



Pro Utilitate

Preserving and promoting the St John heritage.

Newsletter of The St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia

Issue 2023/2

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From the Editor

6 May 2023 saw a most significant, historical events for the Commonwealth and of course our Order: His Majesty the King's and Her Majesty the Queen's coronations. See a description of the Coronation from our Lord Prior (pp 3–5).

We note with sadness the recent death of one of our members, Kevin Young KSJ in Western Australia, and hope to have a valedictory in the next edition.

Editor

Who's in Order

Appointments and re-appointments

Congratulations to Todd Skilton on his re-appointment as Order Librarian; and congratulations to Matthew Glozier on his appointment as a Deputy Order Librarian. Todd and Matthew have provided a description of the role of the librarian for the interest of our readers.

The Order Librarian role is an Honorary Officers of the Order, appointed under the Statutes of our Order. An Honorary Officer is appointed to hold office for a term of up to three years but is eligible for reappointment with no statutory limit on the number of terms. The role is essentially defined as providing advice to the Great Officers and Grand Council with regard to the history, customs and traditions of the Order. However, I see the role as more of being a passionate cheerleader for heritage, bringing interested parties together and showcasing the heritage of our Order, Foundations and Establishments. I'm passionate about showing heritage isn't just about "old stuff", but it is an operational output, one that gives confidence to our stakeholders, governments, donors, patients, volunteers, and paid staff. Through our heritage we can show where we have come from, that we have been around "for a long time", and therefore that we are a committed humanitarian charity. We have responded to disasters, pandemics, crewed ambulances, provided first

Who's in Order continued

aid training, and provided other healthcare outcomes when people have needed us most. What I love about St John heritage activities is that there is something for everyone — numismatics, heraldry, geological research, medieval, arms and armour, vehicles, social history, you name it — we have an opportunity for anyone who wants to get involved at some level to do so, to whatever degree of involvement they have, regardless of formal training.

Our collective challenge is showing the benefits of heritage, bidding for resource and demonstrating return. I've seen my role as trying to connect interested folks together. The Pories, Foundations and Establishments all descend from a common history, so working together to collaborate on telling that story is powerful.

One small, but important change approved by The Executive Committee was to institute the opportunity to appoint up

to three Deputy Librarians. This was seen as being important to increase the number of Order heritage champions and provide some opportunity for succession and development. It was decided by The Executive Committee that the editor of the *One St John* journal would fill one of the positions. Considering how *One St John* came into existence, it is fitting that a member of the Australian Priory holds the inaugural appointment.

For over 20 years the St John Ambulance Society of Australia has been running an annual historical seminar. Each year the majority of the papers are published in *St John History*, a magazine style product that is distributed to members. For the majority of its 20-year history, Dr Ian Howie-Willis was the guiding force in overseeing this process. As time went on, Ian realised some of these papers were of international significance to the history of

Coming events

The Historical Society is hosting the first of an ONLINE SERIES OF TALKS on Wednesday 30 August at 7:30 pm AEST. Our colleague, Brodie Taylor, from the University of Queensland will present 'From the pages of history to your shelves. A guide to caring for your St John Collection'. [Click here to register your attendance.](#)

If you can't make it to the Webinar, Brodie wrote a paper for *Pro Utilitate* in August 2021, and his book, *Caring for your St John treasures* is available for download from www.stjohn.org.au/about_us (scroll down to the Historical Society).

The next HISTORICAL SOCIETY SEMINAR will be held on Saturday 11 November in Canberra. This will be the day before Chapter and the Church service. Your papers will be of great interest and an important contribution to this Seminar. With a change in the Society's secretary, you will now need to send your paper to: history.secretary@stjohn.org.au The Seminar will be at The Realm in Canberra and attendees will need to register to attend—[click here to register your attendance](#). Costs: \$40 for Members, \$90 for non-Members. Please check your membership status before registering.

THE CHANCELLOR'S DINNER The Chancellor, Mr Cameron Oxley KStJ, is honoured to host a dinner to recognise the 140-year anniversary of St John Ambulance in Australia. The event will be an opportunity to celebrate the organisation's enduring commitment to First Aid training and healthcare services to the community. Bookings are essential and can be purchased here: [140 Year Anniversary Chancellor's Dinner Tickets](#)

Who's in Order continued

the Order and so he and Prof. John Pearn (as Priory Librarian Emeritus and serving Priory Librarian respectively) approached St John International with the idea of creating an online historical journal for the benefit of St John members globally. The then Lord Prior, the Hon. Neil Conn, agreed to this idea and it was named *One St John* in honour of the focus on St John unity. Its 8th volume (2022) is now in production, soon to be followed by the 9th (2023), under the editorship of Dr Matthew Glozier. Initially, *One St John* reproduced pre-existing articles from *St John History*, grouped loosely by theme, type, or content. This arrangement presented the research to a global audience in a readily-accessible manner online. Matthew subsequently pioneered the commissioning of original research from prominent St John historians, based around explicit themes: e.g. Vol. 7 (2021) "medals and badges"; Vol. 8 (2022) "destruction and renewal". Contributions now come from Priories and Associations all around the world, making *One St John* truly an instrument for Order heritage inclusiveness. Attempts are underway to

encourage participation from our Alliance St John partners and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. This has helped consolidate *One St John* as an authoritative and internationally relevant voice for the Order's heritage.

The Deputy Librarian role is an acknowledgement from the Order of the importance of *One St John* to its history and heritage strategy. The Order places a high value on sustaining and developing the high quality of *One St John* content. It is a happy coincidence that Dr Glozier also continues in his role as official historian of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group, with a second book currently in production as a modest "sister" volume to *A Beacon of Hope*.

The Librarians are always willing to give advice or assistance as required, be it looking for support, a champion, or another set of eyes to edit material or bounce ideas off. You can contact the Order Librarian on librarian@orderofstjohn.org

Recent events

The Coronation

Our Lord Prior represented the Order of St John at the Coronation of HM King Charles III and HM Queen Camilla: his reflections on the day follow.

As a Crown Order of Chivalry, the Order of St John was included in the Orders of Chivalry contingent in the King's Procession at the Coronation Service for His Majesty King Charles III and Queen Camilla. It was a privilege and great honour to be invited as Lord Prior to participate in the Coronation, representing all St John people across the world.

London is a vibrant city; one of the great cities of the world. However, add "Coronation conviviality" to the mix and it was a city "jumping out of its skin" with people, activities, energy, a great sense of joy, positivity and pride. Bunting, buskers,



Recent events. The Coronation continued

parties, practice parades all filled the city as preparations peaked during the week of the Coronation.

Those involved in specific roles at Westminster Abbey had a busy day of rehearsals on the Thursday before the Coronation. Our rehearsals included a full-dress rehearsal — robes, music, choir, banners, Coronation Regalia and so on. All conducted with stopwatch precision! The rehearsal day allowed time to chat with the extraordinary collection of distinguished people who were part of proceedings. Archbishops, Victoria Cross recipients; Knights, Dames and Ladies of Crown Orders such as Garter, Thistle, Bath, St Michael and St George, Royal Victorian *et al*; recipients of civilian bravery awards, Coronation Regalia bearers, Heralds of Arms, Gentlemen at Arms, Company of Archers, Yeomen of the Guard and so many others.

Coronation Day dawned grey, with occasional drizzly rain. The walk from my hotel to the Abbey had me immersed in the swelling crowds — all upbeat; many different languages and accents; flags, hats, Union Flag shirts dresses and even suits! As I approached Westminster Bridge, I could see and hear companies of Defence members (including military bands playing) who were marching from Waterloo Station to their predetermined places. That day there were approximately 5,000 military personnel brought by train into Central London; the greatest such movement of troops since the funeral of the late Sir Winston Churchill.

Walking across the secure area in front of the Abbey was surreal. An open and clear space in front of and around an iconic global landmark, but behind police barriers, many tens of thousands of



The Lord Prior is here with Scottish Heralds (the black hats) and on his right is Dr Joseph Morrow, the Lord Lyon King of Arms. All of the Heralds are Members of the Order of St John.



And, of course, the famous Beefeaters who the LP describe as his personal protection detail! .

people, world media, hundreds of police and other officials.

On entering the inner sanctum of the Abbey, the tone was noticeably different from the rehearsal day. Today is the day! Everyone *en pointe*, triple checking details; last minute uniform adjustments and polishing; robes being checked; processional items and regalia checked and so on.

A large marquee adjacent to the marquee for the Orders was home to the collection of world leaders attending the Service. When

Recent events. The Coronation continued

the time came for that esteemed group to process and take their places in the Abbey, we literally watched the world go by! Some of the leaders even came over to our small group of robed and uniformed observers and asked for photographs!

Our part of the Procession assembled in the Abbey Cloisters. When Their Majesties arrived at the Great West Door of the Abbey, we stepped off. Processional music filled the Abbey as we moved up the Nave, through the Quire and towards the Sanctuary before peeling off to our seats.

The Order of Service can be found here: [The Coronation Service - Order of Service | The Royal Family](#)

There were so many memorable moments in the Service. One of the most moving for me was the Anointing of the King; in the privacy of the screens; a sacred moment between King and God. Declaring his faith and confirming his place as the head of the Church of England. Handel's *Zadok the*

Priest filled the Abbey; that special piece first performed at the coronation of George II in 1727, now being sung in context as it has been at the coronation of every British monarch since that time.

After the conclusion of the Service, we said farewell. Many of the people I saw that day I had met at the funeral of Her late Majesty the Queen. Many connections had been very happily refreshed during this joyous time.

Throngs of revellers crowding the streets, especially the Mall and around Trafalgar Square. Pubs, cafes, restaurants brimming with folk all enjoying this special moment in history. It was good to take time before next engagements to drink in this moment and reflect on what an amazing privilege it had been to be a part of this historic event and to have the honour of representing the hundreds of thousands of St John people across the world.

Prof. Mark Compton AM GSTJ
Lord Prior

and in other recent events ...

Todd Skilton, Order Librarian, organised an international meeting on Sunday 30 May. This was widely advertised to many interested historians through the Google link. Apart from general sharing of what the various Priories were doing, valuable resources circulated.

Anna Mason, England, reminded us of their heritage links:

- Museum of the Order of St John: <https://museumstjohn.org.uk/>
- Digital resources available on *Issuu*: <https://issuu.com/museumoftheorderofstjohn>
- Cadet Voices website: <https://sjacadetvoices.org.uk/>

In Canada, Andre Levesque, Chancellor of the Canadian Priory launched the Facebook page, 'St John Remembers'. You can view that here: <https://www.facebook.com/SJACanada>

The Canadian museum website is well worth a look at <https://museumsjaon.ca/>

Recently, **Nitin Verma, our immediate past-Hospitaller**, and his Ophthalmic guests: Dr David Verity, the Order Hospitaller; Dr Ahmad Ma'ali, CEO, St John Eye Hospital; Prof. Angus Turner, talking from the Pilbara, WA; and Michael Coote, St Vincent's Health, Melbourne. The Lord Prior, Prof. Mark Compton also personally addressed the audience. The topic discussed was on the barriers to equitable eye care around the world, and was a fascinating insight into clinical service delivery in different regions of the world. The webinar was recorded and can be viewed here: <https://vimeo.com/834568182/f2f85415f6>
Please feel free to share this with your networks.

Heraldry

Sven Nilsson CStJ

Sven petitioned the Lord Lyon King of Arms in Scotland in 1985 for the right to bear arms under the laws of Scotland and, as a result, he was granted these arms in 1987. The Grant of Arms was recorded in the *Public Register of All Armorial Bearings in Scotland*, Vol. 71, fol. 46.

Arms per chevron Argent and Or two hands couped and erect Gules and in base a hand-lamp Azure.

Crest on a Maltese cross Argent a hurt charged of a Waratah flower Proper.

Motto *Quaerere Virtutem* (Latin; Seek the Truth).

The arms themselves depict in the upper portion two left hands to indicate learning and in the lower portion a lamp to indicate Mr Nilsson's profession as a nurse.

The crest consists of a blue disc with a waratah to symbolise New South Wales, his home State, on a silver Maltese Cross which is a reference to Mr Nilsson's association with the Order of St John.

In 2020 Mr Nilsson was granted permission to use a Pennon depicting his arms and personal motto. A pennon is a specific type of heraldic flag bearing the owner's armorial bearings combined with their motto.



Armorial bearings of Mr Sven Nilsson CStJ JP.



Pennon of Mr Sven Nilsson CStJ JP. The emblazonment of the pennon is incorrect because it intrudes gules [red] into the bottom section of the arms. The colour here should be Or [gold] as in the original patent of arms.

Living History

The Hayward-Butt Inhaler

Dr Brian Fotheringham KStJ

I joined the Hindmarsh Transport Division of St John Ambulance in Adelaide in 1961. Two years later the Manual of Ambulance Transport Nursing by H. G. (Jock) Berry was published. Assisting the editor were Andrew Black, Robert Black, Ian Buttfield, Glyn Davies and Peter Gartrell, all either medical students or newly-graduated doctors at that time. In that manual there was a six-page article on the Hayward-Butt inhaler and its use in providing analgesia.

The inhaler was kept in ambulances in a sealed state. The seal was an indication that the inhaler contained an ampoule of pain-relieving Trilene (Trichloroethylene). The inhaler was a metal cylinder with a nozzle at one end. To use it, the cap over the nozzle was unscrewed

Living History continued

and the nozzle firmly pushed towards the base of the inhaler, breaking the glass ampoule and releasing the Trilene into an absorbent pad. The inhaler was then given to the patient to place the nozzle in one nostril. Breathing the Trilene usually gave the casualty rapid pain relief.

There were several caveats on using Trilene which need not be recorded here, but it was a great advance in ambulance nursing at that time and was used in St John ambulances throughout South Australia for about 20 years. The Trilene was initially a clear liquid and it soon became known by doctors and nurses that it could remove stains from uniforms. Later batches of Trilene were coloured blue and it then stained any clothing where Trilene was tried as a dry-cleaning agent.

As an aside, the first occasion when I might have used Trilene was when I, as a medical student was still living in my parent's house. On ambulance duty, my fellow crew member and I were called to a site where a casualty had been shot. We were kept

back a little way from the casualty by the Police, as the shooter had not yet been apprehended. When my mother heard this detail, she very nearly ended my time in St John!



The Hayward-Butt Inhaler in the St John Museum in Adelaide and a page from *Casualty Care and Transport*, published in South Australia in 1975.

What's in the Heritage Collection

This instalment brings readers a very interesting and recently acquired set of pieces of St John regalia (below). They are hand-carved plaques made of kwila wood, bearing the Arms of St John Papua New Guinea that were presented to Brendan Maher (Priory Secretary) and Cameron Oxley (Chancellor) by delegates from St John Papua New Guinea last year. They are both important additions to the Priory Heritage Collection and a 'must-see' if members of the Historical Society happen to be visiting Canberra!

Spot the difference

Although the two plaques appear very similar, eagle-eyed readers may notice a slight differences in the two items. This often comes when items are hand crafted. Check the end of the newsletter for the answer.

Hayley Cockman
Priory Cataloguer



The Challenge

If a contribution has been missed, please accept my apologies, but there is no Challenge in my files. Spot the Difference in the previous article will have to suffice.

Previous challenges – solved!

Matthew Glozier had offered up this ribbon bar to see if anyone can contribute to its likely heritage. And Malcolm Little replied in record time.



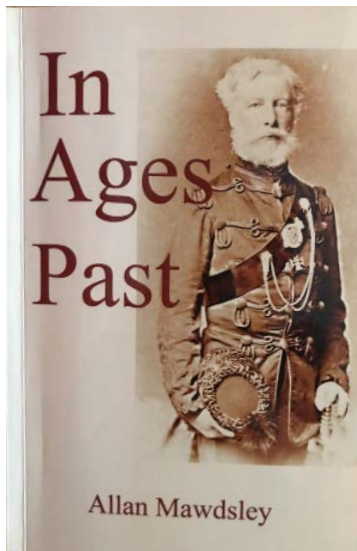
The ribbon bar is Dutch. The ribbons in order are (from top row, left to right):

- Commemorative Medal for Peace Operations with the numeral 2 indicating two deployments
- Officers' Long Service Cross with Roman numerals XX indicating 20 years' service
- Dutch Johanniter Order indicating the recipient is a member of the Dutch nobility e.g. Jonkheer, Graaf, Baron etc. (Unlike our egalitarian Order, the Dutch only admit Protestant noble men; women have been able to join since 1952. The Order is an offshoot of the German Order and came into existence in 1946 following WWII. Previously, Dutch nobles were members of the German Johanniter Order. While the Dutch only admit nobles, the German Order is now open to all.
- Cross for 4 days' long-distance march with numeral 5 indicating the recipient has completed it five times. This is generally called the "Vierdaagse" and is held in the city of Nijmegen each year. Civilians complete 40 km a day, whilst those in the military complete 50 km.
- United Nations Medal for service in the Southern Sudan.
- NATO medal for service in Afghanistan (ISAF).

My personal challenge to you all, was to identify who these beautiful jewels were originally made for.



Ian Howie-Willis came in very quickly — these diamond-crusted insignia belong to the Sovereign Head of the Order, of course! It was our Lord Prior who contributed that they were originally made for Queen Victoria.



Book review

In Ages Past

Author: Allan Mawdsley. Published by St John Ambulance Australia Vic., 2010. 256 pages, illustrated throughout.

Dr Allan Mawdsley KStJ, a retired medical practitioner, has been a volunteer member of St John Ambulance Australia for more than 70 years; he served as a Commissioner of the Brigade between 1990–1993. His long-standing interest in the history of the organisation has resulted in a comprehensive documentation of the first 100 years of St John Volunteer

First Aid in Victoria through the lives and leadership of its successive 18 Commissioners. His Prologue provides context, with the history prior to and after the establishment of the English Priory, and then its origins in Australia.

Allan makes a point in the Prologue of the important contribution to civilian First Aid of military medicine, and indeed it takes 65 years before there is an appointment of a Commissioner who was *not* of military background (p. 65). Most, initially, had both military and medical backgrounds which helps us understand the formation and, in many ways, the present-day functioning of St John. The first person appointed without a medical background took 71 years.

Each chapter thereafter focuses on the period of time of each Commissioner including a comprehensive, personal and professional history of each individual man. Of course, they were all men, as the rank of Commissioner had to be a Knight of the Order of St John and that was the way of things in those times.

While the story of each of these Commissioners is interesting, what each chapter illuminates is how world and local events helped develop and shape the nature of St John Ambulance. World events like the arrival of the Great White Fleet from America, and the World Wars for example, solidified the place of St John as a response organisation. Local events like the

Westgate Bridge collapse, the Jubilee Cadet Camp, and the Ash Wednesday bush fires reinforced the utility of St John in the minds of the general public. In addition to these events, Allan explains how the ethos at the time, particularly for doctors with regards to their obligations to the injured and poor, motivated many of these Commissioners to go above and beyond to develop the service.

With each chapter, we see more and more improvements: in training (p. 123), the use of audio-visual materials, the development of search and rescue capacity, and by 1936 images of nursing divisions (p. 56), and in governance. It is Allan Mawdsley's own chapter which details major developments in the professionalisation of service support, class bookings, financial management, payment and accreditation of instructors (p. 170–74) and the appointment of salaried employees in the early 1990s. Almost every chapter is accompanied by wonderful photographs of activities, people, and historical events.

While many of the readers may have already read this book, it is worth reminding the Society of its existence, as it is not only relevant for the history of St John in Victoria but it has relevance for most historians of the development of First Aid in Australia.

Dr Elizabeth Ellis OSTJ
Reviewer

Recent publications

Duncan McAra CStJ, Librarian from the Priory of Scotland has recently informed us of the publication of their Author Index Catalogue (May 2023). This Catalogue is to be revised periodically. The books and journal articles in this catalogue relate to the following themes: Crusades, Chivalry, Heraldry, Holy Land, Military Orders (Hospitallers, Templars, etc), Medieval Medicine, Jerusalem, Cyprus, Rhodes, Malta, Torphichen, SMOM, Priors of the Order of St John, First Aid, Ophthalmology, St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital.

<https://pearlsfromthepend.wordpress.com/>



22nd instalment from
Ian Howie-Willis

Note from the Editor

Please join in with a letter to the Editor if you would like to contribute to this or any other discussion.

What is history?

What motivates historians?

Ask any ten historians to write a page about why they do what they do and you'll probably get ten quite different responses. I nevertheless suspect that certain themes will recur in the short essays you've collected. Among them will be these:

- **They're inquisitive.** They have a curiosity about the past that continually prompts them to ask themselves and others what happened in years gone by.
- **They're nostalgic.** They regret that the past has gone, and they hope that they can recreate it in their own and other people's imagination.
- **They're compulsive.** Once they've developed an interest in some past event or topic relating to the past, they feel they must explore it further.
- **They're discoverers.** They love inquiring into the past because they know that this will lead them to discover information they previously didn't know about.
- **They're seekers after truth.** They want to know what really happened in the past. They recognise that many of their 'witnesses' (i.e. the people in the past from whom they're seeking information) weren't always truthful or accurate. They will accordingly be sceptical about their sources, realising that these might not necessarily reflect the entire truth.
- **They're writers.** Once they've collected snippets of information about the past, they want to write it down to make a permanent record of it. In undertaking the writing, they'll strive to make it as readable as possible — lively expression, correct grammar and spelling, entertaining exposition.
- **They're sharers.** Having discovered and written about something in the past, they wish to share their knowledge with other people.
- **They love having an audience.** They'd be disappointed if they thought no one was listening to what they say about the past. They have various means for reaching their

What is history? continued

audience. Typically, options available to them include making presentations at seminars, writing articles for publication, becoming book authors, speaking to community groups, appearing on chat shows, setting up personal websites where they can 'blog' about their interests, and being interviewed by journalists.

After you've undertaken that exercise, set your ten historians to work again by answering a similar question but this time asking them to write about what *doesn't* motivate them. That is, get them to enumerate the factors that *aren't* so important to them as they carry out their historian's task. Again, you can expect some commonality in the responses you receive. For instance:

- **They're not seeking fame or notoriety.** They accept that they're unlikely to become 'household names' sought out by the news media for their knowledge and opinions. In Australia, a Geoffrey Blainey might become famous, as often for controversies overtaking him as for the books he's written; but the vast majority of all the other historians practising in Australia are little known to each other, let alone the general public.
- **They don't expect to become rich.** Certainly some historians can, like Geoffrey Blainey, live on the royalties they earn from the books they write. Such historians, however are very few, and most will have a 'daytime job' to pay the rent.
- **They don't chase honours, awards and distinctions.** If for example some historical society somewhere chooses to honour them, they'll graciously accept the proffered medallion, certificate or trophy; but the expectation of such an award isn't why they practise as historians. Similarly, if they receive, say, the Medal of the Order of Australia, an honorary Litt.D. degree or a Fellowship in some learned society for having been an historian, they'll be pleased that their work has

been publicly recognised; however, they'd wish to continue being historians even if such awards aren't in the offing.

- **They don't themselves expect to be remembered in history.** If they knew that people in 50 years will still be reading and referring to what they're writing and publishing now, they'd be pleased. Most, however, accept the reality that they and their historical work will sooner or later be forgotten.

At this point I'll personalise the discussion by referring to my own experience. From the time I was a little boy some 80 years ago, I was for ever asking my grandmother questions about the 'good old days' back in gold rush era Victoria. I wished I could have been alive then, when the Kelly Gang were terrorising north-eastern Victoria, where Grandma grew up. When I became aware of history as a discipline, about Year 4 in primary school, I wanted to know more and more. The historical figure who first caught my fancy was Scotland's Robert the Bruce. I read his story in the class history text over and over until I knew it off by heart; and then of course I had to tell anyone who'd listen what I knew about him. In Year 12, when I took a 'double major' in history (both Modern European and British History), I realised how important the written dimension of history is: a well-constructed, well-argued, well-written essay scored high marks; something slapdash didn't. By the time I got to teachers' college and university, I knew I wished to be a professional historian as well as a classroom teacher. Even then I recognised that while history was my first love teaching must pay the rent. Of necessity, aspiring to be a professional historian led me into a nine-year quest for higher degrees in history; but the theses I wrote became the first books I published. What was most important to me was that my examiners — fellow practising historians — and later my publishers recognised the honesty, accuracy, objectivity and fluency of what I'd produced. Along the way a few honours came my way, but

What is history? continued

they've always surprised me because I didn't expect them. If I'm remembered for any of my history books, I'd like that to be *A Beacon of Hope* (2022), the 140th anniversary commemorative history of the St John of Jerusalem Eye hospital Group which Matthew Glozier, John Pean and I published last year. We three co-authors have joked about who our audience is. 'Posterity' is what we've agreed on.

Any of the Historical Society's historians who cares to answer the questions I've posed above would be able to tell personal stories like mine. Only some might have had historical training paralleling mine, but I'm confident that what does or doesn't motivate them as historians will be common to us all.

Dr Ian Howie-Willis KStJ

Renewals for 2023

As we march through 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 access to a wealth of information on the ancient and modern history of our international organisation. You will find the generic membership application/renewal form on the national website: <https://stjohn.org.au/about>. Follow the instructions given on the form.

St Agnes Prize

The International Sister Agnes Prize is being developed for an essay or piece of research work on women in the ancient Hospitaller Order of St John. The Hospitaller Order in this instance, is the period after the First Crusade in 1099 to before the loss of Malta in 1798. The maximum word length is 3,000 words and this could be in the form of an article for publication or an essay but is intended as a written exercise.

This will be open to all members of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital St John of Jerusalem, and initially, the annual prize will be €200 for the submission that best meets the criteria including:

- Focus on primarily women in the Hospitaller Order, 1099-1798 OR
- Women who significantly assisted the Hospitaller order, 1099 – 1798
- Originality – newly researched findings or recently expanded findings showing insight and depth of coverage.

The submissions will be blind judged by three international people suitably qualified in academia and/or knowledge of the Order. Further details and criteria to be provided for submission in 2024.

For further information contact:

Dr Elizabeth Ellis

elizabethellis@ozemail.com.au

And finally ...

The next issue (No 2023/3) will be out in December 2023 with a deadline for contributions by early November. We encourage letters, articles, or ideas for the forthcoming publication. You are reminded that I would warmly welcome comments or questions, in a 'Letter to the Editor' or privately – especially if you think something needs to be corrected.

Solution to the different Papua-New Guinea items: the two laurel wreaths are slightly different and the lettering of St John, sits higher in one than the other.

Editor, *Pro Utilitate*

Dr Elizabeth Ellis OStJ

M: 0411 032 712 E: elizabethellis@ozemail.com.au