



THE CARPENTARIA NEWS

The official bulletin of the District Grand Lodge of Carpentaria

Issue 78 December 2025



What a busy month it has been! There have been numerous functions and Masonic activities keeping everyone hard at work. The lodges are doing their part to increase our membership.

On November 17th, there was a 2nd degree at Gregory/Allan. On December 1st, a 1st degree will take place at the Temple Memorial Lodge. I have been informed that two lodges are currently preparing paperwork for additional candidates. The Gregory Allan Lodge has completed its paperwork for a 1st degree scheduled for February, while Fresh Water Lodge is nearing completion of its paperwork for a 1st degree as well.

Additionally, two to three lodges will be conducting 2nd and 3rd degrees in the near future. Barrine Lodge held an installation and Herberton/Corrie a 3rd degree on November 15th. They came together for their banquet at the Atherton International Club, which proved a great success, with around 40 participants. Duyfken Lodge had its installation on November 18th, and the Gulf Lodge held a proclamation on November 29th.

The District Quarterly Communication will be held on December 6th, at Mossman at 10 AM.

The DGNQ Quarterly Communication and Installation will take place on December 13th. A delegation of Carpentaria District officers will attend.

I would like the secretary to ensure that the nominations for next year's team, along with all meeting dates, are submitted as soon as possible.

The Couch community fundraiser has now raised around \$70,000 and continues to increase. The Art Union organisers are encountering some challenges in obtaining a license since D.G.L. cannot get one directly, as Couch will benefit from the funds raised. However, they are close to resolving this issue. Raffle Link is managing all online ticket sales, charging a 5% fee on these sales. Tickets are priced at \$10.00, and we hope to sell 14,000 tickets, as there is considerable interest from buyers.

We have sent paperwork to MYOB to assist with purchasing a special mobile chair for Keith Morgan. A meeting scheduled for Thursday night will determine whether they will buy the chair outright for him, as he cannot return home until he has the chair and necessary modifications to his house are completed.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Endeavour Lodge on their 150-year reconsecration event. It was exceptionally well done and executed by the UGLQ officers with assistance from the DGLO.

Some photos of this event are in this issue

RW Dave Scott

District Grand Master Carpentaria

News from Appendant Degrees.



Cairns and Malanda Sovereign Chapters meeting 1/11/2025 at Atherton.



Em Bro W Jennings and MWS Gene Truan
Endeavour 150 year Re-Consecration.

Order of Merit being presented to V ILL L Wakeling

Saturday, November 8th and what a day it was. The morning was taken up with the Installation of Bro Stephen Stafford as Master into the chair of King Solomon at Endeavour Lodge. The ceremony was conducted by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, who commented on the fact that this was the 150th Master to be installed as Master of Endeavour Lodge. He also marked the occasion with presentations to

the Lodge Master of a Certificate and a poem in a presentation frame, for the Lodge and an engraved Square and Compass presented to the Lodge Master at the banquet.



In the afternoon, the ceremony of Reconsecration was conducted with all due pomp and ceremony; the solemnity of this ritual never ceases to inspire and amaze as the participants go about their work. Bearing in mind that it is the same ceremony that took place 150 years ago. The work was well done, and for those not there, an amazing ritual was missed. The consecration or re-consecration of a Masonic Lodge is not merely an administrative act; it is a ritual act of *setting apart* the lodge from ordinary use and dedicating it to higher moral and spiritual ideals. This act echoes ancient traditions of consecrating temples and sacred spaces.



The ceremony was conducted by the **Grand Master**, ably assisted by Grand Lodge officers.

Their presence symbolises continuity, authority, and the transmission of Masonic values across generations. Central to the ritual are the offerings of **corn, wine, oil, and salt**. These substances represent nourishment, refreshment, joy, and preservation—qualities essential to the life of the lodge and the moral growth of its members.



Corn: abundance and sustenance. **Wine:** joy and fellowship. **Oil:** peace and harmony

Salt: purity and preservation

The consecration ritual blends ancient symbolism with modern moral lessons. It reminds members that while Freemasonry is only a few centuries old, its teachings draw upon timeless human values of community, virtue, and reverence.

By consecrating the lodge, Freemasons affirm that their work is not just social or fraternal, but also spiritual and dedicated to the pursuit of truth, moral improvement, and service to humanity.

The **Masonic Lodge Re-Consecration** ceremony is both a beginning and a reminder: a beginning of a lodge's life, and a reminder that Freemasonry's strength lies in its dedication to timeless principles of morality, fellowship, and sacred purpose.

Also at this time, RW Bro Lyndon Brandt was presented with a 50-year jewel by the Grand Master.



Barrine Installation.

On Saturday, the 15th November, a fine team of masons conducted the Installation of Wor Bro Greg Tenni as Master of Barrine Lodge.

Lodge officers for the coming year were also invested. A great Festive Board was a special occasion, combining with Herberton-Corrie at the Atherton International Club. Photos below. As usual a great raffle was held.



Freshwater, Photo Below: Bro Chigozie Okolie, flanked by the Wor Master Ned Surla and DGM RW Bro Dave Scott, was initiated into Freshwater Lodge on Friday, 17 October. The meeting was well attended, and Freshwater Lodge was assisted in the ceremony by three members of Bentley Park Lodge and Endeavour Lodge, one member from Gregory Allan Lodge and one member from Cairns Gelling Lodge. A good contingent of District Grand Lodge officers were also in attendance. "



The Installation of Worshipful Master W B Chris McClelland, Trinity Mark Lodge No 36, performed by the Grand Mark Master MW Bro Allan Coleman at the Freshwater Masonic Centre on Saturday, the 22nd of November 2025 and assisted by officers of the lodge.

See Photo Below.



Andersons Constitutions. 1723-1738

I was recently asked to give some information on James Anderson and the Masonic Constitutions he formulated and asked if he founded Freemasonry. Here is a brief rundown on this man's effect on Freemasonry

Dr James Anderson (c.1679–1739) was a Scottish minister and writer, best known as the compiler of the *Constitutions of the Freemasons* (1723), a foundational text for modern Freemasonry. He played a pivotal role in

shaping the early Grand Lodge of England after its formation in 1717, though his influence was more literary than political.

He was born in Aberdeen around 1680. Anderson studied at Marischal College and was ordained into the Church of Scotland in 1707. He migrated to London, ministering first at Glasshouse Street, then at Swallow Street Presbyterian Chapel, and later at Lisle Street Chapel until he died in 1739.

Most would be aware that in 1717, four London lodges united to form the first Grand Lodge of England. Anderson was not central to its founding but became important soon after. In 1721, the Grand Lodge commissioned him to revise and compile the old Gothic Constitutions then in use into a modern form.

His work, the Book of Constitutions (1723), included:

- A history of Freemasonry from biblical times to the present.
- The “Charges of a Freemason,” outlining duties to God, neighbour, and society.
- Rules for lodge governance.

A second revised edition appeared in 1738, expanding the historical narrative and providing the earliest official account of the Grand Lodge’s early years.

These Constitutions became the cornerstone of modern Freemasonry, widely circulated and translated. His historical accounts are criticised as mythical or fanciful. Anderson was not the founder of Freemasonry, but his *Constitutions* provided its first official framework.

His 1723 and 1738 editions remain essential historical documents, though more symbolic than factual. He represents the transition from operative stonemasons to speculative Freemasonry, embedding moral and philosophical ideals into the fraternity.

Anderson traced Freemasonry back to biblical figures like Adam, Noah, and Solomon, then through Egyptian, Greek, and Roman builders. This was more mythic than factual, but it gave Freemasonry a sense of timeless lineage.

He outlined several Charges of a Freemason and these are reflected in the obligations each of us makes. Freemasons were to be “good men and true” and follow a moral law, but Anderson emphasised tolerance, stating that members could belong to any faith as long as they believed in God. A freemason is encouraged to show loyalty to the king and lawful government. He set out rules for meetings, elections, and behaviour.

He emphasised that Members were to avoid quarrels, excessive drinking, and immoral behaviour. Practical rules for lodge governance, officers, and ceremonies were outlined.

He also included in this work Songs and Odes: Including Masonic songs to be sung at festive boards, gatherings, thus reinforcing fraternity and ritual.

One could say that the 1723 edition was considered the “Magna Carta of Freemasonry.”

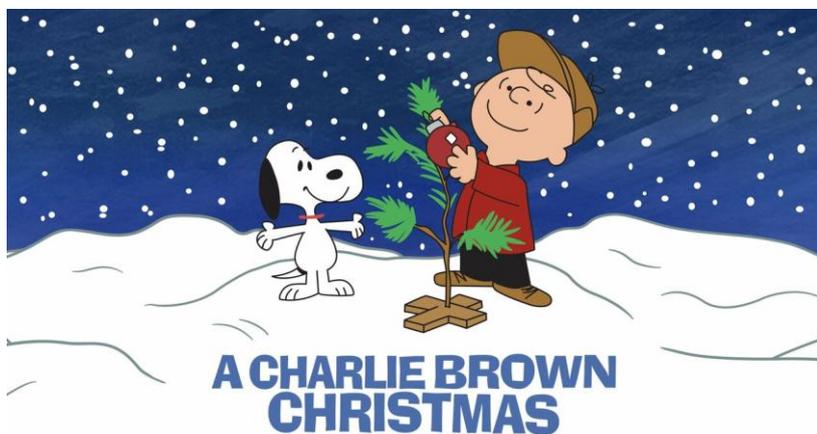
So, Anderson’s work wasn’t just administrative — it gave Freemasonry its philosophical backbone and global appeal.

If you want to know more about Anderson and his Constitutions and other Masonic writings. Go to the UGLQ website, log in and go to EDUCATION REPOSITORY. There is a lot of knowledge there.

ED: Well, at the end of this month, Christmas will be here and maybe a time for reflection.

The observance of Christmas doesn't seem to bring satisfaction to some people. On one hand, many say it's too religious, on the other hand, many say it's not religious enough; it's too commercial.

It has been said for years—it's the central theme behind the charming, animated cartoon *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, which was made some 40 years ago.



Setting that aside, what does Christmas mean to the Freemason?

Certainly, Freemasonry is not a religion, Christian or otherwise. It leaves that determination, on spiritual matters, to each Mason, so long as he believes in a Supreme Being in whatever form.

The relationship between Freemasonry and Christmas reveals deep connections between ancient wisdom

traditions and modern spiritual practice. Both traditions emphasise light overcoming darkness, the importance of brotherly love, and the value of charitable action. While the feast of Christmas itself maintains its specifically Christian religious significance, its universal themes resonate strongly with Masonic principles and values.

For Masons, Christmas offers an opportunity to reflect on the symbolic meanings of light, rebirth, and universal brotherhood—themes that are central to Masonic teachings throughout the year. The seasonal emphasis on generosity and goodwill provides a practical expression of Masonic principles in action.

As we continue to explore these connections, we gain a deeper appreciation for how different spiritual and philosophical traditions can complement and enrich each other, offering multiple pathways to the same fundamental truths about human nature and our relationship with the divine.

But there are certain messages from the story of Christmas that apply to all Masons. And the spirit of giving is also outlined in our Masonic ceremonies. The new Entered Apprentice is reminded in the northeast corner of the lodge of charity, and to practice it whenever possible. There's the Almoners collection at the second asking, for that giving portion of our ceremony. And there's another kind. The one referred to in the Charge in the same degree which admonishes "to relieve his necessities, soothing his afflictions, and by doing to him as in similar cases you would wish he should do to you".

In other words, the Golden Rule, from the Sermon on the Mount. Christmas is a time of faith for our Christian brethren. But all Masons are reminded in the different degrees of the principle of faith. Therefore, let this time of year serve as a reminder to all Masons to practice their faith, whatever it may be. Faith and Charity are names of principal staves or rounds on the Ladder you see every meeting on that Tracing Board. But there is another round, and that is Hope.

The concept of some reward for following Masonic principles during our lives winds its way through the various degrees, as those of you familiar with the working tools explanations of the Second and Third Degrees well know. So let this season of the year remind all Masons, no matter what their religious beliefs, to follow those universal tenets of the Craft—faith, hope and charity. Doing so should bring satisfaction to you at Christmas time.

We are also reminded that the Feast of St. John the Evangelist is on December 27th, one of two major feast days in the Masonic calendar. The other is the Feast of St. John the Baptist on June 24th. These dates align with the solstices, ancient times of renewal and balance, which are reflected in Masonic teachings about harmony and progression.

The Feast of St. John the Evangelist is a time for Masons to come together in fellowship, reflect on the spiritual lessons of the craft, and recommit to its principles of brotherly love, truth and relief. It highlights the contemplative and philosophical aspects of Freemasonry, encouraging members to seek knowledge and build stronger bonds within our fraternity.

St. John the Evangelist’s legacy as a writer and spiritual teacher continues to inspire Masons today. His focus on light and love as transformative forces speaks to the heart of Masonic philosophy, where the pursuit of enlightenment and the building of a better world are paramount. Through his life and teachings, he offers a timeless example of how wisdom and compassion can shape not only individuals but also communities, making him a fitting patron for the Masonic journey.

As Masons celebrate the Feast of St. John, we are reminded of our commitment to building a temple of virtue, founded on the eternal principles of love, truth, and light. This legacy resonates with the teachings of St. John the Evangelist.

As your editor and a Freemason, I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. Let us all focus on making 2026 a great Masonic Year.

The table below is correct as far as I know. If there is a discrepancy, please advise me ED

LODGE	DATE	TIME	WHERE	WORK
Carpentaria District	6 th Dec	TBA	Mossman	Quarterly Communication
B of GP	10 th Dec	4:30 pm	Freshwater	
Cairns Gelling	9 th Dec	5:30 pm		
Temple Memorial	1 st Dec	7.30 pm	Freshwater	Initiation Mr Malik Smith
Pyramid Highleigh	3 rd Dec	7.30 pm	Gordonvale	Initiation Mr Scott Berryington
Johnstone R. H.	13 th Dec	3.0 pm	Innisfail	
Pt Douglas Mossman	11 th Dec	7.0 pm	Mossman	
Tully---Tyson	3 rd Dec	7:00 pm	Tully	Reg meeting
Trinity Daylight	1 st Dec	9.30 am	Whitfield	
Barrine	13 th Dec	3.00 pm	Yungaburra	
Milla	9 th Dec	7:00 pm		

