



## Message from District Grand Master

Brethren, Greetings to you and your families. I hope the start of the New Year finds you all safe and well. For those who may have experienced any problems from Cyclone Jasper and flooding, I hope you are recovering well and hopefully getting back to normal life as best as possible. If you require any assistance, please give me a call. Our thoughts are with the brethren and community of North Queensland District, having just experienced a cyclone. I am happy to report that the NQ District Grand Master, RW Bro Playford, has indicated that he is not aware of any brethren being impacted with the main problem being the loss of power.

The beginning of the year is always a busy time for the District Grand Lodge to call for and receive nominations for District Grand Officers, District Grand Board of General Purposes and District Grand Board of Benevolence. The announcement of nominations for these was made at the District Grand Quarterly Communication held on 2 December 2023, the proceedings or minutes of which were forwarded to all Secretaries in the District on 10 December 2023. The forwarding of Nomination Forms has been somewhat delayed due to Cyclone Jason and the flooding that followed. Nomination Forms will be sent out by the end of January with a closing date of end February 2023. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call me to discuss.

Once again, I encourage brethren to very seriously think about nominating for a District Grand Officer position. The District Grand Team has a very important part to play in the Ceremonial work of the District. Apart from attending all Installations/Proclamations and Initiation Ceremonies, the District Grand Team often assists lodges with Degree workings and Installation Ceremonies. I am already aware that of the three Lodge Installations coming up in April and May, the District Grand Team will be required to perform the whole Installation ceremony for two of those. It is very much a case of helping (by nominating to become a District Grand Officers), to help ourselves. So please consider nominating.

Nominations for the District Grand Board of General Purposes and District Grand Board of Benevolence are also very much encouraged. The Board of General Purposes is responsible for all management and administration of the Carpentaria District while the Board of Benevolence is responsible for dealing

with the important work of charity in the community, well-being of brethren and their families, etc.

Two weeks ago, I sent out an email to all Secretaries in the District in relation to a TRAINING SESSION being held on 10 FEBRUARY 2024 at the FRESHWATER MASONIC CENTRE, from 8.00am to 5.00pm. This session is being run by the Grand Director of Education and Development and the Grand Director of Ceremonies. Every lodge Master and Secretary should be making it their business to ensure that their Lodge is well represented at this training session for the benefit and well being of their Lodge in the future. While it will be very beneficial to all brethren, the Master, Wardens, Deacons and Director of Ceremony should attend if at all possible. Please give me a call if you have any questions.

The most important event for 2024 for the District will be the celebration of its Centenary with a Re-enactment of Consecration Ceremony on Saturday 25 May. The District Grand Installation will be held on the same day. The Re-enactment of Consecration will be in the morning at 11.00am, followed by a lunch at 1.00pm, which will then be followed by the Installation at 2.30pm. The Installation Banquet will be held that evening. More information will follow in the very near future.

Brethren, as I approach the finishing line of my District Grand Master journey in May 2024, I reiterate the main messages I have imparted over the past two and half years as follows:

I have focused on Masonic Education, remembering of course that Freemasonry itself is education, simultaneously moral instruction, spiritual enlightenment and intellectual growth so that a man may come to know and improve himself. In particular, I break this into three parts as follows:

1. Walk the candidate through the degree he has undertaken, remembering that in the First Degree he is blind folded for part of the time. Take the candidate to see the degree being performed at another lodge. Provide further instruction on the degree if at all possible.

2. Explore the symbolism and other things that are in the lodge room or that we do in our ceremonies but never ask the question why we do it that way or how, when and where it originated. This can be done through short lectures at every meeting.

3. Those who are really keen and have the time,

delve into the history and origin of Freemasonry.

4. Our motto is to take good men and make them better and we need to do this by closely examining and taking on board the many messages that are laid down for us in the ritual, e.g. focusing very close attention to the final charge in the First Degree.

I have urged Lodges to support each other through visits, particularly for important events such as Installations/Proclamations. degree workings particularly Initiation Ceremonies to welcome a new member to our wonderful fraternity and on occasions such as Jewel presentations to recognize the good work, dedication and achievement by a brother. In your Lodge planning, factor in some fraternal visits to other Lodges as was common practice years ago but rarely done these days, so much so, that there are new members in our organization who wouldn't even know what is a fraternal visit. It is the best way for those who have been around for some time to take new members under their wings and introduce them to this important part of Freemasonry.

I have touched on the "pomp and pageantry" that we used to practice but this has fallen by the way side in recent times, perhaps due to reducing numbers and the loss of Organists from amongst our midst. Let us ensure that we sing the opening and closing odes at all of our meetings and carry out the perambulation for the retirement of the Worshipful Master at the end of the meetings. Music for all ceremonial work is available to all Lodges from Grand Lodge if you do not already have it.

I have mentioned my concern at our declining Ceremonial standards. The proposed Training/Workshop on 10 February will hopefully start turning this around. I make a simple request of those of us who have been around for a long time, please take particular care on the way we conduct ourselves and ensure that our signs and salutes are given as we were

taught and as per the Ritual to set the example for the younger and new members to our Fraternity. All too often I see salutes being given with a general wave of the hand or arms and it certainly doesn't set a good example for our newer members. Remember that if you see something being done totally incorrectly and you don't take the time to correct it, we have then just set a new standard, which will certainly be a lower standard.

Let us teach our newer members to put away our rituals during Ceremonial Works as we are told to do so in our General Instructions and pay more attention to the ceremony being conducted. While some brethren are better at learning Ritual than others, I have brought to your attention what we are told in the final charge in the First Degree, which states, "...and without neglecting the ordinary duties of your station, feel yourself called upon to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge." Imagine what could be achieved if we learn one line a day or even most days. And finally, I am sure it is pretty much the same for all of us, that it is easier to recall than to learn. So for best results, learn your ceremonial work well in advance of when you actually have to carry it out.

We have a promising start to the year with Tully Tyson Lodge conducting a First Degree on 7 February and Ravenshoe Lodge also conducting a First Degree on 15 February. Your support to these Lodges would be very much appreciated. I am also aware of applications being finalised for four more candidates.

Brethren, enjoy your Freemasonry and remember the words that we hear at every Installation/Proclamation – to have but one aim, that being, to unite in the grand design of being happy and communicate happiness.

RW Bro Raja Chohan  
District Grand Master  
District Grand Lodge of Carpentaria



## LODGE MEETINGS

LODGE	DATE	TIME	WHERE	WORK
Carpentaria	Thur 1st Feb	7.30pm	Freshwater	General Business
Trinity Daylight	Mon 5th Feb	9.30am	Whitfield	General Business
Johnstone RH	Sat 3rd Feb	1.00pm	Innisfail	General Business
Herberton-Corrie	Sat 3rd Feb	1.30pm	Herberton	General Business
Pyramid-Higgleigh	Wed 7th Feb	7.30pm	Gordonvale	General Business
Tully-Tyson	Wed 7th Feb	7.00pm	Tully	General Business
P Douglas Mossman	Thur 8th Feb	7.00pm	Mossman	General Business
<b>Dist Grand Lodge</b>	<b>Sat 10th Feb</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Freshwater</b>	<b>Training Workshop 8.00am - 5.00pm</b>
Barrine	Sat 10th Feb	3.00pm	Yungaburra	General Business
Milla	Tue 13th Feb	6.00pm	Yungaburra	General Business
<b>Ravenshoe</b>	<b>Thur 15th Feb</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Ravenshoe</b>	<b>1st Degree Mr Douglas Charles Farley</b>
Freshwater	Fri 16th Feb	7.30pm	Freshwater	General Business
Bentley Park	Sat 17th Feb	1.00pm	Edmonton	General Business
Endeavour	Sat 17th Feb	2.00pm	Edmonton	General Business
<b>Gregory Allan</b>	<b>Mon 19th Feb</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Freshwater</b>	<b>3rd Degree Bro Jamie Martin</b>
Granite	Mon 26th Feb	10.30am	Mareeba	General Business

E & O E

# District Grand Lodge of Carpentaria - In the Beginning

The first recorded gathering of Freemasons in Cairns was held in December 1885, at Hides' Hotel [600382]. The first Masonic Lodge in Cairns, Gregory Lodge No. 50 was constituted in April 1886. By the mid 1920s, there were six Lodges that met in Cairns, in a building in Lake Street. Prior to the destruction of this building by a cyclone in 1927, the Lodges moved to a building adjoining the site of the present Temple.

In 1921, at a meeting held in the Cairns Masonic Hall, it was resolved that the representatives of the Gregory Lodge would communicate with the Grand Lodge regarding the establishment of a District Grand Lodge (DGL) of Carpentaria, with headquarters at Cairns. The creation of the DGL of Carpentaria was approved by the Grand Lodge in December 1923, and was subsequently formed in 1924; the Carpentaria district spread from Cardwell to Cape York, and west to Normanton.



In 1928, it was recommended that the DGL erect a suitable memorial to the craftsman who sacrificed so much in the Great War, and to the peace which followed... . The following year, the DGL organised an appeal for individual donations towards the erection of the Memorial Temple. In 1934 it was decided to proceed with the erection of a Memorial Temple adjoining the present Hall at a cost not exceeding £12 000.

Tenders for the new Masonic Temple were called in August 1934. The architects for the buildings were the north Queensland firm of Hill and Taylor, who had offices in Townsville and Cairns. Richard Hill and Arthur Taylor established the firm of Hill and Taylor in Cairns in 1927,

and in 1931, the firm took over the practice of CV Rees in Townsville. Both Hill and Taylor appear to have been masons.

The contractor for the building was C E Steadman, also a mason. The foundation stone of the building was laid on Armistice Day in 1934. Reports from the laying of the stone refer to the building as the Masonic Peace Memorial Temple, and the following description was given of the building; it would [upon its completion] be a worthy and fitting monument of the union of Freemasonry and a fitting memorial and tribute to those who sacrificed so much in the Great War. When it was decided to have the foundation stone laid on Armistice Day, he believed that no more fitting day could have been chosen as it was a day symbolising peace and harmony which was an attribute of the Craft... .

The Temple was constructed during the large-scale inter-war redevelopment of Cairns, in which the city centre was virtually rebuilt. The redevelopment was partly a consequence of severe cyclone damage suffered by the city in 1920 and 1927, and also of the developing role of Cairns as an important regional centre in far north Queensland.

The dedication ceremony for the completed Temple was held in October 1935, and was performed by Sir Leslie Wilson, Governor of Queensland and Masonic Grand Master. The ceremony was a large occasion; attended by about 700 representatives of Lodges in Queensland.

A tablet to the memory of WHJ Mayers, the Foundation District Grand Master, was set into the base of the pillar at the left entrance to the temple and unveiled in March 1954.

\*Reference: Queensland Heritage Council – Cairns Masonic Temple (Entry 601539)



## DGL Centenary Re-enactment of Consecration and DGL Installation on Saturday 25 May 2024