

BP 488 Newsletter



BADEN POWELL LODGE NO 488

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Why Should I Join Freemasonry?

This is a legitimate and sensible question for any prospective candidate to ask, but the answer is one that is very difficult to put into words.

There is a mystical element about Freemasonry in that its qualities cannot be put down in so many words, but rather they are absorbed and become part of a member's attitude to life as he takes part in the ceremonies, learns the ceremonial work and associates with like-minded people.

There is a strong sense of fellowship that comes from being with people from all walks of life who share the same values.

This fellowship is strengthened by actively taking part in the work of the Lodge and striving to reach the highest standard possible.

There is also a strong sense of achievement that comes from mastering the various offices of the Lodge.

As one gains in experience there is a definite increase in self confidence that comes from being valued for what you are; being able to speak publicly and take positions of responsibility within the Lodge.

There is a strong emphasis on equality. Inside a Lodge whether one is a

basic labourer or a captain of industry or public affairs all are considered equal. This is a basic tenet of Freemasonry. If one cannot accept this then Freemasonry is not for him.

While Freemasonry is not in itself a charitable organisation it does involve itself in charitable acts but more so it expects its members to exercise relief or charity to the extent circumstances permit.

A notable feature of Freemasonry is that it is not only nation-wide but world-wide. One can visit Lodges all over the world and be assured of a warm

welcome.

There is little of material value one can get from Freemasonry but the intrinsic value one can get from exercising the way of life it engenders is incalculable.

In the end Freemasonry is a moral discipline that is not imposed from without but voluntarily accepted. It is one that is acceptable to all good men whatever their religious or political views. It can be and is a great uniting force in this chaotic world. The question should really be, "Why shouldn't I join Freemasonry?" The answer then becomes, "No reason at all".

The Aim of Freemasonry ... in Practice



There are five aims of Freemasonry, none is more important than the others, but one seems to stand out more than others: **Seek for excellence in all pursuits.**

Excellence has been defined as a talent or quality which is unusually good and so surpasses ordinary standards. Studies have shown that the most important way to achieve excellent performance in fields such as sport, music,

professions and scholarship is to practise. Achievement of excellence in such fields commonly requires approximately 10 years of dedication, comprising about 10,000 hours of effort.

Any DC will tell you that a ceremonial team cannot achieve the desired standard if they only practise at rehearsal. Victorian Grand Lodge Teams enjoy a justified reputation for their excellence but it does not come easily, members are drawn from Lodges just like ours, they are men just like us, but they work hard. But Freemasonry is more than ceremonial. A good Freemason will strive for excellence not only in ceremonial but also in his rela-

tionships with fellow members and in his demonstration of the teachings of Freemasonry, especially to non-Freemasons. How can that be done when we spend only 4 hours a month out of a possible 700 plus hours at Lodge? The answer can be found in what we do away from Lodge.

Think Freemasonry, seek daily examples of how to apply the teachings, discuss it regularly with others, read widely, ask questions. Do not be afraid of ignorance, fear complacency instead. Accept one's limitations, aim high for goals and reject mediocrity. *Excellence is not a skill. It is an attitude.* ~Ralph Marston

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The Road to Success



Success comes in cans, not can'ts.

Author Unknown

Our Lodge is facing some challenges over the next few years, some of them immediate, others less urgent. Reflecting on our Lodge history one might say that we have been a

successful Lodge but was it always so? Those who built this Lodge were not given life on a silver platter nor were they fed with silver spoons; they set goals, worked diligently and created a successful image on a foundation of small achievements. Surely we today are no less resourceful, less capable or less optimistic? Our attitudes when we confront our challenges will determine our future success. The first step will be to acknowledge the issues, the next to create a list of priorities and then we select the best volunteers to attack each issue. Our ultimate success will be the numbers who volunteer, their commitment to their task and the support they are given by the rest of us who should be doing some other tasks.

There can be no place for pessimism. Some are calling to return the Warrant, others fight when dealing with differences of opinion and still others belittle those with opposing views. What happened to harmony? What happened to vision, shared dreams and shared goals? Our Lodge badge depicts progress, optimism and peace whilst maintaining alignment with the compass of morality, spirituality and humanity. Let that badge be our guiding light on our new road to continuing success.

Regardless of differences, we strive shoulder to shoulder... Teamwork can be summed up in five short words: "We believe in each other."

The Royal Hymn ... or Anthem ... or Is It Too Hard?



Grand Lodge has reaffirmed its decision to abandon the honouring of the Royal Hymn in conjunction with the Loyal Toast. Lodges wishing to sing the Royal Hymn are permitted to do so provided it is separate from the Loyal Toast and only after a Resolution has been voted upon in open Lodge.

No dispensation has been given to any Lodge with special traditions relating to The Queen.

This Lodge already has an appropriate Resolution on the record. Do we continue with our tradition, should it be amended to comply with the new GL directive or is the subject too hard? Should we abandon our tradition to avoid the fuss? Write in and tell all of us what your views are. Don't be passive, stand for your principles. Our Principles Make a Difference.

Our Scottish Brother



*Provincial Grand Lodge
of Perthshire West*

A letter was recently received from Scotland

Dear Brother Glover,

Please accept my apology for the delay in writing to thank you and the brethren of Baden Powell Lodge for the welcome and friendship I received on visiting your Lodge but it was only on Saturday past that I managed to convey your fraternal greetings to the Grand Master Mason at the Installation of the new Provincial Grand Master of Fife and Kinross. He was very pleased to receive your fraternal greetings and remembered the occasions when you had met and also asked me to

return his fraternal greetings which I now do.

Once again, many thanks for your kindness on my visit to Baden Powell Lodge and please also express my thanks to the Master and brethren who made me so welcome.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

The Brotherhood of Man

It is a long standing Tradition among Freemasons worldwide that we meet, within open doors, usually but once a year, in a place of worship to celebrate the Brotherhood of man and the supremacy of the Great Architect of the Universe. It is an equally long standing Tradition that this meeting takes place in a Traditional place of worship. We are proud of our Fraternity, honour and respect our differences and rejoice in our similarities. We are proud of the individual faiths of our Brethren, with all their varying beliefs and practices. We discuss neither religious topics in our regular assemblies and neither do we as a matter of practice join in prayer with one another in our respective places of worship. But today witnesses the coming together of different Traditions. Some of us here belong to Lodges whose history stretches over Centuries, others measure their history in decades. We each have our established Traditions, of which we are all not unjustifiably proud. Tradition, now there is a word to ponder over. To a great many people, a Tradition is a way of doing unthinkingly something the way it has always been and expecting it to so continue. It is a Tradition in Freemasonry that our 'secrets' are not private property, but passed

down to us to hold and to pass on to the next generation. This is perfectly in harmony with many of the 'dictionary' explanations of the word, I like the shorter Oxford English Dictionary, which says Tradition is *"the transmission of statements, beliefs, customs etc. especially by word of mouth or unwritten custom."* Tradition is that linking chain of events and established beliefs and practices that define us for what we are. These Traditions are living things, valued in the past, lovingly lived through and passed to us in the present as things still of value. We owe them our respect and out of that respect we communicate them to those coming after, in the hope that they will think and act likewise. I am sure we think that some of the traditions we inherit are meaningless and pointless and therefore useless and fit only to be discarded. But where would we be without them? And what legacy would we have to bequeath to those who follow us? 'We therefore must preserve the memory of those Traditions we do not practise and in their place create new ones, ones we hope will stand the test of time. One of the great Traditions of Freemasonry is secrecy. Our secrets can by and large be summed up in the ancient words: *What is hateful yourself,*

do not do unto others. Unfortunately for the world, this is far from being the norm. 'We are still widely looked upon with suspicion as a dangerous society. We in Freemasonry are but a microcosm of the greater world we inhabit. We have laws and bylaws formulated by our founders, laws which guide our day to day actions which can be, and are, amended as time and events require. We have a moral and ethical code with which we live our daily lives, established in our different Volumes of the Sacred Law, sacred to each of the Brethren. We wear our regalia with pride. We are each convinced our established and traditional ritual is the best. Like so many minority groups, we do not see ourselves as a threat to society. If we are like others then it must follow that they in turn must be like us. Putting it simply, we are together the Brotherhood of Man. We must accept and respect others as we would have them accept us and together we constitute a force for the better and for the greater good. Together we can make a difference is a truism, oft recited and often ignored is that we can make a better world for tomorrow.

I say let this be the first day of tomorrow.

This is an extract of an article of the same name written by the late Brother Barry Landman, PM Lodge Montefiore No 753 SC on the occasion of the visit by brethren to Garnethill Synagogue for the Divine Service for Lodge Montefiore. *The Ashlar (March 2012) pp 34-35.*

MAGNETIC
COMPASSES
ONLY WORK
WHEN THEY ARE
FREE OF
EXTERNAL
INFLUENCES
SUCH AS MASSES
OF METAL. OUR
MORAL
COMPASSES
WORK
INDEPENDENTLY
OF ANY
DISTRACTION
SAVE THOSE
THAT PREVENT
US FROM
READING THE
DIRECTION
OFFERED. HOW
GOOD ARE YOU
AT AVOIDING
THOSE
DISTRACTIONS?



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 ...

Rural Australian Terminology

LOG ON:	Adding wood to make the barbie hotter.
LOG OFF:	Not adding any more wood to the barbie.
MONITOR:	Keeping an eye on the barbie.
DOWNLOAD:	Getting the firewood off the Ute.
HARD DRIVE:	Making the trip back home without any cold tinnies.
KEYBOARD:	Where you hang the Ute keys.
WINDOW:	What you shut when the weather's cold.
SCREEN:	What you shut in the mozzie season.
BYTE:	What mozzies do.
MEGABYTE:	What Townsville mozzies do.
CHIP:	A bar snack.
MICROCHIP:	What's left in the bag after you've eaten the chips.
MODEM:	What you did to the lawns.
LAPTOP:	Where the cat sleeps.
SOFTWARE:	Plastic knives & forks you get at Red Rooster.
HARDWARE:	Stainless steel knives & forks - from K-Mart.
MOUSE:	The small rodent that eats the grain in the shed.
MAINFRAME:	What holds the shed up.
WEB:	What spiders make.
WEBSITE:	Usually in the shed or under the veran dah.
SEARCH ENGINE:	What you do when the Ute won't go.
CURSOR:	What you say when the Ute won't go.
YAHOO:	What you say when the Ute does go.
UPGRADE:	A steep hill.
SERVER:	The person at the pub who brings out the counter lunch.
MAIL SERVER:	The bloke at the pub who brings out the counter lunch.
USER:	The neighbour who keeps borrowing things.
NETWORK:	What you do when you need to repair the fishing net.
INTERNET:	Where you want the fish to go.
NETSCAPE:	What the fish do when they discover the hole in the net.
ONLINE:	Where you hang the washing.
OFFLINE:	Where the washing ends up when the pegs aren't strong enough

Calories

(noun)

Tiny, invisible, very persistent creatures
that live in your wardrobe
and sew your clothes a little bit tighter
every night.

Brother Paddy ...

The police came to my front door last night holding a picture of my wife.
They said, "Is this your wife, sir?"
Shocked, I answered, " Yes."
They said, "I'm afraid it looks like she's been hit by a bus."
I said, "I know, but she has a lovely personality."

Me mate's missus left him last Thursday, she said she was going out for a pint of milk and never come back!
I asked him how he was coping and he said, "Not bad, I've been using that powdered stuff."

A Promise ...

While creating wives, God promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the world.
And then He made the earth round.

We Are All Children ...

A CHILD'S IF
If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.
If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.
If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy.
If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty.
If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.
If a child lives with encouragement, he learns confidence.
If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate.
If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice.
If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith.
If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.
If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, he learns to find love in the world.