons shall follow me.'

A skull is also the dreaded mark of the Phantom, from his signet ring which is indelibly imprinted on a villain when he meets the righteous fists of our avenger. As a symbol the skull works on many levels. There is nothing more uncertain than the great mystery of Death – unusually for a super-hero, the Phantom does not usually hasten his enemies to seeking that mystery. He is so skilled in fighting and gun play he usually can disarm enemies by shooting the guns from their hands.

Those marked with the skull are branded as reprobates and a warning to others that the social contract is broken. This may remind the mason of the penalty of breaking a solemn obligation.

The Phantom also has a friendly mark, a four-whorled 'P' known as the Good Mark in the series, likely inspired by the ancient Greek *Chi-Rho* symbol ☩ which meant 'Good' and was adopted by early Christians as a symbol of their faith and aspirations. It's even been adopted



by a winery – Margaret River's Deep Woods Estate who use a stylised Good Mark as their logo.

I grew up thinking that the Phantom was an Australian creation. His mark just seemed everywhere, from Skull Ring toys in candy machines to neckties and t-shirts – and a new comic almost every week. This is partly due to the business acumen of local imprint Frew Publishing, who under licence from the Phantom HQ, created Australian specific storylines.

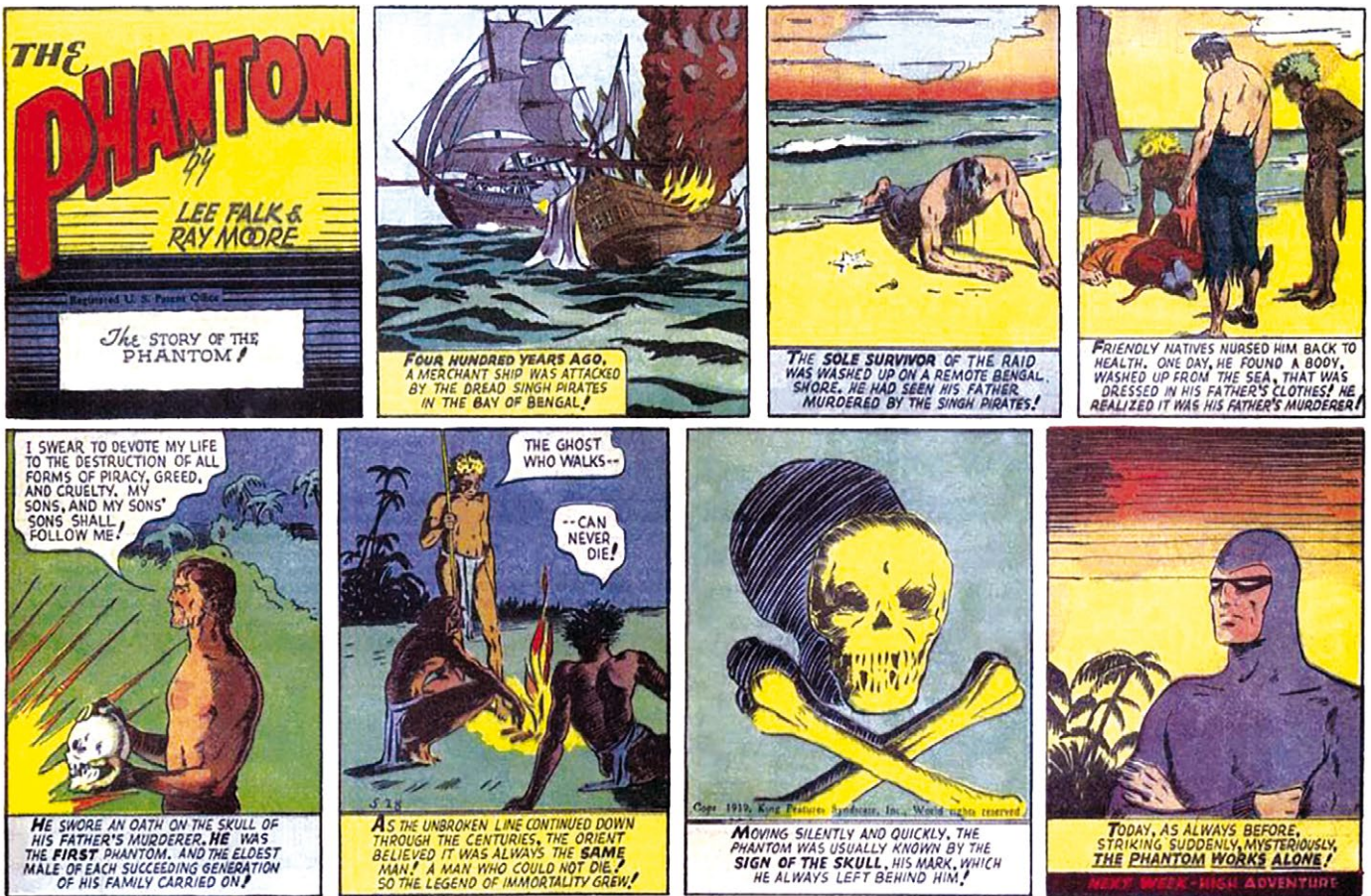
Kevin Patrick has written a PhD thesis on *The Phantom* in Australia, which is now available as a book.

I was able to get a few jungle drum messages to Kevin:

Phantom seems to have made such strides in Australia and seemed to be an Australian craze, so much so that I thought it was an Australian comic until recently. How did we claim him as our own?

'I think the Phantom is a truly universal hero, who has appealed to readers in many different countries over the years, including Australia, in ways that more identifiably American characters such as Superman, simply do not. He is less a modern superhero, and more of a throw-back to the classic heroes of legend and fable, which is why he translates well into other cultures.

'However, I think it helped that when *The Phantom* comic strip first appeared in *The Australian Woman's Mirror* back in 1936, the magazine deliberately promoted it as an Australian strip and went so far as to replace American place names with Australian cities, and even described The Phantom's girlfriend, Diana Palmer, as a Sydney girl in early episodes. And I think that impression stuck with many Australian readers for decades thereafter.'



Above: The first Phantom comic
Above left: Phantom Annual 2016
 Images courtesy of Frew Publications © 2016
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What about The Eastern Dark – do you think *Phantom* comics help cement the idea of Australia being closer to Asia than the UK?

I think the strip's original setting in Southeast Asia helped reinforce the idea that it was an Australian comic strip. I think even when it was identifiably set in Africa in later years, many Australians could still relate to its exotic jungles, teeming with wildlife, and continued to interpret the Phantom's world as a mythical place, which bore strong similarities to our tropical wilderness'.

Kevin agreed with me that the Phantom is loved by Australians partly because it shows ideals of mateship and a fair go.

'The Phantom has always fought on the side of the weak and oppressed against evil and tyranny, and that definitely resonates with Australians, as it echoes our belief in the ANZAC spirit. The Phantom also embodies the Australian notion of mateship, because he will always go out of his way to help friends and strangers alike, whether they're African heads of state, or

misunderstood victims of fate. He's a truly egalitarian hero.'

Enter the Phantom: the foundation myth of the Phantom is twenty ancestors ago, fighting piracy and evil and swearing an oath on a skull. This dramatic image is what sticks with me from reading *Phantom* as a kid. Do you think it's an allegory about becoming a grown up with a purpose in life?

'Yes, I think origins of the Phantom dynasty, which places great emphasis on honouring our forefathers, and fulfilling obligations to family and society, definitely clicked with many Australian readers, then and now.'

"You never find the Phantom, he finds you."

– Old Jungle Saying. 🗡️

Further Reading:

- › Dr Kevin Patrick's book *Phantom Unmasked* is now available.
- › chroniclechamber.com – great fan site
- › www.phantomcomic.com.au – Frew Publishers, publishing *Phantom* in Australia since 1948





The College in 2021

The College of Masonic Studies **has made steady progress since its creation in 2012.**

It should be noted that as the Book of Constitutions established the College as a board of the Grand Lodge, it is accountable to the Executive Council which continues to monitor the College's operations.

The first governor of the College, RW Bro Andrew Brown, PDGM, appointed in June 2012, retired from the College board in June 2020. His has been a large pair of shoes to fill.

The past

During the nine years since its inception, the College board has been responsible for:

- › The accreditation of all Regional Education Officers, District Education Officers and Accredited Masonic Speakers. The names of these accredited brethren are then forwarded to the Board of Management for appointment.
- › Similarly, the College has authorized those addresses that may be presented or materials that may be handed out in lodges by accredited Regional Education Officers, District Education Officers and accredited Masonic Speakers.
- › As the College is now wholly responsible for the education of brethren in all matters of Freemasonry within the

jurisdiction and guiding all lodges in matters of masonic education, there have been many certificate courses conducted in metropolitan and some regional centres.

- › The College deliberately avoids such topics as ritual, ceremonies, procedures, and perambulations, except where they might be part of teaching symbolism or philosophy or of historical significance and which otherwise would be covered by attendance at lodges of instruction.

The present

In June of 2020, the Grand Master appointed me as the Governor, to succeed RW Bro Brown, a daunting task.

The current directors have each been allocated a portfolio and are required to provide a report on their portfolio at each board meeting. The current directors are:

- › Ross Partridge – *Governor*
- › Andrew St. J. Brown – *Dean*
- › Robert Taylor – *Director*
- › Philip Quadrio – *Director*
- › Aaron Cleavelly-Millwood – *Director*
- › Stephen Green – *Secretary (ex officio)*

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a big impact on the College's plans for more certificate courses. Many proposed courses have been cancelled or postponed.

The future

There has been some discussion regarding the possibility of conducting a certificate course via Zoom, and the board is examining the logistics of such a venture.

We are also looking to creating a syllabus for an Advanced Certificate Course. It is envisaged that this course will be a self-paced online course requiring essay type answers. We are waiting to see what software will be available on the new Grand Lodge website, so this is currently in the early stages of development.

Over the next few months and after things have settled down, we hope to begin to move forward with technological delivery systems that will enable remote areas of the jurisdiction to receive the masonic education that can be difficult given the distances involved in travelling. 🏠

EVENTS AND NOTICES FROM AROUND THE STATE

Lodge Mayfield Daylight No 493

Calling Newcastle masons

Newcastle's only daylight lodge welcomes **masons unavailable for or cautious about night-time meetings!**

2nd Tuesday of every month.

Tyling at 9:30am. Lunch \$10.
New Lambton Masonic Centre.
For details call 02 4968 4511.

International Order of the Rainbow for Girls

Rainbow Girls Meetings

Now meet on 4th Sunday of each month at 11.00 am at the Blacktown Masonic Centre 5/1 Carnegie Place, Blacktown. For further details please phone Talese on 0401 213 800 or email: Talese_s@hotmail.com

Lodge Morning Star No 410

100 Years – Help!

Lodge Morning Star is compiling a Centenary book and would welcome any stories or memorabilia you may have for inclusion.

Please contact email@lodgemorningstar.com

Have you visited our lodge in the last 100 years? If not, why not?

Lodge Bland No 337

What's on at Lodge Bland

We meet at the Masonic Centre in West Wyalong on the 3rd Thursday in the Spring & Autumn with our Installation on the 3rd Saturday in March & Debutante Ball on the Saturday prior to Mother's Day in May.

Contact 0403 405 519 or scas@aapt.net.au

Got an event coming up? Let masons know and support *Freemason* at the same time. List for as little as \$12.50 per issue (\$50 for four listings). Email freemason@apmgraphics.com.au

WHAT'S ON



It's a laugh a minute!

Basil, Sybil and Manuel become easy names to remember **if you watched the British TV comedy show *Fawlty Towers*** starring John Cleese.

But it is just as easy if you have attended or intend to see a future performance of *Fawlty Towers* with Australia's version of the outrageous trio at the NSW Masonic Club in Sydney.

It was a top-flight laugh-a-minute performance where anything can happen and frequently did, sometimes to the embarrassment of a seated guest. But the serving of a three-course meal and a two hours show more than compensated for the few times a man or woman unexpectedly became part of the cast. Book quickly when 2022 show dates are announced!

The Masonic Club has been in existence for 128 years and was originally formed in September 1893 as a Music and Literary Society before switching to the club of today. As well as boutique hotel accommodation it has meeting rooms for masonic and other groups, weddings, socials and other functions. Its hotel accommodation has also been the destination for masons from interstate and overseas when they attend major events such as the recent Grand Installation.

It has undergone changes in past months while it was in lockdown

because of the pandemic which presented an opportunity to re-arrange items, re-paint and install new glazing to block out construction noise from the city railway project next door.

Membership is available at Masonic and Associate levels with members receiving a 15% discount on accommodation, 10% off personal beverages and dining, a birthday gift and Rewards Points to redeem. The Club has also now introduced multi-year memberships, offering further reduction in fees. Enquiries about joining can be made at 02 9284 1006 or www.nswmasonicclub.com.au.



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OR CALL OUR ADMINISTRATION OFFICE ON 02 9284 1006
169-171 CASTLEREAGH ST, SYDNEY NSW 2000

* LIMITED TIME ONLY. A ONE-OFF \$5 JOINING FEE IS APPLICABLE.





... continued from page 3

regular communication throughout our jurisdiction cannot and must not be underestimated.

Likewise, I am encouraging you all to get behind our *Freemason* magazine. Thanks to the great work being done by our magazine's editor RW Bro Richard Dawes and his team, our magazine is informative, and it instils pride by showcasing the great work accomplished by masons out there in our communities. I urge you all to continue to send us stories and photographs of your important milestones and great charity work, so that we can all see how your lodge is connecting with your community.

Importantly too, I urge you to continue to support MasoniCare, our wonderful Grand Charity. Under the leadership and guidance of its chairman RW Bro Andrew Fraser and his hard-working team, our Grand Charity is there to help those in need. Please, take advantage of our Interaction Grants, and work with us to make a difference in your community.

Education is imperative as we grow into the future. With the use of new technology, we will continue to provide much needed educational content by way of our newly revised website and the Grand Secretariat database systems. Our Board of Management, led by its Chairman, RW Bro Paul Schultz, will continue to update and produce online mentor courses, lodge secretary courses, and other important video tutorials. Please use the educational content and the video tutorials that are already freely available to download directly from our website, to train, upskill and inform the members of your lodge.

From a technology and retention point of view things are now moving faster than ever before. We must now bring our technology up to date because without that technology we can't offer our new young masons the future and stability that they need to be armed with to blend in and grow our Craft into the future.

The Board of Management has been working tirelessly over the past two years

in this regard and, we are not finished yet by a long shot. As your Grand Master I will be focusing on finishing the job that I started under MW Bro Robson's leadership, getting our technology up to date and streamlined so that we can provide a platform that will attract our younger members to the administrative responsibilities of roles like DGIW, RGC, BOM, lodge secretary and even as directors on our building committees.

*...there is always
much to do to
ensure that our
wonderful craft
continues to grow...*

Sound fiscal management and good governance are also extremely important, and I congratulate our Grand Treasurer RW Bro Richard Collins, the Finance and Audit Committee and our Grand Secretariat for the work they have done in this regard during the COVID 19 pandemic. With the introduction of our revised Content and Data Management System, we have been able to make great savings in the way that we operate and, as we move forward, we will continue to monitor all expenses, work hard to find ways to use technology to our advantage, and give our members the best available service and support.

The establishment and introduction of the Grand Masters Task Team by MW Bro Robson was truly ground-breaking. This unique task team acted as a subsidiary of the operations portfolio and I was privileged, at the time of its establishment, to be the Chairman of Operations and leader of that task team. The difference that task team has made within our jurisdiction is simply amazing with many building owners, lodges and individual masons benefiting greatly from the advice, assistance and guidance provided by the hard-working members of the team who have dutifully volunteered

their services over the past three years. That operational support team will continue under the guidance and leadership of RW Bro John Jacobson, our Deputy Chairman of the Board of Management and Chairman of Operations. I urge you to take advantage of the team's knowledge and skills wherever and whenever they may be needed.

Where would we be without our ladies, our partners, our mates, and our friends. I encourage all lodges to keep providing social activity geared toward providing our broader masonic family and members of the public with the bond of friendship and kindness.

There is no doubt that we all enjoy this wonderful thing called Freemasonry, so let's share it with everyone. Remember also that we now have many young masons joining our wonderful Craft. They also have wives, partners and friends and the masonic experience should be shared with them as well. Our masonic principles and high moral values should always be on display and with this in mind, I encourage as much social activity as possible out there in your lodges, districts, and indeed, your entire region once restrictions allow.

While not intended to be a policy speech, this address is intended to emphasise what needs to be done to achieve our aims: to grow, to create and refine the whole masonic experience.

When we hear the words of the Address to the Brethren so well communicated to us by RW Bro Rabbi Dr Sam Tov-Lev, there can be no doubt how we as masons are expected to conduct ourselves.

Masons are humble, kind and generous people. We all share a common goal, and that is to serve our community, to look after those nearest and dearest to us and ultimately to become better men for the experience. I reflect on that address so beautifully delivered by Sam and I ask you all to consider the lessons taught. I encourage you to always act with Humility, Kindness and Generosity.

I am especially proud to welcome our Deputy Grand Master RW Bro Dr Graeme David Moller AM and Alison, and our Assistant Grand Master RW Bro Christian Albano and Carol. As your

leadership team we are all looking forward to traversing the jurisdiction and supporting your lodges.

We cannot overestimate the importance of our Ceremonial Team and the extra colour and dignity it adds to our ceremonies. I look forward to joining them as we visit many lodges during my term with the team, always being under the expert guidance and watchful eye of RW Bro Arnel Landicho, our Grand Director of Ceremonies.

Ladies, gentlemen and brethren, I am very proud to be able to thank my wonderful and always supportive wife Narelle, for the stability and encouragement she has provided through my masonic career. Her love and devotion to me and our family is amazing, and, while I now have a most important responsibility to honour, I recognise the importance of balance in our lives, and I promise to still be a husband, a father, and a grandfather during my term of office.

A Grand Master and his team spend considerable time, effort and dedication representing their brethren, their lodges, and their jurisdiction. I thank the Grand Masters, the brethren, and their partners from our sister jurisdictions. COVID 19 has prevented some of them from being here in person but I thank them all for their calls and good wishes. I also welcome and thank the leaders of other orders and their partners for their representation and support here today, from within and outside our jurisdiction. Many of you have travelled great distances to be here and it is much appreciated. Narelle and I look forward to supporting you all in a similar way during my term as Grand Master.

There is no doubt that a Grand Installation is an incredibly special occasion. For all the organising and the arrangements made for this weekend's events, I thank our Sydney Masonic Centre general manager Mr Paul Davison and his wonderful support team of chefs, wait staff and others. We are most grateful to you all. I also thank our Grand Director of Music, the Grand Lodge Organists, and the musical ensemble for their significant contribution. We have really put the Sydney Masonic Centre on show during this weekend and it has excelled.

I cannot and will not close without acknowledging the importance of our Past Grand Masters. I thank them for their leadership over many years, and I thank them for their continual support and guidance – it is always much appreciated.

And finally, to my great mentor, guide, and friend Derek James Robson AM. To you I extend my ongoing loyalty, support, thanks, and best wishes. From the bottom of my heart, I thank both you and your gorgeous Gael for all you

have done for our wonderful Craft over many, many, many, many years, and I congratulate you both for the dignity, respect, and the integrity you always gave to the office of Grand Master. You really are a class act.

Ladies, gentlemen and brethren: I thank you all for sharing with Narelle and me this most momentous occasion and I look forward to sharing many special times with you all as we move forward into another exciting and successful masonic year.

We should continue to work together and give our Craft the commitment and service it deserves; Freemasonry will continue to flourish, its future will always be bright and, wherever you are and whatever you do, please take particular note of those three small but powerful words that I reflected upon earlier.

Humility – Kindness – Generosity

Thank you. 🙏

...we all enjoy this wonderful thing called Freemasonry, so let's share it...

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Plague – heavenly punishment?



Throughout the ages, whenever a disaster happens humanity asks, ‘Why? Why?’ As we are aware, plague is not a new phenomenon in the life of humanity. **Over many centuries plague has killed millions of people.**

According to the Bible, the Almighty distinguished between pure punishment against wicked people and a plague to force the leader of a nation to follow His commands. We find the classical example in the Book of Exodus¹ when Pharaoh was obstinate in accepting what the Almighty ordered him to do through Moses and Aaron: ‘Let my people go’ (‘Let the Jewish people depart from Egypt and slavery’). Even after each plague was imposed upon Pharaoh and his people, he refused to free the Jewish people. Only after the most painful tenth plague, was he forced to accept the Almighty’s command to let

What positive behaviour we adopted during this difficult time...

the people go. In other words, when the Almighty imposes a plague, He alone has the power to remove it, but no human being can do so.

During September 2021, we ‘celebrated’, for the first time in my life, the most serious and important Jewish festivals – New Year, Day of Atonement and Tabernacle – primarily in our homes as all the synagogues were closed due to the Covid restrictions. In our High Holy Days services we pleaded truly and emotionally, by ourselves and in our homes, our requests to the Almighty by reciting from our Prayer Book: ‘Our Father, our King, withhold the plague from Your heritage.’ No doubt, if such a prayer were

expressed inside a synagogue with vast worshipper participation it could make a difference to the outcome.

In October 2021, it was the time to read the Scripture² which tells us why the Almighty punished all humanity with the enormous flood which inundated the world for 40 days and forty nights. The Almighty asked Noah to build himself a big Ark that could accommodate him and all his family and animals and birds of all kinds. After the water receded and the Ark landed safely on Mount Ararat, the task of all who occupied the Ark was to go out and start new life on earth. After the flood the Almighty signed a covenant that He never again would use a flood to punish and destroy the earth.

Unfortunately, all houses of worship were shut down during the COVID lockdown and no spiritual nurture was available to people who suffered during such a difficult time but were confined to home.

The question is, why with our modern and advanced knowledge we could not quickly overcome a pandemic – a pandemic that was not accorded the importance it merited until it had spread






internationally? Regrettably, the severity of the virus was not acknowledged until after it had infected our 'global village'.

With hindsight, if the original medical researchers had immediately shared their findings with the WHO the international medical community would have accelerated the development of an effective vaccine. All of humanity would have benefited and many lives would have been saved. A criterion of 'international medical brotherhood' would have been established and the entire world should mourn this lost opportunity.

What positive behaviour we adopted during this difficult time when all of us were in the same boat: helping the needy, appreciating the time and effort of the medical professionals, entertaining the young and others to maintain morale, speaking politely when facing others in despair, assisting the elderly, donating food!

In December various denominations will be celebrating their sacred days. No doubt their spiritual leaders will be mentioning, emotionally, the suffering of those among us and indeed all over the world who were victims of the deadly epidemic before giving up their souls to the Almighty. Of course, they will be emphasising the responsibility of each individual to follow the government rules imposed on us to overcome the plague smoothly and wisely and encourage those with some reservations, so that we can banish this plague from this land.

Prayers expressed by the spiritual leaders to their congregants would certainly help to warm the heart of each individual and give new strength to people in this turbulent world and help them to overcome this awful experience. These prayers would encourage the congregation to look positively to the future, to be happy and to confer happiness on others. 

References:

1. Exodus, Ch. 7,14-12,36
2. Genesis, Ch. 6,5-9,17

The opinions in this article do not necessarily reflect those of *Freemason*.

We will remember them

Having been introduced by RW Bro Colonel Stewart Grant, the then MW Grand Master MW Bro Derek Robson AM, **delivered an appropriate and moving address commemorating the fallen** from the two World Wars and other fields of conflict.

In his address the Grand Master made several important points:

'Remembrance Day is a very special day for all Australians.

'Forever linked with history, Remembrance Day commemorates the day when at 11:00am on the 11th of November 1918, the guns on the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of continual warfare.

'Remembrance Day now continues as an annual event on our calendar, and it has become the day when we commemorate all those Australians who lost their lives to war. A minute's silence allows us to remember the men and women who have sacrificed their lives for their country.

'It is also important that we acknowledge the part played by the Sydney Masonic Centre which was opened in 1979 as a dedicated memorial building.


'I think it was an inspired plan of this Grand Lodge to bring the names of the fallen together and engrave them on imperishable marble, as a perpetual reminder of their sacrifice, so that in years to come when we are gone, our children's children gathering here may

be able to point with feelings of honourable pride to this honour board and say, "Here are the names of the brethren of our constitution who gave their lives as a willing sacrifice for Australia.'

'Ladies, gentlemen, and brethren, you may always rest assured that those who made the supreme sacrifice and those who were wounded and indeed all of their mates will forever be remembered by us all.

'We will remember them.

'So mote it be.'

The Grand Master's address was followed by the *Last Post*, *The Ode* recited by Colonel Grant, the *Piper's Lament* delivered by RW Bro Sam Young, *Reveille*, laying of wreaths and the National Anthem. 



Helping Lodge Central Australia

Brethren, please note that the devastating Bourke fire **destroyed the meeting rooms of Lodge Central Australia 88**, with the old RSL meetings rooms, now called ‘Diggers on the Darling’, and all of the priceless original memorabilia relating to the service of country veterans in Central Australia.

Since then I have been in regular contact with the Chairman of the Board and Grand Master MW Bro Les Hicks, Chairman of Operations RW Bro John Jacobson, the PDGIW and member of Lodge Central Australia 88 RW Bro Dr Rob Finlay, and the Grand Treasurer RW Bro Richard Collins, with the view to return Lodge Central Australia to some normality as soon as possible. There is no doubt that the brethren of Lodge Central Australia are experiencing feelings of total loss, and it is important that we were in touch as early as possible to restore some confidence to the members.

We have already identified replacement furniture and fittings such as the tessellated pavement and tracing boards, which will be of enormous benefit to the lodge. The United Grand Lodge of Queensland has also offered to assist where necessary.

Our Grand Lodge will also help, and, as I have mentioned before, there are many old Volumes of the Sacred Law available for distribution from the Grand Lodge Library, courtesy of the past Grand Lodge Librarian. There are other items too, but these are under the control of the Museum of Freemasonry and will require management and permissions by the Deputy Grand Secretary. This destruction is a major masonic event, and it should

be managed by the Board of Management (BOM). The BOM manages the operation of all our lodges, contributes to the overall governance and safe working practices within our lodges, and is the appropriate body as it has specific and identified funding to cover such emergencies.

I suggest that, until an appropriate venue is identified as a regular meeting place, we refrain from collecting furniture

etc. until an accurate assessment of need can be established by the BOM. I am aware that the lodge had been considering a move from their old ‘Diggers on the Darling’ venue for some time, but as often happens in Freemasonry, decision-making takes time. I understand that, for at least the short term, the lodge might consider utilising the local CWA rooms until they can identify an appropriate alternative.

For now, we should concentrate on the well-being of the lodge members. The lodge was due to hold their installation and I know that they, and many visitors including the Grand Master, were looking forward to attending this occasion. That stalwart of the lodge, RW Bro Neville Simpson, qualified for his 70-year jewel on 17 September and that too was to be a significant milestone and celebration for the lodge (and for his wonderful wife, Pam). It is important that we keep all our personal friendships in mind and contact each other to ensure that the tenets and principles of the Craft are not lost. We are ‘all of one company’ and we all need support from time to time.

I thank everyone for their kind thoughts and offers of assistance and ask that you hold back at this stage until the BOM has finalised its plan to reinvent this most important lodge – Lodge Central Australia 88. 🛠️



The fire raging in Bourke



Oberon recovery

It is not unusual for Oberon to experience snowfalls of more than 300 millimetres but **what was unusual was the impact the snowfall in August had on the Oberon Masonic Centre.**



Above: Snow piled high on a NSW Rural Fire Service vehicle in August this year.

Left: Aftermath of the snowfall-induced water damage at the Oberon Masonic Centre.

In fact, after the snowfall nothing is going to be normal in the Oberon Masonic Centre for several months.

The snowfall had caused water to flood the front vestibule and two parts of the ceiling had collapsed. The furniture in the vestibule was soaked. The brethren at Oberon Masonic Centre are not totally clear what is to be written off and what can be treated. They do know that all the carpet must be replaced and all the ceiling as well. The walls of the vestibule will have to be treated and painted. The contents of the cupboards are mouldy and must be written off. A number of books have survived and will need to be treated before they can be made usable.

Mould has spread throughout the building and a lot of the furniture must be written off and replaced.

In the South the carpet, underlay, tables, lounges, curtains, and the ceiling need to be written off and replaced. The walls must be treated and painted. Only one plastic table can be treated and retained.

In the actual lodge room, the wall in the East has to be rendered and painted and the other three walls have to be

The assessors have noted that there is asbestos in the ceiling of the South...

treated and repainted. The carpet must be treated as must most of the furniture. The Volume of the Sacred Law must be treated and all collars and gauntlets will need to be written off and replaced. The Master's and Wardens' chairs can be treated but the Secretary's desk and chair have to be written off and replaced. All the bench seating will be treated, and any movable items will need to be treated and placed in storage while the restoration work is carried out.

The insurance assessors are an organisation called RestorX. They have assessed the damage and an insurance claim is being assembled in conjunction with expertise provided by Grand Lodge. The assessors have noted that

there is asbestos in the ceiling of the South and that will have to be removed as part of the restoration project.

At this point, the lodge does not know what the insurance company will pay and what will be left for the lodge to pay. The answers to these questions will generate future actions but in the meantime the lodge needs to find temporary premises so that it can meet in person as it comes out of lockdown. 🏠

Terry McCallum
photography



in-home
family portraits

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Neville celebrates 70 years as a mason

Neville Simpson joined the Bourke Masonic Lodge on 17 September 1951 at the age of 21, and on 17 September 2021 Nev celebrates seventy years with the organisation.

‘Not many people live that long, let alone get to be part of a group for that many years,’ Nev laughs.

After joining Lodge Central Australia No 88 in Bourke, Neville spent his entire masonic career as a member of the Bourke Lodge and has the rank of Past Assistant Grand Master, a rank not many are awarded, a clear indication of his exceptional service.

Neville’s leadership spanned more than forty years, holding the role of Master on five occasions.

The Bourke Lodge, which began with 126 members in Anson Street premises, relocated to ‘Diggers on the Darling’ in August 2013, due to deterioration of the original site.

Unfortunately, the masonic lodge was another victim of the recent Diggers fire, where the organisation held their monthly meetings and stored their traditional ceremonial regalia.

Neville said that the fire destroyed almost all the lodge’s belongings.

‘We had lots of study tools that members use to make progress and move up the ranks – they’re all gone now.

‘It will take us a while to find somewhere new to meet; somewhere that offers us the space and the privacy we need, like we had at Diggers,’ Neville said.

Although often known for its secrecy, Neville says that although there are some secrets, the masonic lodge is just a bunch of blokes with good old-fashioned values.



Neville and Pam Simpson outside the ruins of ‘Diggers on the Darling’, where the Bourke Masonic Lodge held their monthly meetings

‘We’re pretty conservative in our thinking I suppose, but there’s nothing wrong with good old-fashioned values.

‘In the past, to join the lodge you had to be free and of good repute; slaves could not join, and hence the title, Free Mason.

‘You have to join of your own accord, you cannot be asked to join, and you have to be male, it’s that simple.

‘One of the things you have to believe in, is the Great Architect of the Universe. You have to believe in God – the existence of a Supreme Being,’ he said.

Neville says masons never go around telling people about the work they do; it’s usually just acts of service around the town without recognition.

‘Of course, these things are on public display, but our few secrets – we don’t broadcast those, or else they wouldn’t be secrets,’ Neville laughs.

‘There has always been a little mystery and that’s what attracted me in the first place.’

Neville says it has been a tremendous 70-year journey for him and Pam, who have had the pleasure of meeting many wonderful people that they otherwise wouldn’t have.


‘Although our wives can’t join, the women are always welcome and part of our big yearly celebrations, as well as always being very willing helpers in our charitable events.

‘Pam has given magnificent support over the years,’ he said.

Recalling some of the highlights over his seventy years, Neville said the annual Sydney meetings would definitely be up there.

Neville says he is very fortunate to have had 70 years with the masons and that he has received enormous satisfaction and pleasure from his membership.

‘I have met some of the most wonderful, gifted men, generous men, generous in principle and in spirit. It has been a wonderful experience,’ Neville said.

For men interested in joining the masonic lodge, Neville says he is happy to talk to them, or they can contact Master Daniel Lowe or Secretary Chris Morrall. 



Roy Ringrose, 101 and founder of a dynasty

In the September issue, *Freemason* promoted the gathering of the history of our elderly brethren. **We practice what we preach!**

Bro Roy Patrick Ringrose (unattached) is 101 years old and was a foundation steward at the consecration of Lodge Wahroonga 674 in 1947. Not surprisingly he is the last Lodge Wahroonga foundation officer still alive.

Roy's son, John, has provided a resumé of Roy's association with Freemasonry.

He was initiated in Lodge Werona 590 on 2 May 1945 and belonged to Lodge Concord United 182 and Lodge Wahroonga 674. In 1995 he received his 50-year certificate. He was never installed as a WM

Roy's family is masonic through and through.

His father, W Bro Edward John Ringrose, was initiated in Lodge Concord United in 1938 and belonged to Lodge Services 537 (where he became Worshipful Master in 1949) and Lodge Railways 952. Roy's father-in-law, W Bro Oscar Wilfred Reeve, was initiated in Lodge Werona 590 (WM in 1939) and belonged



Bro Roy Patrick Ringrose

to Lodge Wahroonga (WM in 1947). W Bro Oscar Reeve was the foundation Senior Warden of Lodge Wahroonga. Roy's eldest son, W Bro John Anthony Ringrose, was a member of Lodge Oxford 85 (WM 1986–87) and is currently

a member of Lodge Wahroonga (WM 2017–19). Roy's son, Bro Kenneth Graham Ringrose, has belonged to Lodge Werona and Lodge Cowper 295.

Roy left school at 14 during the Depression. He subsequently studied for his Leaving Certificate at Technical College and later qualified as a survey draftsman. After serving in WWII, Roy studied for his Bachelor of Law and later his master's degree in law while working full time.

He was a legal officer and later an Examiner of Titles at the Registrar General's Department. Roy then served as a consultant with several major legal firms advising on Land Titles. He also practised privately as a solicitor before retiring at the age of 82.

Roy and his wife Roma have been married for 76 years and they still live together in an aged care facility in Wahroonga. They have six children, four boys and two girls.

Our readers would love to hear other stories such as this.



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A Christmas story

What is the **dominant thought which comes to your mind** during Christmas celebrations?

Is it the singing of carols, the Christmas tree, the giving of presents or even Santa Claus? Do you ever wonder about these ceremonies and when or how they began?

Way back in 1816, Joseph Mohr, a young Catholic priest in the Austrian village of Mariapfarr who may have been affected by the aftermath of the Napoleonic war or a massive local drought, sat down one day and wrote a short poem starting with the words 'Silent night, holy night'. It was a poem, not a song.

Mohr was born in Salzburg in 1792. His mother was an unmarried embroiderer who was deserted by the boy's father. He was ordained as a priest in 1815 and travelled to many locations in Austria. In 1837 he became pastor in the Alpine village of Wagrain where he died, just before Christmas, at the age of 55 in 1848.

In 1817 the young minister had been transferred to the church of St Nikolaus in the nearby village of Obendorf, and

The very first carol, written in AD129, didn't even mention Christmas.

the poem remained untouched amongst his belongings for two years. He worked as an assistant minister at his new location without any problems until 24 December 1818 when he decided the music presented as part of the church Christmas ceremonies needed a different approach.

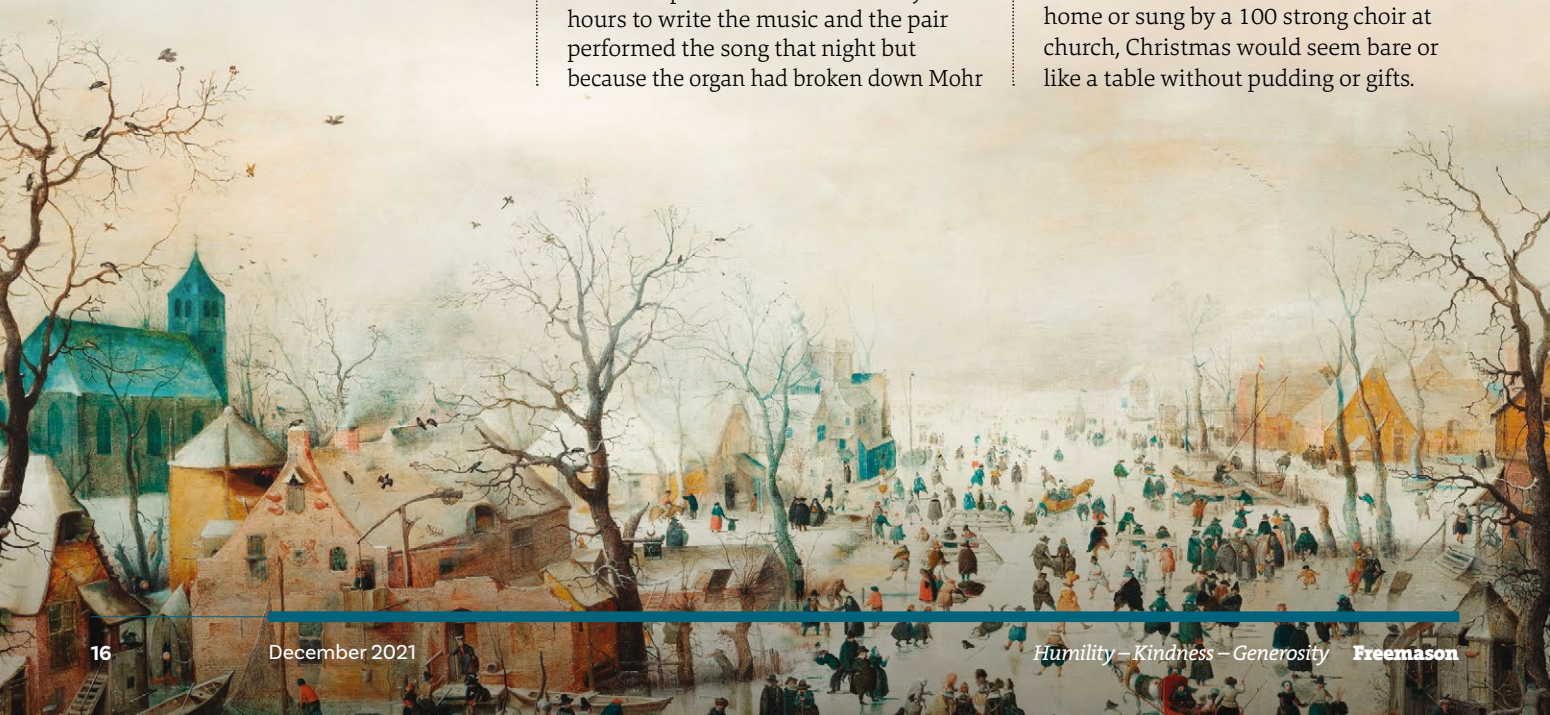
He decided to set his poem *Silent Night* to music and sought help from a friend, an Austrian schoolteacher Franz Gruber who was also the church organist and a composer. It took Gruber only a few hours to write the music and the pair performed the song that night but because the organ had broken down Mohr

playing the melody on his guitar singing tenor while Gruber sang bass.

Normally, that was where a new church melody would stop but organ builder Karl Mauracher came to the village in 1819 to carry out repairs on the organ, heard and took a copy of the music with him. That was the major step which transferred *Silent Night* from just a poem set to music to one of the great carols in the world.

Mauracher gave the music to the local Rainer and Strasser folk-singing families who quickly installed it as part of their program. Apart from local performances, they took the carol to the world. In 1822 the Rainers sang it in Russia at the invitation of Tsar Alexander 1, while in 1839 the Strassers introduced *Silent Night* to the United States.

The singing of carols has been embraced by people of different cultures around the world to create joy and happiness in the best and the worst of times. Without these carols, within the home or sung by a 100 strong choir at church, Christmas would seem bare or like a table without pudding or gifts.



An early score of *Silent Night*, discovered in 1995. Note the autograph on the lower left refers to the date of the original poem, and was added several years after publication.

Many are unchanged from the melodies which were written hundreds of years ago while others have appeared in lighter vein such as *Jingle Bells*, *White Christmas*, *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer* and *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*.

Jingle Bells, which was first published in 1857 under the title of *One-Horse Open Sleigh*, was the world's biggest selling song until overtaken by Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*. *Jingle Bells* gained worldwide attention on 16 December 1965 when it became the first song broadcast from space when played by the American spacecraft *Gemini 6*.

The very first carol, written in AD129, didn't even mention Christmas. It was created by a Roman Bishop with the song called *Angels Hymn* sung at a Christmas service in Rome. It is believed several thousand years ago pagans celebrated the winter solstice, traditionally the shortest day in Europe, by dancing and singing songs of joy around stone circles in Europe.

St Francis of Assisi changed everything in 1223 when he performed the first nativity play in Italy. Churches from the 1700s organised Christmas carols by the light of candles which became worldwide events such as Sydney's Carols in the Domain and the Myer Bowl in Melbourne.

Carols became a Christmas fixture in 1843 when *O Come All Ye Faithful* was published, *Away in a Manger* in 1885 and *Silent Night* in 1889 but the festival of Christmas can be traced back to the Romans who held the festival of Saturnalia around 25 December when presents were exchanged and fun was the order of the day.

Fir trees, also known as Christmas trees, had long been part of European celebrations but were not introduced into England until 1832 when a tree was



produced at a royal family Christmas party and became widespread when a similar tree was displayed at Windsor Castle.

Holly is used to decorate Christmas cakes and puddings and takes its origin



An icon of Saint Nicholas dating from the first half of the 13th century.

from pagan days where like other green plants it heralded the coming of new life and spring. It was also used by Christians to decorate their homes.

And last but not least we come to the man of many names – Father Christmas, Santa Claus, Saint Nicholas and Kris Kringle. A small town called Myra in Southern Turkey is recognised as the starting point where the bishop was Saint Nicholas, a wealthy young man who gave away all of his property to care for the poor and especially children.

He was born on 6 December, the beginning of Advent in some countries, and he was declared a saint after the legend of his good works became widespread and was remembered.

Father Christmas, as he is better known today, originated from 1851 through John Nash of the magazine *Harper's Weekly* who drew a picture of a jolly Father Christmas. The character of a 'Jolly Old Man' can also be traced to a Coca Cola advertisement in 1931 which showed a Father Christmas dressed in a red suit and with a long white beard.

Have a happy, healthy, singing Christmas. 🛟



Banned and bygone

A banned jewel

The official history of this United Grand Lodge states:

When the Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution celebrated its centenary in 1980 it produced a Centenary Jewel and presented one to each District Grand Inspector of Workings and to the two Grand Inspectors.

At the September 1984 Grand Lodge Communication the wearing of it by brethren representing the Grand Master at masonic meetings or functions was prohibited as this jewel had not been approved by Grand Lodge on the recommendation of the Board of General Purposes.

A member of the Board of General Purposes at the time had a slightly different recollection:

In 1979 the Freemasons' Benevolent Institution proposed that a commemorative jewel be struck and distributed to

incumbent District Grand Inspectors of Workings in 1980. This jewel would mark the centenary of the Institution.

It was to be worn by DGIWs when fostering district charitable activities.

The proposal to manufacture and issue the jewel was put before the Board of General Purposes.

It was not approved.

The project was not pursued further.

But recently another FBI jewel has come to light. It may well be another version of the proposed Centenary Jewel for DGIWs.

Clarifications, explanations and memories should be shared with the editor.

And a bygone badge

In the early 1930s, Bro Maxwell Carroll was a member of the Grand Lodge Choir.

He sang the second bass part.

The presumed alternative version of the proposed Centenary Jewel

It seems that, as a member of the choir, he was entitled to a Grand Lodge Choir badge. His badge number was 1.

On 15 March 1931 he is believed to have prepared to retire from the choir.

To that end he prepared an envelope containing his badge (wrapped in cotton wool) addressed to the Secretary of the Grand Lodge Choir and enclosing a receipt for signature, and return, by the secretary.

The envelope and its enclosures were never forwarded to the Secretary of the Grand Lodge Choir.

It is unknown how many choir badges were issued.

But there can only be one 'Number One'.



15 March 1931.

Received from Bro: Maxwell Carroll
G.L. Badge No 1

Secretary
G.L. Choir.

Bro Maxwell Carroll's 'No 1' choir badge, card and note of receipt dated 1931.



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The Grand Installation

Humility, Kindness, Generosity. This is the theme for Freemasonry in NSW launched by MW Bro Lesley Norman Hicks at his installation as the 40th Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of NSW & ACT.

It was a glittering ceremony before a (COVID observant) packed Lodge Room No 1 in the Sydney Masonic Centre.

The room was a sea of colour, dominated by the blue, gold and other colours of representatives from the United Grand Lodge of Victoria and Other Orders. Masons in formal attire, ladies in their finery and visiting gentlemen were presented with a spectacle to match the pageantry of the occasion.

The NSW Masonic Musical Ensemble provided a memorable musical background.

Proceedings began with the Installing Grand Master, MW Bro Derek Robson AM, being admitted with his officers. Having opened the Grand Lodge he started the ceremony with a welcome to all, particularly the ladies whom he thanked for their continual support of masons and their lodges throughout the state.

‘The following ceremony is simple but memorable. I trust you will enjoy the day and once again thank you for your wonderful support,’ he said.

Leaders and representatives of Associated Orders, clothed in regalia

or robes of their Order, were then announced, admitted and greeted by MW Bro Robson as they took their places on the dais of the lodge room.

They were followed by the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria who was also given a personal welcome by MW Bro Robson, congratulating him on his leadership, thanking him for his support during his term of office and for attending in person. MW Bro Richard Elkington replied, ‘At no time did I ever consider not coming!’ The assembled masons then honoured the special visitors with Grand Honours.

At the conclusion of the greetings, the Grand Master invited the sponsors, MW Bro Ron Johnson AM PGM and MW Bro Noel Dunn OAM PGM, to present the Grand Master-Elect.

A fanfare preceded the delegation escorting RW Bro Hicks to the dais. There he was presented to and welcomed by MW Bro Robson who said, ‘RW Bro Hicks, the exalted station of Grand Master involves a great and important undertaking. The power and prerogatives of the office will cease upon the expiration of your term of office but the honour and dignity will never cease, except by your

own hand. I therefore call upon you to take the obligation appertaining to the duties of the Office to which you have been elected.’

RW Bro Hicks then took the Obligation of a Grand Master and was invested with the Apron, Gauntlets and Chain of Office. He was decorated with the Grand Master’s Centenary Jewel which is to be passed on to his successor at the time of his installation.

‘The very consciousness of holding a position of great power moves the cautious man to be tender and generous in its exercise.’ MW Bro Robson said. ‘To rule has been the lot of many, to rule well is the object of noble men. It is not by strong arm, iron will or threatening tone that obedience is best obtained but by holding the key to the hearts of men. Be it your aim to reach these standards so that you shall be a bright and shining example to all.’

MW Bro Hicks was placed in the Chair of Grand Master where he was hailed, saluted and proclaimed the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of NSW & ACT of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. MW Bro Anthony Lauer APM PGM delivered the Address to the Grand



Master. This was followed by the appointments and investiture of the Deputy Grand Master RW Bro Dr Graeme David Moller, the Assistant Grand Master RW Bro Bernie Khristianne S. Albano, the Grand Wardens and the remaining Grand Officers. The Address to the Brethren was delivered by RW Bro Rabbi Dr Samuel Hey Tov-Lev with inimitable style and dramatic emphasis.

MW Bro Hicks then delivered his first address as Grand Master. He dwelt on his plans and philosophy for his term of office and thanked those who had supported him over the years. He expressed his personal thanks and appreciation of the support of his wife Narelle. The address is reported in full on page 3.

MW Bro Hicks welcomed the visiting delegations and greetings were returned to him by MW Bro Dr Gregory Henry Levenston PGM on behalf of the sister Grand Lodges.

The ceremony was interspersed with musical items presented by the NSW Masonic Ensemble under the direction of RW Bro Ian Cox.

At the conclusion of the ceremony the Grand Master, MW Bro Lesley Norman Hicks retired in full grandeur and in an atmosphere of happiness and mutual friendship.

MEET OUR LEADERS

Dr Graeme David Moller

Deputy Grand Master

Graeme Moller was initiated in Lodge Albert Park 262 (Victorian Constitution) on 13 July 1982. He joined Lodge Commonwealth of Australia 633 in 2003 following posting to Canberra and has been Worshipful Master on two occasions. He is also a member of Lodge Gowrie of Canberra 715, a foundation member of Lodge Canberra Daylight 1057 and a member of the Order of the Secret Monitor.

His most recent appointment has been Regional Grand Counsellor Region 4 for 2019–21.



Graeme Moller, Deputy Grand Master

Following graduation as a doctor in 1968 and residency at the Alfred Hospital Melbourne, he served in the Royal Australian Air Force as a medical officer until retiring in 1998 as Surgeon General of the Australian Defence Force (with the rank of Air Vice-Marshal).

He has been married to Alison for 53 years and they have two daughters and three grandchildren.

Bernie Khristianne S. Albano

Assistant Grand Master

Khristianne Albano joined Freemasonry in Dalisay Lodge 14, Grand Lodge of the Philippines, in August 2002. He served as Worshipful Master in 2007–08 and was appointed a District Grand Lecturer in 2010. On immigrating to Australia, he affiliated with Lodge Jose Rizal 1045 in 2011 and he continues to be the Preceptor of the exemplification teams for the demonstration of the three degrees as practiced in various jurisdictions outside Australia. He was Foundation Worshipful Master of Elysian Lodge 418 in 2018–19.

With a passion for ritual and ceremony, Khristianne joined the Ceremonial Team

in 2012 and progressed through the various roles culminating in the office of Grand Director of Ceremonies in 2019.

He is 32° in the Scottish Rite and serves as the Most Wise Sovereign of the Dr J P Rizal Sovereign Chapter of the AASR for Australia. He is also a Companion in the Royal Arch.

With a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering, Khristianne has worked in various capacities in infrastructure construction projects overseas. After moving to Australia, he changed careers after completing qualifications in Migration Law (ANU) and Government (TAFE).



Bernie Albano, Assistant Grand Master

Jason Robert Plumridge

Senior Grand Warden

Jason Plumridge is a fourth generation Freemason and was initiated, passed and raised in his mother lodge, Lodge Tomaree 878 in 2002/2003. He affiliated with The Balmain Lodge 23 and became the 150th Worshipful Master in 2009/10.

Jason was appointed District Grand Inspector of Workings D15 from 2012



Jason Plumridge, Senior Grand Warden

to 2014 and was conferred Past Junior Grand Warden in 2015.

On a professional level Jason is currently the Head of Advisory (Governance, Risk and Compliance) for ASX listed cyber security company Tesserent with Australia-wide responsibilities.

Jason is also a director and Chief Information Officer of the NSW Corruption Prevention Network, and a member of the NSW Rural Fire Service being a former Captain of the Berowra Waters Rural Fire Brigade and continuing his service with the organisation today.

Jason is married to Leanne with three children.

Jason Robert Cutler

Junior Grand Warden

Jason Cutler was Initiated in Lodge Gowrie of Canberra 715 in 2005 and affiliated with Lodge Illawarra 59 in 2006. He is also a Foundation Member of Lodge The City of Wollongong 1049 and is a member of The Grand Stewards Lodge 1022.

He was Worshipful Master of Lodge Illawarra 2012–14 and Worshipful

Master of The City of Wollongong 2016–17.

Jason joined the Grand Ceremonial Team as a Grand Steward in 2013 and has served as Grand Pursuivant, Grand Sword Bearer, Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies and now Junior Grand Warden.

He is also a member of the Royal Arch, currently serving as the Grand Treasurer, and is a member of the Order of the Secret Monitor

Jason has a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting from the University of Wollongong and is a chartered accountant, having worked in various private and public sector roles. He is married to Belinda with two children, Jasmine and Jack.



Jason Cutler, Junior Grand Warden

Arnel Dominic Landicho

Grand Director of Ceremonies

Arnel Landicho was initiated in Lodge Camden 217 and rose to the position of Worshipful Master. He is now a member of Lodge Elysian 418 and Lodge Jose Rizal 1045.



Arnel Landicho
Grand Director of Ceremonies

He has been with the Grand Ceremonial Team for several years having served as Grand Steward, Grand Pursuivant, Grand Sword Bearer and Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies. He was appointed as Junior Grand Warden and then as a member of the Board of Management.

Arnel is a people person and has always enjoyed being part of the community and involved in activities that promote the spirit of unity and service. Through his engagement with the church, he has been involved in setting up and creating stronger communities.

In the 1970s Arnel served as the Local Coordinator for Namfrel, a body responsible for promoting honesty during elections in the Philippines.

In Sydney, he continues to be involved in the church in differing capacities.

‘It is an honour to serve as Grand Director of Ceremonies. I wish everyone an enjoyable and successful Masonic year.’

Paul Konrad Schultz

Chairman, Board of Management

Paul Schultz was born in Queensland



in 1958, and in 1970 the family moved to Sydney. Paul studied horticulture and joined the largest landscape company in Sydney eventually acting as project manager. This was a temporary vocation however and for the past 35 years Paul has helped manage MP Schultz Excavations with his brother.

He was Initiated, Passed and Raised in Lodge Blacktown 393 in 1990 and after the lodge consolidated to become Lodge Blacktown Kildare, Paul became Worshipful Master in 1996 and again in 1998.

In 1995 Paul's interest and enthusiasm for the ritual was recognized and he was asked to join the Grand Lodge Demonstration Team. He still serves as its convenor and Preceptor.

2008 also saw him join the Private Lodges Committee where he served until 2014. In 2011 Paul helped form The Builders Lodge 1048 and served as Foundation Master in 2011/2012.

He joined the Board of Management in 2014 as Chairman of Membership becoming Chairman of the Private Lodges Committee in 2017.



Paul Konrad Schultz,
Chairman, Board of Management

Paul married Eleanor in 1980 and together they have raised four boys and have ten grandchildren.

He looks forward to his new role as Chairman of the Board of Management, building on the strong foundation of the past chairman and assisting lodges and brethren fulfil their potential as Freemasons.

Andrew Raymond Fraser

*Chairman, Grand Charity/
Masonicare*

Charitable works and actions are nothing new for RW Bro Andrew Fraser, the Chairman of the UGL Grand Charity.


He was a member of Apex for 19 years, including as President, Youth Director and Community Service Director of Coffs Harbour Apex, past President of Tyalla Primary School P&C Association and past Chairman of Coffs Harbour Australia Day Awards Committee.

He has also had an extensive political career and was the Member for Coffs Harbour in the NSW Parliament from 1990 to 2019. He has held numerous shadow portfolios since 1998 including Road Safety, Forestry, Primary Industry and Local Government and Housing.

RW Bro Fraser has also been Past Deputy Leader of the New South Wales Parliamentary National Party and

Assistant Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

His masonic career began in 1984 when he was initiated into Lodge Coffs Harbour, was elected Worshipful Master in 1988 and became District Education Officer in 1989. He is a current member of Lodge Fitzroy 248 and Castlereagh 72 and was Chairman of the Museum of Freemasonry from 2008 to 2013.

He has been married to Kerrie since 1974 and they have three children, Alexandra, Elizabeth and Angus. 



Andrew Raymond Fraser,
Chairman, Grand Charity/Masonicare



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Our new Grand Officers

Grand Master

Lesley Norman Hicks

Deputy Grand Master

Dr Graeme David Moller AM

Assistant Grand Master

Bernie Khristianne S. Albano

Senior Grand Warden

Jason Robert Plumridge

Junior Grand Warden

Jason Robert Cutler

Grand Director of Ceremonies

Arnel Dominic Landicho

Grand Chaplains

Leon Parmeter Carter OBE

Rabbi Dr Samuel Hey Tov-Lev

Robert John Searle

Grand Treasurer

Richard Keith Collins

Deputy Grand Treasurer

Christopher Wong

Grand Registrar

William Stanley Whitby

Deputy Grand Registrar

Gregory John Grogin

Chairman, Board Of Management

Paul Konrad Schultz

Chairman, Grand Charity / Masonicare

Andrew Raymond Gordon Fraser

Grand Architect

Peter Zeilic JP

Deputy Grand Superintendent of Works

Peter Edwin Robinson

Grand Secretary

Stephen Michael Green

Deputy Grand Secretary

Christopher John Craven

Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies

Troy Meñez Gara

Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

Christian June Tejada

Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

Joshua Joseph Seitel Newman

Senior Grand Deacon

Benjamin Joseph Tubridy



Junior Grand Deacon

Roland Martinez

Grand Sword Bearer

Clarence Reyes

Grand Standard Bearer

Myles Leslie Radford

Grand Director Of Music

Ian Norman Cox

Grand Organist

Russell Littlefair

Deputy Grand Organist

Simon Julian Nieminski

Deputy Grand Organist

Aidan Charles Rosa

Grand Herald

Kevin Stuart Christmas

Grand Pursuivant

Jurjen Tayag

Deputy Grand Pursuivant

Emmanuel Konitopoulos

Grand Stewards

Salvador Acosta

Albert Asetre

Erwin Bernarte

Andrew Charles Boyden

Genaro Algier Capistrano

Joseph Douglas Corrigan

Romeo Cedino

Edgar Neri Dela Cruz

James Robert Bruce Donald

Brendan Funnell

John Khoury

Simon Haddad

Barry George Maples

David Benjamin Marshall

Stanley William Massey

Peter Russell Moore

Allan James Ridgewell

Arthur Ian Roberts

Clifford David Rose

Gregory James Smith

Phillip James Smith

Maximino Totaan

Grand Tyler

Eric Vincent Garcia Yumul



Grand Installation Banquet – a celebratory feast

The Banquet Hall at the Sydney Masonic Centre was buzzing with conversation as **old friendships were renewed, new friendships were cemented, and the installation of a new Grand Master was celebrated.**

The formal aspects of the evening were in the hands of RW Bro Arnel Landicho, Grand Director of Ceremonies, who managed the evening's proceedings with a firm hand while injecting a gentle element of humour into the agenda.

The toast to the Grand Master was delivered by RW Bro Bruce Arnol who summarised MW Bro Hicks' personal and masonic history and concluded by saying, 'Humility, Kindness and Generosity well describe our new Grand Master.'

The Grand Master then responded;

'Thank you, Bruce, and good evening, everyone. Thank you.

'Well, here we are on the cusp of another masonic year. Apart from the two world wars and other significant calamities, we have over the past two years experienced some of the toughest times in our long history. We are not quitters and despite the sadness, loneliness and the isolation, I believe that we have emerged smarter, tougher and, in some strange way better off for the experience.

'The installation of a new Grand Master is both a time for reflection where we recognise past achievements, and a time of anticipation as we carefully plan, create and develop our future. Over the past few years your Board of Management has not sat idle. We have used these times constructively and we are now seeing a large waiting list of young men who are keen to learn more and benefit from the masonic



RW Bro Arnel Landicho capably handled the formal parts of the evening's proceedings

experience. It's our duty to provide them with a 21st century experience while working alongside our wonderful, centuries old traditions. A balancing act yes, but a necessity if we are going to grow stronger and remain relevant in today's ever-changing society. I am pleased to say that the changes we are making administratively by improving our technology are now making a huge difference.

'As I said in my earlier address, there is much to do and I look forward to seeing you all benefiting from the changes being made. I ask you all to look at the big picture, to look outside the square and to bear with us and to support us in our advances in taking this organisation into the 21st century.

'To my mentors Derek Robson, Bruce Arnol and John Walker, I thank you for your patience and support over the past few years; I know my management style is a little unconventional and probably not what you were used to, but I do get the job done and your understanding and support has really meant a lot to me. I also thank RW Bro Graham Moon and VW Bro Todd Shadbolt for their assistance especially during the past few weeks, when the tyranny of distance and Covid prevented me from undertaking the traditional means of preparation for today. Your support was invaluable.

'Allow me to make special mention and thank Narelle, Gael, Barbara Conlon, Alison Moller, Carol Bascara, and indeed all our ladies who work so hard behind the scenes to keep us positive and motivated. You all look stunning tonight and your ongoing advice and support help ensure that this important community asset called Freemasonry remains strong and relevant. I really thank you all for everything that you do for us and for our wonderful Craft.

'Allow me also to thank our Past Grand Masters for their ongoing guidance and support. It too is always much appreciated.

'A big thank you also must go to our Grand Secretary RW Bro Stephen Green, our Deputy Grand Secretary RW Bro Chris Craven, our SMC General Manager Paul Davison, our Grand Treasurer RW Bro Richard Collins and their teams for this weekend's organisation. It is fitting

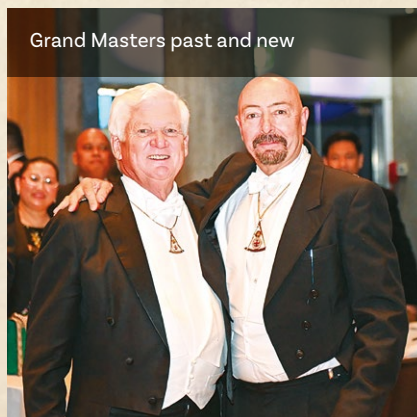


that our premier event has been carried out entirely at our home, this amazing, world class Sydney Masonic Centre. And tonight special thanks go to our photographers, W Bro Terry McCallum and RW Bro Romy Nieto. The fruits of their efforts will be seen in *Freemason*. Well done!

'Often, as masons we are asked, "What do Freemasons actually do?" We all do our best to explain it but in fact Freemasonry is not something we do, it's what we are. For the past three years we have all had the words Integrity, Loyalty and Respect ringing in our ears, and, if we really understand and work hard to demonstrate those very important masonic traits, we will show the world that Freemasons are humble, kind, and generous people who want to make the world a better place.


'It's true that whatever position we hold in the Craft, as Freemasons we all wear aprons and I ask you to remember: the most important part of the apron is the person wearing it.

'Please... wear your apron with Humility, Kindness and Generosity.'



Grand Masters past and new

The toast to the Immediate Past Grand Master was in the hands of RW Bro Dr Graeme Moller, Deputy Grand Master, who detailed the characteristics of true leaders and summarised MW Bro Derek Robson's achievements by commenting that he epitomised his principles of Integrity, Loyalty and Respect.

The evening concluded in an atmosphere of fraternity, friendship, and family – an echo of MW Bro Derek Robson's statement, 'We are all of one family.' 



A chance to meet with friends old and new in celebration of the installation


Reaching out around the world

In the Grand Master's Address at the recent Grand Installation, MW Bro Hicks spoke about the importance of communication both within and outside the organisation.

Over the past few years NSW and ACT Freemasonry has been structuring itself on the 'All of one company' philosophy and this mantra really shone through at our recent 2021 Grand Communication. Over recent years we have been making every attempt to use technology to our advantage and it all started with the live streaming of our communications which has been a resounding success.

We have continued to upgrade our technology and live stream Communications, elections for Grand Master and now our Grand Installations. This use of technology has assisted in bringing all NSW and ACT Freemasons together as one for our important occasions and the recent Grand Installation has now proved that our technology upgrades are taking NSW and ACT Freemasonry to the WORLD.

Our Grand Installation was viewed by more than 2000 people (both masons and non-masons) from all states in Australia and it was also watched closely by other countries such as the Philippines, USA, Brazil, New Zealand, India, Germany, the Netherlands, United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Finland and Italy.

NSW and ACT Freemasonry is now seen and appreciated all over the world. 



Report to the Board of Management



Brethren, as this will be my last report under the current Grand Master and the Chairman of the Board of Management's leadership and guidance, **I hope you will bear with me as I make some observations.**

I came to this board with enthusiasm and high expectations, excited that I was given the opportunity to make a positive difference within our jurisdiction. My initial observations were that the Board operated like many other boards that I have been associated with during my working life as Assistant Commissioner of the Queensland Ambulance, so in some ways I was at home in the surroundings.

As time went on and RW Bro Les Hicks was appointed as Chairman of the Board of Management I immediately saw some noticeable changes. It seemed that RW Bro Hicks and our Grand Master really made what I would describe as a special, one-of-a-kind, team. As a result of the combination of our Grand Master's determination that the Craft not lose its way as the pandemic took hold, and the Chairman of the Board's somewhat unconventional but very effective leadership style, we saw the Board of Management morph into what I would describe as a solid, close working team.

Time passed and the devastating COVID-19 pandemic hit our states hard. The Grand Master's calm and precise direction and the Chairman's determination, drive and commitment combined to change the way that the Board of Management thinks and operates. We have seen other jurisdictions make enquiry with a view to following our lead regarding our newly implemented management and membership systems.

Seeing how our Grand Master, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretariat, Chairman of the Board and its members quickly developed as a team gave me the inspiration to do more. As a result of the changes being made, I learnt to embrace technology and use it to play my part in helping the team make some very important changes in the way it operates.

The Grand Master and his team worked more closely than ever during the pandemic: they communicated relentlessly; they provided our jurisdiction with amazing guidance and support that, I believe, helped keep us all safe and well. This was all continually emphasised by the Grand Master's newsletter, keeping us informed, motivated and on track for the time when we will meet again in person.

During what we all considered as down time, I witnessed a Grand Master and his Chairman work constantly, gathering content, communicating with Board members, lodges and state authorities to enable the production of a weekly Grand Master's newsletter and, we need to understand, they did this for many, many months. Each newsletter had to be informative and accurate taking days to research and produce. No mean feat!

For me, the entire process was wonderful to watch, and it made me very proud to be playing my part as Chairman of Operations.

Over the past two years we have seen many buildings benefit from the Loans and Grants, and these were provided during a time when most other organisations just shut up shop. This also required negotiation with various heritage authorities which was both time consuming and labour intensive. To enable all this to happen the Grand Treasurer and the Finance and Audit Committee were required to meet weekly instead of monthly to keep up with the demand and to provide advice and approval on finances.

At the same time the Grand Master, Chairman of the Board and the Grand Treasurer were in negotiations with the IMIS team to upgrade our systems and support mechanisms that will ultimately enable us all to operate smarter, quicker, and more efficiently. This decision created a heavy workload on us all from the Board of Management right through to the Grand Secretariat, SMC management, MasoniCare Board and lodge secretaries but the results are truly outstanding and as we move forward we are going to see the entire organisation from lodge level through to Grand Lodge management benefit greatly from the huge amount of work that has been accomplished during a time we all considered as a shut-down.

It often happens that the work being done behind the scenes goes largely unnoticed. This is unfortunate, but a fact of life and it prompts me to make this report. I consider it my duty to inform the brethren of my experience during what have been tough times. Believe me, we really do have special people out there who work incredibly hard, their only reward being the satisfaction of making a positive difference for us all and I want to say, 'Well done and thank you.' 🙏



Whiddon making a difference through research and innovation

Whiddon is committed to improving the quality of its services and enriching residents' and clients' lives through new approaches and research.

In what has been another challenging year due to the pandemic, Whiddon has remained committed to applying the latest thinking, innovation, programs and training around quality of life and ageing. Whiddon is able to achieve this, and partner with academics and universities, thanks to the support of their generous donors.

Falls prevention trials

Falls prevention is a high priority area for Whiddon, who have partnered with both Neura and the University of Sydney to trial two major

innovative and evidence based approaches to falls prevention in aged care. One trial, known as the Top Up study, examines the role and effectiveness of providing physiotherapy services via telehealth for regional and rural areas where there is limited access to these services. This study is now underway at homes in Temora, Kyogle and Wingham and community care services in Kelso, Grafton and Redhead.

The Top Up study provides physio aide training to care staff and also group exercise sessions for residents and clients via Zoom. The study involves 50 residents and community care clients, who will receive physiotherapy sessions via Zoom for six months.

The COVID-19 pandemic has rapidly accelerated the use of technology for older people to access medical appointments. Whiddon hopes that the study will help providers deliver much needed physiotherapy and other allied health services to residents and clients living in locations with limited access to these services.

Counselling study shows positive results

In 2019, the Government provided easier access to, and new funding, for mental health services in aged care. Prior to 2019, these services were difficult to access. Whiddon commissioned a study to evaluate the effects of counselling on improving and promoting the mental health of aged care residents, as very little research has been done in this field.

The study evaluated counselling services over ten weeks at six of our care homes, where 170 residents received services from mental health providers. The study showed that one-on-one counselling services had a transformative effect on some residents' lives, particularly those with anxiety.

Before the services were offered, about half of the resident cohort were in the high to very high range of psychological distress and the other half were low to moderate. For the residents that had full data behind their treatment, around 62% saw an improvement in depressive symptoms, anxiety, quality of life, or in psychological distress.

The findings gave Whiddon more insight into the benefits of integrating these services for residents and employees alike. And overall, the counselling services were seen as very beneficial by residents and employees. Following the findings of this study, Whiddon has been calling on government and industry stakeholders to support a new model of care that fully integrates counselling services to achieve high quality care.

Support Whiddon to continue improving the quality of life of older Australians through innovation, research and new approaches to care. Make a donation today at www.whiddon.com.au/make-a-donation.



Weary Dunlop

There are many names that stand out in the history of Australia at war and **high amongst that list is that of Sir Ernest Edward Dunlop, better known as 'Weary' Dunlop.** He was born on 12 July 1907 in Wangaratta, Victoria, and became famous as a surgeon and a soldier.

Dunlop was the second of two sons of parents James and Alice. His early years were on a farm near Stewarton in Victoria before the family moved to Benalla where he attended the local high school, started an apprenticeship in pharmacy and moved to Melbourne in 1927 where he studied at the Victorian College of Pharmacy. His studies continued at the University of Melbourne, where he obtained a scholarship in medicine and graduated in 1934 with first class honours in pharmacy and medicine. During this period he also served part-time in the army, took up rugby union and boxing, played for the national rugby team in 1932 and 1934 and became the first Victorian to be inducted into the Wallaby Hall of Fame.

The nickname 'Weary' has many sources. Some say it was a reference to his last name – 'tired' like a Dunlop tyre, 'tires' feeling fatigued or the Dunlop company promotion of its tyres for their durable 'wear'.

In 1935 he rejoined the army as a captain in the Medical Corps, travelled to England to continue his medical studies where he was inducted in 1938 into the Royal College of Surgeons and was working as an emergency medical special surgeon when WWII broke out. His reputation as an outstanding soldier and humanitarian began when he enlisted again in the AIF, served in Jerusalem and Egypt, was promoted to the rank of major and became the senior surgeon at Tobruk.

When the war switched to the Pacific, he was transferred to Indonesia,

given command of the Allied general hospital at Bandung on Java and instead of leaving chose to remain as a prisoner of war (POW) so that he could treat patients when the island fell to the Japanese.

Dunlop was sent in January 1943 to Thailand as one of about 60,000 Allied



Dunlop was the recipient of many awards recognising his contributions to Australia.

POWs (including 13,000 Australians) forced by the Japanese to work on the infamous railway being built from Bangkok to Burma. He became widely known and respected for his compassionate medical care and leadership as the chief physician and commanding officer of more than 1,000 troops who were underfed, denied adequate medicine, suffered diseases such as cholera and diarrhoea and were cruelly mistreated. They lacked medical supplies but with the assistance of other doctors he created an effective hospital through improvisation and scavenging with Dunlop at times risking his own life by standing up to the Japanese to defend his fellow POWs.

During his career with the AIF, Dunlop served in the Battle of Greece, North African campaign, Syria-Lebanon campaign, Southwest Pacific, New Guinea campaign and in South East Asia.

After the war ended in August 1945, Dunlop remained in Thailand to help in evacuating the freed troops and returned to Australia in October where he left active service with the rank of Honorary Colonel. He resumed civilian medical practice to teach at the University of Melbourne and made visits to the United States, England and other countries to develop his professional knowledge and extended his medical interests to community health matters such as cancer, alcoholism, drugs and fluoride.

Dunlop retained his concern for the health and welfare of former POWs, was chairman of the Prisoners of War Trust Fund from 1969–77, president of the



ex-POW Association of Australia, addressed numerous reunions, meetings and ceremonies in Australia and overseas and in 1995 the Australian Government produced a 50 cent coin displaying a portrait of Dunlop on one side. He was also an Honorary Life Member of the RSL and Life Governor of the Royal Women's Hospital and the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital.

He was active in many other areas, always seeking to improve the quality of life with lectures, fellowships and encouragement, especially in Australia-Asia relations. The Sir Edward Weary Dunlop Asia Awards program was established to promote his vision for peace and prosperity in the region through people-to-people exchange and interaction, to recognise and reward excellence and the potential for excellence in individuals and to establish and expand networks in Australia and the region.



'Weary' Dunlop conferring with Lieutenant Colonel A.E. Coates in Bangkok, Thailand
Inset: the 'Weary' Dunlop 50c piece
Photo courtesy of the Australian War Memorial

Dunlop was the recipient of many awards recognising his contributions to Australia. In 1969 he was knighted by the Australian Government for his work in medicine having already been honoured as a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George. In 1987 he was made a Companion of the Order of Australia.

He was also named Australian of the Year in 1976 and when Australia

celebrated its bicentennial in 1988 his name was included in a special list of 200 people who had made Australia great.

Weary Dunlop was initiated in Melbourne on 27 November 1953 and was a member of Lodge Liberation No 674 at Mt Waverley. He died on 2 July 1993 in Melbourne at the age of 85 with more than 10,000 people paying tribute at his funeral. 🇺🇦

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Creating a masonic article

Did you know that many of the articles we publish in *Freemason* are written by ordinary masons just like you? **If you have something you want to communicate but aren't sure if your writing skill are up to the task**, follow these helpful tips from VW Bro Alan Gale.

Step one – choose a topic

Now this might seem self-evident, but when it comes time to put down words and thoughts, having a topic is of immense help. Generally the writer is recording an event, conveying information, or writing a fictional piece. Whatever it is, it needs to have 'aha' moments – when the reader is made aware of a fact, topic, notion or application of Freemasonry for the first time. It is amazing how simple this fact can be for the writer, but how mind-opening the 'aha' can be for the recipient. Never under-estimate the worth of the aha moment. Every article should leave the reader thinking, 'Aha, I didn't know that.'

The Event Article is the easiest to start with. There's been an event, you've got some good pictures and you want people to know about it. There is no substitute for the five Ws of journalism: Who, What, When, Why and Where and you can also add 'How'. Bear in mind the aphorism 'brevity is the soul of wit'. Never start a lodge event article with the date. It's amazing how often this happens. The first sentence should succinctly say what happened and why to whom.

The Historical Article is perhaps next – such as the history of a lodge, research into the history or meaning of a degree or ceremony, the biography of a well-known mason (or even better, a not-well-known mason who should be known better). However the process of creating a really interesting history that is something other than a list of dates and events can be both time consuming and incredibly rewarding. The best historical articles delve into the

background and personalities of events, contain sociological information about the events, and place them in a modern context. Too many historical articles simply list events in chronological order with an explanation. A good historical article leaves the reader with a sense of understanding why something happened, rather than being told it did.

*Freemason values
its contributors
and will work
with them to
produce the best
possible article ...*

The Explanatory Article delves into the background symbolism and allegory of Freemasonry. It could explain, for example, why the Third Degree came into being, or why the Royal Arch and Mark degrees are shunted to the side in some constitutions. It could be the result of researching the roles of Deacons and Stewards, why some lodges have altars and others don't, or why the ritual is constructed in a certain way or how it was derived.

The Speculative Article is the category which creates the most controversy and is the type that can be considered dangerous to the orthodoxy of the

constitution involved. The speculative article takes a common aspect of Freemasonry and asks the recipient to consider it from a completely different angle, or in a way that is not obviously stated by the ritual or history of Freemasonry; a way that is not part of the received tradition. These are the most challenging to create and require heavy research to give any claims or hypotheses solid foundation for consideration.

A neat segue into the next step:

Step two – research the topic

It is essential the reader knows the foundation events, facts or circumstances that lie behind any article. Opinion pieces have their value, can be very entertaining and can lead recipients to new understandings or opinions about a topic. However its worth is entirely bound up by the respectability or reputation of the author. For example an opinion piece by a highly esteemed masonic writer such as Yasha Beresiner carries great weight, because Yasha is known world-wide as an entertaining and knowledgeable writer. But anyone without this reputation has to work to prove theses and research them well so the reader can follow the steps of the presentation.

Research is perhaps one of the most rewarding areas of writing an article. There will be instances where the author begins work with a certain outcome in mind, only to find during the researching a different opinion or conclusion altogether. These are invariably the most interesting reads – where the author, confronted by something previously unknown, has something new and vital to convey.

Researching has never been so simple, thanks to the internet and the digitisation of documents. It is possible to find many old texts about Freemasonry on line – Googling a fact can bring up a myriad of sources: just ensure it is reliable and regular. Sites such as www.sacredtexts.com contain more and more out of print source documents, and more and more respectable books and texts are becoming available online. Many state libraries have open catalogues with vast amounts of digitised information. The National Library of Australia Trove site has a searchable data base of newspapers, magazines and documents dating back to the late 1700s to 1950.

The skill of the writer is how this information is marshalled. This is because the reader wants to know the basis for any opinions or findings. It is simply not good enough to report a fact, the source must be substantiated. No matter how obtuse or controversial an article topic may be, the more evidence there is of research and a solid basis for consideration, the more respect an opinion-challenging and therefore interesting writer will gain.

Step three – create an outline

There are two basic ways to do this – start with a title or opinion and write it from top to bottom, or create a structure based on the knowledge gained and research made and write to support the structure.

Everyone has read the basic three-stage essay – statement, substantiation, conclusion. This holds well for all articles. A structure is good, because it prevents the writer from repeating facts, or taking the reader in circles. A structure also helps the writer marshal thoughts, facts, opinions and ideas and present them in an acceptable manner. There are too many reads where everything is all over the place and one needs to keep flipping back and forth through the article to make proper sense of it. This only frustrates the reader.

Step four – start drafting

This is the beginning of the real fun – linking all the findings with a convincing and easily followed narrative. Again, everyone is familiar with articles that

... where the author, confronted by something previously unknown, has something new and vital to convey.

are so dense and convoluted their real worth is curing insomnia. Write it in your own language, whatever that might be. Don't write in a language you consider 'academic'. If you are presenting information, it will come across more clearly and precisely if it is written in your style. Short articles are preferred. Consider carefully the main point of information you want to convey. The best think is to place yourself talking to a friend, saying: 'Hey – guess what happened...' The first paragraph of the story is what comes next.

Step five – publication and delivery

Be prepared to have the article proof read by someone else. This can be an invaluable asset – both to make sure it is a good read, but also to double check everything is there. When writing about an event, for example, send the article to someone else

who was there. This double checks what you have written is correct and your proof reader may think of something you forgot. Proof reading by someone who has not read the article before is essential. After a while, the brain reads assuming what is there, rather than seeing what is actually there. Many articles have been saved from failure by a good proofing. There is also the strong possibility that your proof reader will contribute ideas or suggest areas that need buttressing by further research.

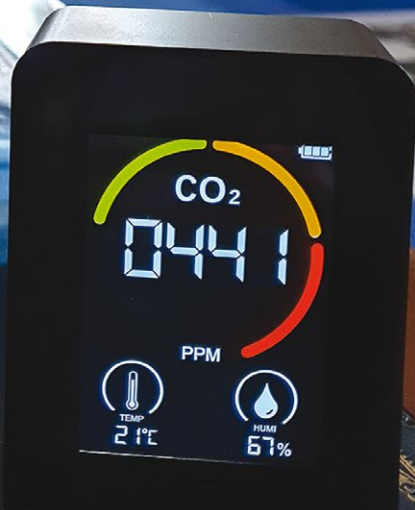
There will be a further editing process once the article has been submitted for publication. Every magazine has space constraints. This is why newspaper articles are traditionally written with the most important information at the beginning and commentary and less important material at the end. This is so they can be cut from the bottom. *Freemason* values its contributors and will work with them to produce the best possible article, which is after all the reward for both magazine and writer: a publication that is interesting, factual and informative. 📏





Measuring the hot air

A CO₂ monitor is an inexpensive way to help evaluate your lodge room's air circulation.



...vaccination, circulation, filtration and 'maskination' should do a lot to make lodge meetings safer...

'A split air conditioning system is not enough – it treats and recirculates air in the room. Lodges need to make sure there is a constant supply of fresh air from an external source.

'That stuffy fuggy smell can no longer be ignored – it has to be as seen the warning sign it is, because it means the air in the room has been re-breathed too many times.

'Second-hand air contains a mix of all the particles exhaled by all the others in the room.

'The more foetid the air, the denser the mix of re-breathed particles and therefore the greater the chance of catching any air-borne disease, let alone Covid.'

Watch the danger level rise

Dr Levenston strongly recommends the installation of carbon dioxide monitors in all rooms where people gather.

'The level of CO₂ in the air is a solid indicator of the amount of re-breathed (and therefore the lack of fresh) air in a room.'

All lodges need to evaluate how well air circulates in their lodge room.

- › If it is air-conditioned, is the air simply re-circulated, or does the system draw in an adequate amount of fresh air?
- › Can ways be found to improve air circulation in the lodge room?
- › If there are no windows, should the door be left open?
- › Should lodges consider installing a carbon dioxide monitor and taking

The Covid pandemic means **masons must change the way they meet** in their lodge rooms and gather in the South.

Respected family doctor and past Grand Master MW Bro Dr Greg Levenston recently told around 120 masons on an online Zoom forum hosted by Lodge Middle Harbour that even something as simple as the air we breathe should be monitored.

'Wearing masks and being vaccinated are essential protections and so is being careful about the air we breathe,' he told *Freemason*.

'We know breathing in the virus is the major form of transmission.

'The virus spreads through close contact with an infectious person (including

in the 48 hours before they have symptoms) by inhaling micro-droplets in the air exhaled by others in the room.

'That's how all airborne diseases are spread.

'It's not only why masks are important but also why we need to be conscious of the very air we breathe; especially when gathered in large groups.'

Dr Levenston said ventilation is now a critical issue for all public buildings, including masonic centres.

'There are many lodge rooms with no windows and very poor air circulation,' he said.

action if it reads above 1,000 parts per million?

'As a guide, the normal level of CO₂ in the atmosphere is between 350 to 450 parts per million (ppm). A good level in a normal meeting room is between 450 to 1,000 ppm and anything above that is when people start getting drowsy.

'That is also the sign that the air is being re-breathed and action has to be taken.

'A simple effective CO₂ monitor can be purchased for around \$50 – so it is not an expensive way to make sure your meetings are held in an adequately ventilated room.'

Keeping it clean

Lodge buildings could also consider installing High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters, Dr Levenston said.

'Originally developed to filter fine radioactive particles, a HEPA filter has a minimum efficiency 99.97% of particles at 0.3 microns and 95% of particles at 0.1 microns,' he said.

'The virus that causes COVID-19 is approximately 0.125 microns so it would be snared by a well maintained HEPA filter system,' he said.

According to a study by consumer magazine *Choice*, there is evidence that the small aerosol particles from a cough

or sneeze can remain airborne for hours, and these particles can also carry viruses.

The study – published in August 2020 – found an air purifier with a HEPA filter can help to remove these small particles from the air.

Dr Levenston says the combination of vaccination, circulation, filtration and 'maskination' should do a lot to make lodge meetings safer and healthier.

'Look on the bright side – it means brethren won't be drowsy at meetings and therefore they'll get more out of them.

'It also means they have a much better chance of staying happy, healthy and safe.' 🗡️

BOOK REVIEW – A HISTORY TO ENJOY

A treasure trove of memories and history awaits readers of the United Grand Lodge of Queensland's book, *The United Grand Lodge of Queensland – The First One Hundred Years – 1921 to 2021*, to celebrate its centenary.

From early details of masonic, Queensland and Australian history to an explanation of a birthday, the book provides fascinating glimpses of Freemasonry in Queensland – then and now.

Authors Gary Bacon, Stig Hokanson, Col Miers, Brian Smith, Bev Pool and many others bring yesteryear to life as they delve deeply into the formation of the Craft in Queensland and its early masons with numerous and appropriate photos.

From the first steps of pioneers such as Bro Joseph Banks 250 years ago, masons roamed the untouched northern areas of the colony of NSW, or North Queensland as it is known today, with unofficial reports of masonic meetings.

It wasn't until after the State of Queensland was founded in 1859 that steps were taken to officially establish the Craft in the State. The North Australian Lodge, now

number 1 on the Queensland register, consisted of members from the English, Scottish and Irish constitutions until the formation of the UGL of Queensland in 1921.

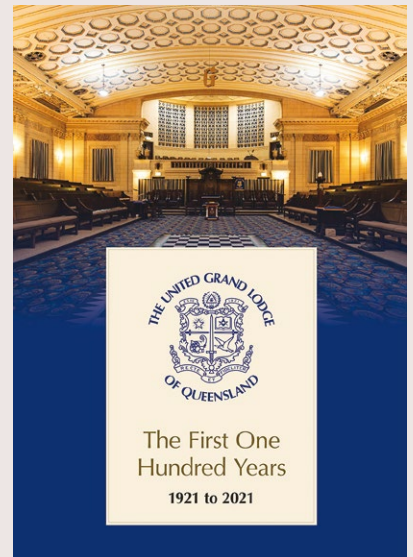
The book records that there were 281 lodges affiliated at the meeting – 95 English, 107 Scottish and 79 Queensland.

There are many stories about men who played important roles in their community and their lodge to help make Queensland and Australia their home and to apply masonic principles.

Equally interesting are articles on how some of the lodges were started in those formative years. The Comet Lodge mostly consisted of railway workers who carried their building with them, dismantled it and moved it in railway trucks, to be bolted together again in a new settlement as work progressed.

The immense size of Far North Queensland and its small and widely scattered population made the progress of Freemasonry difficult in those early years but enthusiasm and persistence finally succeeded.

The book provides background on Queensland masonic charities, touring,



By The United Grand Lodge of Queensland, reviewed by RW Bro Ted Simmons

clubs, the Masonic Choir and the effect of different wars. In addition, the book lists present and past Officers of The United Grand Lodge of Queensland including Grand Masters and others who have served the Craft over the past century, as well as all current lodges. It also acknowledges the work by the Centenary Publication Committee chaired by the Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro Jeff Harper.

For publication details etc. please contact the Editor



2021 developments at *A Start in Life*

A Start in Life has been supporting young Australians in need for almost 100 years. With a focus on helping disadvantaged youth to access an education equal to their peers, **we continue to help them reach their full potential and build a brighter future.**

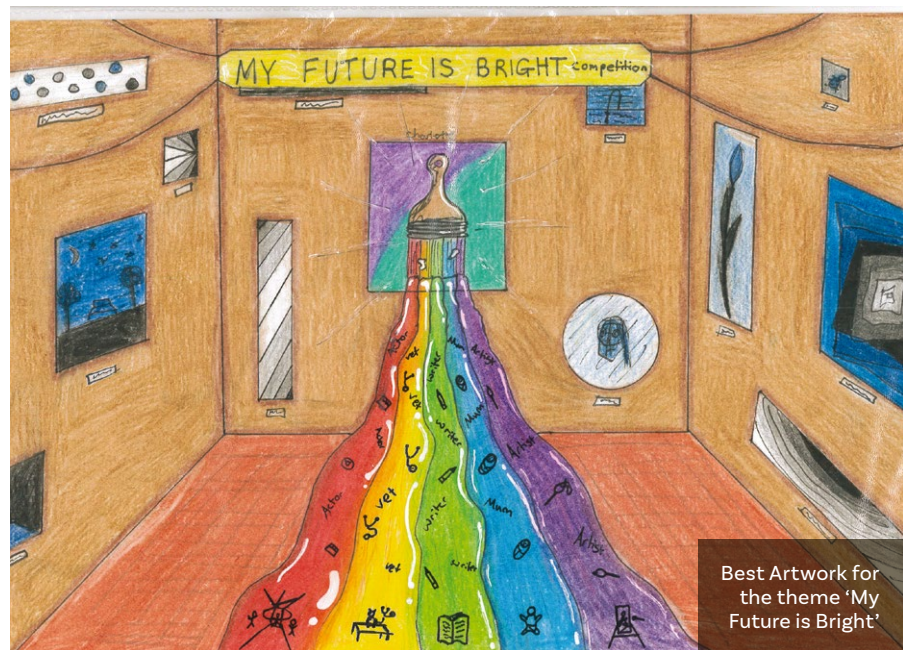
With our origins established by Freemasons and our values closely aligned, we too are focussed on personal development, helping those in need and acting with integrity.

An exciting development in our work this year has been the introduction of a Student Engagement Program aimed at increasing the engagement, motivation and participation of the students we support. Each term this year, we have encouraged students to participate in a different 'challenge' and the response has been fabulous!

Term One saw the introduction of our first challenge as a Read-a-thon, where students were encouraged to read either 10 books in 10 weeks or 1,500 pages in 10 weeks. Each student was asked to fill out a booklet detailing the books they read, with one student reading 2,857 pages and reflecting, 'I love reading and this encouraged me to read even more'.

Term Two then saw our Art Challenge take off with flying colours, quite literally! We asked students to submit artworks reflecting the theme of 'My Future is Bright' and received amazing creations – paintings, drawings, collages, sketches and more. After some tough decision making, we picked three fabulous winners.


Our Term Three challenge, 'Movement for My Health', was based around physical activity for mental and physical well-being. Students were encouraged to engage in physical activity daily



– anything from bike riding and dancing to yoga and gardening. As a bonus challenge, they were also asked to write about how movement supports their health. We received some fabulous entries and feedback, with one family going for a bushwalk and picking up rubbish at the same time!

All participants have been awarded vouchers to encourage further reading, creativity and movement respectively, and winners have been awarded bonus prizes to further support these pursuits.

We've loved holding these challenges and are excited to see the Student

Engagement Program unfold further. It's through the help of our generous supporters that we're able to hold programs like this to further develop enthusiasm and participation amongst our students. We believe these aspects are pivotal to enhancing their overall motivation and engagement with their education, as well as with *A Start in Life*. Thank you to the Freemasons and all our supporters who help make this happen, and therefore help build a brighter future for the next generation. For more information, please head to www.astartinlife.org.au. 



Futures made brighter

A Start in Life is passionate about **making a difference to those Australian students who need their charitable support**, to help them access an education equal to their peers.

Their support is extended to primary, secondary and tertiary students. The stories below highlight just some of the students whose futures have been made brighter by A Start in Life.

NJ - Year 5

Despite initially facing many challenges, including domestic violence and financial hardship, NJ is an extremely gifted and dedicated student. Since A Start in Life began assisting NJ, she has received a distinction in a Spelling competition, has been awarded A Start in Life's 2020 'Outstanding All Rounder' award and is now excelling at school. Thanks to the funding provided, she has also started gymnastics and basketball lessons, received extra tuition and attended school excursions. In her brighter future, she wishes to be Prime Minister of Australia.

Tony - Year 7

Tony lives with his single mother and brother, who is also supported by A Start in Life. Since receiving assistance from the charity, he has experienced marked improvements in his schooling and confidence. Tony recently began at a new school and is settling in well, particularly excelling in Maths. Through A Start in Life, he has received tutoring, attended swimming lessons, and accessed key

resources including school lunches and reading books. In his brighter future, Tony would love to become an IT specialist.

Tony's mother reflects; 'A Start in Life gave us hope and choice. The boys can participate in what they want without worrying about funds. Having people around you that 'have your back' so to speak, has been the best for us. It takes a village to raise a child and I am grateful to find my village in A Start in Life.'

Jane - Tertiary Student/Alumnus

Jane has long been passionate about a career in Agriculture; however, it was difficult for her to afford the qualification as her family's farm had been severely impacted by drought. A Start in Life helped via regular funding and support, and last year Jane graduated with a Certificate IV in Agriculture and Wool Classing. She was then offered a job on a cattle station in the Northern Territory, where she's working today, and is extremely happy in this bright career.

Jane says, 'A Start in Life made a huge difference to me and helped me get a qualification in the industry (agriculture) that I am passionate about'.

A Start in Life thanks the individual Freemasons and the lodges for their generous support and encouragement

of the charitable work they do in caring for others. Your assistance means they can help students pursue their career goals and have a brighter future. If you'd like to find out more or donate to A Start in Life, please head to www.astartinlife.org.au.

* Please note that students' names have been changed to protect their identity.

INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE RAINBOW FOR GIRLS
Celebrating 100 YEARS in 2022



Our congratulations to the new Grand Master

MW Bro Leslie Hicks and Office Bearers

We wish you a happy and successful term!



A mason's passion

We found her in July 2016 under a tarp in a boat graveyard at Kurnell. More exactly, my wife Annie found her. She had sworn that I would not follow in the footsteps of her father. He had always loved boats but passed away without ever owning one. **That was not going to happen to me!**

She had the clean, flowing lines and neatly packaged look of a classic motorboat with a beautiful clinker hull; a style dating back to Viking longboats. Of course, it was love at first sight! Boats had fascinated me since I was a small boy, and she was everything I had always imagined. So, I committed two of the worst possible financial sins. I bought a boat, and I bought a wooden boat.

I named her *The Roses* in deference to my centenarian Mum. She has often told me that I work too hard, and I should 'stop and smell the roses.' It's good advice! *Rosie* as we call her, is a 26-foot Owens Sea Skiff built around 1970 in

Sydney under license from the American firm. There were hundreds made but only a few remain. She has a galley, head, dining booth, sleeping berths for six people and a nice sized deck with bench seating. She has a Chevrolet V8 petrol engine and at over four tonnes, could probably run at 15 knots, but

that's not why we bought her. She's for lazy cruising on the Hawkesbury and anchoring in sheltered bays for long afternoons with semillon blanc, smoked salmon, camembert cheese, crusty bread and cricket on the TV.

I'm an engineer by profession and pretty handy but didn't know anything about wooden boats. She was in fair shape when I bought her but the devil was always going to be in the detail. *Rosie* had been under that boatyard tarp for a couple of years and suffered. There was wood rot everywhere, often presenting as a soft patch about the size of your thumb that became hand-sized when dug out. The engine was locked and needed a rebuild. The mechanical bays required copious repair. The deck window frames were unrecoverable and had to be remade, including new custom glass panes. All the beautiful interior and exterior wood needed painstaking restoration! I still remember the half page list of tasks I wrote to the shipwright at Kurnell I had engaged to do some of the early work. He must have chuckled to himself every time I wrote to him! I thought she'd be in the water by Christmas 2016. How naïve I was!

Rosie challenges me like nothing else I have ever attempted. I'll write myself a weekly to-do list that easily goes to 20 items. And that's been going on for years! My project plan now has over 1200 tasks. Familiar tools are useless. Nothing is level, straight or square. (Boats don't make very good masons!) Endless problems require unique solutions. Twelve coats of varnish are needed on all exterior wood with a

The people in the street call me Noah.



How we found Rosie



rub back between each. Removing the engine required a gantry with literally two centimetres of clearance. I've reconstructed broken frames, bulkheads, platforms and plates. I've been impossibly curled up below deck in the tight mechanical bays with epoxy wood primer, bilge paint, a long brush and a mirror. I've completely rewired the electrical systems (my speciality). I've sanded off and recovered the deck and cabin roofs and recoated with two-pack paints. There's been endless polishing of metal brightwork. There are those desperate days when nothing works and I go backwards. Sometimes I must repeat repairs that just don't take. But there are also those special days when it all comes together; first engine start, closing out a major repair, connecting something electrically. It's like I'm bringing her back to life!

She's been six years in restoration with the first two at Kurnell and latterly on my front lawn at North Turrumurra. (The people in the street call me Noah). Over that time, she's developed her own persona. I once saw a photo from the 60s of a dear departed aunt taken in the back of a convertible, with a fur coat (of course), pearls and a cigarette holder.

That's how I imagine *Rosie* – out there on Sydney Harbour in all her splendour during those glorious days of joy. She knows I'm taking her back to those times and she'll be happy again.

*I thought she'd
be in the water
by Christmas
2016. How
naïve I was!*

I work on her most every night, my excuse to Annie being that I can't hear the TV because *Rosie* is calling out in her posh Vacluse voice, 'Simon dear! Time for work!' I imagine she's grown afraid of water, having been so long out of it, and she'll need to be coaxed back in. That's given me an idea for a children's book. I've got it all written in my head, but I need a good illustrator!

People always ask me when she'll be finished. I reply 'soon' because it sounds positive but doesn't mean anything. According to my schedule, she's 85% done. I won't make this boating season but almost certainly the next one. I've given up worrying about how much she's cost me. You don't buy a recreational boat expecting to make a financial return, but the joy it can bring to your life is priceless. I have enjoyed the journey so far, learned a great deal and built confidence to take on almost any repair. I've learned to accept setbacks and recover. Working on *Rosie* helps when my professional work gets the better of me. These are her gifts and there is much joy ahead. I am thankful for that.

There's an old joke that there are only two good days when owning a boat; the day you buy it and the day you sell. I beg to disagree. There's so much of me in *Rosie* now that I could never sell her. I've given her a second life! I want her out there on the water again in the glorious sun with well-dressed friends, champagne and laughter. I can almost see her smiling! 🍷



Robert Drake *Zooms* into history

Faced with a constitutional rock and a Covid hard place, the Royal Arch chose innovation over consternation.

The 10th First Grand Principal and Grand Master, Most Excellent Companion Robert Drake, became the first to be installed and proclaimed online.

‘The constitution stated I had to be installed by a certain date, so instead of falling victim to the “we’ve never done it this way before” mindset, my predecessor, MEx Comp John Anderson found the best alternative,’ MEx Comp Drake said.

‘Because the Constitution said: “it has to be done”, staging the installation on Zoom was the only way to meet the constitutional deadline, gather the necessary officers for the ceremony as well as make it open to members of the Order and special guests.’

The result was a revised ritual that suited what was really a television show rather than a ritual ceremony that attracted more than 200 viewers, with a much larger contingent from overseas than would normally be the case.

‘Of course, New Zealand was there – but we also had a twelve-strong group from Peru, as well as representatives from Southeast Asia, Scotland, the United States, South Africa, Hawaii, as well as all the Australian state bodies,’ MEx Comp Drake said.

The ceremony followed the pattern of the more traditional physical investiture ritual, which ensured neither precedent nor protocol was sacrificed on the altar of innovation.

‘It shows that Masonry can and should evolve and that it can maintain its symbolism and dignity yet find new

ways of communicating its ethos and ideals,’ MEx Comp Drake said.

‘Whilst tradition remains a cornerstone of our organisation, the world has taken us in so many new directions. There is little doubt the Covid experience has been devastating around the world, but it has taught us to embrace new technologies and to truly understand what it is we do and why we do it.’

The new First Grand Principal and Grand Master is adamant his Order and the Craft should be as one in all things.

‘The Royal Arch is proudly conjoined with the Craft,’ he said.

‘Both organisations have a long and proud history of mutual interdependence. We have a responsibility to look to our future and I am looking forward to a close and productive working relationship

with our new Grand Master, MW Bro Lesley Hicks.

‘He and I both lead membership organisations that are dedicated to searching for knowledge and personal improvement. We say the Royal Arch completes the unfinished business of the Third Degree – making it the natural next step for every mason.

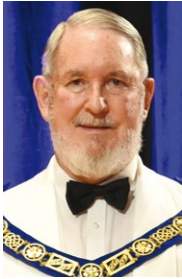
‘Grand Chapter will put its efforts into working with the Craft to do everything possible to ensure Freemasonry is well known in the community.

‘We must work together to achieve this, and I ask you to come on this journey with me and the Royal Arch team as we work with the United Grand Lodge team to promote Freemasonry as a logical choice for all thinking men of all religions.’

The traditional ceremonial installation will be re-enacted on Saturday 19 March 2022 at a festival of Royal Arch Masonry at the Novotel Manly Pacific. All Craft Masons are most welcome. 🏰



Participants in the historic installation



A call to excellence

Freemasonry in our jurisdiction is opening up. **But to what?**

We hear that a large number of candidates are awaiting initiation. We hear that a lack of physical attendance has generated a significant number of call offs.

What should we believe?

Perhaps the truth lies in the middle? However, the good news is that we can restart with a clean slate and improve.

We face a simple equation, and the answer is equally simple.

(Excellent candidates + Excellent lodges + Excellent ritual + Excellent

masonic teaching) = (Excellent masons + Strong lodges + a Strong jurisdiction)

The mathematics is simple.

We have the training material, and we know the magic ingredient:

Excellence.

Letters to the Editor

Send your Letters to the Editor by:

Email to:

freemason@masons.org.au

Post to:

The Secretary, Freemason Editorial Committee
The United Grand Lodge of NSW & ACT
PO Box A259, Sydney South NSW 1235



Have your say

The Bible and Hiram Abif

The Bible (King James version) refers to Hiram Abif in 1 Kings 7:13-14.

'And King Solomon sent and fetched Hiram out of Tyre. He was a widow's son, of the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a worker in brass; and he was filled with the wisdom and understanding and skill, to work all works in brass; and he came to King Solomon and wrought all his work.'

In Hebrew, 'Abiv' (mispronounced Abif) means 'his father' which is where 'Hiram Abif' got his name. The Bible does not refer to his death or how it came about, or the events preceding it. So, we know from

the Volume of the Sacred Law that he was most definitely NOT a fictitious character but was real and certainly engaged by King Solomon in the building of the temple. As to the events that we relate to candidates of how he died, that may be legend, folklore or whatever else you may decide.

W Bro Isaac Douek
Chaplain
The Lodge of Tranquillity No. 42

Message from the DVA

You would be aware of the situation in Afghanistan. Many may be experiencing strong feelings about this

situation. Please remember that Australia is proud of you and thanks you for your service.

All Australians acknowledge those who lost someone through this service. Check in with people you trust. There is always someone to talk to. Serving and ex-serving personnel and their families can call Open Arms – Veteran & Families Counselling on 1800 011 046, or anonymous support is available from Safe Zone on 1800 142 072. For more details, visit www.openarms.gov.au.

Stay safe and look out for each other,

Liz
DVA Secretariat





Send your masonic news by:

Email to:

freemason@masons.org.au

Post to:

The Secretary, Freemason Editorial Committee
The United Grand Lodge of NSW & ACT
PO Box A259, Sydney South NSW 1235



Around the lodges



Lodge Leeton-Yanco No 313

A double third and a fifty

It was a great night when Bros Kris Quipot and Jay Pesquera were raised to the Third Degree in Lodge Leeton-Yanco.

They were both initiated on 8 November 2019, passed on 13 November 2020, and now on 8 October 2021 they were raised together. I am not sure if this is the first time here in the Riverina that two brethren have been initiated and passed then raised together. I have made enquires and nobody can remember this happening before.

Fifty years ago, W Bro Les Robinson got married one month and the next month he joined Leeton-Yanco Lodge at the age of 26. He worked at the Rice Board as a fitter and turner for quite a few years. From 1978 to 1981 he became Worshipful Master and history records that he did a good job. He had at this time left the Rice Board to get his own farm which he still works. From 2002 until 2004 he was back into the chair of Leeton-Yanco Lodge for a second term. He now enjoys just being a Past Master.

Lodge Cronulla 312

Cronulla re-installs

An excellent evening at Lodge Cronulla for the re-installation of W Bro Ken English on 9 November at the Cronulla Masonic Centre.

RW Bro Glen Cheshire represented the Grand Master, accompanied by eleven other Grand Lodge Officers. VW Bro Joseph Corrigan was Grand Director of Ceremonies. The Worshipful Masters of Lodge Gymea and Lodge Kirrawee were



also in attendance. Following the re-installation brethren and ladies enjoyed an Installation banquet at Club Cronulla.

A quality Grand Delegation attended the Lodge Cronulla reinstallation in November



Grafton is known for its jacarandas and now is the time when they are at their best. Mind you, Grafton used to have its own brewery and the slogan Grafton's Tops! was perhaps better known than the jacarandas in times gone by.

Originally a timber town, cedar from the area was shipped down the Clarence and used for fine furniture in the early colony.

Those times also saw the establishment of Freemasonry on the Clarence and it is still an established feature of the area.

Three lodges meet in the Grafton Masonic Centre:

- › Lodge Prince Leopold 87 meets 4th Tuesday
- › Lodge Ulmarra 186 meets 2nd Tuesday



Left: Grafton's stunning Jacarandas
Above: Grafton Brewery's classic advertising slogan - 'Grafton's Tops!'

- › Clarence Valley Daylight Lodge 1011 meets 2nd Friday.
- Lodge Livingston 71 meets 3rd Wednesday in Maclean.

Disclaimer: The editor was initiated in Lodge Ulmarra in 1970 and is totally biased.

District 22

14 years' service

For the last 14 years and through a series of district number changes, the secretaryship of RW Bro Robert Drake has been a constant on Sydney's lower north shore and beaches.

Unfortunately for District 22 and fortunately for him and the Royal Arch, he was elected First Grand Principal and Grand Master this year and a few things had to go.

Originally planned for July and Covid bombed until November, the lodges of District 22 combined for a District Meeting and to pay tribute to RW Bro Drake for his mentorship and guidance of some eight DGIWs.



Masters and brethren from District 22 at the district meeting held in November

Led by the current DGIW of District 22, VW Bro Shane Foley, an aggrandisement of DGIWs paid tribute to his work with them: RW Bro Bram Pollock and VW Bros Randall Jackson, Phil Davies, Campbell Read and Bojan Vižintin. VW Bro Grant Mckenzie was a last-minute apology and sent a gracious note that was read to the brethren.

The District Meeting attended by some 50 brethren witnessed the passing of two

members of host Lodge Middle Harbour to the Fellowcraft degree with the work performed by Masters and Past Masters of District 22.

RW Bro Drake was presented with an engraved secretary's jewel, an illuminated address signed by those present and, in recognition of his love of ritual, a rare 1900 edition of the UGL of NSW ritual (not 'and ACT' back then).



Lodge Prince Leopold No 87

Shane's Third Degree

Front L to R: W Bro Chris Godfrey, Worshipful Master of Prince Leopold 87, VW Bro Len McComish DofC, Bro Shane Beaver, W Bro Peter Kleindienst.

Bro Shane Beaver was raised to the 3rd Degree on Monday 1 March 2021 at the Grafton Masonic Centre.

There was a good roll up of brethren from various district lodges in attendance and Shane proved he will be a good Master Mason by not faltering in what was a perfect test of his proficiency. Shane is taking the office of Junior Deacon at our installation which has been delayed for the second year.

Lodge Capitol No 612

Stonies

At Canberra's Lodge Capitol 612 we have a group called 'The Stonecutters' - the name came from a Homer Simpson parody of a fraternal organisation.

Familiarly known as the 'Stonies', we are Lodge Capitol's charity luncheon club and we first met on Bastille Day 14 July 2000. Stonies was the brainchild of W Bro Keith Foster (now living in sandgroper land) and the late RW Bro Nigel McKenna PJGW. Others at the inaugural meeting were VW Bro John Bellchambers PDGIW, RW Bro Michael Dalton PDGM and RW Bro Geoff Ludowyk KL.

Stonies meets monthly on the Friday preceding the lodge's regular meeting, and the meeting place is published in the lodge notice paper. Attendees split the bill equally and donate \$10 each to charity. This does not sound like much, but from little things big things grow, and Stonies have raised over \$16,000 in the 21 years since its founding. Our average is seven attendees per meeting - which is as it should be, masonically speaking. We currently support 'Adopt an Aussie' through *A Start in Life* - and have been doing so for a number of years. Stonies welcomes visitors - masons and non-masons alike, and especially potential candidates - to its meetings.

We were to have a 21st anniversary dinner on 21 August this year but the



L to R: Scott Kovacs, John Bellchambers, Geoff Ludowyk, Michael Dalton, Alec Prior and Jag Basant at the Stonecutters Remembrance Lunch 2018

lockdown put paid to that. We are now planning to have a dinner with families and friends in December. I could have attached a photo of revellers at our 10th anniversary dinner, held at a then well-known Indian restaurant - unfortunately, getting all the necessary permissions could prove difficult. The fare and the company were equally excellent, and the evening certainly spiced up our lives in more ways than one.

Every December we hold a lunch to remember the many masons who have graced our meetings and have now been called to the Grand Lodge Above. One of us brings a bottle of a single malt whisky

and the toasting glasses are brought by our honorary keeper of the glasses, VW Bro Bellchambers, so that we can toast the memory of our absent friends. I have attached a photo from our December 2018 meeting.

The Stonies lunches are just one of the ways in which we practice our Freemasonry. We like to live up to our maxim from our lodge song, that there are 'Better things ye canna do, than to visit 612.'

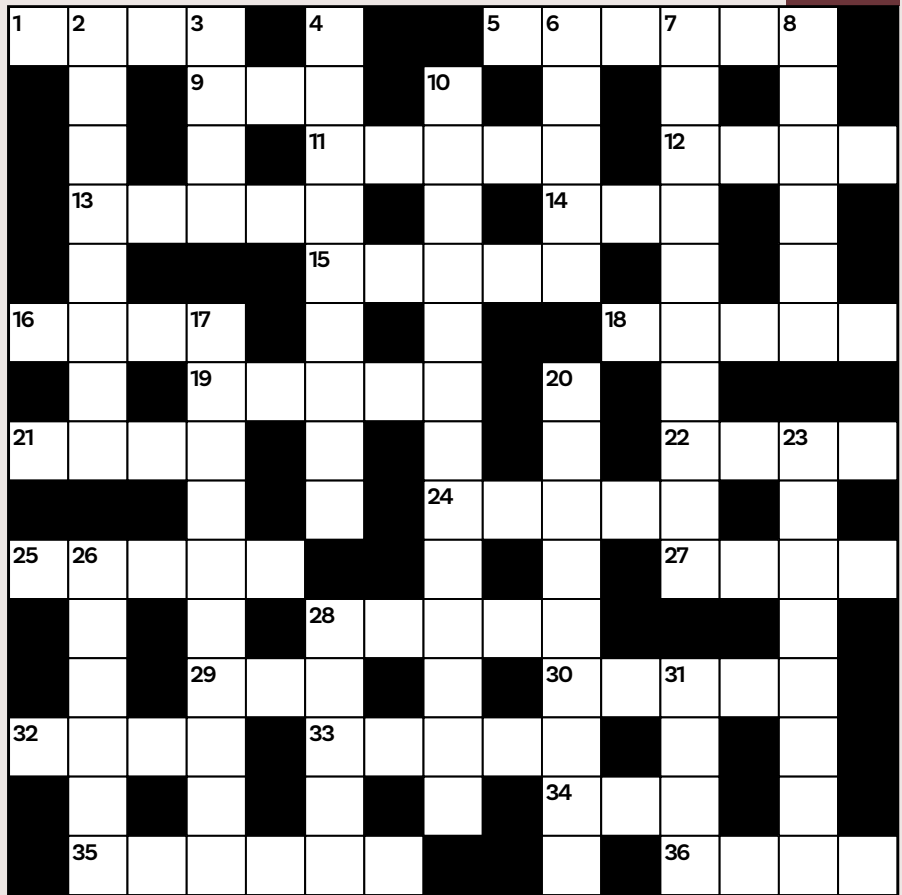


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If you wish to become a sponsor:
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Across

- 1 Donation for poor given almost to missing characters (4)
- 5 2 Down partly enriched by uncontaminated goodness (6)
- 9 This party is much about nothing (3)
- 11 +++++ (5)
- 12 & 25 Across - Symbols of the Miraculous Pillars (4, 5)
- 13 Give way the last twenty in the Deli (5)
- 14 & 10 Down - A grid connects Board to Fellowcraft immoveable jewel (3,6,7)
- 15 A bright bulb ends with a royal award (5)
- 16 The French leave two people for an overthrow (4)
- 18 History ends with a yarn (5)
- 19 Strange Dubai characters from early Mesopotamia (5)
- 21 Curdled Milk found in some Risky region of Iceland (4)
- 22 Its found spoken rather than written for all I know (4)
- 24 Rule of some foreign monarch (5)
- 25 See 12 Across
- 27 Unspecified number of troublesome characters (4)
- 28 Some are unequivocally like 22 across (5)

- 29 Eagerly compete not in full view (3)
- 30 His chaplaincy was somewhat undecorated (5)
- 32 Greek letter contains very little (4)
- 33 Recurring musical theme covered by Ron Doherty (5)
- 34 Grain inside goats (3)
- 35 Some quintet heroes tied animal up (6)
- 36 Sound reflection from Czechoslovakia (4)

Down

- 2 York will improve for chapter's enrichment (8)
- 3 Strong box is secure (4)
- 4 A wing door has a sawn timber pattern (9)
- 6 Untie differently and join together (5)
- 7 Dirty wounds confines it to treatment (10)
- 8 O Kerry pitched ball at wicket just under that bat (6)
- 10 See 14 Across
- 17 Grand Inner guard can turn up Visa (10)
- 20 Eddy caught in a hollow rip (9)
- 23 Reprimand on his mad behaviour (8)
- 26 The design according to Aly (6)
- 28 Cover Gerald inside the border (5)
- 31 Steak is before (4)

SEPTEMBER SOLUTION





Congratulations to our masons

70 YEARS SERVICE

- BOYTON, John** Lodge Temora 168
- KOPFF, Arnold** Lodge St David and St John 180
- McGUIRK, Ronald** Lodge Temora 168
- QUAST, Donald** Lodge Courallie 235
- SIMPSON, Neville** Lodge Central Australia 88
- STONE, Ralph** The Central Coast Lodge 2001
- WEIR, Wesley** Lodge Morning Star 410
- WHITFORD, Frederick** Lodge Toukley 933

60 YEARS SERVICE

- ANDREWS, William** Lodge Burnside 729
- BAILIE-MACE, Edward** Forster Great Lakes United
- BARTY, Norman** Lodge Capitol 612
- BRYANT, Garnet** Lodge Enterprise 400
- CONOMOS, James** Lodge Namoi 207
- CURAN, George** Lodge Lake Macquarie 243
- EATHER, Richard** Lodge Namoi 207
- JACKSON, Peter** Lodge Balranald 214
- JAMES, Douglas** Lodge Army and Navy 517
- MACREE, Basil** The Lodge of Transition 9999
- PARK, Ian** City of Newcastle 170
- RIMOLDI, Reginald** Lodge Como 738
- TRACEY, Richard** Lodge Morning Star 410
- VAN GELDER, Phillip** Bundaleeah Daylight Lodge 992
- WEST, Ernest** Lodge Temora 168

50 YEARS SERVICE

- ALEXANDER, Ian** Lodge Leeton-Yanco 313
- BENTON, Raymond** Lodge Morning Star 410
- BUTLER, David** Lodge Greater Taree 66
- CARTWRIGHT, Selby** Lodge Temora 168
- CHARTER, Bernard** Lodge Broughton 131
- COX, Barry** Lodge United St Andrew Singleton 34
- HERRMANN, Raymond** Lodge Leeton-Yanco 313
- LIPSCOMBE, Clive** Lodge Enterprise 400
- MAWBEY, Garry** Lodge Temora 168
- MORTON, Kenneth** Lodge Temora 168
- NEW, Richard** Lodge Temora 168
- O'NEIL, Aubrey** Tweed Daylight Lodge 136
- PRIESTLEY, Thomas** Lodge Temora 168
- RIDDELL, Peter** Lodge Mayfield Daylight 493
- SCHATZ, Russell** Lodge Namoi 207
- SYRON, Donald** Lodge Wyong Tuggerah Lakes 247



Comedy corner

American comedian Bob Hope gave these quips:

On turning 70: I still chase women but only downhill.

On turning 80: That's the time of your life when even your birthday suit needs pressing.

On turning 90: You know you are getting old when the candles cost more than the cake.

On turning 100: I don't feel old. In fact, I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap.

On giving up his early career in boxing: I ruined my hands in the ring. The referee kept stepping on them.

On golf: Golf is my profession. Show business is just to pay the green fees.

On Presidents: I have performed for 12 Presidents but entertained only six.

On why he chose showbusiness for a career: When I was born the doctor said to my mother, 'Congratulations, you have an eight-pound ham.'

Welcome to our new members

- BACHE, Stewart** Lodge Dawn 511
- BAKER, Philip** Lodge Cowper 295
- BARKER, Michael** Lodge Nowra Unity 60
- BOMAN, Stephen** Lodge St Andrews 281
- BRAZA, Ronald** Lodge Leeton-Yanco 313
- CAMUNGAO, Ricardo** Lodge Dubbo 906
- COOMBES-MARSH, Sean** Lodge Nowra Unity 60
- DELA CRUZ, Christian** Lodge Dubbo 906
- GRASSI, Jerami** Lodge Dawn 511
- HALBAUER, Ayden** Lodge Queanbeyan St Andrew 56
- HARDING, Luke** Lodge Oorana 1053
- JONES, Dylan** Lodge Gowrie of Canberra 715
- LECCA, Alex** Lodge Galileo 1019
- LEE, Matt** Lodge Queanbeyan St Andrew 56
- MANDAVIA, Kush** Lodge France 1021
- MAQUILING, Jasper** Lodge Warragamba 541
- MATHIS, Roneel** Lodge Warragamba 541
- McCASH, Stuart** City of Newcastle Lodge 170

- McLAREN, Angus** Lodge France 1021
- MOSS, Peter** Lodge Warragamba 541
- NELSON, Bert** Lodge Wagga Wagga 22
- PERFETTI, Christophe** Lodge France 1021
- QUIRK, Wayne** Lodge Warragamba 541
- RONQUILLO, Aries** Lodge Dubbo 906
- ROURKE, Trav** Lodge Wyvern 813
- SINGH, Bulla** Lodge Indus 1055
- SONG, Bo** Lodge Canberra Unity 465
- SPITERI, Steven** Lodge Warragamba 541
- TAGULAO, Vicson** Lodge The Star of Australia 200
- TING, Kurt** The Hawkesbury Heritage Lodge 150
- WAGNER, Stephen** Lodge Pennant Hills 905
- WENBAN, Glenn** Lodge The Star of Australia 200
- YUNON, Émmanuel** Lodge The Star of Australia 200

Dr Dion Accoto... Prof Dion Accoto...

I prefer you call me:

Bro Dion Accoto

Lawyer & Investigator



Having troubles with a DA? Council taking too long?

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Wishing you a very Merry Christmas

As another tough year comes to a close, RFBI extends our thanks to all of our generous donors who have helped us to help others.

With your support, over the last financial year we have provided over \$870,000 to assist individuals and families in our local communities. This includes \$10,000 worth of defibrillators donated to Lodges for the benefit of their Lodge community, \$63,000 in annuity



Artwork by Bronte Goold, Yr 2, Hunter Valley Grammar School, one of the winners of our annual RFBI Christmas card competition, which brings our residents and local school children together to celebrate Christmas.

payments, \$670,000 in subsidised accommodation and \$95,000 to allow a registered nurse to travel with the Men's Health Education Rotary Van (MHERV). Since MHERV commenced, they have visited over 60 communities across NSW, provided close to 11,000 free health checks and saved more than 500 lives.

Please take care this festive season and from our family to yours, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



If you would like to support our Benevolence Program and help us help others, making a donation or bequest is easy. Simply scan this code or visit rfbi.com.au to complete the form online or call Ray Vickers, RFBI Ambassador, on 02 8031 3200.



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