



From Under the Eastern Star

Mt Pleasant Lodge Newsletter

November 2019

Yasou everyone,

Well as always November is a busy month leading into the festive season and this year has been no exception. I have been so busy with work, Lodge and other Orders that I had a stretch of being out for 11 nights out of 12. But we made it and had a very enjoyable evening for the last meeting of 2019. I would like to thank WBro Victor Chandler once again for his wonderful educational piece although many of us were squirming a little at the thought of what the poor apprentice painter had to go through to become a member of their craft.



It was a great privilege, with the help of WBro Chandler, to present WBro David Avery his 40 years' service jewel. A well-deserved honour.



Then I had the privilege to present Bro Wayne Gannon with his 5-year Lapel Badge and WBro Lindsay David with his 25-year Lapel Badge.



At the Festive



Out and About

Ashton Lodge

We, along with a great load of other brethren we were there to see Bro George Acevski take his second degree. A fine candidate he was and a most enjoyable night for all. Bro George (as everyone calls him because we can't pronounce the poor man's surname) is a regular to Mt Pleasant and is also getting married in December – Good Luck George.



Camp Hill Installation

The installation of Wor Bro Simon Huggins who had already been through the Master's chair in an English jurisdiction but had to go through the whole lot again in ours. Well it went very well as you might expect – he seemed to know everything that was supposed to happen. His lovely daughter 'Amelia' (I hope I got that right) joined us in a photo at the festive.



Sir Wylie Norman

Sir Wylie Norman was doing a Second-Degree Emulation and practising to the sounds of Leigh Smith and his music which is getting to be very good, something I had grave doubts about early in our term. Once again well-done Leigh you have made the evening a little more magical by providing some music in our gatherings which is important as it is one of the 7 Liberal Arts and Sciences we focus on.



It was also the 90th Birthday celebration for RW Bro Bob Haigh seen here trying to contemplate how to cut up the very nice birthday cake provided by the lodge. Happy Birthday Bob.

Life Outside the Lodge Room

WBro Don Mabbutt

In mid-October Linda and I set out from Sydney on a 30-day circumnavigation cruise of Australia, on the Holland America Line ship MV Maasdam, a mid-sized cruise ship with 1200 passengers and 500 crew. About 70% of the passengers were American, with the remainder being Australian, Canadian, some Poms and the odd Kiwi (and some of them were certainly odd).

Our scheduled stops were to be Airlie Beach, Townsville, Cairns, Darwin, Komodo Island in Indonesia, Broome, Exmouth, Geraldton, Fremantle, Albany, Adelaide, Kangaroo Island, Melbourne and Burnie before finally heading back to Sydney. High winds prevented anyone going ashore at Exmouth and Kangaroo Island but we were able to visit all the other destinations.

We had fine and sunny weather (Melbourne and Burnie being the exceptions) and we were lucky to have calm seas for nearly the entire cruise. We had a great time, ate and drank heaps, went on some fabulous off-ship excursions, made many friends and I put my blue Mt Pleasant bow-tie to good use by wearing it at the various gala nights on board.

Some of the highlights that stood out for us were the visit to Komodo Island, where we saw Komodo dragons in the wild, sunset at Cable Beach in Broome and visiting the HMAS Sydney memorial in Geraldton. It was a great way to see so many places in our great and diverse country and I'd recommend it to anyone.



Blue Bow-Tie



Sunset Cable Beach



Komodo Dragon

Joshua Gannon

Joshua Gannon was recently recognized becoming the youngest sponsored athlete for indoor skydiving in Australia. Having represented the Gold Coast tunnel at local, national and international events, Josh has become a true ambassador for the sport. He always shows enthusiasm, supporting new flyers to the sport and generally just being encouraging to anyone he meets.

Indoor skydiving creates a true free-fall experience without jumping out of a plane. The vertical wind tunnel generates a wall-to-wall cushion of air you that safely float on. No parachute required – just the power of the wind! Josh enjoys the sensation of the freedom that he experiences, and how he can creatively express himself.



Bro Cameron Donald

Cameron was awarded the annual athlete of the year for Redlands Special Olympics club. The annual award of a medal and name on the perpetual trophy was made at the annual event tonight. The club has 107 members. There were 7 nominees for the award and Cameron was nominated by his Bocce and Golf coordinators over 5 categories of achievement including attitude, attendance at training and inter club events, results, willingness to help others and a happy disposition. He is very excited.



Well that's it for November, December is short on meetings but full on activities so I will see you in the next newsletter. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a wonderful and merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope that you experience the joy and wonders of the season and are reminded of the true meaning of the season – be happy bring joy and love to the world and above all love one another.

Ho Ho Ho

Until we meet again,



Kind Regards,
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Brethren, please refer to the website for the latest information on all upcoming events and visitations. This will be kept up-to-date with any changes, additions, etc. If you are unsure, please give me a call. (website: <http://www.mpl361.org.au>)