



Greetings From District Grand Master

R.W.Bro Dave Scott D.G.M.

The District has been busy, and as your DGM, I thought you would like to know what I have been doing. Here's a breakdown of the key points that have happened over the last few weeks.

1. **Flood Relief Efforts:** I have stayed in touch with brethren from Tully and Innisfail during the floods, and the Gulf Lodge assisted stranded people in Georgetown due to flooding and the bridge being blocked.
2. **Quarterly Communication:** At the recent quarterly communication, I told the meeting that RW Bro Dave Melville was appointed as Deputy Grand Master, and RWor Bro Jones as Assistant Grand Master.
3. **Lodge Activities:** The district is progressing well, with the performance of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd degree ceremonies. I must praise Bentley Park and Endeavour lodges for their charitable donations.
4. **Pyramid Highleigh Open Night:** The open night hosted by Pyramid Highleigh was a success and well done, and attended.
5. **Atherton Lodge Updates:** The Atherton Lodge building has had significant upgrades, including a new roof, air conditioning units, and a four-person lift. It is a good building, and I hope that Tableland Lodges will use it.
6. **Installation Requests:** Lodges wishing to request assistance from the district for installations are reminded to coordinate with the District Grand Director of Ceremonies and the District Grand Master well in advance, we need the time for planning.
7. **Member Training:** Emphasis is placed on the importance of training lodge members to perform work and charges. I suggest breaking charges into smaller parts and having members practice them regularly. If a charge has to be read, then make sure that practice makes the reading flawless.
8. **Assistance and Team Building:** Brethren please be encouraged to help each other with learning and assisting in various lodge duties. I would also like you to know that there are still openings in the District Grand Officer (DGO) team, and please talk to me if you are interested.

I conclude with a call for unity and teamwork as the district prepares for a busy year ahead.

Herberton Corrie wishes to advise that they will conduct the Installation of Bro John Joseph van Verchel as Mastet of Herberton-Corrie Lodge. We will hold the ceremony in the Atherton Masonic Centre on Saturday 12th April 2025, with the Grand Lodge entering at 10.15am. Installation cards have been sent to all Lodges.



RW Bros Walker, Condon, Nash, Winfield Brandt Chohan.

RW Bro Bill Winfield was presented with a 70 year Jewell for his unending work for Freemasons in the District of Carpentaria. 70 year jewels are not very common and they represent a lifetime of Fraternal work. As can be seen in the photos above the District was well represented by many of Bill's fraternal friends. Well done Bill.



The Scottish Rite for Scotland

Province of Carpentaria



The Scottish Rite for Scotland has been in around in Australia for many years, especially in our Province. Whilst the Carpentaria Sovereign Council is coming up to its Centenary in four years, the Rose Croix Chapter, Miles No. 26 has already reached over 120 years in Far North Queensland.



On February 20th 2025, Very Illustrious Brother Lex Barry Livingstone 33^o was Installed and Invested as the Supreme Council Deputy for the Province of Carpentaria, under the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for Scotland. This is under the Scottish Constitution, which is administered from Edinburgh by the Supreme Council, who appoint a Deputy in each Province to deputize for and represent them.

The Scottish Constitution of this Order has existed in Far North Queensland since 1907, when Miles Sovereign Rose Croix Chapter No. 26 was warranted. The Rose Croix is also called the Eighteenth Degree and candidates join this first, in a ceremony called a Perfection. The Degrees before this are usually only “conferred” but some can be “worked” later.

Carpentaria Sovereign Council No.17 of the Thirtieth Degree was warranted in 1928 and candidates for this Degree also have the preceding Degrees “conferred”, although some of these may be “worked” later. The Thirty-first, The Thirty-second and Thirty-third Degrees each have their own ceremonies, but the candidate must be recommended and a vacancy must exist.

For more information about this Order, contact the new Supreme Council Deputy, who is also the Deputy District Grand Master, Very Wor. Bro. Lex Barry Livingstone.

If you are interested in joining the Scottish Rite for Scotland, I can assure you that the ritual and camaraderie within our Province are well worth your interest.

V. Ilust. Bro. Lex Livingstone 33°. Deputy - Province of Carpentaria. Mobile: 0438 304 100

Below is a contribution from a WHJ Mayers member. The Cable Tow. 3rd April 2017

While watching a First-Degree Ceremony the other night, my thoughts turned to the Cable Tow, its origin and its symbology.

How, we name a rope generally indicates the type of knot used in securing it. For example, a lasso has a running noose, a tie-down has a Truckee's hitch, a vehicle tow-rope has an eye and shackle, etc., so it is a bit of a mystery that the knot for our Cable Tow is a running noose, rather than the bowline which would generally be used for a nautical cable-tow.

I would describe the rope we use as a gallows rope, or at least, a restraining rope for a wild animal, and this description immediately changes our perspective on the significance of the ceremonial preparation.

Thinking back to my own Initiation, I can remember our Lodge Tyler, placing the Cable Tow around my neck before blindfolding me. I didn't have a problem with the ceremonial clothing or the blindfold, but I was very uncomfortable about having a noose around my neck. It is the ultimate feeling of humility and helplessness, and I am sure that this is exactly what our forefathers intended!

So let's look at what our Ritual says on the subject - *"A Cable Tow was placed around your neck; first as a means of restraint, should such have been necessary"* Now, I have searched the resources at my disposal (mainly the internet) and cannot find a single instance of the Cable Tow being used in this manner; the threat is quite sufficient.

Where did this practice come from? History provides an enlightening incident.

In 1415 King Henry V decided to invade France to take back the provinces previously under English rule. He landed his forces at the mouth of the Seine River and laid siege to the fortified port town of Harfleur, later renamed, Le Harve. The town garrison of 100 soldiers was reinforced by a French knight, Raoul de Gau court who brought another 300 men with him. Henry V's army numbered 2,000 men-at-arms and 6,000 archers.

Henry, with his vastly superior forces, gave the townspeople an ultimatum - They could open the gates and allow the English to take over their garrison and trading businesses, or they could resist; in which case, all the inhabitants would be slaughtered. This was not an empty threat as the English had a fearful reputation in those days. The defenders, believing that the French army would march down-river from Paris to save them, elected to fight - and fight they did.

The French repelled repeated English attacks and it took over five weeks for Henry's army and siege machines to breach the defenses. The French then asked for a 48-hour truce,

following which they would hand over what was left of the town. They were hoping that their king, King Charles the 6th would stop dithering and come to their aid. The English agreed, knowing from their spies that it was highly unlikely that the French army would move from Paris.

On the morning the truce ended, the gates opened and sixty of the surviving soldiers and town traders, led by de Gau court, formed a procession up the hill to King Henry's camp. They each had a noose around their neck and the message was clear; kill us if you must, but spare the townspeople. King Henry had every right to be furious. He had been seriously delayed in his campaign, lost numerous men in the battle, and his men had suffered dysentery and that had further depleted his forces, but he admired the spirit and courage of the defenders and their fearless leader, and he let the 60 go free.

There have been similar instances in history, the earliest of which I could find was recorded in the Bible (I Kings 20:31,32), the description of which is almost Masonic. The King of Syria, Ben-hada, had been defeated in battle by the King of Israel and his servants, in making a plea for his life, approached the King of Israel with ropes upon their heads.

This reinforces my theory that the first reason for a cable-tow is not so much as to provide a restraint, but to bring the Candidate into the Lodge in a humble and defenseless state. I cannot think of a better way of having his undivided attention!

Now let's look at the second reason given in our ritual - *"and secondly, as symbolic of your being in a state of bondage, the bondage of ignorance"*. In tracing the origin of this idea there is a parallel with an ancient Egyptian ceremony of initiating a candidate into the priesthood. The candidate was led with a rope from darkness into light, symbolizing a journey from ignorance to enlightenment. The difference from our Ceremony is that the cable-tow would have been to the front of the candidate and not down his back, but many old Masonic etchings do show the cable-tow to the front.

H L Haywood, a modern Masonic author, has an interesting view that the cable-tow represents the external constraints prior to initiation; the legal and moral constraints of the society we live in. The removal represents the transition to an internal restraint, voluntarily accepted by the Candidate by taking his Obligation. A transition from immaturity (darkness) to enlightenment.

Well Brethren, there is some food for thought, but the thought I would like to leave with you is this: look and question what we do and say in our Ceremonies. Our ritual is a window into the rich tapestry of Freemasonry.

W Bro Terry Edwards, W HJ Mayers Lodge of Research 3rd April 2017

Lodges meeting in April.

LODGE	DATE	TIME	WHERE	WORK
Bentley Park	19 th April	2.00 pm	Edmonton	
Endeavour	19 th April	2.00 pm	Edmonton	
Freshwater	30 th April	7.30 pm	Freshwater	3rd for Bro Zac Ellsworth.
Gregory Allan	28 th April	7.30 pm	Freshwater	General Business
Temple Memorial	7 th April	7.30 pm	Freshwater	
Pyramid Highleigh	2 nd April	7.30 pm	Gordonvale	
Johnstone R. H.	12 th April	3.00 pm	Innisfail	
Granite	26 th April	10.30 am	Mareeba	
Pt Douglas Mossman	10 th April	7.00 pm	Mossman	
Ravenshoe	17 th April	6.00 pm	Ravenshoe	
Herberton Corrie	12 th April	10.00 am	Herberton	Installation Br John Van Aerchel
Tully---Tyson	2 nd April	7.00 pm	Tully	Note ANZAC on 22 nd
Trinity Daylight	7 th April	9.30 am	Whitfield	
Barrine	12 th April	3.00 pm	Yungaburra	

I ask all and any freemason in our District to send details of what you have done to be included in the Carpentaria News. If you have any questions about Freemasonry or want an explanation of a Masonic issue, please send to me and I will answer. Dist GS Harvey Lovewell