

# THE CONSECRATION OF THE EARL OF DUNMORE LODGE NO. 1686

Text: VWBro. Kent Henderson, Foundation Secretary Photos: Bro. Enzo Avagliano



*Bro. Keith Murray, Grand Master - Victoria (and Immediate Past Master), Bro. Rt Hon 12th Earl of Dunmore, Right Worshipful Master; and Bro. Kevin McKay, District Grand Master of Western Australia, SC*

## BACKGROUND

Upon the formation of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria in 1889, by Lodges then warranted by the English, Irish and Scottish Grand Lodges, it was felt necessary to formulate one uniform ritual for all Lodges under the new Constitution, in order to attain harmony. Uniformity of ritual has been enforced in Victoria ever since - until now.

Other Australian States and New Zealand have, to varying extents, also required ritual uniformity. However, for historical reasons, Lodges in some other jurisdictions are permitted to work ritual variations negotiated when their Grand Lodge was formed. There also remain remnant Lodges in Australia under the Home Grand Lodges - English Constitution Lodges in Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia, an Irish Lodge in South Australia and two District Grand Lodges in Western Australia directly under the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

It can be readily contended that today any justification for absolute uniformity of ritual has long since gone, even if it did initially exist. That said, the inherent parochial nature of Freemasonry has meant that any change to this situation was a very long time coming.

I have alluded above to the reason why Australian Grand Lodges, upon their formation (to the extent they were able at the time) opted for ritual uniformity. It is

useful to compare English-speaking jurisdictions where this has and has not been the case. It is a statistical fact that the greatest fall in Masonic membership numbers over the last 30 years at least has been in North America, Australia, New Zealand, and Ireland. In almost all of the jurisdictions involved, uniformity of ritual has been enforced.

The two jurisdictions in question are England and Scotland; neither of which has ever prescribed uniformity. In England, at best count, 52 different rituals are used in Craft Lodges - many of which (but certainly not all) are relatively similar. In Scotland there are also many different rituals in use (including half a dozen 'main' ones). However they are all 'different' to some extent in content and often in form.

In short, while not possible to quantify exactly, the evidence suggests on balance a lack of ritual uniformity will certainly not affect membership but will most likely enhance it. There are more than a few Masons in Victoria of Scottish origin, and many others, who hold that view.

## THE NEXT STEP

Thus, the idea to create a Lodge in Victoria to work a Scottish Ritual has been around for several years although it only became possible in recent times given significant positive changes in outlook at Grand Lodge. We were most fortunate to have amongst us the 12th



*Bro. Lord Dunmore is obligated*

Earl of Dunmore who enthusiastically added his considerable gravitas to the project. The ultimate success of the efforts of many are owed in no small part to the leadership of both Bro. Lord Dunmore and his kinsman Bro. Keith Murray who was originally a Scottish Mason before emigrating to Melbourne over 20 years ago.

Of the twelve Earls of Dunmore the great majority have been Freemasons and the 6th Earl served as Grand Master of Scotland in 1835-36. The current Earl, Brother the Right Honourable Malcolm Murray, 12th Earl of Dunmore, Viscount of Fincastle, Lord Murray of Blair, Moulin and Tillimet took his seat in the House of Lords in November 1998 and later delivered his Maiden Speech.

The founders resolved to name the Lodge after the Earldom of Dunmore, one of more senior in the Scottish Peerage, and to seek the Lodge number as 1686 - the year of the creation of the Earldom. Remarkably, as far as can be determined, this is probably the only occasion in Masonic history where a new Lodge has been named after a peerage and the incumbent peer has served as the Foundation Master.

The Lodge commences with 75 Founders who are



*Officers of the District Grand Lodge of Western Australia, SC*

collectively most grateful for all the support they have received particularly from our Grand Lodge, our Sponsoring Lodge (Seavic Lodge No. 8 VC) and from the District Grand Lodge of Western Australia (under the Grand Lodge of Scotland) whose Officers came to Melbourne, at their own expense, specifically to carry out our First Installation. It should be noted that we have NOT formed a 'Scottish Lodge' per se but a regular warranted Lodge under the United Grand Lodge of Victoria - yet one which works a Scottish Craft Ritual, wears 'Scottish' Craft Regalia and will largely follow Scottish Craft traditions.

## UP AND RUNNING

The Consecration and First Installation of The Earl of Dunmore Lodge No. 1686 occurred on Saturday 19 May 2018 at the new Bayside Masonic Centre. About 150 Brethren attended the ceremonies and the Consecration Ceremony was flawlessly performed by the Grand Officers, led by the Grand Master, Bro. Keith Murray. He was supported by Bro. Richard Elkington, Deputy Grand Master; Bro. Bruce Bartrop, Past Grand Master; Bro. Carl Stewart, Past Grand Master; Bro. John Slore, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Tasmania; and the Scottish District Grand Master of Western Australia (Scottish Constitution), Bro. Kevin McKay and his District Grand Lodge Officers, and Bro. Bill Merrill, Past Deputy Grand Master of South Australia. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Bro. Keith Murray, in his capacity as Grand Master of Victoria was pleased to confer on a shocked Lord Dunmore the thoroughly merited Grand Rank of Past Grand Inspector of Workings to the delight of all present. Interestingly a week previously at his Lodge's Installation in Devonport, Lord Dunmore was conferred with the equivalent Grand Rank, of Past Grand Inspector of Lodges, under the Grand Lodge of Tasmania.

Whilst waiting for our Brethren to complete the ceremonies, the partners of the members were kept suitably entertained by the ladies of the Grand Lodge Team, led by Mrs Fiona Murray.

The Celebratory Banquet that followed was truly marvellous, with fabulous food and wine. The buzz around the dining room was outstanding! About 220 Brethren and their ladies were present and other distinguished guests included the Right Honourable the Earl of Loudoun, Bro. the Honourable Michael Baden-Powell and Mrs Joan Baden-Powell and Mrs Rosemary Evans, the wife of our late Past Grand Master, Bro. John Evans - who was a petitioner for our Lodge and an enthusiastic supporter.

*(For success attitude is equally as important as ability. Bro Sir Walter Scott)*

**CONSECRATION**  
of  
**THE EARL OF DUNMORE**  
**LODGE No 1686**  
and its  
**FIRST INSTALLATION**  
and the Investiture of Officers

**GALA CELEBRATORY BANQUET**

*Foundation Right Worshipful Master:*

*Bro the Right Honourable Malcolm Kenneth Murray, 12th Earl of Dunmore,  
Viscount of Fincastle, Lord Murray of Blair, Moulin and Tillimet*

*Foundation Worshipful Senior Warden:*

*Bro William (Bill) John Heywood*

*Foundation Worshipful Junior Warden:*

*Bro Anthony (Tony) Meechan*

in the distinguished presence of

*Bro Keith Murray*

*Grand Master, Freemasons Victoria*

*Bro John Slore*

*Grand Master, Freemasons Tasmania*

*Bro Kevin McKay*

*District Grand Master,  
Scottish Constitution, W.A.*



Lord Dunmore

**Saturday, 19th May 2018**

**Bayside Masonic Centre,  
237 Nepean Highway, Gardenvale,  
Melbourne**

*(We have forty million reasons for failure, but not a single excuse. Bro Rudyard Kipling)*

*(Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter. Bro Mark Twain)*

## FOUNDATION OFFICERS

Right Worshipful Master:	Bro Rt Hon The Earl of Dunmore
Immediate Past Master:	Bro Keith Murray
Depute Master:	Bro Robert Barnes
Substitute Master:	Bro Peter West
Worshipful Senior Warden:	Bro Bill Heywood
Worshipful Junior Warden:	Bro Tony Meechan
Chaplain:	Bro Andrew Crozier-Durham
Treasurer:	Bro Robert Brennand
Secretary:	Bro Kent Henderson
Assistant Secretary:	Bro Ben Quick
Director of Ceremonies:	Bro John Fraser
Assistant Director of Ceremonies:	Bro Dr Geoff Harrison
Architect:	Bro Chris Redmond
Jeweller:	Bro Simon Stedman
Almoner:	Bro Peter Morris
Organist:	Bro Kevin Chambers
Piper:	Bro Bruce Hocking
Piper:	Bro Matthew Wilson
Banner Bearer:	Bro Daniel Jade
Bible Bearer:	Bro Bryan Stertern-Gill
Sword Bearer:	Bro Graham Sloman
Senior Deacon:	Bro Sam Morgan
Junior Deacon:	Bro John Murray
Senior Steward:	Bro Ian Corless
Junior Steward:	Bro Robert Murray
Inner Guard:	Bro Neil Smith
Head Steward (& <i>Sommelier</i> ):	Bro Peter Oetterli
Tyler:	Bro David Yole
Auditor:	Bro Garry James

R.W.M. THE EARL OF DUNMORE LODGE No. 1686

## History of the Petition

The idea to create a lodge in Victoria to work Scottish Ritual has been around for several years, but it has only become possible in more recent times given significant positive changes in outlook at Grand Lodge. We were most fortunate to have amongst us the 12th Earl of Dunmore, an experienced Past Master, who enthusiastically added his considerable *gravitas* to the project. The ultimate success of the efforts of many are owed in no small part to the leadership of both Bro Lord Dunmore and his kinsman Bro Keith Murray, now Grand Master in Victoria.

It was resolved to name the lodge after the Earldom of Dunmore, one of most senior in the Scottish Peerage, and to seek the Lodge number as 1686, the date of the creation of the Earldom. Most significant of all, Lord Dunmore graciously consented to the unanimous request of the Founders that he serve as Foundation Right Worshipful Master. Remarkably, as far as can be determined, this is the

only occasion in Masonic history where a new Lodge has been named after a peerage and the incumbent peer has served as the Foundation Master.

As many interested brethren came on board with the project, the style of lodge was soon established. It was resolved to work the Scottish *McBride Ritual*, that the lodge normally work four times per year on a Saturday, that it be a 'dining lodge' with the ladies attending; and that its 'Scottish Regalia' be of the *Clan Murray tartan*.

The Lodge commences with 75 Founders, who are collectively most grateful for all the support they have received, particularly from our Grand Lodge, our Sponsoring Lodge - Seavic Lodge No 8, and from the Scottish District Grand Lodge of Western Australia whose Officers have come especially to Melbourne specifically to carry out our First Installation.

*(Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do. Bro Johann von Goethe)*

*(It isn't so much what's on the table that matters, as what's on the chairs. Bro Sir William S. Gilbert)*

## *The Right Worshipful Master's Collarette*



Our *Right Worshipful Master's Collarette* (in Murray tartan) has as its 'drop' a facsimile of the jewel worn by Bro Robert Burns, when he was Depute Master of Tarbolton Lodge Kilwinning St James No. 135 SC. The jewel is in sterling silver, and has been kindly donated by a member of Lodge.



## *The Apron and Gauntlets of the Right Worshipful Master of The Earl of Dunmore Lodge No 1686*

*(The secret of getting ahead is getting started. Bro Mark Twain)*





