Celebrating 50 years of OSJ in Australia

1969: A Commandery was established in Australia, led by Major Roland Podesta, with Investitures being held in Malta until Priory status was attained in 1974.

2019: The Grand Priory of Australasia, with three Priories and four Commanderies, holds yearly investitures.
The New Year 2019 is already well underway and we anticipate a very full year for the Order of Saint John in Australia.

There will be the expected round of fund-raising functions and Investitures enhanced, no doubt, by 2019 being the 50th year of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller in Australia. As well we look forward to a visit by the Grand Master and the Grand Commander of the Sovereign Order of St John, with headquarters in Vancouver and spread right across the Northern Hemisphere, and with whom we have our Memorandum of Understanding. Profiles of these two visitors were published in the November 2018 issue of the Bulletin. They and their wives will attend the Queensland Priory Investiture in July, and there will be meetings and social functions leading to a closer relationship of both parties.

This prompts me to mention the Investitures, which this year will be held in Brisbane, Perth, and Melbourne. Nominations for new Investees are being called for. I urge you to submit candidates, and to do so with care. The Order of Saint John is primarily a Christian Order from which flows our charitable activity.

There have been suggestions, internationally, to emphasise the charitable aspect of the Order and reduce the significance of the Christian content; in other words, put “Pro Utilitate Hominum” first and follow up, or even exclude, “Pro Fide”.

In his allocution delivered to the Annual Church Parade in 2016, Chevalier MAJGEN Stephen Golding AM RFD KCSJ stated: “We recognise men and women of professional achievement combining commitment to charity and Christian mission” … “our guiding principles are founded on long tried and tested practices. They are as strongly relevant today as they were at our earliest time.”

So I urge you, not just as an Editor, but as a Prior concerned with the ongoing health of the Order, that you should make nominations, and in doing so, continue to put Christian “Pro Fide” first in your consideration of the suitability of candidates.

‘The Bulletin’ is the official magazine of the Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, Grand Priory of Australasia: ACN 147 338 501

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Not signed up to the Members’ Domain yet?
The sign-up page comes up at the beginning of the Members’ Domain:

Enter your email address as given in the Roll of Honour and create a password which you will use from then on to log in.

When you log in, your email address is your bona fide membership accreditation. Only you can enter the Members’ Domain with your unique password.

If you are unsure of the process, or have any problems accessing the Members’ Domain, refer to Dame Dawn Goodall or Chevalier Charles Clark for advice (contact details in Roll of Honour).

The Order of Saint John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller

THE GRAND PRIORY OF AUSTRALASIA

The modern Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller, is a Christian, chivalric, ecumenical, and international community directly descended from the Hospitaller activities at the Hospice founded before the turn of the 12th century by Amalfi merchants, for pilgrims in Jerusalem.

Jerusalem 1048-1291; Cyprus 1292-1310; Rhodes 1311-1523; Malta 1530-1798; Australia 1969. Australia: osj.org.au Sovereign Order: sosjinternational.org

Members of Le Petit Conseil, Sovereign Order of Saint John

H E CONVENTUAL BAILIFF GRAND HOSPITALLER MAY STORRIE, CBE, GCSJ, MMSJ

MAY STORRIE was invested into the Sovereign Order in 2004. Since 2006 she has been involved in many aspects of the Order including being very much involved in organising the 2006 Sovereign Council meeting and events held in Scotland and subsequent Investitures in Glasgow. She has also been involved in fundraising for the Order in the UK Commanderies and Europe.

May actively supported her late husband, Grand Prior of Europe Donald Storrie. She has attended all Sovereign Council meetings since 2010. In 2014 May Storrie was appointed a Bailiff and subsequently was appointed the Lieutenant to the Grand Commander for Europe. May Storrie sits on a number of Boards, and/or is a Trustee in Glasgow including the Merchants House in Glasgow, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the RSNO and Neurosciences Foundation and Marie Curie Hospice.

In 2014 Bailiff May Storrie was appointed CBE (Commander of the British Empire) by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth for services to business and philanthropy.

In 2015 Chevalier Earthy was elected Prior of Canada and in 2016 was appointed a Bailiff and Lieutenant to the Grand Marshal. In 2018 he was elected Grand Prior of the newly-formed Grand Priory of Canada. Also, in 2018 he was awarded the Medal of Merit for his services to the Sovereign Order.

Bailiff Earthy and his wife, Anne, have attended all Sovereign Council meetings since 2010.

In his career Richard Earthy has worked in sales and marketing management positions with major companies including IBM. As a volunteer, Richard has been involved in Scouting, Little League Baseball, Junior Achievement and the United Way. He was awarded the Queen’s Jubilee Medal for his voluntary contributions and Scouts Canada’s Silver Acorn and Bar for especially distinguished services to Scouting.”

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Singing wisely: A celebration of 2018 and Christmas

The Darling Downs Priory held its quarterly meeting on 22nd November followed by their Christmas Dinner. Organised by Chevalier Ron Ladner and Mrs Jane Ladner, the Dinner was fun-filled and enjoyable. After pre-dinner drinks and hors-d’oeuvres, over 60 Knights, Dames, and guests enjoyed a delicious two-course meal. Grand Prior Victor Feros, Queensland Prior Charles Clark and Mrs Frances Clark, and Prior Jeff Prebble welcomed all Members and guests.

Dinner was fun-filled and enjoyable. Entertainment included several mimed songs by “The Three Wise Men” (Chevaliers Richard Brown, Ron Ladner, and Rob Rimmer). This concluded with the arrival of Santa (Chevalier Rod Maclean) who distributed sweets and biscuits. Knights and Dames donated to the Almoner Fund from which $2,500 was distributed in Woolworth’s vouchers to 12 needy families identified by Chevalier Rev Fr Kerry Costigan and Chevalier the Reverend Rob Gallow Pyrion Almoner, Dame Sally Bligh, arranged a hamper of gifts to be given to the Toowoomba Hospice to enable patients to give their family and loved ones a gift on Christmas Day.

Chevalier Keith Matheson made a tribute speech to the longest current serving member, Chevalier Rod Stirling AM KCSJ. Rod turned 90 in December. He became a member in 1986, so has completed 32 years active service, including that of Priory Almoner from 2011 to his retirement this year.

Thus a wonderful evening was complemented by service to deserving people of the Toowoomba community, upholding the ethos of our Order.

Priory of the Darling Downs
Calendar of Events

14 February
5.30 pm: Meeting at Downs Club followed by dinner at 6.30pm

3 March
12 midday: Lunch on the Mountain Top – Preston Peak Winery

9 May
5.30 pm: Meeting at Downs Club followed by dinner at 6.30pm

8 August
5.30 pm: Meeting at Downs Club followed by dinner at 6.30pm

26 October
6.00 pm: Gala Dinner on the stage of the Empire Theatre

21 November
5.30 pm: Meeting at Downs Club followed by the Christmas Dinner at 6.30pm

Fr Brian Sparksman: man on a mission

The title Chaplain Emeritus of the Priory of The Darling Downs has been bestowed on former Darling Downs Priory Conventual Chaplain, the Very Reverend Dr Brian Sparksman KCSJ, following his move to St Vincent’s Aged Care (Lourdes) during last year.

Chevalier the Reverend Father Kerry Costigan KSJ has been appointed Conventual Chaplain of the Priory of the Darling Downs.

A former Chancellor, Archivist and Vicar for Ecumenism, of the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba, Father Sparksman has been a Member of the Order of St John of Jerusalem since 1993 serving as Darling Downs Conventual Chaplain until 2018.

Ordained to the Catholic Priesthood in 1970, Fr Brian, or “Sparky” as he is affectionately known, has been an ardent supporter and tireless worker for ecumenism, both in Australia and overseas. His 1981 Doctorate in Canon Law from the Catholic University of America was a high point in a lifetime devoted to his Church and the congregations he served on the Darling Downs, the US, and UK.

A tireless campaigner for polio prevention, Fr Brian Sparksman has been a man on a mission for most of his life. Having contracted the disease during his teenage years, Brian battled long and hard to overcome the debilitating aftermath, his encumbrings gait clear evidence of a man who knows what he is talking about.

In the autobiographical “Ballinclay Lane” Patterns of Polio, Fr Brian acknowledges that no life is free from regrets, but does wonder what his life might have been like without polio.

His message is powerful: “Sadly, many parents (of today) see the need to have all children immunised, for protection against polio, as irrelevant. My intention is to reiterate my belief that I have a role to say that it is necessary to protect all children against the disease that so altered my life.”
Soft toys to help hard cases
Continuing a Sunshine Coast Christmas party tradition

The Sunshine Coast Commandery brought a busy and successful year to a happy conclusion with an evening function at the home of Dame Jan Leake Jones on Saturday 8th December, an enjoyable occasion with drinks both to celebrate the activities of the year coming to an end and to launch into the busy time of Christmas celebration.

The event was permeated with the happy social atmosphere which is characteristic of this close-knit community of Knights and Dames of St John. In a continuing tradition of this function, soft toys were collected to be given as comforters, then as gifts, to children who are called upon to testify in court.

As in past years the Commandery participated in the Festival of Christmas Trees at St Mark’s Anglican Church, Buderim, providing a tree which featured large white Maltese crosses.

The Commandery is launching energetically into its program for 2019. A business meeting on Monday 4th February will be followed by the first social gathering for the year at the Mountain Creek home of Dame Sue and Mike Milwright. These regular social occasions provide an effective means of building relationships and creating a cohesive environment which is a strong foundation for the other activities of the Commandery.

Preliminary planning has already taken place to determine the charities to be supported in 2019, and additional projects are under consideration, with committees discussing both where assistance might be directed and what functions could provide fund-raising opportunities.

The first fundraiser for the year will be a cocktail party on the Village Green at Buderim on Saturday 6th April. The funds raised will be directed to the support of the Sunshine Coast Kidney Foundation to assist both children and adults requiring transport to and from dialysis treatment.

The Sunshine Coast Commandery extends a very warm welcome to Knights and Dames from other Commanderies to the True Blue Cocktail Party which promises to be a splendid evening. Queries about the function can be directed to Dame Jenny Cant DSJ, jenny@jcant.com or 0412 282 823. More details on page 8.
Australia Day Honours

Two Members of the Order of Saint John were honoured on Australia Day to the Order of Australia.

Dame Mary Wagner AM DSJ was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to the community of Toowoomba. Dame Mary was invested into the Order of Saint John in 2014.

Her community work has received recognition with many awards including an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Southern Queensland, and Zonta Woman of the Year.

Chevalier Dr Ian Airey OAM KCSJ was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the community through the Wesley Mission Queensland.

Chevalier Ian, a long standing Member of the Order of Saint John, founded and directed the Art From The Margins which assists less privileged and disadvantaged people through an appreciation and participation in art.

Through him, the Brisbane Commandery supported AFTM as one of its charities.

ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM
Knights Hospitaller
SUNSHINE COAST COMMANDERY

The Commandery of the Sunshine Coast invite you to assist us in supporting

Our annual Cocktail Party
In aid of the Kidney Dialysis Patient needs on the Sunshine Coast to transport adults and children to hospital for life saving treatment

A gathering will be held on the Village Green in front of Craft Cottage, Main Street Buderim (if wet over at St Mark’s Hall)

On: Saturday 6th April 2019
At: 5pm - 7pm
Dress: After 5
Theme: Blue
Cost: $50.00 each

Raffles

If you are unable to attend your donations would be gratefully received to BSB 484-799 a/c 04389737 or cheque made to The Order of St John @ PO Box 494 Buderim 4556

RSVP: 16.03.19

BAILIFF MARTIN CONLON GCSJ

Two charities benefit from excellent organisation at Victorian Lunch

The annual Christmas lunch was again held in the beautiful setting of Ascot House on Sunday, 9th December, 2018. Prior HE Bailiff Martin Conlon GCSJ welcomed 40 members and guests, and announced that he had been appointed Deputy Grand Prior of the Grand Priory of Australasia to replace HE Bailiff Sir William Allen GCSJ MMSJ who has retired from that position. He passed on Christmas Greetings from the Grand Prior, HE Bailiff Victor Ferros OAM GCSJ CMSJ MMSJ, who was unable to attend this year due to other commitments.

Apologies were also received from Chevalier the Right Reverend John Parkes OAM GCHSJ, Bishop of Wangaratta, as well as other Members of the Order.

In attendance were the immediate Past Prior, Chevalier Graham Michalanney KCSJ, and his wife, Dame Susan Michalanney DSJ, Serving Sister Gina Bailey SSSJ, widow of the late HE Bailiff Anthony Bailey OAM GCSJ CMSJ, and Chevalier Reverend John Baldock KSJ, Parish Priest of St. John’s Anglican Church, Camberwell. This will be the venue for our Investiture and dinner to be held on Friday 28th June 2019.

Many generous donations were made by members and guests for the Silent Auction and Raffle, raising in excess of $2000.00 which will go towards our various Charities. The excellent organisation of this Silent Auction and Raffle was in the capable hands of Dame Val Sumner DSJ, Serving Sister Margaret Scott SSSJ, and Donat Gail Smith. In charge of selling the raffle tickets and collecting the proceeds was Chevalier Graham Scott KSJ. So good a job did he do that it was announced that all tickets were sold.

In conclusion the Prior thanked our Intendant Dame Val for keeping everything running smoothly on the day, and his whole Priory Council for their contributions and support during the year.

The Prior also announced that with proceeds received on the day, and funds accumulated during the year, donations of $3000.00 each were to be given to The Mirabel Foundation and Berry Street, both organisations being involved in caring for and supporting disadvantaged children.

ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM
Knights Hospitaller
SUNSHINE COAST COMMANDERY

AT THE LUNCH, BELOW:
One of many beautifully appointed tables.

AT RIGHT, TOP: Dame Camilla Van Megen, Dame Anette Holland, and guest Mr Bryan Stertern-Gill.
AT RIGHT, BOTTOM: Prior HE Bailiff Martin Conlon GCSJ, Chevalier Reverend John Baldock KSJ, Dame Val Sumner DSJ, and Serving Sister Gina Bailey SSSJ.

Left: Member of the Order of Australia: AM Rights: Medal of the Order of Australia: OAM AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

Left: Member of the Order of Australia: AM Rights: Medal of the Order of Australia: OAM
Honours and Advancement for Legal Fraternity Members in OSJ

Chevalier Dr Ian Hanger AM QC KCSJ
Chevalier Dr Ian Hanger AM QC KCSJ was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Griffith University for services to the University and particularly the Queensland Conservatorium.

Called to the Bar in 1968 and taking silk in 1984, he has a distinguished career in law, prominent as a Chairman, Senior Counsel and Royal Commissioner in major Commissions of Inquiry.

Throughout his legal occupation he has also maintained very active roles in the development of music education through the Queensland Conservatorium, nurturing its amalgamation with Griffith University and its relocation to its present home at South Bank.

Chevalier Ian was invested into the Order in 2012 and is a Knight Commander of Grace.

For some years we have enjoyed the remarkable talents of young Conservatorium students whom he has arranged to entertain us at charity dinners, all made possible because of his more than 20 years Directorship of the Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition and continuing association with the Conservatorium.

Chevalier Justice Thomas Bradley QC KCSJ has been appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court in Brisbane, beginning on 3rd December 2018. He has practised as a barrister since 1995, specialising in commercial, medico-legal, and personal injuries work. He graduated from the University of Queensland as Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws with Honours. He also has the degree of Master of Law from the University of Cambridge with First Class Honours, together with the Lady Foundress’s Prize for Law from Pembroke College. In 1999 he was named Queensland Youth Lawyer of the Year.

Chevalier Damien is a member of Chain Reaction, a Foundation in which senior executives take part in long charity bicycle rides, up to seven days and 1,000 kilometres, for sick children. An article, authored by him on his ride from Sydney to Brisbane, appeared in the November 2017 Bulletin. He is a Knight of Honour, invested in June, 2016.

Chevalier Damien Atkinson QC KCSJ
Chevalier Damien Atkinson QC KCSJ was appointed Queen's Counsel in December 2018. He has practised as a barrister since 1995, specialising in commercial, medico-legal, and personal injuries work. He graduated from the University of Queensland as Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws with Honours. He also has the degree of Master of Law from the University of Cambridge with First Class Honours, together with the Lady Foundress’s Prize for Law from Pembroke College. In 1999 he was named Queensland Youth Lawyer of the Year.

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Prior of Queensland formally inducted

On Thursday, 6th December 2018, after the Priory Administrative Council meeting and before the Brisbane Commandery Christmas Lunch in the Queensland Club, a short ceremony was performed to formally induct Chevalier Charles Clark GCSJ MMSJ into the Office of Prior of Queensland.

The ceremony was witnessed by the assembled Knights, Dames, and visitors for the Lunch which followed. Participating Knights and Dames wore full robes and regalia, the Grand Prior, HE Bailiff Victor Feros OAM, addressed the Meeting, and the Conventual Chaplain of the Priory of Queensland, Chevalier the Reverend Canon Emeritus Bruce Maughan OAM, gave a final blessing.

It was unfortunate that the former Prior, Chevalier Emeritus Professor George Kearney AM, was unable to attend, being confined to hospital at the time. We can now rejoice with him as he returns to full health.

Images:
1. Chevalier the Reverend Canon Emeritus Bruce Maughan OAM GCSJ MMSJ blessing the new Prior.
2. The Grand Prior installing the new Prior of Queensland in his Seat of Office, with attendants Dame Leanne O’Shea DCSJ and Chevalier Michael Halliday KCSJ.
3. At the Brisbane Commandery lunch.
4. Chevalier Damien Kretchmann OAM KCSJ, Mrs Carolyn Kretchmann, Chevalier John Barton KCSJ.
5. Mr Keith Jarvis, Mrs Liz Jarvis, our guest speaker, and the Prior, Chevalier Charles Clark GCSJ MMSJ.
Conventual Chaplain for Darling Downs Priory

The new Conventual Chaplain for the Priory of the Darling Downs is Chevalier the Reverend Fr Kerry Costigan KSJ, who has been a member of the Order since 2009.

He is a retired Priest of the Toowoomba Catholic Diocese, and celebrated 50 years of ministry as a Priest and Deacon in 2015 in a Jubilee Mass in Oakley. Fr Kerry’s grandmother was a full-blood Aborigine and he is recognised and accepted as an Aborigine of the Mununjali Tribe. Features of Aboriginal culture have been present always in his ministry.

He has spent much time in the Gulf area of Queensland, centring his travels on Normanton and covering large areas of Northern Queensland and the Northern Territory. In such excursions he has ministered to many small, somewhat isolated communities, who may have not seen a priest for a long time, conducting services, and helping families, especially with poor attendance of Aboriginal children in schools.

Two new Hospitallers appointed for Brisbane

Dame Gwendolen Jull AO DSJ and Dame Liz Fisher DSJ have taken on the role of Brisbane Commandery Hospitallers to maintain contact and assist where appropriate any Commandery members who are in ill health or who have other physical difficulties. To assist them in carrying out these duties, members are asked to notify Gwen and Liz of any member in these circumstances.

Dame Gwen is Emeritus Professor of Physiotherapy, University of Queensland, and Dame Liz is Corporate Partnerships Manager for the Queensland Ballet. Both were invested in June 2017.

Two new Hospitallers appointed for Brisbane

BBQ and cake at planning meeting

The New Year saw the first meeting of the Western Australian Chapter take on a ‘festive’ and sociable face with the meeting held, not in the comfortable, yet business-like surroundings of the Weld Club in the city, but at the home of Chevalier Ray Gianoli and his wife Lianne, in picturesque Guildford; and on a Saturday evening, 2nd February. Thus, with the business meeting given to a think-back over the previous year’s activities and planning for the outset of 2019, there followed a meal and much camaraderie among the 21 who attended. Indeed, discussion after the meeting proper also provided time for exciting possible plans to be shared.

The final two major fund-raisers for 2018 were highly successful, and have allowed us to begin 2019 with a good basic bank account for our charitable work. The OSJ Quiz night and the two performances of “A Colonial Christmas Carol”, have placed just on $11,000 dollars in that account. As Commander Jamie reported: “Such a sum already in hand will allow us to plan our giving, and to move towards the next batch of fund-raising activities with confidence”.

A further goal achieved at both activities, which came at the end of last year, was that the public cost to attend was held to a minimum and allowed our supporter-base to come from a wide section of the Perth community. Both activities were seen as affordable and entertaining. The theatre and music artists, who give of their services to the Commandery, all commented on that fact, and were very supportive in that aim.

Further, both the Quiz Night and the “Colonial Christmas Carol” had a full attendance.

The Commandery supports the Trinity Pantry in Fortitude Valley and Mrs Liz Jarvis, Co-ordinator of the Pantry, and her husband Keith, were welcomed as the Commandery’s guests. She and Mrs Carolyn Kretchmann, and Chevalier Robert Kretchmann OAM, former Prior of the Darling Downs, and Chevalier Dr Patricia Oakey, and Mrs Carolyn Kretchmann, and Chevalier Robert Kretchmann OAM, former Prior of the Darling Downs, were invested in June 2017.

Partnerships Manager for the Queensland Ballet. Both Dame Gwen is Emeritus Professor of Physiotherapy, University of Queensland, and Dame Liz is Corporate Partnerships Manager for the Queensland Ballet. Both were invested in June 2017.

DAME GWENDOLEN JULL AO DSJ
DAME LIZ FISHER DSJ

EMAIL
Dame Gwen: g.jull@uq.edu.au
Dame Liz: lizfisher00@hotmail.com

THE BULLETIN
FEBRUARY 2019

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Continued from page 11

The beautiful heritage-listed Queensland Club was again the setting for the End of Year Luncheon of the Brisbane Commandery, on Thursday 6th December 2018. Sixty Knights, Dames, and their visitors sat down at tastefully decorated tables to enjoy good food and happy fellowship.

In attendance were Grand Prior Victor Feros OAM and Dame Marion Feros, the Prior of the Darling Downs, Chevalier Associate Professor Jeffrey Prebble OAM, the former Prior of the Darling Downs, Chevalier Robert Kretchmann OAM and Mrs Carolyn Kretchmann, and the Prior of Queensland, Chevalier Charles Clark GCSJ MMS, and Mrs Frances Clark.

The Commandery supports the Trinity Pantry in Fortitude Valley and Mrs Liz Jarvis, Co-ordinator of the Pantry, and her husband Keith, were welcomed as the Commandery’s guests. She and Mrs Carolyn Kretchmann, and Chevalier Robert Kretchmann OAM, former Prior of the Darling Downs, and Chevalier Dr Patricia Oakey, and Mrs Carolyn Kretchmann, and Chevalier Robert Kretchmann OAM, former Prior of the Darling Downs, were invested in June 2017.

Partnerships Manager for the Queensland Ballet. Both

DAME GWENDOLEN JULL AO DSJ
DAME LIZ FISHER DSJ

EMAIL
Dame Gwen: g.jull@uq.edu.au
Dame Liz: lizfisher00@hotmail.com

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Partnerships Manager for the Queensland Ballet. Both

Educated at the Anglican Church Grammar School and University of Queensland, John graduated with 1st Class Honours and rose to become Medical Superintendent of the Royal Women’s Hospital, Brisbane, in 1963. He was also Director of the Royal Women’s Hospital Foundation, Director of Family Planning in Queensland, and Trustee of the Queensland Cancer Fund. His extensive hobby was book binding, contributing much to amateur organisations, and producing a wonderful collection of his own work on his bookshelves.

He was involved in a number of clubs and societies. He was President of the Queensland Club, 1981 to 1982, and also belonged to the Viking Lodge (Churchie Old Boys), Royal Queensland Golf Club, Royal Sydney Golf Club, QTC, Tatersalls, and Queensland Masonic Lodge.

As mentioned above, he and his wife, Dame Margaret, attended St Augustine’s Church, Hamilton. He was always proud of his connection with that school and with the church which he attended for the rest of his life, and in which his funeral took place on Monday, 7th January 2019.

Chevalier John was invested into the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem in 2000 and rose to the rank of Knight Commander of Justice in 2011. He was appointed Commander of Brisbane Commandery in 2006 and a Councillor of the Queensland Priory in 2009, and immersed himself in working for the Commandery and the Order as a whole.

Long-standing Members of Brisbane Commandery will remember a very successful wine auction which he organised and for which his house was filled with boxes and bottles of wine because we could not find another satisfactory collecting and storing place.

Throughout his time in the Order, he was a source of inspiration and of practical assistance wherever it was required. If there was a planning committee, he was almost certain to be a member of it, including the Queensland Priory Administrative Council, the Nominations Committee and the Investiture Planning Committee, and other occasional groups.

John will be sorely missed by his family and a multitude of friends and associates to whom he gave of his life and talents. Our sympathies go to his wife, Dame Margaret Campbell DSJ, and family.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Grand Priory Investitures 2019

Three Investiture ceremonies will take place in the Grand Priory of Australasia in 2019. In order of occurrence, they are for Western Australia, Queensland, and Victoria.

Ceremony dates
The Commandery of Western Australia: Sunday, 5th May, 6 pm in St George’s Cathedral, Perth.
Priory of Queensland: Friday, 7th July, 6 pm in St John’s Cathedral, Brisbane.
Priory of Victoria: 28th June, further advice later.

Complete details will be published in the May 2019 edition of the Bulletin.

As always, Investitures are the highlight of the year, when the Order welcomes new Members, honouring them for their place in, and for their contributions to, the community at large, and when established Members come together to welcome those newly-invested and to enjoy one another’s company.

This year the Grand Master and the Grand Commander of the Sovereign Order of St John, with their wives, will be present at the Priory of Queensland Investiture. As we in Australia are aligned with the Sovereign Order with the Memorandum of Understanding which will be finalised in 2020, their visit will be of great importance both administratively and socially.

For a resoundingly impressive Investiture Ceremony in our 50th year, nominations for new members are required as soon as possible.

Any Member of the Order can put forward a name for nomination using the Proposal Form. If you have not been a Member for three years, you cannot complete the Proposal Form, but a longer standing Member can do so on your behalf. In summary then, what needs to be done?

If you can think of a person who, by their participation and recognised leadership in the community or their area of professional or social endeavour, might qualify for membership of the Order, you should complete the Proposal Form and discuss it with your Prior or Commander, who in turn will then inform you that your nomination meets the Order’s criteria, and then your Commander will submit it to the Priory’s Nomination Committee.

Under no circumstances should the nominated person know of any of this.

If the Nomination Committee considers the nomination to be favourable, it will then advise the nominating person and two long standing Members of the Order as is necessary for the time, so informed formally, and upon payment of the necessary fees, the nominee becomes a full Member of the Order with full participation rights and obligations, and with the rank of Donat.

The new Donat is then encouraged to be invested as a Knight or Dame at the next conveniently available Investiture Ceremony to be conducted anywhere in the Grand Priory.

In this 50th year anniversary of our Order’s foundation in Australia, all Knights and Dames are strongly encouraged to participate in our Order’s continuing growth by nominating one or more persons for membership. Ask your Prior or Commander for a proposal form right now!
The origins of the Hospitaller and Templar Orders

I have been asked many times about the origins of the OSJ and the Order of the Temple.

Both have their origins in the beginning of the 2nd Millennium, and both were born out of the necessity to protect the many pilgrims, who since the late 1st Millennium, i.e. about 1090, started going to the Holy Land in order to pray and pay homage to the place where Our Lord was crucified and died.

These two Orders, which with the Order of St. Lazarus, are the three oldest Orders of Chivalry. The Hospitallers built and maintained hospitals along the trail from Europe to the Holy Land, to look after the many pilgrims who were either attacked by criminals, or had fallen ill through some disease or other, whereas the Templars were sent out to the Holy Land to look after, defend and protect the Temple in Jerusalem, known as the Temple of Solomon.

Indeed all three Orders were already in existence during both the People's Crusade of 1096 and the First Crusade between 1097-99, and it is probable that these monks actually took part in the fighting of these crusades.

The Order of St. John was recognised in 1113 by Pope Paschal ii, whereas that of the Temple was recognised in 1129 by the church at the Council of Troyes. After that date, they became very famous in the whole of Europe, and as a result also became very wealthy, and could command a huge following resulting from their patronage by Bernard de Clairvaux.

Initially, they were heavily criticised for carrying arms, as the concept of religious men bearing arms was not accepted at this time but it was as a result of this that Bernard wrote a thesis entitled De Laude Novae Militiae (In praise of the New Knighthood), which made acceptable the concept of religious men bearing arms, and which must also have effected the monks of the Hospitallers.

The motto of the Templars was NON NOBIS, DOMINE, NON NOBIS, SED NOMINI TUO IN GLORIAM (not us Lord, not us, but your name in Glory), whereas the motto of the Hospitallers was “PRO FIDE, PRO UTILITATE HOMINUM” (for faith, for service to humanity).

The Templars were first recognised by Pope Honorius ii (1124-30) who gave them the white cloak, and later Pope Eugenius iii (1145-53) added the Red Cross to their white Flag. Resulting from this thesis, many donations began to pass to the Templars, and their name grew in fame and wealth and by 1300 the Order had 15000 members and its property included some 9000 castles and manors. It followed therefore that their next development was that of becoming bankers, and of the more famous and influential people who owed money to the Templars was Phillipe Le Bel, King of France.

This caused the growth of jealousy and resentment, and eventually Phillippe convinced the Pope, Clement V (1305-14) to take action against them and have them banned.

In this short space it is impossible to give many details of these two Orders, but it is necessary to mention here that the Templars were active until 1307, when on Friday 13th October, (the first Friday 13th) all the Knights were arrested in France. The persecution continued until 1312, when on May 1312, Pope Clement V, expropriated all the wealth of the Templar Order and by Bull Ad Providum, had it transferred to the Hospitaller Order.

The Grand Master of the Templars, Jacques de Molay was burnt at the stake. The Knights of the Temple were valiant fighters, and their code was that they should never retreat.

The two Orders were virtual competitors and rivals, and were often involved in fights against each other. Their colours were the exact opposite, with the Hospitaller Cloaks being red with a white Cross, and the Templars’ Cloaks were white with a red Cross, (as mentioned earlier) and which coincidently is still to be seen as the Flag of England (flag of St. George), flying mainly on the masts of Anglican Churches.

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