

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,
SUNSHINE COAST AND
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**THE PRIORY OF THE
DARLING DOWNS**

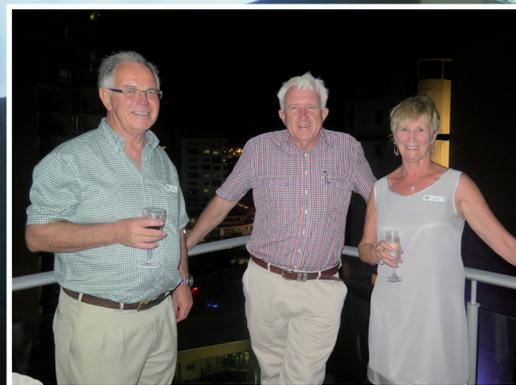
**THE PRIORY OF
VICTORIA**

FEBRUARY 2017

Sovereign Order explained	3
Australia Day awards	5
Okanagan Commander visit	6
News from Victoria	7
Brisbane's Christmas lunch	8
Notes from the West	10
Sunshine Coast hospitality	12
David Rees Memoirs	13
Visit to Vancouver	14
Christmas on the Downs	15



Warm hospitality begins a busy program for Sunshine Coast in 2017





The Editor's desk

CHEVALIER CHARLES CLARK KCSJ MMSJ

By the time this edition comes out, the New Year will be well under way. The passing of the old year gives us a feeling of finality, of endings. The New Year heralds in new starts.

Last year certainly gave us some endings but they were

accompanied by promise of new beginnings. 2017 is the first of four years given to us in the Memorandum of Understanding to develop our relationships with the Sovereign Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, headquartered in Vancouver.

Therein lies the overarching activity and challenge for us in 2017. As well, we have the continuing challenges in the Pories and Commanderies to exercise our roles as a Christian, ecumenical, and charitable organisation. Are we sufficiently Christian? Are we sufficiently effective in our charitable works?

I was given a short statement some time ago, anonymous, so I cannot give credits. In part it said: "Membership of the Order requires that aspirants, when invested, must be comfortable with the fact that they come into a Christian organisation ...The Order of Saint John can only justify its continuing existence and status as an Order in the modern community if in its charitable works it supports the Christian Church. This will distinguish it from other charitable organisations, worthy though they may be".

The New Year gives the opportunity to assess the old and to plan and enhance the new. To quote T. S. Eliot:

*"For last year's words belong to last year's language
And next year's words await another voice
And to make an end is to make a beginning".* ✠

The Commander of the Brisbane Commandery,
Chevalier Commander Ric Barton KCSJ,
Invites you and your friends to the

Brisbane Commandery Formal Dinner

To raise funds for the 2017 Commandery charity

Date Saturday 25 March 2017

Time 6-30 pm for 7-00 pm

Venue The Moreton Club
72 Moray Street New Farm

Subscription \$130 per person

Dress Business Suit + Neck Jewel

The programme includes a musical recital by the celebrated Ayesha Gough, winner of the 2015 Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition, and third in the 2014 Kerikeri International Piano Competition.

Please put the date in your diary. Your Invitation with RSVP facility will be posted shortly.

'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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Erratum

In The Bulletin, November 2016, it was stated that Dame Rhoda, Lady McQuarrie GCSJ had joined the Scottish Branch of the Sovereign Order of St John. This is not correct and we apologise to Lady McQuarrie for the error.

EDITOR

What is the Sovereign Order of St John Knights Hospitaller?

The Grand Priory of Australasia (OSJ) has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Sovereign Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller (SOSJ) whose headquarters are in Vancouver, Canada.

The Memorandum paves the way for the Grand Priory of Australasia to become a part of the SOSJ and thereby regain internationality. It provides for a period of four years during which both parties may determine mutually acceptable outcomes.

The way in which this has been achieved by the superb efforts of the Grand Prior of Australasia and

the Grand Priory Council has been well-documented both in letters from the Grand Prior and in the Bulletins of the latter half of 2016.

The SOSJ has its roots in the same Order founded by Blessed Gerard in the 11th Century and like the OSJ in Australia traces its history through the movements of the Order from Jerusalem through the Mediterranean, the Siege of Malta, the expulsion from Malta by Napoleon, and the move to the Protection of the Russian Royal Family and to the Patronage of the Yugoslavian Royal Family following the Russian Revolution in 1917.

The SOSJ was formalised in North America under the auspices of HRH Prince Andrej, brother of King Peter II and acknowledges, and is guided, by the Constitution given

by HM King Peter to the Order in 1964, just as we do in Australia.

In Australia, we adhere to the view that the Constitution of King Peter was most recently repudiated by others from whom we are now separated and that, throughout, we remain, and have retained our legitimacy as, the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, having amended, as required by Australian Law, our Constitution and accompanying Regulations.

We continue, lawfully, ethically, and morally as the autonomous Grand Priory of Australasia, the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, now affiliated with the Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, also known as the "Vancouver Order". ☒

The article below is made up of extracts from the SOSJ website: sosjvancouver.org/

The reader will note the strong similarities between the SOSJ and the OSJ in Australia.

The Sovereign Order of St John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller



The Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller is a Christian, chivalric, ecumenical, and international community of members, who continue more than 900 years' tradition of helping the sick and the poor of all nationalities, races, and creeds with the motto *Pro Fide, Pro Utilitate Hominum* – For Faith, For Service to Humanity.

The modern day Order is divided into 27 Commanderies (chapters) in 14 countries in Europe and North and Central America, consisting of approximately 850 members worldwide.

The International office is

located at Vancouver, Canada.

The Sovereign Order is Christian. It was founded on chivalric principles of putting others before self. Members of the Sovereign Order serve their community, just as the original

monks and Knights of the Order vowed to do 900 years ago. Through goodwill and devotion to a just cause, the Sovereign Order has been in the forefront of some of history's greatest moments.

Today's Sovereign Order, headquartered in Vancouver, Canada, is based on the 1964 Constitution of King Peter II of Yugoslavia.

In 1998, the King Peter II Constitution was amended to remove all restrictions on women members (Dames). They have since *continued following page*

continued from page 3

filled many of the senior roles in the organisation.

The Sovereign Order has reunified Grand Priorities in Europe and the Americas and is working hard to re-unite with others over time. It has also returned to its roots from the 11th century of helping our lords the sick and our lords the poor.

Pro Fide, Pro Utilitate Hominum

The traditions of the Sovereign Order are strongly rooted in the Order's chivalric background and its charitable work. Most of the activities that members organise and take part in today are part of the Order's 900-year history.

Internationally, the structure of the Sovereign Order is much the same as it would have been after it became a Chivalric Order in 1113.

Beginning with the Grand Master and through the ranks within each Commandery, our members strive to maintain our traditional values. Within all of the Order's 27 Commanderies there are three basic ranks: Knight or Dame of Honour, Grace, and Justice.

Organisation Structure

Every year Priorities and Commanderies within the Sovereign Order hold Investiture Services where new Knights and Dames are welcomed to the Order with a moving and unique service. History and tradition are a large part of this ceremony and give the opportunity to learn about how the Order came to be and why.

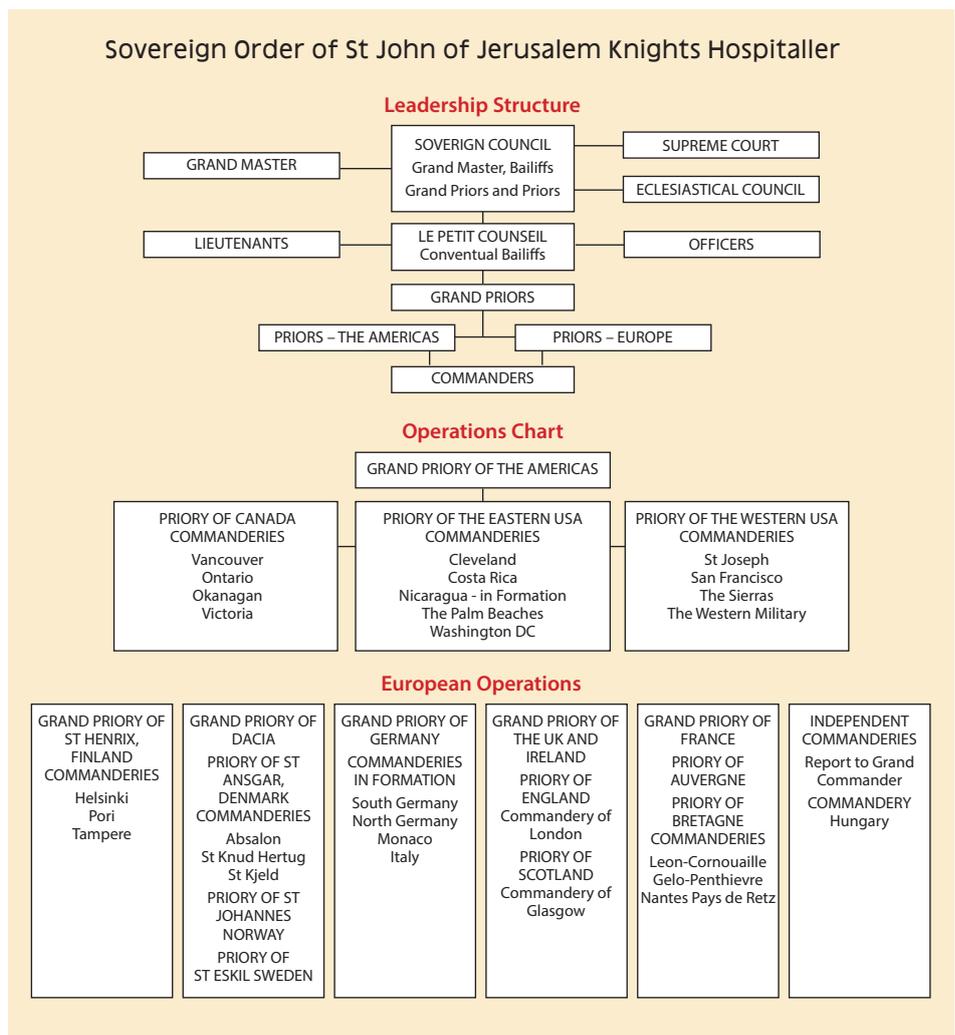
Members of the Sovereign Order are active in their community, and contribute to helping those in need, usually in their Commandery's region.

The Order began with a single hospice, operated by Brother

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SOSJ INVESTITURE IN LONDON, ENGLAND, IN NOVEMBER 2016



Structure chart adapted from SOSJ website

continued from page 4

Gerard and through his actions and ideas the Order's practice began of helping the Lord's sick and the poor.

From the beginning of serving pilgrims and others in need in Jerusalem, the Sovereign Order has been looking past current practices to find better ways of doing things.

With his advanced ideas regarding patient care, Brother Gerard was able to slow the spread of disease by separating patients in his hospice, serving them on separate dishes, and insisting on through ventilation. The hospice would be found by Crusaders on their arrival in Jerusalem. They noted the superior survival rate of patients of the Sovereign Order's hospice.

After 900 years, the Sovereign Order stands by its foundation of Christian charity and chivalry through actions and our motto: "*Pro Fide, Pro Utilitate Hominum*" —For Faith, For Service to Humanity.

The roots of the Sovereign Order are in the Christian faith, but there is also a deep history of Chivalry.

Starting with the hospice helping pilgrims, the Sovereign Order developed a spiritual group and, in the 1100s, a military arm as outlined in our history.

Today, we have returned to our origins in helping the sick and the poor while maintaining our traditions.

These traditions include:

- We are a Christian, chivalric, ecumenical, and international organisation
- We use the Sovereign Order's traditional robes at Investiture services
- The Allocution is read at each Investiture. It summarizes our history and motivating spirit and our values
- We help people based on need, not faith or nationality. ✠

Two members of the Order of St John honoured



Chevalier Allan Pidgeon AM KSJ was made a Member of the Order of Australia "for significant service to the community through a range of roles, particularly to the promotion of the Australian national flag."

Chevalier Allan Pidgeon, who was invested into the Order of St John in 1994, has been President of the Australian National Flag Association of Queensland (Inc) since he succeeded founding President Dr Rupert Goodman AM eight years ago. Chevalier Allan joined the Association when it was formed 25 years ago, and as President has addressed schools, community groups and service clubs; as well as speaking about the



flag at many citizenship ceremonies.

He is passionate about telling Australians the proud and unique story of our flag – the only flag to fly over an entire continent.

Among his other charitable involvements, Allan Pidgeon sits on the Board of the Mater Hospital Foundation and is a Trustee of the Lord Mayor's Charitable Trust. He is a member of the Queensland Commemorative Events and Celebrations Committee, and has had a long association with the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal.

Congratulations also go to **Dame Roberta (Bobbie) Brazil AO DSJ** for being named in the Australia Day Awards as an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO).

She received the honour for "distinguished service to tertiary education governance, to agricultural, environmental and resource management organisations and to women in rural and regional areas".

For her it was a bright spot in a time of hardship on the land. She said: "We're out on a farm on Condamine River, and my gosh, it's been a dry old time. (This) was a real bit of good news".

Dame Bobbie, former Chancellor of the University of Southern Queensland, has always found inspiration from rural Queensland.

Armed with her law degree, she developed a deep understanding of the issues in rural Queensland, especially water management.

Her philosophy: "You've got only one life and you've got to see what you can do with it".

On 4th September 2016 she received the honorary degree of Doctor of the University at a USQ Graduation Ceremony. ✠

CHEVALIER CHARLES CLARK KCSJ MMSJ

Dame Commander of Okanagan, Canada, SOSJ visits Brisbane OSJ

Dame Commander Lynda-May O'Brien made a Christmastide visit to Queensland

During her stay, some members of the Priory of Queensland were fortunate to be able to meet with her for dinner on the evening of 28th December.

The gathering was organised by the Prior of Queensland and Chancellor of the Grand Priory, Chevalier Professor Emeritus George Kearney AM GCSJ. It was intended that Commanders of the Queensland Priory and representatives of the Grand Priory should attend.

Because of the holiday period, some were unable to be present, but it was a happy party of fourteen.

The evening began with conversation at 5.15 pm and dinner at 6.00 pm during which we greatly increased our understanding of the SOSJ, into which Order the Grand Priory of Australasia is seeking to enter through the recently produced Memorandum of Understanding.

Dame Lynda-May told us of the organisational structure of the SOSJ, of its worldwide membership of over 800, in the USA, Canada, and many countries of Europe, including Finland where a large Investiture was held in 2016.



LYNDA-MAY O'BRIEN, DAME COMMANDER OF OKANAGAN, SOVEREIGN ORDER OF ST JOHN

The Commanderies, she said, were on the whole larger and more self-governing than ours in Australia; her Commandery has 150 members. She told us of fund raising for charity of up to \$1.5 million and of the building of a hostel in Vancouver.

In return, she took away with her a greater knowledge and understanding of the Australian scene with which they are to be associated. The conversation was very enlightening for us and we hope conversely for Dame Lynda-May also. ❖



Above: Ric Barton KCSJ, Lynda-May O'Brien DCJSJ, George Kearney AM GCSJ

At left: George Kearney AM GCSJ, Bruce Maugham OAM GCSJ MMSJ, Frances Clark, Jacqui Kearney, David Rees KCSJ, Ric Barton KCSJ, Lynda-May O'Brien DCJSJ

CHEVALIER VINCENT GATT KCSJ

News from Victoria

BETTONI GARDEN PARTY

Dame Elisabeth Bettoni and Chevalier Enrico Bettoni once again, on 11th February, opened their home to all members of the Priory of Victoria and friends in an effort to raise funds for our worthy Charities. The Priory of Victoria is greatly indebted to them for their generosity and hospitality. It is always a relaxing function in their beautiful garden; we hope to see as many members there as possible.

OUR WONDERFUL DAMES

The Victorian Priory is blessed to have some incredible ladies as Members. I wish to acknowledge three of them today, they are, Dame Mary Tanner OBE OAM DSJ, Dame

Merridee Gee DCSJ, and Dame Anna Papahristos DSJ who have been doing it a bit tough of late, and they have shown us just how strong and wonderful they are. We are so proud of them and all those in our Victorian Priory who for one reason or another have found the going a bit tough of late. Naturally, that includes their partners as well.

OUR CALENDAR FOR 2017

Our Council is scheduled to meet on the first Saturday of each month at the CWA HQ in Toorak.

After the Bettoni Garden Party we are now in full swing for our June 23rd Investiture and Dinner to be held at St. John's the Evangelist Anglican Church in

East Malvern with the Celebratory Dinner just 100 metres away at the beautiful Gable's Reception. We are pleased that up to six new members will be Invested.

The next day, June 24th, the Prior will chair our Chapter Meeting / AGM and formal introduction of our newly-Invested, and this will be followed by light refreshments.

That evening the St. John the Baptist Association will hold a dinner dance (European Style) and all members of the Order are especially welcome.

On Sunday 25th June we will celebrate with the St. John the Baptist Association the feast of our Patron Saint, with Mass and Procession at the Holy Eucharist Catholic Church in St. Albans, Victoria. This will be the 22nd year the Priory has been invited to participate.

As close to September 8th as possible we plan to have our annual Great Siege of Malta celebration starting with a Eucharistic Service at St Paul's Anglican Cathedral in the heart of Melbourne, to be followed with a buffet Lunch at the RACV Club. Much thanks to His Excellency Bailiff Anthony Bailey GCSJ CMSJ for organising this event.

The OSJ Gala Dinner is also planned for around October, this being our major fund raiser; and our last event for 2017 will be our Christmas Lunch in December. ✠



CHRISTMAS PARTY AT ASCOT HOUSE

Top, from left:

Russell Male KCSJ, Dianne Male, Bill McAuley KSJ.

Below from left: Bailiff Martin Conlon GCSJ, Lois Whiteoak DSJ, Lloyd Byrne KSJ, Rev. John Baldock, Andrea Westh, Roger Westh KSJ, Anthony Bailey GCSJ CMSJ, Graham Michalanney KCSJ.



LEITH ROBINSON SSSJ

Brisbane Commandery Christmas Lunch

Once again the historic Queensland Club was the venue for the Brisbane Commandery Christmas lunch

Held on Thursday, 1st December, last year, the lunch was attended by approximately 60 Members and their guests, and was preceded by a Queensland Priory Administrative Council meeting, so some of the guests were from other Commanderies and the Priory of the Darling Downs.

Members and guests were welcomed by the Brisbane Commander, Chevalier Commander Ric Barton KCSJ, and the Grand Prior, HE Bailiff Adjunct Professor Victor Feros, gave a short speech of welcome,

referring to the Grand Priory's movement towards internationality that has been achieved during 2016.

The Brisbane Commandery Chaplain, Chevalier the Reverend Bishop Emeritus Noel Noack GCHSJ, said the Grace. The guest speaker was the Reverend Dr Steven Ogden, newly appointed Rector of Holy Trinity Anglican Parish, Fortitude Valley, who spoke of the work done by the Trinity Pantry, providing food and paying for other essentials for disadvantaged people, many living on the streets. The Parish Pantry continues to be the major charity supported by the Brisbane Commandery in 2017.

The convivial Christmas function was a wonderful venue for Members and friends to meet and to give everyone Christmas Best Wishes. ✠



Image at left: John Lawrence AM KSJ



Centre, from left:

Frances Clark, Judeen Airey, Dr Elaine Katte GCSJ, Janet Lawrence, Reverend Bishop Noel Noack GCHSJ, Dai Mason KSJ.

Bottom, from left:

Charles Clark KCSJ MMSJ, Dr Kay Lane DCSJ, Dr Ian Airey KCSJ, Sandra Griffiths SSSJ, George Kearney AM GCSJ, Peter Gilmour, John Barton KSJ, Susan Mason.



Trinity Pantry Afternoon Tea

A pleasant afternoon tea was hosted by Serving Sister Sandra Griffiths SSSJ at her home in Teneriffe, close to the Brisbane River, on Friday, 18th November. The purpose was to introduce the Reverend Dr Steven Ogden, the newly appointed Rector of Holy Trinity Church, Fortitude Valley, to some members of Brisbane Commandery, some of whom are or have been parishioners of Holy Trinity.

The Trinity Pantry, mentioned in previous editions of the Bulletin, is the primary charity for support by the Brisbane Commandery in 2017 and the Commander for Brisbane, Chevalier Commander Ric Barton KCSJ, and Priory Almoner, Dame Dr Kay Lane DCSJ, outlined to Fr Ogden the way in which funds are raised for this purpose. Fr Ogden, in turn, expressed his wish for the Pantry to continue and to expand its



assistance to the poor and needy. He remarked as to how closely his own mission to help the disadvantaged resembled the Order's support of our lords the sick and our lords the poor.

The afternoon was relaxed and very useful. Thank you, Serving Sister Sandra. Fr Steven Ogden is second from left. ✠

Vale

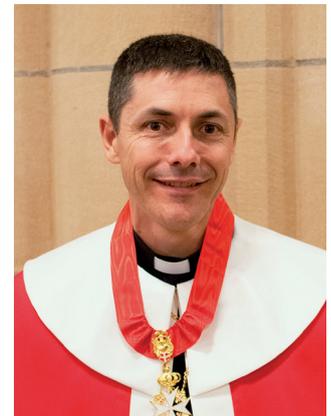
Chevalier Jüergen (George) Alfred Prillwitz KSJ.

It is with regret that we announce the passing of Jüergen Prillwitz. He joined the Order in Melbourne in 2002 and was elevated to Knight of Grace in 2013. Jürgen passed away after a protracted illness in December. Our sincere condolences go to his family and friends. ✠



Chevalier to be ordained Bishop

Chevalier the Venerable Jeremy Greaves KSJ has accepted the Archbishop's invitation to be an Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Brisbane.



He will succeed Bishop Jonathan Holland as Bishop of the Northern Region. Jeremy's Episcopal Ordination will be on Friday, 24th February 2017, at 7pm in St John's Cathedral. Chevalier Jeremy is presently the Rector of St Mark's Anglican Church, Buderim. He was invested into the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller in the Queensland Priory Ceremony on Friday, 10th June 2016, in St John's Cathedral and became the Chaplain of the Sunshine Coast Commandery.

Chevalier Jeremy gained his Bachelor of Theology (BTh) from Flinders University (Adelaide) in 1997 and after serving in churches in North Adelaide, Ceduna, and Katherine, was appointed Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Darwin in 2007. During that time he was Chaplain to the Police, Fire, and Emergency Services. He came to St Mark's Church, Buderim, as Priest in Charge in 2013, elevated to Rector in 2014.

His new appointment means that he will leave the Buderim Parish, but he will continue to live on the Sunshine Coast and to be the Chaplain to the Sunshine Coast Commandery. We pray for Chevalier Jeremy, his wife, Josie, and their family. ✠

CHEVALIER ANTHONY HOWES KCSJ

Notes from the West

A charitable activity with a difference was able to benefit when Dames and Knights of the WA Commandery and their guests met for the Annual Christmas Lunch on December 4th last year. Chevalier Ray Gianoli and his wife Lianne hosted the Commandery at their Guildford home.

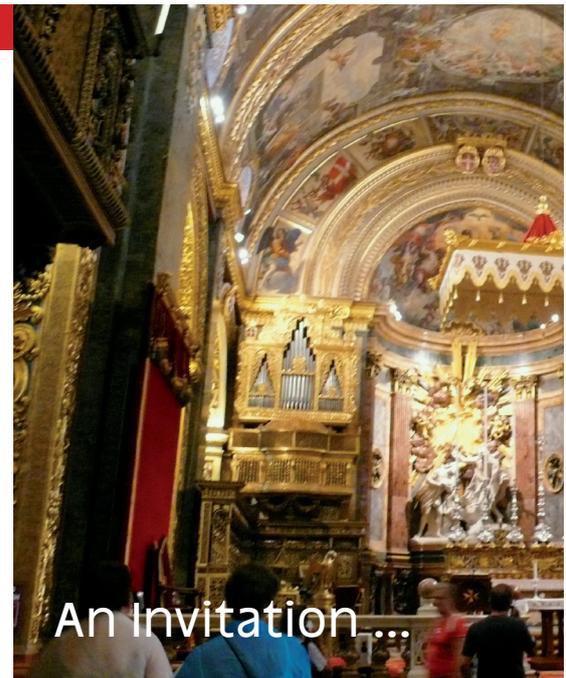
We sat down to dine in a large, elegant poolside room of their home, and, yet again, ‘master chef’ Chevalier Bill Munro, provided a sumptuous meal, despite having to mount a rescue mission due to a runaway turkey!

Special guest at the luncheon was Nola Formentin, who had just arrived in Perth from Malawi to spend Christmas with her family,

before returning to continue her work in that country. Nola is a gifted singer and instrumentalist who gave up her career with the WA Opera, some two years ago, to work with the children of Malawi.

She told us of the poverty she encountered, the frustrations from bureaucracy and, in striking contrast, the joy and optimism of the children as they responded to the music-making she was able to develop.

Commander Chevalier Jamie Edwards, in praising Nola for her creativity and stamina in the work she was doing, presented her with a cheque \$1,500 for the purchase of musical instruments – including a much-needed ukulele! ❖



An invitation ...

At the first Chapter meeting of 2017, Commander Jamie Edwards announced that the WA Commandery had been invited to Malta as guests of the Grand Prior of the Order of St Lazarus and to attend their annual Investiture on 7th October of this year.

In fact, while the Investiture provides the pivot of the visit, a “Pauline Pilgrimage” will be a special feature of the time spent. Details are still in the planning stage, but the programme will follow in St Paul’s footsteps in Malta, beginning with a visit to “Tal Hgejjeg Chapel” at Bugibba where traditionally St Paul landed and was bitten by the snake.

Then to “San Pawl Milqi” archaeological site at Burmarrad where St Paul cured the governor’s father from dysentery.

Included in the schedule would be time at “St. Paul’s Grotto” at Rabat where St Paul was held during his incarceration in Malta; a tour of Wignacourt’s Museum and Catacombs which houses a collection of artefacts related to Maltese folklore; a lecture given by the Order of St Lazarus Grand Prior Chevalier Professor Charles



Above: Lunch attendees
Left: Nola Formentin with Commander Jamie Edwards



“A Dickens of a Christmas”

Savona-Ventura on the history of the Knights in Malta (apart from being the official historian of the Order, the Grand Prior is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Malta University and known to be a talented and impressive man); also, making himself available, to speak to us – in the hospital built by the Knights, the Sacra Infermeria in Valletta – will be the internationally-renowned Maltese historian, Professor Frendo.

Other ‘touristy’ events are also in the planning! It is envisaged that the tour will encompass three to four days, with the Investiture and Gala Dinner on the final day (October 7). Costs are also still being investigated and will be known shortly.

Commander Jamie extends an invitation from the WA Commandery for any Knight or Dame from the Grand Priory of Australasia and their guests to join us on the Pilgrimage. Expressions of Interest – not binding at this stage, of course – should be directed to the Commander at: jpedwards2@gmail.com

The Pilgrimage should be a wonderful experience. ✠

For the past four years one of the most popular fund-raising events for the WA Commandery, made its transfer from the City (where parking is becoming increasingly more difficult) to the close-by suburb of Claremont and the heritage and picturesque Christ Church parish church, for its fifth season.

With two performances, (one a matinee and the other an evening staging) on December 11th of last

year, 38 of the professional music and acting fraternity gave of their services to aid the homeless of Perth and Fremantle.

In this way, ticket prices were kept low, yet some \$5,000 was raised, with capacity audiences.

Playwright and actress Jenny Davis wrote a new adaptation of Dickens’ ‘A Christmas Carol’ which gave opportunity for the director (yours truly) to involve more thespians and musicians. ✠

Above, from left: Jenny Davies, Oliver and Stuart Haluz, Bernie Davies, Anthony Howes (seated), Rebecca (at back), Saskia and Molly Jones

Images: Raymond Gianoli and Gina Church.

Congratulations from us all to Chevalier Ken Wyatt AM KSJ on his appointment as Federal Minister for the Aged and Minister for Indigenous Health.

Chevalier Ken was invested into the Order in 2012, then a member of the House of Representatives, the first indigenous member of that House. He is of Aboriginal Australian (Noongar, Yamatji and Wongi), Indian, English and Irish descent. He served as the Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care between September 2015 and January 2017, when he was appointed as the Minister for the Aged and Indigenous Health. ✠





A social start to the year on the Sunshine Coast

Members of the Sunshine Coast Commandery came together on Saturday 4th February to initiate their year's activity with an enjoyable informal evening.

From 6.00 p.m. about thirty five members met in the high-rise home of Commander Chevalier Mel Tipper and his wife Bette, who proved once again to be most hospitable and welcoming hosts. They were joined by Chevalier Charles Clark and his wife Frances, and Chevalier Robin Kleinschmidt from the Brisbane Commandery.

The supply of drinks and an apparently unending array of delicious finger food catered for the bodily needs and oiled the cogs of conversation. A fund-raising raffle sent four winners home happy, and the remainder satisfied at having supported a good cause.

Although it was by design an informal event, one important formality was included. The impending consecration as Bishop

of Chevalier the Venerable Jeremy Greaves, the Commandery Chaplain, provided an occasion for congratulations and presentation of gifts from the Commandery in recognition of his contribution to it.

Commander Chevalier Mel Tipper presented him with two mitres, one of which was richly embroidered with gold thread on a background of red, the colour of the Order. (It was jokingly referred by one of the Knights as "cardinal red.") Many of the guests intend to be present at the consecration in Brisbane at St John's Cathedral on Friday, 24th February, at 7.00pm.

The evening concluded with well-deserved thanks to the hosts and to those who had assisted them.

The Commandery has planned an extensive programme for 2017, and the evening of warm fellowship was a most encouraging and enjoyable way to introduce the members to it and to motivate them for the tasks ahead. ✠



Top from left: The Venerable Jeremy Greaves KSJ, Mel Tipper KCSJ.

Centre from left: Four Commanders: Tom Ledwidge KCSJ, David Woodrow AM KCSJ, Robin Hart AM KCSJ, Mel Tipper KCSJ.

Bottom from left: Victoria Stewart DSJ, Jan Leake Jones DSJ, Jenny Cant DSJ.

Images courtesy of Charles Clark

DAME HELEN GREGORY DCSJ (ARCHIVIST)

Around the world in eighty years: David Rees' memoirs

In 2016 Chevalier David Rees KCSJ published a book of his life as his career took him to many parts of the world – places where you and I have not been and may never go.

The Queensland Priory Archives Committee prepared a potted life story of Chevalier David which makes interesting reading and would prompt the reader to obtain a copy of the book:

Encountering the wide diversity of life experiences among the OSJ membership is one of the great joys of belonging. David Rees, our Treasurer, has lived in many parts of the world and is, perhaps, the only member of the Priory of Queensland invested in Cyprus.

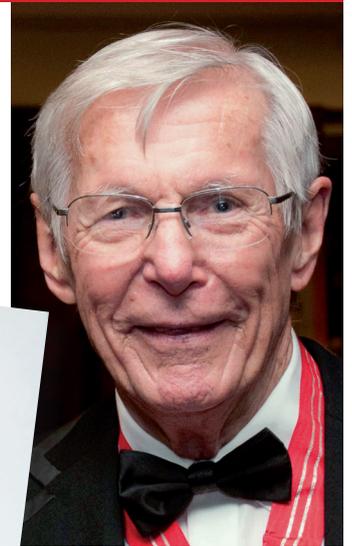
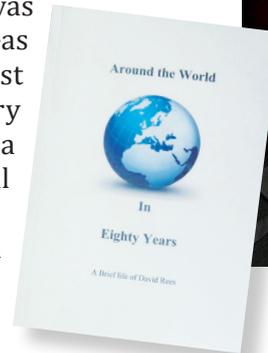
The title David has chosen for his memoirs of an extraordinary life, 'Around the world in eighty years', suggests that his world is wide indeed. In 2016, the Olympic year, David doubtless will have remembered the excitement of carrying the placard proclaiming 'Great Britain' into Wembley Stadium at the opening ceremony of the 1948 Olympic Games.

David was born in pretty Buckinghamshire, near the village of Cowley and close to the Colne River. Bombing, food shortages, and changes of school – and his growing love of Mathematics – peppered David's wartime experiences. His working life began after the War, in 1949, when he joined the National Cash Register Company, NCR.

After a very few years, David was promoted and, in 1954, was appointed to his first overseas post in The Gold Coast in West Africa. The company was very busy as independent Ghana emerged from the colonial Gold Coast.

David's marriage to Kay in 1959 and his transfer to Lagos in Nigeria occurred almost simultaneously. Next came Singapore. By the early 1960s, computerisation had reached Singapore, and in 1967, the Rees family moved to Kuala Lumpur at a time of the Company's transition from cash registers and accounting machines to computers.

In 1970, David was promoted yet again and began work at the head office in the United States before transferring to Nassau in the Bahamas to set up the Company's newest office before returning to Africa, to Kenya where David was Managing Director of NCR East Africa with responsibilities



for operations in a growing number of East African countries and later in Cyprus with several North African and Middle Eastern nations. David's last posting was a return to Nigeria.

Through all these perambulations, David managed to keep in touch with his stage career, reaching one highlight in 1990 in Cyprus, where he played an ugly sister in the Cinderella pantomime, and another in Portugal in the 1990s where he demonstrated his Gilbert and Sullivan proficiency.

We are indeed fortunate that this intrepid traveller has chosen Brisbane as his permanent home. ❖

In the Footsteps of Luther

Chevalier Stan Kan KSJ, well known for his "Great Trains of Europe" tours, has organised a tour through significant areas of Europe to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, from 24th April to 7th May 2017. Starting in Rome, the 14 day tour travels by 1st Class rail to Munich, Erfurt, Leipzig, to end in Berlin. Chevalier Stan will be the Tour Director, and the Tour Leaders will be Chevalier the Reverend Bishop Emeritus Noel Noack and

his wife, Dr Meg Noack. On the tour, most stops are for three nights, in quality hotels, with luggage sent on from hotel to hotel. There is a full sightseeing program and many meals are included. For each booking by a member of the Order of Saint John, \$200 is donated to the Toowoomba Hospice. Further details and bookings can be made by contacting Chevalier Stan Klan on 0488 423 848 or emailing greattrains@bigpond.com

CHEVALIER MEL TIPPER KCSJ

Visit to the Vancouver Commandery

Report on visit to the Sovereign Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller Priory of Canada – by Chevalier Commander Mel Tipper KCSJ
Wednesday 30th November 2016

My visit to Vancouver in November last year was occasioned by a family Baptism. I took the opportunity to visit the Prior of Canada, HE Bailiff Richard Earthy GCSJ and the Commander of Vancouver, Dame Anne Rowland DCSJ MMSJ.

The Vancouver Commandery is the largest numerically in the world-wide Vancouver Group. Both the Prior and the Commander could not have made me more welcome. The Prior had been the Commander of Vancouver Commandery, prior to Dame Anne. I spent the entire day and evening in their company.

With my wife, Bette, we visited the St John Hospice, built by the Vancouver Commandery, of which they are justly proud. St John Hospice is a freestanding residence nestled in the wooded grounds of the University of British Columbia campus, welcoming people from all backgrounds, faiths and income levels.

The building includes 14 fully furnished bedrooms, training, and research facilities, and the

necessary infrastructure support for caregivers. The hospice is very different from a hospital or long term care facility; it is designed to be a big home, not a small institution. For a short time at the end of life (usually around 10-14 days) the hospice functions as an extension of a dying person's own-home offering family-centred, multi-disciplinary care emphasising individual choice, identity, and dignity.

The Hospice was built on University land, with the cost of the building and furnishings raised by the Commandery through public subscription, charitable trusts, and significant donations from Commandery Members, totalling some \$5.5M. Their benefice is acknowledged on a large Honour Board in the Vestibule. The day-to-day running costs are met through the local government health budget which employs the staff. The Commandery takes responsibility for capital maintenance and moral support.

After an extensive meeting with key staff, we lunched together at the Shaunessy Golf Club. A general overview of the workings of the Grand Priory of Australasia was given them by me.

At 1600 hrs, I was invited to attend a meeting of the Board (the Executive) of the Vancouver Commandery. This was their scheduled bi-monthly meeting. The Vancouver Commandery is about the size of the Brisbane Commandery. It does not meet as a Commandery as we do, but



PRIOR OF CANADA, HE BAILIFF RICHARD EARTHY GCSJ AND THE COMMANDER OF VANCOUVER, DAME ANNE ROWLAND DCSJ MMSJ

annually only for Annual General Meeting.

The Board consists of the Commander, Almoner, Events and Social, Finance, Foundation (Hospice), Herald, Hospitaller, Marshall, Member Engagement, Membership. Apart from the Commander, each member chairs a sub-committee of Commandery members, and submits a report to the Board Meeting. The Commandery is serviced by a full-time Administrator whose Office and Salary are met by one of the professional members of the Commandery, and in whose Board Room we met.

After being introduced to the Board by the Commander, and warmly welcomed, I was asked to address the Board, and to speak of the Grand Priory of Australasia, and of events which have led us to the current state of mutual recognition and affiliation. It was obvious that this was very new news to all around the table, and I suspect the Commander herself had only recently been filled in by the Prior.

I brought greetings from the Grand Prior of Australasia, the
continued following page

DAME DONNA FRASER DSJ

Carols began Christmas on the Downs



CHORISTERS FROM ST ANTHONY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Christmas came early for the Priory of the Darling Downs last year with a Nativity pantomime, the highlight of the November Dinner at the Downs Club in Toowoomba.

Organised by Chevalier Dr Rob Rimmer and Mrs Katherine Rimmer, the children of St Anthony's

Primary School regaled an attentive audience and encouraged participation in Christmas Carolling.

More than 50 Knights, Dames, and guests attended, ensuring a healthy donation of \$1000 to St Anthony's to be contributed to the Toowoomba Hospice. As the festivities continued, Chevalier Mark Osborne was kept busy making a memorable visual record of the occasion – see photos on the following page. ❖

continued from page 14

Prior of Queensland, and my own Commandery. The Prior of Canada spoke regarding the significance of the present affiliation and what this meant to the Vancouver Group as a whole. One Board Member expressed great surprise, believing that Australia was already part of them!

Later that evening, at dinner, we informally covered a wide range of OSJ activity, with special emphasis on membership, and the choosing and vetting of candidates. Both expressed concern that our present methodology was often bringing in

potential members too late in their professional lives, thus creating an "old men's and old women's group" rather than one with a vital middle age thrust and balance.

They were intrigued with our Vigil arrangements for new Knights and Dames, and I have already sent them a copy of our Order of Service. The term "Donat" caused much mirth. Apart from minor variations around the edges, there was not a huge difference of operational and administrative difference.

They certainly seemed much more organised than we are,

with first-rate printed material, and maintaining their own Commandery web site. No doubt the full-time Administrator influences this to a major degree. Passage Fees are more expensive, though includes investee and spouse at the Banquet. The Annual Oblation was much the same as ours.

There is no doubt in my mind that the Sovereign Order of St John was the correct and wisest choice for our international family, and the Grand Prior should be encouraged to continue working to a more formal association. ❖



DD1



DD4



DD2



DD5



DD3



DD6

Batting for Lifeline

The Priory of the Darling Downs Order of St John of Jerusalem have come together with Lifeline Darling Downs to assist in reducing death by suicide throughout the region. We invite your business to become a sponsor of the "Batting for Lifeline" dinner. This 18+ event includes a three course meal, beer and wine

Date Saturday 15 July 2017

Venue Empire Theatre Main Stage
Neil Street Toowoomba

Subscription Tickets \$190 each,
Tables of 10 recommended.

Dress Black tie

Enquiries Chevalier Robert Kretchmann

Images, left to right:

DD1: Mrs Carolyn Kretchmann, Prior Robert Kretchmann, Grand Prior Victor Feros and Dame Marion Feros.

DD2: Mrs June Ladner, Chevalier Rod Maclean, Mrs Pamela Bligh, Chevalier Kent Bligh.

DD3: Mrs Fran Osborne and Mrs Beverley Bond.

DD4: Chevalier Chris Tait, Dame Dr Jane Tait, Rob Gillespie and Trish Gillespie.

DD5: Chevalier Noel Strohfeldt, Prior Robert Kretchmann, Mrs Clare McHugh-von Stieglitz and Chevalier Lewis von Stieglitz

DD6: Mrs Fay Hertle and Chevalier Karl Hertle.

Images courtesy of Chevalier Mark Osborne