



ANNUAL REPORT

2015 – 2016

Our Vision

The Vision of Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited is to contribute to a better Victoria through thoughtful and purposeful charitable support and community involvement.

Mission Statement

The Mission of Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited is to build stronger communities by supporting those who are disadvantaged, and providing relief to their families and carers, by assisting needy members of the Fraternity, their dependents, and by aiding the youth of Victoria to achieve their education goals.

Tax Deductible Donations

Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited is the trustee for The Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation, which is a Deductible Gift Recipient organisation as defined by the Australian Tax Office.

This means that donations to it of \$2 or more are tax deductible, which may reduce an individual's income tax liability. To donate, please visit www.freemasonsfoundation.org or call (03) 9411 0111.

Contents

A Word from the Grand Master	3
Chairman's Report	4
Freemasons Foundation Victoria	5
Board of Directors	6
Australian Prostate Cancer Research	7
Donations & Bequests.....	9
Deductible Gift Recipient Advisory Committee.....	10
Benevolent Fund Advisory Committee.....	11
Scholarships & Educational Support Advisory Committee	12
Marketing, Communications & Funds Development Committee.....	13
A Personal Relationship - Freemasonry & The Foundation	14
United Nations Youth Victoria	15
Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research	16
A Foundation Is Born	17
Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited – Genesis	19
Financial Summary	21



A Word from the Grand Master

Welcome to the inaugural annual report of the recently established Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited. It is with great pleasure that I am able to join with the Foundation in highlighting the tremendous successes which have taken place over the previous twelve months. During this time, we have seen the Foundation establish itself as a major charitable vehicle both within the masonic philanthropic space, and the wider Victorian community.

Freemasonry teaches many virtues, one of which is charity. It therefore makes me extremely proud to see the wonderful work our Foundation is undertaking. I am also pleased to see a strong relationship forming between our lodges and the Foundation. It is this relationship which will continue to deliver meaningful and much needed assistance to our brethren, their families, and the general public within our great State. I hope that you enjoy this publication and I look forward with great optimism to the ensuing year, and trust many other charitable works are undertaken to assist our community, and grow the profile of Freemasonry within Victoria.

Freemasonry is an organisation of good men, supporting each other, their families and the community.

MWBro. Don Reynolds
Grand Master
Freemasons Victoria

“...we have seen the foundation establish itself as a major charitable organisation both within the masonic philanthropic space, and the wider Victorian community.”

Chairman's Report

Welcome to the very first annual report of Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited.

In September 2014 the most significant Freemasonry philanthropic vote since the establishment of the Freemasons Benevolent fund 127 years ago, took place. That was, to change the existing structure to one that essentially enables more philanthropic funds to be distributed back into the community.

This has ensured that Freemasonry and its very rich philanthropic history continue to remain relevant, active and significant in the Victorian community. It has also enabled Freemasons a greater opportunity to fulfil the first core value in Freemasonry – to practice universal charity.

The establishment of the Foundation saw the coming together of two separate charities under the management of one Trustee Company, namely Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited. It also saw the introduction of a new board of directors. The directors include both Freemasons and non-Freemasons which further enhances our engagement with the community. In a first for Freemasonry, the two non-Freemasons are ladies. They bring a wealth of experience and diversity which is assisting the Foundation to grow and prosper.

Over the past two years the Foundation has been immensely proud to have continued and subsequently built on, the foundations, programs and activities that the previous two entities facilitated.

This has included the very successful scholarship program which started with one presented in 1913, grew by 2004 to a total of 20 scholarships amounting to \$28,700 and has continued to rise substantially since. Pleasingly, in the year under review the Foundation was again able to increase the amount of funding available for this purpose, awarding 73 scholarships valued at almost \$300,000, thus making a significant difference to the youth of Victoria.

The change in structure has also enabled the Foundation to make significant grants to many more charitable and community organisations. With matching contributions from Lodges in many instances, and larger contributions in others, this has seen even more money find its way to very worthwhile projects, activities and charitable causes.

The Foundation is now in a position to make a real difference as a substantial player in the Philanthropic Community and there is a clear opportunity to make some very significant philanthropic contributions to the community. We are already exploring these opportunities and we look forward to becoming a true beacon for Freemasons.

On behalf of my fellow directors, I would like to thank the Members of the Company for their support and giving us the opportunity on behalf of all Victorian Freemasons to not only continue the tradition of making a significant difference in the community, but also to raise the profile of Freemasonry in Victoria.

Andre Clayton
Chairman
Freemasons Foundation Victoria

“The Foundation is now in a position to make a real difference as a substantial player in the Philanthropic Community.”

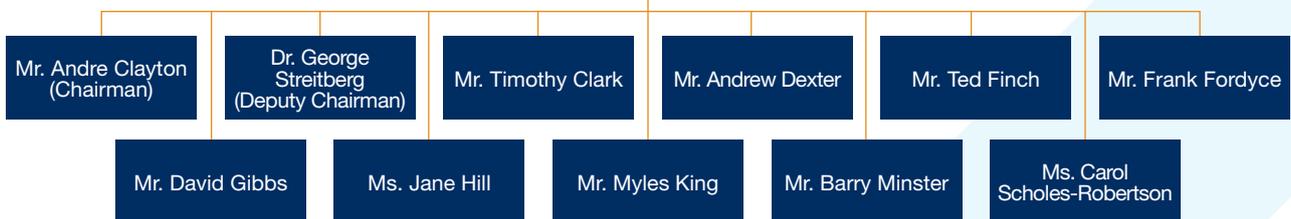


Freemasons Foundation Victoria Organisation Structure

MEMBERS



DIRECTORS



EXECUTIVE



SUB COMMITTEES



**Members Note: Due to the rotating structure, during the previous 12 months both members served in this role. MWBro. Jones retired by rotation in March 2016*.*

Board of Directors



Mr. Andre Clayton
Chairman



Dr George Streitberg
Deputy Chairman



Mr. Timothy Clark



Mr. Andrew Dexter



Mr. Edward Finch



Mr. Frank Fordyce



Mr. David Gibbs



Ms. Jane Hill



Mr. Myles King



Mr. Barry Minster



Ms. Carol Scholes-Robertson



Mr. Roy Alderton
Company Secretary



Australian Prostate Cancer Research

At Freemason Victoria's June Quarterly Communication the gift of \$750,000 over three years to Australian Prostate Cancer Research was announced, which truly was a landmark in masonic benevolence. This initiative by the Foundation has been supported by Freemasons Victoria – highlighted by the Grand Master, who made time at the June Quarterly Communication to advise freemasons of this gift prior to a release to the general public at a launch at APCR on 13 July 2016.

To date, Freemasonry benevolence in Victorian history has never made such a substantial long term commitment to men's health. Some may recall the Masonic Task Force did introduce a men's health check through district panels, and the former Board of Benevolence did support lodges in some areas of men's health, but this support was provided on an ad hoc, project by project basis. We have now proudly made a substantial, multi-year commitment to support a long neglected area in men's health, prostate cancer.

It is a little known and publicised fact that more men in Australia die each year of prostate cancer than women with breast cancer. The startling reality is that 10 men die every day in Australia with prostate cancer.

What is APCR?

It is the first clinic in Australia and possibly the world that is a virtual one stop shop to diagnose, treat and offer all the ancillary back up required to treat prostate cancer. These ancillary services include physiotherapy, psychology, rehabilitation and group support.

Currently, it can take many weeks or even months from the first visit of a patient with symptoms of prostate cancer to a GP until treatment begins. This reflects the significant delays involved in scheduling tests, receiving results, reviewing those results and scheduling appropriate follow-on appointments. In most cases, these visits occur across numerous different places and with several practitioners. Similarly, the post-operative care delivered to prostate cancer patients tends to be spread across numerous locations and practitioners.

In contrast, at APCR, care is co-ordinated every step along the way, beginning with an appointment with an in-house general practitioner. In fact, APCR can even arrange accommodation for country patients and their families, thus providing a true one stop shop. It is envisaged with the financial support of freemasonry, it will be possible in the not too distant future for a man to go to the clinic, see a GP, complete diagnostic tests and receive interim results on the same day.

What is this gift going to do to assist in the control of prostate cancer?

Initially, the first round of funding will provide a large increase to the diagnostic equipment available for diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer at the APCR's North Melbourne centre. Over the following two years of funding, the Foundation will be in constant communication as to the results of our funding and recommendations where future funding could be directed to improve the diagnostic process and quicker treatment of prostate cancer.

You may well ask what is in it for freemasons?

In a very tangible sense, Freemasons can access the Foundation's website, www.freemasonsfoundation.org and make a booking direct with APCR. Freemasons making such a booking will be contacted directly by APCR to make an appointment for a visit at the earliest time available.

More broadly, the publicity associated with this long-term support of the APCR will significantly raise the profile of the Foundation and Victorian freemasonry. Our support will be recognized in signage at the APCR facility as well as in APCR's communications with patients and others.

Finally, may I acknowledge the contribution and support over many months given by Foundation Directors, Mr Andrew Dexter and Mr Timothy Clark, as well as APCR CEO Mr Mark Harrison. Their assistance to this philanthropic project greatly assisted in it becoming a reality, and thus ensured this tremendous result for men's health. I truly feel that the Foundation's Board can be extremely proud of our contribution in supporting this initiative, the largest gift ever by freemasonry within Victoria.

Ted Finch
Director
Freemasons Foundation Victoria

Post Script

The Freemasons Foundation wishes to highlight the enormous amount of work undertaken by Mr Ted Finch, who has driven the success of this alignment through his persistence, dedication, and attention to detail. Without any doubt, had he not taken this project under his wing and guided it through to fruition, it simply would not have occurred. From all of us at the Foundation, thank you Ted for a job extremely well done.



\$750,000
over three years to Australian
Prostate Cancer Research



10 men
die every day in Australia
with prostate cancer.

Donations & Bequests

One of the most important aspects of Freemasonry is Charity, which is a tenet we learn at the beginning of our Masonic career. As the charitable arm of Victorian Freemasonry, the Foundation is the philanthropic face for all Brethren within our local communities. It goes without saying that we can only carry out the tremendous work we do within the community with the assistance of Victorian Lodges and the generous giving of our Brethren.

As you will discover within this publication, the philanthropic giving by Freemasons within Victoria over the past 127 years is something that we can all be immensely proud of. It is the aim of the Foundation to continue this wonderful tradition for generations to follow, and this can only be achieved with your help.

Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited is the trustee for The Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation, which is a Deductible Gift Recipient organisation as defined by the Australian Tax Office. This means that donations to it of \$2 or more are tax deductible, which can assist in reducing an individual's income tax liability.

The aim of the Foundation is to receive donations from Freemasons, the general public and business organisations, and to receive bequests. This will enable the Foundation to build and maintain a significant capital base to further assist the many worthwhile Masonic and non-Masonic causes which Freemasons in Victoria support.

Should you wish to support The Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation, please be assured that we will be happy to talk with you about your wishes.

Donations may take the form of:

- A specific sum of money.
- Works of art or personal effects such as jewellery etc. (subject to tax office rules).

Bequests may be for the whole or part of your estate.

You may wish to discuss the matter of a bequest with your family or seek advice from your solicitor if desired.

It is important to note that Freemasons Foundation believes in ethical investments. Our investment policies, approved by the Board of Directors, contain the following paragraph under the heading "Socially Responsible Investing":

"The Trustees will not knowingly directly invest in an organisation that operates at the expense of the environment, human rights, the public safety, the communities in which the organisation conducts its operations, or the dignity of its employees. Specifically, there will be no direct investments made in companies deriving material sales revenues (more than 15%) from tobacco, alcohol, gambling, armaments and pornography industries."

For further information on making a donation or bequest to The Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation, or a bequest to Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited, please contact our Manager, Philanthropic Services on (03) 9411 0124 during normal business hours.

Tax deductible donations may be made by making your cheque payable to "The Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation" and posting to Freemasons Foundation, PO Box 553, East Melbourne, Vic., 8002. A receipt will be issued.

Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited is also able to receive donations, on behalf of Freemasons Benevolent Fund, but such donations will not be tax deductible.

"...the philanthropic giving by Freemasons within Victoria over the past 127 years is something that we can all be immensely proud of. It is the aim of the Foundation to continue this wonderful tradition for generations to follow, and this can only be achieved with your help."

Deductible Gift Recipient Advisory Committee

This committee of the Board was established to review applications for charitable support of recipients who qualified for tax deductible status as determined by the Australian Taxation Office mainly funded by the Public Charitable Foundation.

Applications have been received from Lodges and from a wide range of community based organisations. Each has been considered in accordance with our agreed strategic goals including:

- That the project links our giving with our Brand
- That our giving makes an enduring difference
- That we coordinate the giving with Lodges and Districts

We have recommended the funding of vehicle purchases, equipment purchases, youth group development, Special School needs and crisis support groups.

We have also tried to be innovative wherever possible including:

- Understanding how to make a difference
- Connecting direct applicants with local Lodges in their geographic area
- Providing challenge grants that give incentive for another donor or donors to build on our funds to make up the total needed.

The subcommittee also tries to look at the bigger picture of what we might consider funding and has been advising the Board on the possibly of larger grants over a period of years at a size never before possible under the previous benevolence system. The support of the Australian Prostate Research Centre is an example such thought processes.

David Gibbs
Chairman
DGR Advisory Committee



Benevolent Fund Advisory Committee

Over the past 12 months a significant amount of philanthropic grants have been approved by the Benevolent Fund Advisory Committee, including a \$250,000 grant to the Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre. This world renowned clinic allows men to be assessed, diagnosed and treated promptly and we are pleased to be a part of this world first drop-in prostate cancer research and treatment centre. Like funding has been approved for each of the ensuing two years.

Other significant grants have been made to the newly opened Police Memorial Resuscitation Ward at Richmond's Epworth Hospital in partnership with the Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation, who received a grant of \$50,000 from the Benevolent Fund. This period also saw Melbourne Youth Music receive \$77,000, whom Victorian Freemasonry has had a vibrant partnership with over many years, in supporting the Victorian youth enhance their musical talent.

The Foundation's ethos of "Making a difference" to the lives of the wider community is entrenched in the decision making of the Foundation's grant making advisory committees and no grant is recommended or denied without due diligence being applied to all applications.

Such grant making covers a plethora of community needs and whilst editorial space does not permit a full listing of all grants made, the fields which they cover include:

- Hospitals and Aged Care (particularly medical equipment)
- Primary Schools and Secondary colleges
- Youth Support Programs (both material and educational)



- Disability and Health Services
- Scouting and Guides
- Food Programs
- Community support to provide wide-reaching relief to the disadvantaged and needy.

Likewise, the financial relief we provide to the Freemasons of Victoria and their dependants is a primary function, having been the genesis of the Benevolent Fund when established 127 years ago in 1889.

I look forward to a continuation of our philanthropic and benevolence activities in the years ahead and finally, I extend my sincere thanks to the members of the Benevolent Fund Advisory Committee for their dedication and service and to the many hours they contribute.

Frank Fordyce
Chairman
Benevolent Fund Advisory Committee



\$77,000
granted to Melbourne
Youth Music



\$250,000
grant to the Australian Prostate
Cancer Research Centre



\$50,000
grant to the Victoria Police
Blue Ribbon Foundation



Scholarships & Educational Support Advisory Committee

The scholarships and awards cover post-secondary education and secondary education.

The number of applicants for general academic and specific scholarships and awards in the fields of the environment, architecture, music, civics, mature age, and residential was again large and of high calibre. Each year the assessors are impressed with the quality of the students, not only for their academic achievement but for their contribution to their school and the community.

The number of tertiary awards was 37, secondary awards 82, and music scholarships 3. The total value of the scholarships and awards was \$350,000.

The assessment of the applicants is time consuming but very rewarding. A very dedicated group of five assessors review all applications and makes recommendations to the Chair of the Scholarships, Education and Support Advisory Committee. The music scholarships are subject to an audition. These recommendations are reviewed and then passed to the FFVL Board for consideration.

The Freemasons Foundation Victoria Scholarship is tenable for the duration of the undergraduate degree and is valued at \$10,000 per year. The Freemasons Post-Secondary Education Awards are for one year and range in value from \$3500 to \$5000. The Dr. Robin Gray Music Scholarship is tenable for the duration of the undergraduate degree (subject to satisfactory academic progress). In addition the Eliezer Benedykt Memorial Music Scholarship and the Bill Burrell Memorial Scholarship are awarded for one year.

The secondary school awards are divided into Years 7,8,9 and 10. The Senior School awards are for two years, Years 11 and 12, and are subject to satisfactory completion of Year 11. 2016 saw the introduction of Year 12 awards for students completing Year 11. This recognizes that some students mature later and gives an opportunity to this group.

Over the years many students have written to the previous Board of Benevolence to express thanks for the awards and scholarships. An excerpt from one is as follows:

"To whom it may concern,
At the end of 2011 I received a scholarship from Freemasons Victoria to assist with my University studies which I began in 2012. I studied at the University of Melbourne and in 2014 graduated with a Bachelor of Science. For this year I have been accepted to continue my study with a Masters course through the Murdoch Children's Research Institute & the University of Melbourne. I will be working on the genetics behind childhood leukaemia in the hope to improve detection or possibly treatment to sufferers. In 2012 I needed to move to Melbourne to be able participate in full time study and I would never have been able to do so without the financial support I received from the Freemasons. I just wanted to pass on how grateful I was and assure you that your gift was not wasted.
Thank you,

Another letter from a recipient stated that without the FFPSEA he doubted whether he would have completed his degree to the standard he achieved. The importance of the scholarship to him was that it allowed him to substantially reduce his part-time work in the term leading to his exams and concentrate on study. This led to better marks and a cadetship.

Dr. George Streitberg
Chairman
SES Advisory Committee



Marketing, Communications & Funds Development Committee

As I reflect upon the past year, the first year of being part of a new entity, one which some were convinced was the wrong way forward, I can honestly say that our achievements in the PR, Communications and Marketing committee definitely outweigh our disappointments.

Our initial brief was to promote the activities of the Freemasons Foundation whenever and wherever it seemed appropriate.

With eleven newly appointed board members, and several ongoing Benevolence projects, we needed to hit the ground running, and the new committee consisted of Timothy Clark, Myles King and myself Barry Minster.

We met and set ourselves a number of targets and sought opinion from other board members. Then after the two mornings of focus setting by an outside facilitator, we had a better idea of where we needed to put our energies.

Timothy created the foundation's website www.freemasonsfoundation.org and social media presence, primarily through Facebook www.facebook.com/freemasonsfoundationvictoria. Both of these have proven to be highly successful as avenues not only to promote our activities, but also to receive input from our members [freemasons] and the public who never before knew we existed. Timothy was also invited to outline the foundation's digital marketing strategy at Freemasons Victoria's December Quarterly Communication, which proved to be highly engaging and ultimately successful.



Myles in his role as Grand Director is often close to the membership within lodges, thus was able to actively promote the Foundation especially at lodge installations.

I took a couple of speaking engagements to address the curious lodge members and members of organizations who received our donations.

With eleven newly appointed board members, and several ongoing Benevolence projects, we needed to hit the ground running, and the new committee consisted of Timothy Clark, Myles King and myself Barry Minster.

There was a suggestion that we may need a "Beacon On The Hill" - something that resonated with not only Freemasons but also with the public, as now our Foundation was in a far better position to promote the Masonic name and image in the public sphere. It was therefore decided that a joint "Beacon On The Hill" sub-committee be established, which consisted of Timothy Clark and David Gibbs, both Foundation Directors, as well as the Grand Master Don Reynolds. After numerous meetings it became clear that the beacon was not a single nor group of projects, it was simply the Foundation itself.

Another major achievement was our strict alignment with Freemasonry Victoria's Communications Manager, which involved carefully co-ordinating our announcements in concert, to reduce double handling and incorrect statements.

We now look forward to the future where we anticipate growing our public identity, and with our sponsorship of the Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre, I feel we will gain further public awareness and positive sentiment.

Barry Minster
Chairman
MCFD Committee



A Personal Relationship - Freemasonry & The Foundation

In April 1982, I was initiated into freemasonry becoming a member at Lodge Observance (654). From the outset the warmth and friendliness of the brethren was quite humbling. What struck a chord with me was their commitment to supporting each other and the community whenever possible. I had been involved in giving to various charities but this was different and reinforced the philosophy introduced at my initiation; philanthropy in its purest form.

In November, 2014 I was selected as a Director of the Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited. With my fellow directors, we are committed to protecting and growing the corpus entrusted to us and making a positive impact on the lives of individuals and the community by supporting meaningful development of ongoing legacies for current and future generations. The achievements of the Foundation are outlined in this report, however it must be remembered that these achievements would and could not happen without the support of all past and present brethren.

In 2016 I was appointed Grand Director of Ceremonies for the term of our current Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Donald Reynolds.

More importantly, I have been given the privilege of working with a fantastic, dedicated team of people being the members of the 2016 – 17 Ceremonial Team and to be clear, when I refer to ‘members’, I am not referring to just the men of the team, but everyone including wives and partners. Time, commitment, dedication, understanding and support is what defines every ceremonial team and what an honour it is for my wife Isabella and I to have a part with the current team.

If I were to compare my two current roles, (which you could say are very different and distinct) I would have to say in many aspects the similarities are quite striking. Both positions require an ability to get on with people, to treat them with dignity, understand their perspective and to work collegiately to benefit others; a virtue all freemasons aspire too.

I finish with the quotation of our Grand Master: *“Freemasonry is an organisation of good men supporting each other, their families and the community”* – isn’t that what we are about?

VW Bro. Myles King
Grand Director of Ceremonies
Director, Freemasons Foundation Victoria

United Nations Youth Victoria



Over the past 18 months, Freemasons Foundation Victoria has been a strong supporter of UN Youth Victoria, committing long term funding to assist with personal development programs, leadership training and charitable causes.

In April 2015 the foundation financially supported the 2015 United Nations Evatt Competition.

Evatt is a Model United Nations Security Council diplomacy competition for students in Years 9-10, with more than 2,000 students competing in Evatt each year.

Evatt aims to educate young people about Australia's place in the world and empower them as active citizens by developing public speaking, negotiation, teamwork, research, and diplomatic skills.

The competition takes the form of a mock session of the UN Security Council. Teams of two students debate, amend, and vote on a prepared resolution from the perspective of their assigned nation. The students judged the most effective diplomats proceed to the next round.

Each State and Territory has its own Evatt Competition throughout the school year, with top students in each state going to the National Finals in December, the six-day residential conclusion of the competition

Given the success of the Evatt Competition, in November 2015 it was decided to further fund the UN Youth by way of \$39,000 towards their youth development programs, at \$13,000 per year over three years. These development programs include supporting their involvement at the UN Voice Competition which aims to educate 15,000 students nationally each year about international issues and the role of the United Nations.

At the recent UN Youth Victoria National Finals, held in Canberra and attended by Victorian, students provided original solutions to some of the major problems that Australia faces. By debate, discussion and advocacy they are preparing themselves to be the leaders of the future.

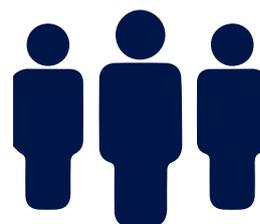
Mr. Mark James, UN Evatt National Convenor explained how this donation will assist the UN Youth Victoria. "With over 120 Victorian volunteers, we reach over 3,500 students through our programs, and with the help of Freemasons Foundation Victoria, UN Youth will continue to reach out to all Victorian students, and offer them the chance to lead the change they want in their community."

Given that both the UN and Freemasonry have a tremendous history of giving, and are well known around the world for their charitable works, I firmly believe that both organisations are well aligned, and thus look forward to a long and rewarding friendship.

Timothy Clark
Director
Freemasons Foundation Victoria



\$39,000
funded to the UN Youth, \$13,000
per year over three years



Over 2,000
students in Years 9-10
compete in Evatt each year

Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research

Lung cancer research at the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute will be significantly advanced by a \$100,000 donation from Freemasons Victoria in conjunction with Freemasons Foundation Victoria.

Lodge Amicus raised \$56,000 at their Venetian Carnevale Ball held on Saturday 6 February. More than 450 guests enjoyed the night featuring the music of the Tony Cursio Showband and Dancers with 3AW's Tony Tardio as MC for the evening.

Freemasons Foundation Victoria supported Lodge Amicus's extraordinary efforts by contributing \$44,000 to bring the total to \$100,000.

An official presentation, hosted by 3AW's Tony Tardio, was held at the Olivia Newton-John Research Institute in Heidelberg on Wednesday 9 March.

Deputy Grand Master RWBro. Don Reynolds made the presentation on behalf of all Victorian Freemasons, in conjunction with Mario and Dianne Zanetti of Lodge Amicus and David Gibbs a Director of the Freemasons Foundation Victoria.

Medical Oncologist Associate Professor Thomas John accepted the donation on behalf of the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute.

The Carnevale feel was maintained during the presentation when piano accordionist Angelo Marchese was joined by singer Tony Cursio to entertain those in attendance.

"We are incredibly grateful to Freemasons Victoria and to the members of Lodge Amicus for this generous donation", Thomas said. "Without funding and support, the Centre would not be capable of providing the research into the development of new treatments that it is renowned for".

The Olivia Newton-John Cancer & Wellness Centre was established in 2013 after the Austin Hospital Board recognised that the new hospital tower,



completed in 2005, would not be large enough to include its extensive cancer service.

Much loved Australian entertainer and breast cancer survivor Olivia Newton-John was approached to assist in gaining public support for a purpose-built cancer centre. Completed in 2013, the \$189 million Centre was made possible by philanthropic and government support as well as members of the public who collectively contributed more than \$17 million towards the project.

The Centre's design and treatment philosophy is to offer innovative treatment, with experienced health professionals utilising the latest equipment. Researchers and clinical staff work closely together so that patients benefit more quickly from the latest scientific discoveries.

Research is central to the Olivia Newton-John Cancer & Wellness Centre's increasing success with the prevention, treatment and cure of cancer, and support for those living with cancer; however funds are still needed to support research programs and wellness therapies, which do not qualify for government funding.

To find out how you can support the Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre just like Freemasons Victoria has, visit <http://www.austin.org.au/cancer>



\$56,000

was raised by Lodge Amicus at their Venetian Carnevale Ball



\$100,000

in total was raised with \$44,000 contributed by the FFV

A Foundation Is Born

When the United Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Victoria (UGLV) was formed in 1889 a fund was established, to be called the Benevolent Fund, whose purpose was to support Brethren who had fallen on hard times. Subsequently the Fund introduced its first scholarship and later started to give donations to non-Masonic charities. By 2007 the funds had grown to well over \$20m and the Benevolent Fund was one of four funds which comprised the financial and real assets of Freemasons Victoria.

To celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the formation of UGLV a second charitable Fund was established by a group of senior Freemasons, called The Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation. Unlike the Benevolent Fund this Fund was registered as a charity and operated completely independently of UGLV, although the Trustees were all senior Freemasons, and the secretary was the Grand Secretary.

In 2007, the Benevolent Fund, having grown to substantial proportions, and the operation of the fund not having been reviewed since the late 70's, the UGLV Board of General Purposes considered how best the growing philanthropic activities of UGLV could be organized to best serve Freemasons into the future. It was decided to call in the experts to provide some guidance, and Marion Webster, having many years' background and experience in philanthropic matters, was engaged to provide a report to the Board.

The process was straightforward – interview those Freemasons who were engaged both in, and on the periphery of, philanthropy within the Craft, and recommend a way forward that would extend the reach and recognition of Freemasons philanthropic activities and ensure the funds, in the future, were put to appropriate use. In July 2008 the report, known as the “Webster Report”, was delivered to the Board of General Purposes.

Amongst the report's major recommendations were: that a company limited by guarantee, to be called Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited, be established, to be the overarching structure for management of all Freemasons future philanthropic activities; that the Benevolent Fund be registered as a charity and seek from the Australian Taxation Office tax deductibility for its charitable donations; and that The Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation be brought together with the Benevolent Fund to be managed jointly by the same Board.

As will be imagined these proposals would require substantial work to put into effect. The Board of General Purposes at the time consulted legal

experts for guidance in relation to changes to the UGL Constitution, and had extensive discussions with the Australian Taxation Office, but there the matter rested for the time being.

It was late in 2012 when then Grand Master, MWBro. Bob Jones, decided that it was time to further consider the recommendations of the Webster Report. As a starting point he spoke with then Grand Treasurer VWBro. Roy Alderton and asked him to read the report and advise him what steps needed to be taken to implement the recommendations. VWBro. Roy was an Accountant in public practice and a Chartered Secretary and had extensive experience in both governance and corporate restructuring.

The requested brief report was dated 3rd October, 2012 and was delivered to the Grand Master a couple of days later. In it VWBro. Roy Alderton set out all of the steps required to be made and a timetable for doing so. Subsequently the Board of General Purposes approved the suggestion of the Grand Master that the recommendations of the Webster Report should be implemented as soon as possible, and VWBro. Roy Alderton was designated to carry out the necessary work.

The work of establishing the Foundation began in November, 2012 and concluded late in 2014. The steps to be taken were extensive: establish the appropriate corporate structure; ensure that the company constitution was appropriately worded; draw up a trust deed for the Benevolent Fund; draw up a list of changes which would be required to the UGLV constitution; have discussions with the Trustees of The Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation; obtain necessary approvals from the Australian Charities & Not-for-profits Commission and the Australian Taxation Office; establish an appropriate governance structure for philanthropic activities; draw up terms of reference for the proposed board of directors and its various committees; document all of the administrative procedures required to run the organization; and set up a Review Group to review all of the recommendations.



Retiring members of the former 2014 Board of Benevolence together with several Past Presidents of the Board

At the review stage several progress reports had already been made to the Board of General Purposes. Once the Review Group had finished their work it remained only to present the whole plan to the members of Freemasons Victoria. That process started in earnest early in 2014, which was a little longer than originally envisaged due to a number of problems encountered on the way.

It soon became apparent that a substantial number of members of Freemasons Victoria were not happy with the trust deed of the Benevolent Fund, the major concern being the method of ensuring that the Foundation remained in Freemasons hands in perpetuity. But by discussion, amendment, and a series of 16 presentations made at various locations throughout Victoria by VVBro. Roy Alderton in company with various members of the Board of General Purposes, the stage was set to put the whole matter to a vote.

Notice of Motion to adopt the recommendations of what by then had been labelled “The Alderton Review” was put at the June Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge and subsequently that vote took place at the Quarterly Communication held in September, 2014. The proposals were approved by a slender margin.

It was then necessary to put in place the final preparations for establishment of the Foundation. Expressions of interest had already been requested from Brethren willing to take on the volunteer role of Director of the Foundation, and an independent consultancy had been engaged to interview them and to recruit two non-Freemasons to the Board. Subsequently short lists were prepared. External candidates were also interviewed by VVBro. Roy Alderton and the Members of the company. Final

appointments were made by the Members.

The inaugural meeting of the new Board of Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited was held on Wednesday 10th December, 2014. Bro. Andre Clayton, having extensive experience in philanthropy, was elected Chairman.

VVBro. Roy Alderton, having been appointed Company Secretary in June 2014, has subsequently assisted the Board in establishing appropriate philanthropic guidelines, and assisted in the establishment of appropriate administration procedures, as well as providing considerable promotional material subsequently published. That work has ensured that the Foundation, now approaching the end of its second year, is operating as was intended by the Webster report, and has now gained broad acceptance both amongst the Craft and amongst the wider philanthropic community, many of whom rely upon it to support their charitable objectives. It is instructive to note that the Foundation now budgets for charitable grants of about \$2m per year, compared with about half that amount granted by Freemasons prior to its establishment.

Roy Alderton, in order to complete the assignment he had accepted, served five years as Grand Treasurer, becoming the second longest serving Grand Treasurer in the history of the UGLV, the longest serving being the original Grand Treasurer appointed in 1889, VVBro. A. Ellis, who served for six years. Roy Alderton retired as Grand Treasurer in March 2015 with the rank of Past Junior Grand Warden. He continues to serve the Foundation as Company Secretary.

Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited – Genesis

Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited is a Trustee Company which manages the successor Funds of the Freemasons Victoria Board of Benevolence and the Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation.

The Board of Benevolence was established in 1889 at the time of the formation of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria, with the first Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Sir William Clarke, Baronet, making a personal donation of 500 pounds, a significant sum at that time. At the subsequent Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge, the general membership raised an additional 126 Pounds and 7 shillings. These sums formed the original corpus of the Benevolent Fund.

The Freemasons of Victoria, through their payment of Grand Lodge capitation fees, subscribed 5 shillings (50 cents) annually, from that time up to 1970, when it was resolved to discontinue the contribution following the sale of Freemasons headquarters in Collins Street which was owned by the Board of Benevolence, that sale contributing several millions of dollars to the Fund.

Through prudent investment of the capital by the Grand Lodge Finance Committee the capital grew to what it is today, some \$34 million. Capital preservation was assured as disbursements could only be made from the Fund's income.

The purpose of the Fund was to provide welfare support to brethren and their families experiencing financial distress and in subsequent years, the early 1900's, the establishment of a broad scholarship program and general community charitable grants. The successor Fund is called Freemasons Benevolent Fund.

In 1989 during the Centenary of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria, The Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation was formed with a collection taken at the 1989 Centenary Grand Installation and subsequently with a gift of \$3 million, bequeathed from the estate of Most Worshipful Brother Reg Gregory, Past Grand Master 1978-80. The Foundation was registered as a public charitable trust and as a tax deductible charity and, similarly to the Board of Benevolence, by prudent investment of capital and gifts made to it, the corpus grew to in excess of \$9 million. Donations by the Foundation, could, by law, only be made to tax deductible gift recipients.

The Foundation acted totally independently from Freemasons Victoria.

In 2007 the Board of General Purposes of Freemasons Victoria engaged Marion Webster, an expert in philanthropic structure, to recommend how Victorian Freemasonry could achieve better outcomes of its philanthropic purposes.

The purpose of the Fund was to provide welfare support to brethren and their families experiencing financial distress

Following receipt of the report there followed some consultation with the Tax Office but nothing substantial was done until October 2012 when then Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Robert Jones (2012-13) commissioned the then Grand Treasurer, Very Worshipful Brother Roy Alderton, to not only investigate, but to put into action the recommendations of the Webster Report.

An enormous amount of time was expended in investigation and consultation by the Grand Treasurer with the ATO and ACNC and other interested parties, the latter often making much adverse commentary. This culminated in approval by the general membership of Freemasons Victoria at the September 2014 Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, to the proposal to merge the Board of Benevolence with the Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation, the trustees and directors of that body having previously agreed to do so, and to establish Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited with a combined capital of some \$44 million and with the same aims and purposes of the two former entities.

The 5 trustees/members of Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited are all senior Victorian Freemasons and include the Grand Master. Eleven directors, including two ladies, manage the affairs of the Foundation, which acts independently of Freemasons Victoria. It is a registered public charitable entity recognised by both the Australian Taxation Office and the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission.

The first meeting of the directors was held in December 2014.



Image from the Freemasons Victoria Library and Museum Collection of the Ancient York Lodge No. 80 dated c. 1918



First Donation of 500 Pounds

was the first donation made by the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Sir William Clarke, Baronet, in 1889.



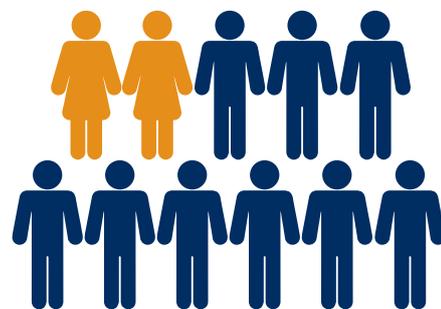
September 2014

the Board of Benevolence merged with Freemasons Charitable Fund to establish Freemasons Foundation Victoria.



5 trustees

of Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited are senior Victorian Freemasons and include the Grand Master.



11 directors

including two ladies manage the affairs of the Foundation which acts independently of Freemasons Victoria.

SUMMARY FINANCIAL

Report of Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited for the year ended 30 June 2016

	The Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation		Freemasons Benevolent Fund	
	2016 ('000)	2015 ('000)	2016 ('000)	2015 ('000)
Investment income	1,043	795	2,409	895
Donations received	246	4,595	132	32,204
Grants made	(580)	(374)	(976)	(391)
Operating expense	(116)	(123)	(271)	(144)
Net Surplus for the year	593	4,893	1,294	32,564
Other comprehensive income/(expense)	(270)	263	(663)	(9)
Total comprehensive income for the year	323	5,156	631	32,555
Net Assets	14,804	14,480	33,186	32,554

Notes:

1. The summary financial report represents the operations and net assets of the Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation and the Freemasons Benevolent Fund for the financial year as noted.
2. The Freemasons Benevolent Fund commenced operations November 2014, and operated for 8 months only during the year ended 30 June 2015
3. The majority of 2015 donations were received from Freemasons Victoria Benevolent Fund.

To obtain a copy of the full Financial Reports for the year, please visit our website at www.freemasonsfoundation.org

Income

The income of the Foundation charitable funds for the year ended 30 June 2016 totalled \$3.8m. The investment income represents a return on investment of 7.3% for the financial year.

Expenditure

A total of 406 grants were approved by the Foundation charitable funds during the year amounting to \$1.6m. 156 of these grants were from lodge applicants, 41 were by way of direct application from charitable organisations and 201 scholarships and bursaries were awarded to students. Grants by nature are as detailed below. Lodges made direct grants of \$0.4m in conjunction with grants made by the Foundation charitable funds.

Administration costs of the Foundation charitable funds total \$0.4m, and represent 11.2% of income.

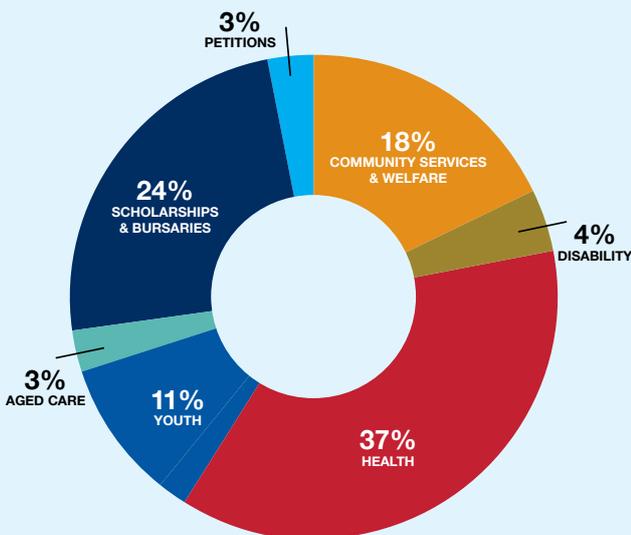
Surplus

The surplus of \$1.9m was retained within the corpus of the Foundation charitable funds to support maintenance of capital value. Capital and reserves at 30 June 2016 total \$48.0m.

Investments

The Foundation had funds invested of \$46.4m as at 30 June 2016. Of this \$44.9m was managed and administered by JBWere on behalf of the Foundation.

2016 Grants Approved (Both Funds)



Category	Grant Value	No of Grants
Community Services & Welfare	281,563	77
Disability	58,910	23
Health	573,349	48
Youth	174,514	40
Aged Care	52,240	9
Scholarships & Bursaries	371,730	201
Financial Assistance	44,014	8
	1,556,320	406
Lodge Contributions	417,708	

Report on Key Projects of the Finance, Investment and Audit Committee

During the current year the committee undertook a review of the grant making process, with a view to enhancing transparency with the applicant, and using technology to support a more efficient administration process, with enhanced grant reporting capabilities.

To support the grant making process from 1 July 2016 an on-line grant management system has been implemented. This process has been established to support lodge, scholarship and direct grant applications. The on-line process underpins the grant review and approval timeframes, together with supporting transparency of communication of grant status and further information requirements, with applicants. This system also provides for regular reporting both to Freemasons Foundation and Freemasons Victoria on grants and joint giving of the Freemasons Foundation and Freemasons Lodges within Victoria.

Freemasons Helping



the Community



Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited wishes to acknowledge the following organisations who support and assist us with delivering wonderful outcomes for all Victorians



FREEMASONS
Victoria

www.freemasonsvic.net.au

Operational Support



JBWere



Organisations We Support







Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited

A.C.N. 159 528 122

P.O. Box 553, East Melbourne, 8002

Phone: (03) 9411 0111