



The District Grand Lodge of North Queensland

Vol. 5 No. 2

News Letter

1-08-2023

Brethren,

A warm welcome to the 8th edition of the NQ Compass for 2023.

I hope that you and your families continue to remain in good health. CV19 is still in our community so please be vigilant and take action if your not feeling well.

July was another busy month for the DGLNQ Team and we commenced our visitation programme immediately.

On **Sat 1st July**, a small DGLNQ Team of 4 led by VW Bro Norm Souter-Smith, who represented the Dist GM, attended a 1st Degree ceremony at **Ashlar Magnetic Lodge** to initiate **Bro Elmer Portuguese**. The meeting was well attended with 7 members and 5 visitors in the lodge room. A enjoyable festive board was held and we wish Bro Elmer all the best with his masonic career. Also on **Sat 1st July**, I was privileged to attend attended the UGLQ Proclam-

ation of our **GM MW Bro Jeff Harper AFSM** in Brisbane. At this meeting, I was pleased to be supported by our Dist Gr DC RW Bro Geoff Jackson , who attended a ceremony in the Grand Hall for the first time. The Proclamation was very well organized and attended and Geoff and his wife Kerry were present at a very enjoyable festive board which was held at the Kedron-Wavell Services Club at Chermside.

On **Sat 8 July**, the **Dep Dist GM VW Bro Joel Coleman** supported by an impressive DGLNQ Team of 10, attended **Kennedy Lodge Bowen** for the Installation of **Wor Bro Kevin Yarrow**. The meeting was well attended as was the excellent festive board at the Larrikin Hotel. During the evening, donations of approx. \$28,000 were made to local charitable organisations by the lodge members from their fundraising efforts and with assistance from HHP. Congratulations again and all the best to the Kennedy Lodge brethren. **Photos on Facebook The N.Q. Compass**

On **Sat 22 July**, it was great as Dist GM to attend **Unity Lodge** for the Installation of **Wor Bro Jose Figueiredo** where I was supported by a DGLNQ Team of 7. The meeting was well attended by members and visitors and once again Unity Lodge laid on a wonderful festive board, incl a Haggis, which was very enjoyable. **Photos on Facebook The N.Q. Compass**

On **Sat 29 July**, I was privileged to attend **Corinthian Lodge in Charters Towers**, as Dist GM, for the Installation of **Wor Bro Robert (Bob) Crow**. A DGLNQ Team of 7 was on hand along with 7 members and 7 visitors in the Lodge room, which made for a good ceremony. **Corinthian work an Irish Ritual** which was enjoyed by those visiting the Lodge for the first time. An excellent and enjoyable festive board was enjoyed by members, visitors and their partners at the RSL Club. Congratulations to the Corinthian brethren on a great day and we wish them all the best for the 2023—2024 masonic year! **Photos on Facebook The N.Q. Compass**

Date Claimers

Installations: Sat 12 Aug—St Andrew of Townsville Lodge—Install Bro Lee Bridson, **Sat 19 Aug**—Millican Lodge—Install Bro Malabu. **1st Degrees: Mon 14 Aug**—AIF Lodge— Mr Dan Cracknell, **Thurs 17 Aug**—Unity Lodge— Mr Tom Hopkins and **Mon 11 Sept**—AIF Lodge—Mr Jason Harton. We are also planning a special trip to support **the 2023 installation for the Muttaborra Lodge on Sat 26 August** and further details will follow.

I ask that you attend the upcoming installations and 1st Degrees, if possible, and again thank you all for your continued support, **especially those who are making an effort to visit to support other District Lodges**, their members and candidates and the brethren / master masons being installed. **Keep up the good work!** Fraternally John. John Playford Dist. GM

Aims of The N.Q. Compass.

- To promote those values and virtues we as Freemasons profess.
- To provide articles of interest to Members.
- To promote discussion and debate amongst Brethren.
- To highlight the activities of the Lodges in this district.
- To recognise individual achievements.
- To inform

“Vandals at Freemason’s Park”



Damage done to the Pallarenda Freemasons Park toilets in early July. Picture: TCC.

Townsville Mayor Jenny Hill has vented her anger at vandals who have damaged the Pallarenda public toilets four times over the past six months, costing rate payers almost \$20,000 in repairs.

Last week, Townsville City Council acted quickly to fix \$6,000 worth of damage to the Pallarenda Freemasons Park’s male and female toilets, with destroyed piping, ripped down signage, and pulled out cisterns and towel dispensers. No sooner had the paint dried on repairs and the vandals struck again, ripping up and burning plumbing fixtures and leaving behind graffiti tags. Other acts of vandalism took place on April 27, May 29, and July 4.

Cr. Hill was incensed by damage to the historic buildings, which were popular community assets and the last of their type built between the Strand and Pallarenda. “I hate giving in to groups like this. To me they are nothing but little bullies who need to be dealt with appropriately by the courts” Cr/ Hill said.

“We can put a camera here and that’s fine for a period of time, but the facts remain, we’ve got some real scum out there. I don’t know who their parents are, but people need to be responsible for their children.”

While it was unclear who was responsible, she blamed a core group of juvenile offenders for the destruction of council property, saying they should not be in an urban environment. Cr. Hill said the council was doing what it could to try to stop this sort of anti-social behaviour, with the latest 2023-24 budget containing \$14.9 million in community safety measures. “We have been doing what we can to put preventive initiatives in throughout the city, including updating toilet blocks with cisterns and plumbing embedded in the walls, improving our CCTV network, better lighting, our continued community patrols and the installation of more boulders around our parks,” she said.

Queensland Police Acting Inspector Todd Noble said vandalism and wilful damage of public property was a senseless crime costing the community time and resources.

“Police do regular patrols around parks and public space across the Townsville district,” Inspector Noble said. “Members of the public play such an important role providing vital information when reporting criminal activity. Everyone can play a part in crime prevention. Police encourage anyone who witnesses suspicious behaviour to contact police.”

Community consultation is underway with Townsville City Council weighing up whether to keep, upgrade, or replace the toilets with a safer, unisex cubicle design—a move opposed by a petition lodged with the council. A meeting was planned with residents at Palarenda Freemason’s Park for Thursday at 5p.m.

Article by Leighton Smith— Townsville Bulletin Wednesday July 12, 2023.

Increased Security for Ingham Road.

The eagle eyed among you may have noticed two security cameras have been mounted on the outside corner façade of 50 Ingham Road as a boost to security procedures. This



has been made possible by a donation from The Townsville Fund Raising Committee allowing for all traffic to be monitored along the Ingham Road and Church Street - footpaths and streets — displaying on monitors in the District Grand Office. The security is also connected to selected mobile phones in case of an attempted break in. A huge thankyou to the members of the Fundraising committee for this donation in these troubling times.

Do You Recognise This Person?

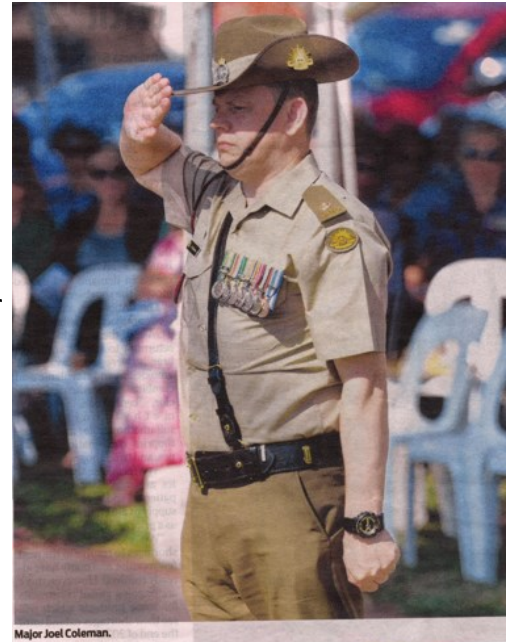
It is, of course, our Deputy District Grand Master, V. Wor. Bro. Joel Coleman, in his other role as a serving Officer in the Australian Army.

The occasion where the photograph was taken occurred at Rows Bay on Friday, 30th June at a service conducted by the Townsville branch of the National Service Association to commemorate National Service Day. Major Coleman was representing Commander of 3rd Brigade, Brigadier Dave McCammon.

Part of Major Coleman's address read in part,

"Thank you for your service. We acknowledge the hardships you went through and your contribution to making the ADF what it is today. We pause to remember all National Service Personnel and particularly those who have passed during service and in the years since.

"They will not be forgotten by their families, their comrades in arms, by the ADF or by Australia. We thank them for helping us to become what we are today. There are many ways to remember them, but perhaps the most important is to actually talk about them. We honour their memory and their duty is now done and they rest in peace."



Major Joel Coleman.

Or This Person?

Alright, the first one was relatively easy as the person involved was kind enough to make the photograph a recent one and in colour. The photograph of the Brother on the right was taken way back in 1976 and was published in the June edition of The North Queensland Register. As can be seen our mystery Brother had a full crop of hair at the time and would have been about 15 years old and still attending school in Charters Towers.

If you look very carefully you may be able to recognize the District Grand Director of Ceremonies Rt. Wor. Bro. Geoffrey Jackson. The occasion when this photograph was taken marked Geoff's success, along with two other boys from Thornburgh College in Charters Towers successfully completing Duke of Edinburgh Silver Awards. At the time Geoff received this prestigious award Thornburgh college had 33 boys actively working in the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme and its sister college, Blackheath, 10 girls.



A New Shed at 48 Ingham Road.

Following a grant from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund, work has now commenced on a new shed at the rear of 48 Ingham Road with a section to house the District Mini Bus. This grant was tabled at a recent District Quarterly Communication. As can be seen from the pictures below the slab has been laid out and a pour of 8 cubic meters of concrete made. Construction of the shed will be by Shed Ex and is expected to be completed during the next 6 to 8 weeks.

It is The N.Q. Compasses' intention to provide more pictorial evidence of the work as it is being carried out in next month's edition.



Masters Must Master The Art Of Leadership

*And others must assist the Master
in the well ruling and governing the Lodge.*

When we install the Master of a Lodge he is reminded that the honour, reputation and the usefulness of the Lodge depend on his skill and assiduity (meaning his perseverance in carrying out his duties) in managing Lodge concerns. A question arises — ***how useful is your Lodge? Who is it useful to/ for?*** Is your Lodge useful in your community? Is it useful to its members? Maybe we need to pause and think about this. What does it mean for a Masonic Lodge to be useful? This is a topic that deserves discussion and debate with your Lodge members so try it with a few Lodge members outside Lodge. Another important question is — how much help do Lodge members give the Master in carrying out his duties?

Reputations are usually gained when something is very good or very bad, so what is the *reputation* of your Lodge? We would all like our Lodge to be of good report, the best around but what is the reality with your Lodge? This could also be a topic of discussion with the members of your Lodge.

Another topic which needs an airing is *honour* when applied to your Lodge. What does this mean? Does it mean anything to your members or should we delete it from the ritual book because it is now meaningless?



We tell the new Lodge Master that the happiness of his Lodge members will benefit from his zeal (meaning his energy) and his ability with which he promulgates (meaning makes known to the public, proclaims) the genuine principles of the Institution?

We probably all know the Grand Principles on which the Order was founded: brotherly love, relief and truth [by the way, does your Lodge ever consider or discuss the meaning of the third of these Grand Principles?] Are these three Grand Principles the same as the genuine principles of the Institution? Re these what is meant when installing the Master of the Lodge? Or are there other genuine principles of the Institution? Whichever way you interpret these principles, can you work out how the Master telling the public about them make the Lodge members happier?

The new Master is also told that he is the head of the Lodge and is responsible for the faithful discharge of the duties needed to lead the Brethren. We, as Freemasons and members of the Lodge also have a duty — to support our Master which we can do if we understand the *genuine principles of the Institution*. So, Brethren, I charge you all to find out what the *genuine principles of the Institution* are and what it all means to Freemasonry universal, for that is how I understand the Institution. Freemasons New Zealand is part of a world-wide institution and every Freemason is a Brother to every other Freemason in the world. In Brotherly love and relief, we should look after our Brethren, where ever they are, and in our own Lodge, in another Lodge or even in another country.

A topic of real concern at present is how we don't look after newer members of our Lodges. There are many cases up and down the country where younger Masons leave after two or three years. The big question is WHY?

When a Lodge becomes aware that a young Mason has stopped coming to Lodge, what should the Lodge do?

Should they:

- (a) Do nothing and wait until he resigns.
- (b) Contact the absent freemason and ask him why he doesn't attend.
- (c) Contact him and ask him what it is that puts him off.
- (d) Go and see him and talk with him about his masonry.

In option (a) some Lodges hold an "exit interview" but this is bolting the door after the horse has gone. It would be much better to maintain close touch with our younger brethren during the time between degrees and after the Master Mason's Degree and find out what they are thinking all the way along the line and avoid the situation. What does your Lodge do?

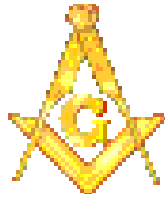
Younger Freemasons tell us that they don't want to learn ritual but do want to know more about freemasonry. They want a greater involvement, they want a hand in the activities, but not learning ritual. They are willing to take part but not take office. Freemasonry to many of our members is about ritual but to 20 to 40 year olds it's about fellowship, friendship and a desire to know. We have an education system ready to help but few Freemasons know about it. Point your browser at:

www.themasons.org.nz/cdiv/education.php

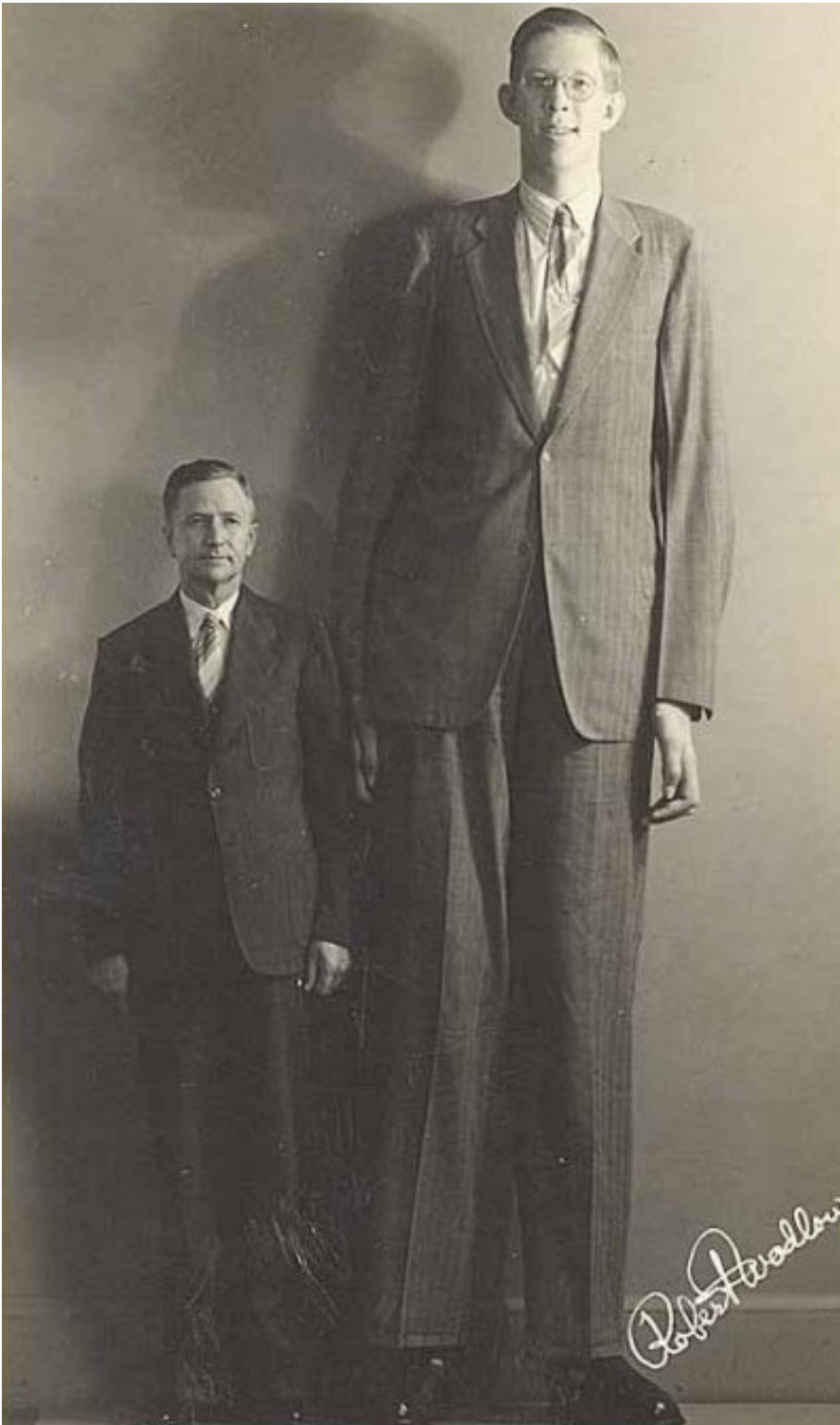
and see what happens.

V.W. Bro. Dr. George Allan PGLec., Chair, Education Committee.

A Famous Freemason.



Robert Wadlow.



Robert Wadlow was born in 1918 as an unremarkably sized baby and died 22 years later, in 1940, as the world's tallest man. He was 8 feet 11.1 inches when he died. To this day, no one has been known to grow taller. .

As a child, Wadlow could simply wear adult clothes, but as he kept growing, conveniences designed for people of average height no longer served his needs. And of all the practical problems that confronted Wadlow during his life, the ones that attracted the most attention involved his hands and his feet.

Living in western Illinois, not far up the river from St. Louis, Wadlow had reached 6 feet tall by the time he was eight years old. As a teenager, heading towards 8 feet tall, he had to duck his head through doorways. At a restaurant, he had to stretch his legs straight through to the other side of

the table. By the time he was an adult, he needed a bed specially made to fit his whole body, and a giant chair to keep him comfortable.

But shoes were a particular challenge for Wadlow. He quickly outgrew the normal size chart, and newspaper reporters were fascinated both by the size of his shoes and their cost. In 1928, he wore triple E size 21 shoes that cost \$30 a pair, the *United Press* reported. In 1931, a health columnist reported that his size 25 shoes cost \$50. In 1933, he was up to size 31, at \$84 a pair.

By 1936, a shoe company had signed him up as a spokesperson in exchange for keeping him in footwear: each pair of shoes, the company told the *Milwaukee Sentinel*, cost \$200 to make, because the leather needed to be reinforced with metal.



One of Wadlow's shoes displayed next to a normal 'large' shoe.

Part of the fascination with these shoes was their incredible cost. In 1936, smack in the middle of the Great Depression, \$200 was an incredible amount, about the equivalent of \$3,500 (American) today, to spend on shoes. But the shoes themselves were treated as a spectacle, too. When Wadlow travelled across the country to promote his shoe sponsor, he would sometimes leave pairs behind for people to gawk at.

As a consequence, those shoes are some of the few of Wadlow's possessions that are still around. When he died, of an infection that started in his leg, his family took care that neither his body nor his stuff would be paraded around as curiosities. They burned most of his possessions and buried him in a huge casket, sealed in a concrete vault. Since the world's previous tallest man had arranged with his friends to sink his body into the sea, only to have it sold to an enterprising scientist for 500 British pounds, this was not an unreasonable precaution.

Wadlow's mother, in particular, "was really reluctant to make a spectacle of him," says Brian Combs, a board member of the Alton Museum of History and Art, which today has the world's largest collection of Wadlow memorabilia. The museum aims to respect that

desire, by “displaying what items we have in our museum with pride and dignity,” as the collection’s website puts it.

There are some oddities in the museum (a 14 foot gourd with Wadlow’s face painted on it, a cast of his jaw), but also some of Wadlow’s possessions: eight pairs of shoes, his graduation gown, his guitar case, tennis racquet and camera.

If Wadlow’s shoes attracted attention during his life, more recently, it is an ornament he wore on his finger that has become the object of fascination. To understand how big his hands were, consider this. His camera was a normal-sized camera, and the *Milwaukee Sentinel* reported that he used to take pictures secretly, by concealing the camera in his hand and letting the lens sneak between his giant thumb and forefinger.

In 1939, not long before he died, Wadlow joined the local Freemason lodge and was made a masonic ring. (This is a practice widely observed by Masons in America). It’s widely reported that this was the largest Freemason ring ever made.

That’s “very likely true,” says Combs. “As far as I know it is.”

At the very least, it was a very large Freemason ring—size 25. The museum has a replica, made by the same shop as the original. “We like to illustrate it with a silver piece—with a half dollar in the middle,” says C



Wadlow’s huge masonic ring gives some idea of the size of his immense hands, described by a doctor as “artistically beautiful.” Unlike many giants Wadlow was perfectly proportioned. The size 25 ring was made of solid gold and weighed two ounces. Most men require a size 9 or 10 ring, with the largest at size 13.

In 1939, not long before he died, Wadlow joined the local Freemason lodge, having previously been a member of the Demolays, and was made a masonic ring as detailed above. It’s widely reported that this was the largest Freemason ring ever made.

Sometimes known as the Alton Giant and the Giant of Illinois, he is the tallest person in history for whom there is irrefutable evidence. The Alton and Illinois monickers reflect the fact that he was born and grew up in Alton, Illinois. Wadlow reached 8 ft 11.1 in (2.72 m) in height and weighed 439 lb (199 kg) at his death at age 22. His great size and his continued growth in adulthood were due to hyperplasia of his pituitary gland, which results in an abnormally high level of human growth hormone. He showed no indication of an end to his growth even at the time of his death.

On July 4, 1940, during a professional appearance at the Manistee National Forest Festival, a faulty brace irritated his ankle, causing a blister and subsequent infection. Doctors treated him with a blood transfusion and emergency surgery, but his condition worsened, and on July 15, 1940, he died in his sleep at age 22. Around 5,000 people attended Wadlow's funeral on July 19. He was buried in a 10-foot-long (3.0 m), half-ton coffin that required twelve pallbearers to carry and was interred in a vault of solid concrete. It was believed that Wadlow's family members were concerned for the sanctity of his body after his death, and wanted to ensure it would not be disturbed or stolen.



Bro. Robert Waldow with his family who were all of normal height and weight. His father, standing on the right, stood 5 feet 11 inches tall, a height Robert had surpassed by his eighth birthday. His is an inspirational story of which little remains, except the stunning photos of him. To this day, no one has ever reached Robert Wadlow's height. And at this point, it seems unlikely that anyone ever will.

**The N. Q. Compass welcomed the following member
to the Craft during July .**

Name

PORTUGUEZ, Elmer

Lodge

Ashlar—Magnetic No. 509



Brethren "The N.Q. Compass" is a newsletter for YOUR enjoyment

Please help to popularise it.