



**FREEMASONS**  
NSW & ACT

## **REGION 10 NEWS**

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### **New DGIWs take up their Offices**

Congratulations to W Bros Rodger Bush, David Horton, Geoff Ludowyk and Charles de Rochefort for their appointment as DGIWs for Districts 102, 103, 104 and 105 respectively.

### **Mozart Concert in Canberra**

A Concert with the Canberra Youth Orchestra to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mozart's birth was held on the afternoon of Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November. It was aimed to help the Youth Orchestra to travel to Beijing next year and follows on our support for the Orchestra in the early 1990s. Half of our ticket sales went to the Youth Welfare Fund and this raised just over \$800.

### **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 in 2007. Lodges meeting at the CMC will be asked to consider an option to meet at the Queanbeyan Centre while construction takes place.

Equally exciting are the plans for upgrading the building at Braidwood although final feasibility studies are not complete nor approvals secured.

### **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.

### **Open House during Seniors' Week**

VW Bro David Horton arranged publicity and an "open house" at the Canberra Masonic Centre during Seniors' Week and about 60 people were shown through the Centre with appropriate explanations of the various symbols and officers' roles. VW Bro Geoff Ludowyk prepared a superb brochure entitled "Masonry demystified" for the occasion. Two new members eventuated from the open house. Next year CDMA will again contribute to the Seniors' Week by having another open day on Saturday 10 March at CMC.

### **Regional Masonic Research Seminar**

Our fourth regional Masonic Research Seminar will be held in Canberra early in 2007 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 experienced speakers.

### **Australian 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.

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

The fifth meeting of the Region 10 Grand Lodge Officers will be held in Canberra in February 2007.

### **MasoniCare grants**

One application for a Young Achiever's Award has been received and several applications for Interaction Grants have been submitted. The Lodges of District 105 received an interaction grant to provide two beach wheelchairs to the Tathra and Pambula Surf life Saving

Clubs as illustrated below. This had a very good article in the local press.



### **Men's Health**

The Canberra Mens Health seminar was held in the Canberra Masonic Centre on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October and about 160 people attended. Senator Garry Humphries opened the seminar and it was hosted with much humour by Ross Solley of ABC Radio. The Goulburn Mens Health seminar attracted about 35 people and was also quite successful.

### **Mens Health Followup**

Our DGM Dr Greg Levenson has been invited to present an address to the National Press Club in Canberra in conjunction with The Hon. Jeff Kennet (representing beyondblue our major sponsor) on the "Men's Health – No More Secrets" campaign on Wednesday 21st February, 2007, 12 Noon. The cost will be \$55 per head for the luncheon and those who would like to attend could contact the Geoff Ludowyk, David Horton or myself. I hope you will all join me at this function.

In addition, from the 1st January, to the end of Men's Health month, 31.10.07, Freemasons NSW/ACT is running an active lifestyle campaign called "To weigh or not to weigh - or – Freemasonry's Biggest Loser" program, where Lodges may enter seven of their

heaviest contenders in a Jurisdiction-wide weight loss contest. With a sense of fun and competition, every Lodge is encouraged to enter. Lodges should see their DGIWs about the way the contest is being organized. Our Grand Master has determined that the winning Lodge will have returned in total its capitation fee, masoniCare will match this \$ for \$, and the Lodge will have the privilege of donating the total to a charity of its own choice! The winning Lodge should be able to fit all its members into a phone box. I regret that, being a coordinator of our Region's program, I have to rule myself ineligible much to Jenny's disgust.

### Scouts ACT Fundraising Dinner

A fund-raising dinner in the Great Hall at Parliament House to assist ACT Scouts was held on September 21<sup>st</sup> 2006 with the Governor-General in attendance. This raised \$50,000 to assist in the restoration of the fire-ravaged Camp Cottermouth. I would like to record my heartfelt thanks to our brethren from the Sydney Lodge who came from Sydney to enjoy the evening with us.

### Grand Master's Christmas Appeal

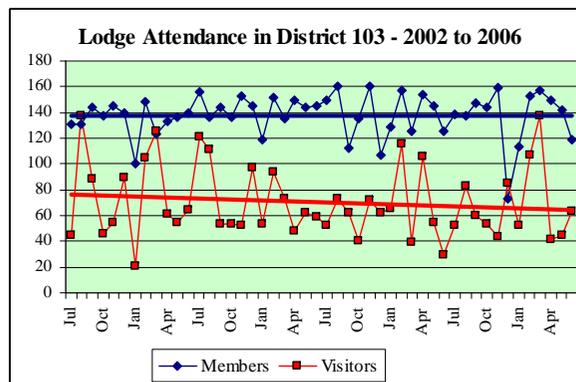
This year we hope to beat the total of 150 hampers which were distributed in Canberra to needy families with the assistance of staff from Barnados Australia (ACT Division). Individual donations will attract a tax receipt. Please contact Geoff Ludowyk or David Horton.

### Royal Arch Open Day & Regalia Swap

Australia Mark and Royal Arch Chapter will hold an open day from 10am to 4pm in the Canberra Masonic Centre on February 10<sup>th</sup> 2007. The various Lodge decorations, rituals and regalia will be explained covering Mark, Excellent Master, Royal Arch, Mariners, Red Cross and Cryptic degrees and Rt Wor Bro Frank Hull will conduct a Regalia Swap at the same time. The open day is open to all, including ladies and non-Masonic guests.

### Lodge Statistics

We hear a lot about our membership statistics, however the best indicator of whether a Lodge is surviving or, better, doing a good job, is the attendance at the Lodge's meetings. The DGIWs have been collating these statistics covering the past four years so that we can examine trends with some encouraging results. The graph below shows that attendance by members of Lodges in District 103 has stayed almost constant over the 4-year period from 2002 to 2006. The number of visitors to Lodges over this period (the number boosted by visitors to Installations and special events) has, however, declined.



### Past DGIWs Night

Lodge Ethos plans to host a Past DGIWs Night at its March 2007 meeting – where all positions and all work will be undertaken by officers of that rank drawn from Regions 103, 104 and 105. Masters are asked to consider whether a candidate – possibly for Passing to the Second Degree – can be provided for this event.

### 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 3,228 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

### Best Picture

The best picture this quarter is of Charles DeRochforte presenting a Re-installed Master's Certificate to WBro Kevin Malcahy during his re-installation into Lodge Pambula Daylight.



Finally, Jenny and I would like to wish all the brethren and their families a very happy festive season and a healthy and successful New Year. 2006 was a very busy year for us – Jenny went baby-sitting to the USA and France and I had to go to the Philippines for a week for work. Since July I have been working in the Federal Department of Transport and Regional Services on what started to be a help-out job but has grown. I am most grateful to the Regional Secretary VWBro Warren Turton OAM PJGW, who efficiently carried out my duties while I have been away during the year.