

Lodge hits a century

The region's freemasons gathered at the weekend to celebrate a significant milestone for their Byron Bay brothers.

Meeting at the Byron Bay Ex-Servicements Club, masons came from far and wide to commemorate the centenary of Lodge Cavanbah.

Consecrated in February 1903 when Byron Bay was an industrial town and seaport, the group held its first meeting in a shed at the back of the Great Northern Hotel.

It has come a long way since then, with ex NSW Police Commissioner and Grand Master of NSW and ACT Freemasons Tony Lauer speaking at the celebrations on Saturday night.

"The Byron Bay area has seen some monumental changes over the last 100 years in the town's business and commerce, societal and cultural activities, but the membership of the Lodge Cavanbah has remained strong, active and true to the teachings of freemasonry," he said.

"I am particularly proud of Lodge Cavanbah."

Today, the group boasts one of the most active memberships of professionals in the state, all of whom are involved in community and charitable works, a lodge spokesperson said.

To date, some of these activities have included providing financial support and temporary lodgings to the victims of Cyclone Tracy.

As well, the Byron Bay Scouts movement receives ongoing support from the lodge.

It also provides grants to the Byron Bay Primary and Public schools, the Cancer Council of NSW, Othodox Homes and Ferros Villages.

It also helped to found the Byron Bay Voluntary Fire Brigade.



Celebrating Lodge Cavanbah's centenary were, from left, grand master Tony Lauer and worshipful master Sam Gilmore.