

## ***Grand Master's Address, Annual Communication, 16 June 2010***

Brethren all,

Welcome to this annual Communication of Grand Mark Lodge, I thank you all for attending.

This Communication marks the end of my second year as your Grand Master and I wish to record my thanks to all the officers who assisted me in providing ceremonial and other support to the various Mark and Mariner Lodges in SA & NT. I wish to particularly acknowledge the contribution of RW Bros Steve Winder and Rob Casson the Grand Wardens. They have been well received by the Lodges and their efforts have been much appreciated.

W Bro Leon Parsons continues to provide support to the brethren in his role as Grand Almoner, despite his personal difficulties and I am grateful as are many others for his quiet and gentle care.

RW Bro Horry Donaldson has assisted me by acting as the Deputy Grand Commander on occasions and I am delighted to sit alongside RW Bro Don Denman PDGM this evening.

This occasion also marks the start of my third and final year and I commit myself to continuing to serve you to the best of my ability. In this I will shortly be joined by a new Deputy Grand Master RW Bro Colin Preece and there is no-one with a greater commitment to this order.

Unfortunately this year saw the Clare Mark Lodge surrender its warrant after a hundred years. While it is easy to feel the sadness of an occasion like this we should all be mindful of the important role the Lodge played in the Mid North over so many years, and the three hundred odd members whose Masonic lives were influenced positively by this great old Lodge. Sometimes even the enthusiasm of some great Freemasons is just not enough.

RW Bro Fred Pearmain has formed a core of experienced brethren who are able on request to provide ceremonial support to the Lodges. It could probably be called a Lodge of Instruction. He can provide anything from a complete advancement or elevation ceremony to the provision of a single officer or a single piece of ritual. Assistance is available for either instruction or for a real ceremony. But he can only help if he is asked. Our efforts are directed to ensuring that new members of our order will be received with as sound and sincere a ceremony as we can provide. But having said that, all Lodges must be, and remain, prepared. I urge your Master or Secretary to contact him as necessary. His name and phone number are in the yearbook.

CDs of ceremonial music have been issued to all Mark and Mariner Lodges. There will soon be copies of all Mark and Mariner music available and I am grateful for the dedication of W. Bro. John Andrew our Grand Organist in making this possible.

I had hoped that Bro. Neil Cheney from Victoria would have been here this evening to receive his Mark Education Certificate, but unfortunately this was not possible. Brethren all, I commend this course to you, not only for your own Masonic development but as a resource for discussing the philosophy of the Mark to potential candidates. We often say to our family and friends that joining Freemasonry is a decision best left to them in their own time. But it is essential that their decision is an informed decision, so I ask you to be prepared to discuss Freemasonry with the confidence of your own knowledge.

The annual visit to the Mark Lodges in the South East in March was an outstanding success and a credit to the ladies and brethren of Naracoorte and Mount Gambier who looked after us so well. Not only was there our Grand Lodge but in Mount Gambier a large delegation from Victoria, led by MW Bro Kerry Grills also attended. To see the Lodge room filled almost to

capacity was a memorable sight. The post installation gathering back at the Lodge Room was a very noisy affair and will be memorable for different but equally happy reasons. The Victorians have issued a challenge to which we will respond on our next visit to Mildura.

Inter order visits have continued with a visit to the Earl of Zetland RAC when Ex Comp Brenton Hollitt was installed as First Principal. In April MW Bro Clark and M Ex Comp Carter accompanied me to Hawthorn-Parkside Mark Lodge to see W Bro Bob Parsons surrender the chair to VW Bro Malcolm Colegate who may be known to some of you.

I know the Grand Master wishes these visits which demonstrate our mutual interest to continue and I do also.

In the middle of May I led a delegation to Melbourne to attend the Installation of MW Bro Paroissien as Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Victoria. The ceremony was as impressive as it always is in Victoria and is a credit to their Grand Directors.

Just a week later, M Ex Comp. Chris Selwood was installed as 1<sup>st</sup> Grand Principal of Supreme Grand Chapter of South Australia and Northern Territory. We congratulate the Grand Principals and all their officers. The new Deputy First Grand Principal, the Second and Third Grand Principals have all demonstrated their interest in the Mark degree and we look forward to continuing the strong relationship.

In my remarks as the Grand Commander, contained in the Annual Communication summons, I referred to the Jubilee celebrations for Western Royal Ark Mariners Lodge at Cummins in March. Our hope was that a similar happy event would occur at Whyalla in May, and I am pleased to announce that was indeed the case. The enthusiasm of the country brethren and the way they overcome adversity is inspiring.

In 2005, VW Bro Ian Pontifex was appointed by MW Bro John Green as Grand Master's Representative NT Top End succeeding RW Bro Bob Warbrook. Ian has proved to be a most effective and respected leader of the Mark in Darwin and Katherine but unfortunately he feels his health problems prevent him doing the job to his own satisfaction. I should emphasise that the job he did was well beyond anything I had any right to expect. VW Bro Michael Wyatt has agreed to take over the responsibility for the Northern Territory Top End Mark and Mariner Lodges and I am looking forward to working with him for the good of the order. RW Bro Alan Broughton has completed six years as the GM's Representative in Alice Springs, and I am delighted that he is continuing for another year.

MW Grand Master, I thank you for the regular contact between us and I pledge you the continued loyalty of this Grand Lodge. I hope that our close co-operation will continue to be a positive influence in our respective orders.

Bro Grand Secretary, I again express my thanks to you and your staff who administer our affairs so efficiently. In particular, we gratefully acknowledge the new car parking arrangements negotiated by you. They will be beneficial to all Lodges which meet at Freemasons Hall.

*Alan L Pearson*

**Grand Master of Mark Master Masons of South Australia and Northern Territory**