

Business Meeting

*MWBro. Richard Elkington,
Grand Master welcomes you to the
December Business Meeting*

This business meeting has replaced
the Quarterly Communication and
will be pre-recorded for viewing
on Wednesday 16 December 2020
at 7:30pm





BUSINESS MEETING of the UNITED GRAND LODGE
OF ANTIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF VICTORIA
WEDNESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2020 AT 7:30PM

AGENDA

- | | | |
|------|--|---|
| [1] | Welcome to all in attendance | Grand Master |
| [2] | Confirmation of the Minutes of the Business Meeting of Grand Lodge held on 30 September 2020 | Grand Secretary |
| [3] | Report of the Board of General Purposes
Report of the Board of Directors of Royal Freemasons
Report of the Freemasons Foundation | Grand Secretary |
| [4] | Applications to the Board of General Purposes | Grand Secretary |
| [5] | Call for Nominations for the position of Grand Treasurer | Grand Secretary |
| [6] | Notice of Motion | MWBro G. Sebo PGM |
| [7] | Update from the United Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons | MWBro. P Julier GM |
| [8] | Update from the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal | MEmComp P Gurr
1 st Grand Principal |
| [9] | Eulogy | MWBro G. Sebo PGM |
| [10] | Presentation of the Ethics Report | Ethics Centre |
| [11] | Address by the MW Grand Master – Ethics Report | Grand Master |
| [12] | Address by the President BOGP | RWBro. M King |
| [13] | Close | Grand Master |



A Message from the Grand Master

It is an exciting time for Freemasons across Victoria.

COVID-19 pandemic restrictions are continuing to lift, and we are looking forward with great confidence towards meeting again in person during 2021.

The past year has been one like no other. Freemasons have been able to use online platforms to visit Lodges that they perhaps might not have ever seen before. This has meant joining and meeting with Victorian Brothers they might not otherwise have met. We are all the better for this increased fellowship.

There has also been more focus on education across Victorian Lodges. The standard of speakers, and their content, has been first-class.

Our challenge for 2021 and beyond is to take 'ownership' of the recommendations of the Ethics Review, so that our organisation is run at its best, and that our newest members see us all behaving at our very best.

All the qualities of good behaviour – excellent manners, empathy, humour, friendliness – will be our best recruitment campaign. Men will want to join and stay in a fraternity that encourages best behaviour, and we will then actively foster Brethren to achieve their best in their lives.

In many ways, 2021 will provide us with a renewed start. Kathleen and I wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday period, hopefully with an opportunity for you to catch up with family and friends that you may not have seen in person for many months.

Following that restful summer, we look forward to meeting again in person, and working together to have Freemasonry in Victoria at its very best.

Fraternally,
MWBro. Richard Elkington
Grand Master



**Report of the President of the Board of General Purposes
December 2020**

As we approach the festive season and the beginning of a new year, it is appropriate to reflect on the year that was, with all its trials and tribulations. In March, unprecedented restrictions were introduced for our protection against COVID-19. Some took the view that those restrictions were unfair, an invasion of our civil rights. There were pockets of discord, criticism, push back, frustration, but most importantly the majority stood firm, abided by the rules, and did the right thing.

Restrictions are now being lifted. We are acclimatising to a 'new normal', you might say we have reached the summit, but this is not the time to become complacent. The pandemic is not over, not until a vaccine is delivered. Now is the time to remember those suffering the loss of loved ones and those individuals and families directly impacted during these times. They need our understanding and support. They need human kindness.

Within Freemasonry, we (ourselves) have farewelled many Brethren and friends this year. I have suffered the loss of some close friends and former work colleagues in recent months. People of wisdom, mentors, people I respected, people I will never forget. To all Brethren and families suffering loss and despair, I extend my deepest sympathies.

Our Masonic family participated in significant changes during the year. Changes by choice, by necessity, and some changes forced upon us. Our Administration Office was closed, and staff are working from home. Lodge meetings were cancelled. Masonic centres remain closed until 2021. Online meeting platforms are a normal means of communication for Brethren to meet, socialise and stay connected. Facebook, Twitter, and other social media has new meaning for people to interact. The volume of information is endless, most of which is useful, instructive, invites constructive commentary and provokes consideration. Then there is the opposite spectrum, those prosecuting questionable motives and ideals, providing ill-considered comment, inciting combative response and debate. A true test of our moral compass.

In August, our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Richard Elkington commissioned an independent review into the governance, policies, and practices of Freemasons Victoria. This work has been undertaken by a Sydney based organisation, The Ethics Centre. It is anticipated the report will provide insights, findings and recommendations setting a future course for Freemasonry in Victoria. Several Brethren have dedicated time to support the work of The Ethics Centre, providing documentation, background, and context. Their commitment to the review is appreciated and has provided a collective overview to the work.

The Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Anthony Bucca is chair of the Freemasons Future Recovery Team (FFRT). Work of that committee will provide a safe pathway for lodges to re-open in 2021. The lifting of government restrictions and ongoing advice of respected medical and health professionals is providing a positive way forward. The key focus of the committee is the safety and well-being of all members. I urge you to be patient.

Brethren, on your behalf I thank the administration at Freemasons Victoria. Their support of our fraternity this year has been difficult. Their dedication is worthy of recognition and our gratitude.

In closing, on behalf of the Board of General Purposes, I wish you, your families, and connections a healthy, safe festive season. We look forward to being in your company when our masonic centres open in 2021.

Fraternally

Myles G. King
President of the Board of General Purposes



GRAND TREASURER'S REPORT

16 December 2020

Attached is an overview of the consolidated Financial Performance for the period July – November 2020 and the Financial Position as at 30 November 2020.

The year to date consolidated net loss of \$399k is favourable to the year to date budgeted net loss of \$556k by \$157k. The actual year to date EBITDA [operating surplus (loss) before interest, tax, and depreciation] is a surplus of \$131.3k and which compares to the budgeted loss for the same period of \$10.5k; a favourable variance of \$141.8k.

Much of these variances relate to returns in investment markets, the Covid-19 pandemic and the resultant restrictions on activities imposed by the Victorian Government. Whereas some of our commercial tenants have been given rent relief as determined by Government regulations this has been principally limited to our Gardenvale site. More broadly, the closure of our buildings for masonic activities has, from a financial perspective, resulted in reduced expenditure on utilities and other items associated with occupancy. It is also acknowledged that the closure of our Centres has resulted in many losing incomes from arrangements with external users, and the additional pressure on cash reserves held by Centres across Victoria. Recognising this the Board of General Purposes has offered financial assistance to Centres experiencing hardship and the application process is being managed by the Finance Committee. This assistance is being given to support Centre liquidity and not as income replacement.

Further analysis of the financial impacts of the pandemic on UGLV operations will be included in the report on financial performance for the six months ended 31 December 2020. As previously advised liquidity continues to be closely monitored and a rolling forecast of income and expenses is being maintained. This forecast will continue to be comprehensively reviewed as part of 2020-21 half yearly reporting and with the resumption of masonic activities in 2021 clearly in focus.

The Finance Committee, in conjunction with the Board, has continued to engage with our investment portfolio managers, JBWere. Whereas earlier in 2020 equity and investment markets were adversely impacted by the outbreak of the global pandemic conditions have now improved. The investment diversification strategies that have been progressively implemented since late 2019 have assisted in protecting the value of the portfolio.

The Finance Committee has also been represented on the Freemasons Future Recovery Team since its inception and we look forward to a prosperous 2021 for all members and masonic Centres.

Bro. Craig Head

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Head', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Grand Treasurer

REPORT TO THE DECEMBER 2020 QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION OF THE UNITED GRAND LODGE OF VICTORIA



The Foundation held its Annual General Meeting on 18 November 2020. At the AGM the audited financial statements of the Foundation for the year ended 30 June 2020 were adopted by the Members. The statements are now available for viewing on the Foundation website under the heading "News".

The Foundation Annual Report for 2019-2020 which provides a summary of our achievements over the year and can also be viewed on the Foundation website.

At the AGM, the Members reappointed David Gibbs, Philip Mayers, Garry James, John Patterson and me for a further term as Directors whilst Peter Henshall and Xavier Murtagh were appointed to replace Myles King and Timothy Clark who resigned in June.

Freemasons Foundation Victoria Disaster Relief Fund

Since January 2020, the fund has received generous donations of \$580,598. This tremendous support from Freemasons across the globe has enabled us to distribute \$540,918 to fire affected areas and provide \$315,000 COVID-19 support.

Lodge Supported Grants

To ensure Lodges are maximising their contributions in the community we encourage all Craft Lodges to apply for a Lodge Support Grant. The Foundation will support Victorian Craft Lodges when they join with not-for-profit organisations for charitable purpose in their local areas. Please contact the Foundation Executive Officer, Neil Cripps if you have any questions regarding the application process, or if you would like a Foundation representative to visit your lodge.

2021 Secondary & Tertiary Awards

The Freemasons Foundation Victoria Education Awards Program will open on 1 December and close in February. All applications need to be completed using the SmartyGrants online application forms that will be available on our website at www.freemasonsfoundation.org.

Donations & Bequests

Freemasons Foundation Victoria graciously accepts donations to support charitable work across Victoria. Donations of \$2 or more made to The Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation are tax deductible. You may also wish to consider leaving a bequest in your Will to the Foundation to further support masonic programs and the communities Freemasonry assists. Further information can be obtained at www.freemasonsfoundation.org or contact Neil Cripps on 0498 002 893.

In closing I acknowledge and thank all Freemasons, the Foundation Members, Board of Directors, and staff at the Foundation for their commitment to the vital philanthropic work undertaken.

Rodney Lavin JP
Chairman of Directors

Report to the Communication



From the Chairman

It is so pleasing to see Victoria start to reopen, and the fact that we are now without any cases of coronavirus is remarkable. It is a testament to everyone in Victoria and particularly to our passionate, enthusiastic and dedicated workforce, who have battled the most serious of circumstances they will most likely face in their working lifetime.

As we eagerly await the arrival of 2021, the work does not stop. Our staff continue to work tirelessly to deliver care and services which are always safe, timely and of best practice. Staff will continue to implement rigid infection control and monitoring measures to ensure our consumers are safe from COVID 19 until a vaccination is released which we trust will be in the new year.

Our people and the executive managers at Royal Freemasons Homes are motivated, enthusiastic and optimistic that we are through the worst of this pandemic, with the effects of second and third waves of the virus now being felt overseas.

Now it is time for our homes to open their doors, welcome all our visitors and enjoy the beautiful weather that is now upon us. We are all looking forward to an exciting and welcome Christmas period with all the associated festivities. It is very reassuring to return to some normalcy.

We have faced many challenges as the second wave of the virus impacted Victoria and indeed our homes. It was a very difficult time. However, thanks to the relentless efforts of all involved in our organisation, we have seen the vast majority of our homes remain COVID-free.

As this will be the last Quarterly Communication for 2020, I would like to offer my sincere thanks, gratitude and best wishes to every staff member, resident, family and community member associated with Royal Freemasons Ltd. It has been indeed a year like no other.

I wish you the very best during the Christmas and New Year period.

Take care.

VWBro. Ian Wollermann (PGIW)

2020/20 Financial Performance

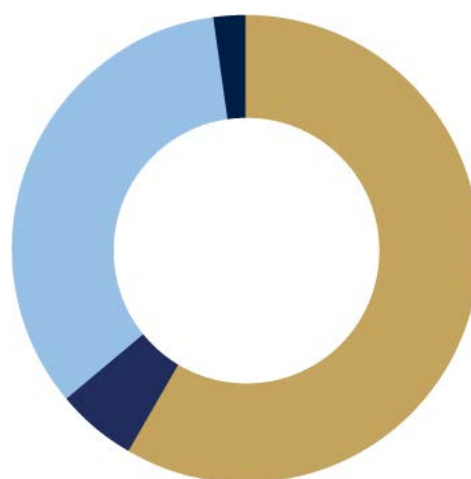
2020/21 Financial Performance	General Fund		Eastbourne		Building Fund		Consolidated		Financial Year 2020/21	
	Actual \$000s	Budget \$000s	Actual \$000s	Budget \$000s	Actual \$000s	Budget \$000s	Actual \$000s	Budget \$000s	Full Year Budget \$000s	Full Year Forecast \$000s
1 July 2020 to 30 November 2020										
Income	1,333	1,433	42	45	724	556	2,099	2,034	5,036	5,036
Expenses	(1,271)	(1,333)	(46)	(57)	(545)	(571)	(1,862)	(1,961)	(4,772)	(4,726)
Grants to Masonic Centres	-	-	-	-	(105)	(84)	(105)	(84)	(230)	(230)
EBITDA	62	100	(4)	(11)	73	(99)	131	(11)	33	80
Sales - Masonic Centres	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	(35)	(40)	(6)	(5)	(352)	(362)	(393)	(407)	(977)	(977)
Interest	-	-	-	-	(137)	(138)	(137)	(138)	(332)	(332)
Profit (Loss)	27	60	(10)	(16)	(416)	(600)	(399)	(556)	(1,276)	(1,229)
Revenue - Membership	334	336	-	-	65	59	399	395	994	994
Net gain on Masonic properties	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rental Income	25	24	42	42	649	495	716	561	1,655	1,655
Internal Revenue	137	138	-	3	-	-	137	142	347	347
Internal Management recharges	440	440	-	-	-	-	440	440	1,055	1,055
Other Income	2	2	-	-	10	2	12	4	43	43
Income	938	940	42	45	724	556	1,704	1,542	4,094	4,094
Expenses - Membership	(64)	(181)	-	-	-	-	(64)	(181)	(414)	(410)
Internal Management Recharges	(356)	(286)	-	-	(84)	(84)	(440)	(370)	(1,055)	(1,055)
Employee expenses	(529)	(542)	-	-	-	-	(529)	(542)	(1,303)	(1,291)
Repairs, maintenance & centre expenses (inc. Grants)	-	-	(45)	(57)	(511)	(512)	(556)	(568)	(1,356)	(1,298)
Professional fee expenses	(193)	(175)	(0)	-	(56)	(60)	(250)	(234)	(508)	(533)
Other expenses	(129)	(149)	-	-	-	-	(129)	(149)	(366)	(369)
Results from operations	456	592	(4)	(11)	73	(99)	526	482	975	1,022
Depreciation	(35)	(40)	(6)	(5)	(352)	(362)	(393)	(407)	(977)	(977)
Investment income	395	493	-	-	-	-	395	493	942	942
Interest expense	-	-	-	-	(137)	(138)	(137)	(138)	(332)	(332)
Net finance income (expense)	395	493	-	-	(137)	(138)	257	354	610	942
Profit (Loss)	27	60	(10)	(16)	(416)	(600)	(399)	(556)	(1,276)	(1,229)

** Internal management recharges

	General fund \$000s	Eastbourne \$000s	Building Fund \$000s	Total
Current Assets	2,346,864	4,957,743	9,238,006	16,542,612
Non-Current Assets	48,195,101	21,900,825	47,670,147	117,766,073
Total Assets	50,541,965	26,858,567	56,908,153	134,308,685
Current Liabilities	(317,321)	(519)	(16,210,510)	(16,528,350)
Non-Current Liabilities	(342,184)	0	(958,885)	(1,301,070)
Total Liabilities	(659,505)	(519)	(17,169,396)	(17,829,420)
Net Assets	49,882,460	26,858,048	39,738,757	116,479,265



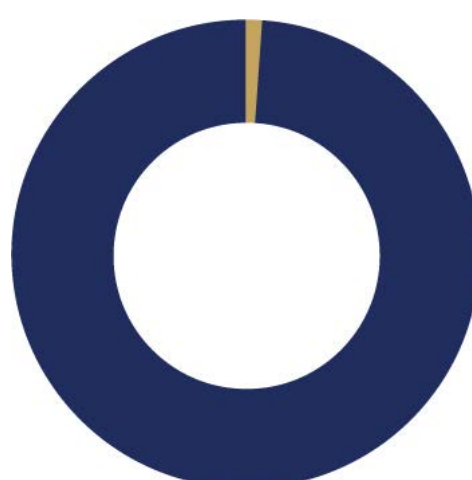
Current Assets	\$000s
● Cash	5,600
● Receivables	929
● Other	10,014
Total	16,543



Non-Current Assets	\$000s
● Property	68,817
● Receivables	6,482
● Investments	40,104
● Deferred Tax Asset	2,363
Total	117,766



Current Liabilities	\$000s
● Receivables	(417)
● Other	(16,111)
Total	(16,528)



Non-Current Liabilities	\$000s
● Employee Benefits	(18)
● Deferred Tax Liabilities	(1,283)
Total	(1,301)



UNITED GRAND LODGE OF VICTORIA

NOTICE OF MOTION

To be given at the Quarterly Business Meeting to be held on Wednesday 16 December 2020

TAKE NOTICE that at the next Quarterly Communication or Business Meeting of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria to be held in or about March 2021 **I SHALL MOVE -**

THAT 'This Grand Lodge hereby extends the term of office of MWBro. Richard Elkington, Grand Master, from two to three years because there are compelling reasons for so doing.'

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Rule 18 of the Book of Constitutions provides that 'The normal term of office of a Grand Master shall be two years, but Grand Lodge may, if it believes there are compelling reasons for so doing, extend the term to three years.

On 16 March 2020, a State of Emergency was declared throughout the State of Victoria. This arose out of the serious risk to public health in Victoria from COVID-19. By a series of further legal documents the Minister of Health extended the Declaration until 8 November 2020. In addition, a State of Disaster was enacted by the Premier on 2 August 2020. Among other things it enabled a curfew to be imposed. The State of Disaster was also extended until 8 November 2020.

Because of these measures, various lockdown arrangements and other significant restrictions have been in place from time to time. As Brethren are aware, these arrangements and restrictions have prevented Lodges from meeting since March 2020, and it appears this will continue to be the case until February 2021 at the earliest. They also delayed the Installation of our present Grand Master for more than two months beyond the scheduled date. In combination these measures have prevented, and will continue to prevent, the Grand Master from carrying out most of the important duties and functions of his high office. In many respects 2020 has been a 'lost year' for Freemasonry in Victoria in general and for our Grand Master, Grand Lodge, and individual Lodges in particular.

Our Grand Master was elected in the expectation that he would serve in that capacity for two full years as previous Grand Masters have done, without any premonition that 2020 would unfold in the manner that it has. Our current situation is unprecedented in the lifetime of any of us. By passing this motion and granting our Grand Master a third year in office, Grand Lodge will, in reality and for all intents and purposes, simply be enabling him to carry out the duties and functions of his office for two years.

This is a compelling reason which satisfies Rule 18, and because of the extraordinary circumstances that confront us, the passing of this motion does not set a dangerous precedent.

This Notice of Motion should not come as a surprise to our members. They have experienced similar circumstances in their own Lodges which will have been unable to hold regular meetings for almost 12 months. They have had a 'lost year'. By and large, the Worshipful Masters and Officers of their Lodges have served or will have served for an extra 12 months to complete their term of office. That is the effect of this Notice of Motion. It will enable our Grand Master to serve for an extra 12 months to properly complete the usual term of office of a Grand Master.

My Brothers, I commend this Notice of Motion to you.

MWBro. Garry Sebo AM
Past Grand Master

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20 AVAILABLE ONLINE

A comprehensive report on our financial performance and the 2019-20 year.

This report includes all the committees, teams, structures, properties, financial overviews and more and is supplemented by Consolidated Financial Reports which are also available on our website.

Members are encouraged to review the report and, where necessary, provide any feedback.





Dear Companions and Brethren,

Helen and Lyn and ourselves wish all Companions and Brethren and your families our very best wishes for the Christmas Season, and we hope that you all enjoy a bright and relaxing holiday period.

Now that we can meet with family and friends in a more relaxed atmosphere, we can enjoy their company and maintain that close relationship we have enjoyed in previous times.

With Grand Chapter and Grand Mark continuing to support your activities, we look forward to 2021 which will be met with enthusiasm and commitment to the coming year. The Grand Master of Grand Mark and the First Grand Principal look forward to greeting you all personally in your Lodges and Chapters.

Kind Regards

Most Worshipful Brother Peter Julier GM

Most Eminent Companion Peter Gurr GZ



SHAPING TOMORROW'S LEADERS