



The N.Q. Compass



The District Grand Lodge of North Queensland

Vol. 7 No. 4

News Letter

October 2025

Brethren,

A warm welcome to the **Fourth Edition** of the NQ Compass for **2025-2026!**

Andrea and I arrived back in Townsville on Tues 26th Aug from our six week trip to Houston TX. It was down to business quickly as a busy month of September was upon us!

Visitations undertaken and highlights from late Aug / Sept are as follows:

Sat 30th Aug - Andrea and I, as Dist GM, and several DGLNQ brethren and partners represented **Freemasons NQ** at a **Tiara's and Black Ties Evening** hosted by **St James Shrine No 153**, to celebrate **50 yrs of community service** to Townsville. It was a great night of celebrations with food, drinks dancing and good company, with **all funds being raised** for the **Joyful Foundation**. Congrats to the **St James Shrine Team** and supporters for a great night out!

Fri 5th Sept— It was great to see a big roll up for our **Freemasons NQ Fish & Chip Nite**, with our special guest being **MW Bro David Gray, GM of UGLQ** present. Another important guest was **Bro Regie Mestidio**, who was installed as **WM of Ashlar Magnetic Lodge** on Maggie Island on **Sat 6th Sept**.

Sat 6th Sept— It was a pleasure to represent **DGLNQ** on an historic day for **Ashlar Magnetic Lodge**, when **Bro Regie Mestidio** was installed as **WM of the Lodge**. **MW Bro David Gray GM of UGLQ** attended and entered the ceremony supported by a **Grand Team of 16 brethren**. The lodge room was packed with **54 brethren** present and incl **16 members and 22 visitors**. After the ceremony, we all adjourned to a **fantastic banquet** where **70 persons** were seated to enjoy the great food and festivities. Congrats go to all **Ashlar Magnetic Lodge brethren and their ladies** for a wonderful day and night out!

Mon 8th Sept— As **Dist GM**, I represented **Freemasons NQ** at a **1st Degree Meeting** for **Mr Mitchell Wade** at **Townsville AIF Memorial Lodge**. I was supported by a **DGLNQ Team of 6** and the meeting was well attended with **14 members and 2 visitors** present. The meeting concluded with a **solemn Vacant Chair Ceremony**, with bagpipes played by **Bro Tim Okes** adding to the occasion! An enjoyable festive board was held and congrats go to all brethren on another great night out!

Sat 13th Sept - DGLNQ held their **Sept QC at 50 Ingham Rd**. As **Dist GM**, I was proud to be supported by a **team of 27 Dist Officers** to enter the meeting, where I feel a record (for my term) of **82 brethren were present**. The meeting went smoothly and a **Secret Ballot** was held for the position of **Dist GM 2025 / 2026**. The **ballot proved in favour of our Dep Dist GM, VW Joel Coleman**. We now await confirmation of his appointment as **Dist GM Elect** from our **Grand Master**. A smaller festive board was held and was again well catered for by our ladies.

Fri 19th Sept— Andrea and I, as **Dist GM**, travelled down to Bowen to attend the **Kennedy Lodge No 11** meeting, which was well attended by members and visitors. During the ceremony, **Wor Bro Ian Pott** was presented with his **60 Year Service Jewel** by his **Brother-In-Law, RW Bro Ian Barrett, PAGM!** Congrats to **Wor Bro Pott** on this milestone!

Sat 20 Sept— **Northern Travellers Lodge** held a **Proclamation Ceremony** for **Wor Bro Tim Ahern** who will be the **Lodge WM for 2025 / 2026**. The **Dep Dist GM, VW Bro Joel Coleman** represented the **Dist GM** and entered the ceremony with a smaller DGLNQ team. During the meeting, **Wor Bro Ian Burns** was presented with his **50 Year Service Jewel** by **Wor Bro Ahern**. Congrats to **Wor Bro Burns** on this milestone! We also welcomed a new NT Lodge member, **Wor Bro Richard Parkin** from Victoria! After the meeting, we all adjourned to an enjoyable and harmonious festive board, where there was **35 people seated** for the banquet.

Tues 23rd Sept— I am now the **Past Ex First Princ** of **Cleveland RAC No 18**, who held a meeting to install **Ex Comp Lee Bridson** as **Ex First Principal for 2025 / 2026**. The meeting was well attended with **14 Cleveland and 7 visiting Companions (mostly from Wattle RAC T'ville)** present! Our **MEx First Gr Princ, ME Comp Ian Hodgson** entered the ceremony supported by an **excellent team of 12 Distinguished Companions!** During the ceremony, our **MEx First Gr Princ** presented several **Certificates to the Comps of The Cleveland RAC!** After the ceremony, we all enjoyed a harmonious festive board in the Lodge!

Date Claimers and Other Events on the DGLNQ 2025 Calendar are as advised within this **NQ Compass!**

Once again, I thank you for your continued support for DGLNQ and myself as Dist GM.

Fraternally John Playford - Dist GM / DGLNQ

October LODGE MEETINGS and Events

Lodge/Event	Time	Date	Where	Work
Millican No. 137	7:30pm	2/10/25	50 Ingham Rd	First Degree
Proserpine Whitsunday No. 251	7:30pm	2/10/25	Proserpine	2nd degree and Ballot
Ashlar Magnetic No. 509	3:00pm	4/10/25	Magnetic Is	
St Andrew of Townsville No. 94	3:00pm	9/10/25	50 Ingham Rd	
Townsville AIF Memorial No. 377	7:30pm	13/10/25	50 Ingham Rd	Second Degree
BoGP Meeting	5:00pm	14/10/25	50 Ingham Rd	
Hinchinbrook Cordelia No. 69	7:30pm	16/10/25	Ingham	
Unity No. 300	7:00pm	16/10/25	50 Ingham Rd	
Harmony Daylight No. 530	10:00am	17/19/25	50 Ingham Rd	Proclamation
Kennedy Lodge No. 11	7:30pm	17/10/25	Bowen	New Day and Date
St John Davenport No 33 and Corinthian No71	10am & 11am	18/10/25	Charters Towers	Festival of St John
Northern Travellers No. 384	7:00pm	20/10/25	50 Ingham Rd	
Hibernia Albion Star	7:00pm	30/10/25	50 Ingham Rd	

LODGE HAPPENINGS: UGLQ September Quarterly Communication

"The Grand Quarterly Communication was held in Brisbane on Wednesday, 3 September. Our District was proudly represented by the Deputy District Grand Master, VW Bro Joel Coleman, who attended on our behalf and delivered the quarterly report.

It was also a very special occasion for two of our District members. Wor Bro Iain Carnegie (St John Davenport No. 33 and St Andrew of Townsville No. 94) received his Grand Lodge Certificate for his appointment as **Grand Sword Bearer**, and Wor Bro Clem Plath (Townsville AIF Memorial Lodge No. 377) was presented with his Grand Lodge Certificate for his appointment as **Grand Herald**.

It is wonderful to see two of our own brethren honoured with such prestigious roles—[congratulations](#) to both!"



Please stay safe and well. We know there are a number of brethren/wives who are not feeling 100%. Please know our thoughts are with you and we hope you have a speedy recovery .

Supporting Townsville Meals on Wheels

It has been another rewarding month supporting the Townsville-based St Andrews Meals on Wheels. Over the past three months, a dedicated team of four Freemasons has generously contributed more than 45 volunteer hours and raised over \$1,500—proudly supported by the HHP *Dollar for Diners* program.

Wor. Bro. Litka-Fry, President of the Board of Benevolence, has been working tirelessly to ensure North Queensland Freemasons strengthen their presence in the community by demonstrating true charity, compassion, and care in action.



St Andrews of Townsville # 94



A photo proving we handed over the total to RFDS Qld on Friday night.

WHAT: The St Andrew of Townsville Lodge donates \$2000 in cooperation with Hand Heart Pocket to RFDS-Qld

WHEN: Friday 19 Sep 2025

WHERE: Qld Police Service Ball

WHAT: The \$2000 donation from The St Andrew of Townsville Lodge was used by the QPS as its curtain raiser for their annual Ball. All proceeds raised during the Ball were donated to RFDS-Qld.

Pictured: (L-R)

VW Bro Joel Coleman (representing The St Andrew of Townsville Lodge), Ms Elizabeth Ferrier (RFDS-Qld); and Chief Inspector Roger Whyte (QPS).

Fish and Chip Social Night to welcome the Grand Master RWBro David Gray

On Friday night, 5th September 2025, we gathered at 50 Ingham Rd for an informal meet and greet to welcome our new Grand Master MWBro David Gray and his Grand DC RW Bro Wayne Warry.

The Grand Master and his DC were in Townsville to attend the Ashlar Magnetic Installation on Saturday 6th September.



Ashlar Magnetic Lodge #509 Installation



It was a memorable and I think an historic day for Ashlar Magnetic Lodge No 509 on Saturday 6th Sept 2025, when Bro Regie Mestidio was installed as WM of the Lodge.

The windy weather and rough seas did not deter the many visitors from making the trip overseas for this special occasion.

Freemasons

Queensland GM, MW Bro David Gray and the Gr DC RW Bro Wayne Warry were in attendance and as Dist GM Freemasons NQ, I and the District brethren were pleased to support a great team of 16 officers to enter the ceremony with the GM.



The Lodge room was almost full and was buzzing with 54 brethren in total on hand including 16 members and 22 visitors and the Grand / DGLNQ Lodge team. Visitors came from Cairns, Brisbane, Dalby, Toowoomba and NSW! Grt support indeed for WM Regie and his team.



Ashlar Magnetic have 9 Master Masons in their Lodge and 8 of them have taken office this year! The ceremony went well and we adjourned to a most harmonious and enjoyable festive board where about 70 persons (maybe a record number!!) were treated to some excellent food plus Installation Cakes provided again by Noy and her ladies.



A number of heartfelt toasts were given on the night and the Grand Master was presented with a Worshipful Master's chair made by Wor Bro Eddie Milligan to celebrate the occasion.

During the Installation, the ever-patient ladies were treated to a tour of the island by Tim, our very informative guide. Congratulations to Ashlar Magnetic Lodge on a great day and every success to Wor Master Regie and his Team for the coming year.



Harmony Daylight Lodge #530



RW Bro Robert (Alex) Alexander Milne PJGW, celebrated 73 years as a Mason.

Originally a member of Caledonia Lodge in Mackay, he completed his first degree in 1952 and is still active in several orders in Freemasonry in the Townsville area.

Alex was a foundation member of Harmony Daylight Lodge in 1993 and attends most of the Lodge meetings. He has spent many years as Almoner for Harmony Daylight Lodge and continues to visit and contact Lodge widows and members who are unwell.

Alex received the Grand Rank of PJGW in 2007, and was given a Life Governor charity jewel in 1964 having been nominated by the members of Caledonia Lodge. His 70-year jewel was presented in 2022.



At the September regular meeting of Harmony Daylight Lodge (L to R)

Bro Bill Peel (40 year jewel), VW Bro Colin Breckon (40 year jewel), RW Bro Alex Milne (73 years as a Freemason), Wor Bro Ron Rowe (Grand Lodge Certificate PJGD), Bro Andrew Barker (officially welcomed into Harmony Lodge and presented with the Lodge's by-laws).

Townsville AIF Memorial Lodge #377 "Bloody well done, chaps!"



Another great month for Townsville AIF Memorial Lodge in so many ways.

While we had the honour of welcoming Bro Mitch Wade into this marvelous fraternity, we also took the opportunity to correct a number of long-overdue administrative mishaps at this meeting. To start, the District Grand Master graciously presented Wor Bro Jason Ballard with his two Past Master's certificates and well-earned recognition. Since assuming the Chair of King Solomon Wor Bro Ballard has conducted:



- 11 Initiations
- 6 Passings to the Second Degree
- 4 Raisings to the Third Degree

A total of 21 workings, which of course all conducted in a non-sequential order. In addition to that gargantuan workload, he also:

- Welcomed 5 Affiliations into the Lodge
- Presided over 2 ANZAC Ceremonies and Remembrance Services
- Led the 90th Anniversary Commemorative Dinner at the Army Museum, Jezzine Barracks

Not to mention, gallantly leading the Lodge to claim the RWBro Stead District Travelling Gavel which (*at the time of writing*) the Lodge still proudly retains.



Some four years and nine months after the event, Wor Bro Clem Plath was at long last presented with his 30-Year Service Jewel. The commitment Wor Bro Plath brings to the District is exemplary — not only as a member of the District Board of General Purposes, but active member of Grand Lodge, currently serving as Grand Herald. Concurrently, he is in the Chair of the Secret Monitor, whilst simultaneously about to serve a second term as Master in Monto Lodge (Proclamation 25 October 2025), whilst remaining highly active in all the other Orders he participates in. So, by merely saying 'well-earned' may be full of best intentions in its purest sense, but on this occasion perhaps an unintentional understatement - but without doubt an inspiration to us all.

And then, if that wasn't enough...Many moons ago (perhaps around decimalisation) VWBro Kevin Edward Gunthorpe qualified for the National Long Service and Good Conduct Medal for his distinguished service in HM Prisons and Queensland Correctional Services. Alas, not all was as straightforward as one would have hoped. For at the time of presentation, his middle name was misspelt; which may sound trivial, but is in fact a significant matter. For the incorrect name on the medal meant the award was essentially invalid, as it was attributed to someone who didn't officially exist. So with unrelenting interaction with Honours and Awards, support from the Commissioner and his staff; the General Manager of the Townsville Correctional Centre (AKA *'The Governor'*), and RWBro Lyle McGrath, the error was finally corrected and medal re-struck only to be properly presented by *'the Governor'* on behalf of the Commissioner at the Correctional Service Officers' gathering at the Wanderers Cricket Club the following Saturday. Unbeknownst to Gunny at the time - he also qualified for and was presented with his State Long Service Medal and Retired Service Medallion.



What a month - hence the heading: "Bloody well done, chaps!"

Northern Travellers Lodge No. 384 Proclamation Meeting 20 September 2025



On Saturday, 20 September 2025, Northern Travellers Lodge held its Proclamation Meeting, a special evening filled with fellowship and celebration.

Wor Bro Tim Ahern was once again proclaimed as Master for the year 2025/26, following a highly successful term that has seen an increase in Lodge membership and more than \$25,000 raised for Ronald McDonald House North Queensland.



The evening also provided an opportunity for Brethren to come together with their families, enjoying a relaxed and memorable night of fun. A particularly special moment was the presentation of a 50-Year Service Jewel to Wor Bro Ian Burns, who travelled all the way from Melbourne to mark this milestone with the Lodge.



It was truly a night of celebration, recognition, and brotherhood.

Kennedy Lodge #11



It was a privilege for Andrea and I to travel down to Bowen to attend the Kennedy Lodge No 11 meeting on Friday 19th Sept 2025 and to represent Freemasons NQ. There were also a number of visitors from Proserpine Lodge.

It was a special occasion for the Kennedy Lodge brethren as their DC, Wor Bro Ian Pott was presented with his 60 Year Service Jewel, by his brother-in-law RW Bro Ian Barrett PAGM. Wor Bro Pott responded to the presentation in the Lodge and he was very grateful to the Kennedy Lodge and all those who attended on the night.

Special congratulations to Wor Bro Pott on this milestone and well done to Kennedy Lodge and I thank you all again for your kind welcome.

OTHER ORDER HAPPENINGS: Berserker No. 17

Berserker No. 17

Recognition, Celebration, and Brotherhood - Berserker Council No. 17 - Allied Masonic Degrees

On Monday, 22 September 2025, Berserker Council No. 17 (Allied Masonic Degrees) gathered for its regular meeting, which proved to be a memorable occasion.

The Brethren were delighted to welcome Bro Michael Litka-Fry into the Council, where he completed the Degree of *St Lawrence the Martyr*.

We were also honoured to have RW Bro Vic Clarendon join us for the first time in his new role as Divisional Grand Prefect (QLD). Our warmest [congratulations](#) go to him on this significant and well-deserved ele-



vation within the Order. This is a rare and special honour, and we are proud to see one of our Council members so highly recognised.

If you are interested in becoming part of this unique and rewarding Order, we encourage you to get in touch with our Bro Secretary, WBro Les Keane, for more information.



CLEVELAND Royal Arch Chapter #18 Installation



It was a great night for the Companions of The Cleveland RAC No 18 as their Installation was held at 50 Ingham Rd in the company of MEx First Gr Princ of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Queensland ME Comp Ian Hodgson.



Ex Comp Lee Bridson was installed as Ex First Principal for 2025 / 2026 followed by the investiture of his Comps / Officers.

Our MEx First Gr Princ of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Queensland ME Comp Ian Hodgson

entered the ceremony supported by an excellent team of Distinguished Companions!!





During the ceremony, our MEx First Gr Princ presented Royal Arch Certificate to Companion Tim Oke and First and Second Principal Certificates to Excellent Companion John Playford as well as a Mark Master Mason Certificate.



The meeting was well attended with visiting Companions from Wattle RAC Townsville in

the Lodge room. A harmonious festive board followed.



NQ Masonic Motorcycle Enthusiasts Hit the Road Again



The NQ Masonic Motorcycle Enthusiasts once again came together for a Sunday ride filled with adventure and fellowship.

This time, the journey took them west to Charters Towers, with a stop at Sellheim before a quick photo opportunity at the Charters Towers Masonic Centre, followed by a well-earned lunch.

The group is already looking forward to their next ride — and as always, any Brother with a motorcycle is warmly welcome to join the fun!

DGLNQ September Quarterly Communication

Freemasons NQ held their Quarterly Communication at 50 Ingham Rd on Saturday 13th September 2025. The Dist GM was supported by a DGLNQ Team of 27 Officers to enter the QC.

The main item on the agenda was a second ballot for Dist GM Elect for DGLNQ for 2025 / 2026 and it was pleasing to see 82 district brethren present to record their vote. Dep Dist GM, VWBro Joel Coleman was the successful candidate and at the time of writing this article, we are waiting on Grand Lodge to confirm Bro Coleman as the new Dist GM for 25-26, after which we can move on to plan the DGLNQ installation.



Board members and Lodge representatives delivered informative and positive reports around all happenings in our District since our last QC in June 2025. The District continues to show increasing membership and our financial position is improving.

A light lunch was provided by our ladies at a harmonious and enjoyable festive board and a raffle was held to raise funds for donations to be made to local charities, Meals on Wheels and the Joyful Foundation. Thank you all for your attendance and we look forward to the year ahead.



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

Editor's Note: Please continue to take photos of your Masonic activities and send them via email to Dist Office dglmq@nqfreemasons.com.au or text message to Wor Bro Mick Litka-Fry on 0450 529 426. This newsletter enables you to promote your Masonic Lodge and Order across QLD!