



FREEMASONS

South Australia and the

Northern Territory Inc

FREEMASONS SA & NT

Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons
of South Australia and the Northern Territory Inc.
ABN 67 609 029 546

All communications to
The Grand Secretary
Freemasons Hall
254 North Terrace
(PO Box 19 Rundle Mall)
Adelaide SA 5000
(08) 8223 1633
executive_assistant@santfreemasons.org.au

Our core values are:

- High Moral standards
- Commitment to family charity and community care
- Courtesy, honesty, and fairness in all dealings

Bulletin: Covid-19: The Second Wave

From: The Grand Master Freemasons of SA&NT

Date: 7/6/2020

Keep up your good work of communication between yourselves and your families and friends. This virus has not gone yet! Remember to urge common sense, courtesy and calm; promote covering of the mouth, washing of hands, social distancing, staying at home if unwell and consider the Covid-19 aApp.

The June Edition of the Company Director, under the heading of “seize the time”, Mark Ritson writes: **“make no mistake this is a tough time**. But there are three upsides to the Corona Virus lockdown. The pause allows you time to see the big picture; the pause allows you time to remedy long-standing issues; the pause allows you time to fix those issues”.

The above is exactly how Grand Lodge has used its time and it is hoped that Districts and Lodges are doing likewise. Long ago it was written, and I quote: **“from adversity comes opportunity”**.

Grand Lodge has continued to upgrade its website; not only AF&AM Inc. but also Masonic Charities. They are hyperlinked, i.e. all working together under the one square and compass. **Prospective members, from 1 June 2020, can now apply online**. News and videos can be viewed. Our face-book medium has been broadened with added news for members and prospective members. There is already an increase in interest at these sites. I have launched a **MMXXI Membership Promotion** via the Grand Superintendent and sought increased support from the Board of Management for this promotion. In England, they **“invest in people”**; in New Zealand, they **“speak up”** about Freemasonry; in SA and the NT, we say, **“you matter, we care”**. Please share the pride which you have in our fabulous old fraternity as widely as you can. Stand up and support the oldest Grand Lodge in Australia.

At the last Board of Management meeting, under **matters from the Grand Master**, I requested that the Board members report on any matters outstanding before them. I asked for executive summaries of Board of Management Minutes to be circulated to you within three weeks of the meetings; the Board was requested to lift from the table, a motion which I put before them more than twenty months ago to **increase access and equity to decision making**. It seemed inappropriate to me that in 2020, matters such as changes in Regulations and sale of any Real Estate owned by our Master Masons should be decided by FOUR percent of the membership i.e. the majority needed from the six percent of the membership who attend Communications. I am concerned at the enormous expense for many country brethren, especially those in the Northern Territory to attend Communications. **Access is not equal and equity in decision making is just not present**. During their consideration, the Board have added the possibility of electronic voting and streaming Communications: all positive and in keeping with transparency, equity and access.

While our operational budget is now balanced, the **Covid-19 virus lockdown has impacted heavily** on our ability to lease out 254 North Terrace with its consequent effect on our capital budget. **Therefore, the Board of AF&AM Nominees Pty Ltd have met to move positively forward to address this and the repurposing of 254 North Terrace**. I have asked that this Board report regularly to the Board of Management and to provide to you, the Master Mason members, well-reasoned options to consider.

The **Regulations review Task Force/Committee** has met and has been asked to put prospective changes before you at the October Conference. For too long, Regulations have overlapped company law and the Regulations, Charges and Landmarks of Freemasonry.

Task Force 1 under the leadership of RWBro Brenton Leitch PAGM, has prioritized its work and has been progressing positively within the Dilapidation Report to make the building safer again. Please remember that this work is catch-up on maintenance not done regularly over many years; money is needed to adorn this grand old building and bring it back to its previous pristine state. Not only was it once the tallest building in Adelaide, it was also the most beautiful- reminiscent of the opening paragraph of the second degree tracing board. Lodges are to be encouraged to contribute to specific projects which will then bear a plaque of recognition for antiquity. Please contact RWBro Leitch who will have a member of his Task Force discuss your contribution with you.

The Deputy Grand Master, RWBro Malcolm Schluter has been tasked to **attend all Committee meetings**; this he is doing and during the lockdown convened a very constructive meeting of ministers of various religions. He and the Assistant Grand Master, RWBro Gary Le Rossignol will attend all meetings **to ensure uniformity of direction and effort**.

The **IT task force** has also been very busy supporting initiatives as above; they are confident that the Grand Secretariat will be online as far as possible before the end of June 2020. There is no reason for fear; once online, staff will be able to turn their minds to a more relaxed and

efficient system of operation. Already, the concept of a service company supporting all our companies is under development. This will lead to a much more efficient overall operation with its economies of scale benefits. This template is before the Board of Management. This marks a further trend towards all companies operating under the one square and compass.

Governance matters of the Craft are under constant consideration and responsibility for appropriate action has been tasked to the Assistant Grand Master (as it was to the previous AGM).

As stated above, **“make no mistake” your Grand Lodge Team have been exceptionally busy.**

I will leave comment on **Masonic Charities and its initiatives** during this time to Bro John Behenna MSA who will be writing to you soon.

May the Great Architect of the Universe bless you all

Yours fraternally

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

MWBro Dr Neil Jensen

Grand Master