



The N.Q. Compass



The District Grand Lodge of North Queensland

Vol. 8 No. 2

News Letter

February 2026

Brethren,

Momentum and renewal defined the past year across the District, with membership growth leading the story. After a three-year goal of increasing active participation by up to 20 per cent, the District closed 2025 with a strong 15 per cent year-on-year increase, despite the challenges of a transient regional workforce. That momentum has continued into 2026, with multiple First Degrees already conducted. Some Lodges are now so active they have formed semi-formal partnerships with quieter Lodges, sharing ceremonial work and lifting morale and engagement across the District. A welcome consequence of this growth has been a noticeable reduction in average age, encouraging fresh thinking on how best to support Masons as young as 18.

Benevolence remains a cornerstone of District life. Close cooperation with Hand Heart Pocket and the Masonic Fund of Benevolence continues to demonstrate the power of coordinated care and stands as a reminder that Masonic promises are lived, not merely spoken. Expanding partnerships with local charities such as Meals on Wheels and Ronald McDonald House are delivering tangible benefits throughout North Queensland.

Progression also means working smarter. A Secretary's Forum is planned in the near future, aimed squarely at reducing administrative burdens and identifying efficiencies that return valuable time to Lodge life.

Social connection has been another priority, with Lodges increasing informal activities to strengthen fellowship and community presence. A Holy Royal Arch quiz night raising funds for the District Grand Master's charity was a particular highlight.

Looking ahead, the DDist GM has been tasked with delivering a single high-impact social and charitable initiative each year. This year's focus will support western Queensland farmers, raise public awareness

of Freemasonry, and foster camaraderie and well-being—showcasing a fraternity that is active, relevant and service-driven.

It is with deep sadness, however, that this report closes with the sudden passing of Vi Ratcliffe. Vi was woven into the very fabric of our Masonic community. Our hearts remain with Bill and the family, and we extend our sincere condolences and love during this profoundly difficult time.

RW Bro Joel Coleman

District Grand Master

DGLNQ



February 26 LODGE MEETINGS and Events

Lodge/Event	Time	Date	Where	Work/Activity
Millican No. 137	7:30pm	02/02/26	50 Ingham Rd	
Proserpine-Whitsunday No. 251	7:30pm	05/02/26	Proserpine	Third Degree
Ashlar-Magnetic No. 509	2:00pm	07/02/26	Magnetic Island	
TSV AIF Memorial No. 377	7:30pm	09/02/26	50 Ingham Rd	Double First Degree
St Andrew of TSV No. 94	7:30pm	12/02/26	50 Ingham Rd	
Northern Travellers No. 384	7:00pm	16/02/26	50 Ingham Rd	First Degree
Hinchinbrook-Cordelia No. 69	7:30pm	19/02/26	Ingham	
Unity Lodge No. 300	7:30p,	19/02/26	50 Ingham Rd	
Harmony Daylight No. 530	09:30am	20/02/26	50 Ingham Rd	
Kennedy No. 11	7:30pm	20/02/26	Bowen	
Corinthian No. 71	10:00am	21/02/26	Charters Towers	St Patricks Day Festival
St John Davenport No. 33	11:00am	21/02/26	Charters Towers	

DISTRICT HAPPENINGS: Standing Strong Through the Wet Season

Once again, North Queensland’s weather has kept our communities on high alert as we endure another unpredictable wet season. Western Queensland has been particularly hard hit, with many farmers suffering significant stock losses and being cut off by both road closures and telecommunications outages. Several of our Western members, along with families of North Queensland Freemasons, are now working through the difficult aftermath of these events.

While natural disasters are an unfortunate reality of life in our region, this does little to lessen the anxiety, disruption, and very real threats to livelihoods and personal safety that they bring.

Closer to home, the Townsville Masonic Centre did not escape Tropical Cyclone Koji unscathed. Water ingress through the roof caused damage to Lodge property, creating challenging conditions within the building. In response, many of our Brethren have worked tirelessly in the aftermath—cleaning up, drying out water-logged rooms, and taking swift action to prevent the development of mould.

Their efforts reflect the resilience, commitment, and strong sense of fraternity that continue to define our Masonic community, even in the face of adversity.



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: Engaging the Next Generation at JCU Orientation Week

Orientation Week at James Cook University (JCU) in Townsville provided a fantastic opportunity for the Brethren to connect with new students and promote the Craft. Led by Wor Bro Naph Yague, Worshipful Master of Unity Lodge No. 300, Freemasonry was proudly presented as a meaningful and rewarding option for young adult men considering joining the Fraternity.

This initiative is one of many ongoing efforts by local Lodges to raise awareness of Freemasonry within the wider community. As increasing numbers of people seek ways to contribute positively to society through volunteering, personal development, and self-improvement, North Queensland Freemasons are well placed to demonstrate how the Craft can support those aspirations.

Congratulations to Wor Bro Naph and the team on a great effort and a successful presence at JCU Orientation Week.



Lodge Happenings—Strengthening Community Connections in Townsville—Townsville AIF Memorial Lodge

Defence Member and Family Support (DMFS) Townsville recently held its annual Welcome to Townsville Defence Expo, showcasing a wide range of the region's community organisations. As has become customary, Townsville AIF Memorial Lodge once again formed part of the fabric of this important event.

While public interest in Freemasonry has consistently been positive, converting that interest into the next stage of engagement has historically proven more challenging. Nevertheless, Townsville AIF Memorial Lodge's continued presence as a well-established organisation within the broader, holistic network of Townsville's community groups stands as a credit to its brethren.

This year's expo proved particularly fascinating, with prospective members emerging from the most unexpected quarters. These included two British Army soldiers—both Master Masons—who have recently transferred to the Australian Army; a gentleman initiated into Townsville Lodge many years ago before emigrating to Canada; and an enthusiastic 18-year-old with multi-generational family connections to Freemasonry.

Notwithstanding the dedicated efforts of the brethren in promoting the fraternity, the social interaction and camaraderie shared among all participating community organisations were exceptional and a genuine pleasure to witness. Townsville AIF Memorial Lodge now looks forward with optimism as this engagement progresses toward welcoming new members into the Lodge.



Lodge Happenings: A Memorable Evening at Proserpine–Whitsunday Lodge No. 251

Proserpine–Whitsunday Lodge No. 251 has started 2026 with great enthusiasm, marking a strong beginning to the year with the Second Degree ceremony of Brother Ryan Knight on 15 January 2025. The occasion was further enhanced by the attendance of the Deputy District Grand Master, accompanied by District Grand Lodge Officers, whose presence added distinction to the evening.

The meeting also provided a proud opportunity to recognise long and dedicated service, with Worshipful Brother Norm Large being presented with his 30-Year Service Jewel in the presence of the District Grand Lodge team—a well-deserved acknowledgement of his commitment to Freemasonry.

The evening carried a bittersweet note as the Lodge farewelled its Director of Ceremonies, Worshipful Brother Konrad Kangru, who is relocating south due to work commitments. Konrad is a highly respected member of both the Lodge and the wider District, and his contributions will be greatly missed.

On behalf of the entire District, we extend our sincere thanks and best wishes to Worshipful Brother Konrad Kangru for the next chapter of his journey.



Other Orders—Cleveland RAC Australia Day Trivia

Despite the wet weather, a great crowd turned out for the Australia Day Trivia Afternoon hosted by Cleveland RAC No. 18. With seven tables of eager competitors, the afternoon featured several “famous faces,” including the late Dame Edna Everage and Richie Benaud, adding plenty of fun to the occasion.

The spirit of Australia Day was on full display through the light-hearted camaraderie shared by all in attendance. It was especially encouraging to see new faces join in, along with the children of Brethren, making the event truly inclusive and family-friendly.

The impressive range of prizes on offer reflected the hard work and dedication of the Chapter’s organising team. Congratulations to everyone involved on a successful and enjoyable event!



Other Orders—JS Popham Conclave No. 7

JS Popham Conclave No. 7 has begun what promises to be a busy and productive year for the Order. Bro Brennan Long and Bro Mohammad Malibu undertook their Princes Degree, marking the commencement of the next stage of their journey within the Order.

During the meeting, VWthy Bro Richard Parkin was officially welcomed as a member of the Conclave, a most welcome and valued addition to our ranks.

The Conclave also paused to remember the late Wthy Bro Ray Graham, who has passed to the Grand Lodge above since our last meeting. The moving ceremony provided members with a moment to reflect and honour the life and service of a respected Brother.

It was heartening to see so many out-of-town members brave the wet conditions to support the Candidates and help make the evening a memorable one.



Other Orders—Order of the Secret Monitor for Northern Australia and PNG Grand Installation - Tickets are on sale!

As advised in the Compass' previous edition, North Queensland's Rt Wthy Bro Iain Carnegie will be installed as Grand Supreme Ruler of the Grand Conclave of Northern Australia and PNG at the Masonic Memorial Centre in Brisbane on 16 May 2026.

Tickets are available through the following Trybooking link or QR Code. Please note that this event is open to all Freemasons and their families.

It would be wonderful to see members of our District travel to Brisbane to support Iain in this significant Masonic milestone.

<https://www.trybooking.com/DIGOX>



Community Connection—Freemasons NQ Team in support of worthy charities.

Wor Bro Naph Yague, current Master of Unity Lodge No. 300, is seeking interested Brethren who would like to become more active while raising funds for worthy causes by joining the **Freemasons NQ Team** in the upcoming **Run Army 2026**.

This event is open to the public and is not limited to Defence personnel. Brethren, family members, and friends are all welcome to participate, including wives, partners, children, and grandchildren. Participants may choose to either run or walk.

Registration and further details can be found at: <https://runarmy.org.au/> When registering, participants are reminded to join the team **“Freemasons NQ.”**

For those not yet ready to complete a 5km run or walk, participation in **parkrun** is encouraged. Parkrun takes place every Saturday at 7:00am at three Townsville locations: **Riverway, Aplins Weir, and North Shore**. The event consists of a 5km run or walk, completed at an individual’s own pace.

Registration is required to take part and to track weekly progress. When registering, participants are also encouraged to join the group **“Freemasons NQ.”**

<https://www.parkrun.com.au/groups/50106>



Vale—Mrs Violet Radcliffe

It is with immense sadness that we report the sudden passing of Violet Radcliffe (Vi), the loving wife of Right Worshipful Brother Bill Radcliffe of Millican Lodge, on Saturday, 17 January 2026.

Bill and Vi were married for 61 years and have both been stalwarts of the North Queensland Masonic community. Vi was a familiar and much-loved presence, attending numerous functions and forming lifelong friendships with many of our members.

Her warmth, kindness, and genuine interest in others ensured she was always welcomed wherever she went. Together with Bill, Vi was also a generous supporter of the Joyful Foundation, setting a strong example of charity, service, and community-mindedness. Their quiet generosity reflect the very values we strive to uphold.

We extend our deepest and most sincere sympathies to Bill and his family, as well as to all those who were close to Vi. Our Masonic community is truly richer for having had her as part of our lives, and she will be fondly remembered and greatly missed.



Vi and Bill Radcliffe at the DGLNQ Installation Banquet in December