



THE CARPENTARIA NEWS

The official bulletin of the District Grand Lodge of Carpentaria



Issue 73 July 2025

From District Grand Master

Greetings Brethren. Our lodges are moving in the right direction, with Initiations having been carried out and paperwork out for more candidates

Our main objective at present is getting our D.G.L. community fundraiser up and running. A good many lodges have notified that they will support it, with Couch being selected as who we will have for the next two years. Our tableland lodges have a fundraiser of their own and have good support.

Preparations are well underway, with signed agreements in place with DGL, Couch H.H.P. with commencing on 1st July.

D.G.L. and Couch are working on an art union with a major prize and smaller prizes to be drawn in Nov. or Dec. We are discussing our major prize with a sponsor at present, and minor prizes have been offered to sausage sizzles, with dates to be confirmed.

Our last art union we raised \$125,000 for hospital foundation to buy a special X-ray machine to save our pregnant mothers from travelling to Townsville or Brisbane.

I thank Lodges for their attendance at Installations/Proc. and their support with charges.

Festive Boards, if you say you are coming and then don't turn up think of the cost to the lodge.

The Freshwater Lodge building is having a new roof installed and will be closed from 17th to 30th July.

The Cairns Show lodge stall will be on again this year and requires helpers, so advise Alan Sims if you can help. Last year we had 5 new members sign up.

Regards

R.W.Bro. Dave Scott

Dist. Grand Master

Dist. of Carpentaria

Freshwater Lodge Installation 31st May 2025



On May 31st, Freshwater Lodge celebrated their Installation with Wor Bro Ned Suria in the chair.

On the left is WB Ned and his wife standing at the head of the table, on which are 6 visitors from Melbourne.

In the photo below, you can see more visitors on this special occasion. The event called for the use of professional entertainers,



this is good stuff an occasion when all who attended had a great time.

ED Note. This is good news, but if you want your event in the news, to show all other Lodges what you are doing and can do.

Please send me more details, including names. Not everyone will recognise who that person is or another.



This occasion for Freshwater Lodge looks like it was a roaring success, and all Lodges need to see what can be done.

Attached photo taken at Gregory Allan Lodge 50H's Installation of Wor Bro Trevor Martin Evans on Saturday 14th July at Freshwater Masonic Centre. DDist GM, VW Bro Lex Livingstone represented DGM RW Bro Dave Scott who was unable to attend.



Editors note. Thank you to those members who have sent contributions to this newsletter, don't forget you too will have a story to go here. Harvey

MASONIC WEDDING AT STANNARY HILLS - SHEEHAN-HARCUS. From David Court

A very pretty and somewhat unique wedding was celebrated on 2nd May in the Masonic Hall, Stannary Hills, under the auspices of the Freemasons of that place.

The contracting parties were James A. Sheehan, station master and secretary, of the Eureka Masonic Lodge, and Margaret Peers,

(Daisy) Harcus, eldest daughter of P. L. Harcus, treasurer of the same lodge.

The bridal party entered the building at 9 a.m. The bride, leaning on the arm of her father, looked charming in a travelling dress of

dove-grey sedan cloth, with hat to match. Miss E. L. Harcus, sister of the bride, acted as bridesmaid, and looked very pretty in a cream crepe line.

Mr. George Williams acted in the capacity of best man.

The bride wore a bangle set with sapphires and diamonds and carried a lovely shower bouquet of white roses and lilies of the valley, gifts of the bridegroom while the bridesmaids carried a basket of pale blue flowers, and wore a pendant brooch of pearls and ruby, also the bridegroom's gifts.

After the bridal party had assembled, the Freemasons in full regalia marched up the aisle (carpeted for the occasion) in twos. The foremost two, when near the altar, crossed their wands overhead, thus forming an arch, under which those following passed; then, dividing and passing in line round the dais, on which were seated the W.M. and his two senior officers, they formed a half-circle round the bridal party.

The Rev. M. Webster conducted the service, and Mrs. Wade, wife of Bro. Wade, made a very able organist. While the register was being signed, the Masons sang a hymn.

The party then left the hall, preceded by the Masons, to the beautiful strains of Mendolsohn's Wedding March. They marched round the building to the anteroom, during which time the stewards deftly arranged the tables for the reception and refreshments.

The Masons' wives and daughters all wore a distinctive badge of pale blue ribbon and were seated on a platform on either side of the entrance door, while the remainder of the guests occupied the body of the

hall, which had been beautifully decorated for the occasion, a canopy of pale blue and silver hanging immediately over the bride. Great credit is due to Bro. Pearson and his several willing helpers, for the perfect manner in which the arrangements were carried out.

The refreshment tables looked very nice, and were well laden with good things, the wedding cake (three tiers) being the perfection of art. This was manufactured by Mr. Westcott, of Cooktown.

After a couple of toasts had been honoured, Mr. Wade sang the "Yeoman's Wedding Song," then the whole party proceeded to the station, where a special carriage was at their command.

After the departure of the happy couple, who intend spending the honeymoon round about Sydney, the guests returned to the hall, where songs and speeches were the order of the day until noon. In the evening, a dance was held.

The Masons propose to give a ball on the return of Mr. and Mrs. Sheehan, as a welcome home.

The presents, which were displayed in the hall, were handsome and numerous. Following is the list:-

Bridegroom to bride, diamond and sapphire bangle.

bride to bridegroom, set of hairbrushes, silver shaving set, and gold watch pendant.

father of the bride, cheque: mother of the bride, silver forks and spoons, and house linen.

Miss E. L. Harcus (sister of the bride), glass fruit dish on silver stand.

Master Ralph Harcus, silver double entree dish.

Mr. McArthur, pair silver fern pots.

Mr. Barnett, pair silver salts.

mine managers and chief engineers, a silver afternoon tea service on salver.

Mr. Murdoch, a pair of vases.

Mr. and Mrs. Rundle, silver cake dish.

Messrs. Jack and Newell, silver teapot, set of meat carvers, and silver-mounted oak butter dish and trowel.

Mr. and Mrs. Kelly, silver revolving butter dish.

Mr. and Mrs. Davey, water jug and tumblers.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Brown, silver egg cruet.

Mrs. Hudson, pair of silver rose vases.

Messrs. O'Driscoll, Studdart, Hol, Wiseman, Archibald, Rourke, Hocking, B. Roberts, O'Connor, Pullen, Brougham, Sherrington, and L.Gipps, large dinner service.

Mr. Hennessy, liquor stand.

Mr. G. Williams, silver toast and butter rack.

Mr. and Mrs. Rough, wine decanter and glasses.

Mr. and Mrs. Archibald, jam dish and spoon.

Brethren of the Eureka Masonic Lodge, masonic jewel, handsome marble clock, and silver combination sugar and cream set.

Mr. and Mrs. Wade, a silver hot water kettle, with a spirit lamp.

Mr. Dean (Charters Towers), pair silver serviette rings.

Miss Patten (Mackay), a pair of silver serviette rings.

Mr. and Mrs Westcott (Cooktown), silver afternoon teaspoons and sugar tongs.

Wright, Heaton and Co., combination silver egg cruet and toast rack.

Miss Westcott (Cooktown), table centre and d'Oyley;

Mr. and Mrs. Campbell, silver sugar scuttle.

Mr. Nicholas, cheque.

Mr. and Mrs. Wishart, bamboo plant stand and easel.

Mr. and Mrs. McCauley, a pair of lamps.

Miss Vandaleur, a pair of vases.

Mr. and Mrs. Vandaleur, glass butter dish on silver stand.

Mrs. Stoyer, a pearl-handled butter knife and bread fork.

Officers of the S.H.M. & T. Co., complete set of fish carvers, meat carvers, and fowl carvers. Telegrams of congratulation were received during the day from Messrs. Brig. and Jack Devlin, Highfield, Raleigh, Judell, McArthur, and the Misses Summerhayes.

Citation:

Morning Post (Cairns, Qld. 1897-1907) Sat 25 May 1907 Page 4

Web 22 May 2025 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla/newsarticle44449789>>.

Mrs. Kesley Court located this article during research in her capacity as Family History Researcher at the Cairns and District Family History Society.

Footnote:

Eureka Lodge No.49 Q.C. at Stannary Hills was sponsored by Torres Strait Lodge No.820 S.C. and Eureka Lodge was the sponsor Lodge of Lodge Cairns No.52 Q.C., in Cairns, which in 1921 became Murray Lodge No.177 U.G.L.Q.

RW Bro Abijah Murray PGW, District Grand Master 1932-33 was a solicitor on Thursday Island before coming to Cairns, where he set up practice in Cairns and articulated with Hugh Lyons, later taking him into partnership. He was initiated in Torres Strait Lodge in 1899 and was largely responsible for the formation of both Eureka Lodge and Lodge Cairns. He had the distinction of being a Foundation member and first Master of both Lodge Cairns in 1907 and Murray Lodge in 1921.

Citation:

“District Grand Masters Deputies and Secretaries” and “District Grand Lodge of Carpentaria” by Allan D. Wakeham.

The word Stannary means Tin, and Stannary Hills was a tin mining community located to the north of and between Irvinebank and Chillagoe.

Meddlesome Moth: A Tale of Sacred Longing and the Flame of Truth

Lodge of the Ancients - Poetry

In the still of the night, when the moon softly gleams,
In the heart of the forest, where shadows hold dreams,
There lived a humble moth, with wings frail and bright,
Drawn by the sacred flame, the beacon of Light.

O wise ones, gather, hear this tale I shall sing,
Of the moth and the flame, and the wisdom it brings.
In the forest of old, where the ancients reside,
In temples of stone, where the truths do abide.

There dwelled the great elders, in silence and peace,
Yet their hearts had grown heavy, their wisdom's release.
For in their long years, they had drifted away,
From the Light that once guided them, bright as the day.

In the depth of their chambers, they sat on their thrones,
Their minds filled with echoes of prestige and stones.
They had built their high walls, and adorned them with pride,
But the Light they once sought had been pushed far aside.

But lo, from the darkness, there fluttered a soul,
A moth with a spirit that none could control.
With wings of ambition, it danced through the night,
Drawn ever closer to that radiant Light.

“O flame,” cried the moth, “I seek but your grace,
To bask in your glory, to behold your face.”
The elders, in wonder, watched this daring flight,
For none had disturbed their comfort so bright.

“O child of the night,” spoke the sages so wise,
“Beware of the flame, for it blinds with its guise.
To seek it is peril, for the fire consumes,
And those who pursue it may meet with their dooms.”

But the moth, undeterred, in its quest pressed on,
For the Light was a call, like the rise of the dawn.
It flitted and danced, in the circle of fire,
Its heart full of longing, its soul full of desire.

The elders, in silence, pondered this sight,
For the moth’s bold pursuit filled their hearts with Light.
They remembered their youth, when they too had sought,
The flame of all knowledge, with the fervor they’d brought.

But time had betrayed them, and prestige had grown,
Their hearts turned to stone, where the Light once had shone.
They forgot that their purpose was not just the throne,
But to seek the true wisdom, where the Light is shown.

“O flame, O flame,” the moth sang aloud,
“To touch but a spark, I would be so proud.
For the Light is my calling, the source of all truth,
I shall brave your warmth, with the fervour of youth.”

In this dance of the night, where the moth bravely flew,
The elders saw wisdom, in the old and the new.
For the moth’s daring flight stirred their hearts from their rest,
And they knew that the seeking was life’s truest test.

“In the shadows of silence, the Truth is revealed,”
The elders then murmured, their wisdom unsealed.
“For we have forgotten the Light that we sought,
And in pride’s cold embrace, our hearts had been caught.”

But the moth, in its flight, ventured close to the fire,
And felt the hot breath of its burning desire.
It knew then the truth, that the Light could consume,
Yet without it, the world would lie shrouded in gloom.

So the moth, though it trembled, did not flee the flame,
For the Light was its calling, its purpose, its name.
And the elders, in shame, bowed their heads to this sight,
For the moth's bold endeavour revealed their lost Light.

O wise ones, take heed, from this tale of the night,
For the moth is the seeker, and the flame is the Light.
And the elders, though wise, must remember the call,
That the dance of the seeker gives life to us all.

In the forest of thought, where old truths are kept,
Let the moth's restless wings stir the wisdom that's slept.
For the path to the flame, though it burns with great heat,
Is the journey of life, where all souls shall meet.

Thus ends the tale of the moth and the flame,
Of the seeker who ventured, who knew not of shame.
In the heart of the night, where the mysteries lie,
The moth found its truth, in the Light of the sky.

The moth and flame metaphor is a classic mystic symbol—used in Sufi poetry and beyond. It gives fresh life by anchoring it in a mythic forest with wise but stagnant elders. This contrast between youthful longing and aged detachment adds emotional depth. Do you see the similarity to Freemasonry?

The poem takes us on a journey, not just of the moth, but of the elders' inner transformation. Their shift from prideful stillness to humbled remembrance gives the piece an arc of redemption. It's not just the moth that grows—it's the entire world of the poem.

One is moved to a Haiku plane: "Japanese Poetry"

Moth seeks sacred flame—elders wake from prideful sleep, truth burns, yet sustains.

Brethren.

You will all be aware of the work being done in our District to increase membership and make Lodge attendance more attractive. Work has been done at Atherton, improving the centre into one that we can be proud of.

Already, improvements, lift, repairs, painting, cleaning, and the installation of air conditioners are helping to achieve this.

Also, to clean up the place, the area downstairs, currently used as a storage area, will be cleaned out and converted to a rentable space for meetings and conferences.

There is a lot of no longer used masonic furniture and gear. This accumulation of excess gear is also present in other Lodges.

It is proposed that all Lodges with no longer used gear and furniture move it to Atherton, where at some time in the future, a garage sale will be held to dispose of any unwanted gear. Should you have unwanted gear, you too can dispose of it however you like. Sell, give away or dump it.

Should there be furniture, etc, that is better than a lodge's current gear, then there is the opportunity to swap it over.

Let us make the most of this proposal for the benefit of all.

The most important aim is to streamline each and every lodge and get rid of the old and musty persona present at this time. If you have unwanted stuff to dispose off, let the Dist Secretary know.

For Sale: clearance of Carpentaria Centenary Jewels 50% off, going for \$50. Contact DGM or Dist GS

Old man funny,

Larry, a 65-year-old, fabulously rich widower, strolls into the Yacht Club with a stunning 25-year-old brunette by his side. She dazzles everyone with her youthful energy and engaging personality, never leaving Larry's arm and hanging on his every word.

His friends at the club are completely floored.

They pull him aside and ask, "Larry, how'd you land such a knockout partner?"

Larry grins and says, "Partner? She's my wife!"

Shocked, they press on, "How in the world did you convince her to marry you?"

Larry replies with a smirk, "I fudged a bit about my age."

One of his friends asks, "Oh, so you told her you were 50?"

Larry chuckles and says, "Nope, I told her I was 95!"

Lodges meeting in July.

LODGE	DATE	TIME	WHERE	WORK
B of Gp	9 th July	4:30 pm	Freshwater	
Bentley Park	19 th July	2.00 pm	Edmonton	
Endeavour				
Freshwater	25 th July	7:30 pm	Freshwater	First degree Nick Zipichev
Gregory Allan	28 th July	3.30 pm	Freshwater	First degree Graham Steggles
Cairns Gelling	8 th July	5.30 pm	Freshwater	Election of Master and Officers
The Gulf				
Temple Memorial	7 th July	7.30 pm	Freshwater	
Pyramid Highleigh	2 nd July	7.30 pm	Gordonvale	
Herberton Corrie	5 th July	1.30 pm	Herberton	
Johnstone R. H.	12 th July	3.00 pm	Innisfail	
Granite	28 th June	4.00 pm	Mareeba	
Pt Douglas Mossman	10 th July	7.00 pm	Mossman	
Ravenshoe	17 th July	6.00 pm	Ravenshoe	
Tully---Tyson	2 nd July	7.00 pm	Tully	
Trinity Daylight	8 th July	9.30 am	Whitfield	
Barrine	12 th July	3.00 pm	Yungaburra	
Milla				

