



**St John**

--- Minutes ---

**22nd Annual General Meeting of  
The St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia**

Held on line on Thursday 27 July 2023

**1. Opening and Welcome**

The meeting was opened by the Society's President David Fahey at 8.00 pm AEST. David welcomed everyone to another Zoom meeting for the 22nd Annual General Meeting.

David commented on the death of Kevin Young, a long-standing member and the first life member of the Society. David asked if there were any other recently deceased members whose names could be recorded in the minutes. There were none.

**2. Attendance and Apologies**

Attendance – David Fahey (National President) Todd Skilton (Order Librarian), Matthew Glozier (Priory Librarian), James Cheshire (National Secretary), Paul Copeland (Treasurer), Robert Devere (Membership Officer), Elizabeth Ellis (Editor), Edith Khangure (Deputy Secretary), Mark Compton (NSW), Bruce Caslake, (VIC), Hayley Cockman (ACT), Simone Pearce (VIC), Bernard Caunce (WA), Brian Fotheringham (SA), Ian Howie-Willis (ACT), Tricia Spencer (NSW), Lyn Dansie (SA), Malcolm Knight (NSW), Debbie Nilsson (VIC), Peter McMurtrie (QLD), Trevor Mayhew (NSW), John Ward (NSW), Robert Wilson (VIC), Tyrone Andrews (QLD).

Apologies - Cameron Oxley (Chancellor), Neil Conn (NSW), Brodie Taylor (QLD), Janise McEwan (VIC), Malcolm Little (NSW), Harry Delaney (NSW), Edward Brentnall (VIC), Hazel Brentnall, (VIC), Harry Oxer (WA), Irene Simpson (WA), John Ree (WA), Richard Caesar-Thwaytes (ACT), Lesley King (NT), Frank Dunstan (NT), Greg Melick (TAS), Finlay MacNeil (NSW), Val Dempsey (ACT), Kathleen Miller (NSW), Margret Jacobson (TAS), Keith Dansie (SA), Paul Gwilliam (UK), Neil Dine (VIC), John Pearn (QLD).

**3. Minutes of the 21st Annual General Meeting**

The draft minutes of the 21st annual general meeting of the St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia held by a zoom meeting on Tuesday 13th of September 2022, and as previously circulated, were accepted with one amendment.

Moved D Fahey, Seconded P McMurtrie - Carried

**4. Matters arising from the minutes of last AGM**

David Fahey raised two items – firstly, that the Society's bank account was now completely electronic with the Commonwealth Bank, however we have still not moved money from the existing term deposit account as yet. Secondly, David asked James to comment on the Constitution review. James advised that the accepted draft was with the National Office but would have to wait until some governance issues were finalised.

There were no other matters arising.

## **5. Triennial Appointments**

David asked James Cheshire to deal with this item before proceeding with the remainder of the agenda.

James advised the meeting that nominations for the positions open for election did not exceed vacancies and as a result no election was necessary. As a consequence the result of the triennial elections is that the follow appoints are made -

President - Dr David Fahey

Secretary - Dr Elizabeth Ellis

Treasurer - Mr Paul Copeland

Deputy Treasurer - Mr Bob Devere

Committee members - Mrs Lyn Dansie, Mr David Heard, Mr Jeffrey Butler, Mr Michael Andrews, Mr Brodie Taylor.

## **6. President's annual report**

The President commenced with his thanks to James who had served as Secretary for 15 years and has been a great asset to the Society. It was easy to underestimate how much work a seminar takes - researching and presenting papers, and, helping others. James had become a life member in 2022. David also thanked Edith Khangure, a foundation member of the Society as well as a life member and deputy secretary. He hoped that both James and Edith would now have more time to attend and enjoy future seminars.

The return last year to a face-to-face seminar was good and David thanked all of the Priory staff for their help. In addition, in the ACT this year the Priory held a meeting at the Realm hotel to discuss some HQ issues. This was also held in conjunction with the celebration of 140 years of St John in Australia.

David commended the State and Territory reports, making special note that Lyn Dansie had succeeded Brian Fotheringham as the Chair in South Australia. He congratulated both of them on their past and ongoing work. He also noted that it was good to be back in full swing after COVID. He himself had been the guest speaker at a government of New South Wales dinner. He closed his report by thanking the members of the Society executive for their efforts and work over the past year and hoped to see them at the November seminar.

**MOTION** - that the report be accepted.

Moved D Fahey, Seconded R Wilson - Carried

## **7. Treasurer and Membership annual report (written report attached)**

Paul Copeland presented the Treasurer's annual report with David sharing the written report on screen. He commented that the term deposit interest of 1.2% was not good enough and that if it was placed into an ING account it could pay up to 2.5% per annum.

The accounts were audited by Amanda Power who noted some shortfalls of entering specific membership subscriptions and donations in the accounting. This was being addressed and would be followed up by Bob DeVere, who manages the membership subscriptions and membership listings.

The Treasurer thanked both Amanda and Bob for their work during 2022.

David enquired as to when the term deposit was coming up for renewal. Paul advised that this was on 10 August. David suggested discussing this with the Commonwealth Bank in line with what was agreed last year. Paul agreed to this.

Elizabeth Ellis commented that expenditure was not necessarily equated to activity and that we could consider doing something more constructive. This could be considered at the next executive meeting. David thanked her noting that this had been included in last year's minutes also and suggested going back to the States and Territories to ask members for ideas.

James stated that the Society was fortunate to have National Office support with people donating expenses and time.

**MOTION** - that James Cheshire be deleted as a signatory for the accounts and that Elizabeth Ellis would be included.

Moved J Cheshire, Seconded D Fahey - Carried

The membership report was delayed as Bob DeVere was not currently available but would be presented later in the meeting.

Bob was able to join the Zoom meeting by mobile phone to present his report after agenda item 8.

Bob informed the meeting that he had made some changes to the membership database. This would make auditing the database easier.

Membership numbers have dropped. Non-payment of annual subscriptions and the lack of recent annual meetings might be responsible for this. David suggested that if the States/Territories received membership lists more frequently they could remind people. Bob agreed that this could be done. David also enquired about the possibility for paying for three years at a time. Bob said this was a good idea and perhaps we could consider a discount for longer times.

The issue of life memberships was raised and David reiterated that we just need to alert the States/ Territories as to who is not financial. Simone Pearce queried membership fees for retirees (currently the standard \$20 per year for an individual and \$30 per year for a family) and what discount might be considered for a 20-year membership. Matthew Glozier noted that retired members would probably be pensioners and David felt that we cannot reduce any further from \$20 per annum.

Forgetfulness and no follow-ups were the major issues and suggested an email three times a year. Bob said he had no problem with such reminders.

David also suggested the Bob could get help from Michael at National Office, perhaps by way of an Excell spreadsheet. Elizabeth Ellis queried if there was a spreadsheet already rather than a manual list. The answer from David was no, but the National Office can forward correspondence to Bob who was happy to give National Office his data base. David thanked Bob for his report.

**MOTION** - that the report be accepted.

Moved R Devere, Seconded T Mayhew - Carried

## **8. Publications Report**

Elizabeth Ellis raised three issues which Matthew Grozier was dealing with - the New South Wales St John official history, One St John and the annual seminar papers. Papers from 2020, 2021 and 2022 were currently held up at the National office. Questions of out sourcing or in house production of publications was ongoing. James suggested talking to Gabby about the style of publications going forward and exploring possible options. One St John was a complex issue, looking for new original articles which then have to be proofed etc before being uploaded on line.

David noted that it was of concern that the New South Wales history had been waiting for three years to be published. He asked who he could talk to in the National Office. Matthew suggested Kylie who was trying to help. They might need to pay someone. David responded that the New South Wales history was part of a backlog. There was no reason why it should not be prioritised. Ian Howie-Willis, having read Matthew's history stated that it was one of the best histories written and it should be published. Whatever the reasons were for the delay it was not a lack of scholarship. Matthew advised that one manager had taken the project on but then dropped out - the book still needs a professional cover design and New South Wales to pay. David suggested to Matthew that they would have an off line talk before going back to Kylie.

Elizabeth advised that Pro Utilitate was progressing with articles continuing to come as well as letters to the editor. Help is needed for reviewing articles and books. This publication covers many interests but stamps and medals have not been seen in a while. There is a new email address for all correspondence to the Secretary of the Society.

Elizabeth encouraged members to register for the upcoming seminar and noted that last year a number of members did not register but still came.

The website is growing slowly. Gabby is helping the Executive to re-evaluate the National Office hosting the Society's material.

**MOTION** - That a vote of thanks of the Society be recorded for the outstanding, sustained and expert contribution made by Gabbi Lhuede to the publication work of the Society.

Moved M Glozier, Seconded E Ellis - Carried

**MOTION** - that the report be accepted.

Moved E Ellis, Seconded L Dansie- Carried

## **9. Reports from States/Territories (written reports attached)**

David asked James Cheshire to present the reports from the States/Territories.

James thanked David for his previous kind words and invited Matthew Glozier to present highlights from his report for New South Wales.

### 9.1. New South Wales

Matthew advised that the Archives were now available at Burwood – a big plus. All other items, ephemera, mantles and uniforms were not out of storage yet and it would be a long process.

James thanked Matthew.

### 9.2. Victoria

There was no report from Victoria.

### 9.3. Queensland

Bob DeVere informed the meeting that all was quiet in Queensland but they were now with their second CEO and a second venue. There was no long-term plan and they were in caretaker mode.

James thanked Bob.

### 9.4. South Australia

Lyn Dansie advised that Brian Fotheringham was continuing as a member, having retired as Chair and that Peter Gill was their new Secretary. The History Trust for South Australia and Artlab Australia had held a two-day disaster management course for museums. There was no charge and it was excellent. Their future plans include a 'first aid at the beach' display.

James thanked Lyn.

### 9.5. Western Australia

Edith Khangure had little to add to the WA report except that the ongoing indecision re when the Museum would close for refurbishment was affecting some of their work.

James thanked Edith.

#### 9.6. Tasmania

James advised that there were no report.

#### 9.7. Northern Territory

James advised that there were no report.

#### Australian Capital Territory & The Priory.

Ian Howie-Willis summarised a quiet year although there had been a number of events. At one dinner a beautiful painting was donated to the Priory. This highlighted their lack of space to display items. Their cataloguer, Hayley Cockman, has developed an Excell spreadsheet covering their regalia, pictorial, photographic and library collections

James thanked Ian.

**MOTION** - That the reports of the states, territories and Priory be accepted.

Moved L Dansie, Seconded B Caslake - Carried

#### **10. Order Librarian**

David advised that Todd Skilton (Order Librarian) had joined the meeting and congratulated him on what he is accomplishing. He also advised that Matthew Glozier was now the Order's Deputy Librarian. This is the first time an Australian has held this position. Todd and Matthew would make a great working duo. Both James and David echoed this.

Todd apologised for being late at the meeting but was glad to see the Australian Priory working so well.

He was thanked by James and David who, in turn, thanked them.

#### **11. Other Business**

There was no other business.

#### **12. Closing comments and Meeting Close**

David Fahey brought the meeting to a close by thanking all those in attendance and stated that he looked forward to seeing everyone in Canberra in November for the annual seminar.

The meeting was closed at 9.13 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by

Edith Khangure  
Deputy National Secretary

15 August 2023

## WRITTEN REPORTS

### NATIONAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

In recent years it has not been our practice to receive a separate National Secretary's report at our Annual General Meeting. However as this is my last AGM as National Secretary I seek your indulgence as I would like to formally record my gratitude as well as some observations of my time in role.

I feel exceptionally privileged to have been able to share with you the last fifteen years, first as and convenor for our annual gatherings and assistant to the good Dr Ian Howie-Willis and then as National Secretary. Without Ian leading the charge, as he does so well, I would not have thought to be as involved as I have been since 2007.

Here is the dangerous part of this exercise. I want to make mention of some of the wonderful folk who have helped support the society and deliver our uniquely Australian annual seminars and publications. There are of course all of you who have presented papers and performed various roles as chairs or otherwise ensured the smooth running of these events. I am indebted to you as it is you that have set such a wonderful standard and shared your interest and enthusiasm.

I want to pay particular thanks to Dr Edith Khangure OAM DStJ a Life Member of the Society and our retiring Deputy Secretary. Edith is one of our founding members and has been a beacon for the collection, protection, display, and sharing of our rich history and heritage. She is a tireless worker, a proud sandgroper and I thank her for always being willing to support me and the work of the society.

The National Office staff are well known to almost all of us. They all work tirelessly to support every facet of the diverse range of activities that St John involves itself. They have all support me personally and the society more broadly far in excess of what their duties entail and our society is all the better because of it. I will make particular mention of four people; Ms Kylie Seidel OStJ, Ms Gabrielle Lhuede MStJ, Ms Amanda Power OStJ, and Mr Shay McAuley OStJ. Without the talent, skills and understanding of these very special and gifted people the society would not have been able to achieve what it has since its establishment more than two decades ago.

I have had the tremendous pleasure to meet, work with, and in most cases form firm friendships with some of the most eminent individuals that have contributed to the Order of St John across the globe and to the work of the society in this country. Locally there have been three Presidents, Dr HF Oxe AM ASM KStJ, Dr JA Mawdsley OAM KStJ, and Dr DG Fahey AM CStJ. Three Priory Librarians Dr IJ Howie-Willis OAM KStJ, Maj Gen Prof JH Pearn AO GCStJ RFD (Retd), and Dr MR Glozier OStJ JP.

Internationally there have been two Order Librarians Prof JSC Riley-Smith GCStJ KSJ, and Mr T Skilton OStJ ED JP, and two Genealogists of the Order Maj WG Hunt CStJ TD, and Sir Thomas Woodcock KCVO OStJ from whom I have received tremendous advice and support.

I am sure our international friends will forgive me for being a little parochial in this my valedictory message in saying that I believe that the Australian historical society has been the *dux litis* amongst all of our kindred associations. Our members have lead the way internationally with new ideas and collaborations. Be it informal collaboration, international conferences or *One St John*. These ideas and activities have been picked up very successfully by the current Order Librarian who is achieving much on the international stage in bringing all jurisdictions together, sharing and supporting ideas, sources and resources as well as collaborating on progressing all things historical. I am sure under his superintendence we will continue to grow and achieve.

Again, I thank you all for the opportunity to have been your National Secretary and I look forward to supporting the work of the society, albeit it in a different way, for many years to come.

James Cheshire  
National Secretary  
27 June 2023

## NEW SOUTH WALES

### Historical Working Group

8 June 2023

#### Overview

##### **Archives:**

Archives has been substantially re-homed in its new space in two rooms on Level 4 at St John House, Burwood. This is cause for celebration after a frustrating hiatus of over three years, in which almost no historical material was accessible for research or to respond to enquiries from members. In the past few weeks, I have been able to run some searches using one of our most valuable assets: the member service card index.

At this stage, only our paper archives have been re-homed on Level 4. The items, ephemera, mantles and uniforms, and a range other objects are still securely housed in the lock-up facility on Parramatta Road. There is no immediate need to move them from that location.

##### **Investiture:**

A homage roll was created for the 2023 investiture at Government House held on 3 May. All postulants signed the roll, as did Her Excellency the Governor. The roll is now in our Archives, where it joins a series of similar documents stretching back over three decades to when my predecessor, Betty Stirton OAM DSTJ initiated the tradition.

##### **Coronation:**

It was a great pleasure to attend the St John Ambulance NSW coronation morning tea on Sunday 7 May. Channel 7 News was present and interviewed a number of participants and I was able to say a few words about our history and links to the Sovereign.

Board Director Dr Evelyne Tadros tweeted:

A big weekend celebrating the Kings Coronation. Have loved seeing St John volunteers around the world celebrating.

Great to be part of today's morning tea to celebrate the Coronation of the Sovereign Head of the Order of St John, King Charles III. Hosted by State Commissioner [Ilan Lowbeer, GAICD](#)

This was an opportunity to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III, to give thanks for the continued Royal patronage of [St John Ambulance Australia \(NSW\)](#) and worldwide and catch up with other members of the St John Family. [#7news](#) [#kingscoronation](#) [#symbolism](#) [#tradition](#) [#history](#)

[Sean McGuinness](#) [Scott McDonald](#) [Stephen Woodhill](#) [Mick Campbell](#) [Larissa Cook](#) [Coretta Bessi](#) [Matthew Glozier](#)



<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7060899416387325952/>

**Museum:**

This has been populated with an interesting range of items, but requires some shifting of these around to make the best display. A banner board has been installed running around the top of the space, displaying key dates in our history. I need to create text for signage once the display is settled.

**NSW history:**

My history of St John NSW, 1881-2021 will hopefully soon be in production. Our National Publications manager, Garielle Lheude, has agreed to create a cover design and provide specifications for the local Sydney-based publisher we used for the production of *A Beacon of Hope*.

DR MATTHEW GLOZIER  
Chair

**VICTORIA**

Written Report to Follow

**QUEENSLAND**

Written Report to Follow

**TASMANIA**

No Written Report

**NORTHERN TERRITORY**

No Written Report

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

### **Annual Report of the St John Ambulance Historical Society & Museum South Australia 2023**



After 34 years of starting and leading the Society Dr Brian Fotheringham relinquished the position of Chair at our AGM in December 2022. In recognition of his outstanding leadership, commitment and work for the Society he was presented with Life Membership of the Society by Karen Limb, Board Chair, as well a plaque, gift basket and card. Fortunately for us, Brian will be continuing as a society member.

A new era beginnings with the following members elected for 2023: Lyn Dansie – Chair, Ian Coburn - Deputy, David Heard - Treasurer and Peter Gill - Secretary.

Our Museum was selected as one of four small museums in the State to participate in disaster management training for museum collections run by Artlab Australia and the History Trust of SA. held over 2 days in March for 8 members. This covered how to develop a plan as well as practical sessions on salvaging wet and damaged items. It was excellent. The follow-up task was to write a disaster management plan for the museum which has just been completed and we are the first small museum in South Australia to have achieved this goal. Many thanks to our member Yvonne Routledge, Museum Adviser.

During May – History Month in Sth Aust our 3 Historical vehicles were at the Museum each weekend and are booked for other events later in the year, including the Bay-to-Birdwood. In conjunction with the Discovery Centre at Glenelg we are organising a major display of ‘First Aid at the beach’ focusing on tents on the beach to casualty rooms which will be in place for 12 months opening in December.

Each month, Peter Gill our secretary, is producing a Society News Letter for members covering duties, items from our records, photos and other information.

Brian Fotheringham has also started an update of ‘The First Thirty Years 1988-2018’ of the Sth Aust Historical Society.

Well, we have been very busy and I thank all our dedicated members who are ‘keeping the flag flying’.

Lyn Dansie AM DStJ  
Chair - St John Amb. Historical Society SA

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### **The Ian Kaye-Eddie Heritage Centre Annual Report July 2022 – June 2023**



Much of the Museum work in 2022 revolved around the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St John Ambulance teaching first aid in Western Australia. A Travelling Museum was created with historical information, photographs, first aid equipment and uniforms. This display was used in a number of locations throughout the state and has been retained for future use. An additional display at Belmont involved a successful resuscitation which had received media attention.

Donations received this year included uniform items, certificates, insignia, books and equipment. One unexpected donation was of 'Jack' - the dummy used in a television advert some 10 years ago for parents to know CPR re swimming pool accidents.

The Museum donated a copy of Dr Oxer's *Ceremonial Swords* to the Priory of Kenya and loaned items to sub centres celebrating various anniversaries and photographs to other departments for their own work including Internal Communications and Media and Brand.

Research queries from sub centres and individuals were varied and included the Mark 4 Ford Ambulance, St John badges and medals, family members' St John service, uniform dates, ANZAC stories and past office bearers. Advice was also provided re honour boards at sub centres and the Commandery Banner for Canberra.

We were privileged to host visits from the Secretary General of the International Order, HE, The Governor of Western Australia who is also our Knight Commander, and, a delegation from Papua New Guinea, in addition to community group visits.

The Museum supported all ceremonial functions during the year including processing at a special service for the coronation of King Charles III at St George's Cathedral.

The planned rebuilding project has been delayed but hopefully will eventuate in 2023-2024. This does restrict any large scale or long-term projects but other work continues.

My thanks go to all the volunteers who work tirelessly and cheerfully in our Heritage Centre.

Dr Edith Khangure, OAM, DStJ  
Librarian & Archivist

## AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY AND THE PRIORY

### **22<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia,** **'Zoom' teleconference meeting, 21 July 2023, State/Territory Reports**

#### **AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY & PRIORY HEADQUARTERS**

**by Ian Howie-Willis (Adviser, Office of the Priory)**

- \* As noted in previous reports, the ACT has a dormant St John Historical Society, and St John ACT delegates issues relating to History & Heritage to the Australian Office (i.e. "the Priory Headquarters").
- \* We have had another quiet year in the ACT. This reflects the continuing national recovery from the Covid19 pandemic, and its associated restrictions. The Priory Heritage Collection (PHC) has been the main focus of activity. The PHC comprises four main elements: (1) Regalia Collection, (2) Pictorial Collection, (3) Museum Collection & (4) Priory Library. The PHC dates back 82 years to 1941, when the forerunner of the Priory, the Commandery of the Commonwealth of Australia, was established. The PHC has been accumulating items ever since then, in the various Priory Headquarters Buildings occupied since 1941.
- \* As noted in previous reports, under the Priory Librarian (Dr Matthew Glozier) and with the much-appreciated cooperation of Australian Office staff, I continue to maintain informal oversight of the Priory Heritage Collection (PHC) in my capacity as an adviser to the Office of the Priory.
- \* In this responsibility, I am assisted by a Canberra Event Health Services volunteer, Ms Hayley Cockman, the 'Priory Cataloguer', who helps maintain, upgrade and update the PHC's Excel-based catalogues.
- \* Unfortunately, the further development of the PHC is constrained by the limited space available in the present Priory Headquarters–Australian Office building at 10–12 Campion Street, Deakin. Because of space restrictions, part of the Collection is retained off-site in a storage facility in Hume, an ACT industrial suburb on Canberra's south-eastern boundary.
- \* All wall space and display cabinet space in the Campion Street building is utilized for display purposes, as a result of which the Collection can be described as 'a working collection'.
- \* Several interesting additions were made to the Priory Heritage Collection during 2022–23. Among the most notable is a large framed vista of Jerusalem painted by the versatile and highly accomplished Sydney-based artist, Charles Billich. This is a superb addition to the PHC, visually recreating the Hospitallers' Jerusalem-based traditions. It now hangs in the foyer of the Campion Street building, where it reminds visitors that the Order of St John is an institution with ancient antecedents.

- \* St John Ambulance Papua New Guinea also presented the Chancellor and Priory Secretary with two large woodcarvings displaying the organisation's Arms *plus* a pair of framed representations of the PNG Arms carved from turtle shell. On behalf of the Priory, we thank St John PNG for their kindness and generosity.
- \* I also take this opportunity of thanking the Chancellor, Cameron Oxley, and the Priory Secretary, Mr Brendan Maher, for their keen support of the Priory's History & Heritage function and of the Historical Society, which exists to further that cause. And in concluding, I acknowledge the continued strong support the Historical Society receives from the Australian Office staff generally and especially from Ms Kylie Seidel (the Priory Manager) and Ms Gabi Lhuede (National Manager Publications & the Historical Society's Publisher). The active, practical support, and the generous financial subsidies for the Society's publishing endeavours provided by the Australian Office, make possible much of what the Society does. On behalf of the membership of the Society I therefore express my appreciation of the Australian Office and its staff.
- \* Finally, I conclude this report by expressing my very great pleasure at the appointment earlier this year of our Priory Librarian, Dr Matthew Glozier, as the Deputy Librarian of the Order of St John. To my knowledge, this is the first occasion in the Order's 192-year history that it has ever established such a position. Congratulations, Dr Glozier!
- \* The Librarian and the Deputy Librarian are the custodians of the Order's history and heritage. In an organisation that values its thousand-year charitable and humanitarian traditions, these positions are critically important. Dr Glozier is the only Australian ever to have been honoured with such an appointment. His appointment is testimony to his expertise as an historian of the Order, and to his enterprise in furthering the cause of the history and heritage of all the recognised Orders of St John. In this latter respect, we must all be grateful to him for the productive links he has established with our fraternal Orders of St John, namely the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order and the *Johanniters* of Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden.

Ian Howie-Willis  
Canberra  
21 July 2023