
The St John Ambulance



Historical Society of Australia

8th Annual General Meeting,

held in the Convention Centre, Conrad Jupiter's
Hotel, Broadbeach Island, Gold Coast,
Friday 19 June 2009

Minutes

Preserving and promoting the St John heritage

1. **Opening:** The President, Dr Harry Oxer, declared the meeting open at 3.30 p.m.
2. **Welcome:** In welcoming those present, Dr Oxer said he hoped the AGM would be as enjoyable as the History Seminar that had concluded a half hour earlier.
3. **Attendance and apologies:** A total of two people signed the attendance register; however, 38 people attended the meeting. In calling for apologies the President asked for these to be entered in the register (32 names were subsequently entered).
4. **Certificates of appreciation:** The President thanked the auditor, Ms Amanda Power, and the journal production manager, Ms Shirley Dyson, for their contributions to the success of the Society's endeavours. He then presented certificates of appreciation to Ms Dyson and *in absentia* to Ms Power.
5. **Minutes of the last meeting:** The President advised that the Minutes had been circulated to all members with the last edition of the newsletter on 27th May. He therefore suggested that the Minutes be taken as read and called for a motion that they be received. Moved Kevin Young seconded Matthew Griffiths that the Minutes of the annual general meeting in Adelaide on 20 June 2008 be accepted. Approved by assent.
6. **Matters arising from the Minutes:**
 - Nil, other than the report of the subcommittee investigating the matter of a lapel pin for members of the Order in the Priory of Australia, which is dealt with under Item 11 below, Reports by Subcommittees.
7. **Annual Report:** The President presented his annual report to the Society. As copies had been made available before the meeting started, he confined himself to particular points as follows:
 - Dr Oxer thanked the Secretary and the State/Territory Membership Secretaries for their efforts throughout the year.
 - Dr Oxer referred to the presentation the previous morning of the annual 'Mark Compton Knowledge of the Order Prizes' awarded to the Cadets who done the best project work in

their studies for the 'Knowledge of the Order' proficiency badge. The presentation ceremony had taken place during the plenary session of the conference. Mr Mark Compton (Priory Receiver General), the donor of the prizes, had been present to award them in person. Here he was assisted by Dr Oxer and Ms Helen Banu-Lawrence (Chief Cadet Officer). This year's prize-winners had been Hiroko Hayashi and Samuel Tsai (Alger Division, Queensland), the Alice Springs Cadet Division (Northern Territory), Kelly Wang (Miller Cadet Division, New South Wales) and Lauchlan Cibich (Prospect No. 2 Cadet Division, South Australia). Hiroko Hayashi had been present to personally receive his award (a framed presentation certificate and \$50 gift voucher) from Mr Compton while the relevant State Cadet Officers had received the awards on behalf of the other prize-winners.

- Dr Oxer also drew attention to the Society's sponsorship of the production of the new Priory tie and scarf, sales of which were returning a useful income. He thanked Miss Beth Dawson and her History and Heritage Committee of Queensland for making the ties and scarves available at their 'H&H' stall in the conference centre, and urged Society members who hadn't yet purchased one to do so.
- Dr Oxer then spoke of the need that he and the Secretary felt to develop succession plans in respect of their own positions. He pointed out that they both intended to step down from their positions at the end of the current triennium, i.e. in June 2011, as a result of which succession plans would be necessary in order for the Society to make a smooth transition to management of the Society's affairs under the next leadership team. He invited members of the Society with suggestions here to contact him and the Secretary.
- Dr Oxer concluded his report by thanking the Secretary for his efforts in organising both the History Seminar and the AGM. He also thanked the other members of the Society who had contributed to the success of these events.

Moved Keith Dansie that Dr Oxer's report be received and adopted; seconded David Heard; motion carried unanimously.

8. Financial Report: The Secretary presented the Financial Report, consisting of the Treasurer's Report, Balance Sheet and Auditor's Report. The Balance Sheet showed a credit balance of \$8704 in the Society's two bank accounts at 18 May 2009. From this amount there would be expected expenditure of some \$2350 to cover Secretary's expenses and production of Volume 8 of the Society's annual journal, *St John History*, the latter expense being the \$2000 that the Australian Office of St John Ambulance Australia requires to recoup costs.

The report by the auditor (Ms Amanda Power, National Manager Finance for St John Ambulance Australia) covered the calendar year 2008. She had found that except for documentation of some membership subscriptions in one State, the accounts she had examined had been a complete and accurate record of the Society's finances.

The report by the Treasurer (Mr James Byrne) indicated that total funds accumulated during 2008, including a credit balance of \$3,362.21 carried forward from 2007, was \$8,702.21. After meeting expenditure of \$20.00 the Society therefore ended the 2008 calendar year with a very healthy balance of \$8,662.21 in its Bendigo Bank account. The Treasurer's report also pointed out that the first 4½ months of 2009 has also resulted in a very healthy credit balance of \$8,074.09. After the 2008 credit balance of \$8,662.21 was carried forward into 2009,

membership subscriptions (\$2,405) and donations (\$140) plus a share in profits from the sale of the new Priory ties and scarves (\$1,076.33) resulted in \$12,423.54 in accumulated funds. From this amount total expenses of \$2,349.45 for journal production and Secretary's expenses must be met, leaving a credit balance of \$8,074.09 in our two bank accounts—Bendigo Bank & Commonwealth Bank—at 18 May 2009.

Moved Ann Demaine, seconded Betty Stirton, that the Treasurer's and Auditor's reports be received and adopted. Carried by assent.

9. Membership: The Secretary reported that at the beginning of June 2009 the Society had 216 members, the largest number since its formation in 2001. Unfortunately, however, there were 56 unfinancial members. Their names will be culled from the membership list unless their 2009 subscription are received by 30th June. Meanwhile, a number of unfinancial members had renewed their subscriptions and a number of new members had been signed up at the History and Heritage Committee stall. The Secretary concluded his report on membership by thanking the State/Territory membership secretaries, through whose efforts the membership database is managed and subscriptions and donations received and banked.

10. Publications: At Dr Oxer's invitation, the Secretary spoke briefly about the Society's two main publications, viz. the quarterly newsletter (*Pro Utilitate*) and the annual journal (*St John History*). He said that Volume 8 of the journal had been distributed to all members on time at the end of May while the newsletter had also appeared regularly four times annually. Members' feedback indicated that both publications were well appreciated by the membership. In addition, information about the Society appears on the St John Ambulance Australia website, www.stjohn.org.au, in the "About Us"/"History" section; and the Society has its own page in the *Annual Reports* of St John Ambulance Australia. The Secretary thanked the Acting CEO—Priory Secretary, Mr Peter Le Cornu, for his assistance in producing and distributing the publications and for the favours shown to the Society via the website and the *Annual Reports*.

11. Reports by sub-committees:

- **Lapel pin for members of the Order:** Mr James Cheshire presented the report of the subcommittee charged with investigating this matter. He began by summarising the case for a distinctive badge to all members of the Order within the Australian Priory could wear with pride. He then presented a range of options for the proposed pin including estimated costs of production. He concluded his report by presenting three preferred options. Dr Oxer then opened the matter for discussion. After discussion the three preferred options at length, the meeting voted in favour of "Option 3" by a margin of two to one. "Option 3" (see illustration) consists of the Shield of the Priory superimposed upon the Badge of the Order. The blue roundel at the centre of the Shield represents the distinctive 'Southern Cross' emblem of the Priory.



- After the vote was taken, Dr Oxer thanked Mr Cheshire and his subcommittee for the comprehensive nature of their report and for the huge amount of research they had carried out. The Secretary then concluded the discussion by saying that he would

take the recommendation for “Option 3” to the meeting of the Office of the Priory on Saturday 20th June. After that he hoped that the recommendation would go to the Board of Directors for approval. He undertook to keep members informed of progress towards having the proposed lapel pin adopted by the Priory.

- At the end of a long discussion on the subcommittee’s report, Kevin Young moved that the Secretary advise the Office of the Priory of the meeting’s decided preference for “Option 3” (as illustrated above); seconded by David Heard. Motion adopted with one dissenting vote.
- Dr Oxer concluded the agenda item by thanking Mr Cheshire and his subcommittee on the exhaustive research they had undertaken and on the high quality of their report.

12. Reports by States/Territories: The President called on representatives from the State/Territory branches of the Society to table their reports on the management of the St John heritage in their jurisdictions. The following representatives then tabled their reports, most accompanied by printed copies for later distribution. Those tabling reports were: Mrs Betty Stirton on behalf of Ms Loredana Napoli (New South Wales), Dr Edith Khangure (Western Australia), Ms Beth Dawson (Queensland), Mr David Heard on behalf of Dr Brian Fotheringham (South Australia), Dr Ian Howie-Willis (Australian Capital Territory and the Priory), Ms Gwyn Balch (Northern Territory) and Dr Allan Mawdsley (Victoria). Dr Oxer thanked the representatives who had tabled reports. He also said that the reports would be published in the next edition of the Society’s journal, *St John History*.

13. Other business:

- **(a) Lynne Panayiotis** The Secretary read a letter from Lynne Panayiotis thanking the Society for its financial assistance in the purchase of her prostheses, updating the Society on her rehabilitation and advising of her plans to travel around Australia..
- **(a) Omitted Appendix 7 in Annual Report** On behalf of Merv Goodall and others, the Secretary raised the matter of the omission of the usual “Appendix 7: Membership of the Chapter” from the most recent Priory *Annual Report*. After indicating that such an appendix is a valuable historical resource because it represents “corporate memory”, he said he would raise the issue at the next meeting of the Office of the Priory. Moved Mr Goodall, seconded George Jackson that this action be taken. Motion passed unanimously.
- **(b) Overseas Annual Reports** Further on *Annual Reports*, Mrs Stirton pointed out that the annual reports of overseas Pories and St John Associations are a valuable historical resource and that they can provide helpful ideas for St John Ambulance Australia. She urged people who receive them to pass them on to her Archives branch in New South Wales after they have finished with them.
- **(c) Congratulatory cards** Peter Burke suggested that the Society should adopt the practice of sending a congratulatory card to members of the Society who were admitted to or promoted within the Order and also to those acknowledged in the official Honours List. Dr Oxer said this was a worthwhile suggestion and requested the Secretary to follow it up.
- **(d) New members** Beth Dawson indicated that three new members had just enrolled at the History and Heritage stall.

- **(e) Thanks to H&H Committee** Dr Oxe again thanked Miss Dawson and her “H&H” team for their enterprising, diligent effort throughout the National Conference, and in particular for their “H&H” stall, which had continued doing brisk business and had attracted much interest among conference delegates.
- **(f) Recent additions to Priory Library** The Secretary drew attention to two excellent recent books from the Priory Library which were on display at the front of the meeting room: Christopher Tyerman, *God’s War: A New History of the Crusades* and Simon Phillips, *The Prior of the Knights Hospitaller in Late Medieval England*.
- **(g) Assistance with “history & heritage” for overseas St John branches** The Secretary drew attention to a conversation he had had earlier in the day with the Society’s Patron, Professor Villis Marshall. Professor Marshall, who often travels overseas in connection with his duties as the Sub-Prior of the Order, had reported great interest among overseas St John branches in the work the Historical Society is doing to “preserve and promote the St John heritage”. Professor Marshall hoped the Society would be able to advise, assist and encourage Pories, Commanderies and Associations of the Order elsewhere to undertake activities similar to its own; and he has asked if the Society could explore this matter further. The Secretary then invited people with views on this matter to make them known.

14. Closure: No other business being forthcoming, the President thanked those present for their attendance and participation. Dr Oxe said he hoped to see them all at next year’s meeting in Melbourne. He then declared the meeting closed at 5.00 p.m.

Ian Howie-Willis (Secretary)
3 July 2009

**Secretary’s record of the Historical Society’s 11th annual History Seminar
held at the convention centre of Conrad Jupiter’s Hotel, Broadbeach Island,
Gold Coast, Queensland, on Friday 19 June 2009, 9.00 a.m.—3.30 p.m.**

1. **Opening:** The President, Dr Harry Oxe, welcomed the audience to the History Seminar and then declared the seminar open at 9.00 a.m.
2. **Attendance:** The attendance register was signed by 65 people and 32 apologies were recorded. However, at all three sessions of the seminar more than 90 people were present at any one time, with average session attendance being about 95.
3. **Introduction of session chairpersons:** After welcoming the audience and guest speakers, Dr Oxe announced that 11 papers from 12 presenters were on the seminar program—a record number. He then introduced the two session chairpersons, Miss Beth Dawson (earlier sessions) and Mrs Shirley Watson (later sessions).
4. **The speakers and topics:** Miss Dawson then took charge of the first morning session and introduced each speaker. As she and later Mrs Watson took charge of their sessions they introduced successive speakers. In alphabetical order, the 11 presentations were as follows:

- **Fahey, Dr David**, *'The Oxy Viva: An Australian resuscitation icon'*.
 - **Fogerty, Dr Heather**, *The Siege of Malta: 1565 Revisited*
 - **Hasler, Ms Sally**: *'The "Women in St John History" project: Why? How? When?'*
 - **Howie-Willis, Dr Ian**: *"Forth rode the knights of old"—The Hymns of the Order: What do they say? Who wrote them and why?'*
 - **Little, Mr Vince**, *The Siege of Malta 1798 and its Impact on the Order*
 - **Mawdsley, Dr Allan**: *'Sir Frank Kingsley Norris, 5th Victorian Commissioner, 3rd Australian Chief Commissioner'*
 - **Oxer, Dr Harry**: *'The ceremonial swords of the Order of St John'*
 - **Pearn, Professor John**: *'The numismatics of the Order of St John'* (keynote paper)
 - **Quintal, Mrs Bonnie**, *'The History of St John on Norfolk Island'*
 - **Shields, Professor Linda & Ms Rosemary**: *'Dame Maud McCarthy—Australia's greatest nursing export'*
 - **Warfe, Dr Peter**: *'Military medicine and how it informs St John' Ambulance first aid'*
5. **Planning for History Seminar 2010 in Melbourne** After the last presentation had ended, Dr Oxer invited the audience to suggest topics and speakers for next year's seminar in Melbourne. The following firm offers of presentations were received.
- **Butler, Mr Jaan**, *'The Bendigo Combined St John Ambulance Division: A regional history'*
 - **Caust, Mr Alan** [& Mary McLean, subject to her availability], *'How St John took control of the Northern Territory ambulance services'*
 - **Cuneen, Dr Chris**: *'The naval history of the ancient Order of St John'*
 - **Dansie, Mrs Lyn**: *'Cadet camps of St John—state, national and international'*
 - **Fahey, Dr David**, *'The use of carbon dioxide in resuscitation'*
 - **Fogerty, Dr Heather**, *'The art of St John—Caravaggio, El Greco, Titian et al.'*
 - **Harris, Mr Gary**: *'Links between the Heidelberg Military Hospital and St John Ambulance'*
 - **Howie-Willis, Dr Ian**: *'Red Cross—St John cross-fertilisation via the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) movement in World War II'*
 - **Little, Mr Vince**, *'St John on track: St John and the railway ambulance services'*
 - **Mawdsley, Dr Allan**: *'Douglas Donald, 6th Victorian Commissioner, 4th Australian Chief Commissioner'* [keynote paper]
 - **Pearn, Professor John**: [Topic to be advised.]
6. **Seminar closure**: Dr Oxer concluded the seminar 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 presentations, and the members of the audience for having attended and taken an active interest in the proceedings throughout the day. He also observed that the papers which had been presented were evidence of the increasing diversity and high quality of the ongoing research into St John history in Australia taking place in consequence of the leadership that the Historical Society provided. He formally closed the seminar at 3.30 p.m.

Ian Howie-Willis (Secretary)
3 July 2008