History of Lodge St Alban in South Australia

Lodge St Alban was originally established as a Lodge of Research, following the example of the celebrated English Lodge Quatour Coronati[1] , with the primary objective being to cultivate masonic study. The concept of such a lodge was not favoured with city lodges at that time and they would not consent to recommend a petition to Grand Lodge for the issue of a warrant, which is required to hold lodge meetings. However Prince of Wales Lodge No 14 at Mt Barker could see the merit in such a Lodge. This particular Lodge was established in May 1876, No 1172 of the English Constitution and was one of the thirty lodges then existing in South Australia which formed the first Grand Lodge in Australia in 1884, the Grand Lodge of South Australia, and supported the proposition. Lodge St Alban was ultimately consecrated at Freemasons Hall, which was then situated at Flinders Street, Adelaide, on 18th December 1889.

The 14 petitioners for the new lodge were from varied walks of life, both public and private:

Dr William Barlow, CMG, LLD a member of Mostyn Lodge No 18. He became the first Master of the lodge, was the first Registrar of University of Adelaide and Vice Chancellor of the University 1896-1915. 2

Ebenezer Cooke, JP, MP a member of United Tradesmen Lodge No 4. He was Member of Parliament 1875-82, Royal Commissioner 1880 and Commissioner of Audit 1882-1907.

John Robert Gurner a member of Lodge of Friendship No 1.

James Collins Hawker a member of Lodge of Friendship No 1.

Alexander Kemp a member of Holdfast Lodge No 30.

George Cable Knight JP a member of United Tradesmen Lodge No 4.

Dr Alfred Austin Lendon, MD, PM, a member of lodge of Harmony No 3. He was lecturer Forensic Medicine, University of Adelaide 1887-1901.

Alexander Bain Moncrieff, CMG, JP a member Lodge of Harmony No 3. He was Railways Commissioner 1909-16.

Caleb Peacock, JP a member of Lodge of Harmony No 3. He was Mayor of Adel. 1875-77, Member of Parliament 1878-81.

Alan George Pendleton, CMG a member of Excelsior Lodge No 825 Calcutta. He was General Traffic Manager, SA Railways and Railways Commissioner 1895-1904.

Jabez Edwin Thomas, PM a member of Lodge of Harmony No 3. He was Mayor of Brighton.

William Lawes Ware a member of Lodge of Friendship No 1.

The Rt Hon Sir Samuel James Way, BART, PC, DCL, LLD a member of Lodge of Harmony No 3. He was Lt Governor of South Australia 1890-1916, Member of Parliament 1875-76, Chancellor University of Adelaide 1883-1916, and Grand Master of Freemasonry in South Australia 1884-1889.

Frederick Horace Wigg a member of Lodge of Harmony No 3.

There were 40 foundation members of the new lodge which number grew to 57 by the end of the first year. In 2016 membership was around 90 making Lodge St Alban one of the strongest Lodges in the jurisdiction of South Australia and Northern Territory.

Meeting first in Freemasons Hall, Flinders Street, the lodge moved to its current location at 254 North Terrace following completion of the new Freemasons Hall in 1927.

[1] Quatuor Coronati Lodge, is the the Premier Lodge of Masonic Research, of the United Grand Lodge of England. The Lodge was founded in 1884 by men who were intent on using an evidence-based approach to the study of Masonic history and research into Freemasonry. This new style and approach was later to be referred to as the 'authentic school' of Masonic research. This Lodge has continued to work to the standards laid down in 1884 and strives to maintain the high quality of research papers, lectures and discussion established at its foundation.

Members of Lodge St Alban who served in the Armed Services during times of war:
Boer War in Africa 1889 – 1902 – 3
First World War 1914-1919   - 29 (two members made the ultimate sacrifice)
Second World War 1939-1945   - 47
Vietnam War 1962-1975   - 7
Second Persian Gulf War 2003   - 1
Afghanistan War 2003 -   - 1