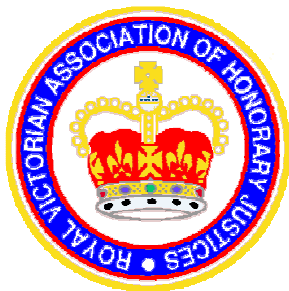




## Do They Ever Stop Giving?



A number of Masonic / Scouting Justices of the Peace have been honoured by the Dept. of Justice with service awards and will be presented with them by the

Governor in the near future. They include Alston Park OS, former Chief Commissioner of Scouts, MM and affiliate member of this Lodge, Gary Runge PGIWkgs, Berwick-Balcara Lodge, past active Grand Officer and has served on the Judicial Committee of Grand Lodge, Immediate Past President of the Association, Rod McConnell PM Baden Powell Lodge, Past President of the Association, Norm Wittingslow PSGW, former General

Manager of the Freemasons Hospital, Murray McGregor PGIWkgs, former Inspector of Workings of the Phillip Island Lodge, active in Scouting in the Berwick District, also has just been awarded the Medal of Service by the Chief Commissioner of Police on the recommendation of the Chief Magistrate Mr Gray, known to many of us from the former No 4 Group when a member of United Ambulance Lodge.

These people truly demonstrate outstanding service to both organisations and we should be proud that they are members of both organisations to which we hold dear. Freemasons serving the community in any capacity can only reflect well upon us as an organisation and on us as friends of those who serve.

Thanks to Colin Rimington, JP, an affiliate member of this Lodge, for this information.

## July Emergency Meeting ... Stopping, Starting or Stagnating?

Special meetings are a Master's nightmare but it takes courage to address difficult issues. Those attending the meeting in July came for assorted reasons with assorted expectations of what might be heard and what might be done. The results were satisfactory to a point.

VWBro Nick Rinkel set the scene for the meeting with some well-considered thoughts, some of which are included below:

### What are our immediate problems?

- Lack of candidates
- Cannot fill offices in the Lodge
- Members leaving the Lodge
- We are nearly broke
- Members not paying dues on time
- Poor attendance
- Poor attendance at South
- Very poor attendance at BP Socials
- Lodge lacks harmony at times.

### What are the results from those problems?

Lack of new blood makes the Lodge stale. There will be a lack of work as well as greater difficulties to fill chairs.

Less members means smaller numbers both in the Lodge room and South. This creates less atmosphere.

The end result of dues not paid means exclusion of those members, generally after the Lodge has paid GL dues for several years.

Poor attendance to the South and Lodge socials takes away a lot of the Lodge's fellowship, as well as financial losses.

Clashes of personalities tend to flow over to all members of the Lodge, possibly leading to some of the aforementioned problems.

Discussion was lively, passionate and wide-ranging. Some views were forcefully

expressed, others less dogmatically so but there was no doubting the passions held by many members and their love of this Lodge and of Freemasonry.

There was universal disappointment that those who have chosen to delay payment of dues have gravely handicapped, if not threatened, the Lodge. Charity will be applied in the future as required but slow payers will be asked to amend their ways for everyone's benefit.

Many strategies to improve Lodge finances, social activities and the Festive Board were explored, amended and plotted. Get ready to meet the new challenges with excitement and commitment; our future is not for the faint-hearted.

There was consensus that our current meanderings had to stop, we must plan a new beginning with differ-

ent strategies for the Lodge and stagnation (doing nothing) would kill the Lodge. The final resolve was to promote activity, harmony and recruitment. **Baden Powell Lodge: where action happens.**

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# BP 488 Newsletter

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## TOSCUS?

This article appeared in Freemason, a New Zealand publication.

*The Rev Dr Harry Swadling is a Presbyterian Minister in Khandallah, Wellington. This letter was originally directed to other ministers. Ed.*

I wish to bring to the attention of ministers a certain organisation that from time to time seeks the blessing of the Church. Furthermore, there are many of our members, indeed our leaders, who are involved in this organisation. It is in fact an organisation to which I once belonged but now have left.

Can your readers offer help as to whether membership of this organisation is compatible with responsible Church membership and, indeed, faith in our Lord Jesus Christ? This organisation uses a uniform to distinguish its members from the general public; the uniform varies according to the rank attained within the organisation.

It demands that its members make a promise; the promise mentions God

but not Christ and includes the idea of firm loyalty to the other members of the organisation. It also requires assent to a code of law. There is a special handshake between members. The organisation places a very heavy emphasis on the doing of good works. Groups of members meet regularly and sometimes go off for weekends together or even for a week or more. A serious concern is that the organisation is quite insistent on being non-Christian. It holds that its members should serve their own God. Some are Buddhists and Hindus, some are Muslims, yet they are all members of the one organisation.

The 'official' beliefs are actually very vague and deliberately so, because they seek to include so wide a range of personal religion. Despite this, they frequently hold some form of religious service and occasionally seek to have their parades in our churches.

There are no prizes for guessing the name of this organisation. Quite seriously, I wonder what we are trying to prove when we attack the assumed beliefs and practices of organisations to which our members choose to

belong. We might do better to follow the biblical dictum of knowing them by their fruits. I belong to no such body of men, but I respect the rights of others to do so. Have we not yet sufficiently indulged in our taste for witch-hunts? Will the Church not be sufficiently pure until it contains no one who does not think and act exactly as 'we' do?

Those attacking Freemasonry have clearly established that it is not a specifically Christian organisation, but I do not think it ever claimed to be. They have equally clearly failed to prove that it is anti-Christian. Indeed the empirical evidence is that many Masons are fully committed to their Lord. I had hoped we were becoming more tolerant, perhaps I was wrong.

Harry Swadling Wellington.

PS. For the slow of thought, the name of the organisation I have in mind can be unscrambled from the letters: TOSCUS.

## The Seven Wonders of the World

A group of students was asked to list what they thought were the present "Seven Wonders of the World". Though there were some disagreements, the following received the most votes:

1. Egypt's Great Pyramids
2. Taj Mahal
3. Grand Canyon
4. Panama Canal
5. Empire State Building
6. St Peter's Basilica
7. China's Great Wall.

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one student had not finished her paper yet. She asked the girl if she were having trouble with her list. The girl replied, "Yes, a little. There were so many that I had trouble making up my

mind."

The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have and maybe we can help." The girl hesitated then read, "I think the Seven Wonders of the World are:

1. To See
2. To Hear
3. To Touch
4. To Taste
5. To Feel
6. To Laugh
7. To Love.

The room was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop. The things we overlook as simple and ordinary and that we take for granted are truly wondrous! A gentle reminder - The most precious things in life cannot be bought by man or built by hand.

Have you ever wondered how lucky we as Freemasons are? What other organisation are you aware of that has such a simple joining qualification, that confers immediate rights and that treats all members as equals? How often do we get lost in the complexities of ritual and intricacies of ceremonial that we neglect the true meaning of what we try to do? What does Freemasonry do for you? What have you done because of Freemasonry?





**WHY?**

Why this self torture?  
 Because I will succeed.  
 Why become tired and frustrated?  
 Because I will achieve.  
 Why put in such effort?  
 Because I will gain.  
 Why not simply give up?  
 Because I have the strength.  
 Why participate at all?  
 Because I have the desire.  
 Why do all this work?  
 Because I believe.  
 Why the early mornings and the late nights?  
 Because I have a dream.



**CHANCE**

A moment in time can change the direction of a life. For better or worse. It might be an accident, a fluke, coincidence, or by taking a risk. Is it luck? Chance? Fate? A lottery? Just to be born is said to be lucky. Life then tosses up possibilities, moments to grasp. A chance to live and live again.



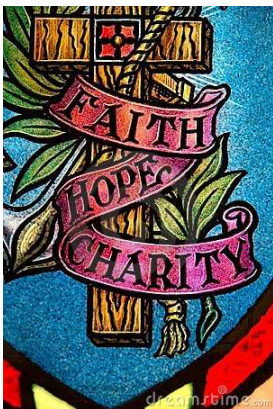
**DEVOTION**

Devoted to a cause or life's work, you are filled with a great love. You feel compelled. You rise to the challenge and make sacrifices beyond duty, unfaltering and constant — with courage — to live with loyalty and passion. Devotion can inspire others. It can drive life, be all-consuming. For some, their devotion becomes their life.



**HOPE**

To hope is to dream. Of what might or will be. Of the possible and the mere possible — hope against hope. To hope is to strive for the best. To build on glimmers of new beginnings. To hope is to never give up. To remain expectant, against hopes dashed, disappointments, falsities. To hope is to believe there is a way.



*People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in their true beauty is revealed only if there is light from within.*

~Elisabeth Kübler-Ross



The Altar Cross of Coventry Cathedral displaying the Cross of Nails formed from roof nails found in the ruins. The Cross of Nails now represents reconciliation.

The Altar of Reconciliation amidst the ruins of Coventry Cathedral. The cross is formed from charred roof timbers of the original cathedral.

**Reconciliation ... and The Cross of Nails**

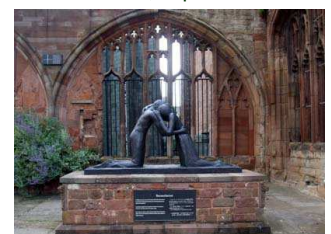
One of the most moving experiences imaginable is to visit Coventry Cathedral in England where the ruins of the old cathedral burnt by incendiary bombs during WWII stand alongside the new cathedral. The parishioners of the cathedral vowed reconciliation rather than revenge as a consequence

of their wartime experiences and have taken their message worldwide with remarkable effect. August marks the end of our Masonic year, a year during which some relationships within the Lodge were strained or became more distant than desirable. Why not follow the exam-

ple set in Coventry and pledge reconciliation at the start of our new year? Our Lodge faces real challenges and we can more easily address them without the distractions of petty differences between members. To err is human; to forgive, divine. Forgiveness is charity.



Statue of Reconciliation unveiled in 1995. A replica is found in Hiroshima Memorial Park, Japan.





Uniting Masonic Principles and the Scout Law in thought, word and deed.

BADEN POWELL LODGE NO 488

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Have you checked out the Freemasons Victoria website recently?  
It's worth a look. Go to [www.freemasonsvic.net.au](http://www.freemasonsvic.net.au)

### Life is to be enjoyed ...

#### Language Can Be Confusing ...

There was a bit of confusion at the supermarket this morning.  
When I was ready to pay for my groceries, the cashier said, "Strip down facing me".  
Making a mental note to complain to my MP about Homeland Security running amok, I did just as she had instructed. When the hysterical shrieking and security alarms finally subsided, I found out that she was referring to my credit card.  
I have been asked to shop elsewhere in the future.

Whatever you want to do, do it now.  
There are only so many tomorrows.

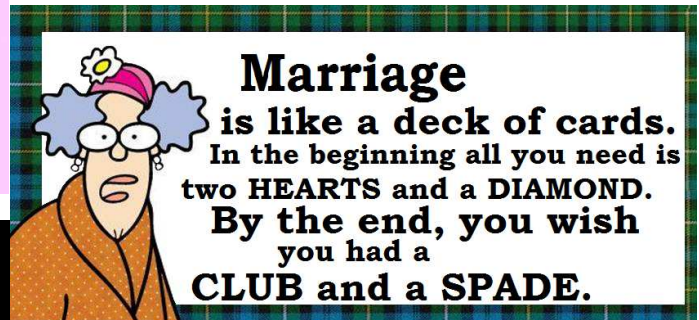


I cook using the  
4 food groups  
**CANNED  
BOXED  
BAGGED &  
FROZEN**

#### Brother Paddy ...

While shopping for vacation clothes, my husband and I passed a display of bathing suits.. It had been at least ten years and twenty pounds since I had even considered buying a bathing suit, so I sought my husband's advice.  
'What do you think?' I asked. 'Should I get a bikini or an all-in-one?'  
'Better get a bikini,' he replied. 'You'd never get it all in one.'  
He's still in intensive care.

The graveside service had just barely finished when there was a massive clap of thunder, followed by a tremendous bolt of lightning, accompanied by even more thunder rumbling in the distance..  
The little old man looked at the pastor and calmly said, 'Well, she's there.'



#### Some Useful Thoughts ...

Remember yesterday, dream about tomorrow, but live for today.

Life is short. Drink the good wine first.

Don't worry about old age! It doesn't last that long!

A foolish husband says to his wife, "Honey, you stick to the washing, ironing, cooking and scrubbing". No wife of mine is gonna work".

If a man has enough horse sense to treat his wife like a thoroughbred she will never turn into an old nag.

Better to remain silent and be thought a fool, than to speak and remove all doubt.



**AND LATER ON...**  
...WHEN YOU LEARN TO WALK AND RUN, WE CAN CHASE CATS!