



“The Baden Powell Times”

Vol 1 No 1

Editor’s Note: Welcome to the first edition of the “The Baden Powell Times” for want of a better name. The “Baden Powell Times” is a newsletter for all members and families of the lodge including our “Friends of Baden Powell Lodge” and all are encouraged to forward items to be included in its “publication”

Rather than wait any longer for articles promised we have decided to run with what we have.

We welcome your input, articles, humorous stories, holiday articles and useful ideas. Recipes’, handy hints, Wanted to Sell and Wanted to Buy. I have a dog for sale very cheaply at the moment. You can pick him up in China in a day or so because at his current rate of digging he should be there by then.

Jokes aside No.1 edition is here, it’s a bit rough and it can only get better. Please send anything you can for the next edition to health@futenv.com.au

Thank you to those who assisted with this issue

The Ed

Competition:

See how many mistakes you can find in this issue The winners will be announced in the next edition. Conditions apply. The Judges decision will be final.

"FOUNDERS NIGHT SET UP"

Thank you so much to Greg Nicolacopoulos and both your son and daughter, to James Kloris, Robert Bass, and Chris Parr. Also thanks to Sarah who assisted Norma with the sorting out.

Without your help we would not have achieved such a great result.

Packing up: Thank you to all who stayed behind and assisted with the huge task of packing up. To complete the task by 12-30am was indeed a great effort.

Thank you all so much.

Yours fraternally.
Max Martin.

Member Profile - Nicholas Nerantzoulis

Born and grew up in Johannesburg South Africa in that decade of good music, the 60s.

Don’t have siblings but grew up within a rather large extended family of uncles, aunts and cousins.

Went to a Greek school called SAHETI and at the same time joined 3rd Hellenic Cubs. Became a sea scout a few years later where my notable achievement was to sink a canoe while shooting some white water rapids.

Once completed school went on to study accounting and did my articles of clerkship. Some years’ later I hung up my little grey accounting suit to become a human resources manager. I thoroughly enjoyed working in every aspect of this field; recruiting, training people and building high performance teams. Now I am back in the numbers game and studying toward the CPA qualification.

Married my better half, Irene in 2001 and in the following year we decided to continue our studies by doing a MBA through Bond University Australia.

I have two wild and fiery children; a son called Themis and daughter Athena. They keep me evergreen and constantly call on my inner child to come out and play with them. Sometimes we all get up to some serious mischief.

Joined freemasonry in April 2013 so, I am relatively new to the craft when I compare myself to my Australian brothers. I am however getting more and more into it with every passing meeting,

In 2015 my family made the bold, yet sensible move to Australia. This has become our new home and we love this place ...

What do I see in my future?

I will learn to play the guitar and before I clock out I will be able to play some good rock and blues tunes.

Nature conservation is always on my mind. Humanity is leaving some serious and deep footprints on our planet that are harming all systems as well as our future. I see myself getting progressively involved in repairing this. getting progressively involved in repairing this.

BP Work Calendar

March 28th Third Degree Ceremony,

April 25th RWBro Rod Rowe

- 50 Year Jewell

Laugh and the World Laughs with You.

Two men broke into a drugstore and stole all the Viagra. The police put out an alert to be on the lookout for the two hardened criminals.

STOP PRESS ... (Nearly Forgot)

Message from our WM Russell Bradd

Please make a note in your dairies of a proposed BP Lodge Meeting on June 25th 2016. at Gilwell. (Don't miss out it's Great Fun..... count the editor in)

Details to follow, however keep the date free

SOCIAL LUNCHEON

Greetings Brethren,

I have made a tentative booking for lunch at the Box Hill Golf Club at 202 Station Street, Box Hill for **Sunday 20th March at 12:30.**

I know this is short notice but I have been trying to juggle something between Labour Day and Easter, this is the only one.

This is quite a good venue, good food, very reasonable prices and drinks at bar prices plus a pleasant view over the 18th hole. Kids menu is also available.

Please let me know if you are able to attend so that I can give the Club an idea of numbers.

Fraternally,

David Dolling JW

OFFICIAL VISIT TO BRAE DALE LODGE

It was a great turn up at Brae Dale Lodge last Friday, March 11th 2016, to witness the Raising of our Brother James Kloris. From all accounts it was a great Ceremony and a very enjoyable evening all those who attended. It was also terrific that sixteen Baden Powell P members

attended. Congratulation Bro James on your completion of this important step in Freemasonry

SENIOR WARDEN'S WANDERINGS

Our Senior Warden Chris has advised he is visiting the following Lodges and would welcome members to join him. Should you be doing so, please contact him

APRIL

13th - 16th Baden Powell Lodge WA Installation (14th) in Perth Western Australia.

OCTOBER

14th - 16th The Meeting of the Clans - Mildura

Thoughts to Ponder

Go placidly amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexatious to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment, it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.

Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here.

And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore, be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be.

And whatever your labours and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul. With all its sham,

drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

Max Ehrmann, "Desiderata".!

A MASONIC MOMENT RE VISITED

A brief history of The United Grand Lodge of Victoria

Our time allows only a very brief summary so I have taken information primarily from a book called "Prosper the Art" by John G. Sullivan.

The first Lodge in Australia was formed in Sydney in 1820, but it was another 20 years before Freemasonry came to Victoria. Authority for the establishment of new lodges in those early days had to be sought from one of the Grand lodges functioning in the United Kingdom.

On 23rd December 1839, some 21 enthusiastic Freemasons met in Melbourne with the object of setting up the first Victorian Lodge. Agreement to proceed was reached at this meeting and this was followed by the preparation of a petition, signed by 25 brethren, which was forwarded to the United Grand lodge of England in London.

Ultimately, the proposal was approved and a dispensation warrant arrived authorising the constitution and consecration of the "Lodge of Australia Felix" No 697 on the English Constitution register of Lodges. It was consecrated on 2nd April 1841. This lodge is now the No 1 Lodge on the register of The United Grand lodge of Victoria, currently meeting at Camberwell.

The first lodge formed under the Scottish Constitution was "Australasian Kilwinning" No 408. This became the No 2 Lodge on the register of The United Grand lodge of Victoria, warranted in 1843 and held its 1st meeting in 1844. Sadly, its warrant was returned in 2001.

The first lodge formed under the Irish Constitution was "Australian Felix Lodge of Hiram" No 349. This became the No 4 Lodge on the register of The United Grand lodge of Victoria, warranted in 1843 by dispensation although the warrant was not actually received until 1847. Sadly, this lodge also has returned its warrant 2003.

As time went by, with an increasing number of lodges being formed in Victoria, both in the

country and metropolitan areas, each of the United Kingdom constitutions found it expedient for administrative purposes to form Provincial or District Grand Lodges to act on their behalf. Over the years, several attempts were made from within the three Provincial/District Grand Lodges to amalgamate their growing forces in the interests of rationalisation but rivalry and personality clashes amongst some senior officers made agreement impossible. The 1st real ray of hope came in 1882 when Bro Sir William J Clarke accepted the combined appointment of District and provincial Grand Master under all three constitutions.

The next year saw further development when a "Grand lodge of Victoria" was formed under the Grand Mastership of Bro George Selth Coppin. It was thought this may provide an appropriate vehicle for getting all Lodges & Freemasons together under the one banner. Unfortunately, the primary result was to increase the number of grand lodges from three to four.

In 1887 the United Grand Lodge of England decided to take a hand in the matter. Their pro-Grand Master, the Earl of Carnarvon came to Australia. He convinced senior brethren of all four constitutions of the need to reach a consensus. Finally, agreement was reached on the absorption of all lodges in the respective constitutions into a new Grand Lodge to be titled The United Grand lodge of Victoria. The inauguration of the new Grand Lodge with Bro Sir William Clarke as the 1st Grand Master took place at the Freemason's Hall, in Collins St in March 1889.

At the time of the amalgamation, there were a total of 140 lodges, 96 of the English Constitution, 16 of the Irish Constitution, 16 of the Victorian Constitution & 12 of the Scottish Constitution. a total of 137 lodges (approx. 7000 brethren) joined the new Grand lodge. Three English Constitution lodges remained aloof, two tendered allegiance to the new constitution shortly after the inauguration. Combermere decided to continue on its own, currently meeting at Ivalda.

Thank you W Bro David Stewart

Laugh and the world laughs with you

Teacher: "Children, what does the chicken give you?"

Student:..."Meat"

Teacher: "Very good! Now what does the pig give you?"

Student:..."Bacon!"

Teacher: "Great! And what does the fat cow give you?"

Student: "Homework!"

MEETING OF THE CLANS

(Pending Dispensation)

All Baden Powell Lodges in Australasia

Week End 14th - 16th October

SUNRAYSIA MASONIC CENTRE

15th Street Irymple, VIC 3498

Why? To enjoy the company of our sister lodges, to share ideas amongst ourselves and to have a great weekend away.

The Lodge Tyles, 6:30pm, Saturday 15th October, Ladies are encouraged to join us in the South at 7:30pm for a 3 course meal. Cost for the evening is for \$30 per person. All Scouters from the Wider Mildura area are invited

Sunday morning, for those interested we will be meeting for breakfast at the Orana Motor Inn at 8am for breakfast followed by a brainstorming session for those Brethren who wish to take part. This should be a very fruitful exercise and all Brethren are encouraged to take part

Interested? Don't just sit there, contact Chris Parr at BPLatMildura@badenpowelllodge.com

Laugh and the world laughs with you
I named my hard drive "dat ass," so once a month my computer asks if I want to "back dat ass up."

Subject: "The Old Masters Wages"
"The Old Masters Wages"

*I met a dear old man today,
Who wore a Masonic pin,
It was old and faded like the man,
It's edges were worn quite thin.*

I approached the park bench where he sat,

*To give the old brother his due,
I said, "I see you've traveled east,"
He said, "I have, have you?"*

*I said, "I have, and in my day
Before the all seeing sun,
I played in the rubble, with Jubala
Jubalo and Jubalum."*

*He shouted, "don't laugh at the work my son
It's good and sweet and true,
And if you've traveled as you said,
You should give these things their due."*

*The word, the sign the token,
The sweet Masonic prayer,
The vow that all have taken,
Who've climbed the inner stair*

*The wages of a Mason,
are never paid in gold,
but the gain comes from contentment,
when you're weak and growing old.*

*You see, I've carried my obligations,
For almost fifty years,
It has helped me through the hardships
and the failures full of tears.*

*Now I'm losing my mind and body,
Death is near but I don't despair,
I've lived my life upon the level,
And I'm dying upon the square.*

*Sometimes the greatest lessons
Are those that are learned anew,
And the old man in the park today
has changed my point of view.*

*To all Masonic brothers,
The only secret is to care,
May you live your life upon the level,
May you part upon the square.*

Laugh and the World Laughs at You!

Two blondes fell down a hole.

One said, "It's dark in here isn't it?"

The other replied, "I don't know; I can't see."

Recipe Corner

This is the segment where we share some of those fabulous recipes we cook every day or on special occasions. Old family recipes are great and usually very good eating.

It can be any recipe you wish; soups, dinner mains, light lunches, deserts or even cocktails.

What about your favorite BBQ recipe?

Please email you recipe to health@futenv.com.au

To kick off, this month I have pinched a recipe from somewhere (never admit where you pinched it from...) and it was apparently the winner of a Slow Cooker Recipe Competition some time ago.

Anyway, here it is, a Slow Cooker Recipe called

“Bloody Great Beef Stew”

You can use a slow Cooker or a casserole dish in a slow oven or as I prefer, a camp oven

Ingredients:

500g beef, your choice of cut. The recipe calls for cheap old beef or whatever you have kicking around, however in my book a good cut usually gives a better result, but that's up to you.

Also you will need: -

1 teaspoon oil (not olive oil)

1 good sized onion chopped fairly roughly
(don't skimp on the onion)

2 carrots chopped into normal carrot sized chunks

2 potatoes chopped into about 2" dice

2-3 cloves garlic according to your taste - you can use a teaspoon minced garlic

1 Slurp Worcestershire sauce

1 glass red wine (the size you drink so make it a big one (again a couple of slurps to a good measure

1 teaspoon beef stock powder

1 fresh thyme sprig (or 1 teaspoon dried thyme)

2 bay leaves

Sea salt and fresh cracked pepper ... you know, the real stuff

Water H₂O (you know .. the stuff that fish ...ah, ..live in!

Method:

Preparation time is around 15 minutes depending on your ability and how long it takes to find a Band-Aid when you cut your finger because you didn't hold the knife properly.

Cooking time is around 4 hours in a slow cooker or quicker in a pot on the stove but don't blame if you burn it

1. Cut the meat into cubes (the recipe doesn't say this but I like to toss the cubes in flour before cooking.
2. Heat a frying pan and brown the meat in the oil. Suggest you brown in batches to make sure all the meat is well browned and to avoid stewing the meat
3. When you believe the meat is well browned all over then toss it into the cooking vessel, in my case a prepared camp oven we will now refer to as the pot
4. Now, take a swig of the red wine and then pour the rest into the frying pan. This will clean the frying pan and get all the good bits of that were stuck off the pan. If the base of the pan dissolves or changes to a funny colour than you should have used a better wine and you should be thinking of what it is doing to you ...remember, you had a good swig.
5. Chuck in all the other stuff (ingredients) into the pot give a good stir around.
6. Add plenty of Cracked Pepper and Sea Salt Do not skimp on the Pepper. More is better than less and no, it doesn't work adding them latter.
7. Now add the red wine and good bits from the frying pan
8. Completely cover with water Don't skimp as too much is better than too little – say ¾ of an inch to 1 inch above the stew. (some of us have been known to use Guinness but if you do that you have to make sure you have enough to drink with the meal and maybe while it cooks.)
9. Stick in hot coals and cover with more hot coals as you do with camp ovens and forget about it for roughly 4 hours while you drink some more of that Red Wine or enjoy a Guinness or three!
10. Relax, read a book, have a chat, solve the problems of the world. Or watch a movie. This is your time.
11. After 4 hours, or when you have run out of Red or Guinness remove from fire and remove the lid. If the stew needs to thicken put back onto the fire without the lid and allow to boil to reduce the liquid thus thicken. If you have had too many drinks you won't notice.
12. Pour another Red or whatever, serve beef stew however you want and grab a hunk of bread to mop up the gravy when you are finished. Find

a comfy seat, your glass of whatever and Cheers!

And then the Fight Began!

Wife: "I look fat. Can you give me a compliment?"

Husband: "You have perfect eyesight."

If you don't like my jokes, send me some that are better

A FULL HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY

In 1984 RW Bro. Jeremy Pemberton, President of the Board of General Purposes of the United Grand Lodge of England, gave an address at the Centenary Conference of the Grand Lodge of South Australia. It covered so completely the history of Freemasonry that it is reproduced here in full:

There is a much used Masonic expression, "time immemorial", which has become almost meaningless, but has some convenience, enabling us quickly to gloss over many gaps in our history. As a lawyer I cannot resist recalling that in English law time immemorial means time before 1189 - the beginning of the reign of King Richard I. In Masonry it was customary to state that the Craft had existed from time immemorial, meaning that we do not know when it originated, and the use of that expression "time immemorial", has enabled many Masonic writers to give full rein to their imagination when writing on our origins. Dr. James Anderson, when compiling the first official Constitutions of 1723, prefaced the Regulations with a purported history of Masonry tracing it back to Adam in the Garden of Eden, and going on from there to include many biblical, historical and some purely legendary personalities as protector, promoters or Grand Masters of the Art.

Many later writers followed Anderson's example and, without providing factual evidence, attempted to prove that Freemasonry descended from the Ancient Mysteries of classical times, the Egyptian pyramid builders, King Solomon himself, the Roman Collegia, the Comacine Masters, the German Steinmetzen, the French Compagnonage, the Mediaeval Knights Templar or the Rosicrucians. The most durable and probable theory is that we are descended directly or indirectly from the mediaeval operative stone masons who built the great cathedrals and castles. While much evidence exists which apparently demonstrate a link between operative and speculative Masonry, yet like Darwin's theory of evolution, there are missing links which need to be found before theory becomes proven lineal descent.

Those who advocate the theory of a direct link between operative and speculative Masonry base their claims on a combination of evidence from England and Scotland. In England the operative mason's lodge was simply a wooden hut in which he took his refreshment and kept his tools. In Scotland the Mason's Lodge was a geographically defined unit controlling the wages and working conditions of the stone masons. These Scottish lodges had a brief initiation ceremony for apprentices, and had a secret word, which enabled their

members to gain work and sustenance when they travelled from one site to another. In the 17th century these Scottish lodges began to admit local gentry as "non-operative" members or "gentleman masons", and the claim is that these non-operatives gradually began to gain ascendancy over the operatives in the transition period, until they dominated the lodges and turned them into lodges of purely speculative Freemasons. Unfortunately for the supporters of this theory, there is no firm evidence of a similar development in England; indeed in England there is no evidence of the existence of operative lodges or of a Mason word. In the 17th Century the first evidence we have of a purely speculative initiation in England is that of Elias Ashmole at an occasional lodge held in Warrington in 1646, none of those present having anything to do with the operative craft. From that event until the formation of the premier Grand Lodge in 1717 all the evidence in England occurs in a purely speculative context.

Those on the other hand, who support an indirect link with operative Masonry, claim that it arose as a result of the religious and political divisions of the 16th and 17th Centuries. They suppose that the founders of speculative masonry were men of goodwill, but of differing opinions, who wished to join together to promote a way of life based upon the principles of brotherly love, relief and truth, without the intrusion of divisive argument over religious or political dogma. In the tradition of their time they promoted their philosophy by means of allegory and symbolism, and as their central idea was the building of a better world, in which mankind could be better prepared for life eternal they took as their allegory the building of King Solomon's Temple, the only building described in detail in the Bible; and adopted the forms and working implements of operative stone masons on which to build their increasingly elaborate symbolism. If, then, our origins remain shrouded in mystery what are the facts?

On the 24th June 1717, four London lodges, which possibly had been in existence for thirty years, came together to form a Grand Lodge, the first in the world. At their meeting they elected Anthony Sayer, one of the Senior Masters present, to be the first Grand Master and resolved to meet together annually. Initially this

was all that was done. The Annual Assembly was simply a Festival, and not in any sense a regulatory body. Within a few years, however, the Lodges had increasingly begun to attract men of intellectual ability, who transformed the Annual Feast into what we would now recognise as a Grand Lodge. By 1730 the original four London Lodges had increased to 76 spread over England and Wales and the Grand Lodge was meeting quarterly as a regulatory body. It issued an official Book of Constitutions, set up a Central Charity Fund,

appointed provincial Grand Masters to act for the Grand Master in the more distant parts of the country, and began to export the Craft abroad by granting deputations, which we would now call Warrants, to constitute lodges in Gibraltar and India. The Craft in general at this period was a very convivial society.

Lodge meetings usually took place in a private room in a tavern. The ceremonies were fairly short and simple and much of the evening was spent round a long trestle table at which the normal business of the lodge was transacted, and the ceremonies were explained and expounded by means of lectures in the form of questions and answers. Refreshments and tobacco were available throughout the meeting, which was often rounded off by the singing of part-songs and glees.

With regular newspaper reports of meetings, public processions in regalia, and the staging of special theatrical performances, at which the brethren wore their regalia, the Craft attracted public attention. To cash in on public curiosity, purported exposures of the ritual began to appear, followed by satires and cartoons. One result of the actions taken by the premier Grand Lodge to counter this adverse publicity was the formation in 1751, of a rival Grand Lodge in London, now known as the Antients Grand Lodge from their claim to be the only practitioners of Freemasonry "according to the Antient Institutions". Despite serious rivalry, and the fact that neither regarded the other as regular, the two Grand Lodges existed side by side, both at home and abroad, for some sixty years until under the Grand Mastership of the two Royal Brothers, the Duke of Sussex as Grand Master of the premier Grand Lodge and the Duke of Kent as Grand Master of the Antients Grand Lodge, the two were brought together to form the United Grand Lodge of England on 27th December, 1813 with the Duke of Sussex as Grand Master. The Union brought about many changes in English Freemasonry, not least in the manner in which meetings were conducted. The Duke was a great universalist, and while the Craft had always been open to men of all faiths, there was much in the 18th century ritual and lectures that was overtly Christian. A Lodge of Reconciliation was set up immediately after the Union to determine the ritual to be followed by all

Lodges. In fact, this special lodge completely reorganised the ritual, removing nearly all the Christian symbolism, greatly extending the simple ceremonies of the 18th century to those we practice today, including material from the catechetical lectures, and bringing about a complete break between the actual meeting and the convivial after-proceedings.

The formation of the premier Grand Lodge in 1717 was followed by that of Ireland in 1725 and that of

Scotland in 1736. In no sense rivals, the three Grand Lodges developed on individual lines, having a tacit understanding that, whilst overseas territories were open to all three they would not warrant Lodges within each other's territories. The history of the spread of British Freemasonry closely parallels the development of the British Empire; wherever settlers or British Regiments went, Freemasonry soon followed. The spreading abroad of British Freemasonry was greatly facilitated by the granting, particularly by the Antients Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodge of Ireland, of so-called ambulatory warrants to Lodges in the Army. These Warrants permitted the Lodge to be held wherever the Regiment was stationed, and although the intention was originally that Lodge membership was to be limited to members of the Regiment, if they were stationed in one town for any length of time they soon began to take in local civilians. When the Regiment moved on, the local Brethren then applied to one of the home Grand Lodges for a warrant to hold a Lodge within the town.

As a result, the two Grand Lodges of England appointed some twenty-two provincial Grand Masters for various parts of America between 1730 and 1783, made similar appointments for parts of India from 1729 and Canada from 1750, and even warranted a Lodge to meet in Canton in China in 1767. The Irish and Scottish Grand Lodges were no less active, and by the close of the 18th century, British Freemasonry had been introduced into the Americas, Canada, the West Indies, South America, India and certain African ports. The American Lodges gradually declared their independence during the war which created the United States, forming State grand Lodges which in turn spread Freemasonry across the nation as it expanded westwards.

Nor was Europe neglected. The premier Grand Lodge introduced English Freemasonry into France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, the German States, Holland, Scandinavia and Russia. Europe was to be a fertile ground for the development not only of the Craft but of many additional degrees. It was, unfortunately, also to be a fertile ground for the perversion of genuine Freemasonry for political ends, and many pseudo-Masonic organisations grew up which were in fact

political clubs. It was for this reason, as well as on account of the taking of oaths and our Masonic secrets, that the Vatican issued the first Papal Bull against Freemasonry in 1738, a Bull which was to be reinforced on a number of occasions in the following hundred and fifty years. These continental pseudo-Masonic political and anti-clerical societies also inspired the great conspiracy theory of Freemasonry; the theory of its being an international organisation working for world domination in a political sense; and

this led to the many attacks on the integrity of Freemasonry in the 19th and 20th centuries, many of them deliberately fabricated by their authors to achieve political ends.

The 19th century saw the opening up of Africa, Asia, the Far East and of course, Australia and New Zealand, and the 18th century pattern of the Craft following the colonists and the Army was repeated. But just as the older parts of the Empire were beginning to strive for political freedom from the Mother country, so the older colonial Lodges began to look towards separation. The 1850's was not a happy period for the United Grand Lodge of England. A major crisis arose in 1855 when the Lodges in what is now the Province of Ontario, Canada, complained of neglect by the Grand Lodge, letters going unanswered, petitions and fees going unacknowledged. Matters were patched up for a little while but soon slipped back, causing the Lodges in Ontario to set up their own Grand Lodge. When it became clear that independence was the only solution, the Ontario Lodges were granted their freedom and the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario was formed. Valuable lessons were learnt from this experience, and the system was developed by the home Grand Lodges of holding a plebiscite of the lodges in a particular area when they wished to form their own Grand Lodge. Provided that a majority was in favour, that the new Grand Lodge would be the sovereign Masonic Craft governing body in the whole state or country, and that any English, Irish or Scottish lodge within the territory which wished to remain under its parent Grand Lodge was permitted to continue working without interference from the new Grand Lodge, the home Grand Lodges gave their blessing to the formation of the new Grand Lodge and granted formal recognition once it was established.

The Craft was introduced into Australia in 1803 when a number of Ship's Officers and residents of Sydney held a meeting, but not having the approval of the Governor, the prime mover, H. Brown Hayes was exiled to the new British Settlement in Van Diemen's Land. It was not until 1816 and the arrival of the 46th Regiment with its travelling Lodge of Social and Military Virtues, No.227 under the Grand Lodge of Ireland, that Freemasonry took lasting root. This resulted in the first Australian Lodge, the Australian

Social Lodge No.260 of the Irish Constitution being formed in New South Wales in 1820.

The Craft was introduced into South Australia by the United Grand Lodge of England and in a most unusual way. A number of Brethren who were planning to come out to Adelaide in 1834 petitioned for the grant of a Warrant. This was readily agreed to, and the Grand Master issued Warrant No.613 on 22nd October 1834, sanctioning the formation of the South

Australian Lodge of Friendship. Hardly was the ink of the Grand Master's signature dry when the Warrant was taken that same day from Freemasons' Hall in London for a distance of less than a mile to No.7 John street, Adelphi, off the Strand, where the Lodge was formally constituted, and met on a number of occasions. It was to be almost four years before the Lodge reached South Australia. On 11th August 1838, it first met at Black's Hotel, Franklin street, Adelaide. Now, of course, it is the Lodge of Friendship, No.1 on the Register of the Grand Lodge of South Australia and I had the great pleasure of attending a meeting of this your oldest Lodge yesterday evening. The formation of the Lodge of Friendship was to be followed by the granting of more warrants for Lodges in South Australia, and the appointment of Henry Mildred as provincial Grand Master, under the English Constitution, on 22nd November, 1847. Ireland and Scotland followed suit and the three constitutions worked together in amity. When the desire for self-determination grew, the Brethren who formed the Executive Committee for the Masonic Union in South Australia, showed great tact and foresight in not rushing matters, and in making sure that they had the full support of the Lodges. As a result, when the event whose Centenary we are now celebrating, the formation of the Grand Lodge of South Australia, took place on 17th April, 1884, the new Grand Lodge was quickly recognised by the United Grand Lodge of England followed by those of Scotland and Ireland. The final seal of approval came in 1888 when The Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) who was then Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, and Grand Patron of the Grand Lodges of Ireland and Scotland, accepted the title of Patron of the Grand Lodge of South Australia.

Such, my friends, is a very brief account of the origin and development of the Masonic Craft, and of the events leading to the establishment of the Grand Lodge of South Australia on 17th April, 1884.

This article is reprinted from a NT Freemasons web site

The Last Laugh

10 Facts About You:

1. You're reading this now.
2. You're realising that this is a stupid fact.

4. You didn't notice I skipped number 3.
5. You're checking now.
6. You're smiling.
7. You're still reading this even though it is stupid.
9. You didn't realise I skipped number 8.
10. You're checking again and smiling because
you fell for it again.
11. You're enjoying this.
12. You didn't realise I said 10 facts not 12.