



# The N.Q. Compass



The District Grand Lodge of North Queensland

Vol. 8 No. 1

News Letter

January 2026

Brethren,

Happy new year.

While Christmas 2025 was not the best of times for some, it has been a time of happiness and sharing for many. As we start the new year, I ask you all to continue to remember those less fortunate and extend your hand of friendship where needed. Always practice harmony and friendship towards each other. Let bygones be bygones and transform our lodges into true refuges from the turmoil outside the doors.

As Dist GM 'The Compass' provides a regular opportunity to communicate directly to all Freemasons within the District of North Queensland. Before we are too far into 2026, I ask each of you to take a little time to meditate over the reasons you became a Freemason. Do you remember? Afterwards, spend a few moments meditating about your needs as an individual man, as a member of a family and, as a member of a lodge. Where can you improve yourself, your family/community and your lodge? As Freemasons, divesting ourselves of 'superfluous knobs and excrescences' should be our constant aim; progressing from rough to perfect ashlar. During 2026 aim to knock off at least one of those 'knobs'. Become more tolerant, more understanding, more charitable. Being charitable to others is the best way we can demonstrate the values of Freemasonry to others and reflect the purpose of the GAOTU in our lives. If we do this Freemasonry will grow in our District.

During 2025 the District grew in numbers through the continued leadership and steady hand of RWBro Playford and his DGLNQ team, setting us up for success this year. For many lodges 2025 saw new members initiated and old members return. This year will see a further growth across the District from north to south and east to west. Be prepared to welcome new Freemasons. Be prepared to answer questions from inquiring minds about our Craft. Be able to expand on: "What is Freemasonry?"

I look forward to sitting in lodge with all of you over the term of my Master-ship and invite you all to talk freely about how we can improve ourselves and our Craft. Be assured, the door for improvement is (as always) constantly open and looking to you for fresh ideas. For the WMs of the District: lead with confidence and compassion as you are Masters over a fine body of men who have elected you to lead them and your lodge. Let's all enjoy Freemasonry and 2026.

Warm fraternal regards,

Joel Coleman



## January 26 LODGE MEETINGS and Events

Lodge/Event	Time	Date	Where	Work/Activity
Proserpine Whitsunday No. 251	7:00pm	15/01/26	Proserpine	Second Degree
Star of the West Lodge No. 49	1:00pm	17/01/26	Hughenden	
Unity Lodge No. 300	7:00pm	24/01/26	50 Ingham Rd	Burns Supper
Northern Travellers No 384	10am-2pm	26/1/26	6 Mariners Dr	Australia Day Social Function
Cleveland RAC Trivia Afternoon	2:00pm	26/01/26	50 Ingham Rd	Open to all Freemasons/Friends
Hibernia Albion Star Research No. 15	2:00pm	29/01/26	50 Ingham Rd	



*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 .*

## DISTRICT HAPPENINGS: A Significant Day for the District: Installation of RW Bro Joel Adam Coleman

The 13th December 2026 marked a significant milestone for the District with the installation of RW Bro Joel Adam Coleman as District Grand Master for the District of North Queensland. Weeks of dedicated practice and preparation culminated in an Installation Ceremony that was both memorable and highly dignified. The Lodge Room was filled with Brethren, family, and friends who gathered to witness and share in this important occasion. It was particularly pleasing that so many members of RW Bro Coleman's and VW Bro Sankey's families were able to attend and support them on this special day. The District was also honoured by the presence of Mrs Helen Stead, wife of the late RW Bro Graham Stead PAGM, and Helen's sister, who travelled from Brisbane to attend the ceremony.



The Grand Master, MW Bro Dave Gray, accompanied by MW Dr Gary Bacon AM PGM and MW Bro Bob Jones PGM GLV, accepted the gavel and presided over the Installation Ceremony, a highlight that was truly wonderful to witness. RW Bro Coleman's first official act was the investiture of his Deputy District Grand Master, VW Bro Lee "Beau" Sankey, who is warmly congratulated and commended for his commitment to leadership and for the vital role he will play alongside the District Grand Master in guiding the District. The investiture of the Grand Lodge Officers followed, and it was particularly pleasing to see so many Brethren taking office for the first time.



The Installation Banquet was a fitting conclusion to an outstanding day. Held at the Grand Chancellor Hotel, the dignified setting provided the perfect environment for Brethren and guests to enjoy one another's company and celebrate Freemasonry within the District. It was especially encouraging to see the strong attendance of visiting Brethren, demonstrating their support for the new leadership team. During the banquet, the Grand Master conferred the Grand Rank of Past Assistant Grand Master upon the outgoing District Grand Master, RW Bro Playford.

On behalf of the District Grand Master and Melanie, sincere thanks are extended to all who assisted in and supported this wonderful day.

All images from the District Grand Installation are available on the DGLNQ website under the "News/Events" tab.



## District Happenings: December Quarterly Communication – Celebrating Leadership and Service

Immediately preceding the District Grand Installation, the District held its December Quarterly Communication, marking the final meeting presided over by the outgoing District Grand Master. The meeting was well attended, with the Most Worshipful Grand Master, MW Bro David Gray, and Grand Lodge Officers present, along with the District Grand Master of Carpentaria, RW Bro Dave Scott, and his DGL team.



A key highlight of the meeting was the presentation of a Life Governor – level Charity Jewel to VW Bro Noel LeRoy in recognition of his outstanding work in supporting the District. The occasion also provided an opportunity to formally thank both VW Bro LeRoy and Wor Bro Andrew Young for their tireless efforts in fundraising through the Masonic Fundraising Committee. Their dedication and commitment have made a significant contribution and are sincerely appreciated.



It was also most encouraging to hear reports of the number of candidates being initiated into Freemasonry across the District, as well as the benevolent efforts undertaken by many Lodges. These positive reports reflected the vitality of the District and the ongoing commitment of its members to Freemasonry's charitable and fraternal principles.

Following the meeting, a light lunch was provided, thanks to the hard work and dedication of many of the District's Ladies. Many attendees also stayed on for several hours to assist with cleanup, an effort that was greatly appreciated by the District leadership.

## District Happenings: Acknowledging Outstanding Contribution to the District

Standing alongside many District Grand Masters are their supportive partners, who assist in every way possible to help their husbands succeed. Andrea has truly epitomised this support. In addition to all the other responsibilities that come with being the spouse of a District Grand Master, Andrea has also fulfilled the role of Assistant Secretary for the District during RW Bro Playford's tenure.



Her tireless devotion to this role has ensured that the day-to-day functions of the District ran seamlessly. Andrea is now stepping away from this position to dedicate more time to family and some of the other organisations in which she is actively involved, such as the QCWA. It was wonderful to see both the Most Worshipful Grand Master and the District Grand Master publicly recognise Andrea for her contributions during the Installation Banquet.

## District Happenings: Donation to the Joyful Foundation

The Joyful Foundation holds a special place in the heart of NQ Freemasons, having been established by RW Bro Ron Donellan and his late wife Val as a legacy of their late Daughter—Joy Donellan. Grace and her team has been working hard to prepare School packs for those in need, ensuring that the children in our community are prepared for the School year. Individual donations would be greatly received so please email The Joyful Foundation if you can contribute! [the.joyful.foundation@gmail.com](mailto:the.joyful.foundation@gmail.com)



In support of The Joyful Foundation's charitable endeavors, the District Grand Lodge presented a cheque for \$450 during the December Quarterly Communication luncheon. This generous contribution, to be matched by HHP, reflects our continued commitment to benevolence, compassion, and service within the wider community.



## District Happenings: Christmas donation to St Andrews Meals on Wheels in Townsville

On 19 December 2025, the District Grand President of the Board of Benevolence, accompanied by the District Grand Treasurer, visited St Andrew Meals on Wheels to wish the team a Merry Christmas and present a cheque for \$535.00.

This was a fitting end to the year, during which the volunteers (Wor Bro Litka-Fry, VW Bro Souter-Smith, Wor Bro Sugden, and Wor Bro Reid) volunteered every Tuesday morning, delivering meals to members of the community. Special recognition is also extended to Wor Bro Litka-Fry's wife, Maria, who has often joined Mick at short notice to assist NQ Freemasons with their deliveries.



The District looks forward to continuing its strong relationship with Meals on Wheels into 2026, supporting their vital work in the community.

## Lodge Happenings: Good Cheer and Brotherhood: Millican Lodge's Christmas Gathering

On 6 December 2025, the Brethren, along with their families and friends of Millican Lodge No. 137, came together for a festive Christmas celebration, marking another great year of fraternal friendship. After a short meeting, everyone gathered for dinner and was delighted by a special visit from Santa, who somehow managed to squeeze the Lodge into his very busy holiday schedule, much to the joy of young and old alike.



## Lodge Happenings: St Andrew of Townsville No. 94 welcomes a new Brother into the Fraternity

St Andrew of Townsville No. 94 concluded its final meeting for 2025 on a high note with the initiation of Bro. Danny Matheson. Bro. Matheson's enthusiasm for Freemasonry has already been clearly demonstrated through his regular attendance as a visitor at Lodge dinners and his visit



to another Lodge to observe First Degree ceremonies just five days after his own initiation. Welcome to Freemasonry, Danny — we wish you many prosperous and fulfilling years in the Craft.

## Lodge Happenings: A Full Lodge and a Festive Finish for Northern Travellers

December is typically a quiet month for Northern Travellers Lodge, as the third Monday often falls during the week of Christmas. This year, however, was definitely not the case, with 31 Brethren filling the Lodge room to witness Bro. Mark Lewis take his first regular step into Freemasonry. The evening was further distinguished by the first official visit of the newly installed District Grand Master, who was accompanied by his newly appointed team of Officers. Following a memorable ceremony, the Brethren retired to the South, where they enjoyed a festive Christmas dinner—complete with ham and turkey—bringing to a close what has been a very busy and rewarding year for the Lodge.



## Lodge Happenings: Harmony Daylight joins for Christmas Celebrations

The Brethren of Harmony-Daylight Lodge No. 530, accompanied by their partners, joined together to celebrate the festive season and fraternal friendship, enjoying an evening of fellowship, laughter, and goodwill that reflected the true spirit of the Craft.



## Other Orders: New member for WJC Schwabe

On 6 December 2025, the Brethren of the WJC Schwabe (Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for Australia) gathered in Charters Towers to witness Bro. Mick Litka-Fry's elevation to the 30th Degree. The meeting was followed by a session of the Mylne Sovereign Rose Croix Chapter No. 7 and a celebratory lunch. It was wonderful to see our Western Brethren come together, reconnect, and share in fellowship ahead of the Christmas season.



## Other Orders: Cleveland RAC Australia Day Trivia Afternoon

Cleveland RAC No. 18 will be holding an Australia Day Trivia Afternoon from 2:00pm— 4:00pm at the Townsville Masonic Centre. This activity is open to all Freemasons, families, friends of freemasons so is a great opportunity to showcase our great membership and facility. All information has been disseminated to Lodge Secretaries.

To register and book a table, please click on the following link: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1498303>



## Other Orders: Order of the Secret Monitor for Northern Australia and PNG

Right Worthy Brother Iain Carnegie, a distinguished member of St John Davenport Lodge No. 33, Corinthian Lodge No. 71, and St Andrew of Townsville Lodge No. 94, has been announced as the next Grand Supreme Ruler for the Order of the Secret Monitor in Northern Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Brother Iain's Installation will be held on 16th May 2026 at the Masonic Memorial Centre, Brisbane (open installation), followed by an Installation Banquet at the nearby Sofitel Hotel.

He is the first member of this District to be appointed to head this esteemed Order.

The next edition of the Compass will provide full booking details for all events, allowing Brethren and friends to attend and support our Brother in this significant milestone.



### 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 over the Christmas/New Year Period and send them via email to [nqcompass@nqfreemasons.com.au](mailto:nqcompass@nqfreemasons.com.au) or text message to Wor Bro Mick Litka-Fry on 0450 529 426