

BP 488 Newsletter



BADEN POWELL LODGE NO 488

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March 2012

Uniform Night a Great Success

We are encouraged to add the "Wow" factor into our Lodge meetings. When it is there everyone can feel it, everyone talks about it and everyone is inspired to look for more of it. Our February meeting, our annual Uniform Night, had the "Wow" factor in copious quantity. Congratulations to those who made it happen.

Our Lodge was honoured to have the leaders of both organisations present; it has been a long time since that happened. Not only was our Grand Master present but he also encouraged his entire Escort to wear Scout scarves as well. What a gesture. The Chief Commissioner always tries to attend these nights but he is under considerable pressure around Founders Day. That he can squeeze our meeting into his agenda is always a compliment to the Lodge.

The two chiefs had a lot to share and both remarked on the common challenges facing each organisation. Few Lodges ever confront a full Lodge Room with no spare space, even the GL Escort Deacons had to be seated on spare chairs. This was a spectacle to behold and all visitors, Masonic and non-Masonic, could not have failed to be impressed.

Scouting Heritage was the theme for the night (who ever thought of that?) but it worked well. RWBro John Glover's address was well-researched and revealed

information that some knew a little about but surely no-one knew all about. "A Scouting Retrospect" suggested one member; "You connected all the dots," said one of the visitors. "Is John really that old?" was a question from one of the Rovers.

We have talked for too long about including the Scout Promise in the programme. This year it happened. The sight of nearly 150 people, not all in Scout uniform, renewing the Promise was inspirational. We must do it again.

Never have we seen so many Rovers present at this meeting. The entire North of the Lodge was a sea of red shirts — truly a spectacle. The Birubi Rover Crew was impressive to watch, they were equally impressive when their citation was read by the Secretary.

The Lodge presented a full set of our annual badges to the Scout Heritage Centre for perpetual display. This will add to their collection of badges but it will also help to promote the Lodge in a new venue. If the Lodge badges presented to the Heritage Centre will help to promote the Lodge then the auction of the Lodge badges will promote the Lodge even more! Who would ever have imagined that a few Scout badges would raise \$250 in an auction? This was a new record in a night of records.

Our Festive Board was a fitting end to a wonderful night. The visual impact when one entered was awesome, the value of the relics was priceless and the atmosphere was electric. Speaking to the Rovers confirmed the impact on our visitors. Was the impact any less on our Masonic visitors? What a spectacular end to the Grand Master's year to see a Lodge in full swing in a way that no other Lodge can match!

Nothing ever happens without prior preparation and we all owe a lot to those who helped make our Uniform Night happen. We are indebted to those willing hands who helped set everything up on the Sunday before, to Max and Norma Martin for their tireless effort with the displays, to those who contributed to the displays and to those who helped make the night function. Yes, there were some hiccups but they were overcome and success prevailed. Can we do better? Of course ... but only if more contribute. Now is the time to reflect on what happened, to suggest ways in which we might improve, to select a theme for next year and to refine all that was good.

How can you help? Easy: come along, be seen, contribute and bring a friend.

Special points of interest:

- UNIFORM NIGHT SUCCESSFUL BEYOND BELIEF, ONE OF OUR BEST EVER
- LODGE BADGES FOR SALE
- MICHAEL B-P BUSY INTERSTATE
- A NEW VICTORIAN CONSTITUTION
- LODGE FUTURE AT THE CROSS-ROADS
- RE-ACCREDITATION IS LOOMING



(Above)
MWBro Vaughan Werner, GM
WBro David Kamer, WM
Bob Taylor, Chief Commissioner

(Below)
Kel McMeeken, Scout Heritage Centre
Aline Thompson, BC-Heritage



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Badges for Sale

One of the great souvenirs of the Uniform Night is the special badge struck each year. They must be special, given the price paid at auction for the set of badges! Many members may not have a complete set of the

badges, especially if you are a newer member of the Lodge. Contact Tony Eijgendaal who may be able to help you. Cost of each badge is \$6 but bulk deals do apply. Any 6 badges will only cost \$30.

It is in the interests of the Lodge to clear the stock of badges. Why not use them to promote the Lodge in a Venturer Unit or Rover Crew? Perhaps on a training course?



Badge Wanted

Just as we try to sell excessive stock the need arises for old badges. Tony Eijgendaal is desperately trying to obtain at

least one copy of the 2002 badge. Perhaps he is trying to form another complete set? If anyone has a spare

badge please contact Tony. Price negotiable but markedly less than \$250. Remember, he's a retired Past Master.

Michael B-P Has Been Busy

It is no real surprise that Michael Baden-Powell, invariably accompanied by Joan, has been busy at functions surrounding Founder's Day. Functions within the Scout and Guide fraternities are not unexpected but Michael's activities also extend into Masonic functions inter-

state. Reports from Baden Powell Lodges in both NSW and SA show that Michael honoured both Lodges with his presence recently. Those present were undoubtedly grateful that he has the time and interest to devote to events of all types acknowledging B-P's

birthday and his great legacy that we all enjoy. We at Baden Powell Lodge can be proud that one of our members is working so hard to demonstrate to all that Scouting and Freemasonry are closely intertwined. Service to others is a common expression of those links.



New Victorian Constitution Now Available

For many years the Victorian Constitution has been under review. The primary aim of the review was to bring our primary authority into line with contemporary practices but the secondary aim was to simplify the writing so that legal training was unnecessary to understand what was written, meant and implied. Both aims were mammoth undertakings. Numerous Grand Registrars attempted the task but were

thwarted by competing priorities and the quaint traditions of "old Masonic practice". Our current Grand Registrar, RWBro John Molnar PJGW, will be recorded as the one who broke the impasse. He merits our thanks and praise. The new Victorian Constitution is available online and is now also available in hard copy. The new Constitution is displayed at every meeting of the Lodge on the Master's pedestal and is available

for any brother to peruse at any meeting (before or after, not during). This is not light reading and many experienced brethren who have an insatiable appetite for the intricacies of Masonic administration would be well advised to obtain personal copies with which to wile away many hours of boring television. Anyone who needs a soporific that is neither liquid nor alcoholic could also invest in a copy. Contact the Secretary if you need a copy at modest cost.



Whither Directing Our Course?

Master Masons would not only be familiar with the above fragment of ritual but they would also be aware that they have a responsibility for guiding the course of the Lodge. Our future path is far from clear although a rocky path has never previously proved too daunting for our forebears. The Lodge's needs are simple: a Succession Plan that is realistic and attainable, a Plan that meets the needs of younger, less experienced members, a Recruitment Plan that will keep the ceremonial programme alive and which will produce new members

in adequate numbers to keep the Lodge alive and a Plan to cover the gaps whilst those aspiring Master Masons have time to consolidate their knowledge before plunging into Lodge leadership roles. Promoting inexperienced Master Masons into leadership roles before they are ready is neither beneficial to the Lodge nor the member. Volunteers are sought to occupy many roles in the next couple of years commencing with a successor to our Master-Elect. We need breathing space for several years before our troubles will recede. We

need many new young members to avoid a repeat of this dilemma in a few more years. Personnel selection is one thing; programming is another. Experienced Scouters will know that poor programming is the precursor to Group closure. The same principles apply in Freemasonry. Identify good options that may appeal to our members, mention them to the WM or Secretary and be prepared to develop the



suggestion into a working activity. The Lodge will be forever indebted to you. What are we looking for? Interesting speakers with interesting topics for Lodge or Festive Board, variety in social activities, scope in our activities such that older members do not feel excluded and cost friendly activities that do not threaten pensioners. Reach for the stars: Look Wide!

Re-Accreditation is Looming

Our Lodge was proud to become accredited. Much work was done by a dedicated few, not least Sid Smidt, to create a good impression of our Lodge. Each of us has been able to bask in reflected glory since. Accreditation has a limited life, normally three years, after which the process starts again. The process is similar to before except that the next time the hurdle creeps slightly higher. We are at the next stage now. Moves are now under way

to prepare material for submission to show that our administration is better than before. We believe in all good faith that it is but auditors seek proof. This time, we hope to make an electronic submission which should be easier (and certainly less voluminous) than previously. Don't be surprised to see questionnaires and other documents around in the near future. The second part to re-accreditation is ceremonial assessment. Stan-

dards are higher across the jurisdiction now but some concentrated effort by the whole team will work. The biggest challenge for each of us is to unlearn bad habits. Be precise, use exact words from the ritual rather than words with similar meanings and avoid any inclination to use cheat sheets. If you see ritual being read tell the DC. It is his job to train the floor team. Be charitable and let him do his job without interference from us.

ACCREDITATION IS NOT A GOAL IN ITSELF, NOR IS RE-ACCREDITATION. SELF-EXAMINATION LEADS TO SELF-AWARENESS AND THAT MAY LEAD TO RENEWAL. THE CHOICE IS OURS: BETTER TO DECIDE FOR OURSELVES THAN TO LET OTHERS DECIDE FOR US!

Our Next Meeting ...

The Summons advises that our next meeting is a special demonstration by the Kring Nieuw Holland Circle of Research of the Dutch Loge of Mourning in honour of our late WBro Sandy Kahn. Ladies are invited.

Please come along to show Kit that her support of Sandy over many years was appreciated and that we now support her in his absence. The Notice of Motion regarding the Royal Anthem

will rest on the table until our April meeting to ensure a brief Lodge meeting before visitors are admitted. Read the Summons for details.



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
Don't neglect our Lodge website at badenpowelllodge.com.

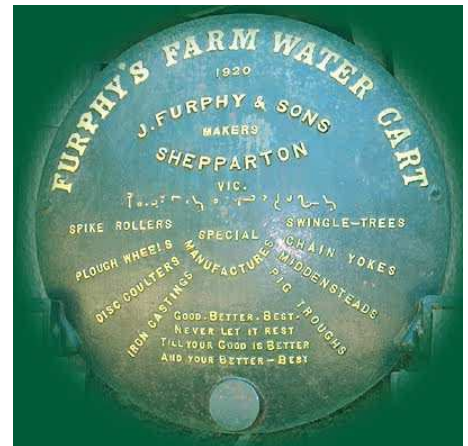
Did You Know ...?

A furphy, meaning a rumour or false story or report, originates from the water cart first developed by Joseph Furphy, a blacksmith and engineer. The Australian government provided Furphy water carts in military camps in Australia and overseas during the First World War, with the drivers of the carts being notorious sources of information and gossip as they moved from camp to camp. Men gathered around the water carts to swap stories and pass on rumours, much as is done today around office water coolers, thereby giving rise to the term "furphy" for such rumours and suspect information. It is interesting to note that the term

"scuttlebutt", an Americanism that has the same meaning, has a similar derivation. In nautical terminology a butt was a cask for storing water on board ship. It was scuttled by making a hole in it to enable water to be withdrawn. When sailors gathered at the scuttlebutt for a drink they exchanged gossip and rumours, eventually giving rise to the name of scuttlebutt for the rumours and information itself.

In 1920 Furphy's son added a Pitman's shorthand inscription which reads "Water is the gift of God, but beer is a concoction of the devil, don't drink beer." In 1942 this was changed to "Water is the gift of God,

but beer and whisky are concoctions of the devil, come and have a drink of water."



Understanding Engineers

ONE

Two engineering students were walking across a university campus when one said, "Where did you get such a great bike?"

The second engineer replied, "Well, I was walking along yesterday, minding my own business, when a beautiful woman rode up on this bike, threw it to the ground, took off all her clothes and said, "Take what you want."

The first engineer nodded approvingly and said, "Good choice; the clothes probably wouldn't have fitted you, anyway."

TWO

To the optimist, the glass is half-full. To the pessimist, the glass is half-empty.

To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.

THREE

The graduate with a science degree asks, "Why does it work?"

The graduate with an engineering degree asks, "How does it work?"

The graduate with an accounting degree asks, "How much will it cost?"

The graduate with an arts degree asks, "Do you want fries with that?"

FOUR

An engineer was crossing a road one day, when a frog called out to him and said, "If you kiss me, I'll turn into a beautiful princess." He bent over, picked up the frog and put it in his pocket.

The frog then cried out, "If you kiss me and turn me into a princess, I'll stay with you for one week and do ANYTHING you want."

Again, the engineer took the frog out,

smiled at it and put it back into his pocket.

Finally, the frog asked, "What is the matter? I've told you I'm a beautiful princess and that I'll stay with you for one week and do anything you want. Why won't you kiss me?"

The engineer said, "Look, I'm an engineer. I don't have time for a girlfriend, but a talking frog, now that's cool."

To Drop a Tear of Sympathy on the Failings of a Brother ...

The above notwithstanding, we acknowledge the engineers in our midst and those who have preceded them:

MWBro Sir Robert Risson

MWBro John Connell

RWBro Russell Lee

RWBro John Rebbechi

Bro Mattie McKernan

... and the list goes on.