



How to Find Cool Masonic Places in New Zealand's North Island

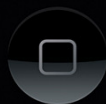
When travelling around New Zealand there are interesting Freemason-related locales to visit while you travel the North Island. Use this as an opportunity to share Freemasonry with partners /friends and encourage non-Freemasons to also search these out.

St Pauls Church, Symonds St Auckland: The first instance of Masonic Labour in New Zealand, of which there is authentic record, was in Auckland in July 1841, at the laying of the Foundation Stone of the first St. Paul's Church. It was a very pretty church, built brick faced with Auckland stone, seating 600 people, which stood in Emily Place at the top of Shortland Street.

By advertisement, the brethren of the town were summoned to assist, with the newspaper of the day subsequently recording that "the gentlemen in Auckland who were Freemasons appeared, with the decorations and insignia of their Order". Among these were the founders of the current Ara Lodge No1.

That historic stone was used again fifty years afterwards as the Foundation Stone of the present St. Paul's on Symonds Street. It is a very large, rough ashlar of grey stone, built into the wall of the church without inscription, and can be found inside the porch at the left of the front door.

Southern Cross Hotel Site, Willis St Wellington: The first regular meeting of Freemasons in New Zealand on 23 November 1842 was at the Southern Cross Hotel run by Bro Frederick France. He was the first Inner Guard of the new Lodge. A sketch in 1842 by Capt William Mein-Smith RN of Te Aro shows the hotel on the south-eastern corner of Willis St and Old Customhouse St, now Bond St. The Bordeaux Bakery is presently at this location.



THE FREEMASONS TOOLBOX

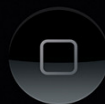


First Freemasons Hall, Lambton Quay, Wellington:

A Freemasons Hall was built by NZ Pacific Lodge in the mid 1840's on the northern side of Barrett's Hotel. From the etching below it is likely it was located alongside the first Barrett's Hotel which was on what is now known as Waititi Landing Park. This small triangle of land on the corner of Molesworth Street and Lambton Quay was a long-standing waka landing place for Maori. Twin 6.3-metre pouwhenua (boundary markers), designed by Te Atiawa sculptor Ra Vincent, symbolise waka and now stand where the beach once was. The pouwhenua carry two figures depicting the people of the land they stand on, and a kowhai design on their inner surfaces represents the wairua (spirit of the land) from which they emerge. On the other side of the Hotel where the Cenotaph is now, was the first Public Library.



NZ Pacific Lodge No2 – Tucker & Stafford Grave, Wellington: If you have time for a walk in the Bolton Street Memorial Park in Wellington find your way to the entrance at the beginning of Easdale Street off Bolton Street. Here you'll find Powles Path which travels north through the gully beside the motorway and climbs up on to the main ridge pathway a short way down from the Richard Seddon Memorial (Seddon was also a prominent Freemason - his portrait in Masonic regalia is hanging in the Wellesley Building). On Powles Path you'll find an amazingly decorative Freemasons grave complete with two columns and a tessellated pavement.



THE FREEMASONS TOOLBOX



The new plaque installed when NZ Pacific Lodge undertook restoration work in 2009 records the death of Henry Tucker in 1873 and Edwin Stafford in 1885. These two had an agreement that whoever survived the other, he would erect an appropriate tombstone in memory of the brother that had died. Also take a look around at the graves nearby as there are several others with masonic symbolism.

Grand Lodge Library, Wellington: An extensive collection of Masonic related books can be found at the GLNZ national office located in Freemason House at 195 -201 Willis Street Wellington. The library can be visited any working day 8.30am-5pm.

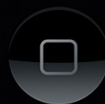
United Masters Lodge Museum and the Freemasons Museum, Auckland:

These combined museums are maintained by the '167 Heritage Society' and can be found at the Auckland Freemasons Centre located at 181 Khyber Pass Rd, Auckland. Visits by individuals and groups can be arranged by contacting the Society [Secretary](#) via the website <https://sites.google.com/site/unitedmasterslodgeno167/Calendar>

Wellesley Building, 2-8 Maginnity St Wellington: This NZIA Gold medal winning building, as well as a Category 1 Historic Place, was built for the 'Wellesley Club' in the late 1920's and is one of the best examples of Georgian architecture in New Zealand. Purchased by a group of Freemasons circa 2009 it is now home to the Wellington Freemasons Centre and the Wellesley Boutique Hotel / 1815 Café & Bar. The Lodge room is in the original grand billiard room creating one of the most ornate lodge rooms in the country.



While the 1815 café is a great place for a meal and/or drink. The building has one of the few Lodge rooms in NZ (with the building being open to the public) that by arrangement it may possible for an out of town Freemason to visit.



THE FREEMASONS TOOLBOX



Original Masterton Masonic Hall: If travelling through Masterton the original Masonic Hall can be found at 109 Chapel Street where today it is the 'Vibe Bar' a burger restaurant, late night restaurant and night club.



Other Historic Buildings: There are a number of buildings around the North Island with a Masonic connection classified on the Historic Building list as Category 2 being buildings of '*historical or cultural significance or value*'. These include:

- Former Masonic Hall, Yarborough St, Kohukohu



- Masonic Hall, 3 Baxter St, Warkworth
- Masonic Club / Buckland Building, 30-34 Customs St East, Akld
- Masonic Hall, 14 Rodney St, Northcote
- Former Remuera Masonic Hall, 82 Remuera Rd. Auckland
- Former Masonic Lodge, 776 Rings Rd and Victoria St, Coromandel
- Sir Walter Scott Lodge, 415 Mackay St, Thames
- Masonic Lodge, 47 William St, Huntly
- United Manawatu Lodge, 186 Broadway, Palmerston North
- Gisborne Amateur Operatic Society Building (former Masonic Hall) at 188 Childers Rd.
- Lion Lodge Hall at Newton St, Ormondville
- Lodge Waimarino No 175, 23 Ward St, Raetihi
- Former Masonic Lodge, Bruce St, Hunterville

