

# BP 488 Newsletter



BADEN POWELL LODGE NO 488

Volume 1, Issue 4

March 2011

## From our Worshipful Master



Craig Shankland  
Our new Master ...  
and a new father.

Dear Brethren all,

What a fantastic uniform night! Just over 100 people gathered to join in the celebrations of the 80<sup>th</sup> traditional uniform night. We were honoured to have RWBro John Godfrey and also the Chief Commissioner, Scouts Victoria, Bob Taylor. Our guests also included Commissioners from each Section and many Masonic and non-Masonic guests, some of whom were seeing the inside of a Lodge Room for the first time. We also welcomed the WM of Baden Powell Lodge W.A. and a number of his brethren and their wives; what a great honour to have them visit us from Perth.

We all enjoyed an informative and relaxing evening. I definitely got more relaxed as the night started. RWBro John Glover delivered a marvellous presentation describing the similarities between Masonry and Scouting. The Baden Powell Lodge Rover Service Award was presented to the Victorian Branch Rover Council for their assistance to the many needy communities following the Black Saturday bush fires.

The Festive Board was full of Scouting traditions, the hall decorated with 100's of scarves. Thank you to WBro Darren Brain and VWBro Nick Rinkel for leading the camp fire songs. The raffle proceeds raised just over \$500 and these are being donated to the Grand Master's Flood Relief fund.

To everyone who had contributed to a successful Founders Night, congratulations and thank you. It was fantastic to have the response for set up (including the apologies) but even more so, the magnificent effort that everyone put in with the pack up, maybe the earliest "go home" for a uniform night. Thank you again VWBro Max Martin and Norma for maintaining and expanding the scarf collection.

Last time I did not thank those involved in the successful Christmas function last year, thank you to our mystery Santa (WBro David Wain) and WBro Rob Kamer and his partner Sandy in all the assistance to Santa. What a joy it was to have all the children arrive from nowhere just as he arrived.

In March Bro Chris Parr will be raised to the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree and he will become our newest Master Mason. Following his Toast to Scouting at uniform night he is demonstrating great abilities and enthusiasm. Enjoy your special night, Chris, we are all looking forward to it.

The next social event will be on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> of April and this social event is a fundraiser for the Royal Children's Hospital. We will require some assistance from Lodge members in the preparation at the Scout Hall and of course the packing up. Please forward your offer of support to our social secretary Bro Adrian Kamer.

With Easter falling in late April it has been decided to hold the Lodge meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in the rehearsal room; this will be a short meeting possibly with a lecture and then we will cross the road to a restaurant for supper. In early May we also will be holding an official visit to our Grand Mother Lodge, North Melbourne. I am looking forward to these two Lodge nights.

Regards,  
Craig Shankland

### Special points of interest:

- UNIFORM NIGHT VERY SUCCESSFUL
- OUR WIDOWS TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER
- BADEN POWELL LODGE NSW TO BE CONSECRATED
- WORDS TO ABSENT BRETHREN TOAST
- NEW DISTRICT COORDINATOR ONE OF US
- CGP WANTS MORE FROM MEMBERS

### Inside this issue:

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## Our Widows Are Not Forgotten

The Masonic family consists of our brethren, their wives and partners and their children. In essence, a brother adds his family to the larger Masonic family.

As time passes families change: some enlarge and all too soon they shrink. Memories of departed family members create the cement that binds the remaining members together. As with our blood families, so it is with our Masonic family.

We may lose a Brother but the memories we retain of him help us to recall him and his contribution to our Lodge.

Loss of a brother does not mean that his family ceases to belong to the Masonic family. It is our obligation to ensure that does not occur.

Some widows choose to create a new life for themselves because the life they shared with their husband has changed. They ask not to be included in

future Lodge activities, others are pleased to remain with us.

The widows who have chosen to remain associated with our Lodge are cared for by our Almoners Committee. Part of that caring will ensure that they receive copies of this Newsletter. We want them to know that we still value their friendship and treasure their links with us.

This is Freemasonry in action.

“... ABSENT  
BRETHREN  
TOAST... SAME  
TIME, SAME  
WORDS, SAME  
SENTIMENTS: WE  
MISS YOU AND  
ARE THINKING  
OF YOU ...”

## Absent Brethren Toast

In previous years (last century), our Lodge had a standard Absent Brethren Toast so that any person delivering the Toast did not need to create a toast of their own. Those words are reproduced below to make the task easier for those entrusted with this

privilege these days.

*Worshipful Master, Worshipful Brethren and Brethren,*

*I claim your attention to our absent brethren.*

*Those who are ill, those who are far away, those who cannot be with us*

*tonight for one reason or another.*

*We remember them in our thoughts and commend them to the Great Architect.*

*Brethren, after singing the Ode, I will give you the toast: Our Absent Brethren.*

## New Baden Powell Lodge in NSW

Word has come through that a new Baden Powell Lodge will be formed in NSW with a probable Consecration on 9 July.

Many of us would be aware that the NSW Grand Master, MWBro Greg Leviston, a former Scouter, is an enthusiastic supporter of Scouting and was devastated when the

former Baden Powell Lodge returned its Warrant. He has actively encouraged the formation of the new Lodge.

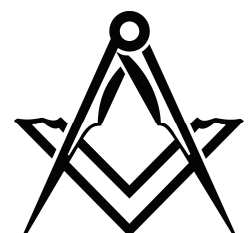
When further details emerge from Sydney all of our brethren will be advised. Wouldn't it be fantastic if we could make an official visit, in Scout uniform, to participate in the

Consecration Ceremony?

Where there is a will, there is a way. Watch this space.

If anyone is especially interested in these plans advise John Glover, our Secretary, to ensure your inclusion in the planning.

More details to follow.



## New District Coordinator

The Grand Installation marks many changes in Masonic administration throughout this jurisdiction. Not only do we get a new Grand Secretary, we also get a new District Coordinator. VWBro Graham Flaherty is relinquishing the reins in favour of WBro Lionel May, PJGD.

Lionel is well known to many of our members at Baden Powell Lodge, being one of our Affiliate Members. He also has had an extensive Scouting career in Croydon, starting with the Cubs and finishing as Commissioner.

He is a Past Master of both Deepdene and Ranges Memorial Lodges, both formerly associated with this Lodge when we were in No 4 Group, principally whilst we were at Hawthorn. He is also a member of the Grand Mark team so he is very well known to some of our members. He has served his apprenticeship by serving on another District Panel. One cannot help but admire these men who give so much in so many ways to Freemasonry.

Our Lodge has been well served by Graham Flaherty so we thank him most sincerely and wish him well in his new endeavours; he is certainly not retiring. We also wish Lionel well as he assumes his new responsibilities. He has an impeccable reputation for barbecues and sausage sizzles.

As they say in the classics, "Out with the Old, in with the New" or should that be a little more formal: "The King is dead, long live the King". Don't forget your sunglasses and red socks to match that magnificent red collar as it changes necks.



WBro Lionel May, PJGD, our new District Coordinator

## Committee of General Purposes

Various aspects of Lodge life can be seen as indicators of Lodge health. Things like attendance rates, succession plans, Master Masons progressing through office, member participation rates and apparent commitment to the Lodge may all be used to measure the vitality and viability of the Lodge. Subjectively we seem to be healthy, objectively there are signs of malaise.

You may be asked to express your views about what where we are at and where we are going. Don't hold back in expressing your thoughts but, better still, try to be constructive. Any suggestions for improvement will be welcomed.

When expressing your

views keep them in the Lodge. Only the WM and secretary are authorised to speak about the Lodge outside the Lodge.

Rehearsals reflect the real health of the Lodge. Officers are expected to attend, PMs participating in ceremonies are also expected to attend because it is the whole team that performs a ceremony.

Accreditation remains an on-going activity. All Committees must ensure they are ready for review with fully documented activities from April onwards.

Our Master-elect is busily inviting members to join his team. September is not far away and he needs to be certain that all positions are filled. There is a strong view that PMs will

be required to fill in for several years yet to ensure that our MMs are not rushed into office prematurely. It is one thing to be young and enthusiastic, it is another to be suitably prepared. No-one is well-served by confusing enthusiasm with competence. There is a lot to be said about an effective apprenticeship.

The social aspect of Lodge life is equally important. How do we appeal to our more senior members and their partners? Give us feedback to ensure social planning is embracing, not excluding.

Remember, without change, no change is possible.

THE COMMITTEE OF GENERAL PURPOSES HAS CONCERNS ABOUT SUCCESSION, PARTICIPATION RATES AND LACK OF COMMITMENT.



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

BADEN POWELL LODGE NO 488

## The Grand Master's Flood Appeal

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Never before have there been so many situations where major parts of the community have been so severely disadvantaged by disaster. Australia has suffered from the north in Queensland to the south in Victoria and to the west in Western Australia. Our friends in New Zealand and now Japan have also suffered. Every expression of support is welcomed by the survivors and the battlers.

Our Lodge raised just over \$500 from the raffle at the February meeting. There will be continuing opportunities for members to donate time and physical effort as both Scouts and Freemasons work to help those in distress. Be aware, be prepared.

## Thanks

Our Uniform Night was extremely successful for many reasons; the atmosphere both in the Lodge Room and at the Festive Board was outstanding. None of this would have been possible without the assistance of many who helped set-up on the Sunday and clean up after the meeting. Others helped by using their assorted talents in other ways.

How good would our Lodge be if this sort of thing happened at every meeting? Why don't we project forwards more often, anticipate what needs to be done and see if we can help instead of relying on a select few? Bro Winston Churchill said "Never before has so much been owed by so many to so few." Did he really have our Lodge in mind?



## Friend to Friend Masonic Memorial

The Friend to Friend Masonic Memorial is a monument located in the annex of the Gettysburg National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Built by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, it commemorates Confederate Brigadier General Lewis Addison Armistead entrusting Union Captain Henry H. Bingham with his personal effects, most notably a pocket watch, on the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg, during Pickett's Charge.

Pickett's Charge was an assault upon the Union Army centre on the last day of the Battle of Gettysburg. The charge, the high tide of the Confederate States of America, was repulsed. Confederate general Armistead, under George Pickett's command, personally led his men up the hill to the Union position. Armistead was shot twice. Severely wounded, and fearing that his personal effects would be stolen by Union soldiers, he "gave a Masonic sign asking for assistance". Union Captain Bingham, an aide to Major General Winfield Scott Hancock, a personal friend of Armistead, then came to his aid as he lay wounded: Armistead, Bingham, and Hancock were all Freemasons. After ensuring Armistead that his possessions would be sent to his family, particularly his pocket watch, Bingham took Armistead to a field hospital, where Armistead died two days later on the George Spangler farm.

The monument's sculptor was Ron Tunison of Cairo, New York, who was himself a Freemason. The sculpture is made of polychrome bronze.

The statue was dedicated by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania on August 21, 1993.