



Message from RW District Grand Master March Quarterly Communications Address

On 18 March, Gregory Allan Lodge welcomed a new member to our fraternity with Bro Arsenio (Sam) Patungan being initiated. We congratulate Bro Sam and welcome him into our fraternity and look forward to his advancement



in Freemasonry. The ceremony was well attended and I thank and congratulate Pyramid Highleigh Lodge for paying a fraternal visit to Gregory Allan Lodge. As I have said previously, there is no better time to visit a Lodge than to assist a lodge in welcoming a new member to our fraternity. A fraternal visit by a lodge to another lodge is also a special occasion and I encourage lodges to factor such visits into their planning.

The March District Grand Quarterly Communication was held on 23 March at the Freshwater Masonic Centre and my address to the brethren is below. A training/information session was held prior to the Quarterly Communication and both events were well attended. At the Quarterly Communication I had the pleasure of presenting RW Bro Winston Jennings with his 50 Year Service Jewel. The Jewel had been presented, without my knowledge, at the Bentley Park Lodge meeting in October 2023. However, for a brother who has given so much service to the District of Carpentaria, I thought it fitting that it be presented at the District Grand Quarterly Communication. Our congratulations to RW Bro Winston for achieving this very important milestone in his masonic career.



District Grand Master's Address to DG Qtly 23 March 2024

Brethren, I thank you all for your attendance at this quarterly communication and I thank the brethren who attended the Training/Information session prior to the meeting. I will send out an email to all Lodge Secretaries which will contain the relevant points covered in the training session.

On 6 March, I had the pleasure of attending the Grand Quarterly Communication in Brisbane. I was accompanied by the Deputy District Grand Master, VW Bro Dave Scott and the now announced Deputy District Grand Master for the term 2024/25, VW Bro Lex Livingstone, also attended. It was my last attendance at a Grand Quarterly Communication as the District Grand Master of this District. I forwarded to all

Lodge Secretaries my report to that Quarterly Communication and I sincerely hope that all Secretaries are forwarding such correspondences to their members.

As indicated in the March edition of the Carpentaria News, the training session conducted by the Grand Director of Education and Development and the Grand Director of Ceremonies was very well attended and I thank the 39 brethren who attended. Following this training session, the Grand Officers have recommended to the Grand Ceremonial Board that such training be conducted every second year as it used to be up until some 10 years ago. To have the training conducted regularly has been my aim ever since I first started discussing the training issue with

Grand Lodge early last year.

Brethren, at the December 2023 Quarterly Communication I reported that there is currently not the willingness on the part of all of the lodge building owners to consolidate their resources and put those resources towards the establishment of one Masonic Centre for the District in the Cairns City area. However, with this best possible option for the District not being possible and not to be deterred all together and following a meeting of the Board of General Purposes recently, I started thinking of the next best option, that being to establish a Centre in the north of the City at Freshwater while maintaining the Gordonvale Centre in the south.

Recognising that such a proposal would not work if Bentley Park Lodge was to continue to operate the Edmonton Centre into the future, I decided to visit Bentley Park Lodge last Saturday at their regular meeting and address the brethren regarding this proposal. Briefly I outlined to the meeting as follows:

- that the Freshwater building be demolished and all of the Lodges/Orders that meet at Freshwater move to the Edmonton Centre,

- build a new modern purpose-built Centre according to today's requirements, standards and regulations at the Freshwater site with the possibility of accommodation units being built above the Masonic Centre as zoning in the area does allow for such development. While there are currently no approvals for this development, VW Bro Cavill-Jones has previously done a lot of consultations with the planning department of Cairns Regional Council and he has had a very favourable response,

- there is a good possibility of having the Road Reserve in from of the Freshwater Centre being rented for the development of a car park,

- once complete, all Lodges/Orders meeting at the Edmonton Centre move to the new Freshwater Centre,

- sell the Edmonton Centre and funds from the sale be applied to the new centre at Freshwater, which is up to the Bentley Park Lodge, noting that the Lodge made the decision to sell their building some four years ago and obtained loan funds from the District Grand Lodge to have the Edmonton site rezoned so that a better sale price could be obtained for their property.

The rezoning was approved about two years ago,

- it was noted that no matter how much improvements are carried out at the Edmonton Centre, such as new steps, possibly a lift, a fire escape although apparently it is not a requirement and improvements to the entry and storage, etc, at the end of the day, it is still a 60 year old building with an asbestos problem,

- ownership and management of the new Centre at Freshwater to be worked out.

I felt that there was a good response to the proposal from the Bentley Park Lodge and the ball is now in their court to make a decision before the planning work can commence. I thank the brethren of Bentley Park Lodge for allowing me the opportunity to outline the proposal to them last Saturday and receiving the information in good faith.

This year, I am planning to attend the early morning ANZAC Service in the Cairns City and lay a wreath on behalf of the District of Carpentaria, as we used to do when ANZAC Services used to be held in the Minnie Street Centre. If you would like to attend the Service in your Masonic Regalia, please let me know by 17 April so we can arrange to meet at a particular place and be all together for the Service.

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

should be sent out next week to all Lodge Secretaries and it is essential that you register if you are attending and I encourage you to attend. To commemorate the centenary, a Jewel has been struck and 100 have been manufactured. To purchase a Jewel, please get your order forms to the Grand Secretary as soon as possible.

Brethren, this will be my last address to you as District Grand Master of the District of Carpentaria. My sincere thanks to the District Grand Officers who have served the District during my term in office. There are those who have been available at the drop of a hat to form a District Grand Team for visitation to lodge and my special thanks to them and I am sure they know who I am referring to. A very special thanks to the District Grand Director of Ceremonies, VW Bro Bob Ruddell, who has worked tirelessly organising District Grand Teams. A very special thanks also to the Deputy District Grand Master, VW Bro Dave Scott for his valuable assistance and support in sharing the workload for visitation to Lodges and his friendship.

My thanks to the District Board of General Purposes under the leadership of Wor Bro Duncan Cunningham for their very important role in relation to the management and administration of the District. The Board of course has received valuable support from the District Grand Secretariat, Wor Bro Harvey Lovewell over the past 12 Months and Liz Johnson for something like almost the past 30 years. What would we do without her dedication and knowledge of where to find things and if we ever need to recall something from the past.

I thank the District Board of Benevolence under the leadership

of RW Bro Duncan Walker for looking after all things concerning benevolence in the District. There are a few lesser-known positions such as the District Nomination Panel and District Grand Trustees who are not involved in daily matters but have a very important role and I thank those brethren.

I congratulate the brethren who have nominated and have now

been approved for District Grand Office for the term 2024/25. My hearty congratulation to VW Bro Dave Scott who has been approved as District Grand Master Designate for the term 2024/25 and VW Bro Lex Livingstone who has been announced as the Deputy District Grand Master for the term 2024/25.

And finally, brethren, I thank you the brethren of the District for the

opportunity afforded to me to be your District Grand Master for the past three years. It has been a fairly long road, quite of bit of hard work but nevertheless enjoyable and I feel a sense of achievement and I feel well satisfied with that.

I wish you and your families all the best, good health and be safe.

Tribute to Past Leaders of District Grand Lodge of Carpentaria

Brethren, April 2024 marks the Centenary for our District and for the record, the District Grand Lodge of Carpentaria was consecrated on Easter Saturday, 19 April 1924.

Since that time, there have been a total of 33 District Grand Masters and a number of District Grand Secretaries. These brethren have helped to establish the District Grand Lodge, a very unique setup in Australian Freemasonry, served it well and shaped the District as it has been over the years and as it is today. We owe our gratitude to all these brethren for the time and effort they have given to this District and Freemasonry in general. Indeed, there are very many other brethren who have served the District well and have gone over and above the call of duty and I also include those brethren in our heartfelt thanks and gratitude.

In the early years, District Grand Masters served the District for varying periods of time. From 1968 on, it became customary for each District Grand Master to serve for a period of two years and the Constitution allowed for a maximum of two years until 2008 and to the present time when the Constitution allows for a maximum period of three years.

Having now almost completed a period of three years as your District Grand Master and a period of four years as the Deputy District Grand Master, which was extended by one

year due to COVID, I know only too well the time and effort required to carry out all the duties, visitations and functions required of the position. So I marvel at those Past District Grand Masters who served extended periods of time and at a time when the number of Lodges in the District was much higher than the current number of 19 and the modes of travel and communication was so very different and time consuming compared to now days. To this end, I pay special tributes to two Past District Grand Masters and two District Grand Secretaries and I draw the below brief information from the booklet titled "District Grand Masters, Deputies and Secretaries of Carpentaria" by RW Bro Allan Wakeham:

RW Bro WHJ Mayers PDGM - who served for the period 1924 to 1932

RW Bro Mayers (William) was born in the town of Andover, Hampshire, England in February 1859. In 1975 he left school and was sent to New Zealand where two years later in 1981 he was joined by his brother George. George moved to Australia two years later and settled near Clermont in Queensland. William then joined his brother and they both purchased a team of horses and a wagon and they supplied food to those who worked on the railway line as it moved from Barcaldine to Longreach.

Their father visited his sons in 1890 and loaned them some finance but a rift developed between the brothers and George moved to Cairns. William was still in central west of Queensland but had suffered a lot as a result of fire and drought. However, he had made a name for himself as a public man and in masonic circles.

In 1903 William joined his brother in Cairns and worked in George's business until George sold all his property in Australia and moved to East Africa. William remained in Cairns and became a member of the Cairns Harbour Board from 1912 to 1914 and chairman 1913-1914.

The Masonic Career of WHJ Mayers began with his initiation in the Comet Lodge at Barcaldine in 1880. Coming to Cairns in 1903 he joined Gregory Lodge and was later foundation Junior Warden of Carpentaria Lodge and later its Master. He received many masonic honours and in 1924 he was unanimously elected as District Grand Master of the new District Grand Lodge of Carpentaria. During his term as District Grand Master, he consecrated four new lodges.

In order to perpetuate the memory of RW Bro Mayers and the splendid self-sacrificing work he did for Freemasonry in the District, a competent artist, Mrs Streeter of Brisbane was commissioned

to paint a portrait of him. RW Bro RCF Gelling, who served as Deputy District Grand Master for the period 1924 to 1930, unveiled the painting when it was completed and this matches a similar painting of Sir Augustus Gregory.

MW Bro Charles William Roseblade MBE – who served for the period 1938 to 1952

MW Bro Roseblade was born on 23 February 1875 at Coleford, Gloucestershire, England. In 1886 the family left England to travel to Australia and settled in Ipswich, Queensland, where his father carried on his trade as a stone mason.

Deciding to go on the land, the family moved to Yungaburra, then known as Alumba Pocket, North Queensland, in 1891 having walked up the Gillies Highway. With very few tools, Charles spent his first few days stripping bark to build a bark hut. Later the family built a cottage of sawn timber with a thatched roof from silky oak shingles. This was the first sawn timber house in the area.

Buying a mule and horse team, Charles began carrying food and materials to outlying camps at Watsonville, Mt Garnet and Herberton.

In January 1900, Charles married Emily Ethel Carr of Atherton settling on virgin scrub land now known as Newlands. They gradually cleared the scrub, planted grasses and commenced dairying and mixed farming.

Keenly interested in the development of the Atherton Tableland. particularly Yungaburra, Charles was mainly responsible for the establishment of the first State School, Bank of New South Wales, Church of England, Progress Association, Memorial Park and Rifle Range in Yungaburra. He also took a leading role in founding The Maize Board,

Pig Board, Bacon Factory, Primary Producers Association and Shire Council and served with distinction on some of these Boards for as long as 50 years.

In 1961 he was awarded the Most excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) for his consistently outstanding community efforts for the betterment of farmers and their families.

MW Bro Roseblade began his masonic career in Barrine Lodge on 17 February 1923. He served as Worshipful Master in 1929 and 1932. His service in District Grand Lodge began as Senior Warden in 1933, Deputy District Grand Master from 1934 to 1938 and District Grand Master 1938 to 1952.

The Grand Master honoured him four times with PDGDC (1932), PJGW (1935), PDGM (1945) and Past Grand Master (4 March 1953). He is the only District Grand Master to have received the honour of Past Grand Master. MW Bro Roseblade was called to the Grand Lodge Above on 11 August 1969.

RW Bro James Dowie PAGM – Served as District Grand Secretary from 1924 to 1930.

RW Bro Dowie was born in June 1861 and was the Head Master of Mareeba State School for 25 years. He was a member of Atherton Lodge and became foundation Junior Warden of Granite Lodge. He served for 14 years as secretary of Granite Lodge.

He was appointed the first District Grand Secretary of the District Grand Lodge of Carpentaria and held that office from April 1924 to September 1930. He would have been responsible for setting up many of the administration processes for District Grand Lodge.

On resigning the office of Secretary, he moved to Brisbane where he accepted the office of Representative of the District

Grand Lodge of Carpentaria in September 1931 until his death in February 1939.

RW Bro James Walter MacDonald Reid PDGM – Served as District Grand Secretary from 1948 to 1973.

RW Bro Reid completed his education at Mt Carmel College in Charters Towers in 1916 and was then apprenticed to a stockbroker and not long after he changed his employment to the Queensland National Bank in Charters Towers. After a period of three years, he took up a pastoral pursuit with his father on a cattle property Annavale on the Burdekin River. This venture was short lived as they, like hundreds of other pastoralists were wiped out by severe drought and the failure of UK to renew the frozen meat trade as they had changed over to chilled meat from Argentina.

His family moved to Cairns in August 1922 and he took up a clerical position with the Babinda Central Mill and in 1935 was promoted to assistant accountant. In September 1940, he took up the position of accountant with Jeweller Tom McDonald.

After much persuasion in 1948, he applied for the position of District Grand Secretary and was duly appointed. On taking up the position, he was shocked to find that no effective system of recording existed. He rose to the challenge and prepared a system to eliminate any duplication and give complete information for each member in the Register on one sheet, going right back to 1924. The enormity of the task meant long hours of work over a period of four years and this took a toll on his health and he had to have a few weeks off work.

He was not provided with an assistant when he took up duties and was told that if he wanted an assistant, he would have to provide that at his own expense. It was only after his illness and a doctors'

report and his intention to resign that he was given assistance. After a lengthy interview process, his wife, Mrs Reid was recommended for the position. She was appointed and held the position for just over 18 years. In a testimonial to RW Bro Reid in June 1973, the then District Grand Master, RW Bro David Rex, referred to the splendid service, so pleasantly given by Mrs Reid.

RW Bro Reid was conferred the Past Grand Ranks of PJGW (1953),

PAGM (1957) and PDGM (1964). He served under nine Grand Masters and eight District Grand Masters. He took part in four Lodge Consecrations and the Dedication of seven Masonic Temples and had processed in excess of 3,000 applications for Initiation and Affiliation.

We thank the above brethren and all the other brethren who have given their time and served the District with pure dedication over

the past 100 years. We are indeed fortunate to have had their service.

Brethren, I wish you and your families a Very Joyful Easter and I look forward to catching up at the coming installations and the Centenary celebration on 25 May 2024.

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



PAST DISTRICT GRAND MASTERS

1924 – 1932	• RW Bro W H J Mayers PDist GM	1987 – 1989	RW Bro N G Nash PAGM
1932 – 1932	• RW Bro A Murray PDist GM (26.7.1932 – 11.12.1932)	1989 – 1991	• RW Bro W L Alchin PDGM
1933 – 1938	• RW Bro G W Beilby PDist GM	1991 – 1993	RW Bro G A Haussman PAGM
1938 – 1952	• RW Bro C W Roseblade PDist GM	1993 – 1995	• RW Bro R C Morris PAGM
1952 – 1958	• RW Bro W T Uren PAGM	1995 – 1997	RW Bro B C Smith PAGM
1958 – 1962	• RW Bro C H West PDist GM	1997 – 1999	• RW Bro M S Middleton PAGM
1962 – 1964	• RW Bro R H Rudge PDist GM	1999 – 2001	• RW Bro C J Richardson PAGM
1964 – 1968	• RW Bro S D E Bailey PDist GM	2001 – 2003	RW Bro D J Walker PAGM
1968 – 1970	• RW Bro R H Crust PDist GM	2003 – 2005	RW Bro R J Lackey PAGM
1970 – 1972	• RW Bro W M Kerr PDist GM	2005 – 2007	RW Bro P J Starr PAGM
1972 – 1974	• RW Bro R D R Rex BEM PDist GM	2007 – 2008	• RW Bro R Lewis PDist GM
1974 – 1976	• RW Bro L S Lacey PDist GM	2008 – 2011	• RW Bro P E Johnson PDist GM
1976 – 1978	• RW Bro D A McDonald PDist GM	2011 – 2014	RW Bro R C Wakely PAGM
1978 – 1980	• RW Bro T J Ruddell PDist GM	2014 - 2017	RW Bro L W Brandt PAGM
1980 – 1983	• RW Bro W J Rankine PDist GM	2017 - 2021	RW Bro H C Condon PAGM
1983 – 1985	• RW Bro B Crossland PDist GM	2021 - 2024	RW Bro Raja Chohan PDist GM
1985 – 1987	• RW Bro A D Wakeham PDist GM		• Denotes called to the Grand Lodge above

TULLY-TYSON LODGE No. 340 ANZAC DAY

COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

2024

HELD IN THE
MASONIC CENTRE

1-3 Murray St Tully
ON

TUESDAY
APRIL 23
AT 7.00PM



LEST WE FORGET

SAVE
THE DATE

DGL of Carpentaria Centenary

Re-enactment

of Consecration

and Installation of

VW Bro Malcolm David Scott

Edmonton Masonic Centre

Saturday 25 May 2024

THE GULF LODGE No. 539 ANZAC DAY

COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

2024

HELD IN THE
MASONIC CENTRE

Cumberland St
Georgetown

ON
SATURDAY
APRIL 27
AT 4.00PM



LEST WE FORGET

Visit of the Grand Master MW Bro Eustace A Jones - Nov 1948.

On Thursday, 4th November, the MW Grand Master accompanied by the Grand Secretary, RW Bro E G Radford and the Grand Director of Ceremonies, VW Bro H B Miller left Brisbane by plane for Cairns, on a visit to the Lodges of the Districts of Carpentaria and North Queensland.

Upon arrival at Townsville, en route to Cairns, the Grand Master was met by RW Bro G Lear, Deputy Grand Master of North Queensland, RW Bro H Millican, District Grand Secretary, Wor Bro J Taaffe, Wor Bro Kingsbury and Wor Bro E Jobst and opportunity was taken to finalise details in connection with the visit to that District.

On arrival in Cairns, the party was met by RW Bro W T Uren, Deputy District Grand Master of Carpentaria, RW Bro A McKenzie, President of the Board of General Purposes and RW Bro C E Woodward PAGM, District Grand Treasurer. The Grand Master here received the sad news that the District Grand Secretary RW Bro A G Boynes had been taken to hospital prior to the arrival of the party.

On Friday, 5th November, the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary met members of the District Board of General Purposes and discussed many matters of administration whilst the Grand

Director of Ceremonies met the Masters and Directors of Ceremonies of Lodges to answer queries with regard to Lodge ceremonial.

On Saturday, 6th November, at a well attended meeting of the District Grand Lodge of Carpentaria with the Deputy District Grand Master, RW Bro W T Uren in the chair, the Grand Master and Grand Officers were received and warmly welcomed by the Deputy District Grand Master, who apologised for the unavoidable absence of the District Grand Master, RW Bro C W Roseblade. The Worshipful Masters of the following Lodges were presented to the MW Grand Master:- Gregory, Pyramid, Cairns, Murray, Carpentaria, Gelling, Allan, Bentley Park, Highleigh, Temple Memorial and Cairns AIF Memorial. The attendance numbered over 300 Brethren.

After the presentation of Brethren the Grand Master delivered an instructive and inspiring address. The Grand Master said that as they all knew, there was nothing mysterious or secret about Freemasonry, but it is a vital force. Through it's individual members, it could and should wield an influence that would lift Australia and drive the nation forward to it's destiny. The Grand Master declared that Freemasonry

had gone ahead by leaps and bounds in the Commonwealth, because men appreciated the spirit of comradeship that it manifested and because they realised that in a world torn by so many divisions of race and religion, Freemasonry was one of those institutes which spanned all those differences. It brought men together in terms of mutual respect and brotherly regard. The Grand Master emphasised that Freemasonry was non-sectarian and non political. During these difficult times, it was comforting to know that there were approximately 300,000 active financial members of the Masonic Craft in Australia and New Zealand who had all confirmed their belief in God and pledged their loyalty to King and country. Queensland today has 405 Lodges with 27,000 active financial members.

During the proceedings, musical items were rendered by the quartet under the leadership of VW Bro J G Norris. At the subsequent Festive Board, expressions of sincere appreciation of the visit of the MW Grand Master were voiced by the various proposers and responders to the toasts submitted and the speeches were interspersed with delightful harmony from members of the quartet.

LODGE MEETINGS

LODGE	DATE	TIME	WHERE	WORK
Trinity Daylight	Mon 1st Apr	9.30am	Whitfield	General Business
Tully-Tyson	Wed 3rd Apr	7.00pm	Tully	2nd Degree Bro Mark Valdez
Pyramid-Highleigh	Wed 3rd Apr	7.30pm	Gordonvale	3rd Degree Bro Richard Harm
Herberton-Corrie	Sat 6th Apr	10.00am	Herberton	Proclamation Wor Bro Gregory Barry
Temple Memorial	Mon 8th Apr	7.30pm	Freshwater	General Business
Millaa	Tue 9th Apr	7.00pm	Yungaburra	General Business
P Douglas Mossman	Thur 11th Apr	7.00pm	Mossman	General Business
Barrine	Sat 13th Apr	3.00pm	Yungaburra	General Business
Johnstone RH	Sat 13th Apr	3.00pm	Innisfail	General Business
Carpentaria	Sat 13th Apr	4.00pm	Freshwater	Installation Bro Rohtas Chowdhary
Gregory Allan	Mon 15th Apr	7.30pm	Freshwater	1st Degree Tracing Board & Lecture
Ravenshoe	Thur 18th Apr	6.00pm	Ravenshoe	General Business
Freshwater	Fri 19th Apr	7.30pm	Freshwater	General Business
Bentley Park	Sat 20th Apr	1.00pm	Edmonton	General Business
Endeavour	Sat 20th Apr	2.00pm	Edmonton	General Business
Tully-Tyson	Tue 23rd Apr	7.00pm	Tully	ANZAC
The Gulf Lodge	Sat 27th Apr	4.00pm	Georgetown	ANZAC
Granite	Mon 29th Apr	10.30am	Mareeba	General Business

E & O E