

8. The Chief Commissioners

This paper was presented in Canberra and first published in St John
Ambulance Australia History Vol 19
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The St John Ambulance Brigade in Australia came into being first in New South Wales following Federation in 1901. Over the following decades, the other States followed NSW's example by forming their own Brigade organisations or 'Districts' (now called 'States'/Territories'). Until World War II, the Brigade Districts remained isolated from each other, with little or no communication between them. In 1941 the various State St John Ambulance organisations — 'Association' and 'Brigade' — in the eastern States federated within the new Commandery of the Commonwealth of Australia (Exclusive of Western Australia) of the Order of St John. (As the phrase in parentheses indicates, Western Australia declined to join the Commandery.) The Commandery, a federal organisation, became the first viable national organisation for the Order and St John Ambulance in Australia. One of the principal office-holders in this new national organisation was the 'Commandery Commissioner' or national head of the Brigade. When the Commandery was upgraded to Priory status in September 1946 (and Western Australia joined the federation as a Commandery within the Priory), the position was renamed Priory Commissioner, a title changed to Chief Commissioner in 1953. The inaugural Chief Commissioner, Major General Sir S. Roy Burston, developed a Brigade national headquarters staff to assist him in building the Brigade into a national organisation — as against a series of uncoordinated State-level 'Districts'. In all, a total The Chief Commissioner of St John Ambulance Australia represents the 10200+ uniformed members who provide first aid services to the Australian community. of eleven people served as Commandery/Priory/Chief Commissioner in the 73 years 1941–2014. Each of them influenced the direction taken by the Brigade (later called Operations Branch and more recently Event Health Services) as a national organisation. This paper will briefly review the contributions of each of the eleven to the Brigade/Operations Branch/Event Health Services, assessing their influence over the St John uniformed branch in Australia.

Chief Commissioner

St John Ambulance Australia employs the use of ranks, as an organisation with its roots in the military. Its rank structure is based upon that of St John Ambulance in the United Kingdom, while also taking inspiration from the Australian Army.

The Chief Commissioner of St John Ambulance Australia in 2004 represented the 10200+ uniformed members who provided first aid services to the Australian community.

The list is as follows:

1. Dr Sydney Letts Dawkins ('Commandery Commissioner', 1941–1946)
2. Major-General Sir Samuel Roy Burston ('Priory Commissioner' 1946– 1953 then 'Chief Commissioner' 1953–1957). [NB: after Burston, the position continued being called 'Chief Commissioner'.]
3. Brigadier Sir William W.S. Johnston (1957–1962)
4. Major-General Sir F. Kingsley Norris (1962–1968)
5. Colonel Charles Douglas Donald (1969–1979)
6. Brigadier Gordon Neville Young (1979–1984)
7. Major-General Peter Falkland (1984–1990)
8. Professor Willis Raymond Marshall (1990–1999)
9. Ms Lynne Allen-Brown (1999–2002)
10. Professor Paul Arbon (2002–2011)
11. Mr Alan Eade (2011–2014)
12. Position vacant (or in abeyance?) since Mr Eade's resignation and departure at the end of his first triennium in 2014.

That is 11 Commandery/Priory/Chief Commissioners over 73 years — an average of 6.6 years each.

- 1. Dr Sydney Letts Dawkins (1873–1963)** was a prominent Adelaide medical practitioner who came into the St John Ambulance Brigade in South Australia via the Railways Ambulance, of which he was the medical officer. Appointed St John Commissioner in SA in 1931, he held the position until 1946. In that time, he rapidly developed the Brigade organisation in SA, establishing many new Divisions. For the last five years of this period, he was also the Commandery Commissioner, i.e. the head of the new national Brigade organisation which came into being with the foundation in 1941 of the Commandery of the Commonwealth of Australia (exclusive of Western Australia) or the Order of St John, which was upgraded to Priory status in September 1946. At that point, when the Prior was inaugurated, Dawkins, who was 74, retired. He was succeeded by Major-General S. Roy Burston, who had been his Assistant Commissioner in South Australia since 1938. Burston became the Priory Commissioner, the title being changed to Chief Commissioner in 1953.



**Dr Sydney Letts
Dawkins**



**Maj Gen Sir
Samuel Roy
Burston**

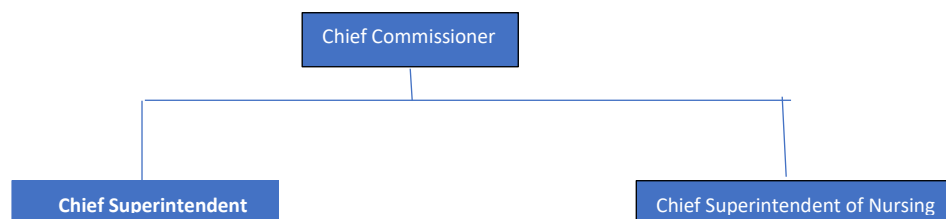
- 2. Major General Sir Samuel Roy Burston (1888–1960) KBE, CB, DSO, KStJ, VD, FRCP, FRCPE, FRACP** was a distinguished doctor-soldier who served in both World Wars I & II. For his conduct supervising an advanced dressing station the Battle of Messines, Burston was mentioned in despatches and awarded the Distinguished Service Order. His citation, signed by Major General John Monash, read: *'From 5 June 1917 to 12 June 1917 at Ploegsteert Wood, this officer was in charge of the Advanced Dressing Station, Charing Cross. During the whole of that period he has set a fine example to the officers and other ranks with him. For the whole time the Advanced Dressing Station was under shell fire, both with gas shells and H.E., this bombardment being of the most intense character at times. On the night of 6/7th June during a particularly heavy gas shell bombardment, he carried through with complete success the organisation of the dressing station and*



**Charing Cross –
Advanced Dressing Station**

the directing of the duties of those under him, supervising and assisting in the treatment and evacuation of the wounded and gassed. Through all this trying time he was compelled to wear mall box respirator on account of the density of the Gas.'

During World War II he served as the Army's Director of Medical Services in the Middle East 1940–1942, and then as Director General of Medical Services 1942–1947. In the latter position he was responsible for the Army's medical effort in Australia and during the Island Campaigns of 1942–1945 against the Japanese. Burston was a Melbourne-born physician in Adelaide before the war. He came into St John as Assistant Commissioner for South Australia in 1938, a position he held until 1946, when he was briefly the Commissioner before his appointment as the inaugural Priory Commissioner in 1946. The title changed to Chief Commissioner in 1953. Among Burston's accomplishments as Chief Commissioner was the development of the Brigade's National Headquarters Staff, which Maj Gen Burston he began with his appointment of a Chief Superintendent (Col. Alec Christie) and a Chief Superintendent of Nursing (Dr Frances McKay). In 1957 Burston surrendered the Chief Commissionership to become the Priory's Receiver-General (treasurer). He died in office in 1960.



St John Ambulance Brigade – National Headquarters C 1953

- 3. Brigadier Sir William W.S. Johnston (1957–1962) MC (1917) DSO (1918) ED (1935) CBE (1941) KStJ (1957) Kt (1960) MB BS Melb (1914) MD Melb (1921) FRACP (1938) (Foundation) Hon LLD Melb (1962)** 'William Wallace Stewart Johnston was born in South Yarra, Victoria, the son of Judge WE Johnston. He was educated at Melbourne Church of England Grammar School, leaving school in 1905. He entered Trinity College at the University of Melbourne and embarked on a medical course. However, after a year or two, he decided that medicine was not for him and he spent some time on a property in the Western District of Victoria. After a period, he became disillusioned with the land. In 1910 he travelled to Europe with his father, the judge. The latter was suffering from angina and the journey was to 'take the waters. Following the Grand Tour, he returned to Melbourne and resumed his medical course. He graduated MB BS in 1914 and obtained an appointment as resident medical officer at the Melbourne Hospital.



**Major W.W.S.
Johnson MC DSO**

While he was an RMO at the Hospital, the First World War broke out and he enlisted in the AAMC. He served for two years as regimental medical officer to 12 Battalion.

He won the Military Cross in 1917 In August, at Mouquet Farm, near Pozieres, France, Promoted major in August 17 1917

"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during operations. When his battalion was relieved, he stayed behind to tend the wounded, and then, went forward through a heavy enemy barrage and dressed a wounded officer, and several other men in the front trench. He also tended others while returning under fire."

He was mentioned in dispatches. 'In less than seven weeks in the fighting at Pozieres and Mouquet Farm three Australian divisions suffered 23,000 casualties. Of these, 6,800 men were killed or died of wounds. It was a loss comparable with the casualties sustained by the Australians over eight months at Gallipoli in 1915.'



Stretcher bearers from the 6th Brigade under a Red Cross Flag passing old Cemetery at Pozieres.

At, east of Ypres, Belgium, he

' For conspicuous gallantry, and devotion to duty, "While the enemy was shelling very heavily the positions where assaulting troops were assembled, he went out into the open with an absolute disregard of personal dangers and attended to the wounded where they lay. After the attack was launched, he continued to work for several hours under a very heavy enemy barrage until severely wounded."

'On many previous occasions his fearlessness and devotion He was recommended for the Victoria Cross but received the Distinguished Service Order.'

After recovering in England, he re-joined the battalion in February 1918 and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order in 1918. He was also mentioned in dispatches. The official history records that he was one of the best RMOs in the AIF, an outstanding example of the part that a conscientious RMO could play in building and maintaining morale in a fighting unit. The awards are a clear tribute to his outstanding personal courage. After the War he returned to Melbourne and was admitted to the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1921. He was appointed to the honorary medical staff of the Melbourne Hospital in 1923 and served until 1948 (his term being interrupted by war service in the Second World War). In the interval between the two World Wars, in addition to practising as a consultant physician, he continued his association with the Army, commanding a field ambulance. He became a divisional surgeon in the St John Ambulance Brigade, commencing a career in the service which took him to its highest office. He played a part in the early days of the Melbourne Permanent Postgraduate Committee and became the honorary secretary.

On the outbreak of the Second World War, Johnston was appointed commanding officer of the 2/2 Australian and earned the devotion of all under his command. The ill-fated Greek campaign took him to Greece and Crete where he had the unenviable task of co-ordinating medical services in a rapidly deteriorating situation. He was awarded the CBE in 1942.

On the return of the Australian forces to Australia in 1942, Colonel Johnston was appointed DDMS 1 Australian Corps with the rank of brigadier. He served in New Guinea during the time of heavy malarial casualties and in surmountable difficulties supplying medical stores and evacuating sick and wounded. These exertions told heavily on his reserves of strength and he returned to Australia late in 1942 and was placed on the Reserve of Officers in 1943.

He resumed civilian activities, becoming medical director of the Australian Red Cross Society 1943-44 and a member of the national council of the Australian Red Cross Society from 1945. He continued his association with St John Ambulance and was appointed commissioner for Victoria in 1951, then, six years later, chief commissioner to the Priory in Australia. He was appointed Knight of Grace of the Order of St John of Jerusalem in 1957.

4. Major-General Sir F. Kingsley Norris (1962–1968) KBE, CB, DSO, KStJ, ED ‘



**Maj-Gen Sir
Frank
Kingsley Norris**

Sir Frank Kingsley Norris (1893-1984), physician and army medical officer, was born on 25 June 1893 at Lilydale, Victoria, younger son of Victorian-born parents William Perrin Norris, medical practitioner, and his wife Mary Jane, née Foulkes. Kingsley was educated at Melbourne Church of England Grammar School, where he acquired the nickname ‘Dum’ (from Dumnorix, a Celtic chieftain who opposed Julius Caesar), although his family called him ‘Bill’. While studying medicine at the University of Melbourne (MB, BS, 1916; MD, 1920), he was resident in Trinity College, played lacrosse and acted with Gregan McMahon’s Melbourne Repertory Company.

Interrupting his course, Norris enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on 18 August 1914. He served as a medical orderly in Egypt and England, in the 1st Light Horse Field Ambulance and 2nd Australian General Hospital. He was discharged on 13 April 1916 with the rank of Sergeant to complete his studies. Due to the shortage of doctors, he and a fellow student, L. E. Hurley, were appointed to the staff of the Queen’s Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital, Fairfield, Melbourne. After graduation, he was appointed to residencies at the (Royal) Melbourne and (Royal) Children’s hospitals and was invited to be an assistant to Hobill Cole. He then set up in private practice as a paediatrician. On 24 May 1920 at St John’s Church of England, East Malvern, he married Dorothy Leonard Stevenson, a sister from the Children’s Hospital. He began a long association with the Alfred Hospital.

In 1923 Norris was commissioned as a captain in the (Royal) Australian Army Medical Corps, Citizen Military Forces, rising to major (1928) and lieutenant colonel (1934). He became deputy assistant director of medical services in 1938. In October 1939, soon after the outbreak of World War II, he was seconded to the AIF. He was initially appointed commanding officer of the 2/1st Casualty Clearing Station. In April 1940 he was promoted to colonel and appointed assistant-director of medical services of the 7th Division. By November he was in the Middle East. In the Syrian campaign (June-July 1941) he impressed his commander, A. S. Allen, with his courage, organising ability and devotion to the welfare of the wounded; he received the Distinguished Service Order.

The Division returned to Australia early in 1942, deployed to Papua in August and was soon in action. Norris walked the Kokoda Trail twice, although almost 50 years of age. His vivid description of life and death there—later reproduced in his autobiography, *No Memory for Pain* (1970)—has been much quoted. He supervised the division’s medical services until the campaign ended in January 1943. That year he was appointed CBE. Allan Walker, the official medical historian of Australia in World War II, spoke of ‘his outstanding work as A.D.M.S. in this [the Owen Stanley] campaign’.

Back in Australia, Norris was promoted to temporary brigadier and appointed deputy-director of medical services, II Corps, in May. He was in Papua and New Guinea from October, but dermatitis led to his repatriation in March 1944, hospitalisation, and transfer on 3 April 1946 to the Reserve of Officers. As director (1945-48) of the Melbourne Permanent Postgraduate Committee, he travelled overseas investigating postgraduate medical studies.

On 3 May 1948 Norris returned to the army as director general of medical services, with the rank of temporary (later substantive) major general, Permanent Military Forces; he succeeded (Sir) Samuel Burston. Norris established the School of Army Health and during the Korean War made several trips to Japan and Korea. He was appointed CB (1953) in recognition of 'his enthusiasm, drive and leadership' and 'keen sense of duty', before being placed on the Retired List on 26 June 1955.

Norris held part-time appointments as medical officer of the staff clinic at Royal Melbourne Hospital and medical adviser (1955-61) to the Directorate of Civil Defence. In 1957 he was appointed KBE. Again, succeeding Burston, Norris was honorary colonel of the RAAMC (1957-62). He remained an indefatigable traveller public speaker and contributor to public life. Among the many positions he held were chairman (1949-57) of the College of Nursing Australia, president of the Victorian branch of the Royal Empire Society (1948-54) and of the Good Neighbour Council of Victoria (1959-63), and chief commissioner in Australia (1963-69) of the St John Ambulance Brigade. Stockily built and 5 ft 6½ ins (169 cm) tall, Sir Kingsley retained twinkling eyes and a military bearing almost to the end but suffered increasing deafness. He enjoyed convivial occasions, notably with the Melbourne Beefsteak Club. Survived by two of his daughters, he died on 1 May 1984 at Camberwell, Melbourne, and was buried with full military honours in Box Hill cemetery. One daughter (d.1927) and his wife (d.1975) had predeceased him.'

From (Norris, Sir Frank Kingsley (1893–1984) by Andrew J. Ray This article was published in Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 18, (MUP), 2012)



**DGMS Maj Gen
Burston**

5.Colonel Charles Douglas Donald CBE; KStJ; ED; MRCS 1936; FRCS 1938; MB BS Melbourne 1934; FRACS 1945; LRCP 1936.



**Colonel Charles
D Donald**

'Charles Donald qualified in Melbourne in 1934 and served as RMO at Prince Henry's Hospital. In 1936 he came to London and was appointed house surgeon at the West London Hospital under Henry Tyrrell-Grey. He passed the Fellowship in 1938 while at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital before returning as surgeon to the Prince Henry's Hospital which he also served as governor, benefactor and consultant surgeon until his death.

He was RMO of the 6th Division Royal Australian Expeditionary Force serving in the first Libyan campaign and subsequently in a field ambulance in Greece, Crete, Syria and Ceylon. In the Far East theatre of war as O/C of a surgical team he saw action in Tarakan, Brunei and Balikpapan, being mentioned in despatches.

After the war he served with distinction in numerous medical organisations including the Australian Medical Association and St John Ambulance. His contributions to the surgical literature included articles on the treatment of fractures, surgical nursing and the modern usage of surgical terms and definitives. He died on 4 August 1979.'



**Advanced Dressing Station –
Libya 1942**

Sources used to compile this entry: [Aust med J 1979, 2, 448].

6. Brigadier Gordon Neville Young 1979-1984 ED KStJ (1913-14 April 2006) Surgeon, Obstetrician and Gynaecologist.



**Brigadier
Gordon Young**

Brigadier Gordon Neville Young ED was one of those exceptional doctors who made significant contributions and gave exceptional service to several independent themes within the broader sphere of medicine - that of surgery and military medicine, obstetrics and gynaecology, and service to St John Ambulance Australia. He graduated in medicine from the University of Sydney in 1936 and enlisted for service as a young doctor at the outbreak of the Second World War. He served in Africa, Crete, Greece, New Guinea and in Indonesia.

He commanded the 2/4th Field Ambulance with distinction.

'The Australian 2/4th Field Ambulance had cared for wounded and sick troops during the long advance over the Kokoda Track. By 5 November 1942, the unit had worked their way up to Kokoda itself. The Papuan bearers who accompanied them carried supplies and helped to set up medical posts, often in small sites they cleared in the jungle. The doctors and medical orderlies worked in hastily constructed shelters, often just a blanket-roofed hut with about eight rough beds to hold their patients.'

Alfred Hospital in Sydney; and later at the Royal Alexandra hospital for Children before commencing in 1938 his chosen career in surgery and obstetrics, with service at the Royal Hospital for Women. After peace was declared in 1945, he continued his service initially as a Resident Medical Officer at the Royal Hospital for Women at Crown Street in Sydney. Dr Young was awarded his Membership of the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (UK) in 1947, and the following year was created a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. He was made a Fellow of both the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists of the United Kingdom (1965) and of the Royal Australian College in 1978.

Based in Sydney, he developed a reputation as an unflappable, reliable and meticulous surgeon and gynaecologist. He served as Honorary Consultant Gynaecologist at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney from 1948 until 1973 and was the senior Honorary Specialist in Obstetrics & Gynaecology at Parramatta Hospital from 1953 until 1973. He also served as a senior Consultant Obstetrician at Ryde Hospital. For his service to Obstetrics & Gynaecology, in 1973, a special bronze medallion was crafted by the esteemed Melbourne sculptor, Andor Meszaros. This very fine profile bronze effigy is displayed in the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital today.

In a significant second career, he continued his work in military medicine, being appointed Director of Medical Services (DMS) for New South Wales (Eastern Command) based in Sydney for four years from 1953. In 1957, he was promoted to the rank of Colonel and was appointed as Consultant in Gynaecology to the Australian Army. He was appointed also as Honorary Surgeon to the Governor General, based in Canberra from 1965 to 1968. In 1974, he served for four years as the national Representative Honorary Colonel for the royal Australian Army Medical Corps and retired, with the honorary rank of Brigadier, from active service in 1976.

His "third career" was as a leader in St John Ambulance Australia. He was appointed as the "Chief Commissioner for Australia" in 1965, serving for the ensuing three triennia (1965-1974). Thereafter he was appointed national Director of Ceremonies within the Priory of the Order of St. John (1978-1979). For his services to the work of St. John Ambulance in Australia he was elevated to the Dignity of Knighthood in the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem (The Order of St. John), a secular Royal Order of Chivalry established by Queen Victoria. He was known throughout his service in St. John as a quiet and meticulous friend; and as one who maintained highest standards in the promotion of the public outreach teaching of first aid within the extensive national family of St. John.

Gordon Young retired to live in Middle Park, to be close to one of his sons, Dr Gordon John Spencer Young, himself a career doctor-soldier and general practitioner based in Brisbane. He is survived by his widow, Mrs Edna Young

Major General John Pearn, Sometime Surgeon General, Australian Defence Force.

Gordon Young Medallion



**Gordon Young
Medallion**

This medallion, by Melbourne sculptor Michael Meszaros, commemorates the professional service to obstetrics and gynaecology and to the community of Brigadier Gordon Young ED. The datum medal is on permanent display at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, having been transferred there after its original display at the King George V Hospital for Women and Children, Sydney. Personal copies of this fine bronze medallion exist. Brigadier Gordon Young served as the Honorary Colonel RAAMC for Eastern Command, 1970-1974, and as the national Representative Honorary Colonel RAAMC, 1974-1977.

Gordon Young's term as Chief Commissioner was illustrated by much reform:

- ❑ Regular visits by National office holders to States & Territories
- ❑ National cohesion and direction to reinforce the organisation identity introducing standardizing procedures.
- ❑ Introduction of General Regulations, the Dress Regulations. etc. and the Administrative Manual.
- ❑ Introduced Medallions for Competitors in the National First Aid and Nursing Competitions.
- ❑ Introduced regular meetings and consultation with the Priory Chancellor.

7. Major-General Peter Falkland (1984–1990) AO KStJ. The Seventh Chief Commissioner - The Soldier



Maj-Gen Peter Falkland AO

He came to St John after a distinguished military career, having served in Borneo during World War II and as Deputy Commander, 1 Australia Task Force, Vietnam. He was also Head of the Australian Defence Staff in Washington D.C. and concluded his army career as Deputy Chief of the General Staff.

While Peter Falkland was not the first soldier to be Chief Commissioner, he was the first non-medical soldier. However, he had an even hurdle to overcome, he had been, a member of St John. When announced, his appointment was not met with universal enthusiasm. Most of the Commissioners of the day felt that one of their number should have been appointed. Many people felt that the last thing the brigade needed was a soldier at the top. It was a mark of the man that Falkland learnt very quickly what he needed to know to run the organisation. He quickly understood the general regulations and set about winning over the Commissioners, a task he achieved in a very short time. He was appointed to the Priory Structure Review Committee and contributed significantly to the review, which among other reforms led to the adoption of the public name "St John Ambulance Australia". Also, in some discussion the name "Operations Branch" came out of the review. The first name the committee favoured was the "Public Duties Branch" which did not meet with approval of either Falkland or the Brigade Standing Committee. Falkland felt that the name not sufficiently "professional" and successfully pushed the title "Operations Branch" as the brother to the Training Branch. Falkland continued the reforms commenced by Gordon Young and increased the number of District visits made by National Headquarters Staff. He was a very easy going person as was his wife, Bunny. They soon mixed easily with the St John family and like everyone else, he soon became a St John man. One of the very noticeable changes in the Falkland regime to that of Gordon

Young was the relationship of easy and frequent communication that developed between the Chief Commissioner and the Director of Training Branch (Villas Marshall). This had never previously occurred, and Villas Marshall frequently attended meetings of the National Headquarters Staff, particularly in January, and visited the Cadet camps. This close working relationship provided beneficial results for the Operations branch, including (ultimately) an expanded number of qualified instructors, recognition of the skills maintenance program and free training for Operations Branch members. Unfortunately, about 1988 Falkland was diagnosed with cancer: and while he appeared to have an early remission the tumours re-appeared in 1989. He continued to carry out his duties until hospitalised late in the year. Shortly before his death, the Prior, His Excellency the Honourable Bill Hayden, visited him in Calvary Hospital Canberra, and invested him as a Knight of Grace in the Order of St John. 'Article by John Spencer' Peter Falkland Award' 2010

Peter Falkland Award

Despite having to overcome a body of opposition in his early days, in the short time, Peter Falkland became a popular and effective Chief Commissioner. His name is commemorated in the Peter Falkland Awards made to Cadets who have achieved at outstanding levels.

This award is the highest accolade for any St John Cadet and is presented in the honour of Major General Peter Falkland, a former Chief Commissioner with St John Ambulance Australia.

During his term as, Chief Commissioner Major General Falkland was committed towards developing the talents of young volunteers and the Cadet movement. then he passed away the award was named in his honour to recognise the contribution of an outstanding cadet in each State/Territory of Australia.

Recipients of the award assume the role of the Aide-de-camp (ADC) to the Commissioner of St John Ambulance in their State/Territory. All candidates for the award are nominated and have to attend an interview to select for the Cadet of the Year Award.

Initially, the Award was made for an essay competition and then for a project at national level.

The winners were:

1991 Sharon Webb South Australia

1992 Raeleen Phillips New South Wales

1993 Edmund O'Loughlin Western Australia

1994 Dales Searles Western Australia

1995 No Award

From 1996, the Award was made to the Cadet / Cadet Leader of the Year in each State / Territory.

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Source: The Zambuks: Ian Howie-Willis The Seventh Chief Commissioner- The Soldier page 120. Article by John Spencer, NSW November 2001.

8. Professor Villis Raymond Marshall (1990–1999) AO GCStJ



**Professor Villis
Marshall AO GCStJ**

Professor Marshall held faculty appointments at the London Hospital Medical College, St Peters Hospital and Royal Adelaide Hospital before serving as Urology Chair of Flinders Medical Centre for 25 years. He was also General Manager of the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

The following is an edited version of a speech by the Governor-General, Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC, at the time of Villis Marshall's retirement as Chancellor of the Australian Priory. The dinner was held at Government House, Canberra, on 21 June 2007.

The following is an edited version of a speech by the Governor-General, Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC, at the time of Villis Marshall's retirement as Chancellor of the Australian Priory. The dinner was held at Government House, Canberra, on 21 June 2007.

'Professor Marshall held faculty appointments at the London Hospital Medical College, St Peters Hospital and Royal Adelaide Hospital before serving as Chair of Flinders Medical Centre, Department of Urology for 25 years. Most recently, Professor Marshall was the General Manager of the Royal Adelaide Hospital. The following is an edited version of a speech by the Governor-General, Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC, at the time of Villis Marshall's retirement as Chancellor of the Australian Priory. The dinner was held at Government House, Canberra, on 21 June 2007. ... This evening we pay tribute to Professor Villis Marshall who vacates the position of Chancellor of St John Ambulance Australia after seven years of distinguished service. Professor Marshall's reign as Chancellor caps some 46 years of remarkable service —so far. From his early days as a probationary officer [in the South Australian St John run Ambulance Service], through to his appointment as a Bailiff Grand Cross of the Order, Professor Marshall has had a long and distinguished St John career. Joining in 1961, Villis Marshall began as a young probationary surgeon and after graduation, spent three years as a Divisional surgeon and then another three years as a District Staff Officer. By 1983 he had become District Surgeon for all of South Australia. The following year he became the most senior volunteer at the helm of the national training branch, when he was appointed its Director. During this time, he was responsible for modernising the popular St John first aid manual, Australian First Aid, a manual that sells more than 150,000 copies each year. In 1990 Professor Marshall was appointed the Chief Commissioner, the senior officer in charge of the Operations Branch. He is the only St John member to have led both operations and training branches. At this time, he was also made a Knight of the Order. As the director [of] Operations—the public face of St John—he held the position for nine years, the maximum allowed, and will be admired for the many initiatives with which he revitalised the branch. For one, he modernised the uniforms of the 'black and white' volunteers who provide first aid services to the general public at sporting and cultural events. He also provided better management and leadership pathways for members and turned his attention to improving cadet training and encouraging more involvement of young people. In 1995 Professor Marshall became the Priory Vice-Chancellor, the administrative head of St John Ambulance Australia. Four years later he was made Chancellor, becoming the sixth person to hold the position since 1941. In 1997 he was appointed Bailiff Grand Cross—the highest of the six grades of membership in the Order. Only three members can be honoured with such a distinction at any one time. ... For his outstanding service to medicine in urology and kidney disease, and for his research into prostate cancer, Professor Marshall was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia in 2006. Ladies and gentlemen, this parallel success—professional and volunteer—is at the very heart of Professor Marshall's character. He is a true St John member and an outstanding role model and citizen. ... Professor Marshall is a man of great talent and wisdom. He has been instrumental in saving the lives of many people through his own medical work, and through his leadership of St John Ambulance members. His legacy extends even further. He has been the driving force behind The Future of St John, a program of activities aimed to make the organisation more cohesive, more responsive to its customers, and better positioned to meet the challenges of the new century. Some of these activities include: • the progress of the 'One St John' philosophy—a closer State, Territory and National commitment to managing activities and future development of the organisation.

- a broader strategic direction for the national board of directors.
- the creation of the Australian Youth Council.
- the development of the Chancellor's leadership program.
- the transformation of the National Conference to provide greater access to education and networking opportunities for all St John members.
- new and exciting partnerships with Government and other agencies.
- negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding for all State and Territory boards to sign to ensure the strategic and structural cohesion of the organisation.

I understand Villis is to take up an international role, as Sub-Prior for St John Establishments — and will be one of four great officers throughout the world ‘

9. Ms Lynne Spencer (Allen-Brown) AM CStJ RN JP (1999- 2002)



Lynne Allen-Brown

Promoted by Villis Marshall to the first female Chief Superintendent. Lynne succeeded Villis Marshall to be the 9th and first female Chief Commissioner. A fair but no-nonsense person was often referred to as 'The Skirt'.

A career nursing administrator, and a captain in the Royal Australian Nursing Corps. St John Ambulance District Superintendent in NSW from 1960, then Chief Superintendent from 1993 and then our first female Chief Commissioner from 1999.

Whilst Chief Superintendent (1993-1999) introduced to Operations Branch national management training 'modules' as prerequisites for promotion to leadership roles.

This was reinforced in 2000 when the National Executive Council of St John Ambulance Australia endorsed 'Frontline Management' – a national, government accredited program of competency-based training for leaders and key managers. 'The Zambuks' Ian Howie-Willis 2002.

10. Professor Paul Arbon AM KStJ RN, BSc, DipEd, Grad Dip Health Ed, MEd (Studies) PhD (Sydney) (2002-2011).



**Professor
Paul Arbon**

Professor Arbon is a Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor, Director of the Torrens Resilience Institute and Dean of the School of Nursing and Midwifery of Flinders University. The Torrens Resilience Institute was established in 2009 to improve the capacity of organisations and societies to respond to disruptive challenges that have the potential to overwhelm local disaster management capabilities and plans. Current research and development are focused on community and organisational resilience, mass gathering management and health security. The Institute hosts the City Security and Resilience Networks for Australia and Asia, the International Council of Nurses (ICNP) Centre for Disaster Nursing and the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre for Mass Gatherings and High Visibility/ High Consequence events.

Professor Arbon is Past President of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine, a member the International Health Regulations Roster of Experts, Editorial Board Member of the disaster health journal Pre-Hospital and Disaster Medicine and Fellow of the Australian College of Nursing and the American Academy of Nursing.

- National Medal, for diligent long service to the community in hazardous circumstances, including in times of emergency and national disaster, in direct protection of life and property (1991).
- Knight of the Order of St John (KStJ), for exemplary leadership and service to St John Ambulance Australia (2009).
- Member of the Order of Australia (AM), for contribution to the Australian community, particularly in the role of Chief Commissioner:
St John Ambulance Australia and for Nursing Education and Research. Queen's Birthday honours (2004).

I remember Chief Commissioner Arbon for the ill-fated 'Bus Driver Stripes' rank markings. This received mention in my previous paper on 'St John Uniforms'.

11. Alan Eade ASM KStJ RN FACAP MRCNA



Alan Eade

Former Chief Commissioner St John Ambulance Australia, former Chief Paramedic St John Ambulance Australia, Intensive Care Paramedic, Ambulance Victoria (1996-) Moomba Monarch 2013. Queen's Scout. Alan is also a Grand Prior Cadet.

- National Medal 2001
- Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal (East Timor) 2001
- National Emergency Medal (Victorian Fires) 2009

He is recognised as a leading expert in the area of pre - Hospital treatment of party drug overdose and has made a significant contribution to the understanding and treatment of these patients by ambulance services in Victoria and interstate.

He also provides, on a voluntary basis in his own time educations, sessions/lectures for paramedics, the general public and health professionals about party drugs. He has also participated in related forums with Victoria Police and participates in research with Turning Point Drug and Alcohol Epicentre.

'He has also contributed significantly to the current paramedic clinical practice guidelines for the treatment/management of patients affected by amphetamines and other party drugs.'

From (Citation for ASM awarded 2009)

In a break with tradition Moomba had seven monarchs representing community and emergency service organisations in the annual parade down St Kilda Road, Melbourne on Monday March 11.



**Alan Eade
Intensive Care
Paramedic**



Alan Eade is in blue shirt on the left. Alan Eade, one of the Emergency Service's Monarchs of Moomba 2013.

**Trevor Mayhew OAM KStJ
Canberra 2018**