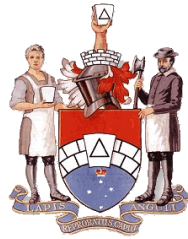


**UNITED GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF VICTORIA**  
**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES**

**HELD WEDNESDAY, 28 JULY 2021**

**by ZOOM**



**1. Finance**

Accounts totalling \$28,033.58 for the period 1 April – 30 June 2021 for Grand Mark; and \$3,459.80 for the same period for Royal Ark Mariner Masonry were ratified.

**2. Websites – Mark and Ark Mariner**

The Grand Secretary advised that steady progress was being made in respect of the new website to service Grand Mark, Royal Ark Mariners and Supreme Grand Chapter. It was unfortunately taking a little longer than first envisaged, but every effort is being made to bring the new site to full operation as soon as possible.

**3. Capitation Fees**

Following a review of Capitation Fees by the Grand Treasurer and his financial projections for the next several years, the Board approved an increase of \$5.00 (incl GST) per head per half year effective with the payment due 1 July 2022. The total due being \$44.00 per head per half year. The Grand Treasurer was given leave to give Notice of Motion at the Grand Communication to be held on Wednesday, 18 August 2021 (Covid permitting).

**4. Grant Applications – Freemasons Foundation**

The Grand Master advised the Board that through the endeavours of the Joint Orders Working Party, Lodges can now submit grant applications directly to the Freemasons Foundation without the need to submit them via a Craft Lodge. Further advice about this significant change in policy will be forwarded to all Lodges in due course.

**5. Freemasons Melbourne**

The Board was delighted to note that the Office of the Joint Secretariat (Grand Mark and Supreme Grand Chapter) were now in occupation of their office accommodation on

Level 2, 288 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne. The Grand Secretary reported that he is more than happy with the office arrangements. The actual office address of the Joint Secretariat is now:

Level 2  
288 Victoria Parade  
East Melbourne Vic 3002

The postal address remains:

PO Box 553  
East Melbourne Vic 8002

All telephone numbers remain unchanged as does the Email address ([chaptermarkmasonsvic@freemasonsvic.net.au](mailto:chaptermarkmasonsvic@freemasonsvic.net.au))

## **6. Membership Statistics**

Membership as at 14 July 2021:- Mark Degree 1325; Ark Mariner Degree 514. The Board spent some considerable time discussing membership generally and the continuing effect of Covid-19 on Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Masonry. There was a need to be much more pro-active in bringing the Mark Degree to the attention of Craft Brethren. Likewise, in promoting Royal Ark Mariner Masonry to Mark Brethren.

## **7. Grand Communication**

The Grand Master advised the Board that a Grand Communication will be convened on Wednesday, 18 August 2021. The exact format of this Grand Communication will be dependent on the Covid-19 restrictions then in force but at this time the maximum attendance is limited to 40 Brethren only. Lodges will be advised of full details as soon as possible.

## **8. Proclamation of the Deputy Grand Master and the Master/Commander a Lodge**

The Board received advice from the Grand Registrar concerning the Deputy Grand Master being Proclaimed (in his second year) rather than having to be fully Installed again; and for a Master or Commander of a Lodge to be Proclaimed if being Installed for a second or subsequent term rather than having to be fully Installed/Enthroned again. The Grand Registrar tabled the necessary Constitutional amendments needed to give effect to these forms of Proclamation. The Board felt that in both instances having the ability to Proclaim rather than Re-Install would be most efficacious. The Grand Registrar was given leave to give Notice of Motion at the Grand Communication to be held Wednesday, 18 August 2021 (Covid permitting).

## **9. Elections – Board of General Purposes**

The Grand Secretary advised that Elections for the Board of General Purposes are governed under Clauses 102 – 108 of the Book of Constitution and Schedule 17 of the Regulations. The following Brethren were elected to the Board for two years commencing 3 May 2019:

RWBro J G Fraser, PSGW, DGIWkgs

RWBro K F Oberin, PSGW

RWBro I E Brown, PSGW, GLect

RWBro R W Goodburn, PJGW, (then GTyler, now the DGM)

VWBro L L May, PGMO

WBro G I Martonhelyi, PAGDC

In the ordinary course of events, nominations for election to the Board would by now have been called, and an election scheduled for the November Grand Communication. None of this is possible due to Covid-19. Lodges are not able to meet with any degree of certainty, and the provisions of Clause 104 make it impossible to properly call for nominations for election. The Grand Secretary therefore recommend that Dispensation be sought from the Grand Master to postpone the nomination/election process for one year and that the currently elected members continue to serve until fresh elections can be held (we hope!) in November 2022. The Grand Registrar supported the Grand Secretary in this recommendation. It should be noted that a similar Dispensation was granted in 2020 for the same reason.

Future timeline would be:

April/May 2022      Nominations for election sought - Clause 104

November 2022      Formal elections held at Grand Communication - Clause 107

April/May 2023      Those elected take office - Clause 103

The Most Worshipful Grand Master agreed to issue such Dispensation.

## **10. Relationship between the Mark degree and the Royal and Select Masters**

The Grand Master address the Board concerning this matter, pointing out that there is a clear and indisputable link between the Mark (and the Royal Arch) and the Royal and Select Masters. The degrees of the Royal and Select Masters form an intrinsic part of understanding Pure Antient Masonry. He said that historically and chronologically the order of the Degrees should be as follows:

Entered Apprentice

Fellow Craft

Mark Master Mason

Select Master  
Royal Master  
Master Mason  
Most Excellent Master  
Super Excellent Master  
Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch

The Grand Master advised that for all future Grand Communications of Grand Mark (at least during his term in office as Grand Master), a formal invitation would be extended to the Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Victoria to attend Grand Communication and be seated in the East alongside the Grand Master of the Craft and the First Grand Principal of Supreme Grand Chapter.

### **11. Deceased Brethren**

The Board of General Purposes observed a minute of silent reflection in memory of all those Brethren who had Passed during the period 28 April – 28 July 2021. A copy of the list will be forwarded to all Lodges.

P. Barravecchio  
President Board of General Purposes

**BROTHER SECRETARY:**

**Items 3 and 4 should be read in full at the Second Time of Rising at the next regular meeting of your Lodge.  
Please circulate a copy of this Report to all Brethren of your Lodge**