

# FREEMASONRY

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**Service and Enjoyment**

## FREEMASONRY TASMANIA

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# Much ado about everything!

I find myself dealing with a stage of my masonic career which I had not really anticipated - on the one hand looking towards the end of my term as Grand Master, while on the other, continuing with masonic activities which take up a major portion of my life.

Moving around the Masonic community I am frequently greeted with the comment, "Not long now!" My response is to point out that there are still several months to go and much to be done.

Inevitably my attention is constantly drawn towards February's Grand Installation, which I strongly urge brethren to attend.

The planning committee has been appointed and has been meeting monthly.

The programme for February 21 to 24, 2008 has been drawn up; key players in the ceremonial team have been appointed; Campbell Town District High School has been booked for rehearsals; fliers were included in delegates' satchels at Grand Installations in Victoria (March) and Queensland (June)...the list goes on.

Now and then I realise that I have done *something* for the last time; the first such instance was in June last year when I submitted a nomination for my successor.

I have recently set the lodge installation programme for September 2007 to February 2008, and this duty will pass to my successor in the subsequent six months.

## From the Grand Master

At its next meeting, the Board of General Purposes we will be appointing convenors for the three district committees which will recommend brethren to fill the appointed Grand Lodge offices for 2008.

The committees will report in September, leading to the call for nominations for the elected offices and membership of our two Boards.

Meanwhile, the daily demands of Craft masonry keep me well occupied.

Recently I visited Lake Lodge to undertake the sad duty of receiving the Warrant of the Lodge on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Tasmania.

A few days later I travelled to Burnie Masonic Lodge to present its annual education awards - \$250 each for two Grade Ten students and a \$1 000 award for a university student.

In the following ten days I travelled to Hobart for a meeting of the Board of General Purposes, to Brisbane for five nights in connection with Queensland's Grand Installation, then back to Tasmania for the Installation meeting of Lodge Rosetta and a meeting of the Meander Lodge, in which I am Secretary.

**Julius Kearon  
Grand Master**

### Front Page, top left:

*The Launceston Masonic Club supported an appeal by record-breaking yachtsman Ken Gourlay (pictured left) to raise funds for medical research. Details, Page 3.*

### Front Page, lower:

*The Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro Norm Cooper, skydived from ten thousand feet onto Broome racecourse during a holiday in Western Australia. "It was awesome," he said, adding that on the way down he looked towards the Darwin Masonic Centre (where this edition of Freemasonry Tasmania was being prepared - see adjacent story), "but no one was home at the time".*

### Front Page, top right: they just can't put them down!

We've always maintained that readers can't put down their copies of *Freemasonry Tasmania*. Here's the proof: members of the Darwin Royal Ark Mariners Lodge (No 51 SA/NT) and a visitor from Queensland (at left) can be seen in the Darwin Masonic Centre, engrossed in copies of the Tasmanian publication while RW Bro Ian Pontifex, the Mark/Mariner Grand Master's representative in the Northern Territory, attempts to "spruik" *The South Australian and Northern Territory Freemason*.

The reason for this friendly rivalry was that this edition of *Freemasonry*

*Tasmania* was produced at the Darwin Masonic Centre by our travelling Editor, W Bro Ian Cutler.

This was the second time that the hospitable freemasons in "The Centre" made it possible to produce the Tasmanian magazine at what one might call "a distant remove": the February 2007 edition was largely produced in the Alice Springs lodge rooms - and work on it began in the Quorn lodge rooms in northern South Australia!

A previous edition was produced in the Geraldton Masonic Centre in Western Australia.

The Launceston Masonic Club has presented the Around-world record-breaking yachtsman Ken Gourlay with a \$1000 donation towards his fundraising efforts for the Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust.

Our **Front Page photo** shows Mr Gourlay (left) receiving the donation from the President of the Launceston Masonic Club, W Bro John Wilson, watched by the club Treasurer VW Bro Peter Radford and club member RW Bro Alan Cohen, who also has an official involvement with the Trust

The presentation was made at the Clifford Craig Centre on June 13, 2007.

It brought to one hundred thousand dollars the total raised by Ken over the previous six months.

He set this target at the start of his record-breaking voyage in November 2006.

# Sailing away - with help 'from the masons'

Ken's goals were...

1. To become the first Tasmanian to sail around the world unassisted and non-stop.
2. To become the oldest solo circumnavigator in the world.
3. To become the fastest Australian to complete the course.
4. To become the highest fundraising circumnavigator whilst sailing around the world.

The money raised will support medical research studies as nominated by Ken.

These include a study of eye health in teenagers thought to be susceptible to

eye strain through looking at computer, television, mobile phone and personal organiser screens, and playing video games.

The study will compare these findings with the affects on the same teenagers if they spend similar amounts of time pursuing a balance of other lifestyle, sport and leisure activities which require different eye functions.

Ken Gourlay has agreed to address an open meeting of Lodge Esk later in the year: the date has not been set.

**Phil Baker, Executive Officer  
Clifford Craig Trust**

## A lecture 'from the colonies'

The Hobart Lodge of Research will be hosting a visit by a lecturer from the Australian and New Zealand Masonic Research Council at the Sandy Bay Road masonic centre on October 22.

The lecturer is RW Bro Jim Daniels, a Past Master of Quator Coronati, who is on a bi-annual lecture tour sponsored by ANZMRC.

His talk is entitled "Grand Lodges in British Colonies, 1850 to 1890 - Imperial Consolidators or Commonwealth Seedlings".

A charge of \$10 per person will cover admission and supper. Tickets are available from Lodge of Research members, or you could contact the secretary, W Bro Lance Brown on 6228 2018 or by email...lbr42585@bigpond.net.au

## WELCOME ABOARD



*to our new Brothers...*

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P. J. Castleton	Nugara Lodge
D. J. Davies	Nugara Lodge
M. L. Broadbent	Hutchins Old Boys Lodge
K. L. Murchie	Lodge Clarence
C. W. Steele	Huon Lodge
D. R. Hay	Esperance Lodge
C. G. Williams	Lodge Rosetta
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## Peace Lodge celebrates sesquicentenary

*The Lodge of Peace, No. 7 TC, is holding celebrations to mark its 150th anniversary this month (August 2007).*

*The Lodge was consecrated at Longford on August 10, 1857.*

*It moved to Stanley and later to Hamilton on Forth (now known simply as Forth) and finally to Penguin in 1913.*

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# Charity and benevolence

Tasmania's four chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star has contributed \$13,109 towards an extensive list of charitable donations by the Order around Australia between January 2005 and December 2006.

This was announced at the Order's Eleventh Biennial Session in Adelaide in June, which was attended by visitors from New Zealand, the United States and Canada.

Part of the Session is open to the public and to representatives of Associated Orders and the Masonic fraternity.

It was during this segment that the 2005/06 donations totalling \$447 185 were detailed, including the significant Tasmanian contribution.

Many members of the Order in north Queensland were affected by Cyclone Larry, and an appeal to chapters around Australia raised \$22 934.

The tsunami in South East Asia resulted in \$9 280 being donated through the Rotary Club of West Pennant Hills and Cherrybrook to assist in the establishment of a day care centre at Patong Beach in Thailand.

Other charities to receive significant donations were selected by the Most Worthy Grand Matron and the Most Worthy Grand Patron: they were the Asthma Foundation, which received \$7 988 and Diabetes Australia, which received \$21 639.

## Tasmanian contributions highlighted in OES charitable donations



As with many fraternal organisations, the Order of the Eastern Star is experiencing a decline in membership.

However, its commitment to assisting those less fortunate than ourselves in their local communities has not waned.

### FLASHBACK PHOTOS:

*Above: Members of the Order of the Eastern Star from throughout Australia and New Zealand attended an earlier Biennial Session at the Wrest Point Convention Centre.*

*Right: In 2006, representatives of the Hobart Chapter of the OES made donations towards the purchase of a new "dragon boat" for the breast cancer awareness organisation, Dragons Abreast.*



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## Why stay at home?

The Southern Tasmanian Masonic Widows Association holds monthly gatherings at the Waratah Hotel in Hobart for a short meeting followed by lunch.

Why stay at home alone? You are most welcome to join us.

We are a friendly group who meet socially to chat and enjoy a meal together.

We gather on the fourth Friday of each month at 11 a.m.

For further information and assistance, please contact me on 6273 7072.

**Margaret Jabour**  
Publicity Officer

# Charity and benevolence

## Cancer Council morning tea a great success

A Cancer Council morning tea held by the ladies and brethren of Lodge Rosetta on June 1, 2007, drew an even greater response to last year's event, raising \$2 027.

To all those wonderful people who came along, others who helped the organisers and who assisted with donations of goods and cash, a big thank-you: we could not have done this without you.

The total included generous cash donations from the Southern Masters Association, St Paul's Lodge and brethren of the masonic fraternity.

The lodge and the ladies thank the following businesses for their donations:

- Woolworths Claremont
  - Claremont Newsagency
  - Montrose Veterinary Clinic
  - K & D Warehouse Hobart
  - K & D Warehouse Derwent Park
  - Harlequin Books
  - BWS Claremont
  - Stoneman's Garden Centre, Glenorchy
  - Claremont Hardware
  - Banjo's Glenorchy
  - Baker's Delight Glenorchy
  - Rod and Range Sports Glenorchy
  - Cadbury's Claremont
- Pam and Derek Ward**

Pictured below are some of the participants enjoying the Cancer Council morning tea.



Photo courtesy of The Advocate

Pictured (from left) are Devonport Lodge members VW Bro Ted Priest, W Bro Geoff Brown (representating the North West Masonic Benevolent Society), the Worshipful Master, W Bro Wayne Connell and W Bro Noel Von Bibra, with student Jacob Saltmarsh on one of the bicycles.

## On yer bike...charitably!

Devonport Lodge achieved good publicity for its gift of two bicycles and two helmets to the School of Special Education.

The Advocate newspaper reported on May 22 that over the past twenty years, the lodge had supported the school with donations including digital cameras and a DVD player, as well as supplying and placing a security fence.

The newspaper added that the lodge also assisted the North West Masonic Benevolent Society to buy a reclining massage chair for the school and funding toward one of the school buses.

The principal, Alison Horch, gave Devonport freemasons a tour of the school to show the equipment being used.

A morning tea with the students followed what was described as an enjoyable day for all.

Ted Priest

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# ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

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# A 'daily advancement in knowledge'

From time to time brethren seek an explanation of the relationship between Grand Lodge and Other Masonic Orders.

There is really no mystery about it but hitherto it has been difficult to come up with a statement that satisfies all parties.

However, at the Annual Investiture of the United Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of England on April 25 this year, the MW Grand Master, HRH the Duke of Kent, made a positive statement about our relationship with the long-established and well known Other Orders of freemasonry to which many Craft members belong.

The statement clarifies the situation and is particularly notable as it comes from a Grand Master of forty years standing!

Whilst the statement is not binding on other Grand Lodges, particularly because arrangements with the Holy Royal Arch vary, it will in practise be helpful to regular grand lodges worldwide.

The Grand Master said, in part:

"The Preliminary Declaration of the Act of Union of the two Grand Lodges in December 1813 says that it was to be declared and announced that pure Antient Masonry consists of three degrees and no more, that is to say Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft and the Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch.

"This has been the position for nearly two hundred years and will remain unchanged.

"However, since many members of the Craft are members of these Orders, I am pleased to acknowledge formally their existence and regularity, and in particular their sovereignty and independence.

"The best known of these Orders are, Mark, Ancient and Accepted Rite, Knights Templar, Royal and Select Masters, Royal Ark Mariner, Red Cross

## Grand Lodge and Other Orders

of Constantine. Allied Masonic Degrees, Order of the Secret Monitor and Knight Templar Priests.

"I also accept the valuable role these Orders play in providing additional scope for Brethren to extend their Masonic research in interesting and enjoyable ways.

"The Orders I have just mentioned are simply the best known and largest of those practised in London, the Provinces and the Districts overseas.

"I am aware that there are in addition others that have a valid place in Freemasonry and with whom we enjoy a good relationship.

"What is very important is that Brethren who join these other Orders should retain their membership of a Craft Lodge and I am pleased to know that the Orders themselves will be encouraging their members to do this," the Duke of Kent concluded.

Thus when a newcomer to the Masonic scene in Australia seeks approval to use the facilities of masonic centres and enrol members (for example, The Masonic Order of Athelstan), it can affirm that it is acknowledged as an Order consistent with regular freemasonry, although it cannot claim to be recognised by the UGLE.

Murray Yaxley

## The European Masonic Forum

*Considering how freemasonry spread across Europe in the Eighteenth Century, and indeed how it has blossomed there in the last twenty years, it becomes evident that the Craft has a very strong cosmopolitan and supra-national character: national borders are stepping stones rather than barriers.*

*Late in April this year, senior representatives of twenty-one regular Masonic jurisdictions met in Prague for a European Masonic Forum which had the overall theme of "a European masonic identity?"*

*The forum considered ways in which all European jurisdictions could get together.*

*After three hundred years of Masonic cooperation, and in the absence of a "supreme Masonic authority", there remains a need for a simple means of expressing uniformity of guiding principles and solidarity of purpose.*

*For example, the terms regularity and recognition need clarification, not*

*only for brethren of some of the newer jurisdictions but also some older ones.*

*To address these issues within a European framework, as well as to enable all European jurisdictions to get direct and authentic information and analyses, a "European Committee of Information on Regularity" was suggested. It could be modelled on a similar committee which operates in North America.*

*European bilateral and multilateral trans-border meetings like those held by the Danube River lodges and "Same Name" lodges provide opportunities to establish and enhance good fraternal relations at all levels.*

*The next European Masonic Forum in May 2008 will be held at Winterthur (near Zurich), hosted by the Swiss Grand Lodge Alpina.*

*The Grand Lodges of Croatia and of Bosnia/Herzegovina have each offered to host future annual European Masonic Forums.*

Murray Yaxley



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## Around and about



*Pictured at the Esperance Lodge meeting which featured the presentation of three Grand Lodge Certificates are (from left, front row) Bros K. H. King, K. J. Law and D. R. Hay, and (from left, rear row) W Bros P. Calvert and P. P. Bradley and RW Bro N. R. Cooper.*

## Warming the cockles

It was possibly the coldest night of the year, but at the Franklin Masonic Centre on June 18, 2007 there was a meeting of Lodge Esperance to warm the cockles of every Masonic heart.

Bros K. H. King, D. R. Hay and K. L. Law were presented with their Grand Lodge Certificates by the Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro Norm Cooper.

The presentations were made during a lecture by W Bro Peter Calvert about the history and format of the Grand Lodge Certificate.

Later in the evening the Deputy Grand Master presented W Bro F. J. G. Merrey with another certificate - in this case commemorating his forty years as a member of the Craft.

Near the conclusion of activities in the South, the Worshipful Master, W Bro Phillip Bradley and the Immediate Past Master, W Bro Maurie Russell, presented the ladies assisting with framed Certificates of Appreciation in recognition of their help and support of the Lodge.

Fred Merrey

## Two hundred years together!

A group of brethren of Kingston Lodge with two hundred years of masonic service between them received their Fifty Year Jewels on April 14, 2007.

The presentations were made by RW Bro Murray Yaxley, who is **pictured below** with (from left) Kingston's Worshipful Master, W Bro Nigel Groves, W Bro Graeme Millhouse, VW Bro George Aplin PGC and VW Bro Ken Worsley PGDC.

W Bro Millhouse and VW Bros Aplin and Worsley are all Life Members of the lodge.

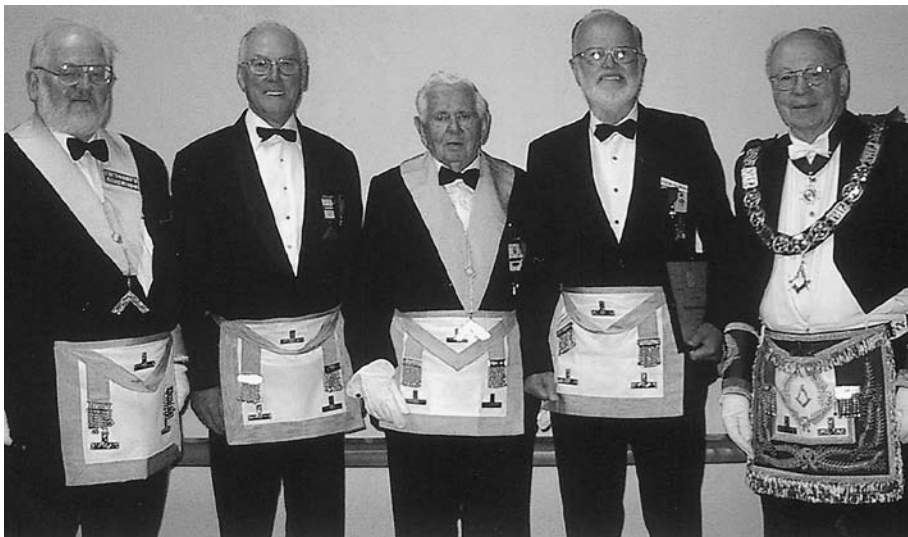
As the entire night was given over to the presentations, RW Bro Yaxley was able to dwell on an extensive range of highlights of their masonic, professional and private lives.

One of the masonic highlights was VW Bro Aplin's production of more than one hundred model yachts as table markers for the guests at his installation as Master of Kingston Lodge in 2003.

VW Worsley managed to find time for his wide masonic interests with an extensive background in local government, rising to Council Clark at Flinders Island.

W Bro Millhouse had a significant part to play in the purchase of land in Maranoa Road in Kingston, and the construction of what is one of the largest lodge rooms in Tasmania following the destruction of the original lodge rooms in the 1967 bushfires.

Ron Wisbey



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# Freemasons' Homes of Southern Tasmania



## Welcome to 'Chats' any time

"Chats" Coffee shop is a venture by The Freemasons' Homes of Southern Tasmania to provide residents, their families and friends with the opportunity to interact in a cosy and congenial setting.

"Chats" opens every Friday and Saturday from mid-morning until the close of business.

It is extremely popular with everyone, including the staff.

The aroma of freshly brewed hot cappuccinos, toasted sandwiches, and fruit bread whets the appetite and draws everyone to the coffee shop.

"Chats" is an initiative of Vanna Metaxas, who is **pictured (above right)** flanked by volunteers Debbie Hardwick and Fay Ioannou. They are assisted by a group of volunteers and (of course) one of the residents, Dawn Belbin.

Every one is looking forward to summer when the doors to the internal garden can be opened.

This will allow residents and their guest can admire the colourful display of flowers, trees and shrubs in bloom and enjoy feasting on the array of "goodies" provided by "Chats".



## Celebrating a Greek theme

The bitter cold winter has limited outdoor activities for residents of The Freemasons' Homes of Southern Tasmania and the traditional barbecues.

An alternative monthly "international theme" has been introduced, featuring foods and cultures from different countries.

In June 2007, residents enjoyed a Greek luncheon which consisted of yiouvetsi (a lamb-based pasta dish) and Greek salad served with wine followed by galatoubourekos (custard and honey desert).

This was followed by a dancing display (pictured) by children from the Hellenic Cultural Centre.

## Jumpers for new Africans

Activities at the Bowditch Hostel of the Freemasons' Homes of Southern Tasmania recently included an unusual exercise in production-line operation.

Responding to a call to help new-born AIDS victims in Africa, several residents and senior staff combined their efforts to produce baby jumpers.

Without these, victims are usually sent home from hospital wrapped in newspaper to keep them warm (just like fish and chips!)

The jumpers project is being run by the United Church at Longford, which aims to produce ten thousand jumpers with community support.

It encouraged some of the more senior Bowditch residents to take up knitting needles for the first time in many years.

After much effort and some strain on the fingers, their never-forgotten skills resulted in the production of several dozen jumpers for the project.

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Pictured with the jumpers are (from left) Dot Quarrell, Betty Coetze, Elvie Hunt, Supervisor Margaret Byrne, Lorna Stevens, Carer Maureen Engel, Volunteer Alma Swinton, Pat Lucker, Leila Heddle and Bess Aber.



## Serving Homes in the North

The new Diversional Therapist at the Northern Masonic Homes, Elizabeth Barber, has had a busy time since taking up the role early in June 2007.

She is responsible for coordinating the diversional therapy areas of Masonic Peace Haven and the Fred French Homes as well as the Day Therapy Centre in Norwood.

Elizabeth is married, with one daughter, and has an interest in many sports, especially her particular love - golf.

She has been a diversional therapist coordinator for the past ten years, working in many aged care facilities, including The Manor and Tyler Village in Launceston and Ozman Village in Queensland.

Elizabeth is in the throes of restructuring the Day Therapy Centre at Peace Haven.

The centre operates five days a week and has around thirty-five clients per day, though it is hoped to increase that number to fifty per day in the near future.

"We are completely reorganising the centre, both in content and environment," Elizabeth said.

"We want to introduce new programmes that are more mentally stimulating and challenging to our clients - lots of quizzes, board games, a range of guest speakers, new entertainment and the like - while still retaining those present activities that the clients really enjoy.

## 'Diversions galore' for new therapist



Elizabeth Barber (centre) with two clients at the Peace Haven Day Therapy Centre

"It's important also to make the centre as inviting and home-like as possible - this is our clients' home away from home, for one or two days a week at least.

"I also want to introduce more short outings as well which will add variety to the weekly programme and give our clients special treats".

Elizabeth said cultural and theme days would feature prominently in the new programme.

The first of these was an Irish Christmas week in July - lots of Irish stew, Guinness pies and golden dumplings! Many similar events are planned for the remainder of the year.

Elizabeth and her team are looking forward to implementing these changes at the Homes for everybody's benefit.

To find out more about the Day Therapy Centre, please contact Masonic Peace Haven on (03) 6343 1555.

## NW Benevolence Society continues health care focus

The North West Masonic Benevolence Society recently donated seven thousand dollars to the King Island General Practice for the purchase of a high-low couch and glaucoma-detection equipment.

The donation was completed through the Nugara Lodge on King Island.

Over the past decade, the Benevolence Society has donated more than \$86,000 to various hospitals and organisations on the North West and West Coasts.

Pictured (right) is the secretary of Nugara Lodge, W Bro Hofmann, receiving a cheque from VW Bro McKenna, vice-president of the NW Benevolence Society.

Ken Knight



## New Masonic Homes Diary

The Tasmanian Masonic Homes Diary is now being managed by a committee of The Pacific Lodge, and work has begun on the 2008 edition.

The pocket-sized diary includes details of lodges around the State as well as the useful information contained in less-handy calendars.

If you have information for inclusion in the Diary - or know of potential advertisers - please contact W Bro Chris Scott, by phone 6225 2202 or 0408 946 113, or email: [chrisjscott@bigpond.com](mailto:chrisjscott@bigpond.com)

The postal address is 447 Churchill Avenue, Sandy Bay 7005.

## Serving the community

The life and work of RW Bro Arthur W. J. Voss was honoured at Beltana Lodge during the recent presentation of his Sixty Year service bar.

The presentation by MW Bro Bryce Ward (pictured at right with RW Bro Voss) was attended by sixty people including Arthur's sons, daughters and grandchildren.

MW Bro Ward referred to Arthur's community and Masonic contributions, in particular through the generous sharing of his architectural skills for the benefit of many organisations.

Arthur commenced his involvement with education following his period as a student at Hobart Technical College.

He became a lecturer, then as a member of the Board and eventually Chairman of the Board.

He served many organisations, including the Lindisfarne Rowing Club and the Freemasons' Homes of Southern Tasmanian.

Again in these organisations he displayed his architectural skills as well as being involved in management.

Arthur is the Patron and a Life Member of the Lindisfarne Rowing Club.

His involvement with the Freemasons' Homes covered almost fifty years, beginning with his membership of the architectural panel associated with construction of the first cottage.

## A life of service and inspiration



He was a member of the Board for forty-one years, concluding in 1994 after three years as Chairman.

One achievement during that period was the establishment of a complex worth many millions of dollars without the need to borrow any funding.

Arthur excelled both as a participant and in the management in lawn bowls.

He became President and Life Member of the Beltana Bowls Club and the Southern Tasmania Bowls Council, President of the Tasmanian Bowls Council and executive member of the Australian Bowls Council.

In the 1983 Queens Birthdays Honours, Arthur was made a Member of the Order of Australia for his service to technical education and the community.

Arthur first joined Freemasonry in 1947 as a member of United Service Lodge.

Shortly after his initiation, he was instrumental in the establishment of Beltana Lodge in November 1949, where he was elected Junior Steward.

By 1954 he was Junior Warden and by 1956 became Worshipful Master.

He held office every year until just two years ago, and he is still Trustee of the Lodge.

In 1962, in recognition of his untiring efforts as architect in planning and directing construction of the Lindisfarne Masonic Centre, and of his service to Beltana Lodge, RW Bro Voss was made the lodge's first Life Member.

He has been active in Grand Lodge for 48 years, becoming Grand Superintendent of Works in 1959, Past Grand Deacon in 1967 and Past Grand Warden in 1975.



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# Around the World

## A new perspective

Many lodges have their idiosyncratic procedures. One worthy of note is that of Wasatch Lodge No 1, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA.

From the brethren raised to the degree of a master mason in each year, one is selected to present a "Response" at the annual Installation.

This is a short paper to share his perspectives regarding freemasonry after having participated in each of the three degrees.

## Get them young!

The first "lodges" of the Association of Youth Hope of the Fraternity (Asociacion de Jovenes Esperanza de la Fraternidad) - known as AJEF - were created in Cuba in 1936.

It is understood that, like their adult sponsors, they have continued to work (discreetly) even though the nature of Cuban society has changed considerably.

The AJEF lodges were created for young people aged 14 to 21. They can be all-male, all-female or mixed.

Each AJEF lodge" is sponsored by a regular masonic lodge which provides instruction and financial support.

A member of the regular lodge, preferably one who has come through the AJEF system, is assigned as Instructor.

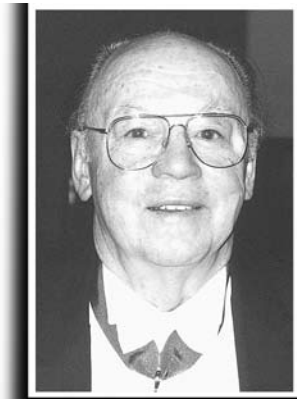
The AJEF lodges each year elect one of their own as Guide, who has the same role as a Worshipful Master.

The goals of these youth lodges are similar to those of De Molay, which was established in USA some years earlier.

They meet in masonic lodge rooms once a week. It is a one-degree only system although there are three grades of membership based on experience and accomplishment.

The overall aim of the AJEF is to prepare young people to be better citizens and of course it is hoped that they will eventually become masons.

Our correspondent Bro Rodrigo Palomares of Gabriel Ezeta Uribe Lodge No 173, Gran Logia Valle de Mexico - which meets in Toluca - reports that the proportion of AJEF members who become masons varies.



*Compiled by*  
**R.W. Bro. Murray Yaxley,**  
**G.M.O.H. P.D.G.M.**

Co-ordinator of Fraternal Relations for  
the Grand Lodges of Australasia and  
Past President of the ANZMRC

## French language Lodges

French-speaking lodges in Central Europe held their second meeting in Prague in mid-May. Visitors were hosted by Alphonse Mucha Lodge No 7, described as an internationally-oriented lodge working in French under the Grand Lodge of the Czech Republic.

The first such meeting was held in Vienna in 2006.

Some of these lodges are very old. For instance, Lodge Aux Trois Canons, the host lodge in Vienna, was consecrated in 1742.

These lodges are fully integrated within their national jurisdictions.

No doubt there are possibilities for other meetings of this kind in Europe: The Grand Lodge of Greece, for example, includes lodges working in German, Italian, French and English.

## The first black MM?

Masonic records from the Eighteenth Century are sparse but they suggest that Bro John Pine/Pyne (1690-1756) may have been the first black master mason.

Born in London, he achieved great success and recognition as the city's finest heraldic and decorative engraver. This led to an appointment to the College of Heralds in 1743.

Bro Pine's masterpiece was monumental: an exquisite edition of "Horace" in which the entire text was engraved and illustrated with ancient bas-reliefs and representations of gems.

It is one of the finest achievements of English book design and became known as "Pine's Horace" after being published in two volumes in 1733 and 1737.

Bro Pine was a member of the Lodge at Globe Tavern, Margate. His name appears in the minute book of 1725 but he could have been raised as early as 1723... about fifty years before the initiation of the better-known black master mason - American Prince Hall.

Bro Pine became the first engraver to the United Grand Lodge of England.

The British Museum and the British Library loaned material to the Library and Museum of the United Grand Lodge of England for its 2004 exhibition of John Pine's work as artist and engraver.

Recently, when Professor Andrew Prescott resigned from the Centre for Research into Freemasonry at the University of Sheffield, he was presented with a print of William Hogarth's portrait of John Pine by the Board of General Purposes and the staff of the Library and Museum of Freemasonry.

## From Berlin

In spite of the tragedies which befell German freemasonry in the period leading up to World War II, many lodges have survived.

Many freemasons died in concentration camps. Others did not survive simply because they were freemasons and were assigned to commando units which were regarded as expendable.

Before the war there were eighty thousand freemasons in Germany...now there are fifteen thousand.

One of the surviving lodges is St John's Lodge Zum Todtenkopfe und Phoenix No 11, which translates to 'The Skull and Phoenix'.

The lodge was created in 1772 in the city of Konigsberg - now the Russian city of Kaleningrad. Since 1945 the lodge has worked in Berlin and is affectionately known among the brethren as "Tofix".

The lodge has a fine website. The Webmaster, Bro Frank Schewe, says many candidates come to them through the internet because younger people (25-45) know and use the medium.

Currently, the applicants have to wait about one year to allow for thorough investigations.

# Presentations ... and symbols



Photo - L. A. Tilley

*Pictured with the Grand Master, MW Bro Julius Kearon, after receiving their scholarship certificates are Nathan Jones, Amanda Howard and Kelly Lee Spencer.*

## NW scholarships presented

The 2007 recipient of the Burnie Masonic Hilton Sharpe Memorial Scholarship, Amanda Howard, was presented with her winner's certificate by the Grand Master, MW Bro Julius Kearon at a ceremony at the North West Masonic Centre on June 26.

Amanda had previously been presented with the \$1 000 bursary.

A former pupil of Marist College, she is studying health sciences at the University of Tasmania with the aim of gaining a degree in pharmacy.

The late RW Bro Hilton Sharpe was a member of Gill Memorial Lodge and a well respected citizen of Burnie.

The scholarship which bears his name provides financial support to a student who has Burnie residential qualifications and is embarking on a university education.

Candidates from Marist and Hellyer Colleges were interviewed in January by a panel of lodge members, chaired by RW Bro Brian Poulter.

Since its inception in 1991, the award has been won by entrants from Marist College seven times, and from Hellyer College on eight occasions.

Also at the June 26 ceremony, the D.I. Bartley Masonic Memorial Scholarship winners were presented with Achievement Certificates.

They are Nathan Jones from Burnie High School and Kelly Lee Spencer from Parklands High School.

They each had previously received \$250 towards their ongoing education.

After the presentation ceremony students, educators, parents and friends joined freemasons and their wives for a convivial light supper.

**Gerry Gunton**

## Letter to the Editor

### The acacia symbol

Dear Sir and Brother,

The average age of lodge membership in Tasmania is increasing each year and brings increasing numbers to funerals which members attend to support and honour ones late colleagues.

In doing so, one also finds that - instead of in earlier days where the Masonic Oration (then much shorter) included the speaker laying accacia on the coffin as a "symbol" - all present are invited/encouraged to do so.

This completely disrupts the solemnity and the progress of this solemn occasion

for absolutely no real reason. Is one symbol less than fifty or one hundred symbols.?

The very slow procession of so many men, greeting each other verbally, shaking hands with each other, big smiles and great bonhomie does nothing for solemnity.

The bereaved family, ladies and non Masons present cannot be amused and must be unfavourably impressed with "these crazy Masons and their customs". All who are not in the procession must wait in silence in a vacuum for usually quite some minutes.

How did this situation arise? One cannot recall any Grand Lodge regulatory change being the cause. Did we just copy the RSL poppy ceremony?

I feel it is time for Grand Lodge to give some direction on the matter.

**Harry Gilbert**

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## A 'Gothic look' for museum piece

*A Masonic building in Sunderland, England built in 1869, has been dismantled and reconstructed at the Beamish Open Air Museum in County Durham.*

*Experts used old photographs of the interior to create an authentic look, complete with black and white marble floor and a Gothic fireplace.*

*Three impressive mid-18th century chairs, tracing boards and original Masonic paintings - all donated by lodges from around Great Britain - add to the authenticity.*

# Meeting challenges

## Creative solutions encouraged

The Grand Master, MW Bro Julius Kearon, is encouraging lodges experiencing difficulties to suggest what he calls "creative solutions".

In his address to the February 2007 Communication, MW Bro Kearon said many lodges were finding it difficult to continue, but there were ways to help them reverse this trend.

"Understandably these lodges are reluctant to hand in their Warrant as there is a finality about this action," he said.

"Likewise they are reluctant to alter their by-laws as this is a complex process which might well require further amendment as the situation develops."

The Grand Master said he was pleased to assist in the cases of Lodge Scotch College and Heather Lodge.

"I granted approval for both Lodges to meet on the third Tuesday of the month, alternating meetings, having no meeting in January and alternating the December meeting.

"This approval was granted for two calendar years, at the end of which it is expected that a permanent arrangement can be implemented".

MW Bro Kearon said he had also allowed Kingston Lodge to cancel certain meetings and to alter the time of tying of some others.

"I invite other Lodges which might be experiencing difficulties to come up with creative solutions," he said.

"I will be pleased to consider granting the necessary approvals resulting from creative thought".

### WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Leaps tall buildings in a single bound  
Is more powerful than an Intercity Express  
Is faster than a speeding bullet  
Walks on Water  
Gives policy to God

### SENIOR WARDEN

Leaps short buildings with a single bound  
Is more powerful than a goods train  
Is just as fast as a speeding bullet  
Walks on the water if the sea is calm  
Talks with God

### JUNIOR WARDEN

Leaps short buildings with a running start  
and a favourable wind  
Is almost as powerful as a goods train  
Is faster than a speeding airgun pellet  
Walks on water in a swimming pool  
Talks with God if dispensation is given

### SENIOR DEACON

Barely clears a garden hut  
Loses a tug-of-war with a train  
Can fire a speeding bullet  
Swims well  
Is occasionally addressed by God

### JUNIOR DEACON

Makes high marks on the wall when  
trying to leap buildings  
Is run over by trains  
Can sometimes handle a gun  
without injuring himself  
Doggie paddles  
Talks with the animals

### INNER GUARD

Runs into buildings  
Recognizes trains two out of three times  
Is not issued ammunition  
Can stay afloat with a life vest  
Talks to walls

### STEWARD

Falls over doorsteps when trying  
to enter buildings  
Says "Look at the choo choos"  
Wets himself with a water pistol  
Plays in mud puddles  
Mumbles to himself

### SECRETARY

Lifts buildings and walks under them  
Kicks trains off the track  
Catches speeding bullets in his mouth  
and eats them  
Freezes water with a single glance  
HE IS GOD !

## The Lighter Side

Contributed by W Bro Geoff Fox

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# Passed to the Grand Lodge Above

## Vale

### VW Bro 'Chum' Robottom

One of the saddest occasions in the history of the Derwent Valley Lodge was the passing of VW Bro R. R. ("Chum") Robottom on June 26, 2007 - within a fortnight of becoming a Worshipful Master for the fourth time.

Chum was born in Moonah on November 7, 1931, and educated at Bridgewater School. His father owned a farm and orchard in Granton, where Chum worked for twenty-two years until his father died and the farm was sold. Chum then worked at Cadbury's for twenty-seven years.

Chum was a keen sportsman, playing cricket, darts and football. At the age of thirteen, he became a boundary umpire and later a TFL goal umpire. He was a life member of the Umpires Association.

Chum joined Victory Lewis Lodge in 1975, and became its Worshipful Master in 1985 before joining Derwent Valley Lodge. He was Master of Derwent Valley in 1991 and 2003.

Chum was a very conscientious member in every way, and his wife Beryl told me how annoyed he would be when people failed to learn their charges!

He became a Grand Steward in 1993, Grand Tyler in 1995, Grand Pursuivant in 1997, Grand Sword Bearer in 1999 and a Grand Deacon in 2002.

His contribution to masonry was acknowledged in 2004 when he was made Past Grand Director of Ceremonies.

Chum joined Lodge Macquarie only a few years ago and, as far as he was able, remained enthusiastic as ever, taking the office of Junior Warden.

Knowing his poor health, I hesitated about asking him to become a Master for the fourth time, this time in Lodge Macquarie. He quickly accepted, and Beryl and his family fully supported his decision.

He would have been installed as Master on July 7, 2007.

Right from when Chum joined masonry, he lived for his lodge, was deeply respected - and always knew his charges!

Beryl asked me to thank everyone for the pleasure freemasonry has given both Chum and herself.

We will all miss him deeply.

David Johns

Harry Gilbert



*POSTSCRIPT: During the Lodge Macquarie installation dinner on July 7, Beryl Robottom was presented with a Masonic Widow's Jewel by VW Bro Bill Giles. The jewel was attached by her daughter. Beryl said she was deeply affected as apart from his family, Chum's main interest was his lodge.*



## Archbishop conducts service

*These photographs of the funeral of RW Bro Max Webberley at St Mary's Cathedral in Hobart were supplied by The Sydney Lodge, of which RW Bro Max's son, W Bro Max Webberley, is a member. Unfortunately, the photos arrived too late for inclusion with the Vale for RW Bro Max (February 2007 edition). They show the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Hobart, the Rt Rev Adrian Doyle, addressing the congregation (above) and MW Bro Rob Clarke - who presented a Masonic Oration at the service - placing RW Bro Webberley's apron on the coffin (below). MW Bro Warwick Boyling of The Sydney Lodge described as "a magnificent and generous gesture" the decision of the Archbishop to conduct the service himself. "The whole occasion was most memorable and hopefully a glimpse into the future," MW Bro Boyling told Freemasonry Tasmania.*



## The Broken Column

*Symbol of the passing of a member of the craft*

### V. Worshipful Brother

R. R. Rowbottom Derwent Valley Lodge and Macquarie Lodge

### Worshipful Brother

M. J. Barker Launceston-Lawrie Abra Memorial

### Brothers

G. Bell The Pacific Lodge

K. V. Bennett Launceston-Lawrie Abra Memorial

B. Cooper Emu Lodge

P. A. Volkmer Launceston Daytime Lodge

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**The next edition of *Freemasonry Tasmania* is due out early in February 2008, and the deadline is January 6, 2008.**

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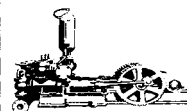
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