



Pro Utilitate

Preserving and promoting the St John heritage.

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From the Editor

We start a new section this edition, called **From our Priory Heritage Collection** compiled by Hayley Cockman, a volunteer cataloguer. This was in recognition that not everyone will be able to travel to Canberra to see this Collection and Hayley thought it might be valuable to describe some of the highlights. It is not intended to duplicate our **Behind the Scenes in the Museum** section and we continue to encourage contributors from Museums around Australia to contribute articles. **Editor**

Another transition

The new national Chief Executive Officer

St John Ambulance Australia Ltd is delighted to announce that Brendan Maher has been appointed the new national Chief Executive Officer of the organisation. A highly experienced senior leader and CEO, Brendan succeeds Len Fiori who has recently retired after many decades of service. Brendan will assume his new responsibilities on 10 January 2022. Brendan is an influential and decisive leader who has achieved exceptional financial successes, strong and robust relationships with government, corporate and community sectors, and a high level of personal commitment, professionalism, and integrity.

St John Ambulance Australia is delighted to have attracted someone as talented as Brendan—to continue our strong tradition of community service and build upon the outstanding work that is delivered by our members and staff every day.

Edited version of introduction from Cameron Oxley KStJ, Chairman, St John Ambulance Australia, 3 December 2021

Vale—Mrs Val Grogan

Val Grogan has been a revered and loved member of St John since 1960. Val was introduced to St John by her mother, Mrs Edeline Jenkyn, who was president of the Headquarters Auxiliary—a group of women who raised money to support the work of the volunteers through the purchase of equipment. Val and her sister, Helen Booth, have been lifetime supporters of St John. The Moonmist Balls, a significant event in the Sydney social calendar, recall the glamour and excitement of her outstanding fund-raising events. A raffle with significant prizes raised funds to support the work of the volunteers. Val continued the work of her mother and became the president of the Headquarters Auxiliary in 1984. The Headquarters Auxiliary was instrumental in raising over \$100,000 to support St John in delivering first aid services at the Sydney 2000 Olympics and Paralympics. The first new, modern vehicle was presented to the District (now State) by the Headquarters Auxiliary from funds raised.

As a volunteer, Val held the position of District President from 1984 until she was appointed as the State President in 2000. Val's exceptional skills as Brigade/State President were recognised when she was invited to be the overseas speaker at the Brigade Presidents' conference in London in 1988. Val held several St John governance positions at both state and national level. Val was appointed to the NSW Board in 1970. In 1989, she was elected to the position of Deputy Chair of the St John NSW Board, then to the position of Chair (1992–1998). In 2004, Val was appointed as a Vice President of State Council.

The Community Care Branch, formed in 1980, was also strongly supported by Val and she was a member of the NSW Committee until 2006. Between 1998 and 2001, Val held the position of National Chair of the Community Care Branch and also served on the St John National Board. Val was the first contemporary woman in St John to hold senior positions.



The youth members of St John particularly interested Val and she always kept abreast of the current Cadet and youth activities. The annual Edeline Jenkyn award for the male and female Cadet of the Year, was presented to the recipients by Val and Helen, in memory of their mother.

Val was the most senior female member of the Order of St John in NSW, holding the Grade of Dame of Justice. In 2000, Val was invested as a Member of the Order of Australia for service to the international community, particularly through human rights movements and overseas aid activities, as well as her St John Ambulance activities. Val had a keen interest in the problems of the Dali Lama and his Tibetan people. Val became concerned about the plight of Tibetan refugees in 1968. Val was a member of the Tibetan Friendship Group and Australian Tibetan Society. Val was also awarded a Centenary Medal in 2001 for her service to the community through St John Ambulance. Val was awarded the Service Medal of the Order of St John in 2003 when a broader range of volunteers (other than first aid service members) became eligible for the Service Medal. Val was subsequently awarded her first and second bars to the Service Medal in 2008 and 2013.

St John NSW is richer for having had the privilege of Val's association with the organisation.

Edited version of the obituary written by Debbie Neilsson DStJ and provided by St John NSW.

Making history

When Val Dempsey CstJ was named 2022 Senior Australian of the Year, she made history for St John. This award was for her tireless commitment to promote and deliver emergency first aid training to help save lives. Known affectionately as Auntie Val, the 71-year-old has dedicated her adult life volunteering with St John to promote a healthy and safe community. In 2021 alone she clocked-up 600+



Image © Salty Dingo Media and Australian Of The Year Awards

hours, leading first aid training, providing support at local events and activities, and working with the COVID-19 response team.

In 2020, Val co-ordinated the deployment of volunteer teams to first aid posts to assist in the bushfire emergency response. In the 1990s, in response to an epidemic of drug overdoses and deaths, Val created Project Survival,

taking first aid education and messages into the places drug users frequented. The initiative was so successful, it was adopted nationally by the Community Care program.

Val's distinguished service to St John and the local community saw her awarded as a Member of the Order of St John (1990), Officer of the Order (1997) and culminating in Commander of the Order presented by His Excellency Governor-General David Hurley in 2021.

Call for learner drivers to be the next generation of mobile first aiders

An experienced nurse, Val is not only using her platform to highlight the important work of St John, she wants learner drivers to become Australia's next generation of mobile first aiders by making First Aid a compulsory part of gaining a driver's licence.

I have dedicated my life to assisting others in need and equip them with skills and confidence to be able to help others and deal with an emergency. As a nation, we can rethink our approach to those critical minutes between life and death at the scene of an accident and make community members part of the solution. As 2022 ACT Senior Australian of the Year, I see it as my duty to raise awareness of issues that are close to my heart and promote solutions to make our community an even safer place to live.

A coming event

At long last we look forward to the launch of the much-anticipated 140th anniversary history of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital. This book has actually been produced with amazing speed by its three Australian authors: Dr Matthew Glozier, Dr Ian Howie-Willis, and Professor John Pearn. The book will be launched in London this year during Grand Council meeting at a special Eye Hospital event. We hope to be there, and to support a second launch, later in the year, on site at the Hospital in Jerusalem. It is much hoped that local launches of the book will happen in Pories, Commanderies and Associations around the world, to spread the good news about the Hospital's efforts sustained over nearly a century and a half. In Australia, planning has already started for a launch sometime in November. Stay tuned for more details as they come to hand.

International Women's Network

In November 2021, representatives from each St John Establishment joined together for the inaugural meeting of the St John International Women's Network (the Network). Endorsed by Grand Council and with guiding sponsorship of our Lord Prior and Chancellor, the Network seeks to recognise and celebrate the contribution of women to St John globally, and to support greater gender equality across St John.

During our first two meetings, we have heard from Establishments about the lack of recognition of women in the Order, under-representation in leadership roles, barriers to participation as members, and historical practices which mean women do not have the same opportunities. Encouragingly, we have also heard of generational change!

Importantly, the Network is a community of best practice to foster new solutions to support women in leadership roles. Many establishments (including Australia) have made great progress and the Network allows us to share and learn from these experiences. Australia can be proud of its efforts, including a women's mentoring program, women's network events, a published *History of Women in St John*, and recently a gender-balanced National Board!

Guiding all of this work is the critical importance of our organisation reflecting the community we serve. With a future that captures and harnesses all of the talents of our members we are truly empowering our historic Order to act in the service of humanity.

Sally Hasler DStJ, Chair,
International Women's Network.



Tasmanian St John Historical Society

St John has a long and proud presence in Tasmania, with the first sub centre opening in Launceston in March 1887. Since then our volunteers have been constant in providing first aid to their fellow Tasmanians. Unfortunately, much of this 135-year history has not been well documented, or has been lost altogether.

St John Ambulance in Tasmania is absolutely delighted to announce that on 15 February 2022 the St John Tasmanian Historical Society was officially launched. Our Patron, Major General Steve Smith, AM, CSC, CStJ, RFD (Retd) opened the inaugural meeting—his

keen support will ensure that our history is recorded for future generations. Our elected President, Jon Cooper MStJ, has hit the ground running and plans are well underway to identify and record our current holdings.

To contact the Society please email:
history@stjohntas.org.au

Philip Blackwell, MStJ

Editor: On receipt of this good news, I immediately jumped to the *St John History* volumes, and found two essays on St John's history in Tasmania: Neil Dine's essay on Dr Geraldine Archer (*SJH* 20: pp 75–81), and Ian Howie-Willis' essay on Annie Duncan and Tasmania's first St John training centre (*SJH* 18: pp 1–6). With a dedicated team in Tasmania now, we expect to see lots more.

Heraldry

Mrs Grogan was born in 1934, the daughter of Norman Alexander Jenkyn and Mrs Edeline Jenkyn MBE. On 10 March 1961, Valerie Grogan's father, the Hon. Mr Justice Norman Alexander Jenkyn QC, was granted arms by the English Kings of Arms. The same arms, with additions, were confirmed to Mrs Grogan by the College of Arms in 1995.

References to her father's legal profession, and the family's religious beliefs are evident on the shield. Her father's arms were inherited directly by Val's brother, Philip Jenkyn OAM. By tradition, women are entitled to use their father's arms. It was on this basis that Sir Conrad Swan, Garter Principal King of Arms, in his capacity as Genealogist of the Order of St John, confirmed Val's armigerous status at the College of Arms on 23 May 1993. Val had been promoted to Dame of Grace in 1990, and the confirmation of her arms allowed her reclassification to Dame of Justice three years later. Her own arms were confirmed on 18 September 1995.

The armorial bearings of the late Mrs Valerie Grogan AM JP (1934–2021), Dame of Justice.



The St John Cross sitting behind the Shield. On Arms, the Cross can only be added by Bailiffs and Dames Grand Cross, Knights and Dames.

Centenary Medal

Friends of St Georges Chapel

A blank shield indicating a married woman. with arms granted to herself.

A full-bottomed wig (worn only by Queen's Counsels and High Court judges) affronté (facing front) Proper (in natural colours) between two crosses pattée of the First

The Colours displayed in a Paly (equal vertical strips) of six Argent (white) and Azure (blue).

A lion passant—walking with the right fore paw raised and all others on the ground—indicates recognition by the Monarch.

Motto—*Sibi Fidelis* Latin: true or faithful to Him.

Order of Australia Dame of Justice

Behind the scenes in the Museum

Historic links between St John in South Australia and in Papua New Guinea

Further to the article ‘Fifty years of St John Ambulance in Papua New Guinea’ by John Waingut MBE (*St John History*, **14**, 5–9), it is interesting to look back in time to 1968 when First Aiders from Papua New Guinea (PNG) came to Adelaide to study ambulance transport. In 1968, PNG was an external territory under the administration of the Australian Commonwealth Government. An agreement was reached between the Government and the St John Council for South Australia, for Mr Noga Noga of Port Moresby to spend six months gaining experience in ambulance transport techniques.

In 1983, seven more Papua New Guinean Brigade members were brought to South Australia, and they worked, on the job, with paid and volunteer St John staff on ambulances in metropolitan Adelaide. Their text book, the then relatively new (and locally produced) *Emergency Care and Transport Manual* also became the go-to manual used in Papua New Guinea.

In appreciation of the training and friendship given to the PNG members, St John in PNG sent St John South Australia, this beautiful hand-beaten metal plaque, pictured here. The plaque still receives positive comments from visitors to the St John Ambulance Museum in Brighton, South Australia, where it is displayed with pride.

Reference Howie-Willis I. *South Australians and St John Ambulance, 1885–1985*. 1985, pp 323–24.



Editor: Can anybody name the people in this photo, and the time and place? Your help would be appreciated!



The plaque presented to St John South Australia by St John in PNG.

From our Priory Heritage Collection

In this first article for this new section called, 'From our Priory Heritage Collection' we're going to look at the history of our Priory's foundation stone—which came from the old Priory headquarters on Canberra Avenue; from 1966 until the Australian Office vacated the premises in 2008.

The stone came to St John Ambulance Australia as one among several relics from the ancient Knights Hospitaller's Priory of England church, which is now located in present-day St John's Square, about 70 metres north of St John's Gate, Clerkenwell, London. The stone was probably set into its original position when the church was being constructed in the late 1100s. The stone became available to our Australian Priory after the church had been destroyed during a German air raid over London in 1941. The church was subsequently rebuilt and reopened in 1958, and, because there was excess stone left from the church's rebuilding, sample stones from the fabric of the ancient church were sent to Priors overseas, including the Australian Priory.

Lord Wakehurst ceremonially laid the stone on 2 February 1966. The picture below shows him setting the stone in place, assisted by stout chains suspended from a block-and-tackle. A large audience of St Johnnies from around Australia attended the stone-laying. The new Priory building remained a Canberra Avenue landmark until its demolition in 2011.



The stone in place in the brickwork of the wall near the front entrance to the former Australian Priory headquarters. The inscription on the bronze plaque on the stone reads: 'This stone was laid by the Rt. Hon. Lord Wakehurst K.G., K.C.M.G., G.C.St.J. the Lord Prior of the Order of St John of Jerusalem'. Lord Wakehurst, in addition to being the Lord Prior of the Most Venerable Order of St John (1948–1969), had been Governor of NSW (1937–1946).

The origins of the foundation stone are somewhat obscure, but, according to a small explanatory bronze plaque which was set in the wall beneath the foundation stone, the stone was quarried in England in the 12th century and was originally a part of the Norman crypt in the Hospitallers' church in Clerkenwell (see images below).



From the Priory Heritage Collection

There are reasons for thinking that the foundation stone could be a block of limestone from Caen in Normandy, France. This type of rock was used extensively for buildings in England after the Norman conquest in 1066—you can see this stone in the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, and Canterbury Cathedral, just to name a few. The stone is the same dense-textured, pale buff-coloured rock as used in those buildings.

Even though this stone no longer serves as a foundation stone, it forms a substantial symbolic connection between the ancient Knights Hospitallers' original Priory of England and the present Priory in Australia of the modern Most Venerable Order of St John.

Nowadays, the foundation stone sits in a sturdy wooden box on caster-wheels so it can be moved around readily in the Priory Heritage Collection in the Australian Office. It's one object you must see on your next visit there.

Hayley Cockman, volunteer cataloguer for the Australian Priory

Hayley Cockman was recently appointed as the Priory Cataloguer. As such, she maintains the separate electronic databases for the Library, Regalia, Memorabilia and Artwork collections. She started with St John in 2008 as a 13-year-old Cadet in the Humpty Doo Cadet Division, Northern Territory, and has now spent most of her time volunteering in some capacity (mostly in Event Health Services).

She was awarded the Grand Prior's Badge in 2012, the Service Medal in December 2021, and membership to the Order of St John. Moving to Canberra in April 2014, enabled her to pursue her interest in St John history, as Priory Cataloguer.

The Challenges

Medal mounts In my response to the Jubilee Medal challenge (PU 2021/4), I provided an image of the Queen Victoria Police Jubilee Medal (1897) awarded to Dr Heaton Howard MRCS LRCP (1855–1923) from Kirkham, Lancashire, who was an Honorary Surgeon with the St John Ambulance Brigade. Here are some more images showing the three royal commemoratives Dr Howard received for duty in London in 1897, 1902 and 1911:

Queen Victoria Police Jubilee Medal, for service during the diamond jubilee celebrations of Queen Victoria on 21 June and the Great Procession on 22 June 1897.

King Edward VII Police Coronation Medal, for service during the Coronation of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra; planned for 26 June 1902, but postponed to 9 August while the monarch recovered from surgery.

King George V Police Coronation Medal, for service (at the age of 55) during the Coronation ceremony of King George V and Queen Mary, including the Royal Procession on 22 June 1911, and the Procession through south London the following day.

All three medals are the 'Police-pattern', bearing the title 'ST JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE' on the reverse.

The question is: why do the medals have clasps around the suspension, and claws at the base, and for what reason might this have been done.

Paul A Rosenzweig OAM, St John Ambulance Historical Society of SA

The Challenges

Dr Ian Howie Willis KStJ has found something in the Priory Heritage Collection which he is wondering if readers can identify. As a clue, they were made by Overhoff and Co.



Dr David Fahey CStJ has sent in another challenge to be identified. I would be very interested in anyone's knowledge of the origins of the proper name for this



Editor — No clues yet for the printer's block and medal in the last *Pro Utilitate* (2021/4). Please don't hesitate to write in if you have an answer to these mysteries.

Previous challenges

The challenge from our medical past provided by Dr David Fahey CStJ was fairly rapidly identified by Nola Fairhust CStJ — it's a bandage-rolling machine.

This wooden article is what we used to roll up bandages. In the early 1950's my Nursing Division was fortunate to meet in the lecture room of the local hospital—our Divisional Nursing Superintendent was the Tutor Sister there, and we had use of the facilities.

Roller bandaging was a big activity; it was part of the Home Nursing Course and was a section in the State and National competitions. To practice, we had to



rewind the bandages; sometimes we used the roller (the challenge)s [sic] but we became very adept at rolling the bandages on our thighs. This has brought back memories! I am sure I could still apply a cape-line bandage to the head, but I found the spica of the thumb was the trickiest, especially for competition standard.

Editor's note: I have very vivid memories of rolling Scott-Kirven bandages in the 1960's in my grandparent's kitchen. Grandma sewed the edges and Pop supervised the rolling in a wooden device he had made himself.

The Douglas Shield medallion

This medal provided by Matthew Glozier (PU 2021/3) has been identified by Paul A Rosenzweig as a Douglas Shield medallion.



This, I believe, is a personal medallion which would have been awarded to the members of the nursing division who won the annual Douglas Shield competition (there may be a year on the obverse of the medal but it is not clear, and possibly a name on the reverse).

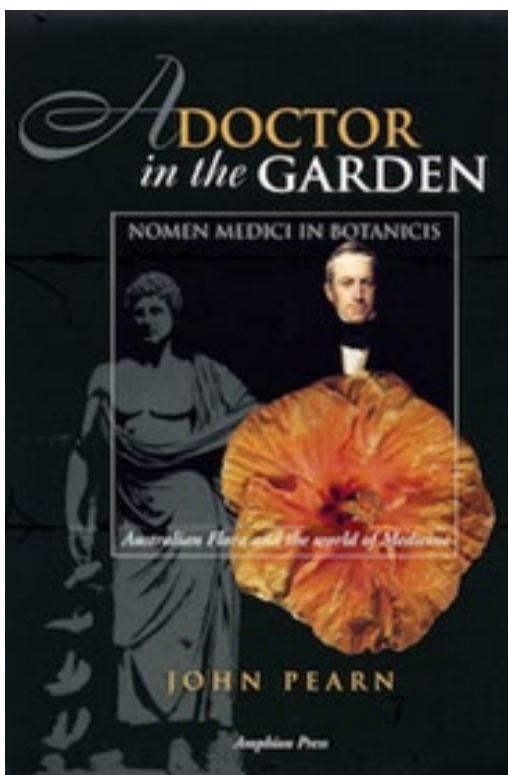
In May 1913, the Deputy Commissioner of the St John Ambulance Brigade, New South Wales District, Dr Thomas Storie Dixson KStJ (1854–

The Douglas Shield medallion

1932) and the District staff instituted an annual competition among the nursing divisions of the Brigade.

The Shield was named in memory of the late Mrs Isabella Ann (née Maddrell) Douglas (1858–1908), who was deeply interested in the work and objects of the Brigade. In her will she made a small bequest to the St John Ambulance Brigade.

A newspaper report in November 1913 records that Lady Cullen, wife of His Honour Sir William Cullen, President of the St John Ambulance Association, presented decorations of the Order, and the Roth and Douglas Shields and medallions to the winners for 1913–1914. The Douglas Shield was won by Glebe Nursing Division, with each of the following women receiving a medallion: Marjorie Clark, Elvie Edwards, Emily Cooper and Annie Flynn.



Book review

A Doctor in the Garden: Nomen Medici in Botanica by John Pearn. Published by Amphion Press, 2001

It is difficult to find the right words for John Pearn—his work generally, and this book in particular. Words like ‘expansive’, ‘extensive’ and ‘dedicated to scholastic discovery and learning’ come to mind, however, they seem wooden compared with the man and his work.

A Doctor in the Garden starts with a Foreword by Emeritus Professor Trevor Clifford, and follows with an Introduction by Emeritus Professor John Pearn with an initial chapter on ‘Naming of Plants’. Each of these initial sections are worth reading on their own, providing as they do, a historical perspective that ranges from pre-history to the current day. Professor Clifford pays a glowing tribute to John saying:

In presenting this *Nomen Medici in Botanica*, Professor Pearn has revealed himself as a true Renaissance man, well worthy to rank amongst those of whom he has written with such understanding and scholarship. (p. viii).

He also notes that, of the 400 biographies presented, a quarter are completely original research and published for the first time.

In John’s Introduction he acknowledges three important things. Firstly, that the peoples of this earth have been using medicinal plants for a millennia, and that the first writings probably came from the Egyptian and Chinese physicians. Secondly, that while there was a parting of the ways between botany and medicine in Western medicine, this post-dated the arrival of the first physicians in Australia. This meant that the early physicians searched the new land for and recorded plants which could help the new settlement, for example, with scurvy. Thirdly, John acknowledges that our Indigenous people were using medicinal plants probably 20,000 years before Aesculapius was treating the Greeks (p. 4). John’s work focuses on Australian

Book review: A Doctor in the Garden

plants and who they are named after. These 400 biographies range across recorded history and many countries; he has given special attention to those who have worked in Australia since the beginning of first settlement. At the same time, he acknowledges the extensive knowledge of the Indigenous people, and recognises that 70 per cent of the world's population still relies on traditional herbal remedies.

John says that he writes for the 'gardener, the bushwalker, the doctor and the botanist'. His writing is accessible and at times poetic. Nonetheless, it is historically, technically and medically rigorous and disciplined in its presentation of the people and the plants. To exemplify the work that has gone into this tome, there are sixty pages of Notes and References, and thirty-three pages of Index, none of which I would have like to have been responsible for. It would have been a huge undertaking.

Within the book there is page after page of beautiful illustrations of historic records, images of plants, people and the moments that defined their links. Examples of this include a painting of the departure of the Burke and Wills expedition, to photographs of botanical field expeditions in the 1800s.

Despite the delight in reading Part 1, it is very much a reference book, one you might visit to look up a particular person or plant. However, like many really interesting reference books, it is a pleasure to browse through and read the random stories relating to individuals ... random only in that they are listed in alphabetical order. It might one day be interesting to organise these people chronologically within time frames i.e. ancient, medieval, modern, etc. This might give an idea of how they related in time.

The vast majority of the references are of men, which is perhaps not surprising with the general omission of women from historic records. Amongst the few I could find, John lists one female academic (she had a hibiscus named in her honour), one doctor botanist, and one general practitioner (who had a dahlia named after her).

This is not a coffee table book. It is a big, comfortable, reading-chair book. Settle in and browse through its fascinating pages.

Dr Elizabeth Ellis OSTJ



p. 317 retells the adventures of a ship's surgeon ... who did *not* discover the new plant, *Anigozanthos rufus* - the Kangaroo Paw which is WA's state floral emblem.



A page from the Notes showing examples of the artwork and line drawings throughout the book. The wood block print here shows a patient under traction for an injured spine (*Avicenna*, 1556).



From Ian Howie-Willis, episode 18 in the 'What is history?' series.

What is history?

Dead White Males. The long-dead historical figures, mostly men, who dominate St John history.

A letter-to-the-editor published in *The Canberra Times* newspaper on Saturday 7 August 2021 caught my attention. The writer, one Bill Deane, a controversialist whose letters often appear in the correspondence columns of this newspaper, wrote the following complaint about political philosophy in Australia:

The political observations of Edmund Burke [conservative 18th century Irish & British statesman and political philosopher] are hardly relevant to 21st century Australia. How true. I've often wondered why universities waste so much time and money giving lectures, courses etc, and publishing books about so many dead, white 18th century males such as Burke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Francois-Marie Voltaire, David Hume and Tom Paine — not to mention earlier layabouts like Plato, Archimedes, Socrates, Thomas Aquinas and the wretched Nicolo Macchiavelli. I'd be interested if anyone could explain why they have the slightest relevance to any field of academic or other endeavour today.

I didn't bother rising to the bait by sending my own letter-to-the-editor to explain that much historical political theory underlies democracy as practised in Australia. Our parliamentary system owes a great deal to the political thought of these 'Dead White Males', so that's why their writings continue to be relevant in the curricula of law, politics and history courses in Western universities.

We could also apply Bill Deane's statement to St John history. If we did, we'd ask these questions: "Why is it that St John historians keep harking back

to so many 'Dead White Males'? Are the likes of the Blessed Gerard, Raymond du Puy, Jean Parisot de la Vallette, Ferdinand von Hompesch, the bogus 'Marquis de Saint Croix Molay', Sir Edmund Lechmere, Dr James Edward Neild and Sir Hugh Poate still relevant to St John Ambulance Australia in the third decade of the 21st century?"

A further question we might ask is: "Why are there no 'Dead White Females' in this pantheon of the heroes (and a couple of villains) of the various Orders of St John?"

This last question is the easiest to answer. However, much we might deplore the fact, leadership in St John Ambulance and in the Most Venerable Order has customarily devolved upon upper class men of European ancestry. Sociologists, feminists and 'woke' social activists will debate the reasons for the absence of 'Dead White Females' and 'Dead People of Colour' in the pantheon; but the historical reality of all the membership lists of the Orders' upper echelons throughout history is that since the Papal Bull *Pie Postulation Voluntatis* of 1113 established the original Order, mostly males, and rarely females, have held the top St John jobs.

But back to the 'Dead White Males' among our heroes and villains. The reason we revere them, and continue teaching St John Cadets about them in the 'Knowledge of the Order' syllabus, is

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that they were the historical figures who shaped the development of the Orders of St John.

And so, ... without the Blessed Gerard, there'd have been no Order of St John in 1113. Without an Order of St John there'd have been no 1565 Great Siege of Malta and no Fra' de la Vallette to repel the Ottoman horde. Without Fra' von Hompesch, there'd have been no loss of Malta to Napoleon in 1798. Without the loss of Malta, there's have been no 'Marquis de Saint Croix Molay' in 1831 to found the institution which became the Venerable Order in 1888; further, there'd have been no Sir Edmund Lechmere to establish St John Ambulance in 1877. And without Dr Neild in 1883 and Dr Poate in 1941, there'd be no St John Ambulance Australia today.

Like it or not, all these 'Dead White Males' represent historical 'mile-posts' along the way to the present-day St John organisation in Australia. They remain relevant to our understanding of St John history. And if you wish to appreciate the continuing relevance of St John amidst the challenges of this currently Covid-19-benighted world, you need to know something about that history and

the 'Dead White Males' — and also the legion of 'Dead White Females' and 'Dead People of Colour' — who inhabit it.

Dr Ian Howie-Willis KStJ

Editor's note: 'Sociologists, feminists and 'woke' social activists' such as myself, are not actually complaining that too much attention is given to key historical male figures who famously and sometimes infamously contributed to the St John history. The point that is occasionally being made, is that too little attention has been given to the key historical female figures who contributed to the St John history such as Sister Agnes of Alix who was working in Jerusalem running the female hospice at the same time as the Blessed Gerard was running the male hospice.

On 1 March 2022, Erin Blakemore, writing in National Geographic included the following:

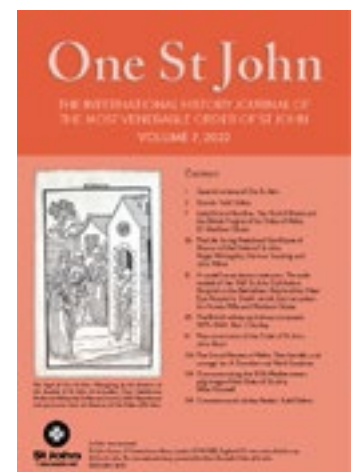
Historians, who were almost entirely men, often saw the past through the lens of 'the great man' theory, which holds that history is largely shaped by male heroes and their struggles. That changed in the 20th Century...

I will be starting a new section entitled 'Letters to the Editor' if anyone would like to contribute to this or any other topic. My only request is that they remain respectful, in the spirit of our chivalrous Order.

New publications

One St John The next volume (7) of *One St John*, the Order's international historical journal has recently been published and is available on the Order's website: <https://www.stjohninternational.org/Pages/FAQs/Category/reports-and-publications>. The next edition, Volume 8, is themed around 'destruction and renewal'.

Memoria as Mirror Matthew Glozier, our Priory Librarian, has also sent us links to the second PhD thesis of Dr Dane Munro, an Australian-born Knight of Malta, long-resident on the island, and an expert on the funerary monuments in St John's Co-Cathedral. His thesis, *Memoria as Mirror*, is all about the image and self-image of the Order. You can find Munro's thesis at: <http://pure.rug.nl/ws/portalfiles/portal/125282265/Complete>



New publications

[thesis.pdf](#) or at <http://www.um.edu.mt/library/oar/handle/123456789/87627>

International Order Instruction 1/22 Under the Authority of the Secretary-General, an *International Order Instruction 1/22: Armorial Bearings*, has been issued (18 Jan. 2022). *The St John (Ceremonial) Regulations* dated 1 January 2022 published an inconsistency with the *Royal Charters and Statutes (2018)* on the subject of armorial bearings. The details set out in the **Statutes** remain in force until the *St John (Ceremonial) Regulations* are updated and reissued. See Order of St John Statutes, Statute 62 (page 48): Armorial Bearings:

St John International website, hosts our Statutes, regulations and policies: <https://www.stjohninternational.org/statutes-regulations-and-policies>. You can download and print the following publications, from the site.

- *The St John (Ceremonial) Regulations 2022* (PDF 2MB)
- *The St John (Honours and Awards) Regulations 2022* (PDF 2MB)

Renewals for 2022

Now we are into 2022, we remind you to renew your Historical Society membership subscription for 2022 if you have not already done so. As a paid-up member, you receive 3 issues of *Pro Utilitate*, a copy of *St John History*, and, not to mention, access to a wealth of information on the ancient and modern history of our international organisation. You'll find the generic membership application/renewal form on the national website: <https://stjohn.org.au/about> [scroll down to The Historical Society of Australia, and click on Membership Application form]. Follow the instructions given on the form.

A recent event

The 23rd annual seminar of the St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia was presented online on Saturday 20 November 2021.

Dr David Fahey opened the proceedings and the program commenced with the keynote speaker, Dr Elizabeth Ellis, on the topic of 'Women in the ancient Order of St John'.

Altogether nine speakers presented papers on aspects of St John history ranging from the Middle Ages and the history of the ancient Knights Hospitaller through medals and medical procedures, to a profile of our Lord Prior, Prof Mark Compton.

It was a program of much interest and enjoyed by all. We look forward to our seminar in 2022 being in person for the first time in two years.

And finally ...

The next issue of *Pro Utilitate* (2022/2) will be out in August, 2022, with a deadline for contributions by mid-June. We warmly encourage potential articles or ideas for the forthcoming publications. You're also invited to email me as editor with comments or questions – especially if you think something needs putting right.



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