



The St John Ambulance
Australia Historical Society



*"Preserving and promoting
the St John heritage"*

THE ST JOHN AMBULANCE AUSTRALIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fifth Annual General Meeting,
in Room 1, Duxton Conference Centre, Duxton Hotel, St
George's Terrace, Perth, Wednesday 21 June 2006

Draft Minutes

1. **Opening:** The President, Dr Harry Oxer, declared the meeting open at 9.00 a.m.
2. **Welcome:** The President welcomed those present. He gave a special welcome to the Society's two UK representatives, Mr Terry Walton and Ms Pamela Willis, each of whom were in Perth for the Priory Conference and the Society's Annual General Meeting and History Seminar. Both Mr Walton and Ms Willis responded to Dr Oxer, expressing their pleasure at being able to be present and their appreciation of the warm welcome he had extended.

In thanking Dr Oxer for his welcome, Ms Willis presented to him and Dr Khangure copies of the recently produced history of the joint St John-Red Cross organisation in Britain during World War II, these books being for the WA St John Library & Museum.

After this presentation Dr Oxer read a letter of greeting from Dr Colin Dawson, the President and founder of the St John Historical Society in the UK. Dr Oxer then expressed his appreciation of Dr Dawson's gesture in writing and asked Ms Willis to convey his thanks to Dr Dawson orally.
3. **Attendance:** The President thanked the meeting for a strong turnout. He said it was gratifying to note how strongly the Historical Society had grown in its five years of formal existence.

Information from the conference organisers had indicated that a total of 40 people had registered for the Annual General Meeting. The attendance register was signed by 36 people; however, a head-count during the meeting showed that about 50 people actually attended.

[NB: at the History Seminar the following day, the conference organisers advised that 57 people had registered for the seminar. The attendance register was signed by 42 people and eleven apologies were recorded. A total of at least 60 people actually attended some or all of the various seminar sessions.]
4. **Apologies** were received from 35 people, as follows: Margaret Boulter, Sandra Bout, Alison Brigg, Alan Bromwich, James, Geraldine & Goldie Byrne, Vera Cates, Alan Caust, Averil Chadwick, Mark Compton, Betty Crandall, Loredana Criniti, Ruth Donaldson, Brian Dunstan, Bronwyn Exley, Gloria Fairday, Brian Fotheringham, Trevor Gibson, John Harper, Anthony Harrison, Alan Hills, Peter Kemp, Fred Leitschke, Malcolm Little, Pat McQuillen, Ken Milbourne, Graham Orr, Doug Raby, John Ree, Faye Reeve, Richard Shaw, Rhonda Shevill, Margaret Straughair and Tim Wieland. The apologies were noted. Letters from Alan Hills, and Ken Milbourne expressing their regrets at being unable to attend and conveying their best wishes for a successful meeting were also noted.

[NB: at the History Seminar the following day, apologies for eleven of the above people were recorded in the attendance register.]
5. **Minutes of the last meeting:** The President called on the Secretary to introduce the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held in the beachside restaurant opposite the St John Museum in Williamstown, Victoria, on 24 June 2005. The Secretary advised that printed copies of the Minutes had been distributed shortly before the meeting had begun, and further copies were available at the rear of the room. The President then called for a motion that the Minutes be received and taken as read. Moved Mr Jack Blackstock, seconded by Mr Vince Little, that the Minutes be approved. Agreed unanimously.
6. **Matters arising from the Minutes:** The President asked if there were any matters arising from the Minutes. The Secretary advised that there were several matters to be discussed but that these were included later on the agenda under general business.
7. **Annual Report:** The President advised that his annual report had been printed and distributed before the meeting together with the agenda and the last meeting's minutes. He then formally tabled and read the fifth

annual report of the Historical Society. During the course of his report Dr Oxer drew attention to the excellent work done by the Membership Secretary & Publications Officer, Ms Cheryl Langdon-Orr, in producing and distributing the Society's journal, *St John History*, and in developing further the membership database and linked membership subscription system. He thanked her for her efforts here and complimented her on the high professional standard of the journal, which was attracting great interest among its audience. Dr Oxer also thanked the Secretary, Treasurer and management committee members for their efforts over the past year and especially for the organisational work the Secretary had done to ensure that the Annual General Meeting and History Seminar would be a success. The meeting then showed its appreciation of Dr Oxer's, Ms Langdon-Orr's, Dr Howie-Willis's, Mr Byrne's and other committee members' efforts with applause. Dr Oxer concluded by moving that his report be adopted. The motion was seconded by Mr Jack Blackstock. Agreed unanimously.

8. **Treasurer's Report:** The President called on the Secretary to introduce the report by the Treasurer, Mr James Byrne, copies of which had been distributed with the other agenda papers before the meeting. In introducing Mr Byrne's report, Dr Howie-Willis expressed his appreciation of the combined efforts of the Priory Secretary (Mr Len Fiori), the auditor (Ms Karen Brandt, the National Manager Finance for St John Ambulance Australia), the Membership Secretary (Ms Cheryl Langdon-Orr) and Mr Byrne in having the financial statement prepared and then audited during his recent absence overseas. He then pointed out that, as indicated in Mr Byrne's report, total income for the period from 8 June 2005 to 4 June 2006 had been \$8,385.14; total expenditure had been \$4,089.73; and the balance of income over expenditure had been \$4,295.41. He then moved that Mr Byrne's report be adopted; seconded Mr Kevin Young. The President called for discussion of the report, observing that the Society's finances were in a healthy state. No comment being forthcoming, Dr Oxer put the motion, which was adopted by affirmation.
9. **Membership Secretary & Publicity Officer's Report:** Ms Langdon-Orr reported briefly on membership renewals and new memberships. Including the subscriptions received earlier in the day, the Society now has over 175 financial members. In response to a query from Mr Kevin Young, she said she could readily provide spreadsheets indicating who the members are on a State-by-State basis so that the various States/Territories can follow up on their own members. She undertook to do this by the end of the day. [Ms Langdon-Orr subsequently produced a series of CDs with the relevant information for the Secretary to distribute.] She also reported on her work in producing the recent edition of the Society's journal, *St John History*, and indicated that work on the other publications (i.e. the newsletter and the website) had been impeded by her illness and surgery. The President thanked Ms Langdon-Orr for her report. He also expressed sympathy for her on account of her illness, which made her achievement with the journal even more remarkable. Ms Langdon-Orr then moved that her report be adopted; seconded Mrs Betty Stirton. Adopted by affirmation.
10. **Reports from States & Territories:** The President called on representatives of the various States & Territories to provide the meeting with written and/or oral reports on the work being done on St John heritage matters in their respective jurisdictions. The following members then spoke on behalf of their States and Territories:
 - Australian Capital Territory & the Priory's Australian Office — Dr Ian Howie-Willis
 - New South Wales — Mrs Betty Stirton
 - Northern Territory — the Secretary tabled and read the report prepared by Mr Alan Caust
 - Queensland — Ms Beth Dawson
 - South Australia — Mr David Heard tabled and read the report prepared by Dr Brian Fotheringham
 - Tasmania — the Secretary tabled and read the report prepared by Mr Ken Milbourne
 - Victoria — Mr John Blackstock
 - Western Australia — Dr Edith Khangure.

At the conclusion of the reports Dr Oxer thanked the presenters and expressed his warm approval of the thoroughness of their reports. He observed that the reports indicated that much was being done across Australia to ensure that the St John heritage is being preserved, managed and promoted well. He reminded the meeting that each report would be published in the next edition of *St John History*.

11. **General business:**

11.1 **Topics for 2007 History Seminar papers**

The following topics were suggested:

- 'Col. John Arthur Sherwin' (Allan Mawdsley)
- 'The earlier Priory Secretaries and Chancellors' (Ian Howie-Willis)
- 'The Priory and Commandery ceremonial swords: how they were acquired' (Ian Howie-Willis)
- 'Lady Mountbatten's tour of Australian St John establishments in 1946' (Ian Howie-Willis)
- 'The two Dukes of Gloucester — Grand Priors' (Tom Hamilton)
- 'Dame Maude McCarthy' (a friend of Beth Dawson)
- 'St John on Norfolk Island' (Bonnie Quintal)

- ‘The Australian first aid organisations 1940–45 — precursors of the national emergency services’ (Vince Little)
- ‘First aid in relation to terrorist activity’ (Vince Little)
- ‘Remote area first aid and the tragic case of Dr Walter Straede and his bride’ (Alan Caust)
- ‘Dr J.R. and Mrs R.G. Donaldson and the St John war effort in WA’ (suggested by Irene Simpson of WA)
- ‘St John at war’ (a seminar theme suggested by Dr Tom Hamilton)
- History of the Brigade/Operations Branch in the ACT (Richard Caesar-Thwaytes).

The Secretary undertook to liaise with the named potential paper presenters over their availability for the 2007 History Seminar and also the production of papers on the named topics.

11.2 Email network for St John librarians, museum curators, historians etc.

The Secretary drew attention to the report distributed before the meeting: ‘Email network for Order of St John librarians, museum curators, archivists and historians’. He advised that he and Ms Willis, the Museum Curator at St John’s Gate, had developed a proposal for such an email network with the approval of the Order’s Librarian, Dr Jonathan Riley-Smith. He then outlined how the network would function and said it would become active as soon as Ms Willis had returned home to the UK. He invited Historical Society members who believed they should be included in the network to submit their names and email addresses to him at the end of the meeting.

11.3 Donation to Lynne Panayiotis fund

The Secretary advised the meeting of the very serious injuries suffered in a bus crash in Egypt in January by Ms Lynne Panayiotis, the previous Chief Officer Cadets and a daughter of Max & Julie Penaluna, who are members of the Historical Society. He said that several committee members had already made private donations to the fund established to assist Lynne’s rehabilitation. He then moved that the Society should donate from its bank account the amount of \$500 to the Lynne Panayiotis fund; seconded Mrs Betty Stirton. Agreed unanimously.

11.4 Letter from Janette Springhall

The Secretary read to the meeting a letter sent to Ms Langdon-Orr by Janette Springhall, widow of the late John Springhall of Queensland, a member of the Historical Society. Mrs Springhall’s letter thanked Ms Langdon-Orr for the flowers and condolences she had sent on behalf of the Society. The Secretary then thanked Ms Langdon-Orr for the action she had taken.

11.5 The Historical Society’s ‘Mark Compton’ prizes for Cadets’ ‘Knowledge of the Order’ projects

The Secretary outlined the recent history of the prizes for Cadets’ ‘Knowledge of the Order’ (KOTO) projects, which had arisen as a result of the Historical Society’s assistance to the Cadet leadership when the latter were developing the new KOTO syllabus two years ago. He advised the meeting that the ‘Mark Compton’ KOTO prizes for Cadets’ were so named because of a substantial donation to the Historical Society that Mr Mark Compton, the Priory Receiver-General, had made as seed funding for prizes for encouraging Cadets in their KOTO studies.

The Secretary then advised that the inaugural KOTO prizes would be presented the next day, Thursday 22nd June, following the History Seminar. He said the presentations would be made in conjunction with the opening of the newly relocated Western Australian St John Ambulance museum at Belmont and would precede the museum opening. During a short ceremony, the President, Dr Ozer, would outline to the audience the background to the KOTO prizes and would then introduce Mr Compton, who would present the prizes in person. He also suggested that the official opening of the museum by the Lord Prior, Mr Eric Barry of Canada, would be a very appropriate event for the presentation of the inaugural KOTO prizes to be linked to.

The Secretary then displayed the prizes, each of which consisted of a framed presentation certificate plus a \$50 gift voucher redeemable at any Dymocks Book Store. He expressed his opinion that apart from conducting the annual History Seminars and publishing the journal *St John History*, the awarding of the KOTO prizes was the Historical Society’s most significant achievement to date. He thanked Mr Stephen Carter (National Manager Volunteers) and Ms Emma Robertson (National Youth Manger) for their assistance in preparing the presentation certificates and in co-ordinating the State/Territory-level processes through which the prize-winners had been selected. He also thanked Mr Kieran Brown (Chief Officer Cadets) for his strong promotion of the KOTO prizes to the States/Territories. He concluded by urging all those present at the Annual General Meeting, especially Historical Society members, to attend the presentation ceremony the next day.

11.6 A prize for Juniors’ ‘Knowledge of the Order’ projects and the new Juniors’ KOTO workbook

The Secretary informed the meeting that a series of new workbooks for St John Juniors would be launched during the Priory Conference. Among these would be a Juniors KOTO workbook prepared

by Mr Kieran Brown, the Chief Officer Cadets. Dr Howie-Willis said that he had helped Mr Brown when the latter had been preparing the draft workbook, mainly by proof-reading the text and making comments to help enhance the workbook's historicity.

Mrs Stirton then suggested that, as with the Cadets' KOTO prizes, the Historical Society ought to award prizes for the Juniors' KOTO projects. Agreed by affirmation that this should occur. The Secretary undertook to take the matter up with the national Cadet leadership.

11.7 Guidelines and protocols for conducting St John museums, libraries and archives

The Secretary advised that earlier in the year he had received an inquiry from Ms Beth Dawson regarding the availability of guidelines or protocols for conducting St John museums, libraries and similar repositories of materials reflecting on the Order's history and heritage. He had duly raised the matter in *St John Heritage*, the Historical Society's quarterly committee circular, as a result of which he had received advice from Mr Terry Walton, the committee member for the UK, that Ms Cressida Finch, the Deputy Museum Curator at St John's Gate, had produced a set of guidelines. At the same time Dr Edith Khangure of WA advised that she had also developed similar guidelines for the WA St John museum. Both Ms Finch and Dr Khangure had subsequently provided Dr Howie-Willis with copies of the guidelines they had developed separately.

At this point Mr Vince Little of Queensland pointed out that the Queensland Museum and the Museums Association of Australia Inc. (Queensland Branch) had jointly published a 160-page book of such guidelines — Richard Robins (ed.), *A Manual for Small Museums & Keeping Places* (published 1992, 1995 reprint; ISBN 0-7242-46258) — and suggested that this would provide useful guidelines for St John museums. Dr Howie-Willis said that a copy of this book was in the Priory Library.

The Secretary then moved that a sub-committee consisting of Mesdames Beth Dawson, Edith Khangure and Betty Stirton be appointed to examine the Finch, Khangure and Robins guidelines and other documents as necessary; such sub-committee to report to the management committee, making recommendations for guidelines appropriate for managing small St John collections in Australia like those held by the Priory and some States/Territories.

11.8 Dr and Mrs Donaldson and the St John war effort in WA

Ms Irene Simpson of WA suggested that the Historical Society might care to consider recording Mrs Donaldson's recollections of the way she and her late husband, Dr J.R. Donaldson (formerly the Brigade Commissioner, the Commandery Lieutenant and the VAD Commandant in WA), and other St John members had assisted in WA's war effort before and during World War II. Such a project could readily be expanded to encompass the St John contribution to the war effort in WA.

The Secretary said he agreed that this would be a very worthwhile project; however, because of distances it was one best undertaken by Perth-based members of the Society. He suggested that Ms Simpson should consult Dr Khangure, Dr Oxe, Dr Hamilton and Mr Young about how the project might be undertaken. He also said that the Society would encourage its WA members to support such a project.

11.9 Cataloguing books: duplicates, exchanges etc

Dr Allan Mawdsley of Victoria suggested that when State/Territory St John Heritage managers are receiving and cataloguing books for their official collections they might care to consider exchanging books with other official collections when they discover that they have duplicate copies that they do not need.

The Secretary supported this idea, noting that the Priory Library had duplicates of some works that exceeded its needs and would be prepared to make exchanges to procure items it did not yet possess. He said that the soon-to-be-activated email network for St John librarians, museum curators and historians [see point 11.2 above] would facilitate the exchange of such materials. He suggested that Historical Society members could use the present committee circular, *St John Heritage*, to advertise duplicates and their willingness to exchange these for other items. He also said that this was an issue the sub-committee investigating guidelines for St John collections [see point 11.7 above] might care to consider this matter. Agreed that the sub-committee members should include the matter in the scope of their inquiry.

11.10 Recommended price of editions of *First Aid to the Injured*

Dr Mawdsley raised the matter of whether or not the Historical Society should have a policy on the recommended price for the various editions of 'The Little Black Book', i.e. the St John Ambulance Association manual *First Aid to the Injured*. He said that recently an English St John member who had been visiting Melbourne for the Commonwealth Games had paid \$60 locally for a copy of the 1939 edition of the manual. Dr Mawdsley wondered whether that might be excessive. He suggested that

if people approached the St John organisation asking what a fair price would be, the Historical Society should be able to express an opinion. In addition, St John libraries and museums holding copies of the book that were extra to their needs might appreciate knowing how much they could expect to receive if they disposed of them commercially.

Mr Vince Little said he thought that \$60 for the 1939 edition was indeed excessive. The 1939 edition was the 39th and there were at least 16 impressions of 100,000 each of that edition; and so it was still very common and the price ought therefore be lower. He said that recommending a price for any particular copy of the book would be difficult because many variables were involved, e.g. which edition, what impression, what condition the book was in, who had owned it and inscribed their name(s) on the fly leaf, how keen the prospective purchaser was to buy that particular copy etc. Mr Little also referred to his paper, 'The Little Black Book', that he had presented at last year's Priory Conference in Melbourne. He said he had now reworked that paper for publication in the next edition of *St John History*, the Society's journal. When published, the paper would provide Society members with advice on the market value of the various editions of the manual.

11.11 St John involvement in the Commonwealth Games, Melbourne 2006

Dr Mawdsley indicated that the Victorian St John Commissioner, Dr Iain Nicolson, and his State staff were preparing a report on St John involvement in the first aid services provided at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne in March 2006. The report would be of interest to St John librarians in the other States/Territories as well as to Operations Branch members and National and State/Territory St John managers. Dr Howie-Willis said that as Priory Librarian he was keen to obtain a copy of the report and asked Dr Mawdsley if he could ensure that a copy was sent to him for the Priory Library. Dr Mawdsley agreed to this request.

11.12 Official opening of the newly relocated and redeveloped WA St John museum & library

The President reminded the meeting that this event would take place on the morrow, Thursday 22nd June, at 4.00 p.m. at State St John headquarters at Belmont immediately after the conclusion of the Society's History Seminar in the Duxton conference centre, with buses provided to transport Society members from the Duxton to Belmont. Dr Oxer pointed out that those who had registered for the National Conference would have received in their conference kits information about the official opening of the museum by the Lord Prior, Mr Eric Barry of Canada. He also said that, as Dr Edith Khangure had already indicated in her WA State report earlier during the Annual General Meeting, the WA members of the committee, and especially Dr Khangure herself, had been hard at work during recent weeks ensuring that the museum would be ready in time for the opening. In concluding his remarks about the official opening, Dr Oxer acknowledged the foresight of the retiring St John CEO in WA, Mr Ian Kaye-Eddie (who is a foundation committee member of the Society), in making adequate provision for museum and library facilities in the redevelopment plans for the Belmont building. Dr Oxer also acknowledged the untiring efforts of Dr Khangure in translating the vision for the museum and library into practical reality.

12. **Closure:** There being no other business, Dr Oxer thanked all those in attendance for their presence and especially thanked those who had participated by presenting reports and/or contributing to discussion. After requesting management committee members to reconvene at 12.50 p.m. for a committee meeting, Dr Oxer declared the Annual General Meeting closed at 12.20 p.m..

Ian Howie-Willis (Secretary), 5 July 2006

Record of Meeting of the Management Committee **held in Room 1, Duxton Conference Centre, Duxton Hotel, St George's Terrace,** **Perth, Wednesday 21 June 2006 after the Annual General Meeting**

1. **Opening:** The President, Dr Harry Oxer, declared the meeting open at 1.05 p.m.
2. **Attendance:** Present were Dr Harry Oxer (President), Dr Ian Howie-Willis (Secretary), Mr Jack Blackstock, Mrs Vera Crook, Mrs Barbara Davis, Ms Beth Dawson, Mr Mervyn Goodall, Mr George Jackson, Dr Edith Khangure, Ms Cheryl Langdon-Orr, Mr Vince Little, Dr Allan Mawdsley, Professor John Pearn, Mrs Betty Stirton, Mr Doug Sturkey, Mr Terry Walton, Ms Pamela Willis and Mr Kevin Young.
3. **President's welcome and expression of gratitude:** Dr Oxer welcomed members to the meeting. He gave a special welcome to the UK members present, Mr Walton and Ms Willis. He then thanked those in attendance for giving generously of their time to ensure that the Society's aims were being achieved.
4. **Evaluation:** Members agreed that the Society's 5th Annual General Meeting that morning had gone very well. Asked to rate it on a scale of 1 to 10, their consensus was that it rated an '8½'.

5. **New committee members:** The Secretary advised that he had approached two very active members of the Historical Society, Messrs Vince Little and David Heard, with a view to their becoming committee members and that each had agreed to be co-opted. He pointed out the advantages to the Society of having such dedicated members on the committee and asked the meeting to endorse his action. The meeting agreed that Messrs Little and Heard should become co-opted committee members.
6. **2007 Annual General Meeting and History Seminar:** Agreed that next year's events in Canberra be conducted over two days, as in 2006 in Perth. It was suggested that the Annual General Meeting could run on the Wednesday afternoon with the History Seminar following on the Thursday. If necessary, a committee meeting could be conducted on the Wednesday evening. The Secretary undertook to liaise with the National Conference organising committee in Canberra.
7. **The newsletter and website:** In response to a query about further development of the Historical Society's website, www.stjohnambulanceaustralia.org.au, the Publications Officer repeated her earlier comment at the Annual General Meeting that her serious illness and a prolonged course of treatment had caused the postponement of work on both the general newsletter and the website.
8. **Guidelines for the 'Mark Compton' prize for 'Knowledge of the Order':** In introducing this item, the President and Secretary pointed out that the inaugural 2006 prizes had been very much a 'trial run' as the new KOTO syllabus was still being bedded in. We might therefore expect that in future years the standards of work for the prizes would improve, as would the competition to win them. Ms Beth Dawson expressed concern that in some States/Territories the 2006 prizes might not have been adequately promoted, with the result that projects of poor quality might have been granted prizes. Dr Oxer suggested that as the prizes became better known the standard of project work would improve. Agreed that to ensure high standards of work for future prizes, a set of guidelines for participants and the Cadet leadership should be developed. The Secretary undertook to liaise with the Chief Officer Cadets (Mr Kieran Brown) and National Youth Officer (Ms Emma Robertson) over this matter.

Mr Vince Little pointed out that among the resources available for contestants for the prizes was the historical video produced 10 years ago for the Cadet movement in the UK. The Secretary undertook to advise Kieran Brown and Emma Robertson of its availability.

Dr Howie-Willis repeated his earlier comment at the Annual General Meeting, to the effect that with the possible exceptions of conducting the annual History Seminars and publishing *St John History*, the KOTO prizes were the Historical Society's best achievement in the five years the Society had now been formally constituted.

Dr Oxer rounded off the discussion of the KOTO prizes by reminding committee members that the inaugural prizes would be awarded the next day in a short ceremony preceding the opening of the relocated and redeveloped WA St John museum and library at Belmont. He urged all committee members to attend.

9. **Other business:** The President concluded discussion by observing that the other matters that could have been discussed during the management committee meeting had already been considered and dealt with adequately during that morning's Annual General Meeting.
10. **Closure:** No other business being forthcoming, Dr Oxer declared the management committee meeting closed at 1.50 p.m.

Ian Howie-Willis (Secretary), 5 July 2006

Record of the 8th annual History Seminar
**held in Room 2, Duxton Conference Centre, Duxton Hotel, St George's Terrace,
Perth, Thursday 22 June 2006**

1. **Opening:** The President, Dr Harry Oxer, welcomed the audience to the History Seminar and then declared the seminar open at 8.55 a.m.
2. **Attendance:** The conference organisers had advised that 57 people were registered for the seminar. The attendance register was signed by 42 people and eleven apologies were recorded. However, a total of at least 60 people actually attended some or all of the various seminar sessions, and all 60 seats were occupied throughout both morning and afternoon sessions.
3. **Introduction of session chairpersons:** After welcoming the audience and guest speakers, Dr Oxer announced that a record number of nine papers were on the seminar program. He then introduced the two session chairpersons, Ms Beth Dawson of Queensland (morning session) and Mr Kevin Young (afternoon session).
4. **Morning session:** Ms Beth Dawson then took charge of the morning session and introduced each speaker at the times scheduled for their presentations. In order these were as follows:
 - (i) **Dr Harry Oxer:** *"A Shocking Affair — Defibrillation: A short history"* (NB: keynote paper.)
 - (ii) **Dr Tom Hamilton:** *"The Hill of Fechan": Torphichen, the Scottish Preceptory of the Knights Hospitaller"*
 - (iii) **Dr Allan Mawdsley:** *"An Australian Record: the 25 years Maj.-Gen. Rupert Downes spent as the St John Ambulance Commissioner in Victoria, 1921–45"*
 - (iv) **Ms Loredana Criniti & Mrs Betty Stirton:** *"The 80th anniversary of the Australian Cadet movement"* (which paper was delivered by Mrs Stirton)
 - (v) **Dr Ian Howie-Willis:** *"'Jolly good show. Carry on': the St John's Gate emissaries to Australia — from Sir John Hewett in 1928 to Tim Everard in 1991"*
 - (vi) **Ms Pamela Willis:** *"How to promote St John Heritage through a museum: The St John's Gate experience"*
5. **Afternoon session:** After lunch Mr Kevin Young took charge of the afternoon session and introduced each speaker at the times scheduled for their presentations. In order these were as follows:
 - (vii) **Professor John Pearn:** *The Dispensarium: The origins of the modern outpatients' department"*
 - (viii) **Mr Vince Little:** *"The Literature of First Aid: A history"*
 - (ix) **Advertised paper: Mr Alan Caust:** *"Too young to die: The sad story of a young doctor and his wife who perished on an errand of mercy in Central Australia in 1942"* (NB: Mr Caust was unable to deliver the advertised paper because shortly before he was due to travel to Perth for the seminar he was denied leave from his salaried position. Mr Caust will now present his paper to the 9th History Seminar of the Historical Society in Canberra in 2007.)

Substitute paper: Dr Ian Howie-Willis: *"A gap-filling exercise: (1) Dan Brown, The Da Vinci Code and the Knights Templar; (2) A history of the published St John histories in Australia"*
6. **Seminar closure:** Dr Oxer concluded the seminar sessions by thanking the session chairpersons for managing their sessions effectively, the presenters of the papers for the time and effort that had gone into preparing and delivering their papers, and the members of the audience for having attended and taken an active interest in the proceedings throughout the day. He reminded the audience of the official opening of the new WA St John museum and library at Belmont at 4.00 p.m. then formally closed the seminar at 2.40 p.m.
7. **Official opening of the relocated and redeveloped WA St John museum and library at Belmont:** After the seminar had ended buses took the audience from the Duxton Hotel to St John Ambulance WA headquarters at Belmont for the Library & Museum opening. Afternoon tea was served at Belmont, following which the inaugural St John Ambulance Australia 'Mark Compton' prizes for excellence in projects completed for the Cadets' 'Knowledge of the Order' (KOTO) proficiency badge were presented. Dr Oxer presided over this segment of the program. After the presentation of the KOTO awards, the museum and library opening ceremony took place. During the proceedings the official guest, Mr Eric Barry of Canada, the Lord Prior of the Order, announced that the new museum and library complex would be

known as the 'Ian Kaye-Eddie St John Ambulance Heritage Centre'. He unveiled a plaque commemorating the opening of the centre then declared the centre open. Mr Kaye-Eddie responded to the speech by Mr Barry and then presented a floral gift to Dr Edith Khangure, the museum curator and librarian. After the opening ceremony the large audience was invited to inspect the museum and library.

Ian Howie-Willis (Secretary), 5 July 2006