



District Grand Master's Proclamation Address

RW Bro Playford, Ladies, Gentlemen and Brethren,

I thank you all for your attendance for the proclamation of myself as the District Grand Master of the District Grand Lodge of Carpentaria, the proclamation of the Deputy District Grand Master, VW Bro Dave Scott and the investiture of District Grand Officers. My particular thanks to RW Bro Playford and his team of District Grand Officers from NQ for making the trip up from Townsville.

RW Bro Playford it was a pleasure to attend your Proclamation in Townsville five weeks ago and also attend your Centenary Celebration back in March of this year. We thoroughly enjoyed your hospitality on both those occasions and we are very thankful for the opportunity to reciprocate on this occasion. Being the only two District Grand Lodges in Australia, the two Districts share a common bond and I look forward to a continuing close association.

As I take on my third and final year in this office, I again remind myself of the obligation I took at my Installation two years ago - that I will to the best of my ability, zealously, faithfully and impartially perform all the duties incumbent upon me as District Grand Master. I will hold close to me the words spoken by the MW Grand Master in his address at that time - that although I have been elevated above my fellows, I have been elevated by them. Brethren, be assured that I will uphold the faith and trust you have placed in me.

I thank the District Grand Officers who have served this District over the past 12 months. While some Officers have more responsibility than others, at the end of the day it has to be a team effort that gets the job done. On the home front for me, it is also a team effort, because without Rani's support and assistance, I would not be able to fully carry out my responsibilities, so I thank her for that support.

I congratulate the Deputy District Grand Master, VW Bro Dave Scott for continuing in his office and thank him for his support over the past year and look to his continued counsel and support during the coming 12 months. My thanks and congratulations to all of the District Grand Officers for taking on their duties and responsibilities.

Looking back over the past 12 months, all Masonic activity in the District fully returned to normal following the disruptions due to COVID in the previous year. Number of new members were

welcomed to our wonderful fraternity, never enough of course. Number of members within the District were honoured with 50, 60 and 70 year Service Jewels for their good work and/or dedication to their Lodges and Freemasonry in general. Two Lodges in the District celebrated their Centenary, those being Barrine Lodge and Ravenshoe Lodge, with the District Grand Team conducting the Re-enactment of the Consecration Ceremony.

All Installations, Initiations and Jewel presentations were attended by a District Grand Team. My sincere thanks to the District Grand Director of Ceremonies, Wor Bro Bob Ruddell for his tireless work of putting together District Grand Teams for the visitations to lodges for the various events. It has certainly been a lot of time and effort on his part.

The Carpentaria District Grand Board of General Purposes, under the leadership of Wor Bro Duncan Cunningham, has held regular meetings during the past 12 months focussing on the operations of the District. I thank the members of the Board for their time and effort and I also thank the Secretariat of the District, that being the late RW Bro Carl Richardson and Liz Johnson, for their administration and support to the Board and to the Lodges within the District. I thank Wor Bro Harvey Lovewell for recently taking on the role of District Grand Secretary, which had been vacant for six months.

The District will be focussing on the Centenary of the Carpentaria District Grand Lodge, which is coming up on 19 April 2024. The current thinking is that there will be a Re-enactment of the Consecration Ceremony on Saturday 26 May 2024, followed by a lunch, then have the District Grand Installation in the afternoon and a Banquet that evening. Bentley Park Lodge will also celebrate their Centenary in September of this year.

There is a need for the District to establish an appropriate Masonic Centre in or close to the Cairns City area. While over the past 12 months the Board has focussed on this issue, it is a difficult situation with three Masonic Centres in close proximity, here in Freshwater, Edmonton and Gordonvale. When those centres were established over 60 years ago, there was every need for them given the membership numbers and the condition of roads and methods of transport. However, given our current membership and improvements in transport, we really need to consolidate and the membership of this District

together with the Board of General Purposes, will need to make some hard decisions.

I thank the Board of Benevolence, which under the leadership of RW Bro Walker, is spreading the word and information to Lodges on the offerings available from HHP to make charitable donations to organisations and individuals. We are still looking to develop through HHP the option of a Community Partnership with a Charitable Organisation, whereby a number of Lodges can get involved in a particular fund raising project.

The District is informed on a monthly basis of events coming up and I thank RW Bro Mil Clay for his work in putting together the Carpentaria News. He has continued this work for the District even though for family reasons he and his wife Annette had to move to Brisbane.

My focus will continue on urging Lodges to support each other particularly for important events such as Installations, degree workings particularly Initiation Ceremonies to welcome a new member

to our fraternity and on occasions such as Jewel presentations to recognize the good work, dedication and achievement by a brother. I will also continue to focus on my other agenda items of Masonic Education at every opportunity so that candidates are better informed about the degree workings they have been through and short lectures on the symbolism that we regularly see within our Lodge rooms but simply take for granted.

The drive for membership is something we all need to focus on. Lodges too can play their part by holding events where we are more visible to the community. A good example has been the recent events held by Pyramid Highleigh Lodge, such as a stall at the Gordonvale Markets and other events of public interest and the general public being invited. We will once again have a stall at the Cairns Show.

I thank you all for your attendance and wish you a safe journey home.

RW Bro Raja Chohan
District Grand Master



LODGE MEETINGS

| LODGE | DATE | TIME | WHERE | WORK |
|-------------------|----------------|---------|------------|--|
| Johnstone RH | Sat 1st July | 4.00pm | Innisfail | General Business |
| The Gulf Lodge | Sat 1st July | 4.00pm | Innisfail | General Business |
| Trinity Daylight | Mon 3rd July | 9.30am | Whitfield | General Business |
| Temple Memorial | Mon 3rd July | 7.30pm | Freshwater | General Business |
| Pyramid-Highleigh | Wed 5th July | 7.00pm | Gordonvale | General Business |
| Tully-Tyson | Wed 5th July | 7.00pm | Tully | General Business |
| Freshwater | Sat 8th July | 10.30am | Freshwater | Proclamation Wor Bro Paul Cleary |
| Barrine | Mon 10th July | 7.00pm | Yungaburra | General Business |
| Cairns-Gelling | Tue 11th July | 5.30pm | Freshwater | General Business |
| P Douglas Mossman | Thur 13th July | 7.00pm | Mossman | General Business |
| Bentley Park | Sat 15th July | 2.00pm | Edmonton | 3rd Degree Bro Aaron Odell |
| Gregory Allan | Mon 17th July | 7.30pm | Freshwater | 1st Degree Tracing Board for Carpentaria |
| Ravenshoe | Thur 20th July | 6.00pm | Ravenshoe | General Business |
| Duyfken | Tues 25th July | 7.30pm | Freshwater | General Business |
| Granite | Sat 29th July | 4.00pm | Mareeba | Proclamation Wor Bro Harvey Lovewell |
| E & O E | | | | |

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE PROCLAMATION





RW Bro Chohan with RW Bro Playford and the team from North Queensland



RW Bro Chohan presented RW Bro Housman with his PAGM certificate and Wor Bro Cavill-Jones with his PSGD certificate

Banquet Snap-Shots

