



# Concerning Freemasonry

## *What is Freemasonry?*

Freemasonry is the oldest and most widely known of the world's important fraternal organisations. Its high ethical and moral standards and values support its claim to be an organisation of excellence which counts for something in today's society. Freemasonry is a way of life; it is more than just another friendly society or social club.

## *What are its aims?*

Freemasonry is an organisation formed to join together in friendship men of integrity and good will from all walks of life. It sets high standards of behaviour to be maintained in daily life, so providing an example to the community. The sustained practice of Freemasonry provides significant and rewarding opportunities for self-development and community service.

## *Who are Freemasons?*

Freemasons are men of character and substance with high ideals and worthwhile values who can make a difference in the community. In short they are citizens of quality and good reputation who have taken up Freemasonry because they believe that what they do in their Lodges improves their character and enhances their value to their fellows.

## *What is a Lodge?*

The basic membership group of Masons is called a Lodge. Whilst some Lodges attract members with specific social, professional or work-related backgrounds there are, in general, no hard and fast rules limiting admission to any Lodge. Commonly new members join Lodges to which their nominators belong, usually on the basis of established acquaintance.

Lodges are presided over by the Master who is usually elected to serve for a 12 month term. Most Lodge meetings are held monthly. At these meetings new members may be admitted or advanced to a higher rank or such other business conducted as the Master shall determine.

Lodges operate under a warrant of constitution from the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, in accordance with the regulations for the Government of the Craft contained in the constitutions of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory and the Lodge's own by-laws.



# Membership Principles

Your interest in Freemasonry is welcomed.

Whilst the exact nature of Freemasonry may be unknown to you it is important that you satisfy the following basic requirements for membership:

- Your decision to join is made without inducement by others, nor for personal gain or reasons of idle curiosity,
- You believe in the Supreme Being,
- You are a law-abiding person.
- You fully appreciate that, although Freemasonry requires of every member that he firmly believes in a Supreme Being, Freemasonry is not a religion, nor a substitute for religion; that it teaches no doctrine of salvation; and that it is only a philosophy, expounded through its rituals, based upon self-improvement and self-discipline, the universal virtues of temperance, fortitude, prudence and justice, and further, the practice of tolerance and charity.

The Mission Statement of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory is:

Our Mission is to build and support a network of Lodges to achieve:

- Self development of the individual
- Well planned and enjoyable Lodge meetings
- Charitable activities within the Community
- Increased membership through promotion of Freemasonry in NSW & ACT

Our Vision Statement:

***Our vision is to have Freemasonry recognised within the Community as an organisation of high moral and social standards that benefits its members and the Community***

Our objectives are achieved by careful selection of members in the first instance followed by progressive encouragement for them to conduct all their activities honourably and harmoniously. Their duties to their families and the community are emphasised and through symbolic teachings the merits of virtue, integrity and mutual respect are demonstrated. Freemasonry intrudes on neither politics nor religion and these topics are not discussed in Lodges.



Freemasonry is not a benefit society. No person should join unless he is reasonably certain that he will never need help from its funds. Masonic Charity is intended only for those members who unexpectedly or unintentionally encounter misfortune and for members of the community who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Your membership of a Lodge will involve you in financial obligations which you should be able to afford without adverse effect to yourself or those dependent on you. In addition to costs associated with joining, there will be an annual membership fee to your Lodge and further voluntary donations from time to time to Masonic Charities or for other purposes. The Lodge Secretary can give you details of these costs and fees which are not uniform in all Lodges.

We are confident that you will derive great satisfaction from your membership of one of the longest established and most honourable institutions in existence.

# Membership Application

LODGE \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT (PLEASE PRINT)

## 1) PERSONAL PARTICULARS

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Given Names \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name (eg Bill) \_\_\_\_\_

Title (Dr/ Sir etc) if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Decoration (AM/ AO etc) \_\_\_\_\_ Academic Qualifications \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Partner's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contacts: Tel Home \_\_\_\_\_ Business \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## 2) OCCUPATION

If retired complete item (a) only (eg Retired Accountant)

a) Trade/ Profession/ Job title \_\_\_\_\_

b) Current business name and address (not PO Box)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

c) Nature of business \_\_\_\_\_

## 3) RESIDENTIAL DETAILS

List your residential addresses during the past three years beginning with your current address.

\_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ continuing

\_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

## 4) DETAILS OF PREVIOUS APPLICATIONS IF ANY

a) Have you previously applied to become a Freemason or member of a similarly named order  
eg Co-Freemasonry? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, give name and location of the Lodge or  
Order which you applied to join and the approximate date \_\_\_\_\_

b) What was the outcome of the application? \_\_\_\_\_

**5) REFEREES**

Give the names and addresses of two persons (not your Nominators) to whom you are well known and from whom we may seek a reference

A \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**6) DECLARATION To Be Completed By Applicant**

I declare that I have read the statement 'Membership Principles' accompanying this application and accept it as a condition of my membership. The information I have provided in this application is true and complete.

I understand that the information provided by me in this application is for the purpose of registering my membership, if approved, on the membership data bases of the United Grand Lodge of NSW and the ACT and any Private Lodges of which I may become a member.

Registration is necessary to provide Grand Lodge with material to identify and record the Masonic status of its members, to determine the amount of dues payable by each Private Lodge and to maintain a statistical base for membership surveys and the like. In the case of Private Lodges the membership data base, however maintained, contains information necessary for communication with members about Lodge meetings and other matters.

The information so provided is not available to third parties without the express consent of the member(s) concerned.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**5) b) PRIVACY DECLARATION**

I declare that I have read the contents of the Privacy Statement of the United Grand Lodge of NSW and the ACT as they apply to me and that I understand the contents of this statement.

Signature of Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Spouse/Partner \_\_\_\_\_

**7) ENDORSEMENT To Be Completed By Nominators**

*This application must be endorsed by two or more Master Masons, one of whom has been known to the applicant for at least three years, the other(s) for no less than two years. Nominators must produce evidence of their current subscribing membership to a lodge holden under the UGLNSW & ACT Jurisdiction, eg their most recent Lodge business paper, to the Lodge Secretary to whom the application is submitted.*

*If the application is being processed through the Membership Assistance Scheme the particulars of the Nominators acting on behalf of the Board of Management should be entered by the Lodge Secretary in the 'MAS Nominators' box below.*

We, the nominators of the applicant, declare that he is well-known to us and that we have been personally acquainted with him for the periods shown below. We believe him to be of good character and recommend his admission to Freemasonry.

Printed Name of Nominator	Signature	Lodge Name and No. *	Rank	Known for(Years)

\* If a nominator is not a member of the Lodge to which application for membership is being made his postal address must be provided below for the information of the Lodge Secretary.

Name	Address	Postcode

**MAS NOMINATORS (as advised by DGIW) TO BE COMPLETED BY LODGE SECRETARY**

Full Names	Grand Rank