Celebrating Women of St John Ambulance Australia celebrates the diversity of our organisation.

There are women included in these pages who were born in the 19th century and served in the World Wars, started divisions, and rose to the tops of the ranks. There are women who volunteered in home nursing, first aid services, community care and training across all States and Territories. And there are young women who have just started their St John careers and who will, no doubt, shape the next 100 years of St John Ambulance Australia.





Celebrating women in St John Ambulance Australia Our past, present and future

Edited by Sally Hasler and Ian Howie-Willis



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Sally Hasler grew up in Croydon, Victoria, and joined the St John Ambulance Croydon Cadet Division in June 1993—her many promotions, awards and achievements may be read inside! Sally is founder of the St John Women's Network and currently holds the position of Chair of Community Care. Sally holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) and Master of Public Policy. Following university, Sally worked at the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet for five years and is currently a Policy Officer at the Australian Consulate-General in Hong Kong.

lan Howie-Willis is a professional historian who has written a number of books about St John Ambulance. Born in Melbourne in 1937, Ian began his working life as a cadet journalist, later turning to teaching. In 1975, he settled in Canberra, where he completed doctoral studies in history at the Australian National University. In 2002, he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his work on St John Ambulance history. He is currently the Priory Librarian and Historical Society Editor.

Celebrating women in St John Ambulance Australia Our past, present and future

Edited by Sally Hasler and Ian Howie-Willis



St John Ambulance Australia 8/18 National Circuit Barton ACT 2600 (PO Box 3895, Manuka ACT 2603) www.stjohn.org.au

Celebrating women in St John Ambulance Australia

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Disclaimer

The members of the project team who produced this book drafted all the personal profiles it contains. In researching the profiles, they gathered material themselves and used information provided by others. While they always sought to ascertain the accuracy of all the material at their disposal, they also had to accept some of this at face value, relying on the good faith and the reliability of the memory of their informants. Within these constraints, the book endeavours to be as accurate an historical record as possible.



Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

Foreword

by Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce, AC, CVO Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia Prior of the Order of St John in Australia

to Celebrating Women in St John Ambulance Australia: Our past, present and future.

As the first woman Prior of the Order of St John in Australia, I am delighted to celebrate those who have shaped St John Ambulance Australia.

The 140 women profiled in this book represent a cross-section of Australian society and time. Their stories mirror the contribution thousands of women have made to St John during the past 130 years; generous-spirited contributors who give their time to care for people who are sick or suffering - in distress or danger. This uplifting publication acknowledges their dedication and their compassion.

They are women from different eras in Australian history, different States and Territories, and different parts of the St John family. There are tales of great happiness, challenge, sadness and humour — the basic elements of human nature.

I congratulate St John on this warm and inspiring collection. St John is respected for its integrity and its embrace of people from all walks of life. All involved can take great pride in its inspiring history.

The special women in this book will be remembered with affection and admiration. The organisation has an unbroken record of service, and there will always be good women to ensure that it endures.

I enjoyed immensely reading the profiles. They filled me with joy as I reflected on their commitment and generous spirit. Long may they continue.

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This publication was made possible due to the efforts and assistance of many individuals.

Sally Hasler has led the History of Women in St John project since its inception in 2007. The project was one of a number of recommendations following research completed by Sally Hasler and Dr Kathryn Zeitz which investigated female volunteers in St John. The history project is the brainchild of Sally, Ian Howie-Willis and Kathryn.

Dr Ian Howie-Willis, as Priory Historian and Chair of the St John Historical Society, has provided invaluable assistance and expertise throughout the entirety of the project. The project is a true reflection of his wisdom and knowledge of St John Ambulance, and a tribute to his time as Priory Historian. Together with Sally, Ian edited the profiles in this book based on the collection of information provided from across St John.

The History of Women in St John Working Group spent two years collecting the stories, tributes and photographs you find in this book. Representatives from each State and Territory gave an extraordinary number of hours to interview women, sort through archives and write profiles. The book would not have been possible without their contribution. The members of the working group are: Betty Stirton, Beth Dawson, Edith Khangure, Faye Morgan, Lyn Dansie, Lesley King, Raelene Denham and Simone Pearce. You will find their profiles in this book.

Fairlie Crozier of the Australian Office coordinated all aspects of the project and bought the entire publication together. Fairlie collated material from the working group, facilitated editing of profiles, coordinated the design and printing and provided all administrative support. Fairlie has also made possible this beautiful publication.

Peter LeCornu and the **States and Territories** provided support throughout the project in developing the list of women, accessing historical records and finalising the publication.

Many members of St John across Australia contributed their stories to members of the Working Group allowing us to collect so much precious information. Thank you very much for you efforts and assistance. We hope you enjoy this tribute to the women of St John.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our history of the women in St John.

This book is the culmination of over three years research by a committed and passionate working group from across St John Australia. The book would not have been possible without the contribution of this group and many others.

Inside you will find the profiles of 140 women who have shaped St John over the past 130 years and in doing so made outstanding contributions to the Australian community.

It is not, and never intended to be, exhaustive. There are thousands of women who have volunteered with St John and it would be impossible to capture all of their stories in a single book.

We have tried to reflect the diversity of our organisation through the profiles you will read. There are women included who were born in the 19th century, who served in World Wars I and II, who started divisions and rose to the top of our ranks. There are women who volunteered in home nursing, in first aid services, in community care and training across all States and Territories. There are young women who have just started out in their St John careers and will no doubt shape the next 100 years.

Importantly, this history is part of a strategy agreed by the St John Ambulance National Board of Directors to build a more engaging culture for women in St John. The strategy was agreed after research conducted in 2007 found an under-representation of women in senior leadership positions in St John. This book celebrates the many who have made it and the many more that will.

We encourage you to use and share this history to play your part in celebrating women in St John.

Ian Howie-Willis

San Howie-Willi

Sally Hasler



Shirley Aitchison MStJ

1947– Victoria

Shirley Aitchison (née Field) was born in Hawthorn, Victoria, the youngest of five children. She attended five different primary schools and Glen Waverley High School. Although she had hoped to become a nurse, she left school after Year 8 to work in a newsagency. Various clerical positions followed. She married in 1966 and had three children.

In 1982 Shirley began the education she had missed. She completed Year 12 English, and went on to acquire tertiary qualifications in social and community services, training and development, management, editing and publishing. In 1983 she started work with the City of Malvern as an aged and disability services officer, a position she held for 13 years. Her next job was as the training and development officer for St John Ambulance. Shirley then became a freelance publications consultant, her clients including the Australian Office of St John. That led to an offer of the position of St John National Publications Manager in Canberra in 2002, a job she accepted and retained until her retirement in 2010.

Shirley joined the Malvern Combined Division of St John in 1986, where her son had been a Junior. She was promoted to Sergeant, then Divisional Officer, and in 1999 became the Divisional Superintendent. Apart from her salaried positions with St John, Shirley spent four years on the District (state) staff of the Operations Branch as the Training Coordinator.

Perhaps the most fulfilling part of Shirley's 24-year career in St John was the eight years she spent as the National Publications Manager. Her role was to oversee the publication of all the titles issued by the Australian Office. These publications included successive editions of Australian First Aid, the Cadet Manual, the Skills Maintenance Program, the Cadet and Junior Workbooks, the Priory Annual Reports and St John History (the Historical Society's journal).

Shirley's service to St John was rewarded with the Service Medal in 2003, and her admission as a Member of the Order in 2008. Shortly before her retirement she married Peter Aitchison.





Expansion of
Community Services
to the Wide Bay
area was achieved
by Judith, providing
ervices for one of the
rgest communities of

Judith Allen MStJ

Queensland

Judith Allen was born in England, educated at Winton Senior High School, then completed nursing training at Torbay General Hospital, South Devon. She continued nursing at the hospital until migrating to Queensland with her husband and two sons. She nursed in country hospitals until joining the staff of the Emerald Agricultural College. While at the college she became a St John Ambulance first aid instructor, teaching first aid as part of the college curriculum. She also completed a degree in community welfare at James Cook University.

Judith moved to Victoria in 1995 to take up an administrative position in the technical and further education sector. She returned to Queensland two years later when she was appointed executive officer of the St John Ambulance Community Care Branch in Brisbane, the position she still holds. Under her guidance, Community Care in Queensland has focused on meeting the needs of the frail, aged, disabled and socially isolated individuals. Judith oversaw the expansion of community services to the Wide Bay area with the support of the Branch's Committee.

Judith has helped develop the national accreditation of the Community Care training modules, represented St John in dealings with community welfare agencies, and secured funding sources in both government and non-government sectors. Other responsibilities have included managing projects such as the Silver Cord telephone reassurance service, the Transport Access program, and the Health Care Volunteers program.

Judith's achievements were recognised by her admission into the Order as a Member in 2010.

Lynne Allen-Brown AM CStJ

1946-

New South Wales

Lynne Allen-Brown was born in Oberon, New South Wales. She is married to Peter Spencer and lives on the New South Wales north coast. Lynne began her nursing training at age 17 at St Luke's Hospital, Sydney, where she spent much of her subsequent professional career; appointed St Luke's Director of Nursing in 1987. She achieved diplomas in nursing administration and clinical nursing (gerontology), became a member of the Institute of Nursing Administrators, and a Fellow of the New South Wales College of Nursing. She was also captain in the Reserve of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps.

Lynne's St John Ambulance career began in 1986 when the District (state) Commissioner in New South Wales, Dr George Killen, appointed her District Nursing Officer. Among her first initiatives was to restructure the St John nursing officers responsibilities, with in-service training a priority. In 1989 she was appointed Honorary Director of Marketing, joining the state St John Council and becoming a member of its executive committee.

In 1990 Lynne was appointed District (state) Superintendent of the Operations Branch. Lynne's significant contributions included upgrading the officer level management training program, introducing District and Corps budgets, and installing officer appraisal and succession planning systems. She helped develop the St John Child Protection Policy, and developed an orientation handbook for new recruits.

Lynne was posted to the Operations Branch national headquarters staff in 1993 where she became Chief Superintendent—the first woman to hold the position since its creation in 1948. Her first national goal was to promote only those Operations Branch members who had undertaken the national management training modules. She also developed minimum standards for the provision of first aid services at major events, and took a leading role in forming the St John Australian Youth Council, established in 2000.

In 1999 Lynne succeeded Professor Villis Marshall as Chief Commissioner, becoming the first woman and the first incumbent not to have been a medical practitioner. Her achievements in the position included introducing the Frontline Management program. As a result, the criterion for advancement in Operations Branch shifted from seniority (years of service in St John) to having successfully completing management training.

Lynne resigned as Chief Commissioner in 2002. She was admitted as an Officer of the Order of St John in 1993 and promoted to Commander in 1998. In 1998 she was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia.





Including a 34-year ohn career, Billie has ked in health-related ositions in Esperance for almost 50 years.

Billie Andrews ASM DSt.J

1945– Western Australia

Billie Annette Andrews (née McLiheney) was born in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia. Her father was a fitter and turner who died when she was eight; her mother made artificial flowers; and she had a sister nine years her senior. She attended the South Kalgoorlie Primary School, the Eastern Goldfields High School and finally the Eastern Goldfields Technical School, where she learnt dressmaking and bookkeeping. Her first job was making buttons and belts at Singer Sewing Machines in Kalgoorlie.

At 16 years of age Billie became a nursing assistant at the Kalgoorlie Hospital, and in 1961 she began an enrolled nursing course at a geriatric hospital in Perth before moving to Merredin for the country stage of the course. After graduation, she moved to Esperance in 1963 to work at the small local hospital, where she became an operating room nurse. She held the position for five years, until she married Michael Andrews. She later returned to the hospital as a part-time x-ray operator, then started working as the receptionist-surgery nurse for a local doctor. After several years as a stay-at-home mum with her two children, she returned to work for the local doctor, before returning to a series of positions at the hospital where she still works, in the emergency department.

Billie joined the local St John Ambulance division in Esperance in 1971 after she and and her sister took a 10-week first aid course at the local St John subcentre, leading to a 34-year St John career. She held many positions, including Divisional Cadet Officer, Divisional Secretary, Goldfield Corps (regional) Superintendent, author of the sub-centre's commemorative history, first aid instructor, volunteer ambulance officer and sub-centre secretary, treasurer and president. A keen participant in first aid competitions, she competed at all levels, and in 1973–1974 won the state individual championship.

Billie has been achieved many awards for her St John Ambulance work. She was admitted as a Member of the Order of St John in 1985, and promoted through the grades to became a Dame in 2003. In 2002 she was awarded the Ambulance Service Medal, becoming one of the few women so honoured. The following year she was also awarded the Australian Centenary Medal.

Geraldine Archer DSt.J.

1905-1992

Tasmania

Geraldine Archer was born into a prominent landed family in Launceston, Tasmania. After a privileged upbringing, she shocked her parents by declaring that she wished to study medicine. They disapproved because that was not regarded as appropriate for a young woman of her background. They nevertheless allowed her to study science at the University of Tasmania.

By her late 30s, Geraldine was still determined to study medicine, but as there was still no medical faculty in Tasmania she enrolled at the University of Adelaide. She graduated in 1948, and on her return to Launceston, entered general practice. She later specialized in obstetrics and gynaecology, becoming a popular female doctor for a large and appreciative female clientele.

'Dr Gerry' became active in many causes. One of her main concerns was the plight of the homeless, so she helped establish a shelter for homeless men in Launceston.

She also became heavily involved in St John Ambulance in Launceston, teaching first aid, working as a divisional surgeon and serving as a member of the Tasmanian St John Council. Promoted through the grades of the Order of St John, she became a Dame. Because the St John sub-centre in Launceston lacked adequate premises, she donated the family mansion she had inherited. In recognition of the huge support she gave to St John over the years, one of the Launceston St John divisions adopted the name, 'Archer Division'.

Apart from St John, Gerry's other great love was Tasmania's natural environment. She donated land on the east coast for the establishment of a nature reserve and in Launceston she donated land to the National Trust.

Gerry continued working almost until the day of her death at 87 years of age.



Dr Gerry was a feisty woman, her gruff exterior disguising the compassionate, caring healer beneath. She never refused to see a patient no matter how inconvenient the time or day.



r Ardill-Brice was an bressive figure—'both the Red Cross and St John Ambulance felt her presence: with a stentorian, brash and husky voice, smoking perennially, she handled meetings th authority and was willing to debate any question with fire and gesticulation'.

Katie Ardill-Brice OBE DStJ

1886–1955 New South Wales

Dame Katie Louisa Brice (née Ardill) was the daughter of George Ardill and his wife Louisa (née Johnson), prominent Baptist evangelists and activists for improved living conditions for the destitute in Sydney.

Katie attended Wellesley College and graduated in medicine from the University of Sydney in 1913. After residency at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, she worked as an anaesthetist and outpatient doctor at South Sydney Women's Hospital. When World War I began Katie unsuccessfully tried to enlist in the Australian Army Medical Corps, so at her own expense she travelled to England where she became one of the first female doctors accepted into the British Army Medical Service. A captain, she served in military hospitals in England, Belgium, France and Egypt.

Returning to Sydney in 1919, Katie resumed her appointment at the South Sydney Women's Hospital, which she held until 1950. She also set up a gynaecological practice, and ran a free weekly clinic in Bankstown for the wives and children of ex-servicemen. In 1921 she married Charles Brice.

Katie had joined St John Ambulance soon after her medical graduation in 1913. She lectured and examined public first aid and home nursing classes, and continued doing this for the remainder of her life. In 1914 she joined the Brigade Nursing Division as the first female Divisional Surgeon in New South Wales.

In 1938 Katie joined the executive committee of the St John Ambulance Association, of which she remained a life-long member. She became Deputy Chair in 1946 and Chair in 1949—the first woman to hold the position since its establishment in 1890. She retained the position until her sudden death in 1955. Within the Brigade, in 1940 Katie was promoted to state headquarters staff as District Officer (Nursing) where she had a major role in overseeing the expansion of Nursing Divisions during World War II.

Katie Ardill-Brice's first St John honour came in 1929 when she was appointed a Life Member. She was admitted to the Order of St John as a Serving Sister in 1938, promoted to Officer (1943), Commander (1947) and Dame (1952). She also received the Service Medal of the Order with two bars. She was honoured with Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1941.

Kristy Austin MStJ

1979-

Victoria

Kristy Briana Austin joined St John in 1991 as a Cadet with the Cranbourne Division, Victoria. She has held a variety of appointments since joining, including Divisional Superintendent and Regional Officer, and currently as State Co-ordinator. Kristy is proud to be one of the founding members of the Cardinia Division.

Kristy completed a Bachelor of Nursing at Victoria University and works as a registered nurse, predominately in emergency departments throughout Melbourne. As a result of her professional experiences, Kristy was appointed a Regional Nursing Officer, and she has been involved in developing the Extended Practice Patient Record, which is currently in national use.

Kristy has also worked for Ambulance Victoria in the referral service program of their non-paramedic stream. Kristy has a passion for emergency department nursing, which is reflected through her various appointments in relation to triage, and in undertaking the role of Associate Nurse Unit Manager.

Kristy has participated in numerous large events for St John, with the responsibilities of command, planning and preparation. She assisted St John Victoria members' participation in World Youth Day in Sydney, attendance at the 2000 Olympic Melbourne events, and the Melbourne Commonwealth Games in 2006.

Kristy was part of the Youth Development Team working on the implementation of national Cadet Training Packages. She participates within the First Aid Services branch and actively trains members during the course of public duties.

Kristy has received a Service Medal and been admitted to the Order of St John as a Member.









Dorothy Bache DStJ

1935– Victoria

Dorothy Bache joined St John Victoria in December 1953, and has contributed invaluable service to St John as a long-standing Divisional Superintendent and Officer in the Operations Branch.

For more than 20 years, Dorothy worked in her spare time as a volunteer Training Instructor, conducting first aid classes in the workplace and for community groups.

Dorothy has been particularly dedicated to the Cadet programs, and over the years, she has been involved in all aspects of Cadet and adult member training, including the Cadets preparation for first aid competitions at Corps and state level.

Dorothy held a number of Operations Branch Officer appointments, and she is particularly proud of her association with the Richmond multicultural Cadet division, which continues to have a healthy and efficient membership.

As Chair of Community Care and a member of State Council, Dorothy strengthened the Branch through her continuous support of program coordinators, and her personal participation in day-to-day activities.

Dorothy's service was recognised when she was admitted to the Order of St John in 1975, promoted to Officer in 1983, Commander in 1991 and Dame in 2004.

Gwyn Balch

1955– Northern Territory

Lesley King from the Northern Territory describes the day Gwyn Balch (née Lloyd) arrived, as the day 'fortune smiled upon St John NT'.

Gwyn is the current Volunteer Coordinator for St John Northern Territory, and on her arrival, Gwyn immediately adopted an approach to better support and communicate with volunteers, which has had a positive effect across all levels within St John NT.

Gwyn, her parents and three brothers migrated from England. The family lived in Fannie Bay, and Gwyn's first school was Darwin Primary where her mother was a teacher, then later Parap Primary. She started at Darwin High School but the family decided to return to England, so she put graduation on hold and returned with them.

Back in England, her employer at a local store entered Gwyn into a beauty contest which she won, and was crowned 'Miss North East Cottage Homes'—that news quickly spread around Darwin on the family's return. Gwyn returned to Darwin High to complete her final year in 1969. It was at a school social where she met her future husband, Stephen Balch. They were married in 1972 and had three sons: Craig, Shane and Mark.

Gwyn trained as a Ground Hostess with Trans Australia Airlines before taking on administrative roles in the public sector.

In January 2011, Gwyn's much-loved father passed away. He had been suffering from a deteriorating heart condition. For a considerable time following this, Gwyn had to undertake the continuous care and support of her mother who is now a resident in a nursing home.

Through all of this Gwyn has not faltered in her attention to her St John role. She continues to maintain continuity between Darwin headquarters and outlying divisions, and manages members' needs and expectations.



Respected and admired by volunteer and service staff throughout the Northern Territory for her abilities as a manager in a very diverse organisation.



A gifted administrator who leads by example, Helen has held office at all levels of the St John First Aid

Helen Banu-Lawrence Osta

1964-New South Wales

Helen Banu-Lawrence (née Banu) was born in Sydney to parents who had immigrated from Romania and Greece.

After completing her schooling, she trained as a teacher at Macquarie University, acquiring a Bachelor of Science and Diploma of Education, later a Master of Education, and graduate diplomas in adult education, and occupational health and safety.

After first graduating Helen taught mathematics in secondary schools before joining the salaried staff of St John Ambulance NSW in Sydney as the Community Liaison Officer. Other positions within St John and other agencies followed. She was appointed General Manager of First Aid Services for New South Wales in 2008. She is now General Manager, Membership and Community Services. In 1990 she married Tony Lawrence, who runs a firm specialising in occupational health and safety training. They have three children.

Helen first joined St John at age 12 in 1976, becoming a member of the Gladesville Nursing Cadet Division, where her two older sisters were already members. A diligent student, she obtained the 12 proficiency badges required for the Grand Prior's Badge, which she was awarded in 1980. She also became very interested in first aid competitions, in which she became an outstanding competitor—as a Cadet, she was a member of the team that won several state championships. As an adult, she was a member of the state team that won the national championships in 1990 and 1991. She went on to win individual national titles in 1996 and 1997. She also managed the state teams in 2000 and 2001, and was the national competition manager in 2002.

Helen has held office at all levels within St John Operations Branch. Her appointments have included Divisional Officer in Cadet and adult divisions, Superintendent of adult divisions, State Cadet Officer, State Superintendent and since 2009, Chief Cadet Officer. She has also worked as a volunteer instructor and examiner of first aid classes for the St John Training Branch. She regards her work for the Cadet movement as a means of encouraging young people to become good citizens by selflessly and generously giving back to the community their time and talents.

Helen's honours and awards include the Service Medal with three bars. She was admitted to the Order of St John as a Member in 1996 and promoted to Officer in 2006.

Cynthia Dawn Bat Ostu

1945-Northern Territory

Born in Tumut, New South Wales, Cynthia Dawn Bat (known as Dawn) attended Batlow Primary School where she was a member of the Junior Red Cross and where she completed the first of many first aid courses.

After some time studying and working in Canberra and Sydney, Dawn, her husband and three children moved to Nhulunbuy on the Gove Peninsula in the Northern Territory in 1976. Dawn's husband worked for a local mining company and Dawn worked at the Nhulunbuy Area School.

In 1980, Dawn responded to an advertisement in the local newspaper seeking people interested in forming a local St John division. Thus began Dawn's commitment to St John Ambulance. In 1982 Dawn convened a meeting to start a St John Cadet division. During the same year, Dawn and her local Divisional Superintendent were granted permission by the Northern Territory Health Department to provide volunteer first aid services for events in the Gove region, which included driving the Health Department ambulance.

While in Nhulunbuy, Dawn completed a Diploma in Technical and Further Education, the first of many educational qualifications culminating in a Degree in Educational Studies and a move to Darwin to work with the Education Department. In Darwin, she worked as a St John trainer and continued her volunteering with the Palmerston Division. In 1994, Dawn was appointed Superintendent of Palmerston Cadet Division.

After a public inquiry about Cadet divisions in Humpty Doo, Dawn organised a public meeting and as a result, the Humpty Doo Cadet Division was formed in 1998 under the leadership of Brian Madden.

In 1998, Dawn was awarded her 12 year Service Medal. She continued as Superintendent of Palmerston and also assisted in numerous activities including organising first aid competitions and developing Cadet resources for the Territory.

In 2003, Dawn's service to St John was recognised through her admission to the Order of St John as a Member. The same year she was awarded Northern Territory Adult Volunteer for the Year, and received her St John bar for 17 years of service. Twenty-two years of service was awarded and celebrated in 2009.





Pauline Bates CStJ

1949– Western Australia

Pauline Gladys Bates (née Winchester) was born in Mount Lawley, Western Australia, the oldest of a family of two girls and a boy. After attending the Bayswater Primary School and Cyril Jackson High School, she undertook a business studies course at the Mt Lawley Technical College. Pauline has worked in a number of clerical positions, most recently as a purchasing officer. In 1969 she married Terence Bates, and they have a son and daughter.

Pauline joined the St John Ambulance Brigade in 1961 as a 12-year-old recruit in the very large Maylands Nursing Cadet Division (100 members). Thus started Pauline's continuing commitment to St John.

After four years with the Division, Pauline became a Cadet Leader, joining the adult Maylands Nursing Division in 1967. She spent four years with the Maylands Division before transferring to the Perth No. 3 Nursing Division. In 1976 she moved to the Gosnells Combined Division as a Divisional Officer. She next served two years with the Armadale Combined Division, and in 1983, was appointed Corps Officer with the No. 1 Corps.

Pauline joined the Brigade's state headquarters staff in 1985 as District Officer Cadets, before returning to the Armadale Division in 1993 as Superintendent, which she led for eight years.

In addition to her service with the St John Ambulance Brigade and Operations Branch, Pauline has had an active commitment to two St John Ambulance sub-centres: Armadale (1984–2005) and Serpentine (1991–2010). She has served both sub-centres as a trainer in first aid and as a committee member. At Serpentine she was the secretary (1998–2005), and has been a volunteer ambulance officer since 1991.

Pauline holds the Service Medal with seven bars. She was admitted to the Order of St John as a Serving Sister in 1986, promoted to Officer in 1992 and Commander in 2000.

Margaret Beard ostu

1940– South Australia

Margaret Beard (née Dunn) has lived all her life in Adelaide. With her brothers and sister, she spent a happy childhood. Her older half-brother, a RAAF pilot, was killed over Berlin in 1944.

Margaret attended Presbyterian Girls College, and then worked for one year in a bank while studying part-time to gain university entrance in radiography. After travelling overseas, she returned home to work as a radiographer. She married Donald Beard, a surgeon, and they had two sons. When the elder son was in kindergarten, Margaret took over Donald's role of Secretary of the 1968 College of Surgeons Conference when he was an army surgeon in Vietnam.

In 1981 Margaret joined the St John Ambulance Auxiliary and remained a member for 25 years. She was always actively involved with the Auxiliary's numerous fund-raising events. She became Auxiliary President in 1994, having earlier served as Secretary and Vice-President. In her two years as President, the Auxiliary raised substantial funds to enable purchase of hand-held radios and defibrillators, support of the Cadet of the Year Awards, and contribution to the St John Ophthalmic Hospital. In 1997 she was admitted as an Officer for her work with the Auxiliary.

In 1988 Margaret was appointed to the state St John Council, on which she served for the next 18 years. She was also state Chair of the St John Ophthalmic Hospital (2000–2005).

In 2005 Margaret became President of Cadets in South Australia. She regularly visits Cadet camps, competitions, Anzac vigils, seminars and various divisional functions around South Australia. She often opens her magnificent garden to the public under the Open Garden scheme, with the funds going to the Ophthalmic Hospital and the Cadets.

Despite being busy with her community involvements, Margaret always has time for her friends and family, especially her four grandchildren and, of course, St John.





A gentle, compassionate and dignified woman of slight build that belied her strength of character.

Agnes Bennett OStJ

1880–1969 Western Australia

Agnes 'Addie' Jessie Bennett (née Dixon) was born in Eaglehawk, Bendigo, Victoria, the fourth child and eldest daughter of a miner and a tailor. When her father died of tuberculosis aged 38, her mother took over as mine manager. She later died of tuberculosis as well.

In 1906 Addie followed her married sister to Kalgoorlie, Western Australia. She taught piano until her marriage in 1908 to Thomas H Bennett, a cordial manufacturer from Adelaide. Their only child was stillborn but Agnes devoted herself to the six children of another sister, an invalid. Addie was widowed in 1932, when Thomas died in a factory accident.

Soon after her arrival in Kalgoorlie, Addie involved herself in nursing and first aid work, and in fund-raising for Kalgoorlie's horse-drawn ambulance. When a St John Ambulance Nursing division was established in Kalgoorlie in 1934, Addie became its Superintendent.

With the outbreak of World War II, Addie obtained occupancy of a former café for a first aid classroom and seven-bed air raid/first aid station. She ran many public first aid classes there, and in 1940 she formed Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) No. 516 and became its Commandant. She also served on the council of the Kalgoorlie branch of the Flying Doctor Service.

Addie's St John Ambulance work was a major commitment before, during and after the war. Her Division was on duty at innumerable public functions: church fetes and festivals, Anzac Day parades, public demonstrations of first aid and home nursing, dinners, receptions and exhibitions. The Division also participated in local, regional and state first aid competitions. In addition, Addie instructed many first aid classes, especially for the Girl Guides.

When Kalgoorlie's new St John Ambulance Sub-centre opened in 1950, Addie's major fund-raising success for the Sub-centre was rewarded with one of the rooms named after her. Her St John service was also recognised by her admittance into the Order of St John and promotion to Officer.

One of Addie's proudest achievements was the fifteen registered nurses, all of whom began their professional careers as pupils in her first aid classes.

Addie remained active in St John almost until her death from a stroke at the age of 89 years.

Lynn Berghofer cstJ

1951-

New South Wales

Lynn Berghofer (née Robinson) was born in Sydney. After completing her schooling she trained and worked as a receptionist, swimming teacher and then motor vehicle upholsterer. She married John Berghofer in 1971 and they have four children and eight grandchildren. Two of their daughters belong to the Hawkesbury St John Ambulance Cadet Division, one being the Divisional Superintendent, the other a Divisional Officer; and two of the grandchildren are Cadets.

Lynn started with St John when she was 12 years old, as a member of the Guildford Central Nursing Cadet Division. All her male cousins were already members of Guildford Ambulance Cadet Division. In 1968 she was appointed Cadet Leader and since then has held a series of increasingly senior positions: Divisional Officer, Corps Officer Cadets, Corps Superintendent, Regional Superintendent, State Officer SWAT (i.e. 'Service With Adventure Training'), State Officer Cadets, and most recently, Deputy State Superintendent.

With an interest in first aid competitions, from 1972 to 1999 Lynn was successively the competitions co-ordinator for corps, region, state and national competitions. She has trained and managed state and Australian championship teams, and individual competitors. In addition, she volunteers as an administrator with her state office of the First Aid Services Branch.

Two of the greatest moments in Lynn's life were being awarded the Grand Prior's Badge—24 years after she achieved the badge—and witnessing the Grand Prior, the Duke of Gloucester, present her youngest daughter with a Grand Prior's Badge. Lynn's other awards include the Service Medal with six bars. She was admitted to the Order of St John as a Serving Sister in 1982. Since then, Lynn has been promoted to Officer (1988) and Commander (2002).





A co-founder of the Angaston Cadet Camp, her insistence in a combined camp overcame strong opposition.

Beatrice Williams Bettison OStJ

1891–1984 South Australia

Beatrice Williams (née Potts) married George Albert Williams in 1916 at the Wesleyean Church in Norwood. George had enlisted in the army two weeks before the wedding, and six weeks later he departed for France with the 32nd battalion. He died in 1917 of wounds sustained in battle, and is buried in a war cemetery in France.

In 1930 Beatrice joined St John and became a member of the Adelaide No. 1 Nursing Division. She was involved with Brigade activities during World War II. In 1937 she was given the task of organising first aid and home nursing classes for young women. She recruited through word of mouth: speaking to friends and members of the choir she belonged to. Classes were held at St John headquarters in 'Tin Town', alongside the railway station. After the first recruits obtained their certificates, the Adelaide Nursing Cadet Division was formally registered, and Beatrice was appointed Lady Divisional Superintendent.

When the two Nursing Divisions in Adelaide were broken up, members were assigned to regional divisions, and in 1940 Beatrice became the Superintendent of the Norwood Nursing Division. As there were only nine members at the time, recruiting was a priority and various courses were conducted to extend the knowledge of members, particularly in those subjects related to work during the war years.

Beatrice was seconded to assist the Lady District Superintendent Mrs Dawkins in 1945, on Cadet nursing matters. Beatrice was promoted to Corporal Officer Cadets the following year. She was promoted to District Officer in 1949, and became the first District Lady Superintendent of Nursing Cadets in South Australia. She married Stephen Northley Dunstal Bettison in 1958 and was given the honour of opening the new St John Centre at Cummins.

Beatrice's passion for the Cadet movement led her to become a co-founder of the Angaston Cadet Camp, and her insistence on holding a combined camp overcame strong opposition. The first camp was held in 1951 at the Angaston Recreational Oval in the Barossa Valley, and in 2010 Angaston Cadets celebrated their 60th anniversary.

Beatrice was admitted to the Order of St John in 1946 and promoted to Officer in 1954. Beatrice died at the age of 93 at the Cummins Hospital.

Gladys Blackstock CStJ

1926– Victoria

Gladys 'Glad' Florence Blackstock (née Anderson) was born in Williamstown, Victoria. She married John Neilson Blackstock, an engineer working for the Victorian Railways, in 1947 at Holy Trinity Church, Williamstown. They had four boys.

Glad and Jack undertook a first aid course in Footscray in 1972, and after a very long course (3 months) they were approached by the then District Officer, Jack Hulls, to join St John, which they did enthusiastically. In 1976 Glad was promoted to Divisional Officer Cadets and then later Divisional Superintendent Cadets. Glad also held the rank of Corps Officer Cadets from 1986 until 1992 when she retired.

Glad's main focus during her time with St John was with the Cadets, but she also had a particular interest in patient simulation and wound makeup. From 1989, she was the coordinator of patient simulation for all Corps, state and national competitions.

Glad conducted numerous patient simulation training weekends for new staff, and she provided patient simulation for DisPlan exercises at Melbourne Airport and other locations. She conducted and examined patient simulation proficiency courses for Cadet divisions, and provided information and photos for *The Art of Casualty Make-up and Acting*, published in 1992 by the St John Australian office.

Glad and her husband were involved in the running of Corps, district and national Cadet camps, and Cadet Easter camps from the early 1980s. Glad was part of the organising committees for the Cadet debutante balls from 1979, until the last one held in 1995. Glad also attended working bees at the Douglas Donald Camp, and from 1993 to 1996 was an instructor at National Cadet Officer courses.

Glad supported teams competing in National First Aid Championships (1979–1999), was an active member the Fellowship section of the Community Care Branch and undertook clerical work in the Operations Branch office and Development department for many years.





Cheryl Bollard Osta

1959-

Victoria and Australian Capital Territory

Cheryl Rose Bollard (née Drake) was born in Coburg, Melbourne. She attended the Glenroy West Primary School, and won a scholarship to Penleigh Presbyterian Ladies College, Essendon, where she completed Year 12. She trained as a dental therapist and worked for the school dental service in Victoria until she married Jeffrey Bollard, an engineer. They moved to Canberra in 1983.

In Canberra Cheryl became a public servant. She left the workforce for several years to raise her two sons. Before returning to work, Cheryl enrolled at the University of Canberra, where she completed a Bachelor of Arts and a Diploma in adult education. Putting her education training to good use, Cheryl taught first aid for the St John Ambulance Training Branch and at the Canberra Institute of Technology. Recently, she has spent eight years in sports administration as an operations manager, first for the Australian Wrestling Union and later for the Australian Volleyball Federation.

Cheryl's St John Ambulance career began at age 11, when she needed a first aid certificate to become a Queen's Guide. She joined the Broadmeadows Nursing Cadet Division and not only earned her Queen's Guide award, but the St John Ambulance Grand Prior's Badge as well. After serving as a Cadet Sergeant and Leader, she moved into the Broadmeadows Division, which her husband Jeffrey also joined. She was promoted to Sergeant and became a member of the Division's mobile nursing squad, which supported its rescue squad.

When Cheryl and Jeffrey moved to Canberra they joined the Woden Division. Cheryl returned to the Woden Division following time off spent raising her sons.

Cheryl was posted to the Namadgi Cadet Division as Superintendent in 1995. She held this position for 15 years until she was appointed Territory Cadet Officer in 2010. Her sons, Shane and Matthew, followed their parents into St John, each earning in turn, the Commissioner's Badge and then the Grand Prior's Badge.

Cheryl's work for St John in Victoria and Canberra has been recognised with her admission to the Order of St John as a Member in 1998, and her promotion to Officer in 2006. She also holds the Service Medal of the Order with four bars.

Margaret Boulter cstJ

1932-

Queensland

Margaret Tunstall Boulter was born in Ipswich, Queensland. Her primary education was at local state schools, followed by secondary schooling at Ipswich Girls Grammar School. She undertook nursing training at the Ipswich Hospital (1950–1954). She trained in midwifery at the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital and began her nursing career at Gympie Hospital before returning to the Ipswich Hospital, where she subsequently became a nurse educator. In 1962 she completed the Sister Tutor Diploma at the Queensland branch of the College of Nursing. In 1966 she was appointed a Fellow of the College of Nursing Australia (now the Royal College of Nursing, Australia).

Margaret joined St John in 1958 as the Divisional Nursing Officer of the Ipswich Nursing Division of the St John Ambulance Brigade. Margaret taught home nursing to the members of the Division, and trained them for first aid and home nursing competitions at the Corps and district levels.

After serving as divisional and then Corps Nursing Officer, Margaret joined the District headquarters staff in 1970 as District Nursing Officer. This demanding position required her to travel widely across Queensland, inspecting divisions, supervising training, organising competitions and teaching. She also managed district teams participating in national competitions.

In 1976 the publication *Care of the Sick in the Home* necessitated the development of a new St John home nursing program. This became a responsibility of the District Nursing Officers, supported by other registered nurses of the Brigade. In Queensland Margaret led the team of nurses in teaching the new course to the public. Under her leadership, the team achieved high standards of training. They ran their classes in a lecture room specifically set up for courses in St John headquarters in Brisbane.

When the new St John Community Care Branch became active in Queensland in 1990, Margaret became a member of the branch committee that she maintained for the next 15 years. In retirement since 2005, she retains her St John links through membership of the St John Ambulance Historical Society.

Margaret's contributions to developing St John home nursing and first aid training activity in Queensland was recognised through her admission to the Order of St John as a Member in 1971, followed by her promotion to Officer in 1976 and Commander in 1984.



Under Margaret's leadership, the nursin team achieved such high standards in the home nursing program that saw a lecture roo specifically set up for their purposes.



Anna Brassey

1839–1887 United Kingdom

Lady Anna Brassey (née Allnutt) never lived in Australia except for a four-month tour toward the end of her life. She is nevertheless important in St John Ambulance Australia's history because she vigorously promoted St John first aid training in those colonies (not yet states) that lacked St John Ambulance training centres.

Lady Brassey was the first wife of Baron Brassey of Bulkeley, a wealthy English parliamentarian and later Governor of Victoria. Lord Brassey owned a yacht, the *Sunbeam*, in which the couple periodically made long overseas voyages. On one of these, in 1886–87, the Sunbeam circumnavigated Australia. Lady Brassey described this voyage in a long book, *The Last Voyage by the late Lady Brassey*, published posthumously in 1889. Annie Brassey did not survive this journey, hence the title of her book. She died at sea on 14 September 1887, eight days out of Darwin on the way home. She was buried at sea southwest of Darwin.

First aid training had been the abiding interest of Lady Brassey's life. She was one of the earliest pupils to receive first aid training when St John began offering its public classes in England. She received her initial First Aid Certificate in 1877 and underwent regular re-examination thereafter. She insisted on her servants being trained in first aid, and she organised first aid classes in all the villages around her family mansion, 'Normanhurst' in Sussex. She also raised money for St John Ambulance by throwing the *Sunbeam* open to visitors; and during her sea journeys she promoted St John Ambulance wherever she went.

Lady Brassey's book, *The Last Voyage*, describes in detail the Brasseys' Australian itinerary, including her efforts to promote St John Ambulance.

After arriving at Albany in Western Australia in May 1887, the *Sunbeam* spent four months in Australian waters, visiting many towns and cities. In most of the places the Brasseys visited, Lady Brassey aroused great interest in St John Ambulance work by conducting public meetings, usually in the local town hall or government house. In two of the capital cities, Sydney and Brisbane, her work and enthusiasm in first aid provided the impetus for establishing local St John Ambulance centres.

Ruth Bray DStJ

1937-

New South Wales

Ruth Bray (née Thompson) was born at Allawah, Sydney. She has a son, two daughters, five grandchildren and four great grand-children. After gaining her Intermediate Certificate she left school to work in various secretarial positions.

Ruth joined the St John Ambulance Brigade at age 12 after watching St John Cadets on duty at the matches of her football team, St George. She joined the St George Nursing Cadet Division in 1950, believing this would give her the chance to chat with the footballers—she almost quit when she discovered that female Cadets did not attend football duties. However, Ruth stayed and was soon participating in first aid and home nursing competitions as well as attending public duties. She remained a Cadet for four years before transferring to the adult St George Nursing Division.

After marrying in 1958, Ruth moved to Caringbah and formed the Caringbah Nursing Cadet Division. She was appointed Divisional Superintendent in 1960. In 1968 she was promoted to Corps Officer and soon had the Cadets in the divisions in her area working for their Grand Prior Badges, attending public duties to gain their Special Service Shields, and participating in major events and duties. Other activities included camps held at the St John Ambulance campsite at Blaxland and the annual St John Cadet Balls, at which the Nursing Cadets could be debutantes, partnered by Ambulance Cadets.

In 1970 Ruth was appointed District Staff Officer Nursing Cadets, assisting the District Officer Nursing Cadets. In 1973 she was promoted to District Officer Nursing Cadets and to District Officer Cadets in 1981, becoming responsible for all Cadets in New South Wales. In 1975 Ruth joined the salaried staff at St John state headquarters where she was appointed District Secretary for the Brigade, a position she held until her resignation in 1986.

Ruth's contributions to St John have been recognised through the award of the Service Medal with four bars and her admission to the Order of St John as a Member in 1971. She was promoted to Officer in 1974, Commander in 1979 and Dame in 1985.



Ruth felt like
quitting [the St
George Nursing
Cadet Division]
when she
discovered that
female Cadets
were not allowed
to attend football
duties.



A member of four successive generations belonging to the St John family.

Kathryn Burns cstJ

1942-Tasmania

Kathryn 'Kath' Ann Burns (née Walters) was born in Hobart to Henry and Dorothy Walters, who were both St John Ambulance members. She attended school in Woodbridge and Snug, country towns south of Hobart. After completing school, Kath worked in Palfreyman's department store in Hobart.

Kath married David Burns, a foreman with Tasmanian Railways, in 1961. They had eight children, seven of whom became St John members, and three of their fourteen grandchildren have also joined St John divisions—four successive generations belonging to the St John family. Kath and David moved to Bridgewater in 1968.

Kath's relationship with St John began in 1971, when her mother, who wanted to join the St John Claremont Nursing Division, asked Kath to go along with her.

After two years with the Division, Kath was promoted to Corporal, later joining the Corps (regional) staff and then prompted to Corps Superintendent. Her next move was to District (state) staff. In 2005 Kath was appointed State Officer Cadets, a position she held for two years.

After retiring from the state headquarters staff, Kath was content to return to a division as an ordinary member. She joined the Brighton Combined Division, which her husband David had established in 1985. She was later appointed a Divisional Officer and in 2011, Superintendent.

Kath's service has been recognised with a series of awards. She holds the Service Medal with four bars; she was admitted to the Order of St John as a Member in 1984, promoted to Officer in 1997, and most recently to Commander (2011).

Eva Bush pst.

1905–1991 South Australia

Miss Eva Annie Bush grew up in Broken Hill, New South Wales. After leaving school, Eva went to Sydney to train as a teacher. Once she had completed her studies, she returned to Broken Hill to teach until she was later transferred to Meningie. In 1939 she moved to Tusmore in Adelaide where she taught at Ethelton Primary School and then spent 17 happy years at the Hindmarsh Primary School.

In 1941 Eva Bush obtained her St John Association home nursing certificate and the following year, her first aid certificate. In an interview with Eva in 1991, she explained the challenges for her and her friends attending divisional meetings during World War II:

It was blackout time and we didn't use cars very much. We used to walk down [to the meetings]; it was a long walk, pitch black, not a light anywhere. We'd usually pick up a few others on the way and drop them off as we came home. It was a bit spooky.

Eva was appointed the Superintendent of the Norwood Nursing Cadet Division in 1946, which met in the air raid shelter next to the Norwood Town Hall. Eva and her friends enjoyed their training and the Division was known for its efficient first aid, home nursing demonstrations, and their annual inspections. She was promoted to Corps Officer Cadets in 1958, and admitted to the Order of St John as a Serving Sister in the same year.

Eva travelled extensively to visit nursing Cadets throughout South Australia, and to assist in first aid and nursing competitions. In 1950 Eva was one of the instigating officers of the Angaston Camp. Approval for a mixed camp (male and female Cadets) was not quickly forthcoming. It is now attended by hundreds of male and female Cadets, Officers and interstate visitors.

In 1961 she was appointed District Officer Cadets in South Australia and held that position until her retirement from the Brigade in 1975. Eva was promoted to Officer (1964) and later Commander (1967) and Dame in 1973. She also obtained four bars to her Service Medal. Eva delayed her retirement so she could be involved in an international camp for nursing Cadets held at the Westminster College, London, in 1976.

Eva Annie Bush passed away in Adelaide in 1991.





Angelina Butler DStJ

1963– Queensland and Northern Territory

Angelina Butler (née Smeralda) was born at Stanthorpe, Queensland. She has contributed over 27 years of service to St John after joining as a volunteer with the Brisbane Central Division in 1983.

Angelina has held a number of different volunteer positions in Queensland and the Northern Territory, and also worked for St John Queensland from 1986 for 20 years in the Brisbane headquarters.

In Queensland, Angelina spent countless hours volunteering her first aid skills at public events, as a member of Brisbane Central No. 1 Division. During the Masters Games held in Brisbane, Angelina and her team successfully resuscitated a gentleman who had collapsed. Later that year, she attended a Heart Starter Promotion held in Canberra and was reunited with the man whom she saved. She also remembers demonstrating CPR outside Brisbane City Council Hall in front of hundreds of people to commemorate the centenary of St John Ambulance Queensland. In 1997, Angelina was promoted to Superintendent of the Brisbane Central No. 1 Division.

Angelina was admitted to the Order of St John as a Member in 1992 and promoted to Officer in 1998. Her dedication and service to the organisation was recognised through a promotion to Commander at Government House, in 2004. Angelina was promoted to Dame of Grace in 2010.

After marrying Brett Butler in 2005, Angelina moved to Darwin. In 2007, she became Palmerston (adult) Division Superintendent where she volunteered alongside her husband. In 2008, Angelina was promoted to Deputy Territory Superintendent. After a year in that position Angelina resigned from her Territory role as she felt she could offer more at the divisional level.

Angelina demonstrated CPR outside the Brisbane City Council Hall in front of hundreds.

Leline Cairns-Lloyd DStJ

1905–1980 Victoria

Leline Cairns-Lloyd was born in Melbourne, and was the daughter of Dr Henry Cairns Lloyd, a specialist obstetrician at Royal Women's Hospital. During World War II she served as an officer in a Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD).

After the War, from 1949 until 1969, she was appointed as a Grade Two Officer on District Staff of St John Ambulance Brigade to serve as a Liaison Officer for VAD where Commissioner Dr Arthur Sherwin had served as State Comptroller. From 1970 she was a District Staff Officer (Nursing). She received her Service medal in 1960, with several subsequent bars.

Leline also helped the St John Eye Hospital Branch Committee as Honorary Secretary, and later as President of the Ladies' Linen Guild. She was admitted to the Order of St John to as a Serving Sister in 1956, promoted to Officer in 1962, Commander in 1970 and Dame of Grace in 1977.

Leline Cairns-Lloyd passed away in 1980.





Merle Carey MStJ

1936– Victoria

Merle Briget Carey's long-standing St John life commenced when she joined in 1969. As a first aid instructor, she trained and examined classes with many No. 1 Corps divisions, the Victorian Police Academy and senior citizen and mother clubs throughout the Moorabbin area.

Merle's natural ability as a great organiser was quickly recognised and she soon rose through the ranks. Merle was promoted to Corps Staff of No. 1 Corps, where she was involved in directing and guiding members and staff in their divisional responsibilities, as well as organising members to attend and fulfil the many duties at events around Victoria.

Merle became Corps Superintendent of No. 1 Corps after her husband Brian, who previously held the role, was promoted to District Staff. Merle held this role with distinction until retiring from volunteering in December 1995.

Merle spent over ten years volunteering her services at public duties, and many of these hours as the Duty Officer at some of the key sites in Victoria. As she managed the No. 1 Corp, their event responsibilities covered most of the inner city venues such as the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne Park and Olympic Park — hence, the level and complexity of member activity and commitment exceeded that of many other Corps.

The numerous hours and standard of service from members of Corps staff led by Merle, is a reflection of the leadership and dedication shown by Merle. She never expected more from her team and the Corps than she was willing to give herself.

Merle's several decades of service at senior levels within St John and in complex and large scale public duties, all combined to warrant her as a Member of the Order of St John. Merle was also an employee of St John in areas such as finance and administration from the mid-1980s.

Belinda Carpenter

1977-

South Australia and Victoria

Belinda Joan Carpenter was born in Adelaide. She attended St Paul's Lutheran Primary School and then St Mary's College. She graduated in occupational therapy from the University of South Australia, practised in regional Victoria and later in Adelaide. She is currently a team leader in Specialist Equipment Services for the Department of Families and Communities.

Belinda's St John involvement began after a friend asked her to join the Prospect Nursing Cadet Division in 1991. She became very active in the Division, receiving her 200 Hours Service Shield in 1992 and the 500 Hours Service Shield in 1994. She was awarded the Grand Prior's Badge in 1995, the year she became a Cadet Leader in her division. An important part of her time in the Division was the annual Cadet camp at Angaston, where she made many new friends from Cadet divisions across South Australia. This prompted her to join the Recreational Activities Team in 1995 to help run the camp and various other Cadet activities.

Belinda also participated keenly in first aid competitions. She won several individual and Cadet Leader competitions and represented South Australia in the national competitions. She was in the Australian team in the international championships in Singapore in 1995, where she met, and continues to communicate with many friends from the six overseas nations taking part.

In 1996 the Chief Officer Cadets commissioned two young St John leaders from each state and territory to develop a proposal for an Australian Youth Council (AYC) within St John. Belinda was one of the South Australian representatives and became one of the council's foundation members when it formed in 1997. She became the inaugural president of the South Australian Youth Council. In 1998 Belinda became a Divisional Officer at Prospect in South Australia.

After four years working in Victoria she took over as Superintendent of Campbelltown Cadet Division, where she emphasises training, competition, proficiency badge studies and community duties. Belinda received her 12 year Service Medal in 2008.





Averil's efforts
ensured that St John
Ambulance became
an integral part of the
community services
available to the people
of the north.

Averil Chadwick OAM DStJ

Queensland

Averil Chadwick joined St John Ambulance in 1952 after a group of fourteen women, who had just completed a first aid course in Townsville, formed a local nursing division of the St John Ambulance Brigade.

After two years in the Division, Averil spent 18 months in the United Kingdom. She returned to Townsville to discover that the Division had shrunk to five members. Despite that, the Division rebuilt itself and by 1960 was able to sponsor the formation of separate Nursing and Ambulance Cadet divisions. By 1964 a men's division had formed as well.

In 1966 Averil became the Corps (regional) Superintendent for Northern Queensland. Under her guidance new divisions were established in other towns of the region, including Mareeba, Mackay and Ingham, and many successes followed: the Townsville Cadets won the interstate first aid competitions two years in a row; Queensland's first St John-conducted civil defence exercise took place in Townsville; regular public first aid classes were offered; the St John divisions went on duty at all major public events; and fund-raising began for a permanent St John centre in Townsville. The centre, eventually opened in 1978, is now called the Averil Chadwick Emergency and Training Centre. All the St John events received generous publicity in the local news media, which helped raise the St John profile in the community.

In 1972 Averil joined the District (state) St John staff as Officer responsible for North Queensland. She continued to ensure that St John Ambulance became an integral part of the community services available to the people of the north.

Averil's efforts resulted in numerous community and St John awards. She holds the Service Medal of the Order with six bars; she was admitted to the Order of St John as a Member (1968), promoted to Officer (1974), Commander (1982) and Dame (1987). In 1996 she also received a medal of the Order of Australia.

Interested in St John history, she has twice made overseas tours to visit places important in the history of both the modern Order and the ancient Knights of St John. Such travels have taken her to St John's Gate, the Jerusalem Eye Hospital and Hospitaller sites in Israel, Jordan, Rhodes and Malta.

Pauline Clare csul

1944-

New South Wales

Pauline Clare (née Boshier) was born in Hurstville, Sydney. After completing her secondary education, she undertook a four-year course in fashion at a college of technical and further education. After qualifying as a teacher of fashion, she moved to Tamworth and taught fashion for fourteen years. She married David Clare, who ran a painting and decorating business, and they had two daughters.

Pauline joined St John Ambulance in Tamworth after attending a first aid course in 1981. She joined the local division of the St John Ambulance Brigade, which had formed two years earlier. In 1983 she became the Divisional Superintendent, a position she held for three years. She then became a Corps (regional) staff officer for the New England Corps, which required her to visit all the divisions in her region and organise their public first aid duties. In 1990 she returned to local divisional work when she accepted an appointment as Superintendent of the Tamworth Cadet Division.

In 1987 Pauline also became an instructor with the St John Ambulance Training Branch. Since then she has taught many public first aid classes and has trained many other instructors. Among the Training Branch positions she has held, she was treasurer of the New England regional committee (1986–1992), and since 1992 has chaired the committee. She has also served as the regional Field Liaison Officer, in which capacity she recruits and mentors new trainers and conducts appraisals on trainers to ensure that the standard of the St John courses and instruction is maintained. The effectiveness of her training services was rewarded in 1995 when she was named as the St John 'Trainer of the Year' in her state.

Pauline's contributions to developing St John Ambulance work in New South Wales have been recognised with the Service Medal of the Order with two bars. She was admitted as a Member in 1997, promoted to Officer in 2003 and Commander in 2011.





Travelling vast
distances for work
as a paramedic
or as a volunteer
is part of life for
Marcel and the
other members
of the team in
Tennant Creek.

Marcel Clark MStJ

1973– Northern Territory

Marcel Clark was born in Ryde, New South Wales in 1973. Marcel joined the Tennant Creek Division in 1996 after moving to the Northern Territory and meeting her next door neighbour who volunteered with St John. Marcel recalls her neighbour, dressed in a black and white uniform, coming home in an ambulance—Marcel had to enquire about first aid classes.

Marcel enjoyed learning about first aid and pre-hospital care and started a certificate in ambulance studies, combined with her work at the local preschool. Soon after, Marcel accepted a full time Ambulance Officer position in Katherine in 1999. She moved back to Tennant Creek where she continued her volunteer role with St John, in addition to her employed position with the Ambulance Service.

Working and volunteering in a remote part of Australia is vastly different to being in a city. The region covered by St John in the Barkly extends from Elliott in the north to the Queensland border and to Barrow Creek which is halfway between Alice Springs and Tennant. The volunteers attend public duties such as the Brunette Downs Races, motor sports events and the very popular football. Marcel and other volunteers also drive the many miles to Alice Spring or Darwin to assist with major duties such as the Finke Desert Race or the V8 Supercars.

In her role as the Officer-in-Charge of the Ambulance Service, Marcel has been involved with the co-ordination of aerial medical evacuations to Alice Springs and Mt Isa. She has participated in the Major Disaster Planning Committee and also presented a talk at a National Rural and Remote Symposium outlining the unique nature of dealing with ambulance and emergency situations in the Tennant Creek region.

Marcel has also been involved with several major incidents in the Barkly area such as a bus crash and a chemical spill. Her work within the community includes providing ambulance visits, talks and first aid training to primary and secondary schools.

Marcel married Scot Clark in 1999 and soon after became a mother to three children: Georgie, Mackenzie and Jarrod. She continued her studies and completed a Diploma of Applied Science (Pre-Hospital) and an Advanced Diploma of Paramedical Science.

Marcel has held a number of positions including Divisional Officer Cadets, Divisional Officer Training, and currently as the Divisional Superintendent at the Tennant Creek Adult Division. She is also currently an Intensive Care Paramedic.

Marcel has contributed over 14 years continuous service to St John which was recognised through her admission to St John as a Member of the Order.

Janet Clarke

1851–1901 Victoria

Lady Janet Marion Clarke (née Snodgrass) was a public spirited and generous philanthropist who gave strong moral and financial support during the late nineteenth century to the St John Ambulance Centre in Victoria, the first centre established in Australia in 1883.

The wife of the president of the centre, Sir William Clarke, Lady Clarke was a great benefactor of St John Ambulance and many other worthy causes which she adopted. In 1887 she organised a fund-raising effort to enable the centre to purchase six Ashford Litters, the two-wheeled stretchers which the Order of St John marketed worldwide. She herself donated a large part of the funds raised. After the litters had been imported from Britain, the St John Ambulance Centre then placed them at four police and two fire brigade stations in and around the Melbourne central business district. Operated by policemen and firemen with St John Ambulance First Aid Certificates, the litters became the nucleus around which Melbourne's first ambulance transport service developed. Most of the litters have survived in museums, including one in the Victorian St John Museum at Williamstown and another in the Chancellor's Priory Heritage Collection in Canberra.

Lady Clarke was also a prominent supporter of the Women's Hospital, the Children's Hospital, the Melbourne District Nursing Service, and various charities providing practical assistance to the poor destitute. She was also President of the Women's National League, an organisation formed to secure the vote for women in state and federal elections.



Janet Lady Clarke was one of the most popular people in her day, much loved for her charitable work—thousands gathered for her funeral, and a rotunda was built in her honour which still stands near the Royal Botanical Gardens, Melbourne.



Olga Cohen DStJ

1910–2005 Western Australia

Olga Ella May Cohen (née Levitzki) was born in Albany, Western Australia. The older of two girls, she entered Perth Hospital School of Nursing after leaving school. She soon became heavily involved in the Perth No. 2 Nursing Division of St John Ambulance, conducting and examining first aid and home nursing classes.

In 1946 she married Dr Bertram ('Bertie') Cohen, one of St John's leading medical practitioners. (Dr Cohen chaired the Western Australia St John Ambulance Association Council between 1954–59.)

Bertie and Olga had no children, so St John tended to become their family instead. For many years Olga was the only professionally qualified nurse teaching with the St John organisation. Her efforts resulted in new recruits coming into St John from Royal Perth Hospital.

After World War II, Olga attended a course at Mt Macedon in Victoria on survival in atomic warfare, a matter weighing on people's minds at the time. After the course she returned to Western Australia and accompanied the Fire Brigade on a tour of country centres, from the goldfields to the south of the state, instructing on the subjects learned during the course at Mt Macedon.

Olga served as the St John District (state) Nursing Officer (1954–1964), travelling widely throughout Western Australia. In 1962 she was in charge of the St John nursing officers on duty at the Perth Commonwealth Games. From 1969 until the late 1970s she taught first aid to trainee ambulance and police officers. Her interests outside St John included the Royal Western Australian Historical Society and the Girl Guides Association.

Olga was admitted to the Order of St John in 1954 and was promoted through the grades of membership, becoming a Dame of Grace in 1978. Other honours included being appointed to the office of President of the State Nursing Branch of St John in 1985, and then President of the State Operations Branch (1987–1990). She is the only person ever to have held the latter position.

Joy Connolly OAM DStJ

1926-2004

Western Australia

Joy Lorraine Connolly (née Parr) was born into a family heavily involved with St John. Joy's father, George Parr, was Officer-in-Charge of the first St John Ambulance Brigade Division formed during World War II. He encouraged Joy to do a first aid course and then a Home Nursing course after which she joined the No. 1 Nursing Division in 1942.

Joy was a volunteer ambulance officer in Perth from 1942 to 1944. The following year she married Ted McDowell and resigned from St John for ten years during which time she raised their family of four children.

Joy returned to St John in 1955 when a division was formed in South Perth. From the inception of the South Perth Nursing Division, she was responsible for organising member attendance at duties and maintaining first aid equipment. She organised fund-raising events, such as hat parades and fashion shows. She also demonstrated first aid and home nursing for the South Perth Sub-centre, Army Cadets and local high schools.

Joy eventually became Divisional Officer and was promoted to Superintendent in 1964, a position she held until she was promoted to District Staff in 1969. She was appointed as the District Superintendent (Nursing) after Mrs Ruth Donaldson retired in 1970.

During her years of volunteer work with St John, Joy continued her nursing work with Royal Perth Hospital, the King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women, and Silver Chain Nursing. In 1981 Joy's husband sadly died. She married Bill Connolly five years later.

Mrs Connolly's record of service was rewarded with admission as a Member of the Order of St John (1970), promotion to Officer (1971), Commander (1978), and finally with recognition as Dame of Grace (1984).

Joy was involved with many community organisations and volunteered her time caring for others. This community work resulted in her being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1995. In 2002, she was recognised for her 50 years of service to St John Ambulance. Joy died in 2004.





The Marion Nursing Cadet Division in South Australia, began its life in the garage of Margaret's home.

Margaret Corkhill DStJ

1939–2011 South Australia

Margaret Kathleen Corkhill (née Bailey), was born in Adelaide, the older of two daughters. The Bailey girls attended Flinders Street Primary School and then Unley Girls' Technical College. Margaret began her working career at John Martins, a large Adelaide retail store. Margaret met her future husband, John, at an Anglican youth group. Margaret and John married in 1959 and they had three sons, and she combined parenting with running the family business, MK Corkhill Soft Furnishings.

Margaret's long relationship with St John began in 1950, when she accompanied a school friend to a meeting of the St John Adelaide Nursing division. With this Division, Margaret won the state Cadet nursing competition, attended the very first Angaston Cadet camp, and at 18 years of age represented St John in Adelaide's annual 'Flower Day Queen' competition.

In 1956 Margaret became a Cadet Officer in her Division, and in 1959 was promoted to Corps Officer Cadets. She held this position until she became District Officer Nursing Cadets in 1975. Margaret later served as District Superintendent in 1984 and from 1990 until her sudden death in October 2011, she held various district and state Officer portfolios. Margaret's sons all became St John Cadets and remained active uniformed members for many years.

In the 1960s Margaret led the Marion Nursing Cadet Division, which began its life in the garage of her home but later moved into a new home in the Marion centre.

As well as sharing in all the fun and activities at the annual Cadet camp at Angaston, Margaret was one of the main organisers of the annual Cadet Day Fetes. In her senior roles as a Corps Officer she travelled extensively among the South Australian country divisions for inspections, competitions, presentations and reviews.

In the period leading up to the St John centenary celebrations in South Australia in 1985, Margaret was heavily involved in the centenary planning committees. Her 60 year record of active St John service was recognised by her promotion through the grades of the Order of St John. She became a Serving Sister in 1964, an Officer in 1971, Commander in 1978 and Dame in 1987.

Shirley Coulson OAM CStJ

1933-2010

Queensland

Ivy Shirley Coulson (née Keates) was born in Kenmore, Queensland. After education at the Wondai State School, she worked on the domestic staff of the Wondai Hospital, 240 kilometres northwest of Brisbane. She wanted to be a nurse, but was precluded by hearing problems. Shirley married Leonard Coulson in 1954 and they had five daughters. The family later settled in Ipswich.

Shirley followed her older daughters and husband into the St John Ambulance Brigade. She joined her local division in 1974 after completing first aid and home nursing certificates. She was soon appointed as a Divisional Officer and within a year had been appointed Superintendent. She also began instructing St John first aid classes after gaining her lecturer's certificate in 1976. The following year she gained an air ambulance attendant's certificate.

Shirley was later promoted to Corps (regional) Officer for the Ipswich and West Moreton regions. She remained active in the Brigade and Operations Branch for 30 years, until her retirement in 2004.

Shirley always took particular interest in the Cadets and their first aid and home nursing studies. As well as engaging them in the coursework for proficiency badges, she sought to involve them in a wide range of public first aid duties. These duties included the Brisbane Commonwealth Games in 1982, Brisbane Exhibitions (annual agricultural shows), local shows, mini bike race days, gymkhanas, public market days, school cross country events and the Days in the Park at the Ipswich Queen's Park Kindergarten. She also taught courses in first aid for Girl Guides, and for Brigade members working on their proficiency badges.

As well as their St John work, Shirley and Len joined their local branch of the State Emergency Service where they ran patient simulation courses for various SES training exercises. Other involvements were with the state intellectual disability services (for which Shirley developed a first aid course for people with intellectual disabilities), and a first aid training program for inmates of the Borallon Correctional Centre.

Shirley received various awards for her community service. She holds the Service Medal of the Order of St John with three bars and was admitted as a Serving Sister in 1982. She was subsequently promoted to Officer (1987) and then Commander (1992). In 1993 she was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia.

Shirley passed away in 2010.





Roxy Cowie OAM CStJ

1956– Tasmania

Roxena 'Roxy' Cowie was born in Launceston and educated at St Marys High School. Roxy married in 1975 and has two daughters.

At the age of 17, Roxy started work as a receptionist with the St Mary's medical practice. Her employer was the only doctor in the district and she was often called upon to assist in surgery. It was because of this role that she was invited to attend a local first aid class—the beginning of a long career in St John.

Roxy qualified as a first aid trainer in 1976 and has been an accredited trainer ever since. After conducting a public first aid class in 1997, Roxy was approached by the local mine in Fingal to deliver first aid training for them. She still delivers first aid training to that mine. In 1984, the first Tasmanian Mines Rescue competitions were held and she became a Mines Rescue First Trainer and Assessor. In 1985, she qualified as a Tasmania Ambulance Service volunteer.

Between 1992 and 1999, Roxy was the Northern Area Training Officer and later the State Training Officer. In 1999, she also became the salaried State Training Manager and later the Training and Sales Manager. She held this position until 2003 when she became the Acting Chief Executive Officer for St John Tasmania, and was appointed the role of CEO in 2005.

Roxy's community service extends beyond St John. During the football season she is a trainer for the Fingal Football Club. She joined the Country Women's Association and was a founding member of both the Fingal Book Club and the Fingal Historical Society. In 1982, Roxy and other local mothers started a playgroup and since 1990, Roxy has assisted the organisers of Camp Quality running camps in the Fingal Valley for children with cancer, and their families.

In 2003, Roxy was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the community. In 2005 she was inducted onto the inaugural Tasmanian Honour Roll for Women. In 1991, she was admitted to the Order of St John as a Member. In 2001, she was promoted to Officer and in 2007 to Commander. Roxy continues to make an outstanding contribution to St John and her local community.

Betty Crandell CStJ

1924-

Western Australia

Gertrude Betty Crandell (née Hansen) was born in Jarrahdale, Western Australia and is one of five children. Known by her middle name, Betty moved to Fremantle with her family when she was only a baby. She attended the Richmond and East Fremantle primary schools, the Princess May secondary school, and finally the Fremantle Technical School. After leaving school she worked as a telephonist and then in a naval victualling yard. In 1946 she married a sailor she had met there. They had three children and settled in Palmyra.

Betty joined St John Ambulance in 1960 after attending a first aid course she had seen advertised in her newspaper. At the end of the course she accepted an invitation to join the Fremantle Nursing Division of the St John Ambulance Brigade. Betty became the Divisional Secretary and was later promoted to Divisional Superintendent, then Corps Officer of No. 1 Corps. This latter position required her to travel widely, visiting all the divisions within the Corps. After developing an interest in patient simulation for first aid competitions, she travelled to Geraldton, Esperance, Wagin and Kalgoorlie to assist them with training exercises.

As well as her Brigade work, Betty became a first aid instructor of the public classes conducted at the Fremantle Sub-centre. She also taught first aid in schools, at the Claremont St John Sub-centre and for the Red Cross. She became an ambulance volunteer at the Wellington Street base, and she was a fund-raiser for the St John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem.

Betty's St John experience led her into a part-time salaried job in 1973, as a first aider, nurse and safety officer at a biscuit factory in South Fremantle. The job soon became full-time, until her retirement 11 years later. She also worked part-time at the Montrose Nursing Home for 20 years.

In retirement, Betty joined the St John Ladies Auxiliary, participating in its catering activities for first aid competitions, investitures and gatherings of the Western Australian Commandery, and the Priory. She also joined the St John Community Care Branch that focussed on supporting house-bound elderly and infirm people.

Betty's St John work was recognised with the Service Medal with several bars, and her admission as a Serving Sister in 1972. She was promoted to Officer in 1978 and to Commander in 1992.



As a Corps Officer,
Betty travelled
extensively, visiting
divisions as far
afield as Geraldton,
Esperance, Wagin
and Kalgoorlie.



Mary Annis Crerar OstJ

1908–1969 Victoria

Mary Annis Crerar joined the Footscray Nursing Division in Victoria, in 1947. Her dedication and professionalism saw her soon promoted to Divisional Superintendent of the Yarraville Nursing Division. She became a Corps Staff Officer of No. 3 Corps in 1956.

Annis was appointed to the district staff in 1960 as the District Nursing Officer of No. 2 Group, responsible for all nursing divisions south of the Yarra. She continued in this role until going into the Reserves in 1968.

In 1956, when St John moved out of the premises it had shared with Victorian Civil Ambulance Service in Lonsdale Street, Annis and her husband, Alan, were among the many members who worked to refit an old warehouse that became the St John Headquarters in Little Lonsdale Street.

Annis was admitted as a Serving Sister in 1953, and became an Officer and awarded the Service medal in 1959.

Mary Annis Crerar passed away in 1969.

Vera Crook DAM DSt.I

1929-

Queensland

Vera Crook (née Sutherland) was born in Toowoomba, Queensland, the third child in a family of four girls. She attended the Newtown State School, finishing to work as an optometrist's receptionist until her marriage in 1947 to Ronald Crook. They had three children and lived in Toowoomba and Chinchilla before moving to Brisbane in 1957.

Vera joined St John while working for Coles supermarket. A colleague who wished to become an air hostess but needed a first aid certificate to do so, persuaded Vera to join her in a first aid class. Inspired by the first aid course, Vera completed a home nursing certificate in 1966, after which she joined the Nundah Division.

Interested in first aid competitions, Vera represented Queensland in interstate competitions in 1969, 1971 and 1973, becoming the Queensland team manager in 1978. At the Nundah Division, Vera was promoted to Corporal then Sergeant, Divisional Officer and finally Superintendent in 1973, a position she held for the next 14 years.

As well as working five and a half days a week and raising three children, Vera always attended weekly divisional meetings and undertook first aid duties over weekends. She assisted in running the lamington drives to raise funds to build a permanent Nundah centre, which opened in 1979.

Vera retired from Coles in 1984 and spent the next 13 years as a volunteer in the accident and emergency ward of the Royal Brisbane Hospital, and for Meals on Wheels—while continuing her St John commitments.

Vera's work with St John was varied: she helped recruit new St John members for a number of years, and became a field officer in 1993 that included annual visits to divisions throughout Queensland. At annual Royal Brisbane Exhibitions between 2001–2005, she managed the fund-raising vending enterprise conducted by young St John members. She attended annual Cadet camps as canteen manager, and assisted with the camps' first aid competitions. Patient simulation was Vera's special interest, which she taught to Cadet and adult members. In 1997 she was elected to the St John Council Queensland, retiring at the age of 72.

Vera was admitted as a Serving Sister in 1982 and subsequently promoted to Officer (1990), Commander (1995) and Dame (2004). In 2009 she was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia.





Lynette Dansie DStJ

1945– South Australia

Lynette Ann Dansie (née Berry) was born in North Adelaide, one of twins born to John and Maureen Berry. She grew up in Ascot Park, attended the local primary school at Edwardstown, and secondary school at St Mary's College. After school she worked as a secretary.

Lyn and her twin brother became St John Ambulance Cadet when they were eleven years old. Their father was a Cadet Officer with the Thebarton Division and later District (state) Officer Cadets.

As a member of the Thebarton Nursing Cadet Division, an early highlight of Lyn's St John career was winning an individual first aid championship title in 1959. Lyn's progress through Cadet ranks began with her promotion to Sergeant in 1960. She became an Acting Cadet Officer in 1964, Cadet Officer in 1966, and Superintendent of her Division in 1967—that was also the year she married Keith Dansie, a member of the St John West Torrens Ambulance Division. Lyn continued as Superintendent for ten years, during which time she raised her two children, Leanne and Andrew, both of who became Cadets.

In 1976 Lyn was appointed as a Corps Officer Cadets, supervising thirteen Cadet divisions. In 1984 she was appointed District Officer Competitions, and in that first year she organised the first Commonwealth Cup. She was team manager of the Australian adult team competing in the St John New Zealand centenary celebrations.

In 1987 Lyn became the first District Officer Cadets in South Australia to take charge of both the Nursing and Ambulance Cadets. She organised state first aid competitions and managed the annual Angaston Cadet camps.

In 1993 Lyn joined the St John national headquarters staff as Chief Officer Cadets. Among her many achievements over the next six years, she saw the formation of the Australian Youth Council, and she changed the Peter Falkland Award to the Cadet Leader of the Year award.

Lyn became the State Officer Training for Operations Branch for three years. She spent five years as a member of the South Australian Council. She finally retired from the Operations Branch in 2007—50 years after joining as a Cadet.

Lyn became actively involved with Community Care Branch and the Historical Society of South Australia. She is now her state's elected committee member of the national Historical Society.

Lyn's many achievements were recognised by her admission to the Order of St John as a Serving Sister in 1975. She was subsequently promoted to Officer (1982), Commander (1989) and Dame (1998). Other awards include a Commendation from Training Branch, and the Service medal with seven bars.

Massey Davenport DStJ

1921-2001

Victoria

Massey 'Bobbie' Davenport was born in South Wales, United Kingdom, but spent most of her early years in Canada. She joined St John as a Cadet at the age of eleven years, following in the footsteps of five generations of her family.

Bobbie returned to Wales as a young adult and enlisted in the Women's Auxillary Air Force during World War II. She met her husband, Bruce, in Wales and came to Australia as a War Bride. She joined Brighton Nursing

Division in 1959. She was soon invited to become the inaugural Divisional Superintendent of Sandringham Nursing Division, which subsequently changed its location to become Ormond Nursing Division.

Ormond Division was highly successful in competitions, in performance of duties, and actively involved in Officer training programs. On the formation of Search and Rescue Squads, Bobbie formed the Mobile Nursing Squad, which was a highly significant component of the emergency service response. With Dr Peter Bush she subsequently co-authored the book, *Rescue Nursing*.

In 1973 Bobbie was appointed District Superintendent (Nursing) to succeed Dr Mary Irvine. While in the role she inaugurated Family Divisions. Upon moving to Lakes Entrance in 1980 she relinquished her district staff role but was actively involved in working with Indigenous communities and teaching them first aid.



Bobbie received a priory Vote of Thanks in 1966 and was admitted as a Serving Sister of the Order of St John in 1969. She was promoted to Officer in 1974, Commander in 1979 and Dame of Grace in 1986.

Massey Davenport passed away in 2001.



Barbara continues to be a fixture at most AFL and cricket games at the MCG.

Barbara Davis DSt.I

1937– Victoria

Barbara Davis' St John career commenced when she joined Williamstown Nursing Cadet Division on 22 September 1951, and spent many weekends at the Division's hall washing the feet of patients who sought first aid treatment for their cuts and abrasions. She proudly graduated from washing feet to providing first aid to weekend beach-goers.

Barbara lived in Williamstown and studied nursing at Footscray Hospital. She completed her specialist training at the Eye and Ear Hospital where she made many friends.

Barbara married John Davis in 1958 and moved to East Bentleigh, from where they continued to attend Williamstown division as well as the Caulfield division. Unfortunately John lost his sight over time so they were unable to continue the journey across the bay to Williamstown.

Barbara was the first Corps Nursing Officer responsible for all six Corps statewide. In working with the First State Nursing Officer she was quickly promoted to the state headquarters and took over the role of Chief Nursing Officer.

Barbara was second-in-charge to the then Chief Surgeon. She worked with a team of people to implement the Skills Maintenance Program, and introduce the Patient Report Form (OB12) Australia-wide. She also assisted in making improvements to first aid competitions in respect to medical and nursing matters.

After her term with the Australian office, Barbara returned to Victorian state staff where she continues to be a member to this day.

Barbara's service was recognised when she was admitted as a Serving Sister in 1968, promoted to Officer (1973), Commander (1978) and Dame (1986). She was also awarded the National Medal of Service to St John.

Barbara is an invaluable member of St John, contributing to many areas of nursing in St John and continuing to volunteer in a training role, and attend duties—she is a fixture at most football and cricket games at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, and eagerly passes her experiences on to others.

Barbara gave up her role as a nurse in the busy Melbourne Medical Centre in 2011 but continues to provide first aid services at events in Victoria.

Beth Dawson AM DStJ

1930-

Queensland

Beth Muir Dawson was born in Brisbane, attending Nundah state primary school and then Brisbane Girls Grammar School until Year 12. She wanted a nursing career, but her father would not permit it, so she went to a business college instead.

Beth joined the newly established Nundah Division in 1951, after noticing a friend reading the St John first aid manual. She was invited to the next divisional meeting, and so began her 60-year St John career.

Beth found some fulfilment in taking first aid and home nursing training, public duties, and working at the Brisbane Hospital on Friday nights—and competing in the national St John nursing competitions in Sydney in 1952 when the Nundah team won the Sleeman Shield with their first attempt.

Beth was so keen on nursing, by now, that her father relented, and Beth entered the Brisbane Hospital nursing course in 1953, training in midwifery in Melbourne.

She returned to Queensland to work at the Royal Children's Hospital. In 1965 she began the Royal College of Nursing Australia diploma course in hospital unit management. In 1971 she began the College's diploma in nursing education, after which she ran the hospital's paediatric nursing course for registered nurses.

Meanwhile Beth's St John career had also flourished. After returning to Brisbane from Melbourne, she rejoined Nundah Division and was appointed Divisional Nursing Officer, later Corps Nursing Officer and then District Superintendent (Nursing). In 1977 she travelled to New Zealand as the manager of the Australian Nursing Cadet Team, which won the New Zealand Army Cup at the Golden Jubilee Cadet Camp in Wanganui. In 1979 she joined the Brigade's national headquarters staff as Chief Superintendent (Nursing).

After retiring as Chief Superintendent in 1988, Beth helped establish the Community Care Branch. Beth's membership with the state committee continues.

Beth's has also travelled to historic St John sites, and has made several visits to the St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem. She was appointed foundation Chair of the St John History and Heritage Committee, and was a co-founder of the St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia, and has been Queensland's elected committee member since 2001.

Beth's service to St John was recognised with her admission to the Order of St John as a Serving Sister in 1971 and then promotion through the grades to Dame in 1984. In 2002 she also became a Member of the Order of Australia for promoting community health through St John Ambulance.



Beth's membership with the Queensland Community Care Branch she helped establish, still continues.



Julie's St John achievements demonstrate 'the value of investing in young people who can become agents of change in their communities'.

Julie Dean MStJ

1954--New South Wales

Julie Ann Dean (née Farrell) grew up in Molong in central western New South Wales, where she attended primary school. After secondary schooling in Orange she trained as a teacher at the University of New South Wales, graduating with a Batchelor of Arts and Diploma of Education. After further study at Charles Stuart University in Bathurst, including a major in psychology, she earned a graduate diploma in counselling. Returning to Molong, she married Les Dean, an environmental project manager, and they had two children. She joined the staff of the Molong Central School.

Seeing a need for her students to learn first aid, Julie became a qualified first aid trainer with the St John Bathurst Division in 1993. That introduced her to the Operations Branch and the Cadet movement. She recognised that a local St John Cadet division would provide her students with a positive, structured youth group. With the help of the Molong ambulance officer, Jack Ewin, she established the Molong Cadet Division in 1994. After undergoing officer training, she became the Divisional Superintendent.

Her many accomplishments as the Divisional head include training Molong Cadets and taking them on first aid duties to the Sydney Olympics, State of Origin rugby league matches and Bathurst 1000 car races. She and her Division hosted the inaugural Western Region St John Youth camp in 2000 and again in 2007. In 2002 she was manager of the Australian contingent attending the international Cadet camp in Christchurch, New Zealand. The impact of the Division on the lives of its Cadets can be seen in the careers many have pursued in nursing, occupational therapy, paramedic work, and teaching.

St John veterans who know of Julie's work regard it as inspirational. As one of them remarks, her St John achievements demonstrate 'the value of investing in young people who can become agents of change in their communities'.

The Molong Cadet Division has won various community awards. Julie herself has also received a number of honours. In 2001 she was awarded the Australian Centenary Medal. She received the Service Medal in 2006 and was admitted as a St John Member in 2007.

Valmai Dempsey Ostu

1950-

Australian Capital Territory

Of Cornish descent, Valmai 'Val' Lorraine Dempsey (née Wallace) was born in Canberra, the second of five children of William and Elizabeth. She attended the Griffith Primary School and Narrabundah High School, leaving school when she was 15 years old to help her mother around the home. A year later she married Lindsay Dempsey. They have two children, Michelle and Anthony.

Always wanting to be a nurse, Val went back to school after raising her children. She matriculated from college and enrolled in the nursing course at Woden Hospital in 1978, becoming the first married and one of the few 'live-out', nursing students. After graduating in 1981, she nursed at the Woden Hospital, in Cairns and on various industrial sites.

Following training in chemotherapy nursing care at the Peter McCallum Institute, Melbourne, and at the College of Nursing, Sydney, Val returned to the Woden Hospital in 1986. She specialised in oncology nursing and began teaching nursing classes in chemotherapy care. Winning the Mary Kellow Nursing Scholarship, she visited oncology centres in New York and London, where she studied the latest in oncology nursing at the Royal Marsden Cancer Centre.

Val had her first St John Ambulance experience at nine years of age, when she accompanied Sister Beryl Box of the Canberra Nursing Division to a duty. She gained her first aid certificate when she was 15 years old, following that with a home nursing certificate. Val eventually earned the St John first aid medallion, label and pendant. She joined the Canberra Nursing Division in 1974, then transferred to the Belconnen Division, where she became the Divisional Secretary and Officer-in-Charge.

Val's next move was to the Woden Division, where she was appointed Divisional Nurse. Joining the District staff, she served as District Nursing Officer and then Deputy District Superintendent. After the Community Care Branch was established in the Australian Capital Territory in the late 1980s, Val switched to the new branch and developed the Project Survival program which brought first aid training and survival skills to disadvantaged people, the homeless and street kids. This program was later adopted nationally by the Community Care program.

In 2005 Val returned to the position of Territory Nursing Officer which she still holds.

Val's work for St John was recognised with her admission as a Serving Sister in 1989 and then her promotion to Officer in 1996. She holds the Service Medal with three bars.



Val brought first aid training and survival skills to the disadvantaged and homeless.



Raelene Denham DStJ

1937– South Australia

Raelene Denham (née Kendle) was born in Maylands, Adelaide, the older of two daughters. Raelene began her education during World War II at the Norwood Primary School, and later attended the local technical school.

Raelene joined St John in 1953 after a family friend encouraged her to attend the Norwood Nursing Cadet Division. The Division met in a former air raid shelter at the Norwood Town Hall. As a Cadet her favourite public duties were the football at Norwood Oval, athletics at the Kensington Sports Field, the Glenelg Patient Room, and the Royal Show. She became a Sergeant after the obligatory National Cadet Officer courses.

In 1955 she met Maurice at a dance at the Unley ambulance station, where he was a volunteer ambulance officer. They married in 1959 and had two daughters, Tracey and Robyn, who also became St John Cadets.

Raelene moved to the adult Nursing Division when she was 18 years old, returning to the Cadet Division as an Officer, and in 1962 becoming its Superintendent. Under her leadership the Division grew to over 60 members. In 1976 she transferred to the Campbelltown Nursing Cadet Division, introducing 70 new Cadets over the next four years.

In 1984 Raelene joined a small group of officers dedicated to improving Cadet training methods. Raelene was appointed to District (state) staff to implement a new Cadet training program, which the Australian Office later adopted. The outcome was the book *Guide to Survival*, launched in 1989 at the national Cadet camp in Queensland.

As a Cadet District Officer, Raelene was involved in coordinating courses for non-commissioned officers, fund-raising, visiting divisions, organising state, national and international camps, managing state first aid teams and representing Cadets on the District (state) Training Group. She attended 49 Angaston Cadet Camps.

In 1988 Raelene was employed as a permanent staff member in the South Australian St John Operations Branch. She retained the position until her retirement in 1994 but continued as a volunteer District (state) Officer Cadets. She also joined the St John Auxiliary and became involved in its many fundraising activities until it closed in 2006. In 2002 she attempted to retire from the Cadets, but she and Maurice soon became involved in reviving the Golden Grove Cadet Division.

Raelene became a member of the Order in 1972 and promoted through the grades, becoming a Dame in 2011. Other St John awards included two Commissioner's Commendations and the Service Medal with seven bars.

Elspeth Doman OAM CStJ

1927– South Australia

Elspeth Mary Doman spent her childhood on a sheep property at Mt Crawford, north of Adelaide. Her parents set a strong example of community service, with her mother giving time to the Red Cross and her father being associated with wartime fund-raising schemes. Elspeth attended Walford House in Unley as a boarder.

After completing her schooling, Elspeth commenced a Physical Education course at Adelaide University emphasising her belief in a healthy mind and body. She put this course into practice, teaching physical education in Victoria for three years. In 1951 she married Dr Fred Doman, a medical general practitioner, and they had two sons and a daughter. Once her youngest child began kindergarten, Elspeth returned her attention to community service, joining the St John Auxiliary South Australia.

In April 1959 Elspeth was asked to join the Hospitallers Club and became involved in the many fund-raising events held each year. Following a proposal from Elspeth, the Hospitallers Club changed to the St John Auxiliary in 1965, and she became the Vice-President, a position she held until 1969 when she became President for three successful years. During those years and the succeeding 34 years until the Auxiliary was wound up, she remained involved in all fund-raising events raising over \$2 million dollars for St John. After 40 years of service she was made a Life Member of the Auxiliary.

One of the stories Elspeth tells is about a ball at Government House where \$10,000 was raised. 'I remember the whip-cracking display neatly removed several crystal drops from the chandelier in the ballroom'.

In 1981 Elspeth was one of the first two women elected to the St John Council, serving until December 1998. She was also invited to be the President of Nursing Cadets where she attended Divisional Annual Inspections, various Angaston Cadet camps, and many competitions.

Elspeth was admitted to the Order of St John as a Serving Sister in 1968, promoted to Officer in 1980, and Commander in 1995. In 1999 Elspeth was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to St John.





Ruth Donaldson OAM DSt.

1908— Western Australia

Ruth Gwendoline Birch was born in Fremantle, Western Australia. Although nursing was always her ambition, opportunities were limited by the Great Depression, so instead she pursued a career in accountancy.

Ruth was eventually able to follow her passion, and in 1935 she completed her first aid certificate, joining the St John Perth Nursing Division in 1936. There she became Divisional Secretary as well as teaching first aid and home nursing (1937–1941). Almost every weekend from 1937 to 1939 Ruth volunteered at the Perth Hospital and the Silver Chain Nursing Service, and participated in many public duties.

Ruth enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces in October 1941 as Overseas Commandant. When the Voluntary Aid Detachments (VADs) were formed into the Australian Army Medical Women's Service, Ruth was appointed Captain. She served at the 118th Australian General Hospital at Northam (1941–1943), and in the 2/9th Australian General Hospital in Port Moresby (1943–1944). A number of senior posts followed at the 110th Military Hospital at Hollywood, the 107th Australian General Hospital in the Northern Territory, and the 115th Military Hospital in Victoria, until her demobilisation in August 1947.

Returning to her St John work, Ruth became Lady District Officer in 1949. In 1960, she commenced giving classes in first aid. She was District Superintendent of Nursing from 1960 to 1970.

Ruth married John Ralph Donaldson in 1961. In recognition of her service to St John, she was admitted as a Serving Sister in 1952, promoted to Officer (1958), Commander (1966), and Dame (1978).

After her official retirement in the early 1970s, Ruth continued her St John work as a member of the St John Fellowship and the St John Historical Society. Outside of St John she was actively involved in the Presbyterian Church, a number of historical societies and the Returned Service League (RSL). She is a life member of the Presbyterian Women's Association, the RSL, the Australian Flag Association, and is an Honorary Member of the Western Australia Medical Association.

In 2003, she wrote a book on the history of St John nursing in Perth. Her many community endeavours were rewarded with a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2006. In 2011, she celebrated her 103rd birthday.

Dorothy Douglas OAM CStJ

1924-2004

Australian Capital Territory

Dorothy Marion Douglas (née Eddison) was born in Canberra. Her father, a Light Horse Brigade captain in World War I, became a soldier settler on the farm 'Yamba', the area now occupied by the Woden town centre in southern Canberra. Answering to her middle name, Marion was the youngest in a family of three sons and three daughters and attended Canberra Girls' Grammar School. In 1996 she published *Not Without My Corsets*, a book of reminiscences about growing up in Canberra when most of the present national capital had been farmland.

Tragedy struck Marion's family during World War II. All three of her brothers were killed on active service, one as a soldier in Singapore and two as air force pilots.

In 1947 Marion married Lloyd ('Smokey') Douglas DFC (Distinguished Flying Cross award), a wartime Royal Australian Air Force pilot who later flew for the Trans Australian Airline (now Qantas). They settled and raised their family in Manuka, the suburb next to Forrest, where the first St John Ambulance Priory headquarters building began construction in 1966.

In the mid-1970s, the new Priory Secretary, Charles Campbell, persuaded Marion to turn her talents to St John Ambulance. After decades of being a part of St John in New South Wales, the local Canberra St John Ambulance organisation was establishing itself as the separate Australian Capital Territory (ACT) branch. Marion became the president of the ACT St John Ambulance Auxiliary, which proved highly effective in raising funds for St John ACT and the Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem. In 1987 Marion became the chair of the then newly formed St John Community Care Branch and hence a member of the ACT St John Council. Under her dynamic leadership, Community Care soon became an important part of the ACT St John branch.

Marion was admitted into membership of the Order, and at the time of her death from cancer in 2004 she had been promoted to the grade of Commander. She was also awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for her community work.





a had a soft spot for sailors on leave, and sent her two days off Troop Train, baking akes and biscuits for the troopers 'to help them along'.

Vera Drew cst.

1902–1988 Western Australia

Vera Alice Drew was a dedicated member of St John Ambulance from the time she gained her first aid certificate on 10 December 1926. She enrolled in the Perth Nursing Division in 1927. In 1933, Vera became the first and only nursing member to win a gold medal for roller bandaging, presented to her at a ceremony in the Perth Town Hall. In 1931, she gained her demonstrator's certificate.

In March 1941, Vera became superintendent of Perth No. 1 Nursing Division upon the retirement of Margaret Robertson. As Superintendent, Vera also held the role of Commandant in the Western Australian Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) No. 501.

On 31 August 1942, Vera enlisted in the Australian Military Forces as a VAD. Eventually however, all enlisted VADs had to relinquish that title and become members of the Australian Army Medical Women's Service. As Corporal Drew, she was allocated to Troop Train Service from Perth to Adelaide, and was responsible for all first aid and nursing duties with one carriage being set aside as a sick bay.

Her efficiency was quickly noted and several OC 'troopers' requested her services and were very happy when she was scheduled to their train. She had a soft spot for sailors who had been at sea for months, patrolling the Indian Ocean. She often spent her two days off at home baking cakes and biscuits 'to help them along'.

Vera was made an Honorary Member of the Association in 1942, in recognition of her teaching first aid and home nursing. She was admitted into the Order as Serving Sister in 1945, promoted to Officer (1957) and again to Commander in 1964.

On her discharge from the Army in 1946, she returned to the position of Superintendent of Perth No. 1 Division until her appointment as District Officer when she was given the oversight of several metropolitan and country divisions.

Annie Duncan

1858-1943

Tasmania

Annie Jane Duncan was born in North Adelaide, the daughter of a local physician. After her mother died young, Annie took over the running of her father's house. He died when she was 20, leaving her an independent income. In 1885, she joined the inaugural women's St John Ambulance in Adelaide. Later that year she moved to Launceston, Tasmania, to live with her sister and brother-in-law.

In Launceston Annie found there was no local St John Ambulance, so she set about establishing one as a branch of the Victorian St John Ambulance. She called a public meeting to explain the purposes of public first aid training, and then became secretary-manager when the Northern Tasmanian St John formed.

Annie continued managing the Launceston Division for the next eight years. As a result of her efforts, hundreds of people in northern Tasmania trained in first aid and home nursing. In 1893 Annie decided to try her luck in the United Kingdom. With no one else prepared to manage it, the Launceston Division became inactive and was not revived until World War I.

Annie Duncan had meanwhile trained and qualified as a health inspector in London, where she worked to ensure that factory owners provided a safe, clean working environment for the women employed in knitting mills, garment-making workshops and laundries. She returned to Australia in 1897, and became a government-employed factory inspector in Sydney. In this position, which she retained until her retirement in 1918, she was a pioneer in the field of occupational health and safety.

Annie Duncan never married. In retirement she lived alternatively in Sydney and Adelaide and travelled extensively overseas. She became active in various social welfare causes but does not seem to have renewed her St John Ambulance connections. Despite that, she remains one of Australia's great pioneering St John women whose talent for taking a timely initiative, gave Tasmania its first experience with St John Ambulance.



A timely initiative ga Tasmania its first St) Ambulance experienc



Fortunately, the men decided it was a good idea [for women to volunteer for the ambulance service]—
the women could do the long ambulance ips to Perth, and they were better cooks.

Elizabeth Dyer OAM OStJ

1937– Western Australia

Elizabeth Anne Dyer (née Bowen) was born in London and grew up in Wiltshire in the west of England where she moved with her mother and siblings at the outbreak of war in 1939. She remained there during most of her school years, and into her early working life as a hairdresser.

Elizabeth married Rex Dyer in 1958 and they had four children: two girls and two boys. In 1973 Elizabeth migrated to Western Australia with her family, as 'ten pound poms'. The first family home was a small cottage on a farm near Margaret River. Elizabeth remembers tough times, and recalls making bread every day through the summer heat, in the wood fuel stove.

After an invitation from new friends, Rex joined the St John Ambulance Brigade, and in 1975 Elizabeth attended a first aid course. At the end of the course, Elizabeth and two other women decided they wanted to volunteer with the ambulance. This caused a few problems as it was the first time women had expressed interest in volunteering for the ambulance service. Fortunately, the men decided it was a good idea—the women could do the long ambulance trips to Perth during the day, and they were better cooks. Elizabeth settled into Brigade life and completed training in home nursing and driving.

Elizabeth was appointed Divisional Superintendent for Margaret River when Steve Rowe became a District Officer. She fondly remembers being mentored by John Jones, who travelled from Northcliffe. For many years, the role of ambulance officer fell on just a few people and Elizabeth recalls many times of rushing out the door in response to phone calls. In the late 1970s, the Brigade became the Ambulance Service. Elizabeth continued her training and volunteer ambulance work, and also started delivering public first aid classes.

Rex and Elizabeth have received Australia Day awards on three separate occasions: in 1984, 1991 and 1995. Elizabeth received a Royal Humane Society Medal for bravery in 1989. In 2002, Elizabeth received a Medal of the Order of Australia for her community work in Margaret River; the Paul Harris Fellow from Rotary in 2007, and in 1990 and 2009, she was awarded Trainer of the Year. Elizabeth finally retired as a volunteer ambulance officer in 2008, but she still continues to deliver first aid classes.

Helen Dyer

1927-1996

Western Australia

Helen Marion Dyer (née Pelham) married Norman John Dyer in 1947 and together they had five children. In 1967 Helen graduated as an enrolled nurse at Bunbury Regional Hospital. She spent the next 20 years working between the Bunbury Regional Hospital and St John of God Hospital, until she retired in 1987 and moved to Australind.

Helen became involved in the St John Ambulance Brigade at Bunbury in 1961, qualifying in first aid and later in home nursing. She served as a nursing member with the Bunbury Combined Division over the next 24 years, retiring in 1985. She was awarded her Service chevrons in 1964, 1967 and 1970, her Service Medal in 1973, her first bar in 1978, and the second bar in 1983.

Over the years, Helen represented St John in Western Australia in many nursing and first aid competitions, as a team member and an individual. She was a member of the team that won the Donaldson Cup and the Barrow Award, along with the national championships in the late 1960s and early 1970s. By 1976, Helen had won the National Individual Championship, and the state individual title twice. When the Bunbury St John Ambulance Brigade called for volunteers in 1993, Helen renewed her first aid certificate, only to be unable to do her first duty as she was 65 years old.

Helen received the last St John Life Saving Medal in 1972 in Western Australia, having the distinction of being the only woman in Australia to have received this award. Helen, with the help of her husband Norman, entered a smoke-filled asbestos clad-house three times before they found two unconscious girls. Norman carried out both the children, one under each arm. The two young girls were not breathing so Helen commenced CPR, alternatively on each child while Norman went for help. By the time a doctor attended, both children had resumed breathing. Dr Killerby, the treating doctor, later wrote 'there is no doubt in my mind that but for the courage and knowledge of Helen Dyer, the children would have died'.

Helen received recognition from the Royal Humane Society and was presented with a Bronze Medal and a Certificate of Merit in 1971. She passed away in 1996.





Betty Dyke osta

1932– Western Australia

Marie Elizabeth 'Betty' Dyke was born at Lake Grace in the Western Australian wheat belt, 255 kilometres south-east of Perth. She was the middle of three children of Welsh immigrants. After attending the local primary school, she received her secondary education at Albany, later moving to Perth with her family.

During the late 1950s-early 60s, Betty spent several years working and travelling throughout the United Kingdom and Europe. After returning to Western Australia, she spent ten years helping her mother and younger brother run The Lodge, the guesthouse on Rottnest Island, west of Perth. Returning to the mainland in 1978, she became a secretary at a Girl Guides headquarters and was involved with the local Guide troop, 1st South Perth, which she led from 1980 to 1990. Betty was also active in the Penguin Club, a national organisation aiming to develop women's communications skills.

Betty came to St John Ambulance in 1982 as office manager of the Western Australian Commandery of the Order. She was responsible for administering support to the Knight Commander (the state Governor) and Commandery Lieutenant (chairman of the Commandery Council), maintaining the Commandery's records, coordinating fund-raising through particular events such as Race Day, Trots Night, and the Jerusalem Eye Hospital Quiz Night, and organising the Commandery's ceremonial events—investitures, church services and Chapter meetings. She spent 20 years in the job, which she describes as the best job she ever had: 'It was good to be associated with an organisation so progressive and yet with so much history'.

Betty retained her St John links after retiring. She remained a member of the Ladies' Auxiliary and became a member of the St John Fellowship, a volunteer in the St John library and museum, and a member of the Friends of St John group. In recognition of her St John service she was admitted as a Serving Sister in 1996 and promoted to Officer in 2005.

Nola Fairhurst cst.

1936-Queensland

Nola Dorothy Fairhurst (née Rogers) was born in Ipswich, Queensland. She received her education at local primary schools and the Ipswich Girls' Grammar School. After school she entered the public service as a clerk/typist. In 1962 she married Richard Fairhurst. They have three children.

After raising her children, Nola trained as an enrolled nurse at the Ipswich General Hospital (1973–1974). She trained and worked as a psychiatric nurse at the Wolston Park Psychiatric Hospital (1976–1979), then worked as a registered nurse in a series of positions over the next 13 years.

Nola's St John career began when she was 16 years old, when she joined the Ipswich Nursing Division in 1952. She was promoted to Corporal in 1954, Sergeant-Secretary in 1960, and Divisional Superintendent in 1964.

Nola was a keen competitor in first aid and home nursing competitions. She captained the Ipswich team that won the Queensland state competition in 1954, and the team that won the Sir James Sleeman Shield at the national championships in Tasmania in 1955. She led the Brigade team which won the Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade Cup in the three-way competition between Voluntary Aid Detachments of the Brigade, Red Cross and Queensland Ambulance.

In 1965 Nola was appointed Corps Officer Nursing of the Ipswich Corps Brigade. As well as her Brigade duties, Nola also instructed public first aid classes for many years, continuing her teaching until 1998.

Nola and her family moved to Victoria in 1968 where she was seconded to the Brigade's Werribee Combined Division.

In 1970 the Fairhurst family returned to Ipswich, where Nola resumed her appointment as Corps Officer Nursing. In 1974 she was promoted to Corps Superintendent where she oversaw the establishment of eight new adult and Cadet divisions. In 1986 she joined the District headquarters staff as District Officer Cadets, a position she held until her appointment as District Officer Welfare. Nola finally retired from St John duties in 2004 after 53 years of service.

Along with Nola and her husband, Richard, their daughter Zarine was a St John Cadet, as well as their second son Stewart, who was awarded the Grand Prior's Badge.

Nola was admitted to the Order of St John as a Serving Sister in 1967, promoted to Officer in 1977, and Commander in 1988. She holds the Service Medal of the Order with eight bars.



Nota has taught first aid classes in schools, prisons, churches, community centres, nursing homes, factories and mines.



gentle lady who gave her life to St John.

Beryl Fegan BEM DStJ

1908–1988 South Australia

Beryl Fegan was born in Frewville, South Australia. She began school in Burra but her family moved to Port Adelaide and then Eden Hills. She became a milliner, taught millinery in several girls' technical schools and wrote a millinery text book for South Australian Schools.

Beryl joined a St John Ambulance first aid class in 1929, in response to a newspaper advertisement, and then joined the Adelaide No. 1 Nursing Division. In 1940, when many new divisions formed following the outbreak of war, she joined the new Unley Division as an Officer. In 1942 she became superintendent of the new Mitcham Nursing Division, and in the following year she became one of only four women appointed as St John first aid instructors. In 1949 she restarted the Brighton Nursing Division, which had closed for lack of members in 1933.

Miss Fegan (as she was known) pioneered patient simulation in South Australia in the early 1950s. Recognising the need for lifelike simulation of injuries in first aid training, she believed this had great value in diagnosis and appreciating an entire accident situation. The Fegan Cup for patient simulation competitions in South Australia was awarded annually from 1956 until the 1990s.

During 1950 Miss Fegan was promoted to Corps Officer and in 1953 became District Officer Training. In 1967 she was promoted to District Superintendent Nursing.

After Miss Fegan retired in 1974 she took special interest in St John history. She was appointed Archivist in 1979 and enthusiastically supported the work of the historian, who in 1985 published St John South Australia's centenary history. She was also a member of the small group who established the South Australian St John Ambulance Historical Society and Museum.

Miss Fegan became a Serving Sister in 1947. She was promoted to Officer (1957), Commander (1963) and finally Dame (1970), becoming the first woman in South Australia to reach that grade. In 1980 she was awarded the British Empire Medal for her St John work.

When women were first appointed to the St John Council in South Australia in 1981, Miss Fegan was one the two women joining the council. She became Vice-President and served on the Council until 1987. She died in 1988, and is remembered as a gentle lady who gave her life to St John.

Amelia Field pstu

1914-2006

Victoria

Amelia 'Millie' Frances Field was born and grew up in Melbourne, Victoria. Her first St John contact was when Mrs Emily Lehmann gave a first aid demonstration at Millie's school, after which Millie undertook both first aid and home nursing courses.

In 1931 Millie joined the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) at St Vincent's Hospital. She regularly undertook re-examinations, and qualified as an instructor in 1935. She taught St John classes for more than forty years and was made an Honorary Life Member of Victoria's St John Ambulance Association in 1943.

At the outbreak of World War II, Millie volunteered her services as a VAD, serving initially at the military hospital at Heidelberg and later at the Bonegilla army hospital near Wodonga in north-eastern Victoria. In 1942 she joined the Australian Army Medical Women's Service and was posted to the Army's 2nd/9th Australian General Hospital at Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea. She later served in the military hospital on Morotai Island (in present-day Indonesia). She was discharged in April 1946 as a Sergeant.

Millie's greatest contribution to St John Ambulance was as its pioneering historian in Victoria. Always interested in history, by the early 1960s she recognised that the organisation was nearing its centenary in Victoria. She began gathering historical documents and photographs with a view to eventually writing a history of St John in Victoria. This work resulted in the establishment of the archival collection which became Victoria's St John Library and Museum. It also led to the production of her centenary history, *The Order of St John in Victoria—Our first hundred years*, which was eventually published in 2004, two years before her death at the age of 92.

Millie, a gentle, sweet-natured and caring woman, never married. Her salaried working life was spent as a private secretary. In later life she and her great friend and companion, Thelma Peverill, shared a house in Camberwell. 'Pev' was a veteran of the St John Ambulance Brigade and at her retirement was the District Superintendent (Nursing) of the Brigade in Victoria. Though already in her late 80s, Millie nursed 'Pev' through her last illness.

Millie's service to St John was recognized by her admission into the Order and her subsequent promotion through the grades to Dame in 1981.





Barbara Franklin MStJ

1934– Western Australia

Barbara Anne Franklin (née Cross) was born in North Perth, growing up on her family's orchard near Bedfordale, Western Australia. After primary schooling in Bedfordale and Port Pirie in South Australia, she attended the Girdlestone High School in Perth. Following a commercial course at the Perth Technical College, she worked for an insurance company and then a bank. In 1956 she married Desmond (Des) Franklin, whom she had met through the Armadale Congregational Church. They had two sons, Brett and Kim. After raising her sons, Barbara worked for the Electoral Commission for 23 years.

Barbara discovered St John Ambulance through her husband. Des was a member of the St John Ambulance Brigade and was one of a group raising money to establish a St John Ambulance sub-centre at Armadale. Barbara and the other St John wives helped with the fund-raising, which included door-knocks, baking cakes for street stalls, and collecting and sorting glass bottles, milk cartons and foil bottle tops.

All this activity proved very successful and led to a new sub-centre building being opened in 1963. Des became the sub-centre Chairman and Barbara the Secretary; she was also a leading member of the Armadale St John Ambulance Ladies Auxiliary. Barbara worked as an ambulance volunteer with ambulance crews and answering emergency calls.

In 1995 both Barbara and Des became St John Museum volunteers and since then have given countless hours as museum attendants, cleaning, researching, sorting and filing in the Western Australia Ian Kaye-Eddie Heritage Centre.

Barbara's efforts were recognised with a Commandery commendation in 1995 and as a Member of the Order in 2005.

Ida Freeman pstu

1899-1983

Victoria

Ida Gibson Freeman was born in England and migrated to Australia in 1924. Her St John career began when she joined the St Kilda Division in 1943 after serving as a member of a Voluntary Aid Detachment.

Ida was responsible for forming the South Melbourne Nursing Cadet Division in 1946. She was the Superintendent for the Division after its official registration in 1947. She had no children of her own, and regarded all her nursing Cadets as her surrogate daughters.

Ida became Corps Officer (nursing Cadets) in 1956 and went on to serve as District Officer (nursing Cadets) for fifteen years until 1972. During this time Ida developed the nursing Cadet divisions in Victoria into a strong, publicly admired youth movement.

Ida was married to John Freeman, a prosperous Melbourne furrier who was a generous benefactor of St John in Victoria. He enthusiastically and generously supported his wife's St John work, but he was very discreet and unobtrusive so few people ever knew of the large scale of his financial contributions to the development of the Cadet movement in Victoria.

Ida worked for St John for over forty years, for which she was awarded the St John Service medal and a subsequent five bars. She was admitted to the Order of St John as a Serving Sister in 1951, promoted Officer in 1959, Commander in 1968 and Dame of Grace in 1972. She served as a member of St John Council for Victoria for 22 years from 1955 to 1976.

Ida Gibson Freeman died in the St John centenary year, 1983.



Elizabeth Gallagher OStJ

1946-

Australian Capital Territory

Elizabeth Anne Gallagher (née Martin) was born in Camberwell, one of four daughters and a son. Her parents were air force officers during World War II. She spent her childhood in Moorabbin where she attended local Catholic schools until the family moved to Canberra in 1960. In Canberra she became a student at the Catholic Girls' High School (now Merici College).

After finishing school with her Leaving Certificate, Anne worked as a laboratory technician at the Australian National University and completed a certificate in that field at the Canberra Institute of Technology. In 1966 she married Peter Gallagher, a fellow laboratory technician at the university. They had two children, Elizabeth and Simon.

Anne joined the St John Ambulance Canberra Division in 1981 after taking a St John first aid course with her daughter Elizabeth, who joined the Cadets. Simon also became a Cadet. After a break, Simon returned as Superintendent of Canberra Cadet Division and eventually became Territory Cadet Officer. His daughter, Cheryl Anne, widely known as 'CJ', also joined the Cadets. At one time in the mid-2000s three generations of Gallaghers were active St John members in Canberra. Further, Elizabeth's career as a medical specialist and Simon's as a paramedic grew directly from their St John involvement.

Anne's move upwards through the ranks of the St John Ambulance Brigade began when she was appointed Sergeant and Secretary of her division, which met in the former Priory headquarters building on Canberra Avenue. She was later appointed District (Territory) Secretary as a District Officer Grade III, then Territory Administrative Officer (Territory Officer Grade II) and finally Territory Superintendent. The first woman to occupy this last position, she retained the job for seven and a half years.

Anne decided to retire from St John in 2008 at the end of her tenure as Territory Superintendent, to spend time with her family and to act as her daughter Elizabeth's Practice Manager. She does, however, continue to assist the Australian Capital Territory branch of St John by helping with the catering at social functions.

Her achievements for St John in the ACT were recognised in 1995 by her admission as a Serving Sister and promotion to Officer in 2004.

ne first female Territory rintendent for the ACT.

Robin Galwey MStJ

1945-

New South Wales

Robyn Galwey is a registered nurse and midwife and married to Dennis Coates, a maintenance engineer. Her qualifications include a Graduate Diploma in Education (Nursing) and a Master's degree in Health Personnel Education. She worked as a nurse educator before joining St John Ambulance in New South Wales as a salaried instructor in 1990.

In 1993 Robyn was appointed Manager of the state St John Training Branch, and she also joined the Paddington Division as Divisional Nursing Officer. With the Division she attended public duties at major community events. During the widespread Sydney bushfires in January 1994 she worked with the St John team caring for the elderly residents evacuated from a nursing home into a boarding school. In 1997 she travelled to India as a volunteer with the 'Caretrain' project, developing first aid and infection control training among Tibetan refugees. In the Operations Branch, Robyn was promoted to State Staff Officer Education in 2005, where she was responsible for the implementation of the First Responder, Advanced Responder and management development programs in her state.

In 1994 Robyn was responsible for the Infection Control in Child Care course which won a National Safety Council of Australia award, and led to the development of St John's Caring for Kids first aid course. Within the Training Branch Robyn worked to raise the qualifications and standards of training of first aid instructors by introducing an induction program and training manual with subsequent in-service training and appraisals. In 1996 she developed an interactive first aid course in CD format for the Australian office of St John Ambulance Australia, which subsequently led to the development of a one-day flexible learning course and online senior first aid course. In the following year she undertook the work required for St John in New South Wales to gain accreditation as a registered training provider, becoming the first state provider of first aid training to gain such recognition. In 2002 Robyn was responsible for enabling St John New South Wales to meet the criteria for registered training organisations under the Australian Quality Training Framework. In 2009 she co-ordinated the inaugural St John leadership development program in New South Wales.

In 2001 Robyn was awarded the Australian Centenary Medal and in 2007 was admitted into the Order as a Member.





Catherine Gerner CStJ

1953– South Australia

Catherine 'Cathy' Gerner was born in Adelaide, the second daughter of John and Doreen Manthorpe. Cathy attended Marryatville Primary School and completed her secondary education at Girton Girls' School.

Cathy joined St John when she was 10 years old, with her older sister Judy, after a family friend encouraged them to attend the Norwood Nursing Cadet Division. She was enrolled as a Cadet on 1 July 1964. As Superintendent at the time, Raelene Denham assigned Cathy the task of mentoring a young Cadet who was totally deaf. Cathy was appointed Cadet Leader at 18, where she remained until 1974 when she was made Divisional Officer of Unley Cadet Division. Cathy was promoted to the position of Superintendent when she was 21 and spent three years revitalising the once struggling Division.

After completing her matriculation Cathy was awarded a Rotary Exchange Scholarship to Argentina where she went in 1971, acting as an ambassador for Australia. This life-changing experience had a huge impact on her career and later she taught Spanish and English as a second language.

In 1976 Cathy returned to Norwood Nursing Cadet Division as Superintendent and had great success in competitions and marching teams.

From 1985 to 1998 Cathy was appointed to District staff and subsequently became a Group Leader in charge of ceremonial parades and reviews, divisional inspections, public relations and much more.

In 1998 Cathy became the first woman in South Australia to hold the position of District Superintendent, which she held for five years. During this time Cathy was involved in the introduction of the 'One St John' concept, the implementation of centralised accounting, a system of standard operations procedures, and the progressive removal of administrative barriers between divisions.

Cathy was a member of the State Administrative and Member Support Services Group, and served as Deputy Chair of the Council and worked on a number of sub-committees of the Council.

Cathy retired from St John Ambulance Australia in 2005. She was supported throughout her St John career by her husband and two sons while she committed up to 40 hours voluntary work per week.

Cathy was admitted as a Serving Sister in 1987, with promotion to Officer in 1993 and Commander (2001). In 2006 she was awarded a fifth bar to her Service Medal.

Fay Gleave cstJ

1934-

New South Wales

Fay Ellen Gleave (née Blissett) has spent all her life in the Murwillumbah district of northern New South Wales. After completing her secondary schooling she did secretarial work in Murwillumbah before marrying Des Gleave, a Tweed Valley dairy farmer. They had two sons. The family moved to Kingscliff on the coast in 1978. Until her retirement in 1995, Fay worked in the office of the New South Wales Ambulance Service in Murwillumbah and then in the patient section of the Murwillumbah Hospital.

When Fay left school she wished to be an ambulance officer so she joined the local Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD), and worked voluntarily at the Murwillumbah Hospital. In 1957 she gained her initial St John Ambulance first aid certificate and has held a current certificate ever since. In 1974 she was appointed first aid instructor for the Murwillumbah-Tweed district, the first female instructor in the district. She has continued teaching first aid and was named New South Wales Instructor of the Year in 2005.

As the Tweed Valley had no uniformed St John branch, Fay established the Kingscliff Division in 1985 and was appointed Superintendent. She and her divisional members attended local duties, and crossed the border into Queensland to help in the large-scale St John first aid service at the 1988 World Expo, and at the national surf life-saving titles on the Gold Coast in 1989. The Division also began providing the first aid service at the annual 'Blues & Roots' and 'Splendour in the Grass Music' festivals in Byron Bay.

In 1996 Fay was appointed Corps (regional) Superintendent of the St John North Eastern Corps and in 2003 joined the state staff as Liaison Officer for the Northern Region. Her current appointment is Northern Region Operations Officer. In 2003 she was appointed to the New South Wales St John Council. In 2009 during major flooding of the northern rivers, Fay was asked to set up evacuation centres in Kingscliff, Brunswick Heads and Lismore.

Highlights in Fay's St John career have included being a member of the first aid team which won the state championship in 2004, and seeing her grandson Mark Gleave presented with the Cadet of the Year award the same year.

Fay has received numerous community awards for her emergency services work, including the 2001 State Premier's Award and the 2001 Australian Centenary Medal. She was invested as a Serving Sister by the Grand Prior, the Duke of Gloucester, in Canberra in 1992. Since then Fay has been promoted to Officer (in 1998) and Commander (2005). She holds the Service Medal of the order with two bars.





Myrtle Gleeson ost

?-1972 Queensland

Myrtle Gleeson was the first Divisional Superintendent of the first St John Ambulance Brigade Cadet Division established in Queensland. Her St John service had begun 23 years earlier, when she joined the Chatswood Division of the St John Ambulance Brigade in Sydney. After a year there, she transferred to the Kings Cross Division, where she remained until 1937, when she moved to Brisbane. A St John Ambulance Brigade had not yet formed in Queensland at that time so she was unable to continue her service.

During World War II Myrtle Gleeson worked for the Royal Australian Navy and the United States Navy, deciphering code at the Brisbane headquarters of the Allied command for the South-West Pacific Area.

When Queensland's first permanent division of the St John Ambulance Brigade, the Brisbane Central Nursing Division, opened in 1950, Myrtle Gleeson joined as the Sergeant and Secretary. She later became the Divisional Officer. She then accepted the task of establishing the state's first St John Cadet division, Milton, which she opened in 1954 as the inaugural Divisional Superintendent. By the end of the year the Division had nearly 50 members.

Myrtle Gleeson was energetic in helping establish other Cadet divisions, and she organised Queensland's early Cadet camps held at the Tallebudgera National Fitness Camp. She also helped raise funds to send the Queensland women's first aid team to the interstate competitions in Hobart in 1956. In 1954 she had donated a trophy bearing her name for state-level competition and this was awarded annually until 1983. Whenever the meetings of the Australian Priory of the Order of St John were held in Queensland, Myrtle Gleeson took a leading role in the numerous organisational tasks essential to the success of such occasions. One of her special interests was patient simulation; her secret recipe for artificial blood, was used extensively.

Myrtle Gleeson's organisational and leadership skills were put to good use in the various district staff positions she held, namely District Cadet Officer (1954–1955), District Staff Officer (1955–1961), and Public Relations Officer (1961–1963). Her contributions to the development of the Brigade in Queensland were rewarded with admission as a Serving Sister in 1956 and promotion to Officer in 1967. Myrtle Gleeson retired from active Brigade service in 1970 and died in 1972, survived by her husband and daughter.

Maria Godwell ostu

1957– Western Australia

Maria Kay Godwell (née Jardine) attended the Brentwood Primary School and Rossmoyne High School in Western Australia, after which she trained and worked as a school dental therapist. In 1987 she married Ken Godwell, a fitter and turner, and they had two sons, James and Phillip.

Maria joined the Fremantle Cadet Nursing Division of the St John Ambulance Brigade at 13. She soon became very involved in the life of the Division, and many of the Cadets in the Division remain her lifelong friends.

Maria is one of those rare members who have spent over 40 years with the same division, being content to focus her energy in maintaining and developing the division. In 1974 she was promoted to Cadet Leader and the following year to Divisional Officer. In 1978 she was awarded the Grand Prior's Badge. In 1979 she became Officer In Charge of her Division. After completing the officer training course in 1980 she was eventually promoted to Divisional Superintendent in 1985. She has held the position ever since.

In 1990 Maria gained first aid instructor qualifications. She also gave birth to the first of her two sons, whom she used to take to divisional meetings. When they were old enough, both Maria's sons joined her Division where they earned the Grand Prior's Badge.

Under Maria's leadership, the Division had many achievements, including the award for the 'Most Efficient Cadet Division', presented at the annual First Aid Services Branch review at Government House in 2000.

In 2006 the Division passed an important milestone when it reached the 70th anniversary of its foundation. To mark the occasion Maria published a divisional history, *Celebrating 70 years of Cadets in Fremantle*, 1936–2006. By then it was the oldest Cadet division in the state and one of the oldest in Australia.

The Division celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2011, and Maria published a second history, *Diamond Jubilee: 75 years of Cadets in Fremantle, 1936–2011.* The year before this Maria had passed a personal milestone—the 40th anniversary of joining her Division.

Maria's work for the Fremantle Cadet Division was acknowledged in 1993 with her admission as a Serving Sister. She was promoted to Officer in 1999, and holds the Service Medal with four bars.



Maria has spent over 40 years with the Fremantle Division, one of the oldest Cadet divisions in Australia.



Hazel Goldacre Ostu

1933– Western Australia

Hazel Eve Goldacre was born in the United Kingdom. She began her nursing education at Queen Mary's Hospital for Children before transferring to the Hammersmith Hospital, where she completed her training. After staff nursing, she held a senior position in the mental health division at Normansfield Hospital, and the children's department at Kingston General Hospital (1959–1961). She married and has four children.

After migrating to Australia with her family, Hazel worked in hospitals in Tasmania and Victoria (1969–1972). She worked as a clinical instructor at the Western Australian School of Nursing (WASON) (1972–1975), then she returned to the United Kingdom and spent years working in government and private hospital positions, and running her own nursing home in Bournemouth (1977–1979). On returning to Western Australia in 1979 she worked for a time at the Royal Perth Hospital before recommencing at WASON as a clinical instructor. From 1989 until her retirement in 1992, Hazel was a clinical development nurse in the emergency and surgical departments of the Royal Perth Hospital.

Hazel's St John Ambulance service began in the United Kingdom in 1975 when she joined the St John Ambulance Brigade as Divisional Nursing Officer to the Prince of Wales Division. After her return to Australia in 1979, she joined the Morley Division in 1983 in the same officer role. In 1985 she was promoted to Corps Nursing Officer of No. 2 Corps, and later to District Nursing Officer. Hazel managed the state's first aid teams participating in the national competitions and helped introduce the new skills maintenance program and patient report forms.

In 1993 Hazel was appointed St John Ambulance Commissioner in Western Australia, becoming the first, and only woman ever to hold this position. During her term of office, until 1997, she was responsible for a series of initiatives, including the development of new officer training programs for adults and for Cadet non-commissioned officers. She also introduced the St John Cadets in Schools program.

Hazel's daughters followed her into St John: Mandy became Divisional Superintendent of the Claremont Division, and Michelle, a nurse, became the Division's Nursing Officer. Hazel's granddaughter, Amanda, became the Division's Public Duties Officer.

Hazel's work for St John has been recognised with her admission as an Officer in 1992. In 1996 she was awarded a Service Medal of the Order.

Madeline Grannall csu

1922-Australian Capital Territory

Madeline Joyce Grannall (née Cragg) was born in Winton, Queensland. As a young woman she moved to Canberra to work. She married Frederick Grannall in 1964, and they raised their family in Canberra.

During the late 1950s Madeline undertook a St John first aid training course which inspired her to join the St John Ambulance 1st Canberra Nursing Division. During the 1960s she was promoted to Superintendent of her division, and then to Corps staff as the officer in charge of Canberra's women's divisions. When St John in the Australian Capital Territory separated from New South Wales, she became the ACT Superintendent of Nursing Divisions.

For her contributions to developing St John Ambulance in the ACT, Madeline was admitted into membership of the Order and subsequently promoted to the grade of Commander.

In 1999 she suffered a double tragedy when she lost her husband and son. During this sad period, her St John friends rallied around, demonstrating that St John often serves as a surrogate family for its members.

Madeline maintains an active interest in the ACT St John branch: she regularly attends the annual Territory church services, annual general meetings and award presentation ceremonies—always proudly wearing her St John uniform.

To a younger generation of uniformed first aid volunteers she is a treasure of living history—a St John member still active after almost 60 years.



A treasure of St John's living history.

Marian Grayden cstu

Northern Territory

Marian Grayden trained as a nurse in England before moving to Australia and settling in Darwin. She had spent four years as a Cadet in Bristol, and was invited to give a nursing lecture at the St John Darwin Division in 1966, which she joined. Marian became the Divisional Nursing Officer in 1967 and served as the District Nursing Officer from 1976 to 1980.

The highly
respected
matriarch of
nursing
St John NT.

Marian reflects that St John in Darwin was very different to St John in England. She remembers the 'vollie' centre in Parap was more like a drop-in centre for members—there was always someone around to respond to an emergency. Until 1978, the Northern Territory was still under administration of South Australia but the move for autonomy only encouraged St John members to establish more divisions in other Territory towns, and recruit more members.

As District Nursing Officer, Marian attended public duties, volunteered for ambulance and communication duties, instructed first aid and home nursing, and assisted with competitions and annual inspections. Marian was the highly respected matriarch of nursing in St John NT. Despite becoming confined to a wheelchair, Marian's input never faltered, nor did her attention to detail and instruction on nursing matters.

Marian retired from St John in 2007 after years of service to the organisation, although she continues to maintain an interest in St John activities. She was admitted as a Serving Sister in 1977, promoted to Officer (1985) and to Commander in 1998.

Monica Green pstJ

1926-2009

Victoria

Monica Margaret Green (née Buckland) was born in Alexandria, Egypt, the younger of two daughters of an Australian businessman importing Australian wheat into the Middle East. She grew up in Kew, becoming dux of Kew State School before secondary education at Methodist Ladies College. She went on to the Alfred Hospital Nursing School where she graduated as the gold medallist in 1947.

Monica worked as a nursing sister at the Alfred for a short time before spending two years in East African hospitals and three years at the Royal Free Hospital (1952–1955). She returned to a Charge Nurse position at the Alfred for a further four years, becoming a fellow of the Royal College of Nursing (Australia) and a nurse educator in 1959, working at the Alfred and then at Box Hill Hospital (1964–1989). She married Roy Green in 1959.

Monica joined St John in 1964 as a District Staff Officer responsible for Nursing Cadet training. She was promoted to District Nursing Officer and later to District Superintendent (Nursing) until her transfer to the Reserve list of First Aid Services Branch in 1991 at the age of 65 years.

During her St John career she was actively involved in training, both with volunteer members, and with the patient care in the Home and First Aid courses. She was an adjudicator at State and national competitions and was an assistant editor of St John patient care texts.

Monica received her Service medal and three bars, denoting 27 years of service before her retirement. She continued to assist on a part-time basis with member records for the next several years, was a member of St John Council for Victoria (1991–1997), and Chairperson of the Library and Museum Committee until 2000.

Monica was admitted to the Order of St John as a Serving Sister in 1971. She was promoted to Officer in 1976, Commander in 1982 and Dame of Grace in 1988.







Her husband planted wheat in an unused roadway, and money from the sales went toward building a St John Centre for the Crystal Book Division.

Dawn Greig OAM OStJ

1933– South Australia

Dawn Estelle Greig (née Combe) was born in Crystal Brook, 200 kilometres north of Adelaide. Her parents, Pearl and Merv Combe, ran a farming property in the nearby country town of Merriton. Dawn was the eldest of four, an only girl with three brothers. She attended Merriton Primary School, and later the Methodist Ladies College in Adelaide as a boarder. After finishing her schooling, Dawn returned home to work on the family property. In 1955 Dawn married Gordon Greig who also ran a farm in Crystal Brook; they had three children.

Dawn completed a first aid and home nursing course in 1962, and later joined the Port Pirie Nursing Division. Dawn saw the need for a first aid division in the Crystal Brook community so she began a sub-centre within the town. Dawn also worked with the Crystal Brook Apex club to raise funds to purchase an ambulance for the community. As well as completing a Transport Nursing Certificate, Dawn also was given permission to train in Adelaide on the metropolitan ambulances—a first for a woman.

Dawn went on to become the Secretary and Public Officer of the Crystal Brook and District Ambulance Board in 1967. When the sub-centre became a division in its own right in July 1966, Dawn was appointed as the first female Superintendent of a division in South Australia.

The Division didn't have a permanent home, training nights being held in an unused morgue. Dawn pleaded with her husband to plant wheat in an unused roadway, and the money made from the sale of the wheat went toward a St John Centre for the Division. With the help of a government subsidy, a new building was opened on the 21 March 1976.

Dawn also founded the Crystal Brook St John Auxiliary, becoming its Vice-President and later the President, for the final 14 years the Auxiliary existed. When the Cystal Brook Division closed in 1994, Dawn wrote a short, detailed history of the Division.

Dawn was awarded her 12 year service medal in 1974, her first bar in 1979, a national service medal in 1982, and her second service bar in 1985. She was admitted as a Serving Sister in 1973, promoted to Officer (1990), awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1992, and the Centenary Medal in 2000. Dawn was made a life member of the Ambulance Service in 1996.

Lorraine Griffin MSLI

1936-South Australia

Lorraine Edna Griffin (née Watson) was the third child of Leo Cyril Watson and Florence Edna Dupree of Ceduna. Lorraine and her siblings attended school in Mudamuckla and Port Lincoln High School. Unfortunately, during year 8 Lorraine suffered ill health and was unable to continue her education.

After working on her family's farm for several years, Lorraine took up nursing at The Royal Adelaide Hospital in 1955 where she worked until she contracted Hepatitis A from the North Field Infectious Hospital.

Lorraine married Barry Griffin in 1957 and they lived in Ceduna until 1961, where Lorraine ran her own drapery shop. Barry and Lorraine had three children: Kim, Michael and a daughter Amanda.

Ambulances, first aid kits and training first became part of Lorraine's life in 1967 when she joined St John's Cleve Division. She continued her St John service when she and the family moved to Darwin in 1970, for two years.

Lorraine transferred to the Kadina Division when she and her family returned to South Australia in 1972. She was appointed as a Sergeant in 1973, a Divisional Officer in 1975 and after acting as Superintendent, was appointed Superintendent in 1993.

After teaching first aid for 35 years, Lorraine retired from teaching in St John in 2006 but continued to attend public duties.

Lorraine's significant commitment to St John and the ambulance service was summarised by colleague Julie Frost who said 'often Lorraine has been the first responder going out to an incident on her own. There is not much she has not seen or done during her service'.

After 38 years on the road, Lorraine retired from the ambulance service in 2008 but continues to serve in St John as Divisional Superintendent.

Lorraine's contribution to the community was recognised when she was awarded her service medal in 1980 and a National Medal in 1985. Lorraine was also awarded the Citizen of the Year in 1992 by the Kadina Council, and in 1998 was admitted to the Order of St John as a Member.



'There is not much [Lorraine] has not seen or done during her service.



Valerie Grogan AM DStJ JP

1934-New South Wales

Valerie Margaret Grogan (née Jenkyn) was born in Sydney, the daughter of Norman and Edeline Jenkyn. She was educated at Presbyterian Ladies' College in Pymble and the University of Sydney, from which she graduated with a Batchelor of Arts. She became a teacher at her old school, and later the Sydney Church of England Girls Grammar School. In 1959 she married Peter Grogan. They have one daughter and two grandchildren.

Valerie came to St John Ambulance in 1960 when she joined the New South Wales Headquarters Auxiliary Committee, of which her mother was President. Her father was a member of the New South Wales Council. After her mother's death in 1984, Valerie succeeded her as Auxiliary President. The Auxiliary's fund-raising efforts had long been a major source of funds supporting the Brigade—the Auxiliary raised \$100,000 to help St John Ambulance provide the first aid services at the 2000 Sydney Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Valerie also applied her skills to the task of raising the St John national profile. In 1984 she became Brigade President. She encouraged influential people to become presidents of local St John divisions, publishing a manual to assist them in their duties. In 1988 she was invited to be the overseas speaker at the Brigade presidents' conference held in London.

Valerie was first appointed to the New South Wales Council in 1970. She was elected Deputy Chair of the Council in 1989, and served as Council Chair and Chair of its executive committee for six years (1992–1998). She was the first woman to hold these positions. In 2004 she was appointed Vice-President of the Council.

Valerie was also a strong supporter of the Community Care Branch when it formed during the late 1980s. She was a member of the New South Wales branch committee (1989–2006). She also served as the National Chair of Community Care (1998–2001), thus being admitted to the Board of Directors, being the first woman to do so.

Valerie's services to St John were recognised through her admission as a Serving Sister (1970), subsequently promoted to Officer (1977), Commander (1984) and Dame of Grace (1990). She became a Dame of Justice in 1993. She also holds the Service Medal of the Order with one bar. In recognition of her further community work, Valerie was recognised as a Member of the Order of Australia in 2000, and the Centenary Medal in 2003.

Katherine Hamilton DStJ

1902-2002

Victoria

Katherine 'Katie' Agnes Hamilton qualified in first aid in 1939, home nursing in 1940 and occupational first aid in 1941, becoming an Honorary Instructor in 1944. She taught many first aid classes and became a Life Member of St John Ambulance Association in 1949. She was President of the Honorary Instructor's Association. From 1947 to 1953 she was a member of St John Council for Victoria, and again from 1958 to 1976.

Katie joined the City of Melbourne Voluntary Aid Detachment in 1944 and after World War II became Divisional Superintendent of the Nursing Division from 1952. In the next 18 years of active membership she undertook many responsibilities, including heavy involvement in competition training and administration.

For her volunteer first aid work she received the St John Service medal and a subsequent three bars. She went on the Reserve list in 1970 but joined the St John Fellowship and continued to assist in various ways for many more years.

She was admitted to the Order as an Officer in 1963, promoted to Commander (1969) and Dame of Grace (1976).

In addition to her St John work Katie was a Life Member and an Executive Member of the Australia Day Council and a representative to the Good Neighbour Council.

She died on the day of her hundredth birthday, 3 July 2002.





Sally led the push
to encourage youth
participation through
youth councils, to
create a 'cool and
healthy' St John.

Sally Hasler cstJ

1983– Victoria

Sally Hasler grew up in Croydon, Victoria and at the age of 10 years, she joined the Croydon Cadet Division with her brother, John, in June 1993. Sally's older sister, Kate, was already a member at the local division.

Sally has wonderful memories of her time at Croydon Cadets and remembers being actively involved in public duties, competitions, scenario training and the much loved end-of-term social. Sally was promoted to Corporal in 1998 after attending a National Cadet Officers' course at the Donald Douglas Training Camp in Wesburn.

Sally was promoted to Cadet Leader in 2001 and shortly after Divisional Officer. For a number of years, Sally and the Divisional Cadet Officer, Jim Kennedy, ran a Cadet program at the Maroondah Combined Division. In 2001, Sally was awarded the Peter Faulkland Award for Victoria Cadet Leader of the Year. The same year she undertook a research project into Cadet's opinions of St John, *The Cadet Voice*. In 2002, she was appointed Chair of the Victorian Youth Council, and awarded her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award by Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex.

In 2003, Sally left Maroondah to work with Cadets at the Knox Division. She received her Grand Prior's award in 2003, and in 2004, Sally became Chair of the Australian Youth Council (AYC).

In 2005, she moved to Canberra as a graduate in the Commonwealth government and joined the ACT Community Care program, Project Survival. As Chair of the AYC (2005–2007) Sally led an organisational push to encourage youth participation through youth councils. The AYC launched their first key themes and messages in 2006 to create a 'cool and healthy' St John. In 2007, then Chancellor Professor Villis Marshall created a special Youth Director on the National Board.

Sally was appointed Chair of Community Care in June 2008, a position she currently holds. After completing a research project with Kathyrn Zeitz in 2007, Sally made a number of recommendations to the National Board to create a more engaging culture for women in St John. Subsequently, Sally founded the St John Women's Network. Along with Michael Compton, Sally also leads the Oecussi youth program, teaching first aid in East Timor.

In 2009, Sally was admitted to the Order of St John as Commander. The same year she was awarded her 12 year service medal. Sally married Andrew Quinlan in 2010 and currently works for the Australian Consulate-General in Hong Kong.

Olga Hedemann ARRC OAM RFD CStJ JP

1932– Western Australia

Olga Dorothy Hedemann was born in Perth, Western Australia, the second of three daughters. Her family moved to Launceston, Tasmania, while she was still a baby. She attended Methodist Ladies College in Launceston, followed by training as an accountant. After her mother died the family returned to Perth.

Deciding on a career change at the age of 20 years, Olga began nursing training at Fremantle Hospital. After completing her general nursing certificate, she worked as a staff nurse at Fremantle, then moved to the Royal Women's Hospital in Melbourne for midwifery training. She worked briefly in Kingaroy, Queensland, and travelled in New Zealand before returning to a position at the Fremantle Hospital in 1958. She worked as the nurse in charge of the operating theatres for the next six years. In 1964 she returned to Melbourne to complete a diploma in theatre management and teaching at the Royal College of Nursing. After some time working as a nurse administrator in Fremantle, she returned to the college in 1969 to undertake the diploma course in nursing administration. Olga moved into the private sector in 1975, taking a position as Deputy Director of Nursing at the Mount Private Hospital in Perth, where she worked until 1980. She assisted in the establishment of the Wanneroo Hospital, north of Perth (1980-1981). Returning to Fremantle Hospital in 1982, she worked as Deputy Director, and then Director of Nursing until her retirement in 1990. She then served on the hospital's board of management (1993–97).

Olga joined St John Ambulance in 1991, when she became a member of the Western Australian Ambulance Service Board, of which she became Deputy Chairman in 1998. In 1992 she was also appointed to the state St John executive. She remained a member of both bodies until retiring at age 70 in 2002. She was admitted into membership of the Order of St John in 1992, promoted to Officer in 1999 and to Commander in 2005.

Olga had many other professional and community involvements. These included 26 years as an officer of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps in the Reserve. She is a Justice of the Peace and spent 15 years as secretary-treasurer of her branch of the Royal Association of Justices. She also spent six years as a councillor of the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Western Australia.





A diminutive woman, was widely respected and greatly loved by lets ... she always had ord of praise for them.

Alice Henson DStJ

1890–1970 New South Wales

Alice May Henson (née Jones) lived in Marrickville, Sydney, where she married John Henson in 1927. They had no children.

Alice joined a St John first aid class in 1911 after attending a public meeting addressed by the St John Commissioner, Dr George Lane Mullins. After completing the course, Alice and some of her fellow trainees began the home nursing course. Eight of them then formed the Marrickville Nursing Division which was registered in July 1913. Alice organised the Division's members into competition-winning first aid and home nursing teams. The team also began beach duty at Cooqee during weekends and holidays.

Throughout World War I, Alice, also as a member of the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD), joined local patriotic fund-raising efforts, including the furnishing of homes being built for war widows. Alice, appointed Divisional Superintendent in 1917, laid the foundation stone of the first cottage.

During the world-wide epidemic of pneumonic influenza (1918–1919), Alice assisted in staffing the Marrickville emergency relief depot, helping with over 8000 inoculations and nursing 1000 patients admitted to the emergency hospital set up in a local primary school.

In 1921 Alice was instrumental in the formation of the Brigade's Marrickville Ambulance Division. Alice joined the Brigade's headquarters staff as District Officer (Nursing) in 1924. Among her special projects was establishing the first four Australian Nursing Cadet divisions in Sydney (1930–1931). As the Cadet movement flourished, in 1948 separate District Officers for Ambulance and Nursing Cadets were appointed in New South Wales. Alice became the inaugural District Officer (Nursing) Cadets, a position she retained until her retirement in 1955. Among her achievements was the revival and establishment of many nursing Cadet Divisions. She also formed the Talent Quest Choir of the Air for Nursing Cadet Divisions.

A diminutive woman, Alice was widely respected and greatly loved by Cadets. Divisional members looked forward to her inspectorial visits because she always had a word of praise for them.

Alice received numerous awards for her contributions to the development of St John. She was admitted as a Serving Sister in 1924, promoted through the grades to Officer (1929), Commander (1943) and Dame (1952). She received the Service Medal of the Order with six bars, and was awarded the VAD King's Bar and Brooch in 1945 for her wartime service with the VAD.

Enid Home AM MSt.J

1920–2010 Western Australia

Enid Dixon Home lived most of her long life in Albany, Western Australia.

After leaving school Enid undertook nursing training. She later cared for her sick parents and then worked as a receptionist at an Albany surgical practice. She married Dr Home, who had the distinction of becoming the first Commander of the Order of St John in Western Australia to reside beyond the capital city, Perth.

As a public-spirited doctor's wife, Enid was heavily involved in her community and various organisations and events: the Albany Racing Club (of which she was a Life Member), the Albany Historical Society (Life Member), the Old Albany Gaol (tour guide), the Middleton Beach Bowling Club (President and Life Member), the Miss Australia Quest (fund-raiser), the Albany Ladies Probus Club (President), the Albany Bridge Club (President and Life Member), the Country Women's Association, Legacy, Girl Guides, the Home Arthritis Foundation, the Albany branch of the Silver Chain Nursing Association (Life Member) and St John Ambulance.

The latter two, Silver Chain and St John, benefitted greatly from Enid's abundant energy. She nursed with Silver Chain for 20 years, served on its committee for 40 years, managed its major fund-raising activities, and was Acting Matron of two of its lodges.

Enid's St John involvement began in 1962. She was the training officer of the Albany Nursing Division from 1974 until the Division disbanded in 1982. She was also the training officer of the Lockyer Cadet Nursing Division for ten years (1976–1986). She represented the Division on the Albany sub-centre committee (1971–1978).

When the Community Care Branch formed in 1987, Enid became involved in its local activities. As a member of the Albany St John Ambulance Ladies Auxiliary, she worked for many years to raise the money to purchase equipment, refurbish the local St John Ambulance hall and build a new Albany first aid training centre. She also organised the annual street appeals for the Sub-centre for the 12 years (1986–2008).

In 1996 Enid was appointed Freeman of the City of Albany. In 1998 she became a Member of the Order of Australia, and in 2003 she received the Australian Government's Centenary Medal. Enid was made a Life Member of the Albany Sub-centre in 1988. She received a Priory Vote of Thanks in 1997 and was declared the Community Care Branch 'Volunteer of the Year' in 2001. In 2008 she was awarded the Service Medal of the Order. Enid was posthumously admitted to the Order as a Member in 2011.



Silver Chain and St John benefited greatly from Enid's abundant energy.



Gwladys Hulls CStJ

1918–1981 Victoria

Gwladys Hulls (née Furness), was born in Footscray, daughter of Charles Furness, one of the earliest members of the Footscray Division of St John Ambulance Brigade.

She was a keen hockey player at the Footscray Hockey Club, which is where she met Jack Hulls who was the Club champion. They married in 1942; their only child, Daryl, was born in 1945. All three were members of St John Ambulance Brigade.

Gwladys joined St John Ambulance Brigade Footscray Nursing Division in 1950 upon completion of her First Aid Certificate, having previously completed her Home Nursing Certificate. She became Footscray Nursing Cadet Divisional Officer in 1952. She was promoted to Superintendent in 1954 and was subsequently promoted to Nursing Cadet Corps Officer in 1960. She was made Corps Superintendent in 1972. She joined District staff in 1976 and remained a District Officer until her unexpected sudden death on 1 April 1981.

Gwladys received her St John Service medal in 1962, with bars in 1967, 1972 and 1977. She was an Honorary Instructor for St John Ambulance Association from 1954. She was made a Life Member in 1955.

Gwladys worked as a sessional and relieving Industrial First Aid Officer for about twenty years from the early 1960s in a variety of companies including Mobil, Rheem, Cooperative Farmers and Graziers Co., and in RMIT examinations. For many years she worked with Jack organising first aid services at the Royal Melbourne Show. She was also particularly successful at negotiating improvements in first aid rooms at the Western Oval, the Showgrounds, and in the newly acquired Footscray Divisional Hall in the late 1950s.

She was awarded a Priory Vote of Thanks in 1957 and was admitted as a Serving Sister in 1959. She was promoted to Officer in 1965, and Commander in 1971.

Jack and Gwladys received Community Service awards from the Mayor of Footscray in 1978.

Merle Isbister OAM, ASM CStJ

1952-

Western Australia

Merle Isbister (née Host) was the eldest of seven children. She lived with her parents on a farm near Northam in Western Australia until she was sixteen. She started training as a nursing aide shortly after starting work at the Swan District Hospital in Midland.

In May 1972, Merle married Lindsay Isbister. Merle and Lindsay originally planned to travel around Australia but these plans changed when their first son, Warren, was born in 1973. They had a second son, Guy, in 1976 and moved to Carnamah where they still live today.

Merle joined St John in 1977 after moving to Perenjori, a small farming town south of Morawa. As a nurse, it was assumed Merle would also join the ambulance as first aider and patient assistant—which she duly did. In 1977, she accepted the position of Treasurer for the Perenjori St John Ambulance Subcentre, also taking on the position of Secretary from 1978.

After moving back to Carnamah due to drought conditions in 1980, Merle continued to volunteer with the ambulance. She joined the North Midlands Sub-centre in 1985 as Secretary Treasurer, a position she held until 1991. After a year's break, Merle held the position of Secretary (1993–2004). In 2004, she became the Chairperson and Treasurer, a position she currently holds today.

She is also an active first aid trainer delivering courses in many towns beyond the North Midlands Sub-centre, as well as training new ambulance recruits. This is in addition to her work in the community for the Parent and Citizens Association and her local bowling club.

In 1994, she was the recipient of the inaugural First Aid Training Award, and in 1996 she was admitted as a Serving Sister. In 2001, she received the Ambulance Service Medal, and in 2003 the Centenary Medal. She was promoted to Officer in 2005, and Commander in 2009.

In 2003, Merle became an Elected Member with the Shire of Carnamah and in 2007 elected as President of the Shire. She is also a current member of the Western Australian Ambulance Service Council. Merle received a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2011.



As a nurse, it was assumed Merle would also join the ambulance as a first aider and patient assistant—which she duly did.



A highly respected and valued St John officer whose skills as a first aider and lecturer promoted the work of St John.

Joyce James CStJ

Queensland

Joyce Olive James joined the Ipswich Nursing Division of the St John Ambulance Brigade in 1955. Nursing had been Joyce's ambition but her health prevented her from achieving this. However, for the remainder of her life she derived satisfaction by caring for others through her involvement with St John. Joyce married and had two children, who followed her into St John as Cadets.

After 16 years with the Ipswich Division, Joyce transferred to the Brisbane Central No. 2 Division. In 1976 she was promoted to Divisional Officer. She established a division in the Algester area in 1979, becoming its foundation Superintendent—the Division still continues its duties. As Joyce's leadership skills became apparent to District (state) headquarters staff, she was promoted to Corps (regional) staff as a Corps Officer. She was later promoted to District staff in 1995.

Joyce excelled at public first aid duties, participating in all the duties carried out by the Brigade in Brisbane, including the 1982 Commonwealth Games and the 1988 Brisbane Expo.

One of Joyce's most memorable duties is described in *The Zambuks*, the centenary history of the Brigade in Australia—in 1984, she saved the life of a schoolboy knocked unconscious by a punch during a football game. When Joyce reached the young player, he had stopped breathing. She administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation for 22 minutes until an ambulance arrived. He was revived, and Joyce later saw him playing football again when she was on duty at a match.

As well as her Brigade duties, Joyce lectured St John public first aid classes for many years, as well as running courses at the University of Queensland and Wesley Hospital. Her wide experience as a first aider enabled her to speak with authority when teaching her classes. One of her colleagues later recalled that she was 'a highly respected and valued St John officer whose skills as a first aider and lecturer promoted the work of St John'.

Joyce's St John work was acknowledged with the award of the Service Medal of the Order with three bars and admission as a Serving Sister in 1983. She was promoted to Officer in 1992, and Commander in 1998.

Joyce died in 2004 after years of illness.

Roslyn Jones OStJ

1948– Northern Territory

Roslyn 'Ros' May Jones graduated from business college in 1966; she married Bruce Richard Jones in 1968 and they had two children, Tracey and Karen.

Ros' association with St John began in 1971, when she and Bruce attended a public meeting to discuss the formation of a volunteer ambulance service in Batchelor. Ros could not join because she was pregnant, but in 1978 Ros joined the Batchelor Division as a volunteer ambulance officer when her girls had started primary school.

Shortly after joining, Ros remembers demonstrating her skills to the then Commissioner, Alan Bromwich. Keen to prove her skills, Ros talked about patient haemorrhaging, upon which Dr Bromwich said 'that's a big word, what about good old-fashioned bleeding'.

In 1980, Ros was appointed Superintendent of Batchelor Cadet Division and shortly after Superintendent of Batchelor (adult) Division. There were many challenges in maintaining a volunteer division in a small community—often there was just Ros and one other fully trained person to manage the ambulance 24 hours per day and maintain a full time job at the same time.

Ros took a year off in 1993, handing the Superintendent position over to Donna Stone. Ros and Bruce supported and mentored Donna through her St John career and they are both very proud of her achievements.

Ros has made countless sacrifices over her many years of service to St John. While mentoring others in St John, she always makes an important point to 'put family first'. A special highlight for Ross and Bruce was having their granddaughter, Mahalia, join St John as a Cadet.

Ros's faith has been a constant source of strength for her and she often prays that the 'Great Physician' will be with her when she responds to an emergency call.

In 1991, Ros's service to St John Northern Territory was recognised through her admission as Serving Sister. She was later promoted to Officer.

Both Ros and her husband Bruce are still 'vollies' today.





membered as a witty,
ntelligent and warmearted woman whose
endship inspired love
and admiration.

Dorothy Joske DStJ

1900–1990 Victoria

Dorothy Joske was born Hilda Dorothy Thomas in Melbourne. She lived there until 1936, when she married James Larcombe of Sydney. They lived in 'Somerset', Strathfield, a home set in beautiful gardens that she made available for many St John Ambulance fund-raising events. Widowed in 1943, she lived there for the rest of her long life. Her second marriage, in 1969, was to Sir Percy E Joske, a retired federal parliamentarian and judge.

As Dorothy Larcombe, Lady Joske became involved in St John Ambulance in 1958 as a member of the western suburbs branch of the Linen Guild of New South Wales. The money they raised was sent to the then Grand Priory of the Order at St John's Gate, Clerkenwell, London, where it was used to buy bed linen, blankets, pyjamas, towels, uniforms and other textiles used at the St John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem.

Dorothy became President of the Western Suburbs Linen Guild in 1965. In 1968 she was appointed President of the New South Wales Linen Guild, becoming national President in 1971, a position she held for the next 12 years until her retirement in 1983. In this position she visited all Australian states and territories rallying support for the Eye Hospital.

During the late 1980s the term 'Linen Guild' dropped out of use as the Ophthalmic Branch of St John Ambulance Australia emerged from the efforts of the Hospitallers. Dorothy remained a member of the Ophthalmic Branch until the end of her life. Her St John friends remember her as a witty, intelligent and warm-hearted woman whose friendship inspired love and admiration.

In recognition of her work on behalf of the Eye Hospital, Dorothy was admitted as a Serving Sister in 1966 and was subsequently promoted through the grades to Officer (1972), Commander (1979) and Dame (1984).

Roberta Juli MSt.I

1872–1961 Western Australia

Roberta Henrietta Jull (née Stewart) was born in in Glasgow, Scotland, the second of four children of a Presbyterian minister stationed in Lisbon, Portugal. She attended schools in London and Scotland. After a period nursing her ill mother in Lisbon, Roberta returned to Glasgow to attend medical school, following her two brothers into the medical profession. At that time female students were excluded from lectures but were allowed to attend a women's university college and the Royal Infirmary. This discrimination influenced her strong views on the need for equality between the sexes.

After graduating in 1896 Roberta joined her two brothers in Australia to work in their practice at Guildford, on Perth's north-eastern outskirts. The area was largely unsettled, so she spent most of her early years in practice visiting patients on foot or by horseback. Distressed by the poor living conditions and high rates of infant mortality among her clientele, she became an activist for social reform—women's health and education, and children's welfare becoming her main interests. In 1897 she moved to Perth, and was the first female doctor in Western Australia to set up her own medical practice.

In 1898 Roberta married Martin Jull, Western Australia's first Public Service Commissioner. They had one daughter, who became the writer Henrietta Drake-Brockman. Because of her social status, Roberta was thrust into public life, a situation she embraced and used to further her medical and community work.

Roberta became involved with the St John Ambulance Association in 1899. She would subsequently be the first woman elected to the Western Australian St John Council. In 1900, Roberta Jull and Dorothy Durlacher led a movement to found the St John Ambulance Ladies Sub-centre in Perth. The Association minutes of this period reflect antagonism between some of the male executive and the two women, that not even Roberta's medical status could overcome. Nothing eventuated and indeed little more is seen of Dr Roberta Jull in St John records.

St John's loss was, however, the gain of other causes—Roberta went on to become a foundation member and medical adviser to the Children's Protection Society, the Women's Service Guild, and President of the Western Australian National Council of Women.

Eventually Dr Jull was awarded an honorary St John Ambulance Association Life Membership in 1923, and was admitted to the Order of St John as a Serving Sister in 1947.





Always on the go:
fixing up first aid
rooms, teaching
the Cadets or
rattling a collection
tin at a Tin Shake.

Margaret Kentler DStJ

1939–2008 Victoria

Margaret Kentler was a capable and energetic person, always on the go: fixing up first aid rooms, teaching the Cadets or rattling a collection tin at a Tin Shake. She would convene a meeting, provide a cake, serve refreshments, chair the meeting and before you knew it she would be washing the dishes.

Margaret joined Coburg-Brunswick Nursing Division of St John Ambulance Brigade in 1955 three weeks after her 16th birthday, having already obtained her First Aid and Family Care certificates. Within a couple of years she was the Divisional Officer and at the age of 20, became Superintendent in 1960.

Margaret became a Corps Officer in 1975 and Corps Superintendent in 1989. She became a Grade Three State Officer in 1996 and remained on Headquarters staff until her death. In all, Margaret contributed more than 50 years of service, which has merited the award of the Service medal and eight bars—an achievement matched by very few people.

Margaret was also the inaugural Chairperson of Community Care Branch in Victoria, serving as Chair (1996–2002). She saw the commencement of the Friends for Older people and the Visiting Friends Programs, and she was responsible for drafting the initial policies against bullying and harassment, and the commencement of the mentorship protocol.

After two triennial terms Margaret became Chair of the Ophthalmic Hospital Branch (2002–2008). She was an active member of the Hospitaller's Standing Committee which saw the extension of its activities beyond the support of the Jerusalem Eye Hospital to include Aboriginal Eye Health Programs at Katherine in the Northern Territory and Oecussi in East Timor. She proposed, drafted and oversaw the production of the Cadet Proficiency and Junior Interest badges on eye care, and she was immensely proud when about twenty Cadets were presented with their certificates by Lord Vestey, the former Lord Prior of the Order and then Chairman of the St John Hospital Board, during a trip to Australia.

Margaret was a member of St John Council Victoria since 1996. She was also a member of the St John Historical Society (Victoria). She was admitted as a Serving Sister in 1968, promoted to Officer (1974) and later Commander (1984). She was made a Dame of the Order in 1992 in a ceremony at Priory Headquarters in Canberra where she was personally invested by the Grand Prior, Richard, Duke of Gloucester.

Doreen Kerr MSt.I

Northern Territory

Doreen Kerr first joined St John in Perth where she was a member of the Perth No. 1 Nursing Division (1964–1969). She also volunteered with the Ambulance Service and completed her training in first aid, home nursing and patient care.

In 1969 she was awarded a Special Commendation for her actions in trying to save the life of a young boy who had drowned while surfing. Doreen carried out cardiopulmonary resuscitation, but unfortunately the boy could not be revived. Sadly, it was the son of her best friend and the memory has stayed with Doreen all these years as the most heart-rending experience of her time in St John.

In 1970, Doreen's family moved to Darwin and Doreen sought out the local St John division. Doreen was a member at the Darwin (adult) Division for 18 years. Her experience and ability to work with others saw her promoted to Divisional Officer in June 1971, and later to Divisional Superintendent.

She was active in all areas of divisional life, including public duties, ambulance, administration, training, Cadets and social activities. Her service record shows duty hours of up to 600 hours per year over her membership. Doreen was appointed Corps Staff Officer in May 1982 where her experience was of great benefit to her fellow officers.

In 1980, Doreen was admitted to the Order of St John as a Serving Sister. She continued her role as Corps Staff Officer until her retirement in 1988. Now aged 87 years, Doreen reflects with warmth and humour, her time in St John although she admits 'the memories get a bit dimmer each year'.





Edith Khangure CStJ

1947– Western Australia

Edith Khangure (née Gubbins) was born in the north of England, the older of two daughters. She attended primary school in Crook and secondary school in Wolsingham, and then university in Newcastle, where she trained as a social worker. After a year in Africa with the Volunteer Service Overseas program, she returned home for further study and work. In 1972 she married Dr Makhan Khangure. After the birth of their first child in 1975, the family migrated to Perth, Western Australia and Edith commenced training as a professional librarian at Curtin University. In 1980–1981 the family spent a year in the United States of America, where her husband undertook further medical studies, Edith qualified in medical librarianship and their second son was born.

At home in Perth again, a daughter was born, and Edith commenced training as a professional librarian at Curtin University, acquiring an additional qualification in medical librarianship, returning to part time work in 1983. After working in the medical library at the Royal Perth Hospital, she obtained a salaried position as the St John Western Australian Ambulance Service Librarian. While raising her family and working for St John, Edith continued her studies in advanced librarianship at Curtin University, eventually earning an advanced graduate diploma, masters and doctoral degree. After the St John in-house paramedic training had moved across to the university system, Edith supervised the closure of the library in 2009.

As a volunteer, Edith had also taken responsibility for managing the library and museum of the Western Australian Commandery of St John. With the assistance of funds and time donated by volunteers, she developed a first rate St John museum in the heritage-listed Commandery headquarters building in Wellington Street, Perth. She edited the St John volunteers' magazine, *The Brigade* (1987–1995) and in 1997–1998 co-authored the book *Reflections and Directions*, a history commemorating the Commandery's 50th anniversary. In 2003 she edited Ruth Donaldson's personal memoir, *Following a Nursing Star*, a history of the Perth Nursing Division. In 2003 Edith supervised the transfer of the heritage collections from Wellington Street to the state headquarters in Belmont, where they are now situated in the lan Kaye-Eddie Heritage Centre.

Edith was a co-founder of the St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia, serving as the elected committee member representing her state (2001–2011). She became the society's deputy secretary in 2011. She received a Commandery Commendation in 1988 and was admitted to the Order of St John as a Member in 1997, promoted to Officer (2005) and Commander (2011).

Lesley King DStJ

1937– Northern Territory

Lesley Iris King (née James) was born in Port Augusta, South Australia. She spent her early childhood in Whyalla but her family moved to Kadina, in the 'Cornish copper belt', when she was 12 years old. She attended local primary schools and the high school in Kadina. She loved school and her parents encouraged her to seek an education—in her final year she passed nine subjects. She was also the school pianist and church organist, with piano teaching qualifications at 15 with which she taught music and ballet.

In 1957 Lesley moved to Adelaide to begin nursing training at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. She had completed only one year when her mother died suddenly, and she returned home to care for her family. In 1958 she married Ronald King and they had three children. In 1959 the hospital took the unusual step of inviting her to complete her training. She returned to her course and graduated in 1961, the first married woman to do so. She then specialized in surgical and intensive care nursing and tutored trainee nurses.

The Kings moved to Darwin in 1967. They lost their house during Cyclone Tracy in 1974 but soon re-established themselves there. Lesley took a job as a government school nurse and teaching aide in 1977, later becoming a school registrar. She worked for the Education Department until her retirement in 2003. She also volunteered with community agencies such as Crisis Line and Mèdicins Sans Frontières.

Lesley's St John Ambulance career began in 1976 when she joined the Casuarina Division. She was appointed Divisional Nurse in 1979, Corps Nursing Officer in 1981 and District Nursing Officer in 1982. She became District Superintendent in 1986 and served nine years as Deputy Commissioner (1993–2002). Her next appointment was as the Operations Branch officer responsible for human resources and child protection. She developed the recruitment and grievance policies, and the child protection policy and associated protocols for the Northern Territory's Cadet movement. She also took interest in first aid competitions, organising the territory and national competitions for both Cadets and adults at various times as well as training territory teams for the 'nationals'.

Lesley's service to St John was recognised by her admission as a Member in 1991 and her subsequent promotion to Officer (1996), Commander (2003) and Dame (2008). Other awards include the Centenary Medal (2002) for her work with children.



Vera Kiss ostu

1912-2004

Queensland

Vera Elizabeth Kiss was born in Gympie, Queensland. She joined St John in 1950, when the St John Ambulance Brigade was establishing its first Queensland divisions. She joined the Nundah Nursing Division. A foundation member, she remained with the Division for her entire Brigade career.

For many years she was the divisional storekeeper, ensuring that the supply of home-made triangular bandages were ready for use in first aid kits, and for first aid training classes. She also undertook many and varied public first aid and nursing duties, often helping on the evening shift in the casualty department of the Brisbane Hospital (now the Royal Brisbane and Royal Women's Hospital).

Fund-raising was one of Vera's strengths. A Nundah Division adage is that each brick in the divisional training centre represents a batch of lamingtons sold by Vera and her fellow division members when they were raising money to build it. Nowadays the 'Lamington Trophy' for first aid competition commemorates their effort. When the training centre eventually opened in 1979, Vera joined the Building Committee, which ensured that the centre which the members had toiled to construct was well maintained.

After Vera's retirement from the Brigade, she joined the newly established Community Care Branch, and she became one of the original volunteer callers in the Silver Cord telephone program. She took her responsibilities very seriously, ringing the same client daily for more than a decade, until her own death.

Vera's loyal, conscientious and dedicated service was recognised in 1973 by her admission as a Serving Sister. She was promoted to Officer in 1992. She was also awarded the Service Medal of the Order with four bars. After her death, one of her fellow Nundah Division members wrote of her 'wonderful ability to care for her patients, clients and fellow volunteers'. She was, the friend recalled, 'a true Samaritan—a compassionate carer who didn't walk by on the other side'.

indah Division adage that each brick in the sional training centre represents a batch of mingtons sold by Verald her fellow members.

Rhonda Lang CStJ

1943-

Queensland

Rhonda Lang was born in Rockhampton, but has spent most of her life in Maryborough. She attended the Albert State School and Maryborough Girls High School, after which she worked as a pathology assistant in hospital laboratories in Maryborough and Brisbane.

Rhonda joined St John Ambulance as a Cadet with her local Nursing Cadet division at age 12 in 1956. The next year she began participating in state-level first aid and nursing competitions in Brisbane. In 1961 she moved up into the Maryborough (adult) Division, with which she retained links for the next 48 years.

In the meantime, Rhonda held various positions within both the Maryborough (adult) and Cadet Divisions. In 1961 she became a Divisional Officer in the Cadet division but within three months was appointed Superintendent. In 1970 she accepted the position of Corps (regional) Secretary, which took her away from her Division until she returned as a Divisional Officer in 1978. She again became the Superintendent of the Cadet division in 1981. Her next appointment, in 1983, was Corps Treasurer. She became treasurer of the adult Division in 1989 and held this position for 18 years, meanwhile also serving as Treasurer of the Cadet division (1991–1996).

After short stints as Divisional Officer and Superintendent in the adult Division (1993–1994), Rhonda served as Divisional Secretary (1994–1997). After further periods as both Divisional Officer and Superintendent, in 1998 she became Secretary of the newly formed St John Maryborough property management committee, and the following year, Secretary-Treasurer. A second period as Treasurer of the Cadet division followed (2003–2006), during which period she was also Superintendent of the adult division again.

Rhonda's service to St John Ambulance in the Maryborough region has been recognised by the award of the Service Medal of the Order with six bars and by her admission as Member of the Order. She was admitted as a Serving sister in 1985, later promoted to Officer (2001) and Commander (2007).





Her loyalty and enthusiasm for the St John cause was unwavering and infectious.

Vicki MacMillan MstJ

Northern Territory

Vicki MacMillan joined St John as a member of the Humpty Doo Cadet Division in September 1999, initially as an adult helper within the Division. Vicki undertook first aid training during 1999 and 2000, and quickly qualified as a first aid instructor.

Her outgoing nature and hardworking attitude ensured that she was quickly promoted to Divisional Superintendent of Humpty Doo Cadet Division in July 2001.

She was an energetic and committed member instrumental in the success of Humpty Doo Cadets, providing St John activities in a regional area of Darwin. Vicki was entrepreneurial in many ways, running inter-divisional competitions, Cadet camps, leadership courses and patient simulation. Her loyalty and enthusiasm for the St John cause was unwavering and infectious, encouraging parents, family members and members of the community to join the Division.

Vicki also held a role as Officer-in-Charge of the Kormilda College Division. This Division is the first school-based division in the Northern Territory and enabled Indigenous students from communities across the Top End to participate in the St John Cadet program. She formulated the training program for the Kormilda Division and encouraged other Cadets to assist with the instruction. Vicki's Cadets were the first in the Territory to join the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme achieving their Bronze Medals in 2003.

In addition to her roles at Humpty Doo and Kormilda, Vicki delivered public first aid courses, and provided training programs for her divisional staff and Cadets, in first aid competitions and leadership. Two of her children, Emmalee and Daniel, are both very active in St John.

Vicki was admitted as a Member in 2005. Vicki resigned in May 2010 after ten years of extraordinary service to St John. Her efforts opened the way for children in regional communities to participate in St John Cadet programs. Vicki's commitment and hardworking attitude is an outstanding example to other members in the Northern Territory.

Emilie Marchesi

1927-

Western Australia

Emilie Marchesi joined St John in 1974 after attending a first aid class (in her capacity as a Civil Defence Officer), in Brookton, Western Australia.

After the first aid instructor retired, Emilie decided to qualify as a first aid instructor herself. Emilie and her husband, Jack Marchesi, were first aid instructors from 1974 to 1982. Emilie was a great teacher and her classes were always very entertaining!

The town of Beverley nearby had no first aid instructors for a number of years, so Emilie and Jack often travelled there to deliver classes. For many years if you required an ambulance, you would call the Marchesi's home phone number, and Emilie would organise a crew and patient transportation to assist.

Emilie's contribution to St John in Brookton has been invaluable. She and Jack became involved when the sub-centre needed revitalizing. They contributed countless volunteer hours, while struggling to recruit new members. As a committee member at the Brookton Sub-centre, Emilie would take on any task given to her with great enthusiasm, whether it was fund-raising, catering or first aid classes, all with the betterment of St John in mind.

Emilie was awarded an honorary life membership of the Brookton Sub-centre in 1982, and received a special commendation of the Western Australian Commandry in 1982. Emilie and Jack have one daughter, Anne.





She worked exhaustively to raise the efficiency and morale of the Brigade's adult and Nursing Cadet divisions.

Frances McKay OBE DStJ

1897–1969 New South Wales

Frances Christian Burrell McKay was born in Queensland, the fourth of seven children. After schooling in the sugar port of Mackay she went on to university, where she completed a Batchelor of Arts and Sciences, and a Diploma of Education. She worked as a high school teacher to support herself while studying medicine at the University of Sydney. She graduated in 1924 and was appointed as the first Resident Medical Officer at the Auburn District Hospital in Sydney. She later opened a general practice at her home in Auburn, but remained an honorary medical officer at the hospital for 40 years.

Frances McKay's St John career began in early 1927 when she became the surgeon to the Auburn Nursing Division of the St John Ambulance Brigade. She also lectured and examined for St John Ambulance and became a member of its state executive committee. After ten years as Divisional Surgeon at Auburn, in 1936 Dr McKay was promoted to District (state) Officer (Nursing) within the Brigade, and in 1940 to District Superintendent (Nursing).

During World War II Dr McKay was delegated to represent St John Ambulance on the New South Wales Voluntary Aid Detachment council in 1940. She was later appointed the New South Wales State Controller of VADs.

In the post-war years, Frances McKay became a New South Wales representative of the newly established Australian Priory of the Order (1947). In 1948 she became a foundation executive member of the New South Wales Hospitallers' Club which supported the work of the St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem—she represented the Priory at the official opening of the new hospital which the Order constructed there. She also became one of the instigators of the Sir Hugh Poate Recreational and Training Centre which opened in 1956. The lecture theatre was named the 'Dr Frances McKay' room in recognition of her efforts in having the centre built. That same year, Frances McKay was appointed Chief Superintendent (Nursing), becoming the first woman to hold the national office within the Brigade. She retained this position until her death in 1968. The year before her death Frances McKay donated a trophy for the winners of the team event at the annual national Cadet first aid competitions.

Frances McKay became an Honorary Life Member of the St John Ambulance Association in 1929. She was admitted to the Order as a Serving Sister in 1938, promoted to Officer (1942), Commander (1946) and Dame (1947). In 1946 she was awarded the VAD King's Bar and Brooch. The year before her death she was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire. She also received the Service Medal of the Order with two bars.

Kimberlee McKay MStJ

1969– Northern Territory

Kimberlee McKay was born at Woonsocket, Rhode Island in the United States of America. She moved to Australia with her family in 1985, aged 16 years, and finished schooling at Alice Springs High School in 1986. Kimberlee joined Alice Springs Division in 1987 after being introduced to St John by her then boyfriend, now husband, Michael McKay.

Kimberlee first helped out with administration at the Division and enjoyed the meeting nights and public duties. She went on to complete ambulance training and began volunteering on ambulances as an observer. In 1989, Kimberlee left St John to start a family. Kimberlee and Michael have two children: Amy and Stephen.

In 2002, Kimberlee rejoined St John when her daughter, Amy, joined the Cadet Band Division at Casuarina. In 2003, she was appointed Divisional Officer and in 2005 she became Divisional Superintendent. Kimberlee quickly earned the respect of members and during her time the Division grew to be the largest in the Northern Territory with approximately 50 Cadets and Juniors. She always made time to greet Juniors, Cadets and parents with a smile.

In 2008, Kimberlee was appointed Territory Officer Cadets. In this role she maintained an excellent relationship with all Cadet divisions in the Northern Territory, which was an obvious challenge given the distance between divisions. She delivered Child Protection Training across the Territory and improved the working relationship with the Youth Council. She has made great inroads to improve communication and links with rural and remote Cadet divisions. Kimberlee resigned from her role as Territory Officer Cadet in 2011, due to her work commitments. She continues her service at a territory level as Territory Officer, Cadet Support.

Outside of St John, Kimberlee completed a Bachelor of Business in 2006, a Graduate Certificate in Public Governance in 2009 and is currently studying to qualify as a Certified Practising Accountant. She works as a Senior Budget Analyst with Northern Territory Treasury.

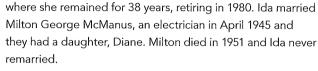
Kimberlee has built great rapport with members, Cadets and parents during her time with St John. She is respected for her sense of fairness and commitment to the organisation. Her service was recognised through her admission to the Order as Member in 2009.



Ida McManus Mst.

1920– South Australia

Ida Mary McManus (née Ridgeway) was born to John William and Mary Annie Ridgeway. She attended school in Port Augusta (1934) and then completed a three year needlework course. Although she had no formal teaching training, Ida became a dressmaking teacher at the local technical college in 1943,



First aid was always a part of her life as her father was a first aid instructor for the Commonwealth Railway and was a leader in five interstate first aid competitions. In 1942 Ida was appointed to the position of Commandant of the local Voluntary Aid Detachment, out of which the St John Ambulance Nursing Division was formed. Ida was appointed as Superintendent of the Port Augusta Nursing Division in 1942 and remained there until she retired in 1986.

Ida also formed a nursing Cadets division, and was admitted as a Serving Sister in 1954. She was also awarded her 12 year Service Medal in 1954 and received six bars to her service medal, the last in 1984. Some of her most memorable moments were providing personnel for the Queen's visit in 1954, and manning a first aid centre 24 hours a day for almost a week after Cyclone Tracey in 1974.



Jean McMillan oski

1899–1972

South Australia

Jean Rosa McMillan was born the third of four daughters. In 1927, she attended a home nursing class and was persuaded to join the St John Ambulance Brigade by

persuaded to join the St John Am Gertrude Jude.

Jean recalled being instructed to go to Rundle Street to be fitted for her uniforms: a white, long-sleeved uniform with a black silk ribbon band, with the St John badge worn on the right arm. She remembered early duties on the metropolitan beaches treating patients in the open with only a small sunshade to protect patients from the heat.

In 1930, Jean was appointed Secretary of the Nursing Division. In 1932, she was successful in passing her officer examination and was promoted to Officer of the Nursing Division.

In addition to her volunteer commitment, Jean was appointed the first Secretary of the Brigade in 1934. At this time, the Hospitallers Club was formed and Jean was one of the foundation members. In 1944, she took over the Treasurer's job, a position she held until 1971.

In 1940, the Nursing Divisions were split into sub-divisions. A new division was formed at St Peters and Jean was promoted to Superintendent. In 1941, Jean resigned as the Brigade Secretary and returned to insurance work, but retained her interest as a volunteer member.

Jean was approached by the Commissioner of Police to join the Women's Police Branch and she joined in December 1944. One of her duties as a Police Constable was to instruct the young women in first aid and to attend to patients around the Department. She conducted first aid examinations and classes for many years, often travelling to country centres.

In 1950, Jean was promoted to Corps Officer. In 1955, she was promoted to District Officer.

In recognition of her service, Jean was admitted as a Serving Sister in 1945, and promoted to Officer in 1959. After her retirement in 1971, she maintained a keen interest in St John. She attended Nursing Officer meetings until she passed away in 1972, aged 73 years.



Jean remembered
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them from the heat.



Patricia McQuillen osta

1939–2008 Northern Territory and Victoria

Patricia 'Pat' McQuillen was a teacher and world traveler who grew up in Avoca in central Victoria. After high school, she spent a year as a teacher's apprentice in Avoca before starting study at the Melbourne Teachers' College. Following graduation, she taught in primary schools in Victoria until 1966, when she accepted a teaching position in Canada. She remained there for ten years, teaching in various schools and using her vacations to travel widely in the Americas, Europe and Africa.

In 1976 Pat returned to Australia to teach in Darwin. There she undertook a first aid course, at the end of which she joined the local division of the St John Ambulance Brigade. Pat also qualified as a volunteer ambulance officer and took her turn on the crew rosters of the ambulance vans of the newly established St John Northern Territory ambulance service.

In 1978 Pat moved from Darwin to Alice Springs as a domestic science teacher at Yirara College, where she remained until her retirement in 2004. She also transferred to the Alice Springs Division, of which she became one of the key members.

In Alice Springs Pat's St John career flourished. As well as working with the Division, she also worked as an ambulance volunteer and was promoted to Corps (regional) Officer within the Brigade. She also became involved in the Cadet movement. She established a Nursing Cadet Division at Yirara College, the first all-Aboriginal division anywhere.

Pat also began researching the history of St John in Central Australia, and started collecting memorabilia and records. This study culminated in a history, *Saved any lives today?* (2004)—a question the Prince of Wales asked Pat when he was visiting Alice Springs in 1982 to open the new St John Ambulance centre.

Pat returned to live in Avoca on retirement, where she became a Community Care volunteer. She also attended the annual gatherings of the Historical Society of which she was a foundation committee member. She continued travelling widely, including a voyage to Antarctica in the months before her death. Her 32 years of outstanding service to St John were rewarded with the Service Medal of the Order. She was admitted as a Member in 1993, and promoted to Officer in 1998.

Pat died in 2008.

Rita Mitchell DStJ

1907-2011

New South Wales

Rita Frances Mary Mitchell (née Hayes) worked as a milliner before marrying Harry Mitchell, a high school teacher and later Mayor of Ryde, Sydney. They had two children.

Rita joined the St John Ambulance Brigade in Gladesville in 1940. The following year she was appointed Cadet Officer of the Gladesville Nursing Cadet Division and became an instructor of first aid and home nursing for the St John Ambulance Association. In 1942 she transferred to the adult Division as Superintendent. The Mitchell family moved to Broken Hill in 1945 where they remained until 1951. Rita transferred her St John membership to the Broken Hill Nursing Division. She rejoined her Gladesville division on returning to Sydney.

Rita was promoted to Corps (regional) Officer (Nursing) in 1953. Further promotions followed: Corps (Nursing) Superintendent (1954) and District (state) Staff Officer (Nursing; 1956). She served as District (Nursing) Superintendent (1970–1973).

Rita also became involved in activities to promote St John and raise funds for the Brigade. Rita organised a St John marching contingent, parade float, and a fund-raising afternoon tea for the first Waratah Spring Festival in 1956. This became a major annual event for St John as did the Sydney Royal Easter Show, on Rita's suggestion. In 1972 she organised a huge St John pageant as part of the Easter Saturday show—a cast of 1600 St John members dressed in period costume from the Crusades to the Victorian era—460 garments produced on members' sewing machines at St John headquarters.

Yet another major costume-making enterprise took place in 1975, when senior female members of the Order (Dames and Commanders) participated for the first time in the Capitular Procession at the Priory Chapter Meeting and then at Priory church service at St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney. Rita, although now retired from active St John Work, organised production of the Tudor bonnets and long black mantles emblazoned with the Badge of the Order for the women taking part.

Rita was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire in 1969, for her St John endeavours and for having founded the Royal Ryde Homes Ladies Auxiliary. She received the Service Medal of the Order with four bars, and in 1954 was admitted as a Serving Sister. She was promoted to Officer (1960), Commander (1966) and Dame (1972). Betty Stirton comments that Rita was 'the right role model for St John women, showing they could do any senior job in St John, and gender had nothing to do with it'.



'The right role model for St John women.'



Faye Morgan OAM MStJ

1939– Western Australia

Faye Morgan (née Jackson) was born in Midland Junction, Western Australia, the only child of Goff and Mae Jackson. After primary and secondary schooling in Claremont, Perth, she trained in secretarial studies. Her first job in 1955 was as a junior secretary to Dr Alec Dawkins, the St John Ambulance Commissioner in Western Australia and later Commandery Lieutenant (Council Chairman of the Western Australia Commandery). She later worked with the Bank of Adelaide, where she met her husband, Robert, whom she married in 1961. They had a daughter, Lea-anne, and a son, David.

Faye's involvement with St John Ambulance began in 1977 when she became relief secretary for the late Kevin Smith, the Chief Superintendent of the St John Western Australian Ambulance Service. The following year she became permanent secretary to Ian Kaye-Eddie, the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer of St John Ambulance in Western Australia. She retained the position for the next 23 years, until her retirement in 2001.

In her 24 years of employment in St John, Faye became a key figure in the success of many St John endeavours in Western Australia. These included the Commandery, state St John executive, ambulance service, training, first aid services, Community Care, the Ophthalmic Branch, liaison with Government House, state reviews, the annual church services and the periodic Priory Conferences (when these were held in Perth). Faye's years of service to St John were rewarded with her admission as a Member in 2002.

Faye has also led a highly active life in the community away from St John Ambulance. She was a councillor on the City of Canning Council for 12 years (1997–2009). She spent 15 years as a palliative care volunteer with two Perth hospitals, for which she was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1997. She also spent five years representing the City of Canning on the board of Communicare, an organisation supporting the disadvantaged, as well as representing the municipality on the Youth Connection and Aged Trust organisations for many years. Faye still serves on the councils of two primary schools near her home in the suburb Rossmoyne.

Honora Morris DSt.

1919–2007 South Australia

Honora 'Honor' Laura Morris was born in Adelaide, the second of seven children to John Richard Morris and Ellen Amelda Reese. As a child, Honor loved to play nurse with her cousins and she followed her dream commencing nurse training and a career at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. In 1955 Honor was appointed as a Nurse Tutor and believed theoretical training and practical work had to be done together and that there was no substitute for practical nursing. Honor was also involved in establishing the hospitals teaching program in intensive care.

Honor joined St John in the early 1950s as the Nursing Officer of the Mitcham Nursing Division. Honor stimulated and encouraged members to learn advanced nursing practices expecting first class skills and of course excellent mitred corners when bed-making. One member remembers Honor instructing them to treat all patients: 'this could be your mother, so treat her with the utmost respect and care'.

Honor became the District Nursing Officer for South Australia. Among her duties, Honor often adjudicated the home nursing sets at the adult nursing competitions, and assisted with extra training in home nursing skills for the winning South Australian nursing team and individuals, prior to the national competitions. In 1964 Honor was admitted as a Serving Sister, further promoted to Officer (1967), Commander (1971), and in 1977, Dame of Grace.

In the early 1970s, Honor began to write the first Australian home nursing manual with the help of many St John nursing officers and her very good friend, Dorothy Mitchell. This work concluded in the book, *Care of the Sick in the Home*, which was launched in 1976 by the then Governor of South Australia, Sir Mark Oliphant.

In 1979 Honor retired after 24 years as one of the state's top Tutor Sisters at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, having taught more than 4000 nurses over that time. The following year, at a St John 'Thank You Dinner', a presentation was made to Honor to mark her retirement from St John after 30 years of service, 14 of those as District Nursing Officer.

In her retirement Sister Honor Morris was still involved with St John, but also found time to catch up on her other loves—the theatre and sleeping in. Following a long illness, Honor passed away in October 2007.



Honor stimulated and encouraged members to learn advanced nursing skills [includicated excellent mitred cornwhen bed-making.



Debbie Nilsson DAM CSt.

1957– New South Wales

Debbie Nilsson (née Stone) was born in a family that developed strong St John Ambulance links. Her parents, Jean and George Stone, became active St John supporters in 1968 when Debbie and her younger sister joined the Balmain Nursing Cadet Division. Jean was Divisional President from 1970, and George, a police officer in charge of the Balmain Police-Citizens Boys Club, supported the Division by providing a meeting space within the club premises and by using the club's mini-bus to transport the Cadets.

Debbie greatly enjoyed the life of a Cadet, applying herself to acquiring Proficiency badges, and receiving her Grand Prior's Award in 1973.

After completing her schooling at Burwood Girls High School in 1975, Debbie trained as a secondary teacher of home economics. She obtained a Batchelor of Education at Newcastle University and a Diploma of Teaching from Sydney University. She taught in government schools for 20 years before taking an administrative position in teacher training. Her present position is in curriculum development.

Debbie is married to Sven Nilsson, a nurse. Like Debbie, Sven is a St John Ambulance veteran and is the Divisional Superintendent of the very large Sydney University Division, which he founded in 1995. Debbie and Sven have two daughters who joined St John as Juniors. Both are trained nurses and are members of their father's Division.

Debbie has held many positions in St John Ambulance. These include Divisional Superintendent, Corps (state) Staff Officer Cadets, State Communications Officer, State Operations Officer, Divisional Officer Sydney University Division, member of the board of the St John Ambulance Association (Training Branch), and elected Member of the NSW St John Council. During her continuous 47-year St John career, Debbie has taken part in some of the most memorable public first aid duties ever undertaken in Australia, including ABBA, Billy Joel and U2 concerts, the Festival of Sydney, City To Surf Fun Runs, and the 2000 Sydney Olympics, at which she commanded the team of Australian and overseas St John volunteers on duty in the main stadium.

Debbie's St John service has been rewarded with the Service Medal with five bars, and her admission as a Serving Sister in 1986. She was subsequently promoted to Officer in 1981 and Commander in 1998. In 2005 she was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for her service to the community through St John Ambulance.

Melissa Northcott MSEJ

1987– Western Australia

Melissa 'Mel' Northcott was born in Perth, Western Australia. After finishing school she completed a Diploma of Business Studies (Public Relations) in the Technical and Further Education (TAFE) sector in 2007.

Mel joined the St John Ambulance Armadale Cadet Division as a Junior in 1996. She was promoted to Corporal in 2002, Sergeant in 2003 and Cadet Leader in 2004. In 2006 she became the Divisional Public Events Coordinator and in 2007 the Uniforms Coordinator. As a member of the Division she completed a series of senior first aid training courses, courses for non-commissioned officers and programs of training in drug and alcohol management, child protection and public speaking. She also undertook the St John Chancellor's youth leadership development program in 2006–2007.

Because of suffering cerebral palsy, in 2005 Mel became an affiliate (non-operational) member of the First Aid Services Branch but served as a member of the St John Western Australian Youth Council (2006–2008). From 2008, Mel served for three years on the Australian Youth Council in the portfolio position of research development coordinator, her special interest being inclusiveness for people with disabilities. In 2011 she again became a member of the Western Australian Youth Council.

In addition to her St John involvements, Mel works as an advocate for people with disabilities. She has been a member of the state board of directors of the Centre for Cerebral Palsy since 2008 and of the state Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability since 2009.

Among other honours and distinctions, Mel was awarded the St John Grand Prior's Badge in 2002 and received the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award in 2006. In 2009 Mel received a bronze St John Southern Cross award. In 2010 she was admitted as a Member of the Order of St John, becoming one of the youngest Australian members of the Order.



An advocate for peopl with disabilities.



Margaret Nunn DStJ

1941– South Australia

Margaret Ann Nunn was born in Kapunda, South Australia. Her family moved to Adelaide when she was 18-months-old. When Margaret was twelve her much-loved mother passed away and a friend of her father's encouraged her to join a Nursing Cadet Division. This is when Margaret's 40-year in St John began.

Margaret joined the Adelaide Nursing Cadet Division in 1955 leaving three years later to start her nursing career at the Mareeba Babies and the Queen Elizabeth Hospitals, until she married policeman, Donald Korner in 1961. Unfortunately, she did not finish her training because trainee nurses were not allowed to be married in that era. Margaret and Donald had three children: Donald, Jacqueline and Tammy. Their marriage ended in 1968.

Margaret re-joined St John in 1968 attending the Tea Tree Gully Nursing Division. In 1971, Margaret was promoted to Divisional Cadet Officer and this is where her passion for working with young people began. In 1976, she was promoted to Divisional Superintendent, a position she held for nine years. During this time Margaret built the numbers up to 96 Nursing Cadets, becoming the largest in South Australia.

In 1975, Margaret married Robert (Bob) Nunn. Bob has also been involved in St John for many years: often cooking for Cadet Camps, including the famous annual Angaston Cadet Camp, and playing a very good Father Christmas at the Division's Christmas parties.

Margaret left her beloved Division, and was promoted to District (state) Staff Officer in 1985 to work with the State Administration and Personal Group. During 1988, Margaret was transferred back to the District Cadet Section responsible for promoting Cadet Proficiency courses and Junior Interest badges.

In 1993, Margaret was promoted to District Cadet Officer for South Australia. The State Angaston Cadet camp was always the highlight of Margaret's year; she attended 32 camps.

Margaret was the District Officer of Cadets for nine years. Following this she was a member of the State Administration and Member Support Group. Although retiring in 2005, Margaret and Bob still contribute as members of South Australia's Historical Society, the Welfare Group Committee and the Assembly of the Order Committee,

After being admitted as a Serving Sister in 1980, Margaret was promoted to Officer in 1989. Margaret was awarded the Centenary of Federation Award and in 1995 she was promoted to Commander. In 2002 she was promoted to Dame in the Order of St. John.

Rocky O'Brien CStJ

1955--

Australian Capital Territory

Rocky O'Brien (née Hutchinson) was born in Brewarrina, New South Wales, the oldest of six children. She attended Canley Vale Primary School and then Cabramatta High School. On leaving school she wished to enter nursing, but her father did not approve of further education for girls so she joined the Commonwealth Public Service and moved to Canberra. She married a fellow public servant, Shawn O'Brien, and they had a daughter and two sons.

Still wishing to become a nurse, Rocky entered the School of Nursing at the Woden Valley Hospital in Canberra and graduated at the top of her class. She later graduated in the Diploma of Management program at the Canberra Institute of Technology. After completing her training, Rocky secured an enrolled nursing position at Calvary Hospital in Canberra, where she has now worked for 21 years and has been a nurse for 25 years.

Rocky's lifelong involvement with St John Ambulance began when she joined the Cabravale Nursing Cadet Division in Sydney at age 12. She remained in the Division until moving to Canberra five years later. Following some years away from St John after settling in Canberra, she rejoined with the St John Ambulance Brigade in 1979. She was soon appointed as superintendent of the Scullin Cadet Division, and held the position for 22 years. She then became the Territory Officer Cadets for the next six years. Among the highlights of her service in the position was the organisation of the national Cadet camp in Canberra in 2001. Other St John highlights have included being a member of the ACT contingent for the Sydney Olympics in 2000, and the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne in 2006, as well as duty during the catastrophic Canberra bushfires in 2003.

Rocky has filled a series of other positions, including Territory Recruiting Officer and Territory Operations Officer. Her St John service has earned her various awards, including the Australian Capital Territory Emergency Medal, the St John Service Medal and membership of the Order of St John, in which she was promoted to Commander.





Melissa Oudshoorn MStJ

1985– South Australia

Melissa Jane Oudshoorn (née Roberts) was born in Adelaide. She attended St Brigid's Primary School at Prospect and then Marryatville High School. She works as an administrator with an Adelaide construction company.

Melissa joined the St John Cadet division at Prospect in 1991, after the local Cadet superintendent, Gloria Curtis, visited St Brigid's to promote St John membership. She progressed to Corporal, Sergeant and in 2004 became Cadet Leader. She gained the 200 Hours Service badge in 2002. Passionate about competitions, she competed in team and leader events in state and national first aid competitions for many years.

In 2007 Melissa transferred to Prospect No. 2 Cadet Division. She became the Divisional Superintendent the following year. She has had active roles in other areas of St John including being the 'Peter Falkland Cadet of the Year' in 2005, the South Australia delegate on the Australian Youth Council (2006–2008) and Chair of the South Australia Youth Council (2008–2010). In 2009 she became the manager of the South Australian National Cadet Competition Team and was a member of the national Cadet camp planning team in 2010.

Melissa married Matthew Oudshoorn in 2009, and they have two children. She continues to study and has partially completed a certificate in youth work. She has also completed the St John leadership development course and is a member of the St John Officer peer support group. In 2010 she was promoted to Regional Staff Officer Cadets for the North West Region in South Australia. Melissa was admitted as a Member in 2011.

Lynne Marea Panayiotis

1963– Victoria

Lynne Marea Panayiotis was born in Victoria and is one of seven children of Max and Julia Penaluna. Lynne and her twin sister, Gail, joined St John in 1974—her parents and many of her siblings were already members of the St John Broadmeadows Division.

Lynne was educated at Glenroy High School and went on to study teaching at Melbourne Teachers' College. Most of Lynne's teaching career was at Melton Secondary College, where she was held in the highest regard by fellow teachers and the students.

Lynne became heavily involved in the Victorian Youth Development Program units in secondary schools, and made a significant contribution to the *Cadet Resource Administration Manual*—the bible for Victorian Cadet divisions. Lynne was a particularly valuable member of the Cadet Recruiting and Package committee, contributing to Cadet training, development and planning, as well as fostering the St John Junior membership.

Lynne also participated as a team manager in state competitions, and Cadet camps at the state and national level, holding an Officer position in the State Cadet team for a number of years. She was also involved in organising, teaching and examining Preliminary First Aid courses and various other Cadet Proficiency courses such as patient simulation.

Lynne was appointed to Chief Officer Cadets in 1999, having proven to be an excellent mentor to fellow officers and members, and support to new Cadet Corps staff.



Lynne [is] a
particularly valuable
member, fostering
St John Junior
membership.



Harriet Parker cst.

?–1942 Western Australia

Little is now known about Harriet Emma Parker, who was the first woman in Western Australia admitted into the Order of St John in 1923 as a Serving Sister, and then to be promoted to Officer (1929) and Commander (1936). She was possibly the Mrs Parker who enrolled in the first women's St John Ambulance first aid class in Perth in 1892. She was certainly one of the 14 women who attended the inaugural meeting of the Perth Nursing Division of the St John Ambulance Brigade in November 1913. Harriet Parker was appointed as the Division's 'Inspector of Stores' but within four months became Divisional Superintendent.

Harriet Parker made a great success of the Perth Nursing Division, and the growth of the Division was greatly boosted by the onset of World War I in August 1914, when many women signed up as members to help the patriotic cause. The Division registered as a Voluntary Aid Detachment that meant members had to wear two uniforms and do double public duties—both Brigade and VAD. Having demonstrated her leadership during the war, in 1919 Harriet Parker was promoted to District Officer, responsible for the Brigade's nursing divisions. The first woman to hold such office in Western Australia, Harriet Parker made a success of that job as well, forming 16 new divisions in Perth and country areas.

In 1938 when the VAD organisation was reinstituted ahead of World War II, Harriet Parker became the state's Commandant, retiring in 1940. Thereafter she worked to secure the participation of members as volunteers to assist the male ambulance drivers in the St John-run Perth metropolitan ambulance service. She died before this new arrangement came into effect in 1942. She would later be remembered as the 'mother' of the St John Nursing Divisions in Western Australia.

As well as her membership in the Order, in 1923 Harriet Parker was granted Life Membership of the St John Ambulance Association in Western Australia, in recognition of her supervision of many first aid classes. She was awarded the Service Medal of the Order with several bars, and she served for a record period of 18 years (1922–1940) as a member of the St John Council in Western Australia.

The mother of St John Nursing Divisions in Western Australia.

Joan Patterson pst.

1938– Victoria

Joan Laurel Patterson was born in Melbourne and grew up in Footscray. After attending local primary and secondary schools, she graduated from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. A devout Anglican, in retirement Joan gained qualifications in theology.

Joan joined the Footscray Nursing Cadet Division of the St John Ambulance Brigade in 1950 following a visit from a divisional officer. The following year Joan was chosen to captain the Division's team in the inaugural State Cadet first aid competitions. In 1954 she was granted a singular honour when chosen to represent Victoria's Nursing Cadets at a state reception for Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip during that's year's Royal Tour.

During her late teens, Joan's family moved to St Albans where Joan started a new Cadet division, recruiting and training young women. She was appointed Divisional Superintendent.

Joan was later promoted to Corps Officer and soon after to District Officer. As a District Officer, Joan travelled Victoria widely. In 1977 she organised Victoria's first combined camp for Ambulance and Nursing divisions. Joan accompanied Victorian contingents to the annual national Cadet camps, of which she attended 28 consecutively.

In 1984 Joan was promoted to the Brigade's national headquarters staff as an Officer. The following year she was appointed Chief Officer Cadets, becoming the first woman to hold the position. She retained it for the next eight years, during which time she escorted the Australian Cadet contingent travelling to London in 1988 to compete in the Commonwealth first aid competitions. This was held in conjunction with the celebrations of the centenary of the granting of a Royal Charter to the Order. The Australian team won the competitions.

At the end of Joan's term as Chief Officer Cadets, she spent four years (1993–1997) as District Superintendent in Victoria. She served as Deputy Commissioner for two years (1997–1999). Since 1999 Joan has been President of First Aid Services Branch. She is also actively involved in the Community Care Branch, of which she is a Victorian Life Member.

Joan's 61 years with St John has been recognised with the Service Medal of the Order with six bars. She was also admitted as a Serving Sister in 1973, promoted to Officer (1978), Commander (1985) and Dame (1992).





Mary Pauling CStJ

Queensland

Mary Pauling joined St John Ambulance in Queensland as a member of the Brisbane Central No. 2 Division in 1979. Soon after joining the Division, Mary qualified as a first aid instructor, and has continued conducting public first aid courses for the St John Training Branch since 1980.

After two years with the No. 2 Division, Mary established the Albert–Logan Division in 1981. After that she served as Corps Superintendent of the South Corps, at the same time taking charge of the Ormeau Cadet Division. Her next appointment was as State Recruiting and Public Relations Officer (1987–1991). Instructing first aid classes was one of the main strategies in her successful member recruitment programs. She travelled widely to country areas conducting first aid classes, taking these opportunities to establish new adult and Cadet divisions around the state from among her class members.

In 1993 Mary established the Beenleigh Family Division. On reaching the mandatory retirement age she took on a supportive role training adults and assisting Cadets with their Proficiency badge activities. Her work extended south to the Gold Coast, and she covered most of the public duties targeting senior citizens.

Mary's business skills and her promotional talents resulted in donations of valuable equipment, vehicles and even buildings by the business community. Another of her talents was training first aid teams for competitions. She was a member of the Brisbane Central No. 2 First Aid Team which represented Queensland at the national competitions in Adelaide in 1980. She subsequently trained various teams which won state competitions title, always emphasising the importance of maintaining high standards and approaching all duties professionally.

Mary's service to St John was recognised by her admission as a Serving Sister in 1985. She was promoted to Officer in 1989 and to Commander in 1994.

Simone Pearce MSt.I

1961– Victoria

Simone Elizabeth Pearce was born in Melbourne, the sixth child and fifth daughter of her family. She joined the St John Broadmeadows Nursing Cadet Division at age 13, encouraged by an older sister who was already a member. She subsequently belonged to several other divisions before moving to Sydney in 1988. She spent two years there, affiliated with the local St John organisation.

After returning to Melbourne, Simone was appointed Superintendent of the Sunshine Combined Cadet Division. Under her leadership the Division grew to 40 members. After seven years with the division she moved on to new challenges by accepting the position of Superintendent of a busy inner city adult division. Within a short time, however, she was appointed as a Corps (regional) Officer and fulfilled that role for several more years before reverting to a divisional leadership role.

During the early 2000s Simone was obliged to scale back her St John commitments, but in 2006 she again became active when she joined the Community Care Branch. She rejoined First Aid Services Branch in 2009.

A keen participant in first aid competitions, Simone has competed in teams at all levels—divisional, regional, state and national. She is also committed to the public duty aspect of St John membership, often completing over 1000 hours of voluntary service in successive years. Emergency management is another interest. Beginning with the Ash Wednesday bushfires in Victoria in 1983, she has been a member of many of the St John first aid contingents providing first aid support at major disasters. She was Secretary of the St John health care professionals group in Victoria.

Simone is currently employed in the human resources branch of a government department but is also the primary carer of her disabled brother. Her honours and awards include the Grand Prior's Badge (1981) and a Save A Life award in 1997 for helping resuscitate a spectator at an Australian Football League match.

Simone was admitted into the Order of St John as a Member in 1997.



Her honours include a Save A Life award, for resuscitating a spectat at an AFL match.



Thelma Peverill DStJ

1907–2004 Victoria

Thelma Charlotte Elizabeth Peverill came to Melbourne as a young girl from the country seeking employment. She joined the YWCA and undertook a First Aid course, becoming a member with the YWCA Nursing Division of St John Ambulance Brigade in the late 1930s.

At the start of World War II, Thelma joined the Voluntary Aid Detachment and worked at the old Melbourne Hospital, volunteering for overseas service with the Army. The Army scheduled her for posting to the Middle East in 1941, but with the start of the war in the Pacific she was sent to work at various Victorian hospitals as a nursing orderly.

After the war she became an Honorary First Aid Instructor from 1947 to 1972. She was made an Honorary Life Member of the Association in 1953, and was on the Association Centre Committee from 1974 to 1980.

Thelma re-joined the Brigade in 1952 as Superintendent of the Richmond Nursing Division. She was promoted to Corps Nursing staff in 1958 and District Staff in 1969. Thelma became District Superintendent (Nursing) in 1980, continuing until her retirement in 1983. She received her Service Medal in 1964, with her sixth bar awarded in 1982. She was also awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal in 1976.

Thelma was a member of St John Council for Victoria from 1967 to 1976. She was admitted as a Serving Sister in 1959, promoted to Officer (1964), Commander (1969) and Dame of the Order in 1977. Thelma Peverill died in 2004.

Ellen Pitts MStJ

Northern Territory

Ellen Pitts was the local health nurse at Adelaide River, south of Darwin—a rural community without a hospital or resident doctor. Ellie, as she was affectionately known, joined St John in May 1972 and soon after established the Adelaide River Division to assist with the lack of medical support in the town.

During the 1970s, the Division was the first available response group that could be dispatched to an accident or emergency 'down the track', saving at least an hour on the Darwin crew's response time. As Divisional Officer, Ellie trained members in first aid, patient care, transport and home nursing. She gave over 700 hours of duty each year, in addition to being on call 24 hours a day. Ellie was promoted to Superintendent in 1979.

In 1985, Ellie moved onto the Corps staff supplementary list and continued to assist with home nursing as an examiner for Cadet and adults members. When the Cadet Band Division opened in 1986, Ellie assisted with administration and set up. In 1987, she transferred to the Reserve and retired shortly after.

Ellie was awarded a Priory Vote of Thanks in 1978, and admitted as a Serving Sister in 1980. Ellen pioneered St John in the rural Northern Territory community for which she will always be remembered.



Ellie pioneered St John in the rural Adelaide River Division.



Bonnie Quintal cst

1926– Norfolk Island, Queensland

Bonnie Anne Quintal (née Kelly) was born in Randwick, New Zealand. She trained as a nurse and married George R ('Kik') Quintal, a member of an old Norfolk Island family descended from one of the *Bounty* mutineers. They settled on the island and produced two daughters and a son. Widely known on the island as 'Sister Quintal' because of her nursing background, Bonnie became deeply involved in the island's community affairs.

Bonine began teaching Red Cross first aid classes in the 1970s, and this inspired her to seek further training and qualifications in emergency medicine. In 1980 she enrolled at the Wichita Hospital in the USA to undertake an Advanced Diploma in the Paramedic Tutor's course.

After completing her US qualification, Bonnie returned to Norfolk Island and won a Churchill Scholarship to study remote area first aid teaching. A qualified pilot with her own aeroplane, Bonnie set off on a whirlwind tour around Australia to visit instructors specialising in remote area first aid. Finally, she flew to Canberra, where she held discussions with the St John Ambulance Priory Secretary, the late Charles Campbell (1937–2011).

Bonnie returned to Norfolk Island determined to establish a St John Ambulance division there. The medical fraternity on the island responded enthusiastically, and with their support a St John division was established in 1983. The Norfolk Island Division began offering public first aid training classes, recruiting members from the classes, attending events, and organising members to operate the island's ambulance.

With Bonnie as superintendent and Dr John Duke as surgeon, the Division decided it needed its own ambulance and hall. A busy round of fund-raising activities ensued: walkathons, tea parties, grants from the island Administrator, donations, competitions, including the funds raised for Bonnie's own 'flight-a-thon', when she participated in the Bicentenary Round Australia Air Race. The fund-raising was so successful that the division was able to buy an \$8000 four-wheel-drive ambulance and pay off the Priory loan within two years. Meanwhile, the public first aid classes had proved very popular, as were the annual Island Drills—simulated aircraft crashes conducted as training exercises for divisional members, local police, the ambulance and hospital.

The St John hall was officially opened in 2006, by which time the division was firmly established and regularly winning the island's 'Volunteer of the Year' award. Bonnie retired in 2008 after 25 years as Superintendent. She was admitted into the Order of St John in 1987 and later promoted to Commander.

Kelly Raven MStJ

1963– Northern Territory

Kelly Raven (née Taylor) was born in Altona, Victoria. After completing her secondary studies in South Australia, Kelly moved to the Northern Territory in 2000. Kelly married Craig Raven in 1994, and she has four children: Justin, Timothy, Luke and Shannon.

Kelly joined St John in the Northern Territory in 2000 after three of her children joined the Humpty Doo Cadet Division. The following year Kelly was appointed Divisional Officer with the Humpty Doo Cadets, and in 2002 she became the Superintendent at the Palmerston Cadet Division.

Kelly led the Palmerston Cadet Division from 2002 to 2010 and was responsible for running a thriving Cadet program. The success of the Division saw its numbers increase to a level where the meeting location became too small.

Outside of St John, Kelly was employed as a tutor for Indigenous students at a local primary school. She spent a lot of time seeking knowledge of Indigenous culture so she could engage with young Indigenous people completing first aid training. In 2005, she was employed part-time by St John as a Schools Coordinator.

Kelly was responsible for the establishment of the Northern Territory's first Youth Division, and in 2010 was appointed as Officer-in-Charge of Palmerston Youth Division, a position she currently holds. She is also a Territory Officer supporting the Territory Officer Cadets. Kelly works as a part-time first aid trainer and is the Community Education Coordinator for St John Northern Territory. Kelly was appointed Territory Officer Cadets in June 2011.

Kelly's service and dedication to St John was recognised through her admission to the Order as Member in November 2009.



Kelly sought
knowledge of
Indigenous
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people completing
first aid training.



Flora Read ostu

1860–1941 New South Wales

Flora Annie Read was a school teacher in pre-Federation Sydney. She retired from teaching at the early age of 34 in 1894, devoting 40 years of her life to St John Ambulance.

Flora Read's St John career began in 1892 when she gained a St John first aid certificate, one of the few women in New South Wales to have undertaken the course in this period. She then obtained the home nursing certificate in 1895, and a second first aid certificate the following year, thus joining a small and select group of people in New South Wales to hold the St John Ambulance first aid medallion. As well as undertaking first aid and home nursing training herself, Flora Read became a class secretary for St John first aid classes in Balmain, Leichhardt and Burwood and at the Norland Nurses' College. During World War I, when lay instructors were for the first time allowed to teach St John public classes, she began lecturing in first aid. She also introduced the Home Hygiene course and organised the first class.

When the St John Ambulance Brigade formed in Australia (1901–1902), Flora Read was among the first women to join. She was one of the first aiders on duty for the street parades in Sydney to celebrate the inauguration of the Commonwealth of Australia in January 1901. In the two years prior, she and women from her classes had been sending crates of hospital comforts to the St John Ambulance men serving in South Africa during the Boer War (1899–1902).

During the early 1900s, when the Brigade began recruiting members in Sydney, Flora Read became very active establishing nursing divisions in Balmain (1904), Western Suburbs (1910) and Leichhardt (1914). The Western Suburbs Nursing Division, of which Flora Read was Ssuperintendent, registered as a Voluntary Aid Detachment in 1915.

Flora Read became the first female member, in 1924, of the Brigade's District (state) headquarters staff when appointed Lady District Superintendent (the title was later changed to District Superintendent [Nursing]). Always keen on first aid and home nursing competitions, she donated the Flora Read Challenge Cup for annual competition within the District in 1927. She retired as Lady District Superintendent in 1932.

Flora Read was granted a 'Vote Of Thanks on Vellum' in 1901, the first time the awards were presented in New South Wales. In 1915 she was admitted as a Serving Sister, the first in New South Wales. She was made a Life Membership of the St John Ambulance Association in 1921, and awarded the Service Medal in 1923 and subsequently granted a bar to the medal. She was promoted to Officer in 1928. Finally, in 1931, the Order's centenary year, she joined the seven-member contingent of New South Wales St John members who travelled to London for the official celebrations.

Fay Reeve DStJ

1928-

Tasmania

Fay Reeve (née Poke) was born in Tewkesbury on Tasmania's mid-north coast, the youngest in a family of nine children. She attended schools in Tewkesbury, Ridgley, Seabrook and Wynyard. After leaving school she helped run a café that her mother had opened in Wynyard. In 1947 she married Elvyn Reeve, a farming jack-of-all-trades, and they had a son and two daughters. She spent most of her married life in and around Wynyard, moving to Kingston in 2004 after Elvyn's death.

Fay joined St John Ambulance through the Girl Guide movement, where she was a troop Captain. Because the 27 girls in her troop needed to know first aid to go on camping trips, Fay took a St John Ambulance first aid course in 1963, followed by a home nursing course. Invited to join the Brigade, she became a member of the Wynyard Division in 1965, filling every position in the division: Private, Corporal, Sergeant, Divisional Officer and finally, Superintendent. Appointed Divisional Superintendent in 1983, she held the position for 10 years until retirement. She then became the Divisional Treasurer and established a local St John Ambulance museum.

Fay obtained her instructor's certificate in 1967 and taught and examined public first aid classes for the next 33 years, until her retirement in 2000. When the Brigade and Association administrations in Tasmania amalgamated in 1973, Fay became a member, then Secretary and later Chair of the North-Western Area committee. She served as a member of the Tasmanian Council for many years, five years as Vice-Chair. In addition, she chaired the state Community Care program for 18 months. Finally, when the Historical Society formed in 2001, Fay became a foundation member of its management committee, a position she held for ten years.

A keen participant in first aid and home nursing competitions, Fay won the individual title at the national home nursing championships in Melbourne in 1976. She regards this as the highlight of her St John career. She is also proud of her brother, Major-General Frank Poke, a Knight of the Order of St John, who served as the St John Ambulance Commissioner in Victoria (1980–1984), being the first Commissioner in Australia not to have been a medical practitioner.

Fay earned her the Service Medal with four bars. She was admitted as a Serving Sister in 1973 and subsequently promoted to Officer (1985), Commander (1994) and Dame (1999).



Fay joined St John through the Girl Guid movement where, as Troop Captain, she needed to know first aid to take her 27 girl on camping trips.



Minabel Reid DSt.J

1918–1991 Victoria

Minabel Bertha Ryan joined the YWCA Nursing Division of St John Ambulance Brigade in April 1940. She gained her first aid and home nursing certificates within a few months and became an active Voluntary Aid Detachment member during World War II.

She was promoted to Divisional Officer in 1943 and Divisional Superintendent in 1951. In the meantime she had married and trained to become an instructor, teaching first aid to YWCA classes from 1946 to 1951.

Minabel became a Corps Officer (Nursing) in 1957, a St John Honorary Life Member in 1961, District Officer (Nursing) in 1970, and District Officer (Nursing Cadets) in 1972. She was one of the small groups of District Staff responsible for Nursing and Ambulance Cadets when, in 1979 under Commissioner Dr Peter Bush, the two streams were integrated to form one Cadet movement. She remained a District Staff Officer until retirement in 1982.

Minabel gave more than 40 years of dedicated service which was recognised by the St John Service medal in 1954 and subsequent sixth bar.

She was awarded a Priory Vote of Thanks in 1948 and was admitted as a Serving Sister in 1952. She was promoted to Officer (1967), Commander (1972) and became a Dame of the Order in 1979. Minabel Reid died in 1991.

Lynette Richards MStJ

1957– South Australia

Lynette 'Lynn' Richards was born the eldest of four children. In 1969 she enrolled as a Cadet in the Woodville Nursing Cadet Division after learning about St John from school friends. She attended her first Angaston Cadet camp aged 13 years old. She was promoted to Corporal and to Cadet Leader in 1974.

Lynn became a volunteer and camp leader at the Morialta Children's Home, working with disadvantaged and handicapped children. She started her first job with the St John Council for South Australia in 1974. Her first position was in the mail room, and shortly after she moved to accounts and cashier. In 1987, Lynn transferred to the Brigade Office—she is now in her 38th year of continuous employment with St John.

In addition to her employment with St John, she continued as a volunteer, being promoted to Divisional Officer. In 1986, she married Stephen Richards and they moved to Reynella, Adelaide. In 1987 she was promoted to District staff.

Lynn's involvement in St John integrates across both volunteer and paid services. Over the years, her assistance has been instrumental in so many areas, including Cadet and adult competitions, seminars, National Cadet Officer and Officer courses, training, public duties and member records. For many years Lynn and Steve attended the Angaston Cadet camp where Lynn was kitchen manager.

In 1995, Lynn was admitted as a Member and in 1999 she was promoted to District Staff Officer Cadets. In 2009, she was awarded a St John Employment Service Award for 35 years service.

Lynn retired from Operations Branch in 2011, but continues her service as a volunteer in the Community Care program, Circle of Friends.





To this day, Evelyn
is still the only
Ambulance Officer
to have delivered a
baby in an Albany
ambulance.

Evelyn Savage Ostu

1947... Western Australia

Margaret Evelyn Savage (known as Evelyn) was born in Albany, Western Australia. She attended local schools and worked as a Dietetic Assistant at Albany Hospital for 40 years.

Evelyn attended a St John Ambulance first aid course in 1969 and joined the Albany St John Ambulance Sub-centre and the Nursing Division.

Evelyn was the Secretary/Treasurer, a position she held until 1982, when she was appointed Officer-in-Charge of the Division (1983–1989) and later Superintendent (1989–1994). Evelyn was elected as a Committee Member in 1973 and held this position until 1992, serving some periods as Vice-President and a Volunteer Ambulance Officer at the Sub-centre.

During the course of Evelyn's St John Ambulance career, some 'normal' transfers would be interspersed with mountain and coastal cliff rescues, for which Evelyn received a Meritorious Award in 2003. Evelyn also delivered a baby and to this day is still the only ambulance officer to deliver a baby in an Albany ambulance.

Evelyn also found time to be a first aid instructor, demonstrator and examiner (1972–1994), teaching almost 300 students. Since 1982 Evelyn has been a keen fund-raiser, helping to raise over \$250,000 to assist local community organisations, and fund purchases of ambulances, equipment and uniforms for St John.

Evelyn has been recognised by St John with a variety of awards: her first in 1976 with a Commandery Commendation, followed by the Service Medal in 1981 and subsequent bars. She was admitted as a Serving Sister in 1988, made a Life Member of the Albany Sub-centre (1992), and promoted as an Officer in 1994. She received two Certificates of Appreciation: for 30 years of service (1999), and following her retirement in 2006, 37 years of service.

Evelyn's most recent recognition was the Premier's Active Citizen's Award on Australia Day 2011 for her service to the community and St John.

Sally Simmonds

1954– Western Australia

Sally Simmonds was born in Leicester, United Kingdom. After completing her secondary education in Wallasey (near Liverpool), she graduated in 1975 with a degree in education from the University of Leeds. She then taught physical education in various schools. After migrating to Australia in 1981 she taught in primary and secondary schools for ten years. In 1984 she married Kevin Simmonds, a fellow teacher. They have a son and a daughter.

Sally joined St John Ambulance in 1987 while teaching at Cue, a small town 650 kilometres north-east of Perth. She became a volunteer ambulance officer with the St John Western Australia state ambulance service. After working as an ambulance volunteer for four years, she joined the full-time salaried ambulance service staff in 1991. She spent the next four years working as a paramedic before being seconded to the ambulance officer training centre in Perth. She spent two years in the training centre instructing student ambulance officers. In 1997 she was appointed manager of curriculum development at the centre and the following year became the manager of paramedical studies, which required her to coordinate the delivery of training to paramedics and operations centre staff.

Sally became the manager of volunteer studies for the ambulance service in 2001, training the state's volunteer ambulance officers. A year later, she began to manage the 'first responder' system. This initiative of St John Ambulance Western Australia, aimed to reduce the number of deaths from heart attack by enabling organisations, businesses and communities to access and provide early defibrillation via automatic electronic defibrillation apparatus. Sally managed this program for four years.

In 2006 Sally was appointed as a country region manager for the ambulance service, a position she still retains. She is responsible for supporting twenty-one of the country St John sub-centres where the local ambulance services are operated by volunteer ambulance officers. Sally was awarded the National Service medal in 2006.





Irene Simpson MStJ

1948– Western Australia

Irene Simpson was born the third daughter and fourth child of Elsie Mavis and Leonard Mortimore Retter. Irene began her schooling at Manjimup Junior High School and due to her family moving frequently she later attended Picton Primary School, Bunbury Central School and Bunbury Senior High School. Irene joined the local Girls' Life Brigade at the age of five, and progressed through the ranks to become a Lieutenant.

After school Irene was employed as an office manager for a local wholesaler, where she worked until she had her first child. Irene remembers working on the day her first child, Elizabeth, was born—leaving work at 5 o'clock and giving birth at 8 o'clock the same night. She later had four more children, all boys: Joseph, Nigel, Colin and Trevor.

In 1988 Irene and two of her boys moved to Perth where she joined the St John Victoria Park Division the following year. Irene took on the role of Secretary and Treasurer as an auxiliary and then affiliate member for the Victoria Park Division in 1990, followed by secretary for Priory Competitions in 1992 and for many years afterwards. She was a member of the St John Ambulance Fellowship, acting as Secretary between 1993 and 1998, and later Treasurer (1998–2008).

Irene was awarded the Special Commendation of the Commandery in November 1992 for worthy and meritorious service, and was admitted to the Order of St John as a Member in April 2006.

Irene has also served on the Ladies Auxiliary Committee (1996–1997) and the inaugural management committee of Community Care. She has spent time volunteering in the headquarters office and in the shop. Irene moved to Mandurah in 2000 and became involved with adults and Cadets at a divisional level. Her duties included clerical tasks such as ordering first aid equipment and later fund-raising, competition work and assisting with Knowledge of the Order.

Since 1995 Irene has assisted in the St John Ambulance Museum and is a member of the Ceremonial and Heritage Support Group. Following this Irene began a museum in her home in 2002 for St John memorabilia. Irene was married in July 2010 to John Ree KStJ, another long-standing St John member.

Rhonda Sneddon cstJ

1956-

New South Wales

Rhonda May Sneddon (née Bickell) completed her secondary education at Westfield High School, Fairfield West, New South Wales and began her training as a registered nurse at Lidcombe Hospital. She is married to Gregory Sneddon, a patient transport officer who is also a State Staff Officer and a Commander in the Order of St John. Rhonda currently works at the Mount Druitt Hospital in western Sydney.

Rhonda's St John career began when she joined the Balmain Nursing Cadet Division in 1968 when she was 12 years old. The division was the only activity for girls at the Balmain Police Citizens Boys Club, which her parents actively supported. After completing her Grand Prior's Badge in 1974, she transferred to Fairfield Cadet Division in 1975. After a short time there she moved on to the Chester Hill Cadet Division as a Divisional Officer Cadets. She transferred to the Liverpool City Cadet Division as Superintendent in 1979. The Division worked closely with the Liverpool (adult) Division, where Gregory Sneddon was then the Superintendent.

Training for first aid competitions became an important aspect of the routine for the Liverpool Cadets. They trained on Saturday afternoons, but as the competitions approached, they would bring their sleeping bags to the Friday night divisional meetings, stay overnight with Rhonda and Gregory, train all day Saturday and be taken home on Sunday afternoon. When the state championships finally ended there would be a 'thank heavens that's over' party at the Sneddon home— winners and follow-ups celebrating together. Rhonda's keenness for competitions remains. She has managed, competed, and trained adult and Cadet winning teams at all levels of the competitions.

Rhonda spent 12 years as Superintendent of the Liverpool Cadets. Her influence on the division can be seen in the subsequent St John careers of her Cadets: four of whom have become Divisional Superintendents, regional staff Officers (Cadets) and state staff Officers.

Rhonda left Liverpool when promoted to Corps (regional) Officer (Cadets) in 1991. She later held the parallel Corps appointment for adults. She spent three years (2002–2005) as the State Officer Cadets. In 2006 she was appointed to her present position of Assistant Regional Superintendent for the Greater Metropolitan Region.

Among her numerous St John awards, Rhonda holds the Service Medal with five bars. She was admitted as a Serving Sister in 1987, promoted to Officer (1992) and then Commander (2001).





Betty Stirton OAM DStJ

1930– New South Wales

Betty Esther Stirton (née Wellfare) was born at home in Bankstown, Sydney, the older of the daughters. After attending various government schools in Sydney, Betty trained as a teacher, working in government secondary schools until her retirement in 1985. Never one to stand still, she then trained professionally as a florist, calligrapher and archivist. In 1956 she married Alan Stirton (died 2002), a member of the St John Bankstown Ambulance Division, whose father was also a member of the Division.

She joined the St John Ambulance Bankstown Nursing Cadet Division in 1942. In 1947 Betty was appointed Cadet Officer within her Division and the next year became its Cadet Officer-in-Charge after the Superintendent had retired. She became Superintendent in 1950. In 1960 she was appointed to her first position above the divisional level, when she became a Corps (regional) Officer (Nursing Cadets). Subsequent promotions saw her become a District (state) Staff Officer (1968), District Officer (Nursing Cadets) (1970) and District Superintendent (Nursing) (1973).

In 1983 Betty was appointed St John Deputy Commissioner in New South Wales, becoming the first woman in Australia to hold such a position, which she held until 1989, when she transferred into the newly established St John Community Care Branch. She later served as the branch chair in New South Wales (1992–1998), in which capacity she also served on the state St John Council. She was the Council Vice-President in 2004, an active member of the state Training Branch committee (1973–2006), and has also been a member of the state Ophthalmic Care committee since 1987. Other St John commitments have included chairing the St John Facilities and Support Committee for the 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games and then for the Rugby World Cup in 2003.

Betty has also served as Honorary Archivist for St John in New South Wales since 1990. She served as her state representative on the former Priory Library Standing Committee (1993–1998) and since the establishment of the St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia in 2001, has been the society's elected committee member representing her state.

Betty's numerous honours and awards include the Service Medal with nine bars (a record she shares with only two other living Australians), the Medal of the Order of Australia (1997) and the Centenary Medal (2001). She was admitted into membership of the Order in 1963 and was subsequently promoted through the grades to Dame (1983).

Lesley Swallow Ostu

1953– Victoria

Lesley Anne Swallow's long-standing career with St John commenced when she joined in 1964. In 1980, Lesley was selected as one of only three nursing Cadet Leaders to represent St John Ambulance Australia at a Cadet camp in the United Kingdom. She became involved in fund-raising with the No. 3 Corps to assist Sue Penaluna, who was one of the other two Cadet Leaders selected to go.

In 1979 Lesley became involved in the Cadet Recreation Group and played a part in organising the very first Debutante Ball for St John Cadets and Leaders. This event became one of the highlights of the St John year for many years. Lesley was also involved in running state and national Cadet camps, and assisting in the management of the 1980 national camp held in Victoria.

When attending duties she assisted in her capacity as a registered nurse and thus rendered a much-needed service.

Lesley attended many national Priory meetings in her role as State Cadet Officer, as well as numerous national Cadet competitions and camps.

Lesley has held significant positions, such as Deputy District Superintendent and Deputy Director of Ceremonies, over the years.



As a registered nurse, Lesley provided a much-needed service when attending duties.



Margaret has been to
more rock concerts
and dance parties
than she cares to
remember.

Margaret Switzer DStJ

1931--Victoria

As a child Margaret Isabel Switzer wanted to be a doctor but she discovered that studying wasn't her forte. Margaret joined St John as the 'next best thing' to becoming a doctor.

Margaret contributed to St John at a state level in a variety of senior positions, and travelled many kilometres around the south-west and western parts of the state over a period of 15 years. Margaret also served on the state council in 1995.

Margaret has given many hours to first aid events, and has been to more rock concerts and dance parties than she cares to remember.

Margaret celebrated her 80th birthday in August 2011, and still actively participates in duties at the Melbourne Cricket Ground and various other major events, such as the F1 Grand Prix, Motorcycle GP and the Superbikes. Margaret attends almost every event at the MCG, sometimes two or three days a week, even five days in a row when the cricket is on. She really enjoys her time with other members and is able to support St John in such an active operational role.

Margaret is also active with the State Awards team where she brings her wealth of St John knowledge to the job they undertake.

Her long involvement together with her sustained significant service in a variety of senior roles and positions of responsibility was acknowledged when she was admitted to the Order in 1977. She was promoted to Commander in 1990 and to Dame of Grace in 1999.

Deborah Taylor CStJ

1959– Victoria

Deborah Jayne Taylor joined St John at Croydon Cadet Division, Victoria, in July 1974 at the age of 15 years. After various Cadet positions, Deborah was approached to run Boronia Basin Cadet Division in 1986. This was the beginning of a long career in St John dedicated to working with St John Juniors and Cadets.

Deborah was a Cadet Superintendent for over ten years and always very encouraging of Cadets' involvement in public duties, competitions and camps. When Boronia Basin Division amalgamated with Knox Division, Deborah took on responsibility for the Juniors program. She spent many years running a highly successful Juniors program and encouraged many Juniors to complete nine Interest badges qualifying them for the Commissioner's badge.

During her time in St John, she has also held the positions of Regional Officer Cadets and State Cadet Officer. As the former Cadet Liaison Officer for the Gippsland area, Deborah was responsible for a number of school-based divisions in rural regions of Victoria. She built strong relationships with these divisions, despite the distance, and spent many hours travelling to visit them. She is currently an active member of the State Cadet Team.

Outside of St John, Deborah is a Registered Nurse at Box Hill Hospital and has twin daughters, Catherine and Jessica, who are both actively involved in St John.

Deborah is a dedicated leader who has passed on her skills and knowledge to many other members over the years. She is a strong advocate for the Junior movement in St John built on her many years of experience running Junior programs and Junior camps. She is a Commander in the Order of St John.



Edith Thorburn ost

?-1970

Queensland

Miss Edith 'Peg' Nairn Thorburn was a pioneer of the St John Ambulance Brigade in Bundaberg, Queensland.

Peg, a chemist in the Bundaberg sugar mills, was a friend of Dr (later Sir) Kenneth Fraser, the inaugural Brigade Commissioner in Queensland. In 1951, as he was establishing Queensland's first Brigade divisions, Dr Fraser visited Bundaberg and persuaded Peg to form a Nursing Division in Bundaberg. Peg had leadership experience, having been the Commandant of the Women's Auxiliary Transport Service in Bundaberg during World War II. When the Bundaberg Nursing Division formed in October that year, Peg became the Superintendent.

Under Peg's leadership the Division flourished, quickly establishing a place for itself among Bundaberg's community service organisations. The Division's members provided first aid support at numerous sporting events in the town, participated in state and regional first aid competitions and gained the respect and appreciation of the community. Cadet Ambulance and Nursing divisions were opened in 1956 and 1957, respectively.

The Division's expanding membership persuaded the Bundaberg Council to grant St John land in Mulgrave Street for the construction of a St John Ambulance hall, which opened in 1961 with the help of funds raised by the local Apex Club. The building is still used by St John and its 1973 extensions were named after Peg. In the meantime, the expanding membership and formation of new divisions in the Bundaberg district permitted the formation of the Bundaberg Corps, with Peg promoted to Corps Superintendent. She held this position she held until her retirement in 1967.

She was awarded a St John Priory Vote of Thanks in 1954. She was admitted as a Serving Sister in 1956 and promoted to Officer in 1964.

Peg died in 1970.

Under Peg's
leadership the
Bundaberg
Division flourished,
persuading
the Bundaberg
Council to grant
St John land for

construction of an

ambulance hall.

Nancy Tranby OAM DStJ

Queensland

Like others before her, Nancy Tranby became aware of the need for first aid knowledge in 1979 by witnessing a horrific motor vehicle accident. Three teenagers were killed and four others severely injured. Apart from calling the ambulance and police, Nancy could only look on helplessly. As soon as she could, she completed a first aid course, then joined St John's Brisbane Central No. 1 Nursing Division. After two years with the Division, she was appointed Superintendent and retained this position until her retirement in 2006, 25 years later.

As Superintendent, Nancy's goals for her Division were to raise money and recruit new members. She achieved her goals by vigorous promotion of the Division. She appeared on radio and television, and the members of the Division held street stalls and other promotions in Queen Street Mall. As the Division's membership grew, they became one of Australia's largest and strongest. It was able to provide the first aid services on almost a daily basis at the large entertainment centres that were becoming a part of the Brisbane social and cultural scene during the 1980s. Other duties were on the Gold Coast and at the annual ten day Royal National Show, at which Nancy was the St John duty officer for five years.

The six-month World Expo in Brisbane in 1988 gave the Division further practical first aid experience; Nancy herself was frequently on duty during Expo. She also became a first aid instructor with the St John Training Branch, teaching classes at the state headquarters in Brisbane. With her reputation as an innovative and resourceful divisional Superintendent, and an effective first aid teacher, Nancy was elected to the Queensland St John Council in 1990. She remained a member of the Council for the next seven years.

Nancy's achievements for St John were recognised through various community awards and certificates of appreciation. In 1993 she was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia. St John acknowledged her contributions towards raising the organisation's public profile by admitting her as a Serving Sister in 1985. She was then promoted to Officer (1989), Commander (1993) and Dame (2005). One aspect of her career that pleased her as much as the awards, was to see many members of her Division go on to productive and rewarding officer and leadership roles in St John.





Connie incurred the displeasure of her superior Brigade
Officer by riding her
Vespa motor-scooter
wearing her starched white St John uniform

Constance Turner Osta

1914–2009 New South Wales

Constance 'Connie' Turner (née Gillard) was born in Balmoral, Sydney. After attending school in Epping (a journey by steam train), at 14 years of age she began work as a machinist for a garment manufacturing company where she worked until her retirement.

Connie's St John Ambulance career began in 1935, when she attended a first aid course to support her younger brother. Her first aid certificate that year was followed by a home nursing certificate in 1937 and a first aid medallion in 1938. In 1938 she became a foundation member of the Epping Nursing Division.

During World War II the Division registered as a Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAC) unit. Connie and her fellow members did their VAD work at the Ryde Soldiers' Memorial Hospital. Connie worked there as a volunteer for six years, taking the Saturday night to Sunday morning shift.

After the war Connie became the Superintendent of the St John Ryde Nursing Cadet Division. She held the position for 26 years (1948–1974). The Division, which met on Saturday afternoons, spent much time practising for first aid and home nursing competitions in which they won many contests. Connie's Cadets also participated in St John-organised basketball competitions, travelling all over Sydney to play other Cadet teams before returning to Ryde for their weekly divisional meeting in the afternoon.

In 1959 the Division held the first Debutante Ball in the Ryde Town Hall. Eight debutantes from the Division were presented to the St John Ambulance Brigade Commissioner, Dr Selwyn Nelson.

After retiring from her Cadet division, Connie was a member of the Gladesville Nursing Division until her retirement from the active list in 1975. She then joined the Ex-Members' Club of St John and attended its monthly meetings at St John House.

Apart from her Brigade involvement, Connie worked for many years as a voluntary first aid and home nursing instructor for the St John Ambulance Association. In 1957 she was granted Life Membership of the Association for her valued service. Her other awards included the Service Medal with five bars, and the Queen's Brooch and bar for her VAD work. She was admitted as a Serving Sister in 1960 and promoted to Officer in 1972.

Connie was never one for punctiliously observing all the rules because, as her one-time colleague, Betty Stirton, remarks, 'she steered her own course in life'—she incurred the displeasure of her superior Brigade Officer by riding her Vespa motor-scooter wearing her starched white St John uniform and a cyclist's helmet.

Shirley Watson DStJ JP

Queensland

Shirley Dawn Watson joined St John Ambulance after attending a first aid class in Bundaberg, Queensland in 1968. A beginning teacher, she had earlier obtained first aid certificates while still at high school and teachers' college. Seeking refresher training only, Shirley had no intention of joining St John Ambulance, but Margaret Wilkinson, the St John Corps Officer (Nursing) in Bundaberg, persuaded her to join the local St John Ambulance Brigade team participating in the District (state) first aid competitions. The team won that year and again in 1970, going on to represent Queensland in the national competitions. In 1971 she was transferred to Maryborough High School but retained her links with the Bundaberg adult and Cadet divisions, winning the national individual championship in Adelaide, in 1972.

In 1973 Shirley was appointed Senior Mistress at Bremer High School in Ipswich, ending her involvement with the Bundaberg divisions. In 1976, however, she was appointed to the St John District staff, to assist develop and conduct leadership development programs at the St John Gold Coast training centre. A member of the St John Training Branch as well as the Brigade, she chaired the Training Advisory Committee. In 1983 Shirley accepted the position of Brigade District Superintendent, despite being the Deputy Principal at the very large Macgregor High School; she held this position for seven years.

Shirley's was the first woman to become a District Commissioner in Australia, in 1990. During this six year appointment, she introduced quarterly meetings of Divisional Superintendents and established new divisions in regional centres.

At the end of her period as Commissioner, Shirley was appointed as the Queensland Chair of the St John Community Care Branch in 1997. With Judith Allen, she developed the successful Transport Access program, which aimed to help disadvantaged groups with hospital transport arrangements. The program now employs both professional staff and volunteers in Brisbane, Bundaberg and Maryborough. As Commissioner and then Community Care Chair, Shirley has been a member of the St John Board in Queensland since 1990. She is also a director of St John Holdings, the holding company for St John enterprises in Queensland.

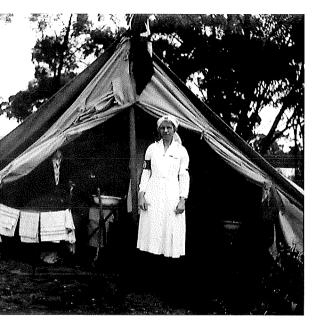
Shirley's achievements in St John have been recognised through her admission as a Serving Sister (1982), followed by her promotion to Officer (1986), Commander (1989) and Dame (1996). She is also a Justice of the Peace.



Violet Watson BEM CStJ

1889–1964 South Australia

Violet 'Vi' Watson was born in Goodwood, South Australia, received her education at the Goodwood Public School, and later worked as a nurse attendant. In 1915 she responded to an advertisement to form a YWCA division of the St John Ambulance Brigade, making her one of the first nursing members in South Australia.



She became a member of the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) No. 1 in 1917. Violet was appointed the 2nd Officer of the No. 2 Nursing Division in 1919, promoted to 1st Officer in 1923 and Superintendent in 1928. The Division provided an invaluable service with the Red Cross VAD, training members in first aid and home nursing, and helping disabled returned soldiers from the two world wars. In 1929, she was appointed Commandant of Adelaide No. 400 VAD.

Violet recognised the need for public first aid services, and pioneered beach first aid stations by supplying a first aid kit and a blanket in a shady spot near the jetty. When patient rooms were built at Glenelg and Henley Beach, Vi was one of only four women appointed as a non-medical lecturer.

In 1933, Vi was promoted to Corps Superintendent; District Officer in 1937, and District Superintendent in 1946.

Violet was the first woman in South Australia to be admitted to the Order as a Serving Sister (1936). She received the Red Cross Medal for Proficiency in Red Cross Work, and the Red Cross Efficiency Medal for her service as a VAD. She was promoted to Officer in 1947 and Commander in 1959. After 30 years of service she was awarded her Service Medal in 1957.

In 1953, Violet received a Member of the Order of the British Empire for her services in war and peace. Violet considered this as recognition of the Brigade and that she was the person honoured to hold it on their behalf.

Violet retired in 1957 but continued to volunteer by transcribing books into Braille for the Royal Blind Society. She died in 1964 and donated her body to medical science.

Josephine Weeks cstJ

1943-

Tasmania

Josephine 'Jo' Frances Weeks (née Woods) was born in Sydney. Her family moved to Triabunna on the Tasmanian east coast when she was a small child. She attended Triabunna Area School, matriculated at Hobart High School, and trained as a teacher at the Launceston Teachers' College. In her 40-year teaching career she taught at various Tasmanian primary schools.

Jo's association with St John began in 1962 while she was a teacher trainee—she joined a first aid class taught by Dr Geraldine Archer. Following graduation from teachers' college she joined the Triabunna Division of the St John Ambulance Brigade and became an ambulance volunteer with the Triabunna district ambulance. service. She became an inaugural member of the Spring Bay Division (near Triabunna). Jo moved to Ulverstone in 1978, transferring her St John membership to the Ulverstone Division where she continues today. She was appointed Divisional Superintendent in 1982, and in 1988 Jo became the inaugural Superintendent of the Ulverstone Cadet Division, which her 11-year old son Carl helped her establish. (Jo's daughter Emma was also a member of St John). The adult and Cadet divisions later amalgamated, and Jo became the Superintendent of the combined Division.

In the meantime, Jo had taken on other St John responsibilities. She began instructing public first aid classes for the St John Ambulance Association in 1969 and continues conducting first aid courses for both St John and the Tasmanian government. The Training Branch gave Jo and fellow teacher, Kieran Brown, the responsibility of redeveloping the first aid and family care syllabus. In 2000 Jo was appointed to the St John Council for Tasmania, and was Vice-Chair of the Council until 2011. By that time she was the longest serving St John volunteer in Tasmania.

Jo's service to St John has been rewarded with the Service Medal and five bars. She was admitted as a Serving Sister in 1990, promoted to Officer (2003), and then Commander (2008). In 2011 the Central Coast Council honoured Jo for her St John and other community service by naming her as its inaugural 'Volunteer of the Year'.



The longest-serving St John volunteer in Tasmania.



Edith Wells DSt.

1885–1983 Victoria

Edith Jane Wells joined St John in 1911, shortly after the commencement of the Brigade in Victoria, and she helped establish the Nursing Division in Prahran.

Edith Wells was active in the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) movement during both World Wars and the interval between. She was Assistant Controller of the VAD from 1916 until 1931 when she became Superintendent of St John Ambulance Brigade.

She was a delegate to the Commandery Council in 1941 when Australia was granted Commandery status by the Grand Priory in England.

Miss Wells was an Honorary Instructor of St John Ambulance Association from 1927 and was made an Honorary Life Member. She was a St John representative on the Board of Victorian Civil Ambulance Service.

Miss Wells remained Superintendent from 1931 to 1951 until her retirement, but she remained on the St John Council for a further 16 years. She was a member of Council from 1932 to 1967.

Miss Wells was admitted to as a Serving Sister in 1930, promoted to Officer (1936), Commander (1943) and Dame in 1947.

Edith Wells died in 1983 at the age of 97 years.

Joyce Birdwood Weston DStJ

1916-1996

South Australia and Victoria

Joyce 'Joy' Birdwood Weston was born in Laura, South Australia, the youngest of three children to Johann Fredrich Roennfeldt and Alice May Bowker, his second wife. Joy also had two older half-brothers. She was educated at Laura Primary School and Gladstone High School and grew up with a strong commitment to community service. Joy's father was the Mayor of Laura for 16 years and was the chairman of the local hospital and active with the Show society. Upon leaving school Joy cared for her family, particularly her sister Flora who suffered from infantile paralysis; Joy provided support to Flora throughout her life.

After the death of her mother, Joy went to Adelaide to commence her general nursing training at Royal Adelaide Hospital. She then transferred to the Mount Gambier Hospital as a Charge Sister, and later went to the Melbourne Women's Hospital to complete midwifery.

Joy met Jeffery Weston, a Royal Australian Air Force officer when he was a patient in the Mt Gambier hospital and they married in 1944. Jeff and Joy had three sons: Kym, David and Philip.

Joy joined the South Australian St John Ambulance Brigade in 1949 as the Nursing Officer of the Unley Nursing Division. She became the District Home Nursing Officer in 1954, and in 1960 was promoted to District Superintendent Nursing. Joy was admitted as a Serving Sister in 1958, promoted to Officer (1961) and Commander in 1965.



In 1966 the family moved to Victoria where Joy became District Superintendent Nursing. Joy also assisted the Victorian Air Association, which helped evacuate burns patients from Hobart after the disastrous Black Tuesday fires of 1967.

In 1969 Joy returned to Adelaide and was promoted to District Superintendent Nursing in 1972 until she went on Reserve in 1981. In 1977 Joy was promoted to Dame.

In the late 1980s Joy was diagnosed with the onset of Alzheimer's and spent the final years of her life in the Salvation Army residence in Burnside. Joy passed away in 1996.



Margaret Wilkinson OAM DStJ

1926-2009 Queensland

Margaret Wilkinson was a foundation member of the St John Ambulance Bundaberg Nursing Division, which opened in 1952. In 1954 she became an Officer with the Division until her appointment as Superintendent of the Bundaberg Nursing Cadet Division in 1957. In 1961 she became a Corps (regional) staff officer in the Bundaberg Corps. Two years later she was promoted to Corps Officer (Nursing). She held the position until 1971, when she joined the District (state) staff with responsibility for Central Zone, which included the Maryborough, Rockhampton and Bundaberg Corps.

As well as working as a senior administrator, Margaret lectured voluntarily in public first aid classes, trained teams of both adults and Cadets for first aid competitions, assisted in fund-raising, undertook promotional and publicity work, and organised Cadet camps. She established links between St John Ambulance and the Bundaberg Civil Defence Group, for which she became the welfare officer. In 1977 she established and became editor of *News Centre*, the Queensland St John newsletter. She managed the Queensland first aid team which won the national championship in 1977, going on to win the New Zealand Army Cup at the golden jubilee camp of New Zealand Cadets in Wanganui.

In 1981 Margaret became District Cadet Officer. Five years later she was appointed Deputy Commissioner, the first woman to hold the position. She returned to the position of District Officer (Central Zone) four years later, retiring from St John Operations Branch in 1991. Margaret remained a member of the St John Council for Queensland for 28 years (1974–2002), during which time she also chaired the Queensland Ophthalmic Branch (1987–2002).

Beyond St John, Margaret worked voluntarily for Lifeline, the Bundaberg Local Ambulance Committee, and Meals on Wheels. She was also instrumental in establishing the Bundaberg rescue helicopter.

Margaret received many community and St John awards. She held the Service Medal with five bars. She was admitted as a Serving Sister and promoted through the grades, becoming a Dame in 1982. She was also awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1992.

In assiduously working to build the St John organisation in Queensland, Margaret was supported by her husband Lindsay and their two sons. Unfortunately, she had to withdraw from St John activities for the last seven years of her life because of Parkinson's disease.

Andrea Williams Osta

1972-

Western Australia

Andrea Williams (née Wirth) and her twin sister Kelly-Ann joined the Mount Lockyer St John Ambulance Nursing Cadet Division in Albany, Western Australia in 1982, at the age of ten years. In 1984 the family moved to Esperance, where they joined the local Nursing Cadet division.

During her time in Esperance, Andrea became a committed St John divisional member. Among other achievements, she was promoted to Cadet Sergeant, was awarded the Grand Prior's Badge, participated in first aid competitions at Corps, state and nationals level, and represented Australia at the Commonwealth and New Zealand Army Cup championships in Queensland in 1989, where her team won both the individual and team events.

In 1990 Andrea moved to Perth to study occupational therapy. She maintained her St John involvement, serving as Superintendent of the Melville Cadet Division and the Stirling (adult) Division, followed by three years as District Officer Cadets. In 2001, she became Acting Chief Officer Cadets. She returned to the Morley Cadets as Divisional Manager, remaining in the position until the end of 2008. Since that time she has served as advisor to the Youth Development Officer.

In 1997 Andrea married Jeffrey Williams, a fellow 'St Johnny' and later Chief Superintendent of First Aid Services. They have two children.

Andrea's contributions to St John in Western Australia and nationally, have been officially recognised with a Commandery Commendation, the Walter Winterton Award (for outstanding young volunteers), and promotion within the Order to Officer. She is also a representative officer of the Commandery Chapter.





staunch supporter of equal opportunity for women in St John.

Susan Williams MStJ

Northern Territory

Susan 'Sue' Williams (née Cooper) joined St John Northern Territory in 1979 and quickly qualified to become a Volunteer Ambulance Officer, assisting the ambulance service after hours and on weekends. In 1981, she was promoted to Divisional Officer, and in 1982 she commenced as an instructor.

Sue became Divisional Superintendent in 1984, Corps Staff Officer later in the year, and Corps Ambulance Officer in June 1986. During this time Sue was employed by the Ambulance Service and worked as a paramedic. Sue's service to St John was recognised when she was admitted as a Serving Sister in 1989, followed by the Service Medal in 1991. Sue became a Reserve member in 1993.

During the mid-1990s, Sue studied and qualified as an accountant and resigned from the ambulance service. However, Sue was fondly remembered by St John Northern Territory and in 1998 she was invited to apply for the position of Territory Superintendent which she later commenced in 1999.

Sue strongly supported the Child Protection Program and she participated and qualified in the first Child Protection course presented in the Northern Territory.

Sue resigned as Territory Superintendent in 2005.

Amy Winner MStJ

1989-

Australian Capital Territory

Amy Winner was born in Bowral, New South Wales.

Amy joined St John as a Cadet with the Mittagong Division in 2000, after accompanying a friend to a meeting. In 2008 she joined the Canberra (adult) Division where she is currently a member.

Amy joined the St John ACT Office in 2009 as the New Member Coordinator for First Aid Services. In this role she initiated promotional material to encourage participants of first aid classes to join St John as a volunteer.

Amy was appointed Chair of the Australian Youth Council (AYC) in 2010. The AYC provides guidance to St John on issues affecting the organisation and its future development, particularly concerning the opinion and interests of young people. It allows young people to be involved in the decision making processes that affect them. As Chair of the AYC, Amy was also a Director on the National Board.

In this role Amy led the AYC and the national leadership team in delivering two youth consultations at the 2010 and 2011 National Conferences, two Youth Stakeholder weekends in conjunction with Cadet Officers, and a number of organisational reports including *Why Youth Councils?* and *Building our Profile*. Amy also sought, and gained, National Board approval for St John's first ever flashmob—a CPR performance at Central Station in Sydney promoting the importance of first aid.

In 2011, Amy stepped down as Chair of the AYC to accept a position as National Volunteer Development Coordinator at the St John Australian Office.

In 2011, Amy was admitted as a Member in the Order of St John. Outside of St John, Amy is completing a double degree in Arts/Law.



Amy gained approval for St John's first ever flashmob—a CPR performance at Central Station in Sydney promoting the importance of first aid



Norma advocated for the Chief Nursing Officer position that championed professional nursing matters at the

Norma Wreford CStJ

1924–1989 Western Australia

Norma Margaret Wreford (née Brindley) was born in Albury, New South Wales. She trained as a nurse and midwife at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Melbourne and the King George Hospital in Sydney.

In 1950 Norma married Bill Wreford in Melbourne, and a few years later they moved to Western Australia. They had two sons and two daughters.

Norma joined the St John Ambulance Brigade in 1960 and initiated first aid training in the Gosnells area. She also supported the Sub-centre as a Volunteer Ambulance Officer. Her commitment resulted in her promotion to District Nursing Officer for Western Australia in 1965. During this time Norma was one of the District Nursing Officers assisting Sister Honora Morris in producing the Patient Care in the Home project in 1976. Another of Norma's projects was the advocation of a Chief Nursing Officer position which would champion professional nursing matters at the national level. This campaign endured for ten years but was eventually successful.

In 1976 Norma became a member of the St John Ambulance Australia Council, serving until 1985. From June 1978 she was also a Representative Officer on the Western Australian Commandery Chapter, and for the Australian Priory Chapter (1981–1983). One of the highlights of her St John career was when she accompanied the Australian winning teams to Singapore in 1984 for the international first aid and home nursing competitions.

In recognition of her community service Norma was awarded the Gosnells Shire Centenary Honorary Certificate in 1971. Norma was admitted as a Serving Sister in 1969, promoted to Officer (1975) and later Commander (1985). Norma received her St John Service Medal in 1972 and three subsequent bars. Possibly her greatest honour, however, was being appointed Chief Nursing Officer for Australia in 1987, a position she held until her death two years later.

A final acknowledgment of Norma's many years of service to others included a road in the Amaroo village being called 'Wreford Court' and the St John Cadet camp in Busselton being named after her.

Frances Wright

1839–1923

South Australia

Frances Jane Wright (née O'Halloran) was the youngest daughter of Thomas Shuldham O'Halloran (the first Police Commissioner of South Australia) and Jane Waring.

Frances married Frederick Wright, Esq., Manager of the National Bank of Australasia, Adelaide, in 1860 and they had seven sons and three daughters.

Frederick Wright was one of a group of influential business men who took the lead in promoting the St John Ambulance Association, Adelaide Centre. He became the Centre's second Chairman and its Treasurer in 1887 and held both positions until his sudden death in 1900.

Frances Wright was one of the founders of the Adelaide Children's Hospital. She was also a graduate, together with her daughter Annie and her sister-in-law Ethel, of the inaugural first aid course specifically for women, which was conducted by St John Ambulance Association in 1885.

On graduation, Frances Wright became an enthusiastic worker for the Association but found she had little opportunity to practice the first aid skills she had learned. In May 1888 she wrote to the all-male Centre Committee suggesting that a women's committee be formed to promote the recruitment of female enrolments; subsequently the Women's Branch of the Association was established. The Central Committee, chaired by her husband, asked Frances to start a practical first aid class for women; a sub-committee was duly formed in August 1888 with Frances as the President and Miss Tomkinson as Secretary.

In 1889, it was resolved that the group be known as 'The Ladies St John Ambulance Mission, North Adelaide'. Dr Alan Campbell (from the Centre Committee) was appointed President and Frances, Vice-President. The group provided first aid practical sessions for women, raised money for charity, and spread first aid knowledge amongst the poor. Frances Wright's work for the Adelaide Children's Hospital was recognised by having one of the wards named after her (the ward no longer exists).

On the recommendation and support of her colleagues in the Mission, Frances became the first woman in South Australia to be admitted to membership of the Order as an Honorary Associate, in 1892.

What happened to the St John Ladies Mission is unknown. The Mission was not mentioned again in the Centre Committee records after 1896.

Frances Jane Wright returned to England in 1901, and passed away at her residence in Surrey on 27 December 1923.



Kathryn Zeitz Ostu

South Australia

Kathryn Zeitz (née Turner) grew up in Mitchell Park, South Australia. In 1977 she started a long career in St John after visiting the Marion Nursing Cadets where her three older cousins were members. In those days, Nursing Cadets had a limited choice of duties they were allowed to attend which included ANZAC Day, the Christmas pageant and horse racing.



Kathyrn graduated from Sacred Heart College, Somerton Park in 1982 and moved to the combined Marion Division. In 1984, Kathryn completed her Emergency Care and Transport certificate enabling her to serve as a volunteer ambulance officer. She continued in this role for six years until volunteers were no longer able to support the ambulance service in metropolitan Adelaide.

Kathryn was awarded her Grand Prior's Badge in November 1986 and in the following year she became the Marion Divisional Nursing Officer. That same year she married fellow St John volunteer, Chris Zeitz. They have two children, James and Emma.

Kathryn moved to state staff where she led the advanced training program in critical illness management and was appointed Nursing Officer (state)—a position she held for over six years. From 2003 to 2005, she was St John's (state) Research Coordinator and in June 2005, she was appointed the Chief Nursing Officer. In November 2006, Kathryn was appointed Chief Superintendent. Following this, she held the position of National Staff Officer until mid-2010.

Kathryn undertook her nursing education at the South Australia College of Advanced Education and completed her training at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Much of her earlier nursing career was at Flinders Medical Centre. She gravitated towards emergency nursing, in part because of her experiences with St John. She continued studying and after completing her Master's degree, Kathryn embarked on a doctorate in 2000. Kathryn is currently an Adjunct Associate Professor at Flinders University.

Kathryn was admitted to the Order of St John as a Member in 1996, and promoted to Officer in 2003.

OUR FUTURE

The profiles in this book demonstrate that throughout the history of St John Ambulance in Australia the women of the organisation have been integral to its success.

Through their efforts they have helped St John realise the humanitarian ideals for which it exists. Without them, St John could never have become the organisation it is today.

And their contributions will continue.

In the decades ahead, they will keep on training and applying the best in first aid practice. They will continue nurturing the youth movement, among whom the rising generations of first aiders will learn their skills. They will continue contributing their talents wherever these are needed—as first aid instructors, ambulance officers, medical practitioners, nurses, administrators, community carers, leaders of teams of volunteers and as the guardians of the heritage of the Order of St John.

This is what they have always done. That is why they joined St John Ambulance.

That has been their past. That is their present. And that, too, will be their future.

GLOSSARY

Ambulance

now called Training Branch

Association Ambulance

now called Training Branch

Brigade

divisions

'Ambulance'

divisions established for young male Juniors and Cadets, and

adult men.

BEM British Empire Medal

Commandery a self-governing sub-national 'Establishment' of the Order

of St John, of which there are two-Northern Ireland (the

Commandary of Ards) and Western Australia.

Branch consisting of the divisions and (until 2007) sections in a

particular geographical area; renamed 'Region' in 2000.

'Combined'

This has had two meanings: (1) in days of old, a division that division

incorporated Ambulance Division (male) and Nursing Divisio

incorporated Ambulance Division (male) and Nursing Division (female) members, (2) currently, a division that incorporates

Cadets and Adults.

Community Care The non-uniformed branch of St John which operates

in some States and Territories and delivers volunteerrun community services to the aged, disabled and

disadvantaged.

CStJ Commander in the Order of St John Ambulance

District a major and largely autonomous regional area of the St John

Ambulance Brigade and Operations Branch, the head of which was a Commissioner; in Australia, each 'State/Territory' comprised a separate District. In 2000 in Australia, the term

'State/Territory' replaced 'District'.

Division the primary local organisational unit of the St John

Ambulance Brigade/Operations Branch/First Aid Services.

DStJ Dame of Grace in the Order of St John Ambulance

First Aid Services the name that has slowly been replacing 'Operations Branch'

in St John Ambulance in Australia since the mid-2000s

Hospitallers Club name changed to the St John Auxiliary in 1965, and is now

known as the Ophthalmic Branch, with the Hospitaller

heading the Branch

Linen Guilds the fund-raising auxiliaries for the St John Ophthalmic

Hospital in Jerusalem; now known as the Ophthalmic Branch

MBE Member in the Order of the British Empire

MStJ Member in the Order of St John Ambulance

OAM Medal of the Order of Australia

OBE Order of the British Empire

Officer Sister now referred to as Officer

Operations the name that replaced 'Brigade' in St John Ambulance in

Branch Australia in the organisational reforms of 1987.

OStJ Officer in the Order of St John Ambulance

'Nursing' divisions established for young female Juniors and Cadets,

divisions and adult women.

Region (or Corps) a regional organisation of the St John Ambulance Brigade,

Operations Branch, First Aid Services, consisting of the Divisions and (until 2007) Sections in a particular geographical area; called a 'Corps' until 2000.

Section a unit of the St John Ambulance Brigade/Operations Branch/

First Aid Services smaller than a Division, usually 6 to 11

members. Sections were removed in 2007.

Serving Sister now referred to as Member

St John the training and first aid manual publication branch of St

Ambulance John Ambulance Australia; in Australia called training Branch

Association since the organisational reforms of 1987

St John the branch of St John Ambulance that provideda

Ambulance uniformed first aid field service at public events and during
Brigade emergencies; in Australia called 'Operations Branch' from
the organisational reforms in 1987. Since the mid-2000s

the organisational reforms in 1987. Since the mid-2000s most states and territories have renamed this part of the

organisation as 'First Aid Services'

State/Territory a major and largely autonomous regional area of the St John

Ambulance Operations Branch/First Aid Services; called a

'District' until 2000.

sub-centre divisions in non-metropolitan Western Australia incorporate

a range of services including ambulance, training and public

duties

VAD Voluntary Aid Detachment. During World Wars I and II St

John Ambulance Brigade Divisions could register as VADs to provide support to doctors and nurses in hospitals in

Australia

St John awards and competitions

The Ambulance Service Medal (ASM) recognises **Ambulance**

Service Medal distinguished service by the men and women of Australia's

ambulance organisations

a St John first aid competition award Barrow Award

a St John first aid competition award. Any more specifics? Donaldson Cup

Could this be the Douglas Donald Cup? Australian Champion

Cadet Leader (Colonel Douglas Donald Trophy)

Duke of a scheme open to members aged 14-25 years, and was

initiated by HRH Prince Phillip in 1956. The scheme started Edinburgh Award

in Australia in 1962, and operates in 126 countries, with three

separate awards.

Fegan Cup an award for patient simulation competitions in South

> Australia, awarded annually from 1956 until the 1990s; named after Beryl Fegan who pioneered patient simulation in South

Australia.

Flora Read awarded for first aid and home nursing annual competitions

in New South Wales Challenge Cup

Frances McKay an award for the Australian Champion Cadet Team

Trophy

normally presented to Cadets who apply for the Badge on Grand Prior's

Badge (or Award) obtaining their 12th proficiency badge.

Peter Falkland now called the Cadet Leader of the Year award, presented Award

each year, from each state and territory.

Service Medal presented to members for 12 years of service. For each

additional 5 years, a bar or clasp is presented. Bars 1-4 are

silver, 5-7 are gilt and Bar 8 is now a Gilt Laurel Leaf.