



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 believe 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 _____

Ph #: _____ **Ph #:** _____

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: _____

7) _____ PRIVACY DECLARATION

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

Signature of Member: _____ Signature of Spouse/Partner _____

8) 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 (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



Nominator's Questionnaire – New Member

To be given to Nominators when the Membership Application is being issued.

On completion by the Nominator this form should be given to the Lodge Secretary.

The Nominations Committee should satisfy itself with the Nominator's answers to the Questionnaire and, where necessary during interview, may elaborate on the details provided by the Nominator or seek further information from him

Applicant _____
Surname Given Names

Lodge _____ No. _____

- 1) Was the applicant made thoroughly conversant with the contents of the Application Form and the Membership Principles Statement? _____
- 2) How long have you known the applicant? _____

- 3) How often do you see the applicant and where? _____

- 4) Is your acquaintance with the applicant of a business, social or family nature? _____

- 5) Are you familiar with the applicant's domestic environment? Give details: _____

- 6) To the best of your knowledge is the applicant's partner (if any) agreeable to this application? _____

- 7) Does the applicant believe in the existence of the Supreme Being? _____
- 8) Does the applicant appreciate that, as a Freemason, he will be expected to conform to the laws of Australia? _____

- 9) Has the applicant
 - a) ever been convicted of a criminal offence? (Yes/No) _____
 - b) ever been a party in civil litigation in which allegations of dishonesty or fraudulent conduct have been sustained? (Yes/No) _____
 - c) ever been declared bankrupt? (Yes/No) _____

Show details here if any of the above are answered 'Yes'.



Lodge Secretary's Guidelines – New Member

Applicant _____
Surname _____ Given Names _____

Lodge No.
.....

Lodge Secretaries should ensure that the following basic steps are taken in processing Membership applications in accordance with the Regulations and Directions of Grand Lodge as issued from time to time.

Step 1 Secretary receives application and reads it out in Lodge for the first time.
Receipt of Application

Step 2 Secretary places applicant's particulars on Business Papers as prescribed.
Notification on Business Paper

Step 3 Secretary contacts referees and makes enquiries to Lodges below in accordance with Regulation Referees reports & 17.5
Lodge inquiries

List Lodges _____

Step 4 On receipt of responses from referees and Lodge inquiries the Nominations Committee is convened:-
Nominations Committee Meeting date _____ at _____

Committee Members in attendance _____

Nominators in attendance _____

Applicant in attendance _____

Committee Findings Favourable/ Unfavourable

NB The proceedings of Nominations Committees are strictly confidential and MUST NOT BE DIVULGED. Regulation 17.7.3 refers.

Step 5 Ballot for Admission held on _____
Ballot Result Accepted/ Rejected

Step 6 Secretary advises applicant of the outcome of his application (date) _____
Final Process

SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATION

I certify that the prescribed processes have been applied to this application

Date

Lodge Secretary



Membership Inquiry

This Form is to be used for all inquiries directed to Lodges within New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory in terms of Regulation 17.5 including those concerning Unattached Brethren applying for affiliate membership.

One copy only of the two part form should be sent. The top part should be retained by the Lodge in which the inquiry is read and may be destroyed after the information has been entered in the Minute Book. The bottom part shall be completed and returned to the inquiring Lodge promptly after reading.

To the Secretary, Lodge _____ **No.** _____

Mr _____ Bro _____
Surname Given Names

If Unattached Brother show Rank (eg MM, PM, etc) _____

and former Lodges (eg Beecroft No 359, 1981/89) _____

Age _____ Occupation _____

Home Address _____

Business Address _____

Former Address relevant to the inquiry _____

Period residing thereat from Month/Year _____ to Month/Year _____

From Lodge _____ No. _____
Secretary

✂
Return this part of the form to the address below.

From the Secretary, Lodge _____ **No.** _____

Reply to inquiry re Mr _____ Bro _____

Date inquiry read in Lodge _____ Known (Yes/No) _____ Favourable

(Yes/No) _____

If Unfavourable is the Lodge raising an objection under Regulation 17.6? (Yes/No) _____

Secretary

NB A resolution is not required before an unfavourable report is sent. The objector may raise the objection privately with the Master or Secretary after the Lodge is closed but he must be prepared to submit evidence in support of his objection to the Board of Management.

RETURN TO: Inquiring Lodge Secretary's Address

Mr _____

_____ Postcode _____



Membership Application – Phone Interview Details

Applicant _____
Surname _____ Given Names _____

Lodge _____ No. _____

Name of Referee:	
Address:	
Phone Nos: () ()	Nature of Relationship: Business <input type="checkbox"/> Social <input type="checkbox"/> Personal <input type="checkbox"/> Details:
Length of time known to applicant:	
When was the applicant last in contact?	
Comments:	
Name of Interviewer (<i>in full</i>):	Rank:
Interviewer's Signature:	Date:
Name of Referee:	
Address:	
Phone Nos: () ()	Nature of Relationship: Business <input type="checkbox"/> Social <input type="checkbox"/> Personal <input type="checkbox"/> Details:
Length of time known to applicant:	
When was the applicant last in contact?	
Comments:	
Name of Interviewer (<i>in full</i>):	Rank:
Interviewer's Signature:	Date:

General Instruction:

Nature of Relationship Details: eg Business = Employer, Business Partner, Work Colleague, Business Acquaintance.

Social = Fellow Club Members, Fellow Community Organisation Members, former school friends, neighbours.

Personal = relatives (state nature), close family friends.

Comments should be concise.



Nominations Committee Questionnaire – New Member

To be used only at the Nominations Committee when the applicant is being interviewed.

Specific questions to be addressed during the Nominations Committee interview appear below. The knowledge and experience of the Committee will enable it to obtain appropriate answers without embarrassment to the applicant.

This form is not to be used for Affiliate Member Applicants. Form CQ A is then applicable.

Applicant _____
Surname _____ Given Names _____

Lodge _____ No. _____

- 1) Have you read the Statement of Membership Principles and do you understand it, particularly the references to the principle of the existence of the Supreme Being and the requirement for conformity to the laws of Australia? _____

- 2) What prompted your application and what do you expect to receive from and contribute to Freemasonry? _____

- 3) Have you previously made any approaches to join a Masonic Lodge? _____

- 4) Do you know any Freemasons? _____

- 5) Are you aware of anyone who might object to you becoming a Freemason? _____

- 6) Have you been convicted of a criminal offence? If so give details: _____

- 7) Have you been a party in Civil litigation in which allegations of dishonesty or fraudulent conduct by you were sustained? If so give details: _____

- 8) Have you ever been declared bankrupt ? Yes/No. If 'Yes' give details: _____

- 9) Do you enjoy good health? If not, what is the nature of your illness or disability? _____

