



DISTRICT 48

Your Quarterly Communiqué from DGIW 48



The Grand Lodge Delegation supporting Lodge Capitol's Installation on Saturday, 4th of March, 2017

BRINGING DISTRICT 48 TOGETHER

DISTRICT NEWS
MEMBERSHIP
CHARITY
EDUCATION
Q&A

Hello, and welcome to the second issue of *District 48*, my quarterly communiqué to the Brethren, their families and friends, across our fine District.

I continue to be inspired as I visit the Lodges across our District. I see pride in the delivery of our ceremony and ritual which enhances the experience of our candidates,

acknowledgement and inclusion of our families and friends in our Lodge social calendars, and a genuine desire to support our community. I see evidence of growth and prosperity within the membership of our District.

I do hope you enjoy reading this edition and I look forward to our next meeting.

DISTRICT NEWS

NEWS FROM OUR DISTRICT OVER THE LAST QUARTER



The Installation of W Bro Benjamin Neit, WM Lodge Capitol, and the Grand Master's Representative, RW Bro Henry Nichol

Lodge Capitol celebrated their annual Master Masons' Night on the 16th of January. The JW occupied a chair in the North East corner who, together with a team of Master Masons, confidently recited the Master's ritual and pavement Charges, to proficiently deliver an exemplification of the 2° in the finest traditions of the Craft.

A DGIW Conference, Chaired by RGC, was convened at the CMC on Sunday the 29th of January and attended by representatives from Districts 43, 47, 48, 49A and 49B. Of the many topics covered I spoke to the health of our District, and the Preceptor's Course which I was planning to facilitate in the 2nd Quarter of 2017; several neighbouring Districts indicated an interest to attend.

On Saturday, 4th of March, Lodge Capitol celebrated their annual Installation and

Investiture of Officers. The Installing Master, W Bro Kashmirian, Installed his successor, W Bro Benjamin Neit, in the finest traditions of the Order. The quality of ceremonial and recited ritual was a pleasure to witness. The Installation Banquet was held in the finely appointed Apollo Room of the Hellenic Club. The Representative, RW Bro Henry Nichol, was supported by a GL Delegation numbering 25 which included four DGIWs. The visitors included four WMs, three of whom come from District 48. We congratulate W Bro Ben Neit, and his beautiful wife Melissa.

On 27 February Bro Wayne Warton was Initiated in Lodge Canberra Unity. The Lodge saw 32 Brethren attend the meeting to witness Wayne become a Freemason. The JW, Ron Tattersall, organised a magnificent South with beautifully dressed tables.

DISTRICT NEWS

NEWS FROM OUR DISTRICT OVER THE LAST QUARTER



The IPM of Lodge Capitol, W Bro Chani, presented with his PM's jewel by RW Bro Henry Nichol

On Wednesday, 8th of March, Lodge of Truth Braidwood Passed Bro Sean Smith of Lodge Gowrie of Canberra. Brethren, if you have not visited the historic Braidwood Masonic Centre please consider a visit, particularly now that we are approaching winter - you will see why. As I mentioned to Sean during my address, the Lodge Room in which he took his 2nd step has hosted our ancient ceremonies for some 112 years - truly awe inspiring.

March 15 celebrated the Passing of Bro Sam Wong to the 2° in Lodge Ethos. The work was delivered by the WM and Brethren of Lodge William Ross. Upwards of 42 Brethren were in attendance for this memorable ceremony and Festive Board. Bro Vishnu Chari, who was Initiated the month before, was regrettably unable to attend so I couldn't welcome him as I was unavailable for his Initiation.

On Tuesday, 21st of March, Bro Cameron Kiely was Initiated in an exemplary manner, for the second time! Cameron was first initiated in Lodge Earl of Chester in Adelaide. Cameron moved to Canberra to learn that the documentation detailing his earlier ceremony had been lost. Cameron can now make a very rare claim, he has been Initiated twice in two jurisdictions. Cameron's ceremony saw 39 Brethren attend the historic Queanbeyan Masonic Centre. I also had the opportunity to welcome Bro James McMaster who had been Initiated in February.

On Monday, 27th of March, Lodge Canberra Unity Initiated Bro Nathan Cole in the presence of 34 members and guests. The Lodge has conferred five Degrees over six meetings and now has three EAFs who will reap the rewards of a Lodge well skilled in our ceremony and ritual.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

THE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE FOR THE LAST QUARTER



INITIATIONS

On behalf of the MW Grand Master, it is my pleasure to again welcome the following Brethren to our Order:

Bro Vishnu Chari, Lodge Ethos
Bro James McMaster, Lodge QBN St Andrew
Bro Wayne Warton, Lodge Canberra Unity
Bro Cameron Kiely, Lodge QBN St Andrew
Bro Nathan Cole, Lodge Canberra Unity

The following Brethren have taken their 2nd step:

Bro Sean Smith, Lodge of Truth (from Gowrie)
Bro Sam Wong, Lodge Ethos

The following Brethren have been Raised to the 3^o:

Nil

I welcome the following Affiliate Members to District 48:

Bro Rob Unger, Lodge Ethos

PASSINGS

I am delighted and optimistic to report that I have chaired 8 Membership Assistance Scheme (MAS) interviews over the quarter resulting in candidates assigned to Lodges in Districts 47 and 48. You may like to refer to the inaugural edition of *District 48* to learn about the MAS program.

RAISINGS

AND

With the success of the MAS, and your membership and retention initiatives, I am overwhelmed to report an overall increase in membership in our District this quarter. We now have 243 memberships in District 48. Well done.

AFFILIATIONS

Have you considered being a mentor for a new member? Do you remember when you prepared for your examinations? Do you want to help others in a similar position? Talk with your Lodge Secretary or Membership Officer now, they want to hear from you.

CHARITY AND BENEVOLENCE NEWS

CHARITY AND BENEVOLENCE OVER THE QUARTER

Lodge Ethos again supported the Multicultural Festival from Friday 17 February through to Sunday. The Lodge established a stall selling American Hotdogs and cans of Pabst Blue Ribbon beer. About 1000 hotdogs were sold before the bread rolls ran out on Sunday. Many Brethren from Ethos assisted in this activity over the weekend. The stall realised a total income of a staggering \$15,000 and, after expenses and cost share with a partner, a sizeable sum was added to the Lodge charity fund.

Lodge Capitol maintains several ongoing charity initiatives including: A Start In Life's Adopt an Aussie program, sponsorship of a Sailability yacht, and support for the Prostate Cancer Foundation. The Lodge also hosts a monthly lunch, known as the *Stonecutters*, where at donations are collected for the Lodge charity fund.

Lodge of Truth Braidwood maintains several ongoing charity initiatives whereby approximately \$5,500 is donated per annum to Masonic and local charities and organisations including: The Whiddon Group; A Start In Life; and the local Rural Fire Service, hospital, school and Scouts. The next fire wood raffle is scheduled for 24 June.

Lodge Canberra Unity maintains several ongoing charity initiatives including: Palliative Care, sponsorship of a Sailability yacht, and have this month made a donation to the Carwoola Bushfire Appeal.

Lodge Queanbeyan St Andrew donated \$1000 to the Carwoola Bushfire Appeal. The fires swept through 3500 hectares of land on 17 February destroying 12 homes located only 20 kms south east of Queanbeyan.

Our Regional Masonicare Manager is RW Bro John Arthur and our District Masonicare Manager is RW Bro Geoff Burns. Why not ask your Lodge Masonicare Caring Officer to talk about Masonicare and interACTION Grants at an upcoming meeting?



MASONICARE

A START IN LIFE

RFBI

THE WHIDDON GROUP

EDUCATION AND TRAINING NEWS

EDUCATION AND TRAINING OVER THE QUARTER



COLLEGE OF
MASONIC
STUDIES

SECTIONAL
LECTURES

WALKABOUTS

GL WEBSITE
RESOURCES

I am very pleased to announce that the Preceptor's Course, foreshadowed in the previous edition of *District 48*, is now scheduled for Saturday, 3rd of June, at the CMC! The Grand Lodge Demonstration Team are travelling from Sydney to demonstrate and explain our ceremony and ritual. If you were not at the last course hosted in Canberra, in 2013, please make every effort to get along. You will kick yourself if you miss it.

The Team will walk us through topics such as: Opening and Closing in all Degrees; delivery of Signs; Ballots; conducting Candidates; Perambulations; entry and exit protocols for GL Delegations, DGIWs and Fraternalists; to name just a few! Dress is smart casual with apron.

All are welcome from EAF to PM. I encourage all WMs, Wardens, DCs and Deacons from across the regional area to attend. Registration is from 9:30am for a 10am start and 2pm finish. Morning tea, light lunch, and refreshments all for \$15 (to be confirmed).

** Cash payment on morning of Registration please **

I am also excited to announce that our Regional Education Officer, VW Bro Ray Newcombe, has organised for the College of Masonic Studies to deliver the Certificate of Masonic Studies course in Canberra! The course will be delivered on Saturday, 17 June, from 8am through to 6pm at the CMC. Further details will be delivered by DGIWs, Lodge Secretaries and through the ACT Forum mailing list. Not on the list? Let me know and I'll add you.

Our Regional Education Officer is VW Bro Ray Newcombe and our District Education Officer is currently vacant, interested? contact Ray today. If you have a Lodge Education Officer why not ask him what educational resources are available or call on Ray who will be pleased to assist.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q&A FROM ACROSS OUR DISTRICT

As I visit the Lodges across our District I am often asked questions. These questions come from our Entered Apprentice Freemasons through to our most wise Past Masters. Sometimes I have the knowledge and experience to answer those questions, other times I do not, and I need to consult. Detailed below are several selected questions together with my answers.

Before I get to the first question, I need to set the stage. I was visiting a Lodge as a Past Master and, as I sometimes sit in the North when not attending as DGIW, on this occasion I sat beside a Master Mason (MM) who has several years of experience. The work of the evening was to open and close the Lodge in the three degrees. The MM was holding the Notice Paper and enthusiastically analysing each paragraph.

Q1. The MM turned to me with a somewhat puzzled expression and enquired, “what is a *long closing*?”

A1. The ‘long closing’ is a misused phrase to describe what is actually the normal and prescribed method of closing in the 3^o, as detailed in the Third Degree Ritual. The shorter or abbreviated version is used at Installations and is detailed in the Installed Master’s Ritual - it does not appear in the MM’s Ritual. All too often the abbreviated version is practised on the very occasion when it is of most detriment; when it was intended that a new MM now witness, by no less than

the Master and Wardens of his own Lodge, what has just been taught.

After the Lodge had been closed in the prescribed manner the MM was awestruck, in disbelief, that he had been deprived of witnessing the ritual of his own degree. The MM again enquired of me as to why we do not practise this ritual particularly given its significance, relevance, and its value in terms of maintaining familiarity with aspects of the degree that are not seen as often.

I sympathised and suggested that the abbreviated form is commonly practised in Lodges as a means of reducing the length of the ceremony - to get to the Festive Board faster. I further suggested, and emphasised that it was my personal view, that the prescribed closing should be worked more often and that intentionally compromising the wonders of our ceremony and ritual for the sake of expediency is not always for the greater good, which the MM has now experienced for himself.

As of September 2012 it has been at the WM’s discretion as to whether the Lodge will close in the prescribed or abbreviated form following a 3^o ceremony.

Q2. Why are you here as a Past Master and not DGIW?

A2. I’ve been asked this question several times during my visits, and not only in District 48.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q&A FROM ACROSS OUR DISTRICT

Given that I'm a frequent visitor at most Lodges across the local Districts it is reasonable for some to wonder why I swap and change.

DGIWs are obligated to meet a significant number of responsibilities across their District, and in support of the RGC and Board of Management. One of those responsibilities is to prioritise attendance at 'Installation, Initiation and 3rd Degree Meetings'.

A balance should be struck between enhancing the solemnity of certain ceremonies by attending as DGIW, particularly to supplement the experience of the candidate, but on the other hand not eroding or normalising the significance of a DGIW's visit by attending every meeting. I will therefore typically attend a 2° or non-degree meeting as a visiting Past Master.

However, I will always try to attend any meeting in a formal capacity, and will be delighted to do so, within our District if invited by the WM, as occurred at Lodge Capitol's MMs Night in January, or in a neighbouring District if invited by the respective DGIW.

Q3. I visited a Lodge where I saw the Tools of the Degree passed to the candidate during their explanation. I hadn't see that before?

A3. All Lodges have traditions and customs which have evolved over the ages and contribute to the diversity we all enjoy when visiting other Lodges.

This diversity adds to the unique character of each Lodge and remains an important consideration for many Brethren when deciding which Lodge to visit next.

In this case however there is a recommended method of delivering what is arguably one of the most important lessons in each Degree; the guidance provided in the *Codification of Decisions of the Ritual Committee* suggests that the Tools are held only by he who delivers the Charge. This permits, in my opinion, the deliverer to highlight and accentuate, in a synchronised manner with his words, to better enforce and embed these important historical and moral lessons.

Feel free to ask me a question the next time you see me, it might just make the next edition of *District 48!*

Have you visited the Region 4 website? The website is a valuable resource for members, potential members, and interested members of our community. You will also find some interesting videos and back editions of *District 48*.

Do you have a mate who may be interested in learning about our Order? Why not send him this email which contains the link to the website, here it is, [Freemasons NSW & ACT Region 4](#).

Until next time.

VW Bro Roman Cholawinskyj
DGIW District 48