



**Freemasons
Victoria**

Reception of RWBro. Richard Elkington into the 32nd Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

The Southern Cross Grand Consistory of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for Australia welcomed the Deputy Grand Master of the UGLV into the 32nd Degree, the degree of “Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret.” This degree was once, in the 1700s, the highest degree and most important degree in Continental Europe. It is even now the penultimate degree in Scottish Rite Freemasonry, the largest Order of Freemasonry in the World under a single Constitution, and second only to the Craft in membership numbers worldwide.

Under its Grand Constitutions, the Rite is governed in each country by one Supreme Council only. In Australia that is the Supreme Council for Australia. All of its members (but only its members) can, with time, receive and see all the Degrees of the Rite up to the 32nd Degree. The 33rd Degree being reserved for Administrators of the Rite. This very ancient Order contains Craft Degrees as old as those practiced in Australia by our Grand Lodges but chooses instead to support all our Grand Lodges and their Degrees as the basis of the Order.

The Rite is open to all Freemasons and has both Christian and Universal Chapters.

The pictures below show a re-enactment (so as not to disclose the Consistory set up) of Richard being Received by the Sovereign Grand Commander of the Rite for all of Australia, Emeritus Prof. William (Bill) Thompson.

