



THE CARPENTARIA NEWS

The official bulletin of the District Grand Lodge of Carpentaria

Issue 71 May 2025



At their April meeting, the members of Endeavour Lodge conducted a second degree for Bro Adam Benfield, another Fellowcraft Bro Wilson Estacio attended.



Photo Left Bro John Benfield, son Adam and Bro Wilson Estacio and right: Brothers of Endeavour Lodge. April 26th.

Greetings From the District Grand Master.

Brethren

Our district has been busy with lodges performing all three-degree ceremonies and with paperwork for more candidates.

A couple of Lodges have had their installations postponed due to illness and these will be carried out at a later date.

The Carpentaria Lodge Installation went well, and it was good to see young Master Masons in attendance.

I attended Tully Tyson lodge Anzac service, and it was well attended by locals. And congratulations to the young Trumpeter and the solo singer.

The local cadets performed their part very well. The W.M. played the bagpipes, and the ceremony was well performed.

My Deputy. VWor Bro Lex Livingstone and I laid wreaths at the Dawn service in cairns on behalf of the Freemasons.

I then left for Georgetown for the ANZAC ceremony at The Gulf Lodge on Saturday, which was well attended by lodge members and the local council representatives. The Deputy Mayor gave a lovely speech, and we all had an interesting chat with them afterwards at the B.B.Q.

Several meetings have been held with Couch regarding donations and with help from HHP.

Couch has set up a volunteer garden group called Leafy Legends and is calling for volunteers for 1-2 hours on the last Friday of the month. You only need to bring along a pair of gloves, a rake, pruning shears, and any garden tools if you have them. My suggestion would be to put a lodge team together, and you would only need to attend every couple of months. (Ed note see the included letter from RW D Walker re \$4\$ scheme)

If you wish to help, pop into Couch and speak to Tanya or email volunteer@couch.org.au or Ph 40320820.

A big thank you to Bentley Park and Endeavour lodges for their ongoing fundraising.

We are speaking to all lodges to join together for a community Project. Please endeavour to assist, Temple Memorial have their installation on 10th May please attend if you are able.

Pyramid Highleigh have a 1st degree on 14 May please endeavour to attend with your Entered Apprentices to witness the ceremony.

D.G.L. proclamation is at 2.00 pm on 24th may at Atherton and a reminder to all officers to attend practices 10,17, 23rd you have been advised by the D.C.

I still have centenary jewels available, should you want one or want to use one as a gift or reward.

RW Bro Dave Scott

Do you have grandchildren who speak a language unknown to you? I did.

Welcome to the Evolution of Language – It’s Kinda Cray, Right?

Nope, that wasn’t a typo. Ask any millennial, and they’ll tell you that “cray” is just shorthand for “crazy.” If you understood that, well, *squad goals*. For those not fluent in modern slang, that’s a millennial seal of approval.

If you're puzzled by why words don't always mean what they used to, congratulations: you've stepped into the ever-shifting world of language. When I was a boy, “gay” meant happy. These days, meanings evolve—and fast.

Take something as basic as “parents.” In the early 2000s, the term morphed into “the rentals,” and then into the even snappier “the rents.” What’s going on here?

According to Professor John Hajek, director of the Research Unit for Multilingualism and Cross-Cultural Communication at the University of Melbourne, this linguistic evolution isn't new. “Language change goes back centuries—long before Shakespeare,” he says. “Just look at the English of medieval writer Geoffrey Chaucer. Time does funny things to words.”

At its core, language change often reflects generational identity. Young people don't just want to dress differently from their parents—they want to sound different, too.

In Shakespeare's day, "girl" referred to a young person of either gender. So when today's youth use "savage" as a compliment, or say something is "lit," they're participating in a long tradition of linguistic reinvention.

Professor Hajek also points to broader cultural shifts. "We used to defer to British English, but over the last 50 years we've been heavily Americanised," he says. So, trousers are now pants, lorries are trucks, and rubbish? Often garbage.

Social media has accelerated this evolution. Platforms like Twitter, TikTok, and Instagram demand speed and brevity, pushing language to adapt. "New technologies arrive without the words to describe them," Hajek explains. "So we borrow or repurpose terms. 'Mouse' used to be just a rodent—now it's a vital computer tool."

As society changes, our vocabulary must keep up. "We now talk about concepts and innovations that didn't exist a few decades ago," says Hajek. "Naturally, meanings expand."

Even seemingly stable words aren't safe. "Silly" once meant "blessed," then "pitiable," then "foolish." Some shifts happen gradually, others almost overnight. Consider "nonplussed"—it traditionally means bewildered, yet is now often used to mean calm or unaffected.

Spoken English, especially, is where change thrives. While "brought" is still the correct past tense of "bring," variants like "brang" and "brung" are creeping in, modelled on "rang" and "rung." Occasionally, people even confuse it with "bought"—a reminder of how closely language mirrors usage, not just rules.

To some, this might feel like the language is being "bastardised." But Hajek disagrees. "As a linguist, I find this all fascinating. Language is a living organism. It evolves with fashion, technology, youth culture, and the needs of communication."

Still, he acknowledges that keeping up with these changes can be tough. Words like "sick" now have double lives—both "ill" and "awesome." For traditionalists, it might all feel a bit... "extra" (translation: over the top).

But that's the beauty of English—it never stands still. And honestly, that's kind of cray.

I have indicated that if you have a question you want answered, then ask me. Recently, I was asked why we use the word worshipful. The word "Worshipful" in Freemasonry can initially sound odd or even confusing, especially to modern ears. It doesn't mean "divine" or "worthy of worship" in the religious sense. Its roots go way back in the English language and social customs.

"Worshipful" comes from the Old English word *weorðscipe* (worth + ship), meaning honour, dignity, or respect.

In medieval England, it was used as a title of respect for people of high standing—think lords, mayors, judges, and officials.

Even today, some civic bodies are still called things like The Worshipful Company of Mercers or The Worshipful Mayor of....

So, the term didn't mean the person was holy—just that they were held in high social or moral esteem.

In a Masonic lodge, the Master is addressed as “Worshipful Master” out of respect for the office, not because he’s a religious or spiritual figure.

It’s kind of like saying “Your Honour” to a judge or “Right Honourable” to a parliamentarian—it reflects dignity, not divinity. Worshipful Master = “Respected Master”

Most Worshipful Grand Master = “Most Honoured Grand Leader of Freemasons”

Some people outside the Craft get weirded out by the word “worshipful” and assume it has cultish or religious connotations, but it’s just a throwback to old-school English courtesy titles. Nothing more mysterious than that.

“Worshipful” = “Honourable” or “Respected”, a medieval English title that Freemasonry has kept alive as part of its formal and traditional language.

To all Brethren in the District of Carpentaria,

Fraternal greetings and I hope you and yours are all well and happy. I am writing to invite your Lodges to participate in a Community Project which will be supported by HHP and underwritten by District Grand Lodge.

I am sure you all know the programmes offered by HHP for Lodges but you will also know that the \$4\$ and \$4 doers programmes have upper limits. Community Projects are adopted by a group of Lodges to raise money for a chosen charity and can attract \$20,000 of support from HHP.

We have been discussing what would be a good charity to adopt for a Community Project within the District and the matter was raised at the last Quarterly Communications when Sara Parrott, CEO of HHP gave her presentation. Two charities were discussed they being Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation and COUCH. Both Charities do great work in the District of Carpentaria.

District Grand Lodge of Carpentaria has supported The Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation in the past through running an Art Union. They were grateful for the money we raised and have continued their work.

I have asked Jennifer Spilsbury Marketing & Partnerships Manager at Couch to explain their activities within the District and she has kindly provided the following information.

“Cairns Organisation United For Cancer Health (COUCH) is embarking on a new era in community care to meet a predicted rise in the number of diagnoses in the Far North.

Cancer Council Queensland estimates that 1960 people in FNQ are diagnosed with cancer every year and 590 die from the disease.

One in two will face a diagnosis in their lifetime.

This significant threat to lives and the cessation of federal funding over five years through the North Queensland Primary Health Network in March 2025 has prompted the COUCH Cancer Wellness Centre to undergo a business plan, which supports a service redesign to achieve a self-sustainable model for the future.

The business plan will require further federal funding of \$7.5m over five years to support efforts to scale up the centre’s services until the required number of clients for viability is achieved with COUCH actively engaging with Members of Parliament to achieve this.

The centre will embrace a General Practitioner (GP) led model substantially improving the coordination of care provided by COUCH. There are plans to have a GP based at the centre five days a week, more cancer care nurses, dietitians, exercise physiologists, mental health and allied health professionals. COUCH will continue to provide its services including the gym and custom exercise classes, oncology and lymphedema massage therapy, pilates, yoga, meditation, breath and Qi, circuit and strength classes.

COUCH Cancer Wellness Centre is a community-owned centre offering clinical, evidence-based services.

It relies heavily on donations and philanthropic contributions and will continue to in the future regardless of government funding.

There has been a 40 per cent increase in donations since the Champions of COUCH campaign kicked off in November 2024 demonstrating the community's sentiment about this unique cancer health facility which is the envy of metropolitan and regional and rural areas."

I am sure that most of us know about the work that Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation does but I thought I should include the following.

*At Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation we raise funds in order to directly support the **Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service** and the **Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service**, which care for nearly 285,000 people from Tully to the Torres Strait.*

Our goal is to improve the quality and accessibility of health care in our region for everyone. In other words, we want all Far North Queenslanders – from mums and bubs to veterans and everybody in between – to enjoy a full range of quality health care services close to home.

This includes vital services such as women's health and mental well-being, to cardiac, paediatrics, cancer care, and more.

We're a registered charity with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Status 1. Essentially, that means the Australian Tax Office trusts us to follow the highest standards of integrity when managing your money and our corporate governance.

District Grand Lodge will be adopting a Community Project and I am asking Lodges for their feedback at which charity they would prefer to assist through that Community Project.

- FNQHF or
- COUCH

I would appreciate your response at your earliest convenience as we have to put our proposal to HHP no later than 31st May.

To assist your decision, representatives from COUCH will attend the District Proclamation on 24th May to address the Brethren.

I look forward to your feedback.

Yours fraternally

Duncan Walker PAGM

Pres Dist Board of Benevolence

**Date claimer 24th May, District Proclamation and investiture of District officers. Atherton
Masonic Centre**

**Date claimer 28th May, District Quarterly Communication. All Lodge Masters and Wardens are
urged to attend to better represent their Lodge**

Lodges meeting in May.

LODGE	DATE	TIME	WHERE	WORK
Bentley Park	17 th May	2.00 pm	Edmonton	
Freshwater	31 st May	7.30 pm	Freshwater	
Gregory Allan	19 th May	7.30 pm	Freshwater	General Business
Temple Memorial	5/10 May	7.30 pm	Freshwater	
Pyramid Highleigh	7 th May	7.30 pm	Gordonvale	
Johnstone R. H.	10 th May	3.00 pm	Innisfail	
Granite	26 th May	10.30 am	Mareeba	Proclamation June 28 Atherton
Pt Douglas Mossman	8 th May	7.00 pm	Mossman	
Ravenshoe	15 th May	6.00 pm	Ravenshoe	
Tully---Tyson	7 th May	7.00 pm	Tully	
Trinity Daylight	5 th May	9.30 am	Whitfield	
Barrine	10 th May	3.00 pm	Yungaburra	
Duyfken	20 th May	5.30 pm	Sec 0429349297	

I ask all and any freemason in our District to send details of what you have done and what you intend to do to be included in the Carpentaria News. As I may not know who and what you do, please write details. 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

Some humour.

At 9 o'clock one evening outside Freemason's Hall a police Sergeant was instructing a new young police officer on how to increase his arrest rate.

He advised the young man that after Masonic meetings, the Brethren invariably drank too much at the Festive Board and frequently attempted to drive home afterwards.

Sure enough, after a short wait, a man came staggering and swaying down the steps, almost fell, recovered and lurched towards a parked car. His progress was slow and, whilst he was making his way towards his vehicle many other Freemasons passed on their way.

But, our officers of the law had him in their sights and ignored all the other brethren. Finally, he reached his car, took out his ignition keys and, after several attempts, managed to insert the key into the driver's door and lurch into the driving seat.

At this point the coppers pounced ... "You're under arrest for being drunk in charge of a motor vehicle said the Sergeant" The Freemason turned a stone cold sober face towards the policeman and said "but I haven't had anything to drink all day."

The poor Sergeant seeing this sober individual in front of him was thwarted, but puzzled "But ... but ... you've been to a Masonic meeting and to the festive board haven't you?" To which our man assented.

"Of course" he said "I occupy a very important office in the lodge ... I am Senior Decoy!"