



FREEMASONS
NSW & ACT

REGION 10 NEWS

August 2004

From Rt W Bro R J Nairn PJGW, RGC Region
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Whenever we meet at RGCs conferences the problem of adequate communication is always uppermost. This Regional Newsletter is an attempt to keep members in our region better informed of events coming and past. This being the first, there has been little opportunity for you to have your say in it. However, future editions, and I hope we can provide them quarterly, will be your opportunity to air your views, advertise coming events or comment on problems or successes in our region. Please submit your notes by mail or E-mail them to me.

New DGIWs

By now you will all have met the DGIWs for the 2004-2006 term. They are Neville Usher, who lives in Moss Vale (4869 1486), Harry and Peg Josephs (Canberra 6258 0074), Mike and Susan Dalton (Canberra 6291 0906) and Russell and Roslyn Yelds (Bombala 6458 5274). I really look forward to working with our newly appointed DGIWs. They are a great team with a lot of enthusiasm and energy.

Christmas Appeal

Your DGIWs will soon be asking for support for the Christmas Appeal. This year in Canberra we will again support Barnardos following last year's success. Please give generously.

Museum of Freemasonry

In the next few months it is planned to hold special displays of the Museum of Freemasonry in our Region. The displays will be open to the public and it is intended that a "Fathers and Sons" night be held with special addresses in the Masonic Centres followed by a Banquet probably at a nearby Club. It is planned that these events be held in Goulburn, Bega and Canberra but the dates are not yet firm. Please watch for the further publicity and plan to attend these special nights, on which the Grand Master, or his representative, will attend.

Anglicans and Freemasonry

Together with Juan Alvarez and Ian Alexander (New RGC8), I attended a meeting with the Bishop of the Riverina, who provided a letter of comfort to us for Anglicans in this diocese, separating the diocese from the views of the Sydney Synod. In return for the support given us by the Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn and the Bishop of the Riverina, I urge all Anglican Freemasons to give greater support to their congregations and show dissenters that our faith is strong.

Research Seminar

The Masonic Research Seminar held in Cootamundra in June was a success with 12 papers presented and 40 people attending. 4 prizes were given to those presenting Masonic papers for the first time. Thanks to Lodge Cootamundra St John together with Canberra Lodge of Research and Instruction who hosted the seminar.

Lodge Bega Remembrance has agreed to host the next seminar together with the Canberra Lodge of Research and Instruction to be held at Bega at a date to be determined next Autumn. This seminar will be held jointly with Region 11 and it is hoped that it will attract as many participants as the one in Cootamundra.

Assistant Grand Master

We were all delighted at the appointment and Installation of one of our own, Rt W Bro Derek Robson AM, as Assistant Grand Master. Derek attended the Installation of Yass Lodge of Concord on Sat 21st August. May I take the opportunity to remind WMs that he attends as his role as Asst GM and should be greeted as such (not as a representative of the GM).

Grand Lodge Officers Association

The Region 10 Grand Lodge Officers Association was formed at Cootamundra on Saturday 19th July with the adoption of a constitution and election of officers. Rt Wor Bro Ron Neate, the secretary, expects to hold the next meeting in Goulburn during October or November followed by a luncheon. Amongst items to be discussed are the new policies for appointment of Grand Directors of Ceremonies at Installations. All holders of Grand Lodge rank are expressly asked to attend. The Annual Membership Fee is \$5.

International Meeting of Grand Masters

An international meeting of about 80 Grand Masters will be held in Sydney in November 2005. We have been asked to arrange for the visit of some of these to Canberra soon after their meeting and are looking for ideas.

District and Regional Awards

This past year the DGIWs for each district gave a "Certificate for Meritorious Service" to one member from their district whose service had hitherto been unacknowledged. They were awarded as follows:

V Wor Bro Mike McMahon presented W Bro Jim Caskie of Lodge Cootamundra St John the certificate for District 101, while V Wor Bro Peter Clarke presented the District 102 certificate to Rt Wor Bro Robert Davey of "the Duke" in the Grand Master's presence.

V Wor Bro John Church presented the District 103 certificate to W Bro David Slater of Lodge Commonwealth of Australia and V W Bro Warren Turton presented W Bro Trevor Stevenson of Lodge Queanbeyan St Andrew with the District 104 award. Finally V Wor Bro Warren Bruce awarded his certificate to W Bro Terry Deacon of Lodge Baddeley.

The Regional award was presented to V Wor Bro Wal Hopkinson of Lodge Caledonia of Canberra. Congratulations to all of these recipients and our special thanks for your service to the Districts and Region.

MasoniCare Grants

Peter Camilla (treasurer) and David Cargill (chair), members of Lodge of Truth, Braidwood, are prominent amongst the management of the Braidwood and District Education Foundation, which received a cheque for \$5,000 in July. This grant will be matched by the Country Education Foundation and will help the work of the foundation to get started in the Braidwood Central School. The "Tallangada Times" gave us front page publicity and helped to inform applicants how they may apply for the scheme to assist them to further their education or help their career opportunities.

A second MasoniCare grant will be given to a nominee organization from Lodge Bega Remembrance in September but the date is still uncertain. I hope that every Lodge will make application for a MasoniCare grant and the other facilities offered by MasoniCare this year. More details in the next quarterly newsletter.

Publicity Pamphlets

My thanks to those who are distributing the publicity pamphlets to Visitors Centres and Motels throughout the Region. We have not yet distributed them to some Lodges but will do so this month and provide a list of Motels in Canberra for Lodges to hand out.

E-mail Register

I have been trying to compile an E-mail register of all Masons in the region who have this facility so that I can mail this newsletter, or any other urgent notices, to as many as possible without incurring the cost of postage for which I have no budget. So far I have about 120 addresses. I would be pleased if all readers, who agree to receive mail by this facility, would E-mail me at rjnairn@webone.com.au.

Update of Lodge Records

Lodge Secretaries are being asked to update the records in the Membership System in Grand Lodge. These get out of date unless Lodge Monthly Returns are made promptly.

Representatives at Installation

Lodges are reminded that your requests for GMs Representative and Grand Director of Ceremonies must be submitted to Grand Lodge **Four months** before the installation date to be considered. I would appreciate a copy of these letters please.

Changes to Ritual

You will already have been advised by your Lodge Secretary of changes to the ritual book proposed by the Ritual Committee and approved by the Grand Master effective immediately.

Masonic Task Force

We are planning to form a Task Force of younger Masons, mainly from Canberra, who are willing to carry out community service projects in towns throughout the region on weekends in conjunction with our rural Lodges. Those willing to help should please contact Mike Dalton on 6291 0906.

Lodge of Transition

I recently wrote to the members of the Lodge of Transition in our Region to check their

addresses and make sure that they will be included in the circulation of this newsletter and are kept fully informed of events in our area. The reasons why some Masons remain in the Lodge of Transition are diverse and I have been disappointed to hear that some have not been made to feel welcome in our regular Lodges.

Dietary Arrangements

It is not abnormal for me to be talking or thinking about food but, bearing in mind that about 10% of our brethren are type 2 diabetics, I have often thought that some of the food in our festive boards might better be chosen with some dietary advice. Is one of our brethren a dietician, who might be willing to contribute some advice in this newsletter?

Canberra Masonic Choir

We are attempting to form a Masonic Choir in Canberra to perform at Installations or Souths when invited. We want to make it challenging and enjoyable so those who currently sing in Choirs or are familiar with singing in harmony with 4-part male choirs and are willing to take part should contact me at the addresses on the front page.

Scottish Third Degree

The Duke of Edinburgh Lodge in Goulburn is seeking special dispensation for the "Scottish Thistles" to work a Third Degree according to a Scottish Ritual on a "live" candidate on 21st September. Lodge Ethos under WM Taffy Baird will take a delegation including members of the group and the candidate will be Jamie King of Lodge Caledonia of Canberra.

Masonic Widows

I am pleased with the response by some Lodges to buy Masonic Widows badges and present them at a suitable occasion.

Fraternal regards from Bob Nairn



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Well I asked for comments and contributions and received a few – mainly telling me how I could improve my spelling, grammar or the layout of this newsletter. Thanks for those comments but I was hoping that I would also get a few grouches or, alternatively, ideas about how things could be improved in our Region.

Call for nominations for GL Honours

The Grand Master has called for nominations from Lodges for the conferral of Grand Lodge Honours and some nominations have been forwarded. Let us hope that the contribution made by these members to their Lodges, to Freemasonry in general and to their communities in our region will be recognized.

Grand Master's Christmas Appeal

It has again been decided to work with Barnados Homes in Canberra this year but other Lodges will make their own decision as to the recipients of their hampers. Last year we distributed 120 hampers in Canberra to needy families in conjunction with Barnardos. If you wish to donate please contact me or your DGIW.

“Masons on the Move”

The last two months have been so busy that it has been impossible to arrange a night before

Christmas for the display of the Museum of Freemasonry, the open Lodge meeting and a banquet, which has proven to be so popular in other centres, drawing attendances of up to 200 people, many of them non-masons. I am really looking forward to this event in Canberra early in the New Year.

Next Regional Masonic Research Seminar

The next research seminar will be in Bega on the weekend of 5th May 2005 hosted by Lodge Bega Remembrance and Canberra Lodge of Research and Instruction. Would those willing to present a paper please submit it to Neil Morse at morse@netspeed.com.au as soon as possible to enable the Canberra Lodge of R & I to read the papers and formulate a logical program and to cut the CDs.

The general format will be the same as that held in Cootamundra earlier this year. That is -

- Saturday - Kick off at about 9.30 am
 - Conclude at 5.00 pm
 - Regional GL Officers Meeting to 6.30
 - Banquet with ladies at 7.30 pm
- Sunday - Kick off at about 9.00 am
 - Conclude at 4.00 pm

Ladies are invited to the Seminar if they wish but a brief ladies tour program will be organized for those who do not.

The cost is anticipated to be \$50 each which includes lunches, morning and afternoon teas both days, the banquet on Saturday night, a CD with all the papers on it and prizes to those giving Masonic Research papers for the first time. This does not include accommodation, which is up to the individual attendee.

The seminar is intended to encourage younger Masons to get involved in Masonic Research and Education and to enjoy ourselves for the weekend in Bega - the home of the big cheese.

Unique Lodge Working in February

On February 12th the Sydney Lodge will raise five brethren at once in a meeting with Lodge Commonwealth of Australia in the Canberra Masonic Centre tyling at 5.00 pm. A banquet with ladies will follow this unique event.

Lodge Strategic Plans

I am pleased to see the number of Lodges which are now preparing their Strategic Plans, which are mainly aimed to logically putting on paper what the Lodge intends to do so that others can help them with their plans. Early next year we will be organizing meetings to hear the progress being made with the Grand Lodge Strategic Plan and discuss our own plans together.

MasoniCare Grant Presentation

On Tuesday 21st September a cheque for \$5,000 was handed to the Head of Bega Public School for use in the “rock & Water” programme for helping boys at school to gain self-confidence and self-control. Left to right in the photo are Mayor David Hede, Terry Twyford, Bob Nairn, Brendan Dwyer (Rock & Water Program), Paul Whittock (Head, Bega Public School), Pam Wellham (Head, Bega High School), Charlie Jennings (Teacher), Tas Harlow (WM Lodge Bega Memorial), Malcolm Privett and Geoffrey Grigg.



E-Mail Communications

I now have over 220 E-mail addresses to which this News Letter is being sent. If you know of any Masons who have an E-mail address and agree to receive it this way, would you please ask them to send me a message and I will add them to the circulation list and save postage funds.

Lodge Website

I have seldom seen a more interesting website than that established by the WM of Pambula Daylight Lodge, Kevin Mulcahy. Have a look at it at the following address.

<http://lodgepambuladaylight.org>

Contact Booklets

Yass Lodge of Concord has another great idea in printing contact booklets for members, which contains members addresses, Lodge meeting nights and a lot of other local contact information about Yass and the Local Shire.

Calories and our Banquets

No-one has offered to provide dietary advice for our Banquets in these columns yet so, while that request is still open, I am taking another tack. After decades of determined resistance I am on a Weight-watchers Diet and I offer a challenge to all the Masons in the Region that I can lose more weight in one year than anyone else.

MasoniCare programs

MasoniCare is the charity arm of Grand Lodge and its programs seek to extend Freemasonry's support into our communities by providing financial support to charitable and community service organisations. It has five programs and I would love to see all of our Lodges giving to MasoniCare and also applying for every one of the programs because that would show how much we care about our local communities. I am looking for nominations now.

First, the **Fund of Benevolence**, provides grants and loans to Freemasons in financial difficulty. This is handled confidentially by a special committee. Contact your Caring Officer, Sean Harnett at UGL or V.W.Bro. Michael Shearer on 9653 2402 or mshearer@synflux.com.au.

Second, two annual **Regional Grants** of \$5,000 are offered in each Region to organisations helping young people cope with mental and emotional problems. If there is a local program by an organisation which fits the theme call me.

Third, **InterACTION Grants** match, up to dollar for dollar, fundraising for a local charity or community project. To be eligible, the Lodge must work publicly to support a charity or community project. Grants have ranged from \$600-\$10,000. If you are fundraising now, see if MasoniCare will match it.

Fourth, **Young Achiever Awards**, are to recognize outstanding community efforts by young people. There is one award of \$2,000 for each Region, aimed at youngsters who exemplify the Masonic ideals of charity and concern for our community.

Finally, we have assisted **Special Community Programs**. The major one has been Surf Lifesaving NSW, especially in relation to development of their younger members; and recently we have begun with a new program 'Stop the 4 O'Clock Knock' aimed at teaching road safety awareness to school kids. We are planning for this new program in Region 10 and will soon announce the timing for this seminar.

OSM Grand Installation

On Saturday 9th October, W Bro Greg Nason from Lodge Woden Valley was re-installed as the MW Grand Supreme Ruler of the Order of David and Jonathon in Canberra. It is always a special pleasure to see one of our own achieve the crowning success and especially at home.

Below MWBro Greg Nason presents WBro Bruce Owen his certificate on reaching the chair of Canberra Conclave on the same day.



Regional Grand Lodge Officers Meeting

34 Grand Lodge Officers from Region 10 met in Goulburn on Saturday 27th November. The appointment of Grand Master's representatives and Grand Director of Ceremonies in our region was discussed and several recommendations for their improvement have been forwarded to the Grand Secretary. The next meeting will be held in Bega on the weekend of 5th of May 2005.

District 105 Beach Christmas Picnic

The annual beach picnic at Tathra for members from District 105 and the families and friends was held on Sunday with a very welcome surprise when Rt Wor Bro Alan Tetley attended after a long spell of illness.



Finally, Jenny and I wish you a very merry festive season and a healthy, wealthy, safe and happy New Year in 2005 and thank you all for your help and friendship during the past year.