

St John History

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

VOLUME 14, 2014





'Preserving and promoting the St John heritage'

St John History is the annual journal of the Historical Society, and is provided gratis to all financial members of the Society.

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St John History

Proceedings of the St John Ambulance
Historical Society of Australia
Volume 14, 2014

Editor: Ian Howie-Willis (Historical Advisor, St John Ambulance Australia)

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Introduction

St John History: about Volume 14, 2014

St John History is the annual journal of the St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia. Most of the articles in this edition, Volume 14, began as papers presented to the Society's fifteenth annual History Seminar in Darwin on Friday 31 May, 2013. This edition also contains the reports of the State and Territory branches of the Historical Society tabled at the Society's Annual General Meeting in Darwin the next day, Saturday 1 June, 2013. As usual, the History Seminar and the Annual General Meeting were held in conjunction with the annual national Members' Convention of St John Ambulance Australia.

Both the History Seminar and the Annual General Meeting were organised by the Historical Society's Secretary, Mr James Cheshire OStJ, with characteristic élan and efficiency. In planning both events, he was supported by the Society's President, Dr Allan Mawdsley KStJ, and Deputy Secretary, Dr Edith Khangure CStJ. Dr Mawdsley introduced and concluded the seminar, while Dr Khangure chaired both seminar sessions.

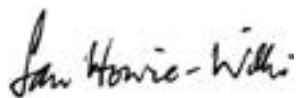
The seminar's keynote paper was delivered by Mr Frank Dunstan MStJ, the historian of St John Ambulance in the Northern Territory, whose authoritative history, *Awkward Hours, Awkward Jobs: A History of St John Ambulance in the Northern Territory 1915–2012*, was launched during the Darwin Members' Convention. Mr Dunstan's paper is the leading article in this edition of *St John History*.

Another special article in this edition is the second one: 'Fifty Years of St John in Papua New Guinea' by Mr John Waingut MBE, the Chief Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer of St John Ambulance Papua New Guinea. Mr Waingut was not the first international visitor to address an Historical Society seminar; however, his was a particularly welcome face among the panel of presenters. As his article reminds us, Papua New Guinea is Australia's closest neighbour and much shared history bind our two nations together.

In addition to the 13 articles included in this volume of *St John History* two Occasional Papers are also presented. Such papers have been included because they come within the scope of the Journal even if they were not presented to the Society's annual seminar.

I trust that readers of this edition of the Journal will conclude that, like the volumes preceding it, Volume 14 demonstrates how the Historical Society does much to 'Preserve and Promote the St John Heritage' through its annual seminar series. As the Society's informal motto suggests, preserving and promoting the St John heritage are chief among its objectives. The range and diversity of the articles that now follow show how active the Society has been in achieving that objective. In the 15 years since its formation, the Society has become a vessel for a great ferment of St John Ambulance historical inquiry.

On behalf of the Executive and members of the Historical Society, I express our gratitude to the Chancellor of the Priory in Australia of the Most Venerable Order of St John, Professor Mark Compton AM, KStJ, who gives the Society much encouragement. Professor Compton, a Life Member of the Historical Society, appreciates the imperative of the Society's motto, 'Preserving and Promoting the St John Heritage', and that in turn helps us ensure that we can achieve our objectives. In this connection I also thank Mr Peter LeComu OStJ, the Priory Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of St John Ambulance Australia. Mr LeComu's generous support of the Society, both moral and material, is a key factor in the Society's continuing success. More particularly, it makes possible the publication and distribution of this Journal.



Ian Howie-Willis
Editor, February 2014

Reflections on the official history of St John in the Northern Territory

Frank Dunstan MStJ

*Apart from 14 years' service with the Royal Australian Navy 1958–72, Frank Dunstan has spent most of his life living and working in the Northern Territory. An electrician, he worked in his trade in the mining industry and on construction sites across the Territory until his retirement at the end of 1999. He then joined the Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade as a volunteer. As well as fighting hundreds of fires, including the 2006–07 bushfires in Victoria, Mr Dunstan worked as a volunteer trainer and assessor with Bushfires Northern Territory. Because his duties as a 'Firey' required a knowledge of first aid, he joined the Darwin St John Division in 2001. Shortly afterwards he transferred to the new Humpty Doo Adult Division, where he became Superintendent. The next year he won the Territory's 'Adult Volunteer of the Year' award. In 2006 he began producing a divisional newsletter, which soon grew into a Territory-wide newsletter for Event Health Services branch members—Vollie News, now a weekly on-line publication. After publishing several historical articles in the newsletter in 2011, he was asked to join the Historical Society. That and his editorial work led him to write the book *Awkward Hours, Awkward Jobs* which is the subject of this paper. Mr Dunstan has this advice for aspiring historians, 'Don't wait until you're a septuagenarian before writing your first book because it's hard enough writing one when you're young'!*



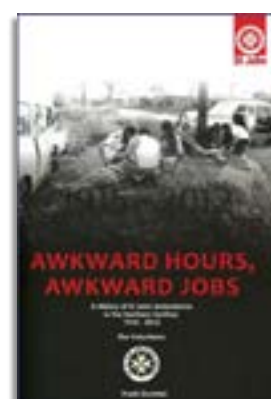
The main title of the book I have produced, *Awkward Hours, Awkward Jobs*, could well apply to researching and writing about the History of St John Ambulance in the Northern Territory as well as to the activities of our uniformed volunteers. The last two months of the history writing project were very stressful with proof reading, correcting, reformatting and getting the book ready for submission to the printers, all the time working to a tight deadline. The hours worked were very long and awkward, but worth the effort. I was quite gratified when the printers said that mine was one of the better books presented in PDF format.

Anyhow, this is how it all began. Just on two years ago a Cadet in the Humpty Doo Division, Hayley Cockman, who collects medals, acquired two old medals, one of which looked very much like an Order of St John award. Both turned out to be medals of the 'Templar' order of Freemasons. I published a couple of articles about the medals in our weekly newsletter, *Vollie News*, which I was compiling and editing; and it was soon after that I was asked to join the Historical Society.

I guess you could call me an accidental historian because there was certainly no intention of embarking on a book writing or any other project when I joined the Society. In fact, I only joined in the hope of getting stories for the newsletter. It isn't easy putting out a weekly newsletter that had to be interesting enough to retain a readership and I was always on the lookout for new material.

Soon after joining I was given two books. The first, *To Be Faithful, True and Brave*, was by Dr Bill Wilson. Bill had been commissioned by the St John Council in 1999 to research and write the history of St John Ambulance in the Northern Territory. At the time it was felt that there was nobody within the organisation able to carry out this work and Bill was a professional historian with a doctorate in history. Like others who bought the book after it was launched in Alice Springs in 2004, I was disappointed because I did not think it told the full story and in particular it had little to say about us volunteers.

The second book was *Saved Any Lives Today? A History of St John Ambulance in Alice Springs, NT*, written by the late Pat McQuillen OStJ. It, too, had been launched in Alice Springs in 2004. I was so impressed by Pat's book that I suggested to the St John Volunteer Coordinator, Gwyn Balch, that



The front cover of Frank Dunstan's history of St John, NT.

we should write something similar for the whole of the Northern Territory, not just a single region. Little did I know what my big mouth was getting me in for. Gwyn replied, 'I like the way you think', and before I knew what was happening a meeting was called for local members of the Historical Society and the ball started rolling. That was in June 2011.

At the meeting I was instructed that this history was to be about the Volunteers only and was not to include the paid Ambulance Service faction of St John in the Northern Territory. However, in the early days and for several years after St John took over the ambulance services from the Department of Health, there wasn't a clear dividing line as there is today and the book had to reflect that reality. Another stipulation was that work-in-progress should be kept within our group and not distributed to outsiders.

There had been some half-hearted attempts at writing a history in the past, but these were little more than brief documents containing sketchy information and many factual errors. They did supply some interesting research leads though, as well as one or two historical red herrings. One thing I soon noticed was that each of the writers seemed to have obtained information from their predecessors and in so doing had perpetuated original errors.

Research for the project started with the internet. This could be done at home without driving the 140 km round trip into town from my rural block every day. I soon found the National Library of Australia's 'Trove' website containing many old Territory newspapers. Scouring them using various search parameters uncovered useful information about St John Ambulance, starting from November 1915.

When that was done, I visited the Northern Territory Archives Service in Darwin. They have transcripts of interviews conducted with several St John members a decade or more earlier and this saved me from interviewing these people whose memories were much fresher then. Some were now deceased, but their stories have fortunately been preserved in Archives.

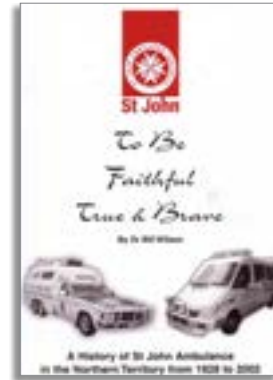
One thing I learned early in this project was to distrust old memories because they often did not match records and reports of the day. The older the memory, the less reliable, but in some cases it was all I had to go on. Old memories are used mainly in the 'Personal Contributions' section of the book where historical accuracy is less important than in the main text chapters.

When Archives were exhausted I started going to the Northern Territory Library in Parliament House, Darwin. This meant spending day after seemingly countless days searching copies of old newspapers on microfilm. At first I went there with a list of key dates obtained from those earlier histories to search around, but soon found those dates to be wrong. I therefore threw the list away and started searching every available issue of the *Northern Territory News* since it first started in 1952. When the *NT News* was exhausted I went on to regional newspapers.

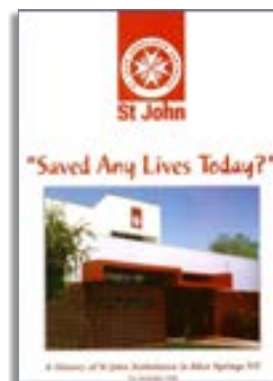
Scanning microfilm, often of poor quality, is very hard on an ageing pair of eyes, but the results were well worth the effort. The early newspapers in Darwin and other regional centres greatly supported the St John Ambulance Brigade and contained a wealth of information about the various Divisions' activities.

I took regular breaks from the Library by going to the Richard Morris Centre at St John's Northern Territory headquarters in the suburb of Casuarina to search and scan the many archived documents and photographs that have been collected over the years. As word spread of my activities more material started to appear and it wasn't unusual to call in and find a new box of historical documents or photographs waiting for me.

So as to not become overwhelmed with research material, I started writing it all up at home in the cool of the evening and late into the night. A lot of time was also spent on selecting and enhancing



The front cover of Dr Bill Wilson's 2004 history of St John, NT.



The front cover of Pat McQuillen's 2004 history of St John in Alice Springs.

The Richard Morris Centre, Casuarina, Darwin, the headquarters of St John Ambulance in the Northern Territory and the focus for much of the research undertaken by Frank Dunstan.



suitable photographs to be used in the book. Some of the old damaged photos were quite a challenge, but they came out surprisingly well in the published book.

A particularly exciting time was when St John Commissioner, Steve Peers, sent up several boxes of archival files from Alice Springs. This resulted in my spending a very cold week in Alice in July 2012 to browse and scan many more historical records and photographs. The trip was quite worthwhile in that I obtained records from Alice Springs, Ayers Rock and Tennant Creek. There were also many Darwin records such as memoranda, letters and Routine Orders. Old South Australian Routine Orders also contained useful information.

At first the project seemed so overwhelming in the allowed time frame that it was proposed to split the book in two with Volume 1 to be about Darwin, Palmerston and the rural area, and a later Volume 2 to cover all regional centres. Fortunately, it all came together and resulted in this single volume.

As the book grew larger and larger it became time to call a halt lest it get out of hand and not be finished by the deadline. As a result there are events and people omitted from this history. Not because they weren't wanted, but because I just stopped searching. Enough was enough!

Producing this history was an exciting adventure and well worth the many hundreds of hours of effort, but I'm glad that it's over and wouldn't care to do it again—at least not at this pace with the pressure of a deadline to meet. I expect a lot of feedback from retired members—and from some still serving—and this will be taken on board with research to continue towards bringing out a revised edition in a few years time, perhaps as a CD version or whatever the technology of the time.

I'll conclude by saying what a great pleasure it was for me that so many members of the Historical Society were able to attend the book launch at Government House yesterday evening. Thank you to those of you who have purchased a copy of the book. I trust that you will enjoy reading it. As an 'accidental historian', I will be gratified if you do.

Fifty years of St John Ambulance in Papua New Guinea

John Waingut MBE

Mr John Waingut is the Chief Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer of St John Ambulance Papua New Guinea (PNG). Originally from Vunamurmur Village, Kokopo (a town east of Rabaul in the East New Britain Province), he now lives in the national capital, Port Moresby. A graduate in communications engineering from the PNG University of Technology in Lae, Mr Waingut worked for 26 years in the technical services branch of the PNG National Broadcasting Corporation, of which he was branch head. After a period in the Vocational Education and Training branch of the PNG Department of Education, in 2005 he was appointed Private Secretary to the PNG Governor-General, a position he held for the next six years. He joined St John Ambulance PNG as Chief Commissioner in June 2011. It is a key appointment because in PNG St John is responsible for ambulance transport services, blood bank transport services, a hospital and day clinic as well as first aid training and delivery services.



From the outset, on behalf of the National St John Council of Papua New Guinea (PNG), St John Ambulance PNG, and myself as Chief Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer, I wish to express our thanks and gratitude to the St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia for the invitation to address this seminar. You have enabled me to share with our Australian St John colleagues a summary of our history and a snapshot of the work that St John Ambulance PNG is doing at this stage of our institutional and national development.

I begin by thanking James Cheshire (the Historical Society Secretary), Edith Khangure (Deputy Secretary) and Allan Mawdsley (President) for including me on the seminar program. I thank Gwyn Balch and Vicky Spence (the conference organisers) for ensuring my passage to and from Darwin and my accommodation. For advice on what my audience will expect of me, I also thank Dr Ian Howie-Willis, the St John Ambulance Australia Historical Advisor, who was actually at 'Unitech' in Lae when I was an engineering student there in the mid-1970s. I am delighted to be here to talk about St John work in my homeland and so I thank the people I have just named for the opportunity of addressing your Historical Society's fifteenth annual national seminar.

Before telling you about the much needed services that St John Ambulance PNG provides to Papua New Guineans under the governance of the National St John Council of PNG, I wish to comment briefly on the links between your country and mine. The long close ties between PNG and Australia extend back over 130 years to the 1880s. The bond of friendship between our two nations continues today. It has been shaped by our shared histories in peace and in war and through certain institutions which, like St John Ambulance, have been important in our development as nations. My presence at this seminar is an affirmation of that bond.

St John Ambulance history in Papua New Guinea is best understood by considering the six main stages or phases through which it has passed. We can characterise these as follows:

1. the first six 'early' years, 1957–1963
2. the 'pre-self-Government' decade, 1964–1974
3. the first 'post-Independence' decade, 1975–1985
4. the second 'post-Independence' decade, 1986–1996
5. the 'rebuilding' decade, 1997–2007
6. the past five years of 'rapid expansion', 2008–2013.

I will now deal with each of these six phases in turn, summarising its main developments.

The early years, 1957–1963

The teaching of St John Ambulance first aid classes in PNG began during the early to mid-1950s, sponsored by Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) missionaries at various SDA schools and mission stations. In 1956 classes were held in places as far apart as Rabaul on New Britain, Wewak on the north-west

Sepik coast, Inus on Bougainville, Madang on the Rai coast and Goroka and Kabiufa in the Eastern Highlands—a total of 123 certificates were issued.

In December 1957, a meeting was held in Port Moresby of those interested in forming a sub-centre of the St John Ambulance Association New South Wales Centre. The sub-centre subsequently formed, at first with arranged first aid classes, the certificates for which were issued from NSW.

Pastor RE Hare of the Seventh Day Adventist Church at Wahroonga in NSW was a keen promoter of this work. He visited PNG in 1958. He was an enthusiastic St John member and presented a complimentary report on the activities of St John in the 'Territory' (which was what the region of Papua was known as before independence in 1975).

In 1963, the 'Territory of Papua and New Guinea (P&NG) Centre of the St John Ambulance Association within the Priory of Australia' came into existence. Administratively, it continued functioning as a branch of the St John Ambulance Association New South Wales Centre. The Australian-controlled administration of PNG granted the P&NG Centre a block of land at Boroko, a Port Moresby suburb, and work began on constructing a St John building there.

During this period the Secretary of the NSW St John Ambulance Association Centre, Miss Marjorie Higgins, visited Port Moresby regularly to provide assistance and advice. She did this with the support of the Chancellor of the Australian Priory, Sir George Stening, and she kept him informed of St John progress in PNG.

The pre-self government decade, 1964–1974

A St John Council for PNG formed in 1967 with the Administrator, Sir Donald Cleland (1901–75) as the patron. We count that year, 1967, as our foundation year because that was when we separated from the NSW Centre and became an autonomous Territory St John branch. The main function of the Council was to co-ordinate activities of the Association (Event Health Services) and Brigade. The Association began conducting first aid classes regularly in the main cities and towns: Port Moresby, Lae, Rabaul and Goroka. Brigade divisions formed in these towns too and began undertaking public duties. In 1966 the first Commissioner, Dr P Booth, was appointed.



Sir Donald McKinnon Cleland.

The St John headquarters building in Boroko was completed on schedule and officially opened by Sir Donald Cleland on 30 October 1965. Sir George Stening attended as the representative of the Australian Priory.

The Australian Priory in 1967 approved the Rules for the St John Council of P&NG. There had been vigorous debate within the Priory over how much independence the PNG St John Council should be allowed. In the end the Priory agreed that the PNG Council should operate like the state St John councils in Australia; that is, it should be fully autonomous and allowed to manage its own affairs. This was in keeping with political developments in PNG, which during the late 1960s and early 1970s moved steadily towards independence from Australian rule. PNG achieved self-government on 1 December 1973 and was on track for full independence in 1975.

The official opening of the St John Ambulance Headquarters building. Sir Donald Cleland is standing (in the gray suit) and the Australian Priory Chancellor, Sir George Stening, is seated second from left immediately below the St John Badge. The audience was mainly European expatriates.



Meanwhile St John work had been expanding. In 1969 a 'Tok Pisin' (Melanesian Pidgin) edition of a first aid manual was published. The number of Brigade divisions grew and by 1972 approximately twelve divisions were active.

The first post-independence decade, 1975–1985

Papua New Guinea gained its independence on 16 September 1975 amidst much national rejoicing. The official ceremony marking the occasion took place in the Hubert Murray Stadium in Port Moresby and was attended by HRH Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, on behalf of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, and the Australian Governor-General, Sir John Kerr, on behalf of the Australian Government. The Australian flag was lowered and the PNG flag raised, with the PNG Governor-General, Sir John Guise, then handing the Australian flag back to Sir John Kerr. This brought to an end 69 years of Australian control in the former separate Territory of Papua and 61 years in the former Territory of New Guinea. The two Territories had been administered together since the end of World War II in 1945, but now they had become the one nation, Papua New Guinea.

The PNG St John Ambulance organisation also separated from its Australian 'parent' at this time. The St John Council for PNG became the National St John Council of PNG, with Brigadier-General ER (Ted) Diro as its Chairman. The PNG Governor-General, Sir John Guise, became the St John Patron, succeeding Sir Donald Cleland (who had died in Port Moresby three weeks before Independence Day). At the time of his appointment as Chairman, Brigadier-General Diro was the Chief of the PNG Defence Force, but he later entered politics and served as Minister for Defence and Deputy Prime Minister. He remained Chairman of the National St John Council for six years, until 1981.

In 1976, Sir Maori Kiki presented to the National Parliament a Bill to incorporate the National St John Council of PNG. The Act was passed by Parliament and the National St John Council of PNG was incorporated and took full responsibility for the work of the Order of St John in PNG.

The second post-independence decade, 1986–1996

The late Commissioner Graham ToKeake (née Smith) joined St John Ambulance Brigade in 1969 as a member of the Port Moresby Division. A division was also formed in Lae in that year under Mr D Hay, Mr Ian Arnold, and Mr David Bennett as Area Superintendent in the mid-1970s.

Mr ToKeake, formerly Mr Graham Norman Smith, was an Australian who had settled in PNG and had become the Superintendent of the Brigade division in Goroka. During the early 1970s, Mr Keake had risen to prominence in the PNG St John organisation and at Independence in 1975 was appointed salaried manager of the national organisation at the Boroko headquarters. He took out PNG citizenship at Independence and changed his surname from Smith to the Melanesian name 'Keake'. He later added the Tolai (Rabaul area, East New Britain Province) honorific title 'To' (analogous to 'Mr') to his name, thus becoming Graham ToKeake. As well as manager, he became the St John Commissioner for PNG.

Under Mr ToKeake's leadership, St John in PNG expanded its range of activities during the 1980s and early 1990s and began taking responsibility for the operation of the ambulance transport services in the main towns.



Brigadier General ER 'Ted' Diro. Top, as Chief of the PNG Defence Force in 1975 and at the 2008 Remembrance Day Ceremony.



Above: the ambulance officers of St John PNG in 1991. The Commissioner, Graham ToKeake is standing at the right. Left: members of the ambulance staff with one of their vehicles.

The re-building decade, 1997–2007

For a time during the late 1990s and early 2000s St John in PNG made good progress under Mr ToKeake's leadership. When possible, he attended the meetings of the Australasian Ambulance Convention, which kept him in touch with both St John and the State/Territory ambulance authorities in Australia. Unfortunately Commissioner ToKeake died in 2003 after a long illness. Because he was so central in St John affairs in PNG, St John Ambulance PNG collapsed after his death.

A revival began when Mr Douglas Kelson MES, MBE, OstJ, another Australian-born 'St Johnny', succeeded Mr ToKeake. He assumed duty on 28 August 2003. He began by holding a parade of five members of St John Ambulance, at which he performed a commissioning of a new Superintendent of Ambulance.



Mr Douglas Kelson.

Under the leadership of Mr Kelson, St John took over the running of the Government Blood Collection Service in 2004. Mr Kelson instituted retraining of staff and re-established the organisation on a sounder basis. He began sending ambulance staff for training under the State/Territory ambulance authorities in Australia.

An important event in 2007 was a visit to PNG by the Grand Prior, Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester. The visit was arranged as part of the 50th anniversary of the formal establishment of the St John Council for PNG. A history of St John PNG was also published and a commemorative set of postage stamps and a 'first day cover' were issued. In addition a 50-toea coin (roughly equivalent to the Australian 50¢ coin) was struck and a commemorative medal released.



reverse

obverse

The 50-toea coin and the 50th anniversary medal, commemorating the 50th anniversary of St John Ambulance PNG.



The recent years of rapid expansion, 2008–2013

The past five-year period could well be called 'the years of turbulence, prosperity and rapid expansion'. Much has happened since 2008. First, in 2009 we opened a District Hospital and a Clinic in Gerehu, a large residential suburb on the northern side of Port Moresby. Second, in 2010 we got caught up in a Commission of Inquiry into the Department of Health, which was established to inquire into corruption within the Department. On 24 June 2011, St John the Baptist's festival day, a new Chief Commissioner was installed and tasked with rebuilding the management team. I was the new appointee and I spent the next 18 months being understudy to my predecessor, Douglas Kelson MES, MBE, OStJ. I finally took over full control of the organisation as both Chief Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer at the end of 2012. Meanwhile, Mr Kelson had retired to the Solomon Islands, where he was available to advise the St John organisation there.

The St John Gerehu District Hospital deserves special mention because St John Ambulance Australia, our 'parent' organisation, has never embarked on a project like it, although during World War I the St John Ambulance Brigade in England did run its own hospital. The hospital was officially opened on 21 May 2009 by His Excellency Sir Paulias Matane, the PNG Grand Chief [also called the Governor-General]. The hospital was renovated and improved by St John Ambulance with funding from the National Department of Health. In the four years since its opening the hospital has quickly become a key public health facility. It currently treats between 15,000–20,000 patients a month. The hospital never closes and is always open to treat the many hundreds of patients who daily seek its services.

Also worthy of mention is the Gordons Clinic, a day clinic which St John PNG runs in Gordons, the Port Moresby suburb immediately north of Boroko. The clinic was an early health extension venture but unfortunately it closed in 1997 and remained closed for the next 11 years. In 2008 St John renovated the building with support from the Indian Association and the Sustainable Development Fund. The building has now been modernised and new facilities added. The clinic has over 25 staff and sees around 250 patients each day.

In early 2013 we moved our headquarters to the original Port Moresby ambulance base at Taurama, the area on the south-eastern fringe of the city where the army barracks are located.

Undoubtedly there are many challenges ahead for us but we are sure that the services we offer will be increasingly in demand. Papua New Guinea is currently experiencing a natural gas and mining boom. The potential for further development is enormous. Among the great developmental challenges will be extending our health and medical services beyond the towns and cities to the rural majority in the villages. For them life goes on as it always has done since their distant ancestors first settled our islands. Improving their lives and helping them share in the nation's prosperity will be a huge but hopefully achievable goal.



A St John staff member assessing one of the many hundreds of patients who arrive daily at the St John Gerehu District Hospital in search of treatment.



The renovated Gordons Clinic, reopened by St John PNG after being closed for 11 years.

The 75th anniversary of the Fremantle Cadet Division

Maria Godwell CStJ

Ms Maria Godwell joined the Fremantle Cadet Nursing Division at the age of 12 in 1970. She is one of those very rare St John Event Health Services members who has spent her entire St John life, fully 44 years, with the same Division, being content to focus her talent and energy in maintaining and developing the Division. A Grand Prior's Badge awardee, she rose through the ranks of her Division, became Member-in-Charge 1979, eventually being promoted to Superintendent in 1985. She has held the position ever since. She is a Commander of the Order and holds its Service Medal with five bars.



(The views expressed in this article are Ms Godwell's own and do not necessarily represent those of St John Ambulance Australia or its management.)

In 2011 the Fremantle St John Ambulance Cadet Division in the port city for Perth, Western Australia, celebrated its 'Diamond Jubilee', that is, the 75th anniversary of its formation in 1936. Very few St John Cadet Divisions in Australia are that old and if I am not mistaken, only Glebe Cadet Division in Sydney is older. My purpose in producing this article is to share with *St John History* readers something of the 78 years of our Division's history.

St John Ambulance came to WA in 1891. Officially, however, the State St John branch celebrates its foundation date on 26 June 1892, the date of the first St John Ambulance Association committee meeting in Perth.

In the early years all the St John effort went into public first aid training classes. In 1903 permission was given for a trial run with a team of volunteer first aiders on duty at the Perth Agricultural Show. They treated six cases and a horse. The experiment was deemed a success and as a result a Division of the St John Ambulance Brigade was formed in Perth.

A St John Ambulance motorised ambulance on the docks at Fremantle with St John staff demonstrating their equipment, c. 1922.



As you might know, in 1922 we still had horse-drawn ambulances in Perth. It is interesting to note that it took just 30 seconds to get the horse ready for duty if it was standing up and a minute if it was lying down. A rapid response time even by present measures. It was in 1922 that the St John Ambulance Association (nowadays called Training Branch) took responsibility for the ambulances in Perth, which had previously been operated by the Fire Brigade.

Other developments followed during the 1920s. In 1925 the Fremantle Railway Ambulance was formed; in 1927, the Fremantle Harbour Ambulance. In 1928 the St John Fremantle District Ambulance (Men's) Division was registered and the Fremantle Nursing (Women's) Division followed in December that year. All were Adult Divisions

But let us now jump to 1985. The August 1985 edition of *The Crusader* (the St John Ambulance Brigade magazine at that time) carried an article by Errol Jones titled '60 Years of Cadets in Australia'. The article stated that 'in Western Australia the Fremantle Ambulance Cadet Division was registered

in 1936'. This sparked my interest and I began making enquiries trying to confirm the starting date of the Fremantle Ambulance Cadets as well as the Fremantle Nursing Cadets, to which I then belonged. It proved very difficult with no concrete evidence available in Perth, nor were we able to find anything nationally among the records of the Priory headquarters in Canberra. I wrote to the St John Museum at St John's Gate, Clerkenwell, London, in response to which the Curator kindly sent some photocopies.

A 1972 publication, *St John Ambulance Brigade: Western Australia Golden Jubilee, Souvenir brochure of the Foundation of the Cadet Movement*, provided some interesting information. It said that an Ambulance (Boys') Cadet Division was first formed in Fremantle in 1932 but this Division was never officially registered as there was no provision in the Brigade for Cadets. In the St John Ambulance Brigade Overseas WA District Annual Report for the year ending 1935 we find mention that 'the first Cadet Division in the District is about to be formed and is to be attached to the Fremantle Ambulance Division'. The 1937 Annual Report indicates the only Cadet Division in WA was Fremantle and that it formed on 27 February 1936 with the Officer-in-Charge being Cadet Superintendent JF Caesar.

By chance we located Mr Caesar and he was able to attend our 70th anniversary celebrations in 2006. He was very surprised to learn that his name is recorded as being the first Superintendent. He told me he took over from Mr Ted Ryan. This confirms our earlier existence although we have no documented proof. I suspect that the St John Ambulance Brigade WA District staff registered the Cadet Division in preparation of the visit by Colonel Sir James Sleeman, Chief Commissioner of the St John Ambulance Brigade Overseas, who visited WA during a long tour of Australia and New Zealand as the envoy of the Grand Prior of the Order in 1936.

By speaking to ex-Cadets, I have discovered that there seems to have been boys attached to at least two different adult Ambulance Divisions in WA. Mr Douglas James Gildersleeve and Mr Dennis Cahill say they were both Cadets in 1939 but they were part of two separate divisions meeting in two different venues in Fremantle. Doug Gildersleeve was a Fremantle Cadet (1938–1942). He graduated to the Fremantle Adult (Ambulance) Division and later enlisted as a medical orderly in the Army Medical Corps during World War II. (He enlisted at the age of 19 in 1943, served for three years and was assigned to the 108th Australian Casualty Clearing Station.) After the war he rejoined St John, going on to become a District Officer in 1969. Now 88 years of age, he is still involved with St John. His is a real St John family as his mother served with the Fremantle Nursing Division for over 30 years. His wife Lily, as well as his son and two daughters, also belonged to St John.

By 1940 the Ambulance Cadets were meeting at the Fremantle Base Hospital. The Fremantle Nursing Cadets were formed in 1944. They were the second Nursing Cadet Division to be formed in WA, a slightly earlier group having formed in association with the Perth Metropolitan Nursing Division. The Fremantle Nursing Cadets soon moved to a bigger hall in Mouat Street in Fremantle as there were so many of them.

Joy Weir joined the Nursing Cadet Division in 1945 and remained a member until 1952. Her two daughters also went on to become Fremantle Cadets in the 1970s. Joy has spoken about her time as a Cadet, recalling that rifle practice was part of her training and that her .303 Army-style rifle was so heavy she had to use a tripod. In addition the rifle was as tall as she was! Another unusual part of her training was that the Cadets were timed from the moment they left home till they got to the Divisional meeting and then timed again for



Mr JF Caesar in 2006.



Mr Doug Gildersleeve.

The Fremantle Nursing Cadet Division in 1945, the year of its formation.



the return journey. This was a surprise to me but it all made sense when Joy explained that once the air raid sirens went each individual had to make the right choice about staying or returning home. Her friend May had to go past the gun placements in North Fremantle. This was a 'no go' zone when the sirens sounded so she would be unable to make it home. Joy lived close by and could always make it back home to her mum.

In March 1946 the *West Australian* newspaper reported that Fremantle Ambulance Cadets had been in recess during the war and classes would begin at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 12 March at the ambulance depot in Parry Street, Fremantle. The Divisional Superintendent, Mr Ralston, said that after the boys had passed their examinations they could join the Cadet Division.

We have learnt that in the 1950s, Ambulance Cadets used a room upstairs in the Evan Davies Library in Fremantle as their training room. Today you would recognise this building as the Dome Cafe.

In 1968, at the age of 64, Mrs Hilda Golding took over the position of Lady Superintendent of the Fremantle Nursing Cadets. She was a wonderful woman who gave much to her Cadets. Four years later she handed over the reins to Mrs Ellement but returned to manage our Division again in 1974. When she retired for the second time she passed the honour of being caretaker of the Fremantle Nursing Cadets to me. I had joined the Division in 1970.



The Fremantle Nursing Cadet Division in 1969. The Superintendent, Mrs Hilda Golding, is sitting in the front row at the left.

Two contemporaries of mine were Jenny Warr and her sister Suellen, who joined in 1968. Jenny was in the first group of 'Freo' Nursing Cadets to gain their Grand Prior's badge. Jenny represented the Division in many competitions and later became the Superintendent of Karratha Cadets. Her daughter became a Fremantle Cadet and was also involved in competitions. Suellen was National Cadet Leader champion in 1981 and the youngest sister, Jodie Warr, was National Cadet Individual champion in 1986. Their mother, Mrs Warr, was also very involved in Cadet life.

Internal Divisional First Aid Competitions were started in 1980, when two of our Cadets, Debbie Ismael and Linda Jardine, organised and ran competitions among our own members. They even donated the trophy. This annual event continues to be run by the Cadets themselves. Debbie and Linda returned to the Division to present the trophies to another generation of Cadets in 2011.



Debbie Ismael (left) and Linda Jardine, the two Cadets who started the Fremantle Nursing Cadet Division's first aid competitions in 1980 and then donated the trophies for the winners.

From 31 December 1989, our uniform changed to the black and white of the former St John Ambulance Brigade (now Event Health Services) This brought us into line with the Cadet uniforms elsewhere in Australia.

By 1993 my Nursing Cadet Division had become a Combined Cadet Division, that is one comprising both female and male members. I was simply advised that if boys wished to join the Division they could.

This was the year when I started to chase our 50th anniversary certificate, the one issued by the national Cadet organisation to commemorate a Division's 50 years of continuous existence. 1997 and I was still chasing the elusive 50th anniversary certificate. We were finally recognised as the first Cadet Division in WA.

Nationally there were discussions about adopting a mascot for Cadets. There was talk about magpies and such. It all sounded very 'black and white' and football-oriented. We decided that the dolphin should join our Division. This familiar, well-loved marine animal is very social, intelligent and friendly. If a member of the group is sick or injured, others will go to its aid, responding quickly to its cries of distress and supporting it in the water so it can reach the surface to breathe. We felt that this was a more fitting mascot for our members.



The Fremantle Cadet Division in 1996. By now the Division was 'Combined', i.e. had both female and male Cadets and the Cadets were wearing the black and white uniform common to all Divisions elsewhere in Australia.



Another of our wonderful St John families at Fremantle are the Aulsebrooks. Lani and Esther Aulsebrook joined our Division and were soon involved in all aspects of its corporate life. They took part in competitions, leadership programs and gave lots of support to the Division. Both girls went on to be Cadet Superintendents in charge of their own Divisions.

In 2002 the adult WA Operations Branch volunteers experienced another change of uniform. This was to align them with the overall corporate image of St John WA. As a result the adult green working uniform was introduced. Instead of wearing the Event Health Services black and white, we adopted pale green shirts with dark green trousers, jumper and hat. In 2005, the Cadets changed into green as well. They kept the white shirt but a tie was no longer part of the uniform. All badges, flashes and epaulettes were changed to green.

The Fremantle Cadet Division members in 2011. Those in shirts are wearing the pale green uniform introduced in 2005; those wearing dark green with 'day-glow' strips are in the working uniform introduced in 2011.



In 2006 we had a big reunion to celebrate our Division's 70th anniversary. I published a booklet documenting many of the stories and dates of the Division.

In WA the State Government sponsors the 'Cadets in Schools' program. The program includes not only the St John Ambulance Cadets but also Cadets from other agencies, including the Army, State Emergency Service, River Rangers, Surf Life Saving and Bush Rangers. This program has greatly changed the way we work. We are able to tap into a different stream of funding to provide training for our Cadets. We don't have to hand make 800 dozen lamingtons as we did in the 1980s to fund our activities. The government even gives \$100 towards a uniform for each new Cadet.

In 2011 the dark green working uniform was introduced for adult volunteers in the St John Event Health Services Branch. The new dark green uniform is the same as worn by the employees of the St John WA Ambulance Service. As we soon discovered, the cargo pants are extremely comfortable but the belt is thick and huge and the shirt is very hot in summer.

The year 2011 hadn't ended when we had the next change. Our St John Ambulance Australia shoulder flash was replaced with the ambulance service roundel. In 2011 we also celebrated our 75th anniversary, which we called our Diamond (or Platinum) Jubilee. It was an opportunity to reflect on the past and to see how we have grown and developed. It was great to see so many old and not-so-old faces turn up for our reunion. We received letters of congratulations from Buckingham Palace, the Governor-General, the St John National Youth Manager, the Chief Superintendent of St John Event Health Services, the Minister for Youth, the Mayor of Fremantle etc etc. I compiled another book to mark this milestone in our history.

At this point I would like to introduce the Walker family. They are with us each Saturday morning. Amanda was the WA 2011 Peter Falkland Cadet of the Year. Sandra is our Divisional Officer and Brian a valued non-operational member. Our Division has always been able to attract such hard-working, loyal, supportive families who appreciate the important part that the Cadet movement plays in their children's development.

2013 started off as a good year. I was promoted to Commander in the Order. But 2013 quickly turned into something else. On Monday 18 March we attended a Managers-only meeting at St John headquarters. You can imagine our surprise to hear the General Manager tell us that all Cadet Divisions in WA were to be 'transitioned' by the end of 2013. 'Transitioned' is a managerial euphemism which, translated into plain English, actually means that Cadets as we know it will be 'terminated'. This decision, it was said, was not based on costs because the St John Cadets in WA are supported by the State Government Cadet Program and are not a burden on St John. St John WA offers free basic first aid lessons to primary school children and St John headquarters management wish to expand this program to all children, taking first aid training to a larger population than that existing in the Cadet Divisions. Cadets would be assisted to join other youth organisations. The attitude is that 'First aid is St John's core business and if Cadet members want to earn cooking badges, then there are other youth organisations in the community which could do that for them'.

Officers did of course point out that the training of young people to become good citizens was one objective of St John and involves much more than simply teaching first aid. We were disappointed that the CEO did not discuss this issue with us nor did he tell us himself. There were no answers as to how the new program was to operate. All we knew was that everything we had worked to achieve was being cancelled. Within a week there were 2000 members on a Facebook page called 'Save St John Ambulance Cadets'. As the Facebook page indicates, the news media were soon running stories about the matter, under headlines such as 'Cadets Axed' and 'St John Cadet program left up in the air'.

A week later a meeting was called for managers only. This time Mr Tony Ahern, the Chief Executive Officer, did speak to us. He is still set on closing Cadets. We support the idea that children of all ages should be taught first aid but we debate the need to close our Cadet Divisions

Mr Ahern later spoke to Cadets, their families and friends at a public meeting. He said that Cadets would close but we could continue with our normal program for the remainder of the year. So competitions and camps are back on the agenda for the time being. The enrolment ceremony was not. Ill-feeling and lots of uncertainty nevertheless continue. Mr Ahern still didn't have any answers as to how the new program will operate. It hasn't yet been trialled in any school and at present a name for the new school-based Cadet sections hasn't been announced.

What does the future hold? This is very much an unknown thing. Our Fremantle car park has been ripped up and this is how I personally feel about the decision— torn apart.

In closing I would like to say that I grew up with the St John Cadets and I stay young with the Cadets. We all support each other. Fremantle Cadets has been a place where great friendships were formed, where we achieved worthwhile goals and experienced a healthy element of fun in our training. In my time at Fremantle it has been an absolute pleasure to see the uncertain and somewhat fragile Juniors and Probationers grow into the fine, responsible young men and women of today. The bonds you build with your fellow members are very special. In saying this I would like to acknowledge the valuable guidance and strong support provided by the adults in our Division, both past and present.

Finally, I will observe that times do change and St John has continually adapted to meet changing circumstances. In this respect it will be very interesting, and somewhat daunting, for us in the St John youth movement, to see what the next 12 months brings to St John in WA.

Postscript

At the time I revised this article for publication, 15 February 2014, the future was still uncertain. We are to continue our Divisional meetings for the beginning of 2014. We have been told that our Division will not close until all members have other options open to them and that there is a choice of school-based groups that they can join. The State Government has agreed to fund 15 Cadet units in WA with the Instructors being given a monetary bonus at the end of the year. St John headquarters is offering a free 80-minute lesson to lower primary school children. They have written a 10-lesson package that a teacher or parent could give to a group of upper primary school children as an out-of-school interest group. Lower high school children can join a 'First Aid Club' and receive 26 weekly lessons managed by the school, in the school and during after school hours. St John will provide the teaching plans and

the Government funding will be transferred to the school to be managed. Upper high school children will join Adult Divisions under the guidance of a Divisional Officer in charge of Youth.

In a letter from the St John CEO dated 22 November 2013, it states that, 'St John WA steadfastly believes in its ambition to make first aid a part of everyone's life ... Our plans for the new Youth Program are centred on maximising the number of school-aged children who engage with first aid'.

St John has now introduced 'First Aid Focus', single, free, age-specific lesson to be provided by qualified trainers in school time. Children may join a 'First Aid Club' either after school or within their community group. The program name and branding has been developed to complement the First Aid Focus program but allows for the First Aid Club's own identity for promotion to schools and community groups. Primary school students have a set of 10 lessons, while high school students have 26 after-school lessons written by St John and delivered by an interested parent, teacher or community person. The number of lessons can be tailored to suit the groups requirements. These lessons are first aid only and do not include any badge work. Upper high school students (aged 16–17) may join an adult division in a 'Cadetship'. They will follow adult training in preparation for full volunteer membership. The 'Cadetship' programme is yet to be finalised

At the Cadet Managers meeting on 6 February 2014 we were reassured that while these new groups are being developed we are able to continue our Junior and Cadet activities. St John Perth headquarters will give us warning as each particular Division approaches its closing date and each member will be assisted in choosing what path they can follow, either continuing with St John or with another community group.

Cadet Managers will assist those members who are close to their Commissioners or Grand Prior badges to obtain their certificates. We will continue to follow all the goals and objectives of the Cadet movement, not only in providing first aid training but a program that assists our members to grow and develop into good citizens for our State.

As a Divisional Manager I support and encourage my Cadets to continue their journey with St John, while I personally shed a tear for what is lost to the youth of our community. Such a pity that the first aid clubs couldn't feed interested children into the Cadet movement.

‘Rich in good works’: The life and times of Mary Griffith

Beth Dawson and John Pearn

Ms Beth Dawson AM, DStJ, a nurse by profession, spent much of her salaried working career as a senior specialist paediatric nurse at the Royal Children’s Hospital, Brisbane. Before she entered nursing training she had already joined the St John Ambulance Division in Nundah. That was in 1951, and she has retained her links with the Division ever since. She has served in leadership positions at many levels of the St John Ambulance Brigade and Event Health Services (EHS), including a long period as Chief Nursing Officer on the national headquarters staff. On retiring from EHS, she became a leading figure within the new Community Care Branch in Queensland. More recently she has been the long-serving Chair of the Queensland branch of this Historical Society. Ms Dawson is a foundation member of the Historical Society and of its management committee and was one of the group of five who brought the Society into existence in 1999–2000.



Professor John Pearn AO, KStJ, MPhil, PhD, MD, DSc, FRACP, FRCP (Edin.), FACTM is the current Priory Librarian and a former Director of Training for St John Ambulance Australia. He is a Professor Emeritus of Paediatrics at the Royal Children’s Hospital campus of the University of Queensland. A retired Major General, he is also a former Surgeon General to the Australian military forces. An eminent medical scientist and professionally qualified historian, John is greatly in demand as a lecturer at national and overseas medical and historical symposia.



Volunteerism in twenty-first century Australia has an enduring heritage. It can be traced to the altruistic service of exceptional men and women in pre- and post-Federation Australia. In the era prior to World War One, almost all women were denied the fulfilment to pursue individual professional careers. Nevertheless, one class of socially prominent women created personal avocations, voluntary and unpaid, as leaders in philanthropic work. As the wives, sisters and adult daughters of prominent men in society, they enjoyed freedom from time commitments to family and home and a freedom secondary to secure financial resources, in some cases considerable family wealth.

One striking exemplar of this class of pioneer volunteers was Miss Mary Harriett Griffith (1849–1930). She served as president, secretary or active member of an astonishing 18 philanthropic organisations. For her service to one of these, St John Ambulance Australia, she was decorated by the King as a Lady of Grace within the Order of St John. She was the first Queensland woman to be so honoured. Institutional and societal histories have tended to ignore the many thousands of such women who contributed to underprivileged and vulnerable members of society. As one such, Mary Harriett Griffith epitomised this emergent genre of pre- and post-Federation women, whose legacy endures in voluntary community service today.

An exhortation in Paul’s Letter to the Galatians is to ‘Be not weary in good works’.¹ In pre- and post-Federation Australia, this impost became the credo of a class of devout and socially prominent women. In some cases, their philanthropic service to the underprivileged in their local communities became a zeal of bewildering proportions. Their charity was one significant influence which led to the ethos of volunteerism which has endured and today enriches much of Australian life.

In an era when women had virtually no opportunities for personal professional careers, many who were the wives or relatives of civic or professional leaders themselves became societal leaders in



*Mary Harriett Griffith,
Queensland’s first Dame of Grace.*

philanthropic service. By pursuing the Good Samaritan ethic, many such women made their Christian commitment to charity and philanthropy their lives' work. These contributions were made possible by the freedom afforded by their social status. Often such personal and societal freedom was a consequence of family wealth. In addition, their relative independence was a consequence of freedom from household and often family drudgery and afforded them the time and opportunity to pursue good works. Their muscular Christian and secular witness comprised the only societal niche in which many could serve their communities. For some, it was the sole path along which they could fulfil personal aspirations of collegiate leadership.

Miss Mary Harriett Griffith was a striking exemplar of this stereotypic class of women. In the decades before and after Federation (1901), she served her community in an exceptional way. The contributions of such women and, we would postulate, the significance of their legacy are often overlooked in the broader perspective of service rendered by professionally and politically powerful men.

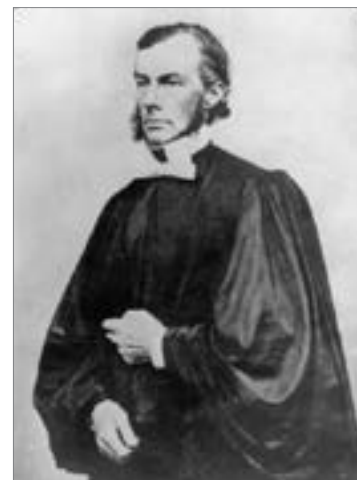
Mary Griffith was the older sister of one of Australia's most prominent jurists, Sir Samuel Griffith (1845–1920). He was twice Premier of Queensland (1883–1888; 1890–1893) and later Chief Justice of Queensland (1893–1903). From 1891, he was the principal author of the *Australian Constitution*. Later, in 1903, he drafted the *Judiciary Act* which inaugurated the High Court of Australia, of which he was the first Chief Justice (1903–1920).² The societal role and volunteer contributions of his sister, Mary Griffith, have been relatively overlooked. Her first biography appeared almost a century after the first of many which described the work of her illustrious brother.³ This neglect, reflected in the paucity of history's acknowledgement of the role of such selfless women, was epitomised in the case of Mary Griffith by the Brisbane historian, Lorraine Cazalar, in the title of an unpublished manuscript, 'The Other Griffith—Mary Harriett'.⁴ Here we place the life of Miss Griffith in the perspective of her service to underprivileged families in Queensland.

Family and early life

Mary Griffith was the elder of three daughters of the five children born to the Reverend Edward Griffith (1819–1891) and to his wife Mary (née Walker).³ She was born on the 4 November 1849 at Portishead in Somerset. Her father, proud of his Welsh forebears, had previously served in Wales and Mary Griffith's Welsh heritage remained a proud theme throughout her life. She succeeded her brother, Sir Samuel Griffith, as Patron of St David's Welsh Society in Brisbane, following the latter's death in 1920.

Mary's father, Rev. Griffith, was a deeply committed and profoundly fundamentalist Independent minister. Her early life in this devout Protestant family influenced her developing personality and the pattern of her life, rich in Christian witness throughout the ensuing decades. Her earliest pre-school years were spent at Wiveliscombe in Somerset where her father preached as the resident Independent minister. The Independents, or Separatists as they were known, eschewed the systems of governance within the Church of England, believing that each local church was autonomous. The vigorous Independent theology rejected the concept that all who lived in a geographic area (or Parish) were members of the local church. They believed that the local Christian congregation should consist only of those believers who would regularly gather together.⁵ This theology became the principal tenet of Congregationalism, the religion with which the Griffith family identified in Australia, following their emigration in 1854.

In 1853 the Colonial Missionary Society invited Mary's father, Rev. Griffith, to establish a Congregational church at Ipswich, then a northern outpost in NSW. A sponsor of this proposal was another Welshman, David Jones (1793–1873), a merchant and devout deacon of the Congregational Church in Sydney. In 1838, David Jones had founded the firm of David Jones Limited.⁶



Rev. Edward Griffith, about 1850, four years before emigrating to Australia with his family.

The Griffith family, with Mary as a five-year-old child, arrived at Moreton Bay on the 6 March 1854.³ After serving in Ipswich, Rev. Griffith was 'called' to Maitland, where the family endured three floods with successive inundations of their home.³ In 1860, the Griffith family moved again to Queensland, this time to Brisbane where they were to remain permanently, and in which city the family name became so well-known. Rev. Griffith was appointed as the minister to the Congregational Church in Wharf Street, in Brisbane's Fortitude Valley, where he served until his death in 1891. Mary assisted her father in his church work.⁷

The family lived in their home, Weymouth, opposite the Congregational Church. The house was named after the city in Dorset, in the west of England near Somerset, where the Griffith children were born. At the age of eight years, Mary Griffith was sent to England for her primary education. After completing her schooling, she returned to live with her family, initially at Weymouth.



The Wharf Street Congregational Church, Brisbane, 1909. Mary Harriett Griffith taught Sunday School here for 50 years.

The Griffith family lived in several of Brisbane's well-known homes. Caring for her parents, Mary moved them to another home, Strathmore, at New Farm.³ Her brother, (later, Sir) Samuel Griffith, lived for many years nearby, in Merthyr, a luxury home on the Brisbane River also at New Farm,² and later at Kohunga, a fine stone house on Wickham Terrace in central Brisbane, today the site of the Tower Mill Hotel.⁸

Philanthropic service

Mary Griffith joined an astonishing 18 charitable and philanthropic organisations. She served on the executive committees of many of these and was a diligent attendee at countless committee meetings and functions and at both public and private charity events. The basis of this service was her deeply held Christian outlook within the teaching of Congregationalist theology. Like all devout members of Non-Conformist faith, she espoused a Calvinist and Knoxian persona. It is known, for example, that she would walk rather than catch the tram to her home in Windsor where she lived in her later years. She assisted her father at the Wharf Street Congregational Church where she taught Sunday School for 50 years.³ She became a deaconess of the Church and as such was a pioneer in an era when women had almost no influence in church affairs. There are at least three exhortations in the Bible to pursue good works in society and in this Calvinistic tradition Mary Griffith excelled.

The second motto, first promulgated in 1908, of the Hospital for Sick Children in Brisbane, was Paul's injunction to 'Be not weary in good works'.¹ Mary Griffith served on that Hospital's Management Committee with greater and more enduring diligence than any other member. She embodied the principles and practice of this injunction perhaps as much as any other woman of her era. Without children herself, and with the patronage of a respected father and politically dominant brother, she had the time and means as well as an acknowledged social status to indulge in public philanthropy. We believe that she was an extreme exemplar of that stereotypic class of wives, sisters and adult daughters of professional men who themselves were prominent in the world of voluntary charitable works in Pre-Federation society.

Mary Griffith was a founder, secretary or president of seven philanthropic organisations in Brisbane. She served as a vigorous committee member on another eleven organisations each embodying the volunteer spirit of the Good Samaritan ethos.

St John service

Miss Mary Griffith holds a special place in the history of St John Ambulance Australia. In 1911, she was invested as a Lady of Grace in the Order of St John, the first Queensland woman to be decorated in that rank and one of the first in Australia. Her service to the work of St John Ambulance was undertaken between 1889, when the first St John classes were taught in Queensland⁹ and 1911 when the King's decoration was conferred upon her. It is known that she contributed to the curriculum of drills and skills taught in the first decades of public first aid classes in Queensland.¹⁰

Mary Griffith was particularly proud of her role in St John Ambulance and of the Imperial decoration bestowed upon her. She used the post-nominals, 'LG', those of a Lady of Grace within the Order of St John, in official documents thereafter. Occasionally, surviving documents indicate that she used the title of 'Lady of Grace' not as a post-nominal but as a praenomen.

The Hospital for Sick Children in Brisbane

Mary Griffith was one of the most active and conscientious members of the Management Committee of the Hospital for Sick Children in Brisbane. She joined the Hospital Committee in 1894. She served continuously for 30 years on that body, and public records attest to her service.¹¹ She was the most diligent attendee at the weekly meetings of that Management Committee throughout its life.

Miss Griffith's service on the decision-making Management Committee of the Children's Hospital in Brisbane was a particularly important practical role. It was also a distressing one as child mortality was particularly high in that pre-antibiotic era. For example, in November 1918 in the crowded hospital (an average of 156 daily inpatients in that month), there were 44 children with acute diphtheria. Seven children were dying in the distressing circumstances of choking from diphtheria, each week.¹¹ She took part in the Hospital's annual functions, especially the *Courier* Christmas Party, held in McConnel Ward on Christmas Eve. The Management Committee of the Children's Hospital in Brisbane provided the charitable and philanthropic service for children until 1924 when the government assumed responsibility for all such charitable hospitals in Queensland.



Nursing staff of the Brisbane Hospital for Sick Children, 1899. Miss MH Griffith served on the Management Committee here for 30 years.

'Rich in good works'

Mary Griffith was a champion of the vulnerable and underprivileged. In particular, she was a muscular advocate for the protection and improved welfare of young women, particularly immigrants to the northern State. Herself an immigrant, she had known the distress of insecurity when floods had partly destroyed her family home.

Colonial self-government had been conferred on Queensland in 1859, the year before the Griffith family returned to Brisbane. Over the ensuing 30 years there was a major influx of young immigrants to the new State. One particularly underprivileged class was that comprised of teenage women from the United Kingdom and Scotland. Many young single women were brought as immigrants to Queensland, sponsored by government or charitable societies. Many single teenage girls arrived alone and impoverished at immigration depots established at ports such as those at Brisbane and Maryborough. Her role in both the Travellers' Aid Society and that in the British Women's Emigration League was evidence of her sympathy with this class of immigrant women, whose members were in many cases vulnerable to the exigencies of an inexperienced life in pre-Federation Australia.

One example of Miss Griffith's service was her leadership in the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), known as the 'Y'. This organisation had been founded in 1855. A permanent YWCA centre was opened in Sydney in 1880. Mary Griffith became the Foundation President of

the Queensland branch of the YWCA in 1902, and contributed to deliberations which led to the formation, in 1907, of the National YWCA Australia organisation. That body helped immigrant women, and particularly the shop girls, factory hands and domestic servants who came from Ireland and Scotland to Queensland through various philanthropic immigration schemes, to start a new and undeniably better life.

Miss Griffith served as President of the 'Y' for eleven years. In 1912 she was given the honorific title of 'Honorary President' (1912–1921). Subsequently, in recognition of her dedicated and exemplary service, the further title of 'Honorary Life President' was conferred upon her in 1921.

Following her death in 1930, the YWCA in Brisbane commissioned the erection of the Griffith Memorial Doors which endure, in the twenty-first century, as a witness of her leadership and service.

Miss Griffith was also active in the National Council of Women. This body had been established in New South Wales in 1896. A Queensland branch was formed in 1905, with Mrs TJ Bell as the inaugural President. Mary Griffith's close friend, Mary Josephine Bedford (1861–1955), was the Council's first secretary. Mrs Bell, Ms Bedford, and Lady O'Connell were all associates of Mary Griffith. They are further exemplars of the class of altruistic women memorialised in this paper.

Miss Griffith maintained her good works throughout her life. Surviving oral history records that on the night on which she died, in caring accommodation she had earlier read aloud to another resident who was blind.

The first St John Ambulance first aid classes were taught in Queensland in the Brisbane School of Arts, in May 1889.¹² In contrast to the initial first aid classes taught in London in 1879, the Brisbane classes were not segregated by sex. From the outset, socially prominent women enrolled as students in those pioneering classes. One such was Miss Mary Emma (May) Jordan (1860–1929), the eldest daughter of a prominent 19th century Queensland dentist and politician, and the first Agent-General for Education.¹³ Like Mary Griffith, May Jordan was prominent in the Brisbane Women's Union of which body she became Secretary. In her Inaugural Address, delivered at the Trades Hall in Brisbane on 28 August 1890, May Jordan spoke as follows:

We have met here tonight to begin a work which will have as its object the improvement of conditions of labour to the woman wage earner ... The time is fast going in which people say and think that for a woman to earn her own living takes from womanliness and makes less worthy.¹³

This spirit encapsulated the work of this class of educated women. They served as volunteers for several generations before equivalent careers were financially rewarded and before due societal acknowledgement was made of their worth and contributions both to individuals and to society.

The first St John Ambulance Brigade (Overseas) in Queensland was founded in Brisbane in 1915.¹⁴ The Queensland Centre of the St John Ambulance Association was established on 17 October 1916. Its success was such that the management was taken over by men who remained dominant, to the virtual exclusion of all women from managerial positions, for the ensuing two generations. It was



'Polishing the YWCA van, Brisbane', c. 1930s. Miss Griffith had died several years earlier but had been President of the 'Y' for 11 years. She would almost certainly have disapproved of the dress of the young woman polishing the van!



The Brisbane School of Arts, 1900. Queensland's earliest first aid classes were taught here in 1889.

not until 1947 that the advocacy of another philanthropic leader, Mrs Dorothy Davidson, led to the eventual formal establishment of the St John Ambulance Brigade (Overseas) Brisbane Division (Queensland District) in December 1949. Mrs Davidson was appointed as the foundation District Lady Superintendent for St John in Queensland. It was an era following the changed social status of women, consequent upon the challenges of service in erstwhile male-dominated occupations, that enabled pioneering St John Nursing Divisions to be formed. Dorothy Davidson was later to recollect:

It was not easy to form a volunteer body of ladies willing to study again and train in First Aid Home Nursing and Drill, many of them relaxing after service with the Voluntary Aid Detachments and the Australian Army Medical Women's Service during the war years and against some rather definite opposition from the professional [ambulance] men who felt their livelihood was being undermined.¹⁵

Although Miss Mary Griffith had become a Lady of Grace within the Order of St John in 1911, it was not until 1990 that the first woman, Ms Shirley Watson, was appointed a State Commissioner of Operations Branch with St John Ambulance Australia. In that role Ms Watson was also the first woman in Australia to be appointed as a State Commissioner.

Unmarried and childless, Mary Griffith left no heirs. Her legacy was in the lives which were protected and enriched by her 'diligence in good works'. The example of her perhaps unique service and leadership endures as a role model for both men and women in the twenty-first century.



Delegates to the conference of the National Council of Women, Brisbane, 1964. This was 34 years after Miss Griffith's death. Would the delegates have known that she had pioneered the Queensland branch of their organisation?

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William Humble Ward, 2nd Earl of Dudley: Australia's first gubernatorial KStJ

Ian Howie-Willis OAM, KStJ

Dr Ian Howie-Willis is a professional historian. He joined St John 34 years ago, recruited to produce the centenary history, A Century for Australia: St John Ambulance in Australia, 1883–1983. Since then he has produced six other St John histories either alone or with co-authors. He was Priory Librarian (2003–2012) and was the foundation Secretary of the Historical Society. Presently, he is the Society's Editor and Historical Adviser of the Priory of St John Ambulance Australia.



William Humble Ward (1867–1932), otherwise known as the 2nd Earl of Dudley, was the fourth Governor-General of Australia. He held the position (1908–10), during the second Prime Ministerships of both Alfred Deakin and Andrew Fisher. Among his other claims to fame, St John Ambulance Australia has good cause to remember him for having been the first Governor-General to have been a Knight of the Order of St John. As such, he was at the front of a long line. Since him, 17 of our 26 Governors-General have been members of the Order at the most senior Grade I and Grade II levels.

The 2nd Earl of Dudley was an English aristocrat of ancient noble lineage. The Earls of Dudley trace their ancestry back to a wealthy 17th century London goldsmith William Ward, who was goldsmith to King Charles I and whose son Humble Ward was created the 1st Baron Ward of Birmingham in 1644. Humble Ward's connection with the Dudley title began at the age of only 14 in 1628, when he was married off to Frances Sutton, daughter of the 5th Baron Dudley, to enable his father's money to be used to pay off the 5th Baron's debts.

The Dudley title goes back to John Sutton (1400–87), a soldier who served the crown as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. He was created 1st Baron Dudley in 1440. After becoming occupants of Dudley Castle, the Suttons tended to use both Sutton and Dudley as surnames. William Ward (1817–85), who became the 1st Earl of Dudley and the father of the 2nd Earl, was the 11th Baron Ward of Birmingham. In 1860 he was granted two additional titles: 1st Earl of Dudley and 1st Viscount of Ednam in Roxburghshire (Scotland). This was probably in acknowledgement of his philanthropy and his innovative enterprise as a leading industrialist and financier. He amassed a huge fortune through his ownership of iron mines, collieries and steelworks at the height of the British industrial revolution. As well as being an aristocrat, he was a 'captain of industry' in every sense. He lavished his wealth on extravagant building projects, for example Witley Court in Worcestershire, which he acquired in 1837 at the age of only 16. He rebuilt it in the florid Italianate style, converting it into a grand palatial home which remained his family's country residence.

As a young chap, the 1st Earl of Dudley must have cut a dashing figure. The son of an Anglican vicar, he was educated at Eton and then Christ Church and Trinity College, Oxford. He did not leave with a degree but played first grade cricket for Oxford University for four years. Flamboyantly hirsute, his mane of tightly-curved hair cascaded down both sides of his face in parallel waves to his collar and he wore an ear-to-ear beard while keeping his cheeks and chin clean-shaven. He gazed out at the world through a fleecy halo, prompting his sister-in-law, Harriet Moncrieffe, to nickname him 'Frizzle Wig'.



William Humble Ward (1867–1932), 2nd Earl of Dudley, fourth Governor-General of Australia, 1908–10. The 1900 photograph was taken when he was 33 and Secretary to the Board of Trade.

The 1st Earl married twice. His second wife was Georgina Elizabeth Moncrieffe (1846–1929), the daughter of a Scottish baronet. During both the Boer War and World War I Georgina worked for the Red Cross. She ran the Mayfair Nursing Home for wounded officers during the latter war. For this work she was awarded the Royal Red Cross and she also became a 'DStJ.' She bore her husband six sons (the oldest of whom, William Humble Ward, succeeded to his titles) and a daughter.

The 1st Earl of Dudley seems to have been the first of his lineage admitted into the Order of St John. According to the diploma (i.e. warrant) issued to him appointing him as a 'Chevalier of Justice', he was admitted into the Order on 15 November 1874. The 1st Earl was obviously pleased to have become a Knight of St John for he demonstrated this by elaborately modifying his armorial bearings to include various references to the Order. Previously, the Dudley Arms had consisted of a pair of winged angels supporting a blue and gold chequered shield across which was a 'bend' (a broad top left-to-bottom right diagonal white band) embellished with black ermine. Below that on a blue scroll is the Dudley ancestral motto in French, 'Comme je fus', meaning 'As I was'. To this the Earl now added these embellishments to signify his membership in the Order: a peer's chapeau (cap) with Maltese Cross; a black mantle (cloak) and tasselled neck-cord in black-and-white representing his robes as a Chevalier of Justice; a Maltese Cross in the style of the Arms of the ancient Grand Masters of the Order behind the central shield and supporting angels; the white cross on crimson field banner of St John the Baptist tops the shield; and his Chevalier of Justice neck pendant hangs from the motto scroll. No connoisseur of heraldic devices even glimpsing the modified Dudley Arms could doubt that the 1st Earl was a chap who placed great store in his membership of the Order.

Dudley, the name of the castle the 1st Earl used in his title, was, as seen, a place with which he had ancient ancestral links. Nowadays Dudley is a large industrial town of about 200,000 people in the present West Midlands county within the great Midlands conurbation, which includes Birmingham, 13 km to the south-east and Wolverhampton, 9 km to the north-west. The town is situated in the centre of the 'Black Country' of the West Midlands, i.e. the belt of heavy industry based on the coal and iron ore resources of the region between Birmingham and Wolverhampton.

The 1st and 2nd Earls of Dudley owed their great wealth to the heavy industry of the Black Country. The 2nd Earl is said to have inherited from the 1st Earl almost 30,000 acres (120 km²) of Black Country land containing no fewer than 200 coal and iron mines, several iron works (including the famous and highly productive Round Oak Steelworks, which remained in business for 125 years [1857–1982]) plus a fortune of some £4 million. Present-day students viewing images of the industrial landscape of the Black Country of the 19th and earlier 20th centuries are appalled by dismal, grimey, smoke-shrouded, soot-encrusted aspect of the urban areas of the West Midlands. The luxurious lifestyles of the Earls of Dudley and their ilk in mansions surrounded by broad acres of manicured gardens and private parks contrasted starkly with the living and working conditions among the labouring classes in the Midlands towns.

Such wealth enabled both earls to indulge their various interests. Initially at least, the 2nd Earl's main interest was in having a good time at his father's expense. Instead of going to Oxford after leaving Eton, he went off on a two-year yachting cruise around the world, during which he visited Australia. On his return he gravitated into the 'fast' social circle surrounding Albert Edward, the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII).



William Humble Ward (1817–85), 1st Earl of Dudley, father of the 2nd Earl and a Knight of Justice of the Order of St John.



Arms of the 1st Earl of Dudley.

The Round Oak Steelworks at Brierley Hill in the West Midlands 'Black Country' in 1976. Among Britain's great steelworks, they were established by the 1st Earl of Dudley in 1857 and ran for 125 years until their closure in 1982. With many other mills and mines, they were the source of the Dudley family's great wealth..



The Prince attended Dudley's 1891 marriage in the recently built Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Street, London, to a 'Society' beauty, Rachel Gurney (1869–1920). Rachel, a failed Norfolk banker's daughter, had run a London millinery shop with her mother after her parents' divorce. That failed too. An Australian journalist later wrote that Rachel was as 'beautiful as a marble statue ... a carved lily'. Rachel dutifully bore the 2nd Earl three daughters and four sons, thus, in popular parlance, producing him an heir and three 'spares'.

As well as superintending his inherited investments and properties, the 2nd Earl's interests inclined to the military and political. He joined the part-time Army as a major in the Queen's Own Worcestershire Hussars (light cavalry) in 1885. He saw active service in the Boer War (1899–1902). After his period as Governor-General in Australia, he returned to the unit at the outbreak of World War I, when it became a part of the 1st Midland Mounted Brigade. In 1915 he accompanied the brigade to Gallipoli, where it supported the Anzacs in their costly August offensive. He later served on the headquarters staff of the 40th Infantry Division on the Western front in Flanders and retired as a lieutenant-colonel.

On succeeding as the 2nd Earl in 1885, Dudley had entered parliament as a Conservative member of the House of Lords. He served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade (1895–1902), the equivalent then of the Minister for Trade and Industry in later times. In 1905 he was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, a vice-regal position analogous to that of the governor-general in Australia but one having greater powers.

The 2nd Earl and the Countess later made a famous appearance in the very long novel, *Ulysses*, by the Irish novelist James Joyce. The novel tracks a Dublin Jew, Leopold Bloom, through an ordinary day of ordinary events in Dublin, Thursday 16 June 1904—a day now so famous in English literature that Joyce fans call it 'Bloomsday'. The Earl and Countess are described in an episode recounting the activities of various characters on the streets of Dublin after lunch that day. This episode revolves around the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, his Countess and their attendants driving through the streets in two carriages. One character, Blazes Boylan, who's on his way to an assignation with his lover, Molly Bloom (Leopold's wife), appreciates the good looks of the women in the Lord Lieutenant's cavalcade. Here's how Joyce describes the incident:



Rachel Dudley (née Gurney) CBE, RRC, DStJ (1869–1920), first wife of the 2nd Earl of Dudley.



The 2nd Earl of Dudley in the robes of the Grand Master of the Order of St Patrick, during his period as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, 1905–08.

William Humble, earl of Dudley, and Lady Dudley ... drove out after luncheon from the viceregal lodge ... The cavalcade passed out by the lower gate of Phoenix Park saluted by obsequious policemen and proceeded past Kingsbridge along the northern quays. The viceroy was most cordially greeted on his way through the metropolis ... Blazes Boylan [was wearing] a skyblue tie, a widebrimmed straw hat at a rakish angle and a suit of indigo serge. His hands in his jacket pockets forgot to salute but he offered to the three ladies the bold admiration of his eyes ...

In 1908 the UK Liberal government appointed Dudley as Governor-General of Australia. He got the job largely because no one else wanted it. Dudley arrived in Australia in September that year and 'soon established a reputation for pomp, ceremony and extravagance which was unwelcome to many Australians'. As well as that, he had what would now be described as 'a roving eye'. The Sydney *Truth* newspaper alliteratively lampooned his 'concupiscent capers', implying that if he wasn't actually philandering he was ogling too many Australian women too lasciviously.

Dudley then meddled in party politics. Unwisely, he let his pro-Liberal, anti-Labor views be publicly known. After Fisher's Labor government won a convincing electoral victory in 1910, Dudley realised his anti-Labor position had become untenable. He quietly returned home to the UK in July 1911. Whatever his other qualities, the 2nd Earl of Dudley would clearly never be included on any short list of our most politically astute Governors-General.

To Dudley's credit, however, he went on to serve worthily as an army officer during World War I. The British government obviously appreciated his efforts as a Minister of the Crown and vice-regal representative. As well as his military awards, he was granted no fewer than five knighthoods, four of these at the uppermost 'Knight Grand Cross' level.

Depending on which way you look at it, the 2nd Earl's story ends happily, sadly or both. By contrast, his wife's was largely a tragedy, much like that of a doomed Shakespearean heroine. Even before their return home from Australia, Dudley and the Countess were estranged from each other despite an attempted reconciliation. Their marital difficulties were widely known in Australia, where the Countess had been much

admired because of her charitable endeavours and in particular her valiant but unsuccessful efforts to establish a national bush nursing service. Back in the UK the couple separated in 1911. They managed to keep this quiet for the next eight years. While he was away at World War I, she worked as a Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) volunteer, doing war work in London for which she was awarded the Royal Red Cross, like her mother-in-law. She, too, became a 'DStJ.' The separation became public in 1919. In October that year, they agreed to a court-ordered 'deed of settlement' under which he had to pay her tax-free alimony of £9000 a year for as long as the both of them remained alive. This would be the equivalent of at least \$383,000 Australian in present day values. Being tax-free, its value would rise to \$597,000 if current Australian personal tax rates were applied. Unfortunately for Rachel, she did not live long to enjoy this bonanza for she died just eight months later.

Reputedly a strong swimmer, the Countess had swum every day at Bronte Beach whenever she was in Sydney. She nevertheless died while sea-bathing in Camus Bay in the Connemara district of County Galway on the wild far west coast of Ireland. She was only 52-years-old. She had gone to Ireland to stay with her maid. The day they arrived there, 26 June 1920, she decided to go swimming in the rocky cove in front of the house. She died from a heart attack during the swim as her maid watched helplessly from the shore. Her death made newspaper headlines around the world. Less constrained than either the British or Australian newspapers, the *New York Times* raked over the coals in a manner that must have greatly embarrassed the 2nd Earl.



The first Fisher Labor Ministry (1908–09). Centre front row is the Governor-General, 2nd Earl of Dudley with Prime Minister, Andrew Fisher to his left and the Attorney-General, later Prime Minister, William Morris Hughes to his right.

And what became of the 2nd Earl Dudley after his wife's premature death? Well, he married again. His second Countess was a plump but once pretty 45-year-old recently widowed former show-girl, Gertrude ('Gertie') Monckton (née Millar, 1879–1952). Gertie had been a popular Edwardian era musical comedy actress, singing saucy songs with titles like 'Neville was a devil'. Her first husband, the composer and writer Lionel JA Monckton (1861–1924), wrote and composed many of the songs that had made her famous. Gertie and the 2nd Earl married in 1924. They had only eight years of married life together and there were no children from the marriage. He died of cancer in London in 1932 at the age of 65. He was succeeded by his oldest son, who in turn was succeeded by his son and grandson, the current Earl.

We turn now to the 'KStJ' awards granted to both the 1st and 2nd Earls of Dudley. Our knowing about these awards results from the enterprise of Liz Coffey, one of the Queensland members of the Historical Society. Two years ago Liz discovered that the elaborately illuminated and framed diplomas appointing the Earls as Knights of the Order were being offered for sale on eBay in the UK. Liz put in a successful bid. The framed diplomas arrived soon after and Liz offered them to St John Ambulance Australia. The Priory Librarian's budget enabled the 2nd Earl's diploma to become a part of the Chancellor's Priory Heritage Collection in Canberra. Liz herself came down from Brisbane to present the diploma in person. It now hangs in the Priory Secretary's office.

The 2nd Earl's diploma indicates that he was admitted into membership of the Order as a Knight of Grace on 31 May 1910. This was while he was still in Australia and 14 months before his departure. The wording of the 2nd Earl's diploma is very similar to that of the 1st Earl's diploma, which was issued 36 years earlier.

Dudley's diploma and his admission into Order as a KStJ raise a series of questions for which we don't yet have answers. Meanwhile, you might be interested in what these questions and my tentative, speculative answers are.

1. Why was the 2nd Earl of Dudley admitted into the Order?

There's no obvious answer to this question because Dudley had apparently shown no previous interest in either the Order or its St John Ambulance foundations. Did the Order's leaders at St John's Gate figure that the 2nd Earl should also be a 'KStJ' because as Governor-General he was a highly influential personage whose support for the Order would be advantageous in Australia, where they were trying to extend the reach of the St John Ambulance foundations? Another possibility is that the 2nd Earl's royal friend, Edward VII, nominated him. The King, of course, had been the first royal Grand Prior and then the Sovereign Head of the Order and so if he had suggested that his friend the Australian Governor-General be made a 'KStJ', the Order's senior officials at 'The Gate' might have taken that as a 'royal command'.

2. Why was the 2nd Earl of Dudley appointed as a Knight 'of Grace' rather than 'of Justice'?

This is a great puzzle. Given that the 2nd Earl of Dudley was nobility of the bluest blood, it seems to me that he should automatically have been appointed a Knight 'of Justice' as his father had been in 1874. By pedigree, other titles and awards he was amply entitled to the 'of Justice' appellation. He was after all highly 'armigerous': someone having the right to personal heraldic emblems. He was so self-evidently entitled to be a Knight of Justice that this must have been known by the Genealogist of the Order, whose job it was to determine whether or not a Dame or Knight should be 'of Grace' or 'of Justice'. To have appointed someone of the 2nd Earl's noble lineage and superlative armigerous qualifications as a mere Knight of Grace would seem little short of insulting. I cannot explain this



The 1910 illuminated diploma appointing the 2nd Earl of Dudley as a Knight of Grace of the Order of St John. Why he was not appointed as a Knight of Justice instead remains a mystery.

seeming mystery, but my guess is that perhaps the senior officers of the Order were hedging their bets: 'Let's admit Dudley as a Knight of Grace and if he takes the honour seriously and does useful work for us we can upgrade his knighthood later', they might well have reasoned.

I'll conclude with some observations on the nexus between the office of Governor-General and the position of the Prior of the Order's Australian Priory. The 2nd Earl of Dudley was never our Prior but he was the first of the 17 out of 25 Governors-General between 1901 and 2013 who have been Grade I or II members of the Order. All Governors-General since Sir Isaac Isaacs in 1933 have been members of the Order in one of the two top grades.

The regal and vice-regal connection is hugely important to St John Ambulance Australia because it confers great dignity upon the Priory and therefore the wider St John Ambulance organisation in Australia. It is indeed the fount of our organisational bona fides. Individual gubernatorial incumbents might, like the 2nd Earl, have been flawed characters, but with a couple of exceptions the office they hold has been above reproach. The vice-regal link is one of great value to the Priory. And long may it continue to be so!

Regal and Vice-Regal patronage in St John Ambulance Australia

Allan Mawdsley KStJ

Dr Allan Mawdsley is the President of the St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia. A retired psychiatrist who lives in Melbourne, he has spent 65 years continuously in St John, having first joined as an 11-year-old Cadet in the Malvern Division in 1949. In the intervening years he has held many voluntary senior management St John positions in the Victoria branch of St John. He is a former Victorian Commissioner and has been a long-serving member of his State St John Council, of which he was a member for 37 years. He is also the current Secretary of the Victorian branch of the Historical Society, which runs the St John Museum at Williamstown. An accomplished medical historian Dr Mawdsley is the author of the 2010 official centenary history of the Victorian District of the St John Ambulance Brigade.



The English Language of the ancient Order of St John was suppressed by King Henry VIII in the period 1536–41 AD at the time of dissolution of the monasteries, although it remained nominally active in Malta and continued to be recognised by the Order over the next two and a half centuries. In the 19th century representations were made for the restoration of the Order in England but initially met with no success due, in part, to the ongoing refusal of the parent Order to recognise Anglicans and other Protestants as members of the Order.

Activists for the restoration of the Order in Britain founded an order independent of the parent Catholic Order during the decades from 1831, the year when the 'restored' Language 're-established' itself. They founded the St John Ambulance Association in 1877 to teach first aid to the public and were responsible for running many of the County Ambulance transport services throughout England. They purchased St John's Gate, one of the last remaining fragments of the ancient English Hospitaller Priory at Clerkenwell, as their headquarters and they persuaded the Prince of Wales to obtain from the Ottoman Sultan a grant of land in Jerusalem for the rebuilding of a new St John hospital as a charitable foundation symbolically linked with the ancient Order. Finally, in 1887 at the celebrations of Queen Victoria's Jubilee they began the volunteer public first aid service that became known as the St John Ambulance Brigade.

These charitable activities finally convinced Queen Victoria to grant a Royal Charter to the 'restored' Order of St John as a British Order of Chivalry of Anglican faith, notwithstanding the unresolved issue of non-recognition of Anglicans by the ancient Order, which by this time had been renamed the Sovereign Military and Hospitaller Order of Malta. Whatever its status previously, it was now an official Order of St John in its own right.

The Sovereign Heads and Royal Grand Priors

When Queen Victoria granted the new Royal Charter in 1888 she became Sovereign Head of the Order. Her oldest son, the Prince of Wales, became Grand Prior. When Queen Victoria died in 1901 the Prince of Wales became King Edward VII, the new Sovereign Head of the Order. His oldest son, the new Prince of Wales, became Grand Prior. When Edward VII died in 1911 the Prince of Wales became King George V and Edward II's younger brother, Arthur, Duke of Connaught (1850–1942), became Grand Prior.

When King George V died in 1935 his oldest son, the Prince of Wales, briefly became King Edward VIII but abdicated in favour of his brother, the Duke of York, who became King George VI, the new Sovereign Head of the Order.

The Duke of Connaught, the new king's great-uncle, remained as Grand Prior for more than thirty years from 1911 until his death in 1942, when he was succeeded by his great-nephew Henry, Duke of Gloucester, King George VI's younger brother.



The Sovereign Heads of the Order (left–right) are Victoria, Edward VII, George V, George VI and Elizabeth.

Henry, Duke of Gloucester, continued as Grand Prior for more than thirty years from 1942 until his death in 1974, when he was succeeded by his younger son, Richard. Richard, Duke of Gloucester, the current Grand Prior, has served for 40 years, by far the longest of any of the five royals to have held the position since 1888.

When King George VI died in 1952 his older daughter became Queen Elizabeth II, the new Sovereign Head of the Order. Many other members of the Royal family have occupied important positions within St John Ambulance and in the Order of St John.

Priors in Australia

Australia as a Constitutional Monarchy with Queen Elizabeth as Head of State, has the Governor-General as her representative. The State Governors represent the monarch at State level. Ordinarily, the Governor-General is Prior of the Order in Australia and each of the State Governors is Deputy Prior for that State.

In December 1945, when the Order of St John in Australia was granted self-governing Priory status, HRH Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior of the Order, was Governor-General, serving from January 1945 to March 1947. During this time it was not appropriate for him to serve also as Prior of the Order in Australia because that could have involved him in a conflict of interest. The most senior Deputy Prior, Lord Dugan, Governor of Victoria, therefore became our first Prior, serving from September 1946 until the appointment of Sir William McKell as Governor-General in March 1947.



Sir Winston Dugan.

The Right Honourable Sir William John McKell GCMG, KStJ, PC (1891–1985), served 1947–1953

William McKell was born in Pambula, New South Wales, in 1891, the son of a butcher. He was educated in Sydney at the Bourke Street Public School and became a boilermaker. He was State Secretary of the Boilermakers' Union from 1915 and elected as a Labor member of the NSW Legislative Assembly in 1917. He remained a parliamentarian for thirty years until resigning to become Governor-General in 1947. While in parliament he studied law, and became a barrister in 1925. He also pursued a lifelong ambition to be a farmer.

As a farmer McKell was passionately interested in soil conservation, water catchment and storage and crop irrigation. He supported the establishment of a number of national parks and political and practical measures to combat soil erosion. The creation of Kosciusko National Park was one of McKell's great legacies.



Sir William McKell.

In 1941 McKell became Premier of NSW. He played a primary role in the institution of the Snowy Mountains hydro-electricity scheme, one of Australia's largest peacetime engineering projects, which diverted water through the mountains to the Murrumbidgee River for irrigation.

During World War II McKell became a close collaborator of Labor Prime Ministers John Curtin and Ben Chifley. He was a close friend of Chifley, who recommended his appointment by King George VI as Governor-General to succeed the Duke of Gloucester in 1947.

McKell was not the first Australian to become Governor-General, the first having been Sir Isaac Isaacs, a Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, who was Governor-General from 1930 to 1936. Isaacs had been Solicitor-General in the Victorian parliament in 1893 and was appointed as a member of the Convention drafting the Australian Constitution before being elected to the new Commonwealth Parliament in 1901. He became Attorney-General in 1905 and was appointed to the High Court in 1906, becoming Chief Justice in 1930. He was recommended for appointment as Governor-General by the Scullin Labor government, somewhat to the dismay of King George V, but the King reluctantly followed constitutional precedent and made the appointment. Isaacs was admitted as a Knight of Grace of the Order of St John soon after becoming Governor-General, a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Michael and St George a year later, and a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath after the completion of his term.



Sir Isaac Isaacs KStJ, the first Australian-born Governor-General.

Although not the first Australian to be Governor-General, McKell was the first from a purely political background. There was an outcry from the conservative opposition and press. Robert Menzies called the appointment 'shocking and humiliating', but Chifley maintained that any suitable Australian should be capable of being chosen as Governor-General.

In office, McKell carried out the usual round of formal activities with dignity and succeeded in winning over most of the critics. The most controversial moment was when Prime Minister Menzies asked him for a double dissolution election. He granted the request despite many in the Labor Party feeling that it should have been refused.

In 1951 McKell accepted a knighthood, personally conferred on him by King George VI during an official visit to the UK. Whilst this was also controversial within the Labor Party, which wished to have nothing to do with knighthoods, it was equally considered by others inappropriate for a Governor-General not to be at least a knight (if not a peer). When he relinquished office in 1953 the newspaper editorials were universally complimentary. He retired to his farm which was later taken over by his son. He is remembered particularly for the founding of Kosciusko National Park and the McKell Medal for excellence and achievement in natural resources management.

Field Marshall William, Viscount Slim KG, GCB, GCMG, GCVO, GBE, KStJ, DSO, MC (1891–1970), served 1953–1960

With the Liberal Country Party government in power under Prime Minister Menzies, the successor to McKell was destined to be a British appointee. Menzies found a suitable nominee in Sir William Slim.

William Joseph Slim was born in Bristol, UK, in 1891. He joined the University of Birmingham Officers' Training Corps and in 1914 was gazetted Second Lieutenant, Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Wounded at Gallipoli, he was invalided to England. He rejoined his old battalion in Mesopotamia but was wounded again in 1917, gaining the Military Cross, and was evacuated to India. On recovery he transferred to the Indian army in 1919, served terms in the Staff Colleges at Quetta in India, Camberley in England and the Imperial Defence College in London. He returned to India as the Lieutenant Colonel in command of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Gurkha Rifles and shortly afterwards as Commandant of the Senior Officers' School in Belgaum.



Viscount Slim.

At the outset of World War II Slim assumed command of the 10th Indian Brigade. He was wounded again in Ethiopia, then promoted to Acting Major General in command of the 10th Indian Division in 1941. A year later he was promoted Acting Lieutenant General in command of I Burma Corps, at that stage in retreat from Rangoon before the advancing Japanese. In October 1943 Slim was appointed to command the Fourteenth Army. He defeated the Japanese in a number of battles and recaptured Rangoon in May 1945. He was described by Lord Louis Mountbatten as 'the finest general World War II produced'.

After the war Slim was Commandant of the Imperial Defence College until 1948 and subsequently appointed Chief of Imperial General Staff. He was promoted to Field Marshall in 1949. He was then recommended to be the next Governor-General of Australia in 1953. On completion of his term in 1960 he was elevated to the peerage as Viscount Slim of Yarralumla.

He was a popular Governor-General, notwithstanding the wish of many Australians for the post to be occupied by an Australian. With the Menzies government still in power, Slim's successor was also British.

**William Morrison, Viscount Dunrossil GCMG, KStJ, MC, QC, PC
(1893–1961) served 1960–1961**

William Shepherd Morrison, later to become Lord Dunrossil, was born in Scotland, the sixth of eight sons of a Scottish farmer. He was educated at George Watson's College in Edinburgh, then at the University of Edinburgh before becoming a barrister at Inner Temple. He became a Queen's Counsel and member of the Privy Council. He served in the Royal Field Artillery in France during World War I, was wounded in action and awarded the Military Cross. He rose to Captain and was thrice Mentioned in Despatches.



Viscount Dunrossil, one of the last two British Governors-General.

Morrison was elected to the House of Commons as a Conservative member in 1929, holding the seat for 30 years, with a period as Speaker during the turbulent period of the Suez crisis. In 1959 he announced his retirement from British politics on the grounds of ill-health, so it was with some surprise that his appointment as Governor-General of Australia was announced in the following year. Upon his appointment he was created Viscount Dunrossil of Vallaquie (on the island of North Uist, Outer Hebrides) and appointed Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Michael and St George. He was sworn in on 2 February 1960 in Canberra.

Lord Dunrossil was described by journalists as a very human person with a rich sense of humour despite his slightly forbidding appearance. He and his wife travelled widely throughout Australia and its territories, with Lady Dunrossil deputising for her husband on some occasions when he was ill. He died suddenly of pulmonary embolism almost exactly a year after taking office and was buried in the graveyard of the historic church of St John the Baptist in Reid, Canberra. His wife's ashes are interred with him.

With the Menzies government still in power, Dunrossil's successor was also destined to be British, despite the growing public preference for an Australian to hold the post. On this occasion the nominee was a true blue-blood, although as it turned out he was the last non-Australian to hold office. In the interim between Dunrossil's death and the arrival of his successor, the Commonwealth was administered by Sir Dallas Brooks, the most senior of the State Governors.

William Sidney, Viscount De L'Isle VC, KG, GCMG, GCVO, KStJ, PC (1909–1991), served 1961–1965

Lord De L'Isle came from one of England's most distinguished families with many inter-marriages connecting them with other older family heritages. Sir John Shelley-Sidney, the first Baronet of Penshurst Place in Kent, was the only son of the second marriage of Sir Bysshe Shelley, first Baronet of Castle Goring, and Elizabeth Jane Perry, a great grand-daughter of Robert Sidney, 4th Earl of Leicester, thereby linking the Shelleys and the Sidneys. His son, Sir Philip Sidney, the second Baronet, was

created the 1st Baron De L'Isle and Dudley in 1835. Several generations later, William Sidney, born in 1909, became the 6th Baron De L'Isle and Dudley upon the death of his father in 1945. He was created the 1st Viscount De L'Isle by Queen Elizabeth II in 1956.

Lord De L'Isle was educated at Eton and Cambridge, becoming a chartered accountant and businessman. During World War II he served in the Grenadier Guards in France and Italy. He led a handful of men in the defence of the Anzio beachhead where he was wounded in action and awarded the Victoria Cross.

After the war he was elected a Conservative member for Chelsea in the House of Commons until moving to the House of Lords upon inheriting his peerage. He was appointed by Churchill to the post of Secretary of State for Air (1951—1955). He was made a Privy Councillor in 1952. He was invested as a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Michael and St George in 1961 shortly before his appointment as Governor-General of Australia. He was invested as a Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order in 1962, and a Knight of the Order of the Garter in 1968. He became a Knight of Justice in the Order of St John upon his appointment as Prior. He held the office of Chancellor of the Order of St Michael and St George from 1968 to 1991.

De L'Isle performed his duties with dignity and diligence; there were no controversies during his tenure. He retained his interest in Australia after his return to England, visiting on several occasions and presenting a bronze statue in the 1988 bicentennial celebrations. He died in Britain in 1991.

De L'Isle's successor, also chosen by Sir Robert Menzies, was an Australian, although as near to British as was possible, being a Privy Councillor and member of the House of Lords. Lord Casey's appointment was welcomed and has been followed by Australian appointees ever since.



Viscount De L'Isle, the last British Governor General.

Richard Gardiner, Baron Casey, KG, GCMG, CH, KStJ, MC, PC (1890–1976), 1965–69

Casey was born in Brisbane, Queensland, in 1890, the son of a wealthy pastoralist. The family came to Melbourne when he was aged three, and he was educated at Melbourne Grammar and subsequently at Trinity College, Cambridge University, where he graduated in mechanical engineering.

At the outbreak of World War I he joined the Australian Imperial Force as a lieutenant and served at Gallipoli as Aide-de-Camp to Major General Sir William Bridges. Casey was standing next to him when Bridges was shot by a sniper, dying of his injuries. Casey later served in France, where he was awarded the Military Cross, the Distinguished Service Order and was twice Mentioned in Despatches.

After the war he was on the Reserve of Officers in Melbourne and took over his father's business until 1924. Prime Minister Stanley Bruce then appointed him as his political liaison officer in London, where he was head of Australia House for seven years until returning in 1931 to enter the House of Representatives as the United Australia Party member for Corio.

In 1933 Prime Minister Joseph Lyons appointed him as an Assistant Minister and in 1935 he became Treasurer. He was a Privy Councillor from 1939. In 1940 Casey was appointed by Menzies as Australian Ambassador to the United States. He was in Washington when the US entered the war and he played an important role in establishing the alliance between the US and Australia.

Casey moved to Cairo in 1942 as the UK Minister of State Resident in the Middle East—an unusual and somewhat controversial appointment by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. In this role he played a key part in negotiating between British and Allied governments and the commanders in the



Baron Casey

field. In 1944, when the Middle East ceased to be a military theatre, the British government appointed Casey Governor of Bengal province in India, which he held until 1946. He then returned to Australia in the hope of being re-elected to parliament but in the interim was persuaded to become Federal President of the Liberal Party. In the 1949 elections he returned to the House of Representatives as member for Latrobe and was appointed a Cabinet Minister by Menzies. He subsequently became Minister for External Affairs.

In 1960 Casey resigned from parliament to be made a life peer and member of the House of Lords. In 1965 he was nominated by Menzies as Governor-General, and became a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Michael and St George. He left office in 1969 to retire to his farm in Berwick, at which time he was appointed a Knight of the Order of the Garter and as Australian of the Year. He was succeeded by another Australian, Sir Paul Hasluck.

The Right Honourable Sir Paul Meena Hasluck KG, GCMG, GCVO, KStJ (1905–1993), served 1969–1974

Born in Fremantle, WA, Hasluck was educated at Perth Modern School and University of Western Australia. He was an author and poet who became a journalist for The West Australian newspaper and a lecturer in history at the University of Western Australia. In World War II he joined the Department of External Affairs, serving mainly in the USA and being heavily involved in the formation of the United Nations.

Hasluck was elected to the Commonwealth Parliament in 1949. He served for 12 years as Minister for Territories during which he shepherded Papua New Guinea towards independence. He served a further eight years in Parliament, including a period as Minister for External Affairs until recommended for appointment as Governor-General by Prime Minister, John Gorton.

As Governor-General designate he was appointed as a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Michael and St George. During his term he was appointed a Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order and after his term was made a Knight of the Order of the Garter. He declined an extension of his term and was succeeded by Sir John Kerr.



Sir Paul Hasluck.

The Right Honourable Sir John Robert Kerr AK, GCMG, GCVO, KStJ, QC (1914–1991), served 1974–1977

Born in Balmain, educated at Fort Street High School and Sydney University, John Kerr won the University Medal in Law. During World War II he served in the Australian Army as a colonel in its Directorate of Research and Civil Affairs. After the war he became Queen's Counsel, then Chief Justice of NSW in 1972. He was appointed Governor-General in 1974. Refusal of budget supply bills in parliament caused a Constitutional crisis ending in his dismissal of the Whitlam Government. This was followed by continuing bitter political resentment, notwithstanding the decisive electoral confirmation of Kerr's decision to offer the Prime Ministership to Malcolm Fraser. He resigned in 1977 to live mainly in London, in spite of his initial desire to serve a double term in office. The formidable task of healing the national breach caused by the dismissal of the Whitlam government was undertaken by the next gubernatorial incumbent, one of Australia's most distinguished lawyers, Sir Zelman Cowen.



Sir Robert Kerr.

The Right Honourable Sir Zelman Cowen AK, GCMG, GCVO, KStJ, QC (1919–2011), served 1977–1982

Zelman Cowen was born in Melbourne in 1919, educated at Scotch College and the University of Melbourne, where he took degrees in arts and law. In 1940 he was elected a Rhodes Scholar for Victoria which he took up in 1945 after service in the Australian Navy during World War II. At Oxford he undertook postgraduate legal studies as a Fellow of Oriel College. In 1951 he returned to Australia as Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Melbourne. He became a world renowned expert in constitutional law. He was a visiting professor at many overseas universities and in 1967 became Vice-Chancellor of the University of New England. In 1970 he was appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University of Queensland. He was appointed as Governor-General in 1977 and was a healing influence following politically troubled times. When he left office in 1982 he returned to Oxford as Provost of Oriel College. He died in 2011.



Sir Zelman Cowen.

The Right Honourable Sir Ninian Martin Stephen KG, AK, GCMG, GCVO, KBE, KStJ, QC (1923–), served 1982–1989

The healing work undertaken by Sir Zelman Cowen was continued by his successor, Sir Ninian Stephen. Born in 1923 in Oxfordshire, England, he came to Australia as a child and was educated at Scotch College and University of Melbourne Law School. In World War II he served in the Australian Army. After the war he became a commercial law barrister and expert in constitutional law, appointed Queen's Counsel in 1966, and a Judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria 1970, when he was made a Knight of the Order of the British Empire. He was appointed as a Justice of the High Court of Australia in 1972. In March 1982 he was appointed Governor-General on the recommendation of Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, at which time he was invested as Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order and Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Michael and St George and one of the very few Knights of the Order of Australia. His term was extended on the recommendation of the Hawke government until 1989, after which he became the first Australian Ambassador for the Environment. He subsequently returned to the law as a judge on international tribunals investigating war crimes in Yugoslavia and Rwanda.



Sir Ninian Stephen.

The Honourable William George Hayden AC, KStJ (1933–), served 1989–1996

The extension of Sir Ninian Stephen's term was primarily a mechanism for Prime Minister Hawke to prepare an exit pathway for his colleague, Bill Hayden, from politics to civilian life. Born in Brisbane, Hayden had been educated at Brisbane High School, followed by a career in the Queensland Police Force for eight years before entering Federal parliament in 1969. As Minister for Social Security in the Whitlam government he introduced Medibank, Australia's first system of universal health insurance. On Whitlam's retirement he became Leader of the Opposition in 1977 but was displaced by Hawke shortly before the 1983 election. Hawke became Prime Minister with Hayden as Minister for Foreign Affairs, but as Hayden was a potential competitor, Hawke engineered his exit. Hayden was appointed Governor-General in 1989, severing all ties with the Labor Party and serving with distinction, notwithstanding the machinations of his appointment.



The Hon. William Hayden.

The Honourable Sir William Patrick Deane AC, KBE, KStJ (1931–), served 1996–2001

William Deane was born in Melbourne but grew up in Sydney, educated at St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill and the University of Sydney Law School. He later attended the Hague Academy of International Law, after which he worked for the federal Attorney General's Department and as a commercial barrister and university lecturer. He was made a judge of the Supreme Court of NSW in 1977, then in the same year appointed to the Federal Court and in 1982 to the High Court of Australia in the vacancy created by Sir Ninian Stephen's appointment as Governor-General. In this role he was one of the majority who recognised native title in the Mabo case.

Deane was appointed as a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1982, a few weeks after his appointment to the High Court. He was made a Companion of the Order of Australia in 1988. He was appointed Governor-General in 1996 on the recommendation of Prime Minister Paul Keating a few weeks before the election of the Howard Government.

During his six-year term of office Deane became increasingly outspoken on social issues which were uncomfortable to the government and his tenure was not extended. He was awarded the 2001 Sydney Peace Prize 'for his consistent support of vulnerable and disadvantaged Australians and his strong commitment to reconciliation'.



The Hon. Sir William Deane.

The Right Reverend Dr Peter Hollingworth AC, OBE, KStJ (1935–), served 2001–2003

Born in Adelaide and raised in Melbourne, Peter Hollingworth was ordained a priest in the Anglican Church in 1960. In 1964 he joined the Brotherhood of St Laurence, an independent Anglican welfare organisation, as chaplain and director of youth and children's work, then as Director of Social Policy and Research. In 1990 he was appointed as Executive Director. He served with the Brotherhood of St Laurence for 25 years and in that time was involved in many other associated community and welfare bodies. He was consecrated as a bishop in 1985 and appointed as the Bishop in the Inner City. Before this he completed a Master of Arts degree in social work and wrote several books about his work with the poor which became educational texts.

Hollingworth was an often outspoken critic of government welfare policy and argued that 'poverty should be looked at in terms of the structure of society rather than the individual case'. In 1989 he was appointed Anglican Archbishop of Brisbane, in which position he continued to pursue his welfare agenda and supported the ordination of female priests. Named Australian of the Year for 1991, Hollingworth was described as 'Australia's foremost spokesman for social justice'. During his time as Archbishop he criticised government policy on Aboriginal welfare and youth unemployment.

Hollingworth was appointed Doctor of Letters in 2001 by the Archbishop of Canterbury. He was awarded the doctorate in recognition of his research, publications, teaching and achievements in the fields of Christian social ethics, social welfare, poverty studies and episcopal leadership. That same year he was appointed Governor-General of Australia on the recommendation of the Howard government. He was the first clerical appointee to the role, which led to some debate about the separation of church and state, but the more vociferous controversy was over allegations that he had not done enough to investigate charges of sexual abuse within the Diocese of Brisbane when he was the archbishop. Although he retained the confidence of the Prime Minister, Hollingworth resigned as Governor-General in 2003.



The Right Rev. Dr Peter Hollingworth

Major General Michael Jeffery AC, CVO, MC, KStJ (1937–), served 2003–2008

Philip Michael Jeffery was described by one commentator as John Howard's 'perfect Governor-General'. The ex-soldier is steeped in the military and strong on traditional family values. He was born in Wiluna, Western Australia, and educated at Kent Street Senior High School and the Royal Military College, Duntroon. After graduation in 1958 he served in Malaya, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam, where he was awarded the Military Cross. In 1972 he was the Lieutenant Colonel of 2nd Battalion Pacific Islands Regiment, a major component of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force. In 1975 he became the commander of the Special Air Service (SAS) Regiment before being appointed head of the Australian counter-terrorism authority in 1981.



Major General Michael Jeffery.

In 1985 Jeffery was promoted to Major General in command of 1st Division Australian Army and in 1990 Deputy Chief of General Staff. He retired in 1993 to become Governor of Western Australia, in which position he served from 1993 to 2000. He was made Honorary Colonel of the SAS Regiment. He became a Companion of the Order of Australia in 1997 and a Commander in the Royal Victorian Order in 2000.

Jeffery was appointed Governor-General in 2003 and served his full term. In 2007 he was appointed Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps succeeding Elizabeth, the late Queen Mother.

Quentin Bryce AD, CVO, DStJ (1942–), served 2008–2014

Born in Brisbane, Queensland as Quentin Alice Louise Strachan, she spent her first years in Ilfracombe, with her family, subsequently living in a number of country towns around Australia. She attended the University of Queensland, where she completed a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws, becoming one of the first women accepted to the Queensland bar.



Dame Quentin Bryce.

In 1968 she became the first woman to be a faculty member of the law school where she had studied, and in 1978 she joined the new National Women's Advisory Council. This was followed by a number of positions, including the first director of the Queensland Women's Information Service, the Queensland Director of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission and the Federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner in 1988. Her services to the community saw her appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1988, and a Companion of the Order of Australia and Dame of the Order of St John of Jerusalem in 2003. On 26 October 2011, the Queen invested Bryce as a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (CVO) at Government House in Canberra.

Bryce was appointed the Governor of Queensland in 2003. Although some concerns were raised during her time in the position, her five-year term was to be extended until 2009. However, on 13 April 2008, before the completion of the initial five years, it was announced that Bryce was to become the next Governor-General of Australia. The decision was generally well received and on 5 September 2008 Bryce was sworn in, succeeding Major General Michael Jeffery. She thus became the first woman to be appointed Governor-General.

General Peter Cosgrove AK, MC (1947–)

On 26 January 2014, Australia Day, the Prime Minister announced that General Peter Cosgrove would succeed Quentin Bryce as Governor-General in March 2014. General Cosgrove would thus become the 26th person to hold the position since its creation in 1901.

General Peter John Cosgrove was born in Sydney on 28 July 1947. He is a retired senior Australian Army officer. Prior to his retirement from active service, he was the Chief of the Defence Force. He

was educated at Waverley College, then followed his father, a warrant officer, into the Australian Army. He entered the Royal Military College, Duntroon, in 1965. He served in Vietnam with the 9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, and was awarded the Military Cross in 1971. He came into national prominence in 1999 when he led the international forces (INTERFET) in a peacekeeping mission to East Timor. In 2000 he was promoted to Lieutenant General as Chief of the Army and in 2002 to General as Chief of the Defence Force, a position he held for the three years before his retirement.

Like all the Governors-General before him since 1947, Sir Peter accepted the position of Prior of the Order of St John in Australia on taking up office.

Australia has been well-served by its Governors-General, and the Order of St John in Australia has been well-served by its Priors, who have undertaken their duties with enthusiasm even when ideologically opposed, as was Bill Hayden, to the acceptance of British Orders of chivalry. One can only hope that in the event of our nation becoming a republic there will still be a place for preserving our heritage through our links with the nation's heads of state.

St John Ambulance Brigade in the South African (Boer) War, 1899–1902

Trevor Mayhew OAM, KStJ

Mr Trevor Mayhew joined the St John Ambulance Brigade as a Cadet in 1953. He was awarded his Grand Prior's Badge in 1958. He has held various appointments, including Divisional and Corps Superintendent and State Staff Officer. He is a former State Operations Officer and currently is State Ceremonial Officer for St John in New South Wales. He served in the Reserve Forces (1959–1973) in both the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps and the Royal Australian Corps of Signals, holding appointments such as Acting Wardmaster, Foreman of Signals and Squadron Sergeant Major. In civilian life, he worked in occupational health and safety. Within the Order he was promoted Knight in 2000 and in 2011 was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his St John work.



The St John Ambulance Brigade was a Foundation of the Order of St John of Jerusalem formed in the United Kingdom in 1887. The organisation came to Australia in 1902–1903 and is still active here, as St John Event Health Services. The original Brigade members were volunteers who wore a distinctive black and white uniform. In Britain, as in Australia, the Brigade was organised into local units or 'divisions' across the country, particularly in the industrial areas in northern England. The great usefulness of the divisions was in assisting with the care of sick and injured in a society afflicted by the proliferating accidents of the industrial revolution. They also provided an organised auxiliary medical resource for the military forces. During the South African conflict, 1800 St John Ambulance Brigade members were to serve; 63 would lose their lives.

South Africa's early history

The San (Bushmen) are among the oldest indigenous peoples of South Africa. About 2000 years ago, the pastoral Khoikhoi (called Hottentots by Europeans) settled mainly in the southern coastal region. By at least the 8th century AD, Bantu speakers moving southward from east central Africa had settled the northern region of present-day South Africa. These Bantu-speaking groups developed their own complex community organisations.

Europeans in South Africa

Portuguese navigators during the 15th and 16th centuries mapped significant parts of Africa, Asia and South America. They were the vanguard of European explorations. In 1487, Bartolomeu Dias (often Anglicised as 'Bartholomew Diaz') was charged with finding a trade route to India. He actually passed the Cape of Good Hope, when he turned back following dissent amongst his crew. It was on the return journey in 1488 that he discovered the Cape of Storms, later renamed the Cape of Good Hope (Cabo da Boa Esperança) by King John II of Portugal because it represented the opening of a route to the east. In 1497, Vasco De Gama left Portugal and sailed via the Cape of Good Hope and thus completed the first successful voyage to India. The Cape was not occupied by the Portuguese but was used to take on board water and provisions.

Dutch in the Cape

In 1602, a group of Dutch merchants and independent trading companies established the Vereenigde Landsche Ge-Oktroyeerde Oostindische Compagnie, better known to the Anglophone world as the Dutch East India Company or simply the VOC. They were somewhat jealous of the Portuguese monopoly of the spice trade and also wished to keep the British imperial merchants in check.

Hence in 1652 the VOC sent a group of Dutchmen under the command of one Jan van Riebeeck to set up a refreshment station at the Cape of Good Hope and to provide facilities for crew who had fallen ill to diseases such as scurvy on the long journeys between Holland and East Asia.

Within weeks of his arrival, van Riebeeck requested the acquisition of slaves to work in the refreshment station. The economy of the colony grew to the extent that the Dutch were appropriating native lands. Some four years after the first Dutch arrivals the first war between the Dutch and Khoikhoi broke out. Soon the colonial project was well underway. With the systematic importation of slaves from mainly Dutch East Asia, the Cape economy developed into a slave-based economy. Due to a shortage of labor, some Dutch were released from their contracts to establish farms and supply meat, fruit and vegetables to the Company. Some slaves married Dutch and became known as Cape Coloureds or Cape Malays. The Burgers or farmers steadily expanded to the north and east and were known as Trekboers (Wandering Farmers, later shortened to Boers), completely independent of official controls, extraordinarily self-sufficient and isolated. Their harsh lifestyle produced individuals who were well acquainted with the land.

British at the Cape

The British seized the Cape in 1795 to prevent it from falling into French hands, then briefly relinquished it back to the Dutch (1803), before definitively conquering it in 1806. British sovereignty of the area was recognised at the Congress of Vienna in 1815. The Cape was an important naval base for the British, particularly dealing with threat imposed by the French.

At the tip of the continent the British found an established colony with 25,000 slaves, 20,000 white colonists, 15,000 Khoisan, and 1000 freed black slaves. Power resided solely with a white élite in Cape Town, and differentiation on the basis of race was deeply entrenched. Outside Cape Town and the immediate hinterland, isolated black and white pastoralists populated the country.

The Great Trek

'The Great Trek (Afrikaans: Die Groot Trek) was an eastward and north-eastward migration away from British control in the Cape Colony during the 1830s and 1840s by the Boers (Dutch/Afrikaans for 'farmers'). The migrants were descended from settlers from western mainland Europe, most notably from the Netherlands, northwest Germany and the French Huguenots. The Great Trek itself led to the founding of numerous Boer republics, the Natalia Republic, the Orange Free State Republic and the Transvaal being the most notable.

Historians have identified various factors that contributed to the migration of an estimated 12,000 Voortrekkers to the future Natal, Orange Free State and Transvaal regions. The primary motivations included discontent with the British rule; the British Anglicisation policies; restrictive laws on slavery and its eventual abolition; the arrangements to compensate former slave owners; and the perceived indifference of British authorities to border conflicts along the Cape Colony's eastern frontier.

The Boer Republic of Natalia was annexed by the British in 1843 and became Natal. In 1854, under the Bloemfontein Convention, local Boer settlers formed the Orange Free State. Southern Transvaal declared independence, becoming the South African Republic otherwise known as the Transvaal Republic, and remained independent until 1877, and then again from 1881 following the First Boer War until 1900.

Second Boer War

The Second Boer War, or South African War, was fought between 11 October 1899 and 31 May 1902 and the earlier, much less well-known First Boer War between December 1880 and March 1881. They are collectively known as the Boer Wars. The second war was between the British Empire and the Afrikaans-speaking Dutch settlers of the two independent Boer republics, the South African Republic (Transvaal) and the Orange Free State.

From complex issues, the war was a result of a century-long conflict over which white nations would control and benefit from the lucrative Witwatersrand gold mines. In 1867, diamonds was discovered in

Southern Africa showing the British Colonies and the Boer Republics during the Second Boer War, 1899–1902.



Kimberley, with a resulting diamond rush and a massive influx of uitlanders (foreigners), mainly from Britain, to the borders of Orange Free State. The number of uitlanders in the Transvaal was perceived to potentially exceed the number of Boers.

The beginning of hostilities

The discovery of gold and diamonds brought about an influx of uitlanders into the area. The majority of them were English and their presence was resented by the local Boers. Their influence was a concern to President Paul Kruger of Transvaal. On the other side were Alfred Milner, Governor of Cape Province and High Commissioner for South Africa. He was supported in London by Joseph Chamberlain, Colonial Secretary and father of Neville Chamberlain (the later Prime Minister). A standoff occurred, with British troops massing along the Boer republic borders. The British ignored an ultimatum from President Kruger to withdraw from the border areas.

War was declared, with Boer armies laying siege to the British garrisons at Ladysmith, Kimberley and Mafeking and also attacking towns in Cape Province. The British suffered many defeats and heavy losses in engagements at Stromberg, Magersfontein and Colenso. The period 10–15 December 1899 became known as 'Black Week' because of the heavy losses. At Spion Kop, the British lost 350 troops killed and 1250 wounded in the counter-offensive.

Combatants' resources

At the outbreak of the Second Boer War, the British Army had 12,546 men in South Africa. From the beginning to end in 1902, the British deployed between 450,000 and 500,000 troops: 347,000 British and remainder colonial troops, including contingents from the Australian colonies and later Commonwealth contingents. All the Australian colonies/states sent contingents, the total number of Australian troops being 17,208.

By contrast, the Boers had 25,000 men in the Transvaal Army and between 30,000 and 40,000 members of militias, who were known as Commandos and were highly motivated bushmen familiar with the lands being fought over. As well as these troops, the Boers had 37,000 Mauser rifles, 40–50 million rounds of ammunition, 73 artillery pieces, including four 155mm Creusot fortress guns, and 25 37mm Maxim Nordenfeld machine guns.

Medical units and resources

The British Army was medically supported by the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC), which had been formally established in 1898. The Second Boer War would be the first major test of the RAMC's capability and the experience of the war would shape the RAMC's organisation and procedures during the two World Wars of the twentieth century.



The British Army was medically supported by various units, including the Royal Army Medical Corps (left) and the Natal Volunteer Indian Ambulance Corps, nicknamed the 'Dhoolie Bearers'.

The various colonial contingents included medical units. In the case of the Australian medical units, a number of the medical officers would later become senior officers in the Australian Army Medical Corps (AAMC) when it was established in 1903. Some of these would also become prominent figures in the St John Ambulance Brigade in Australia.

As well as the RAMC and the colonial medical units, the British Army had the support of various other medical units and organisations. These included the Natal Volunteer Medical Corps, the Natal Volunteer Indian Ambulance Corps (popularly known as the 'Dhoolie Bearers'), the St John Ambulance Brigade and British Red Cross. At the RAMC's disposal were 151 medical officers, 28 field ambulances (i.e. mobile medical units comprising up to about 100 orderlies and stretcher bearers each), five stationary hospitals and 16 general hospitals.

Each soldier carried a first aid field dressing. This was the first war in which such an arrangement was made. Each company had a Medical Non-commissioned Officer (NCO) and two stretcher bearers. Each unit had a medical officer (i.e. a doctor) assisted by a medical NCO.

St John Ambulance Brigade mobilised

In 1899 the Chief Commissioner of St John Ambulance Brigade was Colonel Cyril W Bowdler, supported by Chief Superintendent William Brasier with William Morgan as the Quartermaster. Soon after the commencement of the Second Boer War on 11 October 1899, a call went out for medical volunteers for a 6-month tour of duty in South Africa, mainly to work in hospitals, freeing RAMC personnel for service at the front.

When the volunteers arrived in London, they were addressed by Colonel Bowdler. They were given a week's refresher training under Brasier and kitted out by Morgan. Large numbers volunteered and the first batch of 23 St John Ambulance Brigade members sailed for South Africa on 3 November 1899 aboard the HMHS Princess of Wales.

The majority of St John volunteers worked as medical orderlies or their supervisors in base hospitals. According to NC Fletcher, an early (1929) English St John Ambulance historian, 'St John Ambulance Brigade provided a quarter of the Army's medical personnel in South Africa'. In 1986 the historian of the Brigade in England, Ronnie Cole-Mackintosh, wrote that the Brigade's participation in the Boer War had been the first time in British history when an entirely voluntary organisation had been invited to select and mobilise its own personnel in support of a military campaign.



Thomas Sankey, a St John Ambulance Brigade member who worked as a supervisor in a Bloemfontein hospital. He wears the Boer War Uniform.

The Tibshelf (Derbyshire) Colliery St John Ambulance Brigade unit volunteers parade before leaving for the Boer War. They were to serve as medical orderlies.



When deployed to South Africa, the officers of the Brigade ranked with RAMC Sergeants and were employed as Wardmasters. Privates were classified as Ward Orderlies First or Second Class according to their qualifications. Some men became stretcher-bearers, moving forward with the field ambulances and field hospitals.

The duties of the Brigade members included the feeding and washing of patients and helping the sick and wounded with shopping and writing letters. Orderlies were also rostered for guard duty.

The main areas of operation were above an altitude of 3000 feet (914 metres). During the day the temperatures were very high but the nights were bitterly cold. Often the conditions were very dusty. Because of the movement of troops and horses, water supplies frequently became polluted. Enemy action saw the destruction of pipelines and water supplies. Not surprisingly, epidemics of typhoid and dysentery were commonplace, with St John orderlies contracting the disease from their patients. Most of the war casualties were actually from disease rather than combat.

Ladysmith medical facilities

Ladysmith, a town in Natal, became the centre of operations for the British campaign in Natal and the town endured a long siege by the Boer forces. Ladysmith had one RAMC Stationary Hospital near the Town Hall, later moved to Intombi Camp, and seven field hospitals. A field hospital consisted of five officers, a warrant officer, 34 NCOs and men, six horses, and a number of vehicles for provisions, water, medical supplies, equipment, and reserve rations. Casualties were retained in field hospitals and their injuries attended to until they could be transported to a stationary hospital at a base.

One of the seven Royal Army Medical Corps Field Hospitals at Ladysmith.



RAMC hospitals

As mentioned, the RAMC maintained an hierarchy of hospitals. The *field* hospitals were tented facilities and moved forward with the advancing troops. They had space for 100 patients, who generally slept on ground sheets. The *stationary* hospitals were situated to the rear, usually on main communication routes and often they took over pre-existing buildings. They took in patients referred back from the field

hospitals. They also took up to 100 patients, who slept on stretchers. They could be expanded beyond that capacity by using tents. *General* hospitals were larger institutions at bases in the rear, where they usually occupied convenient buildings. As the battle front advanced they could be moved forward. They catered for 250–500 patients, typically the long-term injured and sick

In addition to the hospitals, the British used hospital trains to move sick and injured troops to the rear. They also had hospital ships to repatriate those who had to be sent home. They also commandeered private hospitals and civilian medical practitioners to care for the flood of sick and injured.

Intombi camp

Intombi camp was established about four miles south-east of Ladysmith. It was to be a neutral camp negotiated between Sir George White and General Joubert, the Boer commander. The hospital consisted of 100 beds of the No. 12 Hospital, 50 beds from the No. 26 Indian Field Hospital and 80 beds of No. 1 Natal Volunteer Field Hospital. In all there were 215 medical personnel. In addition, about 1200 civilians were accommodated in a camp separated by the railway line from the military. There were tents available to create a 300-bed hospital. A thousand civilians were catered for in an area on the opposite side of the railway line from the military establishment. There were no actual beds, but patients lay on ground-sheets. Joubert would allow one white flagged train a day to journey from Ladysmith to carry sick and wounded. Over a period of three months during the siege, the number of beds increased from 300 to 900 without additional medical personnel.

Initially water was drawn from the Klip River. This fluid, of pea-soup consistency, was made drinkable by sterilisation and the removal of mud in suspension. The first cases of enteric fever soon appeared and 1700 soldiers contracted the disease. Cases of dysentery appeared early and during the siege there would be 1800 cases. Later five hogsheads were sunk into the bed of the Intombi Spruit from which a constant supply of 67,000 litres of clear water was used daily.

When the siege of Ladysmith ended on 28 February 1900, there had been 10,673 admissions at Intombi. Of the 583 soldiers who died, 382 deaths resulted from enteric fever and 109 from dysentery. The remainder of the deaths resulted from other illnesses and wounds due to action. All the dead, together with five civilians who succumbed to diseases, were buried in the cemetery nearby.



The Intombi Camp.

Counter-offensive

After their earlier reverses, the British launched a counter-offensive and secured both the Cape Colony and Natal. Imperial forces were relieved at Kimberley on 15 February 1900, at Ladysmith on 28 February and at Mafeking on 18 May. They captured Bloemfontein on 13 March, Johannesburg on 31 May and Pretoria on 5 June.

The Boers then started a protracted hard-fought guerrilla war against the British that lasted a further two years. This phase of the war was largely fought by Imperial mounted troops and Boer irregulars. The Boers attacked supply lines and water supplies. The British Commander-in-Chief, Lord Kitchener, responded with 'scorched earth' tactics. Some 30,000 Boer farms were burnt and many thousands of the civilians were interned in concentration camps. These were surrounded by 3700 miles of barbed

Sick and injured British troops being loaded aboard a hospital train at Ladysmith for evacuation to a General Hospital in Pietermaritzburg.



wire and guarded by 800 blockhouses and 50,000 troops. Both enteric fever (typhoid) and dysentery were rife in both the army camps and concentration camps because each was crowded and overpopulated. Huge numbers died from disease. The Boers eventually surrendered on 31 May 1902, accepting the terms of the Treaty of Vereeniging, which ended the war.

Human costs

Both sides suffered huge losses during in the Second Boer War. The British and their colonial allies lost 7894 killed, 13,259 dead from disease, 934 missing and 22,824 wounded. The Boers lost 9098 war dead plus a staggering 27,927 civilian dead among the 107,000 who were interned in the British concentration camps. The civilian deaths became an international scandal and the Afrikaners have never forgiven the British for the suffering inflicted on them. The number of indigenous Africans who died is uncertain but has been estimated at about 12,000

Many of the Boer civilian population were herded into makeshift concentration camps, where thousands died from dysentery and typhoid fever.



The St John Ambulance men who served

The St John Ambulance Brigade men who served in South Africa were awarded a bronze medal which bore the uncrowned head of Edward VII. Their service numbers, ranks, initials, names and units were engraved on the rim in large block letters. The silver Queen's South Africa Medal was also awarded with details impressed on the rim and the unit shown as 'St John Ambulance Brigade'. Both medals were awarded posthumously as well.

The St John Medal for South Africa was sanctioned for wearing on uniform on 26 January 1904. Some 1871 medals were issued. Of these, 20 were issued to notable people and 40 were issued to those involved in training in the UK. As these 60 people did not leave the UK, they were not eligible to receive the Queen's South Africa medal. Two men, CW Baker and EHG Winyard were awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, whilst a further eight men were Mentioned in Despatches.

The St John Ambulance Brigade Medal for South Africa, issued in 1904 to Brigade members who had served in the Second Boer War. The obverse face showed the profile of King Edward VII; the reverse displayed the Arms and Badge of the Order.



Victoria Cross

A total of 78 Victoria Crosses were awarded for gallantry during the Second Boer War. Four of these went to Australians. From the St John perspective, perhaps the most significant was the VC awarded to Dr Neville Reginald Howse (1863–1930), a British emigrant to Australia. Howse came to Australia for health reasons in 1889. He became a surgeon in Orange, New South Wales. Upon the outbreak of the Boer war he volunteered for service and was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the New South Wales Medical Corps.

During the action at Vredefort on 24 July 1900 Howse displayed conspicuous gallantry in going out under very heavy fire to bring to safety a wounded soldier. For this and other deeds of valour he was awarded the Victoria Cross and promoted. During the South African campaign Captain Howse saw action at Johannesburg, Pretoria, Diamond Hill, Wittlesberg, Bethlehem and in the Transvaal. At the end of the war he was promoted to major in command of the 1st Australian Commonwealth Bearer Company. He received the Queen's medal with six clasps and the King's medal with two clasps.

Howse was Australia's first Victoria Cross awardee. His VC was one of only five awarded to members of medical units during the war and it remains the only one ever awarded to an Australian serving in a medical unit. Howse later enlisted in the 1st Australian Imperial Force (AIF) in World War I and saw action at Gallipoli. Promoted to Major-General, he became the Director of Medical Services for the AIF. After the war he was appointed Director-General of Army Medical Services and was then elected to the Commonwealth Parliament, in which he served as Minister for Health in the Bruce–Page coalition government during the 1920s. Howse was gazetted as a Knight of the Order of St John on 3 June 1919.

The incident for which Captain Neville Howse was awarded the Victoria Cross. Painting by William Dargie, 1968. (Australian War Memorial picture no. ART29246.)



Distinguished Conduct Medal

Two St John Ambulance Brigade men were awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) for their service in South Africa. Private EHG Winyard, a Brigade member attached to Langman Hospital, received the DCM in October 1901. Supernumerary Officer CW Baker of the St John Ambulance Brigade received the DCM in October 1902.

Mentioned in Despatches

Four St John Ambulance Brigade men received 'mentions in despatches' (MID). Those receiving MIDs in Lord Roberts's despatches included: Private EHG Winyard at the Langman Hospital, who, as seen, also received the DCM; Supply Officers W Foulkes and FH Oldham; and Private A Kew. Lord Kitchener's despatches included two MIDs for St John members: First Class Superintending Officer CW Baker and Orderly C Pyewell. Not all MIDs for St John personnel have been identified, however, and there could well have been more.

For St John Ambulance, the Second Boer War was an experimental episode. It remains the one war in which St John directly provided medical ancillaries to support military medical units. Links between the military forces and St John have continued to the present, albeit informally. Nowadays the links consist of cross-membership between St John and the military medical units. During the two World Wars of the twentieth century, however, St John gave huge support to the military forces via the Voluntary Aid Detachments (VADs), which provided ancillary services in the military hospitals. St John provided the first aid and nursing training for the VAD organisation and many St John Ambulance Brigade members served simultaneously in both Brigade divisions and VAD units.

Receivers-General of the Australian Priory and Commandery

Mark Compton AM, KStJ

Professor Mark Compton is the Chancellor of St John Ambulance Australia. He joined the Glebe Cadet Division the day after his 13th birthday in 1974 and has remained an active and efficient Brigade and Event Health Services Branch member for the 40 years since then. He climbed steadily through the divisional, regional and state Brigade hierarchies before serving on the National headquarters staff. Meanwhile, he also worked for some years as the salaried Training Manager for St John in New South Wales. He was appointed Chair of the St John Council for NSW in 1998 which he held for five years. In 2005 he became the Priory Receiver-General, which he relinquished in June 2013 succeeding Dr Neil Conn as Chancellor, the Priory's eighth. Professor Compton is unique among the Chancellors in being a member of a four-generation St John family and the only Chancellor to hold the Grand Prior's Award. Professor Compton originally trained in pharmacology but his career has been in senior management in health care organisations and hospitals. He is currently the CEO of St Luke's Care. He is also an Adjunct Professor in Management at the Macquarie University. A Knight of the Order, he is a Life Member of this Historical Society, an honour granted him for his generosity in funding the Society's annual 'Knowledge of the Order' prizes for Cadets.



The position of Receiver-General is one of eight national 'Priory Officer' appointments in St John Ambulance Australia. Such appointments are formally made by the Prior of the Order of St John, who is customarily the Governor-General of Australia and who as Prior acts on behalf of the Grand Prior, the Duke of Gloucester, and ultimately on behalf of the Sovereign Head, the Queen. Priory Officers are generally appointed for a triennium with the possibility of extensions of service for up to three triennia.

Each of the eight Priory Officers performs particular key functions in the life and work of the Australian Priory. These are:

1. the Chancellor is the deputy of the Prior and performs all duties and tasks as may be delegated from the Prior from time to time. In practical terms, this means the overall administration of the Priory in Australia including chairing the Board of Directors of St John Ambulance Australia
2. the Receiver-General is the principal financial adviser to the Priory and is head of Treasury. The Receiver-General is responsible to the Prior for the financial affairs of the Priory. He/she also manages the national finances of the incorporated manifestation of the Priory, being St John Ambulance Australia
3. the Director of Training directs the teaching work of the Order (with advice from the Medical Advisory Panel and other expert input) through the Training Branch
4. the Chief Commissioner is the most senior uniformed officer of the Event Health Services Branch
5. the Hospitaller represents the Ophthalmic Branch
6. the Community Care Chair represents the Community Care Branch
7. the Librarian advises on and is the custodian of the Priory's history and heritage
8. the Director of Ceremonies superintends the Priory's ceremonial life.

The first six of these Priory Officers are members of the Board of Directors. The last two, the Librarian and Director of Ceremonies, do not sit on the Board, which convenes quarterly; however, with the Chancellor, the Priory Secretary, the two Sub-Prelates and the Hospitaller, they form the Office of the Priory. The Office of the Priory convenes annually and maintains an overview of the Priory's spiritual and cultural life.

We can appreciate that both the Priory and St John Ambulance Australia, being dynamic, inseparably intertwined parts of the same whole, are continually evolving. Seven decades after the Priory was established as the national federal organisation for the Order of St John in Australia they have grown in influence and authority in ways that would have delighted the Priory's founding fathers and mothers in

the early 1940s. As one envious CEO of another major Australian charitable institution has remarked, St John Ambulance Australia is 'a blue-chip charity'. This reflects the effort at all levels of the organisation, from the Board of Directors and the Priory Officers right down to the grass-roots level. And this must never be taken for granted as levels of scrutiny are ever increasing. Our brand and our reputation, next to our wonderful people, remain our greatest assets.

One aspect of our evolution into a major national charitable institution has been the development of the Receiver-General's position. This has grown from being a simple treasurer's job in 1941–42, when total Priory income amounted to just £418, until the point 70 years later when revenues exceeded \$8 million. Even allowing for inflation, there has been an enormous growth in revenue. Such growth, together with the commensurate increase in the complexity of the Priory's finances, has imposed a progressively heavier burden of work and responsibility on successive Receivers-General. Shepherding Priory revenues in recent decades has demanded a high level of financial and managerial expertise, especially during the global financial crises that we have confronted. Not surprisingly, the later Receivers-General have all come from a business management background.

The chief responsibilities and attendant duties of the Receivers-General are set out in Section 14(1) of the Priory's constitution, the Rules of St John Ambulance Australia. In brief, the Rules reduce to five functions, specifying that the Receiver-General shall be:

- a. the principal financial adviser to the Priory and head of its treasury
- b. assisted and advised by the Risk and Compliance Committee and Budget Subcommittee of the Board of Directors
- c. responsible to the Prior for the Priory's financial affairs
- d. empowered to investigate and advise the Prior and Chancellor on any matter relevant to the Priory's financial affairs
- e. responsible for keeping books of account and producing annual statements of income and expenditure and balance sheets that will be reported to the Priory Chapter.

Despite the increasing burden of its workload, the position of Receiver-General has been one of the most stable of all the Priory Officer appointments. Only seven people have filled the portfolio in the 73 years since the first effective national federal organisation for St John, the Commandery of the Commonwealth of Australia (exclusive of Western Australia), was established in 1941. The seven Receivers-General to date have been as follows:

1. Dr (later Sir) John Newman Morris, 1941–1957
2. Major-General Sir Samuel Roy Burston, 1957–1960
3. Commander (later Sir) Neville Drake Pixley, 1961–1985
4. Mr William P Harrington, 1985–1995
5. Mr John L Messenger, 1996–2005
6. Professor Mark R Compton, 2005–2013.
7. Mr Glen Brewer, from 2013.

The average period of office for the Receiver-Generals has been 12 years; however, there has been considerable variation around that mean, largely skewed by one incumbent. The longest serving incumbent was Sir Neville Pixley (24 years); the shortest period of office was that of Sir Roy Burston, who died in office after only three years. He took up the position on the death of the previous incumbent, Sir John Newman-Morris. Newman-Morris and Burston have been the only two of the seven Receivers-General to have died in office.

As well as the seven Receivers-General, two other people have served extended periods as Assistant or Deputy Receiver-General. Mr Gordon Lethbridge King (1904–1981), a descendant of the third Governor of New South Wales, Philip Gidley King) was Assistant Receiver-General for nine years (1969–1978) during Pixley's incumbency; Sir Harold Aston (1923–2005), the director of the textile manufacturers Bonds Coats Patons Ltd, was Deputy Receiver-General for eight years (1987–1995) during Harrington's incumbency. As King would have been 74 in 1978 and Aston 72 in 1995, they were perhaps deemed too old to take over as Receiver-General when the position became vacant. Apart from King and Aston, only one other person has been Assistant Receiver-General. This was Bill

Harrington, who held the Assistant's position for seven years (1978–1985) as understudy to Sir Neville Pixley and then became the only Assistant who moved up to fill the Receiver-General's portfolio.

In mentioning Sir Neville Pixley, I should point out that his incumbency of eight triennia, 24 years, as Receiver-General is a record that seems unlikely to be surpassed. The reason for that is the policy of the Board of Directors, which is now to allow Priory Officers to serve for a maximum of three triennia only. 'Sir Nev', as he was affectionately known, was a great servant of the Priory. It was therefore no surprise when he was appointed Priory Vice-Chancellor, a position he held concurrently with that of Receiver-General during his last eight years as a Priory Officer. During this period he was also promoted within the Order to Bailiff Grand Cross (GCStJ), becoming only the third Australian in 100 years to be elevated to Grade I membership of the Order.

Turning now to the other five Receivers-General up to May 2013, I will briefly outline their careers, doing so in the order in which they held office.

Sir John Newman-Morris KStJ (1879–1957)

After completing his medical degree at the University of Melbourne, John Newman Morris worked as a general practitioner before specialising in surgery. He also became heavily involved in medical politics as a member of the British Medical Association, the forerunner of the Australian Medical Association, of which he was president of the Victorian branch for some years during the 1930s. In addition he joined many charitable and philanthropic organisations. At one time, during the 1940s, he was an office-bearer in no fewer than 30 charitable organisations, of many of which he was president. Perhaps his most significant appointment was as Chairman of Australian Red Cross, a position he held from 1944 until his death in 1957. Another of his key appointments was that of inaugural Treasurer of the Australian Commandery of the Order of St John in 1941; he then continued on as Treasurer when the Commandery was upgraded to Priory status in 1946. His title changed to Receiver-General in 1954, and so it has remained ever since. He held it until his death and his incumbency of 16 years is the second longest.



Major General Sir Samuel Roy Burston KStJ (1888–1960)

'Ginger' Burston (as his friends called him) also graduated in medicine from the University of Melbourne, before settling in Adelaide, where he specialised as a physician and spent the rest of his professional career. He was also a citizen soldier, having joined the part-time Army Medical Corps before World War I. He served with distinction in World War I then continued in the part-time Army between the two World Wars. At the beginning of World War II in 1939 he was chosen to lead the Army Medical Service to the Middle East. On returning to Australia in early 1942 after the outbreak of the Pacific War, he commanded the Service for the rest of the war. In 1946 he was appointed the inaugural Chief Commissioner of the St John Ambulance Brigade when the Priory formed, having earlier been Commissioner in South Australia. He held the position until 1957, when he succeeded Newman-Morris as Receiver-General. He remained Receiver-General for the next three years, until his death in 1960.



Sir Neville Drake Pixley GCStJ (1905–1993)

As seen, 'Sir Nev' holds the record for time spent as Receiver-General, an extraordinary 24 years. It was during the later years of his incumbency that Priory revenues began growing rapidly. He was well-equipped to handle this because he had spent his civilian life in business management, mainly as a senior executive of major shipping lines. He was also a long-serving member of the Naval Reserve, which he eventually commanded. At the outbreak of World War II he joined the full-time Navy and subsequently served on



numerous ships. For the last year of the war he commanded the corvette HMAS *Bundaberg* in active service in New Guinea waters. Promoted to Commander in 1945, he continued his part-time career in the Naval Reserve. In addition to his Naval involvements, 'Sir Nev' had a long-standing commitment to the St John Ambulance Association (Training Branch) from the early 1930s and had served on the Association's state councils in both NSW and WA.

Mr William Patrick Harrington KStJ (d. 2005)

As noted, WP ('Bill') Harrington spent seven years as Assistant Receiver-General understudying Sir Neville Pixley. The only Assistant to become Receiver-General, he took over from Pixley when 'Sir Nev' retired. Like Pixley, he was a business manager and during his tenure the revenues of the Priory continued their steep rise. He spent much of his business career as a senior executive with Publishing and Broadcasting Ltd, the Packer family's group of companies. He became a trusted lieutenant of Kerry Packer (1937–2005), who ran the firm for the three decades from the mid-1970s; and he worked as the managing director of various Packer companies.



Mr John Ian Messenger KStJ (1945–)

John Messenger served as Receiver-General for three triennia, 1996–2005. His original business experience was in insurance. He became a Certified Insurance Professional and a Senior Associate of the Australia and New Zealand Institute of Insurance and Finance. In a career in business spanning 50 years, he gained extensive insurance, property and risk management experience both in Australia and internationally. Key management positions he held included the managing director of MLC Insurance Limited, the chief executive officer of Corporate Risk Management for the Lend Lease Group, a non-executive director of the Investa Property Group, the deputy chairman of Territory Insurance Office and a non-executive director of the Calliden Group Limited.



Mr Messenger describes how he came into St John as follows:

I met Bill Harrington through a business relationship with Sir Harold Aston. They were looking for young blood with a commercial business background and a skill set to join the then Finance Committee of St John Ambulance Australia. Several meetings with them and Sir Neville Pixley and Charles Campbell [Priory Secretary 1975–97] persuaded me to join.

His expertise soon became apparent and so he was appointed to succeed Harrington as Receiver-General. He then spent the maximum possible time of three triennia in the position.

Professor Mark Raymond Compton KStJ (1961–)

Editor's note. this section of the article was written by Dr Ian Howie-Willis, not by Professor Compton. Dr Howie-Willis also presented this section at the Darwin History Seminar in May 2013.

Professor Compton originally trained in pharmacology but after experience in administrative positions in health care organisations and hospitals he graduated with an MBA from the Australian Graduate School of Management at the University of New South Wales. He then worked as the managing director and chief executive officer of a series of companies and institutions in the healthcare and life sciences fields, including Australian Securities Exchange listed companies and an international biotechnology pharmaceutical company. He is currently the CEO of St Luke's Care, an independent, not-for-profit charitable organisation that operates private hospital, aged care, retirement living and home care facilities. In addition he is an Adjunct Professor in Management at Macquarie University and sits on the



board of Macquarie University Hospital, Australia's first private teaching hospital, based on campus at Macquarie University, Sydney.

Professor Compton is unique among his predecessors as Receiver-General in having spent all his teenage years and adult life as a uniformed volunteer with the St John Event Health Services . A member of a four-generation St John family, his grandfather, father, uncle, brother and two sons have all been active Event Health Services members. He joined the Glebe Cadet Division the day after his 13th birthday and has remained an active and efficient Branch member for the 39 years since then. He gained his Grand Prior's Badge as a member of the Balmain Cadet Division in 1981, meanwhile climbing steadily through the divisional, regional, State and national Branch hierarchies. In the meantime, too, he was being promoted through the membership grades of the Order. Admitted as a Serving Brother at age 25, he was promoted to Knight at age 42. By this stage, he was Chair of the St John Council for New South Wales, a position he held for five years 1998–2003 before his appointment as Receiver-General in 2005.

That, however, was not the end of the Mark Compton story because in 2013 he was appointed Vice-Chancellor, an honour granted only to Sir Neville Pixley among the other five Receivers-General. Several months later, in March 2013 he was appointed Chancellor (Designate). He thus became the first Receiver-General to rise to the Chancellorship and the first of the eight Chancellors to have worked their way up from among the ranks of junior Cadets.

In ending this brief tour of the history of the Receiver-Generalship, we may consider some conclusions about the position. Most obviously, the position has been filled by men (hopefully a woman appointee is not far away) with advanced business management skills. Even Newman-Morris and Burston, the two medical practitioners to have held the position, were veteran directors of major institutional enterprises, and both were practised in the cut-and-thrust of medical politics as well as being skilled managers of large-scale institutional budgets. The other four Receivers-General, Pixley, Harrington, Messenger and Compton, all came to the job with a wealth of experience in business and corporate management.

Another obvious conclusion is that all were or became Grade 2 members of the Order, Knights of Grace, and in Pixley's case, a Grade 1 member, Bailiff Grand Cross. Two of them probably received accelerated promotion on the way to becoming KsStJ; however, that was an appropriate reward for performing their difficult, exacting role conspicuously well, to the great advantage of St John Ambulance Australia and the Order more generally.

Finally, we might ponder what motivated individual incumbents. Ambition was possibly a factor, but so too was a determination to serve the Order well by applying their advanced financial and managerial skills to its humanitarian cause. Pride in 'craftsmanship' was certainly a factor: having accepted the position, each incumbent was concerned to acquit himself well in the role. And then, too, there was certainly pride in worthwhile achievement. In raising the Priory's revenue and superintending its disbursement, each would have been acutely aware that the good works made possible through the Order's foundations ultimately depended on how well he performed his Receiver-General's duties. As each departed the position, we must hope that he went his way self-consciously aware of those Biblical words of approbation in Matthew 25:21, 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant'; or in more contemporary prose, 'leaving the Order in better condition than when they were appointed'.

Australian Cadet camps: a continuing history.

Lyn Dansie DStJ

Lynette Ann Dansie and her twin brother became St John Ambulance Cadets at age 11. Their father was a Cadet Officer with the Thebarton Division and was later District (State) Officer Cadets. After working her way up through the ranks of the Thebarton Cadet Division, Lyn became its Superintendent in 1967, the year she married Keith Dansie, a member of the St John West Torrens Division. She was a prominent member of the group who worked with Professor Willis Marshall (the future Director of Training, Chief Commissioner and Priory Chancellor) to develop a systematic Cadet first aid training program. The program was later adopted nationally. She joined the St John Event Health Services national headquarters staff as Chief Officer Cadets in 1993, spending the next six years in the position. Among her many major innovations was the formation of the Australian Youth Council. She also became actively involved with Community Care Branch and the St John Historical Society of South Australia, of which she is Secretary.



The story of Australian St John Ambulance Cadet Camps begins with a flyer announcing the 40th Anniversary Camp for Ambulance Cadets to be held from 28 December 1961 to 4 January 1962. The 40th anniversary was that of the establishment of the first Cadet Divisions of the St John Ambulance Brigade in England, in effect the foundation of the worldwide St John Cadet movement. The flyer promised these inducements: 'The cost will be £10. This will pay for all your food as well as two one-day excursions. You will also be given a badge to commemorate the camp'. This camp was held at the Lane Cove National Park, Sydney, New South Wales.

The St John Ambulance Brigade Chief Commissioner's Annual Report that year gave further information. The Chief Commissioner, Brigadier Sir William WS Johnson, noted in the report that:

The importance of the Cadet section of the Brigade cannot be overstressed. A notable event was the 40th Anniversary Inter-District Cadet Camp. Of the 212 Cadets participating, the majority came from New South Wales with Victoria and South Australia supplying appreciable numbers in their contingents. The benefit of such group meetings is too obvious to need any emphasis; it is all the greater when those from different districts meet and live together, and interstate barriers are broken down.

Rodney Kershaw, one of the South Australian Cadets at the camp, told me recently that the South Australian contingent travelled by bus via Melbourne. The accommodation was in small ridge-top tents with four Cadets to a tent. Every morning a group of South Australian Cadets rose early and prepared the generators to pump the cold water from the Lane Cove River for the showers, situated in an open block surrounded by hessian. He remembers visiting some Cadet homes and the Nursing Cadets attending for a day and also for the concert. One of the tours was around Sydney Harbour.

The march past at the 1962 camp in the Lane Cove National Park, New South Wales.



The early years

Between 1961 and 1966 there were no official Inter-District camps, however, during this time NSW, Victoria and sometimes SA continued to host each other for various activities and a competition. Usually the Cadets at these events were either billeted with members or all together in a hall.

At the Priory Meeting in Adelaide in 1965 a decision to hold Inter-District Cadet Competitions, following the same pattern as the adults' Inter-District Competitions for adults, was made. These competitions commenced at the 1968–69 Ambulance Cadet Camp at Yarra Junction, Victoria.

The next official Cadet camp was the 45th Anniversary Ambulance Cadet Camp held at the Belair National Park, Adelaide, in 1966–67. As noted in the Annual Report 31 December 1966 under the South Australia report, 'the year concluded with an Inter-District Cadet Camp, at which all Districts of the Brigade in Australia were represented'.

Cadets and Officers who attended the 1966–67 Cadet camp in the Belair National Park, SA.



Since this time the Inter-District Cadet Camps, later known as National Cadet Camps and now called NATCAMP, have continued every year and rotate annually around each State and Territory. The list in the Appendix at the end of this article shows where each of the 53 successive Australia Cadet camps have been held.

As indicated, the term 'Anniversary Camp' does not reflect the number of years the Camps have been run in Australia. In fact, it refers to the birth of the St John Ambulance Cadet movement, which was first authorised in Brigade Orders in 1922 in the United Kingdom. By the end of that year 21 Divisions had been established in Britain. The first Cadet Divisions in Australia began in 1925, the Glebe Ambulance [Boys'] Cadet Division being the first.

Venues/accommodation

Originally the camps were under canvas but as times changed and numbers increased the venues have been from tents to 'Taj Mahals' and everything in between. The range has included: national parks in NSW, WA and SA; St John campsites in Victoria; fitness camps in Tasmania, Queensland, WA

The Golden Jubilee Cadet Camp at Yarra Junction, Victoria, 1972.



and Victoria; barracks/academies in SA, Victoria and Tasmania; colleges and schools in NT, NSW, WA, SA and Queensland; youth centres (scouts/churches) in Queensland, NSW, WA and SA; universities in ACT, NT, NSW and WA and even an old quarantine station in WA.

Several of the campsites provided dormitory-style accommodation or four to a room with bunk beds—always a scramble to see who could get the lower bunks. More often than not the campsites provided the meals and Cadets were rostered to help setting and clearing tables and washing the dishes.

With such a variety of venues, the planners and organisers have had many logistical problems especially when the venues are shared by other people, as in university accommodation. The security could be challenging particularly when the Cadets had keys for their own rooms.

One campsite was advertised as a Historical Army facility—Fort Direction at South Arm at the mouth of the River Derwent in Tasmania. It was a long bus ride to the campsite and some of the facilities were indeed ‘historical’. The Cadets were in dormitories and—shock, horror—morning dormitory inspections were conducted a few times. But, worse still, Cadets could not ring and order pizzas or other food to be delivered. The campsite was too far away from ‘civilisation’.

Morning dormitory inspection at the 1990 camp at the Fort Direction historical army site, South Arm, Tasmania.



Program: camp activities

In the early years an official Opening Parade and Welcome to Cadets was held. Flags of each State and Territory were raised and then came the rush to change out of uniform. By the 1980s, however, this had changed to a ‘getting-to-know-you’ evening. During the day the Cadets arrived and settled into their quarters. The camp rules and requirements were delivered, the program and other information handed out and by the evening meal everyone had arrived. Official guests, the National Officers and the Commissioner of the State would declare the Camp Open and then various activities, games and challenges commenced.



The official opening parade at the 1986 international camp at the Woodhouse Scout Camp, Piccadilly, SA.



'Getting to know you' activity at the 1992 international camp at the Northern Territory University, Mijilly Point, Darwin, NT.



The excursion at the 1999 camp at Alice Springs, NT.

During the camp, several 'challenge' events occurred, ranging from quiz nights, sport events and making an outfit for a fashion parade from newspaper to sandcastle sculpturing and many other inventive events. At the end of the Camp one State or Territory won the 'Challenge Trophy'.

Trips and excursions: educational and adventurous

The Camp program always included a trip into the 'big city', which might include a shopping spree, visits to the special tourist sites of the State/Territory, adventure parks, beaches, national parks or other significant local institutions and organisations. Other locations included: Katoomba and the Blue Mountains and Sydney Harbour in NSW; the Point Cook Air Force Base and the Healseville Wild Life Sanctuary in Victoria; Crocodile Park and Jabiru in the NT; Dream World and Water World in Queensland; Russell Falls and Port Arthur in Tasmania; Rottnest Island and the Perth surf beaches in WA; Aboriginal settlements and the Gorges near Alice Springs; the Greenhill Adventure Park, Victor Harbor and Glenelg Beach in SA; Questacon Science Museum and the Australian War Memorial in the ACT—to name just a few.

When travelling on the often long bus trips to the various tourist sites 'sing songs' were common in the early years. Sometimes quizzes took place and one unusual activity included a large ball of string and a spoon. The spoon was tied on one end of the string and from the front of the bus along one side the spoon was threaded through a person's clothing (one from the bottom upwards and the next from the top downwards) so that the spoon passed from person to person to the back of the bus and then down the other side. On reaching the destination 'Port Arthur' the prisoners had to depart the bus attached together. Much fun, laughter, cries of 'it tickles' and 'don't pull' were heard on the bus and finally the Dream World, Queensland 2003 prisoners were set free on disembarkation.

On-site happenings

'Life-be-in-it' activities are very popular, plus volleyball and cricket; and State/Territory rivalries abound. Special guest demonstrations include displays like the rescue helicopter, police dog squad and martial arts displays or craft sessions with 'print you own T-shirt' activities. Night activities include movies, quiz nights, sitting around chatting and making new friends, ice skating, tenpin bowling, music, dancing and catching up on the latest news with the daily camp newspaper.

The camp at Swanleigh in WA in 1977 was the first combined camp—girls and boys at the same camp—and one of the daily duties was the raising and lowering of the flags. Every District was rostered for this impressive ceremony. The Cadet drum band played as the Cadets marched to their flagpole and raised or lowered the flags.

Competitions

As mentioned above the Cadet Competitions commenced in 1968 and until 1984 Ambulance and Nursing Cadets competed on alternate years. The Ambulance Cadets competed in first aid and improvised first aid sets including oral questions. The Nursing Cadets competed in a first aid set and a home nursing set, a roller bandage test and oral question in first aid and home nursing. From 1985 Combined Cadet Competitions commenced. Teams could be all male, all female or a mix of males and females. Many changes have occurred over the years to the Competition rules.



The international competition first aid scenario at the 1992 camp in Darwin: a glider has crashed on a busy roadway, causing serious injuries.

International Competitions have been conducted from time to time. These have included the Pan-Pacific Competition, the Army New Zealand Cup and the Commonwealth Cup. Cadets from the United Kingdom, Wales, Canada, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Singapore and Malaysia have attended some of the International Cadet Camps.

International competitions have been held in Australia in 1975, 1977, 1982, 1989, 1992, 1998, 2005. Other years have they been held overseas with Australian teams visiting Singapore, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom. The most recent International Camp was held at Stanwell Tops, south of Sydney in January 2014.

Meetings

In 1975 Ashley Mason (the inaugural Chief Officer Cadets) started the annual meetings of the District Officers Cadets (DOCs) at the Cadet Camps. This was the only time all the Districts could meet together to discuss Cadet issues.

From 1992 Professor Villis Marshall (Chief Commissioner) arranged the meetings so that in future the DOCs would hold their annual meeting in conjunction with the annual Priory Meetings in June. This has given the State Officers the opportunity to meet twice a year: at the Cadet Camp for pre-planning and at the Priory Meetings for ratification.

Cadet conferences and seminars

The camps are not all play and over the years various small informal seminars have occurred. In 1987 a three-day National Youth Conference for 52 young members was held in Canberra. The Conference was sponsored by the Kelloggs Company and was formally opened by the Prior, His Excellency,

Sir Ninian Stephens, with the welcoming address by the Chief Commissioner, Major General Peter Falkland. Presenters at the conference included John Spencer, Professor Villis Marshall, Professor Mark Compton, Mrs Val Grogan and Dr BJ Collins. The transcript of proceedings provides very interesting reading.

A one-day Cadet Seminar on the theme 'Challenge, Communication, Change' was held in Adelaide in 1995 by the Chief Officer Cadets, Lyn Dansie. It covered 'what's new', new proposals and group discussions on the material provided with documented feedback in the Report of the National Cadet Seminar.

Australian Youth Council

Following the Cadet Seminar in 1995 the Chief Officer Cadets applied for a Queen's Trust Grant to assist with the formation of a Youth Council. The Grant provided airfares for two young leaders from every District to attend the Cadet Camp in Tasmania 1996 with the task of formulating a proposal for an Australian Youth Council (AYC).

With the tremendous support of the Chief Commissioner, Villis Marshall, and against some opposition the AYC persevered and at the second meeting in Perth in 1997 to finalize the proposal, Ivan Ward from South Australia was voted as the Chair of the Youth Council. The first official meeting of the AYC was held at the Camp held in Sydney in 1998. The AYC has certainly gone from strength to strength over the years and is a credit to our young leaders.

Memorabilia

What would a Camp be without memorabilia? From souvenir pens, caps, key rings, rulers, drink bottles, IDs on the lanyards and of course the Camp Badge. Camp t-shirts became a rage and some Districts then had their own shirt (almost like a uniform) as well as the official camp t-shirt. Thus the camp shirt was next because you had to have somewhere to sew all the badges. I like to think of the camp shirt as a 'history' shirt. Some Cadets sewed their badges onto blankets. Of course swapping badges was very popular especially at the International Camps. Prizes were awarded in some Districts for designing the Camp Badge.

Dinners and discos

Some of the highlights of the camps are the formal dinner followed by the disco. It's amazing how well the Cadets scrub-up for these occasions. Originally the dinners were held in the Camp but in later years they have been at various outside venues with local bands. The dinners are a non-alcoholic event as many of the Cadets are under age. The dance floor is always packed and no-one wants to leave the party early.

The disco at the 1997 camp at the Noalimba Sport and Recreation Centre, Bateman, WA.



Theme nights

One night at the camp is usually a Theme Night and disco and many wonderful costumes seem to appear from nowhere. 'Come as your favourite movie star' was a hit in Adelaide. The Hawaiian night in Darwin saw Cadets and officers making leis and flower garlands; and who could ever forget the 'Cops and robbers' night at the Police Academy in Hobart in 1996? Some very strange National Staff Officers looked a little suspicious on that occasion. On these nights many Cadets were amazed to see their Officers and National Staff whole-heartedly joining in in the spirit of the night.

It's no wonder that the camps bring Cadets and Leaders together to have fun and learn in a different environment. Any type of camp is a challenging and exciting adventure and the chance to exchange ideas with our interstate and international friends—'oh the memories!' Of course making friends with so many members, young and old, has resulted in many lasting friendships which continue today.



The District Officers Cadets participate in the 'Dancing with the Stars' theme event at the 1992 camp in Darwin.

The Camp Concert and farewell

Finally, at each camp the time comes to say goodbye but not before the famous Camp Concert on the last night of camp. What a talented lot of young people are in our organisation! Performances often consist of musical talent and some not-so-talented singing groups; skits are very popular and often refer to something that had happened during the camp. Fashion parades, interpretations of 'fairy stories' or TV programs have also been popular items. One TV item which I vividly remember was of 'Con the Greengrocer', who attended Hawkesbury, NSW camp in 1991 to assist with teaching Cadets in Child Care and his demonstration of applying a nappy. Of course, I'm not biased—'Con' was a member of the SA team.

The Camp Concerts end with 'thank yous' from the Contingents and exclamations about what a great Camp it had been. Then 'Auld Lang's Syne' is sung; tears are shed among promises of 'see you next year'; addresses exchanged and heartbroken Cadets comforted as their new boy/girl friend returns to their home State/Territory. Curfew is generally later than usual on the final night and getting excited campers to bed always takes time. Unfortunately some Contingents had to depart at ungodly hours in the morning while others had a more leisurely time to pack, find lost property, say more goodbyes and shed more tears as each group departed the Camp.

With Cadet campers on their way home, the organisers of the camp could finally rest and put their feet up—after cleaning and securing the campsite. Light's out till next time!

I gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the following St John members who provided a wealth of Camp information: James Cheshire (Secretary, National St John Ambulance Historical Society); Ian Howie-Willis (Editor, *St John History*); Rodney Kershaw (South Australian Cadet at the inaugural camp in 1961–62); Allan Mawdsley (President, St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia); Clair Strickland (Volunteer Projects Officer, St John Ambulance National Office, Canberra) and Betty Stirton (Archivist, St John Ambulance State Office, New South Wales).

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The Priory in Australia, 15th and 16th Annual Reports, Chief Commissioner's Reports.

Private St John Ambulance record collection of Keith and Lyn Dansie: memorabilia, papers, photos and records.

Appendix. St John Ambulance Australia Interdistrict and National Cadet Camps, 1962–2014

Year	Date	Type of camp	Location and State/Territory
1962	28 Dec. 1961–4 Jan. 62	Ambulance	40th Anniversary, Lane Cove National Park, NSW
1967	Dec. 1966–Jan. 67	Ambulance	45th Anniversary, Belair National Park, SA
1968	Jan. 1968	Ambulance	Douglas Donald Training Centre, Yarra Junction, Vic.
1969	Jan. 1969	Nursing	HMAS Lonsdale, Pt Melbourne, Vic.
1970	1–7 Jan. 1970	Ambulance	Presbyterian Youth Centre, Thornleigh, NSW
1971	8–14 Jan 1971	Nursing	National Fitness Council Camp, Pt Sorell, Tas.
1972	29 Dec. 1971–12 Jan. 72	Ambulance	50th Golden Jubilee Camp, Donald Douglas Training Centre, Yarra Junction, Vic.
1973	4–8 Jan. 1973	Nursing	Naamaroo Church Camp, Lane Cove, NSW
1974	9–15 Jan. 1974	Ambulance	Naamaroo Church Camp, Lane Cove, NSW
1975	8–13 May 1975	Nursing/International	Westminster College, Marion, SA
1976	Jan. 1976	Ambulance	Immanuel College, Novar Gardens, SA
1977	1–13 Jan. 1977	Combined/International (Nursing Cadet Comps)	Swanleigh High School Hostel, WA
1978	11–17 Jan. 1978	Ambulance	St Ignatius College, Riverview, NSW
1979	11–17 Jan. 1979	Nursing	Ipswich Girls' Grammar School, Qld
1980	3–12 Jan. 1980	Ambulance	Douglas Donald Training Camp, Yarra Junction, Vic.
1981	15–22 Jan. 1981	Nursing	Seymour College, Glen Osmond, SA
1982	7–16 Jan. 1982	Ambulance/International	65th Diamond Jubilee Camp, Brighton Army Reserve Camp, Tas.
1983	6–13 Jan. 1983	Nursing	Naamaroo, Lane Cove, NSW
1984	5–13 Jan. 1984	Ambulance	Alice Springs Boarding College, NT
1985	3–12 Jan. 1985	Combined	Douglas Donald Training Centre, Yarra Junction, Vic.
1986	28 Dec. 1985–10 Jan. 86	Combined/International & 1st Cwllth Cup Comp.	Woodhouse Scout Camp, Piccadilly, SA
1987	1–8 Jan. 1987	Combined	Australian National University Hostel, Canberra, ACT
1988	3–10 Jan. 1988	Combined	Woodman Point (old quarantine station), Fremantle, WA

1989	5–14 Jan. 1989	Combined/International	National Fitness Camp, Tallebudgera, Gold Coast, Qld
1990	4–11 Jan. 1990	Combined	Fort Direction, South Arm, Hobart, Tas.
1991	2–9 Jan. 1991	Combined	Hawkesbury Agricultural University Western Sydney, NSW
1992	2–12 Jan. 1992	Combined/International	University Mijilly Point, Darwin, NT
1993	Jan. 1993	Combined	HMAS Cerebrus, Portsea, Vic.
Year	Date	Type of camp	Location and State/Territory
1994	6–12 Jan. 1994	Combined	Immanuel College, Novar Gardens, SA
1995	6–14 Jan. 1995	Combined	YMCA Camp. Warrawee, Brisbane, Qld.
1996	January 1996	Combined	Tasmanian Police Academy, Hobart, Tas.
1997	9–18 Jan. 1997	Combined	Noalimba Sport and Recreation Camp, Bateman, WA
1998	8–17 Jan. 1998	International	Women's College University of Sydney, Camperdown, NSW
1999	31 Dec. 1998–8 Jan. 99	Combined	Yirara College, Alice Springs, NT
2000	6–14 Jan. 2000	Combined	Lady Northcote Recreation Camp, Bacchus Marsh, Vic.
2001	4–12 Jan. 2001	Combined	Australian National University, Canberra, ACT
2002	3–9 Jan. 2002	Combined	South Australian Police Academy, Fort Largs, SA
2003	9–16 Jan. 2003	Combined	Baptist Centre Mapleton, Sunshine Coast, Qld
2004	2–9 Jan. 2004	Combined	St Anne's University Hostel, Hobart, Tas.
2005	13 –22 Jan. 2005	International	Swanleigh High School Hostel, Perth, WA
2006	5–12 Jan. 2006	Combined	Naamaroo Church Camp, Lane Cove, NSW
2007	12–19 Jan. 2007	Combined	Darwin, NT
2008	3–10 Jan. 2008	Combined	Neerin South Camp, Vic.
2009	10–17 Jan. 2009	Combined	'Mystery location', Canberra, ACT
2010	7–14 Jan. 2010	Combined	Mylor Youth Camp, Mylor, SA
2011	10–16 Jan. 2011	Combined	Sunshine Coast, Qld. (camp only a few days due to extreme floods)
2012	12–19 Jan. 2012	Combined	Ern Halliday Camp, Hillarys, WA
2013	10–17 Jan. 2013	Combined	Woodfield Recreation Centre, Dysart, Tas.
2014	2–11 Jan. 2014	International	Stanwell Tops, NSW

Oxygen: The history of its discovery and therapeutic use

Dr David Fahey OStJ

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Today, oxygen equipment is ubiquitous in all settings where resuscitation is provided—from first aid through to tertiary intensive care. It is almost impossible to imagine an ambulance without any oxygen! We all just take it for granted. However, the widespread availability of oxygen for medical use is really quite recent. This paper will outline the history of oxygen therapy and the associated equipment, with an additional focus on pre-hospital care. In addition, there is an overview of the discovery of oxygen and its role in sustaining combustion and respiration. This is a protracted but colourful story, complete with elements of deceit, jealousy and sabotage.

Earth's atmosphere

The earth was formed about 4.5 billion years ago, i.e. about 4,500,000,000 years ago. The kinetic energy of the impacting bodies would have produced temperatures of several thousand degrees Celsius, resulting in the loss of the primary atmosphere.

As the earth cooled, massive outgassing of carbon dioxide, steam and methane occurred, forming the secondary atmosphere. Initially, the carbon dioxide concentration probably exceeded 90%. Some of the water vapour condensed to surface water from about 3.8 billion years ago, permitting the formation of oceans. The carbon dioxide concentration has decreased steadily since, due to weathering and photosynthesis, reaching about 0.5% at the beginning of the fossil record, and falling to 0.04% currently.

Photosynthesis began about 2.7 billion years ago, with the appearance of blue-green algae. Photosynthesis uses carbon dioxide, and releases oxygen as a by-product. However, there was a delay of about 400 million years before oxygen began to appear in the atmosphere, because it was consumed in the processes of oxidising methane, and oxidising ferrous iron (Fe^{2+}) to ferric iron (Fe^{3+}). Oxygen began to appear in the atmosphere in trace amounts from 2.32 billion years ago, and reached a peak of about 35% in the Carboniferous period 358 million years ago. Oxygen levels decreased sharply to about 12% at the end of the Paleozoic era about 250 million years ago, perhaps contributing to the mass extinction which occurred. Since then, atmospheric oxygen has gradually increased to the present level of 21%.

The Phlogiston Theory

'Phlogiston' is derived from the Greek word 'phlox' (phlox), meaning 'flame'. The phlogiston theory was developed by a German alchemist and physician, Joachim Becher (1635–1682) in 1667, in an attempt to explain the process of combustion. The theory is based in part on the Ancient Greek concept of the four classical elements of earth, water, air and fire.

According to Becher, phlogiston was a substance contained within certain materials that could be burned. Such substances were 'phlogisticated'. While being burned, the phlogiston was released into the air. However, the surrounding air only had a finite capacity to absorb phlogiston: when the air became saturated, combustion would cease. This explained the observation that a flame would quickly extinguish inside a closed container. Thus, phlogiston was described in a way that is basically the opposite to the role of oxygen.

Eventually, experiments conducted in the 1700s revealed that the phlogiston theory was false. It was shown that burning metals caused them to gain mass, even though they were supposed to have lost phlogiston. There were some attempts to explain this by claiming that phlogiston had 'negative mass', however this was finally overturned by the discovery of oxygen through the work of Scheele, Priestly and Lavoisier.

The discovery of oxygen

John Mayo (c. 1640–1679)

John Mayo was born sometime between 1640 and 1645, probably in London. In 1658 he entered Oxford University, where he studied science and earned a doctorate of civil law. He went on to practise medicine in London and Bath.

Mayo's studies included the mechanics of respiration and the function of the intercostal muscles. His most important contribution was the determination that only a portion of air—the substance he termed the 'nitro-aerial spirit' or 'igneo-aerial particles'—was necessary for sustaining life. Using jars inverted over lighted candles and small animals, he observed the nearly simultaneous extinction of the flame and death of the animal. Mayo thus recognised the parallel between combustion and respiration, 'I take it for granted that the air contains certain particles ... which are absolutely indispensable for the production of fire, and that these in the burning of flame are drawn from the air and removed'.

Mayo's work was largely overlooked during his lifetime. Unfortunately, he died in his thirties, thereby precluding a lifetime of scientific investigation. Following his death, his insight was overshadowed by the phlogiston theory which persisted for over 100 years. Mayo's views on combustion and respiration were ahead of their time. However, while he realised that only a fraction of air was essential for respiration, he did not recognise that this substance was a gas that could be isolated. Had he lived longer, the correct understanding of the function of oxygen may have emerged far earlier than it did.

Carl Wilhelm Scheele (1742–1786)

Scheele was born on 9 December 1742, in Sweden. Although he had little formal education, he gained a good understanding of chemistry while working as an apprentice apothecary. In 1770 he moved to Uppsala to work as a laboratory assistant. While there, Scheele discovered a gas he termed 'fire air' (i.e. oxygen), using at least four different chemical reactions. He demonstrated that common air consists of fire air, which supports combustion, and foul air (i.e. nitrogen), which does not.



Lavoisier, having heard of Scheele's earlier work, had sent him a copy of a book in 1774. Scheele claimed to have written to thank Lavoisier on 30 September 1774. In the letter, he described the various ways he had prepared fire air, and asked Lavoisier to repeat and check the experiments. Lavoisier didn't reply, and later actually denied ever seeing the letter, which would have established Scheele as the true discoverer of oxygen.

Scheele delayed the formal publication of his discovery for two probable reasons. Firstly, because he was unable to explain his findings in terms of the phlogiston theory, he did not realise how important the discovery was. Secondly, he apparently wanted to put all his discoveries together in one book rather than separate papers. Scheele's book, *On Air and Fire*, was finally published in 1777, after both Priestly and Lavoisier had both published their own accounts of discovering oxygen.

Joseph Priestley (1733–1804)

Joseph Priestley was born near Leeds in 1733. He studied theology, philosophy, history and science, and in 1755 became an assistant Presbyterian minister. However, his unorthodox and even heretical opinions as a 'furious freethinker' created conflict within his church, and he resigned. Priestley transferred to a more sympathetic (anti-establishment) congregation in Cheshire, where he opened a school and taught science. Priestley married into a wealthy family, which enabled him to pursue his interests as an amateur scientist.



From 1773, Priestley began experimenting with a variety of gases including carbon dioxide, and various 'nitrous airs' (including nitrous oxide). On 1 August 1774 he discovered that by heating mercuric oxide in a sealed glass chamber, a new gas was liberated in which a candle burned furiously. He showed that a mouse could live longer in it than in a similar sealed volume of air. However, Priestley was unable to discard the phlogiston theory, and he called the new gas 'dephlogisticated air'. In order for his experiments to fit the old theory, he proposed that phlogiston had negative mass. Priestley had corresponded with Lavoisier about his discovery of 'nitrous airs', and in 1774 he visited Lavoisier in Paris to demonstrate the mercuric oxide experiment.

Priestley's political views became increasingly anti-establishment. He believed that people should have a voice in their government, and power over their own actions. He supported both the American and the French revolutions, and he was regarded by the British establishment as a threat to church and state. In 1791, his laboratory was ransacked, and many books and papers were destroyed. He was lucky to escape on horseback, and he eventually fled to America with his wife and sons. He established the first scientific laboratory in the United States, and published over 150 papers and books. Priestley died in Pennsylvania in 1804.

Antoine Lavoisier (1743–1794)

Antoine Laurent Lavoisier was born in Paris in 1743. His parents were wealthy, and were able to provide the best education for their highly intelligent son. Lavoisier studied law, chemistry, geology, politics, literature and philosophy. He eventually became devoted to the study of chemistry. Lavoisier was 28 when he married the 13-year-old Marie-Anne Pierrette Paulze, the daughter of a close professional colleague.



In 1774 he and several other French chemists had been studying the red calyx (oxide) of mercury. They discovered that upon heating, it was restored to metallic liquid mercury, releasing a gas he assumed to be Black's fixed air (carbon dioxide). Lavoisier was made a member of the Academy of Science specifically to investigate the red calyx and its gas.

In that same year, Lavoisier was visited by Priestley, who demonstrated his own experiments with heating mercuric oxide. Following this visit, Lavoisier repeated the experiments successfully. He soon realised that the results were not compatible with the phlogiston theory. He understood that the evolved gas explained the loss of mass from the heated mercury, and he further realised that it was an element present in atmospheric air, which combined with fuel to make fire.

Just nine months after Priestley's own description of this new gas, Lavoisier published the results as his own discovery. He wrote and spoke at the Royal Academy of Priestley's experiments as if he had done them himself. Further, at that time, Lavoisier would have been in possession of Scheele's letter. However, Lavoisier gives no credit for the discovery to either Priestley or Scheele.

Lavoisier first called the new gas 'eminently breathable air', or 'vital air'. In 1777, he named it oxygen (oxygene in French), because he incorrectly believed that it was a necessary component of all acids. The word is derived from the Greek oxus- meaning 'sharp' (referring to the taste of acids), and -genes meaning 'that which produces'.

Incredibly, Scheele's letter was rediscovered in 1992, in a private donation to the Archives de l'Academie de Sciences in Paris, from the holders of Mme. Lavoisier's artefacts. The true motives for keeping the letter secret, and denying having ever received it, will never truly be known. However, it is reasonable to assume that Lavoisier wanted to be credited for the discovery, because he realised that it was indeed a revolutionary breakthrough in science. Other scientists had also accused Lavoisier of failing to acknowledge others' work.

Priestley was the first to observe the potential medical benefits of oxygen. Stating that 'hitherto, only mice and I have had the privilege of breathing it', he described the effects of breathing the new gas as follows: 'The feeling of it in my lungs was not sensibly different from common air, but I fancied that my breast felt peculiarly light for some time afterward'. Remarkably, he also postulated a medical use, stating 'it may be conjectured that it might be peculiarly salutary to the lungs in certain morbid cases'.

Priestly discussed his discovery of dephlogisticated air, and its potential benefits, at the Lunar Society of Birmingham (so named because the group met on the night of each full moon). This society comprised many eminent scientists, including the physicist James Watt, and the physician Thomas Beddoes. Inspired by Priestley, Watt and Beddoes founded the Pneumatic Institute in Bristol in 1799.

The Pneumatic Institute administered oxygen free-of-charge to 'out-patients ... in consumption, asthma, palsy, dropsy, obstinate venereal complaints, scrophula or King's Evil, and other diseases, which ordinary means have failed to remove'. Typical therapy was 'a pint of oxygen in a bagful of common air' perhaps providing about 25% oxygen. The Pneumatic Institute actually made no claim for cure; their aim was to investigate the effects of oxygen in various disease states.

Unfortunately, the Pneumatic Institute was converted into a normal hospital to cope with the outbreak of typhus in Bristol in the autumn of 1800. This brought to a halt the scientific investigation of oxygen therapy until the work of Haldane and others nearly a century later.

During the 1800s, after the closure of the Pneumatic Institute, oxygen was available sporadically, and was touted as a panacea. For example, an article by Dr S Birch in the *Lancet* in 1869 advocated the use of oxygenated bread and water. 'Most people report that Oxygen Water gives them extra energy and makes them more alert ... Drinking oxygenated water gives you another path for bringing oxygen into your blood'.

'Compound oxygen' was advertised as a cure-all, although this seldom contained any oxygen at all! Most often it was dilute nitrous oxide, combined with a coloured gas to convince patients they were deriving some magic benefit. This dubious product could be ordered by mail, or otherwise obtained from various 'oxygen parlours'.

Manufacture of oxygen and industrial uses

The first industrial process whereby atmospheric oxygen could be isolated cheaply and in large quantities involved heating barium oxide (BaO) with air at 540°C to give barium dioxide (BaO₂), which was further heated to 840°C to liberate O₂ gas. Two brothers, Arthur and Leon Brin set about improving the process and started the company Brin Freres at Passy, near Paris, in 1884. This was renamed Brin's Oxygen Company, and in 1906 was taken over as the British Oxygen Company.

From 1890 the electrolysis of water became a competitive, industrialised process. Other methods of producing oxygen have included the combustion of potassium perchlorate (which formed a substance called 'oxygenite'); and reacting calcium hypochlorite, iron and copper sulphate together with water. Hydrogen peroxide decomposition was also used by the military to produce oxygen.

Initially, oxygen was collected and stored in bags made of oiled silk or rubber. An important development came in 1868 when Barth compressed 15 gallons of oxygen into a copper bottle. This operation was performed with a hand pump, and achieved a cylinder pressure of 450 psi (3000 kPa), compared to a modern oxygen cylinder which contains 15,000 kPa. The next breakthrough was the development of seamless steel cylinders, initially for nitrous oxide and subsequently for oxygen, in the late 1800s. The development of safe cylinder valves and regulators was integral to this process.

During the period 1902–1905, distillation columns were developed by Linde and Clarke that were capable of producing better than 99% pure liquid oxygen or nitrogen, in vast quantities. This brought the price of oxygen down to one-third of what it had been from the Brin method. Liquid oxygen was stored and transported in specially designed vacuum insulated containers.

In the late 1800s, the largest application of oxygen was for 'limelight'. This extremely bright light was developed by Lieutenant Thomas Drummond (1797–1840) by heating a piece of quicklime with hydrogen until it glowed, and then directing a flow of oxygen onto it. This could achieve a spot-shaped source of light, visible at a distance of 100 kilometres. The first use of this new light came in 1825 when the British Army set out to map Ireland. From the 1850s, limelights came into general use in theatres because they gave a warm, intense light, and were far cheaper than electric lights. Magic lanterns used limelight for picture projection and special effects. It had also been intended to use limelights in street lamps, however the use of coal gas for this purpose had already been instituted in 1808.

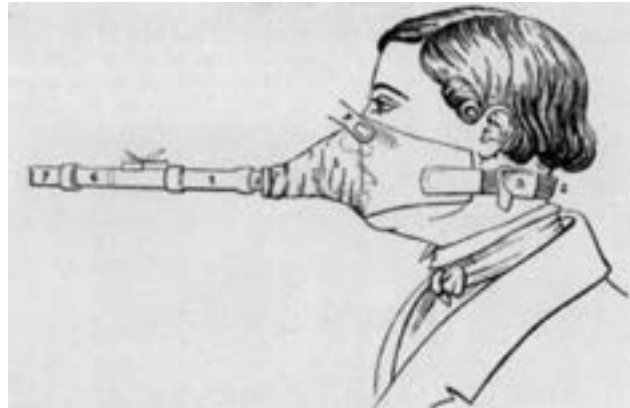
Other industrial applications of oxygen have included oxy-fuel welding and cutting, steel and other metal production, glass smelting, brick making, and explosives.

Later medical uses, 1890 to present

Oxygen therapy regained much of its reputation which had been lost in the preceding 100 years, when it was administered in the 1890s by several respected physicians, for the treatment of patients with pneumonia. This occurred in parallel with the work of physiologists such as Pick and Bert, who had done work on blood gas content measurement; and Barcroft, who had classified the types of anoxia as hypoxic, anaemic and stagnant.

Early oxygen therapy devices consisted of a simple bag of oxygen, connected either to a mouthpiece or a glass funnel via rubber tubing. In this configuration, the oxygen supply was limited, and was used intermittently. Early masks were made of materials such as oiled silk, or india rubber.

An 1847 oxygen therapy device. The mask was connected by the tube to a sack containing oxygen.



Progress in oxygen therapy accelerated rapidly, due to the horrors of gas poisoning in the trenches of World War I. Oxygen was primarily used in the treatment of poisoning by phosgene, which acts by forming hydrochloric acid in the alveoli, leading to profuse pulmonary oedema. The use of oxygen for this purpose was documented in a report published in 1920, and highlights the obstacles to the supply and administration of oxygen that are present in hostile pre-hospital environments even today.

John Scott Haldane (1860–1936) was a renowned respiratory physiologist, whose work brought oxygen therapy to a rational and scientific basis. He published the landmark paper 'The therapeutic administration of oxygen' in 1917, while working at Oxford University. This paper represents the origin of rational oxygen use, and contains concepts which are still relevant today. He described in detail the regulation of respiratory drive by carbon dioxide, and he classified the causes of hypoxia. He identified the goal of designing equipment which would produce a known concentration of oxygen. Strangely, intermittent oxygen therapy became popular with the medical profession around that time. Haldane objected to this strongly, by stating 'intermittent oxygen therapy is like bringing a drowning man to the surface of the water occasionally.'



John Scott Haldane.

Haldane greatly improved the delivery of oxygen therapy with his oxygen apparatus, first produced in 1917. This consisted of a 2L reservoir bag, corrugated tubing and a tight fitting mask with one way valves. A modified device was made in 1919, with a lightweight mask which had a smaller reservoir bag directly attached. A further variation was produced that allowed up to four patients to be treated simultaneously from the one cylinder. This was in common use by the British and American Armies.

The Boothby–Lovelace–Bulbulian (BLB) mask was introduced in 1938. It was available as either a full mask, or nasal mask which was allegedly more comfortable. The Portogen mask was produced in 1956, and consisted of a more lightweight plastic design. It more closely resembles the 'non-rebreather' oxygen mask used today.

Oxygen tents were introduced in the 1920s, and consisted of a rubberised or plastic covering which was placed over the patient's bed. These have all but disappeared from adult oxygen therapy practice.

The use of a nasal catheter for oxygen therapy was introduced in 1907 by Arbutnot Lane. Forked nasal prongs were introduced in 1936. These devices have continued virtually unchanged to the present day.

Oxygen masks were constructed of clear plastic from the 1960s. The Mary Catteral (MC) mask was introduced in 1967. It consisted of a clear plastic mask with a foam edge. The Edinburgh mask appeared in 1963, and the Hudson mask in the 1970s.

The Venturi mask was developed in 1960 by James Moran Campbell. He was born in England in 1925, and graduated in medicine in 1950. Campbell undertook research into a range of respiratory issues including mechanics of breathing, and gas exchange. He was concerned about the risks of carbon dioxide retention in some chronic respiratory patients, so he set about designing a mask that would permit delivery of a known concentration of oxygen, across a range of values. The mask was based on the Venturi principle, first described by Giovanni Batista Venturi (1746–1822). Venturi noted that if a constriction was placed within a tube, the flow of fluid would increase within the constriction, followed by a drop in fluid pressure on the other side of the constriction. The Venturi mask receives oxygen through a narrow jet, which increases the velocity of the oxygen flow. The drop in pressure inside the mixing chamber then causes room air to be drawn in. The ratio of oxygen to air is known, and can be varied by using different connectors, thereby delivering a controlled percentage of oxygen.



The Boothby-Lovelace-Bulbulian (BLB) oxygen mask of 1938 in use on a patient.



James Moran Campbell and his 1960 'Venturi' mask.



Pre-hospital applications

The first oxygen resuscitator designed and intended for pre-hospital use was the Pulmotor, which was patented in 1907 by Heinrich Drager, in Germany. His motivation for designing the Pulmotor was to resuscitate victims of gas exposure in coal mines, although his invention saved many other lives as well. The Pulmotor was oxygen-driven, and automatically cycled between positive pressure inspiration and negative pressure expiration.

The E&J Resuscitator was manufactured in the United States, from 1927. The letters 'E' and 'J' were taken from the names of its inventors, CN Ericson, and Dr GA Johnstone. The E&J was designed to provide resuscitation (via a pressure cycled valve), oxygen therapy and suction. This resuscitator was extremely popular with fire brigades and ambulance services, although the availability of such a resuscitator was often dependent on the fund-raising ability of each local service.

Within Australia, Commonwealth Industrial Gases (CIG) supplied almost all the oxygen equipment for many decades. CIG certainly imported and sold the E&J Resuscitator. In addition, CIG began to design and manufacture their own equipment, starting with the CIG Ambulance Apparatus (TM8) in 1948. This consisted of a small oxygen cylinder mounted on a carrying frame, with optional Venturi driven suction. The Royal Melbourne (RM) resuscitation valve was designed by Melbourne anaesthetist Dr Norman James in 1950, and this could be added to the TM8 as another optional accessory. A major decision was taken by CIG in 1958, to develop their own alternative to the E&J. This was marketed as the Oxy-Viva 1, and shared many features in common with the E&J, including twin oxygen cylinders, a large wooden case, and the triple therapies of resuscitation, inhalation and suction. The size and weight of this device led to a redesign in 1962, producing the Oxy-Viva 2. This resuscitator had one cylinder, mounted beneath a stainless steel case. Originally fitted with the RM valve, this was changed to the Robertshaw demand valve from the late 1970s and then the O-TWO systems demand valve in 1995.



The EJ Resuscitator of 1927 with an ambulance crew who used it.

St John Ambulance personnel who were working on ambulance vehicles had begun to use oxygen equipment in the 1960s and 1970s. This is reflected in the content of training manuals issued at that time, such as the *South Australian Manual of Ambulance Transport Nursing* (1963) and the *St John First Aid Manual* (1965). Training in oxygen equipment became available to the general public, via the Occupational First Aid course which commenced in the early 1980s, and the Advanced Resuscitation course which commenced soon thereafter. Throughout the 1980s, St John members could only use oxygen if they had undertaken the advanced resuscitation course, but this was not mandatory. However, the First Responder program instituted in the late 1990s has resulted in a higher standard of training for all members, including the use of oxygen equipment.

The CIG 'Oxy-Viva 1', 1958 (left) and St John Ambulance Brigade members (right) using an 'Oxy-Viva 2' on duty at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, 1984.



The discovery of oxygen in 1771 by Scheele, and subsequent experiments by Priestley and Lavoisier, formed one of the most important discoveries in the history of science. Studies in respiratory physiology by Haldane *et al.* in the early 1900s then paved the way for the therapeutic potential of oxygen therapy to be fully understood. Today, oxygen equipment is widely available, including throughout St John Ambulance. However, the oxygen story is far from over; it is emerging that supplemental oxygen is not as harmless as perhaps we have been led to believe. Oxygen is a double-edged sword: too much or too little of it can be bad for us. However, knowing how much is too much (either dose or duration) is far from certain. The next chapter in the oxygen story is waiting to unfold.

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Pie Postulatio Voluntatis: The Papal Bull of 1113

John Pearn and Ian Howie-Willis

Author notes on Professor Pearn and Dr Howie-Willis appear with their articles (pages 17 and 23, respectively) in this edition of St John History.



Fifteenth of February 2013 was a great milestone for all the Orders of St John. That date was nothing less than the 900th anniversary of the institution from which the Orders all claim descent: the original 'Hospital of St John of Jerusalem' founded by a monk of the mediaeval church, Brother Gerard Thom. This day in 1113 was the day on which Pope Paschal II issued the Papal Bull *Pie Postulatio Voluntatis* authorising the establishment of Brother Gerard's hospital as an institution independent of all others.

The origins of what was to become the great St John Hospital in Jerusalem are obscure and debated among mediaevalists. There is, however, general agreement that in the decades before the First Crusade of 1095–99 AD, Brother Gerard emerged as the head of a place of sanctuary and care for those making personal pilgrimages to Jerusalem.

A Bull is a papal edict, a proclamation issued by a pope, its pronouncements having his full authority as the Vicar of Christ, the supreme head of the Catholic Church. The word 'Bull' is from the Latin '*bullo*', meaning a document bearing a lead seal, in this case one imprinted with the Pope's distinctive armorial device. All Bulls are issued in Latin (the ecclesiastical language), the title of each Bull usually reflecting its subject matter. So it is with *Pie Postulatio Voluntatis*, which means 'A pious request [and] desire' and is the Bull's short title. Gerard's Bull also has a longer title: *Geraudo institutori ac praeposito Hirosolimitani Xenodochii*, which translates as 'Gerard, founder and also provost of the Jerusalem Xenodochium'.

As the longer title indicates, the institution that Brother Gerard established was a xenodochium not a hospital. The difference between these two terms is obvious in the derivation of the former.

It is a compound of two ancient Greek words that have come into English via Latin:

1. ξένος (*kseinos* or *xenos* in Latin), meaning, 'stranger', 'foreigner' and 'guest', the same source as the first element in the English word 'xenophobia', i.e. fear of and hostility towards foreigners
2. δέχομαι (*dekhomai*), to 'receive' or 'accept'.



The Papal Bull of 15 February 1113 establishing Brother Gerard's xenodochium as a separate order of the Church.

The word used for Gerard's institution precisely indicated its function. Xenodochium is a rare word used infrequently in English, but the use of this term indicates that Gerard's institution was what we would now call a hospice, a hostel mainly for housing needy pilgrims and especially those who were ill and/or poor.

While *Pie Postulatio Voluntatis* makes clear that Gerard's xenodochium was such a hospice, it also refers to the 'hospital work' done there. Being a 'xenodochium' meant it was an institution that took in wayfarers. The Latin word which the Bull used for hospital work was '*hospitalitas*', but this term did not then carry its present-day connotations of an institution for treating the sick and injured. Instead '*hospitalitas*' meant granting refuge and dispensing hospitality and care to visitors.

In the Bull, Pope Paschal II makes clear that by xenodochiu he meant something more than the actual building housing Gerard's hospice. Being a xenodochium meant it was an institution that took in wayfarers, but the term also included the monks and other lay volunteers who staffed the institution plus the services they provided. Further, xenodochium included not just the hostel in Jerusalem but similar institutions the brethren were already running elsewhere in France, Sicily and mainland Italy.

The point of great significance in *Pie Postulatio Voluntatis* is that the Pope bestowed complete independence (with the exception of his own Papal authority) on this collegiate monastic institution. The Bull's promulgation in 1113 preceded the formal naming of the Order of St John and preceded the evolution of the term 'Hospitaller'. In his Bull, Paschal II was responding to a prior request for autonomy in a supplication from Gerard. The motivation for this request will possibly remain unknown, but by 1113 Gerard was administering a chain of hospices in at least seven places, most of them in Europe on the pilgrim route to Jerusalem, and these were subject to the rules—and perhaps frustration—of direction and even subjugation by local bishops.

The Order's formal adoption of health care and healing functions (hospital work in the modern sense) probably came later, under Gerard's successor, Brother Raymond du Puy (1083–1160), Rector (or Provost) of the Order, 1120–1160. It was Brother Raymond who formulated the Order's Rule or constitution, which was granted Papal approval at some time during the period 1120–1153, possibly during the papacy of Pope Eugene III (reigned 1145–1153). Raymond also gave the Order an additional military function similar to that of the Templars, the other great contemporary order of military monks. Exactly when the Order adopted its military role is uncertain, but it had certainly begun recruiting knights by 1153, when Raymond, a crusading knight himself before joining the Order, led its troops at the Siege of Ascalon.

Certainly by 1120, however, the Order had acquired more spacious buildings near the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. There it developed its famous 'Sacred Infirmary', a facility for treating the sick and injured. Significantly, Raymond's Rule referred to the hospice only as 'the Hospital of Jerusalem' not as 'the xenodochium'. The xenodochium had clearly become a hospital as well as (or rather than) a hospice. To emphasise the point, Raymond's regulations for the Order stipulated that the infirmary must maintain a permanent medical staff of five physicians and three surgeons. In 1150 one pilgrim who visited the infirmary wrote that it was caring for no fewer than 2000 patients.



Ranerio Raineri (c.1076–1118) who as Pope Paschal II (reign 1099–1118) issued the Bull establishing Brother Gerard's xenodochium as an Order in its own right. Detail from a 1099 oil painting by Giuseppe Franchi.



The Blessed Gerard, from a fresco in the Chapel of the Grand Magistry of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta in the Palazzo Malta on the Via Condotti, Rome. The image illustrates the legend that during the siege of Jerusalem by the First Crusade in 1099 Gerard had thrown bread to the hungry Crusaders besieging the city and had then been imprisoned and tortured by the city's Muslim governors.

Not surprisingly, then, it was during this period 1120s–50s, that the Order's brethren became known as the 'Hospitallers', the name they retained for the next 400 years, until the Order re-established itself in Malta in 1530. After that they were more commonly called the 'Knights of Malta'. (Incidentally, 'Hospitaller' was not a title over which Raymond's brethren had a monopoly: other religious orders which cared for the sick were also called hospitallers.)

The privileges that Pope Paschal granted Gerard and his 'professed brethren' were extensive. Apart from unprecedented independence, five main benefits were bestowed upon the xenodochium. In summary these were:

1. The xenodochium came under direct papal patronage. That is, it was answerable only to the Pope and not to local bishops and abbots, who might deny it the resources it needed to fulfil its charitable functions.
2. The resources which the Order had already acquired or would later accumulate (land, buildings, money, rents, equipment and livestock, often obtained as gifts) were to be preserved solely for the Order's own use in meeting the needs of its pilgrim clients. That is, the local bishops and abbots could not divert the Order's resources to their own use.
3. The brethren were granted the right to elect their own Provosts after Gerard's eventual death, without outside pressure or interference. (The title of Provost changed to 'Grand Master' during Brother Raymond's tenure.)
4. The Order's possessions in Europe, like those in Jerusalem, were for the sole use of the brethren in fulfilling their charitable role.
5. Any transgression of the foregoing privileges would incur the most severe sanction available to a Pope—excommunication. And so anyone seeking to deprive the Order of the benefits conferred by the Bull would accordingly be denied the sacraments of the church and would consequently be condemned to eternal hellfire—a terrifying prospect, given the mediaeval mind, even for kings and emperors.

What more does *Pie Postulatio Voluntatis* tell us? In reading between the lines of the Bull we can infer a little more about Gerard and his brethren. Briefly, the Bull yields this information:

- Gerard was the founder and rector of the xenodochium. Unfortunately, the Bull does not hint at the successful ecclesiastical politicking that Gerard must have done to ensure that his humble hospice was elevated to the prestigious status of an independent ecclesiastical organisation and later an order.
- At one point the Bull refers to Gerard's hospice as a 'ptochea', an alternative to xenodochium. This little-used term, from the Greek '*ptochium*', meaning 'a hostel for the poor', emphasised the point that the clientele of Gerard's institution were indigent pilgrims, those who had spent their all in making the long and hazardous pilgrimage to the Holy Land.
- The brethren were already associated with their patron, St John the Baptist, as their xenodochium was situated near the church dedicated to him. (Exactly when the brethren adopted the titles 'Hospital of St John of Jerusalem' and 'Order of St John' is unclear. Brother Raymond's famous Rule, for instance, does not use the former phrase but speaks only of the 'House of the Hospital of Jerusalem'.)
- The Librarian of our Order, Professor Jonathan Riley-Smith, points out that in issuing *Pie Postulatio Voluntatis* the Pope had 'created the basic form of an international religious Order answerable only to him'. If that is so, Gerard's brethren became the model on which other great international orders, the Templars and the Jesuits, developed later.
- The brethren already had independent sources of income from cash donations and rents from the properties they had acquired.



Raymond du Puy, Gerard's successor as rector of the Order and the author of its Rule. The Order began establishing hospitals during his long tenure (1120–60) and also adopted a military function. This idealised portrait, an 1842 painting by Alexandre Laemlein, is held in the 'Crusades' collection of the Palace of Versailles in France.

An artist's impression of the Hospitallers' compound in the Muristan area of Jerusalem at its fullest extent during the late twelfth century. The Order's Sacred Infirmary or hospital was within this fortified campus.



- The brethren were already expanding their activities from Palestine into Europe. For instance, the Order was active in England by 1140, and it acquired its famous property at Clerkenwell, London, in 1144.
- The brethren were greatly respected—they had begun acquiring 'honours'.
- The wealth the brethren were accumulating was already the envy of the bishops and abbots in the places they had established branches. The Bull's heavy sanctions to safeguard the brethren's privileges hint at the potential resentment of the local clergy. Envy of the brethren's accumulating resources was, presumably, the reason why the Bull granted them independence from diocesan control.
- The Bull was signed personally by Paschal II, probably at Benevento (south-east of Rome and inland from Naples), and was witnessed by a bevy of other princes of the church: three cardinals, one archbishop and three bishops. The Pope's seal was then affixed, probably immediately after the signing ceremony, by a cardinal called John who was also a 'Librarian', which perhaps means he was Paschal's official keeper of records.

Brother Gerard's action in founding his hospice about 1080 and the Bull of 1113 were the first great milestones in the Order's eventful progress across the subsequent nine centuries. By guaranteeing Gerard's brethren their independence, *Pie Postulatio Voluntatis* established what became a new order under Raymond du Puy. The Bull enabled the brethren to expand and diversify to face emerging challenges. This in turn helped the original hospice to develop into the great worldwide series of humanitarian, charitable enterprises which the Orders of St John have become in the modern era. That is indeed something worth commemorating.

The Knights and Dame of Justice of the Order of St John

James Cheshire OSTJ, JP

Mr James Cheshire is the Secretary of the Historical Society. As such he organised the annual gathering of the Society in Darwin in May 2013, which generated the seminar papers from which the articles in this edition of the journal have been developed. Mr Cheshire is a member of the Australian Federal Police, in which he is a Federal Agent in Crime Operations in Melbourne. He is also studying law part-time. He is married to Cherie, who has been a St John member for many years and has made a significant contribution to the development of the St John Cadet movement both in Victoria and nationally. In October 2013, both Mr and Mrs Cheshire were promoted to Officer membership in the Order.



While our Editor and I were pondering the past and I was asking my usual difficult questions, we came upon the matter of the designation of Knights and Dames of Justice. The issue raised a number of pertinent questions: Was there not discussion of the removal of this distinction? What are the current rules? Who are the Australians holding this designation?

A cursory examination of the Register revealed that there are seven extant Knights and one Dame of Justice within the Priory in Australia. All but three of these individuals are former Governors-General of the Commonwealth of Australia. Who are they and why are they there?

Hopefully this little vignette will enliven the topic with the minds of members of the Historical Society and indeed of those who may come to cast a wary eye across its content.

The history

A fact of which I became aware when I began my research on my first paper about the origins of the Order, is that the consistency of record keeping in early days of the revived order in Britain are somewhat irregular by nature. The principal secondary source document available to research this topic is an excellent volume titled *The Insignia and Medals of the Order of St John* by Charles W Tozer and published in partnership with the medal manufacturers, JB Hayward & Sons, and the Orders and Medals Research Society and the Order of St John, in 1975.

Tozer himself laments the difficulty in identifying primary source evidence for his research from the early days of the revived Order but does concur with other research that there is some difficulty in identifying when changes were made to the distinction in England. What the sources do tell us is that for many centuries for a person to be admitted to the Order of Malta at the grade of Knight they would need to satisfy a test to prove nobility. There was, however, the power for the Grand Master as 'an act of grace' to reserve the right to admit a candidate to the Order whose proofs were unsatisfactory.

To satisfy the nobility test in England this had meant the candidate needed to show that all four of their grandparents lawfully bore, or were entitled to bear Coat-Armour. The Order of St John did traditionally rigorously enforce this rule, however, over time this has been abandoned with the principal being firmly held only for the distinction of a Knight of Justice.

The timeframe in the history of the Order that we are trying to examine to gain further clarity, is roughly between the first push for a revived Order under the 'Council of the English Languge' which was inaugurated on 12 January 1831, and about 1871 when the first published Statutes for the Order in England were promulgated.

By way of reminder, this is a very interesting phase of the history of the Order. The Council of the English Languge in 1831 was established under the dubious authority of The Council of French Langues and included characters such as the Frenchmen Chevalier Marquis de Sainte-Croix-Molay, the self-styled French Knight Count Chevalier Philippe de Castelain and the Scotsman Donald Currie. The group made use of the Old Jerusalem Tavern, at that time a public house at St John's Gate,

Clerkenwell, as its headquarters. (Some Australian members of the Order have enjoyed lunch at this tavern, which is about 100 metres down a lane and around the corner from The Gate.)

Between about 1823 and 1831–32 Sainte-Croix-Molay, supported by Currie, was sourcing money in England for the Order based in France to raise a naval expeditionary force supported by the French Government and endorsed by the Hellenic armies, to regain Rhodes for the Order. During these early days it was made very clear that knighthoods within the Order were for sale. This was not an uncommon practice across mainland Europe and was done in order to raise funds for the works of the Order. Indeed between the years 1814 and 1825 the Order in France had admitted 700 new knights with each new knight contributing 6000 gold francs.

This 1831 Council was dogged by infighting and by 1834 one of the splinter groups asserted a claim of rightful authority under Letters Patent granted by Queen Mary I in 1557, and then appointed the Reverend Sir Robert Peat as Prior on 24 February 1834. Following Peat's death in April 1837, Sir Henry Dymoke succeeded him as Grand Prior who was followed by the 7th Duke of Manchester, William Montagu, in 1861. The revived Order now became 'respectable' and with influential connections codified its governance and procedures. It is from this period that we are better placed to date activities within the Order.

The justice of designation

We know that the distinction in designation between Knights of Justice and Dames ('Ladies' until 1906) of Grace had been in existence for many hundreds of years and was used as a reflection of the individual's nobility of birth. In modern times it has served as an indicator of their being granted arms or holding a right to do so. In more recent times, however the distinction in their status or precedence within the Order has been reduced and was removed by the 1936 Royal Charter.

The 1871 Statutes set out that the Precedence of the Grades and Appointments within the Order would be: Bailiffs; Chevaliers Commanders; Chevaliers of Justice; Chaplains; Ladies of Justice; Chevaliers of Grace; Ladies of Grace; Esquires; Honorary Associates; Donats; and finally, Serving Brothers and Sisters

The 1888 Royal Charter maintained the separation of the Knights/Ladies of Justice and of Grace. The precedence of grades became: Lord Prior; Sub-Prior; Grand Bailiffs; Bailiffs; Commanders; Honorary Commanders; Knights of Justice; Ladies of Justice; Chaplains; Knights of Grace; Ladies of Grace; Esquires; Serving Brothers and Sisters; Honorary Associates; Associates; Donats.

The title of Lady was amended to Dame in 1906 and the gender distinction in seniority removed; however, the distinction between Knights/Dames of Justice and Grace continued with the 1926 Royal Charter recognising this in the division of the Order into three grades. The grades were:

- Grade I: Bailiff and Dame Grand Cross, Knight and Dame of Justice, Knight and Dame of Grace
- Grade II: Chaplain
- Grade III: Commander Brother and Sister, Officer Brother and Sister, Serving Brother and Sister.

The 1936 Royal Charter was the first to remove the seniority distinction between Knights/Dames of Justice and Grace. This was also the first Royal Charter to bring the number of grades of the Order into line with the other great Orders of Chivalry. The grades were as follows:

- Grade I: Bailiff and Dame Grand Cross
- Grade II: Knight and Dame of Justice and of Grace
- Grade IIIa: Chaplain
- Grade IIIb: Commander Brother and Sister
- Grade IV: Officer Brother and Sister
- Grade V: Serving Brother and Sister.

The current rules

In order to be designated a Knight or Dame of Justice rather than a Knight or Dame of Grace one must meet the requirements of the test enumerated at Statute 38(4) of the *Royal Charters and Statutes of The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem* (2004).

This statute covers a number of elements relevant to such an appointment. First, that on appointment a Prior shall become a Knight or Dame of Justice, if they do not already hold that rank or a higher appointment. Second, that the Grand Prior may at *motu proprio* (his own initiative) sanction the reclassification of a Knight or Dame of Grace as a Knight or Dame of Justice 'for good cause'. Third, that at the time of appointment to Grade II of the Order no person 'shall be qualified to be classified as 'of Justice' [...] unless at such time he or she is entitled to bear Arms'. Fourth, that a Knight or Dame of Grace may elect at any time to be reclassified as a Knight or Dame of Justice upon satisfying the relevant Genealogist of the Order that he or she 'is entitled to bear Arms'.

Thus, other than for people appointed a Prior of a Priory, in order to be classified as 'of Justice' a person must be 'armigerous', that is, able to 'bear Arms' or hold an entitlement so to do.

Bearing arms

To recapitulate on some detail provided in my previous article in *St John History* (Volume 13, 2013, pp 53–8), on the Arms of the Order and the Australian Priory, the authority to grant armorial bearings or 'coats of arms' is a regal *sui generis* right as the *fons honorum*. That is to say that the Crown has an inherent power to grant arms. In the United Kingdom it is the sole prerogative of the monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, to do so.

This power, however, has been delegated by the Crown. The English Kings of Arms are appointed by the Sovereign by Letters Patent, which authorise them, *inter alia*, to grant on behalf of the Crown 'to eminent men Letters Patent of Arms and Crests jointly or alone at the will and pleasure of the Earl Marshal of England according to the ordinances and statutes from time to time issued'.

The College of Arms states by way of guidance that there are no fixed criteria of eligibility for a grant of arms, but such matters as awards or honours from the Crown, civil or military commissions, university degrees, professional qualifications, public and charitable services, and eminence or good standing in national or local life, are taken into account.

The jurisdiction of the English Kings of Arms is generally considered to extend to all subjects of the Crown worldwide, with the exception of 'domiciled Scotsmen living in Scotland' and 'domiciled Canadians living in Canada', which have their own heraldic authorities.

In relation to the matter of holding a right to bear arms, one would need to prove one is descended from a person who has a grant of arms. Again here the College of Arms advises that Armorial bearings are hereditary. They can be borne and used by all the descendants in the legitimate male line of the person to whom they were originally granted or confirmed. To establish a right to arms by inheritance it is necessary to prove a descent from an ancestor who is already recorded as entitled to arms in the registers of the College of Arms.

There is no official genealogist for the Pories of the Order in Australia or New Zealand even though New Zealand has a heraldic officer known as New Zealand Herald Extraordinary. The South African Priory does have a genealogist who was the State Herald of the Republic of South Africa. However, none of these people are an Officer of Arms in Ordinary to the Sovereign Head of the Order and thus not able to endorse an application for a reclassification as 'of Justice'.

The distinction in badges

We know from the authorities that since at least 1860 the insignia of the Order was a gold enamelled badge worn suspended around the neck from a black watered ribbon, and in the case of Great Crosses, from a riband worn across the right shoulder. This badge was described as an eight-pointed cross in white enamel embellished with lions and unicorns and surmounted by a sovereign crown with the breast star being without embellishment. In 1871 the embellishment was removed from the badge but in 1888 the embellishment was restored to the badge and put on the breast star. These 1888 changes also saw the introduction of badges for the Sovereign Head, Grand Prior, Sub-Prior and Chaplain General.

It is not known when the crown surmounting the badge was removed, however, it is known it was done by at least 1901.

The 1888 Statutes and 1907 Regulations (as amended in 1912) state that the size of the star for the Knights/Dames of Justice as being 2½" (63mm) and the badges as 2¼" (57 mm). Between 1912 and 1926 the star and badge were both 2½" and identically embellished.

The Annual Report of the Chapter-General in 1926 stated that: 'The star and badge of Knights prior to 1926 were of identical size. Now the size of the star increased and differs from the badge in being without embellishments (except for a Knight of Grace whose star is embellished). Knights already in possession of pre-1926 insignia may continue to wear it'.

Thus, since 1926 the consistent and principal difference between the star and badges has been that 'of Justice' appointment has been in gold with no star embellishments, and 'of Grace' have been in silver with star embellishments.

Ladies, be they Dames of Justice or Grace, have been permitted to wear the star since 1936. The title 'Lady of Justice/Grace' was amended in 1906 to 'Dame'.

Although all references to the badges and star of Knights/Dames of Grace make reference to an eight-pointed cross in white enamel set in silver, in March 1951 the Chapter-General decided that the insignia of Grace appointments should be manufactured 'of a base metal and enamel'.

The *St John (Order) Regulations 2003*, Regulation 4 set out the detail of the current badges of the various grades within the Order. Regulation 4(iv) states that Knights and Dames of Justice wear as their Star a plain eight-pointed Cross of white enamel, 3" (76 mm) in diameter set in gold without embellishment, and at Regulation 4(v) that Knights and Dames of Grace wear as their Star an eight-pointed Cross of white enamel, 3" (76 mm) in diameter set in silver with embellishment in silver.



The Badge (left) and Star (right) of a Knight/Dame of Grace.



The Badge (left) and Star (right) of a Knight/Dame of Justice.

Biographies of the Knights and Dame of Justice

Mrs Valerie Margaret Grogan AM, DStJ, JP

Mrs Valerie Margaret Grogan was born on 18 September 1934 to the Hon. Mr Justice NA Jenkyn and Edeline Jenkyn MBA, OStJ. She was educated at the Presbyterian Ladies College in Pymble, NSW and then attended the Women's College, University of Sydney, NSW. Valerie Grogan was a teacher at her old college (1957–59) and then at Sydney Church of England Girls Grammar School Redlands (1960–61). Valerie married His Hon. Peter Grogan on 21 August 1959.

In 1960 Valerie Grogan became a member of the NSW Auxiliary Committee of the St John Ambulance Brigade (now Event Health Services), joining her mother Mrs Edeline Jenkyn who was then President of the Auxiliary. In 1984 after the death of Mrs Jenkyn, Valerie became President.



The Headquarters Auxiliary Committee raised thousands of dollars to provide a wide range of practical equipment for St John NSW volunteers. Valerie also became responsible for organising successful major fund-raising dinners and balls with the support from business and sporting communities. The Auxiliary gave \$100,000 to Event Health Services to assist with the 2000 Sydney Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Mrs Grogan was instrumental in raising St John's profile at NSW Government Cabinet level when she arranged for partners of all NSW MPs to receive CPR training during a weekend seminar.

Since Mrs Grogan's appointment in 1984 as NSW State President of the St John Ambulance Brigade she has encouraged many prominent people to join their local St John Division to promote the work of St John. Her participation in Cadet and District events has never wavered. In 1988 she was invited to be the Overseas Speaker at the President's Conference held in London.

In 1965 the NSW St John State Council was formed and Mrs Grogan appointed a member in 1970 and elected Deputy Chair in 1989. From 1992 to 1998 Mrs Grogan was Chair of the NSW St John State Council and Chair of the Executive Committee. Mrs Grogan was the first woman to be elected Chair of the NSW Executive Committee following the restructure of St John Ambulance Australia. Valerie's time as Chair of both the Executive Committee and State Council produced great progress in all NSW branches, involving consultation and preparation of first aid duties at events such as hosts of the annual National Conference, attendance at the Olympic Games and including, of course, seasonal bushfires and other natural disasters. During her leadership St John NSW gained accreditation under the International Standard 9002 as a supplier of quality services and products. The Executive Committee, management and staff had worked collectively and tirelessly for two years to achieve this certification. In 2004 Mrs Grogan was appointed a Vice President of NSW State Council.

Mrs Grogan became a member of the Community Care Branch in NSW from 1990–2006. From 1998–2001 Mrs Grogan filled the key appointment of National Chair of Community Care. Mrs Grogan's tremendous personal support ensured the ongoing growth of Community Care branches throughout Australia. During her term as National Chair, Mrs Grogan not only met with State/Territory representatives during National Conferences but visited State and Territory branches to meet the community work being performed. She was most impressed with the dedication of Community Care branch members. In this critical appointment Mrs Grogan made significant contributions in her role to ensure the ongoing growth of Community Care throughout Australia.

Mrs Grogan was awarded a Priory Vote of Thanks in 1966, admitted to the Order as a Serving Sister (1970), promoted to Officer (1977), to Commander (1984), to Dame of Grace (1990) and admitted as Dame of Justice in 1993. Mrs Grogan received the Centenary Medal in 2003, and holds the Service Medal of the Order with one clasp. Mrs Grogan was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2000 on Australia Day, for her service to the international community, particularly through human rights movements and overseas aid activities, and through St John Ambulance Australia.

Mr John Francis Davies AM, KStJ

John Francis Davies was appointed to the Board of St John Ambulance Association in NSW in December 1974. During the following 10 years he served as Treasurer, Deputy Chairman and Chairman. Between 1985 and 1988 he was Chairman of St John Council in NSW. In 1988 he was appointed Secretary to the Board and then as General Manager of St John Ambulance Australia (NSW) in 1989, a position he held until 2001. He was a representative Officer for NSW between 1983 and 1986, when he was admitted as a Member of Priory Chapter as a Commander. He was Chair of the Ophthalmic Hospital Committee between 2009 and 2011. John was a member of Training Branch Committee from 2001. He was also a member of the NSW Board as an Advisor (2005–06), and as a Director since 2009. He was admitted to the Order as a Serving Brother in 1979, promoted Officer in 1982, Commander in 1986, to Knight of Grace in 1996 and admitted as a Knight of Justice in 1998. In 2001 he was awarded the Centenary Medal. In the Queen's Birthday Honours List of 2004 he was



made Member of the Order of Australia for his service to St John Ambulance Australia, and to the community through a range of health, church and educational organisations.

Mr Michael Bryce AM, AE, KStJ

Michael Bryce is an architect and designer acknowledged in Australia and overseas for his distinguished work in graphic, urban and environmental design. He was born in Brisbane in 1939, started school in Gordonvale and was educated at Brisbane State High School and the University of Queensland. In 1968, he commenced his own architecture practice in Brisbane, developing a special interest in graphic design. From 1979 to 1983, he was Federal President of the Industrial Design Institute of Australia. He was also a member of the Design Board and the Design Council. His practice has won awards for graphic and environmental design, including the RAIA (Qld) Civic Design Award, the House of the Year Award, and the RAIA President's Award. The practice has also received many citations in the print industry and Design Institute awards. In 1988, his practice joined the worldwide Minale Tattersfield Design Strategy Group with offices in London and Paris and clients worldwide including Harrods, San Pellegrino, FA Premier League, BNP, and the Eurostar train. Beginning in 1992, Michael Bryce became the principal design adviser to the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, designing the Olympic bid logo and advising on the application of the corporate branding. His sport-related design work also includes graphics for the Brisbane 1982 Commonwealth Games and Expos 1985 and 1988. His sports logos have included the Australian 1996 Commonwealth Games team, the Dolphins Australian Swimming team, the Wallabies Rugby team, and the world cricket body, the ICC.



Mr Bryce has also been a board member of the Queensland (Symphony) Orchestra and Trustee of the Queensland Art Gallery, a Ministerial Adviser on the Child Accident Prevention Foundation and various product safety committees. He was Founding President of Melanoma Patients Australia. He has also been a volunteer with the State Emergency Service in Queensland.

Following five years in the Air Training Corps Mr Bryce served as an Intelligence Officer in the Royal Australian Air Force Reserve (1956–1970) including appointment as honorary Aide-de-Camp to the Governor of Queensland. He was awarded the Air Efficiency Award (AE) in 1970. He was patron of the RAAF Association in Queensland for some years and is now patron of the Combat Support Group Association.

Mr Bryce is patron of a number of community organisations and other arts related bodies. He has served as President of St John Ambulance (Qld) Event Health Services Branch and was made a Knight of Justice in the Order in 2003. In 2006, he was made a Member of the Order of Australia for services to the design profession and the community. He has also had a long association with universities around Australia. He has taught and mentored young graduates and is committed to the expression of a distinctive Australian identity within an international framework. He has been awarded Honorary Doctorates by the Universities of Queensland and Canberra and is presently Adjunct Professor of Architecture and Design at the University of Canberra.

Michael Bryce has been awarded Life Fellowships of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects and the Design Institute of Australia and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He has been described by *Indesign* magazine as a design 'luminary' and a design 'catalyst'. In 2006, he was inducted into the Australian Design Hall of Fame. In September 2008 he retired from his practice upon the appointment of his wife, Ms Quentin Bryce, as Governor-General of Australia. The practice he founded continues today as Minale Bryce Design Strategy.

Major General The Honourable Philip Michael Jeffery AC, CVO, MC, KStJ

Philip Michael Jeffery was born in Wiluna, Western Australia, in 1937 and was educated at Cannington and East Victoria Park State Schools and Kent Street High School. At age 16 he left Perth to attend the Royal Military College, Duntroon, in Canberra. After graduation in 1958, he served in a number of junior regimental appointments with 17 National Service Training Company and the Special Air Service Regiment (SASR) in Perth. He was posted to Malaya in 1962 for operational service with the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment. In 1965 he was seconded to the British SASR for an operational tour of duty in Borneo. He returned to Australia as Adjutant of the SASR in Perth. During 1966–69 he served in Papua New Guinea (PNG) with the 1st Battalion of the Pacific Islands Regiment and was married during this posting to Marlena Kerr, of Manly, Sydney. This was followed by a tour of Vietnam as an infantry company commander with the 8th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. It was during this tour that he was awarded the Military Cross and the South Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.



In 1972 Michael Jeffrey (he is generally known by his second name) was selected to attend the British Army Staff College at Camberley, and was then promoted Lieutenant Colonel to command the 2nd Battalion, the Pacific Islands Regiment in Wewak, PNG. In 1976, he assumed command of the SASR in Perth and was then promoted to Colonel as the first Director of the Army's Special Action Forces, for services to which he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia. During 1981–83 he headed Australia's national counter-terrorist coordination authority in the rank of Brigadier, after which he was posted as Commander of the 1st Mechanised and Airborne Brigade in Holsworthy, Sydney. He was selected to attend the Royal College of Defence Studies in London in 1985. He was then promoted to Major General and from 1986 commanded the Army's 15,000-person 1st Division. In June 1988, he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia for his services to the Army and in 1989, as the Assistant Chief of the General Staff–Logistics. In January 1990 he became Deputy Chief of the General Staff, responsible for the day-to-day running of a 65,000-person army. In February 1991 he was appointed Assistant Chief of the General Staff for Materiel, which involved the development and management of all army equipment procurement and building construction projects.

On 1 November 1993, Major-General Jeffery was sworn in as the 27th Governor of Western Australia, and became a Companion of the Order of Australia, a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order and a Citizen of Western Australia for his services to the State. He remained Governor until 2000. After completing his appointment as State Governor, Major General Jeffery was founding Chairman of the Perth-based not-for-profit public policy think-tank, Future Directions International, from 2000 to 2003. His major public interests are in the fields of youth, education, environment and national security.

Major General Jeffery was sworn in as Australia's 24th Governor-General on 11 August 2003 at Parliament House, Canberra. Upon being sworn in, he became the Chancellor and Principal Companion of the Order of Australia. The Queen, as Sovereign Head of the Order, also appointed Major General Jeffery as Prior for the Australian Priory and a Knight of Justice of the Order.

The Right Reverend Dr Peter Hollingworth AC OBE KStJ

Peter Hollingworth was born on 10 April 1935 in Adelaide. Both his parents grew up in South Australia, his mother belonging to one of the State's pioneering families. In 1941, the family settled in East Malvern in Victoria where he attended the Lloyd Street and Murrumbeena State Schools, before going to Scotch College and then taking on a commercial cadetship with BHP. During his National Service in 1953, he was drafted to the Padre's Office as secretary and found his vocation to the priesthood. He graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1960 with a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Licentiate of Theology, having resided at Trinity College. He met his wife Ann



while still on National Service and married in 1960. The Hollingworths have three daughters, Deborah, Fiona, Sarah and four grandchildren.

After completing his studies, Rev. Hollingworth became Deacon-in-Charge and then Priest-in-Charge of St Mary's, North Melbourne, as part of an innovative inner-city team ministry. Four years later, he was appointed as Chaplain to the Brotherhood of St Laurence, where he served for a total of 25 years in a range of different positions, ultimately as Executive Director. During this period, he completed a Master of Arts Degree in Social Work at Melbourne University and wrote several books based on his experiences working with the poor and disadvantaged. He was elected Canon of St Paul's Cathedral in 1980 and consecrated Bishop in the Inner City in 1985. He was elected Archbishop of Brisbane in 1989.

Archbishop Hollingworth has served on a number of social action committees, and was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1976 and an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1988. Following his Chairmanship of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (IYSH) National NGO Committee, he was Australian of the Year for 1992, during which he promoted the cause of the young unemployed. On 22 May 2001, Archbishop Hollongworth received the Lambeth Degree of Doctor of Letters from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, for his work in the area of Christian Social Ethics and Social Welfare. Dr Peter Hollingworth was sworn in as Australia's 23rd Governor-General on 29 June 2001. Following his request to resign from the office, his commission as Governor-General was revoked as of 29 May 2003.

The Honourable Sir William Patrick Deane AC, KBE, KStJ

William Patrick Deane was born on 4 January 1931 in Melbourne. His parents were Mr CA Deane MC, and Mrs Lillian Deane. He was educated at St Christopher's Convent in Canberra, St Joseph's College in Sydney and Sydney University where he graduated in Arts and Law. After graduation, he worked for a period in the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department in Canberra and then spent a period studying international law in Europe. In 1955 he was awarded the Diploma (*cum laude*) of The Hague Academy of International Law. After a period with the Sydney firm of Minter Simpson & Co., he was called to the Bar in 1957. Deane was acting lecturer in international law at Sydney University (1956–57) and a Teaching Fellow in Equity (1957–61). He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1966.



In February 1977 William Deane was appointed a judge in the Equity Division of the Supreme Court of New South Wales. Subsequently, in 1977, he was appointed a judge of the Federal Court of Australia and President of the Australian Trade Practices Tribunal. In July 1982, he was appointed a Justice of the High Court of Australia and served on that court, Australia's highest court, until 10 November 1995, when he retired subsequent to the announcement of his appointment as Governor-General. Sir William was sworn in as Australia's 22nd Governor-General on 16 February 1996. Sir William's term of office was due to expire on 31 December 2000 but was extended on the recommendation of the Howard Government until the middle of 2001 to enable him to be Governor-General at the time of the Centenary of Federation celebrations. He was appointed a Knight of the British Empire in 1982 and a Companion in the Order of Australia in 1988. He is also a Knight Commander con Placca of the Papal Order of St Gregory the Great and a Knight of Justice of the Order of St John

The Honourable William Hayden AC, KStJ

William George ('Bill') Hayden was born in Brisbane in January 1933, the son of George Hayden, an Irish–American sailor born in Oakland, California, in 1881. Hayden's paternal grandparents were from Cork in Ireland and significant parts of his approach to social issues and politics throughout his public life reflected the Irish side of his family background. He was educated at Brisbane State High School and served in the Queensland Police Force from 1953 to 1961. He continued his education through private study, completing an economics degree at the University of Queensland. He became active in the Labor Party, and in the 1961 federal election won the House of Representatives seat of Oxley, located in southwest Brisbane. A diligent member of parliament, in 1969 he was elected to the Opposition front bench. When Labor won the 1972 election under Gough Whitlam, Hayden became Minister for Social Security, and in that capacity introduced the single mothers' pension and Medibank, Australia's first system of universal health insurance. On 6 June 1975 he succeeded Jim Cairns as Treasurer, a position he held until the Whitlam Government was dismissed by the Governor-General, Sir John Kerr, on 11 November 1975. Labor was defeated in an election held a month later; Hayden was left as the only Labor MP from Queensland. He tried to oust Whitlam as leader, but failed.



When Labor lost the 1977 election, Whitlam retired as leader and Hayden was elected to succeed him. At the 1980 election Labor finished a mere 0.8% behind Malcolm Fraser's Liberal–National coalition government on the two-party vote, having gained a nationwide swing of over 4%. At the 1980 poll, popular union leader Bob Hawke, known to harbour leadership ambitions, was elected to Parliament. By 1982 it was evident that Fraser was manoeuvring to call an early election. Hawke began mobilising his supporters to challenge Hayden's leadership. On 3 February 1983 in a meeting in Brisbane, Hayden's closest supporters told him that he must resign. He reluctantly accepted their advice. Hawke was then elected leader unopposed. Later that morning, unaware of the events in Brisbane, Fraser in Canberra called a snap election for 5 March. Labor under Hawke won the 1983 election handily, and Hayden became Minister for Foreign Affairs, a position he held until 1988.

After the 1987 federal election Hawke offered Hayden the post of Governor-General as some consolation for his stepping down as leader and not having had the chance to become the Prime Minister. He assumed the post in early 1989, and served with discretion and distinction. By virtue of being Governor-General, he was the Chancellor of the Order of Australia and its Principal Companion. He received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from the University of Queensland in 1990 for his distinguished contributions to Australian life. He was appointed to the Order of St John Australia and also received the Gwanghwa Medal of the Korean Order of Diplomatic Merit. As is the custom on becoming Governor-General, he accepted the position of Prior of the Order of St John in Australia and was admitted into its Grade 2 membership as a Knight of Justice.

The Right Honourable Sir Ninian Martin Stephen KG, AK, GCMG, GCVO, KBE, KStJ, PC, QC

Ninian Martin Stephen was born on 15 June 1923 in Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, England. He was less than a year old when his father, Frederick, who had been a motorcycle courier in World War One, died, leaving him to be raised by his mother Barbara. Stephen attended St Paul's School, West Kensington, London, from Spring Term 1937 to March 1938. He emigrated to Australia in his mid-teens. He was then educated at Scotch College and the University of Melbourne. His studies were interrupted by World War II, in which he served as a corporal in the Australian Army's 3rd Water Transport Group (Royal Engineers), in New Guinea and Borneo, rising to the rank of lieutenant before his discharge in 1946. He completed his legal studies in 1950 and was called to the Victorian Bar in 1952. By the 1960s he was one of Australia's leading constitutional and commercial lawyers. He was made a Queen's Counsel in 1966.



On 30 June 1970 Stephen was appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria. He held this position until 29 February 1972, relinquishing it to take up his appointment as a Justice of the High Court of Australia. In March 1982 on the advice of the Prime Minister, Malcolm Fraser, Queen Elizabeth II appointed Stephen as Governor-General. He was sworn in on 29 July 1982, on the retirement of Sir Zelman Cowen. Stephen is the only Governor-General to have approved two double dissolutions of the Commonwealth Parliament: in 1983 when Malcolm Fraser was Prime Minister and in 1987 when the PM was Bob Hawke.

In 1989 Sir Ninian became the first Australian Ambassador for the Environment and in his 3-year term, was particularly energetic in working for a ban of mining in Antarctica. In 1991 he undertook a difficult task when he was appointed chairman of the second strand of the Northern Ireland peace talks. From 1993 to 1997 he was a judge on the international tribunals investigating war crimes in Yugoslavia and Rwanda. He has also been chairman of the Citizenship Council since 1998. In 1994, he acted as a special envoy of the UN Secretary General to resolve political conflicts in Bangladesh. In the meantime, Sir Ninian has moved back into the legal field, becoming president of the Arbitral Tribunal for the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes under Chapter 11 of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Ninian Stephen was made a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire (KBE) on 20 April 1972 'for distinguished services to the Law' and sworn of the Privy Council in 1979. As Governor-General he was made a Knight of the Order of Australia (AK), Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Michael and St George (GCMG) and Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order (GCVO). In 1994 Queen Elizabeth II appointed him a Knight of the Garter (KG). He has the unusual and rare distinction of holding five knighthoods and joins Lord Casey and Sir Paul Hasluck as one of the three Australians to have been appointed Knights of the Garter. In 1983 he received the French Légion d'Honneur.

Appendix. Extracts from the Statutes and Regulations

Royal Charters and Statutes of The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem (2004)

33. Qualifications for Membership of the Order

1. No person shall be qualified for membership in any Grade of the Order unless he or she: (a) makes a declaration in the terms specified in Statute 34; (b) furnishes a certificate in accordance with Statute 34A; (c) either: (i) has performed or is prepared to perform good service for the Order and its objects and purposes in accordance with the Mottoes of the Order; or (ii) has acted conspicuously in a manner which furthers such objects and purposes; and (d) has undertaken to comply with the provisions of the Royal Charter, the Statutes, and the Regulations and Rules of the Order.
2. No person shall be admitted to the Order in Grade VI unless he has attained the age of 16 or in any other Grade unless he has attained the age of 18.
3. Persons who were Associate Members of the Order on St. John's Day 1999 shall be re-classified as Members of the Order retaining the same Grade.
4. An Associate Member who is re-classified as a Member of the Order shall rank for seniority according to the date of his or her attachment in the Grade which is applicable at the date of reclassification.

34. Declaration before Admission to the Order

Subject to the provisions of Statute 35, before initial admission to the Order, a Declaration in the following terms shall be signed by prospective Members: 'I do solemnly declare that I will be faithful and obedient to The Order of St John and its Sovereign Head as far as it is consistent with my duty [to my Sovereign/President and] (*) to my country; that I will do everything in my power to uphold its dignity and support its charitable works; and that I will endeavour always to uphold the aims of this Christian Order and to conduct myself as a person of honour'. *The words in brackets to be adapted according to the circumstances of the declarant.

34A. Specified Bodies

1. No person shall be admitted to the Order if he or she shall also be a member of a Specified Body.
2. Before initial admission to the Order and before any promotion in the Order the Member or prospective Member shall furnish a certificate in such form as the Grand Prior on the recommendation of the Grand Council shall prescribe that he or she is not a member of a Specified Body and that he or she will not become a member of a Specified Body for so long as he or she is a Member of the Order.
3. (3)(a) A Specified Body is any body of persons (whether or not incorporated and whether or not a legal entity) which: (i) holds itself out or represents itself or styles itself to be an order which is: (aa) an order of St. John; or (bb) derived from an order of St. John; or (cc) associated with an order of St. John; (ii) is not one of the Mutually Recognised Orders of St. John (as defined in paragraph (3) (c) of this Statute); and (iii) either or both: (aa) uses the words 'St. John' or any translation or variant thereof in its title (irrespective of any other words used in the title); or (bb) uses: i. the Emblem (as defined in paragraph (3)(d) of this Statute) with or without any other device or motif; or ii. any other device or motif sufficiently similar to the Emblem as to be likely to cause confusion therewith. 3(b) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (i) of this paragraph a body shall be capable of being an order of St. John whether or not it is one of the Mutually Recognised Orders. 3(c) The Mutually Recognised Orders of St. John are: (i) the Order; (ii) the three other Orders which comprise the Alliance of the Orders of St. John, namely: (aa) Bailey Brandenburg des Ritterlichen Ordens St. Johannis vom Spital zu Jerusalem (commonly referred to as 'the Johanniter'); (bb) Johanniter Orde in Nederland; and (cc) Johanniterorden I Sverige; and (iii) the Sovereign Military and Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, called of Rhodes, called of Malta (commonly referred to as 'the Sovereign Military Order of Malta' or 'the Order of Malta'). 3(d) The Emblem is a white equidistant eight-pointed cross (commonly referred to as 'the Maltese Cross' or 'the Amalfi Cross') with or without embellishments in the angles on a background of any colour or colours and of any shape.
4. A decision of the Grand Council as to whether any body is or is not a Specified Body shall be final and binding on all persons interested under these Statutes.

35. Modified Declarations

1. Notwithstanding and in priority to the provisions of Statute 34 a Priory shall be entitled to prescribe a modified form of declaration to be signed before initial admission to the Order of a person who will be borne on the Roll of that Priory. Such declaration, which shall be in such terms as the Grand Prior may approve, shall require the declarant to declare that he personally professes the Christian faith and subject thereto shall as nearly as the circumstances permit be in the form set forth in Statute 34.
2. Before initial admission to the Order of a person who will be borne on the Roll of a Priory which has not prescribed a modified form of declaration under Statute 35(1), that person may, if he so wishes, in the Declaration to be made by him under Statute 34 include a statement that he personally professes the Christian faith. Such statement shall be in such form as the Prelate may approve.
3. Where a Member wishes to transfer to the Roll of a Priory which has prescribed a modified form of declaration for the purposes of Statute 35(1), he may be required by that Priory to make a declaration in such modified form before such transfer is effected.

38. Appointments to and Promotions in the Order

1. The Grand Prior on the recommendation of the Grand Council and with the sanction of the Sovereign Head may invite any Head of State or any member of the British Royal Family or of any other Commonwealth or of any Foreign Royal Family to become a Member of Grade I or Grade II of the Order as the Sovereign Head shall approve and upon acceptance he or she shall thereupon be admitted as such and be supernumerary to the Grade without the payment of any Foundation Due or Annual Oblation.
2. All other admissions to and promotions in the Order shall be sanctioned by and be made in the name of and by the authority of the Sovereign Head after recommendation by the Grand Council and approval by the Grand Prior. The names of those approved by the Sovereign Head shall be

published in the London Gazette or such other official Gazette as the Grand Prior shall specify. The procedure relating to the selection of suitable persons and verification of their qualifications under these Statutes before submission of their names to the Sovereign Head may be prescribed by Regulations.

3. Unless in any particular case the Grand Council otherwise recommends or it is otherwise provided by these Statutes or any Regulation, admissions to the Order shall normally be in Grade V and promotions from a lower to a higher Grade shall be dependent upon the rendering of good service in the lower Grade.
4. On appointment, each Prior of a Priory shall become a Knight or Dame of Justice if he or she does not already hold that rank and if he or she is not a Bailiff or Dame Grand Cross. Further the Grand Prior may at his discretion sanction the reclassification, for good cause *motu proprio*, of a Knight or Dame of Grace as a Knight or Dame of Justice. No other person shall be qualified to be classified as 'of Justice' on promotion or appointment to Grade II of the Order unless at such time he or she is entitled to bear Arms. A Knight or Dame of Grace may elect at any time to be re-classified as a Knight or Dame of Justice, as the case may be, without any change in seniority in the Order if he or she is able to satisfy the Genealogist of the Order, or if domiciled in Scotland, the Genealogist of the Priory of Scotland, or in the case of other Priories, the Genealogist of the Priory, provided the latter is an Officer of Arms in Ordinary to the Sovereign Head of the Order, that he or she is entitled to bear Arms.
5. There shall be a Homage Roll for Members which shall be signed by Members as soon as possible after first admission to the Order in token of their voluntary submission to the supreme authority of the Sovereign Head and of the Grand Prior.
6. Each Priory shall maintain a Roll of all Members of the Order within that Priory.
7. Subject to the provisions of Statute 35(3), a Member may be transferred from the Roll of one Priory to the Roll of another Priory in such manner as may be prescribed by Regulations.
8. The Secretary-General shall maintain a Roll of all Members of the Order who are not borne on the Roll of a Priory in such manner as may be prescribed by Regulations.

41. Precedence within the Order

1. Precedence within the Order shall be as follows: The Sovereign Head; The Grand Prior; The Lord Prior of St. John; The Prior of a Priory or the Knight or Dame Commander of a Commandery when within the territory of the Establishment; The Prelate of the Order; The Deputy Lord Prior or the Deputy Lord Priors and if more than one in the order of seniority in their Grades; The Sub-Prior of the Order; Former Great Officers; Bailiffs and Dames Grand Cross; The Prior of a Priory outside the territory of the Priory; The Members of the Grand Council not included above in the order of Seniority in their Grades; The Principal Officers in the order of their offices as laid down in Statute 9; The Sub-Prelates and the Honorary Sub-Prelates; The Hospitaller of the Order; Knights and Dames; Chaplains; Commanders; Officers; Serving Brothers and Serving Sisters; Esquires.

The St John (Order) Regulations 2003

- 4(iv). Knights and Dames of Justice wear as their Star a plain eight-pointed Cross of white enamel 3ins (76mm) in diameter set in gold without embellishment: see Illustration II.
- 4(v). Knights and Dames of Grace wear as their Star an eight-pointed Cross of white enamel 3ins (76mm) in diameter set in silver with embellishment in silver: see Illustration III.

'First, Do No Harm!': The origins of *Primum non nocere*

John Pearn AO, KStJ

The author note on Professor Pearn appears in his article (page 17) in this edition of St John History.



The disciplines of first aid and paramedic services, and the profession of pre-hospital care date from 1878. In that year, the Scottish military surgeon, Surgeon Major Peter Shepherd (1841–1879), introduced the novel concept of teaching members of the general public the drills and skills of first aid. Shepherd was the first person, in English, to employ the term 'first aid'.

He built upon the military first aid skills earlier promoted by the Prussian Surgeon General, Friedrich von Esmarch (1823–1908). In von Esmarch's 1871 book (the translated English title of which is *First Aid in the Field Hospital*) Esmarch formalised the drills for the treatment of war-wounded, and invented the term 'Erste Hilfe', or 'First Aid'.

Surgeon Major Shepherd was based at the Woolwich Arsenal on the south bank of the Thames in London. He was also a volunteer with the fledgling Ambulance Department of the Order of St John, with the formal title of 'Associate'. In December 1878, prior to his rushed embarkation for service in Africa in the Second Zulu War, Shepherd compiled a curriculum manuscript for civilian first aid classes. It was entitled *Handbook Describing Aids for Cases of Injuries or Sudden Illness*.²

In early 1879 Shepherd's manuscript was published in an initial print run of 25,000 copies. It was to become the 'Little Black Book' of St John first aid training in six continents over the ensuing generation.³ It, and subsequent revised editions, encapsulated the basic curriculum for all first aid classes and ambulance teaching until after World War II. Shepherd's approach was one of promoting positivity of action by bystanders, if emergency help was required, and if the lay civilian had been trained in the new first aid techniques. This advocacy was not novel. In the mid-18th century, it had been espoused by the Dutch in encouraging lay attempts to resuscitate the apparently drowned, rescued from Amsterdam canals. Resuscitation training, to empower bystanders to help in drowning scenarios, was further developed by the Royal Humane Society in Britain from 1774.

Shepherd extended this concept and instituted the teaching of first aid skills so that help might be given by lay bystanders in all circumstances of injury or acute illness. From the outset, he tempered this proactive, interventionist approach with conservative warnings of what might happen if unskilled operators intervened. He included a series of specific 'don'ts' in the formal curriculum taught in his first aid classes. In this, his implicit philosophy was one of not causing unintentional harm.

The principle of 'First, do no harm' remained a fundamental dictum of the teaching of all first aid and pre-hospital care for the ensuing hundred years. The late 20th century saw two new influences which impinged on this conservative principle. One, reinforcing it, was the growth of civil litigation practice. The perceived threat, if not the reality of civil tort action, strengthened the conservative edict of 'First, do no harm'. By contrast, it became apparent following research, particularly relating to child drowning in Australia, that a more 'have a go' approach could save more lives, irrespective of whether a bystander had been formally trained in resuscitation techniques or not.⁴ In the first decade of the 21st century, this principle became the formal policy of the Australian Resuscitation Council, with its widespread promulgation, from July 2003, that 'Any attempt at resuscitation is better than no attempt'.⁵

This article reviews the origins of the concept of '*Primum non nocere*'; places the dictum in the principles and practice of first aid and ambulance doctrine of the 19th and 20th centuries; describes changes which evolved in the late 20th century; and is an analysis of the status of this principle in contemporary healthcare practice including that of first aid and pre-hospital care.

Origins of *primum non nocere*

The principle that whatever one does, one should not make a bad situation worse, is very old. Research by the New York Medical pharmacologist, Dr Cedric Smith, has shown that the exact Latin phrase itself, '*Primum non nocere*', does not date from the era of ancient Greece and in fact was not used until 1680.⁶ Its first use is attributed to one of the fathers of modern medicine, the English physician Sir Thomas Sydenham (1624–1689). This attribution was made by an anonymous reviewer, 'HH' (probably Henry Hartshorn)⁷ of a book, *Foundations of a New Theory and Practice of Medicine*, written by Dr T Inman and published in London.⁸

The first record of inadvertent harm resulting from medical treatment is recorded in archaeological evidence from ancient Babylon. King Hammurabi punished doctors who damaged patients. His Code of 1750 BCE specified penalties for medical misadventure. The crime of harming patients took no cognizance of intent or lack of it; and the penalties were related to the status of the unfortunate patient. The punishment was greater (e.g. amputation of the doctor's fingers) if treatment resulted in the death of a free citizen compared with the lesser punishment (payment of goods) if the patient who died was a slave.⁹

The ethical principle of 'To do no harm' itself dates from a passage in the Rig Veda of Hinduism—'Do not harm any living creature'. It implied not doing conscious hurt. Over the centuries this concept became formalised in the word '*ahimsa*', and in this sense was promoted as a code of conduct, in the Chandogya Upanishad, dated to the 8th or 7th century BCE.¹⁰ Later, *ahimsa* or the impost of doing no harm, evolved into the fundamental ethical virtue of Hinduism, later in the 7th century BCE; and in the later decades of the 6th century BCE into the religions of Buddhism and especially Jainism. The virtue, '*ahimsa*', is the Sanskrit word for 'non-injury'.¹¹ The Jains in particular extended the concept to the avoidance of inflicting even inadvertent harm. In this sense, the concept of *ahimsa* is profoundly influential in Jainism and dates from the time of its origin c. 550 BCE. *Ahimsa* has the dual concepts of equality and non-injury, both physically and psychologically, deliberative and inadvertent both, that all living things might be protected and be safe.¹²

In the medical context, the ethical principle of 'do no harm' dates from 400 BCE. There are several references to the avoidance of harm in the *Hippocratic Corpus*, specifically in the *Epidemics* and in the *Oath*, which make explicit reference to this principle. These imposts, attributed by some to Hippocrates himself, refer to the avoidance of harm in two separate and distinct senses. The first is an injunction to not do harm in any deliberate way. The second refers to avoidance of situations, where a doctor might not know of specific harmful consequences, but knows that by acting conservatively and prudently, anticipated harm will not occur. In the *Hippocratic Oath*, a witnessing doctor promises 'to abstain from doing harm'. This connotation is in the sense of not doing a deliberate wrong, rather than in the sense of avoiding secondary (albeit inadvertent) damage consequent upon any primary medical intervention.

In Book I (Chapter XI) of *Epidemics*, the doctor is exhorted 'to do good or at least to do no harm'. This is a different exhortation, in the sense that the core meaning is one of exhorting conservatism and prudence; and of acknowledging that unskilled and ignorant action might have terrible albeit unforeseen consequences. Again in this context, such potential hurt is not specifically anticipated but a prudent person acknowledges the possibility of secondary injury. Although he did not use the phrase, this is the theme later encapsulated in the Latin '*Primum non nocere*'. The message was that unskilled intervention must be resisted, if need be by remaining inactive or passive.

This Hippocratic impost endured as a cultural theme in all post-Greek doctrine of what constituted a good and honourable doctor. Galen (129–c. 199 CE), writing in Greek, promoted the Hippocratic ethos of not doing harm. Galen's authority remained unchallenged until the 12th Century,¹³ and endured as a dominant force in medical teaching throughout the following five centuries.

The Hippocratic impost of 'to do no harm', through Galen, was incorporated into the monastic teachings and subsequent Canon Law which evolved throughout the early Christian period.¹⁴ In the Dark Ages, the Greco–Roman corpus of medical lore and knowledge was preserved in the Arab world. Arabic physicians built upon this canon of professional medical knowledge. The Arabs, like Hippocrates and Galen, knew of the potential harm, albeit unintentional, which might be inflicted on patients.

A saying, ascribed to Ibn Ar-Rumi Ali ibn Abbas (836–896 CE),¹⁵ a Baghdad poet of the Middle Ages, is often quoted, 'The blunders of a doctor are felt not by himself but by others.'¹⁶

In the West, the French military surgeon, Ambrose Paré (1510–1590), challenged Galen's authority, specifically in the context of pre-hospital care. Paré's clinical experience on the battlefield led him to believe that much received clinical dogma (such as cautery for the securing of haemostasis during battlefield operations) caused more harm than good. In 1849, Dr Thomas Percival, the founder of modern medical ethics, emphasised in his Third Edition of *Medical Ethics* that there was a risk of one particular kind of inadvertent harm. Percival drew particular attention of the risk to the patient if senescence was developing in the doctor. If such occurred, poor judgement resulted; and:

As age advances, therefore, a Physician should from time to time scrutinise impartially the state of his faculties, that he may determine bona fide the precise degree in which he is qualified to execute the active and multifarious offices of his profession.¹⁷

In the early decades of the nineteenth century, other doctors warned of the risk of inflicting inadvertent harm. An example was Dr Worthington Hooker who wrote that, '... of therapeutics ... the first law being this—not to do harm'.⁶

It is sometimes said that the pen with which the doctor writes prescriptions is the most dangerous instrument in all of medicine. When Florence Nightingale returned from the British Military Hospital at Scutari, in Istanbul during the Crimean War (1854–56), she built on the professional training conducted in religious hospitals in Britain, establishing standards of nursing which were to influence healthcare throughout the succeeding century. She wrote, 'It may seem a strange principle to enunciate as a first requirement in a hospital that it should do the sick no harm'.¹⁸

It was an era when a number of lay commentators, in the United States as well as in Europe, began to call attention to the iatrogenic (albeit inadvertent) harm inflicted upon patients. The metaphor of not interfering in troubled circumstances, because of the risk of making a bad situation worse, extended to other walks of life. John Randolph of Roanoke (1773–1833), a US congressman who served in both the House of Representatives and in the US Senate, was famously quoted, 'We ought to observe the practice which is hardest of all ... we ought to throw in no medicine at all—to abstain—to observe a wise and masterly inactivity'.¹⁹

It was in the context of this emergent conservatism that Surgeon Major Peter Shepherd compiled the manuscript of *Aids to Injuries and Sudden Illnesses*.

Peter Shepherd and 'First, Do No Harm'

In Surgeon Major Shepherd's first book on first aid, he advocated a series of specific 'don'ts'. He did not use the phrase '*Primum non nocere*' or 'First, do no harm' explicitly but the pervading tenor of his pioneering book on first aid followed these principles. Shepherd directed that stimulants must not be administered in the post-collapse phase of sunstroke.²⁰ He especially directed that a first aider should not attempt to manipulate joint dislocations. He went further and wrote forcefully that anyone other than a doctor should not treat dislocations at all, even in the pre-hospital domain. In his manual *Aids to Injuries* Dr Shepherd wrote, 'The treatment for dislocations is purposely omitted, as being dangerous, except in the hands of a surgeon'.²¹ In describing the first aid treatment for foreign bodies in the ear, he wrote that: 'no interference, beyond using a syringe, should be attempted, except by a surgeon'.²² This approach, albeit modified, has been the tenor of first aid doctrine since that time.

First aid doctrine in the 20th century

The emphasis on the ethos embodied in '*Primum non nocere*' continued throughout the 20th century. Subsequent editions of first aid handbooks contained many examples of the importance of abstaining from specific interventions. In World War I, for example, the perceived threat of German gas attacks on the British civilian population led to the widespread distribution of the *Air Raid Precaution Handbook No. 2: First Aid and Nursing for Gas Casualties*. It taught that,

Artificial respiration must not be carried out on these patients. The lungs are seriously damaged, and in a water-logged condition, artificial respiration is likely to do more harm than good, and may even be itself a cause of sudden death.²³

In the 1970s this dictum of '*Primum non nocere*' was given reinforcement from an unexpected and unrelated source—that of the widespread institutional adoption of the principles of bioethics. Specifically, it related to the explicit promotion of non-malevolence (not doing harm') as a cardinal ethical principle. It was proposed by some that the principle of non-malevolence 'takes moral priority over beneficence'.²⁴

The balance between good intentions, 'beneficence' on the one hand, and not doing harm, non-malevolence or '*Primum non nocere*' on the other, is what corporate managers and executives call the 'benefit:risk ratio'. If this ratio is perceived to be small, most decision makers will opt for non-intervention. Just how 'small' is small is a matter for judgement. If set too low, 'this becomes the shield of the therapeutic nihilist'²⁵ or the battle cry of the overly cautious and those who see the absence of litigable intervention as preference to lives which might otherwise be saved. The ethical challenge here is also a pragmatic one. It results from the fact that the former (the costs of harm to a single individual) are easily measured, and costed in courts of law. By contrast, the benefits (well and healthy multiple survivors) cannot so easily be ascertained. Important (and unfortunately, topical) examples of the implications of benefit:risk ratios are to be found in controversies relating to community vaccination programmes.

The demands of making judgements in emergency situations, experienced by First Responders in accident or disaster situations, may be great. In those who are inescapably confronted with emergency triage decisions, such as controllers at an accident site, decisions may be "the medical equivalent of a 'Sophie's Choice', picking among those for whom he is to care and those who will be sacrificed that others may survive".²⁶

Safety of casualties and responders

The concept of protecting First Responders themselves was given increasing importance in 1980, when the DRABC mnemonic was developed and adopted initially by St John Ambulance Australia and subsequently by all member bodies which constitute the Australian Resuscitation Council. The 'D' signified the potential for further or new 'Danger' at the accident site. Further danger or injury to the casualty or to the first aider, or both, is always a potential risk. Secondary harm to road victims, and injury or death to Good Samaritan bystanders attending them, can only be prevented by an appreciation of this drill. Today the 'DRSABCD', is taught in all first aid classes.

Ethical and legal implications

In Australia in the last decades of the 20th century, a regrettable trend developed. It was the USA practice of lawyers actively promoting tort claims against healthcare professionals. It was intensified by the unethical practice of 'no conviction, no fee'. The derogatory term, 'ambulance chasers', encapsulated this societal development and the contempt for it by all who practised as caring professionals, salaried paramedics and volunteer first aiders alike. Those who regularly taught St John first aid classes were confronted in every session with questions such as 'If I attempt this, will I be sued'? In reality, no volunteer first aider has lost a civil tort in Australia.

All Australian states and territories have responded to this threat to casualties' lives consequent upon the legal trend to sue Good Samaritans. In 2007, for example the Queensland Government passed the *Protection for Good Samaritans under the Civil Liability (Good Samaritan) Amendment Bill 2007*. The Northern Territory Government went further. It introduced pioneering legislation (still unique in Australia in 2013) which made it mandatory for bystanders to attempt to help a victim in need of physical help. Section 155 of the *Criminal Code of the Northern Territory of Australia* reads:

Any person who, being able to provide rescue, resuscitation, medical treatment, first aid or succour of any kind to a person urgently in need of it and whose life may be endangered if it is not provided, callously fails to do so is guilty of a crime ...

Protection was provided for such Good Samaritans under Section 8 of the *Personal Injuries (Liabilities And Damages Act (NT)*, with assent on 18 March 2003.²⁷ The Northern Territory Act guaranteed protection, 'in which a good Samaritan does not incur personal civil liability for a personal

injury caused by an act done in good faith and without recklessness while giving emergency assistance to a person'.²⁷ The protection of this legislation had several qualifications, specifically relating to volunteers. Volunteers undertaking 'community work' for a 'community organisation' are not protected if they act recklessly or, 'knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that he or she was acting outside the scope of his or her authority or contrary to the instructions of the community organisation'.²⁸

Thus there remains a moral onus on untrained individuals not to pursue treatments of which the consequences are unknown. There is an even greater impost on community organisations such as the bodies teaching resuscitation and first aid, to continue a '*Primum non nocere*' paradigm, as such parent bodies, in contrast to the individual first aider on the spot, remain liable to tort legal action if harm results and is attributable to incorrect teaching or doctrine.²⁹

Proactivity, not passivity: a changed paradigm

Research conducted in the 1970s and 1980s at the Royal Children's Hospital in Brisbane showed that if bystanders, whether previously trained in first aid or not, attempted resuscitation of apparently-drowned toddlers, the survival rates were higher.³⁰ It was found that if bystanders involved in a rescue had had (serendipitous) prior first aid training, survival rates were further increased. These studies, and other similar reports, led eventually to a change in emphasis from 'first, do no harm' with its connotations of passivity, to a 'have a go' ethos. The Australian Resuscitation Council adopted this policy and from c. 2002 promoted on its outreach documents the maxim 'any attempt at resuscitation is better than no attempt'. As a foundation member of the Australian Resuscitation Council, St John Ambulance Australia also formally adopted this proactive paradigm. In the current (2013) edition of *Australian First Aid*, the text contains the explicit exhortation, 'You may feel uncertain but should remember that any attempt in providing first aid is better than no first aid at all'.³¹



This trend towards proactivity with subjugation of the '*Primum non nocere*' theme, can of course have a potentially harmful effect in some bystander CPR scenarios. This is a consequence of the fact that a proportion of bystanders who attempt the CPR of a cardiac arrest victim, themselves are distressed by the event. This can result in the long term harm of chronic severe emotional stress to first aiders, particularly if their CPR efforts have failed.³² In fact, between 60–80% of the pulseless victims of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest do not respond to CPR. Many bystanders performing CPR fear of making things worse, 'When I heard a rib crack I wondered if I was doing it correctly ... and just then I wondered if I was doing more harm than good'.³³

The type of chronic harm done to some Good Samaritan bystanders who have attempted bystander CPR is related to two factors: fatal casualty outcome (odds ratio 38) and a lack of debriefing after the event (odds ratio 9:6).³⁴

The clinical literature contains many examples of other, albeit inadvertent, harm being done to patients by medical intervention. A topical example relates to the use of antidepressants. This area remains controversial, and it is undoubted that the use of antidepressants in the management of some specific conditions (e.g. in depressive emotional states associated with cancer; in some patients convalescent from stroke). However, some antidepressant drugs have a number of adverse effects on body systems; and one major report found that 'antidepressants generally do more harm than good by disrupting a number of adaptive processes regulated by serotonin'.³⁵

In the case of screening programs to detect disease early, it might naively be assumed that such are without harm; and that such can only be of benefit to those who might be at risk of preventable disease. Screening tests for cervical cancer are an example. In an editorial in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, referring to an article entitled 'Cervical Cancer Screening: *Primum Non Nocere*', the authors noted that, screening tests can unintentionally cause significant harm. False positive test results can lead to over-diagnosis, misdiagnosis and the potential for unnecessary diagnostic testing procedures, and treatments and their inherent risks. For these reasons, screening tests, especially for a disease with a

low incidence, must have high sensitivity in addition to acceptable specificity. Trade-offs of increased sensitivity for decreased specificity can tip the balance of benefits and harms.³⁶

The prevention of iatrogenic harm is an important subject in the 21st century. Some 3% of all hospital patients suffer serious adverse events from therapeutic interventions; and of these 6% (that is 1 in 5500 of all inpatients) suffer potential fatal complications.³⁷ Such harm to trauma victims can result from what might be considered trivial interventions such as the early mobilisation of wounded limbs, nevertheless shown to exacerbate the inflammatory response.³⁸ Recently, it has been demonstrated that 100% oxygen administered to victims of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest is associated with increased mortality rates.

Thus the concept of '*Primum non nocere*' continues to be a central tenet of all healthcare, and of pre-hospital, emergency management and clinical techniques. In broader context, it is both a secular and Faith-based philosophy which enjoins us all.

Perhaps all interpersonal relationships, as espoused by both bioethics and religious teaching, can be summarised by two moral precepts: render help to those in trouble, and avoid harming our fellow humans.

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Occasional papers

An entrée into a nursing career from the St John Cadets

Sarah McLaughlin

Ms Sarah McLaughlin is a Cadet Leader in the St John Ambulance Cadet Band Division in Darwin, Northern Territory. She delivered the presentation on which this article is based to the plenary session of the National Members' Convention of St John Ambulance Australia in Darwin in May 2013.



My name is Sarah McLaughlin. I joined the St John Ambulance Cadet Band Division at the age of 8 as a Junior. I am now 19 and a Cadet Leader with the Division. That is a total of 11 years with St John. I never knew Ambulance Cadets even existed until my dad completed a first aid course where the trainer spoke about the St John program. At the time I was a Girl Guide but was not getting much out of it—we just seemed to play on the playground and paint pictures. When Dad came home and told me about the Cadet program I thought it sounded like lots of fun. We had never understood or were aware of the capabilities or skills when we saw the black and white uniform at events—we thought they were dressed that way to promote St John!

Throughout my years as a Junior I completed seven interest badges as well as the Junior first aid badges. I also joined the Division's Cadet Band initially learning to play the recorder.

I remember when I was finally old enough to complete the Cadet Preliminary first aid course and be allowed to go on public duties (I was really excited), finally, I was able to put the skills I had learnt to the test. As soon as I passed the course I started going out on public duties, at least once or twice a week. I worked with some fantastic adults who became role models and mentors for me. They still are today and I don't believe I would be at my skill level now without the many hours they put in with me, going through ambulances and first aid kits. As I grew within the Division I learnt to play the flute and clarinet in the band. I was also promoted to a Cadet Corporal and within a few years Sergeant. As a Cadet I carried out 1800 public duty hours.

At the age of 13 I started competing in Territory competitions. For over 5 years I was an individual competitor before joining a team. In time I competed at Nationals in a team once and as an individual four times. Most recently I started competing as a Cadet leader in the Territory, winning my first Cadet leader competition before going to Nationals. In 2012 at the Perth Nationals, I won the individual category—the first NT individual winner since 1978. In 2010 I was provided with a fantastic opportunity to compete at the World competitions held in Christchurch, New Zealand. Not only was I representing the NT but also Australia with three other Cadets. World competitions were definitely very different to national competitions; New Zealand had different emergency numbers and different skills and techniques in performing first aid which we had to learn. This was definitely a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity I will never forget and am privileged to have had.

Over the years, along with my mum, we have been first-on-scene to many vehicle accidents. One will always be with me due to the horrific and graphic injuries this man received but who we saved, my family receiving a Commissioner commendation in recognition. Eighteen months after this particular accident, mum and I met up with the man to do a newspaper article on the importance of first aid. This was the first time I had seen him since the accident and his appreciation to us for being able to administer first aid to give him the best possible chance of survival, was overwhelming.

I am currently Divisional Cadet Leader. My mum, Narelle, is the Superintendent of the Division but because of her job with the Ambulance service she is restricted to being there only some Monday nights. The nights she cannot be there I take on the role of running the Division for the night. Each year I organise the training program and social nights for the Cadets and Juniors. At Divisional nights I use the skills I have been taught, to teach the Cadets their first aid books or proficiency badges.

I am in my second year studying nursing. Being a member of St John definitely put me on a medical career path and after hearing how friends enjoyed studying nursing, I decided that's what I wanted to do. St John Ambulance NT has the Alan Bromwich Scholarship available to volunteers undertaking some sort of medical degree at university, who intend to continue living and working in the NT. The scholarship provides the member with \$3000 each year of study to put towards university expenses. I was lucky enough to receive this scholarship which is a huge help to my continuing studies.

If I could see myself five years into the future, I will still be a member of the Cadet Band Division and teaching classes on a Monday night. My goal is to be working on the road as a paramedic and this is because of my work as an Ambulance Cadet. Volunteering gives me a sense of self achievement—being able to help someone at possibly one of the worst moments of their life is such an amazing feeling because we do make a difference.

I have been asked many times by various people why I give my time to volunteering? Why do I bother? What do I get out of it? Danny Thomas (an American actor and comedian) once said 'Success has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself. It's what you do for others'. This is why I volunteer—the accomplishment felt when comforting and providing first aid to members of the community is phenomenal. I recently had an experience with a patient with a suspected spinal injury. The patient was extremely upset and worried about the possible outcome of their injury. I spent just over an hour waiting for an ambulance with this patient holding their hand and comforting them. Not only did the patient feel a lot better but I felt a sense of achievement from helping them.

So, in conjunction with the conference theme of 'Looking forward, looking back', where will the Cadet program be in five years' time? It would be great to see that it is still an active program, particularly in the NT. Logistically I believe it will be quite similar to the way everything is run now. I do understand that everyone who is a part of a division is a volunteer but it would be fantastic to see a first aid program similar to Cadets offered to remote and Indigenous communities within the Top End. I asked the Cadets in my Division what they would like to happen in the next five years and the most common responses I received were for the uniform to change because it is too hot to wear long pants in Darwin and for there to be Cadet meetings more than once a week. It is known that Cadet numbers have been in decline for some years, possibly because of the lack of promotions for Cadets. I always see advertisements on posters and TV about joining Army Cadets or Scouts and how many opportunities and skills you can learn through these groups. I believe Cadets need the same thing. I know there are websites, and the new Cadet website has been developed, but they are only something you find if you are looking for them. I am unsure about this issue being widespread but I know in my Division we have trouble keeping members once they have joined. We try as best as possible to keep the nights interesting and as hands-on as possible but each week we seem to have less members returning to the Divisional night. I think our Division needs to sit down with these members and find out what they would like to get out of being a Cadet, and how we could improve the experience for them.

Being a member of the Cadet Band Division has to be the best decision I have made in my life so far. I have been challenged mentally and physically within the organisation and developed a huge amount of confidence and leadership skills. St John has given me training and skills that have prepared me for my future. The friendships I have made around Australia will last a lifetime. I would recommend the Cadet program to anyone.

I leave you with this quote, 'The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new' (Socrates, 469–399 BCE).

Representations of the monastic military orders in popular literature: 'History' as presented in the modern blockbuster novel

Ian Howie-Willis

Notes on Dr Howie-Willis appear on page 23 in this edition of St John History. The paper on which this article is based was delivered to the 'Military Orders: Culture and Conflict' conference, which was the sixth international conference of the London Centre for the Study of the Crusades, the Military Religious Orders and the Latin East. The conference was conducted at St John's Gate, Clerkenwell, London, England, 5–8 September 2013. The following article comprises the author's speaking notes; a full version of the paper is available on request.



In Australia we speak of the 'History Wars', a term describing a continuing debate over conflicting interpretations of the history of the Australian Aborigines, since the first British settlement in 1788. Historians of the political 'Left' generally see settler–Aboriginal relations as a subset of 'Genocide Studies'. They argue that the British and their Australian successors inflicted physical genocide upon the Aborigines during the 18th, 19th and earlier 20th centuries. The settlers also began a process of 'cultural genocide' which continues to the present. Historians of the 'Right' might agree that many of the phenomena lumped together as 'genocide' did indeed occur. Some massacres took place, they argue, though not nearly as many as claimed by the 'Left'. Placing undue emphasis upon them means adopting a 'Black Armband' view of history, which encourages a regressive sense of victimhood among the Aborigines.

And how, I can hear my audience thinking, is any of this even remotely relevant to a conference on Europe's monastic military orders? There is a connection in that the study of the Crusades and the military monastic orders appears to have its own 'History War'—a debate between academic historians and novelists who write best-selling books about the military religious orders. And this war rages on.

The 'war' dates back to 1820, when Sir Walter Scott published his novel *Ivanhoe*, which presents an ugly portrait of the Templars. The villain here is the Templar knight, Sir Brian de Bois-Guilbert. Scott's portrayal of an obsessive, ruthless Templar knight continues to shape popular perceptions of the Templars through *Ivanhoe's* operatic and film adaptations.

Leap forward 180 years to a similarly unattractive portrait of the Hospitallers in another 'literary' novel—the late Dorothy Dunnett's 1999 book *The Disorderly Knights*. Here the villain is Sir Graham Reid Mallett, a sinister Scottish Hospitaller who is busily betraying his order and conspiring to supplant its Grand Master. As painted by Dunnett, the Hospitallers are brutal, cruel, arrogant, poorly led, incompetent and riven by ethnic and national enmities.

Historians of the military religious orders might debate Scott's and Dunnett's negative portrayal of the Templars and Hospitallers, but will unite on one issue. This is opposition to the kind of pseudo-historical theories about the Templars postulated by Dan Brown in his hugely popular 2003 thriller *The Da Vinci Code* (TDVC).

Such pseudo-history is a phenomenon of the last 30 years. It began in 1982 with *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail* (HBHG) by Michael Baigent, the late Richard Leigh and Henry Lincoln, a book promoting various speculative theories, including the idea that Jesus Christ and Mary Magdalene had children and that their bloodline survives to the present. According to this book, the Templars were the guardians of their sacred bloodline.



*The debate over the historicity of novels touching on the military orders began with the 1820 novel *Ivanhoe* by Sir Walter Scott (left) and its ugly portrayal of the Templar Sir Brian de Bois-Guilbert. Sir Brian was played by Ciarán Hinds (right) in the 1997 adaptation of the novel for television.*

TDVC rehashed these theories in novelistic form. The result was a runaway best-seller that sold 80 million copies in the first six years. TDVC quickly became one of the most popular books of all time with a film adaptation in 2006 giving book sales a huge boost, earning Dan Brown some \$250 million in royalties.

Brown unabashedly borrowed much from HBHG. Perhaps it was his vast earnings that prompted Baigent and Leigh to sue him for plagiarism in London in 2006. Baigent and Leigh lost the case and also a subsequent appeal in 2007, but the publicity from the case revived their own book sales. As for Dan Brown, we might conclude that he wept all the way to the bank.

For serious historians, the main objection to TDVC is its historiography. Both TDVC and its proliferating 'copy-cats' commit various historiographical sins. For example, just one fact that TDVC gets glaringly wrong occurs in the book's grand finale, which takes place in Scotland at Rosslyn Chapel. The book claims that the chapel's elaborate stone carvings embody the secret symbolism of the mysterious 'Priory of Sion'. This institution, however, was a mid-1950s hoax perpetrated by a French fraudster; and the hoax had been exposed well before Dan Brown published TDVC.

Criticism of TDVC has been widespread. Various books and websites are dedicated to exposing its fallacies. Among others, the critics accuse Dan Brown of misrepresenting Christianity generally and slandering the Catholic Church and Opus Dei in particular. Brown has claimed that the historical background to TDVC is '99% true'; but that's ridiculous because so much of the book draws from the speculative pseudo-history of HBHG.

Despite TDVC's faults, over the past decade novels like it have proliferated. Its huge sales soon stimulated the publication of other far-fetched novels about the military monastic orders. A spate of 'look-alike' popular books flooded the market. Typically sold in airport bookstores, they reach a worldwide mass market. So many TDVC copy-cats have appeared that they have become a proliferating genre of their own. I bought two of the latest at Canberra airport at the beginning of my journey here to London. I managed to read both before reaching Heathrow. The first, *Red Templar* by Paul Christopher, is a TDVC copycat; the second, *Sword and Scimitar* by Simon Scarrow, is a more serious work of historical fiction. And so the new titles keep coming, with no end in sight.

What much of this genre shares in common is a preoccupation with bizarre conspiracy theories. These often involve the Templars' purported treasure which, depending on the novel concerned, might be a Gospel written by Jesus himself and/or his skeletal remains. Alternatively, the 'treasure' might be his latter-day bloodline and/or the alleged secret teachings of the military orders. Much of the genre presents a mishmash of pseudo-history masquerading as historical fact.

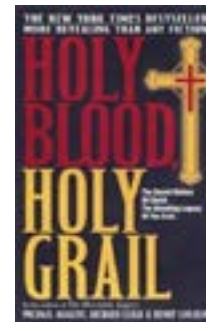
But does any of this really matter? Doesn't the genre consist of works of fiction, derived ultimately from the authors' imagination not some historical canon? That's certainly correct, but as a conscientious professional historian I suggest that the writers of historical fiction are bound by certain commonly accepted conventions. Just as history has its own rules and methodologies, so does historical fiction. Reputable historical novelists will accordingly strive for historicity by evoking the spirit of the times they describe and making their characters behave in ways that are realistic for the period dealt with. Novels not meeting these criteria might be entertaining fantasies but are not historical fiction.



Dorothy Dunnett's 1999 novel The Disorderly Knights.



Dan Brown and his 2003 runaway bestseller, The Da Vinci Code.



Baigent, Leigh and Lincoln's The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail (1982), a highly speculative rambling.

A problem here is the influence of the TDVC genre on popular understanding of history. Members of the general lay public who glean their historical knowledge from the genre will remain misinformed and ignorant. It goes further than that, however, because the genre exerts a pernicious influence. How? Mainly because it has helped transform the Templars into a cult. Unfortunately for true historians, many novels of the TDVC genre are gripping, page-turning thrillers and consequently attract a wide readership. Unfortunately, too, many readers do take the genre at face value, accepting as historical fact the fanciful pseudo-history it often presents. That in turn obliges the historian to unravel fact from frequently outrageous fiction.

At this point I should explain my own interest in the genre. I come to it as an historian of St John Ambulance Australia. The idea for this paper arose about seven years ago during one of my visits to St John's Gate. Over lunch in the nearby 'Old Jerusalem Tavern' with Pamela Willis, then Curator of the Museum here, the conversation turned to the TDVC. We agreed that someone ought to write a paper about the book and its copycats, pointing out their historical fallacies to our St John Ambulance audience.

Let us now turn to some representative titles from the genre to illustrate the views of history they propagate. Here are five TDVC look-alikes in which the Templars are central:

1. *The Last Templar* (2005) by Raymond Khoury
2. *The Brotherhood of the Holy Shroud* (2006) by Julia Navarro
3. *The Templar Legacy* (2006) by Steve Berry
4. *The Sacred Bones* (2007) by Michael Byrnes
5. *The Templars' Code* (2010) by Chloe Palov.

This last book tells us that the Templars possessed an artefact of immense power—the 'Emerald Tablet'. The magical tablet was manufactured on the lost continent of Atlantis then taken to ancient Egypt by the god Thoth but later stolen by the Hebrew prophet Moses, who placed it in the Ark of the Covenant. Many centuries later the Templars became its custodians. As their Order was being suppressed, surviving Templars spirited the tablet away to Rhode Island in the present USA, where they survived and kept it in a cleverly concealed cave for 200 years before they were massacred by a troop of Knights of Malta under Jesuit command. Thereafter the tablet was guarded by the local Naragansett Indians. As for the tablet's enormous powers, it resonates with a creative force called 'the Divine Harmonic'.

These are but some of the many novels that jumped aboard the TDVC bandwagon. They share common ground in their formulaic approach to historical fiction. Thus, they usually embrace some conspiracy theory about the Templars' lost treasure. There is usually an intrepid hero and a feisty heroine seeking the truth about the Templars. Opposing them is some sinister, ruthless force determined to conceal the truth. The action is always fast-paced; and that rather than historicity is the emphasis. The hero and heroine consequently soon become caught up in a cascading series of improbable adventures.

All good, clean fun—even if fanciful and far-fetched? Well, not really, because such books are only the tip of a very large iceberg. The TDVC genre is only a small fraction of what's available on-line to anyone in quest of the military religious orders. As mentioned, the Templars in particular have achieved cultic status. An astounding array of merchandise is now available to titillate the devotees of military order lore.

And then there are the organisations claiming to be latter-day reincarnations of the military monastic orders. For instance, there is the fissiparous 'Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem', a self-styled order founded in 1945. Interestingly, the mass murderer Anders Breivik, who killed 77 people in Norway in July 2011, claims membership of the 'Templars'. Photographs of Breivik attired in his 'Templar uniform' are easy to locate in Google Images—chilling evidence that there are evils in obsessively dabbling in Templar esoterica.



*Among the many 'airport novel' authors who jumped aboard TDVC's bandwagon was Chloe Palov, whose 2010 novel *The Templar's Code* presents a fantastically improbable account of Templar history.*

Allusion to obsession inevitably brings us to one of the great literary works dealing with the military religious orders—Umberto Eco’s 1989 novel *Foucault’s Pendulum*. Umberto Eco considers the downfall of the Templars at some length. He also uses present-day interest in the order to explore the obsessions of authors with a Templar fixation. Eco has one of his principal characters, the publisher Belbo, make a famous pronouncement on Templar studies and Templar-fixated authors in particular: ‘I work for a publishing company. We deal with both lunatics and nonlunatics. After a while an editor can pick out the lunatics right away. If someone brings up the Templars, he’s almost always a lunatic’.

From among the Templar-fixated authors, I exclude those novelists who have striven to produce credible historical fiction about the military religious orders rather than using them as a vehicle for parading perverse and sensational speculation in the guise of historical fiction. Recent titles in which authors have successfully merged historical fact with fiction include these:

- Robert Goddard’s *Days Without Number*
- Jan Guillou’s Templar trilogy *The Road to Jerusalem*, *The Templar Knight* and *The Kingdom at the End of the Road*
- Judith Koll Healey’s *The Lost Letters of Aquitaine*
- Adriana Koulias’s *Temple of the Grail* and *The Seal*
- Joseph Lessard’s *Hospitaller: A Tale of the Unknown Knight in the Third Crusade*
- Tim Willocks’s *The Religion*
- Robyn Young’s Templar trilogy *Brethren*, *Crusade* and *Requiem*.

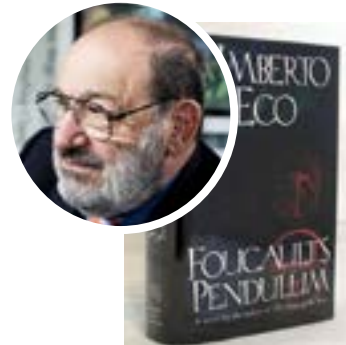
Allowing for a degree of novelistic licence, each of the eleven novels just mentioned endeavours to recreate the Crusading era accurately from the perspective of contemporary members of the military monastic orders.

With the TDVC genre, the more serious Templar- and Hospitaller-related historical fiction of recent decades demonstrates a rising public interest in these two orders. Novels on the military religious orders have indeed become a growth industry. But why?

Several authors have endeavoured to answer this question psycho-sociologically. One such is the historian Peter Partner, whose book *The Murdered Magicians: The Templars and their Myth*, argues that the Templar mythology feeds on a mix of anti-clericalism, anti-monarchism and a fascination with the occult. He suggests that in a secular age like the present, the current spate of novels feeding on the Templar mythology satisfies a deep-seated need in a society that has lost its traditional religious faith.

A similar explanation comes from one of the novels cited earlier—Robert Goddard’s *Days Without Number*. To explain the phenomenon of the Templar novel, Goddard has one of his characters, a Templar historian called Drysdale, tell us that we belong to an agnostic generation in which scepticism is universal. Our generation nevertheless needs to believe in something; and since it has lost its traditional religious faith, it has turned to myths instead, for example those promoted by TDVC and its copycats. Goddard also has Drysdale proffer this warning to historians, ‘The academic establishment looks down its disapproving nose at those who peddle [the Templar myths]. But there they err. Every debate must be joined, else it will be lost by default’.

And that caution is a good point at which to end this presentation. In concluding, I urge you as specialists in Templar and Hospitaller studies to take Drysdale’s advice, ‘Join the debate lest it be lost by default’.



Umberto Eco and his novel *Foucault’s Pendulum*.



Peter Partner’s 1982 history *The Murdered Magicians*.



Robert Goddard and his 2003 novel *Days Without Number*.

Reports from the State and Territory branches of the Historical Society

St John Archives, New South Wales

*Loredana Napoli, Information Management Coordinator, and
Betty Stirton DStJ, Honorary Archivist St John Ambulance New South Wales*

Unfortunately both Loredana Napoli and Betty Stirton were unable to attend the Historical Society meetings last year (2012) as they were fully occupied before, during and after the Convention.

We wish to congratulate Jeanette Regan, the Priory Curator, on the excellent document 'Collection Policy 2013'. Jeanette looks after the Museum collection and Pamela Cunningham cares for the library.

Service of Rededication

The Service of Rededication and Investiture by Professor Anthony Mellows, the Lord Prior of St John, held in Great Hall of the University of Sydney on Sunday 20 May 2012, was a memorable occasion for St John. About 400 people witnessed the Service and Investiture. The NSW Homage Roll was signed by Professor Mellows and by all members who were invested. A copy of the Honours Roll was forwarded to the Priory Secretary for their records. NSW has had a Homage Roll since 1995 as the result of a visit to our Archives by the Secretary General of St John when he asked to see our Homage Roll.

Duke of Gloucester

His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester KG, GCVO visited St John House, Burwood after the Convention on Friday 25 May 2012. He was met by Senior Management and escorted on a tour of the building and shown a number of First Aid Service vehicles before viewing demonstrations and displays by volunteers covering areas of the organisation including Archives, Ophthalmic Care, Community Care, Youth in St John and Advanced Health practices. This was followed by afternoon tea where His Royal Highness addressed the large audience and unveiled a plaque commemorating his visit.

Celebration

On 14 May 2013 St John Ambulance celebrated 125 years since Queen Victoria granted a Royal Charter of Incorporation to the Order of St John 'in recognition of the establishment of the St John Ambulance Association'. The Order of St John became a British royal order of chivalry when Her Majesty appointed herself as Sovereign Head and Patron, HRH Edward, Prince of Wales as Grand Prior and HRH The Duke of Clarence as Sub-Prior.

Donation

Trevor Mayhew OAM, KStJ, NSW Staff Officer, recently presented a ceremonial sword on behalf of himself and his family after discovering St John NSW did not have its own ceremonial sword. The early medieval sword is a replica of a typical 13th–14th century broadsword carried by Knights of that era. It is embellished with symbols of the Most Venerable Order of St John. The Sword is securely displayed in a cabinet on Level 3 at NSW headquarters. Craig Walsh (Regional Chaplain) officiated in the Hallowing and Dedication of the Ceremonial Sword following a Liturgy provided by Bishop Richard Hurford, Sub Prelate of St John (NSW) at a State Council Meeting.

St John Colour

Prior to the NSW Annual Awards Ceremony at University of Sydney on 6 October 2012 the Marching off of the Old Colour and the Consecration of the New Colour took place outside the Great Hall. Among many distinguished guests and members of St John, the Old Colour was Retired and the New Colour dedicated. The St John Colour contains the white Maltese cross and the 'Queen's Beasts' that make up the Badge of the Venerable Order of St John. The Beasts remind us of the Royal Patronage received by St John in 1888 by way of the Royal Charter from Queen Victoria.

Research

In 1939 the Annual Report of the St John Ambulance Association stated 'St John rendered assistance to the State Government National Emergency Service by supplying some hundreds of Honorary instructors for the FREE CLASSES in First Aid and Air Raid Precautions. Towns distant from the coast of NSW that did not come within the scope of the National Emergency Service sought the assistance of the St John

Ambulance Association, which was readily given. Broken Hill was the most outstanding case where the Honorary Instructor proceed to Sydney in order to obtain the latest information and practical training at the St John Head Office'.

Northern Territory St John Ambulance Historical Committee

Dawn Bat OStJ, Secretary, Northern Territory St John Ambulance Historical Committee

We have had quite a busy year in the Northern Territory planning for the Annual Member Convention. A major achievement will be the launch of *Awkward Hours, Awkward Jobs* by Frank Dunstan, the official history of St John in the Northern Territory. This was a major undertaking by Frank and with a minimum amount of help from other members and a small grant from the Northern Territory Government to cover costs, he has produced a book that we are very proud of. It was launched at the conference by Her Honour, the Honourable Sally Thomas AM DStJ.

For his next project Frank intends to produce an interactive CD version of his St John history in the NT that will include updates and feedback from readers of the book. The cost of a good software program to do this is a little over \$600. He also intends entering the book in the NT History Awards next year and if it wins there is a prize of \$1000 which will cover the expenses.

We have members working on several projects at present which involves the gathering of information and the appropriate recording for future historical ventures. These projects include past 'Commissioners in the Northern Territory', 'Peter Falkland Award' winners and, following on from the women in St John book, we are collecting and documenting stories from more women in the NT to add to those included in the original book. We have no plans at present to write any more books but rather to store the information for future generations.

Also in the development stage is a Fellowship group for Members of the Order who are no longer able to be actively involved but would still like to be part of 'the family of St John'. We have had one meeting and future activities such as coffee meetings, outings and visiting are planned and will be dependent on the interest and capabilities of members involved.

We are very fortunate to have had several mantles donated to us which will be on permanent display in the Casuarina Centre. There are also new display cabinets and notice boards in the reception area at the Centre which will be used to display some of our amazing history in the NT.

Tennant Creek Division is due to celebrate their 50th birthday this year. A committee has been formed and plans are underway for suitable celebrations in the town involving local dignitaries and St John members. The main celebration dinner will be held on Thursday 11 July, 2013 to coincide with the Tennant Creek Show.

Darwin Division is also celebrating a birthday this year and similar plans are underway to celebrate their 60th anniversary. The Darwin Adult Division is the oldest division in the Northern Territory.

Recently Dr Allan Bromwich retired to Victoria to be nearer his family. He has been an active member of St John NT for nearly forty years and will be greatly missed.



The Tennant Creek St John Ambulance Centre's 50th anniversary, 2013. Was it really 50 years ago that this photograph was taken of the new Tennant Creek ambulance?



The Darwin St John Ambulance Division celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2013. This was the Division's ambulance, 1950s-60s. Can anyone identify the year and the Brigade bloke in tropical uniform?

The Priory and Australian Capital Territory

Ian Howie-Willis KStJ, historical adviser, Office of the Priory

This report encompasses both St John Ambulance Australia (ACT) and the Australian Office of St John, where the Priory Heritage Collection is located.

Although the formally constituted Australian Capital Territory St John History and Heritage Society is intended to be the ACT branch of the Historical Society, it remains quiescent. It could be readily reactivated, if and when necessary; however, in the meantime, issues relating to the history and heritage of St John ACT are dealt with by the local St John historian, Mr Richard Caesar-Thwaytes.

The Priory heritage collection, previously loosely called the 'Priory Library', is now formally titled the Chancellor's Priory Heritage Collection. It is the responsibility of the Priory Librarian, Professor John Pearn. It consists of the collections of library, pictorial, regalia and objets d'art materials. It continues to receive donations of materials; and, where necessary, particular desirable items are purchased with moneys made available via the small annual budget for that purpose by the Priory Secretary. In carrying out his responsibilities he is assisted by a Priory Bibliographer (Ms Pam Cunningham), a Priory Curator (Ms Jeanette Regan) and an Historical Adviser (Dr Ian Howie-Willis), who meet regularly to discuss and plan the further development of the collection.

During the past year there have been nine developments worthy of special comment.

1. Mr Richard Caesar-Thwaytes OStJ has recently completed his history of the St John Ambulance Brigade/First Aid Services Branch in the ACT, a task that has taken much of the past six years. This very thoroughly researched and entertainingly written history will eventually be published in a format that is currently the subject of negotiation.
2. One welcome outcome from Mr Caesar-Thwaytes's research has been the compilation of an ACT 'Roll of Honour' of all ACT personnel who have been members of the Order. The 'Roll of Honour' will join those of other States/Territories in providing the comprehensive list of Australian members of the Order, compiling which is a project superintended by the Historical Society President (Dr Allan Mawdsley).
3. Through an agreement between the Priory Secretary (Mr Peter LeCornu) and the Priory Librarian (Professor John Pearn), 'History and Heritage' has been recognised as 'Program 8', one of the principal programs administered through the Australian Office on behalf of the Priory. (The other programs include Community Care, First Aid Services, Ophthalmic and Training.)
4. In managing the Priory's History and Heritage program, the Librarian has the support of the Priory Bibliographer (Ms Pam Cunningham), the Priory Curator (Ms Jeanette Regan) and the Historical Adviser (Dr Ian Howie-Willis), who meet regularly to discuss and plan the further development of the program. When visiting Canberra, the Librarian meets with this team. As a result, a more consistent approach to the management of the collection than previously is now being followed.
5. Cataloguing of the library, pictorial and museum collections has proceeded apace, with Ms Cunningham and Ms Regan using the 'Collectorz' interactive on-line database for recording a comprehensive range of information about each item in the holdings. Advantages of 'Collectorz' includes its use of a photographic image of each item; and the entire database can be published on-line to enable St John members to access the catalogue readily and see what the collection contains. 'Collectorz' also facilitates the insurance of the collection, enabling the Australian Office to obtain appropriate insurance coverage for the collection.
6. With the co-operation of the Historical Society President (Dr Mawdsley), the Priory Secretary, the National Manager Publications (Ms Garielle Lhuede) and the Historical Society Editor (Dr Howie-Willis), the Historical Society's page in the Priory Annual Report has been retained as one of the features in that publication.
7. In expectation that the contract for the purchase of a permanent Priory headquarters building will be finalised soon, the heritage management team has begun the process of packing up the collection for its transfer from the Hotel Realm, where the Australian Office has been located for the past four and a half years. It is expected that the Australian Office will begin occupying the new building in July.
8. Several important acquisitions have been made, as follows: (a) Dr Douglas Sturkey KStJ, the former Director of Ceremonies, donated a mounted reproduction of a traditional Greek Orthodox icon of St John the Baptist; (b) with assistance from Ms Liz Coffey of Queensland, the original framed KStJ diploma of the 2nd Earl of Dudley (Australia's fourth Governor-General and the first of the Governors-General to have been a Knight of the Order) was obtained from England; and (c) on the advice of Dr Allan Mawdsley, the collection purchased a facsimile copy of the 1113 Papal Bull of Pope Paschal II, *Pie Postulatio Voluntatis*, which established the original Order of St John as a separate order in its own right.

9. Ms Justine Black MStJ, the Accounts Manager in the National office, took over the management of the Historical Society's membership system. After some initial delays with dispatching receipts for membership payments, the new system operated smoothly, for the first time in some years. From April 2013, however, the management of the system has passed to Mr Gary Harris OSTJ, the Historical Society's Treasurer. The reason for making this change is that membership management is a function which logically belongs with the Treasurer; and so we are grateful to Mr Harris for agreeing to take responsibility for processing membership applications and subscriptions. We also thank Ms Black for having been responsible for this important function for some 16 months.

The History and Heritage Committee, Queensland

Beth Dawson DStJ, Chair, History and Heritage Committee, St John Ambulance, Queensland

The History and Heritage Committee, Queensland Branch of The St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia has had a busy 2012; as well as some changes to the structure and membership of the Committee.

The Committee is pleased to report that the Rolls of Honour have been commenced with the Roll of Honour for Members of the Order of St John in this State being up-to-date. Preparation of the other Rolls of Honour is well advanced. The preparation of the Roll of Honour for St John Commendations has experienced some limitations due to the different process required for each level of Commendation.

Dr Murray Elliott AO, KStJ has retired from active St John service after almost sixty years, during which time he was: a Medical Officer and District Commissioner of the St John Ambulance Brigade, Chairman of State Council, member of the St John Ambulance Association Committee, Priory Librarian and a foundation member of the History and Heritage Committee established in 1989; and with his wife Gillian, generous donors to St John Ambulance Australia. His guidance and wisdom at meetings will be missed. Dr Fred Leditschke has accepted committee membership to fill the vacancy. Mr Timothy Wieland accepted the vacancy following the resignation of Mrs Margaret Hunt mentioned in last year's report.

The structure of the committee now includes an Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer; both positions were approved by the St John State Board. These new positions have been filled by Mr Robert De Vere and Mrs Vera Crook, respectively. The position of minute secretary continues to be undertaken by Ms Faye Gledhill, a staff member.

The Brian Dunstan Prize was established, following the donation of a book by Mrs Ruth Dunstan, Brian's widow. It was decided to award the Prize to the Queensland St John Cadet, the runner up in the Mark Compton Award. The 2012 awardee was Jayden See, of the Southport Cadet Division. The presentation was made at the St John Award/Presentation Day last October. This prize will continue for the next ten years.

The St John Centre Townsville discovered two trophies originally donated by two Presidents and supporters of The St John Ambulance Brigade Divisions in Townsville in the 1960s. The design on the silver plaque of both trophies includes palm trees of the tropics of North Queensland. The trophies have been donated to the archives.

Last October, the renovated Bundaberg St John Centre was officially opened. During inspection of the Centre, three silky oak (the wood of *Grevillea robusta*) Rolls of Honour were noticed, these had been discovered stored in a cupboard by Judith Allen, Executive Officer Community Services, who organised the cleaning and the placement. These Rolls of Honour provide details of St John Honours and Awards received by Bundaberg Adult and Cadet Members in earlier times. It is planned to update the Boards. Fortunately the Bundaberg Centre was not affected by the devastating floods in the Bundaberg district earlier this year.

An item of considerable significance purchased by the committee is a St John Certificate presented to William Ward the 1st Earl of Dudley when he was admitted to the Order of St John in 1874. The Certificate is to be hung in an appropriate area at St John House, Brisbane. An addition to the Library purchased late last year is Dr Ian Howie-Willis' book *A Medical Emergency, the biography of Sir Samuel Burston*, the first Chief Commissioner of the St John Ambulance Brigade in this country. During a recent working bee, prints of three Australian birds were found; how and why these were stored with St John documents remains a mystery. These pictures were painted by a convict at the New South Wales convict settlement in the late 18th century; the original paintings hang in the Mitchell Library, Sydney and our three prints have been framed and hang in a staff office at St John House, Brisbane. The prints are so lovely; storing them in an archive box would not do them justice.

Grants have been received from the Brisbane City Council and the Federal Government for the purchase of items to assist the committee with the day to day work of conserving and accessioning.

A request has been received from the National Library, Canberra for a copy of the book based on Mrs Dorothy Davidson's Voluntary Aid Detachment scrap book, a copy of which was presented to the Chancellor's Heritage Collection in 2012. The book will be available next month for the Library.

The Committee welcomed a special visitor, Dr Ian Howie-Willis OAM, KStJ former Priory Librarian, to the November meeting during which he presented a paper about the 2nd Earl of Dudley. This presentation was enjoyed by committee members, St John House staff and some members of The St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia.

This year the annual Heritage Festival's theme highlights the history of Community Involvement. To celebrate and support the festival the committee has organised displays at the Nundah and Arana Hills Libraries, St John Townsville Centre and an evening reception and display at St John House for invited guests.

St John Divisions, particularly youth activities have been assisted during the year. Provision of articles for the *One St John* newsletter has continued as well as acceptance for the archives of donations of St John memorabilia from St John also members of the public.

The achievements during the past year would not have been possible without the interest and support of the Chief Executive Officer, St John House staff and in particular the committee members, who give generously of their time, support and ideas. Thank you all.

St John Historical Society of South Australia

Brian Fotheringham KStJ, Chair, St John Historical Society of South Australia

At about the time members of the St John Ambulance Historical Society met last year in Sydney, St John in South Australia sold the former ambulance centre in Unley in which the South Australian St John Ambulance Museum was housed. The museum items were stored in a warehouse until new premises were obtained. We have now leased a cottage to serve as the museum at 72 Edmund Avenue, Unley. Those who know the Adelaide scene will know that is conveniently in the same street as the St John administrative offices.

Since September volunteers have been unpacking the hundreds of boxes of historical items. The museum was opened on 5 May 2013. The St John Board in South Australia has a vision for the future when a combined headquarters can be attained in which all the components of St John Ambulance, including the museum, can be accommodated. That will mean another move, but it may not be for some time yet and at least we have had some practice! We are encouraged by the fact that our ancestors in St John survived greater moves than ours—for example, from Rhodes to Malta.

In other news we are pleased to report that the Board has accepted our Forward Plan as designed by our part-time Museum Specialist, Yvonne Routledge. Part of the Plan is for our Museum to be registered with History SA.



The official opening on 5 May 2013 of the redeveloped Museum and Research Centre of the St John Historical Society of South Australia in Unley by the Priory Librarian, Professor John Pearn.

(Top left) Professor Pearn and Lyn Dansie (SA St John Historical Society Secretary, in period costume) stand beside one of the chief exhibits, an Ashford Litter, one of several imported into South Australia during the late nineteenth century. (Top right) The President of the St John Historical Society of South Australia, Dr Brian Fotheringham. Dr Fotheringham is proudly unveiling the Museum's copy of the Papal Bull of 15 February 1113, 'Pie Postulatio Voluntatis', which established the original Order of St John as a separate order of the Church.

Pleasingly, in the latest Annual Report of St John Ambulance in South Australia the Historical Society is shown directly reporting to Sharyn Mitten, our CEO. This recognition of our work is much appreciated.

The museum is developing a research centre with over 80 books relating to the history of St John. In addition there are all the South Australian St John Annual Reports and copies of all the papers (now numbering 101) published in *St John History*. Also on the research front, a biography of AS Lindsay, the first Commissioner in South Australia, is now well advanced and will be presented at the 2014 meeting of the national Historical Society in Perth.

Lyn Dansie and Yvonne Routledge successfully applied for a grant through the National Library for funds to sort, catalogue, digitise and store (in an acid-free environment) the estimated 8000–10,000 photographs in our collection. There were 181 applications and only 73 were successful, so we are very pleased with that result.

Special thanks go to our members who have worked so hard to make the move a success. Our executive team is Cliff Wright (Deputy Chair), Lyn Dansie (Secretary) and David Heard (Treasurer).

Any St John member visiting Adelaide from interstate can contact St John in South Australia (08 8306 6999) to arrange a viewing of our relocated museum. You will be most welcome!

St John Ambulance Historical Society of Victoria

Shirley Moon OStJ, Chair, St John Ambulance Historical Society of Victoria

The year has been one of great activity at the Museum, with a number of important gifts and achievements alongside the ongoing work of maintaining and improving the fabric of the building.

First, some comments about the building. Mr Daryl Hulls has undertaken replacement of the handrails for the front entrance ramp, painting, lawn-mowing and garden care, as well as the removal and dumping of unserviceable and unwanted old equipment, for which the Committee is most grateful. All electrical equipment at the Museum has been inspected and certified safe. A new alarm system has been installed after a series of false alarms. A large TV screen has been installed for showing our PowerPoint and DVD presentations and our thanks has been conveyed to the CEO for his support.

Second, some comments on important acquisitions. A historic First Aid Certificate was donated by Mrs Betty Stirton, Archivist of the NSW Centre. It was issued in 1886 by the newly established Victorian Centre of the St John Ambulance Association under the auspices of the English Language of the Order of St John of Jerusalem. As this was two years before the granting of the Royal Charter, the Maltese Cross of the certificate does not bear the Royal Beasts. The certificate was signed by the President of the Victorian Centre, Sir William Clarke Bt, and by the Surgeon Examiner, Dr Robert Robertson, the first person known to have taught first aid classes in Victoria, in 1880. The certificate is displayed in the glass cabinet on the shelf below our original 1878 first edition copy of Peter Shepherd's 'little black book'.

Mrs Ursula Jansen, mother of our last Deputy Commissioner Dr Nicholas Jansen, has sponsored the transfer of a 16mm movie film to DVD showing two historical St John events; the laying of the Foundation Stone and the opening of Caulfield Divisional Hall, and the Inspection of the Brigade by Lady Mountbatten in 1946. A most impressive attendance of senior Brigade members of the day can be identified in the film, which is a very important addition to our archives. (An interesting aspect of the film is that it contains the only known image of the inaugural St John Ambulance Brigade Chief Commissioner in Australia, Major General Sir Samuel Roy ('Ginger') Burston, wearing his St John uniform. All other pictures of him show him in his Army uniform.)

Mr Bruce Caslake has donated a large print of a painting depicting the Battle of Lepanto in 1571 AD which has been framed and placed at the NE corner of the Museum. This was the decisive sea battle, not long after the Great Siege of Malta, which ended the Ottoman threat to the Order of St John.

Two large roundels approximately 1m diameter showing the Arms of the Order and the Maltese Cross, which once adorned the St John Theatre at Heidelberg Military Hospital have been installed at the Museum. Several others remain at the hospital commemorating the theatre which was built (but since demolished) by a public appeal sponsored by St John during World War II.

A display on the history of triangular bandages includes several full-sized illustrated bandages from the early 1900s. The exhibit was inspired by a biography of Dr Friedrich August von Esmarch presented at the recent Priory Historical Society meeting by Dr David Fahey. His paper provided images of bandages of the 1850s together with images of von Esmarch and Dr Peter Shepherd (who brought the idea into the first 'little black book').

Third, some comments on administrative achievements. There has been an encouraging trend in sharing between Branches of St John Ambulance Historical Society. Beth Dawson of the Queensland Branch has supplied a number of early editions of Priory Annual Reports and our counterparts in Western Australia, Archivist Edith Khangure and Chairman Harry Oxer, have exchanged historical information and images. They have supplied a photo of Mr Arthur Hall KStJ and are researching information of Dr Ralph Cato CStJ whilst in return we have given a photo of the WA Cadet Team at the 1982 Priory meeting and biographical notes on Mr Hall. There has also been a discussion of the possibility of using the same computer software to facilitate a common catalogue of our various archival collections.

The CEO has received our submission on computerisation of archival paper-based member records and is investigating best ways of dealing with the project. As an interim step he referred the submission to the Public Relations department which has submitted an application to the Public Records Office for a local Community History Grant for funding computerisation of Footscray Divisional records in preparation for its centenary in 2014.

The first few editions of the St John Ambulance Historical Society (Victorian Branch) Bulletin have been mailed out to members with minutes of quarterly meetings. Copies were also sent to a number of non-members and associated organisations who may be interested in some of the noteworthy items about our work.

Since the AGM of SJAHS there has been an exploration of some issues related to the possible erection of a more fitting memorial for Dr James Edward Neild, founder of St John in Australia. Discussions are continuing about the style of a memorial and mechanisms of funding.

Finally, a comment on our current historic year. The Grand Master of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Fra Matthew Festing, recently undertook a visit to several Australian states. Whilst in Melbourne there was a State Reception at Government House to which Frederick Davidson, Iain Nicolson and Allan Mawdsley were invited upon the instigation of Professor Richard Divall. The Grand Master indicated his strong wish for strengthening collaboration between the Order of Malta and the Most Venerable Order, and was reassured by Sir James Gobbo that discussions are under way for shared celebrations in 2013 for the 900th anniversary of the founding of the Order of St John.

I thank everyone who has helped to make this a most remarkable year.

The Ian Kaye-Eddie Heritage Centre, Western Australia

Edith Khangure CStJ, Librarian and Archivist, the Ian Kaye-Eddie Heritage Centre, St John Ambulance Australia (WA) Inc.

In Western Australia the Ian Kaye-Eddie Heritage Centre functions as the State branch of the Historical Society, an arrangement that suits our local needs.

General status

The general status of the Centre is good and summaries of work in the St John Museum and Archives are given in this report. We continue with our membership of Museums Australia.

Information Resource Centre

The Heritage Centre continues as a reference centre for the Museum and Archives. It was used as one venue for the New Horizon's workshops in November. In January the Centre's six computers were relocated to the College of Pre-Hospital Care and the space will be used for housing Commandery regalia and robes later this year.

Archives

Our on-going commitment to digitising SJAA committee minutes is being maintained. This year we have completed digital copying of the photographs, which were previously housed in the Council room in Wellington Street.

Donations to the Museum

Donations this year include trophies, certificates, special presentation items, souvenirs, photographs, books (including some additional first aid books from Terry Walton, the representative of the Historical Society in the UK), ambulance equipment, uniform items, sub-centre records and documents. The donations came from members of the public, SJA personnel, Marketing, Event Health Services and our own supply department.

Donations from the Museum

We intend to donate some photographs to the Battye Library, which is the history and heritage part of the State Library of WA. A list will be sent to the library later this year. A number of old photograph frames were

donated to St John staff. A duplicates list of books and reports is to be sent to other St John collections in Australia to assist with their libraries.

Acquisitions by purchase

A pamphlet explaining the Order of St John and its ceremonial function in WA; and professional photographs, binding and digital copies of reports.

Loans

Photographs and books were loaned for material for the 'Bulletin', the in-house St John magazine.

Reference queries and research work

Assistance was given to HR for their planned staff induction DVD. Requests for information on sub-centre and EHS history and SJA members have been met this year. Two EFAS members from Mundaring are continuing with the Sub-Centre's history and we are assisting with this project, which includes providing access to photocopying, digitising minutes of meetings, and professional advice. A roll of all members of the Order in WA is being compiled and some 50 years have been completed. Research for our 120th anniversary of teaching first aid in WA continued in the first part of the year. We assisted the Marketing department with information and illustrations for a major promotion of this milestone.

Cataloguing

The backlog with cataloguing continues but our major area of activity is currently with archival work.

Digitisation and binding

The SJAA Council Reports for 2012 have been sent for copying in a digital format for archival purposes. The hard copy has been sent for binding and, on its return, will be housed in our fire proof, secure room in Central Records. Some volumes of annual reports were bound and these are housed in the Museum with open access to all visitors.

Museum promotion

Material from the Museum was provided for the annual sub-centre conference in August 2012. Our display included banners, first aid kits and boxes and first aid books from 1892–2012. In addition, tours of the Heritage Centre were organised during the conference. The Heritage Centre is part of the tour for all new employees and we encourage school and community groups to visit. The Commandery Annual Report included items on ceremonial and heritage issues.

Museum volunteers

Our regular volunteers: Irene Simpson, John Ree, Barbara Franklin, Des Franklin, Frank Di Scerni, George Ferguson, Kevin Young and Betty Dyke, are all working on material in the archives and on special projects at home. Assistance with select reference queries is also received from Terry Walton in London. Our thanks go to these volunteers without whose help we would not be able to achieve so much.

Finance and security

We are grateful to the organisation for providing our security system, insurance and funding.

Visitors

The Centre has been delighted to receive visitors from the general public, some schools and community groups, country and metropolitan SJAA staff and volunteers. The self-guided tour brochure was revised this year as we changed a number of displays.

Publications

A feature on 120 years of teaching first aid was included in the Commandery Annual Report 2011–12.

The St John Historical Society of Australia

The 2013 seminar will be in Darwin in May.

Projects 2012–2013

Restoration work as funding permits, meeting reference requests, digital copying and sorting archival documents are planned. Material for the next sub-centre conference will be provided on request. Work will continue on the WA honour roll.

Summary

We have had another busy year in the Archives and all areas of our work.



'Preserving and promoting the St John heritage'

The front cover of *St John History* Volume 14 shows the members of the Order of St John who took part in the Capitular Procession of the Priory in Australia at their annual service of rededication in Christ Church Anglican Cathedral in Darwin on Sunday 2 June 2013.

The members of the Order are pictured outside the porch of the cathedral, which is all that remains of the original structure built and consecrated in 1902. Constructed from the local red limestone, the original cathedral was damaged during a Japanese air raid in February 1942. After that the Australian military forces used the building until the end of the war. Cyclone Tracy destroyed everything but the porch of the repaired cathedral in December 1974.

The new cathedral, built around and behind the porch, was consecrated in the presence of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Donald Coggan, on 13 March 1977. Several weeks later, Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh visited the Cathedral during that year's Royal Visit celebrating the 25th anniversary of her reign.

The cathedral porch today reminds Darwin residents and tourists of the vicissitudes of settlement in Australia's 'Top End' over the past century. It is also an emblem of the enduring faith of the Christian community of the Northern Territory.

Because of its setting, the front cover picture resonates with the leading article in this edition. The article, by Frank Dunstan MStJ, the Northern Territory St John historian, deals with the colourful history of St John Ambulance Australia in the Territory as recorded in his book *Awkward Hours, Awkward Jobs* (St John NT, 2013). The book was launched at Government House, Darwin, on Friday 31 May 2013.