



Pro Utilitate

Preserving and promoting the St John heritage.

Newsletter of The St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia

Issue 2022/3

In this issue ...

✱ From the Editor	1
✱ The Queen's Passing	1
✱ Recent events	2
✱ Making History	3
✱ A letter <i>from</i> the Editor	3
✱ Heraldry	4
✱ What's in the Priory Collection?	5
✱ Recycled history	6
✱ The Challenge	7
✱ Behind the scenes in the Museum	7
✱ Previous challenge	8
✱ A (Claytons) book review	8
✱ What is history?	10
✱ Vale – Beth Dawson	12
✱ St John Tartan	12
✱ New Publications	12
✱ Renewals for 2022	13
✱ And finally ...	13

From the Editor

2022 had already been an historic year even before the death of our Sovereign Head, Queen Elizabeth II. What a fitting tribute we witnessed to a woman who had made history herself so many times. We welcome our new King Charles III to the Order, and pay tribute to the ongoing support St John receives from our Grand Prior, Prince Richard.

Editor

The Queen's Passing

Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II – Sovereign Head of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem

On 8 September 2022 our Order and the world lost an extraordinary leader. Queen Elizabeth II peacefully passed away at her beloved Balmoral Castle, being comforted by her two eldest children. Notwithstanding her supreme role in world, church and Order leadership, the Queen was a mother, grandmother, great grandmother, a loved member of her whole family and loved and respected by her wider "world family".

Her late Majesty brought this sense of humanness and "family" to her leadership throughout the 70 years of her reign. This was especially the case in her leadership of the Order of St John and people of the Order. This was brought into sharp focus for me when in March 2020, I had the honour of presenting Her late Majesty with



The Queen's Passing

the Order's Service Medal in Gold, with three Gold Bars. After the presentation, formalities concluded, we moved to a private audience where her interest, dedication, thoughtfulness and encouragement of the Order, its people and its work were all made vibrantly clear.

And so, on 19 September 2022, we gathered and the world watched as we said farewell to one of the world's great leaders at Westminster Abbey. Pageantry coupled with solemnity in large measure pervaded Central London as millions of people came to London to participate in the Lying in State see the funeral procession and 2100 people, including many world leaders, entered Westminster Abbey to be part of an extraordinary moment in history, the funeral of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. It is estimated 4 billion people worldwide (half of the world's population) watched the ceremony on television.

The Order of St John was invited to participate in the funeral processions in the Abbey – the Orders of Chivalry Procession. To accompany me, I invited Dr Ahmad Ma'ali the CEO of the St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem and Ms Nakkita Charag a volunteer and youth leader from St John England. We lead the Chivalric procession into the Abbey, up the Nave and into the North Transept where we were seated. It was an incredibly moving time; landing home very heavily as the casket processed past us, was that, indeed, our Queen had passed. Our Sovereign – the only one so many of us had ever known; the

person to whom we swore allegiance in our Cadet Code of Chivalry recitals at our regular cadet meetings and other events; the person in whose name honours and awards had been made; the subject of the painting or photograph in Order robes that hangs in virtually every St John building in over 35 countries, had now left us. The grief and sadness that pervaded London, the United Kingdom and across so many places in the world found its focus in the Abbey and St George's Chapel Windsor Castle that day. It was no burden, but an enormous sense of honour and privilege that Nakkita, Ahmad and I could represent the Order that day and give honour to the late Queen.

She taught us about duty and service, captured in her words in 1947: "I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service ...". And she was true to her word, up until the last days of her life. Such devotion to service is at its heart, the central mission of our Order – to subjugate ourselves to the care and service of others: *Pro Fide Pro Utilitate Hominum*. For it is this service that strengthens our Order and through that, strengthens individuals and communities. Our King as Sovereign Head of our Order expects nothing less and nothing more.

May she rest in peace and rise in Glory.
God save the King.

Professor Mark Compton AM GCStJ
Lord Prior

Recent events

1–4 September – Celebrations of 140 years of the Eye Hospital in Jerusalem including a Gala Dinner, awards, an investiture and meetings.

28 October 28 – NSW launch of *A Beacon at Hope. The SJEHG: 140 years of eye care in the Holy Land, 1882–2022*, kindly hosted by Her Excellency Margaret Beazley AC KC, at Government House, Sydney.

26–27 November – The Priory Church and Chapter meeting was held in Canberra on Sunday November 27 with the Historical Society seminar on Saturday November 26.

Making History ... more accessible!

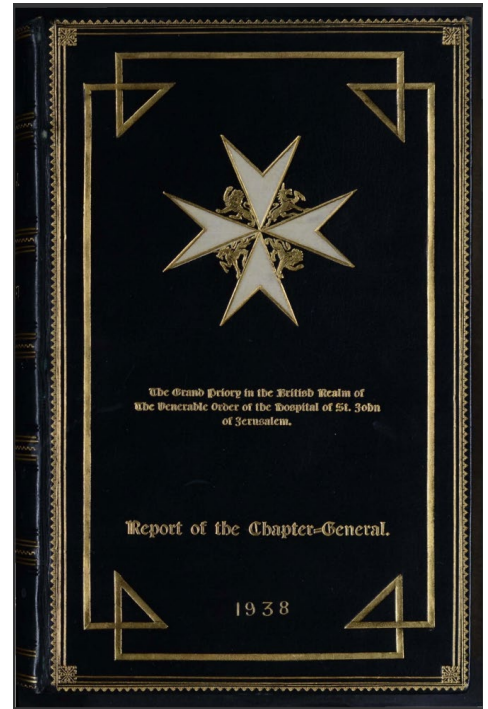
In 2022 the Archive at the Museum of the Order of St John, London, digitised part of the collection of Order of St John Annual Reports, with the aim of opening up the collection to our global audience. The modern Order's Annual Reports were created to formally share the year's news, achievements, and updates, together with accompanying relevant organisational and procedural information to Order members. This includes Order Members' promotions, admissions, and obituaries, the work of the Order overseas, regulations for robes and insignia, and statutes and reports from Chapter. Upon the creation of St John Ambulance, the Reports also began including information on the formation of Nursing and Ambulance Divisions, details about medical and first aid training, information about technological advances in healthcare, and reports on the health of the nation.

The content within the Annual Reports have made them important in our understanding of the history and progress of the Order of St John and St John Ambulance and their people, and are often sought-after by researchers and historians as a vital resource. However, due to age and use, some of the volumes are incredibly fragile, with a number of early volumes suffering from leather rot, due to the natural degradation of the leather covers.

Thanks to a generous donation from the St John Historical Society, the Archive was able to digitise 112 years of reports, from 1868–1970. This digitisation project has enabled us to open up the collection to our global audience for the first time, and in turn allows us to ensure the long-term preservation of the original records through minimised handling and prevention of further damage to the early bound volumes.

The Annual Reports from 1868–1970 are now publicly and freely accessible at issuu.com/museumoftheorderofstjohn.

Thank you, Anna Mason and Sophie Denham, for your great work.



A sample of the high quality of digital reproduction of our Order's Annual Reports.

A letter from the Editor

Thank you, John Ward, for your careful reflection on the history of our organisation held by members, and the enormous amount of work that goes into recording all the detail for all the divisions around Australia. These are the micro-histories Ian Willis acknowledged in our last edition.*

Another thought from the Editor: how is it that the Templars are so well known to the general public when they only lasted approximately 200 years? Whenever, I lecture to the general public on the history of the Order, they almost all say, this is fascinating, but we never knew. Is it the Dan Brown phenomenon? Or is it that good news stories don't sell as many airport books as sensational stories do. How do we better get our brilliant history out to the general public?

Editor

*These memories are collated, with a short history of the Glebe Division, into a small document that is available on the [national website](#) (scroll down to the history site).

Making History (2) –the National Heritage Collections Project for St John in England

There is a wealth of objects, records and photographs held in St John Ambulance buildings across England, that tell the stories of lives saved, individual and team achievements, and volunteer presence in some of the most important events in history.

In 2027 St John Ambulance will celebrate its 150th anniversary. To ensure that we will be in the best possible position to celebrate this milestone, the Heritage Team have started a National Collections Project, working closely with volunteers across the country.

Our aim is to get a deeper understanding of St John's heritage collections. By carrying out inventories at St John buildings in each region, we are starting to get a better overview of what has survived, where it is held and what its significance is. This will help to ensure that collections receive the attention and support needed, with consistent standards of collection care and documentation across the country.

Ultimately, we are working towards being able to use all our heritage collections creatively to engage the public with our work, and for all St John people to feel a sense of ownership of our shared heritage.

Heraldry — the armorial bearings of John Francis Davies AM, Knight of Justice (KStJ)

On 6 January 1998 John Davies received the right to bear arms, in Letters Patent from the College of Arms in London. The Secretary-General of The Order confirmed John's armigerous status in a letter dated 26 May 1998. Based on this he was reclassified as a Knight of Justice.

Here follows John's brief explanation of the design of his armorial bearings.



- As far as the Arms are concerned, they are both simple and distinctive and consist of a green shield and gold cross (colours that we usually associate with Australia).
- The four swans' heads is a badge associated with King Edward I and with the family of Bohun (alluding to our Royal descent) This descent is further emphasized by enfiling each with an ancient crown which, by tradition, is associated with the Royal house of Plantagenet.
- Turning to the Crest, this features a kangaroo with a white Maltese cross as an allusion to the Order of St John. The kangaroo is tinctured green in order to reflect the field of the shield and thus provide greater unity of design.
- With regard to the Badge, I chose a Waratah to denote the State (NSW) flower. The Motto "Virtus Vera Nobilitas" is concerned, it simply means "Virtue is true nobility."
- The Shield surmounts the Badge of the Order of St John with the pendant Insignia of a Knight of Grace of the Order."

(The Letters Patent pre-dated Mr Davies's reclassification to Knight of Justice, hence the Knight of Grace Insignia appears below the Shield).

What's in the Priory Collection?

This dual-purpose 1982 commemorative medallion was put forward from the Priory Collection but has generated a great deal of correspondence which follows this article.



Hayley Cockman, has recently catalogued this unusual item, a dual-purpose silver commemorative medallion from 1982. Two copies of the medallion are mounted on a polished wooden base to display both the obverse (front) and reverse (back) faces.

The medallion serves a 'two-in-one' purpose. The obverse face celebrates the diamond jubilee, i.e. 60th anniversary, of the St John Ambulance Cadet movement, 1922–1982. It depicts the busts of both a female and a male Cadet, each dressed in

the uniform worn by Nursing (female) and Ambulance (male) Cadets during the 1930s and 40s.

The reverse face commemorates the centenary of the St John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem (nowadays called the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital), 1882–1982. It displays the main Eye Hospital building as seen from the south-west, i.e. on the north-east corner of Nablus Road and Mujir Ad-Din Street in Sheik Jarrah, the Jerusalem suburb where the Hospital is located.

The medallion was issued by the Most Venerable Order of St John in 1982. Copies of the medallion were widely distributed among the Order's Priories, Commanderies and National Associations. Exactly why such a dual-purpose medallion was released is uncertain. Perhaps it was an economy measure — a case of 'two commemorations for the price of one'?

[Ian Howie-Willis for](#)
[Hayley Cockman \(Priory Cataloguer\)](#)

Puzzling numismatics

Prior to receiving the above contribution, and in honour of the Cadet Centenary, Allen Sharkey offered to the History online group, images of a prototype of the medal jointly issued to celebrate the Cadet Diamond Jubilee and the Ophthalmic Hospital Centenary. He drew attention to a glaring error! Ian Howie-Willis, correctly guessed 'that back in 1982 somebody's butt must have been sharply kicked for saying the Eye Hospital was founded in '1822', and for letting that error find its way on to a medal that was being distributed worldwide'. The (crudely) corrected issued version was in a silver colour unlike the apparently gilded prototype.

Allan supposed that rather than make a new die the 1822 was changed to 1882 as seen in the crude alteration of the second 8 from 2 to 8 in 1882. He'd be very



interested to know if anyone has or has seen in collections, the incorrect gilded version.

Matthew Glozier noted that in the gilded original, the unicorn appears to have primacy. He also offered that he believed it was manufactured by the medallists and enamellers, Manhattan-Windsor Products Limited, of Birmingham (otherwise called Manhattan-Windsor Group). Apparently in the 1970s Manhattan Windsor was the largest producer of quality automotive keyrings in England: "the most prolific

What's in the Priory Collection? – Puzzling numismatics

keyring manufacturer of all ... long since stopped trading". Reference: David Berry, 'Manhattan Windsor', Leyland Torque, Vol. 37 (Autumn 2007), is an article on the fine work produced by this outside contractor supplying Leyland vehicles.

Allan was able to confirm that the medal is inscribed 'MANHATTAN WINDSOR ENGLAND' on the edge. It would be interesting to know if there is any written material, advert, memo etc about the medal. Or indeed if there are any other gilt versions or if mine is indeed a sole prototype? Its origin may have even have been Australia when he led a party from the UK to Hobart Tasmania for the International camp and competition, and

later Melbourne, as one of the celebrations of the Cadet Diamond Jubilee. But the edge inscription suggests a UK origin.

Kath Turner wrote to Allen to say that the cadets featured on the medal are her daughter and nephew. "The medals were available from Supplies for £5.00 if I remember correctly". She says "Dawn-Marie Turner and Michael Turner were members of the Bedford Town Cadet Divisions" (abridged).

Editor – Thanks to Alan J Sharkey MBE CSTJ TD for initiating this correspondence within the History Group and to those who also contributed.

Recycled history: For historians and car enthusiasts

The Mighty Em-Care Ambulance

This article was in South Australia's St John Newsletter in October 2015 in a fuller version. As an update, on Sunday 16th October this year, was the Bay to Birdwood rally for vintage and veteran cars. In the diaries of car enthusiasts this is a major event. It is held as an annual event since 1980 and vehicles run about 60 kilometres from the sea-side suburb of Glenelg to Birdwood in the Adelaide Hills where there is Motor Museum. The Em-Care was accepted as an entrant in the rally this year and Shane Blitz came from Melbourne to be in the rally in his former vehicle.

Em-Care (short for Emergency Care) ambulances were designed and built in South Australia and graced South Australian roads from the mid-seventies until the mid- to late 1980s. A mock-up of the proposed Em-Care patient compartment was created in the cathedral-like Hindmarsh Ambulance Centre. The late Dr Des Owens had a major input on restoring the interior. It was a substantial ambulance, 1.83 metres wide, 2.21 metres high and 5.87 metres long.

Some 35 years ago a Shane Blitz bought a no-longer-required Em-Care directly from the Hindmarsh Centre. Its South Australian registration number was SMO 094 and its St John fleet number was 17. Shane took it to his home in Melbourne and garaged it and thoroughly enjoyed owning



These pictures were taken at the Birdwood end of the Bay to Birdwood rally by Shane Blitz.

Recycled history

it. Shane had used it as a booze bus, as a support vehicle in bush fire areas and as a camper van.

Shane, approached three museums and received a positive reaction from our Historical Society. Lyn Dansie replied to Shane and that historic vehicle is now owned by the St John Ambulance Historical Society in SA.

On 26 May 2014, the Historical Society's Hans Looft and SAAS Retired Ambulance Officer John Pohl flew to Melbourne and drove the Em-Care back to Adelaide. The vehicle is now housed in the Port Adelaide station of the South Australian Ambulance Service. Members of SAAS's Retired Officers' Association have worked tirelessly to restore the vehicle and add St John motifs and equipment.

Behind the scenes in the Museum Lapel Badge



The Victorian Museum has just been given this lapel badge for their collection. Allan believes it was sourced from Queensland but has no information about its origin. He has never seen one like it before, because of the absence of the indentations of the Maltese Cross, and wonders whether anyone knows more about its origin.

Allen Mawdsley

The Challenge

In the South African Priory in Johannesburg, we have a wheeled litter that was rescued from one of our Centers a couple of years ago. They only know it is neither a St John Ambulance litter nor an Ashford litter!

As can be seen, our one has three metal, rather than wooden, wheels, with solid rubber tires and some rather sophisticated leaf-spring suspension! They think that it was probably made for the 2nd Anglo-Boer War, but may be of WWI vintage.

If anyone can throw any light upon it, that would be great! They have been thinking about getting it refurbished, so any thoughts on that would also be appreciated. I think that it *is* a St John stretcher, for which someone locally has built a one-off/ 'limited edition' litter...

Mark Goodman
South African Priory



Previous challenge

Matthew Glozier OStJ is wondering if anyone remembers these and if could you pick the approximate period these were issued.

Ian Howie- Willis responded with: I'm so greatly challenged I have no idea what the object is, other than it might be the reverse side of a cigarette card, one of a series of 40. If I'm right, collecting all 40 cards in the series would have meant someone would have to smoke some 800 cigarettes!

Editor –Matthew confirmed that the images were the two sides of the same cigarette card.



A (Claytons) book review

This issue will not include a book review but a summary of our first face-to-face Seminar of The St John Historical Society in a few years. For those who couldn't attend or connect online to watch, this might be a convenient piece.

Introduction from James Cheshire – The 2022 seminar sees the return of our in-person meetings. We have been fortunate to have been able continue our programme of annual events remotely, but I am sure that everyone prefers the atmosphere and better opportunity for engagement that in-person events provide. One of the features this year will be the opportunity to develop a mentoring program. Over the years a number of people have benefitted from being assisted by the tremendous expertise and experience we have within the society. This year we are going to highlight this resource as well as activity engage with representatives from the St John National Youth Group. Although we have time with the National Youth Team, it is hoped that anyone who has previously wanted to take their interest in matters historical further will take the opportunity to take the next step with the assistance this programme can provide.

From the Editor. The Keynote presentation was from Val Dempsey, 2022 Senior Australian of the Year who gave one of the most uplifting presentations I've heard in a long time. Val reminded us that the future and what is recorded about our history will be determined by the actions we all take today.

Trevor Mahew, still on a theme of fantastic women, spoke about Dames of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem. This was a comprehensive review of the criteria for achieving the Dame Grand Cross as well as a brief biography of those awarded. Trevor finishes with some challenging questions for the Order: Why there is a disproportionate number of males to females at this level, and why no Australian women have ever achieved it.

On the theme of interesting individuals, **Lyn Dansie** delivered Brian Fotheringham's

A (Claytons) book review

paper on Professor Frank Pantridge and the development of the Portable Defibrillator. Pantridge came from a disadvantaged home in Ireland to become a much lauded physician whose ingenuity save innumerable lives – what a man!

Stephen Szabo illuminated the life of Dr Albert Reginald von Haupt McLeod, in 'Service and Controversy'. **Todd Skilton's** 'Lot 89: Fincham' brought us the significant life of Henry Fincham, who contributed to an illustrated guide of the original priory crypt in 1903. At that time, he was the Church Warden and eventually awarded Knight of Grace. Ultimately, he became internationally known as an authority on the Order.

David Fahey, our President, spoke about the Florence Nightingale Medal introducing some fascinating possibilities about its design and its links to the Red Cross award.

John Pearn provided an extraordinarily interesting paper on the origins of many of our symbols we take for granted in 'Crosses and Wreaths: International iconography of St John'.

From the history of the Ancient Order, came **Bruce Carslake's** paper on the 'Two Sieges of Rhodes'. Bruce continues his story of the Knights in exciting detail. So much so, that it is difficult to summarise. He should really write a book. He talked about the events leading up to the first siege in 1480 and a blow-by-blow description of the back and forwards of the action and the Knights eventual victory. He followed this with a similarly detailed

and clear description of the second siege in 1522 with its sadder outcome for the Knights. Reflecting the interest in the Ancient Order, **Ian Willis** retold the story of 'The Pilgrimage of 1926: The tour of Palestine, Cyprus, Rhodes and Malta' by members of the Venerable Order of St John in March 1926. He outlined some of the misconceptions of those on the tour as to St John Heritage and some of the ongoing tangible benefits from the tour such as the 'Linen Guild'. Staying in the Levant, **Matthew Glozier** presented a paper on 'The Chapel of the Order of St John at St George's Cathedral in Jerusalem' and its fortunes down through the years as the chapel of the Order.

Two papers gave us modern history reports within Australia; **Didia Moutia's** on 'The history of BERT in New South Wales', and a more extensive coverage of time from **Harry Oxe** describing 'Order from Chaos: The History of the St John Ambulance Service in Western Australia 1922–2022'. Harry was forecasting the publication of this book in the new year.

Finally, the Seminar included a Youth Presentation entitled '100 years of Youth Past, Present and Future'. It was presented by **Felix Ho**, the National Youth Officer and **Mark Ferguson**, the National Youth Project Officer who is also heading up the Working Group for the Youth Centenary celebrations. Both are working in these positions as volunteers and both are members of the National Youth Group, naturally enough.

Dr Elizabeth Ellis OStJ



This painting shows an injured Pierre d'Aubusson, Grand Master of the Hospitallers, who lead the defense during the First Siege of Rhodes on 17 August 1480. By Edouard-Alexandre Odier, 1841.



What is history?

The 'Cancel Culture' Movement

In this 20th instalment, the author, Ian Howie-Willis, considers the 'Cancel Culture', which in recent years has gained influence in some Western nations.

'Cancel Culture' is a movement that has emerged in some Western nations over the last three or four years. It involves ostracising people who have offended particular interest groups. The ostracism may extend to boycotting them and refusing them the 'right of reply' — for instance not allowing them to speak in public by disrupting meetings at which they are scheduled to speak and/or pressuring news media outlets and conference organisers to deny them an audience, thereby 'cancelling' them.

An alternative expression for 'Cancel Culture' is 'Call-out Culture'. The person being shunned has been 'called-out' or exposed for their perceived misdemeanours in having expressed opinions unacceptable to the 'cancellers'. A case in point is the outspoken Australian-born feminist, author and commentator, Germaine Greer. We are unlikely to see her again in public forums, however, because she has been 'cancelled'. Dr Greer was 'called-out' several years ago by the transgender community in England for disparaging remarks she made about men who had undergone gender reassignment surgery. So vociferous was the agitation against her that conference organisers and discussion panel directors are afraid to invite her to their events.

The chief objections to Cancel Culture are that it amounts to bullying, stifles free speech, and curtails public discourse. The main argument in favour is that it promotes accountability by making prominent figures like Dr Greer think carefully before making public utterances, especially if that involves 'hate speech'.

Cancel Culture also extends to historical figures. In England, for instance, there

have been attempts to demolish statues of Cecil Rhodes, after whom the Rhodes Scholarships at Oxford University are named. In the USA, statues of the Confederate general Robert E. Lee, have been removed. And of course, here in Australia memorials of Captain James Cook are continually vandalised.

As an historian, I have little sympathy with this latter manifestation of Cancel Culture. I've learnt to accept the past for what it was — something that happened, can't be changed, and must simply be accepted while being learnt from. There are innumerable historical episodes I regret and wish had never happened, including the trans-Atlantic slave trade of the 16th to 19th centuries, the carnage on the battlefronts of World War I, the Nazis' Jewish holocaust in World War II, and currently the Russian dictator's attempts to obliterate Ukraine. No matter how deplorable such events have been, erasing reminders of them won't undo them, or make restitution.

At the same time, I must agree that what is important is to try to appreciate the sensitivities of the 'cancellers'. In the case of Robert E. Lee, for example, we should remember that he commanded the army of Confederate states that would have perpetuated slavery if they had won the American Civil War. For millions of Afro-Americans the knowledge of their forebears slavery still resonates painfully today. The Robert E. Lee statuary symbolises their ancestors' subjugation. The more Robert E. Lee statues that remain in place, the more they feel that painful reality.

But is any of this relevant to St John history?

What is history?

I think so, even though St John has fortunately avoided being 'called-out'. Unlike some other prominent institutions, we have not been investigated and found wanting by public judicial inquiries. The lesson for us here is that if we don't wish to be 'cancelled', all of our endeavours must embody the highest ethical standards, especially when we deal with the vulnerable.

Finally, we can learn from our own history by striving to ensure that we continue exemplifying the best ideals in community service, and that that all our endeavours are irreproachably honest and honourable. We must encourage and promote those with contributions to make to our Order, without distinction of ability or gender, race, class or religion.

Dr Ian Howie-Willis KStJ

VALE Beth Dawson AM DStJ, 1930–2022

Beth Muir Dawson was born in Brisbane, attending Nundah state primary school and then Brisbane Girls Grammar School. After noticing a friend reading the St John first aid manual, she attended the next divisional meeting of the newly established Nundah Division in 1951, and thus began her 60-year St John career.

Beth found much fulfillment in taking first aid and home nursing training, public duties, and working at the Brisbane Hospital on Friday nights. She competed with the Nundah team in their first national St John nursing competitions in Sydney, 1952, and they took home the coveted Sleeman Shield.

Beth entered the Brisbane Hospital nursing course in 1953, and trained in midwifery in Melbourne. She returned to Brisbane to work at the Royal Children's Hospital. In 1965 she undertook the Royal College of Nursing Australia's Hospital Management diploma, following that with the diploma in Nursing Education. She went on to run the Royal Children's Hospital paediatric nursing course for registered nurses.

On her return to Brisbane, Beth rejoined the Nundah Division, and her St John career flourished! She was appointed Divisional Nursing Officer; later Corps Nursing Officer, and then District Superintendent (Nursing). In 1977, she traveled to New Zealand as the manager of the St John Australian Nursing Cadet Team which won the New Zealand Army Cup at the Golden Jubilee Cadet Camp in Wanganui. In 1979 she joined the Brigades' national headquarters as Chief Superintendent (Nursing). After her retirement from her professional career in 1988, Beth helped established the national Community Care Branch.

Beth traveled to historic St John sites including several journeys to the St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem. She was appointed foundation Chair of St John Queensland's History and Heritage Committee, and was a co-founder of the St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia (2001).

Beth's long and dedicated service to St John was recognised with her admission as a Serving Sister to the Order of St John in 1971. She was promoted through the grades, and in 1984 was honoured as a Dame of the Order. In 2002 she was publicly recognised as a Member of the Order of Australia for promoting community health through St John Ambulance Australia.



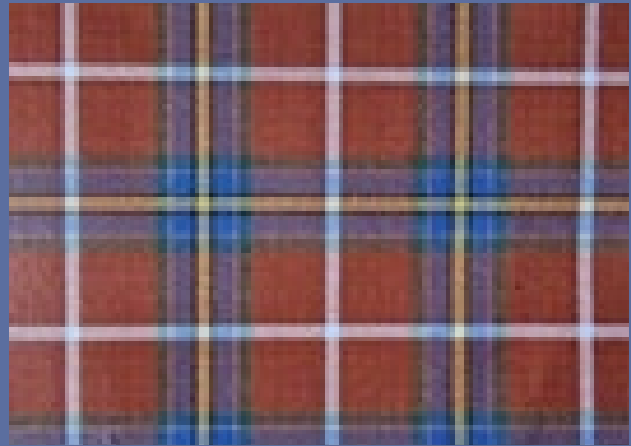
St John Tartan

The official St John tartan was designed to celebrate St John Scotland's 75th anniversary this year.

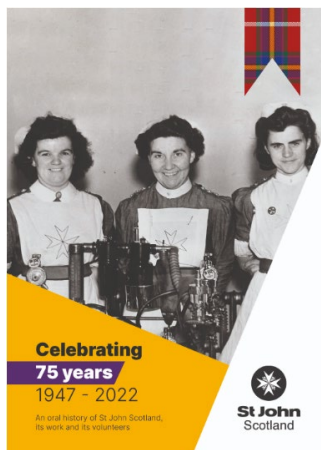
Woven by Lochcarron of Scotland, the St John tartan incorporates colours from the coat of arms of the Order of St John, and represents the work of our volunteers and the thread connecting the worldwide family of St John. It is 100% British wool.

If you would like to order a length of the official St John Tartan, contact Janice Hogarth at janicehogarth@yahoo.com

Editor – I have had a pleated skirt made of this tartan and it is very good quality material offered in two different weights. It makes a beautiful kilt or a lovely pair of trews, if you would rather not show your knees!



New Publications



Celebrating 75 years 1947–2022. An oral history of St John Scotland, its work and its volunteers.

This new and proud history of St John Scotland is available free (except for packaging and postage charges). You can order online, [here](#).



St John Order Matters New Zealand
@OrderMattersStJohnNZ - Community organisation

For those who have a Facebook account, you are encouraged to 'follow' [St John Order Matters New Zealand](#) Facebook page.



And, the latest edition of **Priory News** (Autumn 2022) is also available to read online, [here](#).



And finally, keep an eye out in the new year for the history of St John in Western Australia, *From Chaos to Order*.



Thank you to all St John members who attended the annual Church Service on Sunday 27 November, at St Paul's Anglican Church in Manuka, Canberra.

Renewals for 2022

As we approach 2023, we remind you to renew your Historical Society membership subscription for 2023 if you have not already done so.

As a paid-up member, you receive 3 issues of *Pro Utilitate*, a copy of *St John History*, and, not to mention, access to a wealth of information on the ancient and modern history of our international organisation.

You'll find the generic membership application/renewal form on the national website: <https://stjohn.org.au/about>
Follow the instructions given on the form.

And finally ...

The next issue (No 2023/13) will be out in May 2023 with a deadline for contributions by mid-April. We warmly encourage letters, articles or ideas for the forthcoming publication.

You're also invited to email me as editor with comments or questions, in a 'Letter to the Editor' or privately—especially if you think something needs to be corrected.

Wishing you all a very happy and safe holiday season with all its celebrations in so many forms.

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