

BP 488 Newsletter



BADEN POWELL LODGE NO 488

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February 2012

From our Worshipful Master



David Kamer
Our new Master ...

At time of printing — nothing. Our Worshipful Master has various demands that clash with Masonic commitments so sometimes we get out of synch.

Were he writing I am sure his letter would be along the following lines:

1. Happy New Year. We met in January but this is the first Newsletter for 2012.
2. Welcome to Mattie Mckernan, both to Freemasonry and to Baden Powell Lodge. New candidates are always welcome, quality candidates are rare and a little harder

3. Our February Annual Founders Day meeting is our big event: please make every effort to attend.
4. Our Grand Master will be attending in February, one of his last official events before Grand Installation in March. Let's all turn up so that we can thank him for a most impressive period of service to Freemasonry Victoria.

5. Congratulations to those brethren who have received promotions in Grand Rank, always well-deserved.
6. Supper at Shanika's Resto-rante is proving to be popular Should we do it more often? Your feedback will help us plan for the future.
7. Setting up for the February meeting is always a challenge. Please come along if you can because this is the big one.
8. David Kamer, WM

Promotions in Grand Rank

Details were announced at our last meeting but this is always an exciting time, well worth repeating. RWBro Rod Rowe, PJGW promoted to PSGW. VWBro Max Martin, PGIWkgs promoted to

PJGW. WBro Larry Bagley, PJGD promoted to PGIWkgs. WBro Graham Paulin, PJGD promoted to PGIWkgs. The new Grand Rank policy makes it harder to pro-

gress and only the most worthy nominations in the eyes of the Grand Master personally are successful. Congratulations to our successful nominees, your hard work is acknowledged with pride.

Let the Search Begin

Advice has been received that our Secretary, RWBro John Glover, PSGW has unexpectedly decided to retire and will be moving to Echuca to enjoy the sun, probably before Christmas 2012 as

soon as the new house is built. As John says, too good an opportunity presented itself and could not be overlooked. As Lesley says: "Beauty!" Volunteers are sought for the position of Secretary

so that John may help guide them into the role. Please do not rush, one at a time will do. John is not resigning from the Lodge, only relocating his home.

Special points of interest:

- PROMOTIONS IN GRAND RANK MERITED
- SEARCHING FOR A NEW SECRETARY
- SANDY KAHN TO BE HONOURED
- HAS TRADITION BEEN ABANDONED NEED-LESSLY?
- FIRST VISIT TO BADEN POWELL FROM GM
- CHALLENGING SUC-CESSION PLANS

Inside this issue:

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Loge of Mourning —WBro Sandy Kahn



Our Lodge lost a stalwart when WBro Sandy Kahn was called to the Grand Lodge Above in November after a long, courageous and inspirational battle with failing health.

Sandy was duly honoured by a huge attendance at his funeral and an eloquent eulogy delivered by RWBro John Glover at our November meeting. Sandy had many talents and assorted interests, many unknown to all but his closest friends. Sadly, we often learn of these when it is too late. Our late Brother Sandy was an ardent student of all things Masonic, he was extensively committed to a huge array of Masonic Orders and his knowledge was surprising.

The Brethren of Kring Nieuw Holland, the Dutch Masonic Research Circle of which Sandy was a dedicated member, were asked by Sandy before his death to conduct the traditional Loge of Mourning at Baden Powell Lodge so that we might all learn more from his death.

The ritual and symbolism are strange to those who have not experienced this ceremony before but the symbolism is eloquent in the messages conveyed. This ceremony will be conducted in the presence of Sandy's widow, Kit, and her children. Our friends and wives are also welcome to attend.

The Loge of Mourning will replace our regular March meeting. We will tyle early on that night then close so that the ceremony may be conducted. There will be ample time in the South for fellowship.

We do not wear regalia at this ceremony but we will need it for the brief meeting beforehand.

Stay alert for announcements in the March Summons.

A Reflection on Tradition

Advice has been received that Grand Lodge will no longer sing the Royal Anthem, commencing at Grand Installation, unless members of the Royal Family are Present. Reactions to this news are varied and predictable but one element seems to have gone unnoticed. Why did we have this traditional practice in the first place?

Proponents for change cite the Australian Government Gazette that introduced the new Australian National Anthem and proscribed the rituals associated with its performance. Similar codes were introduced for the Royal Anthem. The argument tendered is that we are simply complying with Australian practice. Some will argue that this is a reflection of the division created between monarchists and republicans - Freemasonry has become political, albeit coincidentally.

There are many in Baden Powell Lodge who strove valiantly to become Queen's Scouts. Many Venturers still do despite the public interest in abandoning the Royal Family as Australian icons. Many Freemasons cite their service under the Australian flag for the Monarch of the day when they served in the Armed Forces. These issues are strictly irrelevant in the Masonic sense.

The late King George VI was a Freemason as were many members of the Royal Family in years past. Some members still are, not least being the Duke of Kent (Grand Master of the GL of England) and his brother, Prince Michael of Kent (Grand Master of the GL of Mark Master Masons of England).

When the King died in 1952 senior Freemasons were discussing Masonic protocol and tradition with the new Queen. According to popular

hearsay, the Queen said that if it were good enough for her father to be a Freemason and he accepted the joint toast "The King and the Craft" then she, too, would accept the same duality in the toast.

Freemasonry Victoria readily acknowledges the English tradition in our ritual and emulates many English practices in our ceremonial. As we are met in private assembly, not in public gatherings for which there is an Australian Protocol promulgated by Gazette, what harm is there if we were to continue honouring an old Masonic custom?

Baden Powell Lodge is an autonomous Lodge within the Victorian Constitution. Grand Lodge practices do not have to be copied in local Lodges. Let's talk and develop a Lodge policy.

This is a personal view - John Glover

Badges for Sale



Limited previous years' stock available

\$6 ea or 6 for \$35
(post free)

Bulk discounts available
(no limit to numbers)

The special commemorative badges at our February meetings have been a feature of Baden Powell Lodge for many years. The tradition continues.

A new Australian supplier was located last year and supplies of quality badges are guaranteed.

Last year's price was \$6 per badge, this year's price is still \$6 per badge and the 2013 price will

also be \$6 per badge. Keeping prices low is one thing, reducing stock is another. The Lodge has too many badges in stock so we need to sell as many as possible.

A collection of the full series of badges will be presented to the Scout Heritage Centre so that all Scouts may see some of our heritage in future years.

Job Well Done - Thank You



MWBro Vaughan Werner
- our Grand Master

Every Master in every Lodge aspires to leave his Lodge slightly better than when he found it. Some succeed, some fail but everyone tries. Grand Masters undoubtedly share the same ideals when they step into the

Chair of King Solomon. In Scouting we are familiar with the challenge to Do Our Best to Be Prepared to Look Wide and to be of Service. Those old mottoes of the four Sections have stood the test of time well. MWBro Werner will soon hand the gavel of Grand Lodge to his successor, RWBro Bob Jones, well known to many within this Lodge. He has brought Freemasonry into the public arena on numerous occasions in many ways and has never shied from tackling difficult tasks himself. Similarly, he has tried to bring Grand Lodge into a modern cor-

porate arena-another difficult task. Only he can judge whether he succeeded with his aspirations but we can all say that he has succeeded in casting Freemasonry in new light and that his enthusiasm has been visible' infectious and stimulating. Even his critics must acknowledge that his performance has been polished and so very natural. Spare a thought for our WM who must find the words to thank him when he attends our next meeting. We can help make the task easier by attending en masse to thank the GM ourselves.

Succession Planning-Never Easy

Our Master-Elect, Bro Adrian Kamer, is engaged in forming his team for later this year. His task has not been easy and will get harder now he needs to find a new Secretary. As an accredited Lodge we have shown that our succession plan is ordered, planned and realistic. Translating plans into actions and getting members

to accept tasks is becoming harder. Our age Profile is challenging, a 5 yr plan is hard, a 10 yr Plan seems impossible, we do not have enough Master Masons willing to take office. We also have an obligation to ensure that no Master Mason is Press-ganged into service too soon or contrary to the plans he or his family may

hold. We must prepare our MMs appropriately but PMs can help achieve this by volunteering to be recycled. The veneer may be less shiny than previously but the core is still precious, able and (hopefully) willing. We need volunteers.

RITUAL AND CEREMONIAL DISTINGUISHES FREEMASONRY FROM MOST OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. LET'S ENSURE THAT GOOD RITUAL AND CEREMONIAL DISTINGUISHES THIS LODGE FROM MOST OTHER LODGES. REJECT READING OF THE RITUAL.

FAILING TO PLAN IS PLANNING TO FAIL.

SUCCESSION PLANNING IS A USEFUL TOOL IF WE PLAN TO USE IT CORRECTLY. PUSHING PEOPLE AHEAD OF THEMSELVES IS NOT EFFECTIVE PLANNING; EVERYONE SUFFERS, BOTH THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE LODGE.



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

Life is to be enjoyed ...

Amazingly Simple Home Remedies

- 1 If you're choking on an ice cube, simply pour a cup of boiling water down your throat. -Presto! The blockage will instantly remove itself.
- 2 Avoid cutting yourself when slicing vegetables by getting someone else to hold the vegetables while you chop.
- 3 Avoid arguments with the females about lifting the toilet seat by using the sink.
- 4 For high blood pressure sufferers - simply cut yourself and bleed for a few minutes, thus reducing the pressure on your veins. Remember to use a timer.
- 5 A mouse trap placed on top of your alarm clock will prevent you from rolling over and going back to sleep---after you hit the snooze button.
- 6 If you have a bad cough, take a large dose of laxatives. Then you'll be afraid to cough.
- 7 You only need two tools in life - WD-40 and duct tape. If it doesn't move and should, use the WD40. If it shouldn't move and does, use the duct tape.
- 8 Remember - everyone seems normal until you get to know them.
- 9 If you can't fix it with a hammer, you've got an electrical problem.

The Broken Lawn Mower

When our lawn mower broke and wouldn't run, my wife kept hinting to me that I should get it fixed.

But, somehow I always had something else to take care of first, the truck, going to Lodge, the car, playing golf. Always something more important to me.

Finally she thought of a clever way to make her point.

When I arrived home one day, I found her seated in the tall grass, busily snipping away with a tiny pair of sewing scissors. I watched silently for a short time and then went into the house. I was gone only a minute and when I came out again I handed her a toothbrush. I said, "When you finish cutting the grass, you might as well sweep the driveway."

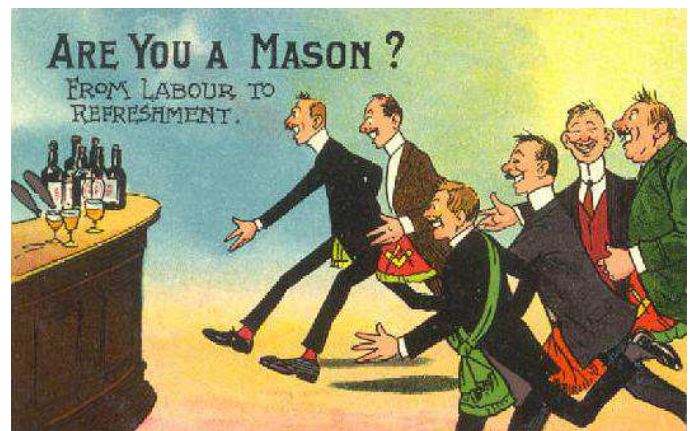
The doctors say I will walk again, but I will always have a limp.

The New Entered Apprentice

A young Entered Apprentice was being tested on his proficiency. After going over the

signs passwords, he looked at his tester and asked, I noticed several of the older members sticking their fingers in their ears and whistling. What does that sign mean?'

"That's not a sign," his tester said, "Those are Past Masters adjusting their hearing aids."



The New Entered Apprentice (2)

While visiting a newly initiated Brother at home one day, the new Brother's wife took me to one side and said her husband had started behaving very strange since joining.

I asked in what way?

She said that he locks himself in the toilet for hours on end mumbling to himself with his little blue book.

Later that evening I turned the talk to Lodge, and asked him how he was getting on. Oh fine was his reply.

I asked him about his behaviour and if there was anything wrong.

No, was his reply.

So why read the book there?

"Well," he said, "it's the only TYLED room in the house"....