**Gopher goodwill**

Sturt-Buninyong 23 has come up with a great idea for getting itself known in Ballarat – by providing and maintaining an electric wheelchair (known as a Gopher) for local residents.

“It has proved to be a useful public relations tool for Freemasonry in the Ballarat area” said WBro Bernie Ebbs.

“One recent user was so impressed that he made a substantial donation to the Lodge and then purchased a Gopher for himself so ours could be passed back to someone else in the community.”

Gopher was purchased through the Board of Benevolence and is made available by the Lodge, which has found a ready market for the slick chariot in the local area.

Bernie Ebbs IPM

**GM meets new members**

Ballarat’s most recent new members dinner was attended by 15 of the 22 local Initiates and Affiliates, who had joined District Lodges in the last year.

In his address to over 60 guests, the Grand Master John Evans said they were joining the Craft at a time when its structure was about to undergo change.

“A strategic plan which is currently being implemented will make Freemasonry relevant in today’s society and take it forward. This action, about which I am very optimistic, will profit the organisation and make it more viable in the community,” the Grand Master said.

The GM was supported at the dinner by Deputy Grand Master Bruce Bartrop, Board of General Purposes President Vaughan Werner, Bill Messer PDGM and District Co-ordinator John Owen.

New members were accompanied by their partners and Worshipful Masters, together with representatives of the District Panel.

Roy Taylor

**Ocean’s great success**

Charities in south western Victoria have benefited from the fundraising activities of the Lodge of the Great Ocean Road, which has disbursed more than $30,000 over recent years.

The Freemasons’ Hospital and the Royal Freemasons Homes have also received donations.

Their work has been strengthened by a relationship with the area’s largest employer, ALCOA, which has sponsored their activities.

The Lodge was formed after the 1983 bushfires and meets at Lorne Masonic Centre on the third Tuesday of most months.

Brendon Foran (ALCOA), Ian Beard (Lodge Master), Trevor Burdett (Board of Benevolence), Craig Allen (Anglesea Foodlink), John Berryman (Royal Freemasons’ Homes), John Forbes (Foodbank Torquay), Bob Scott (Homes Representative), Beth Cooke, Margaret Humpries (Cancer Council) and Winston Huggins (Hospital Rep).
Lodge Zetland’s heritage-listed interior is unique to Victoria and is a rarity for Australia. The Heritage Commission states the Zetland Lodge room, in Kyneton, is of “aesthetic and historical significance to the State of Victoria for the comprehensive, accomplished and intact Egyptian-Inspired interior of the Lodge meeting room”.

“There is no known comparable Freemasons’ Hall Interior in the state,” the listing notes.

This issue of Freemasonry Victoria takes a look inside this stunning meeting place and is the first of an occasional series on some of Victoria’s more interesting Lodge rooms.

Hidden away in a room used twice a month in the small country Victorian town of Kyneton is a Masonic art treasure which has only recently gained more than local attention.

Lodge Zetland meets in an Egyptian-themed Masonic meeting hall with murals and friezes painted sometime between 1905 and 1928 by one of the founders of Victorian public art education, Bro. Thomas Fisher Levick.

Levick came to Australia as an adventurous 23-year-old in 1888 and headed for Castlemaine where he found work as a building design and geometric drawing teacher at Castlemaine’s ‘School of Mines’ (operating throughout Victoria and later renamed ‘Technical Schools’).
About this time, the qualified chartered accountant and former business manager to Lord Leconfield in Sheffield, England, affiliated with Mount Alexander 8 and is shown on Grand Lodge records as having later affiliated with Lodge Kyneton.

He opened art classes in Castlemaine and a second art school at the nearby town of Kyneton, initially using part of the Mechanics’ Institute and later the School of Mines building in Piper Street (now Trio Station Winery).

Having married a local grazier’s daughter, Levick and his young family returned to Britain in the 1890s and he studied in Europe, gaining the coveted National Medal for Design.

The family returned to Melbourne in 1902 and the now highly-qualified Levick was instrumental in the foundation of Prahran Technical College (now Swinburne TAFE) and The Workingmen’s College (now RMIT).

From 1905 onwards the family lived between Kyneton and Melbourne, where he occupied senior art teaching positions at The Workingmen’s College.
It was during this period (1905–1928) that the murals were painted, originally intended as pieces of camouflage which have gained a reputation far exceeding their utility.

The murals – of the Temple of Isis, The Sphinx, The Pyramids and an Egyptian street scene containing the Lodge's WWI Honour Roll – came from the need to cover honour boards belonging to former owners of the building.

When Zetland bought the building in 1904 from the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows, the names of the Manchester Unity’s Past District Grand Masters were painted on the walls as Honour Boards.

The purchase deal included an agreement they not be effaced, so the murals were painted over a period of years to form a permanent cover.

According to Lodge records, the last time they were removed was in 1934.
Men’s health packs Masonic Lodge

More than 250 people were attracted to Freemasonry by Rupertswood 104, Numurkah 779 and Yarrawonga St David 103 last year when the Lodges combined to stage very successful Men’s Health nights.

Fronted by VFL and AFL great Tom Hafey and backed by the local shire council and Australian Unity Health Insurance, the nights earned heartfelt praise from Moira shire councillor Kerry Murray.

“Moira shire is lucky to have an organisation such as the Freemasons to undertake and implement nights such as this,” she told the meeting.

Tom Hafey spoke on ageing gracefully and healthily intermingled with football anecdotes and other speakers covered topics such as financial planning, stress management and relationship building.

Geoff Thompson, Rupertswood 104

Re-cycled Freemason

Gippsland Freemason Chris Hunt has re-cycled himself, by returning with success to competitive bicycling after a gap of some 20 years.

The former state champion and top Sun Tour placegetter held the Australian and Australasian one hour track records before retiring in 1985.

After tipping the scales at 20 stone in 2001, he decided to start cycling again to help reduce his weight.

Within twelve months he had lost six stone and has since won three Victorian titles, one Australian title, the Australian Masters’ Championship as well as being placed in the Victorian and Australian Championships.

He will be travelling to Manchester in the UK to compete in the world track cycling titles in September.

Chris is PM of Morwell Lodge, IPC of Gippsland Ark Mariners and the current Master of Gippsland Mark.

Hunt training at Warragul Velodrome and being motor paced by Bro. Ian Coad. GSO.

Currajong’s blue with the law

Currajong Lodge’s members have come to the notice of the police through their support of Corryong’s Blue Light Disco, which provides a safe dance venue for young teenagers.

Recently, the proceeds of a firewood raffle raised enough for WM Len McVean (right) to present significant donations to Fred Nicholas, of the local Rotary Club and Sen-Constable Greg Walsh of the Blue Light Committee.

Rotary will be using its donation to form a local Probus Club and the Blue Light Committee will use its donation to cover operating costs.

Phillip Thompson, Currajong 114
Visit from Victoria Police Pipe Band

Residents from both Coppin Community Hostel and Colbran Lodge were recently entertained by six pipers and four drummers from the Victoria Police Pipe Band.

A repertoire of music ranging from Scottish jigs and reels to Christmas carols, provided delightful entertainment for residents. The gardens of Coppin Community Hostel were resplendent with traditional tartans combined with an atmosphere of fun and the distinctive sound only bagpipes can make.

RFHV – winner in best Individual OHS Program

RFHV recently won the national HESTA Award for our NOVAGSA program which was judged winner in the best Individual OHS Program category. Although the Award was given to Colbran Lodge Nursing Home the program has been launched across all RFHV sites during 2003.

NOVAGSA – Saying No to Occupational Violence, Aggression or Sexual Abuse, is an extensive program designed to provide enhanced safety for both residents and staff in aged care settings. The program involves a wide range of measures across a number of fields, including human resources management, nursing and care practices, medical care, admission and discharge policies as well as facility design and security procedures.

The prevalence of violence and aggression has been an area of increasing concern across the aged care sector in recent years. Acts of violence and abuse within our sector are usually committed by residents or clients suffering from dementia and staff are most commonly the victims.

It is believed this program will create an even safer and more attractive environment for residents, clients and staff. It will also assist in allowing us to identify and hopefully address the causes of agitation and aggression.

Intercultural sharing

Twelve Japanese health care professionals from the Federation of the National Public Service Personnel Mutual Aid Association recently visited the Moubray Street site of RFHV. All visitors were employees of government hospitals and health care institutions throughout Japan, undertaking a study tour of Australian health systems.

The visit was hosted for the second year in succession with the view to sharing developments RFHV has achieved as a finalist in the Minister for Aged Care Award for Excellence in Training and Development in the residential and community care sectors.

Michael Browning, RFHV’s Training and Development Manager, expressed delight that their itinerary included a follow up visit to Coppin Community Hostel after an earlier visit in 2002. The group was particularly interested in determining how continuous improvement can be achieved and nurtured.

RFHV is keen to continue this exchange of knowledge and ideas for our mutual benefit.

RFHV Staff, Michael Browning and Lauren Watson join with Japanese Health Care Professionals for a photo session in the gardens of Coppin Community Hostel.
Dallas Brooks Centre has been the venue for many significant events and celebrations in its history. So, when it came to celebrating the successful tenure of RWBro Kenneth Douglas Cribbes PDGM as Chairman of Freemasons Hospital, it was the natural choice. A dinner was held in December attended by members of the Hospital’s Board and Executive Management Team together with their wives and partners at which RWBro Ken Cribbes presented certificates and mementoes to retiring Board Members, RW Bro G J Sebo PDGM, RW L McCredie PDGM, RWBro R South PDGM and MWBro N B Smith PGM.

The role played by RWBro Ken Cribbes during his time on the Board was recounted to those present firstly by the Hospital’s Chief Executive Officer, Jim Swinden, who noted that the Hospital has been taken to a position where it now enjoys greater confidence among Freemasons, has a well informed Board and Management Team, adopts a more participatory approach including transparency and has been able to attract excellent Board members. This was heartily endorsed by Grand Master and Hospital Board President, John Evans, who made presentations to RWBro Ken and paid respects to RWBro Ken’s wife Sandra who had been a tower of strength during his tenure.

RWBro Kenneth Cribbes joined the Board of Freemasons Hospital in 1997 and was a tireless advocate for the Hospital and its staff. Regularly he and wife Sandra travelled to Melbourne from their farm at Euroa to conduct Board business. As Ken would say in respect to his wife “Sandra is the class behind the man!” His effort working closely with the Hospital’s Bankers and with Freemasons Victoria was critical in ensuring a greater level of confidence in the Hospital as its team developed. Always displaying a willingness to listen and confidence in his people, RWBro Ken’s enthusiasm and belief that “it could be done” was inspirational to all.

The Hospital is in a better position today for a variety of reasons but none stronger than the leadership and commitment of RW Bro Kenneth Douglas Cribbes PDGM. Our thanks for a job well done.

Mark Hindle

Board changes at Freemasons Hospital

Leading industrialist WBro Ray Horsburgh has been appointed Freemasons Hospital’s Chairman of Directors, following the retirement of Ken Cribbes, PDGM.

WBro Horsburgh is Managing Director and CEO of Smorgon Steel, one of Australia’s steel manufacturing and distribution businesses with 6,400 employees and more than 30,000 shareholders.

Freemasons Hospital’s Board of Management for 2004-5: John Evans, President; Bruce Bartrop, Vice-President and Barry Reaper (all Ex-Officio); Ray Horsburgh, Chairman; and Directors John Chanter, Assoc. Prof. John Maynard, Kevin Mason, Dr. Laurence Harewood, Assoc. Prof. Jeff Wassertheil, John Molnar, Mary Archibald, and Brian See.

Royal Freemasons’ Homes of Victoria Limited

Ladies’ Kiosk Auxiliary Needs Help!

Ladies are needed to help in the Kiosk

Volunteer’s support increased

Following closely on the launch of its Volunteer Program in 2003, the Hospital has now appointed Carmel Grimes as its Volunteer Co-ordinator.

Since then, Carmel has increased her responsibilities to encompass the position of Volunteer Co-ordinator.

The Freemasons Hospital has volunteers involved in a variety of activities, i.e.: in the wards assisting patients, administration and gardening as well as preparation for major events. There are other very well-known individuals who serve the Hospital as its Kiosk Volunteers, Freemasons Hospital Association, Founders and Life Governors and Thistle Auxiliary.

If you would like to know more contact Carmel on 9483 3599 or by email: carmelg@fmh.com.au