



FREEMASONS
NSW & ACT

REGION 10 NEWS

No 9 July 2007

From Rt W Bro R J Nairn PSGW, RGC Region 10 –
Phone (02) 6254 2782 – 13 Tanumbirini St Hawker
ACT 2614 or rjnairn@webone.com.au

New RGC for Region 10

Congratulations to Rt Wor Bro Mike Dalton on his appointment as RGC10 and his elevation in rank to PJGW. Mike has been Secretary and then Chairman of the Canberra Districts Masonic Association. Mike will take office at the Grand Installation on 4th August.

Grand Master's Conferral of Grand Rank

Congratulations also to Rt Wor Bro Graham Charlton and Rt Wor Bro Greg Nason on their elevation in rank to PSGW and to V Wor Bro John Shipard of Yass Lodge of Concord on his elevation to PDGDC.

Regional and District Awards

At the June Communication it was announced that Rt Wor Bro Horrie Holt had received the Regional Award this year for all his tireless help to Lodges in Region 10. Congratulations and thanks Horrie. The District awards were for District 102 WBro Arthur Pearce of Lodge Duke of Edinburgh and for District 104, Bro Norman Dudley Barty, a member of Lodge Capitol.

Accreditation

Finally accreditation process in our Region has begun and is gaining momentum with 15 of our 25 Lodges having commenced the process. While none have yet completed the full sequence, the results are encouraging. It will be interesting to see the long term effects of this initiative.

Mozart Concert in Canberra

It is intended to support the Canberra Youth Orchestra in another Concert this year at a date to be announced. This follows on our support for the Orchestra last year and in the early 1990s. Half of our ticket sales go to the Masonic Youth Welfare Fund.

Concordat with Other Orders

It is some time that the first Concordats were signed with other Masonic Orders and the effects of these agreements have now started to take effect. There has been some initial disappointments Royal Arch Chapters in the Region but these have now been settled. It is now essential that we, in the Craft, recognize that these agreements are intended to be mutually beneficial and that this implies that we should be encouraging eligible Masons to join those orders with which we have agreements so as to enhance their Masonic experience.

District 105 Meetings at Candelo

Meetings of the DGIW and WMs and members of the Lodges of District 105 are held at Candelo each quarter and are proving to be a great boon to Masonic cooperation and organization in the District with joint MasoniCare applications and functions being sorted out and well attended. Below is a scene from the Xmas do.



Grand Lodge Dues

Although Grand Lodge dues rose again this year, the Board, the Grand Treasurer and the Secretariat should be congratulated on the savings in expenses that have been affected so far. As the decline in membership

slows down and perhaps begins to reverse, we can look forward to better control over these dues in future.

Mentoring of Candidates

Some Lodges are not yet appointing Mentors for their candidates and this is essential for all candidates, particularly those entering under the Masonic Assistance Scheme. We cannot expect to stem the flow of those leaving the Craft in their first 5 years (42%) unless we help them to understand and enjoy Freemasonry as we do. A mentor training session was conducted by V Wor Bro David Horton DGIW 104 in Canberra on Saturday 21st July and the eight people who attended considered it to be excellent.

Masonic Buildings

The Canberra Masonic Centre Board has unveiled exciting architectural plans for the replacement of the existing building with a bigger six-story building with modern fittings suitable to attract maximum office rentals. Subject to lease marketing it is expected that the rebuilding will start early in 2008 but the date is uncertain and subject to current negotiations. Lodges meeting at the CMC have been asked to consider an option to meet at the Queanbeyan Centre while construction takes place. The CMC are distributing a news letter to keep us all informed of progress.



Equally exciting are the plans for upgrading the building at Braidwood for which Council Approval has now been granted.

Regional Masonic Research Seminar

Our fourth regional Masonic Research Seminar will be held in Canberra in 2007 tentatively on 29-30th September and will continue our objective to inspire those who have not before researched a Masonic subject to do so and provide a paper to the Seminar.

Noted Masonic Speaker

On Wednesday 17th September Bro Jim Daniel, a noted Masonic speaker will give a talk to the Canberra Lodge of Research and Instruction at Queanbeyan on Lord Canarvon's 1887-88 visit to Australia. Bro Jim is hosted by the Australasian Masonic Research Council, which arranges for a renowned international Masonic speaker to tour every two years. Two years ago Bro Bob Cooper talked on Rosslyn Chapel and we had the largest attendance of Research Lodges in Australasia.

Australasian Masonic Research Council

Every two years the Australian Masonic Research has a Conference and it will be held in Canberra in 2008. We would like to see growing interest in the region so that the Conference draws a well-educated audience. A talk is given by a representative of each Masonic jurisdiction and Canberra takes its turn with the Research Lodge of NSW to nominate the "Kellerman Lecturer" to represent our jurisdiction and it will be our turn in 2008.

Regional Grand Lodge Officers Meeting

A meeting of Region 10 Grand Lodge Officers will be held on Sunday 12th August at the Canberra Masonic Centre in the form of a luncheon with partners to welcome the incoming RGC Mike Dalton. The cost is \$30 per person which includes a three course luncheon, drinks and entertainment. Please contact the Secretary Rt Wor Bro Ron Neate on 0427 932 891 or neatename@bigpond.com.au or me on 6254 2782 or

rjnairn@webone.com.au to let us know you can attend before lunch time on Thursday 9th August.

MasoniCare grants

This year's two Regional Grants of \$5,000 went to Sailability and to Vision Impaired to support Blind Cricket in the ACT.

The Regional Young Achiever's Award was presented to Bro Alex Slater and announced at his initiation on his 18th birthday in the presence of the Grand Master.

Four Lodges have been given matching Interaction Grants. They are Lodge Federal Burrowa - \$1,500 to new Piano Project for the Hospital Aged Care Centre, Lodge Caledonia - \$2,000 to National Brain Injury Support Group, Lodge Perfect - \$3,500 to ACT Palliative Care Society and Lodge Canberra - \$1,500 to RSPCA Canberra. In addition the Canberra Masonic Widows Association raised \$1,120 which was matched with a grant to Sailability ACT.



It is good to see the way in which Lodges in our Region are responding to the Interaction Grants, which are designed to not only fulfill a charitable purpose but also to encourage Lodges to connect as much as possible with their communities. This is a lot easier in rural towns but it is now happening in Canberra too.

Men's Health

A second Men's Health seminar will be held in the Canberra Masonic Centre on Friday 12th October. It is expected to follow a similar format to that held last year with free finger food and wines to greet people

and about six specialists talking about different aspects to health. There will be more publicity about this soon and we hope that we can get about 100 Masons, partners and friends to support the event. A Seminar will also be held in the Sydney Masonic Centre on Sunday 7th October. There are early discussions about one being held in Goulburn too.

Grand Master's Christmas Appeal

This year we hope to beat the total of 150 hampers which were distributed in Canberra to needy families with the assistance of staff from Barnados Australia (ACT Division). Some donations which were received too late last year will be used this time. Individual donations will attract a tax receipt. Please contact Geoff Ludowyk or David Horton.

Past DGIWs Night

Lodge Ethos hosted a very successful Past DGIWs Night at its March 2007 meeting – where all positions and all work was undertaken by officers of that rank drawn from Regions 103, 104 and 105 just to show that we are not all pretty faces. Well some of us are pretty or almost.

Feeding the Needy in Canberra

Canberra Lodges continue the work of feeding homeless and needy people of Canberra on Sunday nights, which has been going on for over twelve years. This year so far we have served over 3,500 meals.

Lodges of Research and Instruction

There has been some confusion about whether EAFs and FCs may attend Lodges of Research and Instruction. Unless specifically advised to the contrary they can attend these meetings and should be encouraged to do so.

Finally, as this will be my last newsletter, Jenny and I would like to thank all the brethren who have been such a help to us and made the job of RGC such a happy and enjoyable one.