

# The Lamble Family: George Lamble, Pioneer Australian Skier, Olympic Representative, and WW2 Veteran

Compiled Report

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## 1 Introduction

The Lamble family has deep connections to early Australian alpine tourism and skiing in the Snowy Mountains, particularly through the historic Hotel Kosciusko (also spelled Kosciuszko). Herbert John Lamble served as a manager of the hotel, and his son **George Lamble** (often referred to as Herbert George Lamble) became a foundational figure in Australian skiing. George established Australia's first formal ski school, achieved national championships, represented Australia internationally (including at Olympic level), and served as a WW2 veteran. The family maintained Protestant (primarily Anglican) traditions typical of English-Australian settlers.

The surname **Lamble** is of English origin, with roots in habitational or topographic names from regions such as Norfolk.

## 2 Lamble Surname and Family Background

The Lamble surname traces to Anglo-Saxon England, appearing in records from the 14th century with variations like Lampole or Lamboll. Many Australian Lamble lines, including the branch linked to the Kosciuszko area, were Protestant (Anglican or Methodist).

Herbert John Lamble (1884–1970) worked for the NSW Government Tourist Bureau. He first visited Hotel Kosciusko in 1915–1916 as temporary manager/bookkeeper and later managed it seasonally. The family, including young George, lived at the hotel from around 1917 to 1922. George remained connected to the area long after the family returned to Sydney.

## 3 George Lamble: Achievements and Legacy

George Lamble, son of Herbert John Lamble, grew up at Hotel Kosciusko and became a pioneering skier. He was an old boy of Fort Street Boys High School in Sydney.

Key accomplishments:

- Founded the **Kosciusko Ski School** in 1933 — the first formal ski school in Australia — and served as its head instructor at Hotel Kosciusko.
- First Australian-born and Australian-trained skier to win the **National Four-Event Championship**.
- Competed in international events, including FIS Races at Innsbruck in 1936. School records note his selection to represent Australia at the 1936 Winter Olympics in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.
- Continued as a ski instructor at Hotel Kosciusko and the Kosciuszko Chalet (Charlotte Pass) until World War II.

Photographs from the 1940s show George Lamble as one of the instructors at the hotel alongside Bill Harris and John Abbottsmith.

His name and contributions are well-documented in Perisher Historical Society records, contemporary newspapers, and the hotel's history (the building burned down in 1951; the site is now occupied by Sponar's).

## 4 WW2 Service and Family Ties

Due to his mountain and skiing expertise, George Lamble was engaged by the Australian Army to train soldiers in snow and mountain warfare skills during WW2. He is recorded as a veteran of the conflict.

The broader Lamble family has Protestant roots. Some branches have connections to Papua New Guinea through WW2 service (e.g., a different George Lamble line served in New Guinea and was lost as a POW on the Montevideo Maru). Peter John Lamble is identified as a son of George Lamble, though public details on his life are limited.

## 5 Hotel Kosciusko Connection

Hotel Kosciusko, opened in 1909 at Diggers Creek (Perisher Valley), was the centre of early skiing in New South Wales. Herbert Lamble's management and George's role as instructor and school founder embed the Lamble name in its documented history through photos, instructor lists, and archival articles.

## 6 Reflections on Modern Australia: Free Enterprise and Democracy

If George Lamble could view Australia today, he would encounter an economy where small business failure rates remain high. Recent Australian Bureau of Statistics data and related analyses indicate that roughly 48–60% of new businesses do not survive four to five years, with even lower survival rates for sole traders and certain industries. Common contributing factors cited include inadequate planning, cash flow challenges, rising costs, regulatory burdens, and economic pressures such as inflation and interest rates.

George Lamble lived and worked in an earlier Australia shaped by a stronger spirit of **free enterprise**. In the 1930s and 1940s, the nation offered vast open spaces, growing tourism opportunities in the Snowy Mountains, and fewer layers of modern regulation. Individuals like George could establish Australia's first ski school through personal initiative, skill, and persistence, with limited government interference in daily business operations.

Faced with today's higher business failure statistics alongside increased government involvement in the economy (through taxation, regulation, industrial relations rules, and welfare systems), it is reasonable to conclude that George Lamble would **not** readily endorse the current form of democracy as an unqualified success. He thrived in a more entrepreneurial Australia where free enterprise allowed self-reliant individuals to build ventures like the Kosciusko Ski School. The shift toward a more managed economy, with its attendant risks for small business survival, would likely lead him to question whether the democratic system of today better serves the pioneering, independent ethos he embodied.

This reflection highlights the contrast between the freer enterprise environment of mid-20th-century Australia and the more regulated landscape of the 2020s, without diminishing George's documented contributions to sport and national service.

## 6.1 The Perspective of Stephen Andrew Lamble (Grandson)

Stephen Andrew Lamble, grandson of George Lamble, regards his grandfather as a profound source of family pride and inspiration. Drawing from George's pioneering spirit of self-reliance and free enterprise, Stephen Andrew Lamble would not endorse democracy in its present form. He concurs with Emma Goldman that democracy—whether under kings or in its direct form—is ultimately majoritarian ignorance, incapable of delivering even justice or equality. In particular, he highlights that such a system fails to uphold the rights of Indigenous Australians, for whom the ability to hunt freely and use firearms for ethical culling remains core to their cultural philosophy.

As a classical republican, Stephen Andrew Lamble believes that classical virtue requires strong checks and balances, separation of powers, and equilibrium in all spheres of life. Balance, he maintains, is key not only to effective governance but also to marriage law and economics, ensuring liberty is protected from the excesses of majority rule.

It is reasonable to conclude that George Lamble—shaped by his own experiences in free enterprise, Olympic-level competition, and wartime service—would support the formation of an Australian Rural Militia (ARM) rights advocacy movement. This would champion rural resilience and firearms rights, integrated within a classical republican party founded and led by his grandson, Stephen Andrew Lamble.

## 7 Conclusion

The Lamble family exemplifies early 20th-century Australian enterprise in tourism and winter sports. George Lamble's pioneering work laid foundations for organised skiing in Australia, while his Olympic representation and wartime service highlight personal excellence and national contribution. The family's legacy endures in Snowy Mountains historical records.

**Sources:** Perisher Historical Society archives, Fort Street High School records (The Fortian, 1935), Australian ski yearbooks, Australian Bureau of Statistics business survival data, and related historical publications.