



## A Message from the Grand Master,

MWBro. Ray Clark

. . . *an occasional newsletter*

**MAY – 2010**

Dear Brother,

As mentioned in my previous Newsletter, there are four main components of our Business Plan – COMMUNICATION, PROMOTION, SALES AND MARKETING and IMPROVEMENT. The following updates outline the progress made along with other matters.

### **APRIL COMMUNICATION**

In my address, I covered Membership, Lodges, the Grand Masters Challenge, Charity, the Holding Lodge, Freemasons Hall and Acknowledgements. A précis of these matters follows and will be expanded upon in the next edition of the Journal.

**Membership** – Over the past two months, the slide in membership has ceased with new figures exceeding losses through deaths and resignations. The *Young Freemasons Network* is actively supporting new members and contributing to this growth.

**Lodges** Of 109 lodges, 85 are doing okay, well, or very well; around 15 are just holding their own and 9 or 10 are shrinking. It is evident that those Lodges that are succeeding are embracing the need for change while maintaining our principles, rules and benefits. The way we deliver our Freemasonry to existing and new members through good business practices, good ritual, interesting meetings and Festive Boards, I believe, is paramount. If your Lodge is in need of assistance with putting your plans in place, please contact your District Grand Superintendent. I expect two new Lodges to be formed in the next 12 months – a reversal of the trend of recent years.

**Grand Masters Challenge** – Lodges embracing and engaging in the challenges set for them are conveying heartening reports of their achievements. This is injecting life and vitality into many Lodges that were facing difficulties and providing greater incentive for those already enjoying success. Lodges achieving their goals are being formally recognised. The *Grand Masters Challenge* will continue to evolve and build on these successes.

**Charity** – I am planning the launch of a high profile campaign at this year's October Conference. It is anticipated the campaign will attract considerable public interest and media support and will involve Freemasonry working with another prominent Institution. This will challenge Lodges and assist their membership growth. All brethren will be urged to engage in and embrace this campaign thereby practising one of our core values, *I mean charity*. Physical, not financial, support is all that is required.

**Holding Lodge** – The Administrator of the Holding Lodge along with the Chairman of Care have been working at providing and delivering care to brethren who are members of the Holding Lodge and negotiations are taking place with Lodges to provide this support on an ongoing basis.

**Freemasons Hall** – Due to lack of financial viability a few years back, the building was sold with a lease-back to Freemasonry for 99 years. A redevelopment of the site was proposed with compensation to Freemasonry and an upgrading of the building. However, with the developer being placed into receivership last year, Grand Lodge experienced difficulty in obtaining payment for ongoing maintenance and services, all of which had been the responsibility of the owner and we faced loss of credibility and damage through nonpayment of accounts. Within this background, we leased more space to the University of Adelaide on the first and second floors along with the Great Hall and the Chandelier Room. This has provided secure income and this together with investment income from sale proceeds of the building, and we are now in a far better financial position than we were several years ago. The receiver appointed to the developer placed the building back on the market and we have taken the initiative to repurchase our "home" for a much-reduced price than we were originally paid. Settle is imminent. This has been a huge task and the job ahead is for the Board of Management to diligently manage the building and plan the ongoing renovation and opportunities. My thanks are extended to the Board of Management, our Grand Registrar, Grand Treasurer and Bro Victor Daminato from Lodge St Alban for their numerous unpaid hours of time given for the good of Our Institution. As you will appreciate, the delicacy of this situation has precluded communications but I am now happy to speak to you about this matter so feel free to contact me through the Grand Secretary.

**Acknowledgements** – I appreciate and acknowledge the support and attendance of brethren at the April 2010 Communication of our Grand Lodge. I also thank those Worshipful Masters and Lodges who have received the Deputy Grand Master, Assistant Grand Master and myself at our Official Visits. Well over 100 of these have been conducted over the past 12 months facilitating good communications and I thank my Deputy and Assistant for their strong support. Thanks also to the retiring Grand Wardens for representing me at Lodge Installations and to our retiring Grand Director, Very Worshipful Bro. Colin Ey, his team of Assistant Directors and all the working Grand Lodge and past Grand Lodge officers who have worked hard throughout the year.

Finally, I give gratitude to the President of the Board, the Board of Management, the Grand Secretary and his office staff for their untiring efforts, Committee Chairmen and MWBro. Alan Pearson, Grand Master Mark Master Masons and Most Excellent First Grand Principal of Royal Arch Masons, John Carter for their support and counsel.

### **GRAND LODGE OFFICERS - 2010/2011**

The "new team," announced at the April Communication, is in place. Those GL officers who are not continuing in their portfolios are thanked for their support over the past year/s. Those newly appointed to the team are welcomed and congratulated on their progress in Freemasonry.

### **GRAND LODGE WEBSITE AND PROBOARDS**

Please periodically check the website at <http://www.freemasonrysaust.org.au/> for my Diary and important events and ProBoards.

### **ANNUAL CONFERENCE, COMMUNICATION AND MIXED DINNER - 9 OCTOBER 2010**

Please mark these functions in your diary to attend one or all of these important events in our calendar.

*Please note: If our Freemasons Hall car park is full, the car park next door is now open weeknights after 6pm to accommodate excess vehicles. The caretaker will collect \$5 per car and entrance is through our car park and the roller door at the rear of the building.*

### **OFFICIAL VISITS**

The DGM, AGM and my official visits to lodges will continue in an ongoing effort to assist and provide up-to-date communication opportunities with Grand Lodge. The Senior and Junior Grand Wardens will be representing the Grand Master as Installing Officers for a number of Lodge Installations.

### **PROMOTION**

**Community Relations Committee** – Lodges are reminded that this committee can assist with promotion. Contact via the Grand Secretary.

**Lodge Community Events** – A number of events planned which will include the public –

15<sup>th</sup> MAY – Edwardstown Lewis Lodge 50th Birthday will feature a re-enactment (open to the public) of its consecration at 5.00pm followed by a Jubilee Ball at 7.00pm. Edwardstown Freemasons Hall, Avenue Road Clarence Gardens. Bookings, Brenton Hand 8370 5378 or Tony Wilson on 8293 1130

10-11<sup>th</sup> JULY – Quorn Lodge Centenary Celebrations (details in SA & NT Freemason).

16<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER – Lodge of Light No 11 – 150 year celebrations.

24<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER – The Victoria Lodge Combined Picnic at Jamestown along with Apex and Lions Clubs

4<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER – Mid North Lodge No 12 re-enactment – 150 years celebration at Clare.

### **SALES AND MARKETING**

**Branding – Freemasons Hall** – As mentioned above, attention to manage the building including branding is planned.

**Town Signs** – Country Lodges are urged to ensure that the *Freemasonry* signs at the entrance to their town are in place. Assistance can be provided through the Grand Secretary.

**Lodge Halls** – Prominent street signage is important to promote our presence. Lodges concerned can seek assistance through the Grand Secretary.

### **IMPROVEMENT**

**Grand Masters Challenge** – Established new goals will build on existing activities and support the endeavors of our Freemasons Foundation.

**Survival and Revival Teams** – The Assistant Grand Master continues to assist Lodges in improving their performance and thus ensure their survival

**Lodge Business Plans** – To ensure their future, all Lodges should have established a Business Plans and provided a copy to their District Grand Superintendent.

**Young Freemasons Network** – This group is going from strength to strength in my stated desire for Lodges to increase membership along with enjoying fun and fellowship in Freemasonry. Young Freemasons are urged to join - see web site which includes YFN newsletters at <http://www.2b1ask1.com.au/Newsletters.htm>

Fraternal regards

RAY CLARK, Grand Master

**SHARING OUR VALUES**

**Charity - Compassion - Honesty - Ethics - Care - Friendship - Integrity**