

The BULLETIN

The Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller

THE GRAND PRIORY OF AUSTRALASIA

Under the Royal Charter of HM King Peter II of Yugoslavia

**THE PRIORY OF
QUEENSLAND AND
COMMANDERIES:
BRISBANE, GOLD COAST**

**THE PRIORY OF THE
SUNSHINE COAST**

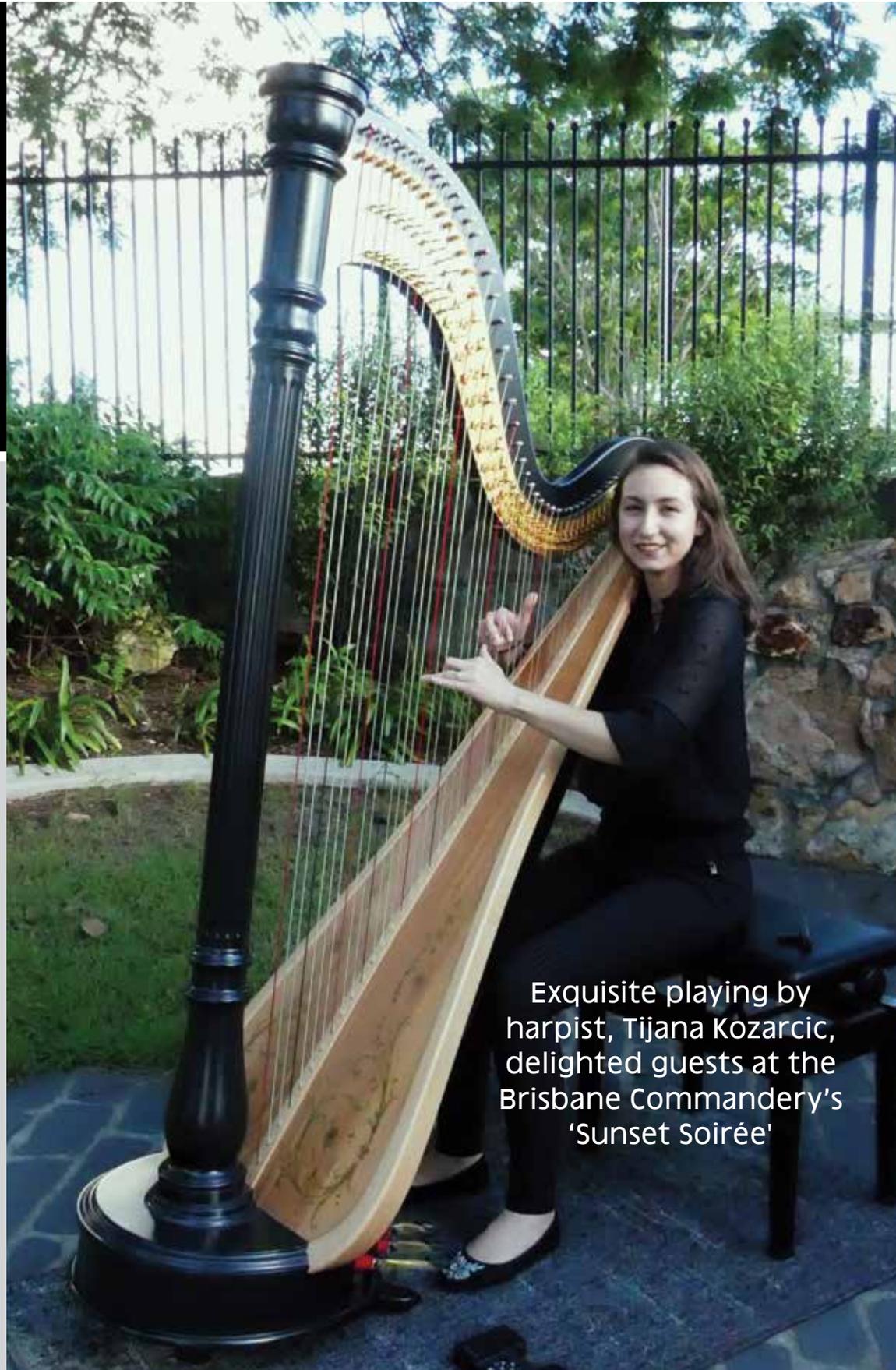
**THE PRIORY OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**THE PRIORY OF THE
DARLING DOWNS**

**THE PRIORY OF
VICTORIA**

MAY 2021

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Exquisite playing by harpist, Tijana Kozarcic, delighted guests at the Brisbane Commandery's 'Sunset Soirée'



CHEVALIER CHARLES CLARK GCSJ MMSJ

From the Editor's desk

Chivalry, Heraldry, Charity and Christianity are major components of our Membership of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, as Knights, Dames, Serving Brothers and Sisters. While Chivalry and Heraldry come to the fore at times of ceremony, though always influencing us from the background, Charity and Christianity are shining lights for our behavior.

And so to Charity: Charity takes on two quite distinct forms in our Order, the one in which we organise functions of a very agreeable nature, such as black tie dinners with entertainment from talented artists, soireés, and visits to art galleries. In this way we raise considerable funds and donate them to charitable organizations of our choice.

The other form is one in which

we actually work with a charity and get our hands dirty.

The first form suits all or most of us; we are effective in raising funds and putting them where most benefit can be derived from them. We also have an enjoyable social time with many friends, there is no hardship in that. This is our main charitable occupation and by this the Order of Saint John is recognised as a charity by both the community and the Government.

We do not do much of the second form, "at the coal face". Our younger members are in the work force and do not have the time. Older members, in many cases, do not have the energy of physical capacity. This kind of charitable work falls to those in between these conditions.

But the demand is there.



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 11th century by Amalfi merchants, for pilgrims in Jerusalem.

Jerusalem 1048-1291; Cyprus 1292-1310;
Rhodes 1311-1523; Malta 1530-1798;
Australia 1969.

Australasia: osj.org.au

Sovereign Order: sojinternational.org

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In Western Australia, the Priory Members get out into the street alongside other charities who deal directly with the homeless. They put a photo in an earlier Bulletin of a wrinkled old man with the caption: "This face is a person, not a number". Here in Brisbane we now have fourteen volunteers working in the Fortitude Valley Pantry directly relating to the down-and-outs of the city streets and low rental housing. It can be rough. There will be other examples from other Priors.

So, my question is: Do we want to stay in the background behind the charities we support, in which case we will not be known to the community, or do we cultivate a practice of "being out there"?

Or both? ✕

Investitures 2021

PRIORIES OF QUEENSLAND AND SUNSHINE COAST:

Queensland: Priory Vigil and New Members' Night, St John's Cathedral. Wednesday 26th May, 6:00 pm,

Sunshine Coast: Priory Vigil and New Members' Night, Matthew Flinders College, Monday 24th May.

Combined Investiture in Albert Street Uniting Church, Brisbane, Friday 11th June, 6:00 pm, Banquet follows in the Pullman Hotel at 7:45 pm.

PRIORY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA:

Investiture in St George's Cathedral at the Service of Evensong, Sunday 12th September, 5:00 pm. Banquet follows in the Weld Club, 6:30 for 7:00 pm.

PRIORY OF THE DARLING DOWNS:

Vigil and New Members' Night at the Downs Club, Thursday 9th September, 6:00 pm.

Investiture in St Luke's Anglican Church, Saturday 16th October 2021 at 6:00 pm. Banquet follows in the Allan Cunningham Room of Burke & Wills Hotel 554 Ruthven Street. ✕

GRAND PRIOR VICTOR FEROS OAM GCSJ CMSJ

Vale

His Excellency Sir William Allen GCSJ CMSJ

His Excellency Sir William Allen GCSJ CMSJ passed away on 21st April 2021.

Sir William's funeral service was held in St Stephens Cathedral, Elizabeth Street, Brisbane, commencing at 2:00 pm on Thursday, 29 April. All Knights and Dames were invited to attend, robed and with insignia – particularly members of the Queensland, Sunshine Coast and Darling Downs Priors. They formed a Guard of Honour at the conclusion of the service. The Grand Prior, HE Bailiff Adjunct Professor Victor Feros OAM GCSJ CMSJ, delivered the eulogy on behalf of the Order :

His Excellency Sir William Allen GCSJ CMSJ, Bailiff, Grand Priory of Australasia, the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller – a most ancient Order of Chivalry and of Charity, founded in 1048 in Jerusalem to provide sustenance to Pilgrims on their long journey of faith, and for centuries devoted to service to our lords the sick and our lords the poor – the longest serving such Order, now an ecumenical Order – served the Order most dutifully and with distinction.

I had the honour, together with others, of being invested into the Order with Sir William, "Bill", in 1989 at St. Andrews, Indooroopilly.

Promoted by the then Grand Master, in December 2000, to the senior-most rank of Knight Grand Cross of Justice and appointed Bailiff, Sir William was only the second Queensland in more than twenty years to a Bailiwick, one of only 20 Bailiffs, internationally. He was subsequently feted at

his beloved Brisbane Club at a celebration of these achievements in March the following year.

At Sir William's attendance at Sovereign Council – the Order's supreme governing authority – in Ypres, Belgium, in August 2001, he was elected Conventual Bailiff, Grand Hospitaller, the 3rd ranked Knight in the Order, world-wide.

Sir William regularly attended Grand Priory Council Meetings in Melbourne with me, his forthright advice on governance of the Order always to the fore. He was awarded the Medal of Merit, Saint John in 2009 for meritorious service to the Order.

At a personal level, Bill mentored me with great purpose, his business and organisational skills unsurpassed, with warmth and empathy – I say this with much humility – to know Bill, as most if not all of you would know, he did not suffer fools gladly.

Permit me a few personal insights:

Bill was always splendidly sartorially attired. We changed the Order's tie from polyester to silk, and a new design, at his insistence; Bill's handwriting was copybook perfect;

Bill was so punctual – fearsomely so at times. I say this kindly;

Marion, my wife and I will always remember a visit with Bill to Bruges, after Sovereign Council in Ypres, accompanied by a senior Belgian Knight. Bill was a man on a mission. He strode across canal bridges, down tortuous lanes, at such a pace which threatened our very wellbeing, no doubt as if he



were inspecting one of his many outback properties – here we were in the then cultural capital of Europe – the whole precisely two-hours of it;

And finally, if I may, when Bill, Marion and I were in Harrow, outside London attending some Order function which was somewhat of a disaster, when just a handful of official cars arrived to take us all back to London, Bill did not hesitate. He grabbed a startled Marion by the arm and hustled her to the nearest vehicle, crying, "*Marion, the race is to the Swift*". He was ever the pragmatist.

At his passing, his son Will poignantly expressed to me "*Dad was immensely proud of the Order*". I was so touched!

Sir William was, and always will be, remembered as a most distinguished Australian, his achievements many, his wisdom profound.

We, the Order, extend our deepest sympathies to Sir William's family at their loss. Sir William will long be remembered by his family of Knights and Dames of the Order. We are most grateful for his gracious service to Humanity. Resting at Peace, Risen in Glory. ✠

Temperature check stations and portable care unit gifted in Clifton

Darling Downs Priory helps Clifton Hospital deliver on health protection strategy

Clifton Private Hospital adopts new technology to further protect resident and patient health post-COVID. Clifton Community Health Services has adopted temperature screening as part of advances to its health protection strategy.

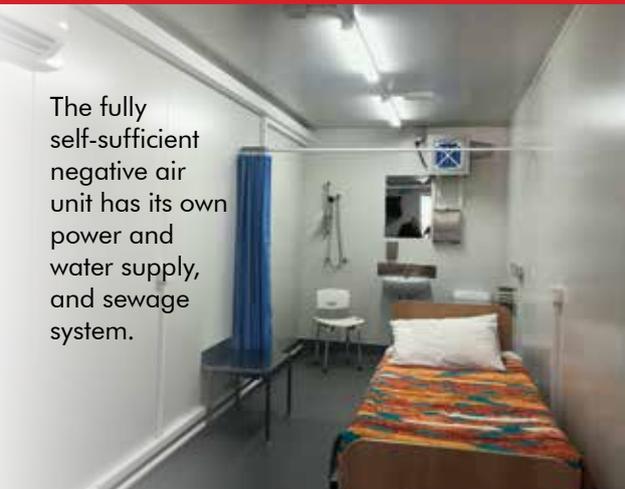
The hospital receives limited government funding and is in a rural area. With the help of the Darling Downs Priory donation of \$7500, it has installed four



Images: Above: Chairman of the Clifton Co-Op Hospital Andrew Douglas, Member for Condamine Pat Weir, Robin A Murphy OAM from Canstruct, Reverend Father Kerry Costigan, and Clifton Community Health Services General Manager Brad Jones. **Far right:** the interior of the portable care unit. **Below:** Chevalier Robert Kretchmann OAM, Dame Dr Jane Tait, Chevalier Noel Strohfeld OAM and Chevalier The Reverend Father Kerry Costigan.



M KCSJ



The fully self-sufficient negative air unit has its own power and water supply, and sewage system.

stand-alone temperature monitoring terminals at the hospital entrances which screens the temperature of all incoming visitors. The device is non-contact and automatic so the screening process is quick and easy and takes less than five seconds.

Chevalier the Reverend Father Kerry Costigan KCSJ with the support of Prior Dr Jeff Prebble OAM KCSJ contacted his old schoolfriend Mr Robin Murphy OAM who had some portable surplus special care units that were built for the government.

The new portable special care unit, with a negative air pressure system, prevents airborne particles from spreading outside the system. It gives doctors and nurses a more efficient way of isolating a patient with an infectious disease, thus reducing potential contact with other patients and lowering the chance of the disease spreading.

Robin was left with the units valued at \$150,000.00 each after the number of cases of COVID never really reached their predicted heights. Robin Murphy OAM and The Murphy Family Foundation, on behalf of his Brisbane-based company Canstruct, donated the unit to the Clifton Community Health Service in memory of his late wife, Margaret.

The unit which is a recycled shipping container was officially handed over on 17th of February. The new unit was blessed by Rev Father Kerry Costigan KCSJ. Dame Dr Jane Tait DSJ, Chevalier Noel Strohfeld OAM KCSJ and Chevalier Bob Kretchmann OAM KCSJ also attended. ✠

Vale

Dame Desley Butters-Whitehouse DSJ



Dame Desley passed away after a long illness on 9th May this year. Her funeral was held at the Holy Trinity Church, Woolloongabba, on Thursday, 13th May, the church where not only was she a parishioner, but the same parish where her parents were married, and also where she was baptized.

In a packed congregation there was a strong presence of the Order of Saint John. Her red robe was draped over the coffin, the Grand Priory Standard was displayed, and many Knights and Dames attended, forming a Guard of Honour at the end of the service. Brisbane Commander Dame Leanne O'Shea read the lesson, Dame Dr Kay Lane presented one of the three eulogies, and Prior Charles Clark was the organist. As well as Members of the Order, the Guard of Honour was made up of members of the WRAAC and of the Scottish Dancers, all of which Desley was a member. The traditional Poppy Ceremony for Service Personnel with sounding of the Last Post was included.

In her working life Desley was a court reporter. Her skills were put to good use as Minute Secretary of the Queensland Priory Administrative Council, a position she held for many years, producing meticulously correct minutes. Desley met and married Chevalier Michael Whitehouse at Scottish dancing; and together they attended most functions of the Order. As Michael was a widower, she took on the role of mother and grandmother in the family and kept them together.

She was very active, in army service with the WRAAC, then in world travel, Scottish dancing, U3A recorder group, and U3A Committee, and the Anglican Help Society operating Defence Force holiday suites at Coolangatta, as well as regular church attendance.

Three short eulogies were presented, one highlighting Desley's family and private life, one her extensive travel, and one mainly her Christian church life, from which much of the above information was derived. The editor is grateful for the presenters' willingness for their material to be used here.

Our sympathies are extended to Chevalier Michael and the many members of the family.

May Desley now rest in peace and rise in glory. ✠

DAME EMERITUS PROFESSOR GWENDOLYN JULL AO DSJ



Zephyr: a snapshot

A snapshot of the work that ZEPHYR does for children of domestic violence families; an extract from the report of the Zephyr's Treasurer, Mrs Carmel Martin:

For those of you who are unaware, Zephyr supplies children affected by domestic and family violence with every school need, including uniforms, shoes, backpacks, stationery and textbooks specific to their school and year. We are supplying laptops and iPads in increasing numbers, especially during and since the COVID lockdown.

We also pay resource fees (e.g. for eLearning), sports fees, and camp fees, to ensure the children can participate in these important activities. Isabella continues to buy all school items at the most competitive prices and to extract the most from every dollar donated.

It costs \$4000 to \$5000 each year to provide what's needed for children in the busier shelters. Zephyr has expanded its operations every year since its inception in 2013.

The period spanning the start of each school year is always our busiest time and at the start of the 2021 school year, we paid:

- \$52,900 for uniforms for 415 children
- \$ 5,814 for resource levies for 43 children
- \$16,143 for school shoes for 441 children
- \$28,434 of school stationery for 739 children
- \$20,238 for school bags for 789 children
- \$21,730 for laptops/iPads for 48 children. ✘

A Sunset Soirée in April

The Brisbane Commandery's 'Sunset Soirée' on Sunday, 18th April, was a wonderful evening of friendship, good food, and wine. It was made all the more enjoyable with the ambiance of St Mary's Anglican Church on the banks of the Brisbane River at Kangaroo Point and the soft background music of our superb Harpist, Tijana Kozarcic. Seeing the city light up as the evening progressed was quite a spectacle. We were well hosted by Canon Gary Harch, Parish Priest of St Mary's, who provided a guided tour of the heritage church.

The Soirée was our 2021 major fundraiser for our main charity, ZEPHYR, an organisation that

Images, left: at the raffle table were Canon Gary Harch, Dame Liz Fisher, Dame Professor Gwendolyn Jull, Chevalier Dr Ian Airey.

Centre: The Zephyr warehouse at Tennyson, Brisbane



provides children who have been seriously affected by domestic violence with school uniforms and equipment when they have to move and change schools.

We thank all those who generously donated raffle prizes including a week in a Penthouse at Noosa, a weekend at Bellthorpe Stays Nature Retreat, and minor prizes of hampers and top bottles of spirits and champagne, and we congratulate the winners. We also thank those who purchased tickets with the event raising approximately \$5,000. ✘

DAME AIRLIE BELL DCSJ

Heart-warming response to mail-out

It is now two years since the Priory of the Sunshine Coast last hosted its very popular Annual True Blue Cocktail Party. However, COVID restrictions have not stopped the Priory from fundraising for local charities.

This year, instead of the Cocktail Party, the Priory launched an appeal by email and Australia Post to raise funds for the Maroochy Neighbourhood Centre One Roof Project.

Every Tuesday and Thursday evening the One Roof Project provides hot meals, shower and laundry facilities, free haircuts, dental, podiatry and medical services (including free flu vaccinations) together with NDIS, legal, employment, housing and financial advice to people who are vulnerable, homeless, or experiencing tough times.

The response to this mail-out appeal was truly heart-warming

and the Priory raised \$40,800, including one breath-taking donation of \$20,000, for this most worthy of charities. Members of the Priory were invited to attend the Presentation held at the Maroochy Neighbourhood Centre on Monday 10th May at 10:30 am.

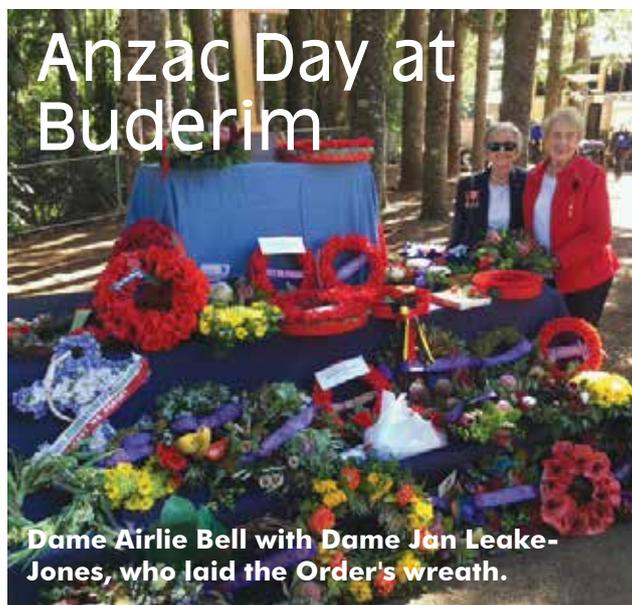
Michael Henning CEO and his dedicated MNC team are extremely excited and grateful to the Priory of the Sunshine Coast for our efforts with this fundraiser, and Michael welcomed us with morning tea and a talk about the activities of the One Roof Project. This was followed by a tour of the Centre.

On 25th March, members of the Priory entertained Alison Ray, Founder and Director of Our Rainbow House and her friend Marion to lunch at the home of Dame Airlie Bell DCSJ. Members were enchanted by a video of Our Rainbow House, the school established by Alison in a remote village in Zambia.

The Priory presented an annual donation of \$500 to Our Rainbow

House for the provision of medical services for the students and a second donation of \$500 was presented on behalf of Dame Ngaire Roberts DSJ.

Our Autumn Social Event held on 18th April at the home of Dame Leonie Barnes DSJ, was most convivial. We enjoyed a delicious lunch consisting of baked potatoes with a variety of toppings, followed by diet-crashing vanilla and chocolate slices. Decadent indeed, but a treat. Chevalier John Haselwood KSJ won a large tin of chocolates, which put a huge grin on his face and Chevalier Vice Prior Garry Cant KSJ won the basket of deli items, much to his delight. ✠



Dame Airlie Bell with Dame Jan Leake-Jones, who laid the Order's wreath.

The township of Buderim on the Queensland Sunshine Coast does not have a traditional war memorial. The Buderim War Memorial Community Association owns a substantial hall and associated buildings which are available for use by the community groups such as the Country Women's Association, so that they become almost a constant living memorial.

The Anzac Day march through the village terminates at a temporary memorial under a stand of pine trees which have been planted as a memorial to those who have served in Australian military engagements and activities.

Members of the Sunshine Coast Priory participate in the march in their private capacity because of either personal or family service. The Order itself is involved in the Anzac Day service through the laying of a wreath, a task performed for the Priory in 2021 by Dame Jan Leake Jones. ✠

VICE-CHANCELLOR CHEVALIER RODNEY SMITH KSJ

Victoria revives after pandemic lockdown

The effects of the Covid 19 pandemic were felt more severely in Victoria than in the other States of Australia and, like so many other religious, commercial and social functions, the Victorian Priory suffered badly, unable to do anything for such a long period.

But they are still there and began a revival with an afternoon tea on Saturday, 27th February. It was held at St John's Anglican Church, Camberwell, and, with Dame Valerie Sumner DCSJ as MC, was a happy afternoon with delicious food, good company, and a raffle.

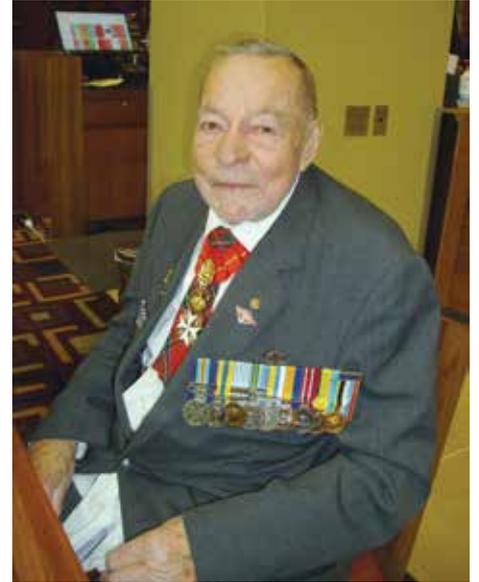
Through the generosity of all that attended and some who sent donations, just over \$1000 was raised.

Just as importantly, members enjoyed each other's company and the opportunity to catch up after so long. The happy winner of the raffle

was Chevalier Michael Fogarty KSJ.

The Church Parade was held on Sunday, 2nd May, in St Paul' Cathedral, at which the first lesson was read by Chevalier Peter Davidson KSJ RFD, and a lunch followed at the RACV Club. The AGM date is set for 7:00 pm on 18th on June at the Box Hill RSL, to be followed by dinner at 7:30 pm. ✠

Images supplied by Stella Conlon.



Images, from top: Chevalier John Brownbill at the lunch; Middle, Chevalier Rod Smith and Prior Martin Conlon, Bottom, outside cathedral after the service at St Paul's.

PRIOR CHARLES CLARK GCSJ MMSJ

OSJ help keeps the Pantry door open

Many years ago the Anglican Church of Holy Trinity, Fortitude Valley, found that residential homes were disappearing from its Parish area and being replaced by commercial and industrial units.

As residents moved out, housing became low rent, and night clubs and prostitution moved in. The Parish was surrounded by the poor and the disadvantaged. It seemed natural for the Parish to consider its position and to develop a ministry to those who lived under these conditions. A small building on the corner of Brookes and Ann Street was turned into the "Parish Pantry". It became a source of emergency food supplies to the sick and the poor of the Fortitude Valley area. Emergency – yes, because "clients" are allowed to obtain food only once every three months and a register of their visits is kept. The corner building was demolished and the Pantry moved to part of the church hall. Because the hall was required for many other activities both of the church and beyond – the Queensland Youth Orchestra, the Brisbane Symphony Orchestra and Queensland Musical Theatre Company all started there – space

for the Pantry was limited. Photos in the Bulletin for February 2018 show the cramped conditions. Now that the Old Rectory is no longer used for residential purposes, the distribution function of the pantry is carried out from what was the dining room onto the verandahs, and the space in the hall is used for food storage and bag packing.

For the past three years the Brisbane Commandery has been supporting the Parish Pantry with annual donations, presented to the Parish on a Sunday nearest to the celebration of the birth of our Patron, St John the Baptist. This year, the Commandery has moved on to support Zephyr Inc., a voluntary organisation supporting children of domestic violence situations (*see page 6, this issue*). Both the Parish Pantry and Zephyr are staffed by volunteers, have very little overheads, and receive no Government or corporate funding.

The Priory of Queensland, conscious of the rising problems and unemployment, brought about by the pandemic and the cutting of Job Keeper, made an appeal to its Members, mainly Brisbane Commandery, for volunteers

to work at the Parish Pantry. Fourteen volunteers now work alongside members of the Parish from Tuesday to Friday each week. Tuesday is packing day when bags of food and essential toiletry items are filled ready for distribution, and Wednesday to Friday are distribution days.

Fortitude Valley has once again become a high class commercial and high-rise residential area, but the poor are still there, and the Pantry continues to be an essential service. The volunteers from the Order of Saint John enable it to be open to the public three days a week from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. More volunteers would enable it to be open for more days or longer periods. The aim is to have a volunteer working no more than one three hour shift per month, so the burden is not heavy. Client usage is completely unpredictable, eighteen one day, two or three the next. But the service must be there and available for those who find themselves in emergency conditions, and the volunteers from the Order of Saint John are indeed serving our lords the sick and our lords the poor. ✠

continued from previous page



At the lunch following the Church Parade were, from left: Chevalier Russell Male and Dianne Male; **Centre:** Members lunching at the long table; **Right:** Vice-Chancellor Rodney Smith and Dame Gail Smith.

CHEVALIER DAI MASON KSJ

Vale

Allan Charles Male

AM MBE BA BEd.St Dip RE JP PHF KSJ

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Chevalier the Reverend Allan Male – more commonly known as A.C.

Allan was an ordained Churches of Christ Minister. He was the former Director-General of the Department of Families, Youth, and Community Care for Queensland.

He was born in Richmond, in North Queensland, the son of a drover. After working on a farm near Dalby he joined Queensland Rail as a lad porter eventually rising to Assistant Station Master after eight and a half years, when he resigned to take up the Ministry.

He entered the Federal College of Churches of Christ in Glen Innes, Melbourne. He graduated with honours in all six subjects and preached the valedictory address for the Exit Class in 1961.

A four-year Ministry at Portland, Victoria, was followed by a call to Queensland in 1965, as Director of Youth, a post he held for 20 years consolidating Youth Camp sites at Magnetic Island, Emu Park, Caloundra (Camp Cal) and at Marburg (Teen Ranch). He introduced new techniques in camping and youth programming.

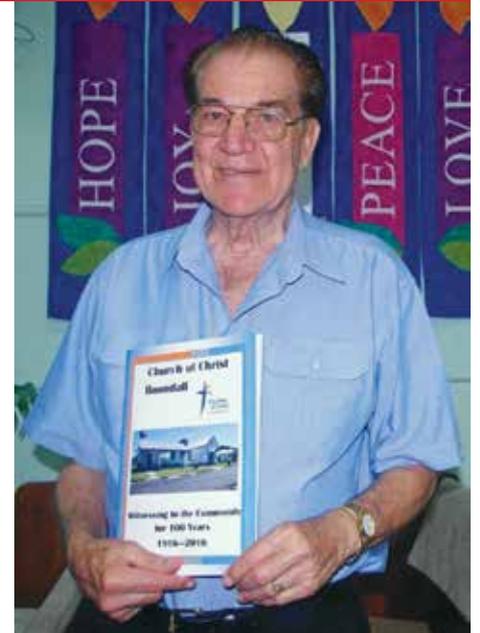
He was Queensland's youngest Father of the Year, the only Queensland Ordained Clergyman to receive a Churchill Fellowship, the only Queensland to receive a Distinguished Service to Children Award, the only Clergyman to have served three terms as President of the Queensland Council of Churches, and the first Clergyman to be appointed Honorary Ambassador of the World Expo 1988. He was a long-standing

Rotarian and first joined Rotary in Portland in the early sixties. He was a very active member of this club and during his time there helped establish the Chaplain services to Secondary Schools.

He joined the Rotary Club of Brisbane North and served with this club for over 40 years until its eventual closure. Simultaneously, he commenced the Shaftesbury Citizenship Centre at Spring Hill in 1966. As founder and Executive Officer of the Centre; he assisted disadvantaged youth and their families for 41 years. He also founded the Shaftesbury Citizenship Campus at Burpengary in 1987 and "Maconochie" - a community Correctional Centre for the Prisoner Rehabilitation in 1991 to 2003, where over 1350 prisoners were assisted.

During his tenure at Brisbane North Rotary Club, Allan served as Rotary District Governor in 1985-86. The theme for that year was "You are the Key". The Interact Club of Immanuel Lutheran College received its Certificate of Organisation by their District Governor, Allan C Male, at a special presentation meeting of the Sponsoring Rotary Club of Mooloolaba held on 10th February 1986. He also had the opportunity to present the Charter to the Interact Club of Grace Lutheran College; sponsored by the Rotary Club of Kippa-Ring; where his son, Stephen, attended and was first Charter President.

Allan was heavily involved with all aspects of Rotary and as President of the Brisbane North Rotary Club; he had the honour



to Charter the Rotary Club of Planetarium at the first breakfast meeting club in the Rotary District. He also set in motion the chartering of the Rotary Club of Honiara.

Allan has held many positions during his time as a Rotarian. He joined the Rotary Club of Kippa-Ring until his eventual retirement in December 2012, where he was presented with another Paul Harris Fellow.

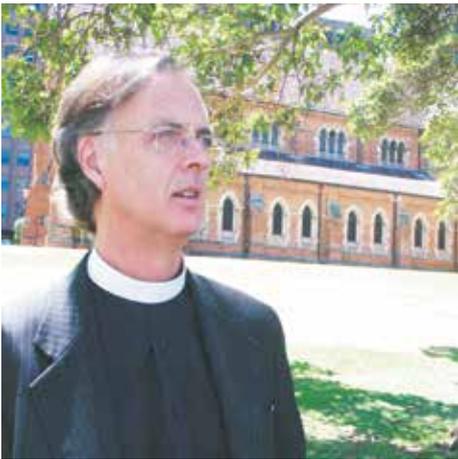
Allan leaves behind a much-loved family in Kath his wife; three daughters, Linda, Merryn, and Coralie, a son Stephen; and five "great" grandchildren, Meg Kathleen, Courtney Michael Edward, Gemma Elizabeth, Samuel Allan, and Thomas Charles.

Our hearts go out to Kath and family at the passing of Allan Charles Male; he will be greatly missed.

His funeral was held at 9:30am on Thursday 22 April 2021 at the Redcliffe Uniting Church, Corner of Anzac Avenue and Richens Street, Redcliffe. ☩

CHEVALIER ANTHONY HOWES KCSJ

A commemoration and thanksgiving for the life of a great man



Dean of St George's Cathedral, the Very Reverend Chris Chataway.

I write on a day of great sadness, but also a day in which so much goodness is being commemorated. I have just returned from a Service of Thanksgiving in the Order's Conventual Church here in Perth, St George's Cathedral.

At 3:00 pm today, Saturday April 17th, a large assembly of the city's good and faithful gathered to remember His Royal Highness the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Prior Jamie, and other Knights and Dames had received an invitation to attend from the Dean, the Very Reverend Chris Chataway.

For some hours before the first hymn, a muffled peal from the Bell Tower called us to attend, ultimately giving way to music, readings, and prayers of dignity and simplicity. Young recipients of the D of E Awards, read for us; young Naval Cadets brought the Australian flag to its resting place at the Nave Altar, alongside a portrait of Prince Philip.

The clergy procession, including the Archbishop of Perth, the Most Reverend Kay Goldworthy, and representatives of other Christian denominations, were piped to their places with a "A Blessin' of the Speal" (Length of Days) composed by the piper, Bishop David Murray.

The Duke's naval association was clearly marked by 'the Boatswain's Call', the 'Still', and the 'Side' being piped by a veteran of the RAN, Mr David Tyrell-Clark, while Mr David Scott, a Sub-Warden of the State War Memorial and WA Anzac of the Year 2020, sounded the Last Post, and the Naval Rouse. One of Perth's leading sopranos, and a Lay Clerk at the Cathedral, Alexandra Bak, sang music by Faure and Mendelssohn. The organist was Stewart Smith.

The address was given by the Very Reverend Dr John Shepherd AM, Emeritus Dean of Perth. (It was Dr Shepherd, who, in 2011, invited the Order in Perth to make the Cathedral its spiritual home, free from any denominational barriers). I would share with you, something of what he had to say; it moved us all.

"Today we give thanks for the life of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, whose funeral takes place today in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

There is a point of reference between St George's Chapel and our Cathedral of St George which helps to give focus to our service of commemoration. St George's Chapel is where the banners of the Officers and Companions of the Most Noble Order of the Garter,

founded by King Edward III in 1348, are displayed during their lifetime. The patron saint of the Order is St George, and it is St George who is the patron saint of this Cathedral, thereby bestowing on us an affinity with the Royal Chapel which is unique to all Australian Cathedrals.

The affinity continues, however, for Prince Philip was a Royal Knight of the Order of the Garter, and Sir Paul Hasluck, a former Governor-General of Australia, was made a Knight of the Order of the Garter by Queen Elizabeth, and Sir Paul's banner and crest that once hung in St George's Chapel now rest here in the South Transept of this Cathedral.

The motto of the Order is *Honi soit qui mal y pense* and it succinctly embodies the qualities of the Prince whose life we honour today. Translated it is 'Shame on him who thinks evil of it', and it reminds us of the importance of what we think and of the damage we can do to others and to ourselves through thinking evil thoughts.

We don't always realise the importance that the first Christians attached to what we think because we misunderstand the words they used. They believed that they thought with their hearts, not with their heads. So what went on in the heart, the organ of thinking, was crucial, because what you thought determined what you did. A change of heart therefore meant a change of thinking – from being an enemy of society to being a builder and supporter of the fabric of the world. So we have the motto – shame on those who think evil of others: they are those who pull down what others have built and make divisions where others have made peace.

Honi soit qui mal y pense – a motto with resonance for both St George's
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Positioning our future

The Strategic Planning Committee of Queensland Priory is looking at ways in which to improve the operation of the Priory and its Commanderies, and to make its presence in the community more effective. Deliberations are driven forward by the Motto of the Order, ***Pro Fide Pro Utilitate Hominum***, and by the realisation of the Order's self imposed responsibility to **our lords the sick and our lords the poor**.

With a membership of five, plus the Prior ex-officio, they realise that projects will be more effective if more Members become involved and assume ownership of the projects.

Ideally **all Members** would share the responsibility and the operation of projects. In turn, this requires more effective communication between Members. For any project undertaken, all Members must know about it, understand it, and be prepared to adopt it.

The development of a strategic plan will provide a process for exploring future objectives and actions. It will give all Members of the Priory an opportunity to have their say in their collective future as Members of the Order of Saint John.

The process will commence with a questionnaire survey for all

Members of the Priory followed by a workshop in August and a second workshop later in the year. These will consider the details resulting from the survey.

Heard it all before? So why are we doing this? Here are a few reasons why:

- It is often said that the fund-raising functions take too few people too much effort for too little return.
- Others wish to be more in the community "at the charity coal face".
- Some would like to do more for the Order but are in the workforce and do not have time.

How are these and more problems to be addressed? That is what this strategic planning process is all about. ✠

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Chapel, Windsor, and St George's Cathedral, Perth, and a motto fitting for the man we honour today. For today we give thanks to God for a person who never pulled down what others had built, and whose whole life was dedicated to being a builder and supporter of the fabric of the world."

Dr Shepherd then expanded on Prince Philip's naval, Commonwealth, and youth work. He continued:

"Her Majesty the Queen referred to him perceptively and lovingly as her 'strength and stay.' It's a phrase taken from a translation of a hymn by St Ambrose, a 4th century theologian and bishop of Milan. It praises a God who remains steadfast, strong and unshakeable throughout the vicissitudes of time. That the Queen both discerned and praised these qualities in her husband reveals the extent to which she valued his unwavering support through all the changes and chances of this fleeting world, a world in which together they stood as one, affirming, guiding, healing and encouraging – always pointing

away from themselves to inspire confidence and hope in others."

He continued with an exposition of the resurrection hope as heard in the readings. Then:

"There's a passage in the First Letter of John that sums up what John is getting at. He says, God has given us eternal life and this life is found in his Son. To possess the Son, therefore, is to possess eternal life. Eternal life is Jesus and being related to Jesus is having eternal life. This is how John sees what Christianity is. It's union with Christ, and this is eternal life.

So we commend Prince Philip to that great God who is for all us the strength and stay upholding all creation, and we do this in the sure and certain knowledge that as a builder and supporter of the fabric of this world, he is already at union with the living Christ; already he is incorporated into the eternal life of which John speaks, and that this eternal life will continue in him to be a light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness will never conquer it.

The lines of the second verse of

Ambrose's hymn 'O Strength and Stay' are those upon which Her Majesty may already have reflected upon and they are certainly those with which our commendation of Prince Philip to the great and loving God can satisfactorily rest:

*Grant to life's day a calm
unclouded ending,
An eve untouched by shadows of decay,
The brightness of a holy death-bed
blending
With dawning glories of the
eternal day'.
To this God, who assures us of
eternal life in his Son, be all
praise, honour, worship and
thanksgiving, this day, and
forever. Amen."*

The Service ended with the boatswain's call, the Carry On, followed by the piper playing the Iona Boat Song; and as we moved out of the West Doors, the Great Tenor Bell tolled for 99 minutes, once for each year of the life of His Royal Highness. I, for one, gained much from being a part of the commemoration and thanksgiving for the life of a great man. ✠