

John Lancelot Stirling

Sir **John Lancelot Stirling** [KCMG](#) (5 November 1849 – 24 May 1932) was an [Australian](#) politician and grazier.^[1]

Early life

Stirling was born at [Strathalbyn, South Australia](#), the son of Edward Stirling (1804-1873) and his wife Harriett, *née* Taylor and brother of Sir [Edward Charles Stirling](#).^[1] J. L. Stirling was educated at [St Peter's College, Adelaide](#) and [Trinity College, Cambridge](#), where he graduated B.A. and LL.B.^[2] Stirling was a good athlete and, representing [Cambridge](#) against [Oxford](#), won the [120 yards hurdles](#). Stirling also won the amateur championship of England in this event in 1870 and again in 1872, his time in the latter year being 16.8 seconds, considered a good performance at that time.

Career

Stirling read for the bar and was admitted at the [Inner Temple](#) in 1872, but never practised. Stirling returned to [South Australia](#) soon afterwards, became a pastoralist, and bred prize [horses](#) and [merino sheep](#). He entered the [South Australian Legislative Assembly](#) in 1881 for [Mount Barker](#), and afterwards represented [Gumeracha](#) until 1890, when he became a member of the [South Australian Legislative Council](#). In December 1899 Stirling was chief secretary in the [Vaiben Solomon](#) cabinet but this ministry was defeated directly the house met. In 1901 Stirling was elected President of the Legislative Council, and continued hold that position until his death on 24 May 1932.^[1]

On 2 December 1882, Stirling married Florence Marion, daughter of Sir [William Milne](#) and was survived by his wife, three sons and two daughters.^[1] Stirling was knighted in 1902, created [KCMG](#) in 1909 and [OBE](#) in 1918. He continued his interest in sport all his life, pioneering [polo](#) in South Australia and captaining the team which twice beat Victoria.^[3] For a time Stirling was master of the [Adelaide Hounds](#) and was a well-known figure at racing meetings. For seven years Stirling was president of the [South Australian Royal Agricultural Society](#), he was president of the [Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals](#), the Pastoralists' Association, the St Peter's Old Collegians Association, the Caledonian Society, the South Australian Zoological and Acclimatization Society, and was a member of the [Adelaide University](#) council.

Stirling also possessed a good business sense and was a director of well-known companies. In politics he was respected as a man of individuality but not regarded as a first-rate speaker. Stirling found his ideal position as president of the council, admirably carrying out his duties; as the years passed becoming a kind of elder brother to the newer members