



NSW MASONIC CLUB

CLUB CHAT

If you are receiving this newsletter by snail mail we would greatly appreciate it, if at all possible, you could switch to receiving future newsletters by email.

This can be done by emailing us at admin@nswmasonicclub.com.au or join through our website.

BOARDROOM BANTER

Your Board has been kept exceptionally busy with a number of projects, not to mention the end-of-financial-year results, which reflect a highly successful year for the Club. The refurbishment plans are

progressing well, and we are now seeing some very good group business flowing through Cellos Grand Dining Room on weekdays. The Board is pleased to report that Club membership is slowly

building and is strengthening in female Associate Members. It is good to see the Club membership diversifying.

We are several steps closer to developing a new Members Benefits Program which will be sure to reward our loyal Members - stay tuned !

EXCITING EVENTS

Members and their guests braved the winter chill on 19th July to attend the very popular **Christmas in July Lunch**. The mood was fun and festive, and everyone joined our entertainer, Kym Parrish, in an exuberant Christmas Carol sing-along !

The first **Gin Mill Social** event was held in Cellos, and what a sight it was to behold ! Guests were dressed 'to the nines' in 1920s-inspired attire, the music was loud and lively, and pop-up performances enlivened the night further.

The July Gin Mill Social is booked out so, when tickets go on sale for their next show (currently planned for September), don't delay in booking !



In Cellos Grand Dining Room, a crowd favourite, **Beverley Kennedy**, returns for the **Friday Long Lunch on 28th July**, and a Long Lunch regular, **Ces Dorcey**, will join us on **11th August**.

If you haven't dined with us recently, you will be delighted to see some sumptuous new selections on our winter a-la-carte menu.

The next **Dine and Wine Tasting Luncheon** is just around the corner, on **Wednesday 2 August**.

Join us as we take a trip through European wines, with a magnificent two-course lunch. The wine tasting and talk will be presented by Ben Hughes, "Head of Liquids" at the Australian Wine and Beer School.

Ben fell in love with wine at his father's dinner table, has been in the wine industry for 25 years, and drinking wine for 38 years !

\$55.00pp (Includes Members' discount)

Make a diary date for the final **Dine and Wine Tasting Luncheon** for this year, which will be held on **Wednesday 4 October**.



Fully-costumed comic opera, and a 3-course meal . . . what could be a better night out ?

Opera Bites are anticipating a record crowd for their performance of **"Turkish Delight"** on **Friday 22 September**.

The evening will feature a stunning bespoke menu, with select wines to match.

Tickets are \$150pp (+ booking fee), and include the show, 3-course dinner and wine.

Book now at: www.operabites.com.au

Don't forget - **Club Members receive a 20% discount**. Simply enter the promo code "MEMBER" when booking.

EVENT BOOKINGS: 02 9284 1006

MASONIC MESSAGES

The Sydney Birthday Club is one of several ancillary or "sub-clubs" fostered by the Masonic Club - it is a gentlemen's luncheon group which meets in the Club's Adam Room on the second Thursday of each month.

The Birthday Club's history spans well over 50 years and offers fellowship between a diverse group of members reflecting a wide

variety of professional background. Membership is by invitation only so, if you are interested, and know a Birthday Club member, let them know of your interest and that you meet the one essential criteria - you do have a birthday !

Save the date!
Melbourne Cup Day Lunch,
Tuesday 7 November

MEMBERS' MATTERS

In the lead up to the Club's 125th Anniversary we have uncovered many historical items in our archives, including Club Journals dating back to 1927, commencing at Volume 4.

We would greatly appreciate Members getting in touch with us if they hold any information with respect to the Club's history.

Please phone 02 9284 1006 or email admin@nswmasonicclub.com.au

NEIGHBOURHOOD NUISANCES

The Club has a "double whammy" to report this month:

The Sydney Metro works are intensifying on the southern side of the Club building, with scaffolding already up for the demolition of 175 Castlereagh Street. Hoardings and a gantry are now in place on the street.

We have been heartened by the responsiveness of Transport NSW personnel informing us in advance of works, on a weekly basis, as well as installing noise and vibration monitors in the basement.

Dust monitors will soon be installed on our roof.

The second challenge is a development application which has been lodged with Sydney City Council to relocate the Windsor Hotel's operation to premises on the northern side of our building.

This could present serious noise issues for the Club and the Hotel, so a submission has been lodged with Council objecting to the proposed development.

YOUR DIRECTORS' YARNS

I first stood for the Board ten years ago at the invitation of the then President Graham Berry and it is a privilege to have been re-endorsed by Members at subsequent elections. My corporate advisory and professional services background as a business owner, company director and CEO complimented the Board mix at the time, in particular a past and continuing involvement in the club and hospitality sector (including diverse club and hotel clients, the Sydney Harbour Casino launch and Directorships with Tattersalls and Royal Exchange Clubs). My input to Board deliberations focuses on strategic risk assessment, HR and workplace relations matters, coupled with a strong corporate governance agenda drawn from extensive experience as a company

director, chairman and office bearer (NSW and Australian Chambers of Commerce, OHS&R Council, EPA). I am the elected Convenor of the Finance and Risk Management Committees.

The Masonic Club and the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel are unique institutions with diverse stakeholders and changing daily challenges for the Board, our industry talented General Manager, Paul Brasch, and his small team of dedicated staff. The current Board is very strong in portfolio capability, corporate governance and maintaining a proactive approach to stakeholder relations. To me, there is no board more challenging and rewarding than Masonic, given the management expertise, the current refurbishment momentum,

the significant turnaround in profitability, and a genuinely enhanced industry position in the increasingly competitive accommodation market place. Financial and membership growth has been built on our heritage accommodation, function success and improved food services. We can proudly point to 'unique selling propositions' and I look forward to continuing to work with fellow Board members and our enterprising General Manager to expand our membership base, to enhance Club and accommodation services, our external reputation and corporate social responsibility.

Graham Byrne - Director
Convenor of Finance Committee

STAFF STUFF

We farewelled one of our longest-serving employees (31 Years), Georgina Likouresis, on 4th July. Georgina ironically found her new independence as a retiree on American Independence Day! Wendy Young was farewelled on 18 July and was wished all the best for the future by both staff and Club members.

We expect the new uniforms to be

adorning the staff by the end of August, but don't wait until then to call in and be greeted by many familiar faces.



Paul's Puns

A Scottish mother visited her son in his New York city apartment and asked: "How are you finding the Americans, wee Donald?"

"Mother" said Donald, "they're such noisy people! One neighbour won't stop banging his head against the wall, while the other one screams and screams all night long."

"Oh, wee Donald! How do you manage to put up with them?"

"What can I do? I just lie in bed quietly, playing my bagpipes."



CASTLEREAGH Boutique Hotel

CHRISTMAS PARTY BOOKINGS ARE FILLING FAST!

Book your staff parties and Christmas functions today in one of our beautifully restored 1920s Art Deco functions rooms or bars.

Select a package or 'build your own' unique celebration.
You're only limited by your imagination!

Call our Events Coordinator on 9261 0774 to secure your date!

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