



Pro Utilitate

St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia

quarterly newsletter for the members

ISSN 1448-9759 Issue No. 2020-1 February-March 2020

'Preserving and promoting the St John heritage'

EDITION NO. 2020-1

Welcome to *Pro Utilitate* No. 2020-1; and, belatedly, a Happy New Year! The newsletter is now in its 20th year, which means that, come June-July, we'll be celebrating our 'China' anniversary. That's an improvement on our 'Wooden' or 5th anniversary and it's a little better than our 'Crystal', the 15th; but it falls somewhat short of the 'Silver' (25th), the 'Pearl' (30th) and of course the 'Gold' (50th) and 'Diamond' (60th). The last of these is so far away that the only Historical Society members who'll probably see it are those who aren't born yet!

That *Pro Utilitate* has survived long enough to achieve a 'China' anniversary is, in retrospect, something of a minor publishing miracle. When **BRIAN FOTHERINGHAM**, our inaugural President, in 2001 suggested to the then Secretary that a quarterly newsletter would be a good way to maintain contact with the Historical Society's members, the Secretary groaned inwardly. Although he agreed with Brian, he knew he'd be the HS member who'd have to produce and distribute it. Some 78 editions later, he's no longer the Secretary but is still the newsletter Editor and still churning out four issues annually.

Anyone who has a complete set of all *Pro Utilitate* editions, and who takes the trouble to flip through the back numbers, will realise we've reported much 'History & Heritage' in our 20 years. Incidentally, your Editor *doesn't* have a full set, because he has no room at home. Instead, he periodically archives them at the Australian Office. No one has ever consulted them there, but they patiently await the attention of the future historian of the Historical Society who'll one day wish to write our centennial history.

This edition of *Pro Utilitate*, unlike earlier issues, dwells at length on the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group, the 140th anniversary commemorative history of which is being produced by three Historical Society members. This is such an important project your Editors think it deserves a 'feature article'.

And talking of commemorative histories, here's an update on another one we mentioned in *Pro Utilitate* No. 2019-4

THE ORDER'S BICENTENARY — 2031

In 10 years & 11 months' time, January 2031, the Order will reach the 200th anniversary of its foundation.

That's so many years and decades that there probably isn't a substance precious enough for the naming of a bicentenary. One possible candidate is plutonium, a radio-active heavy metal used in nuclear weapons and as an energy source for spacecraft. It's worth \$4,000 a gram, but is so highly toxic and carcinogenic that we wouldn't want a commemorative plaque made from it in the Priory Heritage Collection. Another candidate is Californium, which costs upwards of \$25,000,000 a gram. It's a synthesised metallic element, the most expensive substance known, which means that only super-rich people like Bill Gates or Mark Zuckerberg could afford it.

As reported in *Pro Utilitate* No. 2019-4, **IAN HOWIE-WILLIS** and **JOHN PEARN** prepared a submission to the Grand Council of the Order recommending that it sponsor the publication of a Bicentennial History to commemorate the Order's achievements since its foundation on 29 January 1831. Their submission has now been approved by the Directors of St John Ambulance Australia. It has been sent on to St John International,

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the Order's secretariat in Charterhouse Mews, Clerkenwell, London, for consideration by the Steering Committee of the Order's Grand Council.

Briefly, the submission makes these points:

- * The Most Venerable Order of St John dates back to January 1831, when, a group of British enthusiasts 'revived' the mediaeval *Langue* (Priory) of the Knights Hospitaller. The ancient *Langue* had been abolished by King Henry VIII during the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539. The initiators of the 'revival' were a small coterie of rogue French Knights, who took unilateral unauthorised action instigating the 'revival', which was not approved by the 'parent' Order — the original Catholic Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem of Rhodes & of Malta. The parent Order eventually disowned and dissociated itself from the '*Langue*' in 1858. The '*revived Langue*' then evolved into the present Most Venerable Order and was legitimised by its Royal Charter of 1888.
- * In June 1931 the Order celebrated its Centenary in grand style in London with a series of commemorative events; however, it did not publish a commemorative general history of itself, as might have been expected.
- * Several official general histories of the Order were published during the C20th, the most recent of them by Sir Harry Luke (1884–1969) 53 years ago in 1967 under the title ***The Knights of St John in the British Realm***. This book is now greatly outdated and no longer presents an accurate or informative view of the Order's history. For example, in a volume of some 300 pages, just one sentence is given to the overseas Pories, which now comprise the large majority of the Order's membership.
- * In the meantime, many fractions of the Order have published their own histories. These include Priory and Commandery histories produced in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Wales and Western Australia. Such histories, however, are not general histories of the Order but more circumscribed accounts of some of the subsidiary foundations, establishments and regional entities.
- * The submission recommends that the Order should make up for the lack of an up-to-date modern general history of itself by publishing the proposed Bicentennial History.
- * Further, the submission suggests that such a work should be a collaborative compilation, with contributions from the Order's 10 Pories, Eye Hospital Group & three Commanderies co-ordinated by an Editor-in-Chief.
- * Finally, the submission argues that the time to start planning for such a work is **now** because commemorative histories of the kind proposed are usually many years in the making.

Watch this space for further developments!

THE AUSTRALIAN PRIOR VISITS THE EYE HOSPITAL

The Australian Prior of the Order (who is also the Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable **DAVID HURLEY** AC DSC KStJ and his wife, Her Excellency Mrs **LINDA HURLEY**, recently visited the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group in Jerusalem. They toured the central campus of the Group, the St John Eye Hospital in Sheik Jarrah, on 22nd January during an official visit to Jerusalem and the West Bank.

General and Mrs Hurley met the Chief Executive Officer of St John Eye Hospital, Dr **AHMAD MA'ALI** and his Senior Management Team. During the meeting, the CEO gave an update on the Hospital's work and activities, highlighting the Australian support through the Australian Priory and The Fred Hollows Foundation in helping to treat complex eye cases with the aim of preventing avoidable blindness. Following the meeting, a tour of the Hospital's facilities took place and key staff members from various departments were present to explain the impact of their work on the lives of people they serve.

The Governor-General and Mrs Hurley were impressed by the work of the Hospital Group and were very interested to learn more about the work undertaken by the Hospital especially the outreach service.

This was an extraordinary visit and a very special one. As far as we the staff of **Pro Utilitate** know, it was the first time in the Priory's 74-year history that a serving Australian Prior has made such a visit. In that time we've had 17 Priors, some of whom possibly visited the Hospital, though not while wearing their "Prior" caps.

One aspect of the Prior's visit delighted the editorial staff of *Pro Utilitate*. This was the fact that General Hurley wore his 'Australian Priory' tie. Such ties, of course, are a Historical Society product; and so the more widely they're worn, the better we're pleased.

Here now are photos showing the visit:



Clockwise from top left: (1) The CEO, Dr Ahmad Ma'ali, welcomes the Prior & Mrs Hurley on their visit to the Jerusalem Eye Hospital on 22nd January. (2) Dr Ma'ali presents gifts to the Prior & Mrs Hurley. His is an 'Eye Hospital' tie; hers is a commemorative cup. (3) Mrs Hurley and the Prior are introduced to veteran nursing and medical staff..

ST JOHN EYE HOSPITAL 140TH ANNIVERSARY HISTORY

1. PROJECT UPDATE

As mentioned in the previous edition of *Pro Utilitate* (No. 2019–4), three Historical Society members, Messrs **MATTHEW GLOZIER**, **IAN HOWIE-WILLIS** & **JOHN PEARN**, are producing the official 140th anniversary history of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group (SJEHG, previously the St John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem).

Work on this project proceeds apace. The following points provide an update.

- * The original submission for a 140th anniversary commemorative history was approved by the Office of the Priory at its meeting in Canberra in May 2018. Enthusiastically endorsed by the Australian Priory Hospitaller, Associate Professor **NITIN VERMA** (pictured right) it was then approved by the St John Ambulance Australia Board of Directors.



- * It next went from the Australian Priory to the Steering Committee of the Grand Council of the Order in late 2018. The Steering Committee approved the submission but then referred it to the SJEHG Board of Trustees for an opinion. With encouragement from the incoming Lord Prior, Professor **MARK COMPTON** AM, GCStJ, formerly the Australian Priory Chancellor, the Trustees adopted the project in May 2019. Messrs Glozier, Howie-Willis & Pearn began work straight away and have applied themselves to their task ever since. (That's a picture of Mark at the left, taken while he was addressing an evening session of the annual SJEHG conference in Jerusalem last September. It happened to be his first formal engagement as Lord Prior; and, as readers might have guessed, he performed brilliantly.)

- * The SJEHG people in London and Jerusalem are most enthusiastic about the project, which they see as an important means of promoting SJEHG work across the Order and among SJEHG’s supporters worldwide.
- * All three historians have now made productive research trips to the Archives & Library of the Order at St John’s Gate. Messrs Glozier & Howie-Willis have also undertaken research visits to the St John Eye Hospital in Sheikh Jarrah, Jerusalem, where they received the full cooperation of Dr **AHMAD MA’ALI** (the SJEHG CEO) and his staff. By the time Historical Society members read this edition of *Pro Utilitate*, Professor Pearn will be in Jerusalem spending a week at the Hospital, meeting the key players, seeing the relevant sites and conducting research.
- * As the three historians continue their research and draft the manuscript for their book, they are most grateful for the continuing co-operation they have received from the Museum staff at St John’s Gate and from the SJEHG people in the London and Jerusalem offices.
- * The drafting of the manuscript continues galloping ahead. A three-part chronological structure has been developed, comprising ‘early’, ‘middle’ and ‘recent’ time-spans. Each part comprises a series of chapters, of which there are a total of 20. As of today, 25th February, 17 of the chapters have been completed. In addition, a series of appendices is being developed to indicate, for instance, the periods of service of functionaries such as the Hospitallers, Wardens and Matrons.
- * In the near future the three co-authors will circulate sample chapters to members of the project Steering Group. Meanwhile, the co-authors continue revising and refining their manuscript.
- * The co-authors anticipate that the first draft of the manuscript will be completed by about Easter 2020. The project is accordingly on track for expeditious completion and publication in the 140th anniversary year, 2022.
- * The co-authors are pleased with the way the book is turning out. It has developed a momentum of its own and seems almost to be writing itself. It’s a complex but compelling story, and the narrative flows smoothly and coherently. It’s almost as if the manuscript is telling us, “Hey, you historians, this is where I want to go next; make sure you follow, and be very careful that you tell the story as it’s meant to be told!”
- * The co-authors are also confident they’re producing a book which will become a milestone production, one worthy of its subject. This view is shared by the Order’s Hospitaller, Dr **DAVID VERITY** OstJ (a leading ophthalmologist at the Moorfields Eye Hospital, London), who opines that the book will become *‘the definitive history of SJEHG, a key reference work for decades to come’*.



- * Meanwhile, Sir **PAUL LAMBERT**, (pictured right), Secretary-General of the Order, is also anxious to assist. He was in Canberra last week attending the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of the Order (see further article below), and during that time held discussions with Dr Howie-Willis on matters of mutual interest. For instance, Sir Paul suggests that the **H.R.H. PRINCE RICHARD, DUKE OF GLOUCESTER, THE GRAND PRIOR** (pictured left), should launch the book in London, ideally in June 2022, when the Grand Council will be meeting there. Sir Paul also suggests that the Grand Prior should be invited to contribute the Introduction to the book; and further, he (Sir Paul) will liaise with Prince Richard to ensure his cooperation.



- * Finally, and on the subject of book launches, the co-authors anticipate that there will actually be two book launches — one at St John’s Gate attended by Grand Council members, the other at the Hospital in Jerusalem for the SJEHG staff, whose history the book will be.

2. RESEARCH REPORT BY MATTHEW GLOZIER

On his return from London & Jerusalem last month, Dr Glozier (pictured next page right) produced a report on his research at The Gate and subsequently at the Hospital in Jerusalem. The following excerpts will be of interest to all Historical Society members.

I spent two weeks in London. My Week 1 was devoted to scanning the Hospital's Annual Reports. This phase of the research proceeded as follows:

- * *Monday 6th –Thursday 9th January I achieved full scanning of reports covering 1950 to 1998. I have uploaded these scans to USB sticks for my two co-historians.*
- * *Frustratingly, 1999 was misplaced and couldn't be located. I have been reassured that it exists and is to be scanned professionally (along with the other reports) by a special project team in the near future.*
- * *Reports for 2000-2004 do not exist at St John's Gate. I will pursue them from the Hospital end and hopefully discover their whereabouts.*
- * *Friday 10th January I consulted my first archival box. Though I feared the worst, in terms of stringent invigilation, I was pleasantly surprised to discover a high level of freedom in allowing me to note, scan and photograph box contents without interruption. The same standards applied throughout the following week. As agreed in advance, I provided a list of all documents copied, as a record of what items I had captured and stored on my electronic devices.*



Week 2 was devoted to working methodically through numerous archival boxes. At first, my efforts focussed on material from my time period (1960 onwards). Having completed these boxes, I then moved on to other boxes covering the whole time-span of the hospital. Some valuable documents were uncovered, and a number of very interesting images were captured in high quality photographs.

Highlights of my time in London included:

- * *In Week 2 came my interview with the legal people at The Gate. This was to reinforce features of UK Intellectual Property law (which differs a bit from ours in Australia). This was helpful, and I showed some images I was worried about, because they included patients, and it was reassuring to have some supportive statements that inclusion would be OK.*
- * *Having the privilege and honour to address the Board of Trustees of the St John Eye Hospital Group.*
- * *This gave me the opportunity to present the anniversary history of the Eye Hospital and I told them about our methodology and the dimensions of the project as we see them.*
- * *The Chairman, Sir **ANDREW CASH** (pictured right), suggested it might be beneficial to the project for the Trustees to be able to contact me by email. I agreed this would have the advantage of assisting my research, while simultaneously encouraging direct inclusion in the project by the Trustees (and, through them, the various Priorities they represent). I have asked him to feel free to distribute my contact details.*
- * *I met with Dr **DAVID VERITY**, the Order Hospitaller. I expressed my gratitude to him for his strong support in favour of a rigorous, academic treatment of the subject, such as we three Australian authors are currently engaged in writing.*
- * *Editor's insert: Dr Glozier, a modest chap, didn't say so in his report, but during his time in London he had the great distinction of being invested as a Freeman of the City of London. Congratulations, Matthew! By the way, others who've shared that honour include Princess Diana, President Franklin D Roosevelt, Benjamin Disraeli & Margaret Thatcher (British Prime Ministers), Nelson Mandela and Robert Baden-Powell (founder of the Scouting movement).*



After my time in London, I moved on to Jerusalem. While I was at the Eye Hospital there, it was heartening to see such strong evidence of Verity family support for the Hospital. I was pleased to see the Verity family so well represented in artwork in the Tower Flat, on a plaque in the Peace Garden, and in heraldic form in the cloisters of the Hospital. I spent two days in Jerusalem and the West Bank. The highlights of this time were as follows:

* My time in Jerusalem was enlivened by the kind hospitality of Dr **AHMAD MA'ALI** (pictured right). I am grateful to him for facilitating my visit to the Muristan Clinic and to Hebron, and for accommodating me in the Tower Flat at the Hospital.



* Hebron: **RIBHIEH AL HLAYEL** welcomed me to the Hebron clinic and showed me around, introducing me to the staff. I recognised the names of many of these fine people from my research and it was a special joy to meet them in person.

* Dr **ALAA AL-TALBISHI** was most kind to allow me to witness him perform a cornea replacement surgery. He talked me through the operation, while the nurses touchingly whispered "you are most welcome"!

* I got to know the CEO, Dr Ahmad Ma'ali, who introduced me to **PETER KHOURY** (Chief Financial Officer) and other members of staff. Ahmad allowing me to stay in the Tower Flat and generously spent much time with me.

* At the Muristan Clinic the nurse-in-charge, **MARLENE KATANASHO** (pictured left in the Peace Garden of the Clinic), showed me around the clinic, allowing me access to the Peace Garden, and opening the upstairs "museum". This space has lots of potential, although currently it only contains some photographs and two stained glass panels, donated by the Priors of America and England and the Isles. The photos need captions, and we three authors and our book will be able to add huge depth to this limited display

* I had three wonderful drivers – **RAMI** and **GEORGE SA'AHDE** and **ASSAN**. Both George and Assan were very well chosen to inform my visits into the Old City (and Bethlehem) and to the West Bank, respectively. I learnt a lot from these two men. In fact, it was a joy to discover a picture of George in Scout uniform, playing his bagpipes, in the publication I received at the Custodia, which highlighted the Franciscan mission in the Holy Land! [That's a picture of George at the right. He's playing the pipes at a reception at the British Embassy in Jerusalem last September.]

* Ahmad was kind to invite me to share a number of meals with him. I particularly value the canteen lunch he arranged with the Heads of Department, so many of whom I recognised from the Hospital's Annual Reports.

* As well as the above, special features of my time in Jerusalem included having the privilege of visiting the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem and the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. George Sa'ahde was an expert guide, without whose assistance I would have been lost.

* Seeing the Maltese Cross flying over two Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Malta properties (the Holy Family hospital in Bethlehem and the nearby Tantur research facility) was a wonderful experience.

* Sharing breakfast with Ribhieh at the Hebron clinic was another special pleasure. The famous Hebron falafel is worth experiencing! Remember that next time you go there!



Project discussion outcomes:

There's widespread agreement that we should produce a rigorously scholarly book, but one to be enjoyed by general readers. We have very strong support from the Order Hospitaller (Dr Verity), the Hospital CEO (Dr Ma'ali) and the President of the St John Historical Society at The Gate (**PAUL GWILLIAM**, who presented a paper on the Priory of Wales at our Historical Society's 21st annual seminar in Melbourne last year).

- * **DR VERITY** (pictured right) understands and appreciates scholarly research and publishing. He's deeply interested in History, but although not a historian himself, he recognises the historian's skills we bring to the project. He agrees with our methodology. He's a great champion and supporter of the Hospital, and so he sees this book as a key opportunity to honour its achievements over time. His suitably broad vision of the Order's humanitarian mission leads him to want the Hospital's history to be thoroughly documented, in order to bear witness to the huge efforts that have sustained it across two centuries. He would most vigorously market the book through his world-wide contact with Pories and via the St John Ophthalmic Association, which he cherishes.



- * **DR MA'ALI** is an intelligent, enthusiastic scholar especially within his chosen field of nursing. (That's Dr Ma'ali at the left on 22nd January. He's shown leading the Australian Prior, General David Hurley, on a tour of the Eye Hospital.) He understands and appreciates academic research and publishing. He agrees with our methodology. He is particularly keen to have an academic book to honour the efforts of the Eye Hospital Group staff. He is strongly pro-Palestinian, and knows the Hospital is a beacon of humanitarian achievements within the troubled politics of the region. He wants to present a "substantial" work of scholarship to the American Priory, along with other regular visitors to the Hospital (e.g. the Masonic Knights Templar). He sees strong financial benefits accruing from sales of an academic history (and would most vigorously market the book). With reference to suggestions that the book should be in "coffee table" format (i.e. large dimensions, mainly photographs with captions, and minimal text), he thinks such a production would be an interesting secondary product, but would lack substance and benefit into the future. He accordingly favours the kind of traditional empirical history that the three co-authors are producing.



- * **MR GWILLIAM** (pictured at the right) is an intelligent, perceptive and enthusiastic scholar. He strongly supports historical publishing on the Order. He understands and appreciates academic research and publishing. His own most recent publications include **A short history of the formation of the Priory for Wales from 1877 to 1920** on the occasion of the Centenary of the Priory for Wales and a paper in the **Occasional Paper** series of the UK St John Historical Society on 'The Contribution of The Order of St. John to the formation of Ambulance Trains in the early period of WW1 from August 1914 to May 1915'. [NB: copies of these works are in the Priory Library in Canberra.] He agrees with our methodology. He suggests initial production costs could be obviated via a prestigious subscription list. Further, a subscription list, headed by HM the Queen, would be a valuable advertising and fund-raising tool to build interest in (and respect for) the book.



FAREWELL

Sadly, we must farewell three long-standing and faithful members of the Historical Society —**GAIL ELEANOR VANN** MStJ of Clayfield, Queensland; **GLADYS FLORENCE BLACKSTOCK** CStJ of Williamstown, Victoria; and **PAUL WILLIAM MEYERS** CStJ of Indooroopilly, Queensland. Gail died on 30th September last year at the age of 74; Glad, who was 93, died on 6th December; and Paul died at 87 on 12th December.

All three were veteran St Johnnies with long and varied careers in St John Ambulance Australia. They each joined the Historical Society soon after it was constituted in 2001; and all three regularly attended its annual gatherings when these rotated to their home States. Members like these were and are the bedrock on which the Historical Society was built. We will miss them greatly.

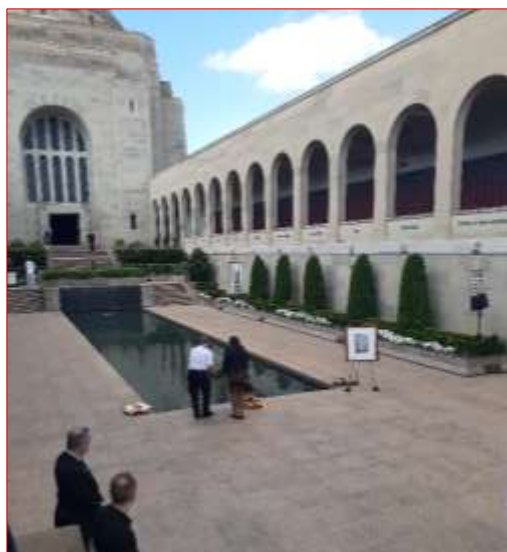
ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE ORDER

On Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th February, the Australian Office of St John Ambulance Australia hosted the 2020 Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of the Most Venerable Order of St John. The conference was held in The Hotel Realm, Canberra, venue for the memorable 2018 annual get-together of the Historical Society.

The Australian delegation was led by **CAMERON OXLEY** KStJ (Priory Chancellor), **LEN FIORI** KStJ (Priory Secretary) and **KYLIE SEIDEL** MStJ (Priory Manager).

Delegates attended from Australia, Fiji, Hong Kong, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Solomon Islands & Sri Lanka. Also in attendance were Professor **MARK COMPTON** GCStJ (Lord Prior), his wife Dr **ELIZABETH ELLIS** OSTJ (this newsletter's Hon. Book Reviews Editor) and Sir **PAUL LAMBERT** KStJ (Secretary-General of the Order).

By way of introducing the overseas delegates to Canberra, conference proceedings kicked off with a visit the Australian War Memorial, where two of the AWM's expert guides led them on a tour of exhibits pertinent to battlefield first aid and medical support of the combat troops.



After an afternoon tea break, the delegates watched the AWM's famous daily "Last Post Ceremony", which featured a kilt-clad piper playing a lament ("Flowers of the Forest") and a bugler sounding "The Last Post".

During the ceremony, two of the delegates, one from Singapore and the other from the Solomon Islands, jointly placed a wreath at the end of the Pool of Remembrance. The picture at the left shows them laying the wreath.

After the conference ended, there was a special investiture at Government House, Yarralumla, on Wednesday 17th February. This was so that **DOUG KELSON** CStJ, formerly CEO of St John Ambulance in Papua New Guinea, could be draped with his mantle and presented with his neck pendant. Doug's wife was attending the Conference as one of the Solomon Islands delegates.

HISTORY SEMINAR XXII & MEMBERS' CONVENTION 2020

St John Ambulance Australia National Members' Convention 2020 will be conducted across the dates Thursday 12th to Sunday 15th November 2020 at the Sydney Olympic Park.

If you wish to know more about Convention 2020, go to the "**impact. 2020 convention**" website at the internet address www.convention.stjohn.org.au. That will enable you to "sign up" for Convention information, which will be sent to you as it becomes available.

The 2020 Convention will be taking place six months later in the year than recent Membership Conventions; but no doubt we'll all eventually get used to the idea of a later Convention.

It's not definite yet, but the Historical Society's 22nd annual Seminar will probably take place on Friday 13th November. Ominous date? Not at all, unless you consider 16 presentations on the program as "ominous".

As at 1st January 2020 (the cut-off date for receiving offers of papers), we had 16 offers of papers. They are listed below. Except for the first, the keynote paper, they're listed in alphabetical order of the authors' surnames.

- 1) **MATTHEW GLOZIER** on 'All Rhodes lead to the Hospitallers: Mussolini, the Royal House of Savoy and the "restoration" of the Grand Master's palace on Rhodes' (keynote paper)
- 2) **MICHAEL ANDREWS** on 'A brief history of the Queensland St John Ambulance Cadet program'
- 3) **BRUCE CASLAKE** on 'The Hospitallers' capture of Rhodes, 1306–1310'
- 4) **LIZ COFFEY** on 'Being the Jerusalem Eye Hospital's Ambassador in Australia'
- 5) **PAUL COPELAND** on 'A history of traumatic mental health of combatants and first responders'
- 6) **NEIL CONN** on 'A financial history of St John Ambulance Australia'
- 7) **ELIZABETH ELLIS** on 'Women in the ancient Order of St John'
- 8) **DAVID FAHEY** on 'A history of anaphylaxis'
- 9) **BRIAN FOTHERINGHAM** on 'The highs and lows of the first 30 Years of the St John Ambulance Historical Society in South Australia'
- 10) **IAN HOWIE-WILLIS** on 'The St John Jerusalem Eye Hospital — the first 32 years, 1882–1914'
- 11) **ALLAN MAWDSLEY** on 'From Cadet to Lord Prior — the remarkable career of Professor Mark Compton AM, GCStJ'
- 12) **FRANK MOLONEY** on 'The effects of the Plague on the Knights Hospitaller on Rhodes, 1498'
- 13) **DIDIER MOUTIER** on 'BERT — the Bicycle Emergency Response Team'
- 14) **JOHN PEARN** on 'The Chain of Survival — Concept, Evolution and Implementation'
- 15) **TODD SKILTON** on 'The Order and Priory Donats'
- 16) **STEPHEN SZABO** on 'Heraldic devices of particular St John members'.

Sixteen presentations, if all are delivered, will mean that once again we will have to run a streamed one-day seminar. Is that "ominous"? Or is it just the way things are, now that the History Seminars have become such an important component of successive Members' Conventions?

Either way, the 16 presentations above are a typical variegated grab-bag of topics spread across the ancient and modern, the technicalities of first aid theory & delivery, heraldry, mental health, the preservation of St John history, the significance of Rhodes, the St John Eye Hospital, the St John Cadets, St John finances, membership in the Order and biography.

BOOK REVIEW: HOSPITALLER WOMEN IN THE MIDDLE AGES

Pro Utilitate's Book Reviews Editor, Dr **ELIZABETH ELLIS** OSTJ, continues her series on books that have been milestones in recording the history of the ancient Order of Knights Hospitaller and of our present-day Most Venerable Order of St John.

In this next review Elizabeth considers the women who were members of the ancient Order of Knights Hospitaller. (That's Elizabeth, left, as a volunteer with the NSW Rural Fire Service.)

On behalf of all *Pro Utilitate* readers, we thank Elizabeth for the time and effort she puts into her reviews. Through her exertions we are becoming a 'learning Historical Society'.

The book she reviews is a symposium edited by Dr Anthony Luttrell and Professor Helen J. Nicholson, two distinguished British mediaevalists. The citation details are: Anthony Luttrell & Helen J. Nicholson, *Hospitaller Women in the Middle Ages* (London: Routledge, 2016). Elizabeth's review now follows:

This book is fairly essential reading for anyone wishing to balance out the scales when it comes to the history of the ancient Order. It has been edited by two respected historians in this area: Anthony Luttrell and Helen J Nicholson. Dr Anthony Luttrell has had a long and distinguished career in history and held a wide range of honorary positions in the United Kingdom, Europe and North America. Professor Nicholson is an academic who has been head of the History Department at Cardiff University and is a recognised expert in the Military Orders and the Crusades.

Professor Helen Nicholson's book *The Knights Hospitaller*, was reviewed last year in this publication. All of the contributors have academic positions or were researching this area for doctorate dissertations.

The book is not easy to access. It retails for anything between \$250 and \$350 through on line order companies or can be purchased as an electronic download for approximately \$70 but then requires an Adobe Digital Reader.

The importance of this book cannot be underestimated. As the editors say in the Preface, 'Hospitaller women have largely been ignored, as many scholars have concentrated on military, and therefore masculine, themes. However military orders were also religious orders and their women members were considerably more numerous than has generally been appreciated.' There is a growing body of knowledge of the Hospitaller traditions and practices and many modern scholars are now trying to piece together the influential role that women played in the ancient Order.

The book is divided into an Introduction and eight Chapter as listed below. All of which are well referenced and supported:

Introduction: A Survey of Hospitaller Women in the Middle Ages (Anthony Luttrell and Helen J. Nicholson)

1. Women and the Military Orders in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries (Alan Forey)
2. Men and Women of the Hospitaller, Templar and Teutonic Orders: Twelfth to Fourteenth Centuries (Francesco Tommasi)
3. The Sisters of the Order of Saint John at Mynchin Buckland (Myra Struckmeyer)
4. The Aragonese Hospitaller Monastery of Sigena: its Early Stages, 1188–c. 1210 (Luis García-Guijarro Ramos)
5. Margaret de Lacy and the Hospital of Saint John at Aconbury, Herefordshire (Helen J. Nicholson)
6. The Hospitaller Sisters in Frisia (Johannes A. Mol)
7. Fleur de Beaulieu (d. 1347), Saint of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem (Paulette L'Hermite-Leclercq)
8. The Female Hospitallers of San Bevignate at Perugia: 1325–c. 1507 (Francesco Tommasi).

In the introduction, Luttrell and Nicholson attempt to 'survey' the number of women and the monasteries that they belonged to in the Middle Ages. They describe how difficult this has been as most historical records focus on individual houses and during particular periods, and are also difficult to compare because of differences in terminology. In its review of the women in the East, this chapter confirms the existence of the house of nuns in Jerusalem looking after female pilgrims, prior to 1099 under the leadership of Sister Agnes who was described as a 'noble' and a 'Roman matron'. The various roles that women took in the Hospital in Jerusalem is described in as much detail as is generally reported. As with most things, references to women in the Order are often as an aside. The record of Hospitaller women in the East includes those in Acre as well as 50 nuns in the Order of Lazarus in Acre. There are some records of women in Cyprus and Rhodes however, the details are scant. In the review of women in the West, this chapter confirms the widespread location of women in the Hospitaller Order across Europe and summarises the records which are later elaborated on in the following chapters. In many instances, women outnumbered the men within the houses.

Alan Forey (Chapter 2) and Francesco Tommasi (Chapter 3) both describe the role of women in a range of Military Orders. Chapter 2 covers the period of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries and chapter 3 deals with an overlapping period but takes the history through to the fourteenth century. Compared with the Templars who had a policy of complete exclusion of women, the Order of St John welcomed women into its Order and made quite elaborate arrangements for them. They were not involved in their military activities but treated the wounded knights and soldiers in the East. Tommasi devotes more detail to the organisation, operations, dress and power structures within both the Teutonic and Hospitaller Orders. These are slightly fragmented chapters as they are looking at a range of orders, across a range of locations and times with the Middle Ages.

Five of the following chapters focus on particular Hospitaller monasteries across England; Buckland (Myra Struckmeyer) and Herefordshire (Helen J. Nicholson) and in mainland Europe; Sigena (Luis García-Guijarro Ramos), Frisia (Johannes A. Mol) and San Bevignate (Francesco Tommasi). Women shared monasteries and were attached to commanderies with men, particularly in the earlier years. There were particular points in history when their separate seclusion was deemed necessary, at times for their own protection and independence. At

other times, this occurred at the will of the religious or secular leaders, such as at Buckland when King Henry II ordered that all the women of the Hospitaller Order in England were to become located in the one place in about 1186. Henry, it appears, had reservations about women living under the same roof as celibate men, as women represented ‘a great danger’. Sigena, which remained operational through until the 20th Century, was a particularly wealthy and influential establishment. Unusually, the co-existing male establishment was subordinate to and under the complete control of the Prioress. The monastery was a place for many of the women of the royal family to live in religious seclusion and safety when they no longer had a place at the palace.

Chapter 8, written by Paulette L’Hermite-Leclercq, analyses the evidence related to Fleur, the Saint of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem who died in 1347 after a long period at the monastery in Beaulieu, France which was devoted to the care of the sick. Much of the records about Fleur were written well after her death and contain a mixture of interpretation and speculation, however she appears to have saintly features that were both traditional and modern. She was a religious that is, a fully ordained nun who entered the Order of St John at this monastery when she was 14, which housed both men and women from its inception (1298) with a maximum of 39 nuns. She had multiple charismatic experiences listed on page 277 including a glowing halo, spirit of prophecy and five stigmatic wounds every Friday. The list of post mortem miracles is extensive (p 279-282) and included many healings or saves during difficult childbirths. Despite this extensive list, her sainthood appears to be recognised on the basis of her personal virtues much more than any specific Hospitaller vocation. In addition, the sainthood ‘cult’ which developed from her life, was very much spontaneous and does not appear to have been designed to benefit the Order of St John. What is interesting is how much attention is given by some historians to St Ubaldesca of Pisa without any mention of St Fleur of Beaulieu. Equally as interesting is the omission of St Ubaldesca and St Toscana from this history of Hospitaller women in the Middle Ages.

Much of the evidence comes to us in passing, from legal documents or records of sales or transfer of ownership of lands or properties. From the number of legal disputes, it is obvious that the position of women within the Order of St John was not always harmonious. At Buckland for example the Order took land from the sisters for the men and left them unable to support the growing numbers of sisters in residence (Chapter 4). On another occasion, at Herefordshire, the founder was so unimpressed with the treatment by the Order, that she withdrew the entire establishment from the Order with the Pope’s support (Chapter 6).

In all of this work, it is clear that women played an integral role in most of the military orders, and with the Order of Saint John in particular. The roles that they played were wide ranging; from benefactress to kitchen hands but also in the care of the sick and the wounded both at home and overseas. Some of the history is well documented but much is not, as is typical of women’s history generally and particularly from the Middle Ages. We know very little about their role in the hospitals beyond looking after the women and children in their care but we can imagine that it went well beyond the application of prayers.

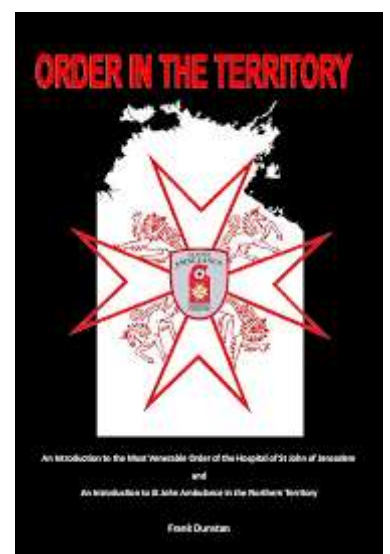
FRANK DUNSTAN’S NEW BOOK, *ORDER IN THE TERRITORY*

Pro Utilitate’s favourite Northern Territory historian, **FRANK DUNSTAN** MStJ, has produced a sequel to his astoundingly successful 2013 official history of St John Ambulance in the Northern Territory — ***Awkward Hours, Awkward Jobs: A History of St John Ambulance in the Northern Territory, 1915–2012 — The Volunteers.***

Frank’s new book, pictured right, is the equally superb ***Order in the Territory: An Introduction to the Most Venerable Order of St John of Jerusalem and to St John Ambulance in the Northern Territory*** (Darwin: Frank Dunstan & St John Ambulance Australia [NT], 2018).

Order in the Territory is a signal achievement because it takes the St John story in the Northern Territory well beyond the scope of his earlier ***Awkward Hours, Awkward Jobs***. Whereas the latter focussed on the “Vollies” (volunteers) who have customarily supported the St John effort in the Territory, and more especially in the less urbanised regions, the former is a book-length essay on a series of intertwined subjects. These include the history of:

- ✱ the Most Venerable Order, its ceremonies, regalia, insignia and traditions
- ✱ St John Ambulance Australia and its spread into the Territory
- ✱ the St John-run Northern Territory ambulance service



- * the regional Ambulance Centres and Volunteer Divisions of St John in the Territory
- * **AND** the recollections of their St John service of a group of St John veterans in the Territory.

One of the great strengths of **Order in the Territory** is that it deftly weaves these themes together in the one grand, flowing tapestry. Anyone reading the book will come away fully informed about the Order and its ancient traditions, its outreach via its St John Ambulance activity, the voluntary ethos of the organisation, its highly professional management of modern ambulance transport systems, its decentralised structures, and the spirit of altruistic humanitarianism that suffuses the organisation and serves to engage the lifelong commitment of its members.

Order in the Territory is in the grand tradition of St John Ambulance historiography in Australia. It is the equal of any State/Territory history so far published in this country; and it also takes its place alongside the national histories of St John published in recent years in Australia, Canada, Malaysia, New Zealand and Wales.



Frank, pictured at the left with **LESLEY KING** DStJ, who wrote the Foreword for **Order in the Territory**, is living proof of the dictum that historians are probably born, not made. Unlike some other historians who had the advantage of university training in historiography, Frank learned the historian's craft through practising it. He has had many jobs during his long life, but being a St John historian is his late and true vocation.

Congratulations, Frank. You've done it again; and once again you've done it magnificently well!

Readers wishing to obtain copies of **Order in the Territory**, are advised to contact Frank direct by email, feralfirie@bigpond.com. Alternatively, they can contact the Casuarina, Darwin head office of St John (NT), 50 Dripstone Road, Casuarina, Northern Territory 0810, email feedback@stjohnnt.asn.au.

Finally, your Editor is deeply grateful to Frank for having sent him a signed copy of the book for his personal use and also another for inclusion in the Priory Library.

PREVIOUS 'SOMETHING INTERESTING'

The previous 'Something Interesting' item in **Pro Utilitate** No. 2019-4, pictured right, was very quickly identified correctly. The newsletter had been published barely three minutes when none other than **FRANK DUNSTAN** emailed to say it was a model of a St John Jerusalem Eye Hospital Clinic Van, used to take ophthalmic services to remote communities in the Israeli-Occupied Territories of Palestine. As Frank pointed out, the model Clinic Vans were originally used as promotional items in fundraising campaigns but have now become so popular as



'collectables' that the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group now distributes them in gift-packs to friends of the Eye Hospital Group. (Which is how your Editor obtained his.) The only detail that Frank didn't tell us was that the model is of the original Volkswagen Clinic Van used when the service first started on the West Bank in 1982. Two Clinic Vans now operate in the West Bank and another was recently introduced to service the Gaza Strip.

NEW 'SOMETHING INTERESTING'

Readers are invited to identify the scene at the left. The only clue we provide is that it's a photo of your Editor in Jerusalem last September. You must now tell us: (1) Whereabouts in Jerusalem is he standing? (2) What's the strange branched object immediately behind him?



'RWANDA' MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION

Two very special ceremonies for Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel who participated in the UN peace-keeping mission in Rwanda, 'UNAMIR' (United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda) were conducted in the vicinity of the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, on Saturday 22nd February. The occasion was the 25th anniversary of the sending of an ADF team to Rwanda.

UNAMIR was intended to prevent the genocide being perpetrated against the Tutsi community during 1994. ADF personnel joined UNAMIR as the ADF's "Operation Tamar", serving in Rwanda in 1994–1995 in two separate and successive contingents.

Two distinguished Historical Society members, Professors **PETER WARFE** KStJ & **JOHN PEARN** GCStJ, served with the medical teams sent to Rwanda for "Operation Tamar". John later wrote a moving book about it.

The first of the ceremonies on 22nd February was a national Operation Tamar 25th anniversary commemorative service conducted in a specially constructed marquee opposite the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial on Anzac Avenue (the approach to the Australian War Memorial). The main speaker during the service was the Govern-General, our Prior, His Excellency General the Honourable **DAVID HURLEY** AC DSC KStJ. During the service wreaths were laid at the foot of the Peacekeeping Memorial. Among the wreath-layers was the Historical Society's Treasurer, **PAUL COPELAND**.



The second of the ceremonies took place in the Australian War Memorial itself, 1½ hours after the national commemorative service on Anzac Parade. This was the presentation of a Meritorious Unit Citation to the two Operation Tamar contingents. The Citation comprises a framed, illuminated certificate signed by the Governor-General and recording the contingents' participation in the operation. Individual contingent members were each presented with a

Citation insignia, a small oblong brooch-style gilt badge with a Federation star at the centre. That's a picture of the insignia at the left.

And here now is a picture of John Pearn wearing his blue UNAMIR beret. He's standing beside the framed Meritorious Unit Citation. In his right hand he's holding his insignia. Also in the picture are your Editor, **IAN HOWIE-WILLIS**, and his wife, **MARGARET WILLIS**, who were John's guests at the presentation ceremony.



A particularly moving part of the ceremony was the speech by Private **THEOGENE NGAMIJE**, who

arrived in Australia as a Rwandan refugee, pictured at the left. He told his large audience that he decided he wished to immigrate to Australia after a kind-hearted Australian soldier saved his life as a 7-year-old youngster in Rwanda. After growing up in Australia, he decided to join the Army as a way of expressing his gratitude to the land of his adoption. Pte. Ngamije's career in the ADF was one heart-warming consequence of Operation Tamar.

We were delighted to see a group of his friends and family proudly supporting him on this auspicious occasion.

TRUTH IN HISTORY: WHAT IS 'TRUE'? WHAT IS 'FAKE'? AND HOW CAN WE TELL THE DIFFERENCE?

('What is History?', Part 9)

Pro Utilitate continues its "What is History?" series by considering 'Truth in History'. Pertinent questions here are: "How do we know that what a historian writes is historically accurate, i.e. "true"? If another historian disagrees with him/her, how do we know which is the more "truthful"? And is there such a thing as "Fake History"?"

In the New Testament in the Gospel of St John, Chapter 18 tells the story of the trial of Jesus before the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate. Pilate asks Jesus if he's a King. Jesus doesn't answer directly. He sidesteps the question, saying instead (verse 37), "Thou sayest that I am a king." He then goes on to say, "To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the

truth heareth my voice.” To which Pilate famously responds with a rhetorical question (verse 38): “What is truth?”

In asking that question, Pilate is suggesting that truth varies according to the person perceiving it. In the case of Jesus, his followers believed that, in very truth, he was God incarnate — God in human form. On the other hand, his enemies thought the truth was otherwise. They saw him as a dangerous rabble-rouser who was leading the Judaeans astray with false, heretical and blasphemous teachings.

Examples of false, demonstrably untrue “history” are not hard to find. In the period following World War II, for example, a whole new historical genre emerged in the writings of people who denied that Hitler’s Holocaust against the Jews of Europe ever happened. The “Holocaust deniers” variously argue that:

- (1) Perhaps a few hundred Jews died as the war ebbed and flowed across Europe, but nowhere near as many as 6 million — the generally accepted figure.
- (2) The gas chambers and incinerators allegedly built in “extermination” (quote–unquote) camps like Dachau and Birkenau didn’t exist, but were post-war propaganda cleverly created by the victors — the US, the UK & the Soviet Union — to discredit Germany and provide an excuse for plundering the nation’s resources.
- (3) The Nazis never conceived and implemented a policy of the “Final Solution” to the “Jewish Problem”, i.e. genocide, expunging the Jewish presence in Europe. That, too, was largely propaganda, promulgated by the international Zionist movement as an excuse for taking over Palestine, expropriating Palestinian property, renaming the country Israel, encouraging high levels of Jewish migration and settling the immigrants on Arab land.

A novel variation on this argument was that of Yasser Arafat (1929–2004), the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Arafat denied that the Jews had populated Judaea (present day Israel) in Biblical times. He also claimed that there had never been a grand Jewish temple in Jerusalem. The so-called Temples of Solomon and Herod, he said, were an archaeological fantasy invented by the Zionists as justification for taking over the city. Arafat’s was a wilfully false “flat-earth”, theory of Judaeon history.

In Australia in recent times we’ve seen an example of fake history in a best-selling book by an “Aboriginal historian” (quote–unquote) called Bruce Pascoe. Genealogical research by his detractors suggests that he’s wholly Anglo-Celtic by descent with nary a single Aboriginal gene in his body. Pascoe’s 2014 book, *Dark Emus*, runs counter to the well-researched anthropological, archaeological, linguistic, and historic theory of the past 150 years. Against all that, and with scant evidence, Pascoe argues speculatively that before white settlement the Aborigines: (1) were not hunter-gatherers but practised sophisticated agriculture involving large-scale cereal-growing; (2) were not nomadic but lived in large villages in permanent dwellings constructed from stone; (3) practised sophisticated animal husbandry, e.g. by herding kangaroos and managing fish resources; and (4) invented democracy. Further, he claims that all this is not generally known because there has been a “conspiracy of silence” among white academics aimed at suppressing knowledge about Aboriginal achievements.



Despite being patent historical bunkum, *Dark Emus* has won a swag of honours, including the “Book of the Year” and the “Indigenous Writer’s Prize” in the 2016 NSW Premier’s Literary Awards. The judges, it seems, weren’t as interested in historical authenticity as being seen to be “politically correct” by encouraging “Indigenous literature”.

And so we come back to the question “What is historical truth?” The best answer is that it’s knowledge established through rigorous historical scholarship, careful archival research, the examination of *all* the sources and a balanced weighing of the evidence. It’s certainly not wishful thinking based on what an author would like to have

happened in the past. Historians cannot retrospectively change the past. If they do, the “history” will be fake.

We members of the Historical Society strive to write truthful history. The fact that we do is one reason for our success as a Historical Society.

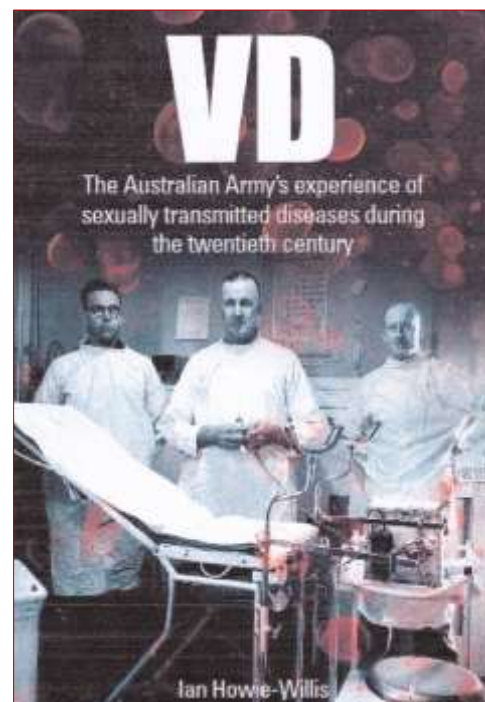
YOUR EDITOR'S LATEST BOOK

Your Canberra Editor is about to have his 20th book published. It's currently "In Press" and will be released later this year, probably between April & June. The title is: ***VD: The Australian Army's experience of sexually transmitted diseases during the twentieth century.***

That's a picture of the front cover at the right. It shows Lieutenant Colonel Derby Loudon (centre), the Army's chief venereologist — colloquially known as a "pox doctor" — during World War II, with two assistants and their equipment in the 8th Australian Special Hospital (i.e. VD unit) at Gaza Ridge, Palestine, in 1941.

Your Editor immediately hears you thinking a host of questions, which probably include these:

- 👁️ Is he deranged, wanting to publish a book like that?
- 👁️ Why is he telling us about it in a family-friendly journal like this newsletter?
- 👁️ What sort of historian would want to write a book about a topic so absolutely squalid, sordid & shameful?
- 👁️ Is he some kind of weirdo voyeur writing salacious stuff like that?
- 👁️ Couldn't he find a more pleasant topic to research & write about?
- 👁️ And in any case, what on earth does such a topic have to do with the Most Venerable Order of St John and/or St John Ambulance Australia?



Well, here are some answers and explanations.

- 😊 When he's not writing St John history, your Editor spends most of his waking hours writing books about Australian military-medical history; and the topic has always been important in military medicine.
- 😊 The author's last book was about malaria, another disease of critical importance in military medicine; but venereal diseases (VD) have always impacted far more heavily on the Army than malaria has. That fact needed explanation.
- 😊 There *is* a St John connection because the author's panel of critical reviewers, who read and commented on all his chapters as they were written, included three Historical Society members — **BRIAN FOTHERINGHAM**, **JOHN PEARN** and the late, sorely missed **STAN WALDEN**. None of them seems to have been unduly perturbed by the topic or the way the author has handled it.
- 😊 This newsletter has always promoted historical research by Historical Society members, even when that doesn't have direct bearing on St John History; and our readers have usually been interested.
- 😊 In times past, various leading Australian St Johnnies, senior officers in the Australian Army Medical Corps, were obliged to manage VD epidemics among Australian troops serving overseas. Their number included Major Generals **RUPERT M. DOWNES**, Sir **S. ROY BURSTON** & Sir **F. KINGLSEY NORRIS** and Brigadier Sir **NEIL HAMILTON FAIRLEY**, each of whom receives a very honourable 'mention' in the book.
- 😊 The book is the result of serious scholarly research and tackles the topic both objectively and sensitively, without seeking to sensationalise it, shocking though content sometimes is.
- 😊 Historians don't shun topics because they fear that other people will regard them as "unpleasant", "distasteful" or "unmentionable". If the topic is important in human history, as VD always has been, historians are duty-bound to explore it.

The publicity blurb on the back cover will tell you more. It runs like this:

Sexually transmitted diseases, for centuries lumped together as 'Venereal Disease', or 'VD' for short, have always marched in lock-step with soldiers from all armies wherever they have served.

During the twentieth century at least 120,000 Australian soldiers contracted VD while serving in overseas deployments.

Until the advent of penicillin in the mid-1940s, the two most common and most devastating sexually transmitted diseases were gonorrhœa and syphilis. In every overseas deployment of the Australian Army during the twentieth century, these two dreadfully debilitating, disfiguring, embarrassing and potentially lethal diseases put many tens of thousands of soldiers out of action for months at a time.

Gonorrhœa and syphilis weakened the Australian Army greatly, reducing its operational capability. These two diseases also incurred huge financial costs for Australian citizens, whose taxes went into recruiting and training whole cohorts of new troops to replace those hospitalised by VD and effectively lost to the Army for months on end. Sexually transmitted diseases also imposed enormous strain on the Army's usually over-stretched health services. Essentially preventable and self-inflicted, they diverted resources that could otherwise have been devoted to treating and rehabilitating soldiers wounded in action.

There were social costs as well because the soldiers who contracted VD were the menfolk of Australian women. The soldiers were largely inexperienced young men who were far from home and faced an uncertain future. The women they left behind would have been appalled and humiliated to know that the soldiers they had lovingly farewelled would spend months in hospital being treated for diseases that were so taboo they could not be discussed around the family dinner table.

Equally important, gonorrhœa and syphilis always threatened to spread from the soldiers into the wider Australian population, infecting and blighting the lives of innocent women and unborn children.

*In this daring, courageous book, Ian Howie-Willis tells the perplexing story of how two microscopic sexually transmitted bacterial organisms, **Neisseria gonorrhœæ** and **Treponema pallidum**, the germs causing gonorrhœa and syphilis, wreaked enormous havoc among Australian troops in all their wars, from South Africa in 1898–1902 to Vietnam in 1962–1973 and beyond.*

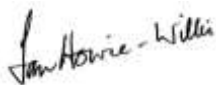
No one has previously told this alarming story in its entirety; and few authors could tell it as frankly or objectively as Ian Howie-Willis has. As readers will soon realise, Dr Howie-Willis has dealt with this confronting subject honestly and sensitively. His scholarship in this carefully researched book is immaculate, but the book's great strength is its fairness to and compassion for the tens of thousands of people who succumbed to sexually transmitted diseases as a result of Australia's military involvements across a century of overseas deployments.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2020

We're now a full two months into 2020, which means that if you haven't yet renewed your membership subscription you're "unfinancial". To help you renew, please find the membership application/renewal form on the next two pages. Please renew right now, lest you end up having to be removed from the membership database.

AND FINALLY, ...

That's it for *Pro Utilitate* 2020–1, dear readers. More next issue, no. #2020–2, round about May–June.



(Canberra Editor)



PRESERVING AND PROMOTING THE ST JOHN HERITAGE

New / renew membership

New members must be nominated

The Historical Society's *Constitution* requires that applicants for membership are nominated by a **financial member** of the Society. Contact your State/Territory Membership Officer to arrange for a nominator.

Nominated by
Signature:
Date

Member's statement

I am applying/renewing my membership to the St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia. I consent to my nomination/renewal and I agree to abide by the Society's rules. I agree to pay the prescribed membership fee by the due date, which shall be at the rates set out over.

Signed
Date

Membership type

Tick the membership you are paying for New membership Renewal of membership

Your personal contact and payment details are confidential. They will be managed under the SJAA 6.1 *Privacy Policy* (17.6.2019) and the 6.6 *Information management policy* (04.07.2019), as obligated under applicable laws, regulations and standards. Please contact your State/Territory Officer if you want a copy of these policies.

Member details

.....
(Title / Given name / Family name)

If a member of the Order, Grade.

Postal address (Street/PO Box)

State Postcode

Country

Telephone. Mobile

Email.

FEES AND PAYMENT DETAILS, PAGE 2



PRESERVING AND PROMOTING THE ST JOHN HERITAGE

Member fees

Membership is for 1 January to 31 December each year.

- Single person: \$ 20.00
 Family: \$ 30.00
 Group
(libraries, associations, etc): \$ 35.00
 Single international: AUS\$ 30.00
 Please send me a receipt

I wish to make a donation of \$ Please send me a receipt

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Direct deposit (via internet banking or at any Commonwealth Bank):

BSB 062 922 Account number 101 233 48

Account name St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia

Amount \$

Reference (full name and state)

(e.g. Joan Brown, Victoria)

Send your completed form and payment to:

Robert DeVere

Membership Officer

St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia

PO Box 1290

Springwood Qld 4127

devon52@optusnet.com.au (scan both sides of the form before emailing)

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Banked date Receipt number

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