



# NSW MASONIC CLUB

## CLUB CHAT

This newsletter is a communiqué from the Directors and Staff of NSW Masonic Club, aimed at keeping Members informed of what's happening at their Club.

It is hoped to establish a monthly release of the newsletter. The Club Magazine will continue to be produced two times annually.

## BOARDROOM BANTER

Your Club's Board has three special projects under consideration at present:

1. Developing a program to celebrate the Club's 125th Anniversary in 2018 - it is envisaged that a series of social events will commemorate this

special milestone, and it may be possible to produce a book on the history of the Club.

2. A sub-committee is developing a new Club Constitution, hopefully to be put to Members later this year - the aim being to blend the existing Memorandum of Association with the Articles of Association into one document, conforming to legislative obligations.
3. Another sub-committee is

developing ideas to increase benefits for Club Members, including both short-term and long-term benefits. Stay tuned.



## EXCITING EVENTS

About 30 Members and guests enjoyed a romantic and delicious dinner in Cellos Restaurant to observe Valentine's Day on 14 February. Costa and the staff prepared a beautiful setting, which provided a warm and intimate background to a sumptuous dinner. Why not make a note now to catch this event next Valentine's Day ?



Indulge your senses at our next **Dine and Wine Tasting Luncheon** on **Wednesday 1 March from 12.30pm**. Head off on a journey of discovery with our guest speaker Bruce Tyrrell, Managing Director of Tyrrells Wines, a delicious two-course luncheon and some spectacular wines. The cost is \$55 per person, inclusive of Members' discount.

Our much anticipated **Trivia Nights** are finally here! Trivia will be held on the first Thursday of the month in the Reagh Bar on our ground floor. Join us on **2 March, 6 April and 4 May**. Eat, drink and think your way through a night of fun and facts!

Enjoy **Happy Hour from 5.30-6.30pm** with some tasty tapas from our bar menu, followed by **Trivia from 6pm**.

There will be commemorations and celebrations galore at the Club on its biggest day of the year, **ANZAC Day, on Tuesday 25 April**:

- Morning tea will be served for Grand Lodge representatives attending the early service at the Cenotaph,
- Traditional luncheon will be served in Cellos, with the Pipes and Drums of the City of Sydney Band,
- Several individual services reunions will be held throughout the Club; and all this will culminate in the
- Commemorative Service in the Reagh Bar at 3pm – guests will be invited for refreshments following that service.

**EVENT BOOKINGS: 02 9284 1006**



## HOTEL HIGHLIGHTS

The Castlereagh Boutique Hotel is located on the top six floors of the NSW Masonic Club, and is believed to have been de-registered from the Club in the 1980s to form The Castlereagh Inn.

Still owned and operated by the NSW Masonic Club, the Hotel is effectively where the Club generates the majority of its

revenue for the operation of the Club. The more successful the Hotel section is, the more the Club benefits. So far this financial year (7 months to 30/1/17), occupancy is now 80%+ year round and revenues received from accommodation total \$2.28 million and growing. Our friendly team are very pleased to offer Club Members 15% off the daily competitive rates when booking direct.

## METRO MOVES

The Sydney Metro project is a massive undertaking by the NSW State Government to build 65 kilometres of underground tunnels and stations from Chatswood to Sydenham (City) through to Bankstown (Southwest).

As part of this project, the Government is compulsorily acquiring all buildings next door

to the Club on the corner of Castlereagh, Park and Pitt streets. The NSW Masonic Club building is not being compulsorily acquired.

It is intended that demolition of the buildings will commence mid-2017. We have been working closely with Transport NSW to understand and minimise the future impacts to our building, Members and guests. This is a very top line overview of the project.



More details will follow in future newsletters.

## YOUR DIRECTORS' YARNS

I am proud that my family has enjoyed an association with the Club spanning four successive generations.

In an executive capacity, I joined the Board as a Director in 2009, to fill a casual vacancy, and was elected Vice President in 2015.

From the perspective of a small boy when the family dined at

the Club, through to the modern era, I have witnessed significant change - the Hotel did not exist in those "small-boy" days.

Change does continue, and must, if the Club is to not only survive but prosper into the future; I am pleased to have contributed to that change!

*John Moore - Vice President*

### IMPORTANT NOTICES

#### CASTLEREAGH LOUNGE

The Castlereagh Lounge will be closed for a private function from 3.00pm to 6.00pm on Saturday 4 March.

The Reagh Bar will be open for Members and Guests.

#### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

2017 Membership renewals are now overdue. Renew online or call 02 9284 1006 for assistance.

## STAFF STUFF

The Staff Christmas Luncheon was held on Tuesday 20th December 2016 and presented a great opportunity to thank the Club's hardworking team for all their efforts throughout 2016. During the lunch our General Manager, Paul Brasch, praised the dedication of many staff members who have

been employed by the Club for an extended length of time and presented Service Pins as follows:

- Georgina (Housekeeping Room Attendant) 30+ years
- Rita (Club Admin) 25 years
- Lilia (Payroll/Accounts) 19½ years
- Mary, Paula and Patrick (Housekeeping Staff) 15+ years
- Wendy (F&B) 15+ years
- Sue (Laundry) 10+ years

- Rumana and Norma (Housekeeping Room Attendants) Alan (recently retired Housekeeping Supervisor), Denis (Front Desk) and Bill (Maintenance Manager), all 5+ years.

We congratulate and thank all team members for their dedication to the Club and look forward to many more years of loyal service.



### Paul's Puns

A guy goes into a lawyer's office and asks the lawyer: "Excuse me, how much do you charge?"

The lawyer responds: "I charge \$1,000 to answer three questions."

"Bloody hell - That's a bit expensive isn't it?"

"Yes. What's your third question?"

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## CASTLEREAGH Boutique Hotel

### EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTS FOR CLUB MEMBERS

Members receive 15% off the Best Available Accommodation rates.

Members receive 10% discount\* on Food and Beverage for themselves and their partner throughout the Hotel.

\*Conditions apply for Club functions

NEW SOUTH WALES MASONIC CLUB, 169 Castlereagh Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Phone: 02 9284 1000 | Fax: 02 9284 1999 | Email: [admin@nswmasonicclub.com.au](mailto:admin@nswmasonicclub.com.au)

[WWW.NSWMASONICCLUB.COM.AU](http://WWW.NSWMASONICCLUB.COM.AU) ♦ [WWW.THECASTLEREAGH.COM.AU](http://WWW.THECASTLEREAGH.COM.AU)