

GRAND MASTER'S NEWSLETTER

Grand Installation

Brethren,

The Grand Master Elect and I have been in constant contact throughout the COVID lock-downs, and we continue to progress the many issues relevant to our roles as Grand Master and Chairman, Board of Management.

We are still working with the directives from the NSW Chief Health Officer in trying to confirm whether our impending Grand Installation can still go ahead as planned. Certainly, as soon as the Sydney Masonic Centre can again welcome us back into the building, we will be publishing more up-to-date information on the activities surrounding the various Grand Installation events.

Importantly, both the Grand Master Elect and I are in complete agreeance that the Grand Installation must be done constitutionally, in ancient form, and with all due reverence and humility. The Office of Grand Master is one of great dignity and honour, and it is the highest dignity to which a Mason can aspire. We intend to maintain this tradition.

Depending on advice of the nature of future restrictions, there may be a requirement to have only limited numbers in attendance, and we have planned the events to cover this circumstance if necessary. We cannot sacrifice the dignity and importance of this most important masonic event, and we will be striving to ensure that visitors from Sister Jurisdictions, and Other Orders within our jurisdiction, are still involved in the Grand Installation. As gauntlets are an integral part of the dress of Grand Master and the elected Grand Lodge Officers, it is still our intention that the dress will be Tails.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible when we are back in Lodge Room 1.



IMIS Database Revision

The revision of the Grand Lodge Database is now well underway, and we thank you all for your ongoing support in what is an important and necessary advancement in the way that our lodges and UGL Administration will operate into the future. During the lock-down the BOM, SMC and the Grand Secretariat have all been working diligently toward providing us with an informative and easy to use system, and I congratulate everyone involved.

Great strides have been made in a very short time and over the next few weeks our Lodge Secretaries will be introduced

to some exciting new advancements with new, easy to use, online 'Executive Officer' return forms, and 'Grand Masters Representative' request forms being added to the system.

There is much more to come, and we all look forward to providing you with the very best, easy to use and most up to date system possible. Brethren, these are difficult times, but they are also exciting times and, as we return to our regular meetings, we will continue to provide you all with the most up-to-date management processes.



...and finally

I trust you and your families are well and doing your best to remain optimistic during these difficult and somewhat trying times.

Please continue listening to the advice from our health experts on the most effective ways to keep us all safe. This virus will be a part of our lives for quite some time, and we must all play our part in reducing the risk of outbreaks spreading.

We will have a measured and responsible return to regular Craft masonic meetings. As most of our buildings and lodges have already completed our 3 Stage directives, this will stand us in good stead, as we return to Lodge business. With clean buildings, we are well prepared to accommodate both Lodges and tenants and, with responsible social distancing, we will prevail in the not-too-distant future.

For now, please continue to look after your community, your Lodge, your families, and each other.

Thank You.

Derek Robson AM
Grand Master



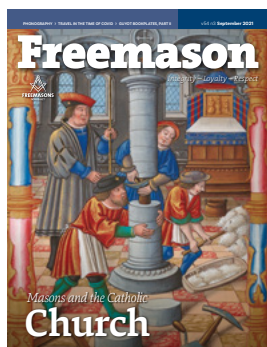
Afghanistan Veterans

The Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, has asked that the following message be widely promulgated to all Serving and Ex-Serving members of the Australian Defence Force:

'You would be aware of the situation in Afghanistan. Many may be experiencing strong feelings about this situation. Please remember that Australia is proud of you and thanks you for your service. All Australians acknowledge those who lost someone through this service. Check in with people you trust. There is always someone to talk to.'

'Serving and ex-serving personnel and their families can call Open Arms – Veteran & Families Counselling on 1800 011 046, or anonymous support is available from Safe Zone on 1800 142 072. For more detail www.openarms.gov.au Stay safe and look out for each other, Liz Cosson.'

<p>OPEN ARMS Veterans & Families Counselling 1800 011 046</p>	<p>SAFE ZONE SUPPORT FREE ANONYMOUS COUNSELLING LINE CALL 1800 142 072</p>	<p>Defence Family Helpline 1800 624 608</p>	<p>Defence All-hours Support Line 1800 628 036</p>
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Freemason, September – Out Now

You should already have received your September edition of the Freemason magazine, which you can also view online at FreemasonNSW.com. **In this issue:** Masons and the Catholic Church, A world of rainbows, Phonography, Scams on the rise, Travel in the time of COVID, Ex Libris part II, A look at a bookplate, The rite business, Tracking the origin of honey, The importance of lodge, The way ahead, plus all of the regular columns.

What did you think of the magazine?

Your Freemason magazine is always looking for interesting articles, masonic news, letters to the editor as well as comments about the magazine. Have your say by emailing freemason@masons.org.au.



The Grand Master's Newsletter

An official publication of the United Grand Lodge of NSW & ACT.

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