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St John History

**PROCEEDINGS OF
THE ST JOHN AMBULANCE
AUSTRALIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2004-2005**

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*The St John Ambulance
Australia Historical Society*



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The St John Ambulance
Australia Historical Society



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Proceedings of the St John Ambulance Australia Historical Society 2004–05

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St John History — an introduction to the 4th edition

This is the fourth annual edition of *St John History*, subtitled the *Proceedings of the St John Ambulance Australia Historical Society*.

St John History is the Society's principal publication and is distributed to all financial members. It appears annually and aims to cover the Society's important developments and events. In addition it publishes papers delivered to the Society's annual history seminars, as well as other items of historical interest.

This edition of *St John History* contains the Society's third annual report, for 2003–04, the draft minutes of the 2004 annual general meeting and the papers delivered to the Society's 2004 history seminar in Alice Springs. In addition this edition publishes reports on the library, archival and museum collections of the eight Australian States/Territories, all of which have now established repositories for items of heritage value.

The Historical Society's management committee trusts that you the Society's members will find much of interest in this edition of your journal.

Newsletter, *Pro Utilitate*

Pro Utilitate, the newsletter of the Historical Society, has appeared twice annually since 2003. Distributed to all the society's financial members, it takes its name from the second of the ancient Latin mottoes of the Order of St John — *Pro utilitate hominum* ("for the service of mankind").

We thank our Publications Officer, Cheryl Langdon-Orr, for the newsletter. Its publication is made possible through her personal generosity in making available the necessary resources for its production and distribution through her company, Hovtek Pty Ltd. It also relies on her skills in graphic design and desktop publishing. The Society thanks Ms Langdon-Orr for making a reality of the newsletter, which, but for her, would remain in the realm of good ideas.

Membership renewals, new memberships and subscriptions

Thank you, to all of you who have taken the option to renew your Membership for multiple years in June 2004. If you are required to renew your Membership this year for 2005-2006 then an invoice will have been enclosed with this publication.

Apart from donations, the Historical Society depends entirely upon membership subscriptions for its funds.

Renewals of membership and new memberships therefore enable the Society to survive from one year to another. The Society's management committee accordingly urges all current members to renew their membership for the next financial year and, if possible, to sign up one new member each.

Application forms for new members are included with this copy of *St John History*. In addition, updated versions will soon be available electronically at the Society's website, www.stjohnambulanceaustralia.org. If each of us signed up just one (1) new member this year our Society would grow from strength to strength.

In 2004 rising costs forced the management committee to raise the subscription to \$10 for members in Australia and to £10 for members in the UK. (In 2003 production and distribution of this journal had cost about \$4.80 of every \$5 subscription. The generosity of donors had enabled the Society to meet its other expenses.) Subscriptions will remain at the 2004 level during 2005–06.

The Historical Society's 'purposes and objects'

The Historical Society's "Purposes and Objects", are spelt out in its constitution. There are 11 of these. They require the Society to:

- 1) *promote and encourage the discussion, study, research and writing of the history of St John Ambulance Australia and the Order of St John;*
- 2) *perform an educational function by enhancing and disseminating knowledge of St John history among people affiliated with St John Ambulance Australia and the wider general public;*
- 3) *complement and support the work of the parallel State/Territory St John Ambulance history and heritage societies and encourage their formation;*
- 4) *encourage and assist people undertaking research into aspects of St John history;*
- 5) *support the activities of St John Ambulance Australia with the provision of appropriate historical materials, information and advice when appropriate;*
- 6) *seek the support of St John management at national, State/Territory, regional and local levels to place high value on heritage matters, particularly in relation to library, archives and museum repositories; and, by so doing, promote interest in and knowledge of St John*
- 7) *encourage the development of a systematic approach to the preservation, cataloguing and display of items of St John heritage value;*
- 8) *work effectively to conserve the historical record as it relates to St John in appropriate archival and museological 'keeping places';*
- 9) *provide a national forum for the reporting and discussion of research into St John history, such forum taking various appropriate forms such as the regular meetings during Priory conferences, other meetings, seminars and symposia, and newsletters and/or journals;*
- 10) *raise awareness of St John history by fostering an enhanced appreciation of the St John heritage among members of the various branches of St John Ambulance Australia and the Order and the general public;*
- 11) *liaise productively with other St John Ambulance and Order of St John history groups beyond Australia, for example the St John Historical Society in the United Kingdom, and with overseas St John historians.*

The Historical Society's 3rd Annual Report, 2003–04

Editor's Note: Dr Brian Fotheringham, the Historical Society's president, was unable to attend the Annual General Meeting for 2003–04 because he was recovering from major surgery. The following is his annual report for 2003–04, the presentation of which the meeting chairperson, Mr Alan Bromwich, delegated to the society's secretary, Dr Ian Howie-Willis.

Last year, in my second Annual Report, to our meeting in Hobart, I presented my report as a series of responses to some of our Society's "Purposes and Objects" or its reasons for being. We have 11 such reasons, and last year I reported against six of them. The "Purposes and Objects" are a useful frame of reference, and so I will again report against them, extending my comments to include all 11.

1. Promote and encourage the discussion, study, research and writing of the history of St John Ambulance Australia and the Order of St John

Comment: The History Seminars which the Society and its precursor (the earlier informal "Priory History Group") have conducted are an important means for stimulating interest in the study and writing of St John history. In Perth in 1999 one seminar paper was presented; in Adelaide in 2000 there were two; in Brisbane in 2001 there were three; that number doubled to six in Sydney in 2002; there were five in Hobart in 2003; and here this year in Alice Springs there were eight. That's a total of 25 research papers by 14 different writers on various aspects of St John history. Those papers, however, might never have been written and published if the Society had not provided a forum.

2. *Perform an educational function by enhancing and disseminating knowledge of St John history among people affiliated with St John Ambulance Australia and the wider general public*

Comment: Our two publications, the annual journal *St John History: Proceedings of the St John Ambulance Australia Historical Society* and our twice-yearly newsletter *Pro Utilitate*, are effective instruments for spreading knowledge of St John history. Under the guidance of our Publications Officer, Cheryl Langdon-Orr, both publications are going further “up-market”. Attractively designed and presented, they are stimulating greater interest in the Society’s work and are therefore serving the educational function.

A major step that the Society must still take is to work productively with the Cadet organisation to deepen the Cadets’ appreciation of St John history. As Matthew Griffiths’ wall-poster presentation on a “Knowledge of the Order” proficiency badge project earlier today suggests, there is wide scope for mutually beneficial liaison between the Society and the Cadet movement here. In handing over my responsibilities as Priory Librarian to my successor, our Secretary, Ian Howie-Willis, at the beginning of this year, I nominated this as one of the most important priorities for him and his successors. I am confident it was advice that he and we will act upon.

3. *Complement and support the work of the parallel State/Territory St John Ambulance history and heritage societies and encourage their formation*

Comment: We have successfully supported the efforts of the State/Territory bodies dedicated to conserving and promoting the St John heritage. There are now such bodies or particular people with such responsibilities in each of six States. In this connection we congratulate Tasmania on the appointment of Mr Ken Milbourne as that State’s St John history and heritage officer for Tasmania. Hopefully, in the year ahead someone in the two Territories will also take steps to introduce such bodies or persons. The reports from States/Territories that will be tabled at our annual general meeting in Alice Springs are further evidence of the manner in which the Society is stimulating history and heritage function at the State/Territory level.

4. *Encourage and assist people undertaking research into aspects of St John history*

Comment: I think my above comments on the first and second of our purposes apply here as well. Thus, I would imagine that the various people who have presented papers to our seminars and have then seen them published in our annual journal would all agree that the Society had “encouraged and assisted” them.

5. *Support the activities of St John Ambulance Australia with the provision of appropriate historical materials, information and advice when appropriate*

Comment: This is an objective achieved at least in part through the Priory Librarians, the last two of whom have of course respectively been the Society’s President and Secretary. The National Office of St John Ambulance Australia periodically asks the Librarian for advice and assistance, which is then promptly given. Where we ourselves have need help in responding to National Office requests we have usually sought advice from other members of the Society with specialist knowledge. Usually these have been people fulfilling the history and heritage functions in their own States/Territories. In this way the Society comprises a specialized network that the National Office may profitably consult at short notice.

6. *Seek the support of St John management at national, State/Territory, regional and local levels to place high value on heritage matters, particularly in relation to library, archives and museum repositories; and, by so doing, promote interest in and knowledge of St John*

Comment: Later in this annual general meeting we will receive formal written reports from at least six of the States/Territories on progress with their library, archival and museum collections. In each case the reports will indicate that productive liaison is occurring between St John management and our Society. We will all be aware that in some States/Territories there is still

some way to go before the managers see the St John heritage as we do, but the Society is a useful platform from which our members in those jurisdictions can chip away at that particular "coalface".

7. *Encourage the development of a systematic approach to the preservation, cataloguing and display of items of St John heritage value*

Comment: My comment on the previous objective applies here as well. In those States/Territories which have St John Archives, Library, Museum, History and/or Heritage bodies the "systematic approach" is being taken to a greater or lesser extent. At the national level we must note with pleasure the work our Secretary has been doing to standardize and develop further the accession lists for the Priory's collections of books and pamphlets, pictures, regalia and memorabilia.

8. *Work effectively to conserve the historical record as it relates to St John in appropriate archival and museological 'keeping places'*

Comment: I am not sure that I have much to report here, so this is obviously an area in which we could perhaps do more. I am aware that in the past two of the Society's committee members in New South Wales, Loredana Napoli and Betty Stirton, have assisted the Powerhouse Museum by providing advice on St John-related materials. If other members of the Society in other States/Territories provide similar help to non-St John bodies I would be grateful if they could tell me about this.

9. *Provide a national forum for the reporting and discussion of research into St John history, such forum taking various appropriate forms such as the regular meetings during Priory conferences, other meetings, seminars and symposia, and newsletters and/or journals*

Comment: My earlier comments on our journal *St John History* and newsletter *Pro Utilitate*, as well as on our History Seminars indicate that we have done much to achieve this particular objective.

10. *Raise awareness of St John history by fostering an enhanced appreciation of the St John heritage among members of the various branches of St John Ambulance Australia and the Order and the general public*

Comment: If you have seen page 20 of the most recent Annual Report of St John Ambulance Australia, for the year ending 2003, you will know that once again the Historical Society has its own dedicated page. It was written on our behalf by our Secretary, Ian Howie-Willis. In thinking of other ways our Society is actively "raising awareness of St John history", we must remember "www.stjohnambulanceaustralia.org", our Internet website developed for us by Cheryl Langdon-Orr, our Publications Officer. The website gives the Society a *worldwide* audience. I deliberately emphasise the second last word of this last sentence because (as Cheryl will have demonstrated in her presentation to our History Seminar earlier today) that is what a website does. The website should prove a powerful tool for achieving our tenth objective. I therefore thank Cheryl for opening up to us new opportunities for encouraging St John people everywhere to appreciate their heritage the better.

11. *Liaise productively with other St John Ambulance and Order of St John history groups beyond Australia, for example the St John Historical Society in the United Kingdom, and with overseas St John historians.*

Comment: As I mentioned in my last annual report, in 2003 we took an important step towards achieving this objective by appointing Terry Walton to the Society's management committee as our United Kingdom representative. Terry, who is also a member of the UK St John Historical Society and has been followed into the Society by other UK members, maintains regular

communication with some of our members, including our Secretary. Last month the value of these links was demonstrated when, with Terry's assistance, we were represented at the 500th anniversary celebrations of the opening of the St John's Gate building in Clerkenwell, London. Our representative was Richard Caesar-Thwaytes, an Australian Capital Territory member of our management committee. His report on the anniversary celebrations will appear in the next editions of *Pro Utilitate* and *St John History*.

From this brief summary, you might care to agree with me that the Historical Society is actively meeting all its objectives, even though it has progressed further with some than with others.

I will conclude this report by acknowledging the efforts of all our members in making a success of the Society. Without you members there could of course be no Historical Society to accomplish what it does. I therefore thank you all for your support.

I thank our management committee members for their enthusiasm for the work of the Society and their readiness to commit themselves to the task of building it further. In particular I thank those who have contributed to the success of this year's meeting; and here I include:

- Alan Bromwich for chairing today's proceedings in my absence
- the presenters of the eight seminar papers and eight State/Territory reports for their several contributions
- Betty Stirton for presiding over the History Seminar
- Ian Howie-Willis, our Secretary, ably assisted in the background by his wife Margaret, for coordinating today's activities
- Gwyn Balch of St John Ambulance (Northern Territory) for ensuring that our audio-visual requirements today were met
- Cheryl Langdon-Orr for her efforts as Membership Secretary, Publications Officer and website developer, in each of which capacities she is taking us into new realms of electronic communications that previously we only dreamt about
- James Byrne, our Treasurer, for his financial statements
- Therese Reilly for her help as auditor
- Len Fiori, the Priory Secretary, for his continuing support and encouragement
- our Patron, Professor Willis Marshall, for the favour he bestows upon us as Chancellor for St John Ambulance Australia
- and finally our donors, many of whom wish to remain anonymous, for their generosity, which financially makes possible the achievement of our objectives.

That concludes the report. I trust that our annual general meeting on 16th June will receive it.

Brian Fotheringham
President, St John Ambulance Australia Historical Society

Treasurer's 3rd Annual Report, 2003–04

***Editor's Note:** Mr Jim Byrne, the Historical Society's treasurer, was unable to attend the Annual General Meeting for 2003–04. The society's secretary, Dr Ian Howie-Willis, presented the Treasurer's Report on Mr Byrne's behalf.*

I am pleased to table this the Historical Society's third Treasurer's Report at this its Annual General Meeting in the Alice Springs Convention Centre, Alice Springs, Northern Territory, on Wednesday 16 June 2004.

An audited statement of the Society's income and expenditure for the eleven months and thirty days from 3 June 2003 to 27 May 2004 is attached. I wish to record my appreciation of the work as auditor of Ms Therese Reilly of the Finance Section of the Australian Office of St John Ambulance Australia. Ms Reilly performed her duties with accustomed thoroughness.

As the attached financial statement indicates, the Society's main sources of income continue to be membership subscriptions and donations. Total income, including a credit balance of \$2,823.16 carried forward from 2002-03, was \$3,659.12. After meeting expenditure of \$4.50 the Society therefore ended the financial year with healthy balance of \$3,654.52 in its Bendigo Bank account.

The reason for the expenditure being so low compared to that of previous years was that there were no charges for the production and distribution of the Society's quarterly committee circulars, nor for the newsletter *Pro Utilitate*, the journal *St John History* and the Society's website www.stjohnambulanceaustralia.org. Expenditure on these items was in the form of gifts-in-kind by the Membership Secretary-Publications Officer and the Secretary as part of their personal *pro bono* community work. Though uncoded, the amounts they spent on the publications would have been substantial and in effect represent large donations to the Society's funds. On behalf of the Society's other members I thank Ms Langdon-Orr and Dr Howie-Willis for such gifts.

The attached financial statement does emphasise the importance of membership subscriptions (\$500 in 2003-04) in sustaining the Society. Without our members and their subscriptions there could be no Historical Society. I therefore all members to renew their subscriptions, and also to recruit at least one new member each.

Donations (\$320 in 2003-04) are also important in underwriting new ventures such as the website, the newsletter and the upgraded journal. I therefore commend the generosity of our donors. They will be pleased to know that the substantial sums they have contributed help the Society to undertake new ventures while also encouraging the management committee to greater effort.

Mr President I have much pleasure in moving the adoption of the attached financial statement

James Byrne
Treasurer

Statement of income & expenditure for period 3 June 2003 to 27 May 2004

INCOME

Credit balance in CPSCU account brought forward from 3 June 2002	\$2,823.16
Membership subscriptions	\$500.00
Donations	\$320.00
Interest on CPS Credit Union account	\$5.96
Refund of CPS Credit Union shares	\$10.00
Total income	\$3,659.12

EXPENDITURE⁽¹⁾

Debits tax on CPS Credit Union account	\$1.50
Cheque fees charged by Credit Union	\$3.00
Total expenditure	\$4.50

BALANCE OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	\$3,654.62
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- (1) Note: There are no charges in the year 2003-04 for expenditure items such as production and distribution of the Society's newsletter, journal and committee circular. Expenditure on these items has been in the form of uncoded gifts-in-kind by the Membership Secretary-Publications Officer and the Secretary as part of their *pro bono* activities.

Statement by Auditor

I have examined the accounts of the St John Ambulance Australia Historical Society and confirm that this Statement of Income and Expenditure is a true and accurate summary of the Society's financial affairs for the period 3 June 2003 to 27 May 2004.

Therese Reilly, C.P.A., Finance Section, Australian Office, St John Ambulance Australia, 1 June 2004

Minutes (draft) of the Historical Society's third annual general meeting

The following are the draft Minutes of the Historical Society's third Annual General Meeting, held in Lasseter's Hotel Casino, Alice Springs, Northern Territory, on Wednesday 16 June 2004.

1. **Opening:** the Chairman, Mr Alan Bromwich, declared the meeting open at 1.30 p.m.
2. **Attendance:** 26 people signed the attendance register; however, up to 50 people were present at different stages of the meeting and the preceding History Seminar.
3. **Apologies** were received from: Dawn Bat, Sandra Bout, Lennis & Peter Burke, Geraldine, Goldie & Jim Byrne, Vera Cates, Averil Chadwick, Chris Cunneen, Anne & Norman Demaine, Vlas Efstathis, Murray Elliott, Brian Fotheringham, Trevor Gibson, Reg Graham, Geoffrey Gray, John Harper, Anthony Harrison, Alan Hills, Ian Kaye-Eddie, Peter Kemp, Vince Little, Kath Miller, Leslie Mills, Loredana Napoli, Raelene & Ray Schilling, John Springhall, Gail Vann, Terry Walton, Timothy Weiland, Gordon Young and Kevin Young.
4. **Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed the 30 people present at the opening of the meeting. The apologies were noted. Letters from Reg Graham, Alan Hills, Terry Walton and Kevin Young expressing their regrets at being unable to attend and conveying their best wishes for a successful meeting were also noted.
5. **Presentation of Life Membership Certificate:** The Chairman announced that the Historical Society was presenting its third Life Membership Certificate to Dr Brian Fotheringham in acknowledgment of his efforts in founding the Society and then being its President over the first three years of its formal existence. He explained that Dr Fotheringham was unable to be present to receive the certificate personally because of recent surgery; however, the Secretary would forward it to him. After reading to the meeting the citation on the certificate, Mr Bromwich called on those present to express their appreciation of Dr Fotheringham's services to the Society.
6. **Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation:** The Chairman presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Ms Cheryl Langdon-Orr in acknowledgement of her outstanding service to the Historical Society as Publications Officer. He read to the meeting the citation on the certificate, which commended Ms Langdon-Orr on the high standard of the Society's newsletter, *Pro Utilitate*, and journal, *St John History*, that she had recently produced. In thanking her, Mr Bromwich observed that the two publications projected a professional image for the Society while indicating to members and potential members that the Society was very serious about promoting the St John heritage.
7. **Minutes of the last meeting:** The Chairman called on the Secretary to introduce the Minutes of the last annual general meeting, held in the Grand Chancellor Hotel, Hobart, on 18 June 2003. The Secretary advised that printed copies of the Minutes had been distributed shortly before the meeting had begun, and further copies were available at the front of the room. The Chairman then called for a motion that the Minutes be received. Moved Dr Harry Oxe, seconded by Mrs Betty Stirton that the Minutes be received. Agreed unanimously.
8. **Matters arising from the Minutes:** The Chairman asked if there were any matters arising from the Minutes. The Secretary drew the attention of the meeting to the item on elections for the management committee. He advised that by the time of the next annual general meeting the current office holders and management committee will have been in office for three years, and so elections for their positions will need to be held no later than the next annual general meeting.
9. **Annual Report:** The Chairman called on the Secretary to present the third annual report of the Historical Society. The Secretary advised that the President's annual report had been printed and distributed in advance. Unfortunately Dr Fotheringham could not present his report in person for reasons already explained; however, he would be present in spirit. The Secretary then pointed out that Dr Fotheringham's report followed the same style as his previous report; that is it considered the Society's achievements over the past year against its "Purposes and Objects" as specified in its constitution. As the report indicated, the Society had achieved much over the past year; however, in one area, encouraging interest in history within the Cadet movement, it could be

doing more. The Secretary concluded by observing that in this last area, too, the Society was already taking a significant forward step by providing advice to the national Cadet leadership as the latter group developed and implemented a new "Knowledge of the Order" syllabus. (This matter is discussed further below in Item 13.1.) The Chairman then moved the adoption of the report. His motion was seconded by Mrs Stirton. The motion was approved unanimously.

10. **Treasurer's Report:** The Chairman called on the Secretary to present the report of the Treasurer, Mr James Byrne, which had been distributed with the other agenda papers before the beginning of the meeting. The Secretary said Mr Byrne's report indicated that total income for the period from 3 June 2003 to 27 May 2004 had been \$3,659.12; total expenditure had been \$4.50; and the balance of income over expenditure had been \$3,654.62. He advised the meeting that the Society's financial records had been voluntarily audited by Ms Therese Reilly, formerly National Manager of Finance and Personnel for St John Ambulance Australia, who had certified his statement of income and expenditure as correct. On behalf of Mr Byrne the Secretary expressed the gratitude of the Society for her assistance. The Secretary explained that the reason for the expenditure being so low were gifts in kind, in time, materials and postage, from himself and the Publications Officer, Ms Langdon-Orr. Ms Langdon-Orr still had to make a claim for some of her additional expenses, and this had not been included in the financial statement because it had not yet been costed. The Secretary also suggested that, rather than simply accumulating funds, the Society could be applying some of its resources to particular favoured projects, for example annually funding prizes for the best Cadet "Knowledge of the Order" projects. He concluded by emphasising the importance of membership subscriptions as a source of income to the Society, then moved that the Treasurer's report be adopted. This motion, seconded by Mr Matthew Griffiths, was agreed to.
11. **Election of Office Bearers:** The Chairman pointed out that, as noted by the Secretary earlier (see item 8 above), elections need not be held before the next annual general meeting, in 2005. The Secretary suggested that the meeting endorse the present office bearers for a further year in office and that elections for all positions be held in 2005. This proposal was accepted by general assent.
12. **Reports from States & Territories:** The Chairman called on representatives of the various States & Territories to provide the meeting with written and/or oral reports on the work being done on St John heritage matters in their respective jurisdictions. The following members then spoke on behalf of their States and Territories:
 - New South Wales — Mrs Betty Stirton
 - Victoria — Mr John Blackstock
 - Queensland — Ms Beth Dawson
 - South Australia — Mr David Heard on behalf of Dr Brian Fotheringham
 - Western Australia — Dr Harry Oxer
 - Tasmania — Mrs Fay Reeve on behalf of Mr Ken Milbourne
 - Northern Territory — Ms Pat McQuillen
 - Australian Capital Territory & Australian Office — Dr Ian Howie-Willis

At the conclusion of the reports the Secretary advised the meeting that each report would be published in the next edition of *St John History*, the Society's *Proceedings*. He also commented that this had been the first occasion in six years of such reports being presented that all eight States/Territories had contributed to this section of the meeting. In thanking those who had presented the reports, the Chairman complimented them on the thorough, comprehensive nature of the reports.

13. **Other business**

- 13.1 **Syllabus for Cadets' "Knowledge of the Order" proficiency badge and the booklet *A very short history of the Order of St John (emphasising its Australian history)***

The Secretary advised the meeting that he had recently participated in a teleconference with the Chief Officer Cadets, Mr Kieran Brown, and the National Manager Volunteers, Mr Stephen Carter, on the subject matter covered by the new syllabus for the Cadet "Knowledge of the Order" proficiency badge. As a result of this teleconference the new syllabus would

place greater emphasis on the Australian history and achievements of the Order. Further, the teleconference had agreed that he should write a booklet of 30 to 40 pages as a resource for this proficiency badge. He said he had already produced a first draft of the text for this booklet, which had the title "A very short history of the Order of St John (emphasising its Australian history)" and would be a useful reference work for new adult St John members as well as for the Cadet movement. The booklet was currently being considered by Messrs Brown and Carter and he was due to meet with them the next day to receive their feed-back and to consider syllabus teaching aids produced by Mr Brown. As a result of these developments the Historical Society would be taking a significant step towards achieving the second of its 11 "Purposes and Objects", which relates to its educational function.

In the ensuing discussion of these related matters, it was pointed out that at the local level members of the Historical Society could assist in teaching the "Knowledge of the Order" syllabus, for example by giving talks to groups of Cadets on heritage matters, acting as interviewees for research projects etc.

13.2 St John History and Pro Utilitate

Ms Dawson complimented Ms Langdon-Orr on the high standard of the journal *St John History* and the newsletter *Pro Utilitate*. She observed that they were such high quality publications they were useful tools for promoting the Society to non-members and for recruiting new members.

13.3 Membership rules of the Historical Society

Ms Dawson raised the matter of the Society's membership rules, which at present do not provide for a separate category of group or corporate membership. She asked whether or not it might be possible to change the constitution to include such membership. Mr Mark Compton pointed out that changing an organisation's constitution was a very difficult procedure to organise, usually involving a special general meeting — a difficulty for the Society, which has so far met only annually. He suggested that the matter be referred to the management committee. Ms Dawson then moved that the matter be referred to the management committee for favourable consideration. Mr Compton seconded the motion, which the meeting then carried unanimously.

14. **Welcome to the Patron:** At this point in the proceedings the Society's Patron, Professor Willis Marshall, entered the meeting. The Chairman welcomed him warmly on behalf of those present, his welcome being affirmed by acclamation. Invited to address the meeting, Professor Marshall spoke of the respect St John Ambulance enjoyed in the community because of the work of its volunteers. He said that the Board of Directors was keen to support the Society's activities, which were building volunteers' pride in their St John work. He went on to speak of challenges facing the St John organisation. One challenge was to prioritise future tasks so that the organisation could "fit enough carriages on the track". Another challenge for St John as a global organisation was the wealthier nations within the St John "family" to help the poorer ones.

In supporting Profess Marshall's comments on the Historical Society, Professor John Pearn commended the Society for the role it was assuming within the wider St John organisation. The Society, he said, was becoming a "glue" for St John Ambulance, providing the wider organisation with cohesion and a renewed sense of historical purpose.

15. **Closure:** There being no other business, the Chairman thanked all those in attendance for their presence and thanked all those who had participated by presenting reports and/or contributing to discussion. He declared the annual general meeting closed at 3.05 p.m.

Ian Howie-Willis
Secretary, St John Ambulance Australia Historical Society

The Historical Society's entry in the 2004 annual report of St John Ambulance Australia

Editor's Note: For the past three years the senior managers of the Australian Office of St John Ambulance Australia have graciously granted the Historical Society its own separate page in the Priory annual report (i.e. the annual report of St John Ambulance Australia) As the Priory annual report is distributed only to members of the Priory Chapter, many members of the Historical Society would not under normal circumstances be able to read the entry on the society. The entry in the 2004 annual report is accordingly reproduced below.

This, the Historical Society's fourth year of formal activity, has been perhaps its best. Our third annual general meeting, held in Alice Springs in June in conjunction with the Priory Conference, was the best attended so far, while our annual history seminar was also the best patronised of the six now conducted. Our seminars are now a well-established feature of Priory Conferences, providing an additional informative and entertaining activity for conference delegates.

Other activities in which Historical Society members had various 'fingers in the pie' included:

- the launching of three official St John Ambulance histories — Bill Wilson's *To Be Faithful True & Brave* and Pat McQuillen's *Saved Any Lives Today?*, each dealing with different aspects of St John history in the Northern Territory, and Millie Field's *The Order of St John in Victoria: Our First Hundred Years*;
- the official opening of the South Australian St John Ambulance Museum in the building of the former Unley ambulance station;
- continued productive effort by all six State St John branches to establish and maintain structures and procedures for serving the heritage function;
- the celebrations marking the 500th anniversary of the St John's Gate building in Clerkenwell, London, at which we were represented by two of our committee members, Richard Caesar-Thwaytes (ACT) and Terry Walton (UK);
- the continued publication of *St John History* (our annual *Proceedings* or journal) and *Pro Utilitate* (newsletter for our general membership);
- the writing of *A Very Short History of the Order of St John*, an on-line textbook for Cadet Leaders and Cadets working on the 'Knowledge of the Order' proficiency badge;
- the production of print and disk accession lists for the Priory library, pictorial and memorabilia collections in Canberra.

As the above points indicate, we have completed another successful year. For this I thank our members, without whom there could be no Historical Society, and our office bearers and committee members for their enthusiasm, dedication and hard work. Together we thank our donors, whose generosity ensures our survival and makes our publications possible; Ms Therese Reilly, our honorary auditor; and our Patron, Professor Willis Marshall, and our Priory representative, Mr Len Fiori, whose warm support of our efforts is greatly encouraging.

Ian Howie-Willis
Priory Librarian & Historical Society Secretary

Reports from States & Territories

The following eight States' and Territories' reports were presented to the Historical Society's third Annual General Meeting in Alice Springs in June 2004. As they indicate, each of the eight State/Territory branches of St John Ambulance Australia has now established structures and procedures for fulfilling their history and heritage functions. The meeting in Alice Springs was the first at which all eight jurisdictions presented formal written reports.

Australian Office & the Australian Capital Territory

This report covers both the National Office of St John Ambulance Australia and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). The reason for my combining my reports on these separate entities is that in practice with heritage matters it is difficult to disentangle the one from the other. The National Office personnel resident in the ACT who are interested in St John heritage tend to be members of this Historical Society while also having some involvement in the ACT St John branch. Similarly, the ACT branch people who are seriously interested in St John history are generally members of the Historical Society and maintain some contact with the National Office. In addition, there is a supposition within the ACT St John community that, when it comes to history, "Priory HQ takes care of all that." As a result, when the ACT branch has heritage items it wants preserved it customarily passes them over to the Priory Secretary. This arrangement works well to the advantage of both parties.



— Dr Ian Howie-Willis

Since the National Office must perforce be interested in heritage issues, and indeed has a Priory Officer — the Librarian — with specific responsibility for reporting to the Chapter of the Order as custodian of its history, traditions and heritage in Australia, it is appropriate that the National Office contribute a report to this section of the Society's AGM. I therefore present this report wearing my "Priory Librarian's hat" rather than the "Historical Society Secretary's cap" that I've been wearing for the rest of today's proceedings.

At the request of Len Fiori (Priory Secretary) I've taken over from Jenny Leeson (Priory Executive Officer) the responsibility for accessioning the new library items, memorabilia and pictures acquired at Priory headquarters.

As part of these new duties I've been re-developing the previous library and memorabilia accession lists plus creating a new list for the pictorial collection (which hadn't existed until I began bringing it into being last week). The result of this effort is that the National Office now has up-to-date, comprehensive and easily understood print and electronic "accession" lists for the Priory's collections of (1) books & pamphlets (i.e. library holdings), (2) ceremonial regalia & memorabilia items (museum-type holdings) and (3) the framed pictures and photographs (pictorial holdings). These accession lists are in effect catalogues of the collections, and will be available to staff and visitors. Then, further down the track, the accession lists will become the basis for a descriptive booklet about the books, pictures and museum items on display in the foyer cabinets and pictures on the walls — a project that Villis Marshall, our Patron, has asked me to undertake.

I should point out here that this work has not been carried out *ab initio* but has built on the efforts of others who've tackled the cataloguing task before me. The accession lists do have a history. Briefly, a number of years ago the then Deputy Priory Secretary, Peter Bowler, who retired during 1998, compiled three accession lists in simple 'Word' document format — one for the memorabilia and two for the library. In August 2000 the then Priory Secretary, Chris Thorpe, engaged the former Archivist to St John in NSW, Mrs Jackie Bettington, who has also been a committee member of this Historical Society, to accession the National Office archives. After completing that task, Jackie then combined Peter Bowler's two separate Library accession lists into the one list in 'Excel' spreadsheet format.

My contribution to this process has been to: (1) refine and extend the library and memorabilia lists, (2) add the Priory regalia to the memorabilia list, (3) create a new list for the pictorial collection and (4) standardise the three accession lists in 'Excel' spreadsheet format. Having done all this, I'm coming round to thinking that I'm earning my Priory Librarian's title the hard way. I know that our Patron and the Priory Secretary think that any Canberra-based incumbent should have a "hands-on" role and should actually get his/her hands soiled by doing some "small-L" librarian's tasks. I for one prefer it that way because it's an excellent means for becoming familiar with the heritage of which the Librarian is custodian.

To illustrate this last point, I can say that in poking around in the cupboards, filing cabinets and archives boxes at Priory HQ for several weeks in April–May this year I made some interesting discoveries. For instance, in one of the “Library” cupboards in the foyer of the Priory HQ building I found the “Sir William Johnstone” trophy for the national competitions in the individual nursing events — along with various other treasures for which there’s no display space in the glass cabinets above. The trophy needs polishing, but is otherwise in good condition. A bit more fossicking around, this time in the archives room of the Priory HQ annexe building revealed the “Herald Cup”, which was another of the early, significant trophies, awarded 1947–77 for national men’s first aid teams’ event. A little later I unearthed its women’s equivalent, the “James Sleeman Shield”, awarded between 1950 and 1978. Some of our Historical Society committee members were in the teams that won these trophies back in the “glory days”. They’ll be relieved to know that these trophies are still safe and sound with their names and their teams’ names still in place on little silver commemorative shields.



The Sir William Johnstone Trophy



The Herald Cup



The James Sleeman Shield

Another exciting find during my updating of the accession list for the Priory Memorabilia Collection was an old-style black tunic and tasselled belt sash worn by some St John Ambulance Brigade Commissioners in some States until the 1930s–40s. Such tunics were more like overcoats than jackets, reaching down to knee level. They were heavy, made from thick, tightly woven wool almost felt-like in texture. With richly embroidered collar, shoulder tabs and sleeves, they were replete with elaborate woven toggles and toggle-flaps (rather than buttons and button-holes). If you’ve not seen one before you’ll find a picture of Dr S.L. Dawkins wearing one on page 32 of your copy of *St John History* Volume 3.

I used the word ‘exciting’ in the second word of the preceding paragraph. I emphasise this word because the tunic in question belonged to none other than the great Sir Hugh Poate. Sir Hugh, our Priory’s first Chancellor, had previously been the St John Ambulance Brigade Commissioner in NSW 1926–41. Various of his personal items have found their way into the Priory collections, including his 1942 portrait as Commissioner — wearing the elaborate tunic — by W. Joshua Smith. This hangs on the east wall of the foyer in the Priory HQ building.

If you wish to see a photo of Poate wearing his Commissioner’s tunic, you’ll find one on page 285 of *A Century for Australia* (1983), the book which, a lifetime ago, brought me into St John. Betty Stirton has recently provided some additional information about the tunic. She writes along these lines:



The 1942 portrait of Sir Hugh Poate
by W. Joshua Smith

Many years ago in NSW a member of Sir Hugh’s family loaned us his uniform and regalia and told us that when we’d finished with them the items were to be forwarded to Canberra. For a time they were stored in a spare room at a local Canberra school with other St John heritage items. When Charles Campbell was in office as Priory Secretary he must have retrieved them. We do hope that you won’t place Sir Hugh’s uniform on a model unless you seek advice from the National Museum. I have copied some photos showing Sir Hugh wearing the usual uniform in 1935 and then the

fancy uniform in 1936 for the Sleeman visit, and in 1937. In 1938 and 1939 he added the black and white belt sash (same as Sleeman). In 1940 Sir Hugh was back in his usual uniform.



Sir James Sleeman (centre) and Hugh Poate (right) inspecting the parade of members of the New South Wales District of the St John Ambulance Brigade, 1936

Betty's reference to "Sleeman" is to Sir James Sleeman, the chap who held the now defunct position of Chief Commissioner for the St John Ambulance Brigade Overseas until 1950. He toured Australia and New Zealand in 1935-36 inspecting the local St John establishments on behalf of the Grand Prior, who at that time was the Duke of Connaught. His report on his return home led directly to the formation in 1941 of the federal Commandery of the Commonwealth of Australia, which was upgraded to Priory status in 1946. And yes, Betty, we'll heed your advice on the best method for storing our priceless Poate tunic and belt sash!

Interestingly, Poate's portraitist, W. Joshua Smith (1905-95), became the centre of one of Australia's greatest art controversies the year after painting Poate. His own portrait by William Dobell won the 1943 Archibald Prize, but the award was then unsuccessfully challenged in court by two disgruntled artists whose entries hadn't won the competition. They argued that Dobell had produced a 'caricature' rather than a portrait. Smith himself disliked the portrait so much that he broke his friendship with Dobell. And so we have a little snippet of Australian art history in the north-east corner of the Priory HQ building.

I'll conclude my report at this point. I trust that what I've said demonstrates that we, too, in the Australian Office and the Australian Capital Territory do take seriously the priceless St John heritage that the Priory has entrusted to us.

Ian Howie-Willis
Priory Librarian, St John Ambulance Australia



New South Wales

St John Ambulance Brigade Band

When we received 18 original photographs of the St John Ambulance Brigade Headquarters Band Division taken between 1944 and 1958 it led us to research the history of the Band. As an "A" grade band they won six Australian Championships and six NSW State titles. Unfortunately the trophies won by the Band were distributed amongst the remaining members when the Band closed in 1978.

— Mrs Betty Stirton

Training Branch

Uncle Ben's of Australia (Bathurst complex manufacturing pet food for 25 years) asked St John to participate in a family day at the plant. Uncle Ben's is Bathurst branch's largest non-mining customer. St John has been teaching their staff first aid since 1987. We were able to find that from a small

beginning some 159 members of staff have undergone training in first aid including Senior First Aid, Advanced Resuscitation, OH&S and Re-certification courses. The company participates in the St John Inter-Industry first aid competitions and in 2002 purchased first aid kits and vouchers for all members of staff. Archives assisted the Branch Office by providing a display depicting the work of St John and the relationship between Uncle Ben's and St John.

William Harris

The family of William Harris, the first Superintendent of Glebe Division, found two medals bearing the date 1911 and the heads of King George V and Queen Mary and enquired if they were connected to St John. District Staff minutes recorded that In 1911 St John received an invitation from London for six members to participate in the Royal Review to be held at Windsor Castle on 22 June 1912. The names of the members were not recorded in the minutes. Having to do our research we found, from newspaper clippings, the names of the six members as well as Miss Wauhope who attended at her own expense. The cost per person was estimated to be at least 402 pounds. The amount was raised with support of the State Governor and State Premier as well as Sydney business men Samuel and Anthony Hordern. Officers and members of the Brigade also gave generously.

St John Clippings

At Archives we have more than 2,500 press clippings dating from 1890. From 1890 until the 1940's they were glued into books. We have commenced copying all clippings on to archival paper. Original newspaper clippings are not kept as they eventually deteriorate.

Restoration and Binding

We continue to have volumes restored and bound. These registers record Labels, Pendants and Medallions awarded between 1920's and 1960's. This is an expensive exercise but necessary to preserve the history of St John.

Did you Know?

The Priory Vote of Thanks was first named the Vote of Thanks on Vellum. Two female members and one male member from New South Wales received this award in 1901. They first joined the St John Ambulance Association and then joined the Brigade when it was formed in 1903.

The name of the award changed to Commandery Vote of Thanks when St John became a Commandery of the Order of St John on 19.1.1942.

In 1948 the award became the Priory Vote of Thanks.

Library

Little by Little : a Century History of the Royal Army Medical Corps written by Michael Tyquin and *The History of the Ninth Australian Field Ambulance 1916 - 1994* written by Lt. Col. Robert Likeman have been purchased for the Library. These two histories contain the names of medical men well known to St John in Australia e.g. Professor John Pearn.

World Rugby Cup

Loredana Napoli and myself became involved in this event when sixteen international members were to be housed at the Blaxland Training Centre. The twenty year old Centre had undergone repairs and replacements as the Centre was not only built for St John members but as an Emergency Centre in times of community needs. As we had done this type of work for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, housing sixteen members seemed relatively easy.

Betty Stirton
Honorary Archivist



— Ms Pat McQuillen

Northern Territory

The Top End Story

In 2003 the Darwin Adult Division celebrated 50 years of serving the people of Darwin, the Northern Territory, Australia and the World.

The story of the first 50 years is covered extensively in the book by Dr Bill Wilson, *To Be Faithful True And Brave*, so I won't go into that.

But I will tell you how the Darwin Division celebrated their 50th birthday.

The Darwin City Council acknowledged the contribution of St John volunteers by inviting members to march through the streets of Darwin. They were accompanied by the Darwin City Brass Band and members of the general public applauded as both Adults and Cadets marched proudly along.

The Lord Mayor of Darwin, Peter Adamson, presented the St John Operations Branch Commissioner for the Northern Territory, Andrew Hodggers, with a Certificate of Appreciation.

The Annual Parade for 2003 was also part of the celebrations. It was very well attended with over 100 members parading. Many awards and service medals were presented and Dawn Bat was announced as the Volunteer of the Year for the Northern Territory and Sara Rilstone of Alice Springs received the Peter Fakland Award. A historic photographic display was held in conjunction with the Parade.

And finally a Reunion Dinner was held with many former members joining current members for a very special night of reminiscing and story telling.

Alan Bromwich

President, St John Council for the Northern Territory

The Southern Region

This is the report from the Southern Region of the Northern Territory. "Why a separate report?" you ask.

The Territory's two major centres are not only separated by distance (1400 kilometres or 875 miles) but also by climate — tropical in the north and desert in the south, and in between, the land of the Never-Never.

The Southern Region consists mainly of Tennant Creek, Alice Springs and Ayers Rock.

After the last general Meeting of the Historical Society in Hobart, we gained many new members here in Alice Springs. How many I'm not sure but I do know I handed out about 20 Application for Membership forms after I gave a short talk on the work of the Society, its aims and the benefits of belonging to the Historical Society.

We have a very large glass display cabinet in the front foyer of the Alice Springs Ambulance Centre and I commandeered the top shelf for a historical display, changing it regularly. That way the history of Alice Springs is always in front of not only Ambulance staff but also the general public who come in for First Aid Courses or to visit.

During the year we purchased a stationery cabinet and a three drawer filing cabinet for storage purposes, along with a Dictation and Transcribing System Cassette recorder for recording oral histories. As the history of Alice Springs was being compiled this year, many members and ex-members donated photos and other memorabilia to us as we now have somewhere safe to store it.

One of the local social clubs has also donated us a small glass-fronted display cabinet, and so some more of our historical collection can be safely displayed. As Tennant Creek is part of our region, much of their historical material is now stored in Alice Springs and this will be used later this year for their historical display.

Ayers Rock (Uluru) has had a volunteer section of St John Ambulance in past years as well as St John staff crewing the ambulances, so that too has been recorded in the Alice Springs Centre.

We, the Alice Springs members of the Historical Society, hope you will take time out to inspect our historical display here on the walls of the Convention Centre and take home with you a copy of our history book titled *Saved Any Lives Today?*

Pat McQuillen
Alice Springs St John Ambulance Historian

Queensland

The St John Ambulance Australia (Queensland) History and Heritage Committee has met four times since the Hobart meeting of the Historical Society in June 2003. During the year since then the Committee has been able to achieve a number of objectives, one being 'to encourage understanding of the culture and humanitarian values of the Order'. This was achieved by providing historical articles for the *Black and White Newsletter*, information included in the St John (Qld) internet and intranet and the purchase of publications such as *A History of St John Ambulance in the Northern Territory from 1928 to 2002 – To be Faithful True and Brave* by Dr. Bill Wilson.



— Ms Beth Dawson

A feature of the St John Annual Conference 2003 was the history and Heritage Committee's pictorial display and the presentation by Professor John Pearn of "A Sequence of Samaritans".

Financial assistance from St John (Queensland) enabled the Committee chairman to attend the annual history seminar held in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting of the St John Historical Society, during the St John National Conference in Hobart last June. The Committee was most appreciative of this support. The Queensland members of St John continue to support, through membership, the St John Ambulance Australia Historical Society, I believe the membership is increasing.

Donations to the collection were received from members of the public and St John members. Significant items being:

The Building of Malta 1530 – 1795 by Quentin Hughes
Sir James Cantlie, A Romance in Medicine by Neil Cantlie and George Seaver
Little by Little. A Centenary of the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps by Michael Tyquin
First Aid to the Injured by James Cantlie (4th edition published between 1901 – 1911)
Following a Nursing Star by Ruth Donaldson
Medical History of Malta by Paul Cassar
The Ordinary Doctor by Stuart Patterson

An appeal to the St John membership for either a complete set or individual copies of the official journal of the Brigade/Operations Branch (Queensland) from 1977 to 1986 resulted in a donation from Ann and Norman Demaine and a few Divisions. This bound collection will ensure continuity of the history of Operations Branch in Queensland.

Reports have been presented at each State Council meeting during the past year.

Although the Committee funds are limited the sale of second-hand stainless steel items raised \$299.50.

Requests continue to be received from members of the public regarding former St John members, St John members researching the history of individual Divisions or preparing for St John Awards. Recently a Brisbane high school requested some 1970's first aid items to be displayed with a first aid kit in the school museum.

Presentations outlining various aspects of sorting, preservation and archiving items of the collection have been given to Operations Branch members and Regional Managers, seeking their understanding and cooperation which should result in a better understanding of the Committee's role and function. Both presentations were supported with written brochures.

During the next three months a survey of St John (Queensland) buildings is being undertaken, with the assistance of committee members and other St John members in order to obtain more detail about the origins, financial back ground, and assistance given by community individuals and organisations as well as St John membership involvement when these properties were planned, purchased/built/donated. The survey will provide information for present day members (employed and voluntary) of the history of these valuable assets.

The contribution of the Committee members has enabled so much to be achieved during the year. The death of Brigadier Max Simkin in November was a great loss not only to the Committee but to St John in Queensland. Max's wise counsel I valued at the committee meetings. Two new committee members have been appointed; they are Mr. Tony Harrison and Mrs Sandra Bout.

The Committee continues to be encouraged by the achievements of other States/Territories as well as the Chairman, Secretary and Membership Secretary of this Society.



Display case, Gouey Memorial Library, St John House, Brisbane

The membership of the History and Heritage Committee during 2003-04 has consisted of: Mrs Sandra Bout (from March 2004) Mrs. Averil Chadwick (corresponding member, Townsville) Mrs Vera Crook, Mrs Ann Demaine, Mr. Norman Demaine, Dr. Murray Elliott, Brigadier Trevor Gibson, Dr. Geoffrey Gray, Mr. Tony Harrison (from March 2004), Mrs Margaret Hunt (corresponding member, Rockhampton) Mr. Vince Little (corresponding member, Darling Downs) Brigadier Max Simkin (until November 2003), Brigadier John Springhall, Mrs. Margaret Wilkinson (corresponding member Bundaberg), Professor John Pearn (Consultant)

Beth Dawson
History & Heritage Committee
Chair/Historian/Archivist



— Mr David Heard on behalf of Dr Brian Fotheringham

South Australia

Last year it was reported that the St John Historical Society of South Australia was moving into three rooms of the Ambulance Centre, in Arthur Street, Unley, an inner suburb of Adelaide.

Two of the rooms serve as a museum and the third is a combined office and storeroom. The facility is yet to be officially opened, but this formality could take place anytime in the coming weeks. The causes of the delay are quite small ---- white ants. They necessitated removing all stored items out of the storeroom and caused general disruption to the museum areas. The area is nearly back to normal now and is a credit to members of our Society.

Since the last report the museum has acquired 15 new chairs, a new display case and a bright modern lighting system.

Our meetings continue to be held on the second Thursday evening of each month. We almost invariably receive donated items of significance to St John history at each meeting. During the year we revised our Constitution. The St John Council in SA has accepted the amended version, and a copy will be sent to Dr. Ian Howie-Willis for information.

The St John Historical Society of South Australia wishes to sincerely thank the St John Council in South Australia for its generous support, without which we could not have developed the museum. We invite any St John members visiting Adelaide from interstate to contact St John headquarters in SA to arrange a visit to our museum.

Brian Fotheringham
Chairman, St John Historical Society of South Australia.

Tasmania

Introduction

At the 2003 Priory meeting in Hobart Sr Beth Dawson and Dr Brian Fotheringham drew my attention to the need for the appointment of a Tasmanian Librarian or State History Officer. In supporting their suggestion I realised that I was in effect putting up my hand for the job. Upon appointment I sought advice as to exactly what was to be our objectives and the tasks to be undertaken. Without giving any definitive briefing our esteemed Priory Librarian assured me that whatever we saw worthy of pursuit was totally acceptable. Thus it was that lacking any restrictive directions we set out to define our own course of action.



— Mrs Fay Reeve on behalf of Mr Ken Milbourne

Because our relatively dispersed population essentially falls into three well recognised geographical regions, in all of which St John has been active over a considerable number of years, I decided to seek a

suitably well informed and respected member from each region to assist in local research. Mrs Fay Reeve from the North Western Region and Mr Jim Byrne from the Northern Region were obvious candidates for appointment. When approached neither required much coercion before agreeing to accept the duties involved. Early this year we met in Launceston and decided our immediate objectives and the means of undertaking the research/collection/display of records and items of significance.

Initially there was virtually no response to our role but recently we have received a plethora of doubtless well intended advice as to how and what we should be doing. To add to this has been the emergence of a considerable volume of stored material much of which appears valueless but does include some interesting material worthy of preservation and cataloguing. It seems that there is a perception that the state historical group should, and will, as part of its task clear a long standing storage problem thereby creating much needed space for other purposes!

Agreed objectives

At the Launceston meeting referred to above the following objectives were accepted:

1. Compilation of a record of all St John units and activities within Tasmania from 1887 until the present day. (Probably an impossible task but worthy of doing what can be done to document as much of our earlier history as still exists.)
2. List all those who have made a significant contribution to the work of St John within Tasmania and prepare a summary of their work. (The same comment applies here as to 1 above.)
3. Prepare a list of those who have been admitted to the Order, have received other recognition or have achieved distinction in the work of St John.
4. Prepare an inventory of records, trophies, uniforms, equipment, manuals, badges etc. deemed worthy of display or retention.
5. Upgrade and extend existing displays at Hobart and Launceston, and encourage units in other area to establish their own local displays.
6. Cooperate with the local museum in Queenstown which already has a well presented section devoted to the work of St John in that town.
7. Attempt to identify personnel and events depicted in various photographs currently stored in various centres.

In recognising the magnitude of the above tasks it was understood that the support of Foundation Heads would be essential. Sadly letters written to those officers several months ago remain unanswered.

Action to date

Research into the names, dates of existence, major activities and financial records of units in Northern Tasmania is being undertaken by Mr Byrne. I am attempting a similar task in the south whilst Mrs Reeve, who was to undertake the same role in the North West, has been on the injured list and will resume her task as soon as her recovery permits. Already it has become quite apparent that the task will prove most difficult. Records held in the Hobart office are not filed in any semblance of a systematic order. It is apparent that records for the period from 1970 onwards are incomplete whilst those for earlier post war years are to say the least minimal and for still earlier periods, non existent.

To date, access to the Operations Branch computer records has not been explored but the general opinion suggests that this system exists more in rhetoric than in reality. At the local level there appears to be a reluctance to acknowledge any existence of the work of divisional committees such as the financial records of the unit. One Division has maintained an honour board which presents an excellent record of the unit's forty odd year existence.

Initial work on sorting and evaluating the extensive collection of records, uniforms, outdated manuals and trophies etc. held in Hobart started in May and will lead to the creation of an inventory of such items as are deemed to be significant.

During the mid 1990s brief personal histories of those who had played a prominent part in the introduction, survival and extension of St John activities in Tasmania were presented at each AGM. It is rather disappointing to find that these documents have not survived as they reflected considerable research and inspired admiration for the work of such people as Dr Giblin, Dr Sprott, Dr Goddard, Mary Robson and Dr James.

Display and storage of material

Current displays in Hobart and Launceston contain some significant material but carry no explanatory labels nor identification. They are not ideally housed and their location limits public access.

Clearly more display boards and cases are desirable. Before any decision can be made regarding rectifying this shortfall the extent and availability of funding and approval for increased allocation of space must be determined. Information as to how Historical Groups in other states fund their activities is respectfully sought.

Once compiled, non display items such as records, lists of office bearers, competition winners, divisional memberships, training courses conducted and numbers of certificates issued should not present storage problems. However annual updating will be necessary. Given the willing support of current office staff it is assumed that this task will not be expected of Historical Society volunteers.

Emerging pattern of decline

Although it was not intended to gauge the extent of St John activity our preliminary investigations clearly show that in the last two decades there has been an ongoing decline in the number of members and the localities where units existed. Relatively remote locations including the West Coast, Circular Head, East Coast, Central Highlands and the Southern Channel district no longer have St John units. However the pattern of decline is also apparent in major population centres where membership numbers are decreasing and several divisions no longer exist.

The ongoing decline in membership and geographical range in the voluntary branches of our work is not seen as the direct concern of the Historical Group but our observations will be reported to the state management group. Whether the pattern of decline is confined to Tasmania or has also occurred elsewhere is also a question beyond our brief but one of significance.

G.K. Chesterton regarded history as the high ground from which it is possible to better see where you have been, better appreciate where you are and how to better determine your future actions. Our early investigations appear to confirm Chesterton's view.

K.J. Milbourne

State Historian, St John Ambulance Australia (Tasmania)



— Mr John Blackstock

Victoria

In the course of the preparation of this report I referred to my 2003 report to the St John Ambulance Australia History Society, and I am pleased to advise that the four major items, which were on our agenda at the 2003 seminar, have now been completed. The security fence around the hall has been replaced, the ceiling has been installed in the old garage, which is now used as our storage area, the wheelchair access has been provided at our front door, and finally the signage on the hall facade has been completed.

Our four major historical displays in the building have been maintained and additional photographic displays have been installed on our upper wall levels.

During the past year visitors to the Williamstown Museum have included Brian Fotheringham (Historical Society president) and Ian Howie-Willis (secretary).

The cataloguing and identification of the large numbers of photographs that we have is proceeding, and the identification of former St John members in these photographs is an ongoing task.

Mervyn Goodall and George Jackson continue to maintain our library at York Street, South Melbourne.

We gratefully acknowledge the receipt from Western Australia of the copy of Ruth G. Donaldson's *Following a Nursing Star*.

I am pleased to advise that, due to the work of Dr Allan Mawdsley, Millie Field's book, *Our First Hundred Years*, has now been published and is available for sale.

Once again I would like to express special thanks to Dr Allan Mawdsley, Mr Ian Cheesewright, Mrs Margaret Kentler, Miss Dorothy Bache, Mr Mervyn Goodall and Mr George Jackson for their efforts in maintaining the work of the Library Museum Committee during the past year.

Additional help has been provided at the Museum by Sr Joan Batson, Mrs Gladys Blackstock and Mr Darryl Hulls. All these people have been a great help in the identification of St John personnel in our many photograph albums which depict the work of St John people since 1883. This will be an ongoing task as more photographs and display items are being collected to be used in future displays. We hope to be able to change the existing displays gradually over a period so that there will always be something new for visitors to see when they come to the Museum.

Finally, we have been pleased to have quite a number of retired St John Ambulance members visit the Museum to enjoy the displays and relive the memories of their time of service in the "Brigade". A recent example of this was the visit of the members of the former Ormond Nursing Division, who in recalling their own memories of St John service also provided us with much information regarding the history of their era.

We hope that in 2005 we will be able to collect more information regarding our past and improve our records regarding St John Ambulance activity in Victoria.

John Blackstock
Chairman, Library and Museum Committee

Western Australia

This report is the Annual Report for the Archival Resource Centre of the Commandery of St John in Western Australia 2003–04

General Status

The uplift of the collection from the museum into storage took 17 ½ hours on July 31st/August 1st 2003. The collection continues in storage in Kewdale with a small number of items housed at Belmont. Cataloguing and reference work continues. There have been no restoration projects this year.



— Dr Harry Oxer

Our temporary home is the Information Resource Centre at Belmont. Individual aspects of our work are described below and summarise the reports provided during the year for the State Executive quarterly meetings.

Acquisitions

The museum has purchased two videos this year: the BBC Production of the 'Crusades', and Oxford Films 'Richard the Lionheart and Saladin'. Both of these video/ documentaries reveal the reality behind the myths of the Christian/Islam collision and will be used by cadets as part of their Knowledge of the Order programme.

A number of books have been added to our reference collection including:

- *Preservation Strategies* by Baird
- *Moving Archives* by Newman and Jones
- *Reimagining the Museum* by Witcomb
- *Management in Museums* by Moore

Donations

We have been most fortunate to receive a number of books, newsletters and other artefacts this year as well as cash donations. Whilst most donations came from within WA, some were from the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Victoria. Donations received include:

- Publicity brochures for 2003.
- Proclamation Day Material- forwarded to the Marketing Dept.
- A 1940 First Aid book and two 1942 Certificates.
- St John Manual (UK) Review for 2002.
- Wooden artefacts given to FAST as special presentations for assistance. The items are from the Solomon Islands, Malaysia and Brunei.
- Photographs of VFAS members.
- Botanically mounted specimen of St John Wort.
- 1939 First Aid and Home Nursing Certificates.
- Pamphlets re Sovereign Military Order.
- Newsletter from St John, New Zealand.
- Defence Reserves Council Certificate of Appreciation.
- Ceramic plate hand painted by Joy Connolly.
- *Following a Nursing Star* by R. Donaldson
- Emergency Services Cadet Corps shield for support in 2003.
- Photographs and Ambulance Service memorabilia.
- *The Link* newsletters from London and UK Historical Society Newsletters.
- *Priority One: Caring for the Community* VHS and DVD.
- Souvenir tray for SJAB, UK Centenary 1983.
- *The Order of St John in Victoria* by A. Field
- *We Reach the Promised Land* by A. Boase
- *A Question of Duty* by A. King
- Uniform, FA books and kit

Loans

The only loans this year have been books. We have brokered some private loans between individual St John members and organisations in need.

Reference Work

We continue to assist members of St John and the general public with their St John information needs. We have provided information on St John personalities, sub centres, Knowledge of the Order, Cadet Code of Chivalry, early resuscitation techniques, information for Dr LeBreton's obituary in 'The Western Australian', WA local history, ambulances and the St John Wort. One special project was an entry to the Historical Encyclopaedia of Western Australia on the History of Ambulance Services in Western Australia. We respond to these requests by mail, email, fax, and in one case a member of the public called in at Belmont for a personal discussion.

Cataloguing

Cataloguing the collection on the computer is ongoing. Although the museum has closed limited cataloguing has continued at Belmont since July 2003.

Museum Displays

The Subcentre conference in August 2003 featured country Nursing Divisions. The Belmont display has featured material commemorating the history of St John Nursing Divisions in Perth and the Life Saving Medal of the Order. From July – December 2004 the centennial of the Volunteer First Aid Service in WA will be the major theme.

Museum Volunteers

Our volunteers are being kept up to date with the redevelopment plans. A letter and plan of the St John State Centre was sent to them in December 2003. The location of the new Museum and Information Resource Centre (IRC) was shown on the plan. The museum previously had approximately 138 sq metres of space for display and storage. It now has 180 sq metres. The Information Resource Centre has 70 sq metres floor space and will have 107 sq metres. The 5½ metre long council table will be located in the IRC. All storage will be internal and temperature controlled.

Our best estimate of completion of the new administration building is late 2005. The refurbishment of the training building including the resource centre and museum will follow. It is too early to consider issues such as interior layouts but I will keep everyone up to date as progress permits.

Special Events

2004 is the VFAS Centenary. Our one display area in Belmont will feature a centenary display later this year. 2004 is also the 500th Anniversary of the St John Gate building. I was able to visit the Order of London in January, and took a framed sketch of Sir Otto Lund as a special presentation commemorating both of historic achievements. The sketch of Sir Otto was made after his visit to Perth as Chief Commissioner of the Brigade in February 1955.

I was most cordially received, both by the International office, and the Staff of the Priory of England and the Islands, where the presentation was made. Ms Pamela Willis, the Museum Curator, gave a fascinating and highly informative tour of the archives and buildings, including a visit to the crypt.

St John Ambulance Australia Historical Society

The society will again meet during Priory in June 2004. The Proceedings of its last meeting in Hobart 2003 have been circulated to all members. Dr Ozer gave a most interesting paper on the history of resuscitation training.

Projects 2003 - 2004

- Ongoing cataloguing of archival library and museum items at Belmont
- Data entry in the Commandery Database
- Reviewing and updating the policy and guidelines of the Archival Resource Centre
- Supporting the SJAA Historical Society
- Meeting any reference requests received

Projects 2004 - 2005

- Cataloguing of archival library and museum items at Belmont - ongoing
- Editing the Commandery Database
- Reviewing and updating the policy and guidelines of the Archival Resource Centre - ongoing
- Supporting the SJAA Historical Society – The annual Sub Centre Conference will feature the Order of St John and details / membership forms will be distributed
- Meeting any reference requests received
- Displays as resources permit

Financial Report

Our financial situation is sound. Special thanks are due to Kevin J Young for his ongoing support to the museum and the SJAA WA Ambulance Service.

Sad Farewells

This year has seen the passing of two outstanding contributors to the Commandery Library and Museum- Dr Hugh LeBreton, a former Hon. Librarian and Mrs Joy Connolly, a great supporter over many years.

Summary

Another busy year for reference / research work and with limited progress in other archival areas being made.

Harry F. Ozer
Commandery Librarian/Museum Curator

Papers from the Historical Society's 2004 History Seminar

Seven research papers and one wall poster were presented to the Historical Society's sixth annual History Seminar, held in the Alice Springs Convention Centre at Lasseter's Hotel Casino, Alice Springs, Northern Territory on Wednesday 16 March 2004. They were as follows.

Writing the history of St John Ambulance in the Northern Territory (Part 1): The writing of history and the concepts involved in writing *To Be Faithful, True And Brave*



by Dr Bill Wilson

The author: Dr Bill Wilson lectures in History at the Northern Territory University. He is a former senior officer of the Northern Territory Police, the history of which was the subject of his Ph.D. thesis. In the year 2000 the Northern Territory St John Council commissioned him to produce an official history of St John in the Northern Territory. The result was the book, *To Be Faithful True And Brave*, which was officially launched on the same day as the History Seminar.

This paper briefly discusses the writing of the history of St John in the Northern Territory. I will touch on four issues, the facts, the sources, the shape of the book and how history should be presented. These are the essential issues that face many historians, for the writing of history is not only a pleasure (otherwise why would we do it) but I believe also a duty and sometimes a difficult task. I cite from Lord Acton's Inaugural address on the study of history given in 1906 because it is as relevant now as it was when first presented.¹

Front cover of Bill Wilson's history of St John in the Northern Territory, *To Be Faithful, True & Brave*

The point of writing history is to consider people and events that are often no longer in our presence. Unlike science, sociology or medicine, we write history without being able to observe behaviour and its results. And yet it is that very behaviour which makes an organisation so it is especially important when writing an organisational history to discuss the behaviours of people who are often long removed.

An important point to consider when writing history is to make your work fun but at the same time it is essential to make the past meaningful. We can do this by weaving together various pieces of information about the past. In doing this we create a pattern that gives shape to "just a bunch of facts." Doing history is a way of bringing the past to life, in the best tradition of the storyteller.² But not just any story will do. While there are many possible tales of the same event, good history is based on evidence and several perspectives.

Good history is interesting to us because it tells us about real people who had ideas and beliefs, worked and struggled to put them in action, and shaped the present in which we find ourselves. This is particularly so in the case of an organisation.

In the context of *To Be Faithful, True and Brave*, this meant firstly deciding what to write about, and secondly how to present it. In the originally planning for the history the author and several members of St John in the Northern Territory discussed the possible approaches and decided to concentrate on the big issues, the organisational changes and highlight the work of a sample of individuals.

Human events take place in time, one after the other. It is important to learn the sequence of events in order to trace and reconstruct them, weaving the stories that tell of their connections. People in tracing

¹ <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1906acton.html>

² <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1906acton.html>

the evolution of an organisation need to be able to ask "When did that happen?" and be able to find the answer.³ Time in history is a kind of relationship. We can look at several events that all happened at the same time, and that together tell a story about that period. Or we can look at the development of an idea over time, and learn how and why it changed.

I chose the latter approach in researching St John in the Territory. The first thing in writing about Territory history is to understand that it has been governed by the Commonwealth and South Australia and organisations have links to federal offices, South Australia and Queensland. To find the start of St John meant following the worn trail to Adelaide and Canberra. In archives there I located some files and information about St John in the Territory but I suspected that there was earlier involvement. Thus I was delighted to locate a paper in the St John Archives in Darwin with tantalising references to an ephemeral Darwin contact with Lord Brassey in 1887. That led me to the *Northern Territory Times and Gazette*, the newspaper of the day, to confirm the contact. Fortuitously, my newspaper research led to mention of an incident in Katherine in 1928 which resulted in the Territory's first ambulance being purchased.⁴

The remainder of the work was relatively easy, interviews to be converted to oral histories, archival research, review of annual reports and similar files. The use of Commonwealth Department of Health files led to several interesting tidbits of information about the Commonwealth view of St John becoming a force in the Northern Territory.



St John Ambulance Australia Northern Territory ambulance service staff receive victims of the Bali bombing evacuated to Australia, Darwin airport, October 2002. (At least 202 people from 22 countries were killed on 12 October 2002 in the bomb attacks, in which the Al Qaeda-linked Islamist terrorist group, Jemaah Islamiyah, deliberately targeted Western tourists. The dead included 88 Australians. Many dozens of other Australians were injured, the worst injured among whom were airlifted back to Australia aboard military transport planes.)

³ <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1906acton.html>

⁴ Bill Wilson, *To Be Faithful, True and Brave: A History of St John Ambulance in the Northern Territory 1928 to 2002*, St John NT, Darwin, 2003, p. 19.

The main focus of history is the relationship between continuity and change, and it is important that our children understand the difference between them. In the context of the current work we are discussing I used the *Annual Reports*.⁵ This approach enabled me to clearly highlight the advance of St John in the Northern Territory from being a creature of South Australia to being a boisterous child and finally an adult organisation confident of its future.

Why should any organisation write their history? Lord Acton, the renowned English historian, wrote that 'the main thing to learn is not the art of accumulating material, but the sublimer art of investigating it, of discerning truth from falsehood and certainty from doubt'.⁶ Acton went on that any critic should subject a history to three tests.

[he should subject] his authority to three operations. First, he asks whether he has read the passage as the author wrote it... Next is the question where the writer got his information. If from a previous writer, it can be ascertained, and the inquiry has to be repeated. If from unpublished papers, they must be traced, and when the fountain-head is reached, or the track disappears, the question of veracity arises. The responsible writer's character, his position, antecedents, and probably motives have to be examined into; and this is what, in a different and adapted sense of the word, may be called the higher criticism, in comparison with the servile and often mechanical work of put-suing statements to their root.⁷

Acton and others have made the point several times that a historian has to be treated as a witness, and not believed unless his sincerity is established. The maxim that a man must be presumed to be innocent until his guilt is proved, was not made for historians they claim. Thus to follow these strictures the historian must be very clear about one thing, the facts that they record must be traceable and able to be substantiated.

Those who accept the strictures of Acton and others of his view, might err but will hopefully err on the side of rigour rather than indulgence; and thus we will affirm the Acton view that 'at least we do no injury by loss of principle'.⁸

As an ardent follower of this approach, I was clear in my mind that much of the work could only come from documented sources supplemented by the use of oral history. That approach has, I would argue, proved sound. The evidence, including the tapes of the oral history can all be traced and the work all grounded on traceable facts.

The next question to arise was how much oral history should be included? Unfortunately, not much. Why you ask? The answer is simply that because the history of St John Ambulance in the Northern Territory is short, and in its early years the record has disappeared.⁹ Many of the original documents maintained by organisations of all types in the Northern Territory, have not survived. In some instances, where papers do exist, there are large gaps in the historical record. This is unfortunate because early documents are of inestimable value to an historian because of the rich material they provide on social history.

The absence of the various documents should not appear sinister; it is probable that the passage of time and the climate, including the cyclone of 1974, are responsible for some of the records being missing. There was also deliberate destruction of some records following the bombing of Darwin in 1942. For example, a former librarian saw 'the first hand-written letter' by the 'first Commissioner of Police put on a bonfire'.¹⁰ In the case of St John Ambulance the problem of South Australian records only having fleeting references to the Northern Territory also meant that the full record was not available. Thus, as with all Northern Territory history the location of documents proved elusive.

⁵ *Annual Reports* of St John (NT) and its predecessor organisation. The reports used a variety of titles and I have used Annual reports here as a single descriptive term

⁶ <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1906acton.html>

⁷ <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1906acton.html>

⁸ <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1906acton.html>

⁹ See for example, A Force Apart, A History of the Northern Territory Police 1870 – 1926, unpublished PhD thesis, NTU, 2000 which discusses the missing Northern Territory documentation in some details.

¹⁰ Interview by Alaire Paton with David Boyd-Selman, Tape 2, Side 2, NTAS, NTRS 226, Transcript TS 300, p. 30.

With so much documentation being unavailable it was necessary to limit the oral history to just under a third of the work. You may say that the work could have been based on oral histories, true, but that would not have been the work called for in the brief received by the author. What was required was a formal history of the St John Ambulance progress throughout its existence. This required, in my view, strong grounding in the written documentary evidence, supplemented by the spoken word. We can debate this for ever, indeed I hope we do, but that is the logic for my approach.

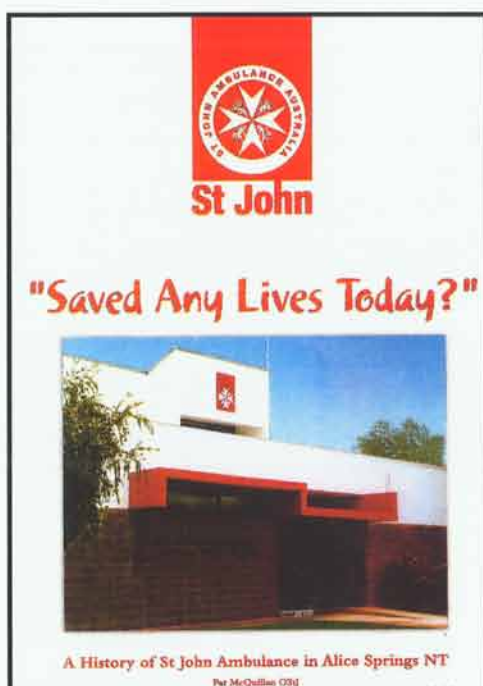
In this short paper I have briefly touched upon two issues. Firstly, some of the matters related to writing *To be Faithful, True and Brave*, secondly, some issues about the writing of history generally. I hope the latter may spark debate on history in the St John Ambulance Australia Historical Society for it is a debate which needs to occur if our history is to be relevant, challenging and interesting. I hope that I have been provocative to the extent that debate follows because debate between those of us in the historical fraternity is what keeps history alive and vibrant.

I found this history to be a challenge. I had to learn about St John, the documentation was not readily to hand and a brief had to be followed. All of this whilst remaining true to the strictures of Lord Acton. Despite the difficulties I did have fun in undertaking the work, sure I had the moments of doubt and confusion but I did enjoy what I did. I hope the book contributes in a small way to enhancing the knowledge of the work of St John Ambulance in the Northern Territory among the wider community.

Thank you for listening to me and thank you too to those who helped me in my work.

Writing the history of St John Ambulance in the Northern Territory (Part 2): The writing of the history of the Alice Springs Division or how I lost the use of my sewing room for two years

by Pat McQuillen



***The author:** Ms Pat McQuillen has lived in the Northern Territory for almost 30 years, and has been a uniformed St John member for all but one of those. She is the great authority on St John history in Central Australia, and her book on the subject, **Saved any Lives Today?**, was officially launched on the same day as the History Seminar. She is one of the two Northern Territory representatives on the Historical Society's management committee. Away from St John Ambulance, she is a teacher at Yirara College, a residential college for teenage Aboriginal students in Alice Springs.*

Two years ago, at the Sydney seminar of the Historical Society, I was persuaded to share with you how and why I was compiling the history of St John in Alice Springs. I thought I had done a lot of research to put together that 'little' story, I thought it looked great in print and was then about to sit back and rest on my laurels and continue on my merry way. But no way!

Cover of Pat McQuillen's book, *Saved Any Lives Today?*

Ian Howie-Willis was the first to suggest, strongly I might add, that I keep at it and that I turn it into a complete history and make a book out of it; and I did.

I had no experience as to how a book was put together. I'd never really thought about it. A book was something one either had to study from or read while waiting at the airport.

I used what I had written for that Sydney Seminar and went right back to the beginning again and literally started all over .

I re-interviewed people who I had spoken to previously and this time I recorded the interview. Wow, was that my first eye opener! They told me different stories this time round.

I then began to realise that if this was to be the correct history of Alice Springs I had better verify all the facts with as many different sources as possible.

So it was back to the Town Library to go through all those old newspapers on the Microfilm. While there I went through other histories about parts or groups of Alice Springs people and discovered stories I hadn't heard of that I could use in the book. These little snippets, as I call them, I put in so that they would be of interest to Alice Springs locals as much as St John people. Such as where the old Race Course was and is left of it up along the north Stuart Highway and why the new one is called Pioneer.

We have a special section in the library just for Alice Springs histories. Even if someone wrote an obituary of only one page it was there and filed away under their family's name. It also contains lots of old government reports and documents.

As you may know, many, many years ago the Northern Territory was part of New South Wales, then part of the Commonwealth, South Australia and also of an area called Central Australia; and now we are a separate identity. And still not yet a State. These various governments eventually passed us copies of documents relating to Alice Springs and they were very interesting reading.

Last year I accompanied the Alice Springs Cadets to Katherine for their competitions and travelled on to Darwin where I was able to go through the Archive Room at the Ambulance Centre there.

There was a lot of great stuff there. Mostly about Darwin but some about Alice Springs, I able to photocopy lots of good information that I was missing about early days in Alice Springs.

When I had collected enough information to start a book, I doubled-checked it and began to put it together in some sort of order.

I visited the local writers' group here in town and ran it by them. I told them what I was writing about, then I showed them what I had written. They listened and read politely and then suggested I skip writing the formal text-book type of history and write just the way I tell a story, and that's what I did.

In my research I found lots of the same names popping up all the time, and, I thought, these people must have stories of their own to tell so I hunted them down and asked them if they could oblige and all said yes. I gave them a few questions to mull over and got the tape recorder out about a week later and recorded their stories, which I think are the highlight of the book.

Here I must tell you about a big 'boo-boo' I made.

I found out that Bert Palmer was the first Divisional Superintendent in 1961 in Alice Springs and he was a well known character in town. Most old-timers remembered him well and could all tell me he passed away some time back. Most could also tell me his wife's name was Jill and no one had heard that she had died. I then began to try and track her down and finally found an address in Mildura, Victoria. I got the phone number and called her up. I verified that she was Bert Palmer's wife, and she agreed to give me an interview in January when I was going through Victoria.

I turned up on her doorstep armed with the tape recorder and note book and after she gave me a photo, the one in the book of Bert. I began to ask her about his involvement with St John.

"Oh, no!" she said. "I know nothing about that, he was never in St John!"

I thought, this woman was married to the man who went out at least twice a week wearing a black and white uniform and she never noticed!! She seems a very bright, intelligent, young woman, YOUNG, yes there was the key.

It turned out she was Bert's second wife, his first wife was also called Jill and that it that lady who was with him when he was in St John in both South Australia and Alice Springs. By the time this Jill

from Mildura had married Bert he had left St John and was far too involved with his tourism work to devote any time to St John. Alice Springs in the sixties had found tourism and Bert was one of the pioneers at the time.

Writing the history from 1978 onwards was very easy for me. I was there.

From 1978 onwards I have recorded everything that has happened in large display albums. I have put in newspaper cuttings, photos from newspapers, photos from members and if I saw a photo around town from someone else, I collected that too.

I have saved old first aid books, old first aid kits, old uniforms, and if there was anything that related to St John, I've saved it.

So to write from 1978, onwards I just had to check the albums.

After I had finished the text I began to think of a title for the book.

A niece of mine who works for Consolidated Press in Sydney told me that whatever I called the book it should not have any more than four words in the title. It seems the general public lose concentration when reading book titles if they have more than four words in them.

I then asked the Cadets if they could come up with a title and maybe win a prize. These are some of the names they came up with:

- DR ABC on Duty
- Volunteers Over the Years
- Aiding the Centre
- The People of St John
- The History of the Saints
- Territory Aids
- Central Volunteers
- Incredible People of Saint John
- Outback First Aiders: The History
- The Journey of St John
- A Service to the Centre
- Wearing the Black and Whites
- St John Rules.

I then asked the Adult Division for some title suggestions and didn't get any.

I took the manuscript 'Down South' with me at Christmas and passed it around for my family to read and maybe give me some suggestions for a title.

And this is what they came up with:

- Looking Forward Looking Back
- We've Done Us Proud
- Traveling Still, Always Will.

I then thought about the long hours spent just sitting or walking around at Public Duties when everyone else was involved in their sport or function as we just got asked all those dumb questions and we just smile and pretend we have never heard such a question before. Maybe there was a title in there somewhere. For example:

- Where's the Toilets ?
- Do You Get Paid For This ?
- And finally the title that says it all:
- SAVED ANY LIVES TODAY?

And that, of course, was the one I've used.

After I had written the text and sorted out the photos to use, I was then able to use the skills of a friend who put it all in some sensible sort of order and put it from a floppy on to a CD ready for the printers.

Then I needed someone to help me proof read it. Someone who could look it professionally and that some one was an American lady who has had vast newspaper writing experience as well as experience proof reading texts for assembling weapons for the American Army. She looked for and found errors and mistakes that I just couldn't see and things that I didn't even know were mistakes.

She was a great help and nothing was too much trouble for her. She said she was just pleased that someone was writing history of Alice Springs as the Alice Springs history is slowly disappearing before our eyes.

And my final critics were my students.

After looking at the book one asked "You bin writing all them words Mister? Did you bin get weak in the arm?"

The plants of St John: The conjoined world of St John Ambulance Australia, the traditions of the Order and the plant kingdom

by John Pearn

***The author:** Major-General John Pearn is a regular contributor to the annual history seminars of the Historical Society, of which he is a committee member for Queensland. As well as being Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Queensland and the former commanding officer of medical services for the Australian defence force, Professor Pearn is an eminent medical historian and the author of many books. He is also the president of the Queensland St John Council.*

The history and heritage of St John takes many forms. It has its records in books, museum artefacts, medals, stamps and coins and in photographic archives. There is another history, a living one, in the botanical kingdom of herbs and flowers — plants which both are the origin of medicaments and which, in their names, perpetuate those who have contributed to the profession of pre-hospital care. In the annual bloom of trees and flowers, their names perpetuate also those who have served the Order of St John.

Figure 1: Flora and St John: the permanent floral display in the foyer entrance of the Headquarters of St John Ambulance Australia, corner of Canberra Avenue & Dominion Circuit, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, Australis. Photograph by the author, February 2004.



Since prehistoric times, men and women have used herbs to heal wounds and treat diseases. A woundwort preparation, compounded from the Downy Woundwort or Allheal, was made by taking:

"Foure handfult of Allheal stamped and put them into a pan where unto I added foure ounces of burrowes grease, half a pint of oyle Olive, wax three ounces which I boyled into the consumption of the juyce then did I straine it, putting it into the fire againe...."¹.

Today, 60 percent of the prescriptions which doctors write are drugs and medicaments which are plant-derived. Today, plants and herbs, flowers and trees are used for decoration, for ceremony, for drugs and for adornment — just as they have always been. Uniformed members of St John Ambulance Australia wear the emblems of St John — St John's Wort on their hatbands and on their medals, associated with the Maltese Cross, the eight-pointed white cross of the Order which symbolises in its Beatitude symbolism the service to the injured, sick and infirm.

This paper explores further this synergy between the botanical world and those who espouse the ethos of St John Ambulance in all its Branches.



Figure 2. Small St John's Wort, *Hypericum gramineum*, growing at Kinglake, via Melbourne. Photograph, 1989.

Medicinal Plants — The Crusades, Arabic and Persian Medicine

Many of the traditions of The Most Venerable Order of The Hospital of St John of Jerusalem are taken from those of the Sovereign Military Order of St John, this latter being the derivative Dominican Order which dated from *circa* 1119 A.D. The monks, wearing the Amalfitan eight-pointed white cross, worked in the hospices and later hospitals and officinas of the various monasteries, castles and churches of the Order.

In the Middle East, during the period from the first Crusade (1096 – 1099) until the eighth Crusade (1270 – 1291), those knights with herbalist or medical skills encountered new plants and herbs of an astonishing variety. During the Dark Ages in Europe, Persian and Arabic physicians in the Middle East had maintained and added to much of the medical knowledge of ancient Greece and Rome. Much of the written knowledge of pharmacy and pharmacology which had been gleaned and distilled over 1000 years was held in the great Arabic and Persian Libraries and centres of learning in such cities as Baghdad, Hamadan, Basra and in those of North Africa. The Crusaders encountered this great fusion of traditional and herbal medicine and of the more recent scholastic writings of the Persian and Arabic physicians.

Many of the plants comprising this corpus of medical ethnobotany had been used for centuries. When the Crusaders went to the Middle East, they encountered an astonishing variety of new plants and herbs and the medicaments obtained from them. From the thirteenth century, as they retreated back to

Europe, this conduit enabled new species of medicinal herbs to be added to the herbal gardens and the officinas of the monasteries on the great Crusader routes back through Greece and Italy, to Germany in the north and to France in the north west. Finally, this “new” medicinal knowledge from the Middle East reached Scandinavia and the British Isles. Some of these plants, hitherto new to western knowledge, included such genera as *Acacia*, *Tulipa*, *Narcissus* and *Colchicum*.

The Rose of Sharon (*Tulipa sharonensis*) is mentioned in the *Song of Solomon* II:1. The Lily of the Valley, *Narcissus*, is indigenous to the Middle East, and became the Daffodil of Western Europe. *Leopoldia comosa*, the Purple Great Hyacinth, grew on the Plane of Sharon. Many species of *Iris* were collected. The ground extract of its root, orris, has been used medicinally since time immemorial and remains in use today as a perfume and as a fixing agent for fragrances obtained from other herbs. *Iris lortetii* grows in Upper Galilee. *Iris mariae*, the Iris of Mary, grows in the Negev. *Iris grant-duffii* grows on the Golan Heights, and the Nazareth Iris, *Iris bismarckiana*, grows especially in the Nazareth hinterland of Galilee.



Figure 3: The Australian Bluebell, *Wahlenbergia gloriosa*, a feature of the stained-glass windows in the Foyer entrance of the National Headquarters of St John Ambulance Australia, in Canberra. This genus commemorates the life and works of Professor Goran Wahlenberg (1780 – 1851) who served as Professor of Medicine and Botany for 22 years at the University of Uppsala, Sweden. He introduced such terms as “alpine region plants” and “tree line”. Photograph by the author, 2000.

Chamomile (*Anthemis melanolepis*) has long been used to make a medicinal infusion. Such usage has passed into Western cottage medicine as Chamomile Tea. The beautiful flowering Meadow Saffron, *Colchicum byzanticum*, was used extensively by the Crusaders. An extract of *Colchicum* is currently used as a treatment for gout. It is believed to possess some anti-cancer effects. In a number of ruins of the former St John Monasteries of the Order of St John in western Europe and the United Kingdom today, are to be found specimens of the Meadow Saffron still growing in rock walls and other ruins².

St John's Wort.

St John's Wort, *Hypericum perforatum*, has been used for millennia as a woundwort, as an infusion for a range of illnesses and as a “balm for hurt minds”³. The genus *Hypericum* contains some 370 species, and is widely distributed throughout Western Asia, Southern Europe, North America and (now as a noxious weed) in Australia. The flowers abound in a yellow resinous secretion which is purgative and anthelmintic. In the United Kingdom, the common St John's Wort when slightly bruised yields a copious yellow resinous juice. When rubbed between the fingers, it emits a citrus-like fragrance and stains the skin dark purple. It has long been credited with powerful medicinal properties. In Europe and particularly in France and Germany, the plant was always gathered ceremoniously on St John's Day (24th June) and used as a charm to ward off evil spirits, storms and thunder. It is said that in North Wales the custom still persists.



Figure 4: Mrs Valerie Howse OAM, OStJ and the late Mr John Howse VRD, KStJ, with *Rosa* sp. “Doris Downes” — honouring the life and charitable works of Mrs Doris Downes OBE OStJ (1890-1981). Valerie Howse is one of the two surviving children of Major-General Rupert Downes (1885-1945), who still holds the Australian record period of service — 25 years — for a St John Ambulance Brigade/Operations Branch Commissioner. Photograph, Canberra, November 1998, by the author.

The medicinal effects of St John's Wort were first mentioned by Hippocrates of Kos, circa 400 B.C. and later by Dioscorides (fl.41 – 68 A.D.), the Greek doctor-soldier who served in the Roman armies of both Claudius and Nero in the first century A.D.



Figure 5: *Rosa* sp. "Doris Downes", a new cultivar bred and named in 1931 by the Melbourne rose-breeder, Alistair Clark, to honour the life and charitable works of Mrs Doris Downes OBE OStJ (1890-1981). A specimen grown in the gardens of the Royal Children's Hospital, Brisbane, July, 2003.

Modern medical interest in St John's Wort dates from 1996, with the publication of a paper in the *British Medical Journal* entitled "St John's Wort for Depression — an Overview and Meta-analysis of Randomised Clinical Trials"⁴. This analysis showed that extracts from St John's Wort undoubtedly "possessed an antidepressant property... with evidence of acceptable safety and tolerability"⁵. In those controlled studies, some 22 percent of depressed patients responded to a placebo, whereas between 51 and 64 percent responded to *Hypericum* extract and 59 percent responded to standard anti-depressant treatments. One of the extracts from St John's Wort, hyperforin, is not only the major fat-soluble constituent of this traditional medicinal herb, but also a potent inhibitor of the uptake of serotonin, dopamine and noradrenaline⁶.

St John's Wort is well tolerated by patients with mild depression. It is probable that its use at least in the world of complementary medicine will persist, if not in the arena of mainstream therapeutics.

Figure 6: One panel of the stained-glass windows in the Foyer entrance of the National Headquarters of St John Ambulance Australia, in Canberra. The central pane features *Darwinia neildiana*, Neild's Scent Myrtle. This species honours two doctors — Erasmus Darwin (1731-1802) and Dr James Edward Neild (1824-1906), the latter a founder of St John Ambulance in Australia. Photograph by the author, 2004.



Conserving the St John Heritage in Victoria

by Allan Mawdsley

The author: *Dr Allan Mawdsley has spent most of his life in St John Ambulance. He joined the Malvern Division in Melbourne as an 11-year-old Cadet in 1949. Since then he has held nearly every position available to a volunteer, including three years as Operations Branch Commissioner and most recently Deputy Chairman of the St John Council for Victoria. Away from St John, he has spent his professional career as a psychiatrist but has always been interested in history. He is prominent among the group who have developed the St John Museum at Williamstown.*

Slide 1: The presentation 'Conserving St John Heritage in Victoria'

NB: this presentation will also be available for viewing, online at the Societies web site when our new look site is launched in June/July 2005. The presentations key points and some speaker notes follow.

Slide 2: Introduction

- Historical Committee formed 1991, it was officially approved by St John Council in April 1991, chaired by Monica Green, then a member of Council.
 - Caroline Carter of the State Library of Victoria advised about cataloguing and conservation.
 - Hall at Williamstown Beach became available because of amalgamation with Altona Division. Crown land/Local Gov.
 - SJ Council resolved that records of all Branches should be held at the Museum archive.
- Collection commenced 1992
- Museum assigned 2001
- Archive officially created 2004

Slide 3: Formation of Historical Committee

- Monica Green DSJ
Monica Green, former District Nursing Officer and later District Superintendent (Nursing), had been one of the driving forces behind the commencement of the Historical Committee, its voice on SJ Council, and a most energetic worker.
- Amelia Field DSJ
Amelia Field, although not a member of the Committee, nevertheless contributed a great deal because of her book research. She was an Honorary Instructor for forty years, and began the collection of historical material.
- Les Perryman
Les Perryman, who died in 1980 at 96 years of age, had been a member of the FAVA and Melb Metro Division SJAB, and gave a huge amount of oral history and historic photos to Millie.

Slide 4: Collection begins

- Material was gradually being accumulated but several changes of location were forced upon us by Headquarters changing its address. Each time, the historical material was packed and stored by people with no connection to the Committee so that nobody knew where anything was.
- The identification and information about items was often lost in the process.
- Many items were separated, mislaid or sometimes damaged.
 - Books, certificates, insignia and photographs
 - No permanent home
 - Multiple moves
 - Difficulty in protecting items

Slide 5: Disaster strikes

- The LEAP Project 1995
In 1995 Ken Swanson, the then CEO, arranged for voluntary work to be done for the Museum by the LEAP project. This was a group of unemployed young people undertaking work training funded by Commonwealth Employment Service run by Holmesglen College of TAFE. They were not under St John supervision and although they felt very pleased with their achievements they had in fact done enormous damage to our material. Priceless photographs were cut up to make poster collages, and they took it upon themselves to "re-write" Millie Field's manuscript which took a couple of years of painstaking work to restore.

- Stolen medals
The same CEO managed to leave some rare Boer War St John medals in an unlocked cupboard from where they disappeared, much to the distress of the lady who had left them with us on long-term loan.
- Material sent to the tip
Also distressing was the news that the whole of the contents of the rural St John Museum at Bendigo had been taken to the tip when they decided they did not have enough room to store it. Irreplaceable records and memorabilia of other Division have also been lost.

Slide 6: A permanent home

- Use of space at State Headquarters is constantly under threat from other competing users, and historical material is often seen as lower priority. Occupying an old Divisional hall means that the exhibition space is both larger and more predictable than at HQ. Displays can be prepared more carefully when they do not have to be frequently dismantled and reassembled.
 - Material properly displayed
 - History recounted
 - Photos and documents available for historical research

Slide 7: The Archive

- Systematic storage of records and publications of all four Branches and of the Executive
- In spite of requests it is still difficult to ensure that material is deposited

Slide 8: Millie's Book

- Written at the instigation of the then Commissioner, Dr Bush
- Text completed 1986
- Published 2004
- Why did it take so long?

Slide 9: Delays in process

- Loss of mentor 1988
Dr Peter Bush, Millie's mentor, returned to England and died within a couple of years.
- Damage by LEAP Project 1995
The LEAP project did untold damage to the text and many of the original photos.
- Word-processing of text 1997
Peter and Lennis Burke did much of the word processor entry and corrections
- Loss of computer files 1999
Computer files were lost during one of the HQ computer upgrades. This so discouraged Peter that work came to a halt.
- Restoration of earlier version 2002
It was only when I retired and started at the Museum that I was able to find an earlier backup and resume correction, re-formatting and preparation for publication.
- Seeking the photographs 2003
There was then a 12 month search for originals of photos or suitable substitutes for ones that Millie had chosen. A few additional ones became available to improve the collection.
- Publication 2004
A proposal for St John Council to fund the publication was fortunately readily accepted and here it is at last!

Slide 10: The Order of St John in Victoria – Our First 100 Years

➤ Cover Image



THE ORDER OF ST JOHN IN VICTORIA



OUR FIRST HUNDRED YEARS

Slide 11: Conclusions

- A permanent home is essential
- Support of your State Council is also important
- There are more vandals than conservationists
- It is a constant struggle to preserve our history

How the Victorian Civil Ambulance Service grew from St John Ambulance in Melbourne, 1902–23

by Ian Howie-Willis

***The author:** Dr Ian Howie-Willis is the Priory Librarian for the Order of St John in Australia, that is the official custodian of the St John heritage in this country. A professional historian, he is the author or co-author of six books and various articles on St John history, including *The Zambuks*, the Operations Branch centenary history published in 2002. He is the secretary of the Historical Society and has presented research papers to all six of the society's History Seminars.*

1. Introduction

This paper deals with an instructive episode in St John Ambulance and ambulance service history. It reconsiders the period when St John Ambulance in Victoria detached itself from the ambulance service it had initiated about 20 years previously. St John shed its self-imposed responsibilities for Melbourne's rapidly growing metropolitan ambulance transport system by establishing in 1915–16 a new organisation with separate accounts, the Victorian Civil Ambulance Service (VCAS). Over the next six or seven years the VCAS progressively emerged from beneath the St John umbrella, eventually becoming a separate, independent corporate entity in 1922. Strong links between the two organisations nevertheless continued for decades, until at least the mid-1960s. The VCAS survived until 1974–75, when the name was changed to 'Ambulance Service—Melbourne', a terminological acknowledgement that the service largely confined itself to the metropolitan area. A decade later any lingering nexus was finally broken by Victoria's *Ambulance Service Act 1986*, under which the service was reconstituted as a new institution, the Metropolitan Ambulance Service.

I deliberately used the word 'instructive' in my opening statement above because unfortunately St John elsewhere was unable to learn from the smooth transition from St John to VCAS control of Melbourne's ambulances. St John branches in three other States — New South Wales, Tasmania and South Australia — were later obliged to surrender their control of the ambulance services they had been conducting, in 1922, 1965 and 1993 respectively. In each case the protagonists departed bruised and bloodied. In another State, Queensland, the St John organisation was so closely grafted to the ambulance authority that its separation in 1960 caused even greater bloodletting. [*These events are described in detail in Howie-Willis (1983), pp. 222–30 (New South Wales) and pp. 489–99 (Tasmania); Schilling (2003) (South Australia); and Wales and Pearn (1998), pp. 213–2 (Queensland).*] With the wisdom of hindsight — things seem so much clearer decades later — we may speculate that if the St John organisations in those States had managed their departures with the grace and dignity of the Victorians they might have spared themselves much pain.

My paper covers ground I have dug previously. In my first St John book in 1983 [*Howie-Willis (1983), pp. 214–21*], I wrote about the period 1899–1916 when the Victorian Centre of the St John Ambulance Association initiated and then conducted Melbourne's emergent ambulance system. I summarised this topic in 3000 words and eight pages of my book, giving the topic about half the space that it receives now in this paper.

On re-reading those pages — something that until recently I had not done since working on the page-proofs of the book back in 1983 — I was fairly pleased with my handiwork. My story unfolds fluently in lively prose. It gives readers an overview of the main events causing the Centre to withdraw from a service it had developed from several Ashford litters (i.e. stretchers mounted on cart wheels) and a horse-drawn ambulance into a fleet of six purpose-built motor ambulance vehicles. And 21 years later it remains the longest and most detailed account of the early years of Melbourne's ambulance service, which was the first of six in which an Australian State/Territory St John branch has been involved over the past 107 years.

In 1999 two other histories on different aspects of Victoria's ambulance system appeared. Sally Wilde [*Wilde (1999)*], a Melbourne institutional historian, published an excellent 191-page history of ambulance officer training in Victoria and Paul H. Bird edited a 104-page history of Victorian country ambulance services [*Bird (1999)*]. On reading them recently I discovered that for the early years of the Victorian ambulance system my book appears to have been the main reference for both. Wilde acknowledges her sources but Bird has neither bibliography nor footnotes; however, his account generally follows mine so I guess he might have consulted it. (If he did I disclaim any responsibility for

the major factual error in the first line of his otherwise useful timeline near the end of his book.) *[Bird's time-line begins at 1863 when, he asserts, 'St John Ambulance [was] formed in Victoria by [the] wife of [the] Governor' (Bird [1999], p. 99). The correct year was 1883 and the founders were Dr J.E. Neild and a group of other prominent citizens he had called together. The parent body, the St John Ambulance Association in the UK, did not form until 1877.]* In addition to Wilde's and Bird's histories, two 'potted' histories in the form of time-lines have been published on the Internet. One appears in the history section of the website of Melbourne's Metropolitan Ambulance Service *[Metropolitan Ambulance Service website]*. The other is in the annual reports of the ambulance services' peak national body, the Convention of Ambulance Authorities *[Convention of Ambulance Authorities Report 2002/2003]*.

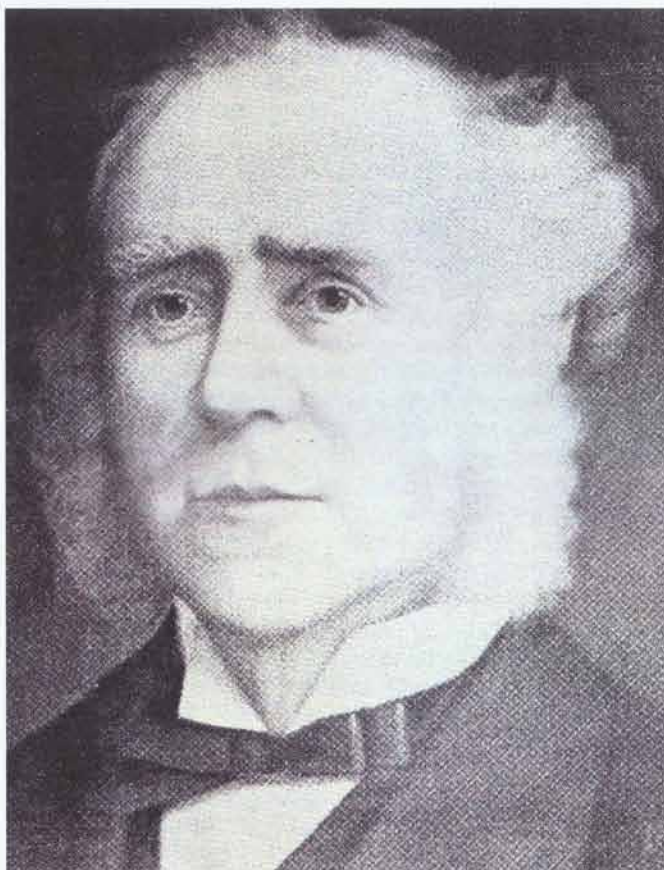
If there have been five published accounts of the early years of the service why revisit the story yet again? The answer lies in a set of three volumes of annual reports of the ambulance service that one of its managers, Harold ('Jock') Berry, donated to the Priory Library of St John Ambulance Australia in 1999. The annual reports cover the 44-year period 1913–1957, during which the service passed almost imperceptibly from St John control to that of the newly created Victorian Civil Ambulance Service (VCAS). Over that period the VCAS progressively extended the service across the State until it was operating from seven metropolitan and 43 country stations. The VCAS annual reports, which were not available to me when I was writing about the organisation in 1983, add new insight into the origins of the VCAS. (As things turn out, all along the Australian National Library in Canberra, my home town, was holding a complete set of annual reports for the Victorian ambulance service.) I consequently wish to use this paper to bring the new information to your attention.

To set the story in its context, this paper considers the events over a 40-year period, 1883–1923. It divides them into two main stages — before the foundation of the VCAS (1883–1915) then later (1916–23). It then goes to outline subsequent developments up to the present era. What follows is in note form with illustrations borrowed from the VCAS annual reports. Unless otherwise indicated in the endnotes the information is from the VCAS annual reports.

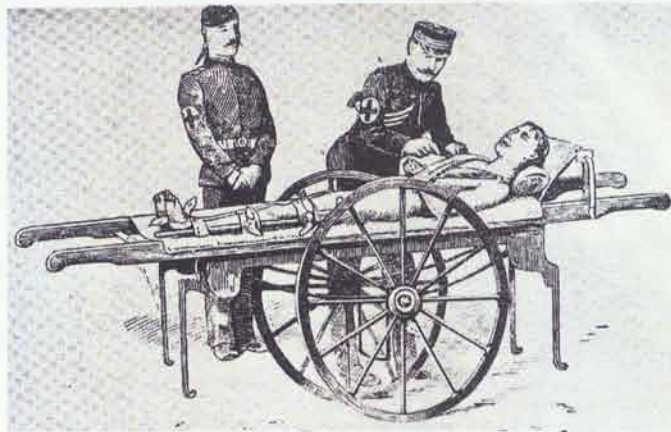
2. Background: 1883–1915

1883 The Victoria Centre of St John Ambulance Association (henceforth abbreviated as SJAA) established at meeting in Athenaeum Hall, Melbourne, 26th June

Dr James Edward Neild MD, medical practitioner of diverse interests and convenor of the group that founded the Victoria Centre of the St John Ambulance Association in 1883.

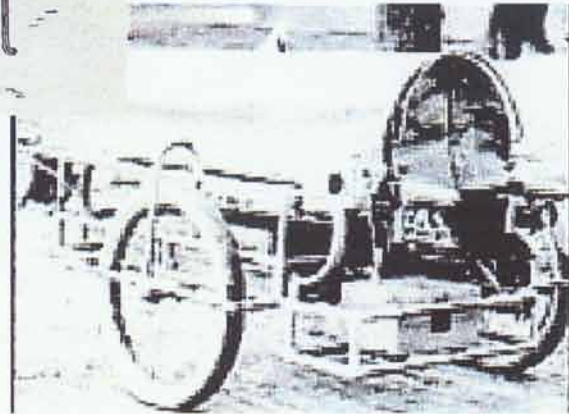


- 1887** Lady Janet Clarke, wife of first president of SJAA Victoria Centre, Sir William Clarke, donated six Ashford litters for use at police stations.



Ashford Litters. Left is the original patented "St John ambulance" of 1875 — a stretcher on cart wheels with retractable supporting legs.

Below is a later model, with canopy, pneumatic tyres & tray for first aid kit. Those donated by Lady Clarke were of the type on the left.



1896

The SJAA Centre placed an Ashford litter at the Eastern Hill fire station. The litter was called out 100 times in the first year. It proved so popular that the Centre arranged for a military ambulance wagon to be borrowed from Defence Department and stationed at fire station.

The military wagon proved too cumbersome so a group calling itself the 'Daughters of Court', whose leading members included Mrs Neild, began raising money for a lighter vehicle. This led to



1899

The SJAA Centre purchasing its own horse-drawn ambulance, which the firemen at Eastern Hill operated. The ambulance was called out 400 times the first year. The Fire Brigade Board demanded £150 from the Centre to continue the service.



The first horse-drawn ambulance outside the Eastern Hill fire station, 1899.

1900 The SJAA Council approached the Conference of Municipal Councils for a subsidy, which was refused though the conference asked the Fire Brigade Board to continue operating the service.

1901 The SJAA Council then asked the Melbourne City Council for a £75 grant towards maintenance of service. The grant was approved and the same amount was given for next 12 years. The Fire Brigade Board upped its demand to £350 to continue the service. The SJAA Council approached the government Chief Secretary for a £350 grant, but was offered only an 'impossible' £200. The Council had to make do with donations and whatever fees the patients were willing to pay.

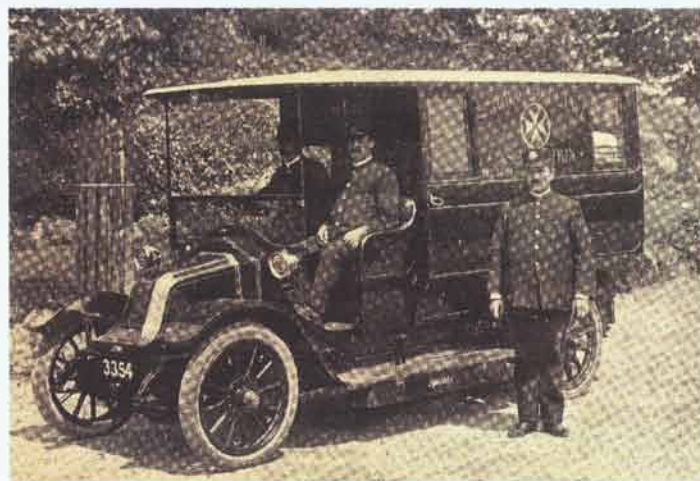
1902 The Chief Secretary refused a further request, for £125, then announced that the ambulance service was not necessary because henceforth the police would convey patients by hansom cab and Ashford litter. Meanwhile, the Fire Brigade Board announced its withdrawal from service at the year's end. The Salvation Army declined a SJAA Centre request to take the service over.

1903 The SJAA Council took control of service on 1st January. It awarded a contract to operate its ambulance to a Mr A.J. Nance. In August the Council appointed a new contractor, Fiske Bros., who employed as supervisor Harry Osgood-Cannon, an Army Medical Corps warrant officer who had served in the Boer War. At that time he had little to supervise: the service consisted of just one horse ambulance and two driver-attendants, of which he was one. In 1905 he secured the contract for the service himself and retained it until 1913. That year the Council terminated his contract and began managing the service directly through a sub-committee led by A. Howard Hansford, the Council's assistant treasurer. Osgood-Cannon was, however, retained as the Chief Officer of the service. At the time he was also the Superintendent of the Metropolitan Division of the St John Ambulance Brigade. He remained with St John and the service until his death in 1930.

1904-06 The service answered 963 calls and refused another 102 because the ambulance was busy. To keep up with the demand the SJAA Council purchased a second horse-drawn ambulance in 1905. It purchased a third horse ambulance in March 1906 then a fourth that October because the other three could not cope with the increasing workload.

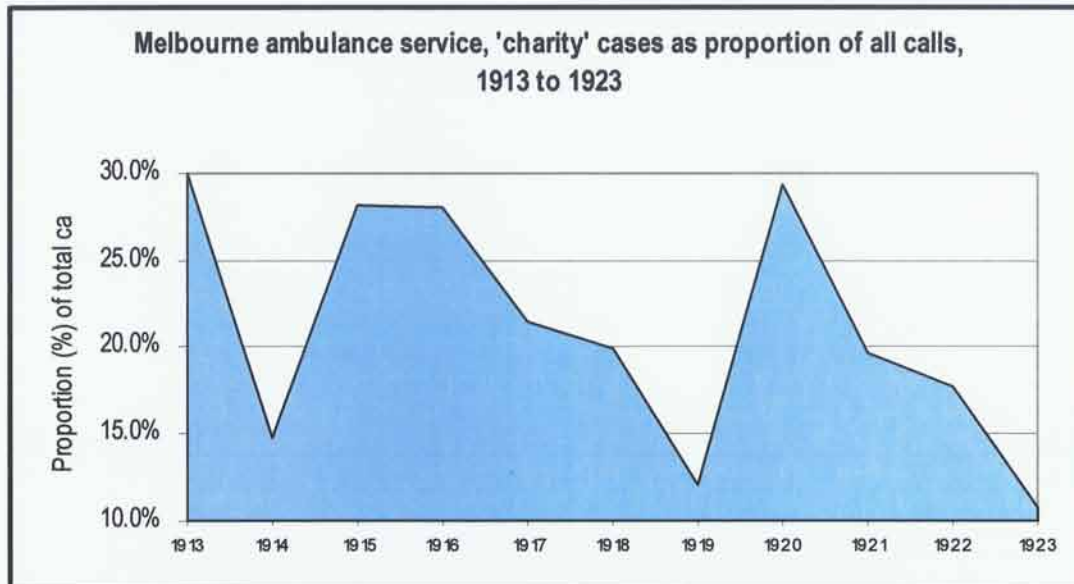
1907-08 The service's first suburban ambulance station opened at Prahran. A fifth horse ambulance was purchased in January 1908 and a sixth was later borrowed from the Austin Hospital to meet the rising demand.

1909-10 The number of calls rose to 4304, a 347% increase over the past five years. The seemingly insatiable public demand for the service 'taxed [its] resources to the uttermost'. The increasing pressure of the calls therefore persuaded the SJAA Centre Council 'to buy a motor ambulance'. It purchased its first, a new 2-cylinder '10-14' horsepower ambulance built on a Renault chassis, for £400. At a ceremony in the Melbourne Town Hall on 25 October 1910 Lady Carmichael (governor's wife) 'christened' the van. In its first six months the motor ambulance answered 694 calls and ran 11,894 kms.



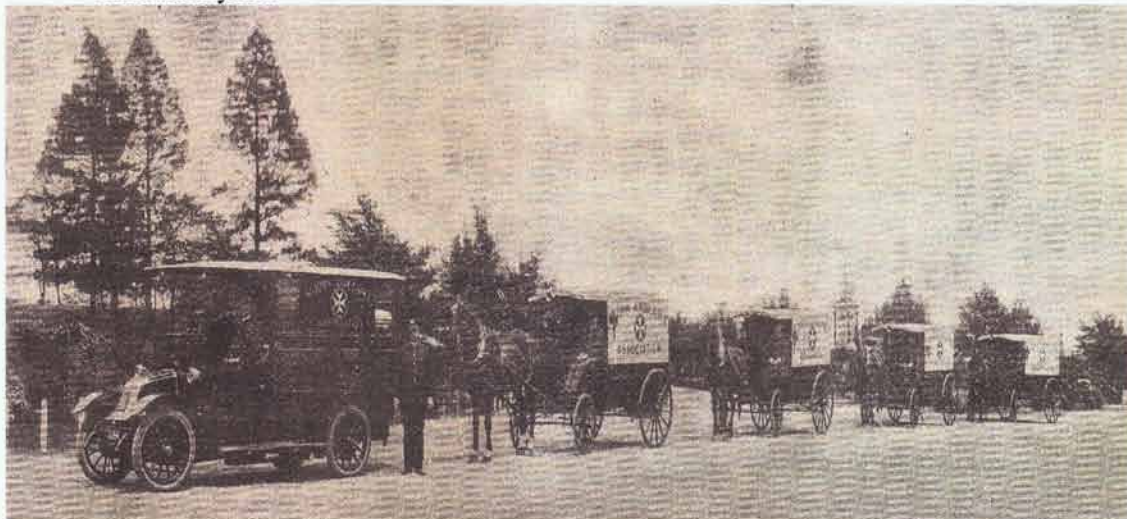
The first motor ambulance, the 'Lady Carmichael', a two-cylinder Renault, 1910. The Supervisor, Harry Osgood-Cannon, is standing at the right. (The names of the two officers in the vehicle are unknown.)

Of the 4304 calls that year 1338 (31%) were 'charity' (non-paying) cases. Charity cases remained a substantial part of the workload. In time, by 1923, their proportion of all calls was reduced to 11%, but whatever the proportion they represented income foregone. At 31% of calls they were a significant contributing factor in the mounting debt of the service. The following graph shows the trend in charity cases over the decade 1913–23.



1911–12 A second motor ambulance was purchased on 5 November 1911. During 1911–12 the two motor ambulances attended 1129 calls and ran 28,765 kms.

1912–13 A third motor ambulance was purchased on 17 March 1913. That year the three motor vans attended 3858 calls and ran 50,206 kms. They answered calls from as far away as 185 kms into countryside.



Part of the Melbourne St John ambulance fleet, 1912: one of the two motor ambulances and four of the six horse ambulances.

The total calls for the motor and horse ambulances rose to 6145 and total mileage to 72,509 kms. Again, charity cases (1843) amounted to 30% of all calls.

1913–14

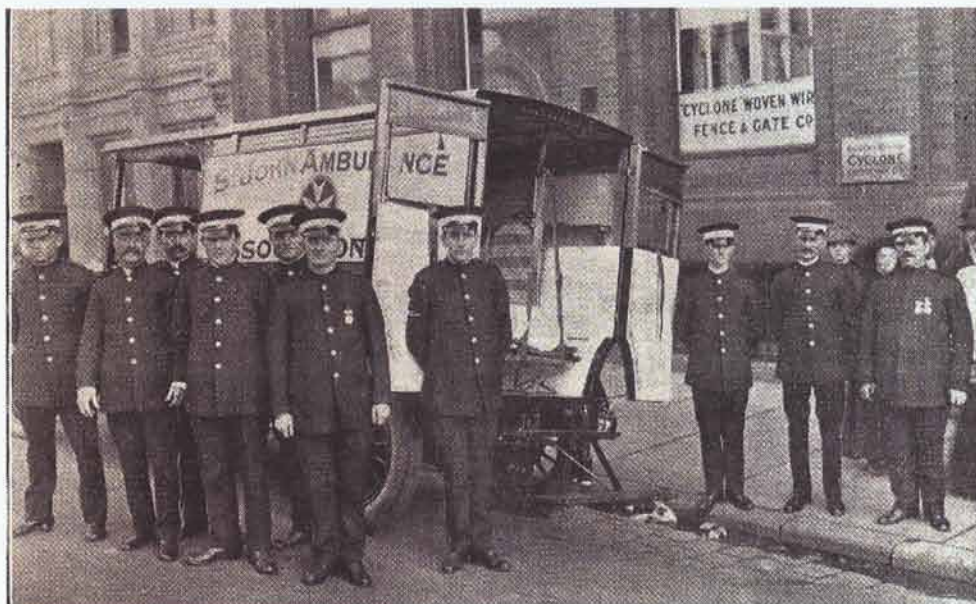
A fourth motor ambulance was purchased for £700. The SJAA Council's annual report remarked on 'the ever increasing demand for ambulances.' Total calls for horse and motor ambulances were 6953 and the mileage 82,117 kms. Country trips totalled 6658 kms or 8% of the total. The motor ambulances, being more mobile and faster than the horse ambulances, were creating their own demand as well as adding appreciably to costs. As the previous annual report had explained,

Before the advent of the motor, the wants of those living in distant and out of the way parts could not be attended to. These cases the Association has been enabled to reach most satisfactorily, as is evidenced by the fact that the calls into the country are increasing day by day [St John Ambulance Association Victoria Centre, Annual Report 1912-13, p. 6].

To accommodate the expanding fleet, the Council obtained new premises for the service on the corner of Swanston and Franklin Streets. Occupying the new premises imposed additional costs on the service. As the deficit of £476 in 1913 became £1053 in 1914 and then £2178 in 1915 the service continued sliding into debt.



New ambulance service building, corner of Swanston and Franklin Streets, with three motor ambulances, two Ashford litters and two horse-drawn ambulances, 1914.



Ambulance service staff and motor van, 1914. Chief Officer Harry Osgood-Cannon is at the right.

1914-15

In its annual report on the ambulance service the SJAA Council protested that 'the St John Ambulance Association is doing work which should rightfully fall upon the municipal councils of Melbourne.' Pointing out that 'the work is not run for profit and no one has received profit from it,' the report went on to complain there were 'no funds to replace worn out wagons.'



Ambulance outside the new Swanston-Franklin Street depot, 1914. The caption in the annual report said 'Car leaving for accident', but the photograph is so stiff and formal that it had obviously been posed.

3. VCAS control from 1916

1915-16

The first of 59 successive VCAS annual reports was published in May 1916. It explained the reason for renaming the ambulance service and making it a separate entity albeit one still under the direct control of the SJAA Council:

To remove a possible misunderstanding in the public mind and to draw a clearer distinction between the two main activities of the Association it was decided to change the name of the St John Ambulance Service to the Victorian Civil Ambulance Service [Victorian Civil Ambulance Service, Annual Report 1915-16, p. 4].

The report pointed out that 'the work [had been] forced on the Council because no other body was willing to undertake it'.

A fifth motor ambulance was purchased and a second suburban ambulance station opened at Brighton.

1916-17

The VCAS annual report again drew attention the separation of the VCAS from other St John Ambulance activities and then explained how this had occurred:

The work of the VCAS [is] not necessarily a part of the work of the St John Ambulance Association, both branches having specific work and separate sources of income....It was deemed advisable...to separate the two bodies. The Council [of the SJAA Centre] resolved that the Ambulance Service should be administered by a Provisional Committee, comprising the Executive Officers of the Council together with the Finance Committee.

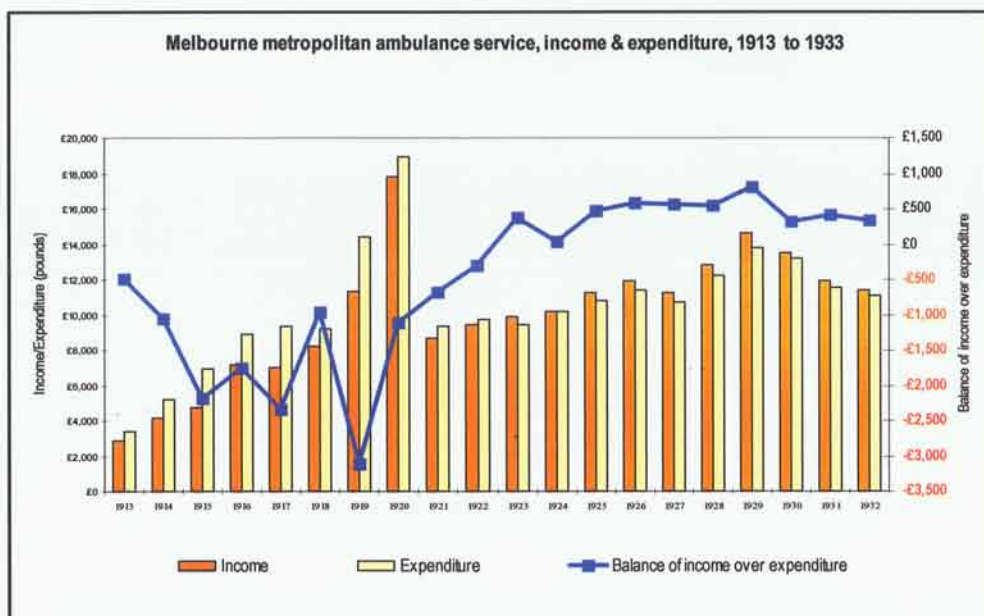
This Provisional Committee was duly appointed and empowered to draw up a constitution for the Ambulance Service and arranged for the appointment of a separate Council....The Honorary Treasurer of the Association, Mr A.H. Hansford was unanimously appointed Chairman [Victorian Civil Ambulance Service, Annual Report 1916-17, p. 5].

The five motor ambulances travelled 100,912 kms and the six horse ambulances 18,328, a total of 119,240 kms. That is, the service's mileage had increased by 31% in three years. That the motor ambulances were proving more expensive to run than the horse-drawn vans became evident in the VCAS annual report. This said that although the service had exercised 'rigid economy' its bank overdraft had increased by £580, largely due to 'enormously increased prices' in the running costs (mainly fuel, parts, maintenance) of the motor vans.

The annual report also mentioned two new initiatives that the VCAS council was taking to defray costs. First, it introduced a subscription scheme. This gave subscribers free ambulance transport for a fee of a guinea (£1/1/-) a year. Second, the council instituted a 'Queen of Victoria' competition in hope of paying off debts of £2333 (equivalent to about \$163,000 in the values of the early 2000s).



Alfred Howard Hansford, KStJ, MA, LIB, 1867–1945, chairman (later president) and treasurer of the VCAS 1916–36. Hansford had previously been a member of the Council of the SJAA Victoria Centre from 1913. (This portrait is from 1935.)



The VCAS annual report did not indicate that imminent insolvency had nearly caused the closure of the service in June 1916, when Hansford had still only been the head of the SJAA Council's ambulance sub-committee. At a critical meeting to consider the mounting debt, the SJAA treasurer, A.P Sykes, had passed the account books to Hansford and said, 'Take over the books and close your doors in August,' then quit the meeting and St John. Hansford,

however, decided to stay on and try to save the service, which by now was answering over 7000 calls a year. He recognised that although fiscally prudent Sykes's instruction was ethically dubious. The 'Queen of Victoria Carnival', which he then organised, saved the service. Hansford also succeeded Sykes as Council treasurer, when the latter resigned soon afterwards. He held the position for the next 20 years [*Hansford (1935), p. 5*].

It still took the VCAS council another seven years to eliminate the deficit and bring the accounts back into the black. After that income always exceeded expenditure. The following graph, based on statistics from the St John Ambulance and VCAS annual reports, demonstrates the slide into debt and the slow climb back out again.

1917-18

The VCAS 'Queen of Victoria' competition, organised by a 'carnival committee' headed by Hansford, raised an astonishing £7125 (about \$497,000 in the values of the early 2000s). This enabled the council to pay off its overdraft, purchase new motor ambulances and purchase workshop machinery and equipment for its ambulance stations. The operating deficit for the year was also reduced from £2333 to £915.

Among the purchases this year was a motor cycle sidecar ambulance.

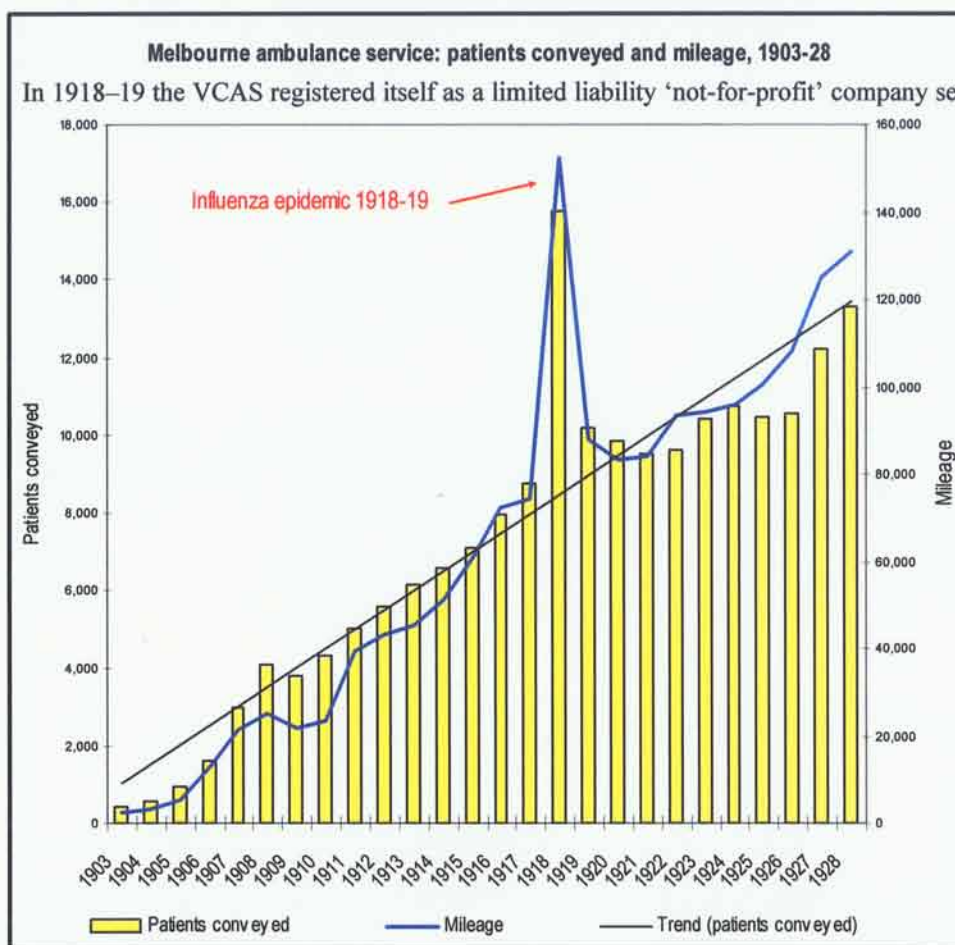


The VCAS fleet in 1919, including (foreground) the motor cycle ambulance, consisting of covered sidecar and motor cycle — a short-lived experiment.

1918-19

Just as the ambulance service was emerging from the debt that had burdened it from the outset, the great worldwide epidemic of pneumonic influenza reached Victoria. The epidemic soon imposed a heavy extra burden. The annual report in May 1919 observed that 'the outbreak, which became serious about 20th January, placed a tremendous strain on the ambulance service'. To cope, the VCAS obtained additional motor and horse ambulances and took on extra staff. By May the service was employing 85 drivers and attendants and had a fleet of 16 motor vehicles and five horse wagons (compared with the usual complement of 20 staff, 16 motor and three horse ambulances). That year the service carried 7290 'infectious' cases above its normal load of 8312 other cases. In carrying influenza patients it also travelled 116,640 kms above its usual mileage of 110,230 kms. The Public Health Department helped the VCAS by meeting the additional expenditure caused by the epidemic. The department paid the VCAS £4102, or 30% of that year's income, as a refund of the extra wages and running costs arising from the epidemic. During the epidemic many of the drivers and

attendants became infected and four died. The following chart graphically demonstrates the huge sudden upward surge the epidemic created in a workload that was already increasing annually at a spectacular rate. [The statistics on which the graph is based are from the VCAS 25th anniversary history, see *Victorian Civil Ambulance Service* (1928), p. 11.]



Ambulance Maltese cross roundel on its vehicles and publications. Instead it adopted a logo of its own — a sundial with the Latin motto *Nulla vestigia retrorsum* ('Never a backward step' or 'No turning back').



The VCAS logo, 1919 version left and 1935 version right. The lingering link with the parent organisation, the St John Ambulance Association, is perhaps symbolised by the Maltese cross at the bottom of the outer ring.

The increasing degrees of separation between St John Ambulance and the VCAS had been evident in the changes of name the service had gone through. Until 1915 it had been the 'St John Ambulance Association Ambulance Service'. For the next year it was the 'Victorian Civil Ambulance Service *superintended by the St John Ambulance Association*' (emphasis

added). From 1917 until 1921 it was the 'Victorian Civil Ambulance Service *associated with* the St John Ambulance Association (Victoria Centre)'. After that and until 1975 it was simply the 'Victorian Civil Ambulance Service'.

Despite the separation, the VCAS periodically had to remind the public that it was no longer a part of St John Ambulance. Thus, as late as 1923 it felt obliged to include the following statement in its annual report:

The activities of the Victorian Civil Ambulance Service are quite separate and distinct from those of the St John Ambulance Association.

Some confusion still exists in the public mind respecting the work of these two institutions. It is therefore pointed out that the work of the St John Ambulance Association is educational...; while the work of the Victorian Civil Ambulance Service is the conveyance of sick and injured persons. The Ambulance Service is conducted solely by the Victorian Civil Ambulance Service. No ambulance cars are controlled by the St John Ambulance Association.

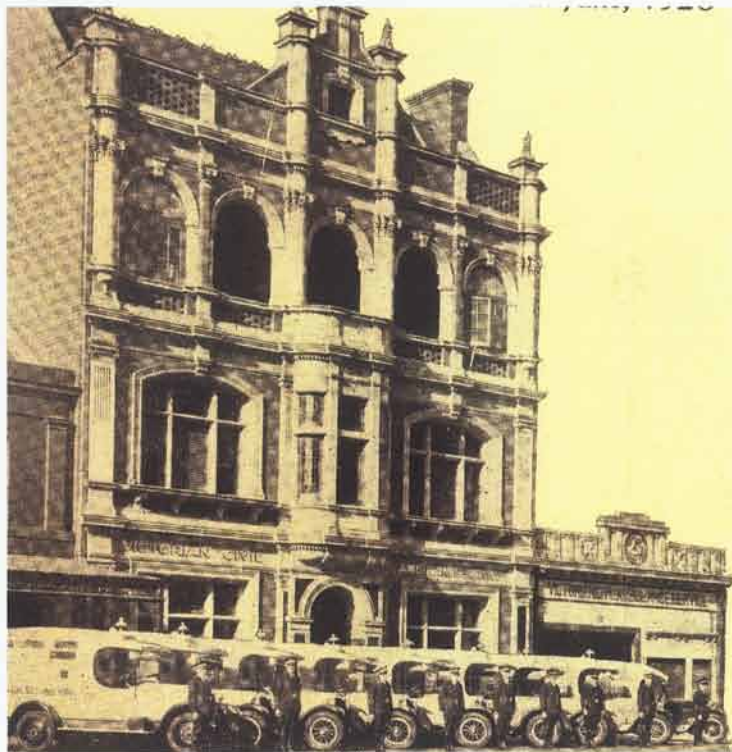
The ambulance service was originally inaugurated and controlled by the St John Ambulance Association, which body in 1917 [sic.] created the Victorian Civil Ambulance Association as a separate organisation.

The VCAS is now a registered corporation owning its own headquarters and plant and is entirely responsible for all matters relating to the operation of the Service. [Victorian Civil Ambulance Service, Annual Report 1922–23, p. 7. In the third paragraph of this report 1917 is wrongly given as the date when the VCAS was set up. The correct year was 1915–16, though precisely when during that year is uncertain.]

1919–20

The VCAS occupied new premises in Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, with ample room for offices, garage, workshop and sleeping quarters for ambulance staff. These premises remained the VCAS headquarters until 1957.

The Ambulance Service Guild formed this year to help the VCAS with fundraising. By 1925 it had about 120 members. In 1926 it became the Ambulance Auxiliary, the main fundraising event of which was an annual ball.



The new Lonsdale Street headquarters of the VCAS, opened in October 1919, shown here in 1928 with the fleet of eight standardised Ford vans and one other ambulance.

1920-21

The Victorian government refused a VCAS request to subsidise the ambulance service on the grounds that it was a municipal concern because it served only the metropolitan area not the whole State. 'It is difficult to reconcile this attitude,' the VCAS responded, pointing out that 7% of its calls (660 out of 9527 that year) and 14% of its mileage (18,780 kms out of 134,615) were from country areas. In vain the VCAS cited experience interstate, where 'other States subsidise and legislate for their ambulance services, which are thereby placed on a proper basis and are able to extend their organisation into country areas'.

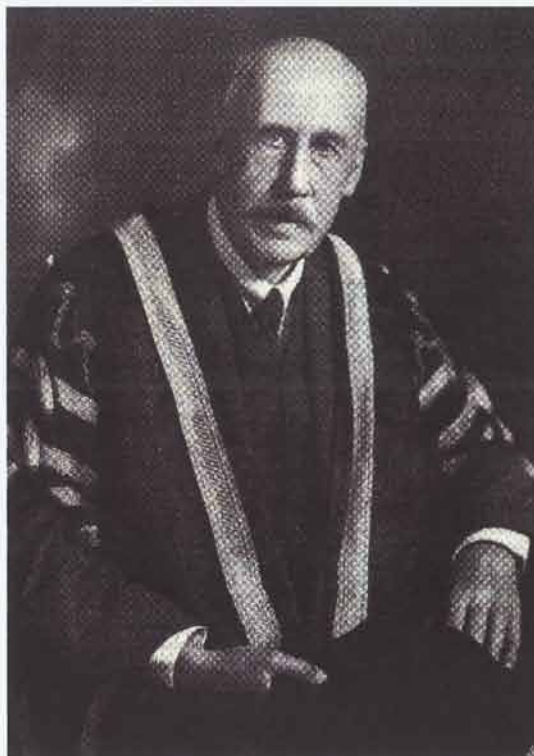
1921-22

The majority of town and city councils attending the Municipal Conference agreed to subsidise the ambulance service annually. They also agreed to elect three representatives to the VCAS council, one each to represent the Melbourne City Council and the councils in the northern and southern suburbs. The municipalities retained their representation on the VCAS until 1973.

1922-23

For the first time in the history of the ambulance service instead of 'the perennial overdraft' a small credit balance remained at the end of the year. The overdraft was no more. 'This happy result,' the VCAS annual report noted, 'reflects greater appreciation of the service by the public and greater willingness to pay.' Other contributing factors included returns from the subscription scheme and the municipal grants.

That year's annual report also included an account of the regional and rural ambulances that had loosely associated themselves with the service as the VCAS 'Country Division'. The Country Division had formed in 1922 through the efforts of Sir James Barrett, the honorary secretary of the Victorian Bush Nursing Association 1911-45. The VCAS formed a Country Division Committee to oversee the affiliated regional ambulance services. Barrett became its chairman and Hansford its treasurer. By 1925 nine country ambulance services had affiliated with the Country Division. The Country Division continued for 33 years until June 1955, when it was dissolved. By that time it embraced 42 rural services. It closed following a decision by the Victorian Hospitals and Charities Commission to establish regional ambulance boards, which rendered it redundant.



Sir James W. Barrett, KBE, CB, CMG, MD, MS, FRCS, 1862-1945, ophthalmologist, vice-chancellor and later chancellor of the University of Melbourne, and president or chairman of no fewer than 19 community organisations. Among the latter, he was chairman of the VCAS Country Division 1922-44.

4. After 1923

1924-25

The VCAS installed six strategically placed emergency telephone call 'pillars' on street corners in Melbourne's central business district. This enabled the public to call the VCAS Lonsdale Street headquarters direct for ambulances to attend accidents promptly. By 1929-30 the VCAS had 21 call pillars, eight in the city and 13 on the docks. In 1932-33 those on the docks were withdrawn because the Post Master General's department increased the fee for the pillars by 50%. From 1933-34 the VCAS advertised the telephone number of its Lonsdale Street headquarters — 'Central 121' — on the front cover of its annual report, presumably to encourage the public to use other telephone facilities.

In 1925 the last three horse-drawn ambulances were phased out. By this time the VCAS was operating eight motor ambulances on three shifts a day, with 30 drivers and attendants running them.

This year the VCAS also decided to extend the service into Melbourne's outer suburbs through a network of eight ambulance sub-stations. Because of financial constraints, however, only two were built — at Canterbury in the eastern suburbs in 1931 and Footscray in the western suburbs in 1933. By 1940 only one other had opened, at Mordialloc in the outer southern suburbs.



DIRECT LINE
To call Ambulance
open door and use
Telephone

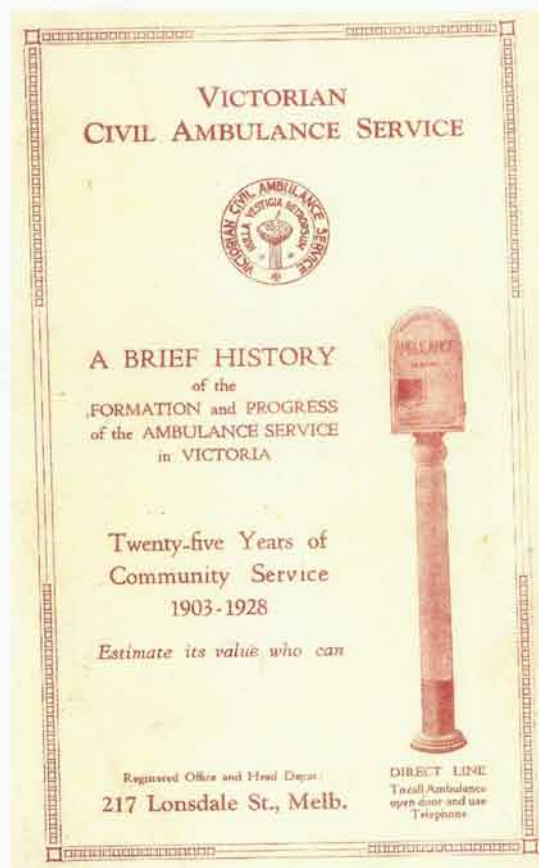
*A VCAS street
corner telephone
with a line direct to the central ambulance station*

1928-29

In 1928 the VCAS published a short history to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the St John-VCAS ambulance service [Victorian Civil Ambulance Service (1928)].

This year, too, the VCAS decided to launch its first major public appeal for funds, with a target of £10,000 (about \$624,000 in present values). The Victorian Charities Board allocated the VCAS a week in June 1930 to conduct the appeal. The results were disappointing: the appeal raised only a quarter of the target sum. By then the Great Depression had struck Australia. In Victoria the unemployment rate soared from 10.9% of the workforce in 1928 to 18.3% in 1930 before peaking at 26.5% two years later. The failure of the appeal was probably the main reason why the VCAS's 1928 plans for extending its services to the outer suburbs through eight sub-stations remained only partially fulfilled 12 years later.

Front cover of the VCAS 25th anniversary history.





The new Footscray ambulance sub-station, opened in June 1933, as part of the VCAS policy of expanding services across the metropolitan area. By this stage only two of the eight sub-stations planned in 1925 had been opened. The failure of a 1930 appeal and the financial constraints of the Great Depression had deferred the plans.

1929–30

Harry A. Osgood-Cannon JP, the VCAS Chief Officer, died in 1930. Whether under St John Ambulance or VCAS control, Osgood-Cannon had remained a respected Chief Officer. In 1924–25 the VCAS granted him six month's leave of absence to travel to Europe to visit ambulance stations.

1931–32

Frederick Raven was employed as VCAS secretary and also as secretary to the Council of the SJAA Centre. He remained with the VCAS for the next 34 years until his retirement in March 1965. From 1937 his title was Secretary-Superintendent. He is remembered with awe and affection by many present St John Ambulance members. At various times he served on the St John Council for Victoria and the Executive Committee of the SJAA Centre as well as terms as both Centre secretary and District Superintendent-Secretary of the St John Ambulance Brigade. As District Superintendent-Secretary in 1941, he became an inaugural member of the executive council of the Commandery of the Commonwealth of Australia of the Order of St John, and in 1946 of the council of the Priory that succeeded it. In photographs of the ceremonies marking the inauguration of both Commandery and Priory his tall, spare figure is seen carrying the cross of the Order in the capitial processions.



The third Chapter meeting of the Commandery of the Commonwealth of Australia, Sydney, 22 June 1944. Raven is standing second from left holding the cross.

St John Ambulance Operations Branch veterans still tell stories about Fred Raven. The following one from Mervyn Goodall made it into *The Zambuks*, the branch centenary history:

Suspended for going through a red light

Many years ago, back in the 1940s and 50s, Brigade members used to work as volunteers in the State ambulance service. I was one who did. The Brigade provided the ambulance service with a list of its members who were willing to work as volunteers. We volunteers were known as 'ambulance jockeys' because we used to ride up front with the driver. Sometimes we even used to drive the vans ourselves. Whenever the ambulance service was short staffed it would ring us to ask us to come on duty. We covered all the ambulance depots, at least in the metropolitan area. The system worked well because of the links the Brigade had with the ambulance service: the Brigade's District Superintendent, Fred Raven, was also the superintendent of the ambulance service. On one occasion I had the dubious distinction of being suspended as an ambulance officer for going through a red light after picking up a patient. I'd been called out to the Coburg lake to retrieve a child who had drowned there. I thought it was an emergency that warranted running through the red light. Unfortunately Fred Raven happened to be out driving in that area at the time. He saw me go through the red light. When he got back to the depot he suspended me for driving dangerously [Howie-Willis (1992), p. 363].

1935-36

A. Howard Hansford retired aged 69 after 23 years with the ambulance service, the first three as a member of the Council of the Victoria SJAA Centre, the last 20 as the VCAS president and treasurer. He had also been treasurer of the VCAS Country Division from 1922. As he retired he published an entertaining pamphlet of memoirs, *'In those days': 1913-34* [Hansford (1935)]. As noted above, he had also continued his commitment to the St John Ambulance Association, for which he served as Centre treasurer 1916-36. He died at Hawthorn in Melbourne's inner eastern suburbs in 1945.



A. Howard Hansford (second from left), VCAS president and treasurer receiving a donation to provide an additional ambulance for the VCAS fleet in 1935, the year before his retirement from the VCAS council. Left of him is the VCAS secretary, Frederick Raven. (The other two people are unknown.)

Hansford's successor as VCAS president was Maj.-Gen. Rupert M. Downes (1885-1945), who was also simultaneously president of the Victoria SJAA Centre and Commissioner of the Victoria District of the St John Ambulance Brigade. Downes held the position for only two years, 1937-39, until his army commitments as Director General of Medical Services took him overseas in the months before World War II. Downes was succeeded by Lt.-Gen. (later

Field Marshal) Sir Thomas Blamey (1884–1951), a member of the Victoria SJAA Centre council; however, he held the position for only a year, 1939–40, before his duties as commander of the 2nd AIF took him overseas. The next VCAS president, Col. John A.H. Sherwin (1881–1961), also held the position for only a year, 1940–41, when his military duties claimed his attention. An obstetrician-gynaecologist at the Women's Hospital, Sherwin also became commanding officer at the Heidelberg military hospital and later succeeded Rupert Downes as Commissioner of the Victoria District of the St John Ambulance Brigade (1945–51). Sherwin's successor as VCAS president was Eric Arthur Ormond Baker OBE, KStJ, JP (1889–1976), Director of Personnel for the Myer Emporium, who was to hold the position a record 28 years, 1941–68. (E.A. Ormond Baker was one of the 86 individual and corporate donors who contributed funds towards the construction of the St John Priory headquarters building in Canberra, where his name [and those of the 85 other donors] appears on the large wood and bronze Founder's Roll on the west wall of the foyer.)

1936–37

The VCAS began moves to change its legal status. It applied for deregistration as a non-profit company under the *Companies Act 1928* and for incorporation under the *Hospital and Charities Act 1928*. The reason for the change, which took effect on 18 January 1938, was to bring the ambulance service into line with the State's other registered charities and the public hospitals.

At this stage St John Ambulance influence on the VCAS management committee was still predominant: St John members occupied seven of 12 committee positions. Three decades later the St John voice on the committee was still strong. Representatives of the SJAA Centre and Brigade District comprised four of the committee's membership of 10, while the VCAS president, E. Ormond Baker KStJ, had variously chaired and been treasurer to the SJAA Centre from 1942. In 1953 he had also become the inaugural treasurer of the St John Council for Victoria. Baker's successor as VCAS president was another leading St John Ambulance figure — Dr A. Howard Toyne CSTJ (later KStJ), who held the position 1968–71 and who later served as national Director of Training for St John 1974–84. Toyne's successor as president, a municipal representative and Melbourne City Councillor, was the first and only non-St John person to hold the position. Meanwhile Baker continued on as an ordinary member of the VCAS committee of management until 1973.



E. Ormond Baker (left), VCAS President 1941–68 watches the Minister for Health, E.W. Mack, unveil the plaque at the new ambulance station in Nepean Highway, Cheltenham, 1961. (Photograph by The Herald & Weekly Times Limited and from the company's portrait collection; copy held by the State Library of Victoria (La Trobe Library).)

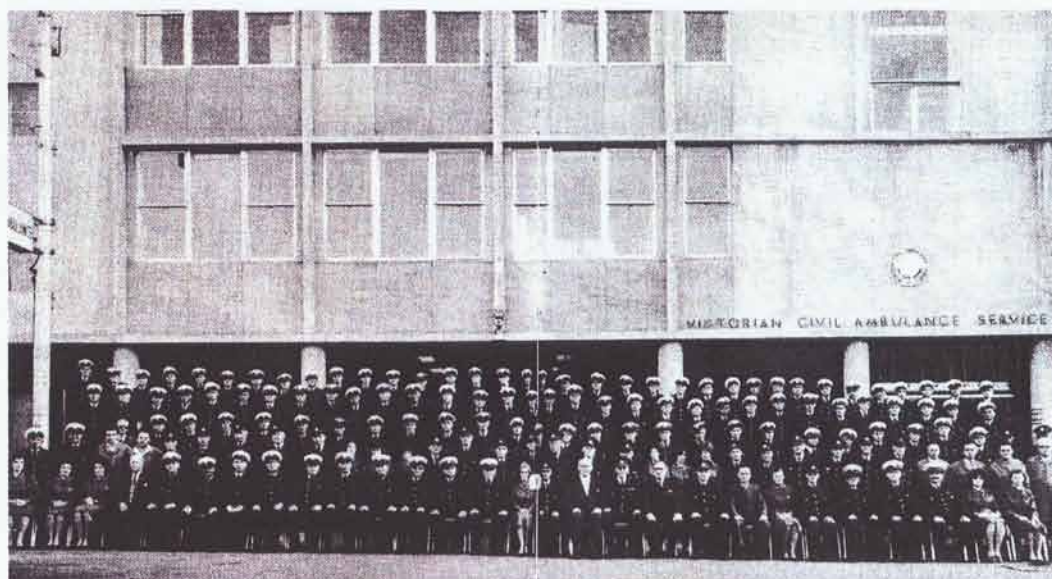
Cross-membership of the St John and VCAS governing councils kept the two organisations in touch with each other until 1973, more than half a century after the SJAA–VCAS separation. Thus, there was no short-term, dramatic and traumatic removal of St John from the State ambulance system that later occurred in Queensland, Tasmania and South Australia. Instead of a messy amputation there was a six-decade period of disengagement.

Other key events in the evolution of Victorian ambulance system as the distance between St John Ambulance and the VCAS inevitably widened are summarised against the years listed below.



The VCAS fleet in 1941: Fred Raven and his staff of ambulance officers and their 13 vehicles, nine of which are standardised Dodge vehicles.

- 1948** The Victorian government established the Hospitals and Charities Commission, which decided to establish regional ambulance services. The VCAS continued serving the Melbourne metropolitan area. By 1954 there were 15 regional rural services operating [*Convention of Ambulance Authorities Report 2002–2003*].
- 1955** As noted above (see 1922–23), the VCAS Country Division closed after 33 years.
- 1957** The VCAS moved its headquarters from the old Lonsdale Street premises into a new building at 164 Latrobe Street.



VCAS staff and management outside the new Latrobe Street headquarters building, 1962.

1958

The Victorian Ambulance Services Association formed as a peak lobby group for Victoria's recently regionalised rural ambulances. It held an annual convention to bring together the various member services and survived until 1998, when the imminent creation of Rural Ambulance Victoria (RAV) rendered it redundant [Bird (1999), pp. 94–5].

1973

Following industrial action by ambulance officers, the Victorian Minister for Health, A.H. Scanlan, ordered an inquiry into the ambulance service. Among other forms of protest, the ambulance officers had placed bans on the 'Hartnett' type ambulances, vans that had travelled over 80,000 miles (128,000 kms), paper work, individual District Officers, particular hospitals and the VCAS workshop. (All this would sound familiar to anyone who recalls the industrial protests in the St John ambulance services in Western Australia in the 1970s and South Australia in the 70s–80s!) By this stage the VCAS was operating from 11 metropolitan ambulance stations, had a fleet of 99 vehicles and was employing 268 operational staff [Victorian Civil Ambulance Service Inquiry (Sir Basil Osborne and R.S. Sims), Report of the Victorian Civil Ambulance Service Inquiry, p. 27 and Appendix 1, p. 2].

The inquiry was chaired by Sir Basil Osborne, who had been Lord Mayor of Hobart and chairman of the Hobart Metropolitan Transport Trust, the board of Royal Hobart Hospital and the Ambulance Commission of Tasmania [Who's Who in Australia 1977, p. 842]. The only other member was R.S. Sims, an engineer and chartered accountant. Among other findings, they concluded that under VCAS management industrial relations had been 'very poor'; that co-ordination with the State's 17 non-metropolitan ambulance services was lacking; that costs were about 10% higher than in comparable services interstate; and that the management committee was overloaded with representatives of organisations that had no direct interest in the ambulance service (such representatives including those from St John). Their report in November 1973 included recommendations that:

- the management committee be reduced from 11 to 8, without specific provision for St John Ambulance representation as previously;
- the VCAS name be changed to Melbourne Metropolitan Ambulance Service;
- the service should join and 'actively co-operate with' the Victorian Ambulance Services Association, the peak body for the regional and rural ambulance agencies;
- a State-wide authority should be established to 'co-ordinate, plan and control' the Victorian ambulance system, taking over the present ambulance functions of the Hospitals and Charities Commission [Victorian Civil Ambulance Service Inquiry, op cit., pp. 2–8].

The Victorian government quickly began implementing the recommended changes. The VCAS annual report for 1973–74 summarised the government's action as follows

The Parliament appointed Mr J.R. Ham, Chief Inspector of the Hospitals and Charities Commission, as Administrator, providing for a future change of name of the service and for a Committee of eight members to hold office until a new committee is appointed some time in the next three years. The last Committee vacated office on 13th December 1973 [Victorian Civil Ambulance Service, Annual Report 1973–74, p. 1].

This statement was a weather-vane pointing to a sea change within the ambulance service. The St John Ambulance people who departed 'the last Committee' on 13th December might already have guessed that the final severance between their organisation and the ambulance service had begun. They probably didn't need an annual report to remind them that from 14 December 1973 the formal ties between St John and its offspring were no more. At the end only three were left on the VCAS committee of management — Dr J.Peter Bush CStJ, the Brigade District Commissioner, R.J. (Bob) Dymond KStJ and Harry Gill SBStJ. (Earlier in 1973 there had been five, but E. Ormond Baker KStJ and Max D. Phelan CStJ had both resigned from the committee.) With the departure of that trio a bond that had endured for 70 years ceased to exist.

1974–75

As part and parcel of the changes flowing on from the Osborne-Sims Report in 1973, on 29 January 1975 the government appointed a permanent new, smaller, eight-member committee of management to run the ambulance service. It chose as president Sir Lawrence Hartnett, a company director who had formerly headed up the major industrial enterprises General Motors Holden and the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation. More recently he had chaired the State's Ambulance Design Committee that had produced the 'Hartnett'-type ambulance that had recently been the object of ambulance officer 'black' bans. Like Hartnett, none of the other committee members appears to have had St John Ambulance links.

With the new committee of management came other changes. The VCAS name was replaced by 'Ambulance Service—Melbourne', presumably to indicate more clearly that the focus of the service was the metropolitan area. And after 55 years the VCAS sundial emblem and Latin motto, *Nulla vestigia retrorsum*, were replaced by a new logo — a scarlet eight-point cross (though not the St John variety) superimposed upon a gold wheel above the words 'Ambulance Service Victoria'. With 'response time' becoming a key measure of ambulance service efficiency, perhaps a sundial was the wrong image for the new era.



The new Ambulance Service Victoria logo

Although the formal link between St John and the ambulance service had been cut, other informal, personal links remained unbroken. Thus, the person appointed as Chief Superintendent or chief executive officer for Ambulance Service—Melbourne was Harold ('Jock') Berry OSTJ, whose St John connections went back 15 years. Berry had begun his St John career in South Australia in 1958, as chief officer of the Adelaide ambulance system, which the State St John Council had taken over in 1951–52. After moving to Victoria in 1963 he had spent 10 years as the VCAS training director and also served as a District Officer with the St John Ambulance Brigade, running its officer training program. Berry remained Chief Superintendent of the restructured ambulance service for the two decades 1973–93 [Howie-Willis (1999)]. In that time various members of his staff also served as St John Ambulance volunteers, with both the Brigade/Operations Branch as training officers and the Association/Training Branch as instructors. These links continue to the present.

1986

Following a review by the Public Bodies Review Committee, the Victorian government passed the *Ambulance Service Act 1986*, the State's first legislation solely concerned with the Victorian ambulance services. This Act established the Metropolitan Ambulance Service

(MAS) as a statutory corporation which, together with five rural services, came under the of Ambulance Service Victoria umbrella. Collectively they all became known as 'Ambulance Victoria' [Convention of Ambulance Authorities Report 2002–2003].

1989

The MAS moved its headquarters from 64 Latrobe Street to new premises at 375 Manningham Road, Doncaster — an area that three decades earlier had consisted mainly of orchards on the rural fringe of Melbourne's outer suburbs. (Freeway construction had meanwhile brought the area within a 20-minute drive of the central business district.) An ambulance station serving the city centre was opened in Bouverie Street, Carlton, on the city's northern edge.

1999

The five rural ambulance services were restructured under a new single statutory corporation, Rural Ambulance Victoria (RAV). Both the MAS and RAV reported to the Minister for Health through the Department of Human Resources [Convention of Ambulance Authorities Report 2002–2003].

In the time since then, if not before, Ambulance Victoria has emerged as a serious rival of St John Ambulance in the increasingly competitive first aid training market.

5. Conclusion

With the above new information, what do I now think of my 1983 account? The answer is that with the limited resources available to me at the time, I largely got the story right. The 'big picture' was the right shape but some of the finer detail was fuzzy.

And have I revised my opinions through reading the VCAS annual reports that Jock Berry made available? Yes I have, and extensively. The main shortcoming of the 1983 account was my overly severe judgement of the SJAA Council. I no longer believe the Council was guilty of financial 'ineptitude', as I wrote in 1983. Things were rather more complicated than I had understood then. (They usually turn out to be so when one digs deeper.) I now think that, rather than managing its finances poorly, the Council became caught in an inescapable downward spiral of indebtedness through accepting responsibility for what was fast becoming a key public utility with unpredictably escalating costs. No one could forecast how fast the costs would multiply because no one had any idea that the service would prove so immensely popular. To cope with the huge demand the SJAA Council adopted the latest technologies — motorised ambulances and telephones. These increased the costs while stimulating further huge demand and rising expectations among the public. The Council had no choice here: it was obliged to avail itself of the most efficient means for transporting patients, regardless of cost.

With adequate guaranteed support from the State government, as later happened with the St John ambulance services in Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, the Council could have made a success of the service. If it had, other scenarios suggest themselves. Would there now have been, for instance, a grand 'St John Victorian State Ambulance Service' leading all the other State/Territory services through the first decade of the twenty-first century? (If so, I hope the Western Australian and Northern Territorian services would be co-leaders.)

Unfortunately, the SJAA Council could not convince the State government and metropolitan municipalities that the service had become an essential one which should therefore receive their support. From the vantage point of a century later, and always with the benefit of '20–20' hindsight, I suggest that the Council could have played its game of bluff poker with the government and municipal councils more effectively in the earlier years, before it had made a huge investment in motor ambulances. Its joker-in-the-pack could have been the threats it could have made. First, it could have warned it might go to the press complaining that the government's parsimony was putting voters' lives at risk. Second, it could have offered to abandon the service that the public was demanding. Such threats might have made the government and municipal councils appreciate better their responsibilities for what had become an essential public facility. But that would not have been the St John way, would it? *Pro utilitate hominum* and *Pro fide*, the ancient Latin mottoes of the Order, contain no sub-clause saying 'These ideals may be temporarily put aside during tough negotiation with the government'.

Instead of walking away from the service it had created, the SJAA Council knew it must carry on. Experience had taught it that no other agency would pick the service up — neither police, fire brigade nor Salvation Army, all of whom rightly saw the service as an expensive distraction from their true *raison d'être*. If the government and municipal councils refused responsibility then St John Ambulance was obliged to accept it. After all, 'Ambulance' was its name.

What the SJAA Centre did in hiving off its ambulance function to another institution it had created for that express purpose was both realistic and far-sighted. As things turned out, the VCAS experiment stood the test of time through successive legislative and structural changes for almost seven decades. The VCAS and the VCAS Country Division lineage is still apparent in the present MAS and RAV arrangement. I'm therefore certain that if Alfred Howard Hansford is looking down upon the Victorian ambulance system today from the place where we hope all loyal Knights of St John eventually go, he'd still recognise his handiwork. I'm also sure he'd agree that separating St John and the VCAS was not only a wise move at the time but would be the SJAA Council's *great* bequest to the people of Victoria.

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Publishing the history of St John Nursing in Perth, 1913 – 1963

by Edith Khangure

The author: Dr Edith Khangure is a professional librarian–archivist employed by the Western Australian State Ambulance Service, conducted by St John Ambulance Australia (WA) Inc. She is also a foundation committee member of this Historical Society — one of the original five who brought the it into being in the period 2000–01. During 2003–04 she helped Mrs Ruth Donaldson, the oldest active St John member in Western Australia, publish a history of the Perth No. 1 Brigade and Operations Branch Division, which after Glebe Division in New South Wales is the next oldest in Australia. Her paper tells how this book was published.

Following a Nursing star: the history of St John Nursing in Perth 1913 – 1963 is a book that was written by Ruth Gwendoline Donaldson. It was published by St John Ambulance in Western Australia in 2003, the year in which St John Nursing celebrated its 90th anniversary.



Perth Nursing Division, 1913



Ruth Donaldson

There is nothing mystical or complicated about publishing. It is the process in which the author has an idea (eg for a book, journal or newspaper article, engraving etc) and depicts the idea in text and graphics. The publisher prepares the manuscript for distribution to the public in a sequence of steps. It is possible to self publish in today's computerized world with "desktop" and "internet" publishing facilities in common use. These options result in a very dynamic process in which one person can be author, editor, compositor and printer. However this was not a consideration for Ruth.



Officers of Perth Nursing Division, 1928

Ruth's project had been in the making for at least a decade. Ian Howie-Willis had encouraged Ruth to put pen to paper before the St John centennial in 1992. Ruth had hoped that others with more experience than herself would do this, and some information was given to Ian for his book. Ian continued to encourage Ruth — the next milestone being the WA Commandery's 50th anniversary in 1997. This too passed but finally Ruth committed herself to doing it.



Perth Nursing Division members with H.W. Lilley, the District Secretary, 1929

My first inkling that there was a real prospect of finality with this project was a phone call from Ruth late in 2002. Ruth told me that she had finished and asked if I could help her with the next stage. Of course I would - and arranged a meeting. At this time Ruth had hand written some 25 foolscap pages with details from minute books and her own experiences, and had an impressive collection of photographs.



Perth Nursing Division members with Dr Donaldson (District Commissioner 1939-61), 1935

Ruth's days of typing were over and any thought of self publishing was out of the question. Her expectations were both minimalist and maximum. She was desperate to have the earliest women in St John Nursing "properly remembered".

Her minimum expectation was that the manuscript would be typed and that photocopies including photographs would be filed away somewhere. Her vision however was for a very formal publication to guarantee that these women would be remembered. Ruth brought a different perspective to the well known phrase “publish or perish”.



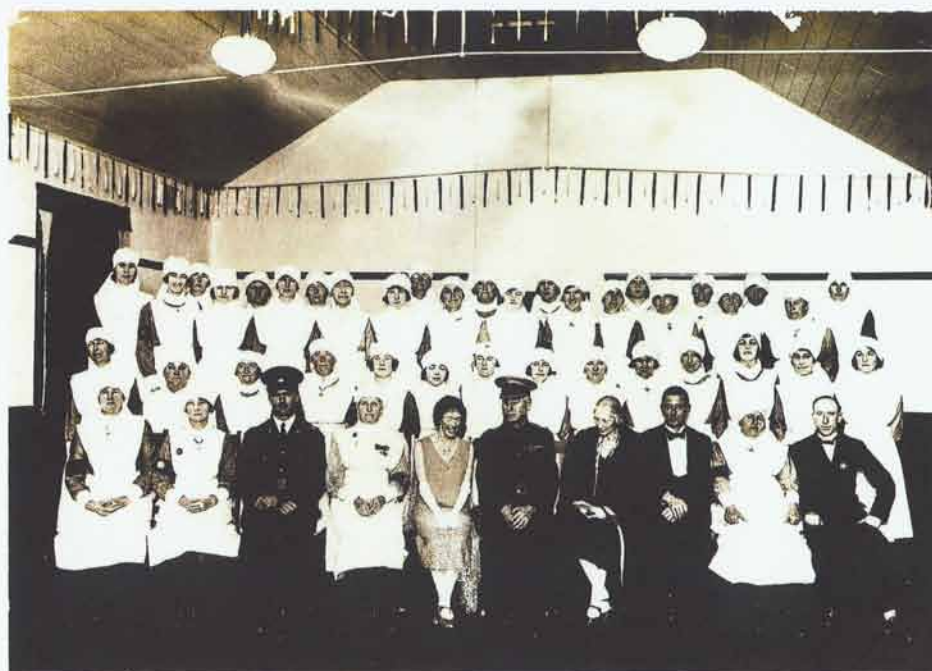
Ruth Birch, 1937



Dr John Ralph Donaldson, 1939

What was required was an editing role as well as the publishing one. Editors have to arrange the text provided by the author and, coupled with illustrations, strive for the best possible representation of their thoughts.

The task was exciting and I immediately started by delegating the typing to a secretary. What came back was draft one which I read, tidied up and sent to Ruth. Over the coming months Ruth and I corresponded by phone, mail and with meetings as often as we could. You might assume that Ruth would be at home all the time and available – quite the reverse, our meetings had to be fitted in around her numerous committee and church commitments. This was no easy task!



VAD No. 501, 1938



VAD No. 501, 1939

Draft one was the first opportunity I had to appreciate the information Ruth was offering – her themes, style and sense of humour. From a very varied collection of minute books and correspondence Ruth had pieced together the written memories of the Women's Nursing Divisions – their activities, training, public duties, social activities, fund raising and war experiences. At the same time Ruth's own experiences and many photographs provided a very feminine insight into these early times and unique challenges – two world wars, the influenza pandemic and the great depression. There were also obvious problem areas – primarily a lack of context and duplication.



The 25th anniversary of the Perth Nursing Division, 1938

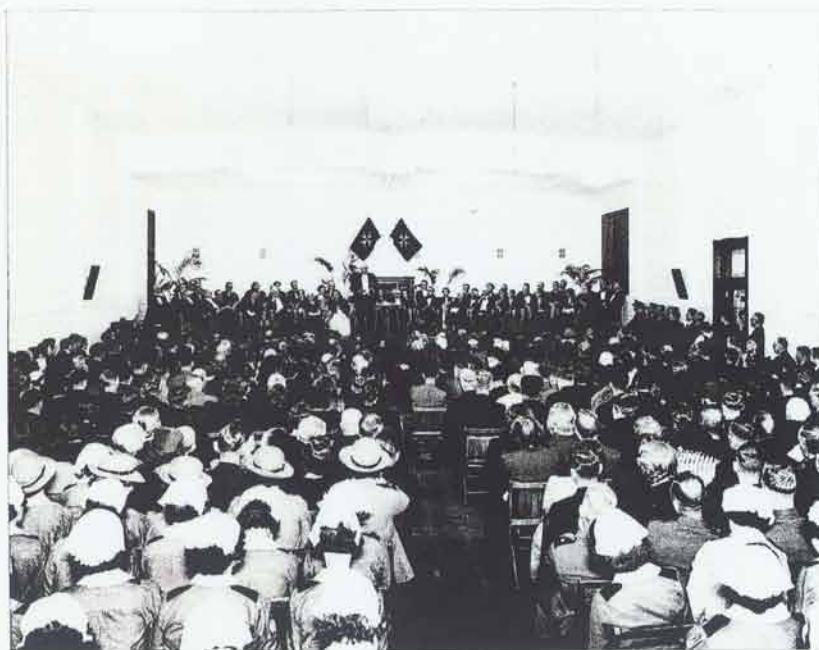


Terry Korboskey in VAD and St John uniform, 1939

Whilst Ruth was looking at draft one, I started to find details of typeset and graphics designers. Quotes were sought and I selected a company which had done previous work for St John in WA. They in turn recommended a printer and this company's quotation was also accepted by Ruth.

There were six drafts in all. Dealing with the duplication and certain style issues such as very long sentences and the extensive use of capitals were tackled first. Then came the decision on which photographs would be used and their captions.

THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

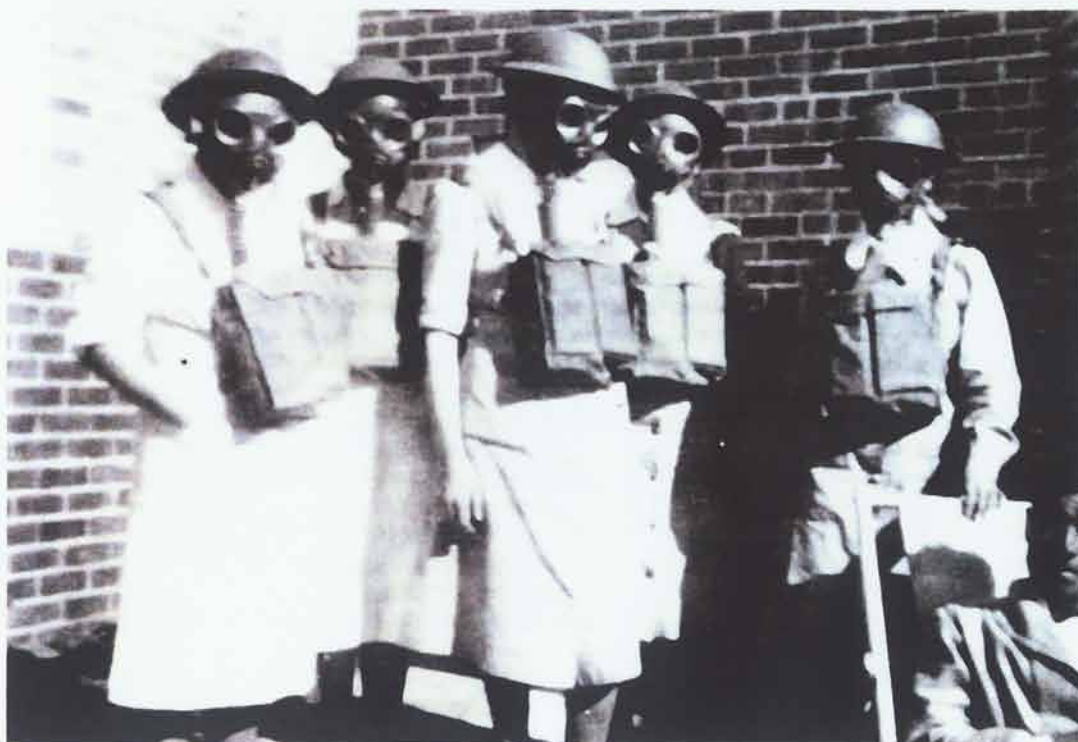


Official Opening of New Headquarters Building — Perth.
by His Excellency The Hon. Sir James Mitchell K.C. M.G. (Ret. 1939)
10th June 1940

Opening of the St John Ambulance headquarters building in Wellington Street, Perth, 1940



Farewell party for VAD members about to go on service overseas, 1941



VAD members doing gas mask training, 1941

The photographs were the first of the legal issues to be addressed – copyright. All photographs before 1953 were exempt. Those after had to be carefully checked as to who had taken them and possibly had to be acknowledged.

Next we really had to edit – double checking the minute books, correspondence and reports for dates and spelling.



Lady Mountbatten inspecting Nursing Divisions in Perth, 1947

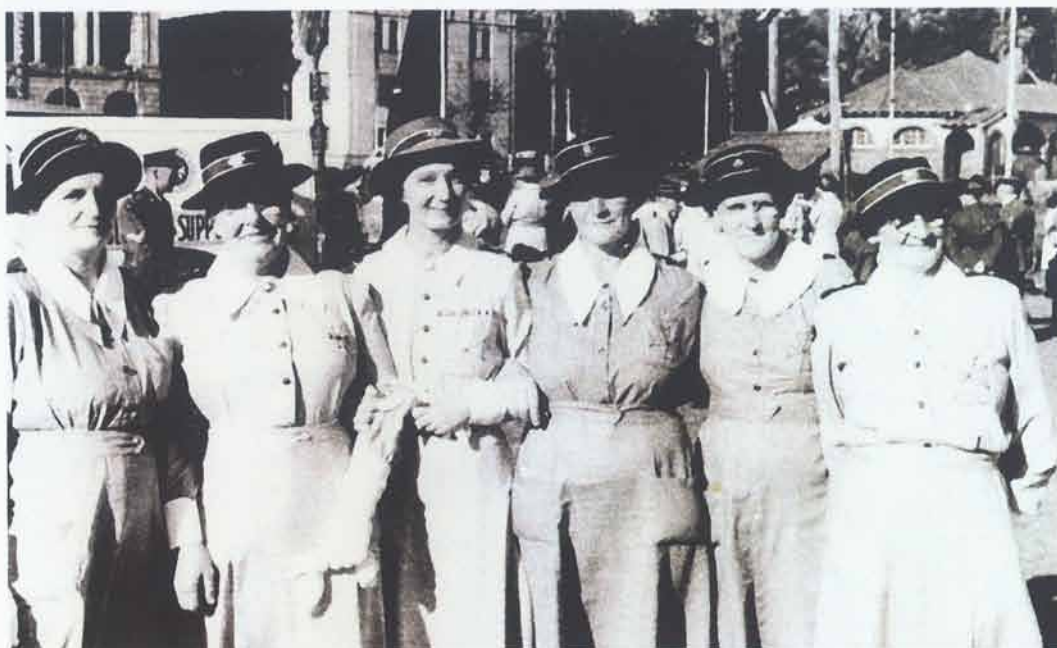


Vera Alice Drew in VAD uniform

The problem of context remained. The historical setting of events in the general and the St John community was essential to help readers appreciate Ruth's story. This issue was tackled in three steps. First Ruth approached Ian Howie-Willis to write a preface. This he did, most successfully addressing the broad picture and era. The next step by Ian and myself was to provide biographical details of Ruth which established her authority in writing the history based on more than thirty years of involvement and her many roles. Lastly was the introduction – not originally in Ruth's history, for very good reasons. Ruth knew of no details prior to 13th November 1913. I looked at the preceding St John Annual Reports, the Nursing Division minute books and the Men's Division minute books. The Annual Reports did not even mention the Nursing Division until 1917. The women's own minutes offered no insight as to how they came about. I am sure that the Men's Division discussed the formation of their female counterpart, but not one word was officially recorded!



The annual floral service for members of all voluntary nursing groups, Perth, 1947



An informal group photograph taken after the annual Brigade inspection, Fremantle, about 1953

(My personal nomination for prime mover is Isobel Robb. She had completed a first aid course and was an honorary examiner for the Association who knew the administrative echelon)

At this time a title had to be chosen, Ruth offered me a selection of her ideas and I made the final decision, based on Ruth's own journey with St John. With these segments now included in draft six, a list of illustrations and contents page were added and the draft was sent via email to the typesetter. The photographs were hand delivered, suitably packaged in deference to their age and condition.



District staff (Nursing), 1960



District staff at Margaret Robertson's 80th birthday party

The photographs were scanned and included into the text which the designer prepared. Ruth then had the delightful task of choosing the typeset, size of print, margins, and type of paper from a selection offered.

There was great excitement when the first proof came from the typesetter. Two of the photographs had not scanned well and had to be redone. There were some minor problems with text placement also.



Commissioner Alec Dawkins at the Perth No. 1 Nursing Division's 50th anniversary celebrations, 1963



50th anniversary commemorative group photograph of the Perth No. 1 Nursing Division, 1963

Meanwhile I had applied for an International Standard Book Number (ISBN) and when received it is added in the appropriate place.

Finally the "manuscript" is emailed to the printer who liaises first with the typesetter and then sends us his proof copy. Ruth could now see her vision in final copy form for the first time and was very pleased.

The printer was subsequently authorised to complete his work and the copies arrived at Belmont in October 2003. The next stage was to bind them. Ruth was quite adamant that it should be a hard cover and so we visited our book binder. Ruth chose the cover the lettering size and colour, the lining paper, spine stitching and book ribbon.

Finally in November 2003 the books are delivered to her. I take a small number for legal purposes as I must send copies to the National Library of Australia and the State Library of Western Australia. The book is now officially published. Ruth distributed the remainder to St John friends and relatives. She was genuinely surprised when great interest was expressed with her work. As a result a second printing was undertaken and distributed to members of the Order who had shown interest. I was also able to send copies to St John collections in other parts of Australia.

In the end 90 copies were printed to help celebrate 90 years of Nursing Divisions in Western Australia, and to "properly remember" those who brought it all about.

The Historical Society's internet website and its potential

by Cheryl Langdon-Orr

The author: Ms Cheryl Langdon-Orr originally joined St John as a Cadet. A Life Member of this Historical Society, the first of three so far appointed, she is also the Society's Membership Secretary and Publications Officer. In the latter capacity she produces this annual journal and the Society's newsletter, *Pro Utilitate*, and has designed and manages its internet website, which is the subject of this paper. In addition she is the New South Wales State St John Ambulance Operations Branch State Staff Officer with responsibility for Information Technology.

The presentation 'The FUTURE for the Historical Society Website...'

NB: this presentation will also be available for viewing, online at the Societies web site when our new look site is launched in June/July 2005. The presentations key points and some speaker notes follow.

www.stjohnambulanceaustralia.org

Key points discussed during the short presentation

Our Web Site:-

- Offers a Public 'face' for the organisation on the World Wide Web
 - and could be also used as a portal for access to our State's historical groups and activities. Offers a Private 'virtual network' for the organisation via the W W W
- Offers a possibility of becoming a digital archive for copy of existing documents and images
 - the importance of having a digital repository for file copy, images of items, and copies of photography; as a 'failsafe' or disaster recovery option and its place in a historical context was discussed at some length
 - the low cost, ease of high quality reconstruction and indeed enhancement and repair of degenerated or damaged resources was discussed.
 - the ability to safeguard digital repositories (state of the art data centres are designed to safeguard all sorts of information (including financial and nationally important files) and our web site is housed in one of Australia's top sites.
 - lower cost and more accessible digital file creation devices are now readily available and should be considered a basic requirement to any historical group or activity, and as such the creation of digital copy of other media files and existing resources/items should be considered as a high priority
 - we should make more effort to remember to create copy of current activities and document to safeguard as tomorrow's historical record
 - one of the great risks of today's emails and computer based files is the ease with which they can be deleted or altered. In this digital age there is in fact a growing place for 'good old fashioned' hardcopy'
- Offers a possibility of becoming a Point of Sale for publications, and resources (digital and hard copy)...
- Could become a revenue stream via sales, permission to reprint/publish etc.
- And of course Membership matters both routine admin and outreach.
- On the matter of .org names... We need to note that these in Australia (.org.au) are limited to Not For Profits who can show and maintain a close and substantial connection to the name used if the registered entity name is *not* an exact match for the Domain Name... BUT in the .org (gTLD) space it is open slather and to that end we also have 'defensively licensed' the dot COM and dot NET extensions to the name stjohnambulanceaustralia, which can at some point be used for other organisational purposes or relinquished to St John Ambulance Australia per se ...

At the conclusion of the presentation several web sites were visited as examples of many of the features and possibilities outlined above.


A 'Knowledge of the Order' project by Cadets from two New South Wales St John Ambulance Divisions

by Matthew Griffiths & Karen Schneider

The authors: Mr Matthew Griffiths and Ms Karen Schneider are Officers of, respectively, the Ryde and Miller St John Ambulance Cadet Divisions in Sydney. In early 2004 they conducted a combined Divisional weekend study camp for the Cadets from their Divisions who were working towards the 'Knowledge of the Order' proficiency badge that must be earned by Cadets aspiring to the Grand Prior's Badge.

Mr Griffiths and Ms Schneider produced a 'Wall Poster' on their study camp for display at the Historical Society's History Seminar in Alice Springs on 16 June 2004. In addition, Mr Griffiths addressed the seminar, explaining the kit of resource materials, work-sheets and other activities that they had used with their Cadets during the study camp. In all, the kit consisted of: a 24-page short history of the Order; a series of 28 work sheets based on the short history; brief biographical notes on famous members of the ancient Order; diagrams of the structure of the modern Order, its chief officers and its grades of membership; and an assessment sheet.

As well as reading the resource material and completing the worksheets, Cadets at the study camp completed various craft-type assignments and took part in role-plays to add dramatic effect to the materials being studied in the resource kit. The following four figures reproduce the first four of the 28 work sheets.



Well hello there!
I'm here to explain all the
requirements
for your Proficiency Certificate on
"Knowledge of the Order."

Candidates requirements:

- † Be able to give a short account of the principal events in the history of the Order, from origin to the present.
- † Be able to give a short account of at least five outstanding characters in the history of the Order and for what they are famous.
- † Be able to describe in broad outline the organization and government of the Order, in both the era of the Crusades and in modern times. In particular, the meaning of the terms:
 - ⇒ Languages or tongues;
 - ⇒ Convent;
 - ⇒ Chapter-General;
 - ⇒ Great Officers of the Order;
 - ⇒ Grand Priories and Commanderies;
 - ⇒ The four Branches (Foundations);
 - ⇒ Members of the Brigade;
 - ⇒ Members of the Order.
- † Be able to distinguish the different roles and activities of the four Branches (Foundations) of the Order.
- † Be able to recognize and name the Grades of the Order and their abbreviation initials.
- † Be able to state the Mottoes of the Order and their meaning and the origin and significance attached to the eight-pointed white cross.
- † Be able to write briefly the main objects of the Order.
- † Be able to outline the Revival of the Order (The Most Venerable Order) and the existence of the other Orders of St John in other countries.

Name..... Division..... Master Id..... 01

Figure 1: Worksheet 1 — Candidates' requirements (for successful completion of the 'Knowledge of the Order' proficiency badge).

† Be able to give a short account of the principal events in the history of the Order, from origin to the present.

It was before my time! But, when was it and who did it?



In about A.D. _____ a hostel for Christian pilgrims in Jerusalem was established by _____.

Capture of _____ by the forces of the First Crusade. Took them 6 weeks which was in _____. The _____ founded the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem soon after this date.



What place and who founded that Order of the Hospital?

Blessed Gerard decided to reorganize the brotherhood of the Hospital and they formed Hospitallers. They took 3 vows chastity, obedience, and poverty, they wore a _____ pointed cross and took St John the Baptist as patron saint of the Order.

In _____ the Order was formally recognized by Pope _____ II.

I know!! It was Pope Paul or was it Peter. Oh it started with P and the year was 11 something.



After the hospital was destroyed by Caliph El Hakim and after his death the Merchants of Amalfi, a small republic on the Italian coast south of Naples, brought the site and a Church and a Hospital was built for Christian pilgrims. The badge they wore was a eight-pointed cross; which was used by the Benedictine Monks who served in the hospital.

In 1144 the Foundation of the Priory at _____

In _____ the fall of _____.



Let me flip over to page 25 of that story book, to give you a helping hand serving brother and sister.

The Christian forces were _____ expelled from _____ and the few surviving Hospitallers escaped to _____.

In 1310 the Hospitallers occupied _____. In England during Wat Tyler's Rebellion the year _____ the peasants burnt the Priory of _____.

The Turks were defeated in 14_____ and abandoned the first Siege of _____.

Name.....Division.....Master Id.....

02

Figure 2: Worksheet 2 — A 'fill-the-gap' narrative of the history of the ancient Order of St John from its foundations in Jerusalem in the late eleventh century until the first siege of Rhodes in 1420.



What did you say that
Grand Prior
Thomas Docwra
did in 1504?

In 1504 Grand Prior Thomas D_____ completed the rebuilding of the _____ at _____ which is the

Headquarters of the Order in the British Realm _____.

In 1522 the second Siege of _____, the Hospitallers were forced to surrender, but were granted honourable terms of _____.

Then in 15__ the Hospitallers were granted the island of M__l__t__ by the Emperor Charles V.

All right smarties! What did I,
Henry VIII, do in 1540?

Henry VIII, in 1540 d_____ of the Order in England and c_____ of all its estates.



Then Queen Mary came to the throne the country temporarily returned to the Roman Catholic faith, and a few years later in 15__ the Order was reinstated and recovered most of its estates; but the revival lasted only a short time until Mary's death.

After the accession of Elizabeth I all the estates were again confiscated, however, to note that Elizabeth never formally dissolved the Order.

Back in Malta around 15__ a siege took place. The Hospitallers held out until a relieving force arrived. The Turks were driven back off and _____ again attacked the island.

Yes, it was me.

Unfortunately, in 17__ expulsion of the Order from Malta by Napoleon.



Name.....Division..... Master Id.....

03

Figure 3: Worksheet 3 — The 'fill-the-gap' narrative of ancient Order continued, from the building of St John's Gate, Clerkenwell, in 1504 to the expulsion of the Order from Malta in 1798.

Then in 1____1 revival of the Order in England, the Prior who was elected was
The Reverend Sir R____t____eat.

In 1877 the foundation of the St John A_____.

In 18__ the foundation of St John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem.

In 1887 the formation of the St John Ambulance B_____.

In 1__8 the first R____ C_____ was granted by Queen V_____.

In 19__ was the formation of the St John Ambulance Brigade C_____.

Then in 196__ it was the signing of a C_____ with the Sovereign and
Military Order of M_____.

In 196__ St John ambulance and Brigade merged into ____ Foundation.



Name.....Division..... Master Id.....

04

Figure 4: Worksheet 4 — The 'fill-the-gap' narrative of ancient Order concludes with the period from the 1831 revival of the English Grand Priory until the merging of the St John Ambulance bodies within one Foundations in 1968.

Visit our Web Site at www.stjohnambulanceaustralia.org

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