This list began as a short list of Famous Australian Freemasons in an edition of our Lodge Newsletter and has now grown to include over 200 notable and/or famous Australian Freemasons.

There are many lists readily available of famous Freemasons on the internet, but at the time this list was started, no extensive list dedicated to just Australians existed. Never keen to simply duplicate web content from other web sites on our site www.lodgedevotion.com I set out to compile a list concerned with only Australian members of “The Craft”. My list is now widely used by others – please cite our web address when using our content.

This list has been compiled over years. For some time, references were not recorded, but as the list grew, it was realized it could become an authoritative and comprehensive record of Australian Freemasons. References are now being progressively added, but readers should note names have only been included when the source of the same was considered reliable. Unfortunately, not all of those named have reflected the greatest credit on our Craft, but the test for inclusion is reasonable proof of membership, not subjective opinion on their actions or the lives they led.

It is hard to organize such a list – where do you put a Governor General who won a Victoria Cross? An Archbishop with a Military Cross? An actor who was Grand Master and a State Politician, or a “military man” who was a doctor, humanitarian and community leader? We suggest if you are looking for something specific either peruse the list or hold the Ctrl key and press “F” to search it, or if you have a hardcopy version – use the index. I do not (knowingly!) duplicate names in the list with the exception of those under the first heading.

Some inclusions are not Australians – but such men have been added for their strong link and influence on Australia; early Governor Generals who were not Australian being a good example. Keep in mind this is a list of names, not a biography, I try to keep entries short but some details have been added for context and/or interest.

**Note - If you reproduce all or part of this list, you MUST cite the source. Good manners and the Law aside, my internet research is being greatly slowed by Google searches returning my own list quoted but not cited on other sites, especially lodge web site.** We do not add a name unless the person is deceased or agreed to be in the public eye as a Freemason.

A note on footnotes; Footnotes mention the Masonic Membership of the individual in conjunction to the specific item footnoted. All Footnoted material mentions their membership of Freemasonry.
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House Hold Names of Men who were not Primarily Politicians
(see sections below this one for references establishing Masonic membership)

- "Smokey Dawson" Herbert Henry MBE AM (1913 –2008), country music entertainer and community leader
- Sir Charles Kingsford Smith (1897-1935), aviator first to cross the Pacific from the US to Brisbane in about 1928.
- "Chips Rafferty" John William Pilbeam Goffage (1909-1971) Film actor
- Graham Kennedy (1934-2005), entertainer and the "King of Television". Lodge of St Kilda, 1955
- Sir Donald Bradman AC (1908-2001), world famous Australian cricketer.
- Sir Hubert Opperman (1904-1996) world's fastest bicyclist in 1930s
- Sir Joseph Banks (1743-1820) .."Father Of Australia", botanist
- John McDouall Stuart (1815-1866), explorer, claimed he recognised a Masonic greeting when he encountered a party of traditional owners in northern Australia.
- Lachlan Macquarie (1762-1824), Governor of NSW (1810 to 1821)
- James Boag (c.1822-1890), brewer, founded “J. Boag & Son” in 1883.
- Charles Brownlow

Famous Freemasons; Australian Prime Ministers

- Sir Edmund Barton (1849-1920), 1st Australian Prime Minister (1901-1903). 1 2 3 4 Initiated into Australian Lodge of Harmony No 555 English Constitution on 13 March 1878. 5 6 7
- Sir George Reid (1845-1918), 4th Prime Minister of Australia 8 9 10 11. Lodge Centennial No. 169, UGL of NSW on 16 Nov 1896 12 13
- Sir Joseph Cook GCMG (1860-1947) 6th Prime Minister of Australia 14 15. Initiated into Lodge Independent No 8 UGLNSW 12 Feb 1892. 16 17
- Sir Earle Christmas Grafton Page (1880-1961) 11th Prime Minister of Australia 28 29 30. Initiated at Lodge Prince Leopold No 87 UGLNSW on 4 Dec 1917 31 32
- Sir Robert Menzies (1894-1978), 12th Prime Minister of Australia 33 34 35 36 37. Initiated into Austral Temple Lodge No. 110, UGL on 10 March 1910. 38 39 (Initiated 1920?) 40 Received a 50 Year Jewel 41
- Sir Arthur William Fadden (1894-1972) 13th Prime Minister of Australia 42 43 44 45 46 47. Initiated into Freemasonry at Caledonia Lodge No 737 Scottish Constitution in Queensland on 20 July 1915 48 49 50
- Sir John McEwen (1900-1980) 18th Prime Minister of Australia 51 52. Initiated into Freemasonry at Lauderdale Lodge No 361 UGL on 28 July 1926 53 54
- Sir John Grey Gorton (1911-2002) 19th Prime Minister of Australia. Initiated into Freemasonry at Kerrange Lodge No 100 UGL on 5 Feb 1948. 55 56 57 58 59 60 61
- Sir William McMahon (1908-1988) 20th Prime Minister of Australia. 62 63 64 65 66 Initiated at Lodge University of Sydney No 544 UGLNSW on 22 March 1974. 67 68

Famous Freemasons; Australian State Premiers

- Sir Alexander James Peacock KCMG (1861-1933), Premier of Victoria and member of fourteen ministries. Grand Master (1900-05) of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77

Sir Harry Lawson KCMG (1875-1952), 27th Premier of Victoria 1918-1924, Scotch Collegians Lodge.


Major General Sir Newton James Moore KCMG (1870-1936), Premier of Western Australia, soldier and businessman, President of the Western Australian Municipal Association in 1904.

Sir John William Evans (1855-1943), seaman, businessman and politician, Premier of Tasmania.

Sir Samuel Walker Griffith KCMG (1845-1920), Chief Justice and Premier of Queensland (twice), Grand Master.

George David Langridge (1829-1891) Victorian politician and public figure. Premier of Victoria. His public meetings at Collingwood were gala occasions: he never lost the common touch, and artisans and labourers mourned his death in impressive numbers.

Thomas Price (1852-1909), Premier of South Australia, reformist, trade unionist.

Sir Henry Edward Bolte GCMG (1908-1990), was the 38th and longest serving Premier of Victoria. Initiated into Lodge Meredith No 163 UGLV 9 October 1946.

Archibald Henry Peake (1859-1920), Premier of South Australia.

Sir Robert Philip KCMG (1851-1922), businessman and Premier of Queensland.

John Greeley Jenkins (1851-1923), 22nd Premier of South Australia.

Sir John Alexander Cockburn KCMG (1850-1929), 18th Premier of South Australia, Federationalist and medical practitioner. Initiation in 1876, helped establish the Grand Lodge of South Australia, and served in several high offices within it.

Sir Charles Court AK KCMG OBE (1911 – 2007), Western Australian Premier.

Sir Eric Willis KBE, CMG (1922-99), 32nd Premier of New South Wales.


Famous Freemasons; Australian Governors

Lachlan Macquarie (1762-1824), Governor of NSW. Served as the last autocratic Governor of NSW (1810 to 1821) and played a leading role in the social, economic and architectural development of the colony. Initiated January 1793 at Bombay, India in Lodge No1.
SIR ISAAC ALFRED ISAACS (1855–1948), GOVERNOR-GENERAL, ATTORNEY-GENERAL, HIGH COURT JUDGE AND POLITICIAN 151 152 153 154 ELECTED TO THE FIRST FEDERAL PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA. INITIATED ANTRIM NO 349 IRISH CONST, MEMBER OF AUSTRALIA FELIX, FIRST GRAND REGISTER(1889-1890) OF UGLV 155

SIR ERNEST CLARK (1864-1951), GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA, INSTALLED GRAND MASTER OF TASMANIA IN 1935 156 157 158 159 160 161


SIR ROBERT WILLIAM DUFF GCMG, PC (1835-1895), GOVERNOR OF NSW 174, GRAND MASTER OF NSW 175 176

AIR VICE MARSHAL SIR ROBERT ALLINGHAM GEORGE KCIG, KCVO, KBE, CB, MC (1896-1967) SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNOR 177 178 179 GRAND MASTER SOUTH AUSTRALIA 1956-1958 180 181 182 183

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR REGINALD ALEXANDER DALLAS BROOKS KCIG DSO KStJ KCVO KCMSG(1896-1966), GOVERNOR OF VICTORIA, 19TH GRAND MASTER UGLV 1951-1963 184 185 186 187 188 VICTORIA'S LONGEST SERVING GOVERNOR AND MASONIC GRAND MASTER "WAS POSSIBLY THE MOST POPULAR GOVERNOR IN VICTORIA'S HISTORY" 189 INITIATED IN THE CLARKE LODGE # 98 ON 6 FEBRUARY 1950 190 191 DALLAS BROOKS HALL 300 ALBERT ST EAST MELB IS NAMED AFTER HIM 192

SIR JOHN NORTHCOTT KCIG, CB, MVO, KStJ (1890-1966). NSW STATE GOVERNOR & GRAND MASTER 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200

LORD SOMERS, LIEUTENANT-COLONEL ARTHUR HERBERT Tennyson Somers-Cocks KCIG, DSO, MC (1858–1935) LT GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA 215 216 217

LORD STONEHAVEN, MAJOR-GENERAL MICHAEL JEFFERY, GOVERNOR GENERAL 1925-1930, GRAND MASTER UGLNSW 218 219 220 221


SIR SAMUEL J WAY (1836-1916), SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LT GOVERNOR, GRAND MASTER SOUTH AUSTRALIA 1884-1888, 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235

SIR MALCOLM BARCLAY-HARVEY (1890-1969), SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNOR 236 237 238 239 240 241, GRAND MASTER SOUTH AUSTRALIA 1941-1943 242 243 244 245 246 247 95TH GRAND MASTER MASON OF SCOTLAND (1949-54) 248 INITIATED IN APOLLO UNIVERSITY LODGE NO. 357 (E.C.) IN 1908 249

SIR WILLIAM ELLISON-MACARTNEY KCIG (1852-1924) GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA (1912-1917) 250 251 252, GRAND MASTER OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (1917-1920) 253, GRAND MASTER WA 1918-?, GRAND MASTER TASMANIA 254 255 256 257 INITIATED APOLLO UNIVERSITY LODGE # 357 EC ON 6 JUNE 1872 258 259

SIR ERIC NEAL (1924-) AC CVO SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNOR 1996-2001 260 261, CHAIR WESPAC


FREDERICK JOHN NAPIER THESIGER, 1ST VISCOUNT CHELMSFORD GCIG, GCIG, GCIE, GBE, PC (1868 - 1933) BRITISH STATESMAN SERVED AS GOVERNOR OF QUEENSLAND (1905-1909), GOVERNOR OF NSW (1909-1913), VICE ROY OF INDIA. GRAND MASTER OF THE UNITED GRAND LODGE OF NSW 1910-1913. 269 270 271 INITIATED ON 1 JUNE 1898 IN LODGE OF AMITY # 137 EC 272
Sir Gerard Smith KCMG (1839-1920), Governor of Western Australia (1895-1900). Initiated into Freemasonry on 4 May 1880 in the United Studholme Alliance Lodge # 1591 EC.

Lord Kintore, Algernon Hawkins Thomond Keith-Falconer (1852-1930) Governor of South Australia and Grand Master South Australia 1889-1895.  

Lord Carrington, Charles Robert Carrington (1843-1928). Governor of NSW and District Grand Master NSW in 1888 to 1890. First Grand Master United Grand Lodge NSW. Initiated 28 October 1861 in Sir Isaac Newton Lodge # 859 EC.


Sir Harry Holdsworth Rawson (1843-1910), Admiral, Governor of NSW (1902-1909) “He promoted 'the ultimate formation of a separate navy' for Australia” Grand Master of United Grand Lodge of New South Wales (1905-09). Initiated in Royal Sussex Lodge # 501 EC in November.

Lord Brassey. Thomas Brassey KCB (1836-?), first Governor of Victoria to be elected Grand Master (1896-1900). Helped found Volunteer Naval Reserves. Initiated at Oxford University Lodge 1850. In Melbourne he joined the Clarke Lodge # 98.

Sir John Goodwin KCB, CMG, DSO, Queensland Governor and Queensland Grand Master. Initiated into Freemasonry at Lodge St Andrews Military Lodge No 668 on 15 March 1893.


Famous Freemasons; Australian Entertainers

Herbert Henry "Smokey Dawson" MBE AM (1913 –2008), country music entertainer and community leader.

Graham Kennedy (1934-2005), entertainer and "King of Television". Lodge of St Kilda, 1955.


Ken G Hall (1901-1994). Australian film producer and was the first Australian to win an Oscar. Initiated into Freemasonry at Lodge Anima No 421 on 12 Dec 1922.

George Seth Coppin (1819-1906), politician, comic actor and entrepreneur. An energetic Freemason he became the first Grand Master of Victoria (Grand Lodge Victoria later dissolved when United Grand Lodge Victoria was formed, Coppin presided over the first (and last (1889) meeting of the GL). Coppin has been credited with fathering the Australian theatre.

"Roy Rene Mo" (born Harry Van Der Sluys) (1892-1954) better known as 'Mo' the clown. Thespian No.256, NSW Australia.

Nathan Phillips better known as “Stiffy” the clown.


Famous Freemasons; Australian (and Foreign) Explorers of Australia

Captain Matthew Flinders (1774-1814), explorer. Initiated at Leinster Marine Lodge of Australia No 266, Irish Const on 12 Sept 1825.

Hamilton Hume (1797-1873) first Australian explorer to be born here. Initiated at Leinster Marine Lodge of Australia No 266, Irish Const on 12 Sept 1825.

William Wentworth (1790-1872) explorer, poet, journalist and politician. Member Lodge Amis Incorruptibles of Orient de Paris in 1818.

Lieutenant John Oxley (1783-1828) RN explorer. Member Lodge of Social and Military Virtues No 277 Irish Const.

John McDouall Stuart (1815-1866) explorer. Initiated into the Lodge of Truth No.933 E.C. North Adelaide on 1 August 1859. Stuart claimed he recognised a Masonic greeting when he encountered a party of traditional owners in northern Australia.

Charles Karius Explorer initiated New Guinea Lodge (292 UGLQ) 29 Nov 1926.

Sir Joseph Banks (1743-1820) "Father Of Australia", botanist. Member Inverness Lodge, No. 4.

Augustus C. Gregory KCMG (1819-1905) Explorer Surveyor-General of Queensland, found coal in Western Australia. English District Grand Master.

Inspector-General Belgrave Edward Sutton Ninnis CVO (1837 – 1922) Royal Navy surgeon, surveyor, Arctic explorer, and leading Freemason. Served as part of a surveying expedition to the Northern Territory of South Australia, helping to chart the area to the west of the Adelaide River and returning biological specimens to Adelaide for study. Initiated 1872 in Zetland Lodge No 515 Malta. Died by accident Antarctica in December 1912 aged 25 years.

Famous Freemasons; Australian Sport


Bert Oldfield (1894-1976), cricketer, Wisden Cricketer of the Year 1927. Initiated Lodge Arcadia No 177 UGLNSW on 11 June 1920.

Sir Hubert Opperman, (1904-1996) world’s fastest bicyclist in 1930s; Government Minister; High Commissioner to Malta. Initiated into Stonnington Lodge No 368 UGLV on 23 Dec 1925.

Bill Ponsford (1900-1991), MBE test cricketer.
Charles Brownlow (1861-1924) football. Unity and Prudence Lodge initiated in 1885.

John Treloar (1928- ) one of the fastest sprinters in the world of his time, winner of three track sprint gold medals at the Auckland 1950 Empire Games. Initiated at Lodge Frank McDowell No 362 on 4 March 1948.

Sir James Gilbert Hardy (1932- ) winemaker and businessman noted for his yachting achievements. Initiated Lodge of Sydney 952 on 21 November 1962.

Jack Plummer, sprinter, Australian 1500m track champion and also at Auckland 1950 Empire Games.

Ray Land, who competed in sprints and relays at Melbourne 1956.

Vic Patrick (1920-2006), the best Australian boxer never to have won a world title. Australian Lightweight Title in 1941. Initiated at Lodge Fellowship No 623 on 28 Jan 1942.


Jimmy Hill, boxer.


Henry Messenger (1883-1959), Rugby player. Initiated at Lodge Thespian No 265 in 1915.

William John Truscott 'Nipper' (1886-1966), footballer inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame in 1985 and the Australian Football Hall of Fame in 1996.

Deverick John (Mick) Cronin (1911-1979), Australian Rules footballer and commentator.

William Hender Hellings, swimmer one of the founders of the NSW Swimming Association.


Wally Grout (1927-1968), test cricketer.

Charles George "Charlie" Macartney (1886 – 1958) cricket known as "The Governor-General".

Famous Australian Freemasons - Military Men – Victoria Cross Winners

Lt William Dunstan VC, Victoria Cross Winner.

John Hutton Bisbee VC (1869-1930), first Australian soldier to be awarded the Victoria Cross in the Boer War, South Africa. Initiated Lodge Bulwer No 1068 England on 6 Jan 1917.

Lt Neville R Howse VC (1863-1930), Australia’s first Victoria Cross Winner and only medical member of the Australian Forces to be awarded the VC. Initiated Lodge Ophir on 29 Aug 1901.

Captain Albert Jacka, VC, MC with Bar (1893-1932) Australia’s first WW1 VC.

John Hurst Edmondson (1914-1941) Victoria Cross Winner. Initiated into Lodge Liverpool No 197 on 3 April 1935.

Walter (Walley) Brown VC (1885-1942) Victoria Cross Winner. Initiated Lodge Godeldrie No 558 on 7 April 1931.


Blair A Wark VC (1894-1941) Victoria Cross Winner. Initiated at Lodge Lane Cove No 338 on 8 Nov 1921.

James Gorman VC (1834-1882) Victoria Cross Winner initiated at The Leinster Marine Lodge Of Australia in 1878.

John Woods Whittle VC (1882-1946) Victoria Cross Winner. Initiated at Lodge Sydney St Andrew no 7 on 1 Nov 1923.


Hugo Throssell VC (1884-1933) Victoria Cross Winner. Initiated at Lodge Bulwer No 1068 England on 15 June 1917.


Major Frederick Harold Tubb VC (1881 - 1917) Victoria Cross Winner.

Famous Freemasons; Australian Military Men of Rank or Note

Col Dr Sir Weary Dunlop AC, CMG, OBE (1907-1993), War Hero & Doctor WW2 Japanese POW, Changi Railway - saved hundreds including Sir William Clavel (author of Shogun). Initiated in Lodge Liberation, No 674 in 1954 UGLV.


Jack Lockett, was Australia's oldest man and oldest war veteran when he died at the age of 111 and was honoured with a State Funeral in Victoria.

Air Commodore Rex Taylor CBE, John Knox Lodge.

Brigadier Sir William Hall KBE DSO ED.


Lieutenant-General Sir John Lavarack, Grand Master QLD Governor of Queensland from 1946-1957.

Allan Gordon Cameron (1909-1960), bank officer and soldier was awarded the DSO with Bar in New Guinea.


Lieutenant-General Sir Carl Jess CB, CMG, CBE, DSO (1884-1948)
- Lieutenant-General Sir Leslie Morshead KCB, KBE, CMG, DSO, ED (1889-1959), Commander Rats of Tobruk and New Guinea and Borneo Campaigns.
- Brigadier The Hon MWJ Bourchier CMG, DSO, VC, MLA (1881-1937) led his Regiment, the 4th Australian Light Horse, in the Charge at Beersheba.
- Lieutenant-General Sir Frank Berryman.
- Major-General RE Wade CB CBE (1924-1995)
- Major-General RE Jackson.
- Rear-Admiral Guy Griffiths AO, DSO, DSC, RAN He was on the HMS Repulse, which was hit by a bomb and five torpedoes on December 10, 1941. It went down with the loss of 513 lives.
- Major-General Frank E. Poke AO, RFD ED PDGM.
- Major-General Sir Alan Ramsay.
- Major-General R Kendall.
- Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Harold Stokes.
- Major-General Paul Alfred Cullen AC, CBE, DSO & Bar, ED (1909 – 2007) Battalion commander on the Kokoda Track, founder and first chairman of Austcare and a noted philanthropist (born Paul Cohen to Judah Cohen, a member of a long standing Australian Jewish Family).
- Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Harold Luxton, former Lord Mayor of Melbourne (1888-1957)
- Lieutenant-General Sir Horace Robertson.
- Wing Commander William Lloyd Brill DSO, DFC (1916-1964), RAAF officer.
- Bruce Ruxton (1926-2011), former President of Victorian RSL.

**Famous Freemasons; Australian Inventors/Business People**

- Thomas Mayne (1901-1995) developed the drink "Milo" still sold today. Initiated into Lodge King Edward No 189 UGLV.
- Harry Melbourne (1913-2007) invented the "Freddo Frog" chocolate. Initiated into Freemasonry at Victoria Park Lodge No 388 UGLV on 24 April 1944.
- Frederick Peters (1836-1937) founded Peter's Ice-cream. Initiated into Terre Coupee Lodge No 204 Grand Lodge of Indiana on 27 Dec 1890.
- Cecil Albert Gregory (1894-1974) Founder of "Gregory's Street Directory of Sydney and Suburbs,". Initiated Lodge Arcadia No 177 UGLNSW on 12 May 1922.
- James Boag (c.1822-1890), brewer, founded "J. Boag & Son" in February 1883.
Famous Australian Freemasons; Religious Leaders

- Charles Edward Camidge (1837-1911), Anglican Bishop
- Dr Harrington Clare Lees (1870-1929), Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne, foundation member of the Old Melburnians' Masonic Lodge.
- Rev HG Cranswick, Bishop of Gippsland
- Henry Lowther Clarke (1850-1926), Bishop of Melbourne, Provincial Grand Master of Masonic Province of the East and West Ridings of Yorkshire.
- Moses Rintel (1823-1880) Jewish minister & philanthropist, first Rabbi of Melbourne.
- Sir Israel Brody (Brodie,?) (Very Rev) Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregation of the British Commonwealth. Duke of Sussex Lodge No 48 UGLV.
- Rabbi Raymond Apple AO RFD (1935-), The Great Synagogue Sydney, “retired in 2005 after many years as Australia’s highest-profile rabbi.”
- Chap Archdeacon GE Lambie, Past Grand Chaplain.
- Rabbi Jacob Danglow CMG OBE VD (1880-1962), Melbourne Hebrew Congregation, Army Chaplain.
- Rev T.J. Riddle, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.
- George C. Barber President-General of Methodist Church of Australia (1948-51).

Famous Australian Freemasons; The Law

- Sir James Cockle (1819-1895) lawyer and mathematician. first Chief Justice of Queensland, Australia from 1863-1879, initiated Kent Lodge - 28 feb 1907.
- Sir William Byrne (1871-1951) 15th Grand Master UGLV 1939-1942, “Established one of Melbourne’s most respected law firms.” Initiated Kent Lodge - 28 feb 1907.
- Charles Edward de Boos (1819-1900) journalist and police magistrate, mining warden, and in 1881 presented with a gold medal 'as a mark of esteem' by Chinese miners in the Braidwood district.
- Justice Hayden Erskine Starke KCMG (1871 – 1958), High Court Judge. Not to be confused with his son John Erskine Starke (1913 - 1994) – both Judges. H.E. Starke “Between 1903 (when the High Court was created) and 1920, he appeared before the court 211 times, more than any other justice of the court.”


Sir Wilfred Kelsham Fullagar (1892-1961), Judge.

William John Fookes (1902-1925) President Law Institute of Victoria 1902-03.

Justice Arthur Piper (?-1936, 70 when he died), Judge Supreme Court South Australia, Grand Master South Australia Freemasons.


Francis Erich (Frank) Bischof (1904-1979), Police Commissioner QLD.


Francis Robert Nelson (1906-1985), Supreme Court Judge.


Clive William Harris (1918-) County Court Judge, Chairman Workers Compensation Board. 24 Grand Master of UGLV. Initiated East Camberwell Lodge 19 Dec 1946.

Frederick Charles Standish (1824-) District Grand Master Victoria(1861-?). Assistance Commissioner Goldfields (1854-?). Chinese Protector (1858-?). Chief Commissioner of Police for Victoria (1858-?).


Eustace Beardoe Grundy KC (1849-1938) Lawyer. Pro Grand Master South Australia, initiated Mt Gambier Lodge 1207 EC 1877.

Famous Australian Freemasons; Architects

Francis Howard Greenway (1777-1837), colonial architect.

Robert Flack Richards (?-1938, 72 when he died), Hobart architect.

Lange Leopold Powell (1886-1938), architect.


John Petrie (1822-1992), architect, politician, first Mayor of Brisbane, active member of the first Masonic lodge in Queensland.

Percy William Harrison (1864-1951) notable architect, President of WAIA from 1907-1909.

Lieutenant-General Sir Talbot Hobbs KCB, KCMG, VC (1864-1938), soldier, notable architect, involved in many community organizations such as Surf Life-Saving, RSL, Boy Scouts and Rotary and Legacy.

Famous Australian Freemasons; Artists

- Henry William Mobsby (1860-1933), artist, photographer and motion picture pioneer took the first moving picture footage in Queensland in 1898 using Lumiere cinematograph. Member of the Lodge, Indooroopilly, No.155, United Grand Lodge of Queensland.
- Carl Magnus Oscar Friström (1856-1918), artist.
- Sir William Alexander Dargie, CBE (1912-2003) artist, portrait painter, holds the current record for the most Archibald Prizes won (eight). Official artist during WW2. Initiated June 1951 Lodge Arboreal No 641 UGLV, received a 50 year Jewel of Service in the Craft.

Famous Australian Freemasons; Medicine

- Col Dr Sir Weary Dunlop is listed under “Military Men”
- Caleb Soul (1817-1894), druggist and chemist.

Famous Australian Freemasons; Aviation

- Air Commodore Sir Charles Kingsford Smith (1897-1935), aviator who was first to cross the Pacific from the US to Brisbane in about 1928. He was a MM of a Brisbane lodge, and, as a matter of interest, it is his MM apron which is perambulated in the memorial service each Anzac Day in the Brisbane Memorial Masonic Centre. Initiated at Gascoyne Lodge on 9 April 1925.
- Lawrence Hargrave (1850-1915) aviation pioneer. Initiated at United Service Lodge of New South Wales No 937 English Const on 2 April 1877.

Famous (irregular) Female Australian Freemasons

- Edith Cowan, first woman elected to Australian Parliament, women's activist, Member of St Cuthberts Lodge Perth Australia (Le Droit Humain) (Although an “irregular” Freemason – I think she is worth mentioning!)

Famous Australian Freemasons; Still more..

- Adolphus Appleroth (1886-1952) wrote the famous jingle "I like aeroplane Jelly".Initiated at Lodge Vaucluse 15 March 1928.
Hugh Webster, once Prof of Physics at Uni Qld and for a time Australia's Science Rep to the United Nations. Hugh worked with Rutherford and actually 'split the atom' shortly before him, Rutherford got into print while Hugh cautiously checked and rechecked his results.

John Hosking (1806-1882), first Mayor of Sydney initiated Lodge of Australia.

Frederick Thomas Hickford (1862-1929) Politician, Mayor of Brunswick, President Metropolitan Fire Brigade, Chairman Tramways Trust, 9th Grand Master UGLV.

Sir Albert John Gould (1847-1936), lawyer and politician. Minister for justice under Sir Henry Parkes (1889-91) and (Sir) George Reid (1894-98).

Mei Quong Tart (1850–1903), philanthropist, first Chinese Initiate in Australia in 1885. was one of Sydney's most famous philanthropists and well-loved personalities initiated into the Lodge of Tranquility in 1885.


Alfred Carson (1859-1944), journalist and social worker.

Lieutenant-General Sir Stanley George Savige (1890-1954) soldier and founder of Legacy.

Sir John Quick (1852-?) Federationalist and member Sandhurst for 9 years. Member first Parliament of Australia. Initiated Lodge Judah 5 Nov 1879.

Herbert Brayley Collett (1877-1947), librarian, soldier and politician.


James Ernest Ogden (1868-1932), miner, unionist and politician.

Frederick John Ludowici (1873-1969), businessman and conservationist.

James Larra (1749-1839), Jewish emancipist and merchant. certainly the most prominent Jew in the earliest years of the colony.

John Paul Sennitt (1851-1922), Local Councilor South Melbourne City Council, JP engineer and ice-cream manufacturer.

Leslie George (Les) Cole (1892-1978), magician.

Sir Andrew Clarke (1824-1902), military engineer, politician and public servant. Surveyor-General. Initiated Lodge Happiness.

Ernest Henry Farrar (1879-1952), trade unionist and politician.


T.S. Burston (?-1928, 71 when he died), three times Mayor of Toowoomba. Past Grand Master.

- William Dixon Campbell Denovan (1829-1906), miner, reformer, politician and public servant.
- Sir James Anderson Murdoch (1867-1939), retail trader, politician and philanthropist.
- Sir William John Macleay (1820-1891), pastoralist, politician and patron of science.
- Sir George Eccles Kelso King (1853-1943), businessman, initiated on 7 June 1878 in the Prince of Wales Lodge, Sydney, influential in establishing the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, became Grand Mark Master Mason of New South Wales (1892-95).
- Sir William Lawrence Baillieu (1859-1936), financier and politician. On the death of Prince Baillieu, "he told his nephew that 'everything the Baillieu family has they owe to your Uncle Willie'; and one-fifth of his estate of almost £500,000 was left to the University of Melbourne Library 'in memory of William Lawrence Baillieu.'
- Sir John (Jack) Frew (1912–1985) OBE, Medicine, Dr on Burma-Thailand Railway, teacher in Victoria, "one of the last giants in general medicine.
- Francis Ormond (1829-1889) philanthropist, politician, grazier, founded RMIT (then known as Working Men's College), Ormond Hall at the Victorian Institute of the Blind, Ormond College at Melbourne University are named after him.
- George Edwin Emery CMG (1859-1937), 5th Grand Master UGLV (1907-1909), Commissioner of both Savings Bank and Post Office Savings Bank, becoming General Manager when both merged, one of the founders of Rotary in Victoria.
- Sir John W Hackett KCMG (1848-1916), politician, principal proprietor of the West Australian Newspaper, Grand Master of Grand Lodge of Freemasons of Western Australia in 1901-03.
- Sir Joseph Abbot, Grand Master.
- Sir Manuel Hornibrook (1893-1970), eminent civic construction engineer, Prince Albert Lodge No 248 UGLQLD.
- Sir Henry Browne Hayes (1762-1832), convict, transported to New South Wales for kidnapping the Quaker, Mary Pike, heiress to a fortune of £20,000. Attempted in 1803 to found a Masonic Lodge for which he incurred the displeasure of Governor King. It is doubtful if Hayes had a warrant to establish a lodge, though he claimed he did, but his meeting on 14 May 1803 is regarded as the foundation day of Freemasonry in Australia. The very first St Patrick's day ceremony held in New South Wales was on the 17th March 1810 at Sir Henry Browne Hayes's Vaucluse home.
- Alexander Corrie (1886 -1941) One of founders of Launceston Stock Exchange & first President and one of the founders of the Brisbane Stock Exchange, first QLD Grand Master.
- Edward Hargraves 1816-1891 – discoverer of gold in Australia.

William Henry (?-1903), owned the “South Melbourne Citizen’s Newspaper.”

Sir Thomas Hiley, QLD Treasurer, Prince Albert Lodge No 248 UGLQD.

Angell Ellis (1831–1916), foundation Editor “Victorian Craftsman”


His name is on Gipps St Foundation Stone.


James W Jackobs, Secretary of the Royal Freemasons Homes 1947-1967.

Christopher Robert Barnes James (1899-) 26th Grand Master UGLV Initiated 7 Feb 1945 into City of Kew Lodge.

Francis Arthur Macarthur-Onslow (1879-1938), three times mayor of Camden, Queen’s medal with five clasps.


George Brunswick Smythe, Magistrate, first Master of a Lodge in Victoria, Australia Felix 1839.

John Stephenson, “Father of Freemasonry.. (in Victoria), Assistant Editor ‘Port Philip Gazette’.

Henry Melville (1799-1873), journalist, publisher and author.


David Davies(1862-?), politician, owner “South Wales Daily Post”.

William Edwin Black, ( ? - 1884) assisted Colon Light layout Adelaide Streets. “To him (Black) belongs the distinction of being the father of the first white boy born in South Australia.”

Finch, Prof George Ingle, MBE, DSc, (1888-1970), chemist and mountaineer, Fellow of the Royal Society Initiated, aged 40 Hampstead L. No. 2408 EC.

Frederick Thomas Wimble (1846-1936), politician, ink-maker, type-founder and printers’ furnisher, founding editor Cairns Post, Lodge Austral, No. 194, United Grand Lodge of New South. Wimble Street Brinsmead Cairns is named after him.

Ray Campbell, National Commodore of the Australian Volunteer Coastguard, initiated Lodge of Confidence in 1977.

Reginald John Burchell (1913-1922) MC, politician.


Bruce Skeggs OAM, KSJ (1932 -2013) Journalist, trotting commentator, publisher, mayor, state MP.

Francis (Frank) Clune OBE (1893-1971), author.
Henry Condell (1797 - 1871) First mayor of Melbourne.  
Harold Coates OBE (1917-2002) NSW politician Grand Master NSW  
Maurice Herman Kellerman OBE (1902-2000) NSW Board of Jewish Education Initiated Lodge Apsley  
Robert Dunbar Scott, Surveyor (? – 7 March 1898 Laid out the township of Camperdown  
Gordon Lewis, Radio  
Charles Richmond John Glover (1870-1936) director or governor of several organizations including Municipal Tramways Trust, Bank of Adelaide, Adelaide Children’s Hospital, National Parks Board and St John's Ambulance Association. Elected Mayor of Adelaide (the first to be called Lord Mayor) in 1917.  
Mr. John Daniels, (1818 - 1887). Colonist; sergeant in a regiment in charge of convicts at Norfolk Island; a prominent Freemason  
W Oldham (1811-1883), Magistrate, founder of Kapunda, Protector of Aborigines, and in that capacity compiled a grammar of the Adelaide aboriginal tongue. Organized the military volunteer Mines Rifle Company,  
Charles William Ferdinand, (generally recorded as “C.W.F.”) Trapmann, (1838-1885) brewer, Mayor of Hindmarsh, Major in V.M.F.  
William Lawes Ware (1847 – 1921(?)) , Auditor for the City of Adelaide 1878 - 1885(?)  
William Fiveash (? – 1892), connected with J. E. Seppelt (father of B. Seppelt), of Seppeltsfield, and through that connection was instrumental in building up one of the largest wine businesses in the Australias. Founder of Irish Const in Colony and central in construction of Alfred Masonic Hall Waymouth-street, Chairman of their Trustees for the same  
James Elliott ( - 1883) J.P., co-founder, editor and part proprietor of the Kapunda Herald. Chairman of the Hospital Board, Vice-President of the Institute, member of the School Board of Advice, the Horticultural Society, and Dutton Park Committees, and Director of the Marble and Building Company, all of Kapunda; founder of Dutton Park and the Kapunda Hospital;  
James Scandrett ( - 1903) co-founder Kapunda Herald  
Henry Edward Downer (1836–1905), member of parliament and attorney general deputy district grandmaster under the English constitution,
George Syme KBE (1873-1942) Managing Editor of "The Age" and "The Leader" newspapers from 1908 until 1942 Membership in question.


Sir Robert Richard Torrens, GCMG (31 May 1814 – 31 August 1884), land titles law reformer was the third Premier of South Australia and a pioneer and author of simplified system of transferring land, author of the Real Property Act 1857 (‘the Torrens Act’),

Alan Davidson , cricket

James Page, originator of the Volunteer Movement when war with Russia Declared 1854

Capt. James Croker Ferguson, J.P., “ONE of the most expert riflemen in the colony”

Suggested names needing further evidence, without further evidence currently being found.

- George Furphy. Industry
- Sir Eric Pearce (1905-1997), broadcaster, entertainer
- Edward Henty 1810–1878 , pioneer farmer
- Sir Henry Gullett (1878-1940), farmer, journalist, historian and Cabinet Minister politician
- Air Vice Marshal Sir George Jones (1896 –1992) KBE, CB, DFC  RAAF
- Sid Patterson 1927- 1999) cycling
- Charles Heath (1867-1948 ?), Prominent local architect, designed the red brick lodge in Davies Street, Brunswick, which was built by fellow mason W.H. Cooper in 1923 May have designed Cobury soldier’s memorial and Town Hall.
- Jack Iverson (1915 – 1973) cricket
- Sir Ian Clunies Ross (1899 – 1959)- science. His Image was on the $50 Australian Bank Note, 1973 until 1992
- Jack Thompson jockey
- Tommy Woodcock horseracing
- Bob Haynes commentator
- Walter Burley Griffin cycling
- Sir Kenneth Luke football administration
- Dick French, cricket umpire
- Sir Charles Brunton Lord Mayor
- Sir Bruce Small (1895–1980) cycling, mayor of the City of the Gold Coast
- Glyn de Villiers Bosisto MBE (1899-1990). Lawn Bowls, “created so many records that he was dubbed the (Sir Donald) ’Bradman of bowls’
- Lionel Rose Former multiple world boxing champion
- Bobby Simpson cricket
- Alan McGilvray AM MBE (1909 –1996) cricket
- Ian Craig, Captained Australian Cricket team)
- William (Billy) Lloyd Murdoch (1854 –1911), cricket , Australian Second Test Captain in 1882
- Mr. J. W. Tolmie, Gippsland Pioneer
- Victor Trumper (1877- 1915) , cricket
- James Hardie, businessman founder Hardie Industries
- Tibby Cotter (1883–1917) cricket
- Neville Wran
- Les Slee axeman
- Lou Richards, football
- Brighton Diggins FOOTBALL
- Bob Pratt (1912-2001), FOOTBALL
- Sid Sewell
- Dick Reynolds (1915-2002) Essendon Football Club  
- Howard Okey (12 February 1906 - 3 March 1985)  
- Ron Barassi  
- Sir Howard Florey, medicine (1898 –1968) was an Australian pharmacologist and pathologist who shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1945 with Sir Ernst Boris Chain and Sir Alexander Fleming for his role in the making of penicillin.  
- Colonel Lawrence (Laurie) James Newell AM CStJ QPM ED, (1920-2011), Deputy Police Commissioner,, soldier, Chair CFA (VIC) 1978-?, Community Leader. commanded the search for Prime Minister Harold Holt  
- Leslie Arthur Logan politician  
- Neil Roberts football  
- Jack Patten, boxer claimed as first Australian Aboriginal Freemason

Sometimes Claimed, Unlikely to be Freemasons

- A.B. “Banjo” Patterson  
- Henry Lawson, Australian poet  Looks like “Knights of Labor secret society” – but not sure if he was a Freemason  
- James Cook (1728-1779) English explorer  Editors note – UGLE has never been able to substantiate his membership nor has any other Grand Lodge.

The Sources of this list are many including;

Web Sites of Note

United Grand Lodge Victoria's Web Site  
http://www.freemasons vic.net.au/OurHistory/FamousAustralianFreemasons.aspx  
http://bessel.org/fameaust.htm  
National Library of Australia, Trove, Digitised Newspapers and more  
http://www.seymour-masons.com/instruction.html  
http://www.oocities.org/athens/acropolis/1124/ayfamous.html  
http://www.durham.net/~cedar/famous.html  
The Phoenixmasonry Masonic Museum and Library http://www.phoenixmasonry.org/
Useful books heavily used

It's No Secret, Real Men Wear Aprons,
Edited Peter Lazar,
Published by Masonic Care Ltd Australia 2009
ISBN 978-0-646-52446-7

A Century of Union
By PT Thornton,
published by United Grand Lodge Victoria 1989
ISBN 0 7316 5791 8

The History of Freemasonry in Victoria
by P.T. Thorton.
Published by United Grand Lodge of Ancient and Free Accepted Masons Victoria 1978
ISBN 0 9596128 0 7

Notable South Australians: or, Colonist - Past and Present.
By George E Loyau,
Carey, Page and Co, Printers, Waymouth Street Adelaide 1885

Articles acknowledged with special thanks


A Note on punctuation and some.. other stuff.

Firstly, apologies from removing as many full stops from the list as possible, hence C.B.E becomes CBE, with footnotes and such, they were removed to the list more readable

Also, “masonic ranks” have generally not been added with the exception of Grand Masters, and even then, appellations have been omitted, again to make the list more readable.

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Footnotes mention the Masonic Membership of the individual in conjunction to the specific item footnoted. All Footnoted material mentions membership of Freemasonry.

2 Grand Lodge of South Australia and Northern Territory web Site Retrieved 26 March 2012 http://www.santfreemasons.org.au/content/faq
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5 It's No Secret, Real Men Wear Aprons, Edited Peter Lazar, Published by Masonic Care Ltd Australia 2009 Page 42 ISBN 978-0-646-52446-7
11 The secret we should all be let in on" www.theage.com.au September 3 2002 retrieved 14 April 2012
16 Seymour Freemasons Lodge 87 UGLV web site retrieved on 14 April 2012 http://www.seymour-masons.com/instruction.html
20 Some Famous Australian Freemasons retrieved 3 may 2012 via http://bessel.org/fameaust.htm
1166 FAQ Ionic Lodge 186 WAC retrieved 27 April 2012 via http://www.ionic-freemasons.org/FAQ.php


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