



FREEMASONS  
Queensland

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A PARTNER'S GUIDE  
TO FREEMASONRY?



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## WHAT IS FREEMASONRY?

Freemasonry is one of the world's oldest and largest fraternal organisations. It provides a code for living in today's society based on moral and ethical standards. Its members strive to live by the principles of integrity, goodwill and charity.

As a non-profit organisation that supports numerous charities and community services, Freemasonry unifies men of high ideals, regardless of colour, creed or worldly status.

There are some five million Freemasons worldwide and about 75,000 in Australasia.

## WHO ARE FREEMASONS?

Freemasons are ordinary men aged 18 years and over, from all walks of life. While they may come from different backgrounds, they share a concern for humanity and the maintenance of moral standards. They respect the laws of the land and the rights of individuals.

## WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE IN?

Freemasons believe in a Supreme Being and in honesty and decency in everyday life.

Why would my partner want to be a Freemason? There are many reasons. Freemasonry promotes self-development. It respects the role of women and the family in society. It will give your partner a hands-on opportunity to be involved in community help projects. It will offer him a practical blueprint for daily life.



Freemasonry will boost his self-esteem and teach him self-confidence. It will admit him into a new circle of friendship of men who aim high in everything they do.

## WHAT'S THE HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY?

The precise origins of Freemasonry have been lost in time. Its traditions date back to the Middle Ages.

It developed from the stonemasons who designed and built Europe's castles and cathedrals. These men were proficient in geometry, arithmetic and engineering.

They therefore established "lodges" to protect the skills and secrets of their trade and to pass on their knowledge to trusted apprentices.

In time, worthy men who were not workers in stone were progressively accepted into Freemasonry's ranks. These were called "free and accepted" Masons, as they continue to be known to this day.

Your partner is interested in becoming a "free and accepted" Freemason.

## ARE YOU A SECRET SOCIETY?

No. Freemasonry used to be discreet about its activities – even its community work. Today, times have changed. And so has Freemasonry. Freemasons now talk freely about their activities. Their lodge rooms are often open to visitors. They welcome enquiries about their work.

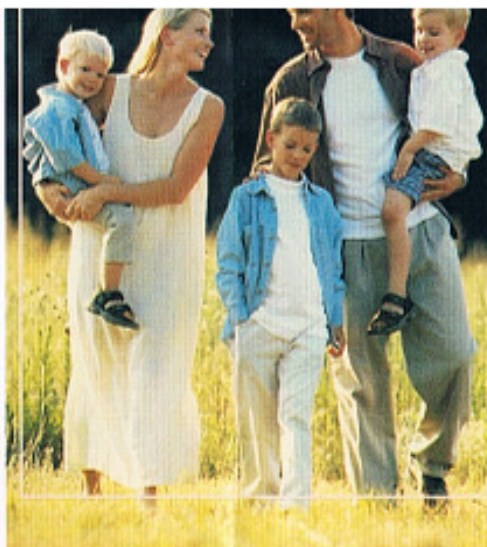
is your partner  
considering freemason

family

## ARE THERE CONFIDENCES MY PARTNER WILL KEEP FROM ME?

Your relationship will not be affected by the few so-called "secrets" of modern Freemasonry. These are simply the member's traditional modes of recognition, just like pin numbers and personal computer passwords.

There are also several solemn parts of the lodge ceremony that Freemasons keep to themselves. Your partner will demonstrate his fidelity by promising not to reveal these.



specifically aimed at improving the morals and manners of men.

To change this structure would destroy the very essence of Freemasonry and would also sever relationships with kindred lodges throughout the world.

## ARE THERE SIMILAR ORGANISATIONS FOR WOMEN?

Yes, there are. Orders with similar characteristics, such as The Order of the Eastern Star and the Order of the Amaranth, welcome women into their assemblies.

Members of The Order of the Eastern Star work together for the benefit of humanity. The Order endeavours to elevate character, cultivate friendship and practise charity.

Aims of the Order of the Amaranth are to unite Freemasons, their wives and female relatives in a bond of affection, working for the common good of the community.

Please contact Grand Lodge headquarters for further information on these Orders.

## WHAT DO MASONIC SYMBOLS MEAN?

The most widely recognised of Freemasonry's symbols are the square and compasses. This familiar motif reminds members of the ethical lessons they learn in lodge. Various symbols relate to the tools

used by the operative Freemasons. Some of them allude to the need for order and direction in life.



## WHY CAN'T WOMEN JOIN?

Freemasonry is a fraternal organisation with practices steeped in tradition and history. Its Constitutions, published in 1723, reaffirmed its fundamental all-male structure and its established system of instruction

## HOW MUCH TIME WILL MY PARTNER BE EXPECTED TO GIVE TO FREEMASONRY?

This is an important consideration. Lodge meetings are held regularly, usually monthly. Freemasons are expected to attend whenever possible.

# I can be involved?

If your partner decides to take a more active role within the fraternity, his time commitments will increase. There are a lot of Masonic activities throughout the year, like lodge rehearsals, visits to other lodges, Grand Lodge quarterly meetings, fund raising events and so on.

However, it is made clear to every Freemason that family and employment responsibilities always have first priority.

## WHAT COSTS ARE INVOLVED IN FREEMASONRY?

As with most organisations, annual subscription fees are payable. These vary from lodge to lodge, depending on the style of lodge. Membership in some lodges is expensive. However, fees of most lodges are structured so as not to exclude any member of society.

When first becoming a Freemason, your partner will pay a one-off joining fee. He will also need to buy (or obtain) a Masonic apron. He may also prefer to acquire the formal or semi-formal attire customarily worn at meetings.



## CAN I BE INVOLVED IN MASONIC ACTIVITIES?

Of course! Family and family values are of utmost importance in a Freemason's life, and his family and friends are encouraged to take part in Masonic activities. These may include fund raising and special events in

the lodge calendar. Freemasonry, when properly organised, can introduce fun-filled social activities for families. It can provide new opportunities to make friends with like-minded people from all walks of life.

Your support of your partner in lodge activities is vital to his development as a Freemason.

## WHO DO I CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS?

You are welcome to write, phone or visit your local Grand Lodge for additional information about Freemasonry. Please feel free to come into Grand Lodge headquarters and discuss membership with our friendly staff. We will be happy to answer any personal queries you may have in connection with your partner's decision to become a Freemason. You can visit the United Grand Lodge of Queensland's web site at [www.freemasonsqld.org.au](http://www.freemasonsqld.org.au)