



THE UNITED GRAND CHAPTER OF AUSTRALIA Order of the Eastern Star

HAVING JURISDICTION WITHIN THE STATES AND TERRITORIES OF AUSTRALIA AND ITS DEPENDENCIES

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WORTHY GRAND SECRETARY
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17 June 2011

REPORT OF THE UNITED GRAND CHAPTER OF AUSTRALIA BIENNIAL SESSION BRISBANE 9 -12 JUNE 2011

The Thirteenth Biennial Session was called to order by the Most Worthy Grand Patron Brother James Beck and the Ritualistic Opening was performed by the Most Worthy Grand Matron Sister Lois Allen and the WG Office-bearers. The MWGM was accorded Grand Honours.

Distinguished members of the Order in Australia were introduced, welcomed and saluted with Grand Honours, where applicable and thanked for their work over the preceding two years.

Distinguished members of the Order from overseas jurisdictions were introduced, welcomed and accorded Grand Honours where applicable.

Silent Prayer was observed remembering Sister Kathleen Hinkley PMWGM, Sisters Florence A. Adair and Lois A Newman PMWGMs of General Grand Chapter and Honorary Members of The United Grand Chapter of Australia, Brother Fred Clarke, MWGP General Grand Chapter as well as PWG Matrons and Patrons of the Grand Chapters of NSW & ACT and QLD and the many Sisters and Brothers who have been called home during the last two years. Sister Lois Allen asked us to think of members not well enough to attend the Sessions, including Brother Thomas Graham PMWGP and those who had lost loved ones and caring for loved ones. Sister Lois Allen inscribed Sisters Kathleen Hinkley, Florence A Adair and Lois A Newman's names in the Bible.

Throughout the Sessions the All States Choir, Soloists and our Organists provided items of harmony which contributed greatly to the success of the Sessions.

The WG Star Points were recognised during a special ceremony and the MWGM and MWGP were assisted by distinguished members from each State.

A collection for the UGCA Benevolent /Distress Fund realised ~~\$523.00 plus \$US 5.00~~ *\$509.95 Lk*

Following Recess the Open Session was called to Order by Mrs Meriem Miller WGM of the Grand Chapter of Queensland and our Official Guests were welcomed by the MWGM & MWGP.

Jurisdictional Guardian Mrs Denise Larter and Associate Jurisdictional Guardian Mr Malcolm Cope, of Job's Daughters International Jurisdictional Guardian Council of Queensland; Mrs Denise Dickson Supreme Deputy in Queensland, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls; Grand Watchman of Shepherds Sojourner Norman Sharples, Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem Grand Shrine in Queensland accompanied by Sojourner Jean Sharples; Grand Royal Matron Honoured Lady Joan Smith and Grand Royal Patron Mr William Gennings, of the Grand Court of Queensland Order of the Amaranth; Grand Royal Matron Honoured Lady Heather Baker and Grand Royal Patron Mr Donald Cobcroft, of the Grand Court of New South Wales, Order of the Amaranth; Most Illustrious Knight Ralph Huntington Irons, Knight Grand Cross of Constantine, Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign of the Grand Imperial Conclave for Queensland; Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master Brother David Stewart, Grand Commander of the Temple of the Great Priory of Queensland accompanied by Mrs Dawn Stewart; Most Excellent Companion Charles Jonathan Nantes, Most Excellent First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Queensland accompanied by Mrs Moya Nantes; Most Worshipful Brother Emmanuel Anthony Past Most Worshipful Grand Master, of The United Grand Lodge of Queensland accompanied by Mrs Deidre Anthony; Miss Hannah Mcauslane, Regional Fundraising Coordinator Brisbane Council Cancer Queensland; Mr Nigel Faull, Chief Executive Officer Star Gardens OES Homes for the Aged.

Report of The United Grand Chapter of Australia Biennial Session Brisbane 9 – 12 June 2011

A Ceremony honouring the Flags of Australia, Great Britain, Scotland, New Zealand, USA and Canada and the State and Territory Flags of Australia was presented and all present repeated the Pledge of Allegiance to their Flag and Country.

Sister Lois Allen MWGM and Brother James Beck MWGP were able to present a cheque for \$13000.00 to Miss Hannah Macauslane for Pancreatic Cancer Research. Miss Macauslane suitably responded and the Sister Narelle Ober OAM, WG Sessions Coordinator Emeritus reported on the donations made to Charities over the last two years. The MWGM congratulated Sister Ober on the Award of the Order of Australia for her work for the Order and her charity work.

The MWGM and MWGP assisted by WG Office-bearers presented a Service – Our Eastern Star, which was followed by the introduction of the Grand Representatives present and their Service.

Responses were invited from Brother Emmanuel Anthony PMWG Master, Honoured Lady Sister Joan Smith, and Brother David Stewart PMWGP, MESG Master.

The UGCA then recessed until 9.30 am on Friday 10 June 2011 for the Business Session.

The Business Session of the UGCA was called to Order by Mrs Margaret Smith, WGM of the Grand Chapter of NSW & ACT.

Apologies were read and Minutes of the Twelfth Biennial Session as well as various Committee Minutes were received discussed and adopted.

The Auditors Report, Balance Sheet and Financial Statement were received, discussed, errors listed and adopted.

WHK Audit Central West was appointed Auditor for the Supplies Interim Audit and the Auditor for the UGCA was left in abeyance until after the election of a WG Treasurer.

Correspondence, not covered in Reports from Committees was read and dealt with as were recommendations from the various Committees.

Supplies Committee: Investments as follows be re- invested - \$11539.660 for 6 months @ 5.8% and \$11164.77 for 12 months @ 6.00%.

Approval of hire of van for transport of Supplies

Amount paid from Supplies Account to Refurbishment Account be increased to \$1650.00 this year and increased in future by 5% per annum.

Attendance Sheets for District Grand Chapters, Grand Chapters and United Grand Chapter are available from the Supplies Officer at a cost of 50 cents per sheet. Chapter Secretaries are reminded that it is their duty to prepare these Attendance Sheets prior to the arrival of the Governing Body. It is not the responsibility of the visiting body. These prepared sheets list all the Office-bearers associated with these governing bodies.

Finance Committee: Balance of \$142.00 made up of small amounts is to be transferred to General Fund.

Assured Membership cheque account to be closed and interest be withdrawn from Assured Membership Investment to cover the \$2820.00 required to cover Dues of Assured Members. This amount to be reduced by the amount deposited to the General Account from the cheque account when closed.

For future biennials the amount needed to cover Assured Members' dues be withdrawn at the date closest to 31 December each Biennium, when an investment falls due. This amount to be withdrawn for Dues must not exceed the amount earned in interest and at all other re-investment dates the interest is to be re-invested.

Recommended that Steering Committee Accounts be audited by two members of the UG Finance Committee, who are not involved with the Steering Committee of the State being audited and this be reported as part of the Sessions Coordinator's Report from 2012.

Recommended WG Secretary's current printer is written off as cost of repairs outweighs value of printer and that the WG Secretary purchases a duplex mono laser printer.

Accounts were passed for payment.

Sister Dorothy Douglas WG Organist be granted Emeritus Rank and WG Secretary's action be endorsed in ordering brooch.

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Chapter contribution for Deputy Grand Matron's & DG Patron's Jewels remain at \$125.00 for next Biennium.

Reports were given by the Sessions Coordinator, who advised that this was an interim report as registrations were still coming in; WG Secretary on NZ Appeal and Disaster Appeal; Assistant to WG Secretary on the use of CDs for Sessions Material.

WG Registrar is to issue all PW Matrons & PW Patron's Diplomas.

Minimum Annual Dues amount be raised to \$15.00.

Administration Fees per member be \$3.15 for 2012 and \$3.30 for 2013.

Administration Expenses for WG Office Bearers were dealt with.

Recommendation - Melbourne District Grand Chapter- Sister Margaret Headland WDG Matron and Brother Reginald Steel WDG Patron.

Recommended Chapters use Honorary Members cards which can be purchased from WG Supplies Officer and if an Honorary Member's Diploma is required as well it can be ordered from the WG Secretary at a cost of \$7.00.

Recommended that at future Sessions no registrations which are postmarked after 30 April be accepted.

Applicants for various positions were in attendance and the recommendations from Committee were as follows:

WG Treasurer	Sister Margaret Down
WG Organist	Sister Tessa Francis
Assistant to WG Organist	Sister Pamela Turner

Letters were received from all advancing Office-bearers as well as applicants for positions; Grand Chapters of NSW & ACT & Qld respectively, advising Sister Robyn Reily elected WG Warder and Brother Jonathan Nantes elected WG Fraternal Correspondent.

Committee Members were ratified.

WG Secretary was given permission to destroy old Signets. Any Chapter wishing to receive a newer recycled Signet to contact WG Secretary. Any member who wishes to apply for old frames should also contact the WG Secretary, who will explore avenues of recycling old glass and frames.

Chapters in WA will look at changing date of one of their meetings for Annual Official Visitation.

At future Sessions there will be no subsidisation of meals and the program will be reduced by one day and one meal.

Outline of new Sessions Format:

Committees to be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; UGCA opened on Thursday, Grand Representatives introduced, Flag Service and some of the Business of UGCA, followed by a Grand Representatives Dinner; Friday. Continuation of Business Session and Saturday hold an Open Installation with invited guests, other Masonic Orders and donation recipients present, followed by a Celebration Dinner.

Petitions and Appeals Committee: A Star Club has been formed in Geelong.

Bye-Laws Sub-Committee: A letter was received in relation to voting by Proxy or Postal Vote and it was recommended that the relevant Bye-Laws be altered to read **those present at the meeting**.

Notices of Motion were dealt with and a separate report will be furnished in September when the WG Secretary returns from holidays. Notices of Motion were received for Fourteenth Biennial Session.

Reports were received and adopted and elections for WG Treasurer, WG Organist and Assistant to the WG Organist resulted as per list of installed Office-bearers. Deputy Grand Matron of South Australia and Deputy Grand Matron and Patron of Tasmania were appointed as per list of installed Office-bearers.

Administrative Office-bearers were appointed as were Assistants to WG Office-bearers.

Sister Janet Beck appointed the WG Star Points and the MWGM thanked those retiring as Office-bearers and from Administrative positions.

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The meeting was recessed until 2.00 pm for the Installation.

The Meeting was called to Order by Sister Carole Matson Worthy Matron of Adah Chapter No 12.

The MWGM Sister Allen was honoured by appreciation from her Star Points, and gifts were presented to Sister Allen and Brother Beck. Sister Allen and Brother Beck spoke and then a beautiful Installation Ceremony was performed.

Sister Janet Beck MWGM and Brother Stuart Lang MWGP spoke and were escorted to the Altar to sign the Chapter Bible.

The IPMWGM and IPMWGP were invested with their badge of office and Jewels and suitably responded.

The Installation of the Deputy Grand Matron of South Australia, Sister Rita Humber, Deputy Grand Matron of Tasmania Sister Christina Vaessen and Deputy Grand Patron Brother Barrie Bell, together with the Administrative Office-bearers and Assistants to WG Office-bearers was completed.

Sister Betty Godfrey was presented with her Emeritus Brooch by Sister Janet Beck and Sister Lois Allen, IPMWGM presented Sister Godfrey with a beautiful brooch on behalf of all the members of UGCA. She was thanked for her 22 years of service as WG Treasurer and Sister Godfrey suitably responded.

Gen Collection \$1170.00
Sister Meriem Miller, WGM Grand Chapter of Queensland, Brother Allan Bover, Worthy District Grand Patron of the Melbourne District Grand Chapter, Sister Judith Brightman General Grand Chapter Committee Member and Sister Ruth Miller Worthy Matron of Polkemmet Chapter No 195 in Scotland all addressed the meeting. Sister Miller approached the East and presented Sister Beck with a Travelling Gavel on behalf of her mother Chapter Polkemmet.

A Prayer for Peace and a Choir Item completed the business of the Thirteenth Biennial Session and following the Ritualistic Closing the MWGP Brother Stuart Lang called on all members to meet again in Hobart in June 2013.

OFFICE BEARERS OF THE UNITED GRAND CHAPTER OF AUSTRALIA

Most Worthy Grand Matron	Sister Janet Beck (QLD)
Most Worthy Grand Patron	Brother Stuart Lang (VIC)
Immediate Past Most Worthy Grand Matron	Sister Lois Allen (NSW & ACT)
Immediate Past Most Worthy Grand Patron	Brother James Beck (QLD)
Worthy Grand Associate Matron	Sister Pamela Sangwell (TAS)
Worthy Grand Associate Patron	Brother Sydney Down (NSW & ACT)
Worthy Grand Secretary	Sister Lorraine Ellison (NSW & ACT)
Worthy Grand Secretary Emeritus	Sister Lois Olfen (NSW & ACT)
Worthy Grand Treasurer	Sister Margaret Down (NSW & ACT)
Worthy Grand Treasurer Emeritus	Sister Kathleen Leveritt (QLD)
Worthy Grand Treasurer Emeritus	Sister Betty Godfrey (QLD)
Worthy Grand Conductress	Sister Julia Slater (VIC)
Worthy Grand Associate Conductress	Sister Helen McLaughlin (WA)
Worthy Grand Senior Chaplain	Brother George Taylor (TAS)
Worthy Grand Junior Chaplain	Brother Robert Diggle (SA)
Worthy Grand Marshal	Sister Janet Atherton (SA)
Worthy Grand Organist	Sister Tessa Francis (NSW & ACT)
Worthy Grand Adah	Sister Rachel Gowen (QLD)
Worthy Grand Ruth	Sister Sandra Davis (VIC)
Worthy Grand Esther	Sister Jeanette Farrant (NSW & ACT)
Worthy Grand Martha	Sister Bronwyn Bell (TAS)
Worthy Grand Electa	Sister Elizabeth Burns (WA)
Worthy Grand Warder	Sister Robyn Reily (NSW & ACT)
Worthy Grand Sentinel	Brother Victor Tate (WA)
Worthy Grand Fraternal Correspondent	Brother Jonathan Nantes (QLD)
Worthy Grand Supplies Officer	Sister Pamela Fitzgerald (NSW & ACT)
Worthy Grand Registrar	Sister Barbara Hartman (QLD)
Worthy Grand Sessions Coordinator	Sister Evelyn Hood (VIC)
Deputy Grand Matron - SA	Sister Rita Humber
Deputy Grand Matron - TAS	Sister Christina Vaessen
Deputy Grand Patron - TAS	Brother Barrie Bell
Assistant to Worthy Grand Secretary	Sister Del Yeates (NSW & ACT)
Assistant to Worthy Grand Treasurer	Sister Jennifer Fawns (NSW & ACT)

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Assistant to Worthy Grand Organist	Sister Gillian Mason (QLD)
Assistant to Assistant to Worthy Grand Supplies Officer - Printing	Sister Phyllis Dehn (NSW & ACT)
Assistant to Assistant to Worthy Grand Supplies Officer - Administration	Sister Edwina Martin (NSW & ACT)

UNITED GRAND COMMITTEES

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NSW & ACT	Sister Ellena Johnson & Brother Paul Smith
QLD	Sisters Merlyn Pollitt, Barbara Andresen & Brother Graham Pollitt
VIC	Sister Sandra Davis & Brother Ronald Aimer
SA	Sisters Blanche Watt & Janet Diggle
TAS	Sister Jayne Shapter & Brother James Cornwell
WA	Sisters June Thorpe & Shirley Gallaway

UNITED GRAND FINANCE COMMITTEE

NSW	Sister Margaret Down
QLD	Sister Yvonne Nurnberger
VIC	Sister Christine Wagener
SA	Sister Susan Cameron
TAS	Sister Elizabeth Taylor
WA	Sister Helen McLaughlin

UNITED GRAND SUPPLIES COMMITTEE

NSW	Brother John Fitzgerald
QLD	Sister Margaret Kennedy
VIC	Sister Jean Lyon
SA	Sister Margaret O'Leary
TAS	Sister Robyn Thomas
WA	Sister Margaret Hamilton

UNITED GRAND PETITIONS / APPEALS COMMITTEE

NSW	Brother Kenneth Auld
QLD	Sister Rosalie Rudduck
VIC	Sister Faye Thornton
SA	Sister Agnes Bogle
TAS	Brother Thomas Nixon
WA	Sister Shirley Gallaway

UNITED GRAND BYE-LAWS SUB-COMMITTEE

NSW	Brother Paul Smith
QLD	Brother Graham Pollitt
VIC	Sister Sandra Davis
SA	Sister Blanche Watt
TAS	Sister Jayne Shapter
WA	Sister Faye Ward

Advisory Panel for Notices of Motion Sisters Barbara Hartman and Sandra Davis and Brother Sydney Down.

Results of Notices of Motion will be advised when I return from holidays.

The qualifications were changed at the Session and Chapters are advised that they may start introducing prospective candidates through social functions, but no Initiations are to take place until advised in writing, when all documentation is in place. This will be done as soon as practicable when the WG Secretary returns from leave in September.

Worthy Grand Treasurer's contact details:

Mrs Margaret Down
PO Box 8152
SUMMERLAND POINT. NSW 2259

Telephone: 02 4976 2713

Please address any correspondence for The United Grand Chapter of Australia from 20 June to 9 September, 2011 to

Mrs D Yeates
Assistant to WG Secretary

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Major Competition Winners: 1st Prize Ticket No 2543 David Cowin Beenleigh Chapter No 199 & Beau-View Chapter No 218; 2nd Vi Mobbs Ticket No 1817 Mt Beulah Chapter No 5; Third Norah Mitchell Ticket No 2833 Wollongong Chapter No 59; 4th Ada McHarg Ticket No. 1507 Gympie Chapter No 72

POINTS TO NOTE:

When District Grand Office-bearers are carrying out an Installation the only person to retain Regalia is the Worthy District Grand Matron, or the Worthy District Grand Patron, if he is the Installing Officer.

Visits between District Grand Chapters are not permitted. They are administrative bodies only. Exception is Installation.

A CD of photographs taken by Brother Ian Dunkley at the United Grand Chapter Sessions in Brisbane, as well as photographs that he took at the Grand Chapter of NSW and ACT Annual Meeting and Installation and Ball and the Grand Chapter of QLD Annual Meeting and Installation is available from the WG Registrar at 10 Wright Street, Tivoli QLD 4305 for a fee of \$5.00 (cheques made out to the United Grand Chapter of Australia Order of the Eastern Star).

Lorraine Ellison
WG Secretary