



**FREEMASONS**  
NSW & ACT

## **REGION 10 NEWS**

No 3 - March 2005

From Rt W Bro R J Nairn PJGW, RGC Region 10 –  
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### **Election of Grand Master**

Publication of the newsletter was delayed so that I could inform you that Rt Wor Bro Ray Brooks PDGM was elected at the March Communication to the position of Grand Master and we sincerely congratulate him on his preferment. The vote was 406 to 294.

### **Conferral of Grand Lodge Honours**

Our heartiest congratulations also go to the following brethren from our Region who were honoured with conferred Grand Rank by the Grand Master at the March Communication – **PJGW** - Wal Hopkinson, Hugh Wales, Terry Hall, Peter Clark and 'Chappy' Munn and **PDGDC** - 'Hec' McMillan and Ian McQuillan.

### **Training for Grand Master's Representatives and Grand Directors of Ceremonies**

A training day for Grand Master's Representatives and Grand Directors of Ceremonies on nights of Installation will be held in Canberra on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. It will run from 10.00am to 1.00pm for GDCs and 1.30pm until 3.00pm for GMs representatives. Lodge Capital's re-installation follows that evening so I hope many will stay on for this ceremony.

### **Land Tax**

Owners of Masonic Building are reminded that it is essential to register for Land Tax although you should

then be exempted. However, if you leave it too late you may have to pay back taxes as you cannot be exempted for back taxes – so, if you have not done it, do it now.

### **William Ross Memorial**

The DGM, Rt Wor Bro Robert Peattie, at a luncheon in Goulburn on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January, announced a special appeal for funding to re-establish the memorial to William Ross, first WM of the Goulburn Lodge of Australia and a notable pioneer in the Goulburn district. It is hoped to raise \$35,000 together with several other Goulburn organizations to pay for the work.

### **“Masons Move with the Times”**

A date has not yet been set 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 when we can get the date set.

### **Unique Lodge Working of third degree**

On February 12<sup>th</sup> the Sydney Lodge raised five brethren at once in a meeting with Lodge Commonwealth of Australia in the Canberra Masonic Centre. A banquet with ladies followed and a BBQ was held at the Gold Creek sheep station on the Sunday.

### **Meeting of International Grand Masters in Sydney**

Early in November this year there will be an international meeting of Grand Masters hosted by our Grand Lodge and over 200 invitations have been sent out. Most of the events will be staged in Sydney although it is hoped that many of the visiting Grand Delegations will visit parts of our Region during their stay in Australia. We will be planning for their attendance at certain Masonic events here soon. While it is expected that most of our visitors will speak English, I would nevertheless be pleased if those who are prepared to act as interpreters would let me know, particularly if you can spend some time in Sydney between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of November.

### **Regional Masonic Research Seminar**

Preparations are now well in hand for our Regional Masonic Research Seminar to be held at Bega Masonic Centre on the weekend of 30<sup>th</sup> April and 1<sup>st</sup> May 2005. We are looking for more papers and ask that the drafts be sent to Neil Morse from the Canberra Lodge of Research and Instruction by 15<sup>th</sup> April and an information flier about the meeting is soon to be circulated. In line with the international Meeting of Grand Masters this year, it would be good if some of the papers could help us to understand how Masonry operates in different countries and the cultural influences there.

### **Lodge Self-assessment and Accreditation**

The concept of Accreditation to help Lodges improve their performance has now been refined in a much more acceptable way. Firstly, all Lodges will be given Provisional Accreditation and it is voluntary if Lodges wish to proceed further. The next step is for a Lodge to carry out a broadly-based self-assessment against locally determined and agreed benchmarks. I imagine one set of benchmarks for the urban Lodges and another set for our country Lodges in the Region. The objective is to improve performance each year against your own self-assessment. A process for introducing the self-assessments will be introduced in the coming months.

### **Strategic Plans**

The logical extension of the self-assessment is the preparation of strategic plans to fill the gaps and strengthen the deficient areas. Several Lodges are now in the process of preparing their strategic plans and there is a pool of people available to help others get started on theirs. I am pleased to say that I have finished the first draft of our Regional Strategic Plan and intend to discuss it with our DGIWs soon.

### **E-Mail Communications**

I now have over 260 E-mail addresses to which this News Letter is being sent. Please give me more.

### **Motorbike Chapter meets in Bombala**

Twenty three Members of the Australian Masonic Motorcycle Association met in Bega under the Charter of the Mountain Lodge on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January where a flawless rendition of the first tracing board was given to an entered apprentice from the Mountain Lodge.

### **Grand Masters' Tsunami Appeal**

At the time of writing the Grand Masters' Tsunami Appeal Australia-wide had reached \$346,000 and, at the meeting of Grand Masters following the Grand Installation in Melbourne on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March, a children's charity will be selected from three applicants to be the recipient. It is hoped that the money may build a hospital and will be advanced as the various stages of construction are completed so that close control of the money is achieved and it goes most directly to its intended purpose.

### **Concordat with United Grand Chapter**

During the March Communication the Grand Master announced the terms of a new concordat which has been agreed with the United Grand Chapter of Mark and Royal Arch Masons. This brings the order closer to the craft and encourages members of the craft to extend their Masonic experience by participating in the degrees administered by this order. We look forward with interest to reading the GMs address when it is available. A similar concordat is currently being negotiated with the Order of David and Jonathon (OSM) which is to be put to the Council Meeting of that order next month.

### **Calories and our Banquets**

Despite all the welcome efforts of the JW's of the Lodges I visit, I have now lost 30 lbs but have had no takers to my challenge.

### **MasoniCare**

Yass Lodge of Concord is the first recipient in our Region for a MasoniCare Interaction Grant but I have been busy mailing out application forms so I hope that there will be other Lodges soon.

Applications for the MasoniCare annual grants and also the Young Achiever's Award are now urgently required so please get them in as soon as you can.

### **Regional Committee for the Youth Welfare Fund**

A regional committee for the Youth Welfare Fund has been formed with Rt Wor Bro Ron Woodhill as its chairman and it has been very active in seeking out applicants for support and in promoting the cause for our charity giving. I am very grateful to Ron and his committee for all the good work they are doing.

### **Regional MasoniCare Officer**

We are still looking for a suitable person to appoint for the MasoniCare Regional appointment – are you ready for this challenge? If so please contact John LeMesurier 6286 3320 (H) or myself.

### **MasoniCare Display Boards**

I now have a set of MasoniCare Display Boards for use on Show days. They had their first outing with Lodge Caledonia at the Canberra Show.

### **Regional Grand Lodge Officers Meeting**

The third meeting of the Region 10 Grand Lodge Officers will be held in conjunction with the Masonic Research Seminar in Bega on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2005. Please let Ron Neate know your suggested agenda items on 4821 2553 (H).

### **District Christmas Functions**

The Combined District 102 Christmas Dinner was held in Goulburn on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2004 and the District 105 annual BBQ was held at Tathra on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December. Both were well attended and it was great to meet with our brethren and the families in less formal circumstances.

### **Grand Master's Christmas Appeal**

The Grand Master's Christmas Appeal went well again this year throughout the region. Districts 103 and 104 donated 140 hampers, with the help from the Canberra Masonic Centre, which were distributed by Barnardos.

### **Membership / Caring Officers**

There has been some confusion about the relative roles of a Membership Officer and a Caring Officer in a Lodge. The way I see it is that the role of the Membership Officer is to find out why those who are capable of attending Lodge are not doing so, but that of a Caring Officer is to follow up on those who cannot attend Lodge through illness, infirmity or family problems and to arrange calls or hospital visiting if wanted.

While this aspect of the Lodge's Caring Officer's duties is a very important part of our mission, the Membership Officer should also help the Lodge Management Committee by preparing a plan for the Lodge to retain, regain and recruit members. It is therefore a very important role and should be filled by one of the most competent members in a Lodge. The roles are therefore quite different with little overlap.

### **Membership Card Trail in Canberra**

With the agreement of the Chairman of the Canberra Masonic Centre, a scheme to assist Lodge Membership Officers is soon to be trailed in Canberra. The idea is to issue all members in the region with swipe cards bearing their name and Lodge so that, when they enter the Lodge rooms in Canberra, their attendance can be recorded on a Computer and the Membership Officer informed directly about who was (or was not) in attendance that evening or at rehearsals. The trail is to determine whether the idea is worthwhile adopting throughout all major Masonic Centres in New South Wales and the degree to which members co-operate. The Canberra Centre has been chosen because a sufficient number of Lodges meet here and because it is believed that our members are likely to 'give it a go' to assess its value. The trail will be funded by Grand Lodge and will not cost us anything but our time.

Finally, Jenny and I will be away visiting our son and his family in USA from 6<sup>th</sup> May. I will be back early in June but if you need dispensations or anything urgent crops up please ring Warren Turton 6296 1599.



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### **Election of Grand Master**

The Installation of Rt Wor Bro Ray Brook will take place at the Sydney Town Hall on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August. I hope I will see many of you there.

### **Conferral of Grand Lodge Honours and Awards**

Our heartiest congratulations go to the following brethren from our Region who were honoured by the Grand Master at the June Communication with conferred Grand Rank as **PJGW** – Greg Nason and as **PDGIW** – Nigel Mckenna.

Warren Turton received the Region 10 award and Brian Bush, Eddie Snowie, Bill McVie and Fraser Watson received the District 102,103,104 and 105 awards respectively. An architect/planner Bro Geoff Driscoll from Lodge Gowrie of Australia was appointed the Region 10 Building Officer and takes up his duties at the Grand Installation in August. I would also like to thank those who have given me encouragement for my second term as your RGC.

### **Training for Grand Master's Representatives and Grand Directors of Ceremonies**

A training day for Grand Master's Representatives and Grand Directors of Ceremonies on nights of Installation was held in Canberra on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. We will look for a further opportunity for those who could not make it to attend another course soon.

### **Publicity**

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July I was asked to give a talk to Canberra Central PROBUS club about "Freemasonry" and it was very well attended with a lot of questions. Talking to community groups like this is one of the best ways of telling people what we do and stand for and I would be quite willing to talk to other groups if asked. I would also like to encourage members to submit articles through their DGIWs for publication in the NSW Freemason. There are members of local Lodges who are no longer resident in our Region but can catch up with our news through the NSW Freemason.

### **Bro Bob Cooper from Scotland's address**

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July, Bro Bob Cooper, Curator of the Library and Museum of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, gave an illustrated address to 144 brethren, ladies and guests on "Roslyn Chapel" as part of his eminent speaker's biannual tour organized by the Australian & New Zealand Masonic Research Council. His talk effectively debunked any of the stories linking the chapel with Knight Templars, Freemasons or Pagans and left it simply as a richly carved Christian chapel built by a wealthy family in which to bury their dead and ensure that prayers were offered for them.



### **Regional Masonic Research Seminar**

About 30 brethren and ladies attended our Regional Masonic Research Seminar held at Bega Masonic Centre on the weekend of 30<sup>th</sup> April and 1<sup>st</sup> May 2005. Seven research papers were presented, together with a

video and an enactment of one of the ancient and now extinct "Practical Masons" degrees. Four presenters were awarded book gifts honoring their first Masonic research presentation.

### **Regional Grand Lodge Officers Meeting**

The third meeting of the Region 10 Grand Lodge Officers was held in conjunction with the Masonic Research Seminar in Bega on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2005. The main agenda item was a discussion on the draft Regional Strategy Plan, which was circulated to all past and present Grand Lodge Officers. As a result, some amendments and updates are now being prepared and it will be circulated to Lodge Secretaries by the end of July.

I hope that it will help members and Lodges to plan for a coordinated effort to achieve the overall goals which we have identified for our Region and will generate further discussion to help us all improve the effectiveness and enjoyment of our Craft.

### **Meeting of International Grand Masters in Sydney**

Early in November this year there will be an international meeting of Grand Masters hosted by our Grand Lodge and over 200 invitations have been sent out. Most of the events will be staged in Sydney although it is hoped that some of the visiting Grand Delegations will visit parts of our Region during their stay in Australia. We will be planning for their attendance at certain Masonic events here soon. While it is expected that most of our visitors will speak English, I would nevertheless be pleased if those who are prepared to act as interpreters would let me know, particularly if you can spend some time in Sydney between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of November.

### **E-Mail Communications**

I now have over 260 E-mail addresses to which this News Letter is being sent. Please give me more as this greatly improves our ability to communicate quickly and at low cost and please send me any updates if you change your address.

## **Concordat with United Grand Chapter**

During the June Communication the Grand Master signed the new concordats with the United Grand Chapter of Mark and Royal Arch Masons and with the Order of David and Jonathon (Secret Monitors). Several Lodges have already made application for dispensations to work the Mark Man Degree following its demonstration in Sydney last month.

## **Cookbook for our Souths**

Bro Graeme Moller, SW of Lodge Commonwealth of Australia, and a medical practitioner has agreed to prepare a Masonic Cookbook to help JW's in the preparation of food for our Souths. The aim is to prepare inexpensive, healthy but tasteful food, which allows our diabetic brethren to not feel guilty and to encourage those who sometimes go home early, because they cannot digest some foods eaten too late at night, to stay and enjoy the fellowship.

## **MasoniCare**

V Wor Bro John Arthur has been appointed to the position of MasoniCare Regional Officer and will then act as the focal point for promoting both donations to and grants from MasoniCare in our Region.

A MasoniCare Interaction Grant has been approved for the William Ross Memorial project in Goulburn and a Masonicare \$5,000 Grant has also been approved for Lodge Cooma Monaro's support for YMCA's Outward Bound project. In addition a nominee from Goulburn has been awarded a Young Achiever award.

MasoniCare advises that the Young Achiever awards will not be continued in future in favour of other forms of grants. The Tsunami figure is now up to \$191,000.

## **Masonic Scholarships**

Four different scholarships are awarded to eligible students as follows:- (1) **Freemasons Scholarship at the University of Sydney**, (2) **James Sidney Miller Memorial Scholarship**, (3) **Lorna Milgate Scholarship** and (4) the **R F Barnes Memorial Scholarship**. The first two require the student to be a

son of a Mason, the Lorna Milgate Scholarship is for those already enrolled or accepted at a tertiary institution. I can supply details of all of these scholarships if requested. Please give thought how we might identify suitable applicants from our region.

## **Regional Committee for the Youth Welfare Fund**

The regional committee for the Youth Welfare Fund has been very active and two more people in the Region are now being helped by the fund.

## **Helping the Scouts**

During the past few years our relationship with the Scouting movement in the ACT has strengthened and I have been very impressed with the way in which they have been operating. In addition their membership has grown by 30% over the past 18 months, which testifies to the value of their planning and operations. We are looking at added ways to help raise more funds for them. However, as a result of this expansion they are now also looking for more Scout Leaders and, while some of our members are already fulfilling this role, if any others feel they could take on this responsibility, would you please contact Dave Phillips on 6291 9521.

## **New Members**

It is particularly pleasing to note the number of men joining the craft in our Region. We must be doing something right.

## **Mentors and Proposers**

Holding these new members is, however, still a question and there has been a lot of discussion about the role of Mentors. It should be very clear that when a Lodge appoints a Mentor for a new member, it does not mean that his proposer and seconder are relieved of their traditional roles of helping and guiding the new member through his first years of the Craft. The mentor's duties are complementary and recognize that a proposer and seconder may not have the full range of Masonic experience that is expected of a mentor. The mentor needs to monitor his progress and report this to the Lodge Management, supplementing, where necessary the education and experience he obtains.

## **Young Masons Group**

The DGIWs in Canberra are keen to form a Young Masons Group to help us to provide more interesting and invigorating activities. Mike Dalton may contact you soon.

## **Membership Card Trail in Canberra**

The proposed membership card trial in Canberra will not now go ahead.

## **Advertising Display Boards**

I have a set of MasoniCare Display Boards for public use on Show days or similar occasions and will soon have a complementary set prepared by Grand Lodge advertising the craft as well. Please call me if you would like to use them and I will arrange delivery.

## **Lodge Self-assessment and Accreditation**

Details of the Lodge self-assessment accreditation system are now available and the DGIWs are looking at the detail of these questions with a view to refining the benchmarks to suit both rural and urban Lodges in our Region. All Lodges are initially given provisional Accreditation and it is voluntary if Lodges wish to proceed further. The Lodge would then carry out a self-assessment against these locally determined benchmarks. The objective is to improve performance each year against your own self-assessment.

## **Masonic Buildings**

Several of the Lodges who own Masonic Buildings in the Region are looking at different ways to obtain or increase the income from their land or building and thereby be able to improve its comfort and convenience and also relieve themselves of some of the high costs of owning and maintaining a building today, which can become crippling for a small Lodge. The aim is to get ideas for income-producing activities or developments on the land or in the existing building and to produce realistic plans to implement them. Hopefully we will be able to identify these ideas and be able to afford them. Can you help? Our buildings are part of our heritage but sometimes become an unbearable burden.



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## **REGION 10 NEWS**

No 5 - December 2005

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

### **Installation of Grand Master**

The Installation of Most Wor Bro Ray Brook, held at the Sydney Town Hall on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August was a great success and was a credit to the work of Rt Wor Bro Kevin Damyon PGDC, who has now been appointed as the chairman of the Board of Management. Rt Wor Bro Glyn Williams is the new Grand Director.

### **Conferral of Grand Lodge Honours**

Congratulations to VWBro Ron Merton from Lodge Woden Valley who was honoured by the Grand Master at the December Communication with conferred Grand Rank as PDGIW.

### **Grand Master in Region**

The Grand Master MWBro Brook attended the installations of Lodge Queanbeyan St Andrew and Lodge Commonwealth of Australia in November and December. On the Sunday morning after Lodge Commonwealth's Installation he attended church with a number of our brethren at the Uniting Church at Reid.

### **Regional Masonic Research Seminar**

Our third regional Masonic Research Seminar is planned to be held in Goulburn during 2006 and will continue our objective to inspire those who have never before researched a Masonic subject to do so and provide a paper to the Seminar alongside more experienced speakers.

### **Australian Masonic Research Council**

Every two years the Australian Masonic Research Council hosts a guest speaker – Bob Cooper was the guest speaker in 2005 – and on the alternate year AMRC holds an Australasia-wide Conference. A speaker from each State and New Zealand gives a paper and the NSW/ACT speaker is called the Kellerman lecturer. Canberra has provided three in the past (Bob Linford, Niel Morse and David Slater) and will do so again this year at the Conference in Ballarat. The Conference will be held in Canberra in 2008 and we would like to see several people vying for the honor of the Kellerman lectureship then. We would also like to see growing interest in the region so that this Conference draws a large well-educated audience.

### **Deputy Grand Master unveils plaque**

At the invitation of Scouts ACT, Rt Wor Bro Greg Levenson DGM unveiled a plaque honouring the help Freemasons have given to the Scouts at Camp Cottermouth on 24<sup>th</sup> September. A further \$6,400 was donated. The ACT First Minister turned the first sod to commence re-construction. The following week a mini-jamboree with 1,000 scouts was held and the first steel-framed shelter shed had been erected.



This further evidence of the relationship with ACT Scouts underlines the degree to which they still need our help. They are very short of Scout Leaders and if any brethren feel they could take on this responsibility, would you please contact Dave Phillips on 6291 9521.

### **Sailability unveils Freedom Bell**

On 17<sup>th</sup> October Mick Gentleman MLA unveiled a bell at the Lake Tuggeranong Boatshed used to summon boats in from the water. The bell was engraved with a Masonic emblem and “in recognition of the valued and ongoing support of the Canberra Masonic Fraternity without which we would be ‘in irons’”

### **Fourth Consecutive Term as Worshipful Master?**

DGIW Harry Josephs and Peg, Regional Secretary Warren Turton and Marie and Jenny and I spent a wonderful evening with Lodge Young Burrangong at their Christmas Dinner party at the Young Bowls Club on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December. The Lodge voted to seek dispensation for WBro Moloney to serve a fourth consecutive term as WM.

### **Call for DGIW nominations**

The recent call for nominations for DGIW has met with a strong response with multiple applications in each District. Thank you all for being prepared to take on this work and responsibility.

### **Regional Committee for the Youth Welfare Fund**

The regional committee for the Youth Welfare Fund has been very active and two more people in the Region are now being helped by the fund. There are now more recipients of this fund in our region than any other so we should show our thanks by continued donations to the fund. Lodge Caledonia of Canberra won the clock prize given by the Masonic Youth Welfare Fund to the Lodge in each region which donates the greatest amount to this fund each year. It is planned that VWBro Harry Josephs DGIW will make the presentation on the Lodge's Burns night in January.

### **National Young Lawyer of the Year**

Congratulations to Bro Peter Woulfe on being named the Australian Young Lawyer of the Year. Peter is due to be installed as WM of Lodge Woden Valley in February. Peter was helped through his studies by the Masonic Youth Welfare Fund.

## Regional Grand Lodge Officers Meeting

It is planned that the fourth meeting of the Region 10 Grand Lodge Officers will be held in Canberra on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 12.00 Midday.

## Mozart

In 1991 we supported a special concert in which the Canberra Youth Orchestra played music by Masonic composers to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mozart's death. This proved so popular, raising about \$6,000, that we continued it for five years. 2006 marks the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mozart's birth. Should we revive this concert series?

## Home Brew

VWBro Henry Nichol was awarded the prize for the best home-brewed beer in the ACT. Is this his secret of a long life or just a happy one?

## Mark Man Working

The first working of the new Mark Man ceremony was carried out in Lodge Capitol on 19<sup>th</sup> September and was quite a success. Goulburn District Daylight Lodge are also planning to work the ceremony.

## National Masonic Men's Health Week

The Australasian meeting of Grand Masters agreed last month to hold a National Masonic Men's Health Week in which a health pack will be prepared to show to the public in a number of centres around Australia. The notion is to increase awareness of diabetes, prostate cancer, heart disease etc. and proper diet and regular exercise etc and to promote regular checks with GPs.

## MasoniCare

John Arthur, Regional MasoniCare representative, Neville Usher DGIW and I had great pleasure in presenting a cheque for \$2,000 being a Young Achiever's Award to Andrew Stewart in Goulburn on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August – a remarkable young man nominated by Peter Beilby of Goulburn Lodge of Australia.

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August, John Arthur, Russell Yelds DGIW and I presented a MasoniCare \$5,000 grant to Cooma YMCA to assist in sending three young men on Outward Bound courses. Thanks to the initiative of Peter Davis of Lodge Cooma Monaro in putting forward this project. The Smith Family received a further \$5,000 MasoniCare grant in Queanbeyan on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept. for their work building youth confidence.

## Masonic Scholarships

I would like to repeat the information about the four different scholarships awarded to eligible students as follows:- (1) **Freemasons Scholarship at the University of Sydney**, (2) **James Sidney Miller Memorial Scholarship**, (3) **Lorna Milgate Scholarship** and (4) the **R F Barnes Memorial Scholarship**. The first two require the student to be a son of a Mason, the Lorna Milgate Scholarship is for those already enrolled or accepted at a tertiary institution. I can supply details of these scholarships if requested so please help to identify suitable applicants.

## New Members

The flow of new members continues in almost all Lodges in the Region. Lodge Gowrie of Canberra had its second double initiation on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December and five other entered apprentices were present to hear WM Warren Turton OAM PDGIW give the first tracing board.



Not to be outdone, Yass Lodge of Concord has two double initiations scheduled early next year.

## Young Masons Group

The first get-together of the Young Masons Group was held at our home on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November following Lodge Queanbeyan St Andrew's Installation at which the Grand Master MWBro Ray Brook was in attendance. About 20 Younger Members and their families attended and enjoyed chatting with the Grand Master, who also obviously enjoyed the occasion.

## Masonic Education and Training Seminar

WM of Lodge Capitol, Geoff Ludowyk, together with DGIW Mike Dalton, WBros David Slater and Neil Morse, Preceptor and Secretary of Canberra Lodge of Research and Instruction, attended an Education and Training Seminar arranged by Grand Lodge on Saturday 12 November in Sydney. A number of workshops were sandwiched between the opening and closing sessions and the above four nominated for different workshops so that they could spread themselves as widely as possible across the offerings. Geoff reported that he "found the seminar to be very instructive and informative – time well spent – as did my colleagues. It was well attended and well run. Dare I say that in all the Masonic initiatives we are witnessing at all organizational levels, we are also seeing cohesiveness and a melding of minds and purpose. It can only augur well for Freemasonry."

## Grand Master's Christmas Appeal

This year 150 hampers were distributed in Canberra to needy families including 400 children with the assistance of staff from Dr Barnados. Great work.

Finally, Jenny and I wish all of you and your families a very happy, healthy and successful New Year. 2005 was a very disjointed year for us –our holiday in Russia was a great experience, then Jenny went baby-sitting to the USA again and finally a long-delayed project in China started and I have had to go there for work and again in January. I am most grateful to Regional Secretary VWBro Warren Turton OAM PDGIW, who efficiently carries out my duties while I am away.