



## Message from District Grand Master and a Brief Look at the Formation of District Grand Lodge of Carpentaria

Brethren, Greetings to you and your families.

During February, two Initiation Ceremonies were held in the District – Tully Tyson Lodge initiated Bro Mark Valdez



and Ravenshoe Lodge initiated Bro Douglas Farley.



We welcome and congratulate these two brethren and look forward to their advancement in Freemasonry. The ceremonies were well attended and I thank the brethren who were in attendance to support and assist the two lodges to welcome new members to our fraternity.

At the beginning of February, nominations were called for District Grand Officers, District Grand Board of General Purposes and District Grand Board of Benevolence. The closing date for nominations

is 29 February, so please get your nominations in as soon as possible.

The Training session conducted on 10 February by the Grand Director of Education and Development, RW Bro Rodger Klopp and Grand Director of Ceremonies, RW Bro Peter Troeger was well attended with 39 brethren from the district present, including seven Master Masons, which was good to see. The only lodges that I think were not represented were Milla, Ravenshoe and Tully Tyson. The Grand Officers were very impressed with the attendance and I thank them for making their valuable time available for this event.

The District Grand Lodge Centenary will be held on Saturday 25 May at the Edmonton Masonic Centre with a Re-enactment of Consecration commencing 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 at the Cairns Sheridan Hotel in Sheridan Street, Cairns at 6.00-6.30pm. Registration forms will soon be available from the District Grand Secretary.

To commemorate the centenary, a Jewel has been struck and details with an order form have been sent to all Secretaries in the District. Please get your order forms in to the Grand Secretary as soon as possible.

Brethren, this being the Centenary Year, below is **A Brief History Of The Formation Of District Grand Lodge Of Carpentaria.**

With the United Grand Lodge based in Brisbane, in the South of Queensland, the advantages of an intermediate form of government in the North were soon recognized and the District Grand Lodges were established in the North and Far North of the State.

The concept of creating a District Grand Lodge of Carpentaria holding under the jurisdiction of the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Queensland came from a meeting of brethren held at the Masonic Hall at Cairns on 29 May 1921. This meeting was convened by RW Bro W.H.J. Mayers and VW Bro R.C.F. Gelling.

The object of this meeting was to form a 'Masonic Progress and Vigilance Committee' and from this short meeting commenced this District Grand Lodge's history.

At the time there were some 28 lodges in what is now the District of Carpentaria, with Endeavour Lodge being the first to be formed in 1875 based in Cooktown and Gregory Lodge being the first to be formed in Cairns in 1886. Members of Gregory Lodge built their own temple in Lake Street in 1888, where St Monica's School is today.

Gregory Lodge wrote to the Grand Secretary on 26 August 1921, and a reply from Queensland Grand Lodge dated 15 October 1921 advised that lodge of the necessary steps to be taken for the establishment of a District Grand Lodge based in Cairns.

The Grand Secretary MW Bro Harley advised by letter on 7 February 1923 that 20 lodges had forwarded a request for the establishment of a District Grand Lodge, 8 lodges had not made a request but that 6 of these lodges later forwarded their request.

After Grand Lodge at its Quarterly Communication of 5 December 1923 had approved the formation of the District Grand Lodge of Carpentaria, a Warrant dated 11 February 1924 was issued by the Grand Master for the election of a District Grand Master by the representatives of the 26 lodges concerned.

At a meeting on 1 March 1924, Wor Bro C. Woodward was unanimously elected Secretary and RW Bro W.H.J. Mayers was unanimously elected District Grand Master.

The Consecration of the District Grand Lodge of Carpentaria by MW Bro R.N.F. Quinn took place in the Masonic Hall, Cairns, on Easter Saturday, 19 April 1924, where RW Bro W.H.J. Mayers was installed District Grand Master, VW Bro R.C.F. Gelling was appointed Deputy District Grand Master, and District Grand Lodge Officers were elected and invested.

The Grand Master, MW Bro Quinn, then addressed the brethren as follows:

*"I feel greatly honoured in consecrating and dedicating this District Grand Lodge which I am confident, will in the future provide the source of strength and material help to our United Grand Lodge, will help in strengthening the bonds of union and give rise to a lively interest in all its affairs, problems and aspirations.*

*While you now have self-government under the liberal provisions of the Constitutions you will not*

*lose sight of the fact that the United Grand Lodge of Queensland is your Grand Lodge.*

*Our Constitution has been framed on the most democratic principles. It is not only the freewill expression of the members of the Order in this State as to what they consider essential rules of government and welfare of the Order, but it is the only Constitution in the Commonwealth which provides for the self-government of portions of its territory by the establishment of District Grand Lodges."*

At the following Grand Quarterly Communication held on 4 June 1924, the MW Grand Master, gave an account of his trip to the North Queensland District and the Carpentaria District. Courtesy of our Editor and my sincere thanks to RW Bro Mil Clay, who did some research in the Grand Library, the portion of the report in relation to the Carpentaria District which is reproduced by kind permission of the Grand Librarian is as follows:

*"We arrived in Cairns on Wednesday, 16th, April, at 6.45 a.m., and after breakfast, by the kindness of the Acting Premier, a special motor train was placed at the disposal of the party for a trip to view the Barron Falls and Gorge. Their beauty evoked the admiration of the visitors, who stated that the trip up and down was the most wonderful one ever experienced by them.*

*The party were accompanied by the District Superintendent (Mr. Hooper) and R.W. Bro Abi Murray. The Acting Premier had kindly arranged for luncheon being provided at Barron Falls.*

*On return to Cairns we attended a combined meeting of members of various Lodges in the Masonic Hall and were most cordially welcomed by R.W. Bro. W. H. J. Mayers P.D.G.M., on behalf of the local brethren. The Earl of Cassillis and myself replied.*

*The Earl and Countess of Cassillis sailed by the "Eastern" at 5 p.m. and were farewelled by a large concourse of the brethren.*

*On Friday, April 18th, I, accompanied by a number of the Officers elect of the District Grand Lodge of Carpentaria met the "Cooma" and accompanied the Grand Lodge officers, who had arrived in her, to their hotel. After lunch we visited the newly acquired building, which is to be used as a Masonic Club. I capped the north-east concrete pier and the other Wor. Brethren laid the foundation for other piers. Address and congratulations were given.*



On Saturday, April 19th, I consecrated and dedicated the District Grand Lodge of Carpentaria and installed R.W. Bro. W. H. J. Mayers as District Grand Master. There were about 300 brethren present; more would have attended but for heavy rain which prevented a large number of brethren from the country lodges reaching Cairns and a considerable number were members of a choir competing at the Eisteddfod at Charters Towers, at which they were successful. The ceremonies of Consecration and Installation were especially impressive to the brethren assembled.

During my stay in Cairns I had the pleasure of meeting a considerable number of the Masters, Past Masters, Wardens and brethren of the District and talking over Masonic matters of interest and importance with them. I also had the pleasure of renewing many old friendships, and to compare with them the present conditions with those of 15 years ago, when I was a resident among them.

On Monday, April 21st, I visited Atherton Lodge, No 150 accompanied by R.W. Bro. Mayers, the District Grand Master, Wor. Bro. Lilley, the Acting Master in the chair. A cordial welcome was extended to us and loyalty to the United Grand Lodge of Queensland expressed.

On Tuesday, April 22nd, I visited Herberton Lodge No 39, and had the pleasure of meeting its

Wor. Master Wor. Bro. E. Reid and a number of old Past Masters, among whom were Wor. Bros. Newell, Colyer and McLachlan. It was a most successful evening.

On Wednesday, April 23rd, I attended a special meeting of the Granite Lodge at Mareeba, and received a most fraternal welcome from Wor. Bro. Costin who occupied the chair. Amongst the Wor. Brethren present were R.W. Bro. J. Dowrie the District Grand Secretary, Wor. Bros. Smallwood, Broadley and others.

On Thursday, April 24th, I returned to Cairns, and I was farewelled by a large number of brethren when leaving by steamer at noon and arrived at Townsville on Friday."

What fine and very detailed description of events that used to take place, which to me reflects the distances involved and the transport and communication being what it was a hundred years ago.

Brethren, I encourage you all to make every effort to take part in the celebration of the Centenary of the District Grand Lodge of Carpentaria by attending the Ceremonies on 25 May.

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



## LODGE MEETINGS

| LODGE             | DATE          | TIME    | WHERE      | WORK  |
|-------------------|---------------|---------|------------|---|
| Temple Memorial   | Mon 4th Mar   | 7.30pm  | Freshwater | General Business                              |
| Tully-Tyson       | Wed 6th Mar   | 7.00pm  | Tully      | 1st Degree Tracing Board                      |
| Pyramid-Highleigh | Wed 6th Mar   | 7.30pm  | Gordonvale | General Business                              |
| Johnstone RH      | Sat 9th Mar   | 3.00pm  | Innisfail  | General Business                              |
| Barrine           | Sat 9th Mar   | 3.00pm  | Yungaburra | 3rd Degree Bro Ahmed Mubeen                   |
| Cairns Gelling    | Tue 12th Mar  | 5.30pm  | Freshwater | General Business                              |
| P Douglas Mossman | Thur 14th Mar | 7.00pm  | Mossman    | General Business                              |
| Ravenshoe         | Thur 14th Mar | 6.00pm  | Ravenshoe  | 1st Degree Tracing Board                      |
| Freshwater        | Fri 15th Mar  | 7.30pm  | Freshwater | General Business                              |
| Bentley Park      | Sat 16th Mar  | 1.00pm  | Edmonton   | General Business                              |
| Gregory Allan     | Mon 18th Mar  | 7.30pm  | Freshwater | 1st Degree Mr Sam Patungan                    |
| Duyfken           | Tue 19th Mar  | 5.30pm  | Edmonton   | General followed by Dinner at Brothers Cairns |
| Dist Grand Lodge  | Sat 23rd Mar  | 2.00pm  | Freshwater | Quarterly Communication                       |
| Granite           | Mon 25th Mar  | 10.30am | Mareeba    | General Business                              |

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

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