

CONCORDAT BETWEEN THE UNITED GRAND LODGE OF NEW SOUTH WALES
AND THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY AND THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF
THE ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE FOR AUSTRALIA

1. In this Concordat the following words or expressions have the following meanings:

“Grand Lodge” means the The United Grand Lodge of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons.

“Supreme Council” means the Supreme Council of the Thirty-Thirty Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for Australia.

“Grand Master” means the Most Worshipful Grand Master for the time being of the Grand Lodge.

“Sovereign Grand Commander means the Most Powerful Sovereign Grand Commander for the time being of the Supreme Council

“The Craft” means the system of Freemasonry governed by the Grand Lodge.

“The Jurisdiction” means that part of the Commonwealth of Australia wherein the Craft is governed by the Grand Lodge including the State of New South Wales and the Capital Territory.

“The Rite” means the system of Thirty-Three Degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite established under the Constitutions of 1786 and which in Australia is governed by the Supreme Council

“Recognised Craft Masonic Authority” means a body existing outside the State of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory and which is recognised by the Grand Lodge as being a part of regular Freemasonry having the authority to warrant Lodges (or similar bodies) to regularly confer the Craft degrees in Freemasonry.

2. The Grand Lodge notes that the Rite consists of the following Degrees including those as worked by Sovereign Chapters and Sovereign Councils holding under the Supreme Council:

Not worked by the Supreme Council

- 1° Entered Apprentice
- 2° Fellow Craft
- 3° Master Mason

Conferred in a Lodge of Perfection opened within a Sovereign Chapter of Princes Rose Croix of Heredom:

- 4° Secret Master
- 5° Perfect Master
- 6° Intimate Secretary
- 7° Provost and Judge
- 8° Superintendent of the Building
- 9° Elect of Nine
- 10° Elect of Fifteen
- 11° Sublime Elect

- 12° Grand Master Architect
- 13° Royal Arch of Enoch
- 14° Grand Elect Perfect and Sublime Master

Conferred in a Council of Princes of Jerusalem opened within a Sovereign Chapter of Princes Rose Croix of Heredom:

- 15° Knight of the Sword
- 16° Prince of Jerusalem

Conferred in a Lodge of Knight's of the East and West opened with a Sovereign Chapter of Princes Rose Croix of Heredom:

- 17° Knight of the East and West

Conferred in a Sovereign Chapter of Princes Rose Croix of Heredom

- 18° Knight of the Pelican and Eagle, Sovereign Prince Rose Croix of Heredom

Conferred in an Assembly of Philosophers opened within a Sovereign Council of Grand Elect Knights Kadosh:

- 19° Grand Pontiff
- 20° Venerable Grand Master
- 21° Patriarch Noachite
- 22° Prince of Libanus
- 23° Chief of the Tabernacle
- 24° Prince of the Tabernacle
- 25° Knight of the Brazen Serpent
- 26° Prince of Mercy
- 27° Commander of the Temple
- 28° Knight of the Sun
- 29° Knight of St. Andrew

Conferred in a Sovereign Council of Grand Elect Knights Kadosh:

- 30° Grand Elect Knight Kadosh

Conferred in a Sovereign Tribunal

- 31° Grand Inspector Inquisitor Commander

Conferred in a Grand Consistory:

- 32° Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret

Conferred in the Supreme Council

- 33° Sovereign Grand Inspector General

3. The Grand Lodge further notes that whilst the Rite neither forms part of nor is considered to be an adjunct to pure, Ancient Masonry it requires all of its members to be Master Masons. In these circumstances it is in the interests of the Grand Lodge and the Supreme Council to enter into this Concordat.

4. The Supreme Council agrees that within the Jurisdiction it shall not work the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason and it shall, unless such provision already exists, introduce and maintain in its Regulations as a qualification that each of its members must be a Master mason who has received in a Lodge holding under the Grand Lodge or from a recognised Masonic Authority the following Degrees:

- 1° Entered Apprentice;
- 2° Fellow Craft; and
- 3° Master Mason;

5. Supreme Council shall introduce and maintain in its Regulations a qualification for membership that no Mason within the Jurisdiction may continue to be a member of any Sovereign Chapter or Sovereign Council held under its authority unless he be and remain a member in good standing of a Lodge warranted by the Grand Lodge provided however that this provision shall not apply to any Brother:

A. who is a member of a Sovereign Chapter or Sovereign Council holding under the Supreme Council at the time of the execution of this Concordat and who is also a member of a regular Lodge hold under a Recognised Craft Masonic Authority;

B. who resides in any State or Territory of Australia other than the State of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory in which event it shall be sufficient that the Brother is and remains a member in good standing of a regular Lodge warranted by a Recognised Craft Masonic Authority for that State or Territory; or

C. to whom the Sovereign Grand Commander has given a dispensation exempting him from the subject qualification for membership and: in that regard: the Sovereign Grand Commander shall at the time of issuing such dispensation advise the Grand Master thereof and shall forward a summary of the reasons for the granting of the dispensation.

6. The Supreme Council shall introduce and maintain a provision in its Regulations to the effect that should any member of any Lodge holding under the Grand Lodge be suspended or expelled from Masonic privileges by the Grand Lodge he shall a be automatically suspended or expelled on the same terms from the Rite by the Supreme Council.

7. The Grand Lodge shall introduce and maintain a provision in its Constitutions to the effect that should any member of any Sovereign Chapter or Sovereign Council holding under the Supreme Council be suspended or expelled from Masonic privileges by the Supreme Council he shall also be automatically suspended or expelled on the same terms from the Craft by the Grand Lodge.

8. The Grand Lodge and the Supreme Council agree that, firstly, they shall put in place such administrative arrangements as may be necessary to notify each other of any action taken against any member under Clauses 6 or 7 of this Concordat and, secondly, that Clauses 6 and 7 of this Concordat do not apply to a Brother who has been suspended from his Lodge or Sovereign Chapter or Sovereign Council by reason of non-payment of dues in circumstances caused by personal hardship and which are considered by either the Grand Lodge or the Supreme Council, as the case may require, to be a neglect of Masonic duty as opposed to being a Masonic offence.

9. The Supreme Council shall introduce and maintain a provision in its Regulations that no person is eligible for membership of the Rite within the Jurisdiction unless at the time of his joining the Rite a period of two years has elapsed since the date on which he was raised to the degree of Master Mason.

10. The Supreme Council shall introduce and maintain a provision in its Regulations stipulating that within the Jurisdiction none of the members of any Sovereign Chapter or Sovereign Council holding under the Supreme Council shall be entitled to pass through the chair of a Sovereign Chapter or Sovereign Council holding under the Supreme Council as Most Wise Sovereign of that Sovereign Chapter or Grand Commander of that Sovereign Council or receive any higher rank until that member has been regularly installed as Master of a Lodge in the Craft holding under the Grand Lodge or other Recognised Craft Masonic Authority provided however that this provision shall:

(a) be prospective in nature and shall only operate from the date of the adoption of the relevant amendment to the Regulations of the Supreme Council and shall not be construed so as to affect the status of any member of any Sovereign Chapter or Sovereign Council holding under the Supreme Council who has previously served as Most Wise Sovereign of a Sovereign Chapter or as Grand Commander of a Sovereign Council or in any higher rank;

(b) not apply to any member of any Sovereign Chapter or Sovereign Council holding under the Supreme Council who holds an office in that Sovereign Chapter or Sovereign Council which is in the chain of progression to the chair of that Sovereign Chapter or Sovereign Council at the time of the adoption of the relevant amendment to the Supreme Council's Regulations; and

(c) be subject to the power of the Sovereign Grand Commander (which shall be incorporated in the relevant amendment to the Supreme Council's Regulations) to grant a dispensation to a particular Brother excusing him from such qualification and in that regard the Sovereign Grand Commander shall at the time of issuing such dispensation advise the Grand Master thereof and shall forward a summary of the reasons for the granting of the dispensation.

11. The Sovereign Grand Commander shall take all steps necessary within the Jurisdiction to:

a. Introduce into the first ceremony or degree that a particular candidate takes in the Rite prior to the point in that ceremony or degree where the candidate takes his obligation a statement to the following effect:

'Neither in the vow now required of you, nor any vow that may be expected of you during any subsequent ceremony in this Rite, will there be found anything incompatible with your moral civil or religious duties.'

b. Eliminate the words "swear" and "oath" wherever they appear in any obligation taken in degrees worked by Sovereign Chapter or Sovereign Council holding under the Supreme Council.

c. Eliminate any physical penalties for the breach of any obligation taken by a candidate that are contained in any degree worked by Sovereign Chapter or Sovereign Council holding under the Supreme Council. This provision shall not be construed as requiring the removal of any reference to penalties which may have been inflicted in the past provided it is made clear that the Supreme Council and members of the Rite now cannot and would not wish to inflict the penalties.

12. Insofar that the provisions of this Concordat require alterations to the Constitutions of the Grand Lodge or the Regulations of the Supreme Council the Grand Master and the Sovereign Grand Commander agree that they will support the introduction of any such amendment as may be required into the Grand Lodge or the Supreme Council as the case may be, within twelve months of the date of execution of this Concordat. In the event that such amendment is rejected by the Grand Lodge or by the Supreme Council it is the intention of the parties that the rejected item shall be referred for consideration in the manner set out in Clause 13.

13. In the event that there is a dispute between the Grand Lodge and the Supreme Council in relation to any provision of this Concordat the Grand Master shall appoint three persons to represent the interests of the Grand Lodge and the Sovereign Grand Commander shall appoint three persons to represent the interests of the Supreme Council. The six persons so appointed shall form a committee to negotiate for the purposes of resolving the dispute and shall report any proposed resolution to the Grand Master and the Sovereign Grand Commander. In the event that the dispute cannot be resolved this Concordat may be terminated by either the grand Master or the Sovereign Grand Commander upon either one giving twelve months' notice in writing to the other of his intention to do so.

14. The Grand Master shall appoint three persons to represent the interests of the Grand Lodge and the Sovereign Grand Commander shall appoint three persons to represent the interests of the Supreme Council such appointments to be made on or before the first anniversary of the signing of this Concordat. The six persons so appointed shall meet within three months of the said anniversary to review the operation of this Concordat and then report to the Grand Master and the Sovereign Grand Commander respectively within three months of their first meeting. If either party then wishes to terminate this Concordat it may do so by the Grand Master or the Sovereign Grand Commander giving the other six months notice in writing such notice to be given no later than three months from the date of the final meeting of the committee established by this Clause.

Executed the Twelfth Day of March 2008.

MW Bro Raymond B. Brooke, Grand Master

RW Bro John L Armfield PDGM, Grand Registrar

RW Bro Dr Frank Radcliffe, PDGM, CMH, Principal Negotiator

RW Bro. Kevin McGlenn PAGM, Grand Secretary

MP Bro James R Kelly, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander

VP Bro Peter St J Straw, 33°, Lieutenant Grand Commander

M Ill Bro Ian Tilbury, 33°, Grand Treasurer General, Principal Negotiator

V Ill Bro Bob Lions, 33°, Grand Secretary General HE