

**Quarterly**  
NEWS UPDATE  
of Craft & Royal Arch Masonry in the District of South Africa, North



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## DGM's Welcome

### **Warm and Fraternal Greetings, Brethren,**

The arrival of spring heralds not only the warmth of longer days, but also the anticipation of our summer rains. Who amongst us does not know the deep satisfaction of that first scent, as the rains strike our parched and thirsty African soil? It is a fragrance that carries with it renewal, vigour, and promise, and in like manner, our District is infused with fresh energy and purpose at this season.

It has been most gratifying to witness the diligence and devotion of so many brethren. Whether expressed through ritual excellence or through steadfast service in the many avenues of our Craft, your contributions have not gone unnoticed. Special recognition must be extended to those who have, this year, received their first District Ranks in the Craft, the Royal Arch, or in both. To you, I offer heartfelt congratulations. This advancement is both a privilege and a responsibility, and I trust it will inspire you to ever greater service as you now perceive more clearly not only how but why our District continues to flourish.

The recent Annual Craft and Royal Arch meetings were meticulously planned and conducted; I must take this opportunity to thank the plethora of contributors who made the meetings resounding successes. I had the pleasure to greet many of you personally, to share in our labours, and to strengthen yet further the bonds of fraternal affection which unite us.

Brethren, your unwavering commitment, joined with our focused strategy, ensures that time and again our District demonstrates its strength and excellence. Truly, it stands pre-eminent not only within our country, but throughout our continent.

Fraternally,

Your District Grand Master

*Christopher van Gaalen*



## FROM THE EDITOR

**WBro. Brett Theron DistAGSec:**

Brethren,

One of the key strategies set forth by our District Grand Master is the advancement of communication within our District. When I was called upon to serve upon the Communications Committee, I could not but accept, for effective communication is one of the surest means of strengthening the cement of Brotherly Love and unity amongst us.

The most encouraging feedback received from far and wide regarding our previous circular has been both heartening and inspiring, and it has energised me to redouble my efforts in preparing this present edition.

On Saturday past, I was deeply honoured when the District Grand Master was pleased to invest me as District Assistant Grand Secretary. In his address, he graciously referred to this circular, and his kind words of recognition will remain with me as a charge to maintain and, where possible, to improve upon the labours already undertaken.

What added even greater delight was his expressed desire to append Peripatos, the monthly newsletter of the Lyceum Lodge of Research, to our District publication.

Peripatos, meaning “To Walk”, is an apt symbol of our collective Masonic journey, reminding us that together we walk in harmony, in pursuit of Light and Knowledge.

And so, Brethren, let us be mindful of the example of Aristotle, who walked and lectured in his unique peripatetic style, imparting wisdom as he journeyed with his students through the passageways of his school The Lyceum. In a similar manner, may we as Freemasons walk together, in pursuit of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth; teaching, learning, and supporting one another along the way.

Let us therefore walk worthily, as craftsmen upon the path of Light.

Ed.



THEIR LIGHT GUIDES US ALL

ARMISTICE SERVICE, FREEMASONS' HALL JOHANNESBURG

Saturday 8 November, 11h00 [Click to RSVP](#)

Brethren, we each carry a piece of history with us, liberties derived from those who served and paid the ultimate price for our freedom during the great wars. This year marks the solemn anniversary 107th of the 11th of November 1818, when the guns at last fell silent.



We draw inspiration from their sacrifice, knowing that our own Grand Lodge is itself a living war memorial. In this knowledge, we reaffirm our faith, apply our Masonic principles, and remember with dignity those who bravely faced adversity so that we might live in freedom.

Once again, the Brethren of Lyceum Lodge of Research, together with the Deputy District Grand Master and the District Grand Director of Ceremonies, are preparing this year's Remembrance Service. The ceremony is being

carefully reworked to provide a moving and memorable experience for all who attend.

It will be held as an open event, and Brethren are warmly encouraged to wear service uniform as part of their Masonic regalia, as we unite in honouring those who gave their all.

Modern South Africa was forged through the fires of many wars—tribal conflicts, the Anglo-Boer wars, the World Wars, and local regional struggles. Each of these left behind not only scars on our land, but also on the hearts of families and communities.

Every conflict brought loss, and every loss was borne by men, women, and children whose lives were forever changed. We honour their memory, for their sacrifices remind us of the resilience of the human spirit, and of the duty we bear to care for one another in times of hardship.

Brethren, just as we will always remember them, so too must we remember those who, in our present age, wage quiet battles within themselves. To forget them would be to fail the very principles upon which we stand. Let us, therefore, remain steadfast in ensuring that no Brother is left to suffer alone—whether on the battlefield of war or the battlefield of the mind.



## PROPELLORGANDA FROM THE AVIATORS

By Bro Iain Findlay

Aviation Lodge No 8471 is enjoying an encouraging upswing in membership. Since the last publication we have Initiated one Brother, Passed one, welcomed two Joining Members, and had the pleasure of seeing two Brethren re-join our ranks. The Lodge is steadily strengthening, and the renewed energy is reflected in the busy calendar of activities both within and beyond our walls.

True to the spirit of fellowship, our members have been active visitors to Lodges meetings at Freemasons' Hall, as well as extending our support to Norwood Hall and the GLSA. Aviation Brethren have also stepped in to assist other Lodges with workings, often acting in officer positions when called upon, demonstrating both commitment and service.

The Lodge's digital presence has also taken flight. Our website ([www.aviationlodge.co.za](http://www.aviationlodge.co.za)) is fully operational and includes an easy means of submitting Festive Board meal requests. In addition, we have launched our official Facebook page Aviation Lodge 8471EC where Brethren and friends can follow announcements, updates, and highlights. This forms part of the wider "Modern Mason" initiative of the District of South Africa, North. In true aviation fashion, and as our Worshipful Master prefers not to use the word "propaganda," we have affectionately coined the term "propellorganda" for all things relating to Aviation Lodge communications.

The Lodge has continued to enjoy memorable occasions with our friends and neighbours. Among them was a visit to Transvaal Jubilee Lodge for an Initiation, a most convivial single-malt tasting evening with Semper Vigilans Lodge (rest assured no bottle to the throttle), and the pleasure of joining Melrose Lodge at their splendid Ladies Gala Evening.



On 26 August, Bro. Tsholofelo was Initiated in true aviator's style and received his propeller ceremony at the Festive Board; a tradition unique to our Lodge that continues to delight candidates and visitors alike.



## LIMPOPO MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

### DIRT ROADS & FRONTIER MASONRY

#### WBro Ben Olivier

Deep in the heart of our northern territory lies one of the most unusual regions of our District, where Masonry takes on a character all its own. Here, scattered across vast distances, along dusty farm roads and highways that stretch to the horizon, the “Magnificent Seven” Lodges keep the light of the Craft burning bright.

This is frontier Masonry. Brethren from the trades of transport, agriculture, and mining hang up their heavy tools at the close of day, climb into their bakkies, and set out across hundreds of kilometres to gather in Lodge. Regalia rides alongside toolboxes and work boots, and by the time the gavels fall, the grit of the journey is forgotten in the warmth of Brotherly Love.

The seven outposts of the Craft in Limpopo are:

- **Pyramid Lodge**, meeting on the Raison family farm
- **Pietersburg United & Doric Lodges**, both stand proud in Polokwane
- **Unanimity Lodge**, a steadfast beacon in Mokopane
- **Letaba Lodge**, high in the green reaches of Tzaneen
- **Lion of the North Lodge**, guarding the path at Louis Trichardt
- **Musina Lodge**, the northern sentinel of our District, on the very edge of the borderlands

Distance is no deterrent here. Brethren make the long drives to support one another’s meetings, to lend a hand in ceremonies, and to keep alive the spirit of fellowship that binds us. Each gathering is hard-won, but all the more treasured for it.

The Region’s Almoner gave a moving report that captured the true spirit of Limpopo Masonry:

*“Brethren, I bring tidings of both joy and concern. We celebrate with those who welcome new additions to their families, and we stand shoulder to shoulder with those facing challenges of health. In every circumstance, our strength lies in the care we give one another.”*

Looking ahead, the Region is preparing uplifting initiatives to take off in October. A drive for **Men’s Mental Health Awareness** carries the bold tagline: *“Strong Minds, Strong Brothers”*; a reminder that no Brother walks alone, no matter the road. At the same time, spirited poker nights will be held to raise funds for temple maintenance under the rallying cry: *“All In for the Temple.”*

These ventures capture the very spirit of Limpopo Masonry, resilient, supportive, and determined to build stronger bonds while strengthening the foundations that house the Craft.

In Limpopo, the Craft does not merely exist, it thrives. The Magnificent Seven remind us that Masonry is not about convenience or proximity, but about commitment, endurance, and the bonds of Brotherhood strong enough to bridge any distance. Out here, on the rugged frontier of our District, the Square and Compasses shine as bright as anywhere in the world.

### 1000 MEETINGS AT LETABA LODGE

#### NO 5325

The development of the Lowveld in the late 1920s brought several masons, of all four Constitutions, to the Tzaneen area and the possibility of forming a local lodge came under discussion. The degree of interest can be gauged from the fact that there were 14 founders, with 10 joining members and 8 proposals for initiation at the first meeting.

Brethren from Duiwelskloof offered a free site and building materials and it was decided to meet there, but within five years the lodge voted to move to Tzaneen. However, there was difficulty in selling the existing property, and with the Second World War intervening, the lodge remained at Duiwelskloof until 1959. It then met temporarily in the Town Hall at Tzaneen pending the development, jointly with the Irish, of the new Masonic Hall, which was completed in 1960.



The lodge has played an active role in Craft Freemasonry in the Northern Transvaal, and it sponsored the Phalaborwa Lodge No 8120 in 1966. An unexpected privilege and pleasure came in June 1989 when Lord and Lady Farnham visited Tzaneen and a braai, lasting well into the night, was greatly enjoyed by all.

The minutes of the 1933 Installation meeting, with some 70 brethren present, record:

*'The collection was taken by Bro Jacobson which resulted in the most gratifying sum of £4.0.6! - A lot of money in those days - about R7400,00 in today's terms.*

Fast forward to 6 September 2025, and the Lodge gathered, together with ex members, visitors and Grand and District Grand Officers to mark a most significant occasion in the life of the Lodge - celebrating the 1000<sup>th</sup> meeting after being consecrated Consecrated on 12th March 1932, a mere 7 years short of their centenary. It

should further be noted that a remarkable number of Brethren are 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Lewis's.

The District Grand Master addressed the Brethren:- Such a milestone is not reached lightly. It stands as a testament to the faithfulness, perseverance, and devotion of generations of brethren who have walked through these doors before us. A 1000<sup>th</sup> meetings represent not merely the passing of time, but the living record of men who have gathered in unity, bound together by our ancient landmarks, labouring in the spirit of brotherly love, relief and truth.

We paused to reflect upon the vision and sacrifice of our founders, whose courage and foresight laid the foundations of this Lodge. They planted a tree whose shade we now enjoy, and it is fitting that we offer our gratitude for their noble labour.

We acknowledged too the many hands and hearts that, over decades, have upheld our traditions - brethren who served with quiet dignity, who gave freely of their time and talent, ensuring that the light of Masonry did not flicker, but burned steadily from age to age.

Yet, while this is a moment to honour the past, it is also a call to look to the future. The work is not finished my Brethren. Our duty remains: to keep the principles of Masonry alive in our hearts and our actions, to extend the hand of fellowship, to stand as men of integrity in a world that sorely needs examples of uprightness and virtue.

Hence, my vision for the District is :

*"Together, to create an environment where the modern Mason thrives and Masonry retains relevance"*

Supported by the values of Friendship, Respect, Integrity and Service within the context of the principal tenets of our Order - Brotherly love, relief and truth.

This Brethren is to remind us that we are stewards of the trust passed down to us. Let us

faithfully build and add to it worthily so that those who come after us will also look back with pride as we do upon the time of those who came before.



Brethren, let this celebration strengthen our bonds, renew our zeal, and inspire us for the labours yet to come in the active participation the elements of our strategy.

And may the Great Architect of the Universe continue to guide and bless this Lodge in all its undertakings.

## MEN'S MENTAL HEALTH

### A MASONIC DUTY OF CARE

ExComp Lawrence Atrash, **DepGSupt**

Brethren,

One of the greatest challenges faced by men in today's world is not external, but internal. We live in an age where men are expected to be

strong, resilient, and unshaken - yet within, many of our Brothers silently struggle with despair, depression, and the darker shadows of the mind.

Mental health is not a failing of character, nor is it a weakness to be dismissed. It is a human reality that demands understanding, compassion, and support. And as Freemasons, we are uniquely positioned to address it, for our principles guide us towards caring for one another.

### Brotherly Love - "Leave No Man Behind"

Within the Craft we are bound by the cement of Brotherly Love. To truly love our Brothers means to watch over them, not just in Lodge, but in life. Depression often disguises itself behind smiles and polite greetings. The Brother who is always present may be carrying an invisible burden. Brotherly Love calls upon us to notice, to ask, and to care.

This spirit is beautifully captured in a painting by the local artist Daneil Steyl that was recently commissioned by WBro Brett Theron and gifted within our Brotherhood. The original version depicted a man torn apart by despair, surrounded by words of suffering. In this reimagined work, those words have been replaced with uplifting affirmations: *Confident. Brave. Loving. Blessed. Hero.* A tribal shoulder sleeve tattoo was added in remembrance of a particular South African celebrity who had the same and tragically took his life, a poignant reminder of the hidden struggles faced by even those who seem outwardly strong.

The vision behind this artwork is to remind us that no matter how desperate matters might seem, every man has a support structure he can rely on. This is Brotherly Love in action: replacing despair with hope, darkness with light, and silence with the steady voice of fellowship.

This painting is on display in the foyer of Freemasons' Hall Johannesburg:



Johannesburg, delivering the last of their much-needed blankets to those in care and in need.

Donated blankets were distributed to the following five organisations:

1. Greendale House (Wits Hospice)
2. Johannesburg Care Foundation
3. Amcare
4. Eventide Old Age Home (Salvation Army)
5. Masonic Haven for the Aged

In addition to the blanket deliveries, the Lodge also made a generous donation of approximately 45 kilograms of soft toys to the BHCC Hospital and Clinic Outreach, bringing smiles to children in hospital wards and clinics.

Blankets for the elderly and toys for the young, Norwood Lodge has brought comfort to both ends of life's journey, reminding us all of the timeless power of Brotherly Love and Relief.



This initiative is yet another reminder that Norwood Lodge continues to embody the true Masonic spirit, whether on two wheels or four, the destination is always service.

## GOLDEN COMMITMENT TO THE CRAFT

### 50 YEAR AWARD AT GOLDEN HARVEST LODGE NO 9234

[Ed:] There are few Masons whose lifelong dedication so completely embodies the essence of our Craft as that of **WBro Marc Burton**.

Initiated into St Michael’s Lodge on 12 June 1975 and is believed to be the very first candidate initiated in that newly formed Lodge; Marc’s Masonic journey has been one of steadfast commitment and quiet distinction. Progressing through the offices with diligence and decorum, he was installed as **Worshipful Master in January 1986.**

In later years, Marc affiliated with Golden Harvest Lodge, where his vast experience, gentle wisdom, and calm leadership have made him a mentor and example to generations of Brethren. His unassuming grace and measured Masonic conduct continue to inspire all who meet him, a true reflection of the principles we hold dear.

At a recent meeting of the Lodge, the District Grand Master paid tribute to this remarkable milestone, saying:

“Marc is an absolute stalwart of our District. Every meeting he attends is served with dignity, and it was an absolute pleasure to present this 50th anniversary accolade.”

A golden celebration indeed, both for a Brother who has given so much, and for a Lodge enriched by his presence.



## THE DULLSTROOM BALLOON RACE - FUN WITH PURPOSE

Raising Funds, Lifting Spirits

**Destination Dullstroom**  
**THE BALLOON RACE 2025**

*Uplifting fundraisers*

Hundreds of eco-friendly balloons will rise from the The Village Green, Dullstroom at the Country Market as part of the Destination Dullstroom Balloon Race, released by a special guest of honour. Each balloon carries a unique number, giving ticket holders the chance to win fantastic prizes while supporting local charities.

Buy your ticket today and be part of this uplifting event!

Join Us **Dullstroom**  
**December 13th, 2025**  
 13.00 PM – 15.00 PM

**Tickets Cost:**  
 R100 each

**Send Your Donation to:**  
 084 251 2121

[www.theballoonrace.com](http://www.theballoonrace.com)

Astrea Lodge invites all Brethren, families, and the public to join in the Dullstroom Balloon Race, a light-hearted and imaginative fundraising event designed to support local charities and community projects.

### How It Works:

Participants can purchase a Balloon Race ticket for R100, with R90 going directly to charity. Each ticket represents a numbered balloon that will be released into the sky from The Village Green, Dullstroom, around Heritage Day, 16 December 2025.

When a balloon is found, the finder can send a photo of the attached card to the Lodge via WhatsApp or email – and both the balloon’s

owner and the finder stand a chance to win prizes! The first 10 finders will also receive a R500 “finder’s fee” and possibly 10GB of mobile data, courtesy of a prospective sponsor.

Beneficiaries:

Proceeds from the event will support:

- The Epilepsy Centre, Dullstroom (a branch of Epilepsy South Africa)
- The Dentistry Outreach Programme
- And other local charitable causes chosen by the Lodge Committee.

All funds will be managed through a segregated bank account, audited by qualified professionals, ensuring full transparency.

Event Day:

The balloon release will coincide with a Country Market weekend in Dullstroom, featuring Lodge braai sales, a fun run, and live community festivities – with plans for YouTube or Facebook streaming to share the excitement far and wide.

A memorable day for charity, community, and camaraderie – proving once again that Masons can lift hearts as high as balloons!

## COMMUNICATION COUNCIL

### WBRO WARREN FLYNN - A NEW CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

**Purpose:** To foster transparent, consistent communication internally among Brethren and externally to the public, promoting Freemasonry’s values and enhancing its reputation.



The **Communication Council** has been established under the direction of the District Grand Lodge of South Africa, North, as part of our District Grand Master’s strategic initiative to enhance communication across all Lodges and the wider Masonic community.

Effective communication is the lifeblood of a thriving District. It strengthens unity, builds understanding, and ensures that no Brother is left uninformed or disconnected from the work of the Craft. The purpose of the Council is to develop clear, consistent, and accessible channels through which information may freely flow between the Brethren, the Lodges, and the District.

The Council’s focus is practical and forward-looking. A long-term communication strategy has been drafted, centred upon clarity, consistency, and accessibility, while embracing modern technological platforms in a structured and coordinated manner for the benefit of all. From digital newsletters and social media to the use of online meeting tools and shared resources, our goal is to ensure that communication keeps pace with the needs of a modern fraternity without losing the dignity and decorum of our traditions.

Initial projects include:

- Assessing current communication practices across Lodges.
- Testing improved newsletter formats for greater reach and engagement.
- Reviewing the use of digital tools to enhance information sharing, education, and participation.

These initiatives are being introduced gradually, allowing for reflection, adjustment, and feedback as we refine our approach. Lodges will begin to receive updates and materials through these enhanced channels, and all Brethren are encouraged to offer their thoughts on the clarity and usefulness of the communications they receive.

The success of this endeavour depends upon the active participation, cooperation, and constructive feedback of every Lodge and Brother. Communication, after all, is not a one-way channel, it is the shared dialogue that binds us together as Masons.

## **COALFIELDS AND WIDOWS SONS BRING WARMTH TO DAGGAFONTEIN**

### **COMPASSION IN THE EAST RAND**

Over the past few months, the Brethren of Coalfields Lodge No 2643, in partnership with the Widows Sons East Rand Chapter, have been collecting clothing and blankets for those in need. Their collective efforts culminated in a heartfelt visit to the Epilepsy Home in Daggafontein, Springs, where these much-needed items were handed over.

The visit was led by WBro Paul Vosloo, President of the Widows Sons East Rand Chapter, and WBro Gareth Fleming, Worshipful Master of Coalfields Lodge, accompanied by members and family from both groups.

It was a day filled with fellowship, compassion, and joy, a shining example of Brotherly Love in

action and a reminder of how we, as Freemasons, come together to serve and uplift our communities.



## **MASONS IN ESWATINI BRING WARMTH AND THE GIFT OF HEARING**

**WBro. Nigel Taft PDistJGD**

In a touching act of charity, the Brethren of St George's Lodge in Eswatini recently extended their hands and hearts to those in need. Not only did they distribute warm blankets to bring comfort during the cold months, but they also presented something truly priceless: the gift of hearing to a young deaf girl.

Through this gesture, the Lodge demonstrated the very essence of Masonic compassion meeting both physical and emotional needs with kindness and dignity. While a blanket offers warmth and comfort, the ability to hear opens a world of connection, opportunity, and hope.

Well done to St George's Lodge for their outstanding work in service to humanity.



*“The evening unfolded beautifully. The residents thoroughly enjoyed the Briani, Pepsi, chocolates, and the thoughtful gifts they received and it brought many smiles. A heartfelt thank you to all who attended and lent a hand in serving and distributing the gifts. Your presence made a real difference.”*

*Most Excellent Zerubbabel Lee Meng How Onsiong added his reflections:*

*“Our dinner and donation drive at Abri de Nuit – St Jean was a great success. Residents and staff deeply appreciated the warm meal and care packs containing towels, soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, and toothpaste provided by the Chapter.*

*My fellow Principals and I thank Excellent Companions Esmael and Wilfrid for organizing the outreach, and all Companions who helped serve. Your presence made a difference, and though some could not join us in person, their support was sincerely felt.”*

*This compassionate act stands as a testament to the Masonic principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth, and to the enduring spirit of service exemplified by the Companions of the Chapter of Friendship No. 1696 E.C.*

*[Ed:] Well done, Companions you continue to embody the light of Freemasonry through your care for those in need.*

## COMPASSION AND CARE IN MAURITIUS

### CHAPTER OF FRIENDSHIP NO. 1696

The true essence of Freemasonry shone brightly in Mauritius on Saturday, 19th June 2025, when the Companions of the Chapter of Friendship No. 1696 gathered in service and fellowship at the St Jean – Abri de Nuit shelter.

This shelter offers refuge to individuals experiencing homelessness, providing a safe place to sleep each night before they must leave in the morning. Every evening, a warm meal is served to its residents, and on this occasion, approximately twenty-four guests shared in a special evening of kindness and nourishment.

*Excellent Companion Wilfrid Koon Kam King, Almoner of the Chapter, reported:*

## COOL RIDINGS FOR CHARITY

### FRIENDSHIP LODGE NO 1696 TURNS THE THROTTLE FOR A GOOD CAUSE

There was plenty of horsepower and heart when W. Bro. Logendra (Robin) Appaya, Immediate Past Master of Friendship Lodge, rolled out his pride and joy, a Harley-Davidson Road King Police Edition all in support of the Lodge’s charity drive.



Polished to perfection, the gleaming machine drew crowds of curious visitors and wide-eyed admirers. For a small donation, anyone could take a seat on the powerful motorcycle and pose for a photo.

*“Like sitting on Santa’s knee,” as one Brother quipped, “only much cooler and with no age limit!”*

The result? Laughter, smiles, and plenty of snapshots all contributing to a worthy cause.

Just as the chrome sparkled in the sun, so too did the spirit of Brotherly Love and Relief shine through this creative fundraising effort.

Well done, Friendship Lodge, and a special salute to W. Bro. Appaya for putting his Harley to such excellent Masonic use, proving that charity can roar as loud as any HOG’s engine!



## THE INAUGURATION OF FREEMASONS’ HALL JOHANNESBURG

WBro Ken Baker relects:

Opening of Freemason Hall, Park Lane and later the landscape changes.

The wide building with imposing staircase and neoclassic columns forming the frontage of Freemason Hall was designed by architect Gordon Leith. The official dedication and opening of the building were performed by Rt W Bro William Mc Adam on a Saturday afternoon towards the end of April 1957. McAdam died a month later in May.

Over 200 masons attended the opening and because of the enormity of attendance a substantial public address system needed to be installed to provide sound coverage for the overflowing crowd assembled in number one, No 1 dining room and the downstairs and upstairs foyers.

Dowson and Dobson Ltd were agents for Bauer Sound Systems, and W Bro Spencer Firman of Kosmos lodge was owner and chairman of the company. Bro Guy Denny, also Kosmos was manager of the sound division. So, true to form D&D provided an impressive array of public address equipment to give full sound coverage throughout the building.

Guy Denny operated the controls, and he was ably assisted as the installer by Mr. Ken Baker who worked for Guy at the time. Ken was only due to be initiated in 2 months’ time, so as such, was not supposed to listen to the proceedings. In the end Guy pulled strings and arranged for me (Ken) to stick around. As a matter of fact, I was so busy attending to the equipment that I had no time to listen to what was been said in any event. Afterwards I was allowed to join the gathering for refreshments. Great fun it was.

Kosmos lodge only moved into Parklane a year later from the Kerk Street masonic center. More

about the change in Kosmos meeting night follows in another History story.

(Ken was interviewed by Columbia lodge committee at Kerk St.)

Another good reason for this episode is to describe the big change that has been made over the years to the front entrance area of Parklane.

Before the 1930/40's and into the 1960's, freemasonry in Johannesburg was very well represented by the "upper crust". Mining magnates, Mayor of Johannesburg, Town engineers, Business big wigs, Consulting Engineers, Company owners, you name it. Kosmos was well endowed with many members of this rank and file.

A good number of the above-mentioned men were shunted around in chauffeur driven automobiles which required for the architect of Freemason Hall to include in his design an arrangement that would allow, in a polite way, for the gentlemen to arrive and depart from the front door, so-to-speak. Afterall, such convenience was available at Kerk Street and the other earlier venues.

To achieve this the architect positioned the building near Louis Botha Avenue. Leading off from Louis Botha was a narrow, tarred, half-moon driveway which passed immediately at the front entrance steps. This enabled the driver to enter and stop at the front door to do the necessary courtesy for his boss and exit his car in style.

At home time dozens of cars would be seen lined up and waiting down Louis Botha ready to collect the big wigs at the front door.

In the earlier days timing for pick-up was not too much of a hassle as the men were ready to go home soon after a meeting and after a varied range of light refreshments and snacks.

Those were the days my friend.

But times were changing and parking was becoming an issue for the many new masons joining. The Transvaal District purchased a small residential property next door and transformed it into a parking lot as we have today.

Besides the additional parking that became necessary, over a few years Hillbrow and Clarendon were beginning to buzz. Trespassing was evident and became a nuisance. The Board of General Purposes made an important decision to fence off the entire frontage of the building and to landscape the area with an attractive little garden that we appreciate nowadays.

Thus ended the days of convenient drop-off and pick-up.

[Ed: I can also add that the date inscribed on the cornerstone is incorrect! Due to aviation matters beyond anyone's control (delayed flights) RWBro Maj Gen Sir Allan Adair the Assistant Grand Master arrived 1 day late and the cornerstone laying ceremony had to be delayed.]

## THE DAY!

### ANNUAL COMMUNICATION AT FREEMASONS' HALL, JOHANNESBURG

Once a year, Freemasons' Hall, Johannesburg comes alive with unparalleled energy and pride with the Annual Communications. It is *the* day when the building truly buzzes with purpose, precision, and fraternity.

Brethren and Companions from across the District gather in strength, proudly representing their Lodges and Chapters. The District DC teams move with polished precision after weeks of rehearsal, the Secretariat hums efficiently at full pace, while the Tyler and front-of-house team ensure every detail is perfect. Behind the

scenes, the chef and his brigade prepare for the grand banquet that awaits.

Then, the hall falls into a respectful silence, decorum takes over. The day began with the District Grand Chapter Convocation, followed seamlessly by the District Grand Lodge Meeting. During these ceremonies, Companions and Brethren were recognised for their service and dedication, and newly appointed officers formally invested into their offices with dignity and pride.

The message echoed throughout both meetings was clear and uplifting:

“This District is moving in one direction: and that is up!”

Congratulations to all who were honoured, invested, and who continue to contribute to the growth and excellence of our District.

[Ed:] Hundreds of pictures were taken and have been posted on social media, but this is a mere handful that capture the energy of the day.



## G'DAY BROTHER

### BRO GRAEME STEWART - AN AUZZIE JW

Graeme and his young family moved to Australia and settled not too far from Sydney. Once they established their new roots it was time to find a lodge. All the necessary inter-constitutional correspondence completed Graeme joined his local lodge.

“Its been a while since I was properly involved in Freemasonry (mainly due to the huge task of immigrating) but tonight was a proud night for me to be invested as JW in Lodge Wahroonga No 674 in Sydney.”

[Ed:] Congrats Graeme! Your dad, Prosperity and Lyceum Lodges are exceptionally thrilled.



## DON'T CAMO YOURSELF

BRO EGBERT HARMSE

A camouflage jacket with the words *“Don't Camo Yourself”* is not an oxymoron - it's a poignant reminder. Too many men, including our brethren, conceal their **mental health struggles** behind a façade of strength, fearing ridicule or misunderstanding.

This initiative, launched by Lyceum Lodge of Research, seeks to shine light on men's mental health - encouraging open conversation, compassion, and brotherly support.



Let us remember: seeking help is not weakness; it is the courage to confront one's own darkness.

For more information on how you or your Lodge can participate and sale enquiries, please contact **Bro. Egbert Harmse**.



## Peripatos - Lyceum Lodge of Research's Newsletter



Why “Peripatos”? What does a walkabout have to do with research and scholarship?

The original Peripatos was a pillared walkway around the Acropolis. Aristotle's Lyceum was held there, and Aristotle's teaching habit involved walking around as he expounded his ideas. He was thus the original Peripatetic philosopher.

### The Master's Voice



Brethren,

Spring has sprung, and with it comes a renewed sense of energy and purpose. At Lyceum, we are gathering

momentum and directing our efforts toward what promises to be a truly spectacular year’s end.

In the spirit of our founder, WBro Rodney Grosskopff who oversaw the former memorial serviced, Lyceum will once again curate the annual Remembrance Day Service in early November. Our hope is that the red poppies we have so diligently planted (twice over!) will bloom into a fitting display of remembrance. This years’ service will be refreshed in its form, yet always with the utmost respect for the solemnity of the occasion.

Lyceum also finds itself in fine company, as we stand alongside the other three lodges celebrating their 50th anniversary this year. Being the youngest among them, I assure you that our Golden Jubilee Installation will be an event not to be missed as it will be delivered with the unmistakable “Lyceum flair.”

I would like to share a thought on the idea of “Soft Power”; a term borrowed from the world of diplomacy. I believe that Lyceum embodies this principle. Though we may be a small lodge in terms of numbers, we are unique: the only lodge that is both a Service Lodge and a Special Interest Lodge. What we contribute is not only important, but in many respects, remarkable.

It also remains my aim to digitise the mentoring programme that has proven so successful under my stewardship. Together with the suite of mentoring seminars within the District Grand Mentor’s arsenal, this initiative will allow us to move Lyceum from the analogue into a truly accessible digital format, ensuring our knowledge, traditions, and guidance are preserved and shared more widely than ever before.

Brethren, let us continue to combine tradition with innovation, honour with action, and in so doing, make Lyceum’s mark indelible.

Masonically yours,

*Brett Theron*

Worshipful Master



It is with sorrow that we heard of the death of the Duchess of Kent, wife of our Most Worshipful Grand Master, HRH Prince Edward, Duke of Kent.

Our thoughts and sincere condolences are with him and his family at this time.

Joburg Lodge 2481

## Lecture by WB Philip Heydenrych

**Join us for an inspiring evening**

Join us for "The Guide of All Our Actions". Prepare with friends, meet over an exceptional refreshment.

**Meeting Details**

**Date:** 11th October 2025  
**Location:** Masonic Hall, Pretoria  
**Time:** 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
**Cost:** R100 (incl. refreshments, registration, printed material)

**A visit to Benoni Lodge to present a paper on RWBro Sir Charles Warren, entitled “No good deed goes unpunished.”**

**WBro Dai McClymont**

It was the greatest of privileges, on the 10<sup>th</sup> of this month, to visit a really fine Lodge on the East Rand - WBro Cleve Wiehahn's Lodge – Benoni, no. 3157.



I chose to present on a much-maligned character, General Sir Charles Warren, who seems to have been quietly erased from history.

Thanks to the tabloid press of his day and the machinations of certain generals and Cabinet members, he is remembered as the Commissioner of Police under whose watch Jack the Ripper committed all his murders (and is still uncaught), and as the General under whose command the worst defeat of the South African War was suffered – The Battle of Spioenkop.

As described in Isaiah 53, he was like “the sheep who before her shearers is dumb.”

To be thrown under the bus is unfortunate, but to be denied the right to speak in one's own defense . . . That is most careless.

The truth is that he was an intellectual, a true scientist, a more than capable military commander, a great leader of men and the founding WM of the Quattuor Coronati Lodge.

The Brethren of the Lodge seemed to enjoy the paper as indicated by the way they engaged with me after it, and by the way, one Brother even thanked me for presenting something on a South African theme.

Anyway, Brakpan Lodge has asked for a repeat of the presentation.



**Masonic principles in corporate leadership**

**WBro Dr Eric Albertini (September 2025)**

As both a leader in the corporate world and a student of timeless wisdom, I often find myself reflecting on principles that extend far beyond business strategy or quarterly results. Among the frameworks that have influenced me most, the three foundational Masonic principles - Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth - stand out as guiding lights for leadership in today's complex organizations.

### **1. Brotherly Love: Building Respectful and Inclusive Teams**

For me, Brotherly Love represents more than fraternity. It is about cultivating genuine respect for the dignity of every individual. In a corporate setting, this translates to creating an environment where people feel valued, heard, and included – in a psychologically safe environment.

I've seen firsthand how leaders who practice Brotherly Love are better able to foster collaboration, reduce conflict, and unlock creativity. When I approach my colleagues not as competitors but as partners on a shared journey, trust deepens. Decisions are not just transactional - they become transformational, because people know they are seen as more than just their roles.

### **2. Relief: Serving Others Through Stewardship**

Relief is often understood in the Masonic tradition as the duty to aid those in need. In leadership, I interpret

this as stewardship: the responsibility to serve the people I lead, rather than expecting them to serve me.

This principle challenges me to ask, “*How can I lighten the load for my team? How can I empower them to thrive?*” Sometimes it is as practical as providing resources and removing barriers. Other times it means offering mentorship, encouragement, or simply listening with presence. When leaders embrace Relief, they cultivate loyalty and resilience - because people flourish when they know their well-being matters.

### 3. Truth – Leading with Integrity and Clarity

Truth is perhaps the hardest principle to live by, yet it is the most essential. In the corporate world, truth means more than honesty - it means integrity, transparency, and the courage to align words with actions.

I have learned that when I communicate with clarity, admit mistakes openly, and stand firm on ethical principles, my leadership carries weight. Teams respect not perfection, but authenticity. Truth in leadership builds credibility, and credibility is the foundation of influence.

### Bringing It All Together

When I integrate Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth into my leadership practice, I notice a shift, both in myself and in those around me. These principles remind me that leadership is not about titles or power, but about service, respect, and integrity. They ground me in a way that spreadsheets and metrics cannot, providing a compass when challenges feel overwhelming.

In a corporate world that often prizes speed, profit, and competition above all else, applying these ancient principles is a radical act. Yet, I believe it is precisely this kind of leadership - human-centered, service-driven, and anchored in truth - that our organizations and our people need most.

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In our organisation, a leadership development company, my Son (WBro Ricardo Albertini DistDepGDC) and I have integrated these three foundational Masonic principles into three skills we teach leaders:

### Brotherly Love into the skill Relational Influence

- **Why:** Brotherly Love is about respect, empathy, and genuine care for others. In the workplace, this most closely mirrors **Relational Influence** — the ability to build trust, influence through connection, and create inclusive, respectful environments.
- **How:** By practicing Brotherly Love, leaders deepen trust, reduce conflict, and foster collaboration. Relational Influence becomes authentic rather than manipulative because it is grounded in genuine regard for people.

### Relief into the skill Resourcefulness

- **Why:** Relief is about service and providing support to others in times of need. The best corporate expression of this is **Resourcefulness** - the capacity to find creative solutions, remove obstacles, and enable others to thrive.
- **How:** Leaders who embrace Relief don't see challenges as just personal tests; they find ways to lighten the burden for their teams. Resourcefulness becomes an act of service, ensuring people have what they need to succeed.

### Truth into the skill Purposeful Focus

- **Why:** Truth is about integrity, honesty, and clarity. This principle most directly aligns with **Purposeful Focus** - the skill of aligning actions and decisions with core values and staying true to what matters most.

- **How:** Leaders who lead with Truth make decisions with transparency and consistency. Purposeful Focus ensures that strategy is not swayed by short-term pressures or expediency but remains anchored in ethical principles and long-term vision.

## Guest Editorial



**WBro Ricardo Albertini**

### Thriving as a Modern Mason in the South African Workplace

Our District Grand Master has set before us a clear strategy: to create an environment where the modern Mason thrives and Freemasonry retains its relevance. That vision does not belong only to our meetings; it reaches into every space where we live, work, and serve. For most of us, one of the most visible proving grounds is the workplace — the offices, factories, shops, and boardrooms where South Africans labour together each day.

#### The Lodge Beyond the Tyler’s Door

We are reminded at the close of every meeting that we are to “practice out of the Lodge those duties we have been taught in it.” The Lodge is where we rehearse the principles; the world of work is where they are tested. The Square, the Compasses, the Plumb Rule, and the Level are not only ritual tools — they are daily guides. They instruct us to deal fairly, to walk uprightly, to keep within due bounds, and to meet others on the level. When these principles animate our conduct in business, they become the strongest proof of Freemasonry’s continuing value.

#### Rough Ashlar to Perfect Ashlar

Our ritual teaches us that we begin as rough ashlar — full of potential but unshaped. Through discipline, correction, and labour, we are polished into something more complete. The professional journey mirrors this teaching. In the workplace, each decision is a stroke of the chisel: whether we cut corners or uphold integrity; whether we advance only ourselves or raise others with us; whether we act with haste or measure carefully with the Square. In striving to improve ourselves, we help build stronger workplaces and, ultimately, a stronger society.

#### Principles in the South African Context

- *Brotherly Love → Inclusion and Ubuntu*

To see all people “on the level” is to embody brotherly love. In our diverse nation, this spirit harmonises with Ubuntu: I am because we are. A Mason’s influence is felt when he fosters collaboration, respect, and dignity for all.

- *Relief → Service and Mentorship*

Relief is not confined to benevolence. In business it becomes mentorship, encouragement, and creating opportunities. A Mason relieves when he takes time to guide the less experienced, share knowledge, and lighten another’s burden.

- *Truth → Integrity and Accountability*

Truth is our sacred duty. In South Africa’s workplaces, where trust in institutions has been shaken, integrity is both a moral obligation and a social necessity. To be upright in dealings, transparent in commitments, and faithful to one’s word is to live Masonry at its highest.

#### The District Vision in Action

The District Grand Master’s call is clear: Masonry must not retreat into ritual alone. Its relevance is preserved when Masons thrive in their professions and when their conduct becomes a quiet testimony to the Craft. A Brother who remains steady under pressure, who leads by service, and who treats all people with fairness is living proof that our ancient principles are as vital today as

ever. This is how the strategy comes alive — not in theory, but in action.

### A Closing Charge

Brethren, our labour in the Lodge equips us for our labour in the world. To thrive as modern Masons is to ensure that our working tools are not only symbolic but practical; that our principles are not only recited but lived. In doing so, we answer the District Grand Master's call and demonstrate that Freemasonry is not a relic of the past, but a living guide for the present and a foundation for the future.

“So may we act, that when we lay down our tools at the end of labour, it shall be said of us: here worked a Mason who kept his trust, and whose life bore witness to the Craft.”

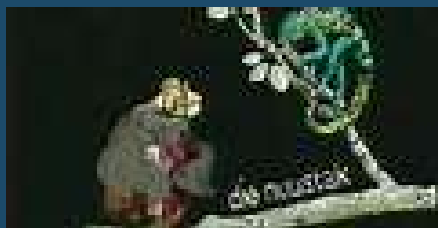


Figure 1: *Ek het 'n ding om te se en ek gaan dit se*  
(Nuustak: SABC: passim)

### Editor's turn . . .

We are very happy, this month, to welcome a guest editorial from an illustrious Brother, WBro Ricardo Albertini – may he not be the last to honour us in this way.

He was invited to write a short piece on Masonry in the Workplace. He has done us proud.

We also welcome an article by WBro Eric Albertini, basically on the same very broad theme.

My ulterior motive is to create a portfolio of good articles from which Lodge Mentors can select their monthly contributions in the Lodge.

All members are hereby welcomed to add to this database with case studies, personal recollections of workplace incidents, and articles.

There is another item of news: I asked for a chance to present something esoteric for the October Lyceum meeting. As someone who recently discovered his ASD/ADHD condition, I realised that whenever I have achieved competence in a skill, it was because someone allowed me to work out the **WHY**.

Esoteric Freemasonry ( a silly pleonasm actually) is nothing more than the study of **WHY** we do and say whatever happens in Lodge ceremonies. Anything else runs the risk of misusing the Craft to push ideas which belong to non-Masonic traditions.

The actual title of my paper is a Masonic secret as yet, known to no one currently on this planet (Jung would say that our cat knows, but he isn't saying anything.)