

Freemason

Humility – Kindness – Generosity



Journey of a
Lifetime



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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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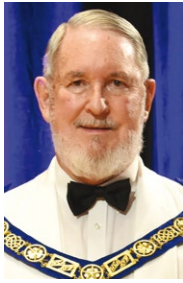
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EDITORIAL POLICY

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:
Meeting the Antarctic natives!
Photo courtesy of Quark Expeditions



It's time to pass **the baton**

At the end of December, I will step down as editor of *Freemason*. It gives me great pleasure to announce that **RW Bro Terry McCallum will be the new editor.**

Terry joined the Publication Committee just over three years ago, bringing extensive experience in 'pre-press' and production, running his own business in this industry since way before computers came onto the scene.

Many would already know Terry in his role as the official photographer at numerous masonic occasions. You may have also read his articles giving tips and tricks in taking and submitting your photos to our magazine. Terry's passion for the written word spans many decades. His topics range from technical, historical, narrative and sometimes even thought-provoking.

All of this combines to give Terry a good blend of the skills required to be

the editor of *Freemason*, and I wish him well in his new role.

Terry has asked me to continue to promote *On the Level* so all lodges will see my name from time to time.

We remind all lodges that they can support the *Freemason* by buying a What's On notice for \$60 a year. We also ask all brethren and all lodges to identify and tell us about potential advertisers.

RW Bro Graham Maltby PAGM has retired after more than 40 years on the Publication Committee. Graham has seen editors come and go but his loyalty and service to the *Freemason* have been a constant. He will be greatly missed and we thank him and wish him well in his retirement.

In conclusion, I thank all members of the Publication Committee for their assistance and advice, and I thank all brethren who have contributed to the *Freemason* magazine by sending us stories, wonderful photographs, interesting letters and corrections when our grammar has been found wanting! 🧐

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A never-to-be forgotten wilderness **adventure**

It is the **highest, driest, windiest and coldest continent in the world** – it's nearly all ice and snow and is probably the least populated country of planet Earth.

It's called Antarctica, where the silence is almost absolute and the only regular inhabitants are penguins, seals and birds.

A decade or more ago, tourists could take a one day flight over the Australian base, select a small ship or head for the Argentine town of Ushuaia for a sea journey which would allow passengers to set foot on-shore.

But as times change, so do practices and resources and the opportunity to visit Antarctica has seen remarkable progress. In recent years, the continent has seen an increase in tourists, mostly in cruise ships and there are now a larger number of vessels that can negotiate the wild waters, wind, snow and the unrelenting cold temperatures.

In those earlier days with only a few ships operating, my choice was the Quark company's 2,000-tonne ice-breaker called the *Sarpik Itik*, slightly bigger than a Sydney Manly ferry which carried 60 passengers and definitely not a luxury vessel.

On these smaller ships, most cabins had two bunks, an upper and a lower, restricted deck walking, no deck games but the food was good and the nightly lectures prior to landing were informative and entertaining. Although they only carried 60 or so passengers, it was fortunate that there were some masons on board which led to interesting and informal talks to wind away the time.

A land of mystery and majestic beauty

After leaving Ushuaia and negotiating the wild waters of the Drake Passage, our vessel headed for the South Shetland Islands and an introduction to a new and wonderful world where we would mix with humpback and minke whales and adélie, gentoo, chinstrap and king penguins in their natural world.

A colony of penguins on Half Moon Island gathered around a derelict Norwegian whaling boat.

Photo by Joseph W Holliday





Getting up-close and personal with majestic icebergs.

Photo courtesy of Quark Expeditions

Three days of sailing brought the ship to Barrientos Island, our first land stop and an introduction to the Zodiacs, small and tough water craft which take up to ten passengers from the ship to the shore. Antarctica does not have wharves so at that time tourists had to splash through the water on to the beach or cautiously negotiate a parade of rocks.

We had strict instructions from our guide to carefully follow his footsteps because to venture away from the single file could land a tourist up to his/her hips in snow. Our curiosity to see the penguins was matched by their interest in us and their noisy, welcoming cries as

...where beauty defies description and memories which will never be forgotten.

they paraded in single file from the snow to the water.

After a visit to Half Moon Island, the ship sailed to Neko Harbour and Paradise

Bay where the Alpine glaciers surrounded the Bay with the beautiful snow-capped mountains reflected in the water.

Our visit was not restricted to the snow as over the next few days the Zodiacs zoomed to different beaches, around icebergs, into the Lemaire Channel and even stopped to allow those brave enough to have a quick splash in the icy waters.

Our group was also fortunate to see one of the cliffs overlooking the water break up and crash into the sea with our guide swiftly moving the Zodiac away to a safer distance to ride out the resultant big wave.

Did you know?

Antarctica, a land of 13.7 million square kilometres, has always been a land of mystery and remained undiscovered until 1820. Among the early explorers were Shackleton, Scott, Mawson and Amundsen while Sir Frances Drake made note of the area in 1577 during his circumnavigation voyage and James Cook sailed by in 1773.

The Antarctic continent is almost completely covered by an ice sheet. At its thickest, the ice is over 4km deep. Beneath the ice sheet is a hidden landscape of mountains, valleys and plains.

The highest point is around 4km above sea level. There is little exposed rock. Millions of years ago Antarctica had heavy vegetation, but today the only plants that grow are very small mosses and lichens.

Elevation

Antarctica's average elevation is 2,500m. In contrast, Australia's average elevation is only 330m. The height of the South Pole is 2,830m. The highest point on the icecap is 4,093m. It is in Australian Antarctic Territory at 80°22' S, 77°21' E.

Water

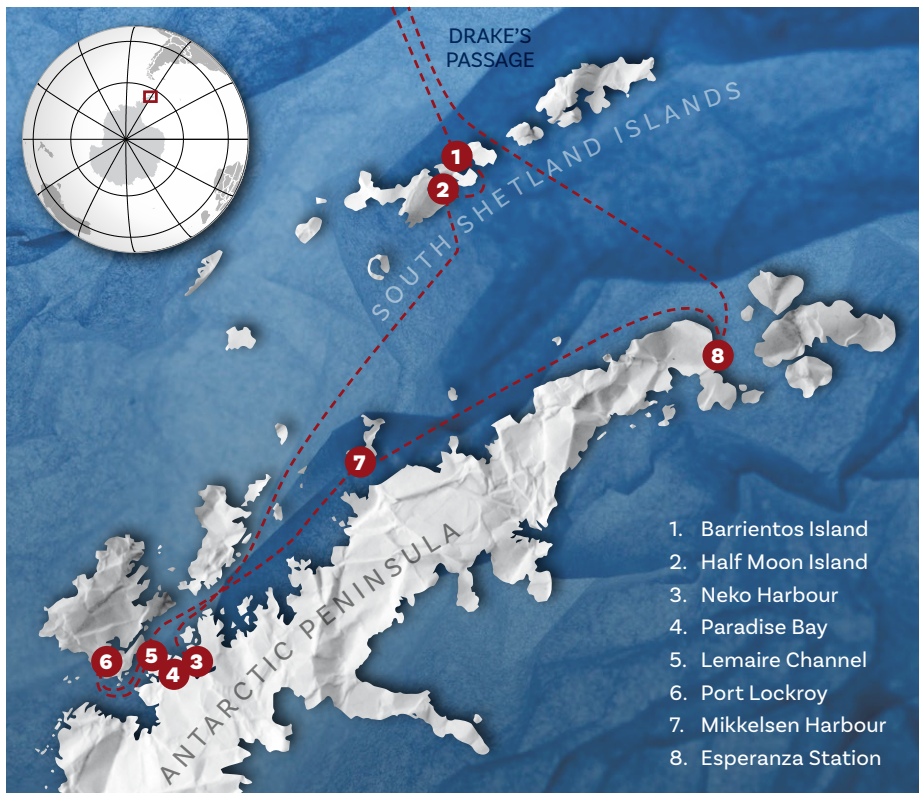
The Antarctic ice sheet holds about 90% of Earth's fresh water in 30 million cubic

kilometres of ice, but there's not a drop to drink. Antarctica is the driest continent on earth. The amount of moisture that falls on the polar plateau is similar to the amount that falls on the world's hot deserts.

Size

Including all its islands and ice shelves, Antarctica is nearly twice the size of Australia. It covers 13,661,000 km². The Australian Antarctic Territory is 5,896,500km² (42% of Antarctica).

Reference: Australian Antarctic Program (antarctica.gov.au)



The guides had good technical knowledge of the area and were passionate about Antarctica.

The addition of kayaks has made a big difference for tourists who previously had to rely on the Zodiacs for any off-ship exploring either on land or amongst the icebergs.

Overall, there were so many other sights to see – magnificent glaciers, crushed ice in the water and the constant parade of hundreds of penguins, basking seals and foraging birds.

The group managed to make many landings on shore because we were favoured with five days of sunshine and clear skies which also tempted most of the tourists into sliding (without a toboggan) down the smaller snowy slopes.

The tour was not without human residents. There was a warm welcome from the English post of Port Lockroy which is a weather station and part museum with fascinating items on display about early explorers and travellers.



Next stops, Mikkelsen Harbour and Esperanza Station, the Argentine base, is more notable for its colonies of gentoo and adélie penguins with the occasional macaroni and emperor penguins adding to the local gathering. It was a much bigger base with many more staff who arranged a tour of the area and a welcoming reception. It was also our last land stop before beginning the three days return to Ushuaia.

In contrast to our departure from Ushuaia where the Drake Passage had greeted us with raging seas, the return was mostly calm and peaceful. It brought to an end a fascinating and informative experience where we travelled more than 1,700 nautical miles in 11 days.

It was a voyage into the unknown which presented us with a fascinating journey where beauty defies description and memories which will never be forgotten.



Centre left: Esperanza Station
Left: An Antarctic seal taking the chance to enjoy the mild weather

Quark Expeditions is now one of the leading wilderness adventure tour operators in the region, providing rare wild-life experiences, adventures via charter plane journeys, helicopter trips and sea kayaking through channels dotted with icebergs.

‘We recognised the deficits of earlier times and created a blueprint to respond to visitor expectations and the priorities of environmental awareness of the current world,’ said Quark Expeditions spokesman Rob Halfpenny.

‘We now operate several stabilized ships that are a major advancement to the type of vessel previously visiting Antarctica. Quark Expeditions is proud to offer the largest fleet of polar-class vessels in the industry; purpose built polar expedition small ships, each carrying less than 200 passengers with luxury comforts that were just not available even a decade ago.’

‘The newest ship in our fleet, *Ultramarine*, can carry 199 passengers on its eight decks and has twin-engine helicopters that fly passengers to view these amazing polar landscapes from an aerial perspective and also allow us to venture into the interior of the magical destinations. It is designed to go beyond the familiar in polar exploration, to discover new places, and to immerse

passengers in the best the region has to offer. The helicopters are not just for viewing but can land people on beaches, take them to explore mountains and opened up sites where previously we could only take a few tourists.’

Sustainability

‘Rubbish has always been a challenge when travelling to remote isolated destinations like Antarctica. In older days, it was packed into bags and taken to remote ports like Ushuaia, dozens of bags that filled whole rooms on those early vessels. But with the introduction of the MAGs* system on Quark’s new ships we can reduce our waste by up to 95%, heating the ship and the residue can be used as fertiliser on land. ‘We do all we can to keep Antarctica and the destinations we visit pristine for future generations and the wildlife to enjoy – we are founding members of IAATO and AECO’ said Halfpenny. ‘It has become much more comfortable to explore these destinations, but we stay true to our expedition commitment with the entertainment still being expedition team briefing talks before and after onshore visits. The talks are held in the briefing room at night on what we saw that day and what to expect tomorrow, as well as being spontaneous to see whale pods and go kayaking.’

‘We have even started a Quark Academy passing on the knowledge of our experienced and well-travelled expedition team to share their decades of knowledge to our growing team of new recruits. Our guests glean this knowledge and share in the expedition like a family, with open bridge access and sharing meals with our team.’

‘Anticipating that Quark expeditioners may return as ambassadors, we strive to minimise the environmental impact of tourism and work in harmony with this unique destination,’ he added. 🛶

*Micro Auto Gasification System (MAGs) is the industry-leading system that converts waste into energy at the site that it’s generated, eliminating the environmental impact of waste transportation.



Whale-watching from a Zodiac runabout.
Photo courtesy of Quark Expeditions



SEPTEMBER COMMUNICATION



Grand Masters, brethren – **it’s a big day for us today with our Grand Proclamation being held immediately following this Grand Communication**, an important time no doubt as we set the scene for a new and exciting masonic term.

I thank all those that have put their hand up to support the Craft and I look forward to working with you all as we continue to nurture the present and create the future.

I especially congratulate and thank those that are moving on from roles of great responsibility. I particularly thank RW Brothers Bill Whitby PDGM and Richard Collins PDGM who between them have served this Grand Lodge for many, many years. I also thank our Grand Director of Ceremonies RW Bro Troy Gara, our Senior Grand Warden RW Bro Arnel Landicho and our Junior Grand Warden RW Bro Christian Tejada. The selfless service and dedication that all our retiring officers have applied to their roles has no doubt ensured that this



OUR NEXT COMMUNICATION

The next Grand Lodge Quarterly Communication and dinner will be held in Dubbo on **SATURDAY 9 December 2023 at 7:30pm**.

The Communication is open to all members of Grand Lodge, which includes all Master Masons. Other brethren are invited to attend as observers.

Grand Lodge and Freemasonry throughout our Jurisdiction will flourish into the future. On behalf of all NSW and ACT Freemasons I thank all those brethren that have finished their terms of office and wish you well for the future.

Brethren, over the past two years I have made it my business to support our lodges when and where I possibly could. This year, just like the last, has been incredibly busy with Installations, centenaries, consecrations, and block-laying ceremonies requiring our ceremonial team, (ably led by our Grand Director of Ceremonies RW Bro Troy Gara), to travel extensively throughout the state, and I thank them all for the dedication and commitment that they have shown week in, week out, to your lodges and your local communities.

Recently my wife Narelle’s health was suffering, and I made the decision to rearrange my schedule and appointments to be at home for a short time while she recuperated. I would like to thank those lodges and orders that were affected by my absence during this time, for their support. Both Narelle and I would also like to say ‘thank you’ to all those that sent us well wishes. We really appreciated the kindness, generosity, and support that we received.

Brethren, our Grand Secretary has also been out of action and was admitted to hospital for a very serious operation, I welcome Stephen back as he continues his recovery and I thank him for the support he provided the organisation from

his hospital bed when he really should have had the phone turned off. Stephen, your dedication and love for our Craft is well apparent and I thank RW Bro Garry Sayer, Melanie and the Administration Staff for all that they achieved during what must have been a very difficult time.

Brethren, I am very pleased to report that the trials have been completed and our new website and membership management system is ready to launch. I thank all those involved in the testing, and although I recognise that no matter how much testing is done there may still be some slight changes or tweaks to be made, we are confident that the system will serve us well. I send special thanks to RW Bros Randall Wilson, Garry Sayer, Darren Allatt and to Melanie Scott for all they have done in preparing the system during what has been a very busy and difficult time up there in our level five administration department.

Back in 2019 the original system was at the end of its life span. Out of necessity we were forced to make an initial upgrade. This was a struggle for everyone but it allowed time for the exploration of more innovative integrated business technology – a technology designed to provide the organisation with a much more effective, purpose-built membership management system that will support us well into the future.

Technology is an essential part of everyday life, and membership organisations need to provide their members with the tools and time-saving initiatives

that they enjoy elsewhere. We want our members to stay, learn and lead the Craft into the future, and this can only be achieved if our structure plays its part in helping our members balance their work, play and masonic obligations.

Over the past 18 months or so we received both professional advice and members' advice about the functionality of the old system. Quite simply the original system, despite its upgrade, just wasn't cutting it. When the membership speaks: We act. The important issues you raised were addressed and your valuable advice was heard. The feedback was absorbed and your suggestions were incorporated into what will now be an irreplaceable addition to our masonic lives.

Our Content Management System (CMS) system could not have been created without your help. Thanks to your feedback our system will now be easier to use, much cheaper to maintain and simpler to navigate. On Monday morning we will launch a completely new membership interface that will: grow and evolve, and it will be as accurate as we could possibly get it with the information that we had available. This is your own fit-for-purpose masonic website, data base and CMS. Gone are the ongoing expensive licencing fees and the annoying contract fees that we have had to pay for many years. This is our system. We built it and we own it!

Of course, any system is only as good as the information entered into it, so I ask our Lodge Secretaries, District Grand Inspectors of Workings, RBOs and RGCs to work the system and to continue to provide constructive feedback for future improvements, which I might add can now be made in real time. No longer will we wait for months to have things fixed.

Likewise, Lodge Secretaries are urged to explore the new system, discover the joys of paperless administration, and take advantage of a revised and simplified membership admission process. If you have not already done so, please make sure your lodge's 2023/24 capitation information is accurate. This is imperative if we are going to help you. Your information will ensure that our system is as accurate as possible when we launch it.

The system has many advantages, and has in place many functions that we can use in the future if you decide that

*We ask that you
take photos of the
important things...*

you want to further employ the technology. From online donations, to lodges being able to use the events module for their lodge's souths and special events. Monthly card activated periodic payments that could see a brother pay just a few dollars each month instead of having to find a lump sum at the end of each year. Brethren this is all possible at a future time if YOU decide that it's what you want. There is no limit now to what we can provide to you moving forward, so your input is always welcome and it will help create the way we do business within our lodges in the future.

Of course, with new technology providing us with the ability to change future practices, we may, from time to time require some constitutional or regulation changes or tweaks. At a suitable time, our Board of Management and Executive Council will meet to discuss any constitutional reform that may be required in the future. If changes are needed, be assured that any such proposals will be brought back here for you to endorse.

Brethren, please log on to the website and follow the prompts to create your new account with the CMS (another thing that will be much easier to do than it was in the past). In order to provide support to those that may need it we will have three volunteers at the SMC and two volunteers working from home on September 18, 19 and 20. They will be happy to take calls and assist with any questions you may have. With regard to the website itself the content is still somewhat limited, but there will be exciting things added over the next few weeks and I thank RW Brothers Darren Allatt and Owen Sandry for their time and efforts in providing this.

Of particular interest for the near future is the professional voiceover of all our charges, addresses and examinations in the three degrees. Members will now be able to access ritual relative to

their current rank, and I am sure that this will greatly assist our candidates with their examinations as they progress through the three degrees. These are exciting times brethren, and your website will continue to expand over the next few months. This has been a mammoth undertaking that will definitely benefit the Craft, and I hope you enjoy what will soon be on offer.

Brethren, the recent fire out at Ambarvale has brought to our attention the necessity to have back-up information in case disaster strikes. We ask that you take photos of the important things like your Lodge's Charter and any other historical records or photos that need to be preserved. This will allow for them to be accurately re-created if there is a catastrophic fire or flood that destroys everything. I ask that you please store these electronic images in a safe place or hand them on to the Grand Secretariat to be stored safely in your lodge's name.

Don't forget that our December Grand Communication will be held out at Dubbo and registrations will soon be available online.

Thank you. 🛠️

The Grand Master named five masons who had passed to the Grand Lodge Above. They were:

- RW Bro Sir James Gilbert Hardy KBE, OBE, Past Deputy Grand Master;
- RW Bro Sydney Thomas Weller PDGM;
- RW Bro Royston Arthur Wallace PAGM;
- RW Bro Neil Desmond Jeffery PAGM; and
- RW Bro Warren Herbert Turton PAGM.

The masonic achievements of these brethren can be found on the Grand Lodge website.



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The enduring significance of fraternal institutions

Fraternal institutions have played a vital role in societies throughout history, fostering brotherhood, camaraderie, and social cohesion.

Despite the changing dynamics of the modern world, these institutions continue to hold immense importance to those who have held on through generational decline and those who, even now, try to rebuild what they once were. Masonry, and fraternal institutions at large, serve as valuable pillars of support, networking, and personal development, and through their members, can affect real, quantifiable change to society at large.

Whilst not alone, Masonry has been at the forefront of this paradigm for longer than we've thought to monitor any such benefit. Fraternal institutions provide a unique environment for individuals to form enduring friendships and build strong bonds. In an increasingly digital age, where personal connections often feel superficial, these institutions offer a sense of belonging and deep camaraderie. The shared experiences, rituals, and traditions cultivate lasting friendships that extend far beyond the walls of the institution. These lifelong connections provide a support network that can prove invaluable during challenging times, offering emotional support, mentorship, and opportunities for personal growth.

In today's world we are often faced with an environment where we are told we can succeed, only to feel set up for failure. From cost-of-living rises, disparity between earnings growth and housing affordability, or even what feels like a diminished regard for genuine hard work, fraternal institutions offer members numerous opportunities for personal development and leadership. Through

involvement in various activities, such as community service, philanthropy, and organizing events, individuals gain invaluable skills in teamwork, organisation, public speaking, and project management. Masonry and similar organisations even provide formal leadership roles, allowing members to hone their abilities, develop a sense of responsibility, and foster leadership qualities that translate into success in professional and personal realms.

...we may build the structures of a better world around us...

Whilst the airplane and the radio started the last century by bringing our world closer together, our digital world often serves to push us further apart. Here too, Masonry's relevance shines through with extensive networking opportunities, connecting individuals with a diverse range of backgrounds, interests, and professions. These networks prove instrumental in shaping careers, fostering professional connections, and accessing career development resources. From mentorship programs and job placement assistance to alumni networks and industry-specific events, fraternities provide a platform for members to tap into a wide range of opportunities. This professional advantage can be

particularly impactful in competitive fields, facilitating introductions, mentorship, and career guidance that can significantly enhance an individual's prospects.

Fraternal institutions have a long history of engaging in philanthropy and community service, a history that we continue to live up to. These organisations play a crucial role in fostering social responsibility and encouraging active citizenship among their members. By participating in community-driven initiatives, fundraisers, and volunteering efforts, fraternity members make meaningful contributions to society. Through collective action, these institutions can address societal challenges, support local communities, and create positive change. Fraternities serve as a breeding ground for future leaders who are committed to making a difference in the world.

In a world characterised by rapid change and increasing individualism, the importance of fraternal institutions remains steadfast. These institutions provide a sense of belonging, personal growth, networking, and social impact that continue to be invaluable in the modern world. By embodying the core values and tenets of our Order, we have not just an opportunity to better ourselves, but an obligation to be better men within our communities, so that we may build the structures of a better world around us, erect the pillars of community that will benefit even ourselves. And plant the seeds of trees that our children and grandchildren will one day seek for shelter in the world they will have to face in our absence.



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Whiddon supports more than 2,100 residents and clients across NSW who are largely in regional and remote communities, this is why we need your help to continue our work! Give today, like it's for someone you love.

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- Wellbeing and Creative Ageing
- Research and innovation
- Equality of access to aged care services

Your donation will help us fulfill our purpose of enriching lives and making a real difference for older Australians. Thank you!

Scan QR code or visit www.whiddon.com.au/donate/



A Grand Proclamation

I welcome you all here tonight, and again I acknowledge the attendance of our Grand Masters, the visiting Grand Masters and the leaders of other Orders.

I also welcome our ladies and our special guests. It is wonderful to have you all with us here today and I hope you have a wonderful and memorable day with us.

Today is special, because today we introduce a new team that will be supporting us during the upcoming masonic term, and I especially congratulate and thank those that are finishing their term of office here tonight. The selfless service and dedication that you have all applied to your roles has, no doubt, ensured that this Grand Lodge and Freemasonry throughout our jurisdiction will continue to flourish into the future, so on behalf of all NSW and ACT Freemasons, I thank all those brethren that have finished their terms

of office and wish you all the very best for the future.

Over the past couple of years, my team and I have done our best to lead from the front, and we are now starting to witness the fruits of our labours. Our recent restructuring and cost cutting measures, together with newly introduced technology will pave the way for a more financially sound future.

Over the next twelve months or so our Board of Management will assist the lodges to use our new technology to lessen the administrative burden that is regularly placed on our secretaries and executive officers.

There is no doubt that times are changing, and we are living through a

very rocky economic period. I congratulate you all on your resilience and your ability to adjust during an ever-changing economy. Like it or not, as times change we will have to change as well. The way things have been done for the last hundred years simply won't support us through the next hundred years. We can't keep doing the same thing over and over and expect to see a different result. The modern Freemason, like his predecessor, is a family man, but today's family more than any time before, needs to balance every aspect of their life. In many cases both mum and dad are now required to work, and they need to balance that work with raising children, home duties, and at the same time, attempt to cram some important leisure time into the mix.

No doubt Freemasonry plays a very important role in all our lives and, of course we want others to experience the joy that we get from attending lodge – supporting our local communities, and just meeting together like we are here today. Our ceremonial and business administration teams have been specially selected to work together, and I can assure you all that we will continue to work at providing the tools necessary to help you achieve that balance.

We will continue to do everything we can to allow new members to come, stay and grow within our ranks, and while the future will undoubtedly look a little different from the past, freemasonry will always play its important role within our communities and within our lives.

For example, it is becoming more important today than ever before to understand the difference between a lodge building and a lodge. A building is bricks and mortar, but a lodge is a group of masons that meet in the grand design of being happy and conferring happiness. In these times it is becoming increasingly difficult to manage a building with just the members' fees supporting all the costs associated with the outgoings and the upkeep. Unless we keep moving toward some kind of commercialisation it will eventually become impossible to keep the doors of the traditional masonic centre open.

Some lodges are, to their credit, transitioning from managing a building to



an easier rental type of arrangement. This keeps the costs down and takes the pressure off constantly trying to balance the books. Others are commercialising their buildings to meet the ongoings and future renovation costs and I absolutely applaud and support both types of management. At the end of the day, it is about the lodge and its members, and our ability to share with each other moments like this. Freemasonry is about community; it is about family and friends and while everything around us is continually changing, our basic principles and objectives will always remain constant.

Brethren and ladies, it is wonderful to see you here, and to share this special occasion with you all. I especially welcome and thank our ladies who do so much to support us as we fulfil our lodge commitments and obligations and I look forward to sharing a wonderful and enjoyable evening with you.

Narelle and I thank you all for being with us tonight, and I certainly look forward to many more special times with you all as we move forward into another exciting and successful masonic year.

Please continue to take care of yourselves and those closest to you as we live our lives with:

Humility – Kindness – Generosity. 🧰



Presenting the donation to SJA representatives

At the Grand Re-Installation banquet, the Grand Master announced a \$50,000 donation to St Johns Ambulance NSW (SJA) to complete the funding for a new ambulance vehicle to operate in western Sydney.

Established worldwide, the SJA has a 900-year-old history of aid and succour dating back to Knight Hospitallers who sheltered and cared for pilgrims and crusaders in Jerusalem from the 11th century and has an associated Order of Chivalry, the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem.

‘We are proud to support SJA and making this donation to complete their fundraising for the vehicle was an absolute no-brainer,’ the Grand Master said.

‘It will be operating in the Hawkesbury City Division, which has a proud history of over 75 years’ service to western Sydney.

‘SJA regularly provides medical and first aid care at community events and deployed during bushfires, floods and the COVID-19 pandemic as well as providing first aid training to local community organisations.

‘From now on, our logo will travel with the ambulance – reinforcing our reputation in the community.’

SJA’s Sydney Greater West Hub Leader Bro Andrew North said, ‘The support the Grand Lodge of NSW & ACT has shown is outstanding.

‘The donation will help pay for a response vehicle that will be used to transport volunteers and equipment to the many duties the division covers every year.

‘Hawkesbury City Division – as with all divisions in SJA – is in a constant state of readiness to respond in times of need.’ 🧰

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A night to remember

Brethren from throughout the state, inter-state and overseas gathered at Sydney Masonic Centre in September to witness **the precision and pageantry of the Grand Re-Installation.**

It also marked the investiture of Officers for the 2023–24 year, who the Grand Master, MW Bro Les Hicks, thanked (see full list opposite).

‘I thank them for putting themselves forward to serve the Order,’ MW Bro Hicks said.

‘They will all donate a great deal of time and give of their ceremonial and professional expertise: all with the

shared goal: to make Freemasonry in this jurisdiction the best it can be. My sincere thanks to them all’

The event was not without its humour – at one stage, the new Junior Grand Warden, RW Bro Tubridy was perambulating the Lodge, much to the

delight of his very young son, whose cries of “there’s Daddy” regularly punctuated the ceremony.

Representatives from the Grand Lodges of Victoria, New Zealand and Queensland were present, as were leaders of many of the other Orders that meet in NSW and the ACT under the broad umbrella of Freemasonry.

Victorian Grand Master Anthony Bucca said his large delegation was a ‘make good’ for not being able to attend MW Bro Hicks’ installation due to the COVID travel restrictions then in place.

‘This is the first time we’ve been able to travel as a large group and I wish MW Bro Hicks and his officers a very successful year.’

There was also a large online audience, watching the ceremony via the Grand Lodge streaming service.



The GM enters Grand Lodge, full of anticipation of the ceremony ahead.

‘We want our members to stay, learn and lead the Craft into the future...’




Done, dusted, invested, installed and – finally – photographed.



The Leaders of visiting Grand Lodges (from left): MW Bro Jeffrey Harper AFSM (Queensland), his Deputy, RW Bro David Grey, The Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, MW Bro Anthony Bucca (Victoria), his Deputy RW Bro Peter Henshall, MW Bro James Watt (New Zealand), and the Assistant Grand Master

The Grand Master also launched a new Grand Lodge website and associated membership database.

‘This new system is easier to use, cheaper to maintain and simpler to navigate,’ he said.

‘We want our members to stay, learn and lead the Craft into the future, and this can only be achieved if our structure plays its part to help them balance work, play and masonic obligations.’ 



Representatives turned out in force!
 Top: the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite (Scotland), the Royal Order of Scotland, the Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine and the Knights Templar (Scotland)
 Above: the Order of the Secret Monitor and (centre) the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite (Australia)

Grand Officers 2023-24

Grand Master

MW Bro L N Hicks

Deputy Grand Master

RW Bro B K S Albano

Assistant Grand Master

RW Bro P K Schultz

Senior Grand Warden

RW Bro T M Gara

Junior Grand Warden

RW Bro B J Tubridy

Grand Director of Ceremonies

RW Bro J J S Newman

Grand Chaplain

RW Bro Rabbi Dr S H Tov-Lev PAGM

Grand Chaplain

RW Bro R J Searle

Grand Chaplain

RW Bro R E Drysdale

Grand Chaplain

VW Bro A A Gale G Chap

Grand Treasurer

RW Bro I A Hogan PJGW

Deputy Grand Treasurer

Vacant

Grand Registrar

RW Bro G J Grogin PAGM

Deputy Grand Registrar

RW Bro R F Sutherland SC

Chairman, Board of Management

RW Bro Dr G D Moller AM PDGM

Chairman, Grand Charity/Masonicare

RW Bro A R G Fraser PDGM

Grand Architect

VW Bro R Jurukovski

Deputy Grand Superintendent of Works

RW Bro P E Robinson

Grand Secretary

RW Bro S M Green PDGM

Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies

VW Bro R Martinez

Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

VW Bro J Tayag

Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

VW Bro C Reyes

Senior Grand Deacon

VW Bro E Konitopoulos PDGIW

Junior Grand Deacon

VW Bro E Dela Cruz PDGDC

Grand Sword Bearer

W Bro S Acosta

Grand Standard Bearer

VW Bro J Khoury PDGIW

Grand Director of Music

RW Bro I N Cox PAGM

Grand Organist

W Bro S J Nieminski

Deputy Grand Organist

W Bro A C Rosa

Grand Herald

VW Bro K S Christmas

Grand Pursuivant

W Bro J Toussounian

Deputy Grand Pursuivant

W Bro S Haddad

Grand Stewards

W Bro R J Anderson, W Bro M J Aquino, W Bro A Asestre, W Bro D M Atherton-Cooper, W Bro E Bernarte, W Bro R J Chapman, W Bro A Cleghorn, W Bro B Funnell, W Bro A Hezari, W Bro B L Hutchings, VW Bro D B Marshall PDGIW, W Bro S W Massey, W Bro P R Moore, W Bro A J Ridgewell, W Bro A I Roberts, W Bro A W Szokalski, W Bro M Totaan, W Bro L G B Woods, Bro C J Smith

Grand Tyler

Bro CJ Smith



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**



It never hurts to say 'thank you'

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you at Lodge Bathurst United No 79's installation early in September for the re-installation of RW Bro Don Savage PDGM (now). The installation went very smoothly, and the attendance was in the 50s. I was also impressed by the Grand Lodge Delegation that accompanied me.

Family commitments prevented my attending your Grand Re-installation, but I extend my very best for the coming year and look forward to meeting up with you again between now and the next Communication in Dubbo in December.

RW Bro Brian Harvey

Lodge Barham No 561 (*Published at his request*)

Dubbo renovation

The Dubbo Masonic Building Co is undertaking an extensive renovation of the lodge room with a deadline of 23 September for the Lodge Macquarie installation.

The roof and ceiling are being replaced. The walls are getting a fresh coat of paint; new seating, carpeting, tracing boards and tessellated pavement as well.

The building should look impressive for the GL Quarterly Communication in Dubbo in December.

W Bro Andrew Livingstone

Lodge Dubbo 906



Don, Mike and Jamie share a birthday

Not the same year obviously, but still, what are the odds* at a lodge meeting?

Three for Aquarius

MW Bro Jamie Melville PGM, RW Bro Mike Dalton and RW Bro Don Savage were sitting in lodge together at the recent installation of W Bro Nass Aoun of Lodge Mark Owen held in the Sydney Masonic Centre.

During a conversation with Jamie, Mike, Don and MW Bro Derek Robson AM PGM CMH; Jamie, having a sudden thought, turned to Derek and said, 'Did you know that the three of us, Mike, Don and myself, share the same birthdate, 9th February?'

MW Bro James Melville, PGM

Lodge Jerusalem No 1056

Editor: The people of the zodiac of 9 February are on the Aquarius-Pisces cusp. We refer to this as the Peak of Sensitivity. As the name implies, it makes them and their brethren who are on the cusp extremely sensitive.

* Assuming that there were 60 brethren at the installation the Editor invites a mathematician to calculate the odds!

EVENTS & NOTICES

International Order of the Rainbow for Girls

Rainbow Girls meetings

Now meet on 4th Sunday of each month at 11.00am at the Blacktown Masonic Centre
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For further details please phone Talese on 0401 213 800 or email: rainbowgirls74@gmail.com

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An interview with a young mason

RW Bro Owen Sandry started writing stories about young masons a few years ago. It was so popular that *Freemason* asked if the idea could be used in the magazine, and we're delighted that he said 'Yes!'



We hope to make this new item a regular feature. If you know of anyone that has an interesting story to tell regarding either their masonic journey or indeed anything that makes them special, please let us know and we'll follow it up.

This first account is from an interview conducted by RW Bro Sandry with Bro Omar Golfo of Lodge Education.

What year did you become a Freemason and with which lodge?

On 15 October 2016 I embarked on my journey as a Freemason, being initiated into the mysteries of the Craft. The subsequent steps of my masonic journey unfolded on 21 January, 2017, when I was Passed, and on 20 May, 2017, when I was Raised. These pivotal moments took place within Lodge Education No 814, a wonderful lodge that holds great significance in my masonic experience.

How old were you and how old are you now?

At the time of my initiation I was 34 years old, filled with a mixture of anticipation and nervousness. Fast forward to the present day, I stand at 41, reflecting on the growth and lessons that my years as a Freemason have bestowed upon me.

What current position do you have in the lodge?

I am currently Senior Deacon elect of my Lodge, but I have previously been the Junior Warden of The United Lodge No 11, signifying my commitment to

In the tapestry of my masonic odyssey, each chapter has contributed to my growth as an individual, a mason, and a community contributor.

the continuous pursuit of masonic knowledge and service to the Craft.

What made your initiation special? What can you remember about the night?

The night of my initiation remains etched in my memory as a remarkable occasion. The lodge was abuzz with brethren from Lodge Education and visitors alike, accompanied by my supportive family. This particular initiation was memorable not only for its significance but also due to the fact that it was a triple initiation, shared with my batchmates, W Bro Mark Alvin Ramos from The United Lodge of Sydney, and Bro Edwin Villar from Lodge Education 814. The blend of trepidation and curiosity marked our journey into the unknown, a journey that began with a petitioning process lasting nine

months, characterized by camaraderie and shared responsibilities. Our dedication was palpable as we engaged in tasks ranging from dishwashing and food service to lodge upkeep, alongside the assistance of fellow brethren.

Why did you want to become a Freemason?

My journey into Freemasonry was catalyzed by RW Bro Khris Albano, who became my mentor and sponsor. The intrigue surrounding Freemasonry led me to attend a ladies night event for Lodge Education, where together with my wife I discovered the enigmatic world of Masonry. This serendipitous encounter set the stage for my initiation.

What have you been able to contribute to Freemasonry and what has it given you?

My contributions to Freemasonry have taken the form of a creative endeavour. I envisioned and established SnC Prints, a platform that showcases masonic merchandise, aiming to bolster the Craft's presence in the community through the display of our iconic square and compasses logo.

Given you are from the Philippines, have you been back there or to any other country to visit as a Freemason, and what were your impressions of visiting overseas lodges?

Traversing between my native Philippines and Australia, I've experienced the common thread of unity among masonic lodges. Regardless of geographical borders, there exists a



network of support and camaraderie, a testament to the global masonic family.

How did your business of SnC Prints come about?

SnC Prints, a moniker derived from 'Square and Compasses', materialised from humble beginnings, evolving from small promotional prints to a diverse range of items including shirts, caps and promotional items to business signage and more.

What jobs have you had and what's your business vision?

I have done some lodge logos (a special one being that of my mother lodge) and four other lodges, lodge activity polo shirts, giveaways, souvenirs, Installation Media wall, banners t-shirts and a lot more. As my business vision crystalizes, I aspire to elevate SnC Prints into a comprehensive printing solution provider, catering to diverse client needs.

Would you like to share anything about your family?

I am married to my wife, Maria. Together, we are blessed with two wonderful children – Rome, my eldest son at 11 years old, and Venice, my vibrant daughter aged 5.

What are your interests?

Amidst my pursuits, bike riding stands as a cherished interest.

It represents moments of introspection and adventure, complementing my masonic journey.

Are you a member of any other masonic orders or associations?

Beyond my affiliation with Lodge Education No 814, I proudly identify as a member of the Widows Son Masonic Riders Association. While I have not yet ventured into other masonic orders, the possibility of joining the Royal Arch beckons on the horizon.

In the tapestry of my masonic odyssey, each chapter has contributed to my growth as an individual, a mason, and a community contributor. As the years unfold, I remain steadfast in my dedication to Masonry and the diverse facets of life it intertwines with.

Thank you, Omar. 🛠️

Brain benders

Test your knowledge with this compelling collection of quizzical questions!

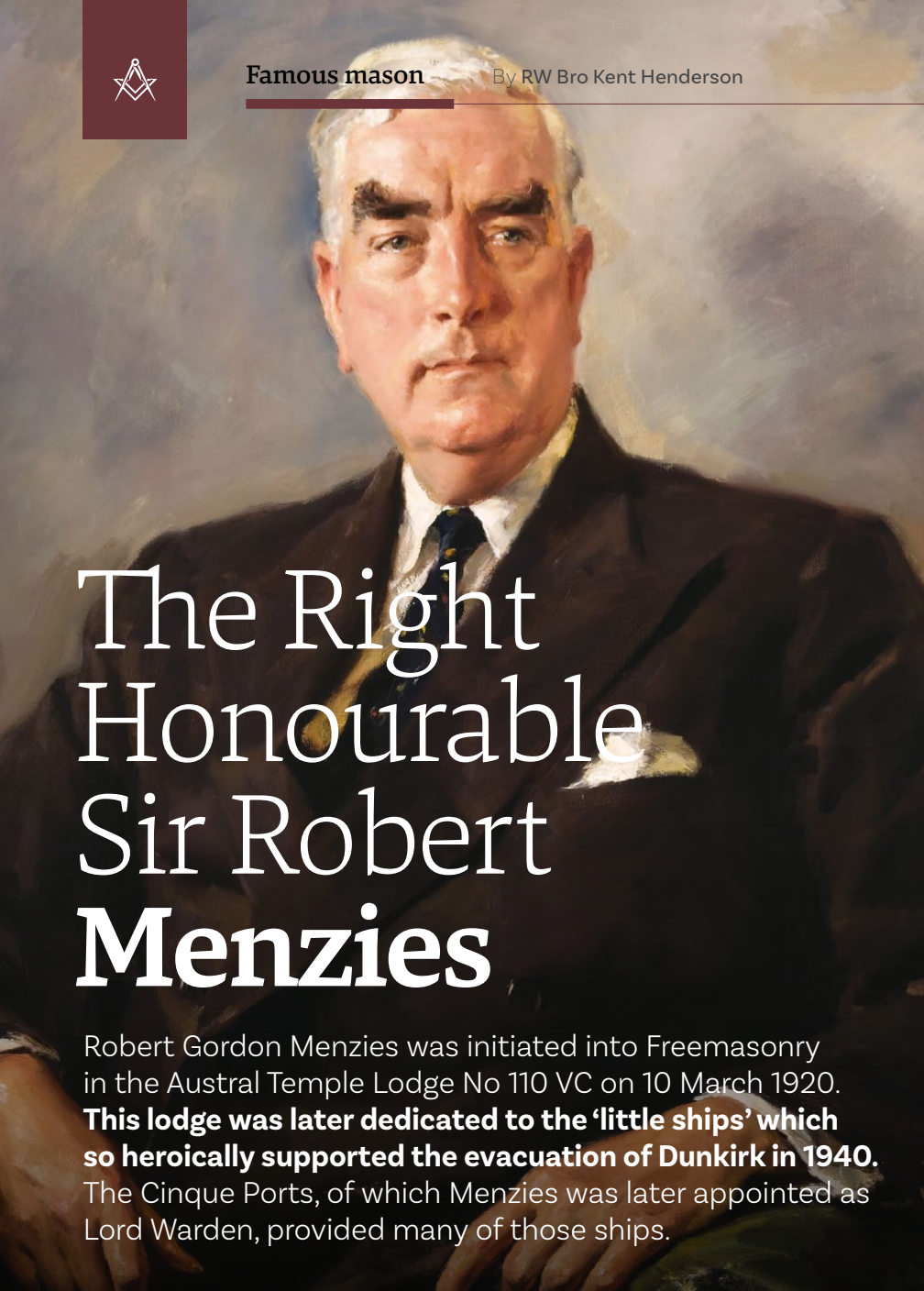
- 1 St George bank merged with which other bank in December 2008?
- 2 What is the floral emblem of Australia?
- 3 New Caledonia is located in which ocean?
- 4 Who were the two opposing armies at the 1066 Battle of Hastings?
- 5 Who played the role of Mary Poppins in the 2018 movie *Mary Poppins Returns*?
- 6 'If music be the food of love, play on!' is a line from which play by William Shakespeare?
- 7 Which four countries play in the annual Netball Quad series?
- 8 Which word starting with the letter A is the Latin word for gold?
- 9 Adolf Hitler was born in which modern day country?
- 10 True or false: Spiro Agnew was President of the USA in the 1970s.
- 11 Which word was named *The Macquarie Dictionary* Word of the Year for 2022?
- 12 As at January 2023, Buffalo was the second most populated city in which US State?
- 13 In the 1970s Elton John was the chairman of which English soccer club?



- 14 Who was the only Australian to reach the fourth round of the 2023 Australian Open singles tournament?
- 15 Ankara is the capital city of which country?
- 16 Nusa Penida is an island off the coast of which popular tourist destination?
- 17 Robinson Crusoe island belongs to which South American country?
- 18 Glaucoma is a disease affecting which part of the body?
- 19 What are the three colours of the Dolphins rugby league team?
- 20 Who was named Australian of the Year for 2023?

Find the answers on page 44! 🛠️

Membership enquiries:
Basil Freedman – basil@archerpress.net

The Right Honourable Sir Robert Menzies

Robert Gordon Menzies was initiated into Freemasonry in the Austral Temple Lodge No 110 VC on 10 March 1920. **This lodge was later dedicated to the 'little ships' which so heroically supported the evacuation of Dunkirk in 1940.** The Cinque Ports, of which Menzies was later appointed as Lord Warden, provided many of those ships.

Robert Gordon Menzies was born to James Menzies and Kate (née Samson) in Jeparit, a town in the Wimmera region of north western Victoria, on 20 December 1894. He was the fourth of five children, with one sister and three brothers. His father James was a storekeeper and held agencies for farm machinery and as stock agents. James was the son of Scottish crofters who had immigrated to Australia in the mid-1850s in the wake of the Victorian gold rush. His father was elected to the Victorian State

Parliament for the seat of Lowan in 1911 and moved with the family to Melbourne after selling the farm.

One of his uncles, Hugh Menzies, had for two years been a member of the Victorian Parliament representing Stawell up to 1904, while another uncle, Sydney Samson, had represented the Division of Wimmera in the House of Representatives. His cousin, Sir Douglas Menzies, became a justice of the High Court of Australia. Robert Gordon (known to many as Bob) was proud of his Highland ancestry – his enduring

Sir Robert Menzies was the first Prime Minister to face a TV camera.

nickname, Ming, came from the Scots – and his own preferred – pronunciation of Menzies. His middle name, Gordon, was given to him in honour and memory of Charles George Gordon, a British general killed in Khartoum in 1885.

Menzies' formal education began at Humffray Street State School in Bakery Hill, Ballarat, then later at a private school there. He attended Wesley College in Melbourne and studied law at the University of Melbourne, graduating in 1916.

When World War I began, Menzies was 19 years old and held a commission in the university's militia unit. He resigned his commission at the very time others of his age and class clamoured to be allowed to enlist. It was later stated that, since the family had made enough of a sacrifice to the war with the enlistment of two of three eligible brothers, Menzies should stay to finish his studies. Subsequently he was prominent in undergraduate activities and won several academic prizes. He declared himself to be a patriot of Victoria and a supporter of the war and conscription.

Menzies was called to the bar in 1918 and 11 years later he was appointed a King's Counsel. As a member of the Victorian Legislative Council he entered politics in 1928 and in the following year he was elected to the State Legislative Assembly. He served as Deputy Premier from 1932 until 1934.

Successfully contesting the Melbourne seat of Kooyong in the 1934 federal election, Menzies transferred to federal politics representing the United Australia Party (UAP). He was immediately appointed Attorney-General and Minister for Industry in the Lyons government. In 1937 he was appointed a Privy Councillor.

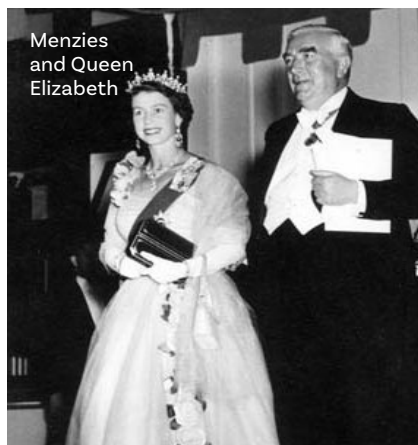


With Lyons' sudden death on 7 April 1939, Sir Earle Page became caretaker Prime Minister until the UAP could elect a new leader. On 18 April 1939 Menzies was elected leader of the UAP and was sworn in as Prime Minister eight days later. The Second World War started in September and thus Menzies, at the age of 44, found himself a wartime leader. The difficult combination of politics and the war saw Menzies lose vital support and he was forced to resign on 27 August 1941 which subsequently saw the Chifley Labor Government take office.

After a split within the UAP, Menzies formed the Liberal Party in 1944. In coalition with the Country Party he became Prime Minister for a second term from 1949, defeating Chifley. He then won successive elections up until his retirement in 1966, serving a record term as Prime Minister.

During the next 17 years there was unprecedented expansion of Australian industry, although in 1956 and again in 1961, Menzies applied severe restrictions on the national economy. He was known to some as 'the great white father', the protector of traditional values; to others as 'Ming the Merciless'; and to waterside workers and others as 'Pig Iron Bob' for sending scrap metal to Japan.

Sir Robert Menzies was the first Prime Minister to face a TV camera. He was a superb orator and had a great attachment



Menzies and Queen Elizabeth



Robert Menzies with then-treasurer Harold Holt

to Britain and to the monarchy. He was a great lover and follower of cricket and it was said tongue-in-cheek that he always managed to be in England when a test match was being played!

He retired from Parliament in 1966 and in the following year he was appointed as Chancellor of the University of Melbourne. He had been created a Knight of the Thistle (KT) in 1963 and appointed a Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports in 1965.

In 1971 Sir Robert suffered a severe stroke and was permanently paralysed on one side of his body for the rest of his life. In March 1977, seated in a wheelchair in the Long Room at the Melbourne Cricket Ground during the Centenary Test, he

was dubbed a Knight of the Order of Australia (AK) by Her Majesty the Queen.

Sir Robert died of a heart attack in the study of his home in Malvern, Melbourne on 15 May 1978. Tributes poured in from around the world, including from Her Majesty the Queen. He was accorded a State Funeral at The Scots' Church, Melbourne; one of the largest ever witnessed in Australia with over 100,000 people lining the streets of the city. Most would agree that he was Australia's greatest Prime Minister. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿

Sourced from *300 Famous Australian Freemasons* with the kind permission of the author Kent Henderson.

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A historic publishing Achievement

The massive crowds, the talent of the competitors **and the inspired run of the Matildas that united a nation** during the recent FIFA Women’s World Cup shone a blazing spotlight on the sport of football (soccer) in this country.

How timely then, after many years of painstaking research, was the release of *Australian Soccer – From the Beginning* by award-winning AAP journalist Ted Simmons, OAM during this epic international event.

Well-known in masonic circles as Past Deputy Grand Master and the former Editor of *Freemason* magazine, the author is also a former athlete, sports administrator, coach, official and referee who was still officiating junior soccer games into his seventies. In addition to his Order of Australia Medal (OAM) he has been honoured with the Australian Sports Medal (ASM), NSW Government Long Service Medal and Life Membership of various club, state and national sporting organisations.

The much-anticipated launch of Ted’s book was held recently at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, with the choice of venue reflecting the historic theme of the book. The Hotel’s conference rooms are integral features of the heritage-listed building which is now owned and operated by the NSW Masonic Club (originally formed in September 1893 as a Music and Literary Society).

Journalists, media personalities – including broadcasting icon Michael Tomalaris – and officials from the Royal



Ted Simmons signing copies of his new book, pictured with Bethany Tate

players and officials from every state and territory.

The richly illustrated volume contains a wealth of facts and figures about the evolution of both the men’s and women’s game in Australia, intermingled with insights and anecdotes that readers will find fascinating and entertaining.

Ted describes how the game began in the 1800s – in coal mines, on goldfields, in gentlemen’s clubs and in trailblazing women’s supporter networks – detailing how each state formed clubs, established competitions, struggled for funding, fought with their administrations, experienced success and failure – and grew into the extraordinarily popular sport for men and women that soccer is in Australia today.

While researching the history of the men’s game dating to 1880 was relatively simple, he found a disappointing lack of information about women’s football.

‘There are many books and lots of information about men’s players and coaches, but hardly anything about the women,’ he said. ‘The more reluctance I faced searching for information about the history of women’s soccer in Australia, the more determined I became.

‘I even found match details and images tucked away in forgotten boxes in old storage sheds at various state and

Australian Historical Society, the Australian Sports Foundation, Football NSW and Commonwealth Games NSW were amongst dozens who attended the launch function. Guests also included famed former Matildas Julie Dolan and Trixie Tagg and many of Ted’s friends, family and fellow masons.

The coffee-table format 336-page book chronicles the rise of ‘the beautiful game’ in this country, with names, photos and stories of hundreds of



Guests across the spectrum of sport and the media enjoyed the book launch

regional federations. But once word got out, information from women's clubs and officials started coming from everywhere.'

As a result, the book is illustrated with a vast array of vintage images and memorabilia which bring to life the origins of the game.

It also details 'the unbelievable bias against women in their efforts to play' including a ban on games at official Football Association pitches because of the old-world belief women should not play sport.

Also in attendance at the book's launch, Pip Butler from PB Publishing said she was motivated to take on the project because 'it's a landmark

publication in Australian sport'. 'I have never seen anything like this level of detail before – while there are many books on men's soccer, and books that cover some aspects of the women's game, there is nothing like the all-encompassing approach Ted applied to his manuscript,' Butler said.

For a glimpse of the book's content, or to order a copy, visit the book's website below! 📖

You can purchase your own copy of Australian soccer – from the beginning from the publisher via the book's website: www.australiansoccerfromthebeginning.com (RRP \$45 + postage and packaging).



VIP guests included former Matildas Julie Dolan (left) and Trixie Tagg (right)

Praise for Ted's book

The book has been lauded by players and officials including former Matildas and Socceroos, and the Swiss-based International Federation of Football History & Statistics (IFFHS), of which Ted is now an Honorary Member, following 25 years on its Executive Committee.

'Until now we've had to go to Wikipedia for the jigsaw version of Australia's football history. Now we've got the factual, passionate, lived and loved version. If I want to have a conversation about who we are – this'll be my go to. Thanks Ted.'

– Paul Wade OAM
Former Socceroos captain

'The book covers the game at state as well as national level. It is particularly strong on women's contribution to the game in Australia. There are many illustrations, some seen here for the first time since their initial publication.'

– James Johnson
CEO Football Australia

'It is a meticulously researched book by renowned soccer advocate and historian Ted Simmons and as Ted writes: "The century ended with Australian women's soccer participating in the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. The sport had travelled a long way from the days when women wore sandshoes for a social kick and giggle in a park.'

– Julie Dolan AM
FA Hall of Fame, Matildas Cap No. 1

'Ted has delved deep into the core of the essence of those who have made such a substantial contribution to the game here.'

– Rale Rasic OAM
Socceroos Coach, FA Hall of Fame



An international success

In June 2023, the Annual Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for Australia meeting **marked a significant milestone** in the history of the Supreme Council 33rd Degree.

With participation from delegations representing the Supreme Councils of New Zealand, the Philippines and Germany, the week reflected a truly global ambiance, exemplifying the universality of the Scottish Rite. As has become tradition, members hailing from all corners of the country united to commemorate the Rite through a series of ceremonial and social events. The NSW Masonic Club and the Sydney Masonic Centre stood as the primary venues for these celebrations, both holding significance within the realm of Freemasonry in our state.

The opening night was the exclusive dinner at the Blue Angel Restaurant, owner Ill. Bro Marcello Marcobello, 30th Degree pulled out all the stops to treat Supreme Council's members and their partners to an unforgettable seafood extravaganza that left everyone in awe.

The work for members of the Rite opened with a 32nd Degree ceremony held under the Waratah Consistory Charter. Prince Charles Edward Stuart Council No 1745 followed this with an Installation of its Grand Commander and an Elevation to the 30th Degree. These highly anticipated ceremonies were attended by over 85 members at the Sydney Masonic Centre. Following the impressive ceremonies, attendees were treated to a sumptuous lunch. As usual the members present where treated to the customs that "showcase" the traditions and practices of this unique Council.

The week also saw memorable events for partners who joined with the members at various social gatherings including a 'Meet and Greet' along with several casual drinks, dinners and social gatherings. This offered time out from the ceremonial aspects and further strengthened the camaraderie and fellowship.

Not forgetting the essential role of the ladies in the Masonic community, a dedicated Ladies' itinerary was arranged. It included a delightful 'Ladies Who Lunch' High Tea, a ferry ride to Manly for lunch, a glamorous dinner at the NSW Masonic Club, and a shopping expedition, ensuring that the partners of Freemasons had an equally enjoyable and fulfilling experience during the event.

Thursday's meeting gave members of the Rite an opportunity to hear from the Grand Master of NSW and the ACT, MW Bro Les Hicks. He spoke of exciting new developments affecting Freemasonry and also his fondness for the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite and his most recent advancement to the 32nd Degree. The Supreme Council also addressed 'Questions with Notice' from its members, a most important opportunity to engage with our leadership and



The Supreme Council

highlight the accessibility of the Supreme Council.

No Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for Australia annual meeting is complete without the holding of a most important Ceremony, one which is a 'Ritual' cornerstone within the Rite, the annual 33rd Degree ceremony. This high-degree ceremony, held at the Sydney Masonic Centre, was attended by a gathering of 72 esteemed 33rd degree masons, adding an air of mystique and reverence to the proceedings that saw four members from various Regions of Australia elevated to this degree and assume responsibilities as District Commanders within the Rite.

As always, an 18th Degree Perfection Ceremony was held. This solemn and esteemed ceremony, the 'backbone' of our Rite, was held under the Charter of the Dr JP Rizal Chapter No 263. The backdrop for the ceremony was one of Sydney's truly special masonic venues, the Egyptian Room in Petersham. The Most Wise Sovereign, Ill. Bro Khris Albano, 32nd degree, who is also the current Deputy Grand Master for NSW and the ACT, presided over an exceptional demonstration of this Degree by the Officers and members of this Chapter. A truly momentous occasion, with a distinct sense of dignity and grandeur.

One of the crowning moments of the Supreme Council Meeting was the closing white-tie Gala Dinner, a truly elegant affair that left a lasting impression on all who attended and gave everyone a chance to reflect and celebrate the significant events of the week. The evening was elevated by mesmerising performances from two extraordinary entertainers – Victor Valdes, one of Australia's leading harpists and Daniel Tambasco, a regular crowd favourite with his remarkable tenor vocals.

Signing of the Concordat – a most significant event

The 'Spirit of Unity' that exists within the Rite was best exemplified with the signing of a Concordat between the Supreme Council for Australia and the Supreme Council for New Zealand. This significant event will see the strengthening of the relationship and shared goals between the two Supreme Councils.



A Concordat was signed between the Supreme Council for Australia and the Supreme Council for New Zealand.

The combination of international representation, distinguished ceremonies, memorable social events and the warm embrace of the masonic spirit made this gathering an unforgettable celebration of the Rite's enduring principles and timeless values. Certainly,

the cherished memories of this Supreme Council Meeting will differ for each of the members, however the one strong and common belief that will endure amongst all present was the reinforced bonds of that prized, cherished and valuable asset we share, Brotherhood. ⚖️



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An excellent start to A Start in Life's new scholarship!

A Start in Life's Career and Skills Development Scholarship focuses on **broadening students' career horizons and building essential skills** for modern careers.

You learn a lot in school, but it can't cover everything! Schools teach vital academic knowledge, but often don't focus on all the skills that modern employers are looking for today. Additional time, assistance and resources are also required to help students discover the career options available and most suitable to them.

This new scholarship kicked off with a bang as a small group of Year 9 students from a diversity of schools and backgrounds came together to attend the first workshops. The team at A Start in Life are

Students collaborated in small groups to communicate why a specific sport should be included in the Olympics. This group of students chose cricket!

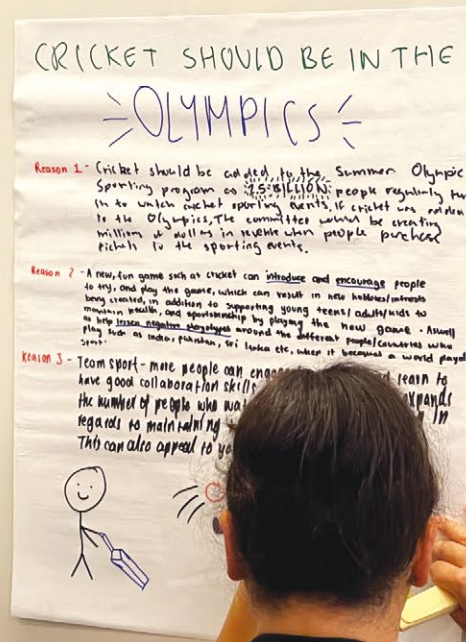
delighted with what the students have already gained, as well as their dedication and self-awareness. Beginning with Communication and Collaboration, this series of workshops focuses on developing 21st Century skills and behaviours vital to students' future careers.

During these workshops, students not only learnt about communication and

collaboration, but practiced using those skills in role plays, group discussions and problem solving activities. These aspirational students were encouraged to be curious and ask questions, step outside their comfort zone and consider how they'd like to grow. They learnt the value of non-verbal communication as they acted out emotions. They analysed body



A brainstorm from one group of students exploring various blocks and solutions to collaborating at school





This is your Captain speaking...

Flight VH-OJL Dili to Gloucester (UK), fasten your seat belts and prepare for the take-off of **part two of our flight story in the January edition.**

language and facial expressions. They learnt techniques to overcome communication difficulties. They explored the importance of setting expectations before collaborating, and then practiced collaborating to find solutions to problems. They came to understand that conflict is naturally bound to occur, but 'it's how we react or solve the problem that matters' (Vee, 14 years old).

Our one-on-one monthly Career Coaching sessions are also underway, where students are encouraged to explore and discover their innate strengths, skills and values, and how they may relate to possible careers. We look forward to telling you more about these soon! 🛠️

We have successfully refuelled in Dili and we shall be heading for Singapore via Surabaya. Once we are in the northern hemisphere we will be heading northwest across Asia and the Middle East. Challenges will await us, and we will need to be cautious.

You will read how our detailed planning helped us avoid the well-meant but somewhat idiosyncratic assistance of ground staff in various developing countries.

The flight will end in England, but our memories will remain with us for the rest of our lives. Our return flight was less exciting, less exhausting and we caught up with a lot of sleep!

The flight will end in England, but our memories will remain with us for the rest of our lives.

We hope to conclude this story with a presentation at Bankstown Airport – after all this is an aviation story and it needs to end within sight of light aircraft. 🛩️

Scan this QR code to donate and support the student's *A Start in Life* assists!





A journey of fraternal bonds

For the past two decades, my lodge, Lodge Galileo 1019, has **warmly welcomed and cared for** visiting Freemasons from Italy.

The bonds formed during these encounters have endured the test of time, and we have stayed connected through internet and video calls. Lodge Galileo, with its deep appreciation of all things Italian – the cuisine, culture, art, and history – provides its members with an opportunity to reconnect with their Italian heritage and language. Consequently, brethren visiting from Italy are considered part of the Lodge Galileo family.

While attending lodge meetings is what visiting brethren expect, Lodge Galileo goes a step further by organising outings to restaurants, showcasing the beauty of Sydney's landmarks, and extending invitations to our own homes. One visitor, Brother Gianni D'Ignoto, has been a regular guest in Sydney, passionately enamoured with

Australia and its delights. Each visit with Gianni turns into a delightful gastronomic adventure, often ending with his jovial plea, 'No more food, please!'

During one of Gianni's pre-Covid-19 trips, he was accompanied by the Master of his lodge, Brother Rosario Carapezza. Following a leisurely Italian lunch, accompanied by a few glasses of vino, I made a promise to Gianni and Rosario. I promised that, during my next trip to Europe, I would make a detour to their hometown of Palermo, Sicily.

Since that promise, the world has witnessed significant changes, including a pandemic and the joyous arrival of my two grandchildren. However, our communication through phone calls and online forums remained steadfast, and with each interaction, the memory of 'the promise' echoed in my mind.

More recently, I received an unexpected phone call from the Sydney Masonic Centre. They informed me that Brother Luigi Monteleone from Italy was present in their office, seeking to attend a lodge meeting. As fate would have it, Lodge Galileo was meeting that very night, and I promptly arranged to meet

Luigi for coffee, and enjoyed a delightful lunch with him before attending lodge.

Luigi was overwhelmed by the warm hospitality shown to him by the brethren of Lodge Galileo. We hosted him, his wife and son for numerous dinners and lunches, and I organized a ferry trip to showcase some of Sydney's most breathtaking sights. During these encounters, an even deeper connection was forged.

Finally, the month of May arrived, marking my journey to the 53rd European Conference of Supreme Councils of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, where I hold the esteemed position of Grand Secretary General. This was the opportune moment to fulfill 'the promise.' I excitedly informed Gianni and Rosario of my intentions to visit Palermo and expressed a desire to attend a lodge meeting.

The vibrant city of Palermo embraced me on a memorable Tuesday in May. After indulging in the city's captivating sights and savouring its delectable street food, I arrived, perched upon a scooter, at the Palermo Masonic Centre. It was here that I was given the great honour of becoming an Honorary Member of a lodge. However, the roots of the following story stretch back many years.

What followed felt like a whirlwind of events. Lodge Triquetra 582, situated in the Orient of Palermo, decided to make me an Honorary Member. Approvals were swiftly sought from the Grand Orient of Italy and the UGL of NSW & ACT. With an overwhelmingly positive response, Lodge Triquetra rearranged their meeting schedule to accommodate my visit, spreading the news among the Sicilian brethren. The power of social media brought word of this significant occasion to several Italian brethren whom I had met during their visits to Sydney.

And so the night of the meeting arrived. Despite Lodge Triquetra's modest size, only 17 members, I was astounded to find the anteroom filled with over 70 brethren all eager to meet the Australian brother. To my surprise, among them was a brother who had visited Sydney over a decade ago, having travelled more than 100 kilometres to attend this gathering. Another joyful encounter awaited me when I met



The brethren of Lodge Triquetra with RW Bro De Candia in the centre background.



Delectable street food in Palermo

Brother Dhimitris Nacollari, a member of Lodge Galileo who currently lives in Milan. To add to my overwhelming emotions, Brother Luigi had journeyed from the northernmost point of Italy to share in my happiness and offer his unwavering support.

Lodge Triquetra had meticulously arranged every detail to ensure my comfort and sense of belonging. The

Australian flag stood proudly on display, and the strains of the Australian national anthem filled the air. Upon entering, I noticed that the Terrestrial Globe atop one of the columns serendipitously positioned Australia's map towards the entrance. Though deemed a coincidence, I couldn't help but perceive it as divine providence.

However, what truly moved me was the profound emotional connection I

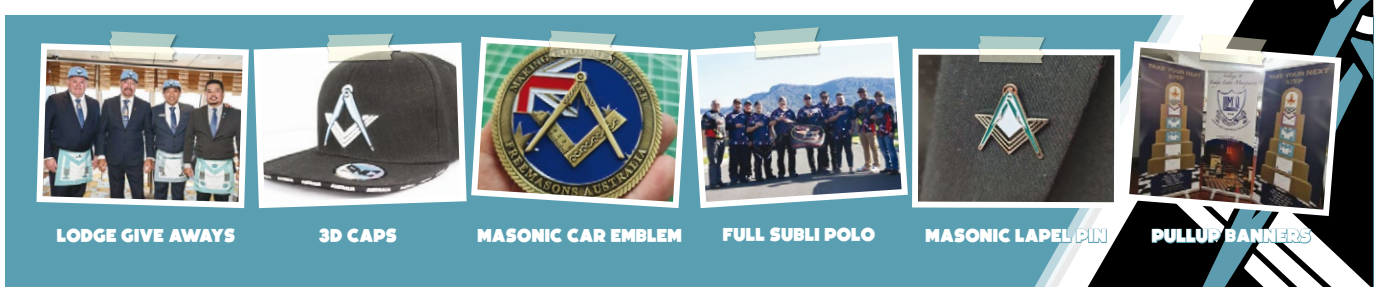
experienced throughout the meeting. Several brethren spoke of their heart-warming reception in Sydney by me and the brethren of Lodge Galileo. It was the culmination of the profound fraternal love that was manifested on this emotional night in Palermo, as I fulfilled my promise and was embraced as an Honorary member of Lodge Triquetra 582. 🏠




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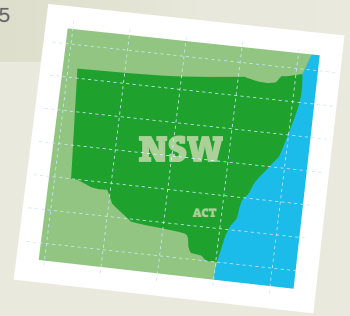
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On the level

Sharing your stories from around the jurisdiction



Mobile Masons

Mobile Mason muster

Mobile Masons gathered at Gulargambone Caravan Park for a mid-year rally, which included a visit to Australia's first commercially registered regional airport.

This group photo was taken prior to departure for the inaugural running of the *Winging it down the Castlereagh Air Show*. The event was organised by the Arthur Butler Aviation Museum at Tooraweenah. It recreated the romance and adventure of air travel from a bygone era and promoted arguably our most historical regional airport.

Aviators returned to pre-1948 flying days when there were none of the modern aids pilots enjoy today, relying only on landmark navigation and dead-reckoning techniques.

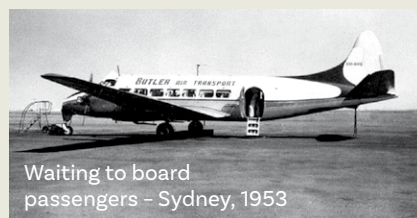
Mobile Masons visited the *Winging it down the Castlereagh Air Show*

Participating aircraft flew over the communities of Binnaway, Mendooran, Gilgandra and Gulargambone before returning to Tooraweenah.

Visitors came together at the aerodrome in a village fair atmosphere, adding greatly to the day's entertainment.

Everyone was able to get up close and personal with the planes and pilots, while enjoying local hospitality and food.

The Mobile Masons are Freemasons and their partners from all over NSW and the ACT who travel to a new destination in Australia each year. When there, they spend around \$40,000 to help the local economy and they raise money for a local charity.



Waiting to board passengers - Sydney, 1953



Lodge Inverell No 48

Inverell library exhibition

Lodge Inverell has a collection of historic masonic items on display at the monthly Inverell Public Library Exhibition.

The display includes photos of Past Masters of the Lodge dating back to the early 1920s. Some items date back to the Lodge's origin in 1875. We have also included regalia from other masonic orders to add a bit of colour and interest to the exhibit.

We decided to try something new while this display is on show at the library: the Lodge is doing a mailout to the Inverell Shire to spread the word that Freemasonry in Inverell is alive and well. It has generated some interest in Inverell with three of our Lodge members being interviewed on local radio.

We hope that we may generate interest from prospective members.



Members of Lodge Southern Cross show off their good sides!

Lodge Southern Cross No 91

A starry Installation

On Tuesday 13 June, Lodge Southern Cross installed its 139th Worshipful Master, Bro Jesus Flores, into the Chair of King Solomon. Our highly respected DGIW, VW Bro Steven Bright, represented the Grand Master, assisted by the GDC VW Bro Jano Toussounian. Bro Daniel Prypchan provided a beautiful musical interlude and enhanced the depth and colour of the odes.

W Bro Flores was initiated, passed and raised in Lodge Southern Cross in 2000, and has been a consistent and reliable contributor to the Lodge. He has performed many offices over his 22 years in the Lodge, besides the normal line of progression. The Lodge is looking forward to this year, as Jesus' theme is 'Get Healthy' and Lodge meetings will include many lectures,

presentations and events designed to enable the membership to Get Healthy!

After the ceremony, brethren and partners assembled at the Festive Board in the SMC, where further live music was enjoyed, and a caricature artist pictorially expressed the true nature of his subjects. A very happy evening, and the start of a very productive year.

Lodge Southern Cross has a long and colourful history, being formed in 1881 and originally meeting at the Camelia Grove Hotel in Alexandria. Its brethren come from a variety of backgrounds, countries, faiths, and professions. Traditionally LSC has been focused on education, exploring the depths of masonic knowledge, and encouraging quality ritual.



Bro Alexander presents Bro Cameron with his 75-year certificate

Lodge Leeton-Yanco No 313

75 years a Freemason

Lodge Leeton-Yanco's oldest member was presented with his 75-year certificate and jewel earlier this year by RW Bro Ian Alexander PAGM.

W Bro Ian Cameron was initiated in August 1947 in Lodge Barellan and was made a Master Mason in August 1948 also in Lodge Barellan.

Ian was Master of Barellan three times. Lodge Barellan amalgamated with Leeton-Yanco Lodge a few years later. He now lives at the Alf Herrmann Home in Leeton. Ian's son Gordon is a member of our Lodge and is sitting beside him in the photo.

The Lodge of Truth No 26

Firewood Fundraiser

On 17 June, The Lodge of Truth held its Annual Monster Firewood Raffle and Auction and raised just under \$7,500 for five local charities. The brethren of the Lodge were able to supplement this amount with a successful Masonicare

Interaction Grant, bringing the total amount to just under \$9,500. While one load of firewood was raffled during the morning, a further 11 loads were auctioned off by RW Bro Phil Shoemark (pictured with his back to the camera) after the raffle was drawn.

The charities supported were the Braidwood Life Centre, Braidwood and District Education Foundation, Braidwood Scouts, Palarang Prostate Cancer Support Group and Braidwood Hospital Auxiliary. All the charities warmly welcomed the donations.

The Lodge of Truth extends its heartfelt thanks to members of the



The Firewood Raffle and Auction underway!

local community and local businesses who give generously to the auction every year. A special thank you to the Masonicare Interaction Grants process.



Lodge Canoblas Lewis No 86

Lodge Canoblas Lewis celebrates in force

The Installation at Lodge Canoblas Lewis was held on 17 June, when Bro Neil Milton was installed as Master for the first time. It was a wonderful occasion with over 70 masons present.

The Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro Khris Albano, was in attendance with an impressive delegation supported by Grand Lodge officers from the surrounding area.

The Installing Master was RW Bro Dr Rob Finlay PAGM. It is interesting to note there were another three PAGMs in the lodge, with apologies from two more. This alone is an indication of the strength of

More than 70 members of Lodge Canoblas Lewis came together to install Bro Milton

Freemasonry in rural NSW. Importantly there were three Entered Apprentices and two Fellowcrafts present as well. Almost all the progressive offices were filled by Master Masons which augurs well for the future.

During the ceremony a 50-year service certificate was presented to W Bro David Provost, a stalwart of the Lodge.

A banquet was held at Waratahs Sports Club and was enjoyed by all.



L-R: W Bro Paul Mostowyj and W Bro Lachlan Youll

Lodge Army and Navy No 517

Army and Navy let loose

As brothers in arms and in the Craft, the brethren pictured have served together for over 20 years. At the June meeting of Lodge Army and Navy, W Bro Lachlan Youll had the great pleasure of installing his comrade W Bro Paul Mostowyj into the Chair of King Solomon. The ceremony took place under the starry sky of the spectacular Lodge Room 3 at the Sydney Masonic Centre in the presence of 35 brethren. The Grand Master was represented by RW Bro Paul Barber who was assisted by VW Bro John Khoury as Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The Lodge is renowned for a rather boisterous festive board and the installation dinner reinforced that reputation!

W Bro Youll presented RW Bro Paul Barber with a commemorative bottle of port as a reminder of the approaching centenary of the Lodge.

W Bro Mostowyj is the Master of a dynamic and successful lodge and faces a busy year which will include the centenary celebrations, the usual ANZAC and Remembrance Day meetings as well as a full programme of degree work.

Lodge Mark Owen No 828

A member regained

On Saturday 12 August 2023, III Bro Owen Sandry received his re-joining certificate from V III Bro Bob Mackinnon 33rd Degree, District Commander at Central Rivers Sovereign Council 26 Wauchope for the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for Australia.

This was the District Commander's first official visit to the Council as he had only been invested in Taree the month before.

Whether it's Council, Chapter or Lodge it is painless to re-join and be a supporter rather than a statistic!



III Bro Owen Sandry (right) received his re-joining certificate from V III Bro Bob Mackinnon (left).

Eltham celebrates 110 years

Lodge Eltham is situated in a lush and picturesque valley on the North Coast 30 minutes inland from Ballina and an hour from the Queensland border.

Lodge Eltham was consecrated in 1911. The idea of forming a masonic lodge in Eltham must have occurred in the first half of the previous year, because by 20 July in 1910 a petition to form a new lodge was drawn up. It was signed by 17 interested local masons, sponsored by Richmond River Lodge 77, countersigned and approved by Lodge Bangalow 250 and forwarded to the Grand Master for approval.

A hundred years later the masonic community supporting Lodge Eltham is still as strong as ever. Visitors come from Lismore, Bangalow, Dunoon and Byron Bay to attend regular meetings and to enjoy the hearty welcome that is typical of Lodge Eltham.

At the August meeting the Grand Master MW Bro Les Hicks attended the annual Installation and investiture of Officers. (Lodge Secretary W Bro Colin Myers believes it is possible that this may have been the first time a Grand Master has ever visited Lodge Eltham.)



The Grand Master was announced by RW Bro Ray Weblin PJGW, GDC and he then entered the Lodge supported by 23 Grand Lodge Officers.

RW Bro Robert Guthrie assumed the chair to perform the Re-Installation ceremony of W Bro Malcolm Fox, which was performed with a high degree of proficiency and solemnity.

Ladies, guests and 34 visitors joined Lodge Eltham brethren at the Installation

supper where the Grand Master presented W Bro James Yeo, VW Bro John Fraser and RW Bro Weir, members of Lodge Eltham, with their 60-year certificates and jewels. MW Bro Hicks spoke on what an honour and privilege it was to be able to present the awards to three such dedicated and devoted Freemasons.

Congratulation to W Bro Malcolm Fox and the members of Lodge Eltham; here's to a successful year ahead.

Lodge Challenge No 284

A Challenging Install

On Thursday 22 June, RW Bro Liam Cooper PJGW was re-installed as Worshipful Master of Lodge Challenge in Concord

This will be RW Bro Cooper's seventh time in the Chair. The Installing Master for the evening was the WM, W Bro Timothy Osborne, who stepped down after two years leading the Lodge.

The Grand Master's Representative was the local DGIW for District 24, VW Bro Franciscuss Sunga. It was the first installation during his term as DGIW. Our new Worshipful Master had only recently stepped down as DGIW, having spent a double term in that role through the Covid period.

The Installing Master was ably assisted by the Grand Director of Ceremonies VW Bro Owen Sandry PDGIW GSTW who travelled from Port Macquarie for the evening. The Herald, W Bro Glen Townsend, came all the way from Henty!

One of the oldest members of the Lodge, RW Bro John McGregor PAGM, travelled from Newcastle to give the Address to the Brethren. Our Education Officer, VW Bro Lachlan Gelling, the current DGIW for District 46, travelled from Bathurst.

RW Bro Cooper can now relax back into the role of Worshipful Master, a role he is very familiar with.





Lodge Warragamba No 541

A Burns spectacular – in July!

Following the success of Lodge Warragamba's inaugural Burns Spectacular in 2022, the follow up event on 22 July this year was even more popular. The dinner and show was completely sold out, and everyone enjoyed the evening immensely.

In an effort to re-start the social side of the Lodge following the Covid hiatus, the members decided to hold their Burns Night in July instead of the more traditional January. They agreed that they did not want

to wait until January 2024, and if you can have Christmas in July then why not Burns?

It was on! What was originally going to be just the usual piping in and hacking up of the haggis soon grew to be a full-on dinner and show, with pipes and drums and dancers and poetry and singing.

The Parramatta RSL Caledonian Pipe Band have long shared a great association with Lodge Warragamba, and they pre-

sented in all their glory to give two sets of magnificent traditional pipe songs. Also appearing were the Southern Cross Highland Dancers, amazing everyone with their skill and agility, performing reels, highland flings, sword dances and even a hornpipe.

Following the 'Selkirk Grace' as recited by Mary Bell OAM, the haggis – star of the show – was piped in with great ceremony. RW Bro Terry McCallum turned on his best Scottish accent to recite one of Burns' most famous pieces 'The Address to the Haggis'. The deed being done, and the whiskey toast being slammed down by the haggis party, the haggis was marched to the kitchen to meet its culinary end.

A vocal interlude then followed with Burns related songs, including 'Burn for You' (John Farnham), 'Red, Red Rose' (Robert Burns) and 'Fire' (the Pointer Sisters).

At the end of the night, a lone piper accompanied RW Bro McCallum as he recited the poetry portion of Auld Lang Syne, and when it came to that well known chorus, the whole pipe band struck up and marched in. The crowd were on their feet and joining hands as all sang together that most famous of Scottish songs, before heading homeward after a memorable night.

The funds raised will be donated to Mama Lana's – a local Penrith charity that provides food – and sometimes shelter – to those who need it. In the next issue we will cover the presentation of the MasoniCare cheque to this very worthwhile and desperately needed organisation.

Lodge Dawn No 511

Dawn of a new era

Lodge Dawn conducted their annual Installation in July and in the opinion of the brethren it was an ideal way to start a new masonic year that augurs well for the future of the Lodge.

The new Master is W Bro James Robert Neil, who was a Master Mason before ascending to the Chair of King Solomon.

The Lodge welcomed 50 brethren, including 25 Grand Lodge Officers of whom 10 were 'chains'.

RW Bro Todd Shadbolt was the Grand Master's representative and was impressive as always. RW Bro Ray Weblin PJGW substituted as GDC for VW Bro Bruce Smith who was ill on the night.

The Twin Towns Masonic Centre hosted both the Installation and the banquet. The traditional two course meal was catered for by Lodge members with Mrs Pamela Ayscough, the wife of Lodge Dawn's Secretary, providing the traditional cake. W Bro Neil's mother assisted with the catering and since Neil's father is a Past Master, she certainly knew what was involved.

A great night was had by all, and the brethren look forward to another successful year at Lodge Dawn.



Lodge Hurlstone Park United No 288 and District 34A

A win for prostate cancer research

On Saturday 22 July 2023, Lodge Hurlstone Park United and District 34A hosted a successful and heart-warming prostate cancer charity night at the Concord West Masonic Centre. The night was made possible by the generous support and sponsorship of Cricelli Jewellers and Associazione Regione Lazio, to whom much appreciation and many thanks for the support and help in raising substantial funds for the cause.

120 enthusiastic attendees, including Freemasons, community members, and

The members of the fundraising team raised \$22,800 for the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia

distinguished guests gathered on the night to raise funds and awareness for the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia.

A highlight of the evening was the key-note speech by MW Bro Dr Gregory Levenston, Past Grand Master, who graciously shared his medical experience of

prostate cancer and men's health. His insights added significant value to the event, providing attendees with vital information about this disease and its implications.

One of the biggest successes flowing from the charity night was the impressive donation of \$22,800 to the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. Mr John Fullagar, representing the Foundation, spoke passionately about the mission, values, and support provided by the Foundation in the fight against prostate cancer. This significant donation will go a long way in funding research, support programmes and awareness campaigns to combat this prevalent health issue.

The evening also included an exciting raffle, with Lodge Jerusalem 1056 the lucky winner of the first prize, generously donated by Cricelli Jewellers and accepted by MW Bro Jamie Melville, Past Grand Master, and a member of Lodge Jerusalem.

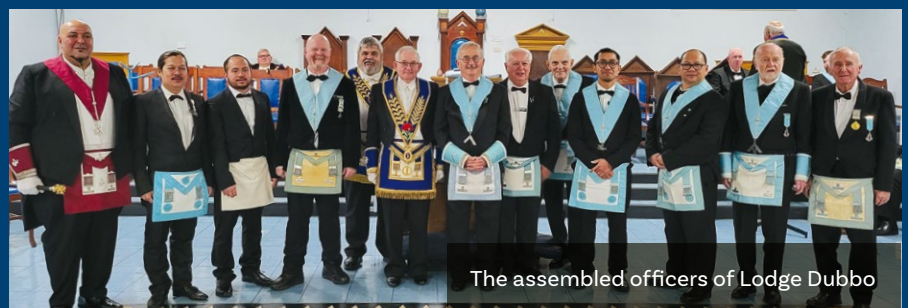
W Bro Cricelli of Lodge Hurlstone Park United acknowledged each of the donors present and their specific contributions, and this was capped off with a group photo. He also thanked the Associazione Regione Lazio committee members for the preparation of a delicious four-course meal.

The success of this charity night is a testament to the power of collective effort and the spirit of giving back to the community. All attendees took away a greater understanding of the latest research being undertaken to investigate treatment and preventative measures for this insidious but all too common disease.

Lodge Dubbo No 906

A Dubbo dubbing

On Saturday 17 June Lodge Dubbo installed RW Bro Louis Letfallah into the Chair of King Solomon. The Installing Master was RW Bro John Howey whose work was an example to the brethren. RW Bro Terry Priestley was the Grand Master's representative and was supported by a delegation of nine. The ritual



The assembled officers of Lodge Dubbo

was assisted by VW Bro Simon Hadid as Grand Director of Ceremonies.

Twenty-nine brethren and their guests enjoyed a delicious supper at the Western

Star Hotel. During the Lodge meeting the ladies and guests were entertained by the WM's daughter Houda who spoke about the many aspects of hearing impairment.

Lodge St Andrews No 281

ANZAC at Manilla

Freemasons from the North-West, New England, Far North Coast and Sydney gathered at Manilla for Lodge St Andrews' special Starlight Anzac Service Meeting which was held outdoors on an airstrip on the southern outskirts of Manilla on Saturday 1 April.

The night also marked 110 years of Freemasonry in Manilla and we were proud to have the Grand Master there to help us celebrate this very important occasion.

Other special guests at the meeting were brethren of Lodge Highway 837 in Sydney. The Lodge was originally formed by employees of the Department of Main Roads, hence the name. Its present incarnation is for masons who ride motorbikes. It has a travelling charter and its members ride to fraternal visits such as this special 'Starlight' meeting of Lodge St Andrews. They were not disappointed.

Supper and lodge rooms were set up on the airstrip. Brethren and invited guests met at 4pm at the newly set up supper room before walking about 50 metres to



L-R: VW Bro Vizintin (Lodge Highway) and W Bro Huenteler (Lodge St Andrews) at Manilla in April

a specially constructed lodge room where the Anzac Service was conducted.

Visiting Lodge Highway Worshipful Master Bojan Vizintin opened the Lodge in ample form at the invitation of Lodge St Andrews' Worshipful Master George Huenteler.

Lodge St Andrews members and invited guests were seated and visiting brethren and the Grand Master entered the lodge

room on their motorcycles. This was a once in a lifetime experience for all involved and the brethren thanked the Grand Master for his support and participation.

The Grand Master accepted the gavel and conducted a very special and moving Anzac Commemoration Service with VW Bro Stephen Eather of Lodge Namoi, Narrabri, standing on the back of a Land Rover to deliver the Anzac oration. The Grand Master then laid a wreath at the cenotaph which had been erected in the middle the lodge room.

After the Grand Master retired and the lodge had been closed, everyone walked back to the supper room for a delicious meal and some wonderful country-style socialising. The catering for this special evening was a camp-oven dinner prepared by Bro Ian 'Biggles' Bignall and his team. W Bro Huenteler presented the Grand Master with a cheque for the Grand Master's Disaster Relief Appeal.

The next morning brethren and guests were treated to a wonderful breakfast at the Manilla Masonic Hall where they celebrated W Bro George Huenteler's birthday.

A very worthwhile and significant event held in a wonderful country town.

Huge thanks to all involved.

Lodge City of Newcastle No 170

Newcastle nights

Further testimony to the ongoing strength of Freemasonry in the Greater Newcastle Region occurred on 25 July when RW Bro Peter Frame PAGM installed his successor Bro Simon Melmeth into the Chair of King Solomon at Lodge City of Newcastle.

RW Bro Gary Herrett PAGM had the honour of representing the Grand Master and was proud to lead a fine delegation of 27 Grand Officers. RW Bro Herrett made a point of vigorously promoting the Grand Master's ideals, of *Humility, Kindness and Generosity*.



As well as local and mid-north coast Freemasons, visitors came from as far away as Tamworth, Sydney, Wagga Wagga and Cootamundra to be part of a full lodge room where they witnessed excellent ritual

enhanced by some fine music. The happy event concluded with a tasty banquet in the supper-room of Warners Bay's modern and beautiful masonic building.

Lodge Indus No 1055

Indus' fifth

2023 marks the fifth anniversary of Lodge Indus's consecration on 7 July 2018 by MW Bro Jamie Melville who was then Grand Master. Despite Covid-19 and its challenges when many lodges had to cancel or postpone installs or reinstall their sitting WM, Lodge Indus in the last five years has had five WMs – a great achievement for such a young lodge. In late July the Turramurra Masonic Centre was the colourful venue for Lodge Indus's Installation.

Bro Vivek Papineni was installed into the Chair of King Solomon by the WM, W Bro Anu Mehrotra. The installation was conducted in the presence of RW Bro Khris Albano, DGM. It was a very joyous occasion, attended by well over 80 brethren from various lodges.

As always RW Bro Troy Gara (GDC), VW Bro Peter Goodridge (DGIW D23), VW Bro Edgar Dela Cruz (GStdB) and W Bro Simon Haddad (GStd) were very attentive and supported the brethren of Lodge Indus throughout the ceremony.



L-R: RW Bro Khris Albano DGM, W Bro Ravi Gnanadicka, W Bro Harbir Nindra and MW Bro Jamie Melville

The Lodge also had the pleasure of congratulating two brethren (W Bro Ravi Gnanadickam and W Bro Harbir Nindra) who had been Freemasons for 50 years and presenting them with their certificates and jewels. Everyone had a

pleasurable South, and the brethren truly enjoyed each other's company.

Lodge Indus meets at the Castle Hill Masonic Centre on the fourth Friday of each odd-numbered month. (Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, Nov.)

Lodge Warragamba 541

Decades together on the square

At Lodge Warragamba's meeting on 21 July RW Bro Bruce Quirk was presented with his 50 Year medal and certificate. The Worshipful Master delegated the honour of presenting the medal to RW Bro Victor Brangwin of the Queens Lodge, who was actually the Worshipful Master who initiated Bruce into Lodge Warragamba all those years ago.

RW Bro Brangwin was joined by RW Bro John Gordon, also of Lodge Warragamba, who has been with Bruce through his entire masonic career. The three have remained close friends over

the decades both inside and outside of the Lodge, and they all shared tales from old times with the assembled brethren.

The tables were turned at the following meeting in August when RW Bro Quirk was invited by the WM to present RW Bro John Gordon with his 60 year medal and certificate. John was initiated at Lodge West Epping, moving afterwards to Lodge Wahroonga in 1966, before settling at Lodge Warragamba in 1974, where he served as Secretary for 27 years. RW Bro Gordon was congratulated by acclamation.

Congratulations, Bruce and John!



L-R: RW Bro John Gordon, RW Bro Bruce Quirk, W Bro Stephen Hardy (WM)



On 27 July in the presence of RW Bro Robert Drake PAGM, Bro Christopher Cooper was installed as Worshipful Master of Lodge Artarmon for the masonic year 2023/24. The ceremony was skilfully conducted by the Installing Master VW Bro Shane Foley. Our newly installed Master brings with him a distinct vision and unwavering dedication to upholding the principles of Freemasonry. Although relatively new to the Craft he possesses extensive knowledge, experience, and a deep understanding of the Lodge's history.

The new WM paid tribute to W Bro Rod O'Donnell, the IPM, for his determination and leadership which guided the Lodge successfully through the Covid troubles and gave the Lodge continued momentum during the peak of the pandemic.

Following the ceremony, the brethren and guests gathered for a celebratory dinner. During the meal, they honoured their dedicated Secretary, VW Bro Tony

Freeman, by presenting him with a crown and an oversized chocolate cake to commemorate his 82nd birthday.

Lodge Artarmon United is an example of the rich history of Freemasonry, formed through a series of consolidations with lodges Artarmon, Chatswood, Advance, Drummoyne, Prudence, Birkenhead, and Mansions. This united front was essential to preserve their heritage and provide a home for a declining membership. The name 'United' aptly reflects their shared past.

Lodge Artarmon United can proudly trace its heritage back to 1893 when W Bro Harrison served as its first Worshipful Master. Being a part of District 22, the Lodge remains remarkably active, attracting several new candidates who have been able to embark on their own journeys of masonic discovery and self-development.

The lodge congratulates the new WM and his officers, and the brethren are committed to assisting him achieve a successful year in office.



Lodge Antiquity No 1

Family lodge or family affair?

It was another emotional night at Lodge Antiquity's August meeting, when VW Bro Wing Commander Ivan Benitez-Aguirre, occupied the Chair of King Solomon and initiated his son, Nicholas Raphael Benitez-Castellanos.

W Bro Dr Paul Benitez-Aguirre was the Junior Deacon, and a special participant on the night was VW Bro Ivan Benitez-Salazar (affectionately known as 'Brother Dad') acting as Senior Warden.

Three generations of the Benitez family have now been initiated into Freemasonry. VW Bro Ivan Benitez-Aguirre has another son, Joshua, who is also a Lewis, and another brother W Bro Terry Benitez-Aguirre; both are members of Lodge Antiquity.

The Benitez family now has six members in Lodge Antiquity, five of whom were Lewises.

Benitez family members have occupied the Chair of Lodge Antiquity seven times.

At the Installation in June, VW Bro John Khoury installed his son Joseph, (another Lewis), into the Chair of King Solomon.

Lodge Antiquity is focussed on building its junior membership and strengthening the future of the oldest lodge in Australasia.



The gathered members of Lodge William Ross

Lodge William Ross No 76

An end, a beginning

Lodge William Ross held its final meeting on 1 August. On this sad but memorable occasion, W Bro Peter Watt, the Worshipful Master, surrendered the charter to VW Bro Simon Hruza DGIW 47. There were nearly 40 brethren in attendance for what was a well-attended meeting. All but two of the members of Lodge William Ross transferred their membership to The Goulburn

Lodge of Australia 58, which gives Freemasonry in Goulburn a sound foundation for future growth.

On the same night we initiated Bro Anthony Horvath. RW Bro Ken Bellingham occupied the Chair and was assisted by brethren from Lodge Ethos, Lodge William Ross and The Goulburn Lodge of Australia.



Bro Ray Leonzini and wife Jeanette

A bridge to remember

Holidays can usually be remembered by at least one incident that stands out.

VW Bro Ray Leonzini shared his walk along the Capilano Bridge as part of a tour from Vancouver during a recent visit to Canada. His account to members of Lodge Eastern Suburbs 1050 provided an entertaining record of how enjoyable and sometimes hair-raising a holiday can be.

Lodge Wahroonga No 674

Relationships come to the fore

In some ways it was just another Past Masters' Night. Yet it was an exceptional night.

At its August meeting Lodge Wahroonga passed Bros Josiah and Daniel Chapman to the Fellowcraft degree. The candidates are sons of W Bro Robert Chapman, so the Worshipful Master W Bro Damien Ackland invited their father to occupy the Chair and conduct what was an emotional ceremony.

In the lodge room and at the south the Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro Khris Albano, emphasised the role of relationships in Freemasonry. He spoke of the relationships between lodges and highlighted the fraternals from lodges Harold Herman Unity and Kuringai that had added to the evening's significance. He emphasised the value of relationships between individual brethren



L-R: W Bro Robert Chapman, Deputy Grand Master, Bro Daniel and Bro Josiah Chapman, VW Bro Peter Goodridge DGIW D23

and of course dwelt on the Chapman brothers and their father. At the South the Deputy Grand Master mentioned the relationships created by service to the Craft

and concluded his talk by addressing each of the ladies and thanking them for their support of their partners and of Lodge Wahroonga.



Lodge Bland re-enacts historic ceremony

Lodge Bland No 337 was formed in 1919 in response to **the upsurge of interest in Freemasonry which followed the Great War.**

Thousands of men returning from the conflict were seeking meaning in their lives, a return to basic moral values and a continuance of the comradeship forged in the heat of battle. Many found these things in the beautiful ritual and fraternal fellowship offered by Freemasonry.

At the first meeting following Lodge Bland's consecration a motion for a scheme to raise funds for the building of a new masonic hall was adopted. Brothers Fred and Rupert Grellman donated a sulky 'to be used as a fundraiser for the Building Committee'. The Raffle raised £100. More funds were raised from the sale of debentures, and dues were increased from two guineas to three pounds.

A tender for £2,706 for the construction of the new temple was accepted, but the contractor then refused to sign,

wanting an extra £500. 216,000 bricks had been ordered from the local kiln.

The foundation stone of the new building was laid by the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of NSW MW Bro William Thompson on 1 September 1923.

Until the new temple was completed, Lodge Bland met in the Oddfellows Hall. The new building was finally dedicated by MW Bro Thompson on 9 October 1924 in the presence of 205 brethren. This was a remarkable achievement considering the country was in depression at the time.

The building served for many years as the District's social hub with debutante balls, bachelor and spinster balls, wedding receptions, 21st birthday parties and many other happy occasions being celebrated within its welcoming walls. This tradition has recently been revived by the energetic work of the Tivoli Theatre Committee.


To commemorate the centenary of the laying of the Foundation Stone on 1 September 1923, the public were invited to the corner of Court and England Streets on Saturday 2 September



Corn, wine and oil were applied

this year to witness the current Grand Master, MW Bro Les Hicks and his Ceremonial Team conduct a re-enactment of this historic and traditional ceremony.

There was much masonic symbolism on display as the Ceremonial Team checked the Stone's alignment with the Working Tools of a Fellowcraft Freemason; the Square, the Level and the Plumb Rule, and the Elements of Consecration, Corn, Wine and Oil, were applied.

Lodge Bland meets at the Masonic Hall West Wyalong on the third Thursday of each month (except for the Installation month of March, when it is held on the third Saturday). 



Lodge Bland gathers with the Grand Master and the Ceremonial Team to commemorate the occasion.



Bill becomes a Living Legend

Some of you are aware that RW Bro Bill Deeley has been awarded a special recognition in Bathurst which means that he is now a **Bathurst Living Legend**.

Five others were given the same award in 2023. The Council awards a maximum of six such awards each year on Foundation Day.

This day recognises the foundation of Bathurst by Governor Lachlan Macquarie on 7 May 1815. (Bathurst is the oldest inland town in Australia.)

Bill is well-known in his community – he regularly visits people in the Whiddon Nursing Home in Kelso, is a member of the Bathurst Camera Club, and a registered Judge for the Federation of Camera Clubs. He also judges competitions for various clubs throughout NSW.

The title Living Legend recognises the achievements of local individuals...

And if that were not enough, Bill is a life member of the Deniliquin Apex Club, the Bathurst Historical Society, and The Bathurst Family History Group.



Bathurst's Living Legend Award is given to people who have made a major contribution to Bathurst over many years. The award conditions state:

'The title Living Legend recognises the achievements of local individuals and the way they have contributed positively to the community. They are proven leaders amongst their peers and possess a drive to promote the positive qualities of Council, the community and local business.'

Several relatives and friends asked Bill for details of his award. The following description of his week plus the citation are what he forwarded to relatives and friends.

A normal week:

Monday: University of Third Age (U3A), Course: Current Affairs. Afterwards about 12 men and women have coffee together. Two Mondays a month I attend meetings of the Bathurst Camera Club.

Tuesday: Morning tea with a retired group of men. An interesting group: a surgeon; three retired doctors; a psychologist; an architect; a district hospital manager; a nurse and myself. Most days we attract a couple of 'extras'. One morning a month I attend a combined Probus Club meeting.

Wednesday: Two mornings a month I go to a men's Probus Club. Every week I attend U3A, on Wednesdays the course is Philosophy. Again, after Philosophy a group go out for coffee together.

Thursday: My cleaner comes every second week. (I use the cleaner because of my bad knee.) On the other Thursday I work on my photography, and often go out taking photographs. One Thursday a month I attend meetings of the Bathurst Historical Society.

Friday: During the morning, coffee on a farm outside Bathurst with five men. During the afternoon I play chess with the U3A.

Saturday. I take my lady friend shopping, and then spend time with her.

Sunday: Usually free, but every second week I usually visit people in a nursing

home. I also do a few small jobs for pensioners. (A few months ago, I installed a new toilet cistern.)

Masonic: I attend my Craft Lodge meetings and committee meetings every month. I attend Royal Arch meetings and Committee meetings six times a year. I also attend Ancient and Accepted Rite and Constantine Meetings.

I did manage to get my Lodge to form a small committee to investigate how we could improve our masonic activities. We developed a list of about 25 items which we have been working through, but the committee has suspended meetings at present due to a probable consolidation soon.



Lodge of **sorrow**

Lodge Sir James Hardy No 1046 is **mourning the loss of an esteemed brother** to The Grand Lodge Above. He is here remembered by RW Bro Malcolm Stradwick PJGW.

RW Bro Sir James Hardy Kt, OBE, PDGM was initiated into Freemasonry in November 1962 in Lodge City of Sydney No 952, Passed in January 1963 and Raised in July 1963, becoming WM in September 1971. In 1993, the Lodge consolidated and became Lodge Mackay City of Sydney No 761 where Jim remained a member until the charter was surrendered in 2000.

Jim was born at his family's home at Seacliff, South Australia on 20 November 1932. Jim always referred to himself as being 'a 1932 drop – same as the Harbour Bridge and the ABC'.

Jim was the youngest of four children of Eileen and Tom Hardy. His father was killed in a commercial plane crash in

1938, due to pilot error when passing through cloud.

A close mate of his late father, Sir James Gosse, supported Jim through Saint Peter's College in Adelaide.

Jim did his National Service after leaving school, then spent two years on

He was the first skipper ever to win a race against the USA in a Cup Challenge.

a farm before joining Hardy's Wines. He chose the business side rather than being a vintner and completed his accounting qualifications. He maintained his certifications right up until his final year. As well as his strong business acumen, Jim was a top wine promoter and a natural leader.

Jim was moved to Sydney to build the business here. Up until the end, he often travelled between Sydney and Adelaide. He became Chairman in 1980 and held the role until the company was sold. He remained as a consultant to the new owners up until this year.

During his life, Jim held director and chair roles with numerous organisations in medical research, land-care and sailing. He mentioned once that he was on the Father-of-the-Year Committee. Jim loved AFL and became a Director of Sydney Swans after their move from South Melbourne in 1982 and was later made a Trustee of the Sydney Cricket Ground.

When Jim was around ten years of age he developed a passion for sailing, patching up the family Cadet dinghy then later building his own. In his new Cadet, Jim represented South Australia in the National Dinghy Championships, aka the Stonehaven Cup. Ironically the event was sponsored by Baron Stonehaven, and Jim was unaware that this sponsor was a Past Grand Master of the UGL of NSW and that one day he himself would become Deputy Grand Master.

Jim's passion for sailing led him to more successes than we can list here. He built a Sharpie for the Olympic trials in 1956, then won the national title in Perth in 1959. From there he moved on to the Flying Dutchman class and the 505 class. Jim also represented Australia in the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo – one of his proudest achievements.

In 1966 Jim won the first world championship for an international class of sailing to be held in Australia.

The America's Cup: In 1970 Jim was chosen by Sir Frank Packer to skipper his yacht *Gretel II* to challenge for the America's Cup. His close defeat as helmsman was a crushing blow. However his sportsmanship was acknowledged in a telegram later found in his papers. It was from The White



Gretel II crew 1970. Jim [skipper] is centre bottom with John Bertrand standing behind and John Freedman back row with the hat.

*Jim still valued
decency and manners
during competitions*

House saying how impressed the American public was with his manners and sportsmanship despite his loss, and how they looked forward to his next challenge. It was signed by the President of the USA, Richard Nixon.

He was America's Cup Skipper on two more occasions; 1974 in *Southern Cross* and *Australia* in 1980.

He was the first skipper ever to win a race against the USA in a Cup Challenge. Jim was Alan Bond's Team Advisor when *Australia II* won the cup in 1983. During the elimination trials, Jim skippered *Australia II*, winning nine out of ten races, thus contributing to our team becoming the challenger.

In 1980-81 Jim was honoured as Australian Yachtsman of the Year and was inducted into the America's Cup Hall of Fame in 1994.

Belying his easy-going demeanour, Jim was a dedicated and aggressive competitor. His son David found journals Jim had written in his teens, detailing every yacht race each year, analysing the performance, what went right and what went wrong. It was clear to see that he was a very harsh self-critic.

Whilst being this aggressive competitor, Jim still valued decency and manners during competitions - earning him the nickname Gentleman Jim. The motto on his Armorial Bearings is *'E Moribus Sit Homo.'* Translated: 'May he be a man on account of his character!' or, 'Manners maketh the Man'.

In 1974 Jim was made an OBE, and then a Knight Bachelor in 1981.

In 1975, Jim was given the task of Chairing the organising committee for the highly successful opening of the new Sydney Masonic Centre. He was appointed Deputy Grand Master, 1976-77.



Jim playing pirate during the Consecration of his Lodge; with Malcolm Stradwick (left).

Had his then domestic situation been different, Jim may well have been later elected Grand Master. However he didn't put his name forward - his family came first.

Jim was a Foundation Member of The Sydney Lodge 1020 and remained a member until his passing this June.

Jim's State funeral was held in the Grand Hall of St Peter's College in Adelaide on 23 June. I'm very grateful to our Lodge for sponsoring myself and Bro Sean Langman to attend. A wake was held for Jim on 11 August at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron. It was

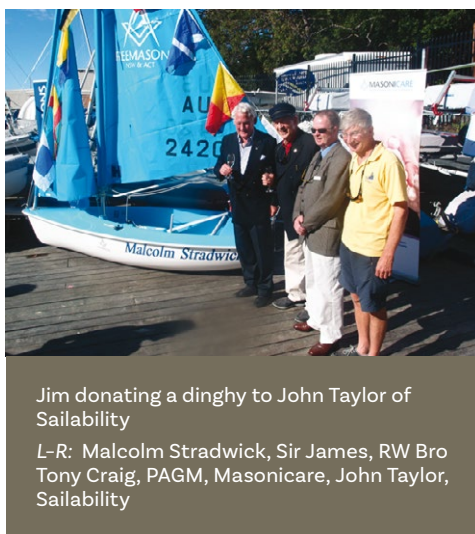
attended by Sean and myself, as well as VW Bros John Freedman and Peter Carton. Sean delivered a moving Eulogy, during which he spoke of Jim's passion for Sailability, leading to our Lodge's sponsorship of that organisation. He also explained that it was Jim who suggested our Lodge motto - 'To be happy and confer happiness'. The event was a memorable occasion, with many light - even humorous moments.

Twelve years ago when I rang Jim and asked, 'Right Worshipful Brother Skipper, how would you like a Lodge named after you while you are still on this sublunary and probationary abode?' His response was, 'You better hurry up crewman.'

As our Patron of Lodge Sir James Hardy No 1046, Jim is one of only two masons who have had a lodge named after them while still alive. Since our Consecration in May 2013, he has attended every meeting except for four when he was overseas or in Adelaide at meetings. He has met and encouraged every newly initiated brother.

James Gilbert Hardy was loved and adored by many hundreds, if not thousands of people. No-one ever heard him say a bad word about anyone, nor did anyone say a bad word about him.

Grand sailing over the bar skipper - we will all miss you. 🇺🇦



Jim donating a dinghy to John Taylor of Sailability

L-R: Malcolm Stradwick, Sir James, RW Bro Tony Craig, PAGM, Masonicare, John Taylor, Sailability



Welcome to our new members

- ABRAHAM**, Daniel Lodge Sir James Hardy 1046
- ACA**, Josh Lodge Mark Owen 828
- ALI**, Ali The Cedars Lodge 1041
- AMANOUEL**, Martin Lodge Sutherland 585
- AMARILLO**, Sid Lodge Pennant Hills 905
- APPS**, Richard Lodge Young Burrangong 20
- ARIAS**, Diego Lodge Miguel De Cervantes 1038
- ARMSTRONG**, Thomas Lodge Castlereagh 72
- ARUCAN**, Dan Lodge West Epping 390
- ASHMORE**, Anthony Lodge Woollahra 341
- BARCLAY**, Jonathan Lodge Ethos 963
- BENITEZ-CASTELLANOS**, Nicholas Lodge Antiquity 1
- BENSON**, David Lodge United St Andrew Singleton 34
- BROWN**, Paul Lodge Woollahra 341
- BROWN**, Aaron Batemans Bay Daylight Lodge 1013
- BRUCE**, Wayne Lodge Caledonia of Canberra 938
- BRYSON**, Ian Lodge Bega Remembrance 220
- CACHO**, Don Lodge Gowrie of Canberra 715
- CANADIAN**, Sam The Cedars Lodge 1041
- CHAMI**, Elias Lodge Woollahra 341
- CHAMNEY**, Connor Lodge Condobolin 185
- CHONG**, Derek Lodge Warragamba 541
- COLLIGAN**, Robert Lodge Commonwealth of Australia 633
- CONNERTON**, Mark Lodge St George and St Andrew 7
- CORCORAN**, Jack Lodge Warragamba 541
- CROSSLEY**, Shaun Lodge Prince Leopold 71
- CULTURA**, Eric Lodge St George and St Andrew 7
- CVETANOVSKI**, Trajce Lodge Burnside 729
- DAVIS**, Kyle Lodge Queanbeyan St Andrew 56
- DIESEL**, Dre Lodge Double Bay 331
- DIXON**, Peter Lodge Lake Macquarie 243
- EL KHECHEN**, Milad The Cedars Lodge 1041
- FLORES**, Jaime Lodge Novacastria 765
- GORO**, Esam Lodge Horace Thompson Ryde 134
- GRAY**, David Bundaleeah Daylight Lodge 992
- GUIRGUIS**, Mickel Lodge St George and St Andrew 7
- HABABAG**, Jay Lodge Nepean 29
- HANNA**, Emmanuel Lodge Celebration of Fairfield 345

- HASAN**, Turan Lodge Panania 845
- HELLIER**, Alan Lodge Kensington 270
- HETHERINGTON-WELCH**, Harry Lodge Middle Harbour 85
- HOLLIS**, Michael Lodge Warragamba 541
- HORVATH**, Anthony William Ross 76
- INGRAM**, Beau The Hills Lodge 1025
- IVANOV**, Santiago Lodge St George and St Andrew 7
- JONES**, Philip Wallis Plains 4
- JUSTO**, Mark Lodge Carnarvon 172
- KANAAN**, Elie Lodge Sutherland 585
- KATSOUKIS**, Vasiliou Lodge Eastern Suburbs 1050
- KHALID**, Suleman Lodge St James 45
- KNOTT**, Rory Lodge University of Sydney 544
- LAVAKI**, Jordan Lodge Celebration of Fairfield 345
- LINDSAY**, Jaymes Lodge Capitol 612
- MAGRI**, Anthony Lodge Gloucester 291
- MAGSAKAY**, Raymond Lodge Jose Rizal 1045
- MERCADO**, Ali Lodge Novacastria 765
- MILNE**, Damian Lodge Blacktown Kildare 393
- MONIACI**, Mario Lodge Woollahra 341
- NGOR**, Martin Lodge Gowrie of Canberra 715
- NICO**, John Lodge Resurgo 223
- PARDO**, Maxwell Lodge Queanbeyan St Andrew 56
- PEAKE**, Robert Lodge Phoenix 1034
- PERKINS**, David Lodge Warringah 83
- RENNIE**, Adam Lodge Sutherland 585

- ROGERS**, Robert Lodge Ku-Ring-Gai 1033
- ROJAS**, Jose Lodge Caledonia of Canberra 938
- ROLFE**, Casey Lodge Farrer 93
- SAFINDI**, Mohamad Bankstown Daylight Lodge 996
- SANTOS**, Mark Lodge Jose Rizal 1045
- SCOTT**, Andy Lodge Warragamba 541
- SELOUKJIAN**, Vanis The Leichhardt Lodge 133
- SHAFAT**, Omid Leinster Marine Lodge of Australia 2
- SHAMS**, Rahmattullah Lodge Celebration of Fairfield 345
- SINGH**, Simrat Lodge Warragamba 541
- STEBNICKI**, David Lodge Horizons 1032
- TADIAMAN**, Fernando Lodge Celebration of Fairfield 345
- TANADA**, Marck Lodge Celebration of Fairfield 345
- THOMPSON**, Gregory The Queen's Lodge 229
- TRUONG**, Van Lodge Warragamba 541
- UGOV**, Alexander Lodge Castlereagh 72
- UTTLEY**, Robert The Lodge Federation 196
- VITNELL**, Reginald Lodge Resurgo 223
- WEHBE**, Remy Lodge Kilwinning 13
- WITCHARD**, Robert Lodge Liverpool Plains 191
- ZANOTTO**, Valerio Lodge Bulli Thirroul 1040
- ZEMAITIS**, Michael Lodge Fire Brigades 940
- ZERVIS**, Jonathan Tweed Daylight Lodge 136
- ZURDO**, Daniel The Leichhardt Lodge 133

Brain benders answers

Below are the answers to the quiz on page 19. **How many did you get correct?**

- 1 Westpac
- 2 Golden Watte
- 3 Pacific Ocean
- 4 Normans and
- 5 Emily Blunt
- 6 Twelfth Night
- 7 Australia,
- 8 Aurnm
- 9 Austria
- 10 False
- 11 Teal
- 12 New York
- 13 Watford FC
- 14 Alex de Minaur
- 15 Turkey
- 16 Ball
- 17 Chile
- 18 Eyes
- 19 Red, white, gold
- 20 Taryn Brumfit



Congratulations to our masons

75 YEARS SERVICE

CAMERON, Ian Lodge Leeton-Yanco 313

70 YEARS SERVICE

BERTRAM, Peter Lodge William Ross 76
DUNN, Noel OAM The Sir Walter Scott Lodge 123
JACKSON, James Lodge Ulmarra 186
KEOUGH, Stanley Lodge Kiama 35

60 YEARS SERVICE

COCHRANE, Robert Lodge Nowra Unity 60
CURTIS, Peter Lodge Ulmarra 186
FRASER, John Lodge Eltham 272
GORDON, John Lodge Warragamba 541
HILL, Robert Lodge Wyvern 813
JONES, Robert The Yass Lodge of Concord 27
KEARNS, Kelvin Lodge Ulmarra 186
NICHOLLS, David Lodge Frenchs Forest United 249
WEIR, Ronald Lodge Eltham 272
WHITBY, Douglass The Mountain Lodge 190
YEO, James Lodge Eltham 272

50 YEARS SERVICE

ARCHER, Kevin OAM Lodge Kirrawee 903
BANKS, Ross Lodge Enterprise 400
BOND, Trevor Bundaleeah Daylight Lodge 992
BRADLEY, Laurence Lodge Pacific 298
FILE, Leigh Lodge Burnside 729
GREENAWAY, Rodney Lodge Toukley 933
HOPKINSON, Kenneth Lodge Canberra Unity 465
McGLINN, Kevin OAM Balmain Lodge 23
NEWCOMBE, Raymond OAM Lodge Commonwealth of Australia 633

PAGE, Graeme Lodge Inverell 48
POACHA, Framroze Lodge Millennium 2000
POWELL, Adrian Lodge William Ross 76
WADE, Gordon OAM Lodge William Ross 76
WALSH, Lawrence Riverina Thompson 104

40 YEARS SERVICE

MACLEOD, Leslie Lodge Courallie 235
MONTGOMERY, Vincent Lodge Warragamba 541
PROBERT, Winstan Lodge Inverell 48
TUFFLEY, Alan Lodge Emu Plains 860
YOUNG, John Lodge of Peace 120



Comedy Corner

READ AND LAUGH:

The ability to speak several languages is an asset, but the ability to keep your mouth shut in any language is priceless.

Be decisive. Right or wrong, make a decision. The road is paved with flat squirrels who couldn't make a decision.

Happiness is not having to set the alarm clock.

"The starting pay is \$40,000. Later it can go up to \$80,000." Great. I'll start later."

If you're not called crazy when you start something new, then you're not thinking big enough.

When the pool re-opens, due to social distancing rules, there will be no water in lanes 1, 3, and 5.

Tip: Save business cards of people you don't like. If you ever hit a parked car accidentally, just write, "Sorry" on the back and leave it on the windshield.

When I get a headache, I take two aspirin and keep away from children just like the bottle says.

Becoming an adult is the dumbest thing I've ever done.

Did you hear about the restaurant on the moon? Great food, but no atmosphere.

If you see me talking to myself, just move along. I'm self employed. We're having a meeting.

"Your call is very important to us. Please enjoy this 40-minute flute solo".

I envy people who grow old gracefully. They age like a fine wine. I'm ageing like milk: Getting sour and chunky.

Today's 3-year-olds can switch on laptops and open their favourite apps. When I was 3, I ate mud.

Tip for a successful marriage: Don't ask your wife when dinner will be ready while she's mowing the lawn.

So, you drive across town to a gym to walk on a treadmill?!

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