



THE CARPENTARIA NEWS

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Hi Brethren

The Atherton lodge had a clean-up of lodge gear in the spare room, and I thank all those who turned up to carry out the work, and within the next few weeks most of if not all, will be gone, so we aim to hire out that section.

Ravenshoe Installation was well attended, and the new Master has plans to boost the lodge going forward.

Freshwater Lodge carried out a first degree on Bro. Okolie and was well attended.

Endeavour Lodge also carried a first degree on Bro. Hansford, and I thank D.D.G.M. for attending.

Only a few Ins/Proc. to be carried for the remainder of the year, Barrine, The Gulf, and on 8th of November, the Installation and reconsecration of Endeavour Lodge, 150 years. Please, brethren, make it a special day and attend. The ceremony will be carried out by UGLQ with assistance from DGL.

The community fundraiser is progressing with over \$50,000,00 so far raised, so lodges who wish to donate, please do so. We are still awaiting the permit for the Major Raffle, which consists of: 1st Prize, a 10-day cruise on Coral Expeditions of a trip to the Kimberley's and Tiwi Islands. The 2nd Prize is a \$4000 trip on Bounty Hunter. And the 3rd Prize is a \$1000 B.B.Q. donated by Harvey Norman.

The next ¼ communication will be at Mossman on 6th Dec. at 10.00 am.

At this stage, the N.Q.D.G.L plan to have their Installation of a new D.G.M. on the 13th Dec.

A Dist. team will attend, and all details will be advised later.

Regards RW Bro Dave Scott D.G,M. Carpentaria



“The Wor Master of Freshwater Lodge, Wor Bro Ned Surla, who is still also a member of Garibaldi Lodge 890 United Grand Lodge of Victoria, visited his other lodge in October 2025. More than 70 brethren were in attendance at the meeting which had an educational purpose with the presentation of the Mark Degree followed by a banquet in the South. The Lodge was honoured by the presence of the



Most Worshipful Grand Master of China, MW Bro Arthur Chan. In attendance also were the Grand Master of Victoria MW Bro Peter Henschel. 1 and Past Grand Master MW Bro Anthony Bucca.”

On Left:
MW Grand Master of China posing with GM Victoria and WM of Freshwater,
Photo taken at Lodge Garabaldi in Victoria.

Below, Lodge Garabaldi welcoming the GM of China MW Bro Arthur Chan



ED, It seems we are losing many of our brother Masons, age does catch us up I found this article, which I thought was relevant today.

Why Attend a Masonic Funeral?

There are a few occasions when Freemasons get the opportunity to perform their public ceremonies: a cornerstone laying, open installation of officers, a periodic public educational program, and so on. By far, the most common is our Masonic Funeral Service. This is a time when most non-Masons are introduced to Freemasonry, and perhaps a time when many of those present will form an opinion and perception of our Fraternity. Not being members of our Ancient Craft, and often knowing very little about Freemasonry, they are often very curious as to who we are, what we stand for, and what is it that we believe in as an organisation. Conducting Masonic Funeral Services is as old as our Fraternity itself. In the days of Operative Masonry, stonemasons buried their own with great solemnity and reverence. The deceased Brother was a man they had worked side-by-side with for years – perhaps a lifetime. They extolled his virtues and the contributions he had made to the work of the Craft. The entire guild turned out in force to mourn their brother's passing and to express their sympathies to the brother's family. This tradition has been carried forward for centuries to our present-day Speculative Masonry.

The first thing any non-Mason will observe is the size of the turnout. If it is small, they could conclude that his Lodge did not hold the deceased Brother in very high esteem. Or, even worse, that Freemasons are much too busy with their own private lives and interests to practice the tenets of Charity and Brotherly Love of which we so loudly boast. In other words, they might conclude that we don't practice what we preach. If the turnout is large, the non-Mason is likely to come away with a very different impression of both the Fraternity and the deceased Brother. Always remember that a Masonic Funeral Service is the last tribute we can pay to our fallen Brother. That's the appropriate time to thank the brother's family for allowing him to share his time on Earth with our Fraternity. No, you might not have known the brother personally, but if he was a member of your Lodge, he certainly deserves your presence at his funeral service. Even if not a member of your Lodge, he was a brother and is entitled to all of the "lights, rights and benefits" of being a Freemason -- and that certainly includes a well-attended Masonic Funeral. Attending these services are, in many ways, just as important as attending Lodge meetings -- perhaps, even more so, because it offers each of us an opportunity to reflect upon our own mortality, and to reaffirm our individual faith in the Supreme Architect. One day, and we know not when, each one of us will be that brother who has passed from sight. One day, each one of us will have ended our journey on this mortal soil. As you are then returned to the dust whence you came, you, of course, would want your Masonic Brethren to be present to mourn you, and to offer comfort and consolation to your family. We should demonstrate, by our physical presence, that our promises to be true to them are not just hollow or empty words. We owe our brother something, and this may be the very last opportunity we will ever have to repay that debt. Brethren, when you receive word from your Lodge of a Masonic funeral, take the time out of your busy lives to make this final act of respect and tribute. No, you may not have personally known the brother, but he was your brother, and that alone is enough to justify making the effort to attend and to demonstrate to the world that we Freemasons do, in fact, sincerely care about each other -- both in life and in death. One day, each of us will be escorted across the threshold of death, as the last grains of sand fall to the bottom of our hourglass. After spending years in the Masonic Fraternity, how would you feel if most of your Lodge Brothers were too occupied with their own self-interests to attend your Masonic Funeral Service? How will your loved ones feel about the organisation you belonged to that cannot muster more than a handful of members to stand around your casket?

This is one obligation and commitment that each of us should earnestly strive to fulfil, even if we can't always attend Lodge meetings. Let's demonstrate to the world that we are indeed men who practice Brotherly Love - all the way to the edge of the grave. ...

The 5 Minute Mason: #69 in a series of nuggets from the Quarry of Freemasonry. Douglas M. Messimer, PM, LEO Tuckahoe Lodge 347 8/14 The secret of Masonry,

What does “on the level” mean in freemasonry?

In Freemasonry, symbols and phrases carry profound meanings, transcending mere words to embody the core principles and values of the fraternity. Among these, the term “on the level” holds a special place, encapsulating the ideals of equality, integrity, and honesty that Freemasons strive to live by. This article delves into the significance of this phrase, exploring its historical roots, symbolic meaning, and how it shapes the conduct of Masons in both the lodge and the wider world.

Historical and Symbolic Significance

The phrase “on the level” is derived from one of the fundamental tools of stonemasonry: the level. Historically used in masonry and construction to ensure surfaces are perfectly horizontal, the level in Freemasonry transcends its practical use to convey a deeper symbolic meaning. It teaches Masons the importance of equality, reminding them that despite the inevitable hierarchies and differences in the profane world, within the walls of the lodge, all members stand as equals. This concept is not merely a symbolic gesture but a foundational principle of the fraternity. From its earliest days, Freemasonry has championed the idea of universal brotherhood, where men of diverse backgrounds, professions, and social standings come together under a common banner of ethical living, mutual respect, and personal development.

Equality Among Members

The practical application of being “on the level” within Freemasonry is most visible in the lodge’s democratic structure and operations. No matter a member’s status outside or within the lodge, each brother is afforded the same respect and voice. This principle ensures that the lodge operates as a space where all members can contribute and grow, free from the prejudices and divisions that often plague society at large. Moreover, the concept extends to the Masonic obligations of support and aid among brothers. The level reminds Masons that they are to assist and support each other in times of need, reinforcing the bonds of brotherhood that are central to the Masonic ethos.

Ethical Conduct and Personal Integrity

Being “on the level” also serves as a moral compass for Freemasons, guiding their conduct both within the lodge and in their daily lives. It is a reminder and a call to honesty, transparency, and fairness in all dealings, urging Masons to embody the principles of the fraternity in every action and interaction. This commitment to ethical living is not confined to the personal realm; it also informs the Masonic approach to community service and philanthropy. Masons are encouraged to extend their ethical principles to their broader communities, engaging in charitable activities and initiatives that reflect the fraternity’s commitment to uplifting and supporting those in need. The Ritual and Educational Context

The importance of being “on the level” is reinforced through Masonic rituals and education. New initiates are introduced to the concept early in their Masonic journey, with the symbolism of the level playing a prominent role in the lessons imparted during degree ceremonies. These rituals serve not only to educate but to continually remind Masons of their commitment to the values the level represents. In Masonic education and discourse, the phrase is frequently explored in depth, encouraging members to reflect on its implications for their personal growth and their interactions with others. Through this ongoing engagement, the principle of equality and integrity becomes a living part of the Masonic identity.

Beyond the Lodge

The influence of being “on the level” extends far beyond the lodge, shaping how Masons interact with the world at large. In their personal and professional lives, Masons are expected to apply the principles of fairness, honesty, and respect that the level symbolises, striving to be exemplary citizens and human beings. In the realm of interpersonal relationships, this means engaging with others with a spirit of openness and integrity, embodying the Masonic values in every aspect of life. The principle also underpins the Masonic commitment to community service, driving Masons to actively contribute to the welfare of their communities and to aid those in need. To be “on the level” is to embody the heart and soul of Freemasonry, representing a principle that binds Masons together, uniting them in a shared commitment to live by the highest ethical standards. This “quote” is more than a symbolic phrase; it is a way of life that guides Masons in their personal development, their interactions with each other, and their engagement with the wider world. As Freemasons, we are continually reminded of the importance of

being “on the level” – not just within the confines of the lodge but in every aspect of our lives. It challenges us to be better men, to treat all with fairness and respect, and to strive for a world where the principles of brotherhood, equality, and integrity prevail. In embracing the true meaning of being “on the level,” we not only honour our Masonic heritage but also contribute to building a more just and compassionate society.

This article was sourced from the Website ‘Masonic Find.’

ED Note: Last month I stated that I would look toward the Role of the Lodge Master.

The UGLQ website has a good guide to the duties of the Lodge Master. However, this piece from the Masonic Education site shows, by using a beehive as an example, how a lodge could work and the role of the Master.

As the Masonic lodge's leader, the Worshipful Master wears many hats. His duties and responsibilities include everything about his lodge during his elected year.

- Ability to perform Ritual and Degree Work
- Masonic knowledge of Masonry’s science of morals, symbols and allegory.
- Delegation of duties to his officers
- Delegation of duties to Lodge Committees
- Lodge regalia maintenance and upkeep
- Communication
- Scheduling of all functions
- Provides ongoing Education to the brethren
- Oversees all Financial issues of the lodge
- Represents his Lodge at District Grand Lodge, this is an obligation.

The greatest honour comes to a brother when he is elevated to the Chair as the Lodge Master, the Worshipful Master of the Lodge.

However, it is with mingled feelings of pleasure and anxiety when the gavel of authority is placed into their own hand.

EARLY PREPARATION:

Early preparation is ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY so that you do not become a Lodge Master in name only.

You must arrive at this chair with a feeling not only of its authority, but fully confident of your abilities to handle that authority.

Much like the CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of any well-run corporation, the Lodge Master has many duties to perform.

First and foremost, like the CEO, he must have a strong working group of subordinate officers to help him carry out the tasks within his Blue Lodge.

While many people's first thought is that to call someone "Master" means that you feel you are supposed to "serve" them in Freemasonry, the opposite is true.

The title of "Master" signifies that of a well-versed "teacher," and not that of the Almighty.

Elected by the brethren, he is placed in this special position to serve their needs. In essence, the Master's job is much like the Queen Bee's job in the symbolic Freemasonry beehive.

Beehive of Industry - One of Freemasonry's Masonic Symbols



Many Freemasons wonder what the significance of the Masonic beehive is to their craft. Let's take a look at it:

Queen bees develop from larvae, which is selected by the worker bees. She is specially fed Royal Jelly so that she becomes larger and therefore can produce and retain a greater number of worker bees during her lifetime for the benefit of the hive.

Without being chosen by her "brethren", to become the "Queen Bee", she would grow up to become a worker bee, just like all the rest.

While she is continuously surrounded by worker bees who meet her every need, her sole function is to serve as the reproducer of her species.

During her life as the Queen Bee, she will usually only leave the hive once...and that is to reproduce. From this one-time outing, she will be able to lay eggs for the rest of her life, which is approximately 2-7 years.

A well-functioning lodge (I mean hive) consists of one Queen bee (Master of the Lodge), many worker bees and a few drones. A well-functioning beehive is a very busy place, indeed, industry being each bee's highest virtue... except the drones.

Drones are larger than the worker bees; however, they do absolutely nothing to promote the welfare of the hive. They do not gather nectar, make honey or make beeswax. They do not cap off each cell of honey that has been stored, nor do they fan the cell to dry the beeswax. They also do not perform any housekeeping tasks toward the common good of their fraternity, nor do they educate the younger bees in how to perform the work.

Needless to say, the drones do not worry about having enough honey stored to take the fraternity through the long Winter. The worker bees must feed the drones, or the drones would starve and die.

The only reason the drones are kept alive by the worker bees is to promote reproduction within the hive. As you can see, the hive needs very few drones if it is to function properly.

Suppose too many drones have been produced by the Queen Bee. In that case, their excess numbers drag down the abilities of the entire hive because each working member has to attempt to care for and feed these non-working members of their fraternity without receiving anything in return.

In the bee world, their excess numbers are internally counted and when the drones numbers exceed their usefulness, the worker bees drag these non-working members of their institution to the front door of the hive where they are left, alone to perish...not because they feel no charity, but simply because for their fraternity to survive, they cannot continue to nourish and support non-working members.

Therefore, Worker Bees understand that:

- They must elect the strongest of the larvae to become their Queen (Lodge Master).
- If they do not continue to help the Queen (Lodge Master) reproduce offspring, they will die.
- If each worker bee does not work in unison with the other members of the fraternity to feed, nurture and retain each and every other worker bee member of their institution, their industrious fraternity will die.

Freemasonry is full of allegory. Allegory means that you are representing one thing when you're actually alluding to another thing. It is a literary style, which means you teach by innuendo. Most allegories include a "moral of the story". The story of the beehive, above, is an allegory. The last paragraph, beginning with "Therefore, Worker Bees understand that:" contains the moral of the story.

"Thus was man formed for social and active life, the noblest part of the work of God; and he that will so demean himself as not to be endeavouring to add to the common stock of knowledge and understanding, may be deemed a drone in the hive of nature, a useless member of society, and unworthy of our protection as Freemasons." ... Carl H. Claudy, The Master's Book, Published by The Temple Publishers, copyright 1946

While many believe that since they are next in line to hold the gavel, they may simply perform their duties in the same manner as the previous Master performed his duties, this may or may not be the case. You be the judge.

The Loge Master is:

- Elected by the brethren to become their Master
- The person whom all eyes fall upon for direction.
- CEO of the worker bees.

A good Master realises that if he does not help the brethren to gather new members, feed (teach), nurture (socialise) and retain each member of their fraternity, his lodge will dwindle in size or by necessity, must merge with another lodge.

The table below is accurate to the best of my knowledge. If there is a discrepancy, please advise me ED

LODGE	DATE	TIME	WHERE	WORK
Carpentaria District	6 th Dec	10.00 am	Mossman	Quarterly Communication
B of GP	12th Nov	4:30 pm	Freshwater	
District Lodge ALL	1st Nov	10 am	Freshwater	Practice for 150 yr Ceremony
Bentley Park	15 th Nov	2 pm	Edmonton	
Endeavour	8 th Nov	11 am	Edmonton	Installation Bro J Stafford
Endeavor	8th Nov	3 pm	Edmonton	Re Consecration 150 Years
Freshwater	21 st Nov	7:00 pm	Freshwater	
Gregory Allan	17 th Nov	7.30 pm	Freshwater	
Temple Memorial	3 rd Nov	7.30 pm	Freshwater	Ballot
The Gulf	29 th Nov	4.00 pm	Georgetown	
Pyramid Highleigh	5 th Nov	7.30 pm	Gordonvale	
Herberton Corrie	1 st Nov	1.30 pm	Herberton	

Johnstone R. H.	8 th Nov	3.0 pm	Innisfail	
Granite				To be advised
Pt Douglas Mossman	13 th Nov	7.0 pm	Mossman	
Ravenshoe	20 th Nov	6.00 pm	Ravenshoe	
Tully---Tyson	29 th Nov	7,00 pm	Tully	Reg meeting
Trinity Daylight	3 rd Nov	9.30 am	Whitfield	
Barrine	8 th Nov	3.00 pm	Yungaburra	Installation

On the lighter side.

Bob and Bill were brother Masons and great friends for most of their lives.

Each had agreed that when one of them passed on to that Grand Lodge above, he would attempt to make contact with the other and tell him all about what heaven was like.

As so happened, Bill went to heaven first.

One night, Bob was just drifting off to sleep when he heard Bill's voice calling to him.

"Is that you, Bill?"

"Yes, Bob. I am honouring our agreement."

"Oh, MY,.... what's it like?" Bob asked with some anticipation.

"It's like nothing you could ever imagine. The lodge here is fantastic, better than any lodge we ever saw on Earth. The meetings are always well attended, the ritual is letter perfect, the friendship nights always have tons of new people just itching to join, and the spirit of fellowship blankets the entire place."

Bob's eyes teared up.

"Oh, my, it's just like we'd hoped. I'm so happy for you. But I have to ask,... that sounds really great, but you didn't really seem all that excited. What's wrong?"

"Well, I have some good news and some bad. The good news is that we're raising a fellow to the third degree next Wednesday."

"That's fantastic. What's the bad news?"

"Your name is on the list to be the Senior Deacon."

