



# Bundaberg Freemasons Building

## Establishment

- The building at 61 Bourbong Street, Bundaberg was erected in 1917 by W.J. Heathwood, a long serving member of the Bundaberg Chamber of Commerce.
- Mr. Heathwood opened the ground level of this building for business, selling a broad range of products, including drapery, millinery, hardware and groceries. The building also contained living quarters upstairs.
- At some point, the building was passed to the Buss family who were prominent business owners of the clothing store Buss and Turner.

## Freemasons Building

- Circa 1927, the building was practically donated by F.H. Buss to the Craft Lodges, extensively modified to accommodate the Freemasons. Alterations were undertaken, predominantly to the second floor, to create a lodge room and banqueting hall.
- However, when probate was declared it was found that the four Craft Lodges were many thousands of pounds (in those days) in debt.
- Through years of good management by the trustees, the building is now debt free.

- The Buss family kindly donated the solid oak furniture inside the lodge room, and other items were also contributed by members.
- The rear function room was an addition to the building in 1979.

## Freemasonry in Bundaberg

- Freemasonry has been established in Bundaberg for over 130 years. Today the Freemasons engage in numerous community works and also assist local organisations through financial donations.
- Freemasonry offers a non-religious, non-political and non-racial organisation aimed at making good men better, open to all men over the age of 18 years.
- History shows a fluctuation in membership numbers influenced by various factors, for instance, experiencing a rise in membership after both World War I and World War II.

## References

- Bundaberg Freemasons, 2011, *Bundaberg Masonic Lodge 472 U.G.L.Q*, Bundaberg Freemasons, viewed 25 July 2018, [bundabergfreemasons.org/history.htm](http://bundabergfreemasons.org/history.htm)

