



**St John**

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**24<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of  
The St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia**

Held on line on Tuesday 24 June 2025

**1. Opening and Welcome**

The meeting was opened by the Society's President David Fahey at 7:30 pm AEST. David provided an acknowledgement of Country, and paid respect to Elders past, present and emerging. David welcomed everyone to another Zoom meeting for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting.

**2. Attendance and Apologies**

Attendance – David Fahey (National President), Elizabeth Ellis (National Secretary), Paul Copeland (Treasurer), Robert Devere (Membership Officer), Todd Skilton (Order Librarian), Matthew Glozier (Priory Librarian, and Deputy Order Librarian), Tyrone Andrews (QLD), Bill Bunton (ACT), Dawn Cochrane (VIC), Ian Cooper (NSW), Lyn Dansie (SA), Neil Dine (VIC), Peter Gill (SA), David Heard (SA), Ian Howie-Willis (ACT), Isaac Johns (VIC), Malcolm Knight (NSW), Cheryl Langdon-Orr (NSW), Gabrielle Lheude (Administrative Officer St John Ambulance Australia), Ian McGeachie (SA), Peter McMurtrie (QLD), John Pearn (QLD), Kylie Seidel (Manager – Executive and Priory St John Ambulance Australia), Steve Smith (TAS), Stephen Szabo (NSW), Jan Thomas (NSW), John Ward (NSW),

Apologies – Brodie Taylor (Executive Committee Member and Minute Secretary), Melville Braganza (QLD), Bruce Caslake, (VIC), Mark Compton (NSW), Jan Cornish, Val Dempsey (ACT), Stephen Finlay (NSW), Edith Khangure (WA), Vince Little (QLD), Finlay MacNeil (NSW), Julie Marshall (SA), Alan Mawdsley (VIC), Tricia Spencer (NSW).

**3. Obituaries**

Society's President David Fahey acknowledged the passing of several members of the society, in the persons of; The Venerable Howell Sasser KStJ (1 Feb. 2024), former Librarian for the Order in the USA, Mr Keith Morton Anker MStJ (26 May 2024) of Glen Waverley in Victoria, Dr Edward Brentnall, KStJ (1 Oct. 2024) of Victoria, Debbie Nilsson DStJ (July 2024) and Keith Dansie (June 2025). The members expressed their sympathies to their loved ones.

**4. Minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting**

The draft minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual general meeting of the St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia held by a zoom meeting on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024, and as previously circulated, were accepted.

Moved E Ellis, Seconded S Smith - Carried

## **5. Matters arising from the minutes of last AGM**

David Fahey provided an update of the Constitutional Review, indicating that James Cheshire had completed the review and submitted the document in late 2024 to the Priory Board for their consideration. This submission coincided with the National Office's review of its various governance documents, licensing agreements etc. After discussion with the Chancellor and the CEO, the President indicated that it is foreseen that the Society moving forward will not be a standalone group, but rather group embedded and cemented into the Priory and the National Office. This would allow for appropriate funding and support from the National office, but also recognition of the Society's value and function by the Chancellor and the CEO. This work will be ongoing over the 12 months and will involve further consultation. Neil Dine asked if discussion at the National Conference would be appropriate and this was taken on for consideration by the President.

David Fahey provided an update of the membership database, and indicated that development had progressed brilliantly. A product had been selected, and a pilot site had been set up for Executive review. It appears fit for purposes, flexible, and user friendly. The president then provided a behind the scenes view of the progress and overall look / functionality of the pilot site. This product is also be used by the National Office to manage the details of Members of the Order and also the Youth Program. The president provided personal thanks to Gabrielle Lheude for her extensive work on updating their current database, and also to Kylie Seidel for her assistance and collaboration over the last year. Kylie Seidel indicated that the Historical Society's database should be functioning by the end of July.

There were no other matters arising.

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

David Fahey provided the following report; Noting a very successful 2024 seminar held on 23 Nov at Hotel Realm ACT. Thanks, must be given to Elizabeth Ellis and Stephen Szabo for organising what was a brilliant seminar, and to all at Australian Office. A special thanks to Val Dempsey for keynote address on the intersection between the history of nursing and St John.

The 2025 seminar will be 22 November 2025 in Sydney (although venue still to be advised). It is excellent to see States eager to host the Priory functions, including the Church Service and the Historical Seminar. The theme is Cadets/Youth to commemorate the centenary of Cadets in Australia. Thanks to those who have already submitted abstracts - please do consider presenting a paper. Thanks to Felix Ho and other Youth leaders for promoting the seminar. We have re-invigorated and promoted the Mark Compton Knowledge of the Order prize, and the Sr Agnes prize, and we aim to present some recipients at our seminar. It is very exciting to see that Prof Mark Compton (Lord Prior) will be the keynote speaker, and I appeal to those states with museums to bring a display of uniforms and other items.

During 2024 and 2025 we have hosted webinars to assist members with undertaking research and preparing presentations. We aim to expand the scope of these webinars. Thanks to all who have presented and organised these.

A major project has been setting up the Historical Society's website. Thanks to Laurence Ioannou and Teryn Edwards for helping me do this. Please visit <https://history.stjohn.org.au>. I am especially pleased that we now have 5 reference books (A Century for Australia, Women in St John, Zambuks, St John SA, and First in First Aid (St John QLD) - each scanned and available as a PDF. Videos from our seminars are also available, as are PDF's of St John History journal, and the PU. Sincere thanks to Gabrielle Lheude who continued website development in Teryn's absence.

As mentioned earlier, another major project has been sourcing and implementing a new member database, made possible through the support of the CEO and all at the Australian Office, especially Kylie Seidel. We will be able to pay subscriptions directly through a web link, and the database will send automated reminders etc. When this is operational in a few months' time our next priority is membership recruiting!

Congratulations to Dr Matthew Glozier on yet another book - A Premier Response - the 140 year history of St John NSW. It just remains now to get enough pre-orders for it to go to print.

I was warmly welcomed at St John's Gate in London in May to undertake some research. The scale of their archives is quite impressive and I would encourage all who have the chance to visit to do so in the future.

Thanks to the Historical Society executive for their capable volunteer work throughout the year. Thanks also to the Historical Societies in various states and territories - your work is vital and much appreciated.

David Fahey called for questions pertaining to his report. None.

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

Moved P Copeland, Seconded C Langdon-Orr - Carried

## **7. Treasurer annual report**

Paul Copeland presented the Treasurer's annual report with David sharing the written report on screen.

### **Summary of Balance Sheet for 24<sup>th</sup> June 2025:**

Bank Balance as at 1st January 2025	\$11,617.28
Income	\$1,938.72
Expenditure:	
INV 370 SJAA (Vol 21 History)	\$4,631.00
Bank Balance as at 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025	\$8,985.00
Term Deposit as at 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025	\$30,944.56
<b>Total Cash at Bank as at 24<sup>th</sup> June 2025</b>	<b>\$39,929.50</b>

**General.**

Currently the TD is at 1.15% monthly. It is for a 6-month period, of which the maturity date is 8 July 2025. We are earning interest of around \$31.45 per month, payable into our Society Cheque Account (Main Operating Account). There is potential for better earning rates outside of the Commonwealth Savings Bank, albeit some effort to establish due to our respective geographical locations.

I have attached information from the CommBiz Representative for perusal and potential decision-making.

**CommBiz.**

We experienced an issue with CommBiz to electronically pay Invoice (INV 3740) for the SJAHs St John History Vol. 21, with the sum amount of \$4,631.00, in November 2024. After consulting with the new incumbent CommBiz Representative, in Canberra on 13 March 2025, the invoice was finalised.

Authorisers. The current Authorisers for transactions are David Fahey, Paul Copeland and James Cheshire. There was an attempt in March to have Elizabeth Ellis and Bob Devere to include them as Authorisers, however there was a time expiry on the set-up passwords. It can be a confusing process, so I propose that we attempt to do this with the assistance of the CommBiz Representative at the National Seminar in Sydney on the Friday 21 November?

**CY2024 Audit.**

I present the CY2024 Audit of the Society's accounts for Motion and acceptance. Generally, the SJAHs Accounts in the Audit are an accurate account of the transactions that occurred during CY2024.  
Membership.

There has been a degree of difficulty in ascertaining if members are paying membership fees in advance or in retrospect. In addition attempting to determine the amounts for donations toward the Society. It would be helpful if members depositing or electronically transacting, to notate the purpose of their transaction, for accounting purposes, within their respective membership forms.

However, the new TidyHQ Membership system will alleviate this problem, when it is introduced into service.

Conclusion.

There has been relative income from Membership, Donations and Interest to date. Our Audit has been completed with minimal recommendations. The Committee may need to decide on higher return Term Deposit. There have been a few technical challenges this CY, however we are working through those to improve the management of our accounts.

Paul called for questions pertaining to his report. None.

**MOTION** – that the Treasurer’s report be accepted.

Moved P Copeland, Seconded J Ward – Carried

### 8. Membership Report

Bob Devere provided the following report to summarise the data for membership 2024-2025.

Bob indicated that they current membership of the Society sits at 209.

STATE	MEMBERSHIP	PAID
ACT	19	4
NSW	42	16
NT	8	2
QLD	38	14
SA	22	4
TAS	13	4
VIC	47	15
WA	20	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	209	97

Bob indicated that figures indicated a worrying trend that only 97 of the 213 members on the books were not in arrears.

David Fahey has indicated that the new database will ensure a smoother process for members, less administrative burden on the team and greater coverage of dues and payments.

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

Moved R Devere, Seconded J Ward - Carried

### 9. Publications Report

Elizabeth Ellis informed the members on the progress of Pro Utilitate. The newsletter is still coming out on time, and with engaging content. Elizabeth wished to acknowledge the incredible support and contributions that the members of the society have made towards the content over the last 12 months. Elizabeth also wished to thank Gabrielle Lheude for her work in designing the publication to ensure the high standard is maintained. As the Newsletter for the members of the Society, Elizabeth encouraged members to put their suggestions or ideas forward to ensure the publication accurately reflects the needs and wants of the members.

David Fahey wished to note his sincere thanks to Elizabeth for her contributions as editor and for doing such a large portion of the work in managing that project.

Due to technical issues, Mathew Glozier report was held over until a later stage.

## **10. Reports from States/Territories**

David Fahey tabled the following reports from the States and Territories.

### **10.1. Victoria**

Allan Mawdsley provided the following report -

Our quarterly meetings of St John Historical Society in 2024 were:

- The January presentation by Stewart Granger KStJ on “Search & Rescue squads”, the first of two parts, with the second part on the history of Mobile Nursing scheduled later.
- The April presentation by Ruth Kain MStJ on “The history of Nursing Cadets”.
- The July presentation by Gary Edwards OStJ was “St John and its connections with Freemasonry”.
- For the September presentation Allan Mawdsley KStJ spoke on “The history of St John First Aid training”. This included the revelation that 2016 was the final printed edition of Australian First Aid, with all future editions being only online. Our Museum display has been updated to show the first (1878) and last editions of our 138 years of publishing history

Our quarterly meetings of St John Historical Society thus far in 2025 were:

- The January presentation by Stewart Granger KStJ was “Search & Rescue squads Part 2 - the history of Mobile Nursing”.
- The April presentation by Janise McEwan was “A brief history of the Knights Templar”

This meeting was also the AGM at which the committee was elected: Neil Dine CStJ (Chairman), Allan Mawdsley KStJ (Secretary), and Committee members Jeffrey Priest MStJ, Michael Connelly CStJ, Janise McEwan, Stewart Granger KStJ, and Isaac Johns.

The Committee of SJAHS Vic Branch and of St John Museum in Victoria are one and the same. Most of the historical work is done at the Museum. In the 2024 year our volunteers delivered over 3895 hours of service at the Museum and we had 464 visitors.

Several long-time St John members who have retired from Event Health Services have joined the Museum volunteer team and are now actively involved in archival projects. Tony Smith, Bill Hardy and Stewart Granger have joined the team, alongside Isaac Johns who is still active in EHS.

Stewart is undertaking a major project, developing an inventory of all the major events that St John has been involved in during its 124 years of volunteer first aid in Victoria.

Altona Youth Division had a study day at the Museum in their Knowledge of the Order course which included assignments and presentations as well as the usual talks and activities.

Isaac has set up a computerized program for hard drive storage and indexing our DVDs and digitized videotapes which can also be backed up in cloud storage.

Two posters have been produced to celebrate the Centenary of the Cadet movement in Australia. The first poster features the Zinkeisen painting of St John cadets used in Britain at the time of WW II. The second features the range of activities undertaken by cadets today. Digital images can be provided to any other interested Branch.

A new Museum brochure has been prepared and copies are available to any Division that wishes to use it in publicity. We are also trying to make it known that there is much archival work still to be done, and we would welcome any members retiring from Event Health Services joining our team.

### 10.2. South Australia

Peter Gill provided the following report - At the 2024 Annual General Meeting the society had a change of leadership when I was elected Chair for the coming year. Lyn Dansie did not seek reelection as Chair however I am pleased to advise Lyn was elected as Deputy Chair. Keith was very unwell for much of 2024 continuing into 2025 and sadly he died in April.

Society membership has remained around 27 and it is pleasing to have another non-St John person join in the second half of 2024 bringing the non-St John members to 3. While a small number this is important as it brings diversity and an outside view as a contrast to those of us with a long St John history.

The museum is open each week for 2 hours on Sunday afternoons and 2 hours Friday mornings with Fridays also being working sessions for around 10 members. The building location is a bit problematic, however it is ours to use solely and while regular open session visitors are fewer than we would like, visits from service clubs and other groups are more frequent.

Our vehicles attend events throughout the year including the annual Bay to Birdwood when over 1,500 historic vehicles drive the scenic 67-kilometre route from Glenelg to the National Motor Museum in Birdwood in the Adelaide Hills. The vehicles are a popular site on the road and at displays with the occasional former St John Volunteer who worked in them reminiscing over their time as an ambulance crew member.

The SA Police Historical Society has been unable to attend events with their vehicles due to the move from the now demolished Thebarton Police Barracks to a site in the City of Adelaide. Until they are operating again, we are supplying vehicles for most of the events they usually attend, and this has fostered an ongoing closer working relationship between the two societies.

Membership of the History Trust of South Australia Museums and Collections Program (MAC) has recently been approved for renewal for the next three years. Apart from linking us closely with the History Trust, it allows us to apply for a range of grants to assist in moving forward in improving the museum.

The project to catalogue the entire collection continues to gather pace with uniforms, documents and photographs currently been reviewed, sorted, items photographed and recorded. A History Trust grant received this year has funded a Conservation Study of our collection that is being undertaken by the Senior Preventive Conservator at Artlab Australia. The report is in the final stage of preparation and one of the major results will be a five-year plan detailing actions to be taken to conserve the collection to ensure it survives as long as possible and in the best possible condition.

Challenges moving into the future are recruiting more members, inside and outside of St John, and obtaining a second site for storage (every museum's issue) of our duplicate and excess items as part of a disaster recovery plan. This includes having our ambulances closer to the museum instead of at the SA Ambulance Service site about 20 kilometers from the museum. Currently there is no possibility of being able to obtain a second site for our use.

Growing society membership is more problematic with work to be done to develop and implement strategies to increase our volunteer numbers.

#### QUICK STATISTICS

Volunteers 27  
 Hours 4,348  
 Museum visitors 184  
 Bay Discovery Centre 42,556  
 exhibition visitors

Historic Vehicles	Events	Kilometers	Hours
1949 Motorcycle and sidecar	11	739	68
1971 Panel van ambulance	17	705	93
1977 EmCare ambulance	17	705	93
1949 BSA Motorcycle			
1971 Panel Van			
1977 EmCare			



### 10.3. Western Australia

Edith Khangure provided the following report - After many months, all museum memorabilia, reference library and archival material came out of storage in October 2024 and was rehoused in a St John facility in Osborne Park.

The new museum arrangement in the training centre (renamed the Coolamon Centre) is open plan with the intention that all first aid students and visitors will be immersed in our history and developments.

St John Ambulance W.A. engaged an external agency to develop the new museum with volunteers cleaning and preparing all of their selected exhibits and uniforms. The museum opened on the 21st February 2025 along with a garden of medicinal plants and a memorial to St John members who have died on active duty.

A small office has been allocated for the Heritage Centre near the museum. Whilst this work has been the main stay of our operations this year, reference queries have been answered and material loaned to other departments within the organisation for their displays.

A major research project commenced in December 2024 – the history of the Brigade/Event Health Services in W.A. 1904–2024. The 12 decades of this history are being made available on a monthly basis which commenced in January and will be concluded in December 2025. The working title of this project is Facts, Figures and Personalities. It is not intended to be a formal book.

Our work now is centred around unpacking the many remaining boxes and transferring some reference material to Belmont, whilst the rest is stored at Osborne Park.

### 10.4. Northern Territory

Elizabeth advised there was no report.

### 10.5. Queensland

Bob Devere provided the following report - The committee membership is more inclusive of all members, and different age groups since 2017, which had mainly consisted of retirees from uniformed branch. Our numbers have been steadily increasing and we now have 17 active members. This diversity has been our strength over the last few years in being able to refocus ourselves and develop more productive ways of promoting the Order and its works.

The committee have been actively involved in naming some of the new rooms in our Nundah facility. Each of the rooms have a plaque outlining the member's significant contribution to St John QLD. These are the Professor Peter Leggat KStJ Board room and Beth Dawson DStJ and Vera Crook DStJ training rooms.

The display at the Beenleigh Historical Village has now been dismantled and we are invited to represent ourselves in the future. The other display is at our training facility at Yeerongpilly which contains a more secure display of medals and uniforms. In all we have had a very busy but fruitful 12 months.

The unpacking of boxes and cataloguing of items is now almost complete thanks to the great work of Brodie Taylor and Brad Hutchinson.

We now have display cabinets at our Nundah HQ and these are being used to display Order memorabilia and medals. This year 2025 is the year devoted to the cadet movement and as such much of the display contains cadet exhibits. We are in the process of obtaining old cadet uniforms to place on our mannequins however, we wish to convey past to present uniforms.

We are now fortunate to have another display at the Townsville site and I would like to acknowledge the work of Rod Burgess in Townsville. We were honoured in early June this year by a presentation of gifts from the Scottish Priory namely a Scottish friendship cup called a "Quaich " and ties for which we exchanged our Priory plaque and tie.

Another project will be undertaken to have an honour board with the names of our Grand Prior cadets constructed and displayed.

Another display will be placed in the Caboolture Historical village in early July depicting the cadet theme.

I would like to say thank you to my great committee for their dedication and guidance.

#### 10.6. New South Wales

Dr Mathew Glozier provided the following report - **Archives Working Bee**

A new Archives team has been formally created, consisting of:

Mr John Ward (Supervisor)

Dr Matthew Glozier (Hon. Archivist)

Mr Sven Nilssen (Archives Assistant)

Ms Joan Kyriazis (Archives Assistant)

Mr Stephen Szabo (Archives Assistant)

Ms Rhonda Sneddon (Accessioning)

Ms Meaghan Grove (Online Accessioning)

On Saturday, 26 October 2024 we spent the day surveying the new Archives spaces in the new Macquarie Park HQ building and adjoining lockup storage facility. After touring the new building we began work on sorting and shifting boxes and assorted items at the storage facility in order to make it a functional working space going forward. We are now ready for team members to access the facility to accession the backlog of donated items, sort new items, and conduct projects using our collection.

Plans are afoot to display selected items at HQ as an historical display when the promised window display is installed. One achievement so far has been the placement of pictures in the new boardroom – including the valuable original oil paintings donated to St John NSW by the artist, Pro Hart, in 1993. Thanks to Joan Kyriazis for images below.



We now have everything in the Collection either in our dedicated room at Macquarie Park, or in the nearby lock up storage facility. We have a few old stretches and the hand litter down in the garage area which John Ward has arranged to be stored safely.

A big thanks to new Archives volunteer, Rhonda Sneddon, for unpacking our library which includes some rare and valuable St John books among lots of material that can be used for research and reference. It will be a great resource (once again!) for keen St John researchers and reference seekers. A few unrecorded books are among those donations that came in over the past few years and more volumes are expected to come in as donations for the library in the future.

St John IT confirmed file storage capacity in Teams. We've been advised that there shouldn't be any constraints on storage size. The site's file storage can grow to a maximum of 25TB, which provides us with a huge amount of space to work with.

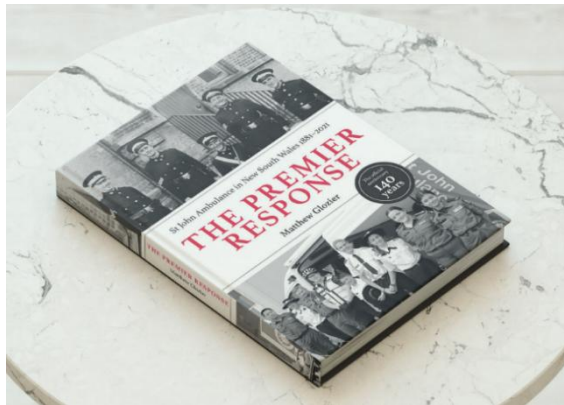
Our Archives team has been scheduling meetings every couple of months to touch base and discuss Archives matters.

### **Book**

My NSW History book is now available to pre-order. Currently there are x50 pre-orders + x30 volumes earmarked as gift/complimentary/donation/presentation. This does not meet minimum threshold, but we are hopeful the book will be printed in time to be formally launched at the National Seminar in Sydney in November.

Below is the text of the advertising campaign:

This is an opportunity to order a piece of St John Ambulance history now – *The Premier Response* by Matthew Glozier



This book is a thorough and investigative look at the 140-year history of St John Ambulance in Sydney, from the very first initial first aid class, the creation of a St John Ambulance Brigade, and more. It speaks to the value of the St John organisation in the minds of both Colony's leaders and the general public over the years, marking a significant part of our history.

Written by our very own Hon. Archivist and Librarian, Dr Matthew Glozier, *The Premier Response* is going to be published and provided at cost (pending adequate sales during the presale period). We're hopeful for the delivery of this book in the second half of 2025.

Pre-order your copy today at Premier Response presale or call the customer service team on 1300 785 646.

A wonderful way to honour and keep the history of St John alive. Here's a sneak peak from the book:

*"The 1920s and '30s were a period of growth and expansion for St John Ambulance all over New South Wales. The experience of the Great War had been one of productive cooperation with like-minded voluntary bodies... This opened eyes to what could be achieved through united effort, as opposed to disunited local activity. Unlike the Anglo-Boer War, which was a largely New South Wales effort, the Great War had created opportunities for St John*

*Ambulance leadership that carried across the whole nation. Thus, the period between two world wars saw the real birth of effort towards a whole-Australia St John Ambulance reality”*

BERT sure looked a little different back in the day!



St John Ambulance Brigade  
'bicycle ambulance', Cobar-  
Wrightville Branch NSW  
(1904).<sup>37</sup>

Your support is vital: we need enough pre-orders to proceed to print, so purchasing your copy now will directly help bring this important work to life.

Please feel free to forward this email to your networks and anyone who may be interested in purchasing a copy of the book.

Thank you for your support of this exciting project!

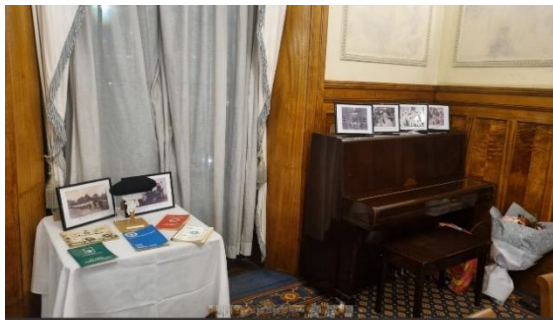
### **Cadets**

A pleasant and successful Order dinner was held on Friday 30 May (following an investiture that morning at Government House, Sydney).

The “cadets” theme was ably supported by Archives which created a cadet-themed display including photographs, ephemera (uniform items), and training manuals.

Photos courtesy of Stephen Szabo.





## **Journals**

The journal of the St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia Grand Bumper Edition Volume 21 was launched in Canberra on Saturday 23 November and copies distributed to members of the Society.

One St John, the Order's international Historical journal, appear late last year to popular acclaim:

<https://www.stjohninternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/One-St-John-Journal-Vol-9-2023-2024.pdf>

### **10.7. Australian Capital Territory**

Dr Ian Howe-Willis provided the following report - 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").

The main item of interest during the financial year just ending is that the Australian Office has employed a part-time staff member, Ms Teryn Edwards, to take responsibility for the management of the Priory Heritage Collection (PHC). Her impact on the productive development of the PHC has been notable.

Ms Edwards' duties include maintaining the Excel databases that record the PHC catalogues. These are of four main types: (1) Priory ceremonial regalia; (2) the Library; (3) the Museum; and (4) the Pictorial Collection. This is the first occasion in the Australian Office's 84-year history that a staff member has been employed specifically for the Heritage function. The position is broadly equivalent to that of the Curator at the Museum of the Order of St John at St John's Gate, London.

In February 2025 Ms Edwards took maternity leave. During her absence, her position has been filled by Ms Gabrielle Lhuede, formerly the National Manager Publications and a Historical Society member well known to, and loved by, the Society's membership.

Unfortunately, the further development of the PHC is somewhat 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 accordingly utilized for display purposes, as a result of which the Collection can be described as 'a working collection'.

I also take this opportunity of thanking the Chancellor, Cameron Oxley, the Priory Secretary, Brendan Maher, and the Priory Manager, Kylie Seidel, for their keen support of the Priory's History & Heritage function and of the Historical Society, which exists to further that cause. I also gratefully acknowledge the continued strong support the Historical Society receives from the Australian Office staff generally. 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 gratitude for the support received from our Priory Librarian, Dr Matthew Glozier, who is also the Deputy Librarian of the Order of St John. I am sure all Historical Society members will join me in wishing Dr Glozier well in his current research-writing-and-publication endeavour. This is the Order's official history of its first 60 years, i.e. the period 1827–1888, a little understood and much mythologised era in the Order's development.

#### 10.8. Tasmania

Jon Cooper provided the following report – In 2022 the Historical Society of St John Tasmania was established. At the time an executive committee was created. The society also had a membership of 10 and all keen to work on establishing the society in Tasmania. We have slowly grown our membership and since that time we have collected, moved, collated, sorted and displayed numerous St John memorabilia and have developed plans, guides and supporting documentation for the Historical Society to operate in various parts of the state. We have overcome storage issues and some flooding issues. We have been the beneficiary of information and guidance from other Historical Societies from around Australia and the Tasmania State Archives Office.

We have a presence in the Northwest and North with our members working together to establish collections for display in those regions. We have also been interviewing and audio recording some of our elder members in relation to the early days of St John in Tasmania. The audio record will form part of our displays into the future. More recently and as part of that process we have created a short questionnaire that is accessed on a smart phone via a QR Code. We unveiled this at our recent order dinner together with another card providing

a link to our facebook page. We will be able to provide an update on the results of the QR Code Questionnaire at the National Conference in November.



Our Facebook page is, <https://www.facebook.com/SJATHS> and we are over 200 direct followers and many more visitors. This number is increasing, and I encourage you to have a look and follow the page as we are continually updating a posting items. We can also provide links to other jurisdictions pages so I am happy to receive the page URL so we can post them on your behalf.

We have also had the opportunity to engage the services of Stefan Petrow, a Historian and retired Professor of History at University of Tasmania, who is well regarded in relation to exploring, collating and documenting the history of organisations. Stefan has embarked on writing the History of St John in Tasmania, which is well underway. His book will cover the period from 1890s to 2000, and he is keen to locate some missing annual reports from Tasmania, especially from the 1940s and early 50s and if anyone happens to have a copy, please reach out to me. Stefans History of St John is expected to be ready for publishing mid-2026.

On Friday 11th October 2024 our museum in Hobart was officially opened by Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, DStJ Governor of Tasmania and Deputy Prior. The event was a success due to the organising of the executive together with the work of Leah Cooper and administrative assistance from staff at St John. Their attention to the finer details made the evening a success. The opening attendees witnessed the unveiling of a commemorative plaque by Her Excellency and President Jon Cooper. The kind words of Her Excellency, especially in support of volunteerism in Tasmania was very much appreciated by all present.



More recently the Executive of the Historical Society, Jon Cooper (President), Damian Bester (Vice President & Digital Communications), Scott McCarthy (Secretary) & Leah Cooper (Treasurer) have been working tirelessly to collate the large holdings and provide safe storage solutions for our documents, uniforms, publications and photographs.

Other members are working on small projects to support the Historical Society, such as

- conducting audio interviews,
- Ambulance Service and St John in the 60s to 90s,
- completing an honour roll for senior positions held, and
- updating our Order Member data base to ensure all our members receive information in some format, plus, many other projects.

If in Hobart, we welcome visitors to our State Headquarters at 177 Main Road Moonah, to visit our small museum to view some of our holdings. Currently on Display we have original first aid and Minute books from 1890s, uniforms from 1940s onwards and many other artefacts.

## **11. Election of Office Bearers**

David Fahey indicated that there are no elections of officers required for this year. However, raised the item of co-opting a number of people for three key roles; Assistant Secretary, minute taking as required and also hosting the webinars. David asked those in attendance to give the roles some thought and if they were in a position to offer their time and abilities, to please contact himself or Elizabeth Ellis. Bill Bunton offered to provide assistance to the Secretary, this was accepted.

Next year, all positions will become vacant and nominations for those roles will be provided in due time.

## **12. Other Business**

### **12.1 Oration Medallion**

John Pearn provided the presented the following proposal to the establish The Society Medal, The St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia, and spoke to the extensive benefits thereon.

“The Society Medal is a Tribute Medal awarded to the invited Lecturer who delivers the Annual Society Lecture. The St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia was founded in 2001 as the collegiate body charged with the promotion of the history of all Branches of the Order of St John in Australia; and to promote research and the promulgation of knowledge concerning all aspects of prehospital healthcare. The Society holds an annual Conference at which scholarly papers are delivered; and at which the Annual Society Lecture is delivered.

The Obverse of the Society Medal portrays, and its *centrum*, the badge of the Society. The reverse portrays, in the surround, the Latin phrase, *Historia esto perpetua* – freely translated as “*The history of the Order is to be preserved*”.

The Society Medal is of gilded (24 karat) tombac, 50 mm x 40 mm, with polished high relief on the frosted base. The Society Medal was commissioned by the Committee of the Society in 2025.”

David Fahey asked if there were any questions. Cheryl Langdon-Orr commended the proposal and John Pearn’s initiative, in particular the tangibility of the concept to ensure we recognise the expertise of our guest lecturers. John Pearn also clarified that the design would allow for engraving to be carried out to include the Lecturer’s name and year of presentation.

**MOTION** - that The St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia establish an Annual Oration with an invited guest speaker (Orator).

Moved J Pearn, Seconded C Langdon-Orr – Carried

**MOTION** - that The St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia establish The Society Medal as proposed above, which will be presented each year to the Annual Oration’s guest speaker and that a corpus of \$5000 be allocated for initial production of 20-30 Medals.

Moved J Pearn, Seconded C Langdon-Orr – Carried

David Fahey then indicated an action for the Treasurer that before the Term Deposit is re-invested, that \$5000 be allocated from this corpus. All were in agreement.

## 12.2 Matthew Glozier to report on journals

Due to technical issues, Mathew Glozier provided his report through Elizabeth Ellis, and confirmed that all the papers for the next St John History Volume 22 and will proceed to publication in time for the annual seminar in November. David Fahey thanked Mathew for his tireless work and consummate professionalism in his tasks.

### 12.3 St John Museum/ Collection group meetings

John Ward tabled a discussion regarding the possibility of having representatives of the St John Museums and Collections from across the country to meet 2-3 times a year to discuss, support and learn from each other. David Fahey indicated his support and suggested a preliminary zoom meeting to begin discussions.

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

David Fahey brought the meeting to a close by thanking all those in attendance and informed everyone that the next AGM would be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2026.

The meeting was closed at 8:53 pm AEST.

Minutes Prepared by

Brodie Taylor  
National Executive Committee Member, Minute Secretary

9 July 2025